

Perspective

by Wayne Goff

A third grade teacher at Mercer County Elementary School in Kentucky compiled an exam consisting of twenty questions for her students. One of the questions: "List in any order the four seasons."

Sixty-seven percent of the students gave the following answer: "(1) squirrel season; (2) deer season; (3) rabbit season; (4) UK basketball season."

If you have never lived in or near a rural area, then you might not appreciate the story above. Some schools actually dismiss for the first week of deer season. Perhaps only in Kentucky is the college basketball season considered as important! But the humorous, but true story points out something we should always think about when studying the Bible — **perspective**.

When preaching to the Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2) the apostles quoted Old Testament prophecies which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ concerning His death, burial and resurrection. Three thousand souls believed the message, gladly received it, and were baptized for the remission of their sins!

When the apostle Paul preached the Gospel in Athens, Greece, to a Gentile audience educated in the ways of Greek philosophy, Paul used a different approach. He spoke to them of the "UNKNOWN GOD" which they ignorantly worshiped, and introduced to them the One, True Living God who made all things in heaven, on earth, and for all mankind (Acts 17). That's an entirely different **perspective**, but one they could understand. If Paul had preached to them about the fulfilled prophecy of the Old Testament, it would have been meaningless to them.

So the lesson for each of us in speaking to others about the Gospel is to find out where they are spiritually-speaking, and begin there. We must try to appreciate their perspective. The believers in Acts 2 were told to *repent* and be *baptized*. The Philippian Jailor, uneducated in the ways of the Bible, was told to "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*" in order to be saved (Acts 16:31). Accepting that, Paul preached to the Jailor and his household about the word of the Lord. They believed and were baptized the same hour of the night.

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