

Volume 1, Issue 3 Spring, 2006

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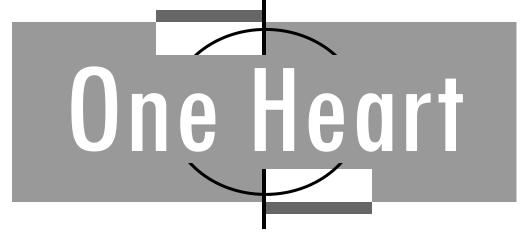
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Preaching the Gospel to the World

by Marion R. Fox, director

The Scriptures deal in great sweeping principles of good and evil. We must understand that our obligations lie in three basic areas. First, we must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Mt. 22:37). This love for God will look into the Scriptures for the principles of right and wrong and do what is right and abstain from what is wrong. Second, we must love our neighbor (Mt. 22:39). As we set forth in our last issue, this love will compel us to be concerned about the welfare of our neighbor (Lk. 10:27-37). If we are obligated to be concerned about his physical welfare, we are certainly obligated to be concerned about his spiritual welfare. This is true because whatever is true for the lesser is true for the greater. Obviously spiritual matters are more important than physical matters. Third, we must love ourselves with a proper kind of self-love (Mt. 22:39). Proper love of self will cause us to try to adopt the nature of God in our thoughts, motives, words, and actions. These three points were developed in our former article in the last issue of One Heart.

Principles Drawn From the Old Testament

The Jews should have recognized the great sweeping principles of good and evil from the Old Testament. First, God was concerned about Gentiles because the prophets often wrote regarding them calling for their repentance. The books of Jonah and Nahum were directed to Assyria (particularly the capital city, Nineveh). The book of Obadiah was directed to the nation of Edom and other nations. Other portions of the Old Testament were also directed to Gentiles.

The Jews should have recognized that God loved all mankind (Jn. 3:16) but apparently many Jews did not recognize this. God intended for Israel to be a light to the world for good, but they failed in that responsibility. The church is also to be a light to the world (Mt. 5:13-16). There were many prophecies of the nations serving God and the Jews should have reasoned that the nations

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School News & Outlook

by Benjamin J. Williams

While classes continue as normal for the Spring Semester, we are also very excited about this years lectureship. The 17th Annual Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies Lectureship is scheduled for April 6-9. This year's theme is "Increasing Our Faith By Means of the Word of God". Frank Williams, the lectureship director

this year, designed this series of lessons to emphasize that the Word of God is only source for strong, healthy faith. Ten speakers will give thirteen lessons that address the doubts and skepticism so prevalent in our modern culture.

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Editorial, continued from page 1

needed to know the will of God in order to serve Him.

Principles Drawn From the Work of Jesus

Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10). If we take on the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) we will also seek out the lost to do our part in saving them. (While we cannot offer ourselves as sacrifices for the sins of the lost, we can bring the message of salvation to them.) Our part in saving the lost is to convert them (Jas. 5:19-20). Here (Jas. 5:19), James draws a specific application from the general truth of Jas. 5:20. In verse 19 James is probably writing about converting a wayward member of the church, but in verse 20 he gives the generic principle that applies to all mankind. This is how we save our neighbors and demonstrate that we have taken on the divine nature (we convert them from their sinful ways to service to God). It is our love for the lost that compels us to cover their sins (1 Pet. 4:8).

On one occasion Jesus had a man to come to Him asking Him: "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mk. 10:17) Jesus cited the Scriptures (Old Testament) to this Jewish man whereupon he responded: "Teacher, all these things have I observed from my youth." (Mk. 10:20) But Mark recorded that Jesus out of his love and compassion for the man told him what he needed to do to be saved. Mark records: "And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." (Mk. 10:21) It was the Lord's love for the man that compelled Him to tell the man that he was lost and what he needed to do to be saved. Surely if we take on the nature of Jesus (the divine nature) we shall also kindly tell those who are lost what they need to do to be saved.

