



Kelham Korner

KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
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Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Prayer God Is Faithful Newer Requests

Justine Hoel—pneumonia
Carol Kimberlin—rehab and recovery
Shirley McEver—rehab—Home
Ron Meek's Aunt Auleen—health & well-being
Friend of Deb Meek—heart issues
Claudia Montgomery—recuperation, *Integriss*: Please no visitors
Tom Montgomery & wife (Bob's brother)
Katie Myers (Konnor's mom)—health
Rachel Whatley—safe travel in Germany
Pianist
Christians in Middle East—persecution
Ongoing Prayer Needs
Glenda & Tom Anderson—health & well-being
Beverly & Mike Beardain—health/memory
Shelley & Allen Cloud—health
Bette Fehrle—health
Gary Goree—well-being—vision/upcoming move
Mark Handley's son & his brother, Tracy
Mitzi and Roger Hembree—health
Danny Imhoff—health
Margaret Keillor, wife of pastor's friend—cancer
Littleton family—unspoken
Chris McEver
Pam & Ron Sherrod
David Smith—friend of Mark Handley, heart issues
Sawyer Vincent—Danny and Tina's grandson—health
Becca Rocco's sister-in-law, Kathy Ketter
Del Wilburn (Kathy Rattan's father)—declining health
The People of Iran—to hear/believe the gospel

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM Military

Heather Riggins; Floyd & Twila Howard's grandson
Our Homebound

Sam Castleberry (Legends at Jefferson Gardens, Edmond)
Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (Burleson, TX)
Donna Shick, Carol Kimberlin's mother (Grace, Bethany)
Justine Hoel (Bellevue, Room 446A)

Our College Students & Graduates

Kids are heading back to schools and need special prayer

Hallie Benedict—Wichita State University
Madi Montgomery—Wichita State University
Donavon Pietzsch—North Texas State University
Mieka Pietzsch—University of Oklahoma
Kaylie & Mikah Rocco, Harper Montgomery,
NE Oklahoma State, Friends University

For addresses and phone numbers call the office.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a
righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13)

August Birthdays

9 Robbie Rattan
12 Savannah Toppho
15 Gary Adams
Grayson Moore
17 Deniece Gordon
Glenda Elliott
Glenna Littleton
18 Tiffany Cloud
20 Trinity Irvin
22 Benjamin Warlick
25 Connie Adams
26 Amy Valentine
27 Bette Fehrle
29 Dara Lugafet Caldwell

Stewardship for Morning	7/27/2025
Budget Receipts:	\$4,880.00
Weekly Budget Required:	\$3,894.57
Over/Under:	\$985.43
T.A.B.:	\$40.00
Vacation Bible School:	\$99.55
Designated as needed:	\$25.00



WHAT YOU JUST READ IN TODAY'S PAPER SOUNDS
EXACTLY LIKE WHAT I JUST READ ABOUT SODOM AND
GOMORRAH.



The Verda Holland Offering for back-to-school clothing for kids in our Baptist Children's Homes runs from August 3 through August 31. This offering helps provide clothing for the new school year for the children living in Boys Ranch Town and the Baptist Children's Home. The WMU encourages you to support this needed ministry by a designated offering. Please mark your envelope "Verda Holland Offering."

The Main Things Are the Plain Things

Many Christians know the ministry of Alistair Begg, soon-to-retire pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland, OH. One of his favorite expressions is “The main things are the plain things.” He explained, “It is helpful for us to make sure that we can see the wood from the trees.” Melvin Gaines explained further: “The most important concepts in the Bible are also the clearest ones, emphasizing that essential truths are straightforward and accessible.” Gaines went on to extrapolate, “Don’t overthink it” and “Don’t embellish it.” Another commenter called that saying “a popular phrase that seek to avoid the extreme of overcomplicating words and passages in scripture.” Begg himself went on to finish the saying by turning it back on itself: “The main things are the plain things, and the plain things are the main things.”

When we come to study the Bible, we must begin with the assumption that God intended for human beings to understand it (except, of course, for some prophetic passages, which He sealed, like Daniel 12:9: “The words are sealed till the time of the end”). This is why most conservative Christians accept the Scripture as it is literally written, except when it is clearly metaphorical. For example, since God is not a material Being, He does not have hands, as the imagery of Psalm 102:25 presents. Neither does He have wings, as Psalm 17:8 portrays (“Hide me under the shadow of thy wings”). The average reader understands this. Josh Summer explained, “The Bible uses language we are familiar with in order to communicate true or literal things... Literal interpretation does not say that all modes of communication in Scripture are literal. Literal truth can be communicated via various means, such as allegory, metaphor, idiomatic statements, etc” (<https://thebaptistbroadcast.com/literal-interpretation>).

Luke commended the Bereans in Acts 17:11 for this very practice: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” When they heard Paul preach, presenting Jesus as the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, they looked back at the written prophecies to see exactly what they said. Jesus had told the leaders of the Jews to do just such a thing: “Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). The Bereans “examined (ἀνακρίνω means to sift up and down, make careful and exact research as in legal processes...)” (Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. II, pps. 274-275).

As Baptists, we believe in what is called the grammatical-historical approach to Biblical interpretation. That means we try to understand what the words and grammar conveyed to the people to whom a passage was originally written. According to F. F. Bruce that requires understanding “the structure and idioms of the biblical languages,” “the historical background,” “the geographical

conditions,” and the “life-setting” (*Baker’s Dictionary of Theology*, p. 292). During the Medieval period, the Catholic church sought “higher” senses of Scripture and taught there was a literal sense, an allegorical sense, a moral sense, and an anagogical sense. Thus, they liberated the Bible from its actual meaning in order to convey pet doctrines.

We risk the same if we do not let Scripture say what it plainly says and practice Begg’s principle, “the main things are the plain things.” The technical terms for the two approaches are “exegesis” and “eisegesis.” *Exegesis* explains the text based on careful analysis. Meaning comes “out” (ex) of the text.

Eisegesis is subjective interpretation. Meaning goes “into” (eis) the text from the interpreter’s bias or viewpoint. I read a sermon encouraging church attendance that used 2 Chronicles 27:1-2 as its text: “Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. ... And he did *that which* was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD.” The point of the message was “How many blessings did Jotham fail to receive, simply because he neglected church?” (<https://www.gotquestions.org/exegesis-eisegesis.html>). Church attendance is a good thing, but this text does not teach that. Better to look at Hebrews 10:25: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” Analysis of the context of 2 Chronicles 27:1-12 shows Uzziah sinfully entered the temple, usurping the role of priest and was struck by God with leprosy (26:16-21). It was *good* that Jotham did not enter the temple. A text without a context is a pretext.

We must let Scripture say what Scripture says. We can try to force it into a mold of what we think it says or what we would like it to say, but words, like facts, are a strange thing. Unlike Humpty Dumpty in *Alice in Wonderland*, we cannot make them mean anything we want them to mean. Major on the majors and let the minors take care of themselves. The best way to let the Bible say what it says is to read it and explain it. What does it say? What does it mean? How does it apply to me? After Paul reminded Timothy that the Bible is the very words of God in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what it’s good for, and what it does (equips the believer for every good work), he urged him to “preach the word.” *Proclaim what it says where it says it*, not opinions, doubts, or suppositions. Let the Bible speak. Hebrews 4:12 says, “The word of God is quick [alive], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.” Isaiah 55:11 says that God’s Word never returns to Him without accomplishing His purpose. What more could we want?

Amos 8:11 predicted, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” People around us are starving for what they will not get any other place than God’s Word. It tells us who we are, whose we are, and what our purpose is in life. The main things *are* the plain things.

Brother Gary

