

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
217.493.8905

Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—23
Wednesday—7
Contribution—\$1715

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 10–11
In what did Solomon initially find some satisfaction? Did this enjoyment last?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Why do we need the Bible?

Because we need an authority that can withstand any challenge to its authority, convey to readers assurance of its validity, and have no cloud of dubiousness hanging over it. Because the Bible meets these criteria, and here's what we have in the Bible:

The personal assurance of salvation. In the Bible the question is asked, "What must I do to be saved?" and the answer is plain: believe, repent, and be baptized (Mk. 16.16; Acts 2.38, 16.30–33, et al.). "When God sent a flood upon the earth," wrote White-side, "to destroy the wicked, he saved Noah and his family. The way he saved Noah is well known. . . . God might have saved Noah in . . . a million ways . . . but when God selected one way and told Noah what that way was . . . that was a blessing to Noah, for he new exactly what to do" (*Doctrinal Discourses*, 51). In the same way, it's a blessing to know exactly what we need to do to be saved from our sins.

Growth and grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Having been freed from sin and death, we'll want to lovingly express our undying gratitude to Christ in ways that please Him. The Bible tells us how we are to obey our Father (Rom. 8.4, Heb. 13.21, et al.).

Strength and courage to meet life's troubles. Where would we be without the sustaining grace provided in passages such as Romans 8.18, 1 Corinthians 10.13, 2 Corinthians 12.7–10, Hebrews 12.1–2?

Not the most inspiring history, soaring poetry, nor learned counseling can provide the blessed assurance the Bible provides in the areas I've mentioned. In these, let God be true and every man a liar.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

A letter from Andrei, Orel, Russia

For fifteen years the Gibson City church has had fellowship in the gospel in Orel, Russia. The evangelist there, Andrei Maltsev, is as good as they come, and it's been a privilege for us to help in his support.

But as this most recent letter from Andrei shows, times are troubled. I'm asking all who read this to pray for the Orel saints, asking that they will be protected from the evils of war and that God will open a door (that was closed due to our government's decision to get involved in the Ukraine war) for support to be sent directly to Andrei, and funds be sent to Lena (a Christian who serves as our translator) to help in her battle with Chernobyl-related cancer.

Dear Tack,
I haven't been writing to you for while...
First of all I want to wish you a Happy New Year!
Every beginning of a year we pray for the best year coming. So we do now. I believe 2025 we'll bring you prosperity in all the spheres of your activity! The best I expect that God we'll keep us in piece with our families and countries.

Last year I lost my income from the job I had. I started searching for the other job the end of the year. I found it and it took much time and energy of mine. I had to go to Moscow every week. Finally I fall ill and the 31st of

—Continued on next page—

Sermon: James 2.12–13

Three guidelines of judgment

12 January 2025

Continued from front page . . .

Dec I got facial nerve paralysis. I try to stay on board and maintain the activity I had before. My congregation and close friends inspire me like I do in all the time I with them.

Lena is the first person I try to help and be with. I know she expects all kind of needs and she patiently lives on facing problems with her strong belief in God. It is a short time of break between the chemotherapy because of the holidays in Russia. The thing that destroys me us most of all is that we don't make any prognosis for the future. As far as I understand the treatment plan is uncertain.

It is sad to hear that many people suffer from different diseases and other die in Gibson Church. I read it from your weekly bulletin. I know what you feel about it.

It is pain that is always strikes our hearts. I call you to keep strong and be the one who cares. It is the thing that God waits from us.

In Orel we should daily hide from missile and drone attacks. We hear sirens several times a day. It reminds me the World War II and I still can not get used to it. It is always in you head that something bad can happen. . .

Today is Christmas in Russia. I spend it with my family and friends. It is the best day to think about the Birth of God and Man who saved us from death. Birth is always the busiest start of the way that is full of happiness and joys. Turkey from the oven, fir tree, Christmas music . . . this atmosphere is wonderful to meet Christ with all our hearts filled with love.

Please send our best wishes to all the Christians in Gibson City. We stay with them in prayers for piece and all good things that come from our Saviour!

In Christ,
Andrei

In a short, second letter, Andrei wrote:

There's no way to send money now.
I will let you know if we find a way.

Notes on Genesis 4, part 2

The opening verses of Genesis 4 shed light on the subject of worship, which in the opening of Genesis 4, occurred at a certain *place*, at a certain *time*, and involved *prescribed acts*.

Regarding prescribed acts, a sharp contrast existed between Cain and Abel. "Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord . . . Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat" (4.3–4). I suspect Cain worked hard to produce his crop (3.17–19); his produce probably would have won the blue ribbon at the county fair. The "Lord," however, "did not respect Cain and his offering" (4.5). (My guess is God showed respect to Abel's offering by igniting the lamb, possibly by means of the flaming sword; cf. 3.24; cf. Lev. 9.24, Judg. 6.21, 1 Kgs. 18.38, 1 Chron. 21.26, 2 Chron. 7.1).

"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Faith comes by listening to God (Rom. 10.17). God revealed what He wanted, and Abel gave it to Him. Cain followed the example of his parents and did what he wanted, and God refused his worship.

There's a right way and a wrong way to worship God (Jn. 4.24). As God Himself showed in 3.21, for a sinner to be brought back into a relationship with Him requires a blood sacrifice (Heb. 9.22). Cain brought sweat—his own efforts (3.19); Abel brought blood. I don't understand all that happened on Good Friday, but somehow or other the Father and Son made provision for my sin by the cross. The propitiation was not by the blood of bulls and goats (Heb. 10.4)—Abel's sacrifice only anticipated a better sacrifice provided by God that would finally and fully deal with our sins (Heb. 10.10).

Adam and Eve thought a fig leaf could preserve their relationship with God. I wonder if figs were part of what Cain brought? And I wonder if by cursing the fig tree (Mk. 11.12–25)—the only thing Christ cursed while He was on earth—our Lord was making a statement about all human efforts to be right with God apart from the shedding of blood?

kenny

News about us

- Some of us are now on the back side of the flu season, but prayers are still needed for all.