

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

994 Old Spanish Trail
Slidell, LA 70458-5016

PHONE/ FAX: (985) 643-4826

March 15, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



Show Me!

*"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV*

We all like to see at least some evidence before we believe that certain things are true, don't we? This is eminently scriptural. But the apostle Thomas carried things too far. Thomas was adamant that he would not believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead unless he saw Jesus alive himself.

Thomas can be faulted for his attitude, because he already had the eye-witness testimony--which is eminently reliable--of the rest of the apostles that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead. This same reliable eye-witness testimony of the apostles, preserved in written form in our New Testaments, that Jesus of Nazareth has been raised from the dead is our foremost reason to this day for our own belief in the truth of the Good News.

If Thomas were here today, we might guess he came from the "show me" state of Missouri. Yet when he finally did see Jesus himself, all he could say was, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28) After seeing the evidence, he became a powerful advocate for the Good News.

But we all like to see at least some evidence for the claims people make about themselves, don't we? So, "Show me!," the world says to Christians. Show me so I can see that you mean what you say. Show me that what you profess with your words you also express with your actions. Show me what you read and what you look at and I will know

Today's Sermon

a.m. "The Church, His Body,
and Its Savior"

Ephesians 5:23

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion
and reflection on the morning*

where your mind and heart are focused. Show me what you talk about when you are with your friends and I will see where your thoughts are. Show me your daily schedule and I will learn about your priorities. Show me your check book ledger and I may be able to tell where your true devotion lies. Show me what you select for entertainment and I will know something important about your values. Show me how you speak to your family when no one else is around and I will understand your heart. Of course, I am nobody's judge. But God knows, doesn't he? Show him!

* * * *

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 bereaved love ones of the 11 service members killed in the Black Hawk helicopter crash off the Florida panhandle coastline last Tuesday night.

Kate McDonald – feeling much better after recently recovering from the flu.

Terri Jones – in a lighter phase of her Epstein-Barr disease. Right now.

Frieda Hollis – suffering a recent illness.

Alexis Leonard – suffering a hurt knee.

Colton Roig – for his faith-walk with the Lord.

Janet Despenza - continuing to recover well at home from recent cervical vertebrae surgery.

Nayla Mustafa - just diagnosed as suffering from fibromyalgia.

Harold Evans (Sharon’s husband) - scheduled for surgery to remove a yet benign mass from his pancreas on March 25. This is expected to boost his immune system.

Clara Leonard - sore after a recent fall.

Paul Moragne – feeling better after a recent fall from a ladder.

Joyce Carter - being treated from a hemorrhage in the rear of her left eye, which fortunately is not affecting her vision.

Gerald Molina - experiencing neck pain.

Becky Gilbert - secretary at the Tammany Oaks congregation, undergoing chemotherapy.

Dan Schillinger - left knee pain has mostly diminished, but some weakness remains.

Pearlington church of Christ - struggling to be able to support a preacher.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

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!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What Does the Bible Say about Sexual Cohabitation? (part 2)

Adapted from
http://www.gospelway.com/morality/sexual_cohabitation.php, accessed 24 July 2013

Is Living Together Beneficial?

Does the evidence indicate that this practice offers benefits that some people profess? Is it more beneficial than marriage?

One major result of cohabitation is children born out of wedlock.

Of the 4 million cohabiting couples in the 2000 census, 2/5 had children living with them. But these couples often break up leaving one parent, usually the mother, to care for the children alone. Along with divorce, this has led to “single-parent families.”

The 2000 census found that nearly 1/3 [31%] of families in the US are single-parent families [12 million families]. Obviously, not every single parent is to blame for these circumstances, but generally the problem results because one or both

parents lacked commitment to marriage. In the 2000 census, 5 million single parents had never married, and another 4 million are divorced.

It is estimated that 3/4 of children born to cohabiting couples will eventually live in a single-parent family. ["Dan Quayle Was Right," Barbara Dafoe Whitehead; *Atlantic Monthly*, 4/1993]

What is the effect on children of a missing parent?

One effect is unstable marriages. Children of single parents are more likely to have bad marriages or to become single parents themselves. Daughters of [white] single parents are 92% more likely to themselves get a divorce and 164% more likely to have a premarital birth. [Whitehead]

Sociologist David Popenoe said, "I know of few other bodies of data in which the weight of evidence is so decisively on one side of the issue: on the whole, for children, two-parent families are preferable to single-parent and stepfamilies" [quoted by Whitehead, above].

