**Would You Like to Study the Bible?**

I would love to sit down and study the Bible with you. I have no interest in trying to convince you to accept some denominational doctrine. I couldn’t care less whether or not you agree with any of my personal opinions. When the objective is to ascertain the will of God, human wisdom and philosophies are worthless. I have better ways to spend my time than to sit around and share personal preferences and feelings. But honest, open-minded Bible study – now that is a different matter. Why is a careful consideration of the writings of the Bible so important?

**The Bible is like an owner’s manual for humans.** God created us and He knows us better than we know ourselves (Matthew 10:30). Instead of putting us on this earth and leaving us to fend for ourselves, He has given us instructions in the inspired Scriptures for living meaningful, fulfilled lives. I am confident we find more real joy in this life by studying God’s word together.

**More than anything, God wants to have eternal fellowship with each of us.** There’s only one problem: each of us destroyed that fellowship by sinning against the God of justice and holiness (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). Each of us desperately needs to be reconciled with God, but He can forgive us while remaining just only if someone was willing and able to incur the penalty for our sins on our behalf. Romans 3 explains God’s solution to the sin problem.

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (vs. 24-26).

**Jesus died for all, but not all will be saved in the end.** God has appointed the very one who died for us to be the one who judges us (Acts 17:31). Jesus said His teachings will be the basis upon which each of us is judged (John 12:48). I would love to study with you, because diligence in handling God’s word properly is the key to obtaining His approval (2 Timothy 2:15).

If you would like to engage in honest, friendly, respectful Bible study, contact me. If you know of someone who is looking for purpose in their life, contact me. You can e-mail me using westmurraychurch@gmail.com and I will get back with you to arrange a convenient place and time. If pleasing God is your greatest concern, you are not alone.

**John McKee**

**West Murray church of Christ**