

“New to the Bible? Here’s a Good Place to Go Next”

By: David Sproule

Two weeks ago, we considered a common question that is often raised about where to start reading the Bible. There may be a variety of answers to that question, but starting anywhere in the book is great. Last week, I shared my favorite answer to give to folks who ask where to start reading—I encourage them to begin with the book of John. It is a great book designed to build faith in the Son of God.

So, what about after that? If someone begins reading the Bible with the book of John, where should they go after the book of John? Again, many good answers could be given, including going from there to Genesis and reading it from beginning to end. But I usually tell folks, “And after you’ve read the book of John, you’re right there, so take your time and read through the book of Acts, which is the next book.” And then I give them some reasons for doing such.

The book of Acts shows God’s eternal plan coming into reality. The “eternal purpose” of God was to bring His church to this earth (Eph. 3:9-11). In the Old Testament, you read prophecies and preparations for His church (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 2:2-4; 9:6-7; Dan. 2:44), and in the early pages of the New Testament, you read John the Baptist and Jesus both preaching that it was “at hand” (Matt. 3:2; 4:17), for it would be established “with power” within the lifetime of Jesus’ contemporaries (Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). So, when you arrive at the book of Acts, you get to read the culmination of

God’s eternal plan.

The book of Acts shows what Jesus’ disciples did after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. It is the natural continuation from reading about Jesus in the book of John. His disciples were so committed to Him and so convicted of the truth of the gospel that they went everywhere preaching the good news of Jesus (Acts 1:8; 8:4).

The book of Acts shows how to be converted to Christ and become a Christian. This is key. When one has learned about Jesus in the book of John, what do they do now? They need to believe (Acts 16:31), repent (Acts 2:38), confess their faith (Acts 8:36-38) and be baptized (Acts 22:16), in order to be saved from their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). The book of Acts shows this being done over and over, as is its main purpose.

There are many benefits that can be gained when one starts reading the Bible in the book of John and then continues into the book of Acts, none the least of which is that now the reader has a complete picture of what the Bible is all about. Now, having that understanding, the reader can go back to Genesis and read through the Bible, anticipating with excitement to see God reveal, unfold and fulfill His magnificent plan!

The Stench of Death

By: Selected

You look at the title of this article and wonder if you should continue reading. Let me assure you, keep reading. When you have read half of these words, you may wonder what they have to do with anything. Keep reading. You will be surprised at how often your reading of His words and meditating on them can be so rewarding. So, keep reading.

When God brought the plagues on Egypt, the Egyptians knew He was angry with them. When the water was turned to blood, they were thirsty. When locusts destroyed their crops, they were hungry. When the cattle were afflicted with pestilence (the King James calls it the murrain), imagine the stench of death there had to be as they dealt with decaying flesh. The same was true when hailstones killed whatever animals or men were in the fields. Finally, imagine the stench when there was the death of the firstborn in every house of the Egyptians.

The sister of Lazarus knew the stench of death when Jesus commanded that the stone be removed from her brother's tomb. "Behold he stinketh" (KJV, John 11:39). Death is tragic, but the stench of death is even more hideous. We do all we can to avoid it.

Jesus' disciples were so critical of the woman who anointed the body of Jesus with precious perfume that cost 300 days' wages. This was just two days before His arrest. They saw it as waste; Jesus saw it as preparing His body for His death. When Jesus died, Nicodemus, who came to Him by

night, brought nearly 100 pounds of spices to be placed around His body. We try to hide the stench of death, but it is still there.

Perhaps we should begin to look at death in a way that the world never could. The world would never describe the smell of the burning carcasses of animals in a positive manner, but God sees it differently. He describes it more than 30 times as a sweet aroma. Now think of how this is true of the death of a saint. The world thinks of death as a stench, but faith sees it so differently.

This is not to minimize the fact that death has a smell that is so repugnant. However, we do not see death as the world does. The psalmist says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psa. 116:15). Death brings sorrow to those who remain. However, while we view death as the end, God sees it as a new beginning. From the prison in Rome, Paul spoke of death as being gain and expressed his longing that he might depart and be with the Lord. Death is wretched in many ways. Death has its stench, but faith all of changes that. There is no real stench in the life of His saints. Think about it.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 4: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. Please bring a dish/ dessert to share with visitors. There will be a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow.

Sunday, October 11: Monthly youth devotional after evening services hosted by the Sheeran family. Girls bring desserts, boys bring drinks.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Randy D'Herde request prayers for his mother, Nancy, who was taken to the ER last week for breathing troubles.

Sandra Horton is having a procedure Oct. 12th. She has a blockage in her leg.

Jake & Jaycee McCoy who had their baby last week in Katy, TX.

Elana Carroll request prayers for strength at work.

Service Roster

Week of September 27, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer.....Barry Lehtinen

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....Kirk FitzSimmons
Cup.....Bryant Siegel
Offering.....Lupe Escojido
Assist.....Bryce Dolan
Assist.....Billy York
Assist.....Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer.....Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Bryce Dolan/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Cody McCoy
Song LeaderKirk FitzSimmons
Devotional.....Kirk FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for Oct.....Bass

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Tam Archer.....Sept. 27
Mack Terry.....Sept. 30

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class meets at 10am here in the fellowship hall. They are studying "Women of the Bible."

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido—Benevolence
Doug Jobs—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my
strength and my Redeemer.
Psalm 19:14 NKJV



5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 20, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....35
A.M. Worship.....84
P.M. Worship.....54
Wednesday Worship.....64

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Trey Jenkins &
Daniel Owens, Joshua Holloway
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