



Search me, O God,
and know my heart;
Try me, and know my
anxieties;
And see if *there is any*
wicked way in me,
And lead me in the
way everlasting.

Psalm 139 : 23, 24

Kirkspire

The Monthly Magazine of St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk), Chennai
July 2024

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Editorial Board :

Usha George
Chitra Bennett

Word from the Pastor



Respond Carefully

*A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
(Proverbs 15:1)*

Proverbs 18:21 says 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.' These are powerful WORDS about our words written in the word of God. How we respond to someone says a lot about our own heart and mind. Matthew 12:34 says, 'Out of the fullness of the heart, the mouth speaks.' But we respond not only through our words but in other ways as well. It is revealed through our attitude, our behaviour, our indifference to people, our readiness to help or our coldness to remain stubborn. In this devotion, I want to address 'responding' in three areas.

1. Responding to God - Before Adam and Eve sinned, their response to God was perfect. They had nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of and nobody to blame. It was after the fall that man's response to God went downhill. Genesis 3:8 says 'And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.' Before they could verbally respond to the voice of God, they responded through their actions. Their words confirmed the change of heart that they had toward God That is why the Bible says in Hebrews 3:15, 'Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.' How do we respond to God on a daily basis?

2. Responding to others - When Jesus summarised the law the prophets, the second commandment was 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. There is so much of biblical teaching on our relationship and response to fellow human beings. The Bible does not teach only about our connect with God but also about how we ought to treat fellow human beings. The essence of the fruit of the Spirit is about how we ought to respond to others. The highest form of responding to others was shown on the Cross by our Master when he said 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing'.

Church history is filled with examples of those who forgave their persecutors even at the point of being burned at the stakes. John Hus was one such great man of God.

3. Responding to ourselves - This is such an undervalued lesson because we find an internal battle within us that we need to carefully handle. Samson's failure in life was because of how he responded to the urges of the flesh; Judas Iscariot responded to the love of money by betraying His Master. On the contrary, Elisha taught a great lesson to his servant, Gehazi, when he refused the gift offered to him by Naman. 1 John 2:16 explains this beautifully saying 'For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.' No one will know the internal struggles that a person faces but God knows. Psalm 71:16 speaks clearly about this where it says, 'I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.'

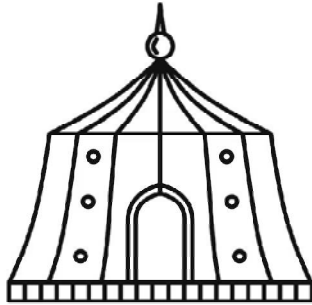
Having the response to God, to others and within ourselves is crucial to the choices we make. Those around us will see the manifestation of our responses but we know the motive behind our responses. May God strengthen us to walk in righteous response so that we rejoice at the time of our heavenly reward.

Have a blessed month

Rev. Isaac Emmanuel Johnson

Don't be a doubting Thomas; trust fully in His promises.
Why worry, worry, worry, when you can pray?

John W. Peterson



CARNIVAL

Read 2 Cor 9: 7, 8, Luke 6: 38

Carnival time has come again,
May we with joyful gladness give
To those less fortunate than us,
That they with joy and gladness live.

God gave His Son, His only Son,
That we with life abundant live;
He asks that we our blessings share,
And as He did to others give.

Lord, may this carnival not come
And go and leave us just the same,
But point us to the One who gave,
And give to glorify His name.

John H. Bala Singh

What was God's purpose for us?

What was God's plan for mankind when He create the world? And who are we in His sight? Knowing why God created us, and how special we are to Him, enables us to understand who we are, and our place in His creation.

God first created the forms: sky, earth, seas. Then he filled the forms with birds of the air, all kinds of animals on land, and fish in the sea. And He did all of this by speaking out His creative word. The creation of man was, however, an entirely different matter! We see that the Godhead discussed it among themselves first in Genesis 1:26-27.

