

The Cornerstone



Harlan Baptist Church

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From the Pastor's Desk...

The *Clear* Book of Our Faith

So far in this Cornerstone series of articles we have explored the inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of the Bible. This month let's think about what theologians call the perspicuity of the Bible. The per-who? That's fancy talk for the *clarity* of Scripture. The *clarity* of Scripture is the biblical truth that *"the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it."* (Definition by Wayne Grudem)

"Hold on, just a dog-gone-minute. I've read the Bible. It's often anything but clear and downright puzzling." I know that's what you are thinking because I know that to be true. The Bible can be difficult to understand. In fact, the apostle Peter said the same thing about his fellow apostle Paul's writings (see 2 Pet 3:15-16). Look, this is an ancient book, written by dozens of men in several different ancient languages and cultures, and inspired by a God whose ways and thoughts are far above ours. But while there are *some* parts of the Bible that are difficult to grasp and frankly this side of heaven we may only have a guess as to what they mean (1 Peter 3:19-22 anyone?), *most* of the Bible is fairly straightforward and any muddiness in its meaning can be cleared up by good, ole-fashioned blood, sweat, tears,

elbow grease, grit ... in other words, effort. In fact, generally when someone tells me they can't understand the Bible, I either ask them directly or think to myself, "Have you expended the same amount of time and energy and resources to grasp the message of the book which leads to your eternal life as you have other studies and books which help you in this temporary life?" The answer to that question is generally "not even close." Think about it. How many bible-believers do not have any kind of theological library including Bible commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, and a host of other resources but do have a host of resources to help them master their finances, favorite hobby, sports interests, machinery, etc. Oops! Starting to preach now. So, another good definition of this comes from one of the earliest Baptist confessions of faith: *All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them.*

So, does the Bible support this claim that the Scriptures clear and understandable? I think so. We know, for example, that **Moses** commanded and expected the Israelites to explain God's law

to their children (Deut. 6:6-7) and so does the **Psalmist** (Psalm 78). In both cases the biblical writer assumes that the people will discuss the Scriptures with their children, not simply have them memorize it and regurgitate it like some kind of robot. In Psalm 19:7 and 119:130 the Bible is said to impart understanding to the simple, which seems simple to me. The Bible assumes that simple, ordinary, common people are able to understand the Bible. And then there is **Jesus'** take on the clarity of the Bible. Wayne Grudem writes, "In a day when it is common for people to tell us how hard it is to interpret Scripture rightly, we would do well to remember that

not once in the Gospels do we ever hear Jesus saying anything like this: 'I see how your problem arose – the Scriptures are not very clear on that subject.'" Instead, whether he was with scholars or commoners, he frequently blamed their hardness of heart on their misunderstanding or not accepting the Scriptures, a clear affirmation by our Lord that the Bible is understandable, even by people thousands of years removed from the original events that inspired their writings. Furthermore, think of the **epistles**, those letters by the apostles to the new churches. The clear implication of the openings of these letters (e.g. "to the churches of Galatia" Gal

1:2) is that they would read the letters to the whole congregation which included baby Christians coming from Gentile backgrounds with no training in the OT, and more mature Jewish converts thoroughly steeped in the law and prophets.

So that brings us to an obvious question: if the Bible is so clear, why so many misunderstandings and so much disregard for it? We'll look at that next time. Until then, make the effort to read your Bible. I think it will become clearer than you could ever imagine.

Ministering God's *Clear* Word to You,

Pastor Brandon

CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Membership Matters

A new membership class is forming for those interested in learning more about HBC. Attending this class does not obligate you to become a member of HBC but it will help you understand more of our vision for ministry. If you are interested being a part of this class, speak with one of the pastors or deacons.

Do you have an Announcement?

If you have an announcement you would like the church to be aware of, please submit it to Peter in the church office the Thursday before the Sunday you want the announcement made. This will help us cut down on multiple announcements during the AM service and allow us to focus on worship. Thanks for your help!

