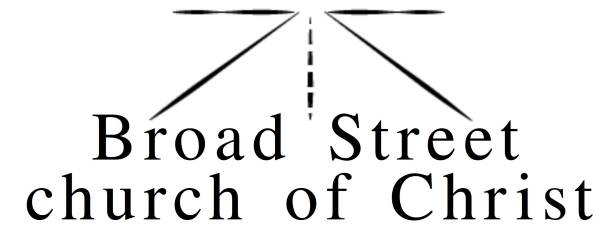


Broad Street Church of Christ  
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 Statesville, NC 28677 | 704.873.4836  
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March 12, 2017

### Judas: Betrayer or Confidant?

Skeptics and atheists have unleashed yet another assault on Christianity. Just days after proclaiming that maybe Jesus walked on ice instead of water, we are now asked to believe that the betrayer of Jesus was a good guy. This latest charge stems around thirteen papyrus sheets bound in a leather covering that were found in a cave in Egypt. This ancient text is being referred to as “the gospel of Judas.” And so once again we find the media more than willing to plant seeds of doubt—insinuating that the Bible is incomplete and misrepresents the man who betrayed Jesus.

The controversy stems around part of the manuscript in which Judas allegedly is given private instruction by Jesus, and is granted a vision into what the future holds for Jesus. One key passage has Jesus telling Judas: “you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me.” Thus, rather than acting out of greed or malevolence, he was simply following the “plan” that he and Jesus had prearranged—a plan that could be viewed as deceptive, a label Jesus would never wear.

Undoubtedly, this front page news story will have many questioning the authenticity and accuracy of the Bible. Did Jesus really walk on ice rather than water? Was Judas really in cahoots with Jesus? Many will second guess whether the gospel accounts they have learned are indeed accurate—placing more faith in this “front page” story than the infallible Word of God. Satan must be thrilled to have the popular media on his side.

If nothing else is gleaned from this latest round of attacks on God’s Word, we Christians should rest assured the Bible is complete. God in His infinite wisdom through inspired men was able to get His Word into our hands. We can know that the Bible we are holding today is exactly what He intended for us to hold.

Yes, the Judas codex may be authentic. And yes, it may have well been written between the suspected dates of 300-400 A.D. But this no way indicates that the Bible is incomplete or

**What must I do to be saved?**  
 Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Scripture Reading:	Britt Brookshire
Song Leader:	Henry Rumble
Opening Prayer (A.M.):	Lenny Freeze
Closing Prayer (A.M.):	Tom May
Opening Prayer (P.M.):	Billy Ellenburg
Closing Prayer (P.M.):	Bobby Lankford
Nursery Attendant:	TBA

Building Lockup:	Johnny Smith
Announcements:	John Anderson
Door Greeters:	Steve and Hassie Short
Count Contribution:	Johnny Smith, Guy Byrd
Prepare Lord's Table:	Carol Byrd
Lord's Supper (A.M.):	Billy Ellenburg, Landon Speer, Johnny Smith, Joshua Speer
Lord's Supper (P.M.):	Bradley Speer

Worship Times	
Sunday Bible Study	10:00 A.M.
Sunday A.M. Worship	10:55 A.M.
Sunday P.M. Worship	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Elders	
John Anderson	704.592.2266
Steve Short	704.872.5440
Tommy Smith	704.872.7966
Bradley Speer	704.876.6986
Preacher	
Dave Wood	704.380.4437

alters who Judas truly was. In responding to Jesus' question as to who the angry mob was seeking, John 18:5 states: "They answered Him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am He.' And Judas, who betrayed Him also stood with them." God's Word describes Judas as a thief (John 12:6), a betrayer on multiple occasions (e.g., Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 18) and we are told that Satan entered him (Luke 22:3). Would this confidant hang himself after throwing down those thirty pieces of silver—if he and Jesus were really just carrying out a plan? Does this sound like someone who would become the closest confidant to Jesus?

Given the amount of fiction writing today—it is not hard to speculate that this writing may well have been "fiction" or could have been written by someone who was seeking fame through controversy. No matter what others speculate, Christians can know that this "gospel" is not a part of God's Word. We have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). By Brad Harrub

## Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

### SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson, Bill Proctor and Frances Elam.

### PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Will Winchester, Betty Smith and Frank Shepherd.

- Casandra Bills now is in a cast and is on the mend.

- Brenda Elliott had part of her thyroid removed last week and is at home recovering. She is expected to have the results of a biopsy this week.

## Upcoming Events:

Mar. 13: Ladies' class will meet at 6:30 P.M.

Mar. 24: The Ladies' class will host a Poor Boy Supper at 6:00 P.M. If you would like to attend there is a sign up sheet in the annex.

## Sermons:

A.M. - When Are We Saved? - Acts 2:36-38;

P.M. - Ed Rodgers