



“WHY SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?”

When I have been asked this question it is usually followed by something like, “I tried reading it once, but the language was difficult and I couldn’t understand what it was saying so I stopped.” Depending on the version of the Bible or the particular book of the Bible a person tried to read I can certainly understand the frustration.

Newer versions of the Bible using words and language familiar to us make the Bible easier to read and understand. And unlike most books which we open the front cover and start reading on page one and continue to the end, the Bible is a book we might best read by starting with the New Testament and the Gospels which tell about the life of Jesus, and then read the book of Acts which tells about the life of the early church and the letters of Paul written to early Christians to inform and inspire them. The Old Testament tells us the story of our Jewish ancestors and God’s activity in the life of the children of Israel leading up to the birth of Jesus.

A few weeks ago in worship we suggested using the Moravian Daily Text Book as a way of giving God a percentage of our day. If you have been reading the Scripture passages listed in the Moravian Daily Text Book this week you have been reading selections from the book of James. I have always been fascinated by this book because I find it challenges me to think about so many issues which are relevant to my everyday life. The author of James addresses a number of topics including riches and poverty, temptation, good conduct, prejudice, faith and actions, our use of our tongue, wisdom, quarreling, pride and humility, judging others, boasting, patience, and prayer. If you can’t find something in that list which relates to your life, then you are living in a different world from the one I am living in.

The passage today included these words, “*Now listen to me, you that say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will travel to a certain city, where we will stay a year and go into business and make a lot of money.’ You don’t even know what your life tomorrow will be! You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears. What you should say is this: ‘If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that.’ But now you are proud, and you boast; all such boasting is wrong.*”

When I read the Bible I have to stop and think about how those words speak to me and apply to my life today. When I read the imagery of the “puff of smoke” which appears and then disappears, I think about how fragile life is, how things can change quickly, and how we shouldn’t take even a minute of our life for granted. I think of articles I read in the newspaper this morning and how a person’s life was changed dramatically in a matter of seconds by some unexpected event,

I was also reminded that while it is both good and important to make plans, and to anticipate we will be successful in our life; we need to realize that not everything is up to us or will work out as we plan. None of us know exactly what tomorrow will bring, who we will meet, and what we will experience. The words of Scripture suggest a healthier way to approach our future is to remember our dependence on God, and to acknowledge the role God plays in our life every day. If I take this passage seriously it will help me be more grounded and realistic in my approach to life. I will also be more careful about each relationship I have because just as my life can change in a moment so can everyone else’s life.

“Why Should I read the Bible?” Because it provides a faith perspective upon which to live our life, healthy and helpful values to live by, and a framework to help us understand our world around us. If you have questions about reading the Bible, please feel free to contact one of the pastors. We will be more than happy to help you.

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6:

- 8:00 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 a.m. New Horizon Worship in Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Family Worship Service will feature special music by the Children's Choir and the Hilltop Ringers, a Children's Chat, and a sermon by Pastor Doug

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13: HOLY COMMUNION



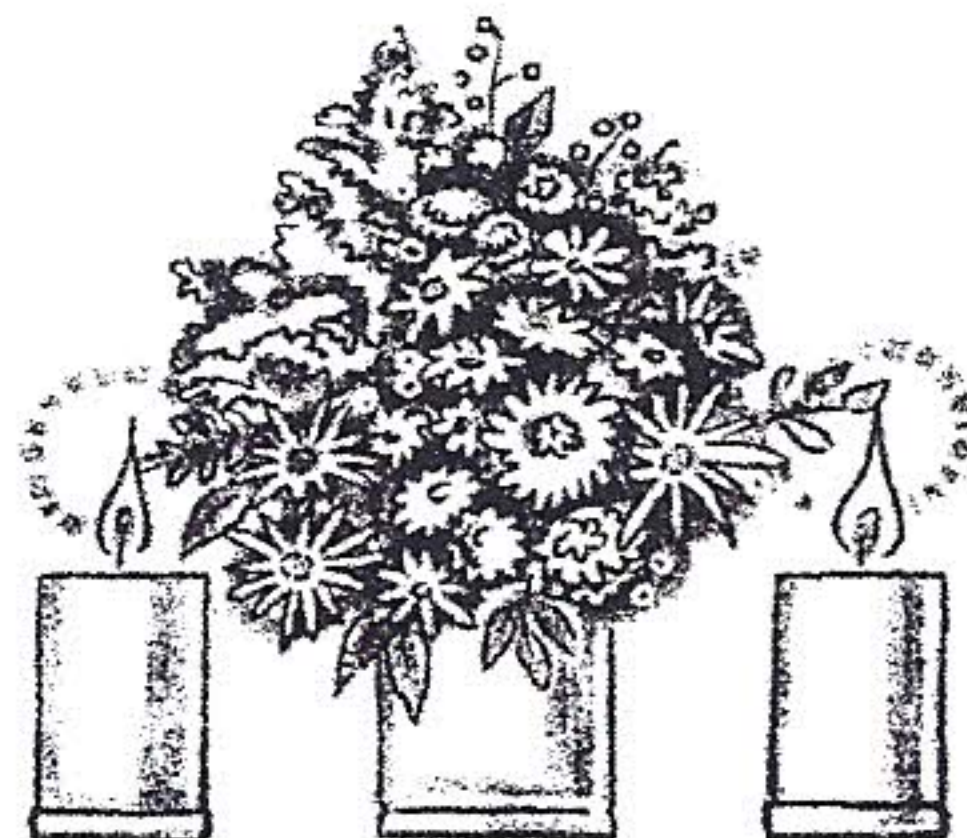
- 8:00 a.m. Early Worship Service with the sacrament of Holy Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 a.m. New Horizon Worship with Holy Communion in Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Our Family Worship Service will include a Children's Chat, special music by the Chancel Choir, a message by Pastor Missy, and the sacrament of Holy Communion remembering Jesus Christ as the Chief Elder of our Moravian Church.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20: "Reign of Christ" Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 a.m. New Horizon Worship in Fellowship Hall will include our Sunday School Thanksgiving Lovefeast
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service will include special music by the Chancel Choir, a Children's Chat, and a sermon by Pastor Doug

THANKSGIVING EVE LOVEFEAST WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 7:30 p.m. THANKSGIVING EVE CANDLELIGHT LOVEFEAST will be held with familiar hymns, special music by the Chancel Choir, a Thanksgiving Message by Pastor Missy, and a traditional Moravian Lovefeast. Please invite a friend to this service of gratitude and giving thanks.



Thanksgiving Eve Lovefeast

