

ALT



REFORMED CHURCH

ARTICLES

Fall on a Sword - Bible Trivia

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

You've maybe heard a story like this about a guy who really needed to hear from God, so he opened his Bible and read... "Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. (1 Sa 31:4-5.)" Confused as to what God was saying to him he flipped to another page and read... "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37). So, he did.

This is bad Bible interpretation. Well, it's terrible!

However, the reality is that all of us have done the same thing... randomly opening our Bible and expecting God to speak clear application to our situation.



Let's take another hypothetical situation...

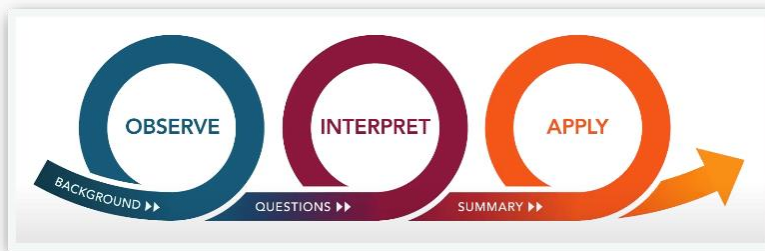
A teenager struggling with lust reads, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into hell." Matthew 5:29 (NET 2nd ed.) In a moment of terror over the idea of going to hell, he plunges a screwdriver into his eye. **(I've actually been to**

the ER to see a teenage church member with a screwdriver in his eye. It was an accident, but gruesome in so many ways.)

Interpreting the Bible can be challenging as we are easily blinded to the truth in Scripture by our culture and then do great damage to others. The abuses of the priest in Roman Catholic Churches a thousand years ago and more recently have crushed the faith of many. The abuse of slaves under the endorsement of pastors is a terrible blot on christian history. The overly zealous liberal churches blessing of sin certainly sabotages the message of grace with the removal of right or wrong.

So, what can you do to interpret the Bible rightly?

1. Know the whole Bible. Read the whole thing! (Read last months article for some helps with that.) Knowing the context of a specific verse will make a huge difference in how you understand and apply the passage. So, start reading through the whole Bible today.
2. Know how to study the Bible inductively. The most helpful practice I learned early in my walk was inductive Bible study. It's simple... Observe, Interpret, & Apply. One simply asks and answers three questions... What does the passage say? What did it mean? And what does it mean for me? Here's a great introduction (["How to Lead Bible Study"](#)) by Intervarsity.



3. Know who you can trust to interpret the Bible. In recent years, I've found it more and more important to know who I am reading or watching. Are they Christian? Baptist? Reformed? Progressive? Woke? Conservative? Knowing where they stand on major issues prepares me for what they may be trying to teach. So, know if you can really trust that video preacher or author.

This point also applies at a local level. Small groups are a great place to process interpretation and application. Your friends and family have your best in mind, and they should be willing to question your interpretation and help you walk in the truth.

You'll benefit in many ways from joining a small group, and we have several you could join. Call the office and let us know you are interested.

If you are ready for a deeper dive into this, check out this article... <https://www.logos.com/grow/what-is-exegesis-and-why-is-it-important/> and fall on the real sword of Spirit.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NIV)

PRAYER: Lord, help us to rightly interpret and apply the Bible to our lives. Give us wisdom and discernment as we listen to others that we might not be led astray.

Equipping Youth Update

By Jessa Ter Beest

Since it's the month of Thanksgiving, I decided to ask our students and coaches what they're thankful for this year. It's a pretty awesome list!

