



Hand Bell Choir

Friday, June 15

The Wesley Bell Ringers will be at Bliss on Friday, June 15 for a performance at 7:30 p.m.

The group is sponsored by the Christ United Methodist Church of Salt Lake City, Utah. The choir performs throughout Northern Utah during the Christmas season, and each summer travels across North America sharing their beautiful music.

This year the group will visit churches in South Dakota, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan (Bliss), Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Utah traveling from June 9-27.



Cindy Strong's granddaughter, Charlie, is part of the hand bell choir. She is in the middle of the front row. The choir has been active since 1963, started by nine teenagers. Their motto is "to serve with love".



Von encourages people to pay \$1 for a chance to dunk Bradley. Participants could either hit the target at the right with a softball or make a basket with the basketball to dunk Bradley.

Youth Raise Camp Money

The Bliss youth participated in Red Neck Days by selling baked goods, popcorn, and cotton candy. They also operated a water balloon slingshot and a dunk tank.

The youth need to be registered for Mancelona Camp by June 13, either by mail or online. Camp costs \$200, which includes room, food, and activities. Camp runs from July 15-21 with the theme "Surrender".

Earlier in the year, the youth held a Talent Night and Taco meal to raise money for camp.

From Pastor Rob

What do I Bring?

One of the greatest truths about God is the free gift of salvation that is found in accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. There is no greater gift that we can gain. However, as I have listened to many Christians, I have heard some ideas that concern me about our understanding of what it means to follow Christ. Not saying all believers have this mentality or that any of you reading this fall in this category but it is something that I have been thinking about for a few years, maybe 10 or more to be honest.

The gift from God is free but just like getting a gift from anyone there is more to it than just accepting it. There are some gifts that require little maintenance while others require a great deal on our part after accepting the gift. For instance, a picture you receive as a gift you hang on the wall, clean it from time to time and straighten it when it gets bumped out of place. On the other hand you get a puppy as a gift and there is a LOT more required for caring for that gift—cleaning up after accidents, training him to go outside, filling in the holes he digs in the yard and as any dog owner knows, feeding him bathing him and the list goes on and on.

God's gift of grace and mercy is truly the greatest gift anyone can receive and it is free! This gift is a restored relationship with our creator that was broken when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Although it is a free gift, it requires us to bring something into that relationship as well. This gift does require devotion and dedication to God first and foremost in our lives. Unfortunately it is easy to forget that our first priority as a Christian is to put God first in everything we do. Israel had a hard time remembering that too at times.

In the Book of Malachi we read an instance when Israel forgot what they bring to the relationship with God. They became, well for lack of a better word, lazy, in their devotion and dedication to the God they served. Just like any relationship it is easy to get comfortable and lax in our ways and this is what Israel did and God was not happy with them at all. Look at the words that God shares to the Israelites in Malachi 1:6-8

“It is you priests who show contempt for my name.

“But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’

“By offering defiled food on my altar.”

“But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’

“By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the Lord Almighty.

Here is an issue that Israel had; they became so comfortable in their relationship with God that they forget to bring God their very best. It is an easy slope to slide down if we are not diligent in our relationship with God. The day to day responsibilities, our jobs, family, leisure activities and many other aspects of life vie for our time and resources. But God is not there yelling; “Give me your first and the rest of these things will follow in the right time and place.” It is our responsibility to make sure we bring to God our part of the relationship, our very best and then we will see God's greatness in every area of our lives.

What do I bring to God? My very best and give it to him with a grateful heart, a heart that seeks Him first. That way he can direct my steps in life and I will please God and He will guide me with His wisdom and sovereign hand.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

June 2018		<i>Bliss Missionary Church</i>				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Loralee Dankert Richard Thompson Liza Benzing Rob Thomson	
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	4 Lois Luesing	5 7:15 - Youth	6 Hunter Kilpatrick	7 Hunter Kilpatrick	8 Jocelyn Thomson	9
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	11 Diane Schneider	12 7:15 - Youth	13 7:15 - Youth	14 Flag Day Jeff/Melissa Mallory	15 Wesley Hand Bell Choir 7:30	16
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - No Evening Service Tanner Byard Father's Day	18 Dan/Tanya Procknow Larry Tremble	19 Joan Mallory	20 7:15 - Youth	21 Jim/Carol Morris	22	23
10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	25 Cindy Strong Von Procknow	26 7:15 - Youth	27 Dennis Fay	28 Tammy Williamson Dave Dankert	29	30

The Bible — The Basis For A Christian's Life

Partially adapted from *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne A. Grudem

The basis of all Christian beliefs is the Bible—God's Words. God's opinion of his words can be listed in four general categories: authority, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency.

The Authority of the Bible

All the words in the Bible are God's words. "Sometimes God spoke directly to the author, who simply recorded what he heard...At other times the author based much of his writing on interview and research...And at other times the Holy Spirit brought to mind things that Jesus taught."

"If God claims that the words of Scripture are his own, then there is ultimately no higher authority one can appeal to for proof of this claim other than Scripture itself."

The Clarity of Scripture

Some parts of the Bible are plain and easy to understand; others are more obscure. However, these difficult portions should not overwhelm us. Many people have had the experience of reading a passage of scripture many times before suddenly realizing its significance.

"...a proper understanding of Scripture is often more the result of an individual's spiritual condition than his or her intellectual ability."

The Necessity of Scripture

Paul writes in Romans 10:17, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Although everyone can see God's existence through nature, and have in their minds

and consciences some understanding of God's moral laws, these understandings are distinct from the Bible. It is the only source of clear and definite statements about God's will.

The Sufficiency of Scripture

In the Bible "God has given us instruction that equips us for every good work that he wants us to do."

The Bible may not directly answer every question we think up, but its principles will guide us. Also, if we don't find a specific answer to a specific question, we are not free to add to the commands of the scripture.

We may receive specific guidance from God, but that guidance is not the same as Scripture and not to be imposed on others. Also, nothing is sin that is not forbidden by Scripture, and we are not to add prohibitions.

Which Bible?

Probably the most reliable translations are those made by a group of scholars who research and discuss difficult passages. When using translations by single authors, make a practice of comparing with other translations.

If using the King James translation, which is over 400 years old, use a King James dictionary which will explain how words have changed in meaning over the years.

Don't like translations? In that case you will have to learn Hebrew and/or Greek and study in the original. But in any case, use the Bible as your guide through this life.