



# *the* **bread** *of* **life** devotional guide

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

April 1, 2011

Dear Readers,

*“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”  
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

Happy Easter! The resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was the single most important event in history. God’s Son defeated death, and in so doing, He provided a way for us to live eternally with Him in Heaven. Now, that is something to shout about!

Celebrate Jesus’ resurrection with renewed fervor this year! Spend extra time thanking Him for conquering death. Go out of your way to share the Gospel message with someone. Dwell on the awesome gift of salvation. Celebrate for He IS RISEN!

Celebrating with you,

*The Bread of Life Devotional Staff*

# Friday

April 1

## A Servant

*“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.”  
Romans 1:1*

A servant is a person who voluntarily serves another or acts as his minister. Paul said that he was a servant of Christ, and he served Jesus Christ after his conversion on the road to Damascus. He preached in many cities and went through many perilous times to serve Jesus Christ. Here is a list of his perils from 2 Corinthians chapter eleven: “. . . *Labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*” In verse 30, Paul says this, *“If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.”*

After all the awful things that Paul encountered on his journeys, he wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, *“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it*

**Morning:** Judges 6-7

**Evening:** Luke 8:1-21

*might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 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.”*

Oh that we may serve Christ as well as Paul did through all our trials! ~KAH

## Scripture Fill-In

“Because thy \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is better than \_\_\_\_\_, my lips shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee. Thus will I \_\_\_\_\_ thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy \_\_\_\_\_. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.” Psalm 63:3-5

## Bible Quiz

**How Many?:** Answer each question with the numbers 30 or 40.

\_\_\_\_ 1. Judas betrayed Jesus for how many pieces of silver? (Mt. 27:3)

\_\_\_\_ 2. Jesus fasted for how many days and nights? (Mt. 4:1-2)

## Quote of the Day

“Troubles will come to you sooner or later . . . At those times you must hold fast to the fact that God makes no mistakes; He has not forgotten you.” ~Dr. Jerry Falwell

# Saturday

April 2

## Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

*“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference.” Jude 21-22*

This verse tells us to keep ourselves in the love of God, which implies that we can get out of the love of God. Being out of the love of God does not mean that He no longer loves us; it means that we stop letting Him love others through us. This verse goes well with II Corinthians 5:14 which states that the love of God constrains us, or compels us to live out our lives for Him. As we look at these two verses together we find that we are to keep ourselves in an attitude of ministry. We should allow ourselves to be used of God to meet the needs of others.

The result of keeping ourselves in the love of God will be compassion for others. The Bible tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the condition of the multitude. When we keep ourselves in the love of God, we will have compassion for others. True Biblical compassion will cause us to act and not just sit idly by. The Scriptures remind us that God so loved the world that He gave, and that Jesus was moved with compassion. The result of loving was giving, and compassion caused Jesus to move. That is why those who have compassion make a difference. They make a difference because they do something.

How about you? Are you keeping yourself

**Morning:** *Judges 8-9*

**Evening:** *Luke 8:22-56*

in the love of God? Do you have compassion? Are you making a difference? ~DLW

### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thy \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is better than \_\_\_\_\_, my lips shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee. Thus will I \_\_\_\_\_ thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in thy \_\_\_\_\_. My soul shall be \_\_\_\_\_ as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.” Psalm 63:3-5

### Bible Quiz

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

1. “By this shall all men know that ye are my \_\_\_\_\_, if ye have love one to another.” (Jn. 13:35)  
A. Children    C. Fruit  
B. Disciples    D. Fellow laborers
2. “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having \_\_\_\_\_ one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” (1 Pt. 3:8)  
A. Kindness    C. Empathy  
B. Compassion    D. Fellowship

### Quote of the Day

“Our Lord told His disciples that love and obedience were organically united. The final test of love is obedience.” ~A. W. Tozer

# Sunday

April 3

## Eternal Security

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” John 10:28*

Once saved, always saved! Once you have truly been born again, you can never lose your salvation. God gives the believer “eternal life.” It is not conditional upon future behavior, but it is always decided.

They shall “never perish.” A child of God will never burn in Hell, **never!** God has granted eternal life, guaranteeing that person will not perish.

No man shall “pluck them out of my hand.” Once God declares a man righteous, no man can take him out of God’s hand. Amen! The child of God is kept by the power of God (1 Pt. 1:5).

It is inconsistent to think that God did the saving, then the believer must keep himself saved. When David fell into the sin of adultery and murder, he repented when confronted by Nathan the prophet. Upon his repentance, he did not ask God to give him new life again, but he asked God to restore the joy of his salvation (Ps. 51:12).

When a believer sins, he breaks fellowship with God, but his relationship with God does not change. He is still saved. His fellowship is restored when he confesses his sin to God (1 Jn. 1:9).

Satan cannot take away our salvation, but his false prophets surely try to make us think

**Morning:** *Judges 10-11*

**Evening:** *Luke 9:1-36*

our salvation can be lost. Remember, Satan and his teachers are all liars.

My friend, if you are saved, you are secure in Christ and saved forever. Be sure the truth will set you free. ~RKM

### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 63:7-8

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the Biblical character with his description.

\_\_\_ 1. Eliab

\_\_\_ 2. Eliezer

\_\_\_ 3. Elymas

A. Jesse’s eldest son; King David’s brother (1 Sam. 17:13)

B. Servant of Abraham (Gen. 15:2)

C. False prophet who was punished by blindness (Acts 13:8-11)

### Quote of the Day

“It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining—they just shine.” ~D. L. Moody

# Monday

April 4

## Living with Purpose

*“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13*

A couple months ago, I wrote about my little puppy named Bentley. He is a miniature schnauzer, and he is definitely the cutest dog in the world! Not being raised with animals, my adventure in puppy training seems to never end, and I am constantly learning lessons from my little fellow.

Bentley goes every where I go. Whether it is the laundry room or the garage, Bentley is always there. He wants to go upstairs with me. He wants to go outside with me. And this unique faithfulness is not conditional. It doesn't matter if I have spent quality time with him or not. It doesn't matter if I have fed him or not. He still wants to be my companion.

The other day I looked at little Bentley and thought, “What is his purpose here on earth?” I replied to my own question, “To bring you happiness.” He is fulfilling his role very well, filling my days with laughter, more exercise, and pure fun.

We each have a role to play, a purpose for being here on this earth. King Solomon states it very well, **“Fear God, and keep His commandments.”** We are to have a reverential fear of God, acknowledging Who He is and living according to that knowledge. Then, we are to keep His commandments. What has He commanded us? When asked what was the greatest commandment, **“Jesus said unto him, Thou**

**Morning:** Judges 12-14

**Evening:** Luke 9:37-62

*shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Mt. 22:37-40)* Those two commandments are not easy to obey.

How are you doing? Are you fulfilling God's purpose for your life? Do you have a healthy fear of God that spurs you to live for Him in every area of your life? Do you love God more than anything in the entire world, and do your actions show that love? Do you love others just as much as you love yourself? It's time to get busy! ~MFV

## Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 63:7-8

## Bible Quiz

**What Book?** Label the following description either the Book of Philemon or 2 John.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Written on behalf of Onesimus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Contains 13 verses

## Quote of the Day

“Thou hast made us for Thyself, and the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.”  
~St. Augustine

Tuesday

April 5

### Attributes of God

*“Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.”*

*Psalm 97:12*

Pause for a few minutes and contemplate, in intricate detail, about the capabilities of God. The Bible tells us that God is omnipresent. (Ps. 139:7-12) He has the capability of being everywhere all at once. There is nowhere to hide from God. The Bible also tells us that God is omniscient. (Ps.147:5) He knows everything there is to know about everything. There is nothing that God does not know. The Bible tells us that God is omnipotent. (Jer. 32:17) He possesses all the power in the universe. There is nothing or no one more powerful than God. The Bible tells us that God is eternal. (Rev. 1:8) He has always existed; He currently exists; and He will exist forevermore. There has never been nor ever will be a time when God does not exist And then there is the most mind-blowing attribute of God: His sovereignty. (Job 9:2-4) He possesses the moral authority to assert His will and has the power to back it up. If God desires (His will), He has the right (authority) to do what ever He wants to do, and He also possesses the strength (the power to back it up) to get it accomplished. So, in other words, God can do anything that He wants to do. If He does it, He is right in doing it, and no one has the ability to tell Him He is wrong or stop Him from doing it.

