

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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How do we avoid going from interpretation to speculation when reading the Bible? That's a question I hadn't given much thought to, until we began our new study in I Timothy last Sunday.

After the greeting, Paul began his letter by urging Timothy to reign in those who were teaching strange doctrines, doctrines based on things that give rise to mere speculation. Beliefs that go beyond simply understanding and applying what we find in Scripture, to speculating about things that may not have been in the mind of the authors, or the Spirit.

We noted, as a case in point, the Fox News report that "Biblical prophecy claims the Rapture is coming April 23." The article quoted a numerologist who has determined that astronomical events that will be taking place on April 23 are those spoken of in Revelation 12, and they signal the beginning of events leading to the end of the world and Christ's return.

The article, however, also quoted someone who disagreed. He said, "There is nothing to suggest that April 23 is a momentous date for biblical prophecy, and Christians need to be careful about being drawn into such sensationalist claims." So the prophetic pronouncement was most likely mere speculation, and the only thing momentous about April 23 is that it is Tina's 50th birthday!

Speculation came into view again at our Sunday night study. We were looking at the third word of Christ from the cross, which was simply, "Woman, behold, your son!" and "Behold, your mother!" The obvious thing that was taking place is that Jesus was entrusting His mother into the care of John. Our author, who has some amazing insights into the Scriptures, read into that simple statement Mary being declared as the new Eve, the mother of the Mystical Body the Church, and the Queen of Martyrs.

When trying to understand where all that came from, we concluded he must have been looking at the text through a lens that had already been colored to see what he saw. We also acknowledged that we too have a tendency to do the same thing. Doctrines that have been passed on to us, and teachings that are held by those we hold in high regard, can cause us to see things that aren't actually in the text.

I guess the bottom line is that in order to keep from speculation, we need to be careful what kind of spectacles we are wearing when reading the Scriptures. God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

April 18, 2018

NUMBER 13

Volunteers Needed

LSCA's
Spring Service Day
April 28, 2018
8:30am to Noon

We need your help!
Bring a rake & the entire family.

STATISTICS

Worship 121
Offering \$3,705.00

SERVING THIS SUNDAY 4/15/18

Greeters	Rhonda Luzio
Visitors' Stand	Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation	Mark Huber
	Chris Luzio
Ushers	Will Bartels
	Duane Carrell
	Chad Formea
	Paul Hunley
	Otto Huber
	Chuck McLaughlin
WORSHIP NURSERY	
Toddlers	Kristin Polley
	Cooper Formea
Infants	Shannon Higgins
	Madison Bales
	Vicki Small
Sunday School	
Toddlers	Rhonda Luzio
Infants	Jeni Sperry
	Kileen Huber



Let Us Pray For...

--Jamella Reese with deteriorating sight and now unable to drive.
--Sterling Eby's sister diagnosed with bone cancer.
--Kristin Polley's brother-in-law Sean Layendecker and family at the passing of his dad.
--Lori Gredzieleski's sister-in-law recovering from kidney transplant.
--Jack Ruebush with weakness in his legs.



Who but God?

Eight bedrooms. Five and a half baths. 5,700 square feet. 7.5 acres. Only God could write a story that would end with this property presented as a gift to the Oblong Children's Christian Home at just the time we were about to plunge into a \$300,000 building project to expand our services to children and families.

Perhaps you have heard the story by now, but it bears a recap. In November 2017, we received a phone call from an individual in Fairfield, IL, who as involved with Hands for the Handicapped, a non-for-profit organization in that community. The organization owned the brick home pictured above, which had been built in the late 1980s; they were looking for an opportunity to GIVE THE HOME AWAY! Who but God authors a story like that? However, because of a change in state practices, the home had been vacant since February 2017. As a non-profit, Hands for the Handicapped had two options: 1) sell the home and donate all of the proceeds to charity or 2) give the home away. The Oblong Children's Home became the recipient of this amazing gift, receiving the keys from their board president on February 19, 2018.

Our objective is clear: to be the best stewards of this facility as we can possibly be, making needed adjustments to layout and floor plan using local volunteer help and building community partnerships along the way. We hope to be placing girls in this facility by year's end. We are busily securing house-parents for the home and establishing a budget that will accommodate increased operational costs for the expanded services to as many as eight girls once filled. While there are countless i's to dot and t's to cross, each day is a new blessing as we consider the journey the Lord has placed us on and how He leads every step.

(We send financial support to the Oblong Children's Christian Home every month.)



Our annual VBS program is less than two months away! I am excited about the theme this year that will enable us to reach others in the community with the gospel message. It is a great experience to work with a group for a week and watch them grow in their relationship with our Lord.

This year, our VBS will focus daily lessons around the theme of being "shipwrecked" stressing that it is Jesus who rescues. Our goal is that their faith will begin or deepen by discovering that Jesus cares about them personally and rescues us in tough circumstances. Everyday, kids will participate in the opening celebration, attend a Bible Discovery class, eat tropical treats, play fun games, build imaginative crafts and conclude with a closing ceremony. The main teaching points are as follows:

- Monday: When you are lonely.. Jesus rescues! Parables found in Luke 15 will be emphasized.
- Tuesday: When you worry.. Jesus rescues! Martha worrying and complaining in Luke 10 will be discussed.
- Wednesday: When you struggle.. Jesus rescues! Points taken from the Garden of Gethsemane will be explained throughout the evening.
- Thursday: When you do wrong.. Jesus rescues! Jesus death, burial and resurrection found in Luke 23 & 24 will be our final teaching to end a great week of VBS.

The planning process is underway! If you would be willing to assist this year, let me know as soon as possible. You will be blessed and enjoy the week as much as the participants.



High School Students

As you know, we have decided to attend the MOVE conference in Warrensburg, MO on July 16th-21st. I would like to register by the end of April and in order to do so, I need a commitment from all who are interested soon. Please be discussing it with your parents to determine if you are ready to commit.

The cost is \$319 which includes the majority of food for the week, housing, and activities at MOVE to compliment their great program. We will be leaving the morning of the 16th and plan to return mid afternoon on the 21st.

The 8th graders coming into the High School group are welcome to attend! In fact, I encourage it! Not only do we learn and worship together in a large group format, but our youth group time alone are some of the best moments. I would love for all 8th graders going into High School to experience that with us.

We will get an official list going this Sunday during class. I hope you make every effort to join us on this trip!



Jr. & Sr. High Students

Don't forget to let me know this Sunday if you are willing to help out with the service at the Villas on Sunday, April 29th. We will meet sometime next week to go through what we will be doing. Prior to the service, we can go out for lunch together wherever you all choose, just please don't choose McDonalds.