

Confusion in the Scriptures
By Travis Main

Confusion is something everyone goes through at some point in their lives. Whether young or old, we have moments when we just don't understand what we are seeing or are hearing. I remember as a boy, I was walking at night toward my house. There, 60 feet from the house, was a lightning ball. A lightning ball is exactly what it sounds like. It is a ball of lightning hovering off the ground, in this case, about three feet above the ground. My curiosity was electric. I crept closer and closer to this rare occurrence. Then, I realized what I had seen as a lightning ball was just light brightly shining off of a large shiny tin container. My confusion was based on a lack of knowledge about what I was seeing and a predisposition to wanting to see a lightning ball which I had previously read about. In addition to our lifetime moments, there are a number of occasions within scripture where confusion occurred.

The book of John in chapter 6 retells the history of Jesus to a crowd and his disciples near the sea of Galilee. Picking up in verse 31 the crowd mentions the Israelites in the wilderness and how they were given bread from heaven to eat. Jesus declares He is the true bread from heaven. He is the bread of life. The people grumbled about his statement. They certainly understood His claim of Deity. Jesus declared that *"the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world... I say unto you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, he have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life."* By verse 66 it is read, *"From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him."* It appears as if there was confusion in regard to what Jesus wanted from those who would follow Him. Can you imagine hearing these words firsthand? Not only is this Jesus claiming Deity but is Jesus talking about cannibalism? Well, no he wasn't. He was speaking of the Lord's Supper by which Christians would partake of the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread to remember Jesus (I Corinthians 11:23-27).

After his death and resurrection, Jesus instructed the disciples remain in Jerusalem waiting for the promise of the Father which was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *"When the day of Pentecost arrived... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."* These disciples, the twelve apostles, were telling people from different countries and different languages (tongues) *"the mighty works of God"*. What was the response to this? *"And all were amazed and perplexed [confused], saying to one another, 'what does this mean?' But others mocking said, 'They are filled with new wine.'" This interaction recorded in Acts 2 demonstrates how confusion can occur. These "Galileans", men who were not educated in the speaking of different languages, were doing so! The foolish explanation of drunkenness certainly would not apply. One does not get drunk and develop an ability to speak coherently in language. What sounded like gibberish to the Hebrew speaking Jew could very likely have been Greek or Aramaic or any other language. Of course, the apostle Peter lends his voice to these assertions and declares that they were definitely not drunk, but that this was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel.*

The apostle Paul visited the Thessalonians in after passing through the area of Amphipolis and Apollonia. He shared the scriptures with the people there but met quite a bit of persecution and moved on quickly. However, the Church would grow from his visit and it would flourish. Paul would later write to the Thessalonians to encourage, strengthen, and instruct them. Part of his discussion would cover the final judgment of mankind with the return of Jesus in the clouds. The faithful alive and dead would meet Jesus in the sky and be with him forever. What great news and blossom of Hope! Yet, there was confusion. People were under the impression that Jesus would be returning very soon. So, people stopped working. They just waited for the return of the Christ and the blessing of their eternal home. However, Paul did not mean that the return was imminent. He wrote another letter a few months later discouraging idleness. Additionally, he spoke of other things which must come before the return of the Christ. Simple confusion had created a problem that needed to be taken care of quickly.

Confusion is nothing new. It has happened in the past. It is happening today. It will happen in the future. When possible, take time to consider how your words or actions might be interpreted. Also if something seems odd or confusing, seek for clarification. Communication and inspection is a quick remedy to faulty conclusions.

Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. Our last contribution was \$1,050.00. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Asha Strangle 1/23 | Jessica Gaynor 2/6 |
| Jamie Robinson 1/23 | McKayah Musselman 2/7 |
| Amy Allen 2/4 | Alfred Abbey 2/7 |

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Potluck Sunday February 12th after morning services.

Please let us know what you plan to bring using the sign up sheet on the back table.

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Ladies Bible Study ~ The God of All Comfort Tuesday, February 7th @ 6:45pm

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Next Sunday, January 29th we will have traditional trays for the Lord's Supper. Individual items are also available. If you are willing to help prepare Lord's Supper each week, please let Stephanie know.

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	January 22, 2023 AM	January 22, 2023 PM	January 29, 2023 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter	Jason Bang	Jerry Thompson
Announcements	Owen Whittington	John McGiffin	Jason Bang
Song Leading	Jason Bang	Owen Whittington	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Owen Whittington	Seth Arrell	Christ McGiffin
Lord's Supper Comments	Tim Bang	Tom Muter	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Jerry Thompson	Tim Bang	Tom Muter
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Tom Muter	Brennan Arrell	Tim Bang



"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6

Lord's Supper Reflection

To Show the Wealth of God's Love
"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6-8

Offering Meditation

Your Gift to God helps Support Fellow Christians
"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come." 1 Corinthians 16:1-2



Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
*Larry Bey - Parkinson's
*Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
*Pam Illinik (Amie Allen's mom) - health
*Carter Buckingham - recovering from back surgery
*Sally Westover (Carrie Thompson's mom) - recovering from a fall and other health concerns
*Cory Clark (Lois Ferris' son) - recovering from a kidney transplant
*Marjorie Seiber - recovering from surgery
*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision
*Steve Kemp (Duane Kemp's cousin) - had blood clot in his lungs
*Josh & Rachel Bang (family of Tim/Jason Bang) - stability and guidance for things their family is dealing with
*Clara Bell Schafer (Resident @ Oakley Place) - issues with her vision
*Molly Greg (friend of the McGiffin's) - needing a liver transplant, is on the list
*John Bacon (Alexa Rohr's dad) - in therapy
*Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
*Sharon Thompson (Jerry Thompson's mom) - having knee replacement surgery
*Gloria McGlothlin (friend of Tim Bang) - was in a car accident

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call John or email him at jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.



Attendance and Contribution Record

Table with 2 columns: Sunday, January 15 and Wednesday, January 18. Rows include Bible Classes, AM Attendance, PM Attendance, and Contribution \$.

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



January 22, 2023

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd
Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.