



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*

## **GIBBERISH**

By Jeff Sweeten

A good friend sent me an e-mail some time back and quipped, “The brain does amazing things, doesn’t it?” This comment preceded these instructions: “Just read the sentence straight through without really thinking about it.”

Acocdrnig to an elgnsih unviesitry sutdy the oredr of letetrs in a wrod dosen’t mtttaer, the olny thnig thta’s iopmrrantt is that the frsrit and lsat ltteer of eevry word is in the crcreot ptoision. The rset can be jmbueld and one is stlil able to raed the txet wiohtut dclftfuiiiy.

Now, when I finished, I was amazed that this little paragraph was so understandable. I’m confident that there’s a difference between critical appraisal and nit picking, but the fact that I could actually read these comments and understand them revealed that, while misspelled words are the pariah of every editor, people still get the message.

However, there is a more important application. The only way that these two sentences really make sense is if you follow the instruction: “without really thinking.” There it is!

This is how the sentences make sense while contradicting every rule of spelling you’ve ever learned. So, this illustration points out that: [1] you can function without thinking much (and I continue to be amazed daily at how little some think and still manage to function), and [2] you tend to see what you are used to seeing (all evidence to the contrary). Tradition is an amazing thing, too. We tend to see things a certain way because that’s the way we have always seen them. Yet, in the face of irrefutable evidence to the contrary, it’s still tough getting people, not just to change, but to even consider the fact that what they are doing, saying, or thinking violates godly rules and they need to change. Some have even been convinced that there are no rules. This is especially convenient when the Bible directly contradicts they’re speech, conduct, etc. Clear thinking people, nevertheless, can readily see that jumbling letters in a word is (1) renders a word spelled incorrectly and (2) will eventually render the word’s communication capacity functionless. There has to be rules here.

Without rules, we lose our ability to communicate. Therefore, just like there are rules in spelling English words properly, there are rules in understanding what God desires of humanity. God communicates with us using specific rules. He expects us to use them properly and when we do not follow such simple rules, we miss His point (Matthew 22:29). Further, it doesn’t matter that “we have always done it that way,” if what we do doesn’t conform to the Bible’s directives we are in error, even if it seems to make sense to us. People can make fun of the term, “hermeneutics,” all they want but it remains a fact that if we do not understand interpretive rules, understanding God is impossible, and our faith will be nothing but gibberish (Romans 10:17).