



# *Lomax Online Bulletin*

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## **Announcements:**

We are continuing to meet together online during this challenging time. We will continue to stream on YouTube and Facebook on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Primetimers will have class on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Contributions can be mailed to Lomax Church of Christ, PO Box 33 or made online ([Lomaxchurch.com/give](http://Lomaxchurch.com/give)).

Sally Mercer is making facemasks and donating them to our Primetimers. Please reach out to Boo or Rose if you are interested in receiving one.

## **Congratulations:**

Congratulations to Sophie DeBord on having the highest score at Lomax in this year's Lads 2 Leaders Pearl course!

Congratulations to Scott Mullinicks for receiving a scholarship to Freed-Hardeman University based on his participation in L2L and academic high achievement.

## **Prayer Requests:**

**Jason & Devan Pierce and Churches in Fiji and Vanatu** as Cyclone Harold hit both Vanatu and Fiji.

**Spencer Clark**, a Lewis County 6<sup>th</sup> grader, has bone cancer and will have thirty weeks of chemo treatments and two surgeries (son of Adam & Maranda Clark.)

**Sympathy** to the family of Marion Yates funeral was Monday. Jodie Bunch staying with daughter Lee Ann Alford.

**Surgery delays:** Pop Hinson, Thelma Johns, Janice Johnston knee problems, Gene Kilpatrick

## **Meditations from Malcolm:**

Times like we are all experiencing now, make us all realize our dependence upon God. Without him how hopeless we would be, but with God's help we will make it through.

"Cast thy burden's upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee... 1st Peter 5:7

## THE GOODNESS OF GOD'S WORD by Donnie Debord

Editor's Note: This is a longer article, so it is some thoughts for the next few days. Read the first section today and the second tomorrow. On the third day make a list of all the reasons you are thankful for God's word.

### Fake Good News?

Do you know the only joke you can tell while you are in quarantine? An inside joke! It is hard being inside so much. Thankfully, God has blessed us with some beautiful weather technology to keep us virtually together. But it would still be nice to be out and really see people. We hear a lot of news every day, but we always have to ask "is this *fake news*?" Can we rely on the news media? Can we even rely on ourselves?

We would find a lot more confidence in the major world events if we could see them for ourselves. As much as we would like to verify every single thing we see on the news, the life of Jesus is the most important event that has happened on this planet. Can we know what *really* happened? Can we trust what we read?

### Can We Trust Our Bibles?

It is important for us to remember that Jesus' disciples really saw him. "At the very outset, it's important to understand that the Gospels in our Bibles claim to be based on eyewitness testimony. If you open your Bible and read any of the Gospels, therefore, you can read a firsthand account of Jesus's story written by those who saw him with their own eyes, heard him with their own ears, or conferred with those who did." If you want to know who Jesus really is, you can and should read the Gospels. The men who wrote the four Gospels were with Jesus.

You may see men like Bart Ehrman on television or in their popular books claiming that we can't trust our Bibles. Of course, these scholars, they are eager to present their version of Jesus made in their own image. We should be most thankful for the God who gave us the Bible which we can trust. As a quick response, we should remember that these scholars will soon be lost to abandoned libraries while the Scriptures will continue to survive attacks on all fronts until faith is removed by sight.

We find our Bibles to be trustworthy documents because as David said, "the Law of the Lord is perfect" (Ps. 19:7). Historians, biblical scholars, theologians, and even some critics have seen the perfections of God's word. It is perfect when it speaks of history, geography, and science (even facts which the authors could not have been aware of). The Bible is perfect in its prophecies of events before they occurred. The Bible so prophetically amazing that critics say the prophecies were actually records written after the events. Most importantly, the Bible is perfect in its prophecies of Christ. Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament and every prophecy about him. The fulfillment of these prophecies not only prove Jesus is the Messiah, they also prove the inspiration of Scripture because there is no way the prophecies could have been made and fulfilled without God. The Bible is perfect. The Bible is beyond human production.

### **We Can Trust Our Bibles Because of our God**

We can trust our Bibles because it is as perfect as the God who gave it. Peter himself said, “no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:21). He could have claimed some honor for himself by claiming he was responsible for the words he wrote. He could have claimed a prominent position by affirming his own part in the materials he wrote. Instead, he chose to honor God and confess God’s supreme role in the composition of Scripture.

The goodness of God’s Word flows from the goodness of God himself. When he made mankind for himself, he was unwilling for us to remain ignorant of his existence and nature so he left us evidence of himself in nature and the revelation of himself in his Scriptures. We can see, not only the goodness of the Scriptures but also the necessity of the Scriptures, for the preservation of God’s message, the vindication of God’s message, and the furtherance of God’s message. Turretini went on to say, “It was necessary for a written word to be given to the church that the canon of true religious faith might be constant and unmoved; that it might easily be preserved pure and entire against the weakness of memory, the depravity of men and the shortness of life; that it might be more certainly defended from the frauds and corruptions of Satan; that it might more conveniently not only be sent to the absent and widely separated, but also be transmitted to posterity.”

### **We Can Trust Our Bibles Because We Can’t Trust Ourselves**

The Scriptures are the exclusive spring of theology. Some hold to the sufficiency of human reason to investigate and develop true theology. This simply will not suffice. “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9). When we recognize our own weak finite creatureliness before the perfect and infinite Creator, the revealed Scriptures are a most welcome sacred guide. One theologian with a most awesome name, François Turretini (Francis Turretini in the good ole USA), wrote “the revelation of the word of God to man to be absolutely and simply necessary for salvation. It is the “seed” of which we are born again (1 Pet. 1:23), the “light” by which we are directed (Ps. 119:105), the “food” upon which we feed (Heb. 5:13, 14) and the “foundation” upon which we are built (Eph. 2:20).“

### **Trust the Good News**

We can trust our Bibles because of God’s nature, the eyewitness testimony, the perfections of Scripture, and because Scripture has proven to be reliable despite human mistakes. But if we trust the Bible, then we have to trust the Gospel. We have to live with the reality of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection which ushered in a new world of faith, hope, and love. Anxiety, sin, and hopelessness can’t be a part of our lives. We believe in the Bible and we believe in the Gospel and we believe we can have hope in Christ.