Principles Drawn From the Nature of Deity

We understand that one of the most important aspects of the nature of Deity (the divine nature) is love (1 Jn. 5:7-13). Man does not deserve to be saved (Rom. 3:23). However, God loves mankind and desires that all should be saved (2 Pet. 3:9). The justice of God demands punishment for sin (Rom. 11:22) but the love of God wants man to be saved. How can these two aspects of God's nature (totally just and totally loving) be both satisfied? There must be some way that the penalties for the sins of mankind can be atoned for, without God destroying man. The love of God compelled Him to send Jesus to die for our sins and to pay the price for sin. The familiar passage (Jn. 3:16) actually teaches that the love of God compelled Him to send His Son to be a sacrifice.

The Scriptures Implicitly Teach That we Must Teach the Gospel to the Lost

It is evident from a study of the Scriptures that God teaches man in one of two different manners. First, God had given explicit commandments to men in the Scriptures. Second, we draw necessary inferences (implied points) from the Scriptures and apply these instructions to ourselves. What most people do not recognize is that there is not a single passage of Scripture that is explicitly given to any living person. In fact, every obligation we have must be inferred from the Scriptures. To use myself as an example, I point out that there is not a single passage of Scripture that says "Marion Fox, you must do ..." How then did I know that I had to be baptized to be saved, that I must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved, or any other obligation that I have?

I shall use baptism as an illustration of my answer to this guestion. The Scriptures tell us that: "(A)II have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Contextually, the word "all" refers to Jews and Gentiles. Since I am a Gentile, I reason that I have sinned (and from a study of the Bible I see that certain acts in my life are in the category that God calls sin). I learn from the Scriptures that Jesus will come (His second coming) and render vengeance upon those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 2:6-9). At one point in my life I had not obeyed the gospel and was in the state mentioned here. I learn that the gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be received (1 Cor. 15:1-58). The Lord told the apostles that one must believe and be baptized to be saved (Mk. 16:16) and this was for the whole world (Mt. 28:19). In this passage I learn that this message was for the whole creation. As I study further I learn that the expression "creation" includes the Gentiles (of which I am one). Therefore, I logically conclude that I must believe and be baptized to be saved. If I truly love myself, I will obey the gospel in order to be saved.

If I truly love my neighbor, I shall teach him the gospel in order that he might also be saved. I might add other points here. First, the world is lost if they do not obey the gospel. Second, I know that they are lost because the Scriptures tell me they are lost. Third, I must take on the divine nature and love them as Jesus loved the lost (Mk. 10:21). My love will then compel me to teach them what they need to do to be saved (as Jesus did in Mk. 10:21). If I do not do this, I do not possess the divine nature.

Marion R. Fox, Director Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies 6001 S. Gardner Dr. Okla. City, OK 73150

LESSONS FROM RESTORATION HISTORY

by Frank R. Williams

The Churches of Christ and the Christian Church

The year 2006 marks the 100th year from when the U.S. government recognized a separation between the churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. 1906 does not mark the date of separation, however. Division does not take place on a certain date. In this case, it took about five decades.

The denominations of Europe grew out of what is called "the Reformation Movement", produced by men like Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and John Knox. The words, "Reformation Movement," are used because it identifies the desire of Martin Luther to "reform" the Roman Catholic Church, as it was not his intention to start a new church. However, because the Catholic Church was beyond "reformation", his teaching, being different from that of the Catholicism, naturally produced a new religious body that became known as the Lutherans. After this pattern, the reformation movement produced the denominational churches of Europe as each body of teaching spawned a different church. Our founding fathers came to the New World preaching these clearly identifiable doctrines and denominations spring up in America.

After the war of independence, sectarianism ran free throughout the young nation. These freedom loving folks desired an end to such divisions and opened the only book that had the means to end sectarianism, the Bible. In so doing, they came to understand truths not known to them. Though some would turn back, the lovers of truth were unyielding in their search for the assurance of their salvation as revealed in the inspired text. This search allowed them to take two steps forward and sometimes one step backward, but it was their love of truth that compelled their forward march into the truth that would make them free.