Now, stop and think about these attributes once more. He is OMNIPRESENT. He is OMNISCIENT. He is OMNIPOTENT. He is ETERNAL. HE is SOVEREIGN. “Okay,” you

**Morning:** Judges 15-17

**Evening:** Luke 10:1-24

say, “I’ve got it. I may not understand it all, but I’ve got it. But what does that have to do with the verse in Psalms at the top of this page?” The Psalmist says at the end of the verse, “Give thanks at the remembrance of His \_\_\_\_\_” (fill in the blank). He said be thankful that God is HOLY. Why? Can you imagine a being who possessed all the attributes of God and was not holy? I shutter to think of the awful actions that could happen if an unholy person possessed the attributes of God. But God is holy. He will execute His omnipotence, His omnipresence, His omniscience, His eternity, and His sovereignty within the guidelines He has placed on Himself. Be very thankful God is holy! ~PO

#### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 63:7-8

#### Bible Quiz

**Who Does Not Belong?** Choose the person(s) who does not belong in the salutation of Paul at the end of II Timothy.

- A. Prisca/Priscilla
- B. Aquila
- C. Onesiphorus
- D. Nahbi
- E. Salma

#### Quote of the Day

“I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness that remains in him.”  
~Charles Spurgeon

# Wednesday

April 6

**Morning:** *Judges 18-19*

**Evening:** *Luke 10:25-42*

## Edify Others

*“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”  
Romans 12:5*

Recently, a new friend asked me, “How is your walk with God going?” I gave pause, not because I was offended, but because it had been a long time since anyone had asked me about my walk with God. I expected that question to be coming from a close friend or family member, yet here was someone who was just getting to know me and showed interest in my spiritual health.

It is easy to take for granted the spiritual condition of the important people in our lives. We may think *well Bob is such a prayer warrior and Karen is always serving other people, surely they do not need me to inquire about their spiritual lives.* But, even the strongest Christian needs a community of people willing to help him live for God. Our pride might make us want to be self-reliant and not share our ups and downs; but if growth is desired, we need other people.

Take time this week to seek out those who you may assume are “okay” spiritually. They will be encouraged and challenged that someone is taking a genuine interest in their relationship with God. A conversation sparked by a simple question may encourage you also.  
~AJD

## Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 63:7-8

## Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. When was the last time you asked a friend how his devotions were going?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you consistently petition your Heavenly Father on behalf of your loved ones for spiritual growth? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your main source of discussion with your friends? Does God have an active role in the conversation? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How can you better edify believers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Take some time today to pray for spiritual growth in the lives of your loved ones. Make it a point to ask these people about their walk with the Lord.

## Quote of the Day

“The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.”  
~John Wesley

# *He Loved Them unto the End*

**By Mrs. Norma Merrin**

John 13:1 will be our focal text: “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, **he loved them unto the end.**”

I would like to take you to the Upper Room just after Jesus extends the bread to Judas Iscariot, His betrayer. It was custom during biblical times for a host to distinguish an honored guest by giving him a choice morsel dipped in a sauce and place it on his tongue (Liberty Annotated Study Bible, p.1638). This just takes place in John 13:26-30 with the disciples and Jesus at the table prior to the Crucifixion; however, Judas ironically is not an honored guest. It amazes me that our dear Jesus extends this gracious act to Judas symbolically demonstrating His unconditional love for the worst of sinners. Yes, it exposes him as the betrayer, but the disciples are not quite on board with this stark realization. Jesus basically dismisses Judas from the inner circle here and tells him to quickly do what he has planned to do. Judas thus departs into the night to do the devil’s business.

With the unbelieving Judas out of the picture, Jesus can now focus on His “little ones.” It is now time “for the Son of Man to be glorified” in verse 31 of John 13. This phrase means His death, burial, and resurrection are about to take place. Jesus begins to prepare His disciples for His departure. Life for them will forever change. It so parallels with the last words of a parent and how they would speak to their children if they knew their earthly days were soon coming to an end. He begins to lovingly

give them special instructions, foretell the future, insure them of His love, and help them to see that He is their peace. As Jesus begins His journey to the cross, there are no words for the religious rulers; He is attending to His own. Can you picture the scene?

Jesus begins His special instruction by giving His disciples a new commandment which states: “Love one another as I have loved you.” You see, Jesus desires that His own be forever identified by the world. Paraphrased, I believe one could hear the words of Jesus saying, “Make no mistake about it—you are mine, and all will know because of your love for one another.” Obviously, there are other benefits in the church for loving the brethren, but I would like you to notice the phrase “as I have loved you.” Jesus is paralleling our love for others to His love for us. That’s a big order! Just how has Jesus loved them? Just how has Jesus loved you, unconditionally with no strings attached, before you ever loved Him, with absolute forgiveness, with a promise of a new life, and an eternity in heaven? The list could go on. Jesus assures His own of His love. If I were speaking my last words to my own dear children, I feel confident that my **first** words would be, “I love you.” I do not know of any greater words spoken in any language. Oh, how comforting those words must have been from the Savior of the world!

Jesus would no longer physically live among the disciples. Can you imagine their broken hearts once they realized this fact? Jesus, in His tender mercy tells them in John 14: 26 that He will send them the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, Who will teach them all things and bring to their remembrance all things that He has

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# Thursday

April 7

## Are You Really Saved?

*“Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”  
1 Peter 2:10*

Have you ever heard someone say that they have been a Christian all their life? It is impossible to be saved from the very beginning of life! No one is a Christian from birth. Jesus told Nicodemus, “You must be born again,” which means, you must be born from above.

Nicodemus said, as a grown man, he could not enter back into his mother’s womb. He was right. But Jesus was speaking of a spiritual birth, not a physical birth.

In this verse, Peter is talking to believers, and is telling them they have not always been saved, and did not always have God’s mercy, until they were saved.

For a long time before I was saved, I did not give salvation much thought, which I think is true of most people. I did not worry about it, and I surely did not feel guilty over my sin. That was before I was saved. However, after I trusted Christ as my Savior, it was not unusual for me to question my salvation and worry about whether I was even saved, and eventually I began to feel terrible about my sin. The more I grew in Christ, the more sensitive I became to sin.

God is so good. He not only drew me to Himself through His Holy Spirit, but He convicted me of my sin and convinced me I needed to be saved. Salvation for me was like

**Morning:** Judges 20-21

**Evening:** Luke 11:1-28

changing—old things passed away, all things became new. ~RKM

### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_. My soul \_\_\_\_\_ hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.”  
Psalm 63:7-8

### 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 Luke 17:12-19.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The ten lepers called Jesus, “Master,” and asked Him for mercy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the lepers stood in front of Jesus, they were healed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The only one who thanked Jesus for healing was a Samaritan man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus told the one who thanked him that his persistence made him whole.

### Quote of the Day

“Human nature’s way of salvation is, “Do, do, do.” But God’s way of salvation is, “Done, done, it is all done.” You have but to rely by faith on the atonement that Christ accomplished on the cross.” ~Charles Spurgeon

# Friday

April 8

## Earthly Treasure—Little Value

*“Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.” Psalm 39:6*

These words are a great foreshadow of what Jesus spoke in Mark 8:36. He was telling his listeners that laying up great treasure here is of little value when a person’s eternity hangs in the balance. The psalmist says the same in his day, recognizing the vanity of such a choice.

“They are disquieted” means they are moved from a place of peace and comfort to one of worry. Instead of trusting God to provide increase and sustenance they spend their time fretting over every penny. It is as if they do not believe God’s promise to supply all our needs from His riches in glory. Their time is consumed in the accumulation of wealth that sadly will be left behind.

The Psalmist says they heap up riches and they do not even know who will one day have all that they have worked for. Perhaps it will be a disobedient child living in a way that dishonors Christ. It could be squandered leaving no sign of the work it represents. Maybe a charity will be given this wealth and will use it to further plans that are very far from the heart of God. In any case, all the wealth might be gone, and the time spent in its gain will be wasted.

With this in mind we should be wise. Do our best to be out of debt, save, and invest in a future that will honor God. We should recognize the brevity of life and make eternal investments. It is not wrong to be wealthy just so

**Morning:** *Ruth 1-4*

**Evening:** *Luke 11:29-54*

long as we have our real wealth and treasure invested in souls and crowns to bring before Christ. ~DJJ

### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_. My soul \_\_\_\_\_ after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” Psalm 63:7-8

### Bible Quiz

**Who Does Not Belong?** Choose the person(s) who does not fit in the Biblical account found in I Chronicles 2:1-2.

#### The Twelve Sons of Jacob/Israel

- A. Reuben
- B. Simeon
- C. Levi
- D. Judah
- E. Issachar
- F. Zebulun
- G. Haruz
- H. Joseph
- I. Benjamin
- J. Naphtali
- K. Neziah
- L. Asher

### Quote of the Day

“Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul.” ~Thoreau

# Saturday

April 9

## The Weakness of the Flesh

*“For we have not an 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.” Hebrews 4:15*

I have noticed a trend in my life. The more tired I am, the more prone I am to sin. With a lack of sleep comes an irritable, negative spirit which can lead to more sin. However, when I am rested, everything looks a little brighter. I have more peace and am a better servant for Jesus Christ.