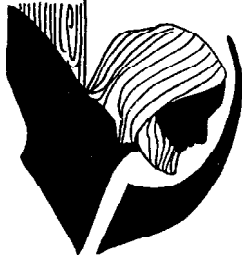
Verse 27 says, 'God created them in his image' three times. The original text used three different verbs for 'created': Asah: to prepare, to form, to construct or build, Bara: production of something new, rare or wonderful, and Yatzah: to form or shape like a potter.

So, the creation of man was the pinnacle of the creation process, after the Triune God discussed our creation, then formed us personally, lovingly, and with great care because we were being created to fellowship with Him, and with one another.

We are created in His image- not a physical image for God is spirit, but having his attributes: the ability to think rationally, to be creative, to reason, to feel emotions, and to know right from wrong. We were created to rule over His creation on his behalf, and to be in communion with Him.

As we meditate on this truth, can we think about what this means to us in our relationship with God? He created us to fellowship with Him and with each other, and loves us with an everlasting love. He placed us on earth to represent Him and to take care of it. Now that we know this truth, how will we respond?

David Appasamy



FEAR OF THE LORD

'Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge'—*
'Fools think in their heart that God does not exist',**
Who can gauge the mind of the Maker of universe,
All things big and small have a purpose and a plan.

Fear of the Lord sows the seed of understanding—
That God looks at the heart and not appearances,
The inward is more permanent than the outward,
The spirit is eternal and flesh returns to the dust.

Fear of the Lord is the fountainhead of wisdom—
To know the truth, the truth that sets us all free,
From the bondage of this earth and its lustful traps,
To seek the bliss of salvation from the worldly yoke.

Fear of the Lord is foundation of fearlessness—
In the midst of 'the valley of the shadow of death'***
in the darkest darkness, in the abyss of rejection,
From mortal men puffed up with great knowledge.

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

B V Selvaraj

*Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 111:10; **Psalm 14:1; ***Psalm 23:4



Kirk Youth Fellowship (KYF) – An Invitation

By the grace of God, the Kirk Youth Fellowship commenced its annual Bible study on 16.06.2024 after the 9 AM service. Titled "**Rebuild**", this year we will focus on rebuilding our walk with God. As seen in the natural world, when a structure is rebuilt, the old is demolished and the new is established. So too we will meditate on renewing ourselves in the Lord and prepare for His Second Coming.

The key focus for June's Bible study was "**Restoration through the Grace of God**". We meditated on the lives of apostle Paul and Timothy who were chosen, called, and equipped to carry out the great commission of Jesus Christ, despite their past lives-the former being a persecutor of the church and the latter being a youth and having culturally diverse parents.

All youth are invited to participate in this study, which will close with lunch.

Shanita
Youth member/Bible study leader



Bible Quiz No. 149 – July 2024

A Fireman's Quiz

Please give a Bible reference, where applicable (KJV).

1. What wicked cities were destroyed by fire ?
2. To whom did Isaac say: '**Behold the fire and the wood**' ?
3. Who saw a bush burning with fire, but not consumed ?
4. Who set fire to the Philistines corn, by illtreating some animals ?
5. Finish the Proverb : '*Where there is no wood ...* .'
6. Who said that the future Messiah would be '*like a refiner's fire*' ?
7. Who said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire ?
8. On what startling occasion were there '*cloven tongues like as of fire*' ?
9. James says : '**The _____ is a fire**' .
10. Whose burnt-offering was consumed by fire, as proof of the supremacy of Israel's God ?

Taken from *A Bible Quiz Book* by May C. Smith

Kindly send your answers to the church office or email admin@thekirk.in by 21st July 2024.

