

## Trends

According to a study conducted by the University of Massachusetts, 60% of adults can't have a ten minute conversation without lying at least once. But even that number makes it sound better than it really is; those people in the study who did lie actually told an average of 3 lies during their brief 10 minute chat.

- via MentalFloss.com

**Colossians 3:9:** "Lie not to one another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."

## Sentence Sermons

"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."

—Winston Churchill

**Revelation 21:8:** "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

## News & Notes

**Pray for one another:** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for the success of our upcoming gospel meeting with Ron Halbrook (Oct. 1-7). Also, take some flyers and invited relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Your attendance at every session is IMPORTANT! Support the meeting by being there!

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

**Words of Life** is published by the **Westside Church of Christ** meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

**Times of Service:** Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

Westside  
church of Christ

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You  
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



## Reflection on an Accident

Aaron Linden

Paramedics face a wide range of situations and emotions. Of those, the ones most etched into our memories are often cardiac arrests, where a patient's heart has stopped beating, they have stopped breathing, and we must take over these normal bodily functions (through CPR, airway placements, and drugs) to try and buy time to let the body be able to take back over. I have been on several of these calls.

In the past, we went to a car accident where a two-year-old child went into cardiac arrest as a result of the collision. I was the second unit on the scene, meaning I would care for the less critical of the patients. The child was placed in the primary unit, where emergency personnel had more control over the environment and rushed to the hospital. I was left to put the mother on a backboard, get her into our ambulance, and provide care for her while we drove to the hospital.

Throughout the entire time that we were with her, the mother's only concern was for her child. The recognizable anguish in her voice and her lack of care about her own body were all to be expected - but were very different things to experience in person. Not having a child, myself, I was allowed a more intimate look at the love a parent has for their kids. Sadly, the child did not survive. As I reflected on this in the following months, it made me think of many things, a few of which I will share here.

## Life Is Uncertain

There are instances in life where we are dealt crippling blows. Yet, God promises us something better beyond this physical world - that deals out pain from time to time. The psalmist David said, "I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). The Lord will always be there for us.

## Life Is Short

No specific amount of time is promised to us. We are not guaranteed a tomorrow. "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower, he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain" (Job 14:1-2). "Lord make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am. Behold You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in

*Your sight; surely every man at his best is a mere breath” (Ps. 39:4-5).* Although we are not promised tomorrow, we have today. We are granted time right now to make choices and commitments. To what will we be committed?

### God Is Love

God loves His Son. That the Father allowed His Son to be put to death on our behalf is not something to be viewed lightly. Isaiah says, *“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:3-5).*

### We Are Accountable

We are God’s children, and He loves us as His own. We have been given eternal life and reward through the death of Jesus Christ, but this blessing brings responsibilities: We must hear His voice and obey His word. *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:27-28).* Again, *“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it” (2 John 6).* Have you been baptized (2 Pet. 3:21)? Are you living a life of obedience (Luke 11:28)?

### Are There Mistakes in Some Bible Manuscripts?

Randy Blackaby

People who are skeptical of the Bible often allege that our English translations are full of mistakes and that even the early manuscripts on which we base our translations are riddled with mistakes. The Jehovah Witnesses, claiming errors in more common translations, developed their own *New World Translation* to support their doctrine. The Mormons also allege Bible errors and use their additional books to supposedly rectify the matter.

Before tackling some technical aspects, it is worth keeping in mind God’s providence as it relates to the preservation of the Divine message. It’s amazing how our New Testament has been preserved for 21 centuries, translated into hundreds of languages and dialects, and remains the most-published book in the world.

### Are There Mistakes?

In comparing the thousands of manuscripts and pieces of manuscripts, you can find misspellings, omitted words, or wrong words in some of the texts. Remember, especially when manuscripts had to be hand-transcribed, it was easy for a scribe to make a copying mistake.

But this isn’t the problem some make it out to be. We can compare several different manuscripts and usually can weed out the obvious copyist mistakes. Most of them are so minor that they do no damage to the meaning of the text.

There is an entire field of study, called textual criticism, which involves the work of many people comparing manuscripts and determining the most reliable texts and translations. It is far too involved for this short article, but a

number of books can be recommended for those who would like to further explore this subject.

Again, critics allege that there are as many as 200,000 errors in our New Testament text. And, depending on how you calculate, that can be true. But, here’s the problem with getting excited about that number. The way that huge number is calculated, if we were to find one misspelled name in 4,000 manuscripts or pieces of manuscripts, it would count as 4,000 errors. On the other hand, we might look at it as one very insignificant error. Whether you spell the evangelist’s name Apollo or Apollonios changes no doctrine or issue of faith. Whether the place is called Bethany beyond the Jordan or Bethabara beyond the Jordan is insignificant. Is the name of the pool mentioned in John 5:2 Bethzatha, Bethesda, or Bethsaida? To be forthright, we must admit there also are some significant variations, which present some issues for further study. Some words in Greek are close in spelling but vastly different in meaning. Mistakenly changing one letter can cause a vast difference in meaning. Consider the English words *bomb* and *tomb*. If we change only the first letter, a complete difference in meaning occurs. But, these more significant variants are few in number, and none involve passages that affect our salvation.

## Gospel Meeting

Hear Ron Halbrook of  
Shepherdsville, Kentucky  
preach from God’s word.

October 1-7

### Service Times

Monday – Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>; 7:00<sup>PM</sup>

Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>: 9:30<sup>AM</sup>, 10:30<sup>AM</sup>, 5:00<sup>PM</sup>

Mon: **The Glory of God in Creation & Scripture**

Tues: **Inspiration and Authority of the Bible**

Wed: **The Writing and Canon of Scripture**

Thurs: **Apocryphal Books and Other False Scripture**

Fri: **The Bible: God’s Only True Word (Part 1)**

Sat: **The Bible: God’s Only True Word (Part 2)**

Sun (AM): **Serving Christ in the Local Church: 1 & 2**

Sun (PM): **Thirsty Souls Seek God in the Philippines**

Invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. BUT make sure to attend every session yourself! You will never regret it!