Satan knows that we are more tempted when we are at a physically weakened state. Take the temptation of Jesus in Matthew chapter four. After a forty day fast, Jesus was tempted by Satan. Spiritually, Jesus was at a high point, but physically He was at an ultimate low. Matthew 26:41 says, *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* Satan appeared to Jesus’ flesh first. Charles Spurgeon says in his devotional commentary, “And while thus suffering, the tempter thought he had him at an advantage, and might assail him through his bodily needs. The arch enemy avails himself of every weakness of our body, hoping thereby to overcome us.”

Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, was tempted like we are. One of the tricks of Satan, the tempter, is to come to us when we are in a weakened state. There is a glorious promise in II Corinthians 12:9 which says, *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”* Do not trust your flesh; it is weak. Take heed to the words in Matthew

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 1-3

**Evening:** Luke 12:1-34

26:41, *“Watch and pray,”* and trust in the strength of your Saviour.” ~MFV

### Scripture Fill-In

“Because thou hast been my \_\_\_\_\_, therefore in the shadow of thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_. My soul \_\_\_\_\_ after thee: thy right hand \_\_\_\_\_ me.” Psalm 63:7

### Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. At what specific times in your life do you notice your flesh was weak? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. During those times, what do you do to resist temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a verse that can help you in your time of temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Quote of the Day

“When Christians find themselves exposed to temptation they should pray to God to uphold them, and when they are tempted they should not be discouraged. It is not a sin to be tempted; the sin is to fall into temptation.”

~D. L. Moody

# Sunday

April 10

## The Sin Conception

*“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” James 1:14-16*

This is a powerful verse that enables us to understand how to have victory over the temptation that can lead to sin in our lives. There are several truths about sin and temptation found in this verse. The first truth is that all of us face temptation. This verse says that every man is tempted. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian church that temptation is common to man. Why are we all tempted? According to this verse, it is because we all have lust. No matter how long you have been saved, and regardless of your spiritual strength, you have a sin nature living within you. That sin nature wants to be satisfied.

Another factor that leads to sin is outside influences or enticement. We sin when our own sinful lust is afforded with an opportunity. The word used to describe that event is conceive. The same word is used when a man and woman come together to produce a child. When the sin seed of our hearts meets an opportunity to fulfill its lust we have to make a choice. If we choose to take that opportunity, there is a conception of lust and opportunity. The fruit of that conception is sin. The ultimate result of that sin conception is death. So we are warned in this verse not to err; don't make a mistake. In other words, do not let your lust

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 4-6

**Evening:** Luke 12:35-59

meet an opportunity, and sin will be avoided. I urge you to embrace the truth of this verse and do not err my beloved brethren. ~DLW

### Scripture Fill-In

“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2

### Bible Quiz

**Completion:** Complete the following Bible verses.

1. **2 Peter 1:4**—“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. **1 John 2:16**— “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, but is of the world.”

### Quote of the Day

“We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin . . . But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of sin. The guilt is washed out not by time but by the repentance and blood of Christ.” ~C. S. Lewis

# Monday

April 11

## Worship

*“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” Psalm 95:1-2,6*

Most people, when they think of idol worship, think about a person lying on their face in front of a statue made of some type of earthen material. Perhaps we imagine them bending at the knee and bowing several times before a god. We see modern day idol worshipers falling on their faces in front of the Oriental god, Buddha or the Egyptian god, Amon. The Muslims take out their prayer rugs and fall on their face in worship to Allah. And then there are the Christians. Our idea of worship, all too often, is simple singing. The current trend in “worship” is to sing multiple verses of the same chorus until we get the feeling that we are close to God. When that happens, we think we are worshipping. But notice, if you will, what the psalmist (a person who writes songs, by the way) connects singing with in Psalm 95. In verse one and two, he tells us to “sing unto the LORD...make a joyful noise...and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.” What is the purpose of the singing and all the joyful noise? Right in the middle of verse two he gives the reason. “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.” This joyful music and singing is to show that we are thankful to the LORD for all He was done for us. So, how does the psalmist say to worship? In verse six, the

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 7-9

**Evening:** Luke 13:1-21

psalmist connects worship, not with music, but with genuflection. “Let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” Interesting, is it not? We stand in our pews week after week all the while calling our singing, “worship.” And the purpose of some music is for worship. However, our “worship” of Jesus Christ should not be limited to the treble and bass clefs. Try worshipping God on your knees some time. Bow down in the privacy of your house and humble yourself before God. Spend some time totally devoted to your Creator. Do not sing to Him. Do not thank Him. Do not make a request of Him. Worship Him. ~PO

## Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2

## Bible Quiz

**Unscramble:** Unscramble some of the words from Psalm 95:1.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. F J U L Y O

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. S I E N O

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. L A A V S O N I T

## Quote of the Day

“Worship is giving God the best He has given us.”  
~Oswald Chambers

# Tuesday

April 12

## An Outline of the Book of James

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.” James 1:1*

A general outline of James might look like this:

### The Mature Christian

1. He is patient in testing (Ch. 1).
2. He practices the truth (Ch. 2).
3. He has power over his tongue (Ch. 3).
4. He is a peacemaker, not a troublemaker (Ch. 4).
5. He is prayerful in trouble (Ch. 5).

Let’s ask the question, why did James write this book? I think you will find that the Jewish Christians were going through some problems in their personal lives and in their church. They were having difficult testing. They were facing temptations of sin. Some were catering to the rich and others were being robbed by the rich.

One of the major problems in the church was a failure on the part of many to live what they professed to believe. In addition, the tongue was a serious problem, as well as worldliness.

Does this list of problems appear to be much different from the problem of the average local church? All of these have a common cause: spiritual immaturity. ~OV

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 10-12

**Evening:** Luke 13:22-35

### Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2

### Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. How many chapters does the book of James contain? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In James 1:2 the word ‘temptation’ is used. What does this word mean in this particular context? \_\_\_\_\_
3. James 1:8 says that a double-minded man is what? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The last verse of James 1 describes how true religion can be seen. What were the two evidences mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. According to James 2:23, Abraham was called what? \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.” ~Matthew Henry

# Wednesday

April 13

## Be A Fellow Helper

*“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.” 3 John 9*

As I began reading 3 John, it brought to mind, how each one of us are watched and evaluated by our actions. Verses 1-8 tell how Gaius had such a Godly life, and John prayed for him to prosper in all ways. Here it is clearly noted that John was watching Gaius and his church.

Then, in three short verses, 9-11, John switches to Diotrephes and how totally opposite he was from Gaius. In verse nine, the Bible says Diotrephes was a man “who loveth to have the preeminence.” Diotrephes was full of self-ambition. Verse ten tells of his selfish activities, malicious words, discontentment, and treatment of church people. Then, verse eleven goes on to tell Gaius and his church this; *“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”*

Clearly we are a people, a peculiar generation of born again believers, who need to remember that we are always in the public eye. We need to guard our testimonies against all appearances of evil. So, let’s be the best we can be. Your Godly influence is always in high demand...at all times! ~KAH

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 13-14

**Evening:** Luke 14:1-24

### Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us; and cause his face to \_\_\_\_\_ upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.” Psalm 67:1-2

### Bible Quiz

**Completion:** Complete the following verses.

1. **Mark 10:44**—“And whosoever of you will be the \_\_\_\_\_, shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of all.”

2. **John 12:26**—“If any man \_\_\_\_\_ me, let him \_\_\_\_\_ me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father \_\_\_\_\_.”

3. **I Corinthians 9:19**—“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might \_\_\_\_\_ the more.”

4. **Philippians 2:5-7**—“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, and was made in the likeness of men.”