Usha George

Answers to Bible Quiz No. 148 – June 2024

An Ornithologist's Quiz

1. Eagles. Isaiah 40:31
2. Ravens. 1 Kings 17:4
3. Sparrow – swallow. Psalm 84:3
4. Hawk. Job 39:26
5. Vulture. Job 28:7
6. Pelican – owl. Psalm 102:6
7. Stork. Jeremiah 8:7
8. Peacock – ostrich. Job 39:13
9. Cormorant – bittern. Zephaniah 2:14
10. Crane – swallow – dove. Isaiah 38:14

The winners are:

1. Mrs. Sabrina Siga
2. Ms. Praise ye. K.
3. Mrs. Suguna Joseph
4. Mrs. Gloria Jawahar
5. Mrs. Aruna Asir
6. Mrs. Victoria Basker
7. Mrs. Indra Rajanayakam
8. Mrs. Angeline Reagan
9. Er. Joseph M. Manoharan
10. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss
11. Dr. Mrs. Sujata Elizabeth Prasad
12. Mrs. Gladys Vedavimali
13. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar
14. Mrs. Patricia Patrick

Hearty Congratulations!

"The World's Slow Stain of Sin"

"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vineyards, for our vines have tender grapes." Song of Solomon 2:15

The untimely death of the great English poet of the 19th century John Keats at the young age of 23, inspired P. B. Shelley to write an elegy which contains a graphic phrase –

"From the contagion of the world's slow stain
He is secure."

How sharply this portrays the slow erosion of human hearts constantly exposed to evil.

All of us are familiar with the word 'stain'. We find unsightly and stubborn stains on our linen, clothes and perhaps on our floors. Tea stains, iron stains, ink stains, all manner of stains, make the affected item unsightly and unusable.

Our God gave man certain precious talents and abilities and spiritual insight to have dominion to rule the earth. Alas! though Man has done well in material wealth, he has failed to master his greed and base instincts. We accept that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The Bible is focused on the removal of this ugly blot – the stain of sin - that condemns us with a penalty which runs through Eternity. One thing is certain – this stain of sin can never be removed by any device we invent. We would only get further entrenched.

Let us understand and accept that God is Love. He longs to embrace us into His family. We are his beloved children. But He is Holy. The stain of sin prevents us from getting into His fold. We long for 'Goodness and mercy to follow us all the days of our life,' but how? Sin prevents us from being in His service. We can hear the battle cry but our feet are manacled by sin. He cannot take us in unless the problem of sin is dealt with. "Thou art of purer eyes than to hold evil, and canst not look on iniquity" (Habakkuk 1:13).

We deeply reflect on the fact that it was not easy for God to pay the price of our sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ's agony in the little garden is

etched in the pages of The Book. Then with a cry of supreme courage and faith in His Father's programme, He cries, "Nevertheless, not as I will but as Thou wilt."

The cost of sin is beyond human reach. "Not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

No good that we have done can ever save us.

Jesus faced the Cross, and made it the touchstone of all Christian faith and the only way to save us from the ugly blot of sin. With this sacrifice, He became the Saviour of all Mankind. Jesus was not just another great teacher. He paid the price for the redemption of Man with His own precious blood.

Our tainted eyes turn in repentance towards our Saviour, the One altogether lovely. The One who prayed for us, "I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from evil" (John 17:15).

We come humbly to our Redeemer holding out our empty hands in faith, pleading to accept us 'just as we are'. He alone has the power to rid us of our sin and heal our leprous souls. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

"Oh, precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!"

Usha George

A season of suffering is a small price to pay for a closer view of God.

Max Lucado

Continue

In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, "*I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.*" Mark 8:1-3

They say: 'Well begun is half done.'
They say: 'The end is better than the beginning.'
But what about the middle?
Where neither the excitement of a start
nor the fulfillment of a finish exists...
That is why the temptation to quit a book
is most often in the middle.
The story seems to be going nowhere and
the dryness is off putting.

But it is the middle that tyrannizes
most endeavors & predominates a major portion of living.
And the only way is to carry on through it.
Abraham did that. For many years.
Packing and moving in a wild land
with no real sense of permanence.

Yet he continued to believe.
To continue thus signifies
an endless plod in the same manner
though the initial motivation and final anticipation
seem far removed.
Faith is the fuel and when it wanes
sheer perseverance is a substitute.

Lord, I wonder why You made the crowd
wait for three days before the miracle?
(Their hunger was evident)
And why only bread and fish?
(They might have enjoyed a banquet)

"My dearest child, do you really think that
all the people stayed till the end?
Some lasted for a day. Others a few hours.
Hunger. Busyness. Inconvenience.
All legitimate reasons drove many away.

