

# *Bread* of Life

## Devotional Guide

*Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."*

July 1, 2009

Fellow Christians:

*Exodus 13:21 says, "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."* When Israel was delivered from slavery, God led them through the wilderness using a cloud in the daytime and fire at night. They were dependent upon God's direction.

Today, God does not give us a literal cloud or pillar of fire to follow. He does not verbally speak to us as He did to Moses at the burning bush. Instead, God has given us His Holy Word, the Bible. It is all we need. It is complete. God's plan, purpose, and direction for our lives can be found within the sixty-six books of His inspired Word. Are you in need of direction? Get into your Bible this month. Read it. Study it. Pray over it. God will lead through His Word!

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ Merrin

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Ezra's Prayer**

*"...that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage."*  
Ezra 9:8

Revival is getting your heart right with the Lord. If your heart is not right, you will never really delight in the Lord.

The world system naturally pulls us down. We are faced with busy schedules, illness, parenting, disappointments, finances, and sometimes death. Add to these the opposition of Satan, and it is natural for us to need revival sometimes in our lives.

So many churches are filled with cold and indifferent members. Satisfied with mediocrity and not concerned about souls, our churches are dying by the thousands. It is also visible with our young people. Josh McDowell wrote in *The Last Christian Generation* that in the areas of lying, cheating, and hurting someone, there is almost no difference between our Christian teens and our unsaved teens. I believe our teens have responded to a church that desperately needs revival. It is not a coincidence that five of the seven churches of Revelation were commanded to "repent" by our Lord.

So how do you have personal revival? The Word of God brings conviction which results in real repentance. We must be broken over our sin and confess it to God. True heartfelt repentance will bring a spiritual upsurge, a new vitality and power.

Revival always leads to "reform." When my heart is right with the Lord, I am a better husband and a better Bible student. My life

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

changes for the good in all sorts of ways.

You can have revival today! Confess your sin to God, and seek His mercy and grace. Your life counts; do not let it slip away.  
~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 103:17-18 "But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is from \_\_\_\_\_ to everlasting upon them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Who Said It?** Fill in the blank with the person who is quoted.

1. "How can a man be born when he is old?" John 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_
2. "And one of you is a devil." John 6:70 \_\_\_\_\_
3. She said, "No man, Lord?" John 8:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Always seek peace between your heart and God, but in this world, always be careful to remain ever-restless, never satisfied, and always abounding in the work of the Lord."  
~Jim Elliott



Morning: Job 21, 22

Evening: Acts 10:1-23

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Mystery of Iniquity**

*“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”  
2 Thessalonians 2:7*

*Read 2 Thessalonians 2*

Notice a couple of words in our verse for today: “...Only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.” First, the *He* who is mentioned refers to the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the word *let* could be interpreted as *hinder*. So, the Holy Spirit hinders iniquity as He indwells God’s people and as Christians fight for God and against wrong.

Until the rapture, there will be iniquity, but as Christians, we are supposed to live righteous lives and fight sin. We are not to be accustomed or conformed to this world. Neither are we to be a hindrance to the mystery of iniquity until the Lord Jesus returns. By living righteous lives, we will be able to have more of an impact in witnessing to others.

The apostle is writing these letters to remind us that we only have until the rapture to win people to Jesus Christ. So the question is, “What are we doing today to spread the Gospel to the lost people in our community?” May God help us to be ready when He comes!

~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 103:17-18 “But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is from \_\_\_\_\_ to everlasting upon them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and His \_\_\_\_\_ unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible name in column 1 with their other name in column 2.

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ 1. Daniel<br>Daniel 1:7   | A. Shadrach     |
| _____ 2. Hananiah<br>Daniel 1:7 | B. Peter        |
| _____ 3. Mishael<br>Daniel 1:7  | C. Belteshazzar |
| _____ 4. Azariah<br>Daniel 1:7  | D. Paul         |
| _____ 5. Simon<br>Matt. 4:18    | E. Abednego     |
| _____ 6. Saul<br>Acts 13:9      | F. Meshach      |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ." ~Andrew Murray



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**God Directs Mankind**

*“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23*

We do young people a disservice in our Christian circles as they begin their lives as young adults. Around graduation time comments like the following flow freely without much thought: “Oh, God is going to do **big things** with you.” Here’s another one: “You are so talented; God is going to use you in a **mighty way**.” You may ask, “Why is it so wrong to make comments like the aforementioned?”

First, it sets up young people to experience a feeling of failure and defeat. We have no idea what God’s plans are for an individual. When a young person hears the words, “big things” and “mighty way,” immediately it sets a pre-conceived idea that their life will consist of major events and opportunities. Then, if they find themselves, a couple of years down the road, behind a computer screen doing seemingly meaningless tasks, defeat sets into their soul, leaving young people feeling as if they have not lived up to their true potential. In all actuality, their stable job may be exactly where God has them for the rest of their life.

Secondly, it is not our obligation to inform others of God’s plan for their lives. As our verse for today plainly explains, God alone is to direct the paths of man. When we begin to inform others of what we believe God’s will is for their lives, we run the risk of not being in alignment with God Himself.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

In our personal encounters with people of all ages, we need to be ready to listen, equipped to find answers in God’s Word, and eager to seek God’s counsel in prayer. God alone has the answers and knows the perfect direction for His children. ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 103:17-18 “But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is from \_\_\_\_\_ to everlasting upon them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and His \_\_\_\_\_ unto children's children; To such as \_\_\_\_\_ His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each question or statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Money is the root of all evil.  
1 Timothy 6:10
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The “Golden Rule” is found in  
in Matthew 7:12.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There are 27 books in the Old  
Testament and 39 in the New.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptized into a church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God."

~Martin Luther



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Justice**

*“Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”  
Psalm 89:13-14*

Thirty-three verses in the Bible talk about justice. Justice is defined in Webster’s dictionary as, “The virtue which consists in giving to every one what is his due.” In reading the Bible, we see many examples of God administering justice, starting in Genesis and going all the way through Revelation.

In the Garden of Eden, God had to discipline Adam and Eve for their disobedience of eating the forbidden fruit. The Old Testament Israelites were constantly in and out of trouble with God. As a result, they were in and out of bondage many times. Old Testament kings and prophets came and went.

The New Testament is filled with God’s justice in that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our propitiation. Look at the book of Revelation where God will ultimately serve sin’s just reward. Scripture tells us that in the end times there will be a great tribulation. The anti-Christ will come into power, first portraying peace, then declaring war. Then, there will be suffering from famine, plagues, and cosmic disturbances. All this is for the unsaved, those who have rejected Jesus Christ. To avoid this final judgment, please come to Jesus today. Believe, repent, and receive. Justice requires a sacrifice for your sin. When you trust in Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and repent, your sin debt is cancelled. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 103:17-18 “But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is from \_\_\_\_\_ to everlasting upon them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and His \_\_\_\_\_ unto children's children; To such as \_\_\_\_\_ His covenant, and to those that remember His \_\_\_\_\_ to do them.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. What sign did God give Noah to show that never again would He flood the whole earth? Genesis 9:11-13
  - A. His staff budded.
  - B. Mark on his forehead
  - C. Rainbow
  - D. His staff turned into a serpent.
2. Who had a dream of a staircase between heaven and earth that was being used by angels? Genesis 28:10-12
  - A. Aaron
  - B. Joseph
  - C. Abraham
  - D. Jacob
3. Who wrestled with God? Gen 32:25-28
  - A. Moses
  - B. Jacob
  - C. Esau
  - D. Joseph

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God.” ~Charles L. Allen



Morning: Job 29, 30

Evening: Acts 12



## Freedom: Not Without Cost

*By Monica Merrin*



Independence Day, celebrated on July Fourth, became an official American holiday in 1941, marking the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. On this special day, we commemorate our freedom as a nation. However, this freedom did not come without a great cost. During the Revolutionary War, revolutionists fought for the freedom written in the Declaration of Independence. It is estimated that 25,000 of them lost their lives during active military service, and between 8,500 and 25,000 were seriously wounded or disabled by the war.<sup>1</sup> In addition, America went into debt as a nation, covering the expenses. Americans paid a price for our freedom.