Small Groups Thursday Nights at 7:00 pm

We have been saved to be in community with other believers! But we know that life gets so busy that it is difficult to be involved in each others' lives. What is the solution?? At least one answer is small groups. Meeting together regularly with other believers in a home setting to apply the truth of God's word to each others' lives allows for deeper relationships and genuine fellowship.

If you would like to be a part of a small group, contact Peter Hess at 273.1444 or at the church office.

Harlan County Christian Women's Retreat

On Saturday, October 22nd, the Harlan County Christian Women's Retreat will take place at Harlan Baptist Church beginning at 8:30 am. This years speaker will be Teri Metts who now lives in Jackson Mississippi, but has close ties to Harlan County and Harlan Baptist Church.

To register for the retreat you may contact the Harlan County Women's Conference Committee at (606) 589-2251 or (606)573-2008. Registration forms can also be picked up in the church office of Harlan Baptist Church. The registration cost is \$25.00.

(Lunch is provided)

Note Cards

Tapestry, our ladies ministry, is currently selling beautiful cards – postcards and note cards – of pictures from around our church building. The proceeds will help the ladies of our congregation support different ministries of the church, whether it be giving to a family in need, providing items for Christ's Hands or the Hope Center, or simply hosting an event here at the church. Please see Heather Dickenson if you are interested in purchasing any of the cards.

Ministry News

*For the Gospel, for Harlan, for the World,
for the Glory of God.*

Children's Ministry

- **Sunday School:** 9:00 - 10:00 am: Classes for preschool through the 5th grade.
- **Sunday night:** 6:00 - 7:00 pm: K-5th grade children will be studying catechism questions and a study to see Jesus in every book of the Bible.
- **Wednesday night:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm: Awana, for all preschool - 6th grade children.

Youth Ministry

- **Sunday School:** 9:00 - 10:00 am: "Your Word Is Truth" for 6th - 12th grade students.
- **Sunday night:** 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Join us this fall as we study the Gospel of Mark to learn about Jesus, the Son of God. As we study His life, we will learn what it means to truly live.
- **Wednesday night:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm: Join us each Wednesday night as we live out life together through fun events and meaningful service to our church and community.

Missions Ministry

There are two current opportunities for ministry at Christ's Hands. First, you can join others from HBC as we serve our community on Friday afternoons from 3:30 - 6:00pm by delivering meals to shut-ins and serving dinner. Those interested in helping prepare the meals are especially encouraged to come and see the work. Second, if you want to grow in sharing your faith with others, you can participate in an evangelistic Bible study with those staying at the homeless shelter on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Hess at 606.273.1444.

Nursery Ministry

- Oct 2** - Jennifer Morton, Sharon Morgan, Christy Baker, Lexie Magnani
- Oct 9** - Dianna Short, Pat Francis, Rachel Shepherd, Sharon Morgan
- Oct 16** - Sharon Morgan, Brenda Johnson, Amy Todd, Henry Johnson
- Oct 23** - Sharon Morgan, Martha McNeil, Foluke & Abiodun Akisanya
- Oct 30** - Sharon Morgan, Evelyn Rains, Shelly Barrett, Jamie Barrett

Deacon Ministry (Deacons of the Week)

- Oct 2** - Jamie Barrett, Will Clem, Bobbie Dixon
- Oct 9** - David Hill, Henry Johnson, C.D. Morton
- Oct 16** - J.D. Smith, Claude Wilson, Jamie Barrett
- Oct 23** - Will Clem, Bobbie Dixon, Mike Forester
- Oct 30** - Henry Johnson, C.D. Morton, J.D. Smith

