

Door Knocking Campaign

Let's not forget about our door knocking campaign here in Belle in May. On May 1st and 2nd we will knock doors and then will continue the meeting through the 5th and maybe later depending on how things progress in the five days we have slated. Every one of us needs to have a job of some kind in this in order to pull this off and make it a success. In April we will be going through classes of meeting the public for those who will be knocking doors.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
03/09/09 Monday.....	Numbers.....17-18	John.....02
03/10/09 Tuesday.....	Numbers.....19-20	John.....03
03/11/09 Wednesday.....	Numbers.....21-22	John.....04
03/12/09 Thursday.....	Numbers.....23-24	John.....05
03/13/09 Friday.....	Numbers.....25-26	John.....06
03/14/09 Saturday.....	Numbers.....27-28	John.....07
03/15/09 Sunday.....	Numbers.....29-30	John.....08

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 201-6093. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com. Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
 Ladies Bible Class 3rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

OUR PLEA:
 BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
 P.O. Box 381
 Belle, MO 65013

The Informer

Belle church of Christ

Volume 18

March 8, 2009

Number 10

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE? (6)

Jerry D. McDonald

Now we look at Mr. Barker's next question on his test which is "According to the bible, who created evil? His choices are (A) Adam, (B) Eve, (C) God, (D)Satan." Now Mr. Barker's answer is: "c. God. --Now we know who is to blame. 'I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.' (Isaiah 45:7) The word 'create' above is bara, the same word used in Genesis 1:1. The word 'evil' is ra, such as in Genesis 2:9, 'the tree of knowledge of good and evil.' Some versions, such as the NIV, have unjustifiably softened the implications of this verse by translating ra as 'disaster' or 'calamity,' although ra is used repeatedly throughout scripture to refer to moral evil. (See Isaiah 7:14-15: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil [ra], and choose the good.') But even if the 'disaster' interpretation were allowable, the verse still depicts God as a troublemaker."

I am sure that Mr. Barker remembers a word with seven letters spelled "CONTEXT." Read the context and you will see that there is no problem with what God has told Isaiah here. Albert Barnes wrote:

"I make peace - I hush the contending passions of mankind; I dispose to peace, and prevent wars when I choose - a passage which proves that the most violent passions are under his control. No passions are more uncontrollable than those which lead to wars; and nowhere is there a more striking display of the Omnipotence of God than in his power to repress the pride, ambition, and spirit of revenge of conquerors and kings:

Which stilleth the noise of the seas,
 The noise of their waves,

And the tumult of the people.

Psa 65:7

And create evil - The parallelism here shows that this is not to be understood in the sense of all evil, but of that which is the opposite of peace and prosperity. That is, God directs judgments, disappointments, trials, and calamities; he has power to suffer the mad passions of people to rage, and to afflict nations with war; he presides over adverse as well as prosperous events. The passage does not prove that God is the author of moral evil, or sin, and such a sentiment is abhorrent to the general strain of the Bible, and to all just views of the character of a holy God” (*Barnes Notes, e-Sword*).

The word “ra” is defined in the *Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary* as: “**H7451** רָעָה רָעָה ra’ rā’âh rah, raw-aw’ From **H7489**; bad or (as noun) evil (naturally or morally). This includes the second (feminine) form; as adjective or noun: - adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displeasure (-ure), distress, evil ([-favouredness], man, thing), + exceedingly, X great, grief (-vous), harm, heavy, hurt (-ful), ill (favoured), + mark, mischief, (-vous), misery, naught (-ty), noisome, + not please, sad (-ly), sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wicked (-ly, -ness, one), worse (-st) wretchedness, wrong. [Including feminine ra’ah; as adjective or noun.]” (*e-Sword*).

From this we can see that the word has various meanings and you have to let the context determine how the word is to be used. Barnes said that the word in this verse shows that the word is used in opposition to peace, which would be calamity, distress, misery or trouble. According to the context God is letting Israel know that he will show their enemies that he is their God and that there is no one like God and that from the rising of the sun from the East to the setting in the West that He is the Lord. He forms the light and he creates darkness, he makes peace and creates turmoil, calamity, affliction, misery.

Surely Mr. Barker is aware of this? He has to be, he couldn’t have preached as long as he did and not be aware of the fact that this word could be used in many different ways. However, this is exactly what atheists do, they take a verse out of its context and work to make it say whatever they want it to say. Some people aren’t aware enough of the Bible’s teachings so they just accept what men like Dan Barker have to say because after all “Dan Barker was once a preacher.” Dan has said that he was once a born again Christian, filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit. He says he felt the Spirit and if he wasn’t a Christian then no one was a Christian. Well, my question is, if he truly felt the Spirit of God, then why does he deny that the Spirit of God exists? Does he believe that he felt something that did not exist? In other words, Dan Barker truly felt nothing! So Dan Barker never was truly a Christian because he never truly felt anything. Now I don’t believe in the direct operation of the Holy Spirit, but Dan obviously did when he claimed he was a Christian, or at least he claimed to believe that he did. Either Dan did feel the Spirit of God or he did not. If he did not, it was because one of three reasons (1) there is no direct operation of the Holy Spirit, (2) Dan Barker was never a Christian, (3) the Spirit of God never existed. If number 1 is the case, then Dan was doctrinally mistaken. If number 2 is the case, then Dan Barker is a liar. If number three is the case Dan Barker is still a liar for saying that he definitely felt the Spirit of God. Which is it Dan, 1,2, or 3? Your turn to take a quiz! More to come!

News & Notes

THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Gary Cooper, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreyse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace, Sandy Sarchette, and Olivia Shanks. Andy Shanks will have knee surgery soon. Let’s keep all these in our prayers.

THOSE TO SERVE March 8, 2009	THOSE TO SERVE March 15, 2009
A.M.	A.M.
Greeters.....David Shanks & Danny Keeney	Greeters.....Tex & Lois Kinman
Announcements.....Thomas McDonald	Announcements.....Gary Wallace
Song Leader.....Danny Keeney	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas
Lord’s Supper....Leroy Thomas & Andy Shanks	Lord’s Supper...Danny Keeney & Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....David Shanks	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Danny Keeney	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	
Song Leader.....Danny Keeney	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Jerry McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Devotional.....Thomas McDonald	Devotional.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children’s Home this week are “Spaghetti Sauce,” “Hamburger Helper,” and “Cooking Spray.” The truck will be here on March 19th to pick up the things we have stored for them.

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For March 8, 2009: “Dedicating Our Children To The Lord.” The P.M. Lesson will be “The Uselessness of Good Intentions.”

A.M. For March 15, 2009: “You Can Trust Your Bible (Part 2).” The P.M. Lesson will be “Being Fellow Soldiers.”

Building Cleaning

We will clean the building this evening after the evening worship services. All those who can stay and help out with this chore are asked to stay and help out.

EDITOR’S NOTE* Due to our door knocking campaign and other things coming up in the congregation we will not finish the response to Mr. Barker in the bulletin, but will do that in Challenge instead.