Through the sacrifice of American patriots throughout our country's history America has remained a free nation, not in subjection to the dictates of another government. Not only have we remained a free nation, but Americans have been afforded rights and privileges which are not necessarily instituted in the governments of other various nations. Among these freedoms is the right of exercising religion. The following is Amendment 1 of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”<sup>2</sup>

Although unreported by most media circles, Christians in many countries are being

persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Certainly, the governments of these nations do not respect the establishment of religion or the free exercise of it. According to The Voice of Martyrs, an organization that supports persecuted Christians, on May 21, five recently converted Christians were arrested in Karaj, Iran while meeting in a house church. Their whereabouts are unknown. According to the same source, two Christian young women were arrested by Iranian security forces in March and are being held in Evin Prison. Although their circumstances are overwhelming, one of the women was quoted, “I’ve taken up my cross; I now have to bear it.” Freedom of religion comes at a cost!<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, in America, we have taken our freedoms ever so lightly. “In God we trust,” written on our coins, has become just another phrase that holds historical significance. “One nation under God,” quoted in the Pledge of Allegiance, has become vain words that are babbled without much thought. Let us not forget the cost of our freedoms in the United States. Get involved in the decisions made by our government. Take a stand in your community when religious freedom is threatened at local town and school board meetings.

(See *Freedom* on page 22)

1. “American Revolutionary War.” *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 June 2009. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Revolutionary\\_War#Casualties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War#Casualties)>.
2. “The United States Constitution.” 8 June 2009. <<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>>.
3. “Iran: Church Raided By Police.” *The Voice of Martyrs*. 8 June 2009. <[persecution.com](http://persecution.com)>.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: /

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: /

**“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” 1 John 4:11**

on them, being willing to lay down our lives for the brethren. Beloved, what kind of love do you have for one another? ~DLW

This is a great verse for every Christian to contemplate. It shines a spotlight on one of the most important themes in Scripture. The idea of love is all over the Bible. We are told that God is love. Love was His concept, and it is His plan for us to walk in it.

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: /

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

This verse starts with the word “Beloved.” That word alone depicts two great relationships we have. The first relationship we have is with our Creator. We are loved by Him. John, the apostle, wants us to take an introspective look at God’s love. He presents the question, “If God so loved us.” What a statement—GOD SO LOVED US! The statement is simple enough that anyone can understand that we are loved. Also, the statement is extremely complex. “God so loved us” has no parameters; His love is without boundary. It is the greatest love we will ever experience. It is the kind of love that would cause a Creator to take on the form of His creation and be willingly nailed to a cruel cross, mocked and humiliated by the people that He designed to worship Him. He went through it all to purchase our salvation and to restore our relationship with Him. What an amazing love!

 BIBLE QUIZ /

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. Who held up Moses’ arms in Exodus 17:12? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was King in Haggai? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Job’s wife tell him to do in Job 2:9? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Joseph’s youngest brother’s name? Genesis 42:4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the king in Daniel 3? \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: /

The other relationship is the bond that we have with one another. Here we are called to love each other the way that He has loved us. We are called to place the same importance on our brothers and sisters in Christ that He places

"Without free will, how shall God judge the world? Without grace, how shall God save the world?" ~Anonymous

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world...the prince of the power of the air...the children of disobedience...we all had our conversation...in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh...were by nature the children of wrath...BUT GOD!” Ephesians 2:2-4*

The little three letter word “but,” can be such an interesting word. That one little word can make all the difference in a conversation for the good or bad. Think about it for a minute: “I didn’t have enough money to buy gasoline for the car so I couldn’t go to the wedding, but my friend gave me a ride.” Or perhaps, “I got a letter in the mail saying I had won \$1,000,000, but I didn’t mail the certificate back in time.” The word “but” can change your outcome. No matter what came before, the word “but” makes the previous statement irrelevant.

In Ephesians 2, the Apostle Paul paints a pretty dark picture of the sinner. He describes us as walking according to the course of this world and according to the desires of the devil. He calls us children of disobedience. He says our lifestyle was “according to the flesh.” We are called the children of disobedience. What harsh words! What true words! Then the Apostle Paul picks up a different “brush” and with that one little word, erases all the bleakness of his previous painting: *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.”* What grace! What artistry! With one little word, the picture of my life changed! I was on my way to Hell, but God! ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Who Did or Said It?** Fill in the blank to complete the statement or question.

1. “Lord, dost Thou wash my feet?”  
John 13:6 \_\_\_\_\_
2. “What doth hinder me to be baptized?”  
Acts 8:27-40 \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit?”  
Acts 7:59 \_\_\_\_\_
4. “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people” Luke 2:25-30 \_\_\_\_\_
5. “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” Luke 1:34 \_\_\_\_\_
6. “How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” Luke 2:49 –52 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.”  
~Hudson Taylor



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Hope for the Present and the Future:  
Psalm 16**

*“Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.” Psalm 16:1*

In what do you place your trust? Everyone must answer this question. Do you trust in your health? If you are strong and young, it is very easy to think yourself invincible. Unfortunately, your health could be taken from you at any moment. None are promised another healthy day or even another breath.

What about money? You may have invested well, mapped out a clear financial plan, and are eagerly awaiting the ease of retirement. Certainly, recent events have proven that money is not as secure as it once was. Property holdings can be destroyed by natural disasters. Even the stock market and mutual funds can be completely wiped out.

Maybe you hope the government will give you a “bailout.” The government is helpless against the will of a corrupt people. When any government refuses to acknowledge its responsibility to God Who established it, it will cease to be of value to anyone including itself.

Perhaps you trust in a religious system whereby you work your way into a good position both here and after death. You hope that your “good works” are more than your evil deeds. Each of these fall short. Within every false hope lies the trust in one’s self. Instead of faltering, we should trust in a source that cannot be moved— Jesus’ finished work on the cross.

David had such a trust. Realizing the blessing afforded him by God, he praises his source

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

of hope. David saw a bright future, a healthy body, and a promising career but understood it could all be gone in an instant. He looked beyond the fleeting moments of his short life and trusted His God. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible character in column 1 with their deed answer in column 2.

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Peter            | A. Ate locust and honey           |
| Mark 14:67-68           |                                   |
| ___ 2. Moses            | B. Banished to the Isle of Patmos |
| Ex. 2:11-12             |                                   |
| ___ 3. John the Baptist | C. Denied Jesus                   |
| Matt. 3:1-4             |                                   |
| ___ 4. John the Apostle | D. Killed an Egyptian             |
| Rev. 1:9                | tian                              |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Grace is the free, undeserved goodness and favor of God to mankind."

~Matthew Henry



Morning: Job 35-37

Evening: Acts 14

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death.”*  
*Romans 7:24*

Our prisons are full of men that fit this verse, but so are our churches. It is amazing. This verse is speaking of the great Apostle Paul. He recognized that he was wretched. He was so wretched that no man could deliver him from death, no one except the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans seven, beginning at verse fifteen, Paul describes his repeated failure, doing things he knew were wrong and not doing what he knew was right. There was a constant battle between his sin nature and his new nature in Christ. It is the battle that every born again believer must face, until the day the Lord takes us home.

Never in my life have I tackled a more impossible task. Even though I sin less today than when I was a young believer, today I am more sensitive to sin and disappoint myself almost on a daily basis. It is only in the precious blood of Jesus that I can approach the throne boldly and be in the presence of the Holiest.

