

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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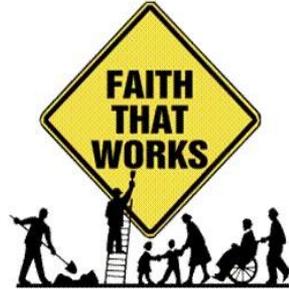
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## **The Bible: Dare We Leave It?**

**By Dee Bowman**

It is amazing how much of religion in general has left the Bible. Catholicism bears little resemblance to the Bible anymore, nor does denominationalism. In fact, some of the congregations who wear the name "Church of Christ" are quickly abdicating biblical principles in preference for what the people want instead of what the Bible says.

Is it because the Bible is no longer relevant? Is it out-dated, no longer relevant? Have we reached a point in time where there is no longer a need for scriptural precedent for what we do. Have we become so "mature" that we no longer need the "thou-shalts" and the "thou-shalt-nots" so prominently displayed in the Bible? And is our "new hermeneutic" better than the original hermeneutic which called for direct command,



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approved apostolic example, or necessary inference?

Is it possible that we have reached the stage in modern religion where we have bought into the Old Roman philosophy that says Vox Populi, Vox Dei, "the voice of the people is the voice of God"?

It's scary to note where we're headed.

Why the Bible? Well, first of all, because it works. People have not changed. technology has changed, communication has changed, medicine has changed, transportation has changed, but man has not changed. Not one wit! He still has the same ole problem with sin—too much

pride, too much lust, too much acquiescence to the moods and fancies of the day, too much “whatever” when it comes to defining morals. In the midst of it all, God’s word is “profitable for doctrine,” what we are to believe about who we are, where we came from and where we’re going, “for reproof,” to point out our imperfections, “for correction” to get us back on course again, and for “instruction in righteousness” so as to keep us going straight even in the midst of all sorts of pressures to get us off course. It is sufficient for all our needs; it thoroughly furnishes a man “to every good work.” **(Read II Timothy 3:16-17)**

But it only works if we use it. And to use it we must become familiar with its information, its warnings, its promises of peace and hope. And so we are admonished to “study to show thyself approved unto God.” There must be a conscious effort to make the word of God a consistent part of our lives; and that requires a diligent concern for all that it says—not just part of it—but all of it. And it won’t provide what God wanted when He gave it if it’s up on a shelf somewhere gathering dust, pressing funeral flowers,

wedding invitations, and other such memorabilia. **(Read II Timothy 2:15)**

The Bible identifies sin. It shows us the need for a Savior. It shows us the Savior. How dare we neglect it? **(Read Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9)**

“It is appointed to man once to die and after this the judgment.” “Let us hear the conclusion to the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.” The Bible sets forth the truth about man’s destiny. It answers the question “if a man die shall he live again?” It speaks to the condition of man at his death as being the most important consideration of his life. “Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess unto God.” How can we possibly neglect to consider—and that most carefully—these and many other references to man’s destiny? And how can we dare be so pompous as to change or alter what the Maker of the Universe says? **(Read Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 14:11)**

Finally, the Bible brings heaven into focus. Hope comes alive for those who subscribe to the Bible. The resurrection becomes a manner not of if, but when to the serious Bible student. **(Read I Corinthians 15:55-f; Philipians 3:20-21; II Thessalonians 1:7-12)**  
So, do you want to take a chance on changing what God has said? Not me, sir! **(Read II John 9)**

## **Absence and Alarm**

### **A Selected Article**

There is a correlation, you know. When a Christian is absent from the worship assembly there IS cause for alarm. "Why? Whose business is it? It's my life, isn't it?" says the absentee. "If I want to miss, let me be. What does it hurt anyway?"

Glad you asked the question; it hurts a lot! *It hurts you.* Fellowship of the saints in the presence of Christ is a stirring experience. Sharing exhilarating emotions weight those who love the Lord as together we sing, pray, teach. Commune and give is an uplifting exercise. What better could you do? The assembly

should take priority over the ordinary of life.

*It hurts those closest to you.* Helpmate or children quit because you do. Your lack of zeal and interest telegraphs to them, "Church is unimportant." They love you – you are the big one in their life: you thus take **from** the Lord instead of **to** Him, those you love most.

Thirdly, the relationship between absent and alarm is further heightened by the fact that the *surest path to back sliding is absenteeism.* There is more to being a Christian than attending services, but the attendance can never be so minimized that it's not a vital part of duty. The alarm registers also because *where better can one go?* Nothing is equal to the church of the Lord – to leave is to go down hill. Nothing is clearer than the duty to **"Remember me"** (1 Corinthians 11:2). Jesus demands it. Absence lets you remember self. Why would not one be alarmed when even one member is absent? He's selling short his opportunity.

## **"Strange – Isn't It?"**

**By Steve Niemeier**

As you are reading this bulletin – Lord willing a group of us are about 6100 miles or more away from you. Yet, we are both worshipping on the same day to the same God and in the same way! WOW! What a blessing!

As you read this on this Sunday morning we should be almost through with our day of worshipping and studying due to the time difference. We should have our Thursday – Friday and Saturday teaching behind us and looking forward to five straight days of working about 11 hours of day teaching and preaching!

We pray all is well with the members here at Greenwood and that you are following us on the blog - [preachsl.blogspot.com/](http://preachsl.blogspot.com/). For those who do not use a computer would you mind giving them an update as you get them?

We look forward to being back with you and yet know that we have much more work to do here before that is possible.

We again thank you for your prayers and support.

**Our Next Gospel**  
**Meeting**  
**March 3-8, 2013**  
**David Lanius**

**Invite Night – Nov. 18<sup>st</sup>**  
**“Do You Have An Achy**  
**Breaky Heart?”**