

PRAYER BOOK CALENDARS

AVAILABLE FOR \$9.00 AT THE BESSERER ENTRANCE

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE BESSERER ENTRANCE.

LEARNER'S EXCHANGE

- Nov. 10 - Campus Evangelism
- Nov. 17 - Evangelizing to Jehovah's Witnesses
- Nov. 24 - Evangelizing the Workplace in the 21st Century
- Dec. 1 - Neighbourhood Evangelism
- Dec. 8 - Evangelizing Children

STARTING NOV 10 | 9:15 - 9:45AM | THE OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE LOBBY



WOMEN'S POTLUCK BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 14TH | 9:30AM | THE BIBLE HOUSE



Potluck & Carol Sing

DECEMBER 7TH | 5PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE

MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2P0E1

SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Welcome!

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL
Ephesians

DECEMBER 1ST

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS GRIPPED BY THE GOSPEL,
LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY.

SOME COMMON EVANGELICAL PROBLEMS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Dear Friends,

Imagine you are preparing a Bible Study or Bible teaching time on a chapter in the New Testament. You are using a trusted Bible teacher's book as your guide. Your guide book tells you that certain verses in the New Testament chapter you are studying are quotes from the Old Testament. You note this in your notes, and later, as you are leading your group through the New Testament text, you have the whole group turn to the Old Testament texts that are quoted. To your shock (you did not check in advance) the words are very different from what is in the New Testament. You get red in the face and someone asks if the New Testament writer got the quote wrong. You do not know how to answer and you worry about this. How can an inspired Bible get quotes wrong? Here are a couple things to consider. Note, the Bible is not wrong, but your understanding of inspiration may be wrong.

First, it is the words in the Bible that are inspired, not the person who wrote it. Paul probably spoke hundreds of thousands of words after his conversion. If he was an "inspired person" then all of his words should be in the Bible. But Paul was not an inspired person in that sense. Out of all the words Paul spoke, God worked in and through only some of them to be His word written. In God's providence, He saw that the words would be written; then recognized as ultimately from Him; then preserved for us. It is the final words of the Old and New Testament that are inspired. This means that a New Testament quote of an Old Testament text can be different, but both are equally and fully part of God's word written.

(Continued on next page)

For your Prayers

To balance our books for 2019, we estimate that we need \$85,000

Second, this last bit is troubling to many of us. It seems wrong. But this says more about us than God. The problem is that we have a concept of rational order, and the Bible does not meet our standard of rational order. Emotionally and intellectually this seems to be a problem. But ask yourself. If God is God, why does He have to meet your concept of rational order? We live in an age where we want a tidy consistency to rules and laws. Lawyers and others find loopholes and inconsistencies and exploit them. So we want a systematic consistency in words and concepts from top to bottom and throughout the full width of the "system". So, we think God has to tidy up His word, and if His word does not have that tidy, rigorous consistency, it is lacking. Now you can maybe see why I say "why"? Why does God have to meet this standard?

Third, this whole question reveals the deep seated problem of all human beings, including Christians. We are fallen. A Christian is fallen, but saved – but still fallen. As fallen human beings our default is to judge God and find Him lacking, not trust Him and marvel at His glory and His mercy. You see, we should marvel! God in His providence moved Jewish scholars to provide a Greek version of the Old Testament shortly before Jesus so that the Apostles could bring the Gospel to the pagan world. This Greek version (The Septuagint, LXX) is a faithful paraphrase of the Hebrew text. The New Testament writers, mainly speaking to the Greek-speaking pagan world, quote the same version (LXX) they used in their preaching.

So we primarily use the Hebrew text when we translate the Old Testament into English, but God can save the pagans and delight the Christians at the same time. He provides the Hebrew text so we can read the Old Testament, and He provides nuance and insight into some Old Testament texts woven into the New Testament through the use of the Septuagint. Truly we should say "Great and marvelous are Your works Lord God Almighty, just and true are Your ways O King of the Nations!"

George+

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GROWING IN GRACE

I NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY ATTITUDES.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

ATTITUDES.

1. Grace does not diminish nature. Grace perfects nature.
2. The Gospel forms you to command well and obey well.
3. If you cannot do what is good, true, just, merciful, and generous, then you are not free.

I NEED TO GROW IN PRAYER.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Almighty God, Your Son has set me free to be free in You. Please fill me in the Holy Spirit so that I will not be a people-pleaser, but will do Your will from my heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

I NEED TO GET GOD'S WORD IN MY MIND AND HEART.

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a bondservant, being born in the likeness of men."

Philippians 2:5-7 ESV

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING OR START TO DO SOMETHING.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

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