

Today's Sermons

Morning: TBA -- James Watkins

Evening: TBA – James Watkins

BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Answers Next Week)



11. Who said: "Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another"?
12. Who came by water and blood?
13. What writer called Christians "little children" and told them to keep themselves from idols?
14. Who said: "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"?
15. What did God send to accomplish that which the law could not do?
16. How long did God intend for the law to continue?
17. How do we put on Christ?
18. Did the apostles sin?
19. Did Jesus mean denominations when he said: "I am the vine, ye are the branches"?
20. Can we become members of the same church today that existed in the first century?

Answers to Last Week's Bible Questions

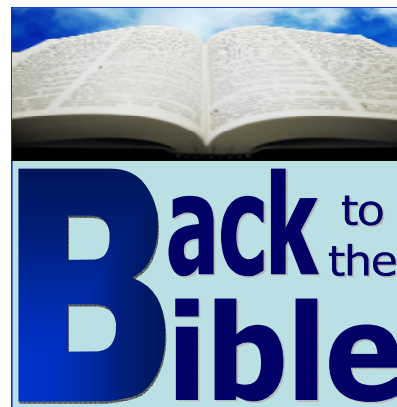
Did you get them all?

1. **Put to death.** Numbers 15:32-36.
2. **Prodigal son.** Luke 15:18.
3. **Not once.**
4. **112 times.**
5. **No.** 2 Corinthians 7:10.
6. **"Because there was much water there."** John 3:23.
7. **Philip.** Acts 8:38.
8. **No.** Matthew 7:13-14.
9. **No.** Acts 22:16.
10. **Belshazzar.** Daniel 5:1.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	27
Sunday AM Worship	44
Sunday PM Worship	30
Wednesday Bible Study	27
Daily Bible Readers	9
Offering	\$ 1413
Building Fund	\$89,168

For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More
<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Minister:

Tim Canup

preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:..... 10:00am

AM Worship:....11:00am

PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am

"Back to the Bible"

AM 580 WSKS

14th Annual Lectureship

Thought Provoking

Questions From the New

Testament – Part 2

September 23-25, 2011

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our Visitors!**

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Number 19

New Testament Manuscripts

By D. Gene West



When it comes to ancient manuscripts, there are no works of the ancient world that can equal the number of manuscripts extant of the New Testament. There are only 643 manuscripts of Homer's *Iliad*, one of the most famous books of ancient Greece. We have only 10 manuscripts of Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, and the oldest of these was made a full 1,000 years after the original book was written. However, there are 5,366 manuscripts of the New Testament, some of which date back to within 150 years after the New Testament was completed. No other ancient work has so many manuscripts for comparison as does the New Testament. We have many scholars who do little but compare these ancient manuscripts with one another in order to determine what is the most accurate way of expressing the words of the New Testament. These men slave over these manuscripts, examining every particle of difference in them to determine what best expresses the truth.

Continued Inside

Prayer List

Tornado Victims
Lindy Hiatt
Michael & Cathy Ellison
Nancy Cannon
Roy Rash
Ralph & Peggy Blevins
Savannah Bedenbaugh
Jim & Amanda Winters
Karen Adams
Brandy Lewis
Pete & Nancy Howell

John James
Bill Brown
Kiana Miller
Clayton Winters
Wanda Hardin
Nikki, Goose, & Linken Lewis
Eugene Kidder
Bubba, Diane & Haley Cannon
Monica Miller
Jessie, Debbie & Danielle Matkins
Jean Miller
Andrew ? – 2YOA Heart Surgery

Mary Nell Osborne
Linda Miller
Velma McMillan
Mable Vannoy
Roger Coldiron
Ethel Matkins
Steven & Jessica Winters
Donna Reeves
Deborah Lewis
Dorothy & Edgar Wilcox
Our Troops



Announcements

CHILDREN'S HOME ITEM

Tooth Brushes

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Immediately Following Morning Worship

TENT MEETING

May 9-13

Greenfield Campground, Mt. Jefferson Road

A-V CLASS

Tuesday, May 10, 10:30 am, Church Building

For example, based on the premise that the earliest of the manuscripts would be the best, inasmuch as they were made closer to the time of the original writings, these scholars compare every sentence of each manuscript with the others to determine such things as the correct word order, as well as the correct words. If there is great unanimity regarding a word, a sentence, or a paragraph in the very early manuscripts, and a variant is found in another that is three centuries later than the early ones, they work on the premise that the earlier ones are more nearly correct.

However, the amazing thing about all this is that the differences that are found in the earliest manuscripts are of little or no consequence at all. They amount to differences in word order. An example of this would be that there are five different word orders for John 1:21, in which is written, "Who are you then: Are you Elijah?" It really makes no difference how the words of this question are arranged. They all amount to the same thing. What is the difference between, "Who then, are you: are you Elijah?" or, "Are you then Elijah, who are you?" or "Who are you Elijah, if not, who then?" Two things can be said of this, the typical kind of problem found by manuscript scholars of the New Testament. (1) Regardless of word order, is not the same essential question asked? (2) Does the word order have anything to do with the salvation of man? The answer to both these is, "No!"

Another criterion used is the number of times a section of Scripture appears. For example, if you have 1,000 manuscripts that do not contain a certain event or story, and only one that does, then the scholars assume, and correctly so, that the one time this matter occurs is probably an editor's addition. It may have been an oral tradition so long held that it was thought it ought to be in the Bible, so some editor somewhere along the way decided to insert it. However, modern manuscript scholars will omit it from the one they are building, due to the infrequency with which it occurred in the most ancient of manuscripts.

There are many little differences in manuscripts called "variants." A variant is counted any time one copy of a manuscript is different from another; furthermore, it is counted again every time it appears in other copies. Hence, when critics of the Bible say there are 200,000 variants in the Bible, they frighten the unaware. If the spelling of a single word is misspelled in 3,000 manuscripts, then you have 3,000 variants. In fact, there are only about 10,000 single variants in all the manuscripts, and these are in such things as word order and spelling. So, do not let the critics upset you by telling you that the Bible is riddled with all sorts of errors, as the Islamic critics like so well to do. They insist that the Bible has been so fully corrupted that we do not know anything about the original, and should therefore accept the Qur'an. We have 100 percent of the Bible, and we are certain about 99.5 percent of it! Even our reliable translations are that accurate.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV).