

# SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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October 18, 2015

## Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



### Where Does the Truth Lie? (Part 2 of 3)

*The first to state his case seems right until another comes and cross-examines him.*

- Proverbs 18:17, Holman Christian Standard Bible

The wise prove all things. The Jews and Romans allowed the accused to defend himself before judgment was passed (John 7:51; Acts 25:16). The Law of Moses required diligent inquisition in all matters of hearsay (Deut 13:12-18; 17:2-7), and it would not accept the testimony of only one witness in any matter (Deut 19:15). One of the great prerogatives of kings, or any person in authority, is to make such inquisitions (Pr 25:2). Agrippa, Felix, and Festus wisely allowed Paul to defend himself against Tertullus and the Jews (Acts 24-26).

The wise prove all things. Paul commended the Bereans for checking his preaching by scripture (Acts 17:11). Jesus said to judge righteous judgment, not by appearance (John 7:24). Since every way a person has is right in their own eyes, a multitude of counselors can save you from deceiving yourself (Pr 12:15; 15:22). Rather than hide from examination, the wise expose their ideas to challenges and questions from those who are knowledgeable.

It takes only a little knowledge to believe something, much more to teach it, but a great deal to defend it. Therefore, subjecting a controversy



**The Word of God!**

### Today's Sermons

**a.m. "How Shall We Forgive?"**

**Matthew 18:24-35**

**p.m. "Making your Guardian Angel Happy"**

**Matthew 18:10-14**

or opinion to careful scrutiny is a wise way to protect yourself from the danger of your own heart (Jer 17:9). Prudent counselors will quickly determine the validity of your bright idea. If you rush ahead with it, your neighbor may put you to shame (Pr 25:8).

Prudent marriage counselors use only one ear when a person has issues, for they know a marriage has two spouses with two perspectives and two sets of facts. You were given two ears to listen to both sides of such situations. Rushing to answer controversial matters after hearing only one side is utter folly (Pr 18:13). If you are hearing complaints of a relationship from only one side, then limit your counsel to the duties of that person only.

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## *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.**

## *Upcoming Sermon Series*

Within a few weeks the elders are planning to begin a Sunday morning sermon series on discerning God's will as it pertains to matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage. Dan will present the first lesson but the elders will preach most of the remaining sermons.

## *Special Contribution Today for Disaster Relief in South Carolina*

In addition to our regular contribution, the elders have asked that our members would also lay aside today whatever one's heart indicates for a special contribution towards disaster relief for the victims of recent flooding in South Carolina. The funds collected will be sent to the highly respected Churches of Christ Disaster Relief organization headquartered in Nashville, TN. Those brethren will then distribute relief supplies through local congregations of our brotherhood to people in the affected area ,

## *Fall Festival Fellowship*

On the last Sunday of this month (Oct. 25) we will have a congregational potluck in our Fellowship Hall immediately

following our morning service. Please bring a dish or two if you can, but all are invited anyway! If you have any questions, see Dorsie Jones.

## **“REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE”**



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

**Patricia Fowler** (sister of Reneitha Dean) - passed away last month battling stage-four lung cancer. She was a member at the West Looxahoma church of Christ in Senatobia, MS.

**Larry Covington** (co-worker of Dorsie's) - hospitalized in an ICU in Jackson, MS with breathing difficulties and low oxygen. .

**Roger Whitley** (in-law of the Moragnes) - suffering from emphysema in North Carolina..

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

**Jase Roig** (premature infant son of Colton Roig) - gaining weight and showing some signs of good development, though he is still afflicted with an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

**Marie Peterson**- recovering at home from recent surgery.

**Tod Grabert** - recovering at home in Lafourche Parish from serious back surgery last week.

**Walter Acker, Jr.** (“Butch”) – suffering chest pains and has been recently hospitalized .

**Kathy Mathern** (Bridget Carter's mother) – recovering well in Metairie following recent knee surgery.

**Dwight Jones** – expected to return to work very soon following his recent successful prostate surgery removal surgery. .

**Ronald Molina** (Gerald's brother, in E. Tennessee) - diagnosed with prostate cancer.

**Mildred Tymkiw** - continuing her recovery at her daughter's home here in Slidell from complications following her recent heart-valve surgery. Her doctors think she has a prolonged period ahead of her before attaining full recovery.

**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.

**Shirley Ervin** - thanksgiving that she is healing following recent neck surgery and is striving now to return to normal activity levels.

**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) -hospitalized briefly two weeks ago for an unexplained loss of vision in one eye.

**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** - supposed to be currently cancer-free, but suffering from deficient white blood cell production in his bone marrow.

**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.

**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 that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

**Gerald Molina** - still seeing doctors for spinal stenosis.

**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 enlisting in the U.S. Army November 3.

**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 Old Testament Narratives:  
Their Proper Use (continued)***

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

*Principles for Interpreting Narratives*

The following ten principles should help us to avoid obvious errors in as we seek to discover the Holy Spirit's intent in the Old Testament narratives.

1. An Old Testament narrative usually does not directly teach a doctrine.
2. An Old Testament narrative usually illustrates a doctrine or doctrines that are directly taught elsewhere.
3. Narratives record what *happened*, not necessarily what *should* have happened or what ought to happen every time. Therefore, not every narrative has an individual identifiable moral of the story.
4. What people do in narratives is not necessarily a good example for us. Frequently, it is just the opposite.

5. Most of the characters in Old Testament narratives are far from perfect and their actions are, too.
6. We are not always told at the end of a narrative whether what happened was good or bad. We are expected to be able to judge that on the basis of that God has taught us directly elsewhere in Scripture.
7. All narratives are selective and incomplete. Not all the relevant details are always given (cf. Deuteronomy 29:29; John 21:25). What does appear in the narrative is everything that the inspired author thought important for us to know.
8. Narratives are not written to answer all our theological questions. They have particular, specific limited purposes and deal with certain issues, leaving others to be dealt with elsewhere, in other ways.
9. Narratives may teach either explicitly (by clearly stating something) or implicitly (by clearly implying something without actually stating it).
10. At the bottom line God himself is the hero of all biblical narratives.

To illustrate everything said so far we will examine two major Old Testament narratives.

*The Joseph Narrative*

This is the large block of narrative material from chapters 37 and 39-50 of the Book of Genesis. In reading those chapters we see that Joseph is the central human character at nearly every point. Indeed, he dominates the story. We read of Joseph's rather haughty, critical style (chapter 37) stemming in part, perhaps, from his father's favoritism (37:3). Joseph's insistence on telling his arrogant dreams of superiority does not help his situation within the family (37:10, 11). The brothers sell Joseph into slavery, and trick their father Jacob into thinking that Joseph is dead. Sold as a slave in Egypt, Joseph becomes a successful administrator for Potiphar (chapter 39). Why? It was NOT because of his innate administrative skills. The Bible very clearly identifies the reason: "*The LORD was with Joseph . . . The LORD was with him, and . . . the LORD*

*made all he did to prosper . . . The LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had" (Genesis 39:2-5). Whatever Joseph's managerial skills may have been, they clearly played a secondary role to God's intervention in his life. Unfairly jailed, Joseph rose to inmate-administrator. Why? The Bible again leaves no doubt: "***The LORD was with Joseph, and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor" (39:21 NRSV; cf. v. 23).****

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