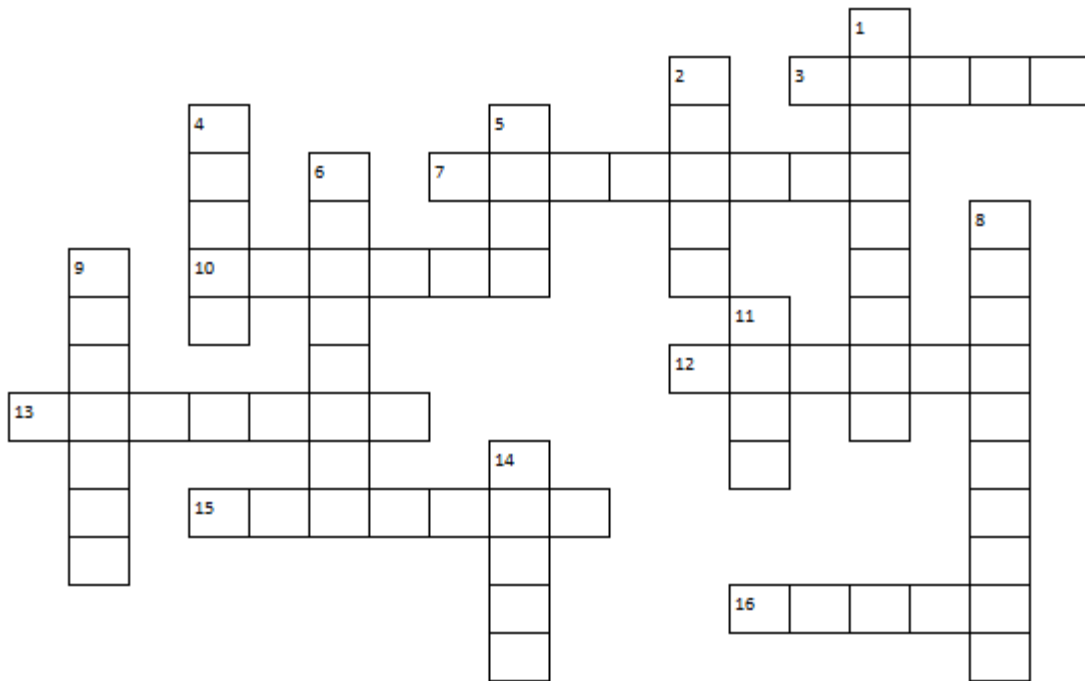
### Quote of the Day

“The measure of a man is not the number of his servants, but the number of people he serves.”

~D. L. Moody

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

JESUS: Saviour of the World



## ACROSS

3. Predicted this disciple would deny Him (Mt. 26:33-34)
7. Hometown (Mt. 2:23)
10. Started ministry at this age (Lk. 3:23)
12. Earthly father (Lk. 2:4-5)
13. Place of crucifixion (Lk. 23:33)
15. "Thy \_\_\_\_ come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Mt. 6:10)
16. "I will come \_\_\_\_, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (Jn. 14:3)

## DOWN

1. Birthplace (Mt. 2:1)
2. Fasted for this many days (Mt. 4:1-2)
4. "I am the way, the \_\_\_\_, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6)
5. Mother (Lk. 2:4-5)
6. "Suffer little \_\_\_\_, and forbid them not, to come unto me." (Mt. 19:14)
8. Place of betrayal (Mt. 26:36-56)
9. Raised this friend from the dead. (Jn. 11)
11. Baptized him (Mt. 3)

*"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."  
1 John 4:14*

# Thursday

April 14

## An Abundant Life

*“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.” Psalm 34:14*

Do you have a desire for a full, abundant life? You must be willing to separate yourself from your sins. Be willing to abandon sin once and for all. It is a personal decision. In Hebrews 12:1, we are told to lay aside every weight that so easily besets us.

You will never experience an abundant life in Christ if you are living in sin. Sin will also keep you from having a personal assurance of your salvation. Have you ever stopped to think about the cost of sin? I am afraid many believers are satisfied with just being saved, and they fail to go on with God. Salvation should only be the beginning of a wonderful walk with God. But a failure to count the cost of sin will one day carry a terrible price.

The little word “pursue” in this verse is important. It indicates that if you want all that God has for you, you must be willing to work at it. You can be certain that no one becomes a very spiritual person by accident. Spirituality takes great discipline and much work. It takes a great amount of time in the Bible. It takes time alone in prayer. It takes Bible memorization. It takes a dying to self and a willingness to tell others about Jesus Christ. It takes putting God first financially. In order to have an abundant life in Christ there must be total submission to Jesus Christ. Lord, I surrender to you in every area of my life.

Are you willing to surrender to Christ in every area of your life? It is your decision. I

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 15-16

**Evening:** Luke 14:25-35

promise you, you will never be disappointed when you submit to Christ. Decide today, depart from evil, and do good. Remember, you must pursue it. ~RKM

### Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us; and cause his face to \_\_\_\_\_ upon us; that thy \_\_\_\_\_ may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.”  
Psalm 67:1-2

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the Biblical character with his description.

- \_\_\_ 1. Chloe
- \_\_\_ 2. Ephratah
- \_\_\_ 3. Kish
- \_\_\_ 4. Tychicus

- A. A Christian in Corinth (I Cor. 1:11)
- B. Father of King Saul (I Chron. 8:33)
- C. Firstborn son of Caleb (I Chron. 2:50)
- D. Accompanied Paul from Greece to Asia (Acts 20:4)

### Quote of the Day

“Most church members live so far below the standard, you’d have to backslide to be in fellowship. We are so subnormal that if we were to become normal, people would think we are abnormal.”  
~Vance Havner

# Friday

April 15

## A Perfect Heart

*“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.” II Chronicles 16:9*

In this passage, the prophet, Hanani, is warning King Asa, the king of Judah. Asa had problems with King Baasha, king of Israel. But, instead of calling upon the Lord for help, Asa relied on Benhadad, king of Syria. In verse eight of chapter sixteen, Hanani recalled how God had previously delivered King Asa from the Ethiopians and Lubims. (Refer to II Chron. 14:9-12)

That brings us to our beautiful verse for today. Using a past triumph as an example, the prophet says that God looks all over the world for those whose heart is perfect so that He can show Himself strong. Wow! God is so very good to His children! John Wesley’s Notes on the Old and New Testament describe the word “perfect” as upright and sincere. It explains, “He was sincere in the general course of his life, but some particulars, whereof this is one, his heart did not perfectly cleave to God.” God is looking for those who are upright and sincere so he can manifest wonderful works in their lives, so in the end, He is glorified. I want to be one of those people!

God was true to His Word. Asa did have wars for the rest of his days. I Kings 15:32 explains, *“And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.”*

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 17-18

**Evening:** Luke 15:1-10

What kind of heart do you have? Do you have an upright and sincere heart? Or is your heart bent on doing things on your own? God is looking for those with a perfect heart. ~MFV

### Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us; and cause his face to \_\_\_\_\_ upon us; that thy \_\_\_\_\_ may be known upon earth, thy \_\_\_\_\_ health among all nations.”

Psalm 67:1-2

### Bible Quiz

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

1. In the parable found in Matthew 13:45-50, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto what?
  - A. A merchant man seeking pearls
  - B. A whaler hunting for whales
  - C. A widow looking for a kinsman redeemer
  - D. None of the above
2. Why did Jesus not do many mighty works in Nazareth? (Mt. 13:54-58)
  - A. Because of their unbelief
  - B. Because of the Roman soldiers
  - C. Because He never visited there
  - D. None of the above

### Quote of the Day

“The widest thing in the universe is not space; it is the potential capacity of the human heart. Being made in the image of God, it is capable of almost unlimited extension in all directions.”

~A. W. Tozer

# Saturday

April 16

## Ears to Hear

*“Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.”  
Psalm 40:6*

What does God desire? What are the things that please our Lord? It is not the vain sacrifices and rituals of empty religious activity. It is not an attempt to balance our good to bad deeds in the side of right. It is not feeling bad about our sin in an attempt to cover ourselves with the appropriate amount of guilt.

He desires as the psalmist writes here that we have opened ears to hear. Ears that hear will bring us to the place of conviction and repentance. It is the contrite heart that pleases God. In such a heart is the expression of complete dependence upon Christ. No longer do we feel the need to make empty sacrifices that merely mask our sin. Instead we come humbly before Almighty God with the recognition of our guilt asking for Him to free us.

Once we taste of the freedom found in Christ, our desire will turn from a fearful hope of sacrificial atonement to blissful desire to please our Lord.

Lord, help us to have open ears to hear You. Oh give us feet that are turned to follow and swift to obey. ~DJD

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 19-21

**Evening:** Luke 15:1-10

## Scripture Fill-In

“God be \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us; and cause his face to \_\_\_\_\_ upon us; that thy \_\_\_\_\_ may be known upon earth, thy \_\_\_\_\_ health among all \_\_\_\_\_.” Psalm 67:1-2

## Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the Biblical character with his description.