As men obeyed the gospel, churches of Christ sprang up. Churches of Christ were in towns and communities throughout the land. It was not a "movement," be it called the "restoration movement" or the "Stone/Campbell Movement" that produced the churches of Christ in America. No, the church is in the seed and the seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11). To think in terms of the churches of Christ being produced by a movement is to think in denominational terms. Men may start movements, good and bad, but the word of God is required in produce the churches of Christ.

The churches of Christ in America struggled with unity from the earliest years. No one had the authority to speak for these churches. The final authority was the word of God. Therefore, doctrine was debated! The issues rested upon the question: how

does God authorize and forbid things? Before 1850, some men among the churches of Christ began to move outside of biblical authority and introduced the "missionary society" and instrumental music into the churches. Brethren began to pull away from each other, ending fellowship and creating division among the churches. It took nearly fifty years for this division to be so complete that the government was able to identify it. Two different bodies of faith and practice had emerged and were identified by a government document of churches in America as the churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. The year was 1906.

One hundred years later, 2006, some among us are trying to put back together the division. It is heard that we are all brethren of the same movement: "the Stone/Campbell movement". Let us remember, the word of God produces "Christians only and the only Christians." God the Father has but one seed that produces his children, and a perverted gospel cannot deliver a child of God. The Disciples of Christ have a doctrine that is not the seed of God. It does not have the ability to produce children of God. It is a man made religious body. However, it is time that we hear the "rest of the story." The Christian Church was produced by a division within the denominational Disciples of Christ. It took years before the division was complete, just as the division within the churches of Christ. This division started in the 1920's and was completed in 1960's, forming the Independent Christian Church, the baby of the denominational Disciples of Christ Church. The Independent Christian Church is not now nor was it ever part of the churches of Christ or even the so called "Stone/Campbell movement." Therefore, it cannot be put back were it never was in the first place.

To talk of union and fellowship with the Christian Church is to speak in denominational terms. The church of Christ, the universal body of all the saved, is not denominational; thus, the churches of Christ are not denominational. No man has the authority to join in fellowship with that which is not in fellowship with God, and that fellowship rests only in the doctrine of Christ. Men may talk of union and fellowship with man made churches, for their authority rests in their man made doctrine, but no man may talk of union and fellowship outside the doctrine of Christ which is the life blood of the churches of Christ (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

Frank R. Williams, OKCSBS Instructor 3307 N. Highway 3 Seminole, OK 74868

Special Topic

by Benjamin J. Williams

Our School Motto: II Timothy 2:2

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

I remember having dinner with some of the staff from OKCSBS and asking whether or not the school had a motto. It was decided that we did not, but that we should pick a verse to serve as the motto and mission of the school. Without hesitation, Marion Fox suggested the verse written above and it was immediately agreed upon. Of the many verses in the Bible that address the work being done by our school, it was felt that this verse sums it up the best.

In this text, Paul lays out a pattern for the propagation of the gospel to all the people of the world. First, the process begins with one Christian hearing and believing the Word. How fortunate we are that God has not left us up to our own devices in our service to Him! He has given us the confirmed Word to serve as the sufficient rule for our faith and practice.

With this Word in heart and mind, Timothy is commanded to commit this same Word to others. In the limited commission, the apostles were told, "freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8) Similarly, it should be the desire to extend to others the gift of God, "eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) Since the Bible clearly teaches that no salvation can ever be obtained apart from the Word "which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21), it should be the desire of every Christian to do their part in reaching others with that precious Word.

This attitude that yearns to extend the salvation we enjoy to our fellow man is the same character, the same heart, that our Lord has. It is a desire for all men to have this noble heart that is represented in the title of this journal: *One Heart*. If others are instilled with this same character, then they too will wish to teach the gospel of Christ to others. There is no telling what might be accomplished when all of God's children are motivated by this goal. Could all Hell's fury possibly stop us?

