

# The Sword and Trowel

Church of Christ at Grissom  
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We intend to build and defend: *"As for the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded."* Nehemiah 4:18

## Genuine

Recently Elizabeth Warren took a DNA test in hopes of proving that she was of Cherokee descent. When the results were in it was discovered that she was one part in 1024 Native American. In other words, she is .00098, or less than one tenth of one percent, Native American. Another way to look at it is that she is .99902, or more than 99.9 percent, European.

There were some who ridiculed her over these results. Others said she was vindicated in her earlier claims. This article is not meant to do either. In fact, this article is not about Elizabeth Warren, DNA results, politics or even media spin. This article is about what it means to be genuine anything.

I raise this issue because of the question of how genuine the New Testament Scriptures are. You have no doubt heard somebody question the reliability of the scriptures by saying something like the following: "It has been copied over and over to the point you can't trust that what we have today is what was originally written at all." I would like to ask whether we can call the New Testament as we have it today the same as what was originally written.

When you look at all the manuscript evidence we have we find very little question as to what the originals actually said. What I wrote on this nearly 20 years ago is just as true now as it was then. "Only about 400 words in the New Testament are in question. That's about one in 1000. Furthermore, none of these affect any major teaching of scripture whatsoever."

This means that we are certain that the New Testament is 99.9 percent pure or genuine. That is, at least 9.9 percent of the New Testament as we have it today matches what was originally written. Of the remaining one tenth of one percent, we are certain that we have what was originally written. We just have other manuscript evidence, and scholars are not perfectly agreed as to which reading is the original.

I mentioned Elizabeth Warren earlier for a reason. She is less than one tenth of one percent Native American. Yet she believes that she has been vindicated in calling herself Cherokee. The portion of the New Testament that is in any question at all is less than one tenth of one percent. Yet people act as if the entire New Testament is less than trustworthy. It all depends on whether you are looking for a reason to believe or a reason not to believe.

So what percent pure does something have to be to be considered wholly pure? I guess for the genetics only one tenth of one percent pure is required. But for the scripture, we are much more demanding. We are not satisfied with more than 99.9 percent pure. Perhaps this says far more about what we want to believe than it does about what is actually true. In other words, the doubt of the skeptics says more about them than it does about what is actually true. In other words, the doubt of the skeptics says more about them than it does about the New Testament itself. There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.

In His Service,

Terry Carter, Evangelist

**COMING EVENTS**

- November 3      Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 8:00 A.M.  
 Youth Rally at West Unity Church of Christ, Fayette, OH  
 Camp Meeting at Harlan Church of Christ. Do you have interest in helping in this ministry?
- November 10     Ladies' Bible Study and Paint Class. Bible study & fingerfood at 6:30 P.M....paint class at 7:00 P.M. Cost is \$12.  
 Please sign up by November 4.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Mindy Gehle (friend of Jennifer Worley) – loss of mother                    | for evangelist for Grissom church                 |
| Jerry Paul (PTL: not seriously hurt in accident)                            | Vicki (friend of Lisa July) – signing gospel      |
| Karen VanNote (Brenda's mom) – doing better/ pray for Christian fellowship) | Norma Heckathorn (still having pain in back)      |
| Irene Adams (Jacob Harris' great-grandmother) – broken hip                  | Zach Rayburn's grandmother (surgery recovery)     |
| Pat Long (relative to Harold Bouthot) – lung cancer/ spiritual              | our missionaries                                  |
| Sherry Barker (Brenda's sister) – spiritual                                 | Heather Bowman (Frieda's daughter)                |
| Jordan & Anna Lynch   | Chris Ponchot (Roann church) – spiritual issues   |
| Christians around the world being persecuted                                | Harold Bouthot – for strength to return           |
| Jordan Lynch (desires to start a Praising in the Park ministry)             | Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery)                |
| Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months)                           | Kendall Faull (life situations)                   |
| Lester Templin (Wade Allen's father-in-law) – stem cell transplant          | Steve Emerick – lung problems                     |
| Mark Whitsett (paralyzed from accident & for salvation)                     | ladies' Bible Study                               |
| our evangelist, elders & deacons (& their families)                         | Nancy Maggard                                     |
| Church of Christ at Monticello & Buffalo Church of Christ                   | George Faull                                      |
| PTL: Lisa Judson home after hysterectomy surgery                            | Kelly Mercado's mother & sister                   |
| David Stokes (recovery after car accident)                                  | Summit School of Preaching                        |
| Debra Isebrand (recovery from foot surgery)                                 | Jonathan Newlon (back issues)                     |
| Richard Kees (Melanoma)   | James (Carter's nephew) - spiritual               |
| Sean Ramer (blood issues)   | Roger VanNote (Brenda's step-dad) -for his health |
|   | Straub family (2 boys in accident last week)      |

*Proverb for the Week:*  
*Meditate on this Proverb:*  
**10:13** *In the lips of him*  
*that hath understanding*  
*wisdom is found but a rod is*  
*for the back of him that is*  
*void of understanding.*

**SERVICES**

Sunday School	9:00
A.M.Church	10:00
Men's Prayer Meeting	5:30
Women's Prayer Meeting	5:30
P.M.Evangelistic Hour	6:00
Wednesday P.M.	7:00
Youth for Truth (Wedn.)	7:00

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday School	55
A.M.Church	78
P.M.Evangelistic Service	50
Tithes & Offerings	\$2,698
Wednesday Evening	89

“Just to establish some parameters,” said the professor,  
 “Mr. Carmon, what is the opposite of joy?”  
 “Sadness” replied the student.  
 “And what’s the opposite of depression, Ms. Helms?”  
 “Elation,” was the reply.  
 “And you, Mr. Fields, how about the opposite of woe?”  
 “I believe that would be giddy up!”

When one word leads to another, it generally ends up in a quarrel, a speech, or a dictionary.

A speech is like a wheel -  
 the longer the spoke, the greater the tire.