



the
bread of life
devotional

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not

September 1, 2010

Dear Readers,

As we put the devotional together each month, it is amazing to see reoccurring themes. As God lays verses and topics on the hearts of our writers, we pray that you are able to truly benefit and grow spiritually through this devotional ministry.

Please pray for our team. Pray that God continues to use us for the furtherance of the Gospel and the proclaiming of His Word!

The Bread of Life Staff

Wednesday

September 1

Walk in Step with God

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” Ephesians 4:1

What does it mean to walk in step with God? The Lord uses this phrase to describe the lives of people who have an intimate walk with Him. The following are examples: Enoch (Gen. 5:24 and Isaiah (Is. 30:21; 40:31). In Ephesians 4:1, Paul tells believers that they should seek to live in close fellowship with the Lord.

God calls every person to the following:

1. **Salvation**-Christ desires that all should come to Him and accept Him as Saviour. Rom. 10:13; Matt. 11:28
2. **Sanctification**-God wants us to grow daily with Him, maturing in Christ.
3. **Service**-The Lord has called each believer to serve Him in some fashion for their entire lives.
4. **Accountability**-We all will stand before Christ one day to give an account of the choices we made. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the _____ for the _____ of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Morning: Psalm 148-150
Evening: 1 Corinthians 11:16-34

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character to his/her description.

- _____ 1. Abital (2 Sam. 3:2-4)
_____ 2. Sennacherib (2 Chron. 32:1-23)
_____ 3. Hiel (1 Ki. 16:34)
_____ 4. Ethan (1 Chron. 15:19)
_____ 5. Eri (Gen. 46:16)

- A. A singer
B. Rebuilder of Jericho
C. Wife of David
D. A son of Gad
E. King of Assyria who invaded Judah, laid siege to Jerusalem, but abandoned the country and returned to Assyria

Quote of the Day

“I prayed for faith and thought that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” I had [up to this time] closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since.” ~Dwight L. Moody

Thursday

September 2

The Suffering of This Life

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
Romans 8:18

It becomes very easy to say that we love and trust God when everything is going the way we plan. We say, “I know all things work together for good for those who love God,” when the little bumps come into our lives. What about when tremendous devastation not only crosses your path but completely destroys it? What then?

That is when real faith becomes reality. That is when you lean hard upon Christ. And then, you wait. These are the times that in complete brokenness you lay down at the feet of God and cry yourself to sleep—feeling safe only because you know that He is there. These are the times when you can’t pray, but you are grateful that your Saviour already knows because He hears your heart before you speak the words.

Someday this will change. Paul (who by the way knew more suffering than most of us will ever know) pens these words to the Romans, telling them not to lose heart. He tells them that all the sufferings we endure here will be remembered by our Heavenly Father. When we have safely arrived in His presence and look back on the trials of life, we will say, “It was worth it all,” as the trouble we have seen vanishes quickly into the brightness of the SON.
~DJJ

Morning: *Proverbs 1-2*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 12*

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the _____ for the _____ of death, crowned with _____ and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. According to James 1:3, the trying of the faith works what in the life of a believer?
A. Wisdom C. Temptation
B. A way to Heaven D. Patience
2. According to 1 Peter 1:7, the testing of a believer’s faith is more precious than what?
A. Gold C. Silver
B. Blessings D. A Crown
3. According to Hebrews 12:2, Jesus is the _____ and _____ of our faith.
A. Subject, maker
B. Author, finisher
C. Completer, existence
D. None of the above

Quote of the Day

“A trial is an experiment or search made upon a man, by some affliction, to prove the value and strength of his faith.”
~Henry

Friday

September 3

Confidence in God

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.” Psalm 138:7

In this psalm, David is very confident that God will deliver him from his enemies. How can he be so confident? Look at verse three: ***“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.”*** David had seen God at work before in his life, and he knew that God would work in the present situation.

God has answered so many prayers in my life, prayers of guidance, protection, provision, strength, and peace. Yet, even though I have witnessed first-hand the miraculous answers to prayer, there are times that I worry or fret about situations.

When we face times of fear and doubt, it is very helpful to recall past answers to prayer. Dwelling and meditating on God’s goodness time and time again gives peace amidst current turmoil. In addition to thinking of answered prayers, meditate on God’s promises. There are so many in His Word!

Reflecting on answered prayers and meditating on God’s promises gives us more and more confidence in God’s ever present help in time of need. Verse six says, ***“Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly.”*** Even though God is perfect, sinless, and holy, He still cares about sinful mankind. Reflect on answered prayers; meditate on His

Morning: *Proverbs 3-4*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 13*

promises; live with confidence in your Creator!
~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the _____ for the _____ of death, crowned with _____ and honor; that he by the _____ of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Bible character to his description.

- _____ 1. Ahaz (2 Ki. 16:2)
- _____ 2. Hezekiah (2 Chron. 31:2-21)
- _____ 3. Jeroboam (1 Ki. 13:1-10)

- A. A king whose hand went paralyzed
- B. This king began his 16 year reign at the age of twenty, and he did not serve the Lord.
- C. This king restored the true forms of worship in Jerusalem.

Quote of the Day

“Look at that beautiful butterfly and learn from it to trust in God. One might wonder where it could live in tempestuous nights, in the whirlwind, or in the stormy day; but I have noticed it is safe and dry under the broad leaf while rivers have been flooded and the mountain oaks torn up from their roots.”
~J. Taylor

Saturday

September 4

Crucial Conversation

“Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.” Psalm 5:2-3

As a runner, I often have days that the last thing I want to do is run. An internal argument begins, and I usually have very convincing reasons why I should stay home and rest or finish some project. On good days, I forge ahead and go out anyway. When I return feeling energized, clear-headed, and relaxed, I never regret having gone.

This internal struggle and excuse making happens in my prayer attempts as well. I can find a thousand reasons why I do not have time to pray, but *after* I have spent time with God, I never say, “I wish I wouldn’t have prayed; I could have used my time better.” Instead, I marvel at how I feel peaceful, strengthened, and ready to do God’s will. If I had listened to that inner voice telling me to rush on with my day, then I would possibly have missed out on the power and direction I needed to live that day well. Prayer is rarely urgent from the perspective of life tasks, but in the realm of spiritual life, it is of utmost importance.

The next time excuses fill our minds for why we cannot pray we must remember that the less we *feel* like talking to God, the more we may *need* to talk to God. Prayer spurs on prayer. If it has been awhile since you have taken time to talk to God, get alone with Him today. He is listening. ~AJD

Morning: *Proverbs 5-6*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 14:1-20*

Scripture Fill-In

“But we see _____, who was made a little lower than the _____ for the _____ of death, crowned with _____ and honor; that he by the _____ of God should taste _____ for every man.”
Hebrews 2:9

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: When was the last time you took an extended period of time to pray? After talking with your Saviour, write a few brief lines about your time with God.

Quote of the Day

“My own soul's conviction is that prayer is the grandest power in the entire universe, that it has a more omnipotent force than electricity, attraction, gravitation, or any other of those other secret forces which men have called by name, but which they do not understand.”
~Spurgeon

Sunday

September 5

Inner Most Affection

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
1 John 2:15

“Love.” What is love? The word gets misused so often. The theologian knows “aeros,” “phileo” and “agape” loves. The heart sick teenager knows “puppy” love. The PETA worker knows “love” for animals. The husband is to “love” his wife. The glutton “loves” food. In the 1960’s, the world was told that “all we need is love.” The Bible tells us that “God is love.” So, when we read 1 John 2:15 and are told not to “love” the world, what is it that we are not to do? Simply put, we are given a command not to “love” two things: the world and the things of the world. In this case, the word “love” means that we are not to “welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly, to be well pleased, to be contented at or with.”

