



Jeff Sweeten

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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# *Thus Saith the Lord* **THE NEED TO KNOW**

By Jeff Sweeten

It is not enough to feel good about where we are religiously or what we believe, we need to know. "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32, ESV). Paul tells us to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, KJV). Therefore, truth exists, it is knowable and we are obligated to test every truth claim against that objective standard: God's Word. John was quite concerned with New Testament Christians being led astray.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

The spiritual demise of God's people in the Old Testament was attributed, in part, to their lack of knowledge. The Israelites had become "ecumenical" in their approach to worship and service, inviting other gods into their religious experience, dividing their loyalties between Yahweh and idols and incorporating worship methods that never entered the mind of God.

"...they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind." (Jeremiah 19:5)

Their departure from truth was so profound that they even forgot their own language (Nehemiah 13:24). God bemoaned the fact that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6a) and "...my people do not know the judgment of the Lord" (Jeremiah 8:7c).

If anyone would be a part of the Lord's people today, there is the need to be more aggressive in knowing God's will. It is not enough to "feel good" about something, as ignorance is a spiritual assassin. Seriously, how is it possible to obey God if one does not know what God has commanded (John 14:15). As important as it is to understand God's love for His children and comprehend the great sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, we must also accept the working of the Holy Spirit through His Sword (the Bible) to guide and direct us. If you don't know your Bible and doing what is right in your own eyes (Judges 21:25; cf. Isaiah 5:21).

Our salvation is not based upon a wishful whim or some warm, fuzzy feeling "deep down in our heart." It is based upon our knowledge of God's truths (John 8:32), which (1) exist, (2) are knowable, and (3) can be tested. Stated simply, if we know, then the proper, beneficial and subsequent emotions will take care of themselves. But, first, we need to know. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).