

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, **TannerSt.com** to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Needed News

Joyce Venable has not been feeling well at all this past week.

Thelma Echols is doing some better with her back pain. She got a good report from her doctor visit.

Phyllis Jackson is continuing a slow recovery from her knee surgery. She is going to therapy now instead of receiving it at home.

Chris Wright still has a stent and will need another surgery to remove a stray piece of stone.

Ruben Keisler got a shot for his back. He still has a few visits ahead of him to deal with his difficulties.

Do you have any passages of Scripture that you like to read often? Are there any passages that you only read when they are part of your reading plan? Is there a passage that you wish you understood better? Maybe you have heard a verse used to teach some truth but you are not so sure that is what is being discussed in that passage. These, and other questions, are on my mind as I strive to help each one of you grow in your service to our Lord. Maybe you could answer a few of them for me. Also, I am still interested in your thoughts regarding some of our songs. Take time to study. DLH

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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"The Lucifer Myth"

Benjamin Lee

At the Dowlen Road church we are currently reading through the book of Isaiah. In **Isaiah 14:12** we read about Lucifer. Everyone knows that Lucifer is the devil, right? But is that really the case?

The answer is NO!!!! Lucifer is NOT the DEVIL. In the New American Standard Bible it says, *"How you fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"*

If the Devil is not Lucifer, then who is it referring to? The context helps us to see. From **Isaiah 13** through **Isaiah 23**, we see judgments being pronounced against a variety of nations. In chapter **14** judgment was being pronounced against the Babylonians and the king of Babylon.

In **Isaiah 13:1** it says, *"The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw."* Isaiah was speaking about the nation of Babylon.

In **Isaiah 13:17** it says *"Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold."* It would be God that would bring the Medes against the Babylonian empire to destroy them.

In **Isaiah 13:19** it says, *"And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldean's pride, will be as when*

God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.” Judgment was going to come against Babylon.

When we get to the next chapter Isaiah is still speaking about Babylon. In **Isaiah 14:4** we see where he begins to speak about the king of Babylon. It says, *“...that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say...”* Understanding this helps us to see who is being spoken of in . It’s not about the DEVIL, but rather about the KING of Babylon.

In **Isaiah 14:15-17** we see that Isaiah was speaking about a MAN and not the DEVIL. In **Isaiah 14:16** he said, *“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the Man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms...”*

The context helps us to see that Lucifer was a MAN and not the DEVIL.

The king of Babylon was arrogant and thought of himself as though he was God. He tried to be like the Most High, **Isaiah 14:13-14**. But he would be brought low!

So why do so many believe that Lucifer is the Devil? Keep Reading...

There is no allusion to the fall of Satan in this chapter. Yet many of the church fathers believed that to be the case. And many people still believe that to be true. But why is that so often the case? First, many refuse to actually read the context or passage.

Second, many rely upon what others have to say.

When this happens, a misunderstanding is likely to take place.

Some may say, “Does it really matter if we want to call the devil Lucifer?” It should matter to us because WORDS in the WORD are important, and we need to use them properly. It should matter because we want to handle God’s word properly.

Let’s strive to be good students of God’s word. There’s one more thing we can take away from all of this. A lot of people not only misunderstand who Lucifer is, they also misunderstand baptism, and for the same reasons. People fail to read the scriptures and rely upon what others have to say.

Let’s strive to be good Bible students. Do you know what **Mark 16:16** says about baptism? Do you know what **Romans 6:3-4** and **1Peter 3:20-21** teaches us about baptism? Don’t rely upon someone else, read these passages for yourself! Don’t be deceived by the Devil. Read and Obey the truth!

(The above article is from the website of the Dowlen Road Church of Christ, dowlenroad.com. Benjamin Lee is one of the preachers working with that congregation. This is another of the sites I visit from time to time for help in my struggle to serve Christ. Also, our children attend there regularly and speak highly of those who teach there.

This article does a good job of reminding us of the need to understand context for any particular passage. Without the proper context any statement can be misunderstood. It also can be a warning against just taking someone’s word, especially with Scripture. We need to read and understand the Word of God for ourselves. We can never develop a proper faith in God if we are trusting someone else for our understanding.)