

The Keavy Encourager

WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

(April 26 2026)

- Visitors: Please fill out a visitor card and grab a Visitor Welcome Kit!
- Communion is available in the front of the building on the table.
- Our website is: www.keavychurchofchrist.com, and our email address is keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com Please share this information with your family, friends, and social media pages! Services are available online at our website and on our YouTube page.
- If you would like to be subscribed to brother Mark Tabata's email list (for weekday devotionals and other Bible and Bible related studies), please let him know!

April Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin, Sanders Family, Eddie Craft (Cancer), Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer), Kathy Mingus (Cancer), Anne Baker (Cancer), Sandi Tabata, Bill and Mary Ruth Browning, David and Ivy Mosley, Margie Turner (Hospice), Jake Robbins (Cancer), Coy Gilliam (Cancer), Carman Carroll, Edward Young Sr., Ed Young, Harmony Mullins, Claude Humphrey (Cancer), Felicity Lanham (Cancer), Piere Daigel, People In Ukraine, Barbourville Work, Rod Hill (Cancer-friend of brother Paul), Charlene Reef (Cancer), Jimmy Turner (Cancer), Danny Day, Kathy McFall (Brother Gary Lewis' Cousin, Cancer), Lisa Hurt, Terry & Rita Wooton And Family, Keith And Kathy Bowling, Tiffany Cox And Family, Keith And Kathy Bowling, Quintin Nelton, Kenny Irvin, James Williams, Shirley Lawson, Ronnie Gregory, Tammy Sapienza, Josh Lewis, Wade Cowden, Jake Hale, James and Anne MacDonald, Gail Storms Family, Terry Wooton's Daughter Amanda,

Announcements

- Everyone is invited to stay after morning services today for our fellowship meal!
- Brother David and starter Ivy are back on their feet and will not need any further assurance with meals. They are very grateful for everyone who has been able to help!

- Brother Bill Browning will be having surgery this week. Please continue praying for him and Mary Ruth!
- Youth group night! Friday May 1 @ 6:00 at the church building. Activities include: grilling out, games, and fellowship for everyone!
- Please make plans to join us for our Church Picnic on June 6 from 12-5 at Laurel Dam Picnic Area. Located on KY 1193 outside of London.
- Regularly Scheduled Events; Sunday Bible Class All Ages (Every Sunday @ 10:00); Sunday Worship (Every Sunday @ 11:00 AM And 5:00 PM); Wednesday Evening Bible Class All Ages (Every Wednesday @ 5:00); Keavy Ladies And Supportive Saints (K.L.A.S.S. Every First Sunday Of The Month After Evening Service); Keavy Support Group And Youth Group Meeting (Every Tuesday @ 6:00); Adult Night (Every Second And Fourth Friday @ 6:00); Keavy Fellowship Meal (Every Last Sunday of The Month After Morning Service), James Williams,

Bible Class And Sermon Notes

A.M. Sermon: Are There “Missing Books” Of The New Testament? Part One
(Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:37)

P.M. Sermon: Are There “Missing Books” Of The New Testament? Part Two
(Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:9)

Are There “Missing Books” Of The New Testament?

Part One **(Sunday Morning)**

(More Bible Studies @ marktabata.com)

Did The Apostles Of Christ Have Authority?

Matthew 18:18-Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

John 17:8-For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

“The word apostolos comes from the verb apostellein, which means to send out. It can be used, for instance, of a naval task force sent out on an expedition; it can be used of ambassadors sent out by their native countries. It describes people who are sent out with some special task to do. All through life, Christians see themselves as members of the task force of Christ. They are men and women with a mission, the mission of serving Christ within this world. (c) He meant that any power he possessed was a delegated power. The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the Jews. In matters of religion, the Sanhedrin had authority over every Jew throughout the world. When the Sanhedrin came to a decision, that decision was given to an apostolos to convey it to the persons whom it concerned and to see that it was carried out. WHEN SUCH AN APOSTOLOS WENT OUT, BEHIND HIM AND IN HIM LAY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SANHEDRIN, WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE HE WAS.” (William Barclay, The New Daily Study Bible: The Letters To The Galatians And Ephesians, 84-85 (Kindle Edition, emphasis added); Louisville, KY; Westminster John Knox Press)

Are There Apostles Of Christ Today?