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Worship 6:00 Evening Worship	3	4 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Menders	5 5:30 Wednesday night meal 6:00 - 7:30 Awana 6:00 - Prayer Time 6:45 - Bible Study	6 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Dairy Queen	7	8
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Worship 6:00 Evening Worship	10	11 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Menders	12 5:30 Wednesday night meal 6:00 - 7:30 Awana 6:00 - Prayer Time 6:45 - Bible Study	13 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Dairy Queen	14	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Worship 6:00 Evening Worship	17	18 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Menders	19 5:30 Wednesday night meal 6:00 - 7:30 Awana 6:00 - Prayer Time 6:45 - Bible Study	20 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Dairy Queen	21	22
23/30 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Morning Worship 6:00 Evening Worship	24/31	25 12:30-2:00 pm Christian Menders	26 5:30 Wednesday night meal 6:00 - 7:30 Awana 6:00 - Prayer Time 6:45 - Bible Study	27 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Dairy Queen	28	29

October Birthdays

October 1 Debby Howard
 October 2 Wako Hurst & Brenda Johnson & Hannah Jones
 October 3 Marie Fields
 October 5 Foluke Akisanya & Pat Francis
 October 7 Allen Blanton
 October 8 Andrew Ditty & Ron Rains
 October 9 Denise Abraham
 October 12 Chris Brown
 October 13 Jennifer Morton
 October 17 Ken Moody
 October 22 Francis Prater
 October 23 Jon Dickenson
 October 24 Jon Brown & Bobbie Dixon
 October 26 Jeanette Ball & Abbie Jones
 October 30 Sarah Ayers & Seth Ayers

Wednesday Night Meals

(with Dessert & Cleanup schedule)

10/5 - Beef Stew, Apple & Carrot salad, Cornbread & Cake. *Cleanup: Allen & Peggy Haywood*

10/12 - No meal (Fall Break)

10/19 - Turkey & Gravy, Cornbread dressing, Peas & Dinner rolls. *Dessert & Cleanup: Tracy Pugh, Foluke Akisanya & Vickie Ball*

10/26 - Pot Roast, Potatoes & Carrots, Brussels Sprouts with Orange Sauce & Yeast rolls. *Dessert & Cleanup: Robin Magnani, Alice Gross & Janet Wilson*

Memorials

In Memory of Mary Beasley

To the Harlan Baptist Church: William and Carey Anne Durrett, James and Sharon Carmical, Mary Lynn Smith, Charlie Smith, Howard David Smith, & Mike Smith.

To the Eliza Broadus State Mission Offering: Mary Catherine Surgener and Peggy Kelley.

To the Glory Singer: Julia Mitchell, King and Joy Rice.

Awana Themes

October 5th - **Bring a Parent Night** - Bring your parents to earn triple points for the night.

October 12th - **NO AWANA** - We will not meet tonight because of Fall Break.

October 19th - **Crazy Hair Night** - Use your own hair or wear a wig for Crazy Hair Night.

October 28th - **Hallo-weiny Night** - Bring 1 pack of hotdogs for the Fall Festival.

November 2nd & 9th - **Operation Christmas Child** - We will preparing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



Operation Christmas Child

In the next few weeks you will here more about Operation Christmas Child and how you can take part in preparing shoeboxes for children around the world so that they will receive a present for Christmas.

If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, please see Jon Dickenson.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID BARNARD

AND

MR. AND MRS. JAMES DANIELS

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE

AT THE WEDDING OF THEIR CHILDREN

Sara Elizabeth Barnard

&

Christopher Brandon Daniels

ON SATURDAY, THE EIGHTH OF OCTOBER

TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN

AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

HAYNES FLAT BAPTIST CHURCH

SPEEDWELL, TENNESSEE

RECEPTION TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW AT
CUMBERLAND GAP HIGH SCHOOL



Join us for
Food, Fun, and
Fellowship

- Games
- Food
- Candy
- Hayrides
- Door Prizes
- Sports Inflatables

3rd Annual
Fall Festival

October 31st
5:00 - 7:00pm

Sponsored by

Harlan Baptist Church

(Costumes Welcome!)

Harlan Baptist Church

PO Box 883

Harlan, KY 40831