

THE WOODLAND HILLS PROCLAIMER

"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you"

SERVICES

SUNDAY

9:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY
10:30 AM – A.M. ASSEMBLY
6:00 PM – P.M. ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM – BIBLE STUDY

Acts 20:20

Woodland Hills church of Christ
410 Woodland Hills Drive
Conroe, Texas 77303
Telephone: 936/756-9322

ELDERS

WAYNE REED
HARROLD STARR

DEACONS

JAMES COST
JIM COOK
VERNON RIEHL

VOLUME 2 WEEK 47

To our visitors – "WELCOME" - Thank you for choosing to visit with us

Nov 22, 2009

WHEN IT WAS A CRIME TO READ THE BIBLE

By: Joe R. Price

William Tyndale had already been on the run for five years by the start of the third decade of the 16th century. Henry VII, king of England, had declared him a felon. Fleeing Roman Catholic authorities in London (never to return to his homeland, England), he went first to Cologne, France and then Worms, Germany. What crime had this "evil" man committed? For what rebellious act of treason was he pursued? Tyndale dared attempt to translate and print the New Testament into the English language!

In England in the 1520's (indeed, throughout Europe during the Middle Ages), unless you were literate in Hebrew, Greek, or Latin, reading the Bible for yourself was impossible. You had to rely upon what the Roman Catholic clergy said the Bible contained. You would not have been able to study the Bible yourself to discern the truth for yourself--- much less be free to practice what you learned therein. Rome ruled with an iron hand.

The Catholic Church did not want or permit a widespread transmission of the Bible and its content. When Tyndale's New Testament was published in Worms, six thousand copies were shipped back to England. Medieval historian William Manchester reports,

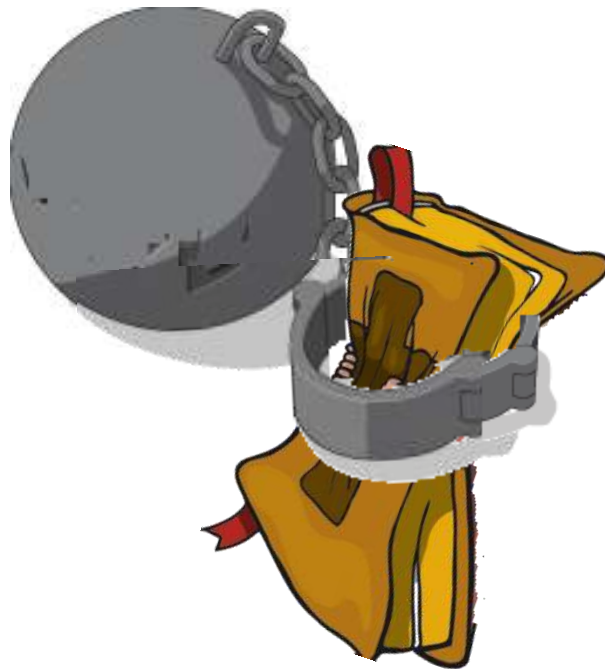
To the bishop of London this was an intolerable, metastasizing heresy. He bought up all that were for sale and publicly burned them at St. Paul's Cross. But the archbishop of Canterbury was dissatisfied; his spies told him that many remained in private hands. Protestant peers with country houses were loaning them out, like public libraries. Assembling his bishops, the archbishop declared that tracking them down was essential--- each was placing souls in jeopardy--- and so, on his instructions, dioceses organized posses, searching the homes of known literates, and offered rewards to informers--- sending out the alarm to keep Christ's revealed word from those who worshiped him (A World Lit Only By Fire 204-205).

Tyndale was eventually arrested and imprisoned for sixteen months in the castle of Vilvorde (near Brussels). In 1536, after being tried and convicted for heresy he was publicly executed, being tied to a stake, strangled to death, and then his corpse burned.

As we ponder Tyndale's struggle and sacrifice to provide the common Englishman with readable, discernable Scripture, we are constrained to thank God for the daily ease and convenience with which we may open the Bible and study it for ourselves. We are prompted to cherish the privilege that is ours to pour over the divine text, understand it, and reflect upon it think it over so as to bring our hearts and lives into harmony with it, as well as also teach it to others (Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:2). Without question, we live in a blessed period of human history.

If you are neglecting to read, learn, and live God's word, please take a moment to remember the good fortune you have to be living at this moment in time. You have ample education, abundant access and great opportunity to read, learn, and obey the word of God. To fail to drink deeply from the well of divine truth of God's word is to squander a precious blessing (cf. Jas. 4:17; 1:17).

The next time you pick up your Bible and read from its pages, remember the sacrifices of the countless others who helped make this simple act possible. And above all, remember the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was then resurrected from the dead so that you may know the truth, abide in His word and thus be freed from your sin (John 8:31; 1:1-3, 14-18).



The B-I-B-L-E

yeah that's the book for me

I have a book it teaches me everything that I know
And in this book it shows me how I need to grow
In my life, I read it every single day
It is the truth, it is my life, and it's my way
It is how God speaks to me

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E
The B-I-B-L-E yeah that's the book for me

Sometimes my friends they sing a different song
And I'm not sure if they're right or if they're wrong
So I go and get this book off of the shelf
And learn from God the Creator of Life Himself

It is his letter to me

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E

How did life begin? it's in there
How will the world end? Guess what? That's in there too
Any burning questions rolling around in your mind
It's all here to find

The B-I-B-L-E, yeah that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E yeah that's the book for me

WOODLAND HILLS NEWS AND NOTES

PRAYER LIST: Janice Billeri, Mindy Blackstone, Haskell & Doris Butler, Ruby Goad, Jerry Harrell, Bill & Jo Ellen McCarty, Leola Pence, Nelva Peyton, Jerri Scott, Bertie Strokos, James & Lou Ann Webb, Jennifer West, Jane Zeitz.

Area gospel meetings are posted in the foyer

PROVERB OF THE WEEK

119:50

"This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life."

SCHEDULE TO SERVE - Nov 29th

AM - Service

Announcements: Bill Izenbarger
Song Leader: James Cost
Lord Supper Bread: Bill McCarty
Asst: Fred Pruter
Cup: Carl Scott
Asst: Bill Stone
Prayer Open: Luis Serpas
Close: Martin Billeri

PM - Service

Song Leader: Jim Cook
Lord Supper: Carl Scott
Prayer Open: Gerald Hodges
Close: Vernon Riehl

