

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, February 9, 2014

Volume 19, Number 6

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

## “REVEALED THEM TO BABES”

by Bob Pulliam

How much theological training must you have to understand the word of God? Some seem to think you must attend a theological seminary, and have letters after your name (e.g. D.D., Lit.D., Ph.D., etc...). And they are still nearly always hypocrites on the subject. They would tell us that Pastor So-and-So cannot possibly be wrong because he has devoted so much of his life to studying God’s

word. It won’t be long before you can find where they disagree with their church (and Pastor So-and-So) on some issue that has embroiled their church in controversy. Many Catholics would tell you that their priest must be right on a matter because he has devoted his life to the church and the study of it’s doctrines. Now press them on a subject they might disagree with the church on... Birth control, celibacy of the priest,

eneration of Mary over Jesus, etc... Now they prove that their priest is only a crutch when they need a little help on their position or belief.

When we read the Bible, we find a book written in the language of the peo-

(Babes, continued on pg 2...)

## “THINGS NOT SEEN”

by Bob Pulliam

Here is one of those little noted aspects of Scripture that is truly interesting. In Hebrews 11:1 we read that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” You’ve seen that many times, but had you noticed that this one verse establishes the tone for the remainder of the chapter, **not just in the word faith**, but also in **hope** and things **not seen**...? Let’s skim the chapter and pull out a few points regarding things **not seen**.

In verse three what may be seen was made of what may **not be seen**. Noah was divinely warned of things “**not yet seen**” (v7). In Abraham’s going out, not knowing where he was going, we find one who went not having seen (v8). These died in faith “not having received the promises, but **having seen** them afar off” (v13).

(Not Seen, continued on pg 2...)

### V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

Feb 15 - Material Orientation & Workday  
Feb 22 - Workday  
March 29 - Workday  
April 26 - Workday  
May 17 - Workday  
June 23-26 V.B.S.

Each session is  
scheduled for  
**10:00 AM**

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(Babes, *continued from pg 1...*)

ple, that all might understand. In fact, when the word was revealed, it was not revealed to the mighty intellectuals. As the process of revelation was beginning, Jesus said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.” (Mt 11:25) And when we see the division all around us in the religious world, we see the result of people either trying to become too intellectual with the Bible, or disregarding it because of others who claim to be more intellectual. People who apply the plain simple teachings Scripture to everyday life *are told that they err in not having the training necessary to discern such*

*things.* And please understand that there are well meaning brethren who do the same thing! If you haven’t come out of the right school, then you can’t possibly understand God’s word. We are drifting toward the denominations around us. We must not forget that God’s word is best understood by the “babes” who have the humility to accept it as it is, rather than twist it up in a knot of intellectual quibbling.

Education in all areas of life has its place. But when it (in and of itself) is pulled out as a sword

to defeat an opposing position, it has lost benefit and true significance. The Bible is meant for all mankind, and revealed in such a way that all might understand it (Eph 3:3f; 5:17). Otherwise, faith could not come by hearing, and hearing by the word (Rom 10:17). And if that were the case, salvation could only come by a clergy (or intellectuals), rather than an understanding of a simple, powerful message (Rom 1:16). We sing it; but do we really mean it?... “The blessed gospel is for all”!



*Something to Think About...*

## **Procrastination is the grave in which opportunity is buried.**

(Not Seen, *continued from pg 1...*)

What they saw, they saw by faith. They actually had *not seen*. Skipping to Moses we find one who “endured as seeing Him *who is invisible*” (v27).

Now we could go back and do the same with the idea of *hope*. But I’ll leave that to you.

I want to ask you, where are we to cast our gaze? These ancients were all looking to what could not be seen. Their gaze was provoked by their faith. Their faith allowed them to see what could not be seen with the eyes of flesh. Does our author tell *us* where to look?... “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, *looking unto Jesus*, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:1f) Many evidences exist for what we see as we look to Jesus. And while we cannot see Him with our physical eyes, we have the greatest and clearest of subjects on which to fix our gaze. Of all mentioned in chapter eleven, none had as clear a point of reference as we have in Jesus.

What should that tell us about the life *we* live, and the faith *we* exhibit? And with that I ask you, where are you looking?



### **THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

#### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

MATTHEW 1 - 7

February 9 - 11

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

JOB 29 - 34

February 12 - 15

**I TIMOTHY 4:13**

# FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest  
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

## *Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

**Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")**  
**April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014**

**Annual Singing**  
**September 20, 2014**

**Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)**  
**September 21 - 24, 2014**

## *Sick and Shut-Ins*

*Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy*

## **Sermons:**

### **Next Sunday:**

What Jews Believe About  
Isaiah 53, and Why  
They're Wrong

### **Tonight:**

Part Two of our morning  
sermon on What the Jews  
Believe About Forgiveness

## *Preaching Abroad...*



*"and to Salmon was born Boaz by Ra-  
hab; and to Boaz was born Obed by  
Ruth; and to Obed, Jesse; and to Jesse  
was born David the king..."*

*(Matthew 1:5-6a)*

Tracing the genealogy of Je-  
sus back to David was an impor-  
tant proposition. In order for  
Jesus to be the Messiah, He must  
be descended from David.

But Matthew does something  
very interesting in this genealogy.  
He names three women involved  
in the process of getting king Da-  
vid into the world. Two are in the  
text above. One was David's  
great-grandmother who was Ruth  
of Moab. In the next generation  
up, Matthew names Rahab who  
had been a Canaanite harlot. In  
verse three he names Tamar, who  
was likely a Canaanite, but worse,  
bore the heir of the promise by her  
father-in-law. That women are  
named is quite striking, but who  
they are must tell us why. I be-  
lieve we find that answer in the  
fact that they were foreigners.

As the gospel went forth, it  
had a significance for Gentile as  
well as Jew. Wise men came  
from afar to worship Jesus. Jo-  
seph took Jesus to Egypt to pro-  
tect Him. When he came back,  
his family settled in Galilee of the  
Gentiles. Look for Matthew's  
inclusion of Gentiles in his gospel  
as you do your weekly readings.  
Those little details betray a pow-  
erful thread running through this  
magnificent gospel.

# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

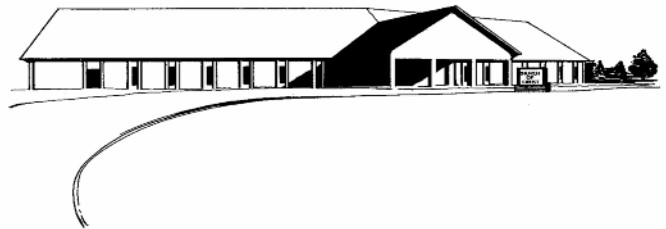
## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

*Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy*

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

### ELDERS:

Ruben Amador  
Matthew Heaton  
Donnie Mangrum  
Steve Voss



### DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

### EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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