Acts 1:21-22-Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

Ephesians 2:19-20-Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

“First, it would be impossible for any contemporary Christian to meet the biblical qualifications required for someone to be considered an apostle. The New Testament articulates at least three necessary criteria: (1) an apostle had to be a physical eyewitness of the resurrected Christ (Acts 1: 22; 10: 39–41; 1 Cor. 9: 1; 15: 7–8); (2) an apostle had to be personally appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 3: 14; Luke 6: 13; Acts 1: 2, 24; 10: 41; Gal. 1: 1); and (3) an apostle had to be able to authenticate his apostolic appointment with miraculous signs (Matt. 10: 1–2; Acts 1: 5–8; 2: 43; 4: 33; 5: 12; 8: 14; 2 Cor. 12: 12; Heb. 2: 3–4). Those

qualifications alone conclusively demonstrate that there are no apostles in the church today.”(John F. MacArthur, Strange Fire: The Danger of Offending the Holy Spirit With Counterfeit Worship, 95 (Kindle Edition); Nashville, TN: Nelson Books)

“It is true that God gave the church apostles and prophets, but these gifts were strictly foundational gifts, no longer existent today in the strict biblical sense. We must remember the important principle that Scripture interprets Scripture. When we turn to other passages of Scripture, we see that the church was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2: 20). Once a foundation is built, it never needs to be built again. Once the foundation is laid, the foundation is built upon. In like fashion, the building of the church structurally rests on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, but we don’t need to build any new foundations.” (Ron Rhodes, Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses, 228-229 (Kindle Edition); Eugene, Oregon; Harvest House Publishers)

Are The New Testament Books Of The Apostles Authoritative?

1 Corinthians 14:37-If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:15-Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

“The apostles imposed their writings. Since the apostles were aware of their authoritative office it is reasonable to think that they intended to write books that would guide the church under that authority....Imposition can be seen in the commands that letters be circulated among the churches, even read publically in worship meetings (1 Thess. 5:27; Col. 4:16; Rev. 1:3)....“Imposition is more subtle in other letters, yet it can still be seen. It was already mentioned that Peter wrote to “the pilgrims of the Dispersion” scattered broadly throughout five different regions (1 Pet. 1:1). James also wrote “to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” (Jam. 1:1). These are not the words of apostles writing to individual churches. It is reasonable to think that the apostles intended their letters to be widely distributed (i.e. imposed throughout regions)....“The best and earliest example of apostolic imposition comes from the Bible itself. In Acts 15 we read that letters were written containing the decision of the apostles and elders at the close of the first Jerusalem Council (v. 23). Their decision was just not verbally imposed upon the church (v. 27) but circulated through written letters (v. 20, 23). [47] This set a clear

precedence from the beginning. A written letter from an apostle (or apostles) was just as authoritative as if the commands were given in person by an apostle. To receive a written letter from an apostle was equal to a visit (cf. 3 John 13–14). Furthermore, spreading info this way was very useful. Written letters helped when making a trip in person was not possible (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:2). It also helped reach a wider audience more quickly with an important message. Thus the apostles imposed their authority via written communication.” (Norman Geisler & Shawn Nelson, Evidence of an Early New Testament Canon, 269-295 (Kindle Edition); Matthews, NC; Bastion Books)

What Do The New Testament Scriptures Say They Provide Us?

What The Scriptures Provide	Scripture References
All Necessary Information For Certainty Of Faith	Luke 1:1-4-1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.
What We Need For Saving Faith In Jesus	John 20:30-31-30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
All Necessary Information About What Jesus Taught And Did	Acts 1:1-3- 1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God
The Commands Of The Lord	1 Corinthians 14:37-If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.
Understanding Of The Mystery Of Christ	Ephesians 3:3-4-3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ

Everything We Need For Life And Godliness	2 Peter 1:3-as His divine power has given to us all things that <i>pertain</i> to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 2 Peter 1:15-Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.
Perfect Standard For Unity	Philippians 3:14- Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 1 Corinthians 4:6-Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.
Apostolic Authority For Christian Living And Fellowship	2 Thessalonians 2:15-Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.
What Is Needed For Fullness Of Joy	1 John 1:4-And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
Perfect Instruction For How To Deal With Sin	1 John 2:1-My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous
What Is Needed For Receiving And Maintaining Eternal Life	1 John 5:13-These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
Necessary Information For Combatting Religious Error	Jude 3-Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints...
Perfect Blueprint For Worship Assembly	1 Timothy 3:15-but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth
Makes One Complete Unto Every Good Work	2 Timothy 3:16-17-All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Are There Missing Book Of The New Testament?

Part Two

(Sunday Evening)

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

What About Paul's First Letter To The Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 5:9-I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

Does 1 Corinthians 5:9 prove there was a "previous letter", a letter written by Paul to Corinth before the one we call First Corinthians? 1 Corinthians 5:9 might refer to a previous letter; the historical aorist is sometimes so used. However, 5:9 might be a reference to the same letter in which it appears; the epistolary aorist is sometimes so used. What Paul is doing in 5:9 seems to be this: The KJV uses "an epistle" at 5:9, and is not as satisfactory a translation as "my epistle" of the ASV. This commentator can see no objection to the supposition that 5:9 is an epistolary aorist referring to earlier portions of this 1 Corinthian letter itself. Some argue that Paul has not mentioned fornicators prior to 5:9 in the 1 Corinthians epistle. But at 5:1 and 5:5, Paul writes, "Deliver them to Satan," i.e., excommunicate them, disfellowship them. When Paul used "I wrote" in 5:9, he was clarifying what he had said in the previous verses and guarding against a possible misunderstanding of his instructions. 'I meant keep away from fornicators in the church. I didn't mean keep away from all such men, even those in the world - for to do that, you'd have to get entirely out of the world.' If the verses in the beginning of chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians satisfy the meaning of "I wrote" in 5:9, why theorize that there were other letters, perhaps now lost? We conclude that 5:9 is not proof that there was a "previous letter," written before our present 1 Corinthians. (Gareth L. Reese, New Testament Epistles: 1 Corinthians, A Critical And Exegetical Commentary, 506-514 (Kindle Edition): Moberly, Missouri: Scripture Exposition Books LLC)

