

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Rational vs. the Irrational Mind In Understanding the Bible

One must always use one's rational mind in studying God's Word. The alternative is to accept irrational conclusions which are not warranted by the evidence. God has given us the power to reason, and expects us to use that ability.

First it is important to understand the concept of plenary verbal inspiration. Plenary merely makes reference to global scale: the entire Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. None of it is written by the whims of anyone. It contains the words of others, including the Devil; but, they were recorded by the direction of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:21). Verbal means that the individual words were inspired. This means that not only the words used are inspired, but also the verb tense, singularity or plurality of nouns. Feminine or masculine forms of nouns and adjectives and other grammatical structures are all carefully chosen by the Holy Spirit.

Consider these examples of the use of logic and reason.

Jesus defends the resurrection with the present verb tense in "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Matthew 22:23-33).

Paul makes use of the singular form of "seed" to emphasize that God's promise to Abraham referred to Jesus, alone, and not to the nation of Israel (Galatians 3:16).

The Pharisees came to the correct conclusion from their reasoning of Jesus' question regarding the baptism of John (Mt. 21:23-27). Unfortunately, they were unwilling to face the consequences of their conclusion, and instead answered "We don't know." They were spiritual cowards, dishonest with themselves and Jesus.

Paul used reason and the Scriptures to persuade both Greeks and Jews (Acts 17:1-4; 18:4, 19; 24:25). And finally, the Holy Spirit commends those in Berea, saying, "They were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, to see whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

It is true that we must put on our spiritual glasses, as it were, to correctly understand what God wants us to know. When Jesus spoke in parables to the multitudes he would say, "He that hath an ear to hear; let him hear." It is like, "OK, folks, listen up. These may be mere physical examples but they portray spiritual truths. You had better pay attention."

I think of Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night when I think of someone who forgot his spiritual glasses (Jn. 3:1-12). For one who was supposed to be spiritually minded (a leader of the Pharisees) he was not applying spiritual lessons from the master teacher. We should learn from him. We should also learn from Felix, who understood the spiritual teachings from Paul; but rather than acting upon his understanding, he put it off, possibly for the rest of his life. How sad that he lost his soul because of his unwillingness to let go of his own comfort zone (Acts 24:24-27).

It is true that God chose what men consider foolish things of this world to fulfill His plan, but that was to confound the wisdom of men, not to throw reason and rational thought out the window. The Scriptures demand logical thought processes throughout the books of Romans and Hebrews to understand the arguments of how God saves man and how superior the Gospel system is over the Law of Moses. James uses logical arguments to prove that faith without works is dead.

If someone asks you to remove your thinking cap when trying to persuade you regarding

spiritual things, that would be grounds for suspicion, and should run up a red flag. Just accept what you say without any proof? No correlating your position with what I know or can determine, what the Bible says; that my friend is utter foolishness. Not reason; but, Scriptures coupled with the useful and discrimination tool of reason. Not mere man's wisdom, but accurate application of sound reasoning principles using God's Word as the standard.

—Curtis A. Little

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **C. A. Smith**. C.A. passed away on Monday morning of July 20th. He developed complications from a broken hip he had a couple of weeks ago. C.A. is Kallie Wesson's Grandfather. Keep this family in your prayers.

Also, our condolences go out to Wayne & Connie Conley and their family in the loss of Wayne's mother, **Betty Conley**. Betty passed away early last Sunday morning, July 19th from the Covid-19 virus. Her burial service was held in Round Rock, TX.

Prayer Request

Jason Freed from the NMCCCH has requested prayers for **Allen & Resa Mann** who has Covid-19. The children's home in NM is in a "lock-down". The Mann's are quarantined at home for now. Please keep them and also the Children's Home in your prayers.

LaDonna Chism is requesting prayers for **Corina Rodriguez** who has Covid-19 and her brother who has double pneumonia with Covid-19 and is hospitalized. Corina's son is recuperating after a three week bout with Covid-19. Corina's daughter recently had brain surgery. This family is in need of prayers.

Prayer List

Jack Aaron; Brian Basaldua; Bill Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Maddie Clay; Jon Cooper; Lavern Couch; Kim Drake; Jazmine Duron; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Vertie Howard; Easton Jones; Chris Landers; Linda Latch; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. & Julie Munoz; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Erica Patinó; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Danna Robertson; Diane Salinas; J. D. Saylor; Janelle Shirley; Susan Simmons; C. A. Smith; J. D. Stanton; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lindsey Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Tom Wilcox; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

Youth

Bible Quiz Question (True or False)

Joseph was 23 when his brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

It was Joshua who said, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15)

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home will be here Wednesday, July 22nd for their food drive. They are requesting **Coconut Oil** and **Dryer Sheets**.

Picture Board

Please check with Tommy or Mirta Garcia to have your picture taken so we can update our “**Members Picture Board**”. They are taking pictures 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after each of our services for the next few weeks. If you have questions check with them.

“Thinking of You” Card

Stop by our BB and read a sweet message addressed to us from Sister Hattie Mae Gilmore.

Eternal Punishment

One of the most difficult teachings of the Bible involves the reality of eternal punishment for the lost. In order to make Christianity more appealing to a broader audience, some have taken it upon themselves to revise the Bible’s teaching on the subject. Some have preached universalism, claiming that no one will be lost. Pope Gregory VII in the medieval period put his stamp of approval on the existence of purgatory—the place where some wayward souls would go in order to be purified so they could enter heaven. Still others have taught annihilation, the idea that the lost will suffer for their sin for only a short while before being erased from reality.

Preaching the “other side of the Good News” is tough. We don’t want to think of anyone suffering, especially when it comes to eternity. But Jesus was very clear about the matter. In His parable of the rich man; he cries out for just a drop of water for relief. He begs that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers that they might not come to that fiery place. Yet he would have no respite from his anguish.

The gospel of Christ is absolutely vital for the flourishing of every human soul—not just in this life, but for eternity. It is heartbreaking to think that anyone would be lost forever. Nevertheless, Christians are a people of love and that some souls are in the state of being lost right now should move us to help them understand the gospel.

—Dewayne Bryant
Rush Springs church of Christ

July 26, 2020	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Gary Loving	Jaxon Straw
Second Prayer	Richard Siler	Rudy Ochoa
Closing Prayer	Charles Wood	Bill Brown
Lords Supper		
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Joshua Weakland	Tommy Garcia Communion (In Library)

NOTE: We will continue with our Communion Service and Giving at the end of our worship service.

Note: Our services are “live streamed” on Facebook.

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 — *Pulpit:* Bill Ryan 352-4871—*Table:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231— *Collections:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231

Sunday AM

"TBA"

Sunday PM

"TBA"

Our Records

Bible Class... 29

Morning Worship...73

Evening Worship...NC

Wednesday...53

Contribution... \$2,599.00