
Port Orchard Church of Christ

Where

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Biblical Authority pt. 3: Timeless Function? By: NT Wright

Another (related) way in which the Bible has been used, with the frequent implication that it is in such use that its authority consists, is in the timeless functions which it is deemed to perform. For Bultmann, the New Testament functioned (among other things) as issuing the timeless call to decision. For Ignatius and those who have taught Jesuit spirituality, it can be used in a timeless sense within pastoral practice. Now this is not a million miles from certain things which I shall be suggesting later on in this lecture as appropriate uses of scripture. But at the level of theory it is vital that we say, once more, that such uses in and of themselves are not what is primarily meant when we say that the Bible is authoritative: or, if they are, that they thereby belittle the Bible, and fail to do justice to the book as we actually have it. All three methods I have outlined involve a certain procedure which ultimately seems to be illegitimate: that one attempts, as it were, to boil off certain timeless truths, models, or challenges into a sort of ethereal realm which is not anything immediately to do with space-time reality in order then to carry them across from the first century to any other given century and re-liquefy them (I hope I'm getting my physics right at this point), making them relevant to a new situation. Once again, it is not really the Bible that is being regarded as the 'real' authority. It

is something else.

Evangelicals and Biblical Authority

It seems to be that evangelicalism has flirted with, and frequently held long-running love affairs with all of these different methods of using the Bible, all of these attempts to put into practice what turns out to be quite an inarticulate sense that it is somehow the real locus of authority. And that has produced what one can now see in many so-called scriptural churches around the world—not least in North America. It seems to be the case that the more that you insist that you are based on the Bible, the more fissiparous you become; the church splits up into more and more little groups, each thinking that they have got biblical truth right. And in my experience of teaching theological students I find that very often those from a conservative evangelical background opt for one such view as the safe one, the one with which they will privately stick, from which they will criticize the others. Failing that, they lapse into the regrettable (though sometimes comprehensible) attitude of temporary book-learning followed by regained positivism: we will learn for a while the sort of things that the scholars write about,

(Continued on page 4)

Church Staff:

Cody Rousseau 360.801.8059

Deacons:

Troy Hill 360.674.7181
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!

Saturday 4/2 Deacons meeting

Sunday 4/3 Congregational Meeting

Tuesday 4/5 Ladies Bible Class

Wednesday 4/6 Youth Group

Wednesday 4/6 Office Closed

Wednesday 4/6 Youth Group

Monday 4/11 Community Meal

Tuesday 4/12 Ladies Bible Class

Sunday 4/17 Kerri McDaniel Bridal Shower

Tuesday 4/19 Ladies Bible Class

Friday 4/22—4/24 Ladies Retreat

Friday 4/22—4/24 Inspire: Men's Retreat

Serving April 3, 2016 :

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview— James to preach

This week we will be hearing a sermon from our brother James Greer. As he comes to share with us from his personal devotion let us prayerfully listen to the Spirit.

Happy Birthdays!

Spring has arrived and the sun is starting to finally warm things up!! 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!

1— Veva Janes. 4— Virginia Martin. 6— Jim Snead. 7— Lucille Lowe. 10— Maydeane Furstenwerth; Jacob Hammock; Brandon Karn. 12— Jarrod Coley; Brad Orser. 13— Rick Velasco. 17— James Greer. 19— Rubin Carter. 21— DJ Magneson. 28— Lori Sanders

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.

Prayer Leader:	Jim Snead	Communion Prep:	Warners
Scripture Reader:	James Greer	Communion Cleanup:	Wilson
Offering Thoughts:	Dale Sanders	Praise Team:	Darrell Fry Connie Greer Rachel Karn Joshua Wilson
Communion Meditation:	Ray Switzer	Sunday School & CW Helper:	DJ Magneson
Servers:	D. Snypp & T. Bratcher	Fellowship Team:	Donuts— Karen Taylor Coffee— Rick V. Cleanup— Karen Taylor
Ushers:	W. Hammock & J. Bickle		
Greeters:	Greg & Sandi Warner		
Nursery Attendants:	Kerri S.		
Sound:	Chris Hill		
Slides/Lighting:	J. Hammock		



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 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

Ladies Retreat

The ladies 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.

Bridal Shower: Kerri McDaniel

There will be a bridal shower held for Kerri McDaniel on April 17th at the church building at 3PM. If you are interested in being a part of the group gift please see Tanya or Savannah by April 10th.

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 27, 2016

Worship: 131

Class: N/A

Offering: \$3,304.93

Goal: \$3,437.50

then we shall get back to using the Bible straight. There may be places and times where that approach is the only possible one, but I am quite sure that the Christian world of 1989 is not among them. There is a time to grow up in reading the Bible as in everything else. There is a time to take the doctrine of inspiration seriously. And my contention here is that evangelicalism has usually done no better than those it sometimes attacks in taking inspiration seriously. Methodologically, evangelical handling of scripture has fallen into the same traps as most other movements, even if we have found ways of appearing to extricate ourselves.

The Belittling of the Bible

The problem with all such solutions as to how to use the Bible is that they belittle the Bible and exalt something else. Basically they im-

ply—and this is what I mean when I say that they offer too low a view of scripture—that God has, after all, given us the wrong sort of book and it is our job to turn it into the right sort of book by engaging in these hermeneutical moves, translation procedures or whatever. They imply that the real place where God has revealed himself—the real locus of authority and revelation—is, in fact, somewhere else; somewhere else in the past in an event that once took place, or somewhere else in a timeless sphere which is not really hooked into our world at all out touches it tangentially, or somewhere in the present in ‘my own experience’, or somewhere in the future in some great act which is yet to come. And such views, I suggest, rely very heavily on either tradition (including evangelical tradition) or reason, often playing off one against the other, and lurching away from scripture into

something else. I have a suspicion that most of you are as familiar with this whole process as I am. If you are not, you would be within a very short time of beginning to study theology at any serious level.

My conclusion, then, is this: that the regular views of scripture and its authority which we find not only outside but also inside evangelicalism fail to do justice to what the Bible actually is—a book, an ancient book, an ancient narrative book. They function by tuning that book into something else, and by implying thereby that God has, after all, given us the wrong sort of book. This is a low doctrine of inspiration, whatever heights are claimed for it and whatever words beginning with ‘in-’ are used to label it. I propose that what we need to do is to re-examine the concept of authority itself and see if we cannot do a bit better.

**Port Orchard Church of Christ
2585 Carr Lane SE,
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360.876.2604
churchpococ@gmail.com
www.pococ.weebly.com**