

GLEANINGS

INTRODUCTION

You expressed an interest in the newspaper articles we are writing so we are including all of the articles that have been published. We will keep you up to date with the future articles by posting them on our website as they are written.

We would like to invite you to study the scriptures with us as we visit with you through these weekly articles. It is our desire to share the meat of the Word of God with you, not “milk” (1st Corinthians 3:1-2) and “fluff” (Ephesians 5:1-20).

We suggest that you read the articles in the order they are listed since they form a series of articles that are interrelated and form a contiguous progression of study. Please remember that these newspaper articles were read a week apart so it was necessary for us to do a lot of repeating to remind the reader what had been said the week before.

Please let us introduce ourselves. We are a graduate of Evergreen High School and attended colleges and seminaries in both Texas and Louisiana as we pursued first a degree in Engineering and afterward, when we surrendered to the ministry, an education in the fields of Education and Theology. We worked with churches in Texas and Louisiana for 33 years before God called us back to Evergreen in 1989. Bayou Rouge Baptist Church was organized in 1841 and met at 133 Church St. in Evergreen, La. The meetinghouse was used as a hospital during the War Between the States. Despite catastrophic wars, devastating floods, economic depressions and diminishing membership, Bayou Rouge Baptist Church continued to proclaim the Gospel, its missionary fervor unabated. We pastored the church for almost 19 years and resigned in 2008.

We will be quoting from quite a few translations as we study the Bible together. We are comfortable using almost any translation of the Bible into English whether, for example, it is the Confraternity–Douay Version, (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition), the New International Version, the New American Bible, or the King James Version. The wording in most of the translations is different. Sometimes the chapters and verses may be divided differently. Some of the books may have a different name or may be spelled differently. However, if you will examine all the scriptures that deal with a particular subject, you will find that the truth taught is the same. One translation might say, for example, “The Holstein cow ate green grass and gave white milk”. Another translation might say, “The green grass was eaten by a Holstein cow and she then gave white milk”.

“16. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instructing in justice; 17. that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work”. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

¹⁵Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2nd Timothy 2:15 King James Version

The original autographed manuscripts that made up the Bible were a divine blueprint. They explained how God will one day live and fellowship with perfect people who will inherit a new, perfect earth (2nd Peter 3:1-18; Revelation or Apocalypse 21:1-4). These residents will have chosen to return love to God of their own free will as they obey His call to (1) come to Him in prayer, (2) repent of their sins and while looking in faith to Calvary, (3) ask that the payment Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay for the sin debt they owe (Acts 4:12).

It would be an encouragement to us if you let us know what you think about the articles. Are they informative? Do they aid your understanding of the scriptures? Do they aid in your understanding of current events?

If we can be of any further help in your study of God's Divine Word, please feel free to contact us. After all, that is the reason we are here. That is our calling.

We await your feedback.

Yours in Christ,

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