

make me feel like I am imposing. Your conduct and your attitude speak clearly: "Leave me alone. Stop bothering me. I wish you wouldn't come to my house. Get out of my life and get off my back." But I can't do that until I have exhausted all efforts and am convinced that it's hopeless. If your soul isn't on your conscience, it is on mine. God wants me to care - and to try.

• by Bill Crews

Our Gospel Meeting with **Brett Hogland** ended Friday 9/17/10. This meeting was a particularly good one for the membership. While we had some visitors the lessons were mostly for our benefit and were outlined in such a way as to provide us with excellent study material for the future. For this we are thankful.



Is The Bible Understandable #2 By: Tommy Hodge

Convince me that the Bible is a book which cannot be understood and I will burn mine. Why not? If it cannot be understood, then it must be branded as being one hundred percent useless.

No, I am not about to discard my Bible because with my heart I believe it is a Book from God which can be understood. So the purpose of this article shall be to continue presenting supportive evidence. God in 1 John 3:4 says sin is transgression of His law. Therefore, I submit to you, that if we cannot understand the scriptures, then God has demanded of us many impossible things. Please consider with me the following scriptures and you will see what I mean.

Yes, we're demanded to rebuke those who trespass (or sin) against us and to forgive them if they repent (Luke 17:3-4).

Matthew 18:15 says we are to talk with those who have sinned against us. Galatians 6:1 says we are to restore those who sin. James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9 say we are to confess our sins. 1 Timothy 5:20 says the minister is to rebuke before all, the sins committed by members of the congregation.

The elders of the church are demanded to withdraw fellowship from those who sin but refuse to repent (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6)

We as individual members of God's family are demanded to have no company or fellowship with other members who have sinned and will not repent (1 Corinthians 5:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:14). 1 Timothy 5:22 says we are not to be partakers of other men's sins. Romans 6:15 says children of God are to turn away from sin.

Oh, yes, if sin is transgression of God's law, and if we cannot understand God's

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 66216
913-631-6519

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Evangelist:
 Jim Stauffer

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 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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law, then the above cited scriptures prove beyond a doubt that God has demanded the impossible.

Now, why do I say this? Because if we cannot understand "God's law", then it necessarily follows we cannot know when another person has sinned.

No, we cannot conclude that others have transgressed what is taught in a particular passage of scripture, if neither they nor we understand it.

Then, too, if the Bible is a book which cannot be understood there are many other scriptures (which address different subjects) that also show God has demanded the impossible.

Yes, God demands of us (His people) that we all speak the same things, and that there be no division among us (1 Corinthians 1:10). Then in verse 13 we hear him ask "is Christ divided?"

If the Bible is not understandable, then tell me please, how shall we all speak the same thing and thus avoid division?

Again, God demands that we offer no assistance to those who teach that which is not in harmony with what Jesus has taught (2 John 9-11).

My readers, if the teachings of Jesus as found recorded in the New Testament cannot be understood, then this is indeed another impossible demand. How shall we (without understanding) separate the teachings which are of Jesus from those that are not?

In Colossians 2 God, through Paul, says He has given us all His teachings through Jesus. Then in verse 21 He demands that we are not to touch, taste, or handle the commandments and doctrines of men. Now, I ask, if the teachings of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament, cannot be understood, then is it possible for us to comply with this demand?

Obviously the answer is no, and a thousand times no.

Now, I am sure that all of us who believe in God, and also believe the Bible is His book, do not believe God has demanded of us the impossible.

Therefore, in light of what is said in the above cited scriptures, it seems to me we must also agree that God has given us a book which we can understand. So my readers, I have three things to suggest to you: ONE, Study your bible, TWO, Study your bible, THREE, Study your Bible.

What Being Married is Really Like

Young people sometimes have such rose-tinted glasses about being married that they plan more for the wedding than the marriage! Columnist Dave Barry re-cently suggested that the vows to be exchanged should be more realistic as to what married

life was going to be like...

"Are you, John, troubled by the thought that no matter how large your bathroom is, your half will consist of three square inches, and even that will soon be taken over entirely by The invasion Of the Skin Care Products?"

"Do you, Mary, honestly think you will ever again be able to watch a TV program without John here scanning all of the other 57 cable channels roughly every 30 seconds in case there's something better on, such as a replay of the 1978 Super Bowl?"

As married folks we laugh - but we know how true it is that being married is far different than getting married. This is why preachers some-times advise young Christians who are thinking about marriage to define just what marriage is from the Bible view. It's a real eye opener!

Is marriage defined as being in love? Seems to be more than that. Is it sex? It is more, or perhaps we should say, more basic than that. Is it living together? More basic than that.

It is primarily an agree-ment or vow. A man and woman are promising to each other and to God that they will be husband and wife - and only to each other throughout their lives. It is this that will keep them together through the changes that life brings, as they find out what marriage is really like.

If the couple understands this then whatever problems come as they are "richer or poorer, in sickness and in health" they will deal with them together, just as they have promised. They will be determined all the more to, "love his wife even as himself and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (Ephesians 5:33).

- **by Bob Hines**

Pardon My Intrusion

Please pardon my intrusion into your life. I cannot honestly regard it as an intrusion at all, but that you so consider it is painfully obvious. My object is not to waste your time, or rob your pleasures, or thwart your plans, or interrupt your schedule or interfere with your life - as you think - BUT TO SAVE YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL. And you do have a soul - an inward man, a spirit made in God's image, never ending, destined to spend eternity in hell or heaven.

Your life tells me that you have time for other matters - your job, your family, your body, your pleasures - but none for your soul. Your schedule tells me that you are interested in other realms - business, family, education, civic, social - but not in the spiritual. Then when I try to visit with you and to talk with you about God, Christ, the Bible, and your salvation, when I try to get you interested in your own soul, you seek to