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# Port Orchard Church of Christ

Where

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lifted, Jesus is Lived

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## Biblical Authority pt. 2: Timeless Truth (Explained) By: Cody Rousseau

"A regular response to these problems is to say that the Bible is a repository of timeless truth. There are some senses in which that is true. But the sense in which it is normally meant is certainly not true. The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation is culturally conditioned. It is all written in the language of particular times, and evokes the cultures in which it came to birth. It seems, when we get close up to it, as though, if we grant for a moment that in some sense or other God has indeed inspired this book, he has not wanted to give us an abstract set of truths unrelated to space and time. He has wanted to give us something rather different, which is not (in our post-enlightenment world) nearly so easy to handle as such a set of truths might seem to be."

I love how this section starts out. In the first section N.T. laid out a few issues with the classic approach to how we define "authority" and authority of scripture. He begins here with the issue of making the bible into a "repository" for timeless truth.

This is basically a fancy way of saying we make the bible into a bucket for rules. We come to it and we are able to remove the distilled rules that it contains. This in fact poses many issues. Such as the fact that most of the bible is a narrative and not a list.

He posits that from Genesis to Revelation the whole bible is culturally conditioned. He is just saying that each of the writings and letters and prophets, that ALL of it, was initially used for a group that came way before us. In Isaiah for example the prophet is speaking to the Kingdoms of Judah not 2016 America.

Since he is speaking Judah and not America the imagery and language all pertains to the people of HIS time. His words hold meaning in their culture and the players were people they knew, kingdoms they recognized and issues they were dealing with. Since this is the case for pretty much all of the bible we have issues if we want a simple rulebook that applies to 2016 America. This being the case we have difficulty and issues that arise when we want a set of truths.

"This problem goes back ultimately, I think, to a failure on the part of the Reformers to work out fully their proper insistence on the literal sense of scripture as the real locus of God's revelation, the place where God was really speaking in scripture. The literal sense seems fine when it comes to saying, and working with, what (for instance) Paul actually meant in Romans. (This itself can actually be misleading too, but we let it pass for the moment.) It's fine when you're attacking mediae-

*(Continued on page 4)*

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### Deacons:

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Brad Orser ..... 360.874.8184  
Gary Chasteen ..... 360.895.4143  
Gene Gerard ..... 360.876.4612

# Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to try out Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, I would like to give you a warm welcome to our congregation. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, I pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek here to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a

fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for their

names and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

*Cody Rousseau*

## Save the Dates!

**Friday 3/25** Good Friday

**Sunday 3/27** Easter Sunday

**Tuesday 3/29** Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday 3/30** Youth Group

**Saturday 4/2** Deacons meeting

**Sunday 4/3** Congregational Meeting

**Tuesday 4/5** Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday 4/6** Youth Group

**Wednesday 4/6** Office Closed

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## Port Orchard News and Events

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### **Pulpit Preview— Easter service**

This week we will have a special reading service reading the story of Christ and his resurrection! Will you join us in reading the story of our Lord as he conquers death and brings us eternal life by grace alone!

### **Happy Birthdays!**

Spring is almost here! With it's arrival we have many brothers and sisters to celebrate their birth with. Let's celebrate the birthdays of our family members with joy and thanksgiving!

4—Ariana Avery, 4—Charlotte Hahn, 5—Lynn Chapman, 10—Lydia Gerard, 12—Brad Orser, 15—Troy Hill, 23—Mary Carter, 24—Jim Furstenworth, 25—Darrel Fry, 29—Mallory Hall, 31—Rodger Taylor

### **SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Meals Needed**

Bonnie Mitchell, along with Pene Hammock and Judy Van Lueven will be coordinating the temporary providing of meals on occasions when they are requested. Upon receiving the request, we will coordinate with the family to ascertain their needs – length of time, dietary restrictions etc. Once this has been determined through various means of communication we will contact the families here at POCOC for those who would like to participate with providing the meals.

There are some of you who want to always provide a meal, some who choose not to and some who would like to do so occasionally. Please email me if you

## Serving March 27, 2016 :

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Prayer Leader:	Cody Rousseau	Communion Prep:	Hill
Scripture Reader:	Cody, Brad, James, Darrell	Communion Cleanup:	Hill
Offering Thoughts:	James Greer	Praise Team:	Gene Gerard Paula Hill Laura Gerard Kenny Benjamin
Communion Meditation:	Darrell Fry	Sunday School & LG Helper:	Laura Fry
Servers:	B. Karn & T. Hill	Fellowship Team:	Donuts— Connie Switzer Coffee— Ray Switzer Cleanup— Connie Switzer
Ushers:	I. Zepf & B. Zepf		
Greeters:	Greg & Sandi Warner		
Nursery Attendants:	Kerri S.		
Sound:	J. Hammock		
Slides/Lighting:	Lisa Bratcher		

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fall in any of those categories and I will make a list which will be confidential.