I did it to distinguish the chaff and wheat.
I did it to test faith.
To give you a picture of perseverance and
the assurance of a positive outcome.

Like you asked
I could have given them mutton biryani or chocolate truffle.
Just because I can.
Then brief enjoyment followed by indigestion
would have been the outcome.
But the barley bread gave strength and the fish,
nourishment for the journey back home.

Also, for reasons unfathomable to you
I work with what has been
committed to Me.
No matter how small.

I give My people-
not what they would like
but the highest and the best.
And you will always be filled
My child,
And your empty cup will run over
when you continue with Me."

Dr. Susan Rajkumari

Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.
Unknown

St Andrew's Church Village Project - An Overview

St. Andrew's Church has a tradition of observing one Sunday in a month as a Church Project Sunday. For a church that is actively involved with the community in multiple ways, there is a great reason for doing so. The purpose of these Project Sundays is to create an awareness amongst the congregation members, not just about the outreach work of the Church, but also about the mandate and responsibility of each worshipper to be looking out for the interests of others apart from their own (Phil 2:4). One such outreach is the Village Project Sunday that is slated for the 2nd Sunday in June every year.

It is indeed a unique opportunity and privilege for me to be associated with the Project, to have an appreciation for the term 'faith in action' that is demonstrated by our staff and volunteers and the impact the ministry has on the communities nearby.

The seeds of the Gospel were first sown in Thirupalaivanam and a couple of other villages as early as 1912 due to the work of some Scottish missionaries. The then Ponneri Pastorate of the Madras Diocese took charge of the region for nurturing the new believers. More than 60 years later, with a rare foresight in 1972 for commencing medical and social work amongst the poorest of the poor with the Diocese, the then presbyter, Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie identified the Thirupalaivanam village. The project has now grown into a multifront outreach that seeks to address the social concerns along with the spiritual needs of the people groups and has significantly expanded to a clutch of villages including Auvrivakkam. Karanodai was added to the project about a decade back.

The centres and campuses offer a beacon of hope to the needy and poorer sections of the society at these locations and the dedicated and committed staff and volunteer doctors and church members make a perceptible difference in the lives of such people who live in proximity to these centres. Apart from the focus on evangelism, the areas covered by the project include holding church services, medical clinics and camps, tailoring classes for the women, tuition centres for the children and gardening.

More than 11800 patients have benefitted over the last year at the two clinic locations. In addition to general medicine, speciality treatments

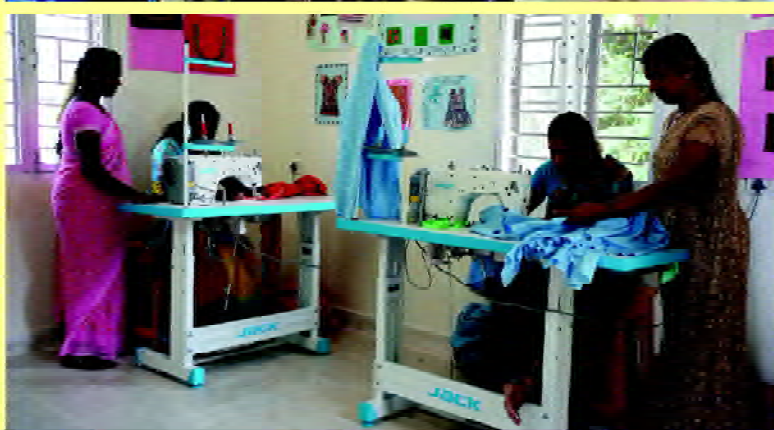
include diabetes, eye and skin. A unique feature of the medical camps is the counselling of the patients for the church volunteers with sharing of the Gospel and prayers for them. The tailoring unit immensely benefits women, who, after receiving certification at the end of six months, are able to secure employment or use their newly acquired skills to provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. Very recently, the staff are working on a tie up with a local ferment export promotion unit for providing a steady demand stream. Activities such as cultivation of vegetables and fruits along with quail rearing, serve as sources of inspiration for people in these regions to start such self-help activities.