- \_\_\_ 1. Joseph of Arimathaea
- \_\_\_ 2. Pilate
- \_\_\_ 3. Caiaphas
- \_\_\_ 4. Judas
- \_\_\_ 5. Peter

A. High Priest (Mt. 26:3-4)

B. Released Barabbas instead of Jesus (Mt. 27:24-26)

C. Betrayed Jesus (Mt. 26:14-15)

D. Begged for the body of Jesus ( Mt. 27:57-60)

E. Went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with Jesus (Mt. 26:36-46)

## Quote of the Day

“It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn’t want our success; He wants us. He doesn’t demand our achievements; He demands our obedience.” *Charles Colson*

# Sunday

April 17

## A Spiritual Battle

*“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” 1 Peter 2:11*

We are not in a battle against another person, but we are in a spiritual battle. Satan and his demons war against the soul. If you are determined to be a “good soldier,” you can expect to face Satanic forces; and you will experience the consequences of war, at least in some ways.

One result of war is that many soldiers are wounded, and so it is in the Christian life. There will be many wounds along the way, but it is a soldier’s duty to keep fighting. It is not unusual to be hurt.

Another result of war is disappointment; so often when the battle is going well or victory seems near, disappointment is just around the corner. Again, a good soldier must fight through disappointment.

The most devastating result of war is death itself. Physical death is possible in Satan’s war on our soul. Not only do we have to face an evil force led by Satan, but it is not unusual for a Christian to die as a result of his own sins; although, that type of death is not often recognized. That is why it is so necessary for a “good soldier” to continually examine and judge his sin. If we do not judge our own sin, then God will judge our sin Himself (I Corinthians 11:29). Obviously our lives can not be taken without God’s permission, but we are enemies of Satan, and he is always looking to destroy.

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 22-24

**Evening:** Luke 16:1-18

Judge your own sin daily, and resist the devil. *“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 Jn. 4:4) ~RKM*

### Scripture Fill-In

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Corinthians 15:54-55

### Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. What was Satan called in Matthew 4:3 when he came and tempted Jesus Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the Hebrew name for Satan which means destroyer? (Rev. 9:11)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What characteristics of Satan are given in John 8:44? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Quote of the Day

“The devil can handle me—he’s got judo I never heard of. But he can’t handle the One to whom I’m joined; he can’t handle the One to whom I’m united; he can’t handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature.”

~A. W. Tozer

# Monday

April 18

## The Entrance of Thy Word

*“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”  
Psalm 119:130*

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. The theme of the chapter is the Word of God. This verse gives us two benefits of the Word and a requirement regarding the Word. First, let us look at the requirement of this verse. It proclaims that the entrance of the Word gives light. The truth of this verse is that the Word must enter into the mind before it will impact us. When the Word enters our minds, the Holy Spirit can use it to change our hearts. It might enter through personal reading. It might be through a sermon at church or on the radio. It could be over the internet or on a podcast, but it must enter. Let me ask you a personal question. Are you allowing the Word of God to enter into your mind and your heart daily?

Now, let us look at the benefits of the Word from this verse. The verse tells us that the entering of the Word gives light. The Word allows us to see the past and how He created the world. He created us and all that we have and do is because of Him. It allows us to see the future and the prophecies about our Lord’s return. It reveals the truth about our future heavenly home. Not only does the Word allow us to see the light, it allows us to understand the truth. It enables us to understand our Savior. Who He is and what He did to purchase our salvation. If we, as God’s children, need to have the entrance of the Word, how much more do those without Christ need us to avail the truth to them. ~DLW

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 25-26

**Evening:** Luke 16:19-31

### Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”  
I Corinthians 15:54-55

### Bible Quiz

**Multiple Choice:** Circle the correct answer to complete each Bible verse found in Psalm 119.

1. “Blessed are they that keep his \_\_\_\_\_, and that seek him with the whole heart.” (vs. 2)  
A. Promises    C. Prophecies  
B. Testimonies    D. Love
2. “O how love I thy law! it is my \_\_\_\_\_ all the day.” (vs. 97)  
A. Comfort    C. Sustenance  
B. Meditation    D. None of the above
3. “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than \_\_\_\_\_ to my mouth!” (vs. 103)  
A. Honey    C. Honeycomb  
B. Sugar    D. None of the above
4. “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy \_\_\_\_\_.” (vs. 114)  
A. Statutes    C. Commandments  
B. Word    D. Law

### Quote of the Day

“I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible.”  
~D. L. Moody

# Tuesday

April 19

## The Real Truth

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23–24*

My five-year-old niece firmly instructed her younger brother, “Tell me the very, very real truth.” Even at that young age she already realized that there is “the truth” and there is the “very real truth.” We live in a culture of extreme skepticism. The more broad and open our world becomes through various media, the less ability we have to verify anything as “really true,” and so we put up our guard against those who would manipulate information to suit their purposes.

The more skeptical our culture becomes the more critical it is that Christians live truthful lives. I often find myself living in a way that contradicts the things I *say* I believe. If I share the truth of Christianity with an unbeliever and my own life is a lie, then I will be damaging truth and their ability to trust the God I represent.

This does not mean trying really hard to look good to people, instead it may mean being more quick to admit when we are wrong and to repent quickly when our lives do not match our beliefs. It may mean opening ourselves to the accountability of another person to help us see those inconsistencies that we overlook. Let God search your heart and with His help live a life of very real truth. ~AJD

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 27-29

**Evening:** Luke 17:1-19

## Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on \_\_\_\_\_, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Corinthians 15:54-55

## 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. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would try to eat the king’s meat every other day, so as not to offend the king. (Dan. 1:8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Daniel gained favor with the price of the eunuchs. (Dan. 1:9)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Daniel was able to understand dreams and visions. (Dan. 1:17)

## Quote of the Day

“Integrity is the glue that holds our way of life together. What our young people want to see in their elders is integrity, honesty, truthfulness, and faith. What they hate most of all is hypocrisy and phoniness. That is why it is important for us to go to church, to read the Bible, and to say grace at the table. Let them see us doing what we would like to see them do.”

~Billy Graham

# Wednesday

April 20

## Proclaim the Savior

*“I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.”*  
*Psalms 40:9-10*

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew chapter 10 that those who deny Him before men He would deny before the Father. It has been said that there are no secret agents in Christianity. If you are not willing to boldly proclaim your allegiance to Christ, you run the risk that He will not boldly proclaim you as His in heaven. We would never be ashamed to tell everyone if we got a promotion or that our families were expecting our first child. Why then are we afraid to proclaim Jesus as our Lord? Paul tells us in Romans that he is not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation.

David understood what it meant to proclaim his Savior. He says in these verses that he preached righteousness. He was calling for holiness and a separation from sin. This is not popular today, but it does not change that it is still the message of God. He said that he would not refrain his lips where the praise of God and the proclamation of His truth was concerned. He was confident to say these words because he knew his God is truth. We have the message of hope, and we should share it!

David was not content to enjoy God's grace in silence. He declared God's faithfulness. He

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 30-31

**Evening:** Luke 17:20-37

was likely quick to tell everyone how he had been sustained and kept by the hand of the Lord. He spoke of salvation. David understood that his help came only from the Lord. He could not stop telling all the many good things that God had provided for him. He bragged on God, and we should too. ~DJD

## Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on \_\_\_\_\_, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is \_\_\_\_\_ up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”  
I Corinthians 15:54-55

## 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. Pilate said that Jesus spoke blasphemy.  
(Mt. 26:57-68)

\_\_\_\_ 2. Caiaphas could find no fault in Jesus.  
(Lk. 23:4)

## Quote of the Day

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime.”  
~Martin Luther

# *He Loved Them unto the End*

**By Mrs. Norma Merrin**

spoken to them. Wow! This is a miracle. This is exactly how we obtained our Scriptures later on as the Holy Ghost moved these men of God to recall His words. The Holy Spirit will never depart from them or us. Frankly, WE ARE NEVER ALONE.

In John 14, Jesus also tells his followers what to expect in the future and in eternity. He graciously expounds how He is preparing mansions for them and how He will unite with His Father there. Then, in verse 27, comfort and peace are on the way. Jesus proclaims that He will be leaving them with "Peace," something different that has never come their way before. The peace they as Christians will experience will be unknowable to the outside world. The Holy Spirit undoubtedly will bring this remarkable peace.