Such a passage, requires a self-examination. Of what are you fond? What is it that you entertain or love dearly? What is it that you “welcome” into your life? The Apostle John reminds us that, as a Christian, we are not to be fond of the world or the things of the world. We are not to entertain or be well pleased with the world or the things of the world. After his initial command, John reveals a conflict. If you love (are fond of, welcome, entertain or are contented with) the world or the things of the world, the love (affection, benevolence or brotherly love) of the Father is not in you. To entertain the world and the things thereof veri-

Morning: *Proverbs 7-8*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 14:21-40*

fies that the affection of the Father is not in you. So, who or what do you love? The honest answer to that question will reveal your inner most affection. May your one true love be Jesus Christ and any desire for the world and the things of it pale in your love for the Father.
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete 1 John 2:15-17.

“(1)_____ not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the (2)_____ of the flesh, and the lust of the (3)_____, and the (4)_____ of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world (5)_____ away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth (6)_____.”

Quote of the Day

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
~Jesus (John 14:15)

Monday

September 6

Earthen Vessels

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7

What a great verse! Let me point out three important truths that I find in this verse—a treasure, earthen vessels, and God’s excellent power. First, there is a treasure mentioned—a treasure that every saved person possesses. It is the treasure of the knowledge of the Gospel. All around the world there are those who are blinded by Satan so that they are unable to see the incredible truth that enables us to be saved. We are blessed to have the treasure of the Gospel entrusted to us. If Satan’s goal is to blind and to deceive, how much more should we be about the business of revealing the treasure of eternal salvation?

This verse also speaks of earthen vessels. The earthen vessels are the frail and imperfect fleshly bodies in which we live. Why God chose to put such a priceless treasure into such a flawed vessel is beyond me. Nevertheless, we are the vessels that carry the Gospel message. Because we have such a tremendous honor, we must make sure that we are empty of anything that would hinder the Gospel’s influence. We must be set aside and ready for the master’s use. Because we are only earthen vessels who carry a treasure so much larger than ourselves, we must rely on His awesome power to enable us to changes lives. We need to follow His leading as He directs us into the path of the lost. His Spirit must draw and convict as we present the Gospel message. Only He can save a soul and change a life. We are just vessels

Morning: *Proverbs 9-10*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 15:1-32*

who carry an amazing treasure to be shared with a lost and dying world. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

____ 1. Hazael

____ 2. Nymphas

____ 3. Zohar

____ 4. Onesiphorus

- A. Elijah anointed him to be king of Syria. (1 Ki. 19:13-15)
- B. His house was used as a house church in Laodicea. (Col. 4:15)
- C. He was a helper to Paul. (2 Tim. 1:16)
- D. A son of Simeon (Gen. 46:10)

Quote of the Day

“More men fail through lack of purpose than through lack of talent.” ~Sunday

God's Simple Plan to Witness

By Sumner Wemp

1. Believe God. *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."* (Mt. 9:37)

When I hear people talk about how hard people are and no one wants to hear, I know they have not been planting very many seeds. I am overwhelmed at how people are so open to hear the Gospel. Oh, they don't all get saved, but I am amazed at how many do.

2. Ask for souls. *"Ye have not, because ye ask not."* (James 4:2) Please don't be carnal or judge me when I tell you I pray for souls EVERYDAY, and I am sure that is the main reason I see so many come to Christ. You can too.

3. Obey God. Be like Peter who said, *"We have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."* (Lk. 5:5) He caught the biggest catch of his life. Preach the Gospel to EVERY person you possibly can. Good Gospel tracts are the best way I know to plant seed and open the door to share the Gospel. Everyone cannot get on TV and preach the Gospel, nor on the radio, nor in a pulpit, but everyone can graciously offer a tract to the waitress, clerk, salesman, or anyone at your door. Just today, I saw again the lady I gave a tract to last week, and she got saved reading the tract and received the Lord Jesus in her home. She is still bubbling over with the joy of her salvation.

4. Give the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news - Christ died for our sins, paid our debt in full, was buried, rose again, and was seen by hundreds of people. PLEASE don't talk to them about church, religion, or doctrine; just give

the Gospel. If they are not interested, just thank them, and leave them alone. Just look for the ones God has ready.

5. Rejoice. *"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."* (Lk.

15:7) Someone has been praying for them a long time; they will be rejoicing. It will fill you with more joy than anything else you can ever do. Rejoice and thank the dear Lord. Now do it all over again with the next person you meet.

ATTENTION READERS:

On numerous occasions, we have included Sumner Wemp's articles in *The Bread of Life*. In this edition, we have included his biography, so you can learn more about his life and ministry throughout the years. This article is featured on page 24. If you would like to contact Dr. Wemp, the following is his information:

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Tuesday

September 7

Justified By Faith

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:11

Read Galatians 3:10-18

Some people live by the Ten Commandments, assuming this is what God requires of all good people. Very few understand what God really requires of those trying to live under the law. James 2:10 says, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”* There are hundreds of Old Testament laws. If you fail to keep one, you are guilty of offending all. Plus, if you fail to keep the law, you are under the curse of the law.

Can you find saving grace with God by keeping the law? No. No man is justified by the law in the sight of God.

Man is justified by faith, apart from the deeds of the law (Rom. 5:1). How can you free yourself from the works of the law? The answer is through Jesus Christ. Christ has redeemed us from the works of the law. He is the only way to the Father (Jn. 14:6)

Do you have a friend or relative that has been deceived by a work’s doctrine necessary for salvation? How can you help them? ~OV

Morning: *Proverbs 11-12*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 15:33-58*

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the place with the description.

_____ 1. Engedi

_____ 2. Rome

_____ 3. Kidron

_____ 4. Philippi

_____ 5. Decapolis

A. Paul sent Epaphroditus to this city. (Phil. 2:25)

B. The man whom Jesus healed from evil spirits proclaimed the miracle in this city. (Mark 5:18-20)

C. Known for its vineyards (S. of Songs 1:14)

D. Paul wrote a letter to the people of this city. (Rom. 1:7)

E. King Asa burned his mother’s idol here. (1 Ki. 15:11-13)

Quote of the Day

“Atheism is rather in the lip than in the heart of man.” ~Bacon

Wednesday

September 8

Opportunities

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:1-2

“Would you like to buy fresh brown eggs for \$2.00 a dozen?” the brown-haired girl standing on my doorstep asked.

“Where are they from?” I questioned.

“We have a farm out in the country where we gather them.”

“Sure, I’ll buy a dozen; let me go get some money,” I replied.

While the girl and her two wide-eyed friends waited, I went to find some money. Coming out of my bedroom with two dollar bills, I was met by a member of my family with a track in his hand. After paying my little visitors, I gave them the track and said, “I want you to read this.”

Opportunities. God gives us opportunities every day. We have the responsibility to be ready at a moment’s notice to do the job He gives us. Unfortunately, giving those children a track did not even cross my mind. Why? I was not looking for an opportunity. Thankfully, my family member was looking, and as a result, those little children walked down our sidewalk reading a track specifically written for kids.