This is a great ministry and can be an opportunity to serve others. If you have any questions, please be sure and call:

**Bonnie Mitchell 360-895-0453 (h) 360-265-3266 (c)**  
**Pene Hammock 360-871-9678**  
**Judy Van Lueven 360-692-0361**

### **Nursery and Communion**

Thank you to all who served in the nursery and preparing and cleaning up communion this year!

Are you gifted with little kids? Would you like to serve somehow but don't know where to start? We have just the place for you! We need for more people to sign up for doing the nursery and communion prep/clean-up for 2016. There are only a few slots left for Communion, so if you feel like you are willing and able, please sign up in the foyer for the next opportunity on our community board. We will be printing a new Nursery sign up soon!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Easter Sunday Celebration!**

Invite your family and friends to join us Easter Sunday to celebrate the Risen Lord with a Potluck Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and Specially designed worship service for the Holiday and occasion! We need lots of food and eggs prestuffed! Please see Tiffany Rousseau for questions or where to volunteer! We will need at least 200 eggs and expect a great turn out!

### **Women's Retreat**

The women's retreat is scheduled for April 22-24. Registration form and payment can be turned in to LaDonna Latham. Any questions regarding the retreat can be fielded by Lisa Bratcher. Information will be on the bulletin board and registration should be taken care of as soon as possible!

### **New Directory**

There will be a new directory published in the beginning of April. Please check all items in your family's entry and submit additions, deletions, corrections to Cody by March 27th.

## **Our Prayer List**

For the victims in the bombings in Belgium.

Healing for : Gary White, David Latham, Dorothy Janes, Bonnie Mitchell, Bonnie's son-in-law Tony, Gary White, Jodon Mason, Rick Velasco, Bette Widman, Ken and Pat Woodrow.

That Kara Mitchell's biopsy shows no cancer.

Delores Brunn's family and their struggles with health and other issues.

For Cody and Tiffany and those who will be involved with getting Tiffany's brother Jacob settled into a home.

For the Ladies Retreat and their speaker, the Growth Groups journey.

For Julie Snypp's uncle Tom who now is under Hospice Care.

Praise for Rick Velasco having quit smoking.

Guidance to our Deacons as they pursue Cody's replacement.

Prayer for Deja and Rodney Cormier and for Deja's pregnancy.

Pray for members who are homebound and unable to worship and fellowship with us.

Prayers for our church as we begin a new journey with the Growth groups and curriculum.

### **March 20, 2016**

Worship: 85

Class: 37

Offering: \$2,147.00

Goal: \$3,437.50

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val allegorizing of one sort or another. But the Reformers, I think, never worked out a satisfactory answer to the question, how can the literal sense of *stories*—which purport to describe events in (say) first century Palestine—how can that be authoritative? If we are not careful, the appeal to ‘timeless truths’ not only distorts the Bible itself, making it into the sort of book it manifestly is not, but also creeps back, behind the Reformers’ polemic against allegory, into a neo-allegorization which is all the more dangerous for being unrecognized”

He continues that reading a story for a “literal” truth presents issues. It is easier when you are doing it to look for meaning in something like Romans but even then it still presents issues.

Back in the reformation when the reformers were trying to define what the amount of “literal timeless truth” was in the story they did a poor job

of choosing. What we fought against as evangelicals moving away from the Catholics was the use of allegorizing the scripture in unhealthy ways.

“how can the literal sense of *stories*—which purport to describe events in (say) first century Palestine—how can that be authoritative?”

So these questions arise. If the bible is written to certain people and for specific reasons how is it that the answers to their questions can form a timeless truth?

The answer that bible scholars have is that by knowing what was going on, who was being written to and why the author wrote to them that we can find some way of observing how we can respond in a “holy and Godly way” is. This is called Exegesis.

“If we are not careful, the appeal to ‘timeless truths’ not only distorts the Bible itself...”

Our issue is that when we read it for “literal” timeless truth then we meet resistance because none of us is DOING it all. The Pharisees learned this from Jesus.

By doing this we end up taking some as truth for all time, and some as truth for then, and it all comes down to our own interpretation of what is happening. That is why we don’t have head coverings still, and we don’t have men that sport a never been shaved face. While we still have restrictions on women’s role in the church.

The reason that the arguments still exist is that in some places we see exceptions to rules and then we don’t know how to split hairs.

I have run out of room to keep going but I will keep the explanation going next week. This week my prayer for us is that we continue to be students of scripture.

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