

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2012

EXPLANATION OF GOD- BY AN 8 YR OLD

One of God's jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in our town. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in Heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And... That's why I believe in God.

Which Bible Version Should I Read?

Or maybe, which Bible version should I **NOT** read? I certainly have my preferences, and I don't want to be judgmental or legalistic about it, but you need to be careful the next time you go shopping for a Bible.

The new New International Version (or 2011 NIV), published by Zondervan, is a Bible we should stay away from, and as a church, our leadership cannot endorse it. I'm not sure why the publishers felt they had to update the 1984 version. Our language hasn't evolved that much in the last 25 years or so, has it?

In an effort to be all inclusive, should I say politically correct, they have blurred gender pronouns and confused singular and plural pronouns. Brother becomes brother and sister. He becomes them or they. Psalm 8:4 in the NIV 1984 reads 'what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' The NIV 2011 reads 'what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?' This totally removes the Messianic flavor that the phrase 'son of man' holds, which Jesus used to describe himself! There are lots, lots more examples that there are not room for here.

Well, does that really change the meaning of the text? It definitely does when it substitutes a plural pronoun for 'he' in order to be all inclusive. It changes a very personal pronoun (our God is a personal God) into a nebulous pronoun that makes one part of a large, impersonal group. Even if that is the intent of the original (and a good teacher can express that), it changes God's word as it was written. In my opinion, it goes beyond translating into a modern language to pandering to gender inclusiveness.

The publishers claim that in over 95% of the text it preserves the time tested reliability of the 1984 NIV. How do you feel having 5% of your Bible changed? However, that statement may not be entirely accurate. One study found that only 61% of the verses in the 2011 NIV are the same as the 1984 NIV. I guess saying we have changed 40% of your beloved NIV would not be a major selling point.

Why is this a big deal? If you are willing to change God's word a little bit now to be politically correct, what will you change in the future as political pressure increases? Once the camel gets his nose in the tent, it is hard to keep him from going all the way in and tearing down the tent in the process.

Yes, but wouldn't women welcome the revised language? Not if they are serious Bible students and care if the translation is true to the original. And not if they don't like condescension. Blurring the Bible's gender language contributes

to the blurring of gender distinctions. It diminishes and devalues the unique role and beauty of womanhood. Are women so stupid that they can't figure out the places that 'man' refers to 'humanity' or 'mankind' or that they are usually included when the term brothers is used? I don't think so, but apparently the publishers do. Or perhaps they just think that women are so fragile that their feelings will be hurt by not being included. Isn't that rather patronizing?

So what do we do? If you have a 1984 NIV, by all means, continue to use it. It is very readable and is a good thought for thought translation of the Bible. The problem is, the publisher is no longer producing the 1984 NIV. That means if you buy a new Bible, unless the store has old stock, you will be getting the 2011 NIV. Make sure you check the copyright date and ask a sales attendant before purchasing. The pew Bibles at church are the 1984 NIV, so no problem there.

What about other versions? It depends on what you want to use it for. There are many good versions out there that really don't differ that much. Pick one that is readable yet true to the original. Be careful you don't accidentally pick up a Book of Mormon or a Jehovah's Witness Bible (The New World Translation). You wouldn't find these at a good Christian bookstore, but might find it at a secular bookstore, garage sale or thrift store. You won't want the New Jerusalem Bible or any other Catholic Bible. The Catholic Bible contains books that are not accepted as scripture by Protestants. If you see a Bible with the book of Tobit or Judith or Maccabees, then it is probably a Catholic Bible and you should avoid it.

What about the King James only folks? A quick internet search will unearth a lot of people who think the KJV is the only Bible approved by God and all the other Bible translations are tools of Satan. I disagree heartily. The KJV is derived from texts (the Textus Receptus) that are more numerous, but are farther removed from the date of original writing. The NIV, NASB and others are translated from the Critical Text, which have been discovered more recently due to technological advances in archeological methods. There are fewer of these texts, but they are much closer to the date of original writing. This causes many scholars to believe they are more accurate. I am OK with either one. My beef with the KJV is it is very hard to read aloud. Since we don't talk like that, we stumble over words as we read it. It is also very hard to understand since people spoke differently and words have different meanings than they did 400 years ago. *(continued on back page)*

Recipe Swap

HOT PIZZA SUB

1 unsliced loaf (1 pound) Italian bread
¼ c. pizza sauce
1-1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
1 medium green pepper, thinly sliced
4 slices fully cooked ham
10 slices salami
30 slices pepperoni
4 slices each cheddar, mozzarella and American cheese

Slice bread in half horizontally. Spread bottom half with pizza sauce; sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Top with green pepper, ham, salami, pepperoni and cheese; replace bread top. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 425* for 12-15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Yield: 4 servings.



PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Luke Cummings, Ryan Meyers, Jacob Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Huertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Carl Herring, Austin Everhart
June Dedeke needs prayers.
Christine Hile's friend, Florence Van Tuyt has macular degeneration in both eyes.
Jo Tichenors grandmother passed away.

COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST: If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallscc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

RECYCLING: We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

COLLECTING FOR ALPHA: Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.)