However, notice that proper preparation is required. While the conversion of a soul does not depend on our charisma or personality, it is very important that we be equipped with a knowledge of God's word. Only through diligence to the Bible can we be a workman that has no need for shame (II Tim. 2:15). Since man by

himself has no power within himself to save his own soul, how can we hope to save others without the "power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16)? If we could not be free from sin without the truth (John 8:32), how can we hope to help others to be free while leaving the Bible behind?

To this end, it is the heartfelt desire of all the staff at OKCSBS and of the congregations and individuals who support the school to provide a place for the instruction of all willing students of God's Word. While more knowledge of God's Word is a worthy goal, we hope that our students do not view more knowledge of the Bible as the end goal. The end goal should be to use that knowledge to lead others to Christ. As Paul told Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (I Tim. 4:16)

At OKCSBS, we try to instruct every person to teach in the arrangement that God has set. We teach elders to fulfill their role as teachers (Eph. 4:11; I Tim. 3:2). We teach men to fulfill the role of an evangelist (Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 4:2, 5). We teach deacons to hold "the mystery of faith in a pure conscience" (I Tim. 3:9). We teach church members, both men and women, to be better able to teach the truth (II Tim. 2:2; Tit. 2:3-4). In short, it is our goal to help every person to be better able to serve in their capacity, whether they be a hand or an eye in the Lord's body (I Cor. 12:12-23). While not everyone has the same responsibilities, every duty will be better completed by people who have a fuller knowledge of the Word.

In all these things, we recognize that it is the will of God that all be saved (II Pet. 3:9), and that without knowing and spreading the Word we are not helping His will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. If you wish to do more to fulfill the will of God, we would like to help you in any way that we can. We, like you, are trying to fulfill the commandment Paul gave in the verse that has become the school's motto. Our classes are as free as the gospel and have no hidden agenda. If you wish to learn so that you may teach others "who shall be able to teach others also", then make some time to find out more about our classes at the Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies. We look forward to meeting you!

Benjamin J. Williams, Instructor 324 E Harmon Midwest City, OK 73110

Q & A: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

by Marion R. Fox

While praying in the Garden, Jesus prayed: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Mt. 26:39) He continued His prayer: "My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done." (Mt. 26:42) Would God will something that was so cruel if it were not necessary? The principle of parsimony says that God will always be 100% efficient in whatever he does. God cannot do anything that is either unnecessary or wasteful. It is contrary to the nature of a perfect Being that He would be wasteful. Thus, since Jesus died, it must have been necessary for it to occur.

Why Was it Necessary For Jesus to Die?

God told Adam that the penalty for sin is death (Gen. 2:16-17). Clearly either God or Adam told Eve that the penalty for sin is death (Gen. 3:3). After man sinned he was under the penalty for sin, but God did not destroy both Adam and Eve. Clearly "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). God gave them a substitute sacrifice (the blood of animals) for their sins. From the New Testament we learn that the blood of animals cannot take away sins (Heb. 10:4). Blood was used to make atonement because the life is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). What this is saying is that when the blood is shed, the man or the animal will die. The atonement was made because in shedding the blood the animal died.

This brings us to the question: "Why is it not possible for the blood of animals to take away sin?" There is a principle of justice found throughout the Scriptures. This principle demands that we pay a fair market value for anything that we purchase. Otherwise we are stealing and that is sinful. Whatever is true for the lesser is also true for the greater. Since man must pay a fair value for what he purchases, God also must do likewise. God has purchased us from the slave-market of sin (1 Pet. 1:18-19) by the blood of Jesus (Gal. 3:13). The price paid had to be sufficient for the billions of people who have lived, sinned, and died. Obviously the blood of an animal or of a mere man is not a sufficient price, and angels do not have blood to be shed. Therefore, the only other class of Beings left is deity. This means that One who is deity must pay the purchase price for man's sins. Christ redeemed us through His blood (Eph. 1:7). Not only did Jesus redeem Christians but He redeemed those who lived before the cross as well (Heb. 9:15).

