

## Special Presentations

Tonight at 6:00 p.m.: Brief update on church's financial condition; also a presentation of the church's new website; special focus on "study links" that can be very useful to many. Hope all can attend.

## Quotation about the Bible

*"The BIBLE -- banned, burned, beloved. More widely read, more frequently attacked than any other book in history. Generations of intellectuals have attempted to discredit it, dictators of every age have outlawed it and executed those who read it. Yet soldiers carry it into battle believing it more powerful than their weapons. Fragments of it smuggled into solitary prison cells have transformed ruthless killers into gentle saints" - Charles Colson -*

## September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes	11 Marie Burruss	24 Mason Perales
4 Nicole Stopper	15 Marcos Perales	30 Kurt Hoffman
6 Melinda McCollum	16 Jim Burruss	30 Dortha Gentry

## September Anniversaries

13 Luis & Wendy Cortes

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher**  
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# Indio Informer

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## WHY DO PEOPLE NOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

By Allen Webster

**Because their minds are cluttered with other things.**

Jesus spoke of thorny soil hearts where the seed of the Word was choked. One of those thorn bushes was the care of this world (Matthew 13:22). Perhaps this is the one that is true of more Christians than the others. It is not that we don't study at all, or that we don't really want to know God's will. It is just that we are too busy to work the Bible into our daily routines. Family, food, finances, and fun take up too much space to give the Word room to grow. As we are busy here and there, opportunities for spiritual growth escape (1 Kings 20:40). Lot got busy making the most of his business opportunities down on the well watered plains of the Jordan and lost his family (Genesis 13:10-13). Martha got busy in the kitchen and missed the chance of a lifetime to sit in her living room and listen to Jesus teach a Bible lesson (Luke 10:38-40). By contrast, Job said he esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:12).

Even those who take time to read the Bible (perhaps as a part of a Bible reading program) may fail to meditate upon its precepts (Psalm 1:2). Only one in seven Americans report an involvement that goes beyond just reading the Bible. Fourteen percent of Americans currently belong to a Bible study group.[1] This is down a full one-third from 1990 when 21% said they were involved in a Bible study group.[2] A hurry-up bedtime chapter or a newspaper-style glancing will not do much good. Jeremiah ate up the Word. He said, *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart"* (Jeremiah 15:16; cf. Revelation 10:9)

Bible study must become important enough to us that we make time for it. The average person spends 7.5 hours sleeping, 7.1

working, 5.3 in leisure, 1.45 doing housework, 1.15 eating, and .3 hours grooming per day.[3] No knowledge is as important as Bible knowledge. We spend thousands to send our children to secular college, but a free weekly schedule of spiritual education in Bible school is forfeited. Are we seeking first the kingdom (Matthew 6:33) when we stay home from a Gospel meeting to watch television, go to sports practice, or go to bed early to be fresh for the next day? Are we good parents if we make sure our children attend school each day, and get their homework each night, but let them skip Bible class sometimes, and never check to see that they have their memory verses ready for Sunday morning?

### **Because they have not learned to rightly divide it.**

A great number of people do not know that the Bible is divided. Paul said, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). There is an Old and a New covenant - the Law of Moses and the law of Christ (Hebrews 8:8-13). In our Bibles these are called, the Old Testament and the New Testament. We live under the New Law (Colossians 2:14). If one misses this, he will never understand the Bible properly.

Further, one must always take into consideration who is speaking in order to understand a verse in the Bible. The words of Satan (cf. Genesis 3:1-3; Matthew 4), fools (Psalm 14:1), and false teachers (John 9:34) are recorded. Get the context!

### **Because they are prejudiced against it.**

If we wear sunglasses over our eyes, the world looks dark. When we put shades over our mind's eye, the Gospel light is dimmed. Many come to the Bible with their minds already made up as to what it says. They make it fit their beliefs rather than fitting their beliefs to it. This makes proper interpretation impossible. Jesus reprimanded the Jews for this very thing: *"For this people's heart is waxed gross[4], and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them"* (Matthew 13:15). We can understand the Bible! Let's remove the obstacles from our path and run the race to heaven! (Hebrews 9:27).

## **How do You Read the Bible?**

Charles Dickens once addressed a letter to his son Henry while he was at college, advising him to keep out of debt and confide all his perplexities to his father. The letter concluded as follows: "I most strongly and affectionately impress upon you the priceless value of the New Testament, and the study of that book as the one unailing guide in life. Deeply respecting it, and bowing down before the character of our Savior, you cannot go very wrong, and will always preserve at heart a true spirit of veneration and humility. Similarly, I impress upon you the habit of saying a Christian prayer every night and morning. These things have stood by me all through my life, and remember that I tried to render the New Testament intelligible to you and lovable by you when a mere baby. And so God bless you!"

**'Tis one thing to read the Bible through;  
another thing to read to learn to do.  
'Tis another thing, too, to read with delight,  
and quite another thing to read it right.  
Some read it with design to learn to read,  
but the subject pay but little head;  
Some read it as their duty, once a week,  
but no instruction from the Bible seek.  
Some read to bring themselves into repute,  
by showing others how they can dispute,  
While some read because their neighbors do,  
to see how long 'twill take to read it through.  
Some read the blessed Book they know not why—  
it sometimes happens in the way to lie;  
While others read it with uncommon care,  
but just to find some contradiction there.  
One reads with his father's specs upon his head,  
and sees the things just as his father said;  
One reads through others who are not inspired,  
and thinks it seems precisely what they desired.  
Some read to prove some pre-admitted creed,  
thus understanding but very little what they read.  
And every passage in the Book they bend  
to make it prove that all-encompassing end.  
Some people read as I have thought,  
to teach the book instead of being taught,  
Yet many others read with highest purpose given,  
to learn the way to make it to Heaven.**