The disciples are again challenged to love one another in chapter 15:12, 17 with an order in verse 9 saying, "Continue ye in my love." There is another comparison here in verse 9 as Jesus tells us that HE has loved us like His heavenly Father has loved Him. This is a bit mind-boggling! It is difficult to know how much the Father has loved the Son. That is a lot of love. We are in turn supposed to demonstrate that love to others. The cost? Oh, love is always costly. In verses 12-14, Jesus calls the disciples "friends." There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for His friends. That is the love He bestowed on us.

There is more instruction for His "little children" in chapter 15 as He tells them that they should "go and bring forth fruit." Fruit for a Christian is another Christian. Christ is

advocating that they reach the world with the gospel and proclaim that He is the true Messiah. They are to multiply.

Just like a loving father, Jesus begins to warn of evil to come. He warns of future persecution in chapter 16 even stating that some will kill them thinking they are doing God a favor. He recognizes their sorrow and prepares them for it. Again, just like a precious father, He lovingly gives the disciples hope explaining that real joy will be on its way.

What about an inheritance? Oh, it's there. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you." (Jn. 16:23) Jesus meets every need the disciples have at this hour.

There is one thing more. Jesus prays for His own in chapter 17 just before His betrayal. Read the entire chapter at one sitting. It is the longest recorded prayer in the New Testament. Martin Luther has stated: "This truly is beyond measure a warm and hearty prayer. He opens the depths of His heart both in reference to us and to His Father, and He pours them all out. It sounds so honest, so simple. It is so deep so rich, so wide. No one can fathom it." (McGee, p. 477)

I close with the words from the infamous hymn by Charles Wesley: "Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!"

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Liberty University. The Liberty Annotated Study Bible. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1988.

J. Vernon McGee. Thru the Bible with J.V.M., vol. iv. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.

# Thursday

April 21

## A Reason to Rejoice

*“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise . . . for He cometh to judge the earth.” Psalm 98:4-9*

When I was young, my mother taught us how to do our chores. Long before she expected us to do them ourselves, she had spent time with us teaching us how each chore was to be performed. When you make a bed, you fold the corners down in what are called “hospital corners.” When you put a pair of pants in the drawer, you fold it a certain way first so everything will fit. Sweeping the floor was done a certain way. And the correct way to clean a room was called “mommily clean.” In other words, “Was it clean in such a way that mom would approve of it?” When it was, we had nothing to fear. As a matter of fact, it was almost as if we wanted mom to go into our room so she could see what a good job we did. But if we had not performed to the “mommily” standard, we did not want mom anywhere near our attempted cleaning job.

The psalmist calls on the inhabitants of the earth to make a joyful noise, rejoice, and sing praises to the LORD. In verse five, he says to praise God with the harp and with psalms. In verse six, the trumpet and the cornet are the instruments that are to be used in praising the LORD. Why all the praising? Why all the rejoicing? Why? The reason for all the rejoicing is the LORD is coming to judge. “Wait a minute,” you might say, “He’s coming to judge and I am supposed to rejoice?” Well, like my mother and her inspection of my work, when I

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 1-3

**Evening:** Luke 18:1-17

had done my chores according to how mom said they were to be done, I saw the “judging” time as a good time. I could rejoice that my mother was going to judge my work because I had done it right. The same principle applies to the judgment seat of Christ. I can rejoice that God will be my judge if I have lived in such a way that the judgment will be positive.

So, “how ya livin’?” If the judgment happened today, would you be singing the praises of the LORD or would you be trying to hide? Are your actions up to the standard set by the LORD? If so, rejoice! If not, now is the time to change your actions because we are all supposed to rejoice about the coming judgment of the LORD. ~PO

### Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on \_\_\_\_\_, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is \_\_\_\_\_ up in \_\_\_\_\_. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Corinthians 15:54-55

### Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. (Lk. 23:8-11)

1. What was Herod’s reaction to Jesus being sent to him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Jesus answer Herod? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Friday*  
April 22

## The Hour of the Messiah

*“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.” John 12:23*

As we think upon Easter this month, I would like to ponder on the thought that Jesus was Who He said He was, the Messiah, the Anointed One. One of the proofs that we neglect in seeing in the Scripture is references about “His hour.” John 12:23 states: *“The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.”* First let’s make clear what this hour means. It is referring to the death, the burial, and the resurrection. Other references that state that “His hour” was come are in John 13:1 and John 17:1. I especially love the reference in John 17 when He first addresses the Father, He states: *“Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.”*

Now, there were specific times mentioned in the Bible when “His hour” had not come. That is huge! At the miracle of Cana, Jesus said unto his mother, *“Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.”* (John 2:4) In the temple, recorded in John 7:30, Jesus had just declared his Messiahship, and the religious rulers were beside themselves. *“Then they sought to take Him: but no man laid hands on Him, because His hour was not yet come.”* Then, in John 8:20, we see again, after Jesus claims to be the Son of God, that the rulers did not lay hands on Him, *“for His hour was not yet come.”* This is significant indicating that Jesus is in divine control of a specific hour and time when He should be delivered to be glorified in His death, burial, and resurrec-

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 4-6

**Evening:** Luke 18:18-43

tion. He cannot be touched one minute before the hour. This is divinity! This is power and authority beyond the terrestrial world that is known to man.

You may have heard the well-worn phrase, “God’s timing is perfect.” This is certainly the apogee of perfect timing. After finishing His priestly prayer of John 17 which began with *“Father, the hour is come,”* Jesus *“went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron (Kidron)”* and came face to face with His betrayer, Judas Iscariot. Yes, His hour was come. A band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees met Him with lanterns and torches and weapons. To God be the glory – His hour had come! ~NBM

### Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on \_\_\_\_\_, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is \_\_\_\_\_ up in \_\_\_\_\_. O death, where is thy \_\_\_\_\_? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Corinthians 15:54-55

### Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Take a moment and write a prayer of thanks for Jesus’ gift to you.

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# Saturday

April 23

## Death Swallowed

*“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:54*

*Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord! I love  
singing these solemn words written by Robert  
Lowry. After contemplating Jesus’ broken  
body lying still in its grave, the song builds to a  
glorious climax, Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes, He arose  
a Victor from the dark domain, And He lives  
forever, with His saints to reign!*

When Jesus triumphed over death, He bought our freedom and conquered death. One of the greatest benefits of being a Christian is that death is no longer a dreaded specter. It is not shrouded in dark mystery and fear of the unknown. We may not know when or how it will come, but we know that when we pass through it, we shall then begin to live for the first time. We will praise Jesus who swallowed up death in victory.

This hope should fuel each day—one of ultimate, eternal victory. Death and disease may claim our physical bodies, but God has bought back our spirits. ***O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*** ~AJD

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 7-9

**Evening:** Luke 19:1-28

### Scripture Fill-In

“So when this \_\_\_\_\_ shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on \_\_\_\_\_, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is \_\_\_\_\_ up in \_\_\_\_\_. O death, where is thy \_\_\_\_\_? O \_\_\_\_\_, where is thy victory?”  
I Corinthians 15:54-55

### Bible Quiz

**Who Said It?:** In the blank, label each quote by the Biblical character who said it.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. “I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.” (Mt. 27:3-4)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. “I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.” (Mt. 27:24)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Lk. 23:34)

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” (Lk. 23:39-43)

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mt. 27:46)

### Quote of the Day

“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”  
~Galatians 6:14

# Sunday

April 24

## Celebrate!

***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36***

Today is a day of celebration! Today we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Over two-thousand years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus, to become flesh and blood. This alone was a phenomenon. Imagine constructing a little doll house for your daughter. You go to the store and purchase all the materials, so you can create a doll-sized world. After it is built, you and little Susie play and play and have a grand old time. Now, imagine giving up the comforts of your own home, your own world, to go live in Susie’s doll house. You may be saying, “That’s crazy; that would be miserable.” That’s what Jesus Christ did, but on a much, much bigger level. (Phil. 2:7) He sacrificed the comforts of Heaven and the fellowship with His Father to come be one of us and live in our doll-sized world.

If that wasn’t enough, He lived a humble life with simple means when He could have had anything He wanted. He lived a life of ridicule and scorn by those who opposed Him. He was rejected by many, not accepted.

