



The Test of Knowing Him

1 John 2: 3 - 5

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

VISITORS

A warm welcome to all our visitors
We hope to see you again! Do not hesitate should you have any questions.

Song Leader: Mike Baisley

Opening Prayer: Ray Calder

Closing Prayer: Carry Hagemann

Servers: Thando, Chris, Ray and Carry

Scripture Reading: Thando Ntozakhe

Lord's Table: Chris du Preez

Attendance last Sunday: 38

The Lord Is My Shepherd – Psalm 23

(Adapted from the article by Brent Kercheville – West Palm Beach Church of Christ)

Phillip Keller wrote a book called "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23." As the title suggests, he was a shepherd himself for eight years and recalls his experiences while studying this psalm.

Keller says, "It is almost impossible for them (sheep) to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met. Owing to their timidity, they refuse to lie down, unless they are free of all fear. Because of the social behaviors within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind. If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax. Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger."

This knowledge captures what David is describing concerning his relationship with the Lord. David is able to rest because all his provisions have been provided by the Lord. Verse 2 describes being in the green pastures where eating is plentiful. The sheep are beside the still waters where they can freely drink without fear.

It is interesting that the Psalm begins by describing the rest available in the Lord. The first aspect of the Lord being our shepherd is not some sort of activity, but that we have rest. We are able to release our burdens and our cares upon the Lord. "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11: 28). Rest and release are available because God has promised to carry our burdens.

When David says that "God is his shepherd," he focuses on the fact that He is our closest companion. The Shepherd knows what His sheep need, more than they do, and He takes care of them better than they can take care of themselves. David says, "God is so close to me that he knows me better than I know me.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

(John 10: 14)

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Leadership: Braam Le Roux - 072 195 6104

Mike Baisley - 083 500 7271

SUNDAY TIMES:

BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00

WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00

25TH MAY 2025

Preacher: Braam Le Roux

Sermon Topic: Have you passed the test? Part 2

Scripture reading: 1 John 2: 3 - 5

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.

We are at present studying the book of Romans, with Johan facilitating the class. Please join us during this time of learning God's Word.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S

CLASS – 9 am

If you have any questions about this class, please speak to Shana.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday 28th May - 10 AM

All ladies are encouraged to join in the study. This week, the lesson will be shared by Sandra and focus on Sarah, Abraham's wife and Isaac's mother.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

East Cape Bible College

Monday, 26th May, 18H00 – 19H00

20 Keam Rd

Topic 4: - The Dark Ages

Presenter: Johan Smulders

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those in need of God's intervention. Many of our loved ones are fighting great and painful battles of one kind or the other, some personal, some public and several with health issues. Please pray for Neville who is very ill and Myra who loves him and cares for him. Let us never underestimate the Power of Prayer! We thank our Lord for prayers He has answered.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Kirsten Sporke – 26th May

Chris du Preez – 30th May

Lorna Blom – 30th May

May God bless your special day with all the love your heart can hold. Remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in His Love!

INVITATION TO OUR MONTHLY TEA

You are invited to join us this morning and enjoy a time of fellowship with a cup of tea or coffee and some nibbles.

Romans Chapters 5 and 6. (by Johan Smulders)

1. As we continue to study Romans, it is sometimes difficult to follow Paul's reasoning, but at other times he makes statements that are amazing in the insight that it gives about Christianity.
2. It is important to remember that all Biblical teaching has to be seen in the light of the rest of the Bible. In the past, even great students of the Bible like Martin Luther could not resist adding a word to the text to make a point. He is said to have added "only" to the word faith and also rejected for some time the book of James, as it did not fit into his theology.
3. Paul continues in chapter 5 his argument about how justification is granted by faith and not works. He now explains the great benefits of being right with God. Peace and joy are extended to believers by God's great grace – not because of birthright as the Jews believed.
4. The question about why believers suffer is explained. The Christian life is a growth experience.
5. As the letter to Rome continues, Paul introduces the reader to the Holy Spirit "whom he has given us" (5: 5). This will become an important theme in the letter and especially in Chapter 8.
6. Some people were seemingly making the argument that the more a person sinned the better it was because it brought more grace. It must be remembered that writings like the letter to the Romans was not written with numbered paragraphs and chapters. These were only added later by translators of the Bible in order to make references easier. The letters were read in gatherings and like the book of Revelation, one must remember to see the big picture at all times. As Paul paints the main message he jumps into illustrations to build his message.
7. As Chapter 6 starts, Paul makes an important statement about the process of salvation and its results (vs.3, 4).
8. Paul explains to the Romans important facts about the new life that is gained as Christians. We are freed from the results of sin and given a new life. There must have been an undertone of Gnostic heresy in the church at this time and so Paul deals with the new life God offers us. This removes the false view that the believer in his or her life has two parts that can act independently of each other, that is the spiritual and physical.
9. Paul uses another method of explanation: "I put this in human terms", as he explains spiritual truth in a way that the Romans and we can understand it. He is indeed the master in taking spiritual truths and helping his readers to understand them. His illustrations taken from the Old Testament and real life are carefully chosen and always pertinent.
10. He closes with the teaching that followers of Jesus receiving the gift of eternal life from God. What an important point!