Church, we have to look for opportunities. Keep your eyes open! God might just bring an opportunity to your doorstep. ~MFV

Morning: *Proverbs 13-14*
Evening: *1 Corinthians 16*

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points _____ like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: In the spaces provided, answer the following questions.

1. What are the commands given in 2 Timothy 4:2? _____

2. What are the commands given in 2 Timothy 4:5? _____

Quote of the Day

“When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart. Something new is added to your life supernaturally. You are transformed by the renewing of your mind. A new power, a new dimension, a new ability to love, a new joy, a new peace—the Holy Spirit comes in and lives the Christian life through you.”
~Billy Graham

Thursday

September 9

Facing Giants

**“If God be for us, who can be against us?”
Romans 8:31**

When David killed Goliath, he had not become a giant slayer overnight; it was a process over time. We are given an opportunity to face medium-sized giants before we face large ones. For example, when you are playing a video game, you must defeat an enemy at the end of a level before you move on to the next level, and each level’s enemy gets harder to defeat.

David defeated both bears and lions before he ever met Goliath. Remember David was trained as a shepherd. Part of a shepherd’s training is to learn what to do when a wild animal attacks the flock. David also had training using a sling shot. He probably spent hours slinging stones at different targets, using different sizes and shapes.

The challenges that you are facing today or have faced in the past are training you for a future experience. God will not ask you to face a giant without training—God will train you.

David’s victory over Goliath caused the army of Israel to defeat the Philistines. David’s giant slayer thinking was passed on to the army of Israel. If God is for you, the giants in your life pale in comparison to the mighty strength behind you. God will prepare you for the giants; rest in His all-knowing wisdom. ~AP

Morning: *Proverbs 15-16*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points _____ like as we are, yet without _____. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Thought Application: In the blanks provided, write the various challenges (or giants) you are facing in your life. Then, pray that the Lord will give you strength to conquer the obstacles.

Quote of the Day

“Every experience God gives us, every person he puts in our lives, is the perfect preparation for the future that only he can see.”
~Corrie Ten Boom

Friday

September 10

Knowing God

*“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”
Philippians 3:92*

Do you want to know God? Do you really want to know God? The Apostle Paul not only said that he wanted to know God, but he lived it. He placed himself in positions that required that his only source of comfort was Christ and his only solace was the hope of glory in Heaven. As a result, He was mightily used of God.

Paul understood that in order to really know God requires sacrifice, suffering, trials, rejection, and pain. That is why he wrote these words in his letter to the Philippians. He was saying for Jesus Christ to really be my closest friend and for me to know Him more intimately than anyone else I need to go through the fire with Him.

Fair weather friends are a dime a dozen, but those who know your deepest struggle and your greatest triumphs are the ones you love the most. Paul longed for this type of relationship with Jesus. He said I don't care what it costs me personally if the end result is intimacy with the God of the universe and the Saviour of my soul.

I wonder how many of us really feel this way about our relationship with Christ? Perhaps, He is fire insurance to protect us from Hell. Or maybe, He is our good time buddy when things are great. Paul was not content to

Morning: *Proverbs 17-18*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 2*

settle for either of these superficial relationships. Instead, he wanted to KNOW Christ even through trials so that he could truly know Him in His power. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points _____ like as we are, yet without _____. Let us therefore come _____ unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Yes or No: Put a *Y* in the blank if the event happened at Mount Carmel and a *N* in the blank if did not. Refer to 1 Kings 18:17-46.

- _____ 1. Elijah built an altar there.
- _____ 2. Elijah mocked the worshippers of Baal.
- _____ 3. The worshippers of Baal cut themselves until the blood gushed.
- _____ 4. Jehovah God provided a miracle in the sight of the people.

Quote of the Day

“Our lives are a manifestation of what we think about God.”
~Anonymous

Saturday

September 11

The Little Things

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28*

As you might know, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten. Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts. One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time. One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident. One of them missed his bus. One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change. One's car wouldn't start. One went back to answer the telephone. One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have. One couldn't get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning and took the various means to get to work, but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone . . . all the little things that annoy me, I think to myself that this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment.

Next time your morning seems to be going wrong; the children are slow getting dressed; you can't seem to find the car keys; you hit every traffic light; don't get mad or frustrated; God is at work watching over you. May God continue to bless you with all those annoying

Morning: *Proverbs 19-20*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 3*

little things, and may you remember their possible purpose. ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

“For we have not a high _____ which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points _____ like as we are, yet without _____. Let us therefore come _____ unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain _____, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- ____ 1. Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:16)
- ____ 2. Tema (Gen. 25:13-16)
- ____ 3. Timeus (Mk. 10:46)
- ____ 4. Zaccheus (Lk. 19:1-10)
- ____ 5. Shaphan (2 Ki. 22:3-14)

- A. A scribe of King Josiah
- B. His household was baptized by Paul.
- C. Father of blind Bartimaeus
- D. A short, rich Publican
- E. A son of Ishmael

Quote of the Day

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.”

~Corrie Ten Boom

Sunday

September 12

Great Weakness

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:10

There are multiple items competing for the top of my “Things I Would Change About Myself” list. Most of us have some weaknesses we wish would disappear and strengths we would like to add to ourselves. I sometimes get frustrated that God does not do the work in me that I would like Him to, on my timetable. *If I was free of _____ hindrance, my thinking goes, I could serve God better, and if I had _____ talent, I could bring Him glory with it.* Yet, I go on day after day living with my inadequacies. Paul says that he actually took pleasure when he could suffer for Christ’s sake. Whether we are suffering because of something we have brought on ourselves or because of external hardships, God many times uses these as tools of slow conformation to bring change. I have never woken up one day and been “fixed”. The slower process creates a gradual trust and dependence on Him that does not always come through swift intervention.

God is often glorified through those very things we want to change. In *The Fellowship of the Ring*, Tolkien writes, “Yet such is oft the course of deeds that move the wheels of the world: small hands do them because they must, while the eyes of the great are elsewhere.” Although God is capable of working in grand, sweeping ways and sometimes does, He often works through small hands and weak bodies.

Morning: Proverbs 21-22
Evening: 2 Corinthians 4

He moves the world in His great plan of redemption by ordinary people who demonstrate His transforming love and awesome power. We can rejoice that God can use us today, just as we are. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

“But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Which one of the following people does Paul not mention at the end of 2 Timothy?
A. Claudia C. Prisca
B. Titus D. Eubulus
2. On what island, was Paul shipwrecked?
Acts 27-28
A. Melita C. Sicily
B. Hamath D. It is not mentioned.

Quote of the Day

“You have received Christ; persevere in receiving him. You have come to trust him; keep on trusting him. You hang about his neck as a poor, helpless sinner; remain hanging there. Abide in him.”
~Spurgeon

Monday

September 13

Are You A Disciple?

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
Matthew 16:24*

In this great verse Jesus lays out the requirements of a disciple. He said that “if any man will come after me.” This means that being a follower of Jesus is a matter of the will and that every follower has the same requirements. What are these requirements? The first is to deny ourselves. If we are to be true followers of Jesus we cannot be preoccupied with our own affairs. We must set aside our own desires so that we can be available to obey His will. Our fleshly man seeks to fulfill his own will, that is why we are commanded to deny him.

