

Bread of Life

Devotional Guide

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

April 1, 2009

Dear Fellow Laborers in Christ:

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:6 This month, we celebrate the most exciting event in the history of the world, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Without this monumental event, Christianity has no foundation. No other god of any other religion claims to have risen from the dead. We serve the King of kings and Lord of lords whose power extends past this present life!

As you search the Scriptures this month, I pray that you will gain a bigger perspective on just how much Jesus Christ loves you. His love took Him to Calvary, but praise the Lord, His power conquered death!

In Christ,
Pastor Russ Merrin

This devotional is prepared and distributed as a ministry of:

Monclova Road Baptist Church
7819 Monclova Rd., Monclova, OH 43542
(419) 866-0773 — FAX: 419-868-1062
www.monclovabaptist.org

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Luke 22:31-32

Satan desired to tempt Simon Peter, no doubt because Peter was a man who loved God. Whenever Satan can cause a man of God to fall, it is a victory for him.

Note several things pertaining to these verses. Satan can tempt us; in this case, he went after a leader. If he can cause a leader to fall, many others will fall with him. When Peter quit the ministry, six other disciples went with him.

Jesus calls out Simon’s name twice, indicating an urgency from Christ that Peter needs to be prepared. Satan is a destroyer, and he is capable of sifting through our lives. He not only knows our weaknesses, but he has enough power to overcome our strengths, except it be for Christ.

God allowed Peter to fall, but he was not destroyed. However, he was humbled. This was a low point in Peter’s life, but a place that ultimately led to repentance.

At this point in time, Peter was not willing to give his life for his belief in Christ; but years later, he had grown spiritually, and he died a martyr’s death.

In addition, it is obvious that after Peter repented he had a tremendous ministry of strengthening his brethren and leading souls to Christ. So also is a ministry available to anyone who will repent and follow Christ. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Titus 3:5 “Not by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but _____ to his _____ he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- _____ 1. It is God’s will that some should be saved but others perish.
2 Peter 3:9
- _____ 2. Some people have never yielded to temptation. Romans 3:23
- _____ 3. A true Christian will confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in his heart that God raised Him from the dead. Romans 10:9-10
- _____ 4. The unsaved must pay a price for his sin. Romans 6:23
- _____ 5. The dead in Christ shall be raised immortal and incorruptible at the last trumpet. 1 Cor. 15:51-53

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Those who trust any rock but God will find it sand in the day of their distress: it will fail them when they most need it.”

~Matthew Henry

Matthew Henry Commentary



Morning: Judges 6, 7

Evening: Luke 8:1-21

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher.” Acts 13:29

The Greek word which is translated ‘fulfilled’ is used forty nine times; most of them deal with events that were being accomplished by Jesus during the Gospel period. Others will be fulfilled in the context of the Second Coming. There are some fifteen events dealing with the crucifixion alone. Many of these are very specific in nature, such as the amount of money Jesus was betrayed for, the gambling for his garments, and the fact his bones remained unbroken.

As you read Acts 13:29, notice three words: they, all, and Him. This verse states that they fulfilled the prophecies concerning Him. Judas, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers all played a part in fulfilling the prophecies concerning Jesus. Though they intended to destroy and discredit him, they unwittingly strengthened his case as the Messiah. At a time when it seemed as though God was losing the battle, he was actually controlling the events that fulfilled the prophecies.

How many of the prophecies concerning his first coming were fulfilled? All of them were fulfilled. This is how we can be sure in our faith. Our faith is not blind; it is based upon the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. And the God of the Old Testament prophecy is the God of the New Testament promise. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Titus 3:5 “Not by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but _____ to his _____ he _____ us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the Biblical parent in column 1 with his/her child in column 2.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| ___ 1. Abraham | A. Jacob |
| ___ 2. Ahaz | B. Jonathan |
| ___ 3. Bathsheba | C. Cain |
| ___ 4. King Saul | D. Solomon |
| ___ 5. Isaac | E. Ishmael |
| ___ 6. Eve | F. Hezekiah |
| ___ 7. Rachel | G. Obed |
| ___ 8. Ruth | H. Samuel |
| ___ 9. Hannah | I. Benjamin |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful, and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.” ~John Fischer



Morning: Judges 8, 9

Evening: Luke 8:22-56

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Fully Committed

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.” Revelation 3:16

After several years of teaching piano and voice, I have learned that there are two general types of students – committed and uncommitted. Some music students will practice and practice to become better musicians. Others have to be continually prodded to make progress. Obviously, I would much rather teach the committed student than the uncommitted.

