

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016

Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



Facts about the Bible--Part 2 of 2

Completing our thoughts from last week's bulletin article, the following are various Bible facts that every student of the Word will want to know and understand:

- According to the oldest manuscripts that have come down to us, about 99% of the original Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, while about 1% was written in the closely related language of Aramaic. The Aramaic passages are Genesis 31:47 (translation of a Hebrew place-name); Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26 (documents from the Persian period, fifth century BC, concerning the restoration of the Jerusalem temple); Jeremiah 10:11 (a single sentence in the middle of a Hebrew text denouncing idolatry); and Daniel 2:4b–7:28.
- The oldest manuscripts of New Testament books have come down to us in Koine Greek, the universal language of that time.
- The early Bible was written by hand on rolls of papyrus. The Jews later wrote them on leather rolls. The pens were finely beaten reed brushes, or sharp-pointed reeds; the ink was made from soot, gum, and water. In some cases the Bible authors did their own writing. In other instances they dictated to scribes (Exodus 24:4; Jeremiah 36:4).
- It was not until the fourth century A.D. that the Bible was circulated as one complete volume



The Word of God!

Today's Sermons

a.m. "Come Out of Her, My People!"

Revelation 18:1-6

p.m. Elders Leading the Service (Dan has accepted an invitation to preach at the Tammany Oaks congregation in Mandeville this afternoon)

or unit. Up to the fifteenth century copies of the Bible were made by hand.

- Although it is debated, many scholars believe that it was Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, who divided the Bible into chapters, around the middle of the thirteenth century. Robert Stephanus (or Etienne), a Paris publisher, introduced verse divisions in 1551 in his Greek-Latin edition of the New Testament. The first English Bible to have both chapter and verse divisions was the Geneva Bible of 1560.
- There are more than 5,000 known Greek manuscripts, preserving all or part of the New Testament, with some fragments going back to about A.D. 150.

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

The Family of Charles Espadron (Claudia's brother, recently living here after returning from Atlanta) - passed away two Thursdays ago. stemming from lung cancer and a weak heart. A memorial service was held yesterday on the West Bank

The Family of Teresa Ridenhour (Teresa Morange's ex-sister-in law, of North Carolina) - passed away unexpectedly last Wednesday. She had just visited our congregation here a few weeks ago. She is survived by two sons, David and James Martinez, and a brother and sister, Roger Whitley & Karen Crainshaw, and a few grandchildren. She and Teresa were very close.

The above mentioned **Roger Whitley** - suffering from emphysema.

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Jase Roig (infant son of Colton Roig) - has resumed eating in the normal manner, but is still afflicted with an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Walter Acker, Jr. ("Butch") - hospitalized with fluid congestion in his heart.

Dwight Jones - feeling much better as he heals from his recent prostate removal surgery last

week. He is out and about some, but not yet returned to work.

Mildred Tymkiw - still suffering complications following her recent heart-valve surgery, and is back once again at Elmwood Rehabilitation Center in Harahan.

Jerry Kimbrough (former member here, now at the church of Christ at S. Baton Rouge) - diagnosed with cancer in his eye, and will be undergoing chemotherapy soon.

Ken Jones - thanksgiving that he has now recovered pretty well from his annual September post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Shirley Ervin - thanksgiving that she is healing well following recent neck surgery. She is awaiting test results before her doctor OKs her return to normal activity levels. Pray that she will soon be able to do so.

Lucille Delaney (Dorothy's daughter-in-law, near Hattiesburg) - recovering from about a foot of her intestine being removed.

Stephanie Smith (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

Anna Jones (Mr. Dale's daughter) - needs back surgery that Medicaid won't pay for, and is trying to get into their Pain Management program.

Jaimie and Jessica (two of Molina's daughters) - that they would get their spiritual life together.

Elery Martin (friend of the Caseys, near Montgomery, AL) - five year-old girl experiencing seizures, awaiting recent tests results.

Margaret Schillinger - experiencing some limited relief from her recent knee-pain flare-up.

Fairie Roig - also has a recent flare-up of pain in her right knee.

Zach Steele - for success and healing through the process of receiving his long-awaited bone marrow transplant.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - has some vexing problems besetting her.

Roy Carter, Jr. - recovering well from an apparent insect bite.

Terri Jones - pray that she'll come to feel better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

Dale Epperley - awaiting a new prosthesis to that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

Gerald Molina - still seeing doctors for spinal stenosis.

Jace Roig (newborn son of Colton Roig) - lost his ability to eat normally and therefore he was put on an intravenous feeding tube at home. He is also still afflicted with an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Clara Leonard - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

Bobby Leonard - awaiting test results from his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

Devon Nelson (Roig's grandson) - George asks that we pray for him that he will stay focused on soon enlisting in the U.S. Army.

Marie Peterson - has to reschedule a hysterectomy last Wednesday.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

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The Epistles: Applying Them Today
(continued)

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

We have been discussing the subject of how to apply the New Testament epistles to our lives today. The area of application of any sort of literature to our lives today is called *hermeneutics*. What is the hermeneutics of the New Testament epistles, that is, what do these texts mean to us?

6. One must keep alert to possible cultural differences between First and Twenty-First centuries that are sometimes not immediately obvious.

For example, a participatory republic with democratic institutions is a radically different thing from the government of which Paul speaks in Romans 13:1-7. It is expected in a participatory republic that bad laws are to be changed and bad officials are to be ousted. That has to affect how one brings Romans 13 into Twenty-First Century America.

7. One must finally exercise Christian charity at this point. Christians need to recognize the difficulties, open the lines of communication with one another, start by trying to determine some principles, and finally have love for and a willingness to ask forgiveness from those with whom they differ.

Let's use the example of homosexuality again as an example of how these principles may be applied. In this case the guidelines stand against its being culturally relative. The whole Bible has a consistent witness against homosexual activity as being morally wrong. In recent years some people have argued that the homosexuality which the New Testament speaks against is that in which people abuse others, so that private monogamous homo-sexuality between consenting adults is a different matter. They argue that on exegetical grounds it cannot be proved that such homosexuality is forbidden. It is also argued that culturally

these are Twenty-First Century options not available in the First Century. Therefore, they would argue that some of our guidelines (e.g., 5, 6) open the possibility that the New Testament prohibitions against homosexuality are also culturally relative, and they would further argue that some of the guidelines are not true or are irrelevant.

The problem with this argument, however, is that it does not hold up exegetically or historically. The homosexuality Paul had in view in Romans 1:24-28 is clearly not of the “abusive” type; it is *homosexuality of choice* between men and women. Furthermore, Paul’s word *homosexual* in 1 Corinthians 6:9 literally means genital homosexuality between males. Since the Bible as a whole witnesses against homosexuality, and invariably includes it in moral contexts, and since it simply has not been proved that the options for homosexuality differ today from those of the First Century, there seem to be no valid grounds for seeing it as a culturally-relative matter.

(to be continued)



Our Leaders!

Elders
Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher
Dan Schillinger

Deacons
Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

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| <i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i> | 9:30 a.m. |
| <i>Sunday Morning Worship</i> | 10:30 a.m. |
| <i>Sunday Evening Worship</i> | 5:00 p.m. |
| <i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| <i>Stitches of Love</i> | Tuesday 9:30 a.m. |