The second requirement of a follower of Jesus is to take up his cross. The cross of Jesus was an emblem of shame and disgrace. He was mocked and ridiculed as He hung naked before the world to see. As followers of Jesus, we are called to suffer for His sake. If we are standing for Him as we should, the world will be against us. When we carry our cross and experience persecution as Christians, we identify with Jesus and His cross.

It is only after we deny ourselves and take up our cross that we are ready to truly follow Him. Following Him is what we are called to do, so carrying a cross and denying ourselves is not optional. Are you a disciple? Are you denying yourself? Are you taking up the cross of Christ, and are you following Him? ~DLW

Morning: *Proverbs 23-24*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 5*

Scripture Fill-In

“But _____ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”
Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

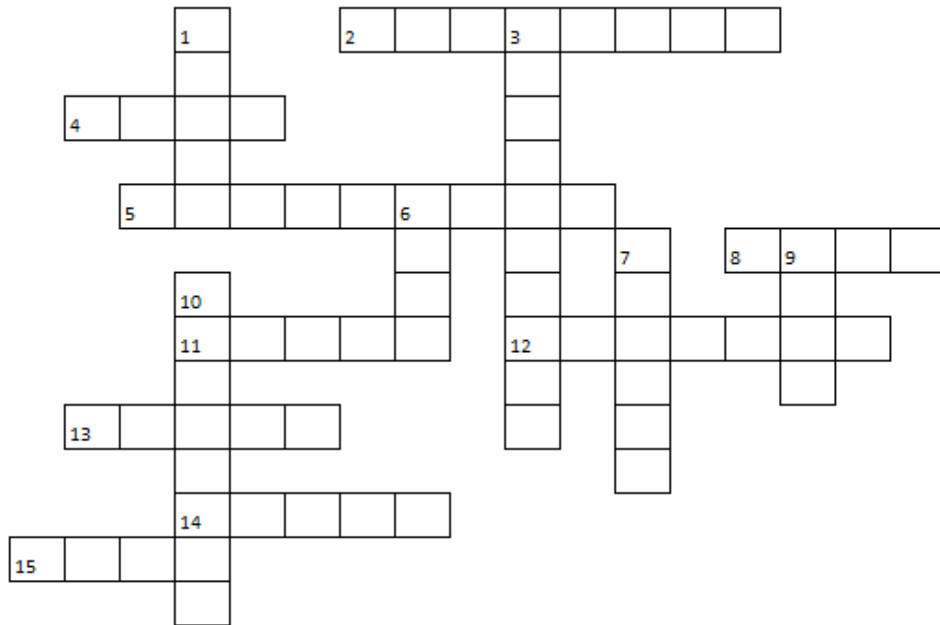
Thought Reflection: Is there something in your life that you need to deny in order to follow Christ. Are you taking up your cross and following Jesus whole-heartedly? Pray and ask God to show you areas in your life that need to change. Then, write in the spaces provided what God shows you and how you intend to change.

Quote of the Day

“Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”
~Ephesians 4:1

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Gideon: A Mighty Man of Valor (Judges 6-8)



ACROSS

- 2 Midian king slain by Gideon (8:21)
- 4 Gideon told Israel that the ___ would rule over them. (8:23)
- 5 Gideon's other name (7:1)
- 8 Material of the fleece used for a sign from God (6:36-40)
- 11 Came to Gideon who was threshing wheat (6:11)
- 12 This instrument was used in the victory. (7:16)
- 13 Gideon's father (6:11)
- 14 The cry: "The ___ of the LORD, and of Gideon" (7:20)
- 15 Came up from a rock (6:21)

DOWN

- 1 God used ___ hundred of Gideon's men to conquer the enemy. (7:7)
- 3 Gideon was chosen to save Israel from this people. (6:14)
- 6 Gideon destroyed his father's altar to this god. (6:25-27)
- 7 Gideon's servant (7:9-11)
- 9 Midian prince slain (7:25)
- 10 Gideon's tribe (6:15)

"Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

Wednesday

September 15

Puzzle Pieces

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
1 John 2:16

Do you like to work puzzles? Several times a year, (usually during Thanksgiving or Christmas break) the time will allow for the construction of a puzzle. Most of the time the puzzle will be brand new. As the box is opened, the pieces smell new; the dust from the pieces cut on the jigsaw are still in the package, and the pieces are neatly wrapped in a plastic bag. Occasionally, however, a favourite puzzle from the past will be dragged out of the closet. The corners of the box are split; several difficult sections are still pieced together, and the doubt of a complete puzzle creeps into the mind. As the puzzle is being constructed, an oddly shaped, yet brightly coloured piece emerges. It is looked over once and then set aside for the moment. Several minutes later, it is picked up by another worker and invokes a conversation. “I don’t think this piece goes to this puzzle.” “Me neither. I can’t find that colour anywhere in this picture.” I guess it fell out of another box.”

When putting together our life, all too often an attractive piece finds its way into our construction. The “lust of the flesh” piece looks good, but it does not fit our puzzle. John reminded his readers that “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” do not belong in the life of the believer. When we try to fit them into our life, the picture that God is

Morning: *Proverbs 28-29*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 7*

trying to complete in us gets distorted. Remove those pieces from your life. They are not of the Father but of the world. The command was to love not the world. The conflict is that the components of the world are not of the Father. What do you need to remove from your life?
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“But _____ being come a high _____ of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect _____, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. If a man loves the world, the love of God is not in him. 1 Jn. 2:15
- _____ 2. The pride of life is of the world. 1 Jn. 2:16

Quote of the Day

“There is nothing into which the heart of man so easily falls as pride. And yet there is no vice that is more frequently, more emphatically, and more eloquently condemned in Scripture.”
~Spurgeon

Thursday

September 16

Simply Believe

“And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:2-4

Recently, I was teaching the Bible story at Vacation Bible School at my church. I asked the question, “What happens when you do something bad?” I was anticipating an answer like, “I get a spanking or get sent to my room.” Instead, a four-year old yelled for the entire room to hear him, “You go to jail!” The adults in the room had to stifle their laughter, and I tried to continue the lesson despite the interruption.

Children are so impressionable. They believe what you tell them with unabashed faith. They simply believe. In our passage today, Jesus says, ***“Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*** Child-like faith is required for salvation.

As adults, we make life so complicated. Religious groups seek to “add” to God’s simple plan of salvation. We, as Christians, have trouble just simply believing and trusting God.

As a child, my mom had to work one Christmas at the hospital. So, our family celebrated Christmas the day before, on Christmas Eve. I truly believed that December 24th was the actual day of Christmas. In fact, I got in an

Morning: *Proverbs 30-31*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 8*

argument at school trying to convince my classmates the “real” day of Christmas. You see, as a child, I simply believed that the day my family celebrated Christmas was actually Christmas. Oh, to have that kind of faith in our loving heavenly Father! We need to just simply believe Him, believe His Word, and act accordingly. A famous quote seems fitting for the close of this devotional: God said; I believe it; that settles it! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“But _____ being come a high _____ of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect _____, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the _____ of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Complete the verse from today’s Bible passage.

“Except ye be (1) _____, and become as little (2) _____, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of (3) _____.”