Some scholars have argued that a nonexistent epistle to which Paul referred in 1 Corinthians 5: 9 should be in the New Testament canon. Paul said to the Corinthians in the canonical 1 Corinthians, “I wrote to you in my letter ...” (1 Cor. 5: 9). This would imply that there was an epistle prior to the canonical 1 Corinthians. However, there are many reasons for rejecting this view. First, no such piece of literature exists. Second, no such book was ever quoted by any early Father. Third, “I wrote” is not past tense in Greek. It is in the aorist tense; that does not mean time of action but kind of action. It is probably an “epistolary aorist,” which means one that refers very emphatically to the epistle in which it occurs. It would amount to saying, “I am now decisively writing this to you.” Finally, Paul uses an epistolary aorist elsewhere in this very book (1 Cor. 9: 15). So, it is not unknown to Paul’s usage. In view of all these reasons, we conclude that no such book ever existed. Hence, it poses no real problem for New Testament canonicity.” (Norman Geisler & William Nix, *From God To Us Revised and Expanded: How We Got Our Bible*, 154-155 (Kindle Edition): Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers)

What About The Epistle Of The Laodiceans?

Colossians 4:16-Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

In Colossians 4:16, Paul writes: ‘And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea.’ That sentence makes certain that a letter had gone from Paul to the church at Laodicea. We possess no such letter among Paul’s letters as they stand. **Marcion was one of the first people to make a collection of Paul’s letters, around the middle of the second century, and he actually calls Ephesians the Letter to the Laodiceans.** So, from very early times, there must have been a feeling in the Church that Ephesians was actually sent in the first instance to Laodicea....Almost thirty years later, the letters of Paul were collected for general publication. **Laodicea was in a district which was notorious for earthquakes, and it may well have been that all its archives were destroyed and that therefore, when the**

collection was made, the only copy of the Letter to the Laodiceans was the one which survived in Ephesus. That letter may then have come to be known as the Letter to the Ephesians, because it was in Ephesus that the only surviving copy was held....Both these suggestions are possible; but still another suggestion is far more likely. **We believe that Ephesians was not in fact written to any one church, but was a circular letter to all Paul's Asian churches.** Let us look again at Colossians 4: 16. He writes: And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea.' Paul does not say that the Colossians must read the epistle to Laodicea; they must read the epistle from Laodicea. It is as if Paul said: 'There is a letter circulating; at the present moment it has reached Laodicea; when it is sent on to you from Laodicea, be sure to read it.' That sounds very much as if there was a letter circulating among the Asian churches—and we believe that letter was Ephesians.” (William Barclay, *The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians* (The New Daily Study Bible), 72-82 (Kindle Edition): Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press; emphasis added)

“We may begin with a consideration of the place of Archippus. He appears in both Colossians and Philemon. In Philemon, greetings are sent to Archippus, our fellow soldier (verse 2); and such a description might well mean that Archippus is the minister of the Christian community in question. He is also mentioned in Colossians 4: 17: ‘And say to Archippus, “See that you complete the task that you have received in the Lord.” ‘ Now, that instruction comes after a whole series of very definite references, not to Colosse, but to Laodicaea (Colossians 4: 13, 4: 15, 4: 16). Might not the fact that he appears among the messages sent to Laodicaea imply that Archippus must be at Laodicaea too? Why in any event should he get this personal message? If he was at Colosse, he would hear the letter read, as everyone else would. Why has this verbal order to be sent to him? It is surely possible that the answer is that he is not in Colosse at all, but in Laodicaea. If that is so, it means that Philemon's house is in Laodicaea and that Onesimus was a runaway Laodicaean slave. This must mean that the letter to Philemon was, in fact, written to Laodicaea. And, if so, the missing letter to Laodicaea, mentioned in Colossians 4: 16, is none

other than the letter to Philemon. This indeed solves problems.” (William Barclay, The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon (The New Daily Study Bible), 307-308 (Kindle Edition): Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press)

If Archippus lived in Laodicea (and he did-Colossians 4:13-17), and if the Book of Philemon was addressed to Archippus who lived in Laodicea (and it was-Philemon 2), then it is likely that the Book of Philemon was the Epistle from Laodicea.