We commend the services of the dedicated staff at these locations and a small band of committed church members and doctors for their praiseworthy and faithful service to reach out to the needy in obedience to the call of our Master!

It is our prayer that, as a congregation of believers, we strive to renew, transform, and restore the communities in which we and our project campuses are placed.

Dulip Thangasamy





Children's Corner

Bible Puzzle:

Fruit of the Spirit List in Code

The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit produces these qualities in the life of each Christian. You can decode the list here.



O L E V



Q L B



K V Z X V



K Z G R V M X V



P R M W M V H H



T L L W M V H H



U Z R G S U F O M V H H



T V M G O V M V H H



H V O U X L M G I L O

In this code, A stands for Z, Z stands for A, etc.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N

Do you let the Holy Spirit produce fruit in your life?

Dolly Shanthakumar

Why are undeserved punishment and suffering allowed by God?

(...continued from June 2024...)

For Inward Renewal in Jesus

Paul says, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor 4:8-9). When we face trials whether deserved or undeserved, our reactions would certainly be crushed, perplexed and abandoned. But apostle Paul tackles the problem quite differently. He is not crushed as everyone expects!

We would do well to remember the words of the Psalmist who wrote, "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3). So, that is the inward renewal in Jesus when we pass through afflictions.

To Experience God's Grace in Our Suffering

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 we see that God's grace is experienced in our weakness as Paul experienced. He was given a thorn in his flesh which was never removed even after his earnest pleadings to God thrice. We all know what a wonderful and fruitful ministry Paul had in spite of his weaknesses. We can even echo Paul's words in Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

In my life also, though I suffer from agonizing pain through Paget's Disease (a rare bone disorder), being a diabetic and cardiomyopathy patient for 32 years, our Lord God provides me the grace to endure them all without complaining. He achieves His purpose, using me in the Writing Ministry for Him, writing articles for a Christian Monthly, translating and editing daily devotions for "Our Daily Bread", and other translations. It is purely God's grace that sustains me all these years!

To Be Tested by God

Job was tested and tried. God gave Satan permission to do so! After all his untold misery, sufferings and tribulations, Job came out as tested and as refined gold without sinning against God! (Job 1:20-

22). "What are human beings that God makes so much of them, that He gives them so much attention, that He examines them every morning and tests them every moment?"

It is quite amazing to know this fact. But that is what Job says in chapter 7:17-18. So even if we are tested, we should be careful not to sin against God even by our word and emulate the example of Job.

Can we have the confidence of the Psalmist to tell God, "though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing" (Psalm 17:3)?

Now let us see what the outcome is of this test. In Job 23:10 we find, "But He knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold." This is the final result God is waiting for, with every one of us! Even when we go through trials, tribulations, sufferings and testing, our eyes should be focused on Jesus.

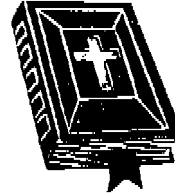
For it is commendable if a man or woman bears up under the pain of unjust suffering, because he or she is conscious of God in doing so! Peter in his epistle says, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials, These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6,7).

In conclusion, we might say that to this we were called because Christ suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps!

Nalini Suryaprakash

The love, even for our enemies, which Jesus commands,
is not our work but His work in us.

Thomas Green



Know Your Hymn
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
–Thomas O. Chisholm

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

WHAT A GOOD God we have, One who is always faithful.

"...if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." 2 Timothy 2:13

A God who never changes – who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Just take time to run through the years that you have lived and you will definitely see the faithfulness of God in your life. When we follow Christ one of the most wonderful things is the peace that is there even in difficult times.

