

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

March 27, 2016

Read Carefully

by Frank Himmel

Jesus predicted that Peter would one day be bound, resulting in his death (John 21:18-19). In response, Peter asked what was in store for John. "Jesus said to him, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!'" (v. 22).

John later noted, "Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?'" (v. 23).



This incident illustrates an important principle in Bible study: *note carefully what is and is not said.*

It is not unusual to hear someone say baptism is just a figure or picture of salvation and use 1 Peter 3:21 as proof. Read it carefully! 1 Peter 3:21 does not say baptism is a picture of salvation. It says baptism is an antitype (NKJV) of the flood mentioned in v. 20, or it is prefigured (NRSV) by the flood. And the verse plainly says "baptism now saves you." Obviously baptism alone does not save. Nevertheless, it is a divine requirement, an act which is "an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (cf. Acts 22:16).

Have you ever heard someone talking about the anti-christ? Chances are he was theorizing about some evil person in our generation or soon to come who will rise to a position of great world power and persecute Christians. Read carefully the Bible references to the antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7). You will get an entirely different picture!

In his popular book *The Late Great Planet Earth*, Hal Lindsey frequently attributes to Bible verses something they do not say. For example, on page 81 he says, "The 'Ancient of Days' who is described here is identified in Daniel 7:13 as 'one like the Son of Man' brought on the clouds of heaven..." Now read that verse. "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold with the clouds of heaven, One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and

was presented before Him." The Son of Man is not the Ancient of Days; they are two different individuals. And if we would read the complete text carefully, this reference explodes Mr. Lindsey's concept that Jesus' kingdom is yet future. It goes on to say, "And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom..." (v. 15a). In Daniel's vision, the Son of Man was given His kingdom when He came up to the Ancient of Days. That is exactly what the New Testament affirms. When Jesus left earth and ascended back to the Father, He took His place at the Father's right hand, on the throne, ruling as king and priest (Acts 2:29-36; Revelation 3:21). That was 2,000 years ago!

Do you see the importance of reading carefully?

How Many Churches?

By Frank Himmel

How many churches did Jesus promise to build? One. “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18).

How many churches did Jesus die for? One. “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

How many churches is Christ the head of? One. “For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church...” (Ephesians 5:23a).

How many churches is Christ the Savior of? One. “...He Himself being the Savior of the body” (Ephesians 5:23b).

How many churches are there in God’s plan? One. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were also called in one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4).

Into how many parts or denominations is the church divided? None. “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10). “Has Christ been divided?” (v. 13a)

Next Sunday begins a new quarter, and that means new adult Bible classes. Frank Himmel will be teaching from the book of Deuteronomy on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evenings, Greg Winget will be teaching a class about making good decisions as Christians. Both studies are designed to be practical in nature. Both will be better classes if you are there.



How blessed is the man
 who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stand in the path of sinners,
 nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and in His law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

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O how I love Your law!
 It is my meditation all the day.

Psalm 119:97

Service Leaders for the Week			
	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	John Baucom	Chris Brooks	Greg Winget
SONG LEADER	Clifton Lefort	Carlos Garcia	John Baucom
OPENING PRAYER	Paul Richmond	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Brian Wilson	Brian Wilson	
CUP	David Gray	David Gray	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Jason Chandler		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	Josh Baucom
CLOSING PRAYER	Chris Brooks	TBD	Albert Harrison Sr