Quote of the Day

“Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes are centered in anything short of God and his will for us.”
~Billy Graham

Friday

September 17

An Intimate Relationship with Christ

One of the biggest problems with people today is.....they feel their sin or sins causes Christ to NOT want to accept them. They feel that because of the types of sin in which they are involved that Christ would never forgive them. As a child of God, we need to reassure them that we were made in His image (Gen. 1:26).

Everyone has a **direct** relationship with God, even those who refuse to acknowledge His sovereignty. As the Creator of the universe, He sustains all humanity. The ones that have received Christ have a **distinct** relationship with Him because the Holy Spirit lives inside of them and their eternal home is in Heaven. Unfortunately, sometimes God's children allow their relationship with Him to become **distant**. They attend church, but they don't spend quality time with Him. As a result, they excuse sin in their lives and don't live in close relationship with Christ. Then, there are believers who are **developing** a personal intimate relationship with Christ-spending quality time each day with their Savior and growing in Him.

Do you have an intimate relationship with Christ? ~AP

Morning: *Ecclesiastes 1-3*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 9*

Scripture Fill-In

But _____ being come a high _____ of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect _____, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the _____ of goats and calves, but by his _____ blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the event to the place in which it took place.

- ____ 1. Israelite spies cut down a cluster of grapes. (Num. 13:16-24)
 - ____ 2. Abraham's native place (Gen. 11:27-28)
 - ____ 3. Prophets of Baal killed (1 Ki. 18:40)
- A. Ur of the Chaldees
B. Kishon
C. Brook of Eshcol

Quote of the Day

"If there be ground for you to trust in your own righteousness, then all that Christ did to purchase salvation, and all that God did to prepare the way for it, is in vain."

~Jonathan Edwards

Saturday

September 18

The God of Deliverance

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” Colossians 1:12-13

Wow! This verse is loaded! First, God *“hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”* Through Jesus’ work on the cross and the Father’s great grace, those who have become children of God receive an inheritance. They receive communion and fellowship with God. Plus, they receive eternity in Heaven.

Secondly, God has delivered His children from the power of darkness. He has rescued them from the state of sinfulness in which they were born, from the power of Satan, and from the eternal destiny of Hell.

God’s children have so much in which to be thankful! Paul opens these verses with, “Giving thanks unto the Father.” Surely, this should be a daily habit in the lives of the children of God.

Do you consider yourself to be a child of God? If the answer is yes, then you have received communion with God, the eternal destination of Heaven, and deliverance from wickedness. How awesome! Now, if God has done all that for you, surely, He is able to deliver you from the struggles you are facing today.
~MFV

Morning: *Ecclesiastes 4-6*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 10*

Scripture Fill-In

“But _____ being come a high _____ of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect _____, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the _____ of goats and calves, but by his _____ blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal _____ for us.” Hebrews 9:11-12

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: What struggles are you facing today? Write them in the spaces provided, and then pray and give them over to our God of deliverance.

Quote of the Day

“When God delivered Israel out of Egypt, he didn’t send an army. We would have sent an army or an orator! But God sent a man who had been in the desert forty years, and had an impediment in his speech. It is weakness that God wants! Nothing is small when God handles it. “ ~Dwight L. Moody

Sunday

September 19

Let Us Go into the
House of the Lord

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.” Psalm 122:1

As believers, the church should be an important part of our lives. In this verse, the psalm writer expresses his feelings about the house of the Lord. For one thing, going to the house of the Lord brought joy to his life. One of the blessings of going to church is the joy that we experience through fellowship, service, and worship. As we hear the preaching and teaching of God’s Word, we receive encouragement, as our understanding of Who God is and the salvation that He has provided for us increases.

The psalm writer also said that he was encouraged by someone else to go unto the house of the Lord. What a blessing it is to be able to influence someone to go to church. Being in God’s house has changed my life and eternity. That change took place because my sister encouraged me to go to church. Apart from leading someone to Christ, the best thing that we can do to help people grow spiritually is to get them involved in church.

What a blessing and privilege we have to be able to go to the house of the Lord. He invites us to come and be witnesses unto Him as we worship together. He promised that He would build His church, and that the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. We are to be part of what He is building. We are part of God’s unshakable church. He established it; together

Morning: *Ecclesiastes 7-9*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 11:1-15*

we help to build it each week. One day He will come back for the church. And when He does, we will all say, “It was good to have been in the House of the Lord.” ~ *DLW*

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).”
Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Bible verse with its reference.

- ___ 1. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
- ___ 2. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
- ___ 3. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

- A. 1 John 1:7
- B. Colossians 4:6
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:16

Quote of the Day

“A child of God should be a visible beatitude for joy and happiness, and a living doxology for gratitude and adoration.” ~ *Spurgeon*

Monday

September 20

His Ways Are Not Our Ways

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.”
Isaiah 55:8*

Over these last couple of months, I have said on more than one occasion, “I know God is right even if I don’t like it.” In my limited vision, I can only see so far into the horizon. Even with a telescope, my vision is limited by the manufacturer’s specification on the equipment.

God, however, has no limit to what He sees and knows. Nothing catches Him by surprise, and nothing good or bad is outside of His ability to allow. Even as His heart breaks to see us suffer, He knows that His plan is greater than we can understand. He knows that the more we draw close to Him and know Him the more we will be able to trust Him when we don’t see the coming dawn.

God’s ways are not our ways. His plan includes, in the lives of those He loves, things that through our human eyes appear so completely horrible that we don’t see how He could possibly be a part of them. We respond with the question, why? And sometimes, although not right away, He opens the curtain just enough for us to see a glimpse of His hand. Other times, He simply says wait.

It would be foolish and not truthful for me to say I see exactly what God has done and is planning to do with the turmoil around me. I do, however, need to remind myself that His ways are not mine and His thoughts not mine. He knows everything, and in comparison, I

Morning: *Ecclesiastes 10-12*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 11:16-33*

know nothing. My prayer for me and for you that read this devotional is that we can both trust Him and know that He is right even when we don’t understand or like it because His ways are not ours. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).”
Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

True and False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

____ 1. God wants us to make hasty vows before Him. (Eccl. 5:2)

____ 2. With the increase of knowledge comes the increase of sorrow. (Eccl. 1:18)

____ 3. After increasing in riches and possessions, Solomon concluded that those things truly bring peace. (Eccl. 2:4-11)

Quote of the Day

“The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is knowledge of our own ignorance.” ~Spurgeon

Biography of Sumner Wemp

Article from the website sumnerwemp.com

Sumner Wemp, at the age of 17, having never held a Bible nor heard "Jesus loves me, this I know..." was invited to church by Gene Gaskins. He went, heard the Gospel for the first time, and after three weeks, accepted Christ. He hasn't gotten over it yet.

After college and seminary, he enjoyed 13 wonderful and fruitful years of pastoring. In 1952, he wrote the first of 25 Gospel tracts and founded New Life Tract Society. Millions of his tracts have been printed and given away. All the profits he receives from his books and tapes goes to missions.

He served 8 wonderful years at Moody Bible Institute as Chairman of Evangelism, Pastor of Theology, and Director of Practical Christian Work. Then, he became president of Southeastern Bible College. After that, he served with Dr. Jerry Falwell as Vice President of Spiritual Affairs at Liberty University for 17 years.

Dr. Wemp holds a B.A. degree from Samford University, a Th.M from Dallas Theological Seminary, a D.Min from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a D.D. from California Graduate School of Theology.

