



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

April 2021

Do we need scholars to understand the Scriptures?

Jay Graham

I was listening to a podcast recently, and this question was asked in regard to understanding the Scriptures. My first response was a resounding, “No!” “*Absolutely not!*” I then had to rethink my answer. I suppose it depends on at what point are we considering the Scriptures?

I am confident most of you know the Scriptures were originally written in languages that most of us know little to nothing about. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the New Testament was written in Classic Greek (as opposed to modern Greek) and a few chapters were written in Chaldean, the language of ancient Babylon. (No, the apostle Paul did not write his letters in the original King James English nor in Klingon as some would like to assume.)

Personally, I know of no one who speaks any of these languages fluently. Yes, some might know very small scraps of them, but just enough to be dangerous.

In other words, we must depend on ancient language scholars who were and are able to translate the original writings into a language we can understand. This is a fact we cannot deny.

I am convinced it was never the Lord's will that people learn a new language in order to be able to read and understand His Word. There was a time in our recent history that some, by requiring everyone read the Old King James only, did require we learn a new language. The Old KJV had become so archaic that it truly was a foreign and new language for many.

It is for this reason we should be grateful that beginning in the 12th century, many did make great efforts to translate the Scriptures from their original languages to what has become the modern languages of today.

For most of you reading this, this is English. English is by far the most common language spoken in our society. And there are a growing number of Spanish

speaking people as well with many other less popular languages such as the oriental languages as well as French and Italian mixed in to various amounts as well as many others.

The point is, we all must depend on the work of ancient language scholars in order to read God's Word today.

Many of these scholars gave their lives in order that we might have God's Word in languages we can readily understand. During the Dark Ages, the established religion of those times fought against all efforts working to get the Word of God into the hands of the common man in his native language.

With all of this said, I am confident the Lord has used these scholars to do this great work.

With these things in mind, I am convinced the Lord intended for the average person to be able to read and comprehend His Word *without* the help of what has become modern scholarship.

Once we have the Scriptures in languages we can read and comprehend, we do not require that others necessarily explain them to us. We now have it within our capacity to understand God's word on our own.

The Lord gave us these Scriptures for just this purpose. This is certainly not to say we are not benefitted by those teachers among the Lord's body, for we certainly are. However, it is still within most of our ability to read and comprehend God's Word for ourselves.

It is for this reason we will be held accountable before our Creator if we are deceived by others who may teach these Scriptures falsely. We must be like the Bereans in Acts 17:10-15, for they heard what Paul was

teaching, and they searched the Scriptures for themselves to make sure his teaching was truly according to God's Truths and accurate.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus went to the common man with His messages. He did not speak to them in languages that were above their understanding, with words they could not grasp. This is one of the reasons why some were amazed that He spoke with authority and sure knowledge.

These same Scriptures follow the same pattern. Yes, we depended on others to translate them in languages we could understand, but once this has been accomplished, we are responsible for what we have.

It is my conviction the Lord has used the many excellent translations, even within English, to give us confidence that what we have is what the Lord intended we have in His Providence, if not His actual miraculous hand, (which I do not necessarily discount).

We have the promise expressed in Isaiah 40:7-8 7.

*"The grass withers,
the flower fades,
because the breath of the LORD
blows upon it;
Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers,
the flower fades,
But the word of our God
stands forever."*



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: Call for information.

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

We have returned to meeting in a home.



April Birthdays

★ None

April Anniversaries

★ None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- **Larry Sellers, husband of Jan Sellers, passed away on March 8, 2021.** He had been hospitalized earlier for congestive heart and kidney failure. He returned to the hospital and died from covid-19 pneumonia.
- Donna McNeece was hospitalized to reset her pacemaker. The doctors were able to do this with medication, so no surgery needed. She is home now.
- **Visitors:** Candy Meek, Piper Whitlatch and Cam Quijanoll, Pam Climpson, John McNeece, Mary and Emily Dobberke.



April Birthdays

- ★ 06 Shawn Head
- ★ 09 Donna McNeece
- ★ 18 Pam Climpson
- ★ 19 Peg Warren

April Anniversaries

- ★ 11 Bill & Shirley McNeece

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- We lost a long time friend and member when **Jack Swisher passed away March 14 at the age of 97**, after having several health issues. Jack not only served his country as a B-17 pilot in WW II, he was also a deacon in the Fairview Church of Christ. His Celebration of Life service will be May 30th at the Glenn Miller Museum.



April Birthdays

- ★ 9 - Mary Swisher
- ★ 28 - Morgan Head

April Anniversary

- ★ 19 - Richard & Janet Negley

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
Website: Martensdalechurchofchrist.org
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Jim Penick (Mike Penick's father) passed away suddenly on March 2nd. Services were held on March 6th.
- We had a full house. Everyone was back! Also Kirk & Bethany Ford were visiting Dave & Christy Henderson.
- On a cold Saturday morning the aluminum fence was installed at the Martensdale building by a "professional" crew.



- Jordan Bown was home visiting family.
- Laura Teghtmeyer stayed with Courtney & millie while Drew was traveling.
- Please keep Marlene Bown in your prayers as she struggles with health issues and for Al as he cares for her.

Please also keep Russ Bown in your prayers.

April Birthdays

- ★ 26 – Bill Hounsom
- ★ 29 – Marlene Bown

April Anniversaries

- ★ Duane & Mary Proudfit April 14, 1962

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.
Listen from your car at FM station 100.9
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- **Iowa Traveling Bible Study:** We had a fabulous turnout for March ITBS. 16 attendees- 5 new to the group. Praise God! It was a great blessing to spend time together in God's Word & share fellowship - with youth & adults!



April Birthdays

- None

April Anniversaries

- None

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday evening or Wednesday evening services until further notice

Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- We are looking forward to **hosting our annual June Meeting this year**, after having to cancel it last year, **on the weekend of June 12-13**.
The Saturday service will start at 3:30pm, followed by a meal and recreation and/or fellowship.
The Sunday morning service will start at 9:30am, followed by a meal, and then an afternoon service at 2:00pm. A flyer with the schedule will be sent out to congregations soon.
- **For more information**, such as the list of who is speaking and housing contacts, please visit our website at www.vandaliacoc.com.

- We would also appreciate if those planning on attending could **please RSVP** on our website, so we can get an idea how many people will be attending, to help us get an estimate for food preparations.
- We hope to see you all there for a weekend of spiritual edification and uplifting fellowship!



April Anniversaries

- None

April Birthdays

- None

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

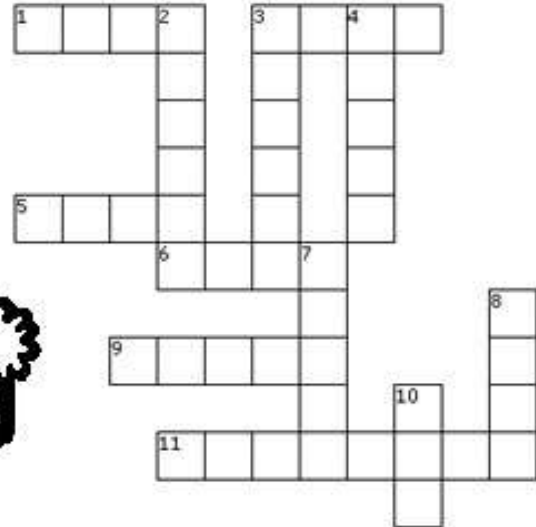
Vandalia Church of Christ: <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love