

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

January 13, 2021

But Grow!

Some things are hard to understand. Here are a few examples.

Forever. What water tastes like. Why people sit in the same seat every week in church. The word 'enigmatical.' The COVID virus. Fear. The electoral college. Frogs. Divine election.

In his second epistle, Peter admits that there are some things even in the Bible that are hard to understand. He warns us that the hard-to-understand things in the Bible are sometimes used by 'ignorant and unstable' people to 'twist' and stretch to their and others harm (2Peter 3:16-18). The warning that follows in v.17 is sobering. There is a danger in trying to figure out and analyze that which is hard to understand. Peter warns us that the need to know and understand taken to an extreme can carry us away like a flood (think Matthew 7:24-27) causing us to lose our stability, our steadfastness. The 'error of lawless people' Peter refers to (v17) is having to make the hard-to-understand things about God understandable by manipulating and twisting them. We can become so consumed in trying to figure things out that we get carried away and our feet are knocked out from under us. It is true in theology. It is true in life.

In these days of hard-to-understand things, how do you know if your curiosity is healthy or consuming? How do you tell if you are being swept away by opinions and factoids – as good as they may appear to be? The encouraging and not hard to understand answer to those questions is found in the final verse of 2Peter. Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus? If not, something has carried you away.

Your spiritual growth should be the primary commitment of your life. Are you more committed and curious over what in the world is happening or in deepening your love and understanding of God in the scriptures, prayer and fellowship with his people? How you answer that question reveals who you trust and where you place your hope. The more about life you do not understand, the more diligent you must be to grow in understanding and receiving the grace of God in your life.

Our battle with spiritual complacency is both lost or won in many little decisions we make regarding what we are going to pay attention to and who we listen to. Be encouraged beloved! You can guard, you must guard your growth in your walk with Christ. He is the only hope for peace and joy in a hard-to-understand world. Do not be blown off course by the hard-to-understand.

Loving Father, grant each of us grace, in these hard-to-understand times, to be more diligent to conduct ourselves as obedient children who look to you, listen to you and find our greatest joy in pleasing you.



2Peter 3:14-18

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

To the Bethel Bible Prayer Pal Ladies:

Due to Covid, we believe it is not wise for us to meet at this time. Go ahead and reveal yourself to your Prayer Pal whenever you want to. We will plan to meet March 9. I will keep in touch about that. Keep on praying for our group and our church body. If you have any questions, please contact Char at 574-242-0056.

Char Norrick

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Save the Dates:

- Family Night will start up again January 27, 2021.
- We will still be offering our Ladies Bible study on Saturday mornings, beginning again at the end of January. If you would like more information, please contact Jessica Libey or Sue Whipple.
- Dr. Vanderwier will be with us Sunday, January 31.
- We are planning a BBC movie night for January 31. More details to follow!
- Sunday School plans to resume February 7.
- VBS is being planned for JULY 12-16! This is not our usual timing for VBS, so please take note!

Bethel Prayer Concerns:

- Please remember Joie, the 19 year-old granddaughter of Bob & Carrie Fritz in your prayers. Joie is in a Chicago hospital and has been diagnosed with an acute form of leukemia. She has had a bone marrow biopsy and some extensive bloodwork done. They are waiting on test results to determine the next steps of treatment. Please pray for Joie and the whole family during this season. She has had an amazing testimony and a peace that can only come from God. Please continue your prayers!
- Please remember those who have recently lost loved ones: Clifford Fritz with the loss of Phyllis, Schultz family with the loss of Dorothy Nice, Budd family with the loss of Ruth Budd, Miller family with the loss of Gregg Inskeep, Leman family with the loss of Howard Leman
- Continue in prayer for Chris Shell as he struggles with his Lyme disease.
- Continue in prayer for Brad Garling. Pray for good health; pray that God would guard his mind.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- Saturday, January 16—Elders meeting @ 7:00 am
- Sunday, January 17—Worship service @ 9:15 am
- Wednesday, January 20—BBC Semi-annual Business Meeting @ 7:00 pm (Hot chocolate & ice cream @ 6:30 pm)

For those of you who follow The Reed's ministry, they have asked for prayer for "B" for quite some time, like 8 years in the making! God so beautifully orchestrated events to put these families together. This is an excerpt from their last newsletter:

"It was a day of victory and rejoicing in God's mercy toward Bernard and answered prayer. It boggles the mind to think of all that God has orchestrated to get a Bolivian American to Ireland where another transplanted American family supported by a host of believers in the States was able to connect through a potentially devastating injury so that God could win once again! What a miracle!"

The entire article is posted on the Missions wall—well worth the read!

Missions Moment:

Joel & Cindy Reed/Ireland



***Be sure to check out the Missions Wall at the church for all the recent updates from our BBC Missionaries!