His writings include *Teaching from the Tabernacle*, a 128 page book of 8 printings; a 203 page book, *How on Earth Can I Be Spiritual* which is in its 15th printing and has been translated into Spanish and Telegu in India. He has also written *The Guide to Practical Pastor-*

ing, a 278-page hardback which has been published in the Romanian language, and a 60 page booklet, *Fishing for Men*, with over 250,000 copies in circulation. Approximately 200 of his articles have been published in religious periodicals. He now writes a soul-winning column for "The Biblical Evangelist."

For the past 10 years, he has mentored 300 pastors, missionaries, and evangelists while in "retirement," and he still preaches, at over 80 years old, almost every other weekend all over the country. His latest "kick" is to challenge people with Jabez's prayer. Now, expansion to the Internet community marks his latest venture. If you have comments or suggestions, simply e-mail sumner@sumnerwemp.com. Also, you can visit his website for articles on encouragement, marriage, prayer, witnessing, and more!

**"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith."**

2 Timothy 4:7

Tuesday

September 21

A Special Bond

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:8

Recently, I visited Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. Literally, thousands and thousands of people pour in the gates to experience some of the greatest roller coasters in the world. After a couple of coasters and a couple of family rides, I was ready to eat. While standing in line for a taco salad, the woman behind me started making conversation. She openly started talking about the Lord, and there was an immediate connection. It was amazing that even though we did not know each other there was a special bond between us. We were both believers, and our faith united us.

Our verse for today gives quite a few exhortations for believers to fulfil to one another. First, be of one mind. Second, have compassion for one another. Third, love each other. Fourth, pity those who are suffering. Finally, be courteous. If the world saw believers treating other believers the way this verse dictates, the affect would change the world.

There is a special bond between believers. We serve the same God. We have the same purpose for living. We have the same eternal destination. Instead of arguing and fighting, believers need to get along and love one another. In so doing, the world will see true love, and in return, the world will see the love of the Father. ~MFV

Morning: *Song of Solomon 1-3*

Evening: *2 Corinthians 12*

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a _____ heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).” Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

Listing: List the seven churches in Revelation 2-3.

_____ 1. Rev. 2:1

_____ 2. Rev. 2:8

_____ 3. Rev. 2:12

_____ 4. Rev. 2:18

_____ 5. Rev. 3:1

_____ 6. Rev. 3:7

_____ 7. Rev. 3:14

Quote of the Day

“Take away everything I have, but do not take away the sweetness of walking and talking with the King of Glory!”

~John Stam (martyr)

Wednesday

September 22

Child of God

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” Galatians 4:7

Read Galatians 4:1-7

As a result of God sending His Son, Jesus, He provided redemption, adoption, and His Spirit. After reading today’s Scripture, answer the questions about being a son of God.

1. In what spiritual way is the child and the heir the same? _____

2. What is the spiritual analogy being made in verse two? _____

3. Has the fullness of time come to this generation? _____

God desires His children to know that He has freed them from the bondage of this world. Our personal relationship with God finds its foundation in Jesus Christ. He opened the door to being a child of God (Jn. 1:12) by simply trusting in Him. If you’ve asked Jesus Christ into your heart, you are a son of God. ~OV

Morning: *Song of Solomon 4-5*
Evening: *2 Corinthians 13*

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a _____ heart in full assurance of _____, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).” Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. The book of 1 Timothy was written by whom? 1 Tim. 1-2
A. Timothy C. Paul
B. Silvanus D. Matthew
2. “In the beginning was the Word,” are the first words in which Gospel in the New Testament?
A. Matthew C. Luke
B. Mark D. John
3. Which of the following Old Testament books is NOT considered part of the Minor Prophets category?
A. Joel C. Joshua
B. Micah D. Nahum

Quote of the Day

“Christ is the great central fact in the world’s history; to Him everything looks forward or backward.”
~Spurgeon

Thursday

September 23

Sights Set

*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
Colossians 3:1-2*

It is difficult to hit a target you are not looking at. As part of a rifle club in junior high, I learned to line up the small sights on my gun while keeping focused on the black dot in the center of the target. My breathing slowed, and everything in my being was concentrated on the black circle that filled my vision. Everything else was peripheral and fuzzy. If I allowed myself to be distracted by anything, I was likely to miss the target altogether.

In my spiritual walk, I sometimes focus more on what God can give me than on God Himself. He becomes the means I use to get what I want, but I have lost my concentration on Him. Recently, I found myself despairing over a disappointed hope. My desire for the thing I wanted caused me to lose sight of hope rightly placed—in God and His goodness. Hope and desire are natural and good, but when our hierarchy of hope does not have God at the very top, we are headed for empty grasping and disillusionment.

It would be wise to periodically ask ourselves, *do we want what God can give us more than we want God?* When I am so focused on getting what I want, I lose sight of God and the riches He has given me in Jesus Christ. ~AJD

Morning: *Song of Solomon 6-8*
Evening: *Galatians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a _____ heart in full assurance of _____, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies _____ with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).”
Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: In the spaces provided, answer the questions, based on the book of Jude.

- The book of Jude was written by whom?

- Even though the author could have said he was the half-brother of Jesus, how does he identify his relationship to Him?

- What were the three examples of wickedness given in verses 5-7. _____

- What Old Testament character’s prophecy is quoted in 14-16. _____

Quote of the Day

“The best way out of difficulty is through it.”
~Anonymous

Friday

September 24

The World Will Pass Away

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” 1 John 2:17

Do you know what “nitrocellulose” is? Maybe you know it by the name “guncotton.” Still do not know what it is? Ok, its most popular name is “flash paper.” Flash paper is a highly flammable compound formed by nitrating cellulose through exposure to nitric acid or another powerful nitrating agent. One of its most common use is with magicians. They will use it to distract the observers attention to allow for close up illusions. The key to the effect is that flash paper will quickly burn away without leaving any ash.

The world and the lust of the world is much like flash paper. It will pass away very quickly. All the ways that one can satisfy his flesh; all the material possessions one may acquire; all the prestige and fame that one may receive with all the accolades will, like flash paper, be short lived.

The Apostle John reminds his readers that it is not worth the time nor the effort chasing things that will not last. He also reminds his readers that the one who does the will of God abides forever.

It has been said that there are only two things that are eternal: the Word of God and the souls of men. If you are going to invest your life in something better than flash paper, be sure to invest in the Word of God and the souls of men. In the words of Jim Elliot, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain

Morning: *Isaiah 1-3*
Evening: *Galatians 2*

that which he cannot lose.” Make sure that you do the will of God; everything else is just flash paper. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a _____ heart in full assurance of _____, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies _____ with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without _____ (for he is faithful that promised).” Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Jude 20-25.

- _____ 1. Jude urges the believers in his final words to be soul winners.
- _____ 2. God has the ability to keep you from falling and to present you faultless.
- _____ 3. In the final verse, Jude attributes to God glory, majesty, dominion, and power.

Quote of the Day

“I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.” ~Spurgeon

Saturday

September 25

Afflicted for Glory

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”
2 Corinthians 4:17

Have you ever made a sacrifice as a Christian? Have you ever been mocked, made fun of, or out right persecuted for the name of Christ? Have you ever questioned if the persecution was worth it? The Apostle Paul experienced countless trials for his faith and for the furtherance of Christianity. I am sure that he wrestled with similar questions.