When sin is committed, immediate confession of the sin is needed to restore fellowship with God. My relationship with God has not changed; He is still my Savior, but my fellowship with Him is broken. Confession to God brings forgiveness and cleansing. There is no such thing as a believer who does not sin. However, as believers, we should sin much less. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Initially, Abraham asked God to spare Sodom if he could find 50 righteous people. Genesis 18:26
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Three angels sat in the gate of Sodom with Lot in Genesis 19:1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. When Lot was fleeing Sodom his wife looked back and turned into a flame of fire. Genesis 19:26
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Lord rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom. Genesis 19:24
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Abraham circumcised Issac on the eighth day after his birth. Genesis 21:4
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Hagar took a wife for her son, Ishmael, out of the land of Egypt. Genesis 21:9-21

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives.”

~Charles Spurgeon



Morning: Job 38, 39

Evening: Acts 15:1-21

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Jesus, A Servant**

*“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45*

Read Mark 10

This is the key verse in the book of Mark. Yes, Jesus is the King. He is the Son of God, but He was also a servant. Did He not say that the servant was the greatest of all?

The Apostle Paul in many of his epistles begins simply by saying, “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ.” He could have said, “Paul, a Christian leader” or “Paul, an outstanding missionary” or “Paul, a great preacher,” but the greatest title of all is the title of servant.

There are many people in the Bible and in history who were servants first and then became leaders. Elisha was a servant to Elijah until he became a great leader. Paul was a servant to Barnabas until he became a great leader.

Billy Sunday, a professional baseball of the late 1800’s, became a Christian in 1886. After his salvation, he became an assistant, a helper, and a sort of jack of all trades for J. Wilbur Chapman. Then, in 1896, God opened the door for Billy Sunday to become an evangelist. Surely, God used that special time of service in Sunday’s life to prepare him for the road ahead in his evangelistic outreach.

There is nothing that prepares one for success in life like a willingness to serve! ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_; my God, my \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. What was the name of the tower where God confused the common language and scattered people across the earth?  
A. Tower of Siloam (Luke 14:4)  
B. Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:7-9)  
C. Tower of the Hundred (Neh. 3:1)  
D. Tower of Shechem (Judges 9:49)
2. What gift did Jacob give Joseph that his brothers later took from him?  
Gen. 37:3, 23  
A. A colorful robe  
B. His father’s staff  
C. A wife  
D. A sword made of gold
1. What baby was put into a basket and floated down the Nile river?  
Exodus 2:1-10  
A. Saul  
B. Jesus  
C. Elijah  
D. Moses

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."

~C. S. Lewis

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Who's Afraid of Sand Traps?**

*“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44*

“OH NO—not a sand trap! That dreaded magnetic force has caught my ball, and now I am doomed.” Why is the average golfer afraid of the sand? Could it be that he has been there before and unsuccessfully tried to get out, so just the mention of landing a shot in the sand causes the player great fear? How does the player erase this fear and get on with a successful exit from the sand? He must know the truth; the truth is that if we know how to play the shot, the sand must give up the ball. Having confidence in a specially designed sand-wedge and practicing the right techniques cause the sand trap to surrender to us.

So it is in our Christian walk. Satan has planted many traps to bring fear and hinder our journey from Earth to Heaven. (1 Pt. 5:8) Fear is the opposite of faith. The more we fear, the more we believe the Devil's lies. So, faith is to believe God's promises. If we know the truth, we can be set free from the wicked one's traps. In comparison, the sand trap is to the golfer what Satan's lies are to the Christian, and that is unnecessary fear.

Crowding out fear requires us to place our confidence in God's Word, claiming His promises and realizing nothing is impossible with God. Secondly, to erase fear, we must trust

God. (Isaiah 12:2)

If we fear God, we have nothing else to fear. Fearlessness is the result of perfect love. (1 John 4:18) So, who is afraid of the big bad sand trap, or who is afraid of the Devil's lies? ~JWL

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_; my God, my \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I will \_\_\_\_\_; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. How many different color horses are there in Revelation 6? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What will God wipe away in Revelation 7:17? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many churches are in Revelation chapters 2 and 3? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where were the Disciples first called Christians? Acts 11:26 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials. ~George Muller



Morning: Psalm 1-3

Evening: Acts 16:1-15

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Faith**

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Webster’s dictionary states that to walk by faith is “To live in the firm belief of the Gospel and its promises” and “To rely on Christ for salvation.” The latter part of the verse *not by sight*, simply means not seeing with our eyes. If we see with our eyes, we are never satisfied with what we see. If we truly walk by faith, we are content with what we have and where God has us right now. When we walk by faith, all of our trials and tribulations seem a lot easier to handle.

Hebrews 11 tells about Biblical heroes that walked by faith. Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice. Enoch was raptured by God. Noah built the ark. Abraham went forth to a land he knew not and offered up Isaac. Sarah conceived in her old age. Moses chose not to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Rahab helped the spies. There are so many more Old Testament heroes that looked toward the cross and the promise of God in salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* (Hebrews 11:6) I challenge you today to have faith so you can please the One who died for you. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Psalm 18:2 “The LORD is my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_, and my \_\_\_\_\_; my God, my \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I will \_\_\_\_\_; my buckler, and the horn of my \_\_\_\_\_, and my high tower.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Who Said It?** Fill in the blank to name the person who made the statement.

1. “Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.” Genesis 45:4-5 \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan; and take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt....” Genesis 45:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Ex. 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

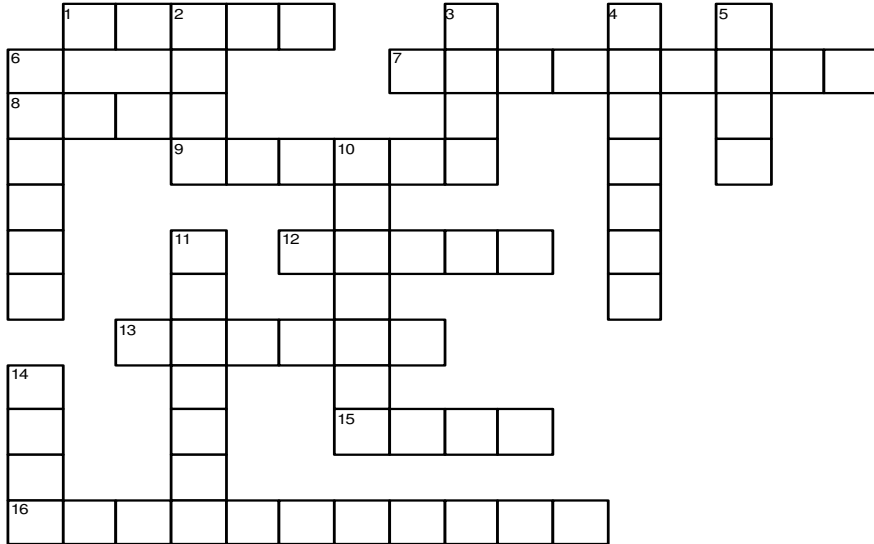
“Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it.” ~Blaise Pascal



Morning: Psalm 4-6

Evening: Acts 16:16-40

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE "TRUST"



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

### ACROSS

- 1 "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust: I will not fear what \_\_\_\_ can do unto me." (Ps. 56:4)
- 7 "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to \_\_\_\_." (Ps. 71:1)
- 8 "In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, \_\_\_\_ as a bird to your mountain?" (Ps. 11:1)
- 9 "Every word of God is pure: he is a \_\_\_\_ unto them that put their trust in him." (Prov. 30:5)
- 12 "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me \_\_\_\_ be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness." (Ps. 31:1)
- 13 "Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot \_\_\_\_." (Jer. 7:8)
- 15 "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that \_\_\_\_ thee." (Ps. 9:10)
- 16 "Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is \_\_\_\_ strength." (Is. 26:4)

### DOWN

- 2 "But mine \_\_\_\_ are unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute." (Ps. 141:8)
- 3 "I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the \_\_\_\_." (Ps. 31:6)
- 4 "The heart of her \_\_\_\_ doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." (Prov. 31:11)
- 5 "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I \_\_\_\_ maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15)
- 6 "What time I am \_\_\_\_, I will trust in thee." (Ps. 56:3)
- 10 "O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine \_\_\_\_ triumph over me." (Ps. 25:2)
- 11 "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God \_\_\_\_ and ever." (Ps. 52:8)
- 14 "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be \_\_\_\_." (Prov. 29:25)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12**

As we come to the end of God’s inspired revelation, we are confronted with a great reminder. It is as if God wanted this thought to echo through our minds, continually influencing our lives until we experience His return. The verse naturally breaks down into three parts—when He will come, what He will bring, why He will bring it.