We will be having our regular meeting on Feb. 11th at 9:00.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Jodi Watkins
5	Mikey Cummings
6	Dennis Tichenor
7	Vera Welborn
11	June Dedeke
12	Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)
13	Nathan Hawk David Grove
15	Kari (Haybarker) Mitchell Clinton Thomas
18	Sarah Hollis Steve & Georganna Carson (1965)
28	Beverly Cress

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in FEBRUARY

Congregational Prayer:

Dennis Tichenor

Scripture Readers:

5-Groves-Luke 18:9-14

12-Mitchells-1 John 4:16-21

19-Turners- Matt. 19:16-21

26-Welborns-Philippians 4:6-9

Nursery:

5-Debbie Gerstner/Grace Arnold

12-Laura Reich/Christine Hile

19-Jo Tichenor/Curtis Mitchell

26-Sarah Hollis/Glee Hosler

Greeters/Ushers:

5-Groves

12-Mitchells

19-Turners

26-Welborns

Lord's Supper Preparation:

5-Groves

12- Mitchells

19-Turners

26-Welborns

Communion Table:

5-Stan, Jay

Ray Mitchell, Jarret Mitchell

12- Jay, Stan

Dennis Turner, Lance Turner

19- Stan, Jay

David Grove, Austin Kirby

26- Jay, Stan

Steve Carson, Curtis Mitchell

Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove

Organ: Leah Brown

Drums: Grace Arnold

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby,

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Vocals:

Church Offerings

Dec. 25-\$1118.00

Jan. 1-\$

Jan. 8-\$

Jan. 15-\$1441.00

Jan. 22-\$

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Feb. 11th at 8:00 AM. Mike Kirby will be hosting.

SWEET ENCOURAGEMENT: 58th Annual Women's Conference at Ozark, April 27-28, 2012. Linda Mirante and Dinelle Frankland will be speakers.

SUPER BOWL PARTIES: The youth group super bowl party will be at Kirby's starting at 5:00 PM. The All church super bowl party will be at Farr's house starting at 4:00 PM. This is on Feb. 5th for those who don't know. Bring a snack.

MISSION LAKE CAMP RETREATS: The Men's retreat is Feb. 3 and 4. To pre-register contact Jared Altic at jaredaltic@sbcglobal.net. The Women's retreat is Feb. 17-18. To pre-register contact Rhonda Mitchell at jesuslovingmomma@hotmail.com. Registration forms are in the foyer.

ELEGANT DINNER: We will be having our annual Elegant Dinner to raise funds for our school supply drive. It will be on Saturday March 10th at 6:00 PM. Matt Miller will be supplying the music again. The committees have been formed but help is always needed. Be watching for sign up sheets and ways you can help. If you want a reservation you can call Ronda Turner at 945-3775. Admission is school supplies or monetary donation to go to school supply giveaway.

QUARTERLY CARRY IN DINNER: We will be having our quarterly church carry in dinner on Sunday Feb. 26th. Bring a dish or two and enjoy the fellowship.

Nathan Smith and Narrow Road Ministries has invited us to join him in putting on a VBS at Show Me in LaMonte, MO. We will be leaving Sunday March 18th after church and returning Friday night or early Saturday. If you would like to attend and help please let Stan know.

2012

FEBRUARY

2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	2	3 Men's Retreat at Mission Lake Camp	4
5  Super Bowl Party 4:00 PM at Farris Youth Group 5:00	6	7	8 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	9	10	11  SOS 9:00 AM 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
12	13	14 	15 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	16	17 Women's Retreat at Mission Lake Camp	18
19 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	20	21	22 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	23	24	25
26 5:00 PM Youth Group	27	28	29 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study			

Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Worship – 10:00 AM
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

Midweek Bible Study:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

(Bible translations continued)

What good is a Bible if you don't understand what you read? If you like it and understand it, then by all means, read it. The New King James Version is a more modern translation of the KJV.

The New American Standard Bible (NASB) is probably the closest word for word translation from the Greek to English. It makes for a very good study Bible. It is what I like to use when I teach. The New Living Translation is very readable. It is more of an idea by idea translation. It would be good to get a general idea of what the Bible is saying, but not very good if you wanted to do word studies. I would stay away from The Message Bible completely. I think it just takes too many liberties trying to be hip and relevant. If you want an easy to read bible, stick with the NLT.

A more recent translation that I am investigating is the Holman Christian Standard Bible. The jury is still out on that one as far as I'm concerned, but it could be promising. With all the translations out there, here are some things to be careful of. Don't find a translation that says what you want it to in order to make a point.

I felt like Rick Warren did this in his Purpose Driven books.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

He would need a key word to make a point and search a bunch of translations until he found the one that had the exact word he wanted. Also, when reading study Bibles, all those notes at the bottom of the pages are written by fallible men (scholars, yes, but not perfect), not the infallible God. Read them as such and don't take the study notes for the gospel truth.

Finally, don't let all the translations scare you away from Bible reading. We need to be in God's word daily. Find a trustworthy Bible that you like, grab a cup of coffee (or your beverage of choice), find a quiet spot and dig into God's word. It is a diamond mine of truth, wisdom, hope, joy and love. It is the most valuable thing you could ever own.

Mike

Safety First!

Are you looking for a way to serve in a ministry that is kind of behind the scenes? We may have the perfect spot for you. The church needs to have a Safety Contact Person to evaluate the church for safety issues and recommend and facilitate the changes that need to be made. He or she would be under the umbrella of the building ministry of the church. If you are interested, contact Mike.