This is what happened to Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, an American hymn writer, poet and minister. He was born in Kentucky July 29th, 1866. An intelligent and ambitious young man, he became a schoolteacher at the age of sixteen and an associate editor for his hometown newspaper at the age of twenty-one. Thomas became a follower of Christ at the age of twenty-seven during a revival meeting and from that moment onwards he used his intelligence and ambition for God. After his marriage to Catherine Vandervere it seemed to Thomas that his path was now set to serve God as a minister all his life. He was ordained as a Methodist minister and was given a congregation to serve. Due to poor health in 1909 he was forced to resign after having served for a year.

Thomas had financial issues due to numerous hospital bills in the years that followed. Instead of becoming bitter during a time of health and financial crisis Thomas became the opposite. He found more

time to focus on writing hymns. He found a job selling life insurance to help him keep up with the bills and with the loving support of his wife and two daughters he faced the challenges before him. No matter the struggle, Thomas always chose to see God's faithfulness. "*But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one*".² *Thessalonians 3:3*

Chisholm wrote over 1,200 sacred poems over his lifetime, many of which appeared in various Christian periodicals. Thomas' positive outlook on life never shifted, and in 1923, he took up pen and paper and wrote his most famous poem: Great is Thy Faithfulness. He sent the poem to Reverend **William Runyan**, musician of Moody Bible Institute. Runyan's position brought in many a poem submission, but Thomas' moved Runyan so much that Runyan quickly took to praying that God would reveal a tune worthy of the lyrics. With divine guidance, Runyan composed a beautiful tune to accompany the poem and named it FAITHFULNESS. It was an instant favorite amongst Moody Bible Institute staff and students, quickly becoming the college's unofficial hymn. Billy Graham heard it and began using it in his crusades during the 1950's. What began as a simple poem from a simple man was suddenly reaching the ears of millions, and has continued to do so each year since.

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
 - o *Refrain:*
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chisholm also wrote the lyrics "Living for Jesus" with music composed by C. Harold Lowden.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Our God is faithful towards us. Are we to him?

Dr. Anita Chelliah

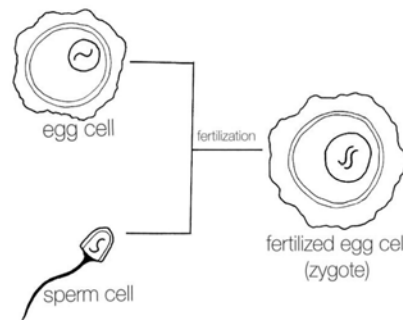
The man who keeps helping the man below him won't have time to envy the man above him.

The Christian Herald

Living by the Book: Part 2

Learning how to study the Bible from Dr Howard Hendricks

Learning to study God's Word requires process and method. The outcome of personal Bible study should be life change. It requires a receptive, obedient individual in prolonged firsthand exposure to the Word of God. Hendricks puts forward three steps to methodical study:



“Neither the male sperm nor the female egg is capable of reproduction. Only when the sperm impacts and is embraced by the egg is there conception and reproduction.”

1. Observation

What do I see?

2. Interpretation

What does it mean?

3. Application

How does it work?

1. Observation

Observation is the first step of looking closely at the details. We look for four things:

- *terms*: these are key words that unlock the author's meaning, that for, the basic building blocks of the text.
- *structure*: the Bible is a "library of carefully constructed books" with *grammatical* and *literary* structure.
- *genre*: each kind of biblical book needs to be treated differently.
- *atmosphere*: we want to recapture the setting and feelings of each passage by exercising our imagination and transporting our senses into it.

2. Interpretation

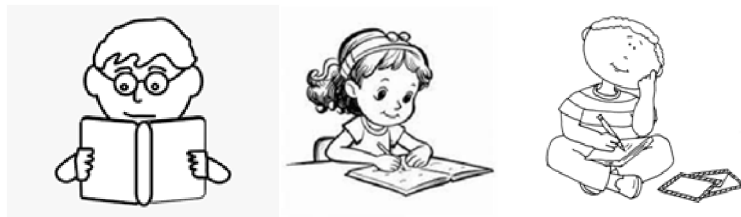
We need three things to get at the meaning of the passage. We ask *questions* of the text to help us search for meaning. We look for *answers*, which will come directly from our observation process. And then we must *integrate* the answers to form a meaningful whole.