First, He encourages us concerning the speed at which He will return. “I come quickly.” This statement reminds us that we must always be ready. He is coming sooner than we think. He will come unexpectedly. We will be busily going about our seemingly important events when suddenly the most important event of all time will take place. We will experience the coming of our Savior. Are you ready? He promised that He is coming quickly. Ready or not, here He comes.

The next thing to consider regarding His coming is that He will have rewards for us. Our faithfulness will be revealed by the rewards that we will or will not receive. There will not be one sacrifice made for His glory that will not be addressed by our Savior. No suffering for the kingdom will go unnoticed. God will make everything right according to His holy and righteous judgment.

Finally, notice that these rewards will not be haphazardly awarded. They will be personally given to us by our Lord according to our individual efforts. He is coming soon. Will you have a reward to receive at His coming? ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible story in column 1 with the book in which it is found in column 2.

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| ___ 1. Creation Story   | A. Daniel 3  |
| ___ 2. Fall of Jericho  | B. Luke 15   |
| ___ 3. David & Goliath  | C. Heb. 11   |
| ___ 4. Ten Commandments | D. Joshua 6  |
| ___ 5. Prodigal Son     | E. 1 Cor. 13 |
| ___ 6. Faith Chapter    | F. Exodus 20 |
| ___ 7. Love Chapter     | G. Genesis 1 |
| ___ 8. Fiery Furnace    | H. 1 Sam. 17 |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Christ at His first coming appeared in order to save men from condemnation and a sentence of eternal misery ...But the great business He will come upon at His second coming is to judge the world.”

~ Jonathan Edwards,



Morning: Psalm 7-9

Evening: Acts 17:1-15

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”**  
Ephesians 2:8-9

What is the greatest gift that you have ever received? When I think back on the many different gifts that I have received for Christmas and birthdays, several gifts come to mind. In 1986, I began to collect baseball cards. For my birthday in 1987, I remember opening a gift from my father and finding an unopened box of 1987 Topps baseball cards. I was overjoyed. About the time I opened the box, my dad left the room. “Strange,” I thought. When he returned, he was holding another unopened box of 1987 Topps baseball cards that he had forgotten to wrap. I am sure he saw my eyes light up like never before. I am told that when I got the “Snake Eyes” GI Joe character for Christmas, I was overwhelmed. I have been given tickets to sports events, items for my house, and a variety of different old baseball items. One thing is true about each gift. I did nothing to earn the gift nor paid anything to obtain it. If I had, it would not have been a gift.

In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Apostle Paul reminds us that the only reason why any of us have received the gift of salvation from sin and Hell, was due to the undeserved grace of God. To make sure that no one could brag about how good he was, God decided that the way to Heaven would not come through good works, but through the gracious gift of God received by simple faith in His Son. The baseball cards were nice. Snake Eyes, classic. Items for the house, practical; but my greatest gift, salvation, is eternal. ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ishmael became an archer.  
Genesis 16:15; 21:20
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In Genesis 22:2, God told Abraham to take Isaac to Mt. Moriah and offer him up as a burnt offering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Abraham said, “My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.” Genesis 22:8
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sarah, Abraham’s wife, was 150 years old when she died. Gen. 23:1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Leah, and Jacob were all buried in the same burial grounds. Genesis: 23:19, 25:9, 49:30-31, 50:13-14
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Abraham had a servant called Eliam. Genesis 15:2

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"All roads lead to the judgment seat of Christ." ~Keith Green



Morning: Psalm 10-12

Evening: Acts 17:16-34

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you...pray for them which despitefully use you.” Matthew 5:44*

Christ tells us to pray for our enemies. That is a bitter pill. It is easy for me to pray for the peace of Israel, for the sick of my church, for my family, and certainly for the lost. Praying for those who stand against me is an entirely different thing. It seems to violate our very basic human nature. If something hurts us, we seek to avoid it, not to embrace it. We swerve to keep from hitting a car; we jump out of the way of a falling tree branch; we wince at the thought of getting a shot.

These are all human responses to pain and trouble. Scripture calls us not to respond like humans but like Christ (Phil. 2:5). Jesus did it on the cross. He even prayed for His executioners.

Islam calls on its followers to convert people to Allah. If these prospects do not convert, they are to become enemies and in many cases, can be killed. Other of the “great religions” call on their followers to reject those who reject them. Only in Christianity are believers instructed to pray for those, who oppose them.

Pray that your enemies efforts against the Gospel will be thwarted. Pray for the opening of their eyes that they would see Christ. In doing this, we heap coals upon the heads of those who would continue their opposition. We make our enemy a brother, and we further the kingdom of Christ. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any \_\_\_\_\_: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who was the King of Salem to whom Abram gave a tenth of everything he had? Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1-2
  - A. Abimelech
  - B. Melchizedek
  - C. Tidal
  - D. Kedorlaomer
2. To whom did God give the covenant of circumcision? Genesis 17:9, 10
  - A. Adam
  - B. Jacob
  - C. Abraham
  - D. Ishmael
3. In what form did God first appear to Moses? Exodus 3:2
  - A. An angel
  - B. Still small voice
  - C. As white as light
  - D. Burning bush

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The Gospel alone is sufficient to rule the lives of Christians everywhere...any additional rules made to govern men's conduct added nothing to the perfection already found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

~John Wycliffe



 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

**Living in the Present**

***“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”***  
**Proverbs 27:1**

Recently, my attention was drawn to C.S. Lewis’ book, *The Screwtape Letters*. Chapter fifteen speaks of the danger of living in the future. Yes, we should look toward eternity with Christ, but we should not dwell on our future on earth. The book is written from the Devil’s perspective as he tries to train a younger evil force. The experienced devil, Screwtape, gives advice to the younger one, Wormwood, about the tactics used to cause Christians to stumble. Screwtape says, *“It is far better to make them live in the Future. Biological necessity makes all their passions point in that direction already, so that thought about the Future inflames hope and fear. Also, it is unknown to them, so that in making them think about it we make them think of unrealities.”*

I would like to focus on this statement from the previous quote: “Thought about the Future inflames hope and fear.” As Christians, when we put our hope in desirable blessings, events, or opportunities that could possibly take place, we set ourselves up for disappointment and discouragement. Instead, all our hope and expectation must be in God alone. Psalms 146:5 says, ***“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.”*** Also, looking to future disasters or possible complications or problems robs us of the joys of today. Luke 12:29 says, ***“And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink,***

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

***neither be ye of doubtful mind.”*** In summary, Satan tries to divert our attention away from the present so we hope and worry about the future. The success of this tactic causes Christians to be less effective in humanity. Our focus needs to be on TODAY. We are not promised another day, hour, or minute. By living in the present, we can accomplish God’s purpose for our lives daily, not fantasizing or worrying about the future. ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any \_\_\_\_\_: for there is \_\_\_\_\_ other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. Who killed James with the sword?  
Acts 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was sent to remove the scales from Saul’s eyes? Acts 9:17-18  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who appeared with Jesus, Peter, James, and John on the Mt. of Transfiguration?  
Matt. 17:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

“We must meet the uncertainties of this world with the certainty of the world to come.” ~A. W. Tozer



Morning: Psalm 17, 18

Evening: Acts 19:1-20

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

**The “Woe” of Conviction**

*“Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 6:5*

Read Isaiah 6

This attitude is necessary for anyone, rich or poor, who has a desire to be used of God. We must see ourselves as little, weak, undone, and sinful. We must realize that we can do nothing alone in the flesh. God uses “little” people. Remember that the Lord said to Saul that He could bless him, but when Saul got “big” in his own eyes, God could not use him.