I believe we can use this analogy to look at our verse for today. There is the devoted Christian, who is on fire for Jesus Christ. He goes to church services regularly and looks for ministry opportunities. He is in the Word of God daily, seeking what God has for him. Then, there is the lukewarm Christian, who is neither cold nor hot. He comes to church sometimes, but he is basically a pew warmer. He pulls out his Bible once or twice a week out of obligation. Now, who do you think God would rather teach? Clearly, He would rather work through the committed Christian. In fact, His words in Revelation 3:16 are pretty harsh; he will spew the lukewarm Christian out of His mouth.

Simply, it comes down to a choice. Either you will choose to be fully committed to Christ, or you will choose to live a nominal Christian life. With every choice, there is an end result. That result will be seen here on earth and in heaven. As you choose to be fully devoted to Christ, others around you will be affected by that decision. Eternally, you will

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

reap the rewards of your commitment when you meet your Savior. Choose today to fully commit to Christ! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Titus 3:5 “Not by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but _____ to his _____ he _____ us, by the washing of _____, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

- Which of the following men put out a fleece to see if dew would collect on it? Judges 6:36-37
A. Gideon B. Moses
C. Jacob D. Samuel
- What type of tree did Jesus make wither for not bearing fruit? Matthew 21:19
A. Pear B. Fig
C. Olive D. Peach
- In the parable told by Jesus, what was planted with the wheat by the enemy? Matthew 13:24-29
A. Grapes B. Olives
C. Tares D. Vines

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.” ~Joseph Fort Newton



Morning: Judges 10, 11

Evening: Luke 9:1-36

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.” Hebrews 2:3

This verse offers us a great question, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?” There are three words in this verse that we should be aware of. The first is escape. What are we trying to escape? We are escaping the judgment of God that is owed to us as a result of our sin. If the Bible states that we have to escape, then, we are already caught. We have been trapped by sin. According to the Scriptures, there is only one way to escape.

The next word for us to consider is neglect. To neglect is to put off or to fail, to be responsible. When it comes to the Gospel, we can be neglectful in many ways. We can neglect to receive salvation. We can also neglect to appreciate our salvation, forgetting what a wonderful change that has taken place in our lives. We can also neglect to share the plan of salvation with others.

Finally, I would like to consider the phrase “so great salvation.” Our salvation was purchased at a great price. Jesus had to shed His blood to purchase it for us. Our salvation has had a great effect on us. It has changed our eternal destiny. We have a new home in heaven when we deserve to be punished in hell forever. Our great salvation also enriches our lives today.

We have a new spiritual family and a new future, a purpose for life, and the opportunity to share our great salvation with others. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Titus 3:5 “Not by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but _____ to his _____ he _____ us, by the washing of _____, and _____ of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who are the two most well known angels named in a Bible.
 1. _____ Jude 9
 2. _____ Luke 1:19

2. Name the twelve tribes of Israel. Gen. 35:22-26
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 11. _____
 12. _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“By living fully, recognizing that all we do is by His power, we honor God; He in turn blesses us.” ~Becky Laird



Morning: Judges 12-14

Evening: Luke 9:37-62

When God Says No!

By Sumner Wemp

I heard a story recently about a young girl who wrote a letter to a missionary to let him know that her class had been praying for him. But, evidently she'd been told not to request a response to her letter because the missionaries were very busy. So, the missionary got a kick out of her letter. It said, "Dear Mr. Missionary, we are praying for you. But we are not expecting an answer."

I can't help but think that that little girl summarized the prayer lives of many Christians. Sometimes, we pray without expecting an answer, even though God has assured us that He does indeed hear our prayers. David said, "***I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications.***" (*Psalm 116:1*) But I think many of us struggle with the nagging question, "Is God really listening to me?" Yes, He heard David, He heard Elijah, and He heard the apostles. But does He hear me?

How do we really know that our prayers are answered? Sure, there are times when we see visible results. We may pray for someone who's sick, and the next week they get well. But more often, our prayers don't produce flashing "neon" answers. We pray for help in financial problems, and we don't see things get any better. We pray for guidance in making right decisions, but the decisions don't get any easier. We pray for relationships with other people to improve, but they just seem to get worse. How do we as Christians account for

that happening? How do we explain the fact that so many of our prayers seem to go unanswered?"