Our Savior’s sacrifice didn’t stop there, fellow believers. The climax was seen on Calvary’s hill when Jesus gave His very life to save the world from sin. (Phil 2:8) As this sin was laid on Jesus, His very own Father turned His back on Him. Jesus became ***“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*** (Jn. 1:29)

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 10-12

**Evening:** Luke 19:29-48

If this true story stopped there, we would have no reason to celebrate. Death’s curse would still be upon all men. But, praise the Lord, three days after His death, the grave was conquered; Jesus came forth from the tomb and set mankind free! (Mt. 28) Let the celebration continue in each of our lives, every day for as long as God gives us breath. On the special day of the resurrection of Jesus, Satan lost the victory and a way was made for all to receive Jesus as personal Savior. You will never have a greater reason to celebrate! ~MFV

## Scripture Fill-In

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

## Bible Quiz

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

1. What day of the week was Christ raised? (Mt. 28:1)  
A. First                      C. Fifth  
B. Third                      D. Last
2. When the stone was rolled away, what event happened on earth? (Mt. 28:2)  
A. A flash flood      C. An earthquake  
B. Fire                      D. Volcano eruption

## Quote of the Day

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”  
~C. T. Studd

# Monday

April 25

## You Are A Royal Priesthood

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9*

Before the law was given to Israel, the head of every home was the priest of his own home. He was the spiritual leader of his own family. Then, following the law being given, God’s original plan was for the whole nation of Israel to be priests (Exodus 19:6). Then, when Israel fell into sin, God set aside the Levites to be His priests. With their rejection of Christ, the Jewish nation was set aside and God appointed all New Testament believers to be kings and priests (Revelation 1:6).

As a born again believer, you have a special privilege. You belong to the priesthood of believers. You are a priest and with this position comes great responsibility. You have direct access to God through the High Priest, Jesus Christ. In addition, you have certain duties just as the Old Testament priests had responsibilities.

Your first responsibility is to become a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1). Secondly, you are to continually speak praises unto God with your lips (Hebrews 13:15). Thirdly, you are to give of your substance (Romans 12:13). Finally, you are to be a servant and to do good (Hebrews 13:16).

What a privilege to have direct access to God, our Creator and Sustainer. What a respon-

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 13-14

**Evening:** Luke 20:1-26

sibility we have as a priest to a Holy God.  
~RKM

### Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

### Bible Quiz

**Multiple Choice:** Circle the correct answers based on today’s devotional.

- According to 1 Peter 2:9, God’s children are called a what?
  - A royal priesthood
  - A Chosen generation
  - A Peculiar people
  - All of the above
- A believer has which of the following responsibilities?
  - To become a living sacrifice
  - Speak praises unto God
  - Be a servant
  - All of the above

### Quote of the Day

*“My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands.  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full,  
He has riches untold . . .  
I’m a child of the King, a child of the King  
With Jesus my Saviour, I’m a child of the King.”*

~Harriet E. Buell~

# Tuesday

April 26

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 15-16

**Evening:** Luke 20:27-47

## The Bride

*“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2*

Ah, yes, I remember clearly all the preparation and planning of my wedding day. Making sure everything and everyone were in place. I was glowing and smiling in anticipation of spending the rest of my life with the person who God gave me. Excitement mounted as the wedding came to a close and the I do’s were said.

Can you imagine the coming of Christ? Can you imagine an eternity in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ? The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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.”*

What will Heaven be like? Revelation 21:4 says, *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”* Also in Revelation 21:14-25, New Jerusalem is described as a city with twelve pearl gates; the city is foursquare; the walls are adorned with precious stones; the streets are pure gold; and there is no day or night because Jesus is all the light we will need.

Won’t you join me there? Just as a bride and groom await that special day where they are united as one, let’s wait in anxious anticipation for the day that Christ comes to take His bride!  
~KAH

## Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one \_\_\_\_\_ for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”  
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

**True or False:** Put a *T* in the blank if the

## Bible Quiz

statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Matthew 25:1-13

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The parable in this passage likens the kingdom of heaven to twelve virgins who went to meet the bridegroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Some of the virgins did not bring oil for their lamps and missed the coming of the bridegroom.

“If you read history you will find that the

## Quote of the Day

Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” ~C. S. Lewis

# Wednesday

April 27

## The Spirit that Dwells in You

*“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Romans 8:11*

I find this verse to be extremely encouraging. The Scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead. Jesus died under horrendous circumstances; He received no treatment for His multiple wounds before His death. Jesus had been dead for three days. All of this was no big deal for the Holy Spirit, He just raised Jesus from the dead.

Can you imagine having that kind of power? Well, look at our verse again. It tells us that the spirit that raised up Christ from the dead dwells in us. I do not know what you are facing today, but I do know that the power of the Holy Spirit that is in you is great enough to enable you to do all that God expects of you today. There will be no temptation greater than the Spirit’s power. There will be no ministry opportunity greater than His power. You will not face a crisis that is beyond His ability. God through His Spirit has already equipped you to be victorious for Him.

The next time that you feel overwhelmed, remember that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, is now dwelling in you. ~DLW

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 17-18

**Evening:** Luke 21:1-19

### Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one \_\_\_\_\_ for all, then were all dead: and that he died for \_\_\_\_\_, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

### Bible Quiz

**Unscramble:** Unscramble the following words found in Romans 8:11.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I P I S T R
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. E W L D L
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. D B S E I O
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. U C E N K Q I
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. D D A E
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I A E S D R
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. T M R A L O
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. S E J S U

### Quote of the Day

“God commands us to be filled with the Spirit; and if we aren’t filled, it’s because we’re living beneath our privileges.” ~D. L. Moody

# Thursday

April 28

## The Purpose of Testing

*“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” James 1:2*

The book of James was written at about 45 A.D. It was written to Christian Jews scattered from Jerusalem. The author is believed to be James, the half-brother of Jesus.

This book deals with Christian maturity. There is a great difference between age and maturity—everyone who grows old does not grow up. In many cases, problems in a person’s life are the result of spiritual immaturity. Warren Wiersbe said, “Mature Christians are happy Christians, useful Christians, Christians who help to encourage others and to build their local church.”

The Bible repeatedly shows how people turn defeat into victory. Instead of being the victim, they can be the victor. James tells us that we can experience the same victory today. No matter what the trials may be. The result of the victory is spiritual maturity.

God gives us four essentials for victory in trials. He leads into these with four imperatives that we must obey to have victory. First, is to count — a joyful attitude (verse 1:2). God tells us to expect trials. Some trials come simply because we are human; others come because we are Christians. The word “count” means to evaluate, meaning we must evaluate in the light of what God is doing for us. This explains why the dedicated Christian can have joy in the middle of trials. He lives for the things that matter most. So we must have a joyful attitude to have victory through trials. The second and

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 19-20

**Evening:** Luke 21:20-38

third imperative will be discussed in tomorrow’s devotional. ~OV

### Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one \_\_\_\_\_ for all, then were all dead: and that he died for \_\_\_\_\_, that they which live should not henceforth live unto \_\_\_\_\_, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

### Bible Quiz

**Multiple Choice:** Circle the correct answer. Refer to Acts. 1:21:26

1. After Jesus’ resurrection, who was chosen as a new disciple to take the place of Judas?  
A. Joseph  
B. Matthias  
C. Aaron  
D. Paul
2. How was the disciple chosen?  
A. Through prayer  
B. By a vote  
C. Both A & B  
D. An interview

### Quote of the Day

“Wait in prayer. Call on God and spread the case before Him. Express your unstagging confidence in him. Wait in faith, for unfaithful, untrusting waiting is but an insult to the Lord. Wait in quiet patience, not murmuring because you are under the affliction, but blessing God for it.”  
~Charles Spurgeon

Friday

April 29

## The Testing of Faith

*“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” James 1:12*

Yesterday, I said that we must evaluate our trials in the light of what God is doing for us. Today, we will look at three more imperatives God has given us to obey. First, we must “count” — a joyful attitude (James 1:2). Secondly, we must “know” — an understanding mind (James 1:3). Faith is always tested. When God called Abraham to live by faith. He tested him to increase his faith. God always tests us to bring our best. Testing can work for us and not against us if we will let it. Romans 8:28 says, *“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.”* Patience in James 1:3 could mean endurance. Immature people are always impatient; mature people are patient and persistent. Impatience and unbelief usually go together. God develops patience and character in our lives through trials.

The third imperative is to “let”— a surrendered will (James 1:4, 9-11). God cannot build character without our cooperation. God’s goal for our lives is maturity. How tragic if we all remained as little babies. It is important to remember that God builds character before He calls to service. He must work in before He can work through us. ~OV

**Morning:** 2 Samuel 21-22

**Evening:** Luke 22:1-30

### Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one \_\_\_\_\_ for all, then were all dead: and that he died for \_\_\_\_\_, that they which live should not henceforth live unto \_\_\_\_\_, but unto \_\_\_\_\_ which died for them, and rose again.”  
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the father with his son (s).