Why did Isaiah think himself as being unclean and undone? He did so for the same reason that anyone thinks of himself as being little and unworthy. Notice these words in Isaiah 6:5, “...for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” When we see Him, we think less and less of ourselves. The closer one stays to Christ, the more unclean he feels.

It is vitally important that we walk with God, and keep close enough to God so that we can see our own weaknesses. ~OV

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any \_\_\_\_\_: for there is \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Who Said It?** Fill in the blank to complete the question or statement.

1. “Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.” Exodus 32:22 \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy.” Joshua 5:15 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.” Joshua 10:8 \_\_\_\_\_
4. “The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” Judges 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"God is not silent. It is the nature of God to speak. The second person of the Holy Trinity is called 'The Word.'" ~A. W. Tozer



 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

**A Cry to God: Psalm Three**

*Lord, How are they increased that trouble me!  
Many are they that rise up against me.*

*Many there be which say of my soul, There is  
no help for him in God. Selah.*

*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my  
glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*

*I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he  
heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.*

*I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the  
LORD sustained me.*

*I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people,  
that have set themselves against me round  
about.*

*Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou  
hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek  
bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the  
ungodly.*

*Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy  
blessing is upon thy people. Selah.*

This psalm has been titled “the morning psalm.” It was written by David during a crucial period of his life. After King David’s sin of adultery and murder, he began reaping the consequences of his actions. His sin carried over to the next generation. When David wrote this psalm, he was fleeing from his son Absalom, who had overthrown David’s kingdom.

In this psalm, David cried out to the Lord. Have you ever written your prayers to God or recorded God’s provision and blessings through specific times in your life? My most

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

precious inheritance gifts are the journals of my grandmothers. Their love for Christ and reliance on Him is so evident. I encourage you to record how God meets your needs. Try writing your prayers on paper. What an encouragement it will be to look back and see how God continually met your needs!  
~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any \_\_\_\_\_: for there is \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ under \_\_\_\_\_ given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Which leader marched around the city of Jericho? Joshua 6:1-20  
A. Moses      B. Joshua  
C. Gideon      D. David
- Which judge, at the expense of his daughter, made a vow to sacrifice what ever came out his door first?  
Judges 11:30-39  
A. Samson      B. Tola  
C. Othniel      D. Jephthah
- In whose fields did Ruth glean behind the Harvesters? Ruth 2:3  
A. Obed      B. Salmon  
C. Boaz      D. Elimelech

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

"The law works fear and wrath; grace works hope and mercy." ~Martin Luther



Morning: Psalm 22-24

Evening: Acts 20:1-16

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.” Daniel 3:16*

These guys are amazing! They are having their faith put to the test. Seemingly, without hesitation, they told Nebuchadnezzar to take a hike. Can you just imagine the look on the king’s face? Smoke had to be pouring out of his ears. Those who were present when this conversation took place must have had their jaws drop to their chests, and their eyes must have been the size of golf balls.

Pride is a primary character trait of evil people. You cannot attack a man’s pride and get a rational response, especially someone that would build a monument to himself. How do you suppose the antichrist will react to those who do not bow down to him? I think he is going to be a little irritated. In fact, his response will probably be similar to Nebuchadnezzar’s—Bow down, or I will kill you. This is a picture of what it will be like during the tribulation, maybe even before. What a glaring contrast to the way our Lord deals with us! Instead of condemning us to eternal death, He humbled Himself and died for us.

Not only did these three young man stand for God alone, even though death was certain, but they did not respond in pride and arrogance. They responded in fear and reverence to God. I like these guys!

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” Daniel 3:18 ~JW*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there \_\_\_\_\_ in any \_\_\_\_\_: for there is \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ under \_\_\_\_\_ given among \_\_\_\_\_, whereby we must be saved.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Abraham dwelt among the Canaanites. Genesis 24:2-3
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Eliezer gave Rachel a gold ring and two bracelets after she watered his camels. Genesis 24:22
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Abraham was 175 when he died. Genesis 25:7
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rebekah had twin sons named Rupert and Raphael. Gen. 25:24-26
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jacob was 160 years old when his sons were born. Genesis 25:26

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Let the refining and improving of your own life keep you so busy that you have little time to criticize others." ~H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



Morning: Psalm 25-27

Evening: Acts 20:17-38

## The Bread of Life . . . Page 22

(Freedom continued from page 6)

The freedoms afforded to us in America do not even begin to compare to the freedom we have in Christ, if we have accepted Him as our personal Savior. Romans 8:2 says, ***“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*** Because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, we are no longer slaves to sin and bound for an eternal hell. Christ has made us free! If we were not free in Christ, we would be bound in sin, unable to get out of the mire this world offers. Romans 8:21 says, ***“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”***

However, the freedom found in Christ came at a high cost. In John 3:16-17, we see that God sent his only Son into the world, so through Him, we could have eternal life. The cost of salvation was the slaughter of God’s innocent Son, Jesus Christ. You see, in the Old Testament, when the law was broken, a sacrifice was required to pay for the sin. But, in the New Testament, Jesus Christ became the Lamb

who paid the price for mankind’s sin. Through Him, we are no longer bound by the law.

As Christians, we sometimes forget the high cost of our freedom in Jesus Christ, abusing the freedom by continuing in sins. Galatians 5:1 says, ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*** With the freedom afforded to us by God’s Son, we should be attending others, loving people, and serving with a grateful heart. Galatians 5:13 says, ***“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*** Also, 1 Peter 2:16 reads, ***“As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.”*** Fellow Christians, freedom in Christ came at an extremely high cost. Let us never forget or grow apathetic to Jesus’ sacrifice. Instead, let us take up the cross, and bear it!♦



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 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

*“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.”*  
2 Corinthians 7:9

In this verse, there is a distinction made between sorrowing and repenting. Repentance is a change of mind that will result in a change of heart and direction of life. Is there a difference between sorrow and repentance that makes a real difference? I believe that there are three perspectives that will affect true repentance in the life of a believer. One perspective that brings repentance is seeing sin the way that God sees it. It involves confession, agreeing with God regarding your sin. When we see sin as the evil that sent Christ to the cross to die that horrible death, we will be reminded of the significant price that was paid for sin.

Another perspective that will cause repentance is seeing God as He truly is. Throughout the Scriptures, every time we see someone come in contact with God, they are immediately humbled. We see it with Moses, Isaiah, Peter, Thomas, and the Apostle Paul. In the case of Paul, when he met Jesus in Acts chapter nine, his response was, “Lord what would you have me to do?” He was completely submissive to God’s plan, and that is repentance, when we see God for who He truly is.