The truth is, for a child of God there is no such thing as an unanswered prayer. Maybe you've heard it said before that God answers prayer in three ways. Sometimes, the answer is "yes." Sometimes, the answer is "no." And, sometimes, the answer is "wait a while." It's easy to accept an answer of "yes," but what about when God says "no?"

Let me suggest three principles:

First of all, we need to trust God enough to realize that our all-loving, all-powerful Father loves us and has our best interest at heart. So, when it seems that God says "no" to our prayers, we must trust Him enough to understand that there must be a good reason for it. It may be beyond our limited ability to understand, but we must simply trust God.

Secondly, we must not forsake God. Disappointment is a dangerous, powerful thing. When we get the feeling that God isn't listening to us, that He has said "no" to some prayer, we have a tendency to feel disappointed in Him. And Satan whispers to us, "God said He loves you, but He's not here." And if we allow that disappointment to harbor in our hearts, it can drive a wedge between us and God.

(See "When God Says No" on page 22)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” 1 Corinthians 15:15-17

We would be false witnesses if Jesus Christ had not really risen from the dead. Also, if Christ had not risen from the dead, how would we expect to be raised up one day? Finally, if Christ was not risen from the dead, our faith is all in vain, or wasted.

Praise the Lord, Christ is risen from the dead. He was seen in His resurrected body by the disciples, by Paul, and by over 500 others. This is clear evidence that was received by those reading this letter to Corinth. If it were not true, it would have been rejected by Jewish readers.

John gives testimony in 1 John that he had seen the resurrected Christ and studied Him. John also says that he touched Him and that he heard Him speak. All of this is wonderful evidence that Christ did raise from the dead.

One more interesting note, when the Scripture was written claiming Christ’s resurrection, even the general population accepted the word of the witness. They did that because there were so many evidences of Christ’s resurrection being true, that it was undeniable.

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! And, He is coming again! Amen! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- ___ 1. Jesus appeared to Thomas on the first day of the week. John 20:19-24
- ___ 2. Thomas did not believe even though he saw the Savior. John 20:26-29
- ___ 3. Paul declared that Jesus arose again the third day. 1 Cor. 15:3-4
- ___ 4. There is victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57
- ___ 5. Mary Magdalene told Simon Peter Jesus’ body had been stolen from the sepulcher. John 20:1-2
- ___ 6. The disciples rolled away the stone from the tomb. Matthew 28:2-3

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, and looks to God alone; laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done.” ~Charles Wesley



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors.” John 4:36-38

Both, the one who sows the seeds in spring and the one who reaps the fruit in autumn, have equally important jobs. They are interdependent. Should either of them shirk their responsibilities the other will suffer.

Those who have the joy of leading someone to Christ have the “wage” of that joy and the reward for their service in heaven. Likewise, those who may have been rejected initially but were faithful to give the Gospel will receive crowns as well.

This verse in John comes after Jesus had spoken to the Samaritan woman. She then went out and planted the seeds of the Gospel among the Samaritans simply by telling them about Jesus. She was faithful and glad to share what Jesus had done for her. She then returned with a great number of people to see the Christ.

Jesus used her as an example to teach. He was telling the disciples to get ready. She had not only planted but brought the harvest to them. They just needed to pay attention and reap.

Jesus says: be prepared and faithful, realizing you do not work alone. Be the one to plant the seed as God provides the situation. Then, be the one to reap. In either case, be faithful.

~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall _____ up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the parent in column 1 with his/her child in column 2.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| _____ 1. Aaron
Lev. 10:1 | A. Ham |
| _____ 2. Nimshi
1 Ki. 19:16 | B. Joshua |
| _____ 3. Jesse
Ru. 4:17 | C. Reuben |
| _____ 4. Nun
Num. 14:6-8 | D. Rehoboam |
| _____ 5. Leah
Gen. 29:32 | E. David |
| _____ 6. Noah
Gen. 5:32 | F. Ahimelech |
| _____ 7. Ahilud
1 Ki. 4:3 | G. Absalom |
| _____ 8. Abiathar
2 Sam. 8:17 | H. Jehu |
| _____ 9. Solomon
1 Ki. 14:21 | I. Jehoshaphat |
| _____ 10. David
2 Sam. 3:2-3 | J. Nadab |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy.” ~Abraham Lincoln



Morning: Judges 18, 19

Evening: Luke 10:25-42

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

How to Handle Secular Affairs

“And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.” Luke 16:9

What this verse means is we are to do right in our earthly, secular affairs. We are to work hard, expect a fair wage, give a fair wage, be honest, and pay our debts. Christian people, above all, are to be honest and fair when it comes to earthly and monetary relationships. Then, we are to transfer these qualities into our spiritual lives.