In this verse, he explained his Spirit lead perspective on the matter. What Paul realized was that it is a matter of our outlook. He made a comparison between earthly trials and heavenly rewards. Notice that Paul considered earthly trials as momentary light afflictions. He looked at heavenly rewards as eternal and of substantial significance. More than that, the trials that we face will produce a glorious and eternal impact.

What gave Paul such a positive perspective on trials? He realized that at the moment of our death the trials of this life will no longer matter. Ten years into eternity, I doubt that we will even remember them. On the other hand, the lessons that we learn from our trials will reveal God’s faithfulness, wisdom, and power. As we experience God working, our faith should increase. Increased faith should result in increased obedience. Increased obedience brings increased blessing, which results in exceeding eternal glory. So the next time you face a trial,

Morning: *Isaiah 4-6*
Evening: *Galatians 3*

don’t focus on the difficult situation, instead be like the Apostle Paul and recognize the eternal glory that the trial can produce in you. ~ DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“Let us draw _____ with a _____ heart in full assurance of _____, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies _____ with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without _____ (for he is _____ that promised).”

Hebrews 10:22-23

Bible Quiz

Where Is It Found?: Based on the clues, find the reference to the following verse:

“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.”

Clue #1: The book is one of the shortest in the New Testament.

Clue #2: It was written by an apostle to his friend Gaius.

Reference: _____

Quote of the Day

“I have four things to learn in life:
To think clearly without hurry or confusion;
To love everybody sincerely;
To act in everything with the highest motives;
To trust God unhesitatingly.”

~Helen Keller

Sunday

September 26

Take Care of Your Temple

*“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

As Christians, we are told over and over again that our bodies are the temples of the Lord, meaning that our physical bodies are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. This truth is shown in 1Corinthians 6:19-20, and we should take it seriously. We should let it motivate us to care for our physical bodies, keeping them in good health.

When God asks us to care for our bodies, He wants us to do so out of a desire to maintain His temple and to be healthy in order to serve Him. He has no concern whether or not we look like Jillian Michaels or Bob Harper. He didn't ask us to train our bodies in order to keep up with the world. That's actually a sinful distraction if we believe what Jesus said. Instead, we are to discipline our bodies and care for them in order to glorify the Lord with them.

~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

Morning: *Isaiah 7-9*
Evening: *Galatians 4*

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who was Aaron's wife? Ex. 6:23
A. Elisheba C. Elizabeth
B. Miriam D. Abi
2. Which of the following was NOT one of Aaron's children? Ex. 6:23
A. Nadab C. Eleazar
B. Chuza D. Abihu
3. What sin did Aaron commit in Exodus 32?
A. He made a golden calf.
B. He committed fornication.
C. He killed his sons.
D. None of the above
4. What happened to Aaron's rod?
Num 17:1-13
A. It budded and produced almonds.
B. It broke into two pieces.
C. It turned into a fish.
D. It disintegrated.
5. When Miriam was stricken with leprosy what did Aaron do? Numbers 12
A. He condemned her.
B. He interceded for her.
C. He did nothing.
D. He fasted.

Quote of the Day

“That which we should value in ourselves and in one another is the dignity of God's image and the great price at which we were bought.”
~Anonymous

Monday

September 27

Known By Your Fruits

“They went out from us, but they are not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” 1 John 2:19

Have you ever looked around your church and thought, “I haven’t seen so-and-so in a while”? They have not moved away. They are not attending another local church, but they are just gone. They used to be a Sunday school teacher, a choir member, a bus driver, a youth worker, or just a “good-old” active member of the church; but now they want nothing to do with God, nothing to do with the church, and have chosen a lifestyle that is in no way Godly.

Evidently, those to whom John wrote in his little epistle of 1 John had seen many “so-called” brothers and sisters in Christ walk away from the faith. Although it is not our place to judge such a person, the Apostle John reveals the truth behind the peculiar actions of a “former believer.” John does not suggest that those who walk away from the faith have lost their salvation, for it is this same John who wrote that when we believe on Jesus we have eternal life. Losing salvation is not the topic of discussion, but never having it in the first place is. John, rather bluntly, calls out those who “walk away from the faith” as never having really had true faith to begin with. Notice his logic, ***“but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”*** While true believers may struggle and even backslide from the faith, a just man will fall

Morning: *Isaiah 10-12*
Evening: *Galatians 5*

and rise up again. John reveals the true character of those who walk away from the faith as those without real faith. So, stay faithful to Christ for you shall know them by their fruit. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- _____ 1. Haruz (2 Ki. 21:19-20)
- _____ 2. Issachar (Gen.30:17-18)
- _____ 3. Ithamar (Ex. 6:23)
- _____ 4. Jaalam (Gen. 36:5)

- A. Son of Jacob
- B. Father-in-law of Manasseh
- C. Son of Esau
- D. Son of Aaron

Quote of the Day

“Faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason, but taking God at his word.” ~Evans

Tuesday

September 28

Christ's Broken Body

How was the body of Christ broken? John wrote that the soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves, but they did not break the legs of Jesus (Jn. 19:31-33). Isaiah tells us that Christ was subjected to the most severe beating and torture that made him nearly unrecognizable (Is. 52:14). Also, Isaiah 53:5 says, "***But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***"

When we take and eat the unleavened bread during the Lord's Supper, we must ask ourselves: Have I confessed my sins and asked Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour? Have I been healed by His stripes?

There is a connection between the broken body of Christ and the power of salvation through Christ:

1 Peter 2:24— His body was broken for us, to make a way—the only way to Heaven.

Rom. 8:10-11—The Lord lives in you; your body is alive.

Eph. 3:6—We are fellow heirs in the body of Christ.

Eph. 4:12—We are given spiritual gifts to edify the body of Christ.

~AP

Morning: *Isaiah 13-15*

Evening: *Galatians 6*

Scripture Fill-In

"And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto _____ and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

Fill-In: Complete the following Bible verses from today's devotional.

1. "Who his own self bare our _____ in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were _____." 1 Peter 2:24

2. "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of _____." Romans 8:10

3. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our _____: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Quote of the Day

"There may be some sins of which a man cannot speak, but there is no sin which the blood of Christ cannot wash away."

~ Charles Spurgeon

Wednesday

September 29

The Hope of Heaven

*“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for what we see not, then we with patience wait for it.”
Romans 8:24-25*

If I have a car in my driveway, my hope for a car is realized. No longer do I have thoughts of this thing that does not yet exist in my world. Instead, I touch it, look at it, and even get into that car and drive away.

Heaven is our hope. It is our hope because we have not yet been there. Each day that we live here (we that are saved) have the assurance that Heaven will one day be our home. We can have this hope based upon the promise of Jesus in John 14 where He says that He has gone to prepare a place for us in Heaven and that because He has prepared us a place He will come and take us to that place. He will take some Christians in death, but others He will receive in the rapture. In either case, we are filled with hope because of the promise.

One day that hope will be no longer required. One day when we have been called home to Heaven, our hope will be sight and Heaven will be ours. We will then no longer need the hope of Heaven or faith in Christ's return because in full measure we will know them both. Until then, let us live as those who have both faith in Jesus Christ and hope of our eternity. ~DJD

Morning: *Isaiah 16-18*
Evening: *Ephesians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto _____ and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves _____ as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Read the following verses, and in the spaces provided, write other names used for ‘Heaven’ (the future dwelling place of the righteous) given in the Scripture passage.