The final perspective is seeing others the way God sees them. When people stop being something for us to take advantage of and start being someone that Christ loved enough to die

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

for, then we will treat them with the love and honor. If we have these three perspectives, we will have hearts that will strive to obey the Lord. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who stretched out his hand over the Red Sea to divide the water? Exodus 14:21
  - A. Elijah
  - B. Jonah
  - C. Joshua
  - D. Moses
2. What came out of the rock that Moses struck with his staff at Horeb (also known as Meribeh)? Exodus 17:6
  - A. Manna
  - B. Water
  - C. Honey
  - D. Quail

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

“Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you, Jesus Christ and the American soldier. One died for your soul; the other for your freedom.” ~Author Unknown

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10*

For many years of my life, my family would travel to Pennsylvania to visit my paternal grandparents for Thanksgiving. Every year, it was the same. After we would eat the Thanksgiving meal, I would go downstairs to my grandfather’s basement and into his workshop. Here, I would attempt to make different things out of wood, even though I did not have the knack for working with wood. One year, I made a baseball bat on his lathe. How I did it is really a miracle, but that bat was my workmanship, created by Paul O’Bradovic unto the use of playing baseball which I had before ordained that it should be used for that reason.

The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 2:10, reminds us that Christians were created by God for the purpose of doing good works which God decided a long time ago that this was the reason why we were created. If that baseball bat just sits on the shelf and is never used to play baseball, it has not fulfilled its purpose. If we just sit on the “shelf” and never do any good works, we have not fulfilled our purpose. We did not become God’s workmanship by any merit of our own; no more than that piece of wood became a baseball bat by itself. No, we are created by Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing good works. He can do great things through us if we will let Him. So, get off the shelf, and knock one out of the park! ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. Which tribe of Israel did Jesus belong to? Micah 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who dried Jesus’ feet with her hair? John 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who asked Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:27-31 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the wages of sin according to Romans 6:23? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did Jesus feed 4,000 or 5,000 men with loaves and fishes? Matt. 14 and 15 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Soar back through all your own experiences. Think of how the Lord has led you in the wilderness and has fed and clothed you every day. How God has borne with your ill manners, and put up with all your murmurings and all your longings after the 'sensual pleasures of Egypt!' Think of how the Lord's grace has been sufficient for you in all your troubles." ~Charles Spurgeon

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And the LORD said ...Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms.” Hosea 1:2

God told Hosea the prophet to go marry Gomer who was a known harlot. Some commentators believe that he may already have been in love with her. One question remains. Why? God was going to use the personal experiences of Hosea to show just how much He loved His people, the Jews, in spite of their continued pursuit of spiritual whoredom.

Each time that Hosea went to bring his prostitute wife back home, he demonstrated commitment, longsuffering, and a deep love for this woman who seemingly did not care. Fortunately for us, God treats us with the same tender, forgiving love. He longingly seeks us in our rebellion and waits patiently for our return, willing to receive us again at the first word of repentance.

Hosea sought Gomer even when she was unrepentant. Christ has the same type of love for mankind. In the midst of sin and even denial of His existence, Christ loves the vilest of sinners. Amazing! He loved us before we could even speak His name. “Thank You Lord for loving the rebellious and harlot people that we are.” ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS:

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blanks to complete these verses on the prophecy of Christ.

**Isaiah 53:1-6** Who hath \_\_\_\_\_ our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a \_\_\_\_\_ out of a \_\_\_\_\_ ground: he \_\_\_\_\_ no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ that we should \_\_\_\_\_ him.

He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we \_\_\_\_\_ him not.

Surely he hath \_\_\_\_\_ our griefs, and carried our \_\_\_\_\_: yet we did esteem him stricken, \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and afflicted.

But he was \_\_\_\_\_ for our transgressions, he was bruised for our \_\_\_\_\_: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his \_\_\_\_\_ we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone \_\_\_\_\_; we have \_\_\_\_\_ every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the \_\_\_\_\_ of us all.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“God always gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him” ~Author Unknown



Morning: Psalm 34, 35

Evening: Acts 22

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised.” 1 Corinthians 4:9-10*

If you want to be loved and recognized by the world, you will not do well as a follower of Christ. Christians who are going to be used by God will suffer more. In James 3:1, it says, *“Be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”* There is a real cost to being a vessel greatly used of God. However, remember this: those who suffer with Christ will also reign with Him. *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.” (2 Tim. 2:12)*

In today’s society, Christians are often considered fools. How could you believe in a literal six day creation? How could you give a tithe of your income to the church? Why won’t you drink; everyone else does? And, in society’s eyes, Christians sometimes appear weak, but in reality, they must be strong. Even though you are living a righteous life, you are going to be hated. There is no other group hated more by liberals today in America than Christians. The antichrist crowd despises the things of God.

My friend, contrary to what some false preachers are saying, the Christian life has many difficulties. I would not trade my life in Christ for anything, but rest assured, a strong testimony and commitment to live right will bring persecution. Stand firm, and love one

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

another; it will be worth it all when we see Jesus! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of many; and unto them that \_\_\_\_\_ for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible character in column 1 with his occupation in column 2.

- |                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ 1. James     | A. Preached around Colossi      |
| ___ 2. Timothy   | B. King in Jesus day            |
| ___ 3. Sosthenes | C. Pastor at Jerusalem church   |
| ___ 4. Epaphras  | D. Synagogue ruler from Corinth |
| ___ 5. Luke      | E. Co-worker of Paul            |
| ___ 6. Herod     | F. Tax collector                |
| ___ 7. Matthew   | G. Greek physician              |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.” ~Anonymous



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Satan Attempts to Destroy**

*“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”  
Nehemiah 6:3*

*Read Nehemiah 6*

Satan attempts to destroy, discourage, and defeat a work for the Lord. Here in Nehemiah, the enemy tried to distract the work of rebuilding the temple. However, the response in Nehemiah 6:3 is tremendous. The people of God said they were doing a great work and could not leave the work and meet those individuals who meant to do them harm or stop their work.

This is a great lesson for us! We should keep busy for God. They kept on building the wall. They did not come down and try to answer their critic’s lies. They simply continued to build the wall. There’s nothing that Satan would rather do than to have us get into a battle over some small attack, gossip, or rumor and to take our eyes off soul winning, church building, and doing the job God has called us to do.

The people would not come down; they simply kept building the wall. So, the work of God was completed, and God gave the victory. Satan was defeated, and the wall was built regardless of his attempts at intervention. May we dedicate ourselves to the task before us and not be hindered by all the opposition that Satan offers. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of many; and unto them that \_\_\_\_\_ for him shall he \_\_\_\_\_ the second time without sin unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Favoritism in parenting was illustrated in Genesis 25:28 between Isaac and Rebekah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Isaac told the same lie about his wife that Abraham did about Sara. Genesis 12:13, 26:7
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Genesis 22:5 demonstrates the faith Abraham had in God when God ask him to sacrifice his son.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One of David’s mighty men, Eleazar, had a father named Dodo. 2 Samuel 23:9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In 1 Kings 1:28-30, King David named Solomon his successor.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The true greatness of any church is not how many it seats but how many it sends!”  
~Author Unknown



Morning: Psalm 38-40

Evening: Acts 23:12-35



### Eye on the Ball

**“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2**

One of the big deterrents to a good golf shot is to see how good a shot you have made before you make it. They call it—looking up. Keeping your eye on the ball and head still is of the utmost importance in the game of golf. For the golfer to look up spells disaster and embarrassment.

For the Christian to take his eyes off the Lord spells disaster and embarrassment as well. We, who want to walk the walk as a Christian, must fix our eyes on Christ and keep them there. (Heb. 12:2) Looking unto Jesus is to focus clearly on Christ and to sustain a vision of faith. (Prov. 29:18) Peter did well walking on water until he took his eyes off Jesus and saw the boisterous wind.

There are three things that determine our ability to focus clearly. The first thing that helps us focus clearly is light. As Christians, our light is derived from the Word of God. (Ps. 119:105) How much light or understanding we have determines our ability to keep our eyes on Jesus.