The man in Luke 16:9 had been diligent only in matters concerning mammon and earthly affairs, but he had thought nothing of his spiritual affairs. In Luke 16:8, the Lord talks about the children of this world being wiser than the children of light. He mentions the diligence that people of the world have in making money and the hour, days, weeks, months, and years spent on shrewd deals, while we do God’s business so half-heartedly.

What a shame it is that Sunday school classes are not run as effectively as school classes! What a shame it is that Christians are not as zealous for their work for Christ as they are in their secular jobs! God’s business should be run just as effectively as the world runs its business. What a shame that the advertising, the planning, the diligence, and the zeal of the world to make money often surpasses that of the Christian community which is eternal business with eternal rewards!

Let each of us consider the world as a house

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

and ourselves as good stewards. Let us take inventory of what God has given us and what we are doing with it. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall _____ up before him as a _____ plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. “And the sun _____, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.” Lk. 23:45
A. Was gone B. Stopped shining
C. Being hid D. Was darkened
2. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: _____ was manifested in the flesh.” 1 Tim. 3:16
A. God B. Christ
C. Jesus D. He
3. “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled Himself, and became _____ unto death.” Phil. 2:8
A. Resolved B. Obedient
C. Bitter D. Submissive

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“For God Himself works in our souls, in the deepest depths, taking increasing control as we are progressively willing to be prepared for His wonder.” ~Thomas R. Kelly



Morning: Judges 20, 21

Evening: Luke 11:1-28

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“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.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

What is stopping you from serving Christ? What excuse have you been using as a “reason” as to why you cannot surrender for full time ministry, teach that Sunday school class or work in the teen group at church? Maybe you have been hiding behind the “fact” that you are not a good public speaker. Perhaps your “thorn in the flesh” is fear. Ask yourself, “What is stopping me from serving the Lord?”

In 2 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul records an “affliction” or “thorn in the flesh.” In verse 7, Paul described why he received such an affliction when he wrote, “And lest I should be exalted above measure.” In other words, “Just so I would not get too cocky and so everyone would not give me all the glory.”

What his “thorn in the flesh” was is not specifically known. Some Bible scholars think that it was a physical problem; such as poor eye sight or a speech disability. Others think that his “thorn in the flesh” was spiritual; such as constant temptation. One Bible professor interpreted this verse in the most literal sense by teaching that “the Bible says it was a ‘minister of Satan,’ therefore Paul had his own ‘minister of Satan or demon’ that constantly tried to hinder his ministry.” What his “thorn in the flesh” was is not important. What is important is the fact that it did not become an excuse as to why he could not minister for Christ. Rather than

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

make excuses, he relied on the grace of God to get him through the daily difficulties.

But the grace of God is not the only highlight of verse nine. Notice the rest of the verse, “For my strength is made perfect in weakness.” So, you do not think that you have what it takes to be a missionary. You are right! In your strength you can never do it, but God’s strength in you is “made perfect in [your] weakness.” The point is this: God allows such afflictions in our lives not to be used as an excuse as to why we cannot serve, but as a reminder to us that when we do serve it is God that works in us. Without Him we can do nothing! So, go ahead, surrender to the ministry, volunteer to teach that class or work in the teen group and watch the strength of the Lord work in your life despite your weakness. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall _____ up before him as a _____ plant, and as a _____ out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. The Israelites were instructed by God to eat _____ at Passover. Ex. 12:1-11
2. _____ reigned as king for seven days? 1Kings 16:15

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” Hebrews 8:6

This verse is referring to Jesus Christ, and it is a comparison between Jesus’ ministry and the Old Testament priesthood. Jesus has a greater ministry than the priest because His ministry has a greater impact. The ministry of the priest was temporary in two aspects. First, it had to be repeated; another sin required another sacrifice. The sacrifices had to go on and on because the sin never stopped. Secondly, the priesthood was temporary because it could never take away sin forever.

In contrast, the sacrifice of Jesus, our great High Priest was better. Jesus put on human flesh and fulfilled every requirement of God’s law. He sacrificed himself as God’s perfect, sinless Lamb. His once and for all sacrifice took away our sin forever.

The covenant that we have with Jesus is better. Not only did He sacrifice Himself for us, but He lives forever to make intercession for us before the throne. Because He will never die, He will always be able to keep His promises.

