

MAY 24TH, 2026

The Searcher



Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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LESSONS LEARNED FROM MOSES' SPEECH ABOUT THE FAMILY

Robert Jefferies

As the Children of Israel made their preparations to enter into the Promised Land, Moses would give some regulations for the family during his second speech. During this speech he would make this new generation aware of three important things. What would he say to them?

They Were Told What To Believe. The first thing that a Hebrew child was taught to believe is found in Deuteronomy 6:4. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4). This teaching is known in Hebrew as "The Great Shema."¹ Here, Moses is exalting monotheism. They lived during a time where polytheism was running rampant (Exodus 12:12; Joshua 24:15). They needed to know that there was only one true living God. This knowledge was not something that would be developed by instinct, it was something that needed to be taught to them. In the New Testament, Jesus would emphasize the same thing about God as did Moses. "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord" (Mark 12:29). In addition to Jesus, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about the God of Heaven, "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4). Thus, the same God that Moses talked about is the same one that Jesus and Paul spoke of. Just like the children of Israel, our children need to be taught what to believe.

They Were Told Who To Love. "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus would reiterate these words in Matthew 22:37-39. When a person loves God with all of their heart, soul, and strength, in essence, Moses and Jesus are saying that we are to love God with our all. What happens when we love God with our all? It will effect our worship attendance, Bible study, prayer life, zeal for teaching others, giving, life during the week, character, treatment of others, keeping His commandments, and doing of His word.

They Were Told How And When To Teach. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

How were they to teach? By putting God's word in their heart. When they did this they would internalize it (Psalm 119:11). A second way for them to teach was diligently. This means that sometimes they had to repeat it over and over again. After all, the three laws of learning are repetition, repetition, repetition. What about us today? We do not teach our children once about God and how to please Him, but it is something that is done over and over.

When were they to teach? When they sat, walked, laid down, and got up. In essence, Moses was telling them to look for opportunities about God, what He expects, how to love Him, how to fear Him, and how to worship Him. Do we look for those opportunities today as well?

UNITY: LIVING OUT THE PRAYER OF JESUS

KJ Moore

“I am asking not only concerning these, but also for those who believe in me through their message, that they all may be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, so that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given the glory you gave me to them, so that they may be one just as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made perfectly one, that the world may know that you sent me and loved them just as you loved me. Father, I desire that those whom you have given me may be with me where I am, so that they might see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, even though the world did not know you, I knew you, and they knew that you sent me. And I revealed your name to them, and I will reveal it, so that the love with which you loved me might be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:20-26)

The latter third of Jesus’ prayer begins by petitioning the Father concerning those who would believe through the apostles’ preaching. Crucial to reading this is the fact that Jesus’ whole prayer is situated in what is called the “Farewell Discourse,” chapters 13-17 of John (though some would argue my count is a chapter too early). The words in those chapters are best read as specifically aimed toward the apostles, and give details as to how their ministry was going to take place. This portion of the prayer, which as a whole seems to have been spoken in the apostles’ presence, concerns those who will believe through their report (cf. Isa. 53:1; Rom. 10:16).

Here, Jesus frequently mentions the goal of oneness, a oneness that would have the relationship of the Father and the Son as its closest analogy. In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ unity with His Father not only concerns divinity (cf. Jn. 10:30) but also united purpose and work (e.g., Jn. 4:34, 5:17). Bearing this in mind, Christians have as their aim to mirror the unity of the Father and the Son, both as a witness to the world and as a mark of their adherence to truth (cf. Jn. 17:17). Unity is so fundamental to Christian life that Jesus prayed for its being characteristic of the apostles and His believers as a whole.

So, here we are, over two thousand years later, reading what the apostles and their contemporaries wrote in the pages of the New Testament. Yet a crucial problem emerges when we do so much as drive down the road: there is no unity. Jesus resultatively links the unity of believers (and even the apostles themselves) with the belief of the world; it is no surprise, then, that many charge Christianity with the philosophical problem of its disunity. Individuals who claim to love God are splintered into various factions and denominations. Even within the Lord’s church, purposed as separate from such complications, there are unfortunate divisions in faith and practice.

Friends, these things ought not be. Though our understanding and obedience will be at times per our own human ignorance, it is possible to practice Christianity as the earliest Christians did. It is possible to worship and live per what the earliest Christians were taught and consequently able to assume. To live in a unified manner, in every point of doctrine that touches our congregational, occupational, familial, and habitual lives, is to live out the prayer of Jesus. Living out that prayer requires us to change our thinking and direction, to be aligned with God and to seek alignment with our brethren, all for the sake of unity.

