

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In worship two weeks ago we studied John 5:1-15, the story of the man healed at the pool in Jerusalem. I'm wondering if you might have noticed something interesting about this passage? In contemporary translations of the Bible (NIV, ESV, NRSV, NLT, CSB, etc.) you will find something peculiar: there is no verse 4; the text skips from verse 3 right to verse 5. The reason why teaches us something important about Scripture translation and actually increases the trustworthiness of the English Bible we read and study.

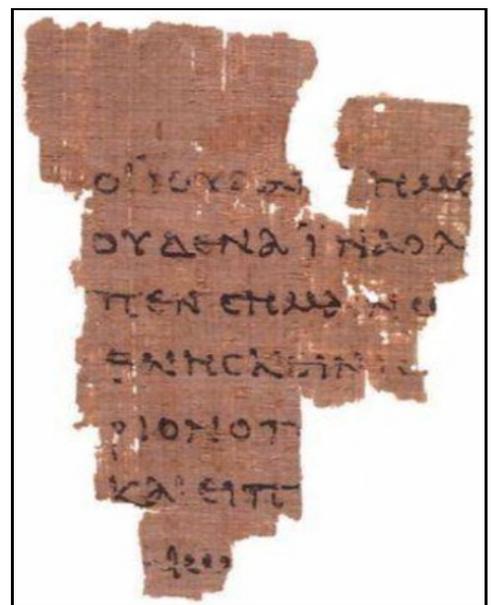
In older translations of Scripture into English - in particular the King James Version (which was first published in 1611) - John 5:4 reads: "For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

Because of the hard work of Bible scholars and archeologists, more recent translations of the Bible omit this verse. In the centuries since the first texts of the Bible were translated into English, hundreds of older, more reliable original manuscripts and manuscript fragments have been found scattered throughout the ancient world. As these ancient papyrus fragments of John were discovered, scholars started noticing that the oldest fragments did not include the text of John 5:4. There is not a single manuscript of John's Gospel that is older than the fourth century that includes the words found in verse four of chapter five.

This has led historians and Bible experts to surmise that verse four was added sometime later in the history of the church (probably around 300A.D.) to help explain WHY the man in the story wanted to get into the pool. The implication is not that the verse is "wrong", it's just that it was included in only later copies of the gospel of John.

You may be asking why this matters? Well, it matters because we need to know that our Bibles are INCREDIBLY trustworthy. Teams of faithful pastors, professors, archeologists, historians and librarians work full-time to make sure that our translations of the Bible represent as accurately as possible what the original documents recorded. This leads to an interesting paradox in Biblical studies: often, the OLDEST and - therefore most reliable - manuscript evidence is found in the NEWEST translations! When you pick up your modern English translation to read what God's Word says, you are reading the most authentic representation of the original words and intent of the authors that we can find. We are convinced that the Bible is an authoritative guide to the truth of who God is; and it is such a blessing to know that we can read a trustworthy representation of its text in our own language.

Pastor Jos



"The oldest manuscript fragment of the Gospel of John ever found. It's called P52 and it dates from between 100-150A.D. but was only discovered in the early 20th century."

Chili Cook-Off and Game Night



This Saturday is IT! March 16 6:00 p.m. Come enjoy some great chili and vote for your favorite chef! A night of board games and fellowship will follow the crowning of the cook-off winner.

OUR TURN FOR BREAKFAST



It is our turn to provide breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. (March 31 at 7:00a.m. at East Cemetery). We will need people to help set up, cooks and serving people, and a clean up crew. To lend a hand, please talk to Connie or Jerry Herman



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday

March 24

Maundy Thursday

March 28 at 7 p.m.

A service of reflection, music and communion.

Community Easter Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m. at East Cemetery,

Breakfast is at

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church following the Sunrise Service.

Our Easter Morning Service

March 31

Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Please note: No Second Hour on Easter Sunday.

The children are invited to remain in worship Easter Sunday Morning. There will be a Nursery, but no KidzJam. We will have a kid's message that morning and a special Easter Worship Bag.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Praises

- Shannah Swinehart soon to graduate

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Tristan Burns - Air Force stationed in Africa
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Matt Burkhardt - National Guard
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- Unspokens
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- Mike's dad - heart attack
- Tonya - dialysis
- Ronnie - light stroke prayers for restoration of whatever was lost by the stroke
- Keylee & her mom, Kristen- Keylee was recently diagnosed with leukemia
- Theresa Smith - in skilled nursing facility
- Kevin Walton recovering from open heart surgery
- Al Amstutz - recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, and other health issues.
- Charles Sears - serious car accident
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- David
- Jonathan - stomach cancer
- Marianna Miller - recent diagnosis with aggressive form of cancer
- Kevin Hanna
- Mary Hardesty - colon cancer
- Tara
- Dale James

Condolences

- The family of Roger Purdy
- The family of Juleene Tope

The Deacons encourage you to send cards or notes of encouragement to those in the church family experiencing prayer needs.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

March 14 - Anita Spencer

March 14 - Logan Kidd

March 19 - Mike Rhamy

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Happy Anniversary

March 19 - Sharon & Dale Cramer



Hey all,
Even though the weather
forecast looks a bit better

for Sunday than it did last week,
40-some degrees is going to be pretty
chilly for kayaking. So we
will scrap that idea. Meet
in the youth room for
games and lesson, and
we will also celebrate a
belated Pi Day!
Michelle



CALENDAR FOR MARCH

- March 16 - 6:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off and Family Game Night
- March 17 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and Second Hour for all ages.
- March 20 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- March 20 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 24 - Palm Sunday—Sunday morning worship and Second Hour for all ages.
- March 25 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- March 26 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- March 27 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- March 27 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 28 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
- March 31 - Sunrise Service at East Cemetery Breakfast to follow here at FPC
- March 31 - 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service No Second Hour today.

MARION WORK DAY



The next Work Day in Marion is scheduled for 3/23/24. We will meet in the church parking lot at 7am and car pool out. All are welcome to enjoy a day of fellowship and support a great cause. The building is going to be named the Joyce A. Rogers Marion Community Center in memory of Pastor Cory's late mother. You can find more information on the Marion Hands of Hope Facebook page. We will be installing drywall on the walls we built last October. If we have enough help, we will also frame the walls for the exam rooms. If you have any questions and/or to sign up please contact Paul Miller 330-465-8329. Pastor Cory's church will again be providing breakfast and lunch. Be sure to sign up so we can let them know how many to plan for.

More from Pastor Jos...

Are you interested to know more about Bible translation, history, archeology and manuscripts? Here are some great resources:

“Making of the Bible” – a three-episode podcast about how we got the Bible <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/making-of-the-bible/>

“Who Chose the Gospels” by C. E. Hill - <https://www.amazon.com/Who-Chose-Gospels-Probing-Conspiracy/dp/0199640297>

“Can We Still Believe the Bible” by Craig Blomberg - <https://www.amazon.com/Can-Still-Believe-Bible-Contemporary/dp/1587433214>

“How We Got Our Bible” – article in Christianity Today - https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issue-43/how-we-got-our-bible-christian-history-interview--from.html?share=w%2foyf8vpL8b308OAVsnsxMBltmHk8pPU&utm_medium=widgetsocial