We have received a better sacrifice, a better covenant, and a better promise. All of which demands a greater responsibility for us to live for His honor and glory. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall _____ up before him as a _____ plant, and as a _____ out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor _____; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- _____ 1. The devil tried to tempt Jesus after He fasted in the wilderness 40 days. Matt. 4:2-3
- _____ 2. Jesus tells us to pray for our enemies. Matt. 5:43-44
- _____ 3. If we humble ourselves, God will lift us up. James 4:10
- _____ 4. We should pray for those that curse and use us. Luke 6:28
- _____ 5. When we are suffering, we need to pray. James 5:13
- _____ 6. Paul tells us to pray at least once a day. 1 Thess. 5:17

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.”

~Abraham Lincoln



Morning: 1 Samuel 1-3

Evening: Luke 12:1-34

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

It Will Be Worth It All

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick, but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.”

Proverbs 13:12

After a couple’s exciting announcement of pregnancy, they must wait nine months before their baby’s arrival. Those months of waiting are filled with preparing the baby’s room, going to parenting classes, praying for their child, and dreaming of their future role as parents. It is a long, tiresome wait, but how wonderful to finally hold the precious little one!

Have you ever had to wait for something, and literally, the waiting made you physically ill? There have been times in my life when I have waited and waited for God’s blessing, and the anxiety, restlessness, and worry made me sick. However, when the blessing came, oh how sweet was the celebration!

As Christians, we are waiting for the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The waiting can become almost unbearable as trials, struggles, and problems become overwhelming. We long for Christ to come and take us home to a place where the suffering will be over. As we live in a country and world that is on a fast moral decline, we become sickened over sin, and we long for Christ to return and set the wrongs right. We must continue to press on for the Lord until His return. Dear friends, I assure you all the waiting will be worth it all! I leave you with the chorus lyrics to the song “When We See Christ” by Esther Kerr Rusthoi:

*“It will be worth it all
When we see Jesus,
Life’s trials will seem so small*

*When we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face
All sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race
Till we see Christ.”*

~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:2 “For he shall _____ up before him as a _____ plant, and as a _____ out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor _____; and when we shall _____ him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the Bible incident in column 1 with the book in which it is found in column 2. See how you do without the Scripture references. Answers on page 36.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| _____ 1. Paul’s presentation of the Gospel | A. Psalms |
| _____ 2. Predictions of a Servant/Messiah | B. Genesis |
| _____ 3. Songs of praise | C. Matthew |
| _____ 4. Beginnings | D. Isaiah |
| _____ 5. Story of Jesus’ life and death | E. Romans |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.”

~Abraham Lincoln



Morning: 1 Samuel 4-6

Evening: Luke 12:35-59



Share the Gospel

Relax! Witnessing is not the great debate! This is crucial to understand. Too many people go at witnessing as though they are approaching an adversary, and they have to convince, convict and convert them. No! I am their friend and I have the best news they have ever heard. Our task is to share the Gospel, the GOOD NEWS, that the Lord Jesus suffered and died for our sins, paid the debt in full, rose again, and was seen by hundreds of people. Let God do the convincing, convicting, and converting. You just share the Gospel, the good news! Don't get sidetracked.

Ninety-nine percent of the time, people will respond to you the same way you approach them. If you are gracious and relaxed, they will be too. If you have the joy of the Lord in your heart and a smile of the Lord on your face, they will be far more likely to listen. It is so important to realize this.

NEVER talk about "sharing your faith." I am dead serious about this. It has the idea that I have to share this great big body of "truth," defend my position, and answer all their questions; it scares people to death. No, we are to share the Gospel. Jesus said, "Preach the Gospel." (Mark 16:15) He did not say, "Preach your faith." Romans 1: 16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." People are not saved by our faith; they are saved by the Gospel. Please think this through. It will transform your witnessing.

Christ died for our sins, paid the debt in full, rose again, and was seen alive by hundreds of

people. Do you not want to tell everyone this good news? Don't you wish someone would graciously tell your unsaved dad, mom, or relative, living miles and miles away, about the saving power of Jesus Christ? Come on folks; this is what the Christian life is all about. **"Herein is my father glorified that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples."** (John 15:8) ~CSW



Isaiah 53:2 "For he shall _____ up before him as a _____ plant, and as a _____ out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor _____; and when we shall _____ him, there is no beauty that we should _____ him."