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. Manoah<br>(Jdg. 13:22-24)  | A. Bela & Ashbel      |
| _____ 2. Amram<br>(Ex. 6:20)        | B. Manasseh & Ephraim |
| _____ 3. Benjamin<br>(I Chron. 8:1) | C. Joel & Abiah       |
| _____ 4. Joseph<br>(Gen. 41:51-52)  | D. Aaron & Moses      |
| _____ 5. Samuel<br>(I Sam. 8:1-2)   | E. Samson             |

### Quote of the Day

“In the cross is health, in the cross is life, in the cross is protection from enemies, in the cross is heavenly sweetness, in the cross strength of mind, in the cross joy of the Spirit, in the cross the height of virtue, in the cross perfection of holiness. There is no health of soul, no hope of eternal life, save in the cross.”

~Thomas A Kempis

# Saturday

April 30

**Morning:** 1 Samuel 23-24

**Evening:** Luke 22:31-53

## David's Plea

*“Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified. But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.”*  
**Psalm 40:16-17**

David says let those that seek you rejoice and be glad. In other words let those who seek God find Him and then have great joy because of the Lord. Those who have found salvation and really understand the mighty power that was put forth on Calvary should be overjoyed. Perhaps it is time to remind ourselves just all that God has done.

Let us that love our salvation be continually magnifying Christ. We should always have a great thing to say about our Savior giving honor to him for all that he has done for us. David knew sin and forgiveness and praised God for his redemption.

David recounts that he is poor and needy. We may not have any of the things that this world sees as valuable or important. Poor health and circumstances may be a source of great turmoil in our lives, but if we are saved we have hope. David speaks of such hope when he says he is poor “yet the Lord thinketh upon me.” He says I am poor but the fact that God (owner of all wealth and the giver of life) spends His time thinking about him is a comfort. When we understand such truth our perspective on wealth can be changed. We are heirs of the King and someday we will reign with Him.

Until the day we are called to the throne we can also echo David's words in verse seventeen: “Thou art my help and my deliverer.” Jehovah God will provide, protect, and deliver His children.

David ends with this plea: “*Make no tarrying, O my God.*” He says please don't wait. We should have such an attitude regarding the Lord's return. Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus! ~DJD

## Scripture Fill-In

“For the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one \_\_\_\_\_ for all, then were all dead: and that he died for \_\_\_\_\_, that they which live should not henceforth live unto \_\_\_\_\_, but unto \_\_\_\_\_ which died for them, and \_\_\_\_\_ again.”  
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

## Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Are you looking forward to the coming of our Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If He came today, would you be ready?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What changes do you need to make to be ready for the Lord's return?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# *I Am Not Ashamed*

**By Sumner Wemp**

*“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*  
*Romans 1:15-16*

Silence is not always golden, sometimes it is plain yellow. To say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," should be the testimony of every Christian. Lack of witnessing to a lost world should be the shame of all Christendom. Most are like those of Jeremiah's day: *“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall.”* (Jer. 6: 15). Where is the blush in our faces today that it takes one thousand laymen and six preachers to win a soul to Christ each year? Are we ashamed of our sin or of the Saviour?

No need to be ashamed of "good news," which is what the word "gospel" means. When I was a boy, it was the ambition of every boy to become a Western Union messenger. Sometimes the telegram delivered was not

good news. Our message today is good news. The best news in the world! And it is really "news" to most people: They just haven't been told! Romans 10:14 says, *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

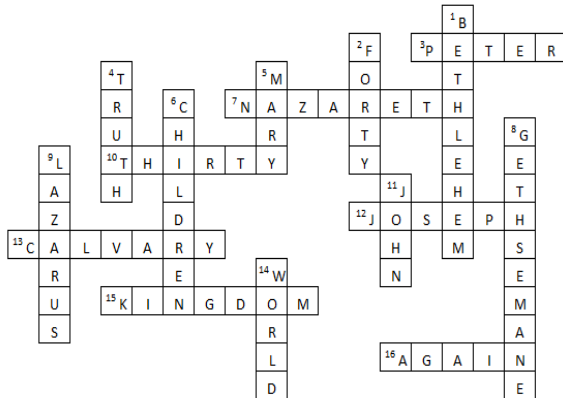
It is the "gospel of Christ," good news about the most wonderful Person in the world! The good news that God loves man, and Jesus Christ died for him. It would be easy to tell a neighbor that every bill he owed had just been paid in full by someone who loved him. With this attitude about sharing the good news of Christ, anyone can witness. Shortly after I was married, my wife and I went to my hometown. What a joy to introduce my wife to my friends. It was easy because I was in love with her. Can you imagine a Texan never mentioning Texas, or a new father his baby?

All are conscious of power today. We built a rocket with enough power first to get a man in orbit and now to get him to the moon, but the gospel is "the power of God" to get a man all the way to heaven!

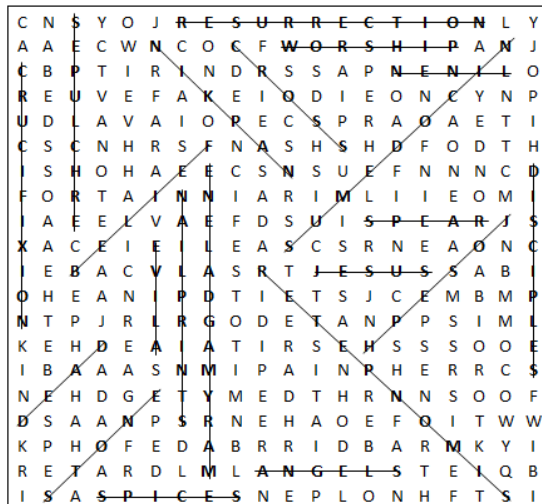
This salvation is "unto everyone that believeth." This poor world knows so little about love; it is hard for men to believe God really loves them so much or that there is no catch to it. How wonderful that we don't have to be afraid that anyone will be disappointed in God or be mistreated by Him. This is great news! Never be ashamed of the gospel nor a shame to it. Let us go forth and broadcast this good news cheerfully.

# Answers

## Cross-Word Puzzle



## Word Search



## Bible Quizzes

- April 1 Pg. 2 1. 30 2. 40  
 April 2 Pg. 3 1. B 2. B  
 April 3 Pg. 4 1. A 2. B 3. C  
 April 4 Pg. 5 1. Philemon 2. 2 John  
 April 5 Pg. 6 D & E

## Bible Quizzes Continued

- April 6 Pg. 7 Answers will vary.  
 April 7 Pg. 9 1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F  
 April 8 Pg. 10 G & K  
 April 9 Pg. 11 Answers will vary.  
 April 10 Pg. 12 1. Lust 2. Not  
 April 11 Pg. 13 1. Joyful 2. Noise  
 3. Salvation  
 April 12 Pg. 14 1. Five 2. Trials  
 3. Unstable in all his ways  
 4. a. Visit the orphans and  
 the widows b. To keep  
 unspotted from the world  
 5. A Friend of God  
 April 13 Pg. 15 1. Cheifest, servant  
 2. Serve, follow, honor  
 3. Gain 4. Servant  
 April 14 Pg. 17 1. A 2. C 3. B 4. D  
 April 15 Pg. 18 1. A 2. A  
 April 16 Pg. 19 1. D 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. E  
 April 17 Pg. 20 1. The tempter 2. Abaddon  
 3. He is a murderer and a  
 liar.  
 April 18 Pg. 21 1. B 2. B 3. A 4. B  
 April 19 Pg. 22 1. F 2. T 3. T  
 April 20 Pg. 23 1. F 2. F  
 April 21 Pg. 25 1. He was very glad.  
 2. He said nothing.  
 April 22 Pg. 26 Answers will vary.  
 April 23 Pg. 27 1. Judas 2. Pontius Pilate  
 3. Jesus 4. Criminal on  
 the cross 5. Jesus  
 April 24 Pg. 28 1. A 2. C  
 April 25 Pg. 29 1. D 2. D  
 April 26 Pg. 30 1. F 2. T  
 April 27 Pg. 31 1. Spirit 2. Dwell  
 3. Bodies 4. Quicken  
 5. Dead 6. Raised  
 7. Mortal 8. Jesus  
 April 28 Pg. 32 1. B 2. C  
 April 29 Pg. 33 1. E 2. D 3. A 4. B 5. C  
 April 30 Pg. 34 Answers will vary.