

Don't Hinder Me!

By *House to House* ~ adapted from Charles L. Morton

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Thy word is truth" (John 8:32; 17:17).

The point of this inspired language is that, for an accountable person to be saved, he must intelligently understand and obey the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). This means that the Gospel can be understood, since God does not require the impossible. Yet, it continues to be misunderstood by many people. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies. Paul told Timothy to be gentle with those who "opposed themselves" (2 Tim. 2:22). At other times, those we may have come to trust may do us a disservice. Paul wrote to the Galatians that teachers were "hindering" them from obeying the Truth (5:7). Consider some ways we may hinder our understanding of God's Will (and thus our salvation).

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word simply by not studying it. The truth is revealed now via the written Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), not by dreams and visions (Gal. 1:6-9). Since it is in a Book, there is simply no way to understand it without individual diligence and effort (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11). The expression, "Nobody can understand the Bible," does not convey any idea found in the Bible. Such an attitude usually suggests that one has not put forth consistent effort in trying to understand it. We must be willing to exercise effort and self-discipline to come to understand God's Word.

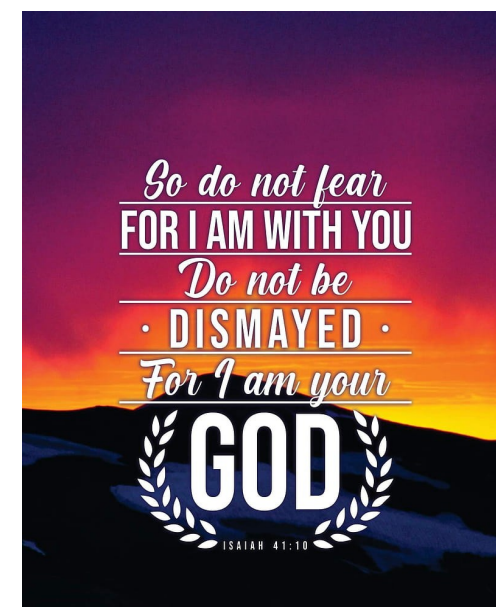
We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by approaching it with preconceived ideas about what we think it teaches. Some say that "it doesn't make any difference what a person believes anyway," but this does not harmonize with what the Master said (Mt. 7:21-23). We will have difficulty understanding such important topics as the deity of Jesus, the resurrection of the body, baptism, the one church, worship, the organization of the church, the purpose of life, and how to become a Christian if we have decided what we believe before we ever pick up the Bible. We have to let God tell us what to believe.

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by allowing the god of this world to blind our minds (2 Cor. 4:3-4). This life's cares, riches, and pleasures choke the Word of God to death in the hearts of many people (Lk. 8:14). If we're too busy making a living for this life to think about the next, we're hindering our salvation. Some are also blinded by prejudice (Rm. 10:13) and others by popularity. These would rather be popular with man than enjoy the fellowship with God (John 12:42-43).

What a fearful thing it is to fail to know, understand, and obey the Truth (2 Thes. 2:10-12). "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Bill Cockrum is doing a little better with his back pain.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Lionel Daughtery, Dale Strong, Randy Johnson, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Hardy.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Sonja Grisham. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-5	Peggy Johnson	5-2	Angie and John Hill
5-5	Patty Donley	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-20	Ryan and Amy Stevens
5-15	Bentley Goodman (8)	5-21	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-25	Darren and Denise Crisp
5-20	Gannon Schofield (11)	5-31	R. J. and Sangchun Moyers
5-23	Barbara Luna	Birthdays	
5-28	Ryan Stevens	5-31	Sabra Bryant (8)
5-29	Beth Wade	5-31	Julie Schofield

Esther, Tiffany, and Marsha are combining to serve taco salad and dessert for our Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Date	Event	Details
Wed. May 27	Fellowship Supper and Singing Praises	Fourth Wednesday Singing Night
Wed. June 3	No fellowship suppers for summer	Men's Class—Ephesians Women's Class—Prayer
May 31—June 3	Gospel Meeting Thayer Church of Christ	Christian Family Dynamics Derek Yarber, speaker
Sunday, June 14	CRC Fundraising Day	Crowleys Ridge College
Saturday, June 13, 9-2	Vacation Bible School	Take a trip to Rainforest Falls

May Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

5-24 Mark Lane
5-31 Don Luna
6-7 David Stevens
6-14 John Abraham
6-21 Mark Lane
6-28 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Halbert Smith
R. J. Moyers
Matt Kyle
Dana Crisp
Waylon Strong
Titus Smith

Song Leader: Titus Smith; John Abraham
Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston; Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

May 24, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***A Time to Remember!***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#731, *Take Time to Be Holy*; #722, *Let the Beauty of Jesus*

#332, *Lead Me to Calvary*; Communion Service

#736, *To Christ Be True*

Sermon and Invitation

#648, *Stand Up for Jesus*

#716, *Sing to Me of Heaven*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us