Another argument to establish the conclusion of the last paragraph will again appeal to the principle that blessings always flow from the greater to the lesser (Heb. 7:7). Since man is greater than any animal (Gen. 1:28), no animal can bless us with remission of sins. Even angels are fellow-servants with us (Rev. 19:10 and 22:9). Therefore there is some sense in which we are equal with angels

as fellow servants and it follows that their death would not bless us. We realize that in most respects we are lower than the angels (Heb. 2:6-7), but even if one were to argue that we are lower than angels in all respects, it still would not make one angel valuable enough to pay the price for the sins of billions of people.

One Important Implication of This Line of Argumentation

If all beings can be classified into four categories, Deity, angels, humans, and animals, then we derive an important implication from this line of argumentation. From this line of argumentation we learn that neither animals, mere man, nor angels were able to pay the purchase price for the sins of mankind. Since Jesus paid the purchase price (Acts 20:28) with His blood, we deduce that He is neither animal, mere human, nor an angel. By the process of elimination, He must be deity. This is another argument that proves the deity of Jesus the Christ. Until we understand the price that was paid for our sins, we shall not be able to have a strong love for God (Lk. 7:47). While preachers should not spend all of their time preaching on sin, there must be enough to convict the hearers, for without conviction for sin, man will never love God.

Understanding the Love of God

In order to develop the proper kind of love we must first understand the love of God. Our love flows out of our understanding of God's love for us (1 Jn. 4:19). The greatest love a man exhibits is to die for his friends (Jn. 15:13). However, the love that Jesus displayed is greater than the greatest love of man - Jesus died for His enemies (Rom. 5:6-11). We must understand that the Holy Spirit shed this love into our hearts (Rom. 5:5) by means of the gospel message that He delivered. We know this because Rom. 5:6 begins with the word "for" (Greek — gar). The word "gar" means: "(1) a ground or reason, (b) an explanation, (c) a confirmation or assurance;" (Dana and Mantey, p. 242) Obviously, Paul is explaining how the Holy Spirit shed the love into our hearts in Rom. 5:6 (while we were ungodly, Jesus died for us). This love motivates us to return love to the one loving us in this manner (Lk. 7:47).

Summary

Man could not be redeemed by the blood of an animal, another human, or an angel. The purchase price is far to large for either animal blood or human blood to redeem mankind. It follows that One who was in the only other class of beings known (deity) must have paid the purchase price for our sins. Understanding the purchase price for our sins should be a strong motivation for obedience to the will of God.

School News & Outlook, continued from page 1

We are also proud to announce that Marion Fox, director of OKCSBS, has published a new volume on a very important Bible subject. *The Role of Women, Vol. I* is a comprehensive study of this subject that has been controversial among the Lord's people for many years. This new book in paperback is just over 200 pages in length. This first volume addresses some of the many questions and concerns that have arisen concerning such passages as I Tim. 2:12 and Acts 18:26. The second volume, planned for printing in the next few months, will expand upon the principles proven in the first and thoroughly cover many technical issues, such as the meaning of the word "teach" as it is used in the New Testament. Both volumes are very affordably priced so that every Christian can add these helpful texts to their library. We recommend both books to anyone who wishes to know what the Bible teaches concerning the role of women. The first volume

should be available for purchase in early April.

The staff of OKCSBS would also like to thank the many congregations and individuals that have helped spread the word about the school and *One Heart*. Many of you have run our class schedule in your bulletins or announced them before the local congregation. We appreciate the effort you are making to help OKCSBS edify the Lord's people. It is in such small efforts that the great work of the kingdom is accomplished.

If you would like to see what our school is all about, feel free to visit us during classes. We are happy to have guest sit in and audit classes or just visit. Some of our classes are large and some are smaller, but all are doing their best to teach the Word of God. If you would like more information, either visit our website (www.okcsbs.com) or contact us directly.

Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies

The Oklahoma City School of Biblical Studies is a tuition free, flexible, four-year night school designed to meet the needs of every Bible student. Whether you are interested in preaching the gospel, being a elder or deacon, or just learning more about the Bible, we have the courses you need to accomplish your goals. Our night schedule allows you to continue your normal daily routine with minimal interference. Our staff is qualified and experienced, offering many years of combined preaching experience from which the student may learn.

