The following article is a review of a Preacher’s Bible study that took place January 18, 2014 in Hewitt Texas. Marc Smith is the located preacher there. Luis Zamora was the guest speaker. Luis’ objective was to examine the subject of marriage, divorce, and remarriage from a Greek word study perspective. Brother Zamora did a very good job and all that were present were edified.

Luis began by examining the value of Greek word studies seeing that the Bible was originally written in this language. Even the Old Testament has been translated into Greek by the Septuagint (LXX). A study of verb tenses and actual meanings of Greek words often times sheds light on various teaching that are otherwise misunderstood and misconstrued. Luis stressed that preachers should be wise in choosing their main Bible text because many versions will only add to your work load of getting the original meaning.

Next, we studied key Greek words that pertain to marriage, divorce, and remarriage from both the Old and New Testament (OT and NT). Luis examined the words "bill of divorcement" (LXX biblion apostasiou or Hebrew sper kritut) as it relates to Matthew 19:7 (exact same Greek word used in NT). The Greek apostasiou is defined basically as a document of defection (LS 107). While Moses spoke of a document of defection Jesus used a much more serious word in "put away" (Greek apoluei) which means basically to dismiss, release, or divorce. When God joins two together and man "dismisses, releases, or puts away” the relationship there is great trouble with God unless fornication is involved. The words adultery and fornication, as
used by Jesus at Matthew 19:9, are the only cause for a lawful divorce. Luis stressed the meanings of these two words as they related to the illicit sexual relationship between two people who do not belong to each other.

God’s original order for marriage (Genesis 2) and sexual intercourse (Hebrews 13:4) are clearly spelled out in the scriptures. Luis presented the Greek root word of fornication and taught the class that it means basically to be "for sale." Fornication is selling yourself like a prostitute (see 1 Corinthians 6:13-20).

The class was also taught the significance in the meaning of the English word “cleave” as Jesus used it at Matthew 19:4-5. When God joins a man and wife together they are cemented, like model parts glued together, and cannot be separated without doing damage to both parts. Married couples are “joined” together and so they pull at the work of life helping each other along the way. We also examined Greek words from 1 Corinthians 7 that related to the subject.

After an examination of many Greek words as they related to the subject there was a question and answer session. The groundwork of truth had been laid so that any doctrines of men could be examined in light of the clear teaching discovered by Greek word studies and the divine text. Questions regarding divorce for the kingdoms sake, mental divorce, the waiting game divorce (one puts away spouse and waits for her / him to participate in illicit sexual intercourse with another), and others were asked and handled with ease as we simply looked at the clear teaching of Jesus and the one and only cause for divorce being fornication.

A final question regarding putting away a mate for abuse came up which stirred a lively discussion. The question was whether a wife may put away a mate for abuse and remain as she is as per 1 Corinthians 7. Luis had previously stressed that if someone is going to depart in a marital relationship let it be the other person rather than you (see 1 Corinthians 7:15). We ought to do all we can possibly do to keep our marriages in tact. The thought expressed was that a husband who beats his wife has already created the space of a divorce so why can’t the wife go through with the divorce legally to get protection? Again, it was stressed that God has only authorized one lawful cause for divorce and that is adultery. Surely, however, the woman must do what is necessary for preservation of self and children. Overall the meeting was very uplifting and enlightening.

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**Local News**

Welcome to all Our Visitors. It is our prayer that you will be edified by our worship service today. If you have any questions regarding what we teach or practice please be our friend and talk with us.

Larry Salmon received word last week that his father in Houston has been diagnosed with terminally ill bone cancer. Larry and Tammy are likely to be headed to Houston soon. Please do keep the Salmon’s in your prayers.

Wanda Cox received a favorable report after the biopsy of the small mass in her throat. We are thankful to God and keep praying for her.

Shut ins

Stella Davidson 696-1030

Darlene York Living with Gary and Rita

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**Are you Faithful to God?**

2 Corinthians 13:5 and Romans 4

**Introduction**

The Apostle Paul received two letters from the Corinthians, while in Ephesus (Acts 20:31 and 1 Corinthians 16:8-9), that exposed many troubles within the church (1 Corinthians 1:11; 7:1). The Corinthian church experienced many hurdles to overcome much like churches today. They were guilty of giving preeminence to certain preachers, jealousy, tolerant in areas of sin and intolerant in areas of indifference. Furthermore they were taking each other to court, participating in fornication, fellowshipping those in error, women were un-submissive to their husbands, and had perverted the Lord’s supper. Their assemblies were chaotic and they were divided rather than being united in truth. The only way to get these brethren back on the right track was to remind them of the source of their faith; i.e., the gospel message (see Romans 1:1-4; 3:24-26, etc). Paul challenges the Corinthians to “try your own selves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). This lesson shall serve the same purpose. Let us remember the source of our faith and let it alone dictate our every action.

**I. Divine origin of the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5):**

A. Truth is not determined by skilled oratory nor man’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:1 and Galatians 2:6).

B. The true source of divine revelation is the “Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5).

1. The Spirit teaches truth (John 16:8).

2. The Spirit testifies of truth (Nehemiah 9:30 / Ezekiel 1:3; 11:4-7).


4. Spirit moved men to speak (2 Peter 1:21)

5. God speaks to us to day through divine revelation (Hebrews 1:1).

**II. The Nature of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 1:18-21):**

A. The Gospel is God’s power to save man from their sins (Romans 1:16)

B. The Gospel is a standard set by God that determines acceptable and unacceptable behavior (Daniel 5:27 and Matthew 7:21-24).

C. God's high expectation for man (Romans 3:21-22).

**III. Reactions to Gospel Preaching (1 Corinthians 1:21-25):**

A. Different people react differently:

1. Paul's sermon to the Athenians (see Acts 17:32-34).


3. The people of Asia (Acts 19:8-10).


B. Some people are "pricked in the heart" (their sins bother them - Acts 2:37).

C. A bothered conscience leads to obedience to the call of the gospel (Acts 2:41).

D. Some are Hardened in Sin (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

**Conclusion:**

Through God’s love and mercy for His created beings He sent forth His only begotten Son to be a ransom for the sins of man (John 3:16). The gospel, good news of Christ's sacrifice, instructs mankind to seek out the benefits of the blood of Christ. The gospel is of a divine origin, powerful enough to save, yet will cause some to stumble in unbelief. Now is the time for both Christians and non-Christians to take an assessment of our lives (2 Corinthians 13:5). The standard that we should measure ourselves by is truth. Let us do this now before God does and finds us wanting (Daniel 5:27).