The second is our distance from the object to be viewed. This involves our fellowship with God. (1 Jn. 1:6-7). How close we are to God is assisted by keeping short accounts with God. We should be always ready to seek forgiveness from the sin that breaks our fellowship with Him.

The third aspect that determines our ability to focus clearly is the medium, that is whatever



is between us and our Savior. You see, on a cloudy, rainy, or smog filled day, our vision is impaired. In a spiritual sense, because of all the debris that the world, our flesh, and the Devil offer to get us off track, it is hard to focus on Christ. We must continually look unto Jesus by eliminating whatever it is that effects our ability to see Him. ~JWL



Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of many; and unto them that \_\_\_\_\_ for him shall he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ time without sin unto salvation.”



**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who were the two spies who went into the Promised Land and came back with a good report? Numbers 14:6-9
  - Korah and Dathan
  - Joshua and Caleb
  - Aaron and Hur
  - Joshua and Moses
- Whose donkey spoke to him? Numbers 22:28
  - Eleazar son of Aaron
  - Balaam son of Beor
  - Joshua son of Nun
  - Shechem son of Hamor



“Prayer is like a computer—you can only get out of it what you put into it.”

~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Knowledge**

*“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:3-5*

Webster’s dictionary defines *knowledge* as “A clear and certain perception of that which exists.” Proverbs 2:3-5 tells us to cry for knowledge, to seek and search for it as if it were a hidden treasure. I know from personal experience that if I treasure something it becomes very valuable and important to me. God wants His Word to become very important to us. His Word will sustain our every need in life and give us insight into all life’s situations. Knowledge will give you an infinite amount of power to fight against Satan and all his demons. The word *knowledge* appears in 172 verses in the Bible. The emphasis placed on gaining wisdom and knowledge of God demonstrates the importance.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Bible says in Proverbs that fools hate knowledge. It says that they are scornful or defiant; they do not fear the Lord; they are brutish, and they seek to sin.

Colossians 3:8-10 tells us knowledge gives us a renewing of mind and spirit: *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*knowledge after the image of him that created him.”*

Oh, God is good! Let’s start today to gain the knowledge of the Almighty. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Hebrews 9:28 “So Christ was once \_\_\_\_\_ to bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of many; and unto them that \_\_\_\_\_ for him shall he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ time without \_\_\_\_\_ unto salvation.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible character in column 1 with the Bible chapter in column 2.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| ___ 1. Jesse    | A. 1 Kings 17  |
| ___ 2. Ishmael  | B. Judges 7    |
| ___ 3. Bathseba | C. Genesis 16  |
| ___ 4. Jacob    | D. 1 Samuel 16 |
| ___ 5. Gideon   | E. Judges 3    |
| ___ 6. Ehud     | F. 2 Samuel 12 |
| ___ 7. Elijah   | G. Genesis 25  |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are three indispensable requirements for a missionary: Patience, Patience, and Patience." ~Hudson Taylor

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.” Philemon 7*

I have always loved the affirmation that the Apostle Paul gives to Philemon in this verse. “The bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee.” If Paul lived today, he might say, “Your example of love is an inspiration to all of God’s people.” Philemon was the kind of believer that was refreshing to be around. The kind of person who always carries a pleasant spirit, meeting you with a kind word or at least an uplifting smile. He was not the kind of person that you dread to see coming, spreading their bad attitude, sharing their disapproval about the event that you are attending together, or making a negative comment about another believer in the room.

By God’s grace, I want to be refreshing to God’s people. I believe that God wants me to be. If I am going to carry the kind of spirit that will be refreshing to others, I need to experience God in a fresh way each day. I need the Word to direct me to the truth, reminding me of how awesome our God is and readjusting my focus from the temporal to the eternal. I need the Spirit of God to inspire me to live above the circumstances that I am facing if I am going to be used to refresh someone else. I need to take the spotlight off myself and point it at Christ. If I can share a kind word, a prayer, a note, an encouraging verse, God can use it to help others see him for who He is, and that is the most refreshing thing of all. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Who Said It?** Fill in the blank to complete the question or statement.

1. “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Acts 26:28 \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul.
2. “This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him. Matthew 14:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_ the tetrarch
3. “Give me here John Baptist’s head in a charger.” Matthew 14:6-11 \_\_\_\_\_ of Herodias
4. “What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.” Mark 5:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Prayer is the highest intelligence, the profoundest wisdom, the most vital, the most joyous, the most efficacious, the most powerful of all vocations.” ~ Edward M. Bounds



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.”  
Ephesians 2:19*

In my short thirty-three years on this earth, I have had the opportunity to travel outside of the United States on ten different occasions. During those different trips, I have travelled to seven different countries. In every circumstance, including Canada, I was put in a situation where I felt like a foreigner. (That’s because I was.)

In every country, the money was different, the flags were different, their way of speaking was different, the housing was different, etc. What was the same about each country was this: I was the different one. I was the foreigner. I was the stranger. The way I did things was weird and different; they were normal. This truth can make a guy feel out of place.

For the Gentile believers, the Apostle Paul reminds them that they do not have to feel out of place in the body of Christ. When they accepted Christ, they were no longer the foreigners. Jesus Christ, by His death on the cross, broke down the wall of partition, abolished the enmity, reconciled them to God, gave them access to the Father, made them fellow citizens with the saints, and put them in the household of God (vv. 14-19).

Dear Christian, because of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, you are no longer a foreigner when it comes to the family of God. Your citizenship is now in Heaven. You do not have to feel out of place in the family of God. You are no more a foreigner, but a fellow citizen with the saints. ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible characters in column 1 with his/her friend or relative in column 2.

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ___ 1. Paul      | A. Martha (John 11:1)    |
| ___ 2. Naomi     | B. David (1 Samuel 19:2) |
| ___ 3. Elisha    | C. Esther (Esther 2:7)   |
| ___ 4. Jonathan  | D. Ruth (Ruth 2:22)      |
| ___ 5. Mordecai  | E. Elijah (2 Kings 2:9)  |
| ___ 6. Mary      | F. Barnabas (Acts 13:43) |
| ___ 7. Deborah   | G. Aquila (Romans 16:3)  |
| ___ 8. Priscilla | H. Jesus (Romans 5:8)    |
| ___ 9. Sinners   | I. Barak (Judges 5:1)    |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The greatest privilege of earthly life is to give some fellow creature the blessed Word of God, and then try by loving speech and example, to bring home to the heart and conscience...the truths it contains."

~J. A. Broadus



 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

**“For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.” Romans 7:9**

People that have yet to be regenerated do not see the law as a source of their own demise. Many unsaved people view the law as suggestions. They may think that by keeping “most” of the law they will be okay. Ignorant of how they have transgressed the law, they fail to understand just how much their sin will cost them. As a child carefree of the dangers around them, they live never understanding that someday they will have to pay. Sadly, when they do realize, many spend the rest of their lives attempting to appease the law with their own filthy rags of good works.

All will one day clearly see the consequences of breaking the law. For some, it will be in the still voice that calls to them as they hear the preaching of the Word. In response, they will see their sin the way God does, and they will repent before any real damage is done.

For others, it will be when they have reached the bottom. Looking up from a pile of rubble that was once their life, they will call upon God. Here they will be face to face with the law and finally trust in Jesus’ blood atonement instead of themselves.

Both of these individuals are dead but dead only to their sin. They have met the law but run to Christ. In so doing, they live in Him.

Some will meet Christ at death having never repented. For these, death will be just beginning. When faced with the law, they laughed.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

Their sin grew and their debt yet unpaid will be called up. They will die in sin and spend an eternity in hell.