THE PATHS OF THE SEA

Wayne Jackson

Time and again the knowledge of modern science has “caught up” with that of the Scriptures. Learn how the scientific accuracy of this remarkable passage was confirmed over a century ago. In Psalm 8, David extols the glory of Jehovah, and he marvels that God has been so mindful of man as to place the creation under his dominion. The context stresses man’s responsibility over the earth.

In discussing some of earth’s creatures, of which man is in charge, the writer mentions “whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas” (Psalms 8:8). This expression is interesting because the phrase contains a precise fact about the seas that David, whose experience was limited to a tiny country on the Mediterranean coast, could never have known from firsthand information.

It was not until the mid-nineteenth century that the connection was made regarding currents (literally “paths”) in the sea and the statement from the Psalms a thousand years before Christ. In 1860, a pioneer in oceanography, Matthew Fontaine Maury, called attention to the fact that the ocean was a circulating system. His book on physical oceanography is still a highly regarded source of information on this science.

Consider, for example, the Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream flows from the east coast of North America toward Europe. It is about 50 miles wide and 3,000 feet deep. Its rate of flow, measured in volume per second, is about 1,000 times greater than the Mississippi River. Many ocean vessels “ride” this current in order to save valuable shipping time.

Underline the expression “paths of the sea” in Psalm 8, and in your margin write: Confirmed by Matthew Maury in 1860. God’s word is accurate!

Sunday Sermons

Some Things To Consider About Modesty (AM)

The Christian's To Do List (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shaemfacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array" (1 Timothy 2:9).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Brenda Dreher is recovering at home following a recent stay in the hospital. She is having issues with too much ammonia in her liver. She is receiving home health.

Justin Camp, husband of Kim Camp, father of Lily and son in law of Con & Mina Lambert, has learned that his cancer has returned. He is having various tests run at this time.

Ronnie Sowell, father of Erin Sowell, is in Methodist Olive Branch Hospital. He is having fluid removed from his heart.

Vern Schrimsher has developed a closed pressure wound on the back of his heel.

Dorothy Butler continues to recover at home following a recent stay in the hospital. She is still very weak.

Don Sykes had a pacemaker put in recently. He continues to recover at home.

Rannie Butler is taking therapy at Senatobia Healthcare and Rehab.

Joyce Valentine is on a management medication for her cancer.

Jean Jones is taking physical therapy at Desoto Healthcare.

Tommy Shull suffered a fall recently. He has several bruises, but no broken bones.

Bob Lawrence, father of Erica Stuckey, is recovering at home following a recent heart attack.

Arcadio Acosta, father of Michel Reyes, had surgery on his stomach on Tuesday. He suffered a heart attack on Wednesday and is in critical condition.

Please continue to remember the following: **Meredith Peek, Betty Culbreath, Barbara Day, Brenda Dreher, Danna Smart, Alan & Linda Stone, Debbie Shull, Pat Pierce, Beverly Parnell, Lucy Chamberlain, & Karen Oglesby** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone; Brenda Dreher; Pam Eaton; Charlene Farris; Justin Camp**, husband of Kim Camp; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great

nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Larry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry & Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh Free**, great granddaughter of Alan & Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; Debbie Shull; Brenda Dreher; Beverly Parnell; Pam Eaton; Phyllis Smith, The Goldton at Southaven Room #116.

SYMPATHY

Pam Rapp, mother of Deke Rapp, passed away on Sunday. Please keep his family in your prayers.

MEN TO SERVE - May 24th, 2026

Preside: Larry Everson

Serve: Hilton Jefferies, Dalton Wieneke, Jarrett Roberts, Walter Warren, Jefferson Mendoza, TJ Johnson, RJ Jolomi, Nick Parker

AM Opening Prayer: Bill Phillips

AM Closing Prayer: Chris Billingsley

PM Opening Prayer: Joe Ruiz

PM Closing Prayer: Allen Roberts

Wed. Opening Prayer: Joel White

Wed. Closing Prayer: Robert Chamberlain

Announcements: Josh Walker

Song Leader: Michael Gahagan

Scripture Reading: Dustin Rowe

Security: Andy Young

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12-13: Diana Singing in Diana, TN

June 14-20: Sardis Lake Christian Camp. If you would like to help send a child to camp or with camp expenses please see Vern Schrimsher. The cost per child is \$200 but any amount is greatly appreciated.

June 27: Vacation Bible School 9am-12pm: If you are willing to help in any way (teach, assist, crafts, decorate, snacks) please sign the sheet in the foyer.

MAY FOOD TEAM

Captain: Christie Hawkins

Camille Bobo, Grace Childers, Bonnie Ruiz, Michele Teske

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	209
A.M. Worship	282
P.M. Worship	162
P.M. Wed. Worship	172
Contribution	\$



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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker