

# EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"A first century church in the 21st century"*

## Bible Reading Plan

Week 39

- Habakkuk; 2 Cor 7
- Zephaniah; Ps 74; 2 Cor 8
- Jer 1-4; Ps 130; 2 Cor 9
- Jer 5-7; Ps 75; 2 Cor 10
- Jer 8-10; 2 Cor 11

## Leading Services

Announcements: Ron V.

### Morning:

Song Leader: Zack V.

Opening Prayer: Larry L.

Lord's Table: Mike V.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Ben V.

### Evening:

Song Leader: *Song Service*

Opening Prayer: Zack V.

Closing Prayer: Richard L.

Scripture Reading: Larry L.  
(Malachi 1.1-14)

## Sermons

AM:

PM:



## Disagree

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

It has been said that there are two certainties in this life: death and taxes. I believe there is another we can add to this list-disagreement. The reader knows that people will disagree. We disagree about styles of music, styles of clothes, television shows, politics, and of course, religion. While styles of music or clothes and television shows are trivial matters, religion is a much more serious matter.

When two people disagree about a Bible matter both may be wrong, one may be wrong, but both cannot be right. The desire should not be so much to prove who is right, but what is right.

Our religious beliefs are not optional if we want to go to heaven. To get to heaven we must have the truth (John 8:32). Jesus said we must do His will in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21).

Continues on page 2

## When we disagree

If people disagree on a Bible doctrine, somebody is not doing God's will. Remember both can't be right! Disagreeing and splitting into denominations is against the will of Jesus Christ. Jesus prayed that we all be one like He and the Father are one (John 17:21-23). Paul, an apostle, follows up on this oneness by telling us there is "One body..., one Lord, one faith and one baptism" (Ephesians 4:4-5). The one faith is the one system of true religion (See Strong's Concordance). People who just agree to disagree about religion are not really "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Before unity can be kept, there must be true unity; therefore, we must seek the truth on doctrinal matters and whoever is found not following the truth in this matter should be willing to change positions. I, personally, have changed positions on several issues after much study. All of us should be willing to work for the Biblical unity and the oneness for which Christ prayed. Paul also wrote that "...we all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). It should be apparent by now that denominations in the Christian faith do not come from Christ or His apostles-it is the doctrine of the Men! (Matthew 15:9-13).

It is very careless and even somewhat grandiose to assume that our religious beliefs are right merely because "this is what I have always heard or known all of my life." Some will claim they do study the Bible, but often the Bible study is done in a fashion that only emphasizes the Bible passages that appear to uphold their lifelong beliefs. We must look at the totality of the scriptures and consider who is speaking, who is it spoken to, and what is the context. Understanding the Bible as God's will given over time or different periods in Bible history can be helpful to our understanding and to rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). For example: there is an Old Testament and a New Testament. Where do we find how to be saved and how to worship God today? Jesus teaches us it is in His New Testament (Matthew 17:5; 28:18; John 4:23-23, Colossian 2:12-16; 3:17; See Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1-5; Hebrews Chapters 8-9). The last commands or examples given on a Bible subject matter is important because they contain the last words from God on the matter! (Revelation 22:18-19). Jesus has left us His last will and testament (Hebrews 9:15-17). We should all study with open hearts and a love for the truth even if it smacks us right between the eyes! (Acts 2:37; 17:11). This has happened to me on several occasions.

Everyone is free to share articles about Bible matters on Face Book and share how they honestly understand the matter to teach others, but the teacher has a grave responsibility to teach the truth (1 Timothy 4:16; James 3:1). It should not be a surprise that someone disagrees. Disagreement is ok. It is from disagreement we can all pursue the truth. However, everyone should desire to find truth not by stating mere opinions or what the preacher said, but by the providing and studying the evidence from God's word in order to draw a conclusion about the truth of the matter. The truth is not a private matter (2 Peter 1:20-21). We can all understand the truth alike (Ephesians 3:3-4; 5:17).

A spirit of love should be shown in our words and attitude when we discuss Bible matters in private or in public including social media (Ephesians 4:15). Never, under any circumstances, should anyone resort to name calling and character judging. One of the ways in which we shall be judged on the last day is by our words (Matthew 12:36-37). Love is not demonstrated when we call others fool or stupid. Jesus says we will be in danger of hell fire if we refer to others in such a careless manner. Jesus refers to terms of contempt that accuse the other person of being worthless and empty-headed (See Matthew 5:22). Love should be always demonstrated even with those with whom we may strongly disagree.

When we disagree, finding truth is the most important matter, for souls are at stake (Galatians 1:6-9). Searching for truth should be of vital interest to all but let us do it with love and respect. Let us all be open-minded to learning. Let us learn together.

*- Michael R. Baggett*