3. Application

To apply what we have observed and interpreted, we have to ask and answer the questions: *how does it work for me?* and *how does it work for others?*

We have to keep the big picture in mind as we READ, RECORD and REFLECT on God's word.

- AL



Before we engage ourselves in His work, let's meet Him in His Word, in prayer, in worship.

Charles Swindoll

Medical Corner

STONES IN THE BODY – I GALLSTONES



“Doctors treat, but Jesus heals”

The liver secretes bile and this is stored in the gallbladder. Acute inflammation of the gallbladder is almost always associated with obstruction of the gallbladder neck or duct (cystic duct) by a gallstone. Gallstones vary in their composition. Cholesterol stones are most common in industrialized countries, whereas pigment stones are more frequent in developing countries. Majority of the gallstones are of mixed composition. Gallstones contain varying quantities of calcium salts which makes them radio opaque.

The majority of gallstones are without any symptoms and remain so. Only 10% of patients develop symptoms which make them consult a doctor. Common symptoms are pain in the right side of upper abdomen radiating to the right shoulder tip, and fever. 10% of patients may have jaundice. Some have increased white blood cell count. On examination, the patient has tenderness in the upper part of the abdomen below the right rib cage, which worsens on deep breathing.

Plain x-rays of the abdomen and chest may show radio-opaque gallstones. Ultrasonography detects gallstone and gallbladder thickening due to inflammation. CT scan and MRI are very useful diagnostic tools. Radio-opaque dye can be injected into the duct to find out the number of stones, location of stones and other relevant information. Dye may be injected during the surgical procedure also to confirm the removal of all the stones. In recent years video-endoscopy has replaced fibre optic endoscopy. Images are displayed on a colour monitor. Liver function tests are also done.

Asymptomatic gallstones found incidentally are not usually treated because the majority will never give symptoms. Symptomatic gallstones are best treated surgically, and minimal access techniques have largely replaced non-surgical treatment. Gallstones can be dissolved and fragmented in the gallbladder or removed mechanically from the common bile duct. Diseased gallbladder can be removed through laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery.

Dr. (Mrs.) Rajini Kantha Narendranath

What a Decade!! - Learning the Bible through Questions

What started in 2015 as a memorising all of Psalm 119 has continued through the years in learning specific Bible books in depth. In 2016, the test was again on memorising selected verses on 'Promises and Commands' from the Bible. In 2017, God gave this thought to have bible exam on individual books of the Bible. That is how I have had the joy of framing questions from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. I started with the book of Genesis and we have had Bible exams for people of all ages right from age 3 to the oldest. It was popularly called as 'Annual Bible Quiz' which many looked forward to each year. By the grace of God, this has continued every year, even during the Covid lockdown period. In 2019, I thought that we would not be able to conduct the Bible quiz due to the lockdown. But Mr. Dulipsingh, the then Secretary encouraged me to try it online. Mr. Rajan Paul helped prepare the online format which gave me the confidence to go ahead with the online quiz. We even had little children take oral test over phone calls. Since the online quiz was an open-book exam, we have continued that format of open-Bible exam only for those ages 18 and above.

This year, in particular, there was record participation across all sections. The exam was conducted on June 9. Children ages 3-6 belonged to the Beginner category. They were tested orally on 'The Lord's Prayer'. The Sub-junior category had children ages 7-12. They were tested on 'The Biblical order of the books of the Bible and the Lord's Prayer.' Children ages 13-17 were of the Junior category. They were tested on 'The Biblical order of the books of the Bible, 7 words on the Cross and the Beatitudes.' Those who were between 18 and 59 belonged to the Senior Category. They wrote the exam on the books of Zechariah and Daniel. The Super-Seniors were those who were 60 and above. They wrote the exam on the book of Daniel. Many fared very well and it is heartening to see the effort put in to take this Bible exam seriously. There is an immense satisfaction in knowing that the effort of preparing for the exam was worth it.