Paul explains this as he speaks of himself in this verse. As an upstanding Jew, he knew and followed the law. It was only as he met Jesus, the fulfilment of the law, that his eyes were opened to the truth. In his zeal for the law, he was dead. In his hope in the blood of Jesus, he was alive. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God is love. 1 John 4:16
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It is more blessed to receive than give. Acts 20:35
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. From dust we came and dust we will return. Genesis 3:19

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

“Jesus didn’t come to make a bad man good; He came to make a dead man alive.”

~Emir Caner

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Hope**

*“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”  
Psalm 31:24*

*“For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.” Psalm 71:5*

*“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.”  
Jeremiah 17:7*

Hope is defined in Webster’s dictionary as, “A belief that it is obtainable.” God wants us to be filled with hope. Trust is defined as, “A commitment to the care of.” God wants us to trust Him as our refuge, as a safe and secure harbor. He wants us to rest completely in His arms, as David did in Psalms.

We all have circumstances in our lives where we need to have hope, courage, and trust in God. Trusting, or placing hope, in anyone or anything other than God leads to disaster. You can trust God with all your problems and burdens. We all have unsaved loved ones, sick friends, relatives, and other acquaintances who need healing, have bad financial situations, marital problems, and on and on. The question is, “Do you trust the Lord?” I ask you—Who are you going to trust today with all your needs? I personally am going to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of many \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- When Moses died at the age of 120, where was he buried? Deut. 34:5-6
  - Mount Sinai
  - In Moab, but no one knows where
  - Mount Hor
  - Under the temple, but no one knows where.
- Who lost his livestock, servants, and ten children all in the same day, and responded by praising God?
  - Joseph (Gen. 37)
  - Job (Job 1)
  - Habakkuk (Hab. 3:17-18)
  - Joel (Joel 1)
- What city walls came tumbling down after the Israelites marched around them for seven days Joshua 6:1-20?
  - Jericho
  - Ai
  - Gibeon
  - Jerusalem

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“To come to Christ costs nothing, to follow Christ cost something, but to serve Christ costs everything.” ~M. R. DeHaan



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17*

The day of the rapture will be monumental! For those who believe, it will be glorious. For those who do not, it will be the beginning of the end.

Have you ever really stopped to think what it will be like here immediately after the believers in Christ are gone? First, there will be all kinds of accidents—cars, trucks, trains, planes, and boats.

What else? How will they be able to tell who is gone? It will be the ideal circumstance for identity theft. Great panic will break out all over the world. Phone lines will be tied up for days with people trying to locate loved ones. With all the accidents, there is sure to be black outs all over. Emergency personnel will be working 24 hour shifts. People will be going through your house looking for food, clothes, and whatever else they might need to survive, taking that which may be used to trade for life’s staples. The government will immediately take over everything. Banks and ATM machines will be closed while they try to sort through the mess.

Then, on top of all the chaos, the judgments will start, but these will not hold a candle to what eternity in hell will be like. If there were ever a time to pray for lost souls and witness for the cause of Christ, it is NOW!

*“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20 ~JW*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of many \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of mighty \_\_\_\_\_, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** What book of the Bible is between. Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. Proverbs — Song of Solomon  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Nahum — Zephaniah  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Daniel — Joel  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Obadiah — Micah  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Haggai — Malachi  
\_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow.” ~Theodore Epp



 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

**Keep Standing**

*“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”  
Psalm 1:3*

On a beautiful day this past May, I sat outside on my deck. As I felt the gentle breeze and heard the rustle of the leaves, I stared at the tall trees in my backyard. I began to think of the lives of the trees. They bud during the spring, endure the heat of the summer, collect the frost of the fall, and live through the cold winter months of sleet and snow; and yet, when spring comes around the next year, they bud again. What a wonderful picture! After the summer heat waves and the winter snows, the trees are still standing.

Our verse for today speaks of the righteous man. He will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water. What do trees do? They STAND. They endure the rough times of the year, and then they bloom for the glory of God.

God’s only requirement for our lives as Christians is to be obedient, which requires us to STAND during the various phases and challenges of life. You might not have the opportunity to reach millions of people for Christ. You may not have extraordinary talents. You may not be blessed with loads of money to help the needy or support a lot of missionaries. But, you can STAND. Stand for morality in this country. Stand strong in the face of temptation. Stand steadfast with your Bible reading and prayer time. Stand firm in your dedication to the church and commitment to witness.

As Christians, we become easily discouraged by not seeing huge results for our efforts. When our grandiose dreams do not come to fruition, we are left with a feeling of defeat and worthlessness. However, God has not asked us to conquer the world; He has asked us to be obedient. He commands us to STAND. He will do the rest. ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the \_\_\_\_\_ of a great \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of many \_\_\_\_\_, and as the voice of mighty \_\_\_\_\_, saying, Alleluia: for the \_\_\_\_\_ God omnipotent reigneth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**Who Said It?** Fill in the blank to complete who made the comment.

1. “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.” John 11:21-22 \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.” John 19:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

“It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people.”  
~Horace Greely



Morning: Psalm 62-64

Evening: Romans 1

Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

- July 1 Pg 2 1Nicodemus, 2Jesus, 3Adulteress woman
- July 2 Pg 3 1C, 2A, 3F, 4E, 5B, 6D
- July 3 Pg 4 1F, 2T, 3T
- July 4 Pg 5 1C, 2D, 3B
- July 5 Pg 7 1Aaron & Hur, 2Darius, 3Curse God and die, 4Benjamin, 5Nebuchadnezzar
- July 6 Pg 8 1Peter, 2Ethiopian Eunuch, 3Stephen, 4Simeon, 5Mary, 6Jesus
- July 7 Pg 9 1C, 2D, 3A, 4B
- July 8 Pg 10 1T, 2F, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6T
- July 9 Pg 11 1B, 2A, 3D
- July 10 Pg 12 1Four, 2Tears, 3Seven, 4 Antioch
- July 11 Pg 13 1Joseph, 2 Pharaoh, 3 Moses
- July 12 Pg 15 1G, 2D, 3H, 4F, 5B, 6C, 7E, 8A
- July 13 Pg 16 1T, 2T, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6F
- July 14 Pg 17 1B, 2C, 3D
- July 15 Pg 18 1King Herod, 2Ananias, 3Moses & Elijah
- July 16 Pg 19 1Aaron, 2Captain of the LORD's host, 3LORD, 4Angel of the LORD
- July 17 Pg 20 1B, 2D, 3C
- July 18 Pg 21 1T, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5F
- July 19 Pg 23 1D, 2B
- July 20 Pg 24 1Judah, 2 Mary Magdalene, 3Keeper of the prison, 4Death, 5Both (on different occasions)
- July 21 Pg 25 See Isaiah 53:1-6 in your Bible
- July 22 Pg 26 1C. 2E. 3D. 4A. 5G. 6B, 7F
- July 23 Pg 27 1T, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T
- July 24 Pg 28 1B, 2B
- July 25 Pg 29 1D, 2C, 3F, 4G, 5B, 6E, 7A
- July 26 Pg 30 1Agrippa, 2Herod, 3Daughter, 4Legion
- July 27 Pg 31 1F, 2D, 3E, 4B, 5C, 6A, 7I, 8G, 9H

**Trust In God**

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across: FLESH, L H W, CONFUSION, SHIELD, NEVER, PROFIT, SEEK, EVERLASTING
- Down: Y, R, A, I, D, S, A, F, E

**I Know He Lives!**

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across: SACRIFICED, BAPTISM, WORDS, HEAVEN
- Down: B, E, N, T, L, E, A, L, I, A, Z, A, K, E, H, T, H, A, Y, H, Q, G, N, Q, J, F

- July 28 Pg 32 1T, 2F
- July 29 Pg 33 1B, 2B, 3A
- July 30 Pg 34 1 Ecclesiastes, 2, Habakkuk, 3 Hosea, 4 Jonah, 5 Zechariah
- July 31 Pg 35 1Martha, 2Jesus