OKCSBS is hosted at the Barnes church of Christ and is a work overseen by that congregation's elders, Marion Fox and Frank Williams. The school is also supported by sister congregations and individuals who share an interest in the truth.

If you are interested in becoming a student or helping out in this great work, please contact us with the information below. For more details and a full curriculum, visit our website!

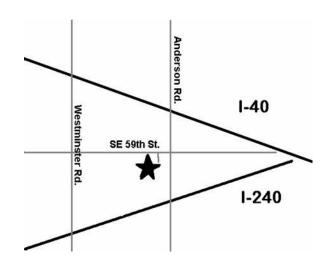
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Advantages

- No tuition
- Flexible curriculum
- 4-year basic program or 4 1/2-year advanced program
- Qualified faculty

Faculty:

- Marion R. Fox, director
- Frank R. Williams
- Benjamin J. Williams





Course Offerings for Spring 2006

First Quarter: January 10 & 12 — March 7 & 9

Second Quarter: March 14 & 16 — May 16 & 18 (No Classes, April 4 & 6)

First Year Courses: Required prerequisites for second year courses except by special arrangement

1st Quarter	Tuesday Night	Thursday Night	2nd Quarter	Tuesday Night	Thursday Night
1st Hour 6:15-7:00 PM		Greek II Course #252 Marion Fox	1st Hour 6:15-7:00 PM		Greek II Course #252 Marion Fox
2nd Hour 7:30-9:00 PM	Calvinism Course #192 Benjamin Williams	Apologetics Course #182 Marion Fox	2nd Hour 7:30-9:00 PM	Fourfold Gospel Course #172 Benjamin Williams	Genesis Course #262 Marion Fox

Second Year Courses

1st Quarter	Tuesday Night	Thursday Night	2nd Quarter	Tuesday Night	Thursday Night
1st Hour 6:15-7:00 PM	OT Survey: Judges— Samuel Course #202 Frank Williams		1st Hour 6:15-7:00 PM	OT Survey: Judges-Samuel Course #202 Frank Williams	
2nd Hour 7:30-9:00 PM	The Holy Spirit Course #224 Marion Fox		2nd Hour 7:30-9:00 PM	The Holy Spirit Course #224 Marion Fox	

SCHEDULE NOTES:

- A meal will be offered on Tuesday nights from 7:00-7:30 PM.
- A short snack break will be held on Thursday nights from 7:00-7:30 PM.

17th Annual OKCSBS Lectures — April 6-9, 2006

"Increasing Our Faith By Means of the Word of God"

Thursday, April 6

7:00 PM Our Faith Comes Out of the Word of God

Marion R. Fox - Oklahoma City, OK

8:00 PM The Bible Is the Word of God

Scott Elliott - Wilburton, OK

Friday, April 7

7:00 PM The Word of God and Prophecy Fulfilled

Frank Williams - Seminole, OK

8:00 PM The Word of God and the Resurrection of Christ

Kelly White - Oklahoma City, OK

Saturday, April 8

9:30 AM The Word of God, Logic, and Atheism

Marion R. Fox - Oklahoma City, OK

10:30 AM The Word of God and All-Sufficiency

Jim Foster - Willow, OK

11:30 AM Question & Answer Forum Various Speakers

Noon Meal Provided at Building

1:30 PM The Word of God and Intelligent Design

Benjamin J. Williams - Midwest City, OK

2:30 PM The Word of God and the Moral Argument

Kelly White - Oklahoma City, OK

3:30 PM The Word of God and the Problem of Evil

Marion R. Fox - Oklahoma City, OK

4:30 PM The Word of God and Alleged Contradictions

Norman Easter - Noble, OK

Sunday, April 9

9:30 AM The Word of God and Acceptable Faith

Brent Fluegel - Maysville, OK

10:30 AM The Word of God and Increasing Our Faith

Willard Cox - Sylva, NC

5:00 PM The Word of God: Stand, Therefore

Lyndal Lee Werner - Chandler, OK