Prizes for the Seniors and Super-Seniors was given on June 23 in the 9 am service and prizes for the children were given after the 9 am service on July 7 since so many children did very well. Congratulations to all those prize winners and more importantly, the larger objective has been fulfilled which is to make many into serious students of the Bible. The common feedback of many is that this Bible exam made them to read the scripture in detail which has only enriched their minds and hearts. The Bible says in John 17:17 'Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth'. It is my prayer that all of us are sanctified by God's word daily.

Mrs. Roselin Johnson

Come to Calvary's holy mountain ... here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all.

James Montgomery

Kirk News

*Bright eyes gladden the heart;
Good news puts fat on the bones.
Proverbs 15:30*

Creation Points to Christ

From the first breath of existence to the promise of a renewed world, the Bible weaves a tapestry where every thread points to Christ. Creation itself, in all its wonder and intricacy, reflects the glory and supremacy of Jesus. Creation is a grand symphony with Christ as its composer and conductor. From the beginning of time to the promise of a renewed creation, everything points to Him. Through Him, we see the fullness of God's plan, the depth of His love, and the hope of eternal restoration. As we marvel at the world around us, let us remember that every part of creation directs us back to Christ, the centre of all things.

Guest Speakers

Rev. Dr. Alan Totire– The Mission of the Kingdom - 09/06/2024 - 6:00 PM Service

Kirk Project Carnival

The Kirk Project Carnival held in support for Kirk's Projects & Ministries, will take place on 14th July 2024, right after the 9 AM service. The event promises live music, stew, plants, books, ice cream, clothes, cutlets, cakes, biriyani, games, leather goods, and much more. Bring your family and friends for a time of fun and fellowship!

Kirk Bible Quiz

The Kirk Bible Quiz was scheduled for the 9th of June, 2024, 11:30 AM onwards. The event took place at the SACCE Hall, and it was an engaging and enlightening experience for all participants.

Kirk Youth Fellowship

The Kirk Youth Fellowship commenced its annual Bible study titled "Rebuild" on 16.06.2024, after the 9 AM service at the St. Andrew's Guest House, wrapping up with a lunch that provided an enriching experience for all participants. Additionally, the Catalyst event for the month took place on 23.6.2024 at 9 AM at the SACCE Hall, where Pastor Paul Anbarasu spoke, creating a time of worship, word, and fellowship that fostered spiritual growth and community bonding.

SALT Ministry

On June 30, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, the SALT Fellowship will meet for a get-together lunch, strengthening the bonds within the fellowship through a delightful gathering.

Kirk Men's Fellowship

The Kirk Men's Fellowship held their monthly meeting on June 16th from 1 AM onwards at DCC Hall, where Mr. Michael Lazarus spoke on the topic of the founding of the Perumbakkam church and its growth, offering an insightful discussion on its history and development.

The Kirk Men's Fellowship and Kirk Urban Ministry had their monthly Prayer Walk on Sunday, 23rd June 2024, immediately after the 9:00 AM service, focusing on prayer and community engagement.

Medical, Gospel, and Counselling Outreach Program

The Kirk's Outreach Program took place on June 30, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM in Kosappur. This event provided medical assistance, gospel sharing, and counselling services to the community, demonstrating the church's commitment to holistic care and spiritual support.

Village Project Ministry

On the 9th of June, 2024, the 7 and 9 AM services were celebrated as Village Project Sunday. The services included a report, a video presentation, and a Village Project Sale after the 9:00 AM service. The sale featured delicious items such as prawn biryani, chicken thokku, prawn pickle, coconut oil, homemade ghee, roasted peanuts, tomato pickle, lemon pickle, and mango pickle. Additionally, beautifully crafted items like embroidery pillow covers, embroidery handkerchiefs, Aari blouses, and Aari work tops were available for purchase.

Obituary

We thank God for the life of Jonathan Vincent Dharma Durai (07.07.1931 - 01.06.2024). The funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Kirk on Monday, the 3rd of June, at 10 AM. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Forever with the Lord!

Angela Susan Bryner



Quiz on Zechariah and Daniel



Bible Quiz 2024