- Grahm Stelsel - I'm thankful for my family and friends.
- Mara Navis - I'm thankful for safe shelter and food and water.
- Rhett Derksen - I'm thankful for a house.
- Laney Arndt - I am thankful for Mara's cat being better.
- Klay VandeZande - I'm thankful I get to go to youth group.
- Brielle Redeker - I'm thankful that I can go to church and for my family.
- Zoey Anderson - I'm thankful for God turning my life around!
- Anna & Ruby Hibicki - My family and farming
- Cameron Jahn - Family, shelter, freedom
- River Block - I am thankful for family.
- Eva Umentum - Family, friends, home
- Brayden Daane - I'm thankful for the athletic ability God has given me.
- Bennett Hull - I am thankful for my family.
- Emmett Hull - I'm very thankful for my whole family, they are very supportive and always have my back! I'm also very thankful for Jessa! All she does for us is awesome and she always picks me up if I am ever down!
- Thane Glewen - Jesus dying on the cross for my sins
- Allison Disch - Family, faith, and education

Coaches:

- Jensen Jahn - I am thankful for my family and friends, and the community of the Church! The support and love I receive is very appreciated, I am so thankful for everyone in my life!
- Chas Glewen - There are so many things that I am thankful for. That considered, a few of the main ones are my kind happy loving girlfriend. She shows me that even when things aren't going the best and the way you want it, you can still be happy and keep a good attitude. We also work together to be the best God fearing people that we can be. Next I am thankful for David and Donna Henker. They have accepted me as a part of their family and been such a big blessing to my life. My growing relationship with them is one that impacts the rest of my life. As well as the way that I live throughout the day. Finally, I am thankful for our church. Being involved in this church has, and forever will be the best part in my relationship with God. I am constantly growing in my faith and as a person because of this church.
- Libbi Campbell - Thankful for the way that the kids have been bold in their faith. They've been sharing a lot of how they bring it up in school respectfully when they can. Thankful for the genuine relationships built between students and coaches which is shown through serious and casual conversations, jokes, nicknames, prayer, time together, and the excitement when they see us even outside of church. The prayers in youth group. Students and coaches are willing to share what they're going through and support each other. Praying can feel like it's 'all' we can do but it's the best thing we can do for each other. Our students have a passion for prayer. Thankful for the curiosity and questions the students ask as well as their excitement to learn about Jesus.

Equipping Children & Families Update

By Lynnae Loomans

Praises & Prayer Requests:

- On average attendance:
 - Sunday morning: 83 children
 - Wednesday night: 91 children
- Upcoming News:
 - Family Night - November 8th 5:30pm
 - No Sunday School - Nov 12th

- No Bible Class - Nov 22nd
- Praise for all 24 of the Sunday School teachers/helpers
- Praise for all 10 Bible Class teachers
- Praise for all 8 volunteers willing to help sub
- Praise to the children talking about their church to their friends and having them join on Wednesday night. Having another 10 new faces each week is so awesome.
- Pray for the children in this church to be a light to everyone they come in contact with.
- Pray for a successful family night coming up.

MESSAGES

We can't begin to express the love and support we have felt over the last couple of weeks since the accident. Thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits. They all mean so much. We have such a loving and caring church family. Thanks again.

With Love,

Al and Dorie Harmsen

EVENTS

November Events

Nov
02

Thursday, 7:00pm

Women's Ministry Idea Meeting

Have ideas for Women's Ministry/women's events? Join us in the Prayer Room to share and brainstorm.

Nov
04

Saturday, 8:00am

All Church Cleaning

Funeral Serving Group #3 will meet for the annual deep-cleaning of the church.

Nov
08

Wednesday, 5:30pm

Mission Backpack Family Night

Join us for pizza and packing bags for Mission Backpack, a local organization that provides food for children in need in the Waupun Area School District.

Nov
10

Thursday

Midwest Network Gathering

Pastor Kevin and 2 Elders will attend our region's annual Alliance meeting in Worthington, MN on Nov 10-11.

Nov
12

Sunday, 10:45am

Annual Congregational Meeting

All Covenant Partners are asked to attend the annual congregational meeting. Voting for Elder & Deacon will take place during this meeting.

Nov
22

Wednesday, 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us for an evening of worship and thanksgiving. Speakers will be Samantha Luck and Mitch & Jessa Wedel.



NEWS

Births:

10/29/23 - Jubilee Ellen, daughter of Joe & Joslyn Ware