Children are often innocent victims whose lives are tragically affected by their parents' choice to live together without marriage. Marriage, by comparison, is a blessing to children.

Some try to justify living together before marriage on the grounds that it helps a couple know if they are compatible, so they will stay together if they do get married.

But *USA Today* reported a study showing that couples who live together before marriage are 50% **more** likely to divorce than couples that do not live together before marriage (via *AFA Journal*, 1/94). So cohabitation actually increases the likelihood of divorce.

Effects on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

A study by the Heritage Foundation concluded that mothers who have never been married are more than **twice** as likely to suffer domestic abuse as married mothers [32.9 instances per 1,000 unmarried mothers, compared with only 14.7 per 1,000 for married mothers].

Furthermore, the rate of child abuse is **20 times** higher for cohabiting-biological families, compared to families with married, biological parents [FRC *CultureFacts*, 4/18/2002].

So cohabitation is physically dangerous for women and especially dangerous for children. Marriage, in general, is better for women and far better for children.

Effects on Sexual Relationships

Living together without marriage is one consequence of the "sexual liberation" movement. People think that, by eliminating sexual restrictions, people will be more satisfied sexually.

But the Family Research Council reported a study showing that people who strongly believe in restricting the sexual relationship to marriage end up nearly **twice** as likely to view their sexual relations to be satisfying as do those don't oppose sexual relations outside of marriage [72% compared to 41% - *Family Policy*, 2/1994].

These facts may not prove cohabitation is wrong, but I hope they will open people's minds to consider other more important evidence. The fact is that, in general, marriage is better in every way than cohabitation, including the areas in which people think cohabitation might be better.

* * * *

The Need to "Interpret" the Bible (part three)

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

The First Task: Understanding the Text's Original Intended Meaning (Exegesis).

The first task of the interpreter is called *exegesis*. Exegesis is the careful, systematic study of the Scripture to discover the original meaning intended by the Holy Spirit. This is basically a historical task. It is the attempt to hear the word as the original recipients were to have heard it, to find out what was the original intent of the words of the Bible. Learning to think exegetically is not our *only* task; it is simply the first task.

The real problem with “selective” exegesis is that one will often read one’s own, completely foreign, ideas into a text and thereby make God’s word something other than what God really said, e.g., applying the phrases “Rose of Sharon” and “Lily of the Valley” (Song of Songs 2:1) as allegorical references to Jesus of Nazareth. The *key* to good exegesis, and therefore to a more intelligent reading of the Bible, is to learn *to read the text carefully and to ask the right questions of the text.*

There are two basic kinds of questions one should ask of every biblical passage: those that relate to context and those that relate to content.

The historical context, which will differ from book to book, has to do with several things: the *time* and *culture* of the author and his readers, that is, the geographical, topographical, and political factors that are relevant to the author’s setting; and the *occasion* or purpose of the book, letter, psalm prophetic oracle, or other genre. Here one wants to have an idea of what was going on in Israel or the Church that called forth such a document, or what the situation of the author was that caused him to write.

To answer most of these kinds of questions one will need some outside help. A good Bible dictionary, such as the five volume *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (ed. Merrill C. Tenney, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975) or the one-volume *New Bible Dictionary* (ed. J. D. Douglas, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962), will generally supply the need here. If one wishes to pursue a matter further, the bibliographies at the

end of each article will be a good place to start.

The Literary Context

Literary context means that words have meaning in sentences, and for the most part biblical sentences only have meaning in relation to preceding and succeeding sentences. For a great example see Colossians 2:21.

As we read a biblical text we must ask, “What’s the point?” We must try to trace the inspired author’s train of thought. What is the author saying and why do they say it right here?

The goal of exegesis, you remember, is to find the meaning originally intended by the inspired writer. To do this task well, oftentimes we must consult a translation that recognizes poetry and paragraphs.

The Questions of Content

“Content” has to do with the meanings of words, the grammatical relationships in sentences, and the choice of the original text where the manuscripts have variant readings. It also includes a number of the items with historical references, such as the meaning of a “talent”, or “a Sabbath day’s journey,” or a “Tel,” etc.

To answer these kinds of questions one will ordinarily need to seek outside help. Again, the quality of one’s answers to such questions will usually depend on the quality of the sources one uses. Four such tools are a good Bible dictionary, a good Bible handbook, a good translation, and good commentaries. There are other kinds of tools, of course, especially for topical or thematic kinds of study. But for reading or studying the Bible book-by book, these are the essential ones. But please note that consulting a commentary, as essential as that will be at times, is the *last* thing one does.

* * * *

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class Tuesday 10:30 am