1. John 14:2- _____
2. Hebrews 11:16- _____
3. Ephesians 5:5- _____

4. 2 Corinthians 12:4- _____
5. Hebrews 4:9- _____

Quote of the Day

“That only is worth my having which I can have forever. That only is worth my grasping which death cannot tear out of my hand.”
~Spurgeon

Thursday

September 30

Free from Spiritual Bondage

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage.”
Galatians 4:9

Read Galatians 4:8-14

After serving fifteen years, in the state corrections institute, the released prisoner was asked if he had any desire to return. “After being in bondage for fifteen years, living under the guideline of other individuals, I’m finally free to do as I want. I have no desire to go back into bondage.” It was less than a year later that he was back in the state correctional institute in maximum security. He fell victim to his old habits and returned to bondage.

Some Christians have the same problem. Before they are saved, they are under bondage of the elements of this world (Gal. 4:3). God frees them through His Son, but they turn again to a religious system that places them into spiritual bondage. This bondage may tell them that church membership is absolutely necessary for salvation, or maybe they are required to worship at certain times of the day.

God freed you from religious legalism. He placed His Word in your heart. You are free from performing religious mandates in order to find salvation or to maintain it. God sets you free through His Son. ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”***
John 8:36 ~OV

Morning: *Isaiah 19-21*
Evening: *Ephesians 2*

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto _____ and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves _____ as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- ____ 1. After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Gen. 9:1
- ____ 2. The three sons of Noah were Shem, Ham, and Jesse. Gen. 10:1
- ____ 3. Tirus and Ephraim were sons of Japheth. Gen. 10:2.
- ____ 4. Ham was the father of Nimrod. Gen. 10: 6-9
- ____ 5. Shem was the father of the children of Edan. Gen. 10:21

Quote of the Day

“There is no danger of developing eyestrain from looking on the bright side of things.”
~Anonymous

Power Pellets, Mushrooms, and Spinach

By Paul O'Bradovic

Chomp, chomp, chomp, chomp...the little yellow pie-shaped man, with the enemy in hot pursuit, is maneuvered through the maze munching pellet after pellet. When the chase is too much to handle, he heads to the corner, chomps the power pellet, and his strength is renewed...look out ghosts!

Do...do...do...do...do...do...the little plumber runs through the maze, jumps over the snakes, giant Venus fly traps, and fire breathing dragons, dives into the pipes and breaks brick after brick. As one brick is broken, out comes a super mushroom; he chases it down, and "boink...boink...boink" he grows bigger; ready to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Toot...toot...the sounds comes from a corn cob pipe. The "one-eyed" sailor with disproportionately sized muscles and two anchor tattoos finds himself in a difficult struggle with his arch enemy. When all seems lost, out of nowhere a can of spinach is stuffed down his throat. As he swallows hard, his muscles begin to bulge, and his enemy is defeated once again.

Power pellets, mushrooms, and spinach...in the world of cartoons and comics renewed strength is just a maneuver or two away. If you can just get to the power pellet, the ghosts will run. If you can just catch that mushroom, your power will increase. If he can just find some spinach, his strength will be renewed.

But, as we all know, real life does not have power pellets, super mushrooms, or strength altering spinach. It does, however, have an enemy that is out to destroy, dangers that will zap our strength, and difficult situations which will leave us in the "all seems lost" mentality.

When we find ourselves here, how can we find the strength to continue?

When the Apostle Paul was faced with a continuous difficulty, he made three requests that the difficulty be removed. In 2 Corinthians 12:7, Paul describes his situation: "***There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me.***" Although we do not know the exact difficulty that Paul faced, he described it as "the messenger of Satan." Paul dealt with a difficulty that consistently "buffeted" him. In normal human reaction, he asked God to take away the difficulty.

All too often this is our desire in the midst of difficulties, and it seems like a reasonable request. But consider for a minute what the game of Pac-man would be without the ghosts. Just how fun would Super Mario Brothers be without the various enemies? Would anyone have ever read or watched Popeye if Sea Hag and Bluto were taken out of the show? Noted clergyman Phillips Brooks said it this way, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men! Do no pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for power equal to your tasks." Jesus Christ reminded the Apostle Paul and, forever through His Word, reminds you and me, "***My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.***"

When you feel that you cannot possibly continue. When the "ghosts," the "snakes," and the "Blutos" of life have "buffeted" the strength out of you; look not for power pellets, mushrooms, or spinach; pray not that your difficulty be removed, but rest in the arms of Christ for his "***strength is made perfect in weakness.***"

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle

Word Search

Bible Quizzes

Sept. 1 Pg. 2 1. C 2. E 3. B 4. A 5. D
 Sept. 2 Pg. 3 1. D 2. A 3. B
 Sept. 3 Pg. 4 1. B 2. C 3. A
 Sept. 4 Pg. 5 Answers will vary.
 Sept. 5 Pg. 6 1. Love 2. Lust 3. Eyes
 4. Pride 5. Passeth
 6. Forever
 Sept. 6 Pg. 7 1. A 2. B 3. D 4. C

Sept. 7 Pg. 8 1. C 2. D 3. E 4. A 5. B
 Sept. 8 Pg. 10 1. Preach the word; be ready at all times; reprove; rebuke; exhort. 2. Be watchful; endure afflictions; do the work of an evangelist; demonstrate the reality of ministry.
 Sept. 9 Pg. 11 Answers will vary.
 Sept. 10 Pg. 12 1. Y 2. Y 3. Y 4. Y
 Sept. 11 Pg. 13 1. B 2. E 3. C 4. D 5. A
 Sept. 12 Pg. 14 1. B 2. A
 Sept. 13 Pg. 15 Answers will vary.
 Sept. 14 Pg. 17 1. A 2. A
 Sept. 15 Pg. 18 1. T 2. T
 Sept. 16 Pg. 19 1. Converted 2. Children 3. Heaven
 Sept. 17 Pg. 20 1. C 2. A 3. B
 Sept. 18 Pg. 21 Answers will vary.
 Sept. 19 Pg. 22 1. C 2. B 3. A
 Sept. 20 Pg. 22 1. F 2. T 3. F
 Sept. 21 Pg. 25 1. Ephesus 2. Smyrna 3. Pergamos 4. Thyatira 5. Sardis 6. Philadelphia 7. Laodicea
 Sept. 22 Pg. 26 1. C 2. D 3. C
 Sept. 23 Pg. 27 1. Jude, brother of James 2. As Jesus' servant 3. The people brought out of Egypt that did not believe were destroyed. The fallen angels will be condemned. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire. 4. Enoch
 Sept. 24 Pg. 28 1. T 2. T 3. T
 Sept. 25 Pg. 29 Reference: 3 John 11
 Sept. 26 Pg. 30 1. A 2. B 3. A 4. A 5. B
 Sept. 27 Pg. 31 1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C
 Sept. 28 Pg. 32 1. Sins, healed 2. Righteousness 3. Iniquities
 Sept. 29 Pg. 33 1. The Father's House 2. A Heavenly Country 3. The Kingdom of Christ and of God 4. Paradise 5. A Rest
 Sept. 30 Pg. 34 1. T 2. F 3. F 4. F 5. F