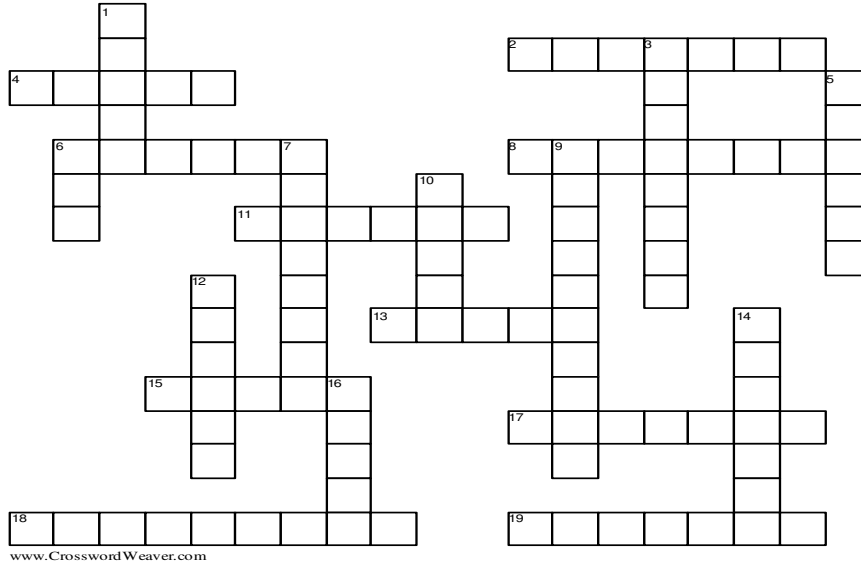


Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

- How many days did it rain during the great flood? Genesis 7:12
 A. 7 days B. 14 days
 C. 40 days D. 60 days
- Who founded Nineveh? Gen. 10:11
 A. Reuben B. Gomer
 C. Nimrod D. Asshur
- What was the name of the tower where God confused the language? Gen. 11:5-9
 A. Accad B. Babel
 C. Calneb D. Dedan
- By the _____ of the Lord were the heavens made." Ps. 33:6
 A. Fire B. Word
 C. Touch D. Prayer



CROSSWORD PUZZLE
Easter—The Salvation Story



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 2 The people cried out to _____ Jesus.
John 19:6
- 4 Pilate told the people he found no _____ in Jesus. John 19:4
- 6 The soldiers made a crown out of these.
John 19:2
- 8 This man was released to the crowd instead of Jesus. John 18:39-40
- 11 Jesus saw this woman at His crucifixion.
John 19:26
- 13 Satan put the thought into Judas Iscariot's _____ to betray Jesus. John 13:2
- 15 Jesus told his disciples, "If a man love Me, he will keep My _____." John 14:23
- 17 Peter _____ to let Jesus wash his feet in John 13:8.
- 18 Jesus was buried in a new _____ in the garden. John 19:41-42
- 19 Nicodemus brought a _____ of myrrh and aloes for Jesus' burial. John 19:39

Down

- 1 Pilate asked Jesus, "What is _____?"
John 18:38
- 3 The high priest during Jesus' trial
John 18:24
- 5 He came and took the body of Jesus for burial.
John 19:38
- 6 How many men were crucified with Jesus?
John 19:32
- 7 Pilate did this to Jesus when he crowned Him.
John 19:1
- 9 Joseph was from this town. John 19:38
- 10 What did Jesus say He would leave with His disciples in John 14:27?
- 12 Peter was the _____ disciple to the sepulcher where Jesus had been laid.
John 20:4
- 14 As Jesus hung on the cross, He was thirsty; He was given this. John 19:28-30
- 16 The soldiers did this to Jesus. John 19:3

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Proclaim the Resurrection

“Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.” John 20:18

After Mary’s encounter with the risen Christ, can you imagine the feeling and emotion that welled up within her soul? I would imagine her feet could not run fast enough to tell the disciples that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the One who had claimed to be God, was alive! He had risen from the grave! I can just see her bursting into the room, stumbling over her words as she told the men all she had seen and heard. Moments before, she had been weeping at the tomb of her Savior, the One who had forgiven her of a life of sin and given her hope. But, seeing the risen Christ, turned her weeping to rejoicing, and she wanted to share this good news.

The resurrection distinguishes Jesus Christ from all other prophets or gods. No other prophet, teacher, or god claims to be risen from the dead! Folks, this is the foundational principle of Christianity. Without the resurrection, we have nothing to celebrate. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, conquered death! This fact sets Christianity apart. Are we running to tell others about this miracle, or have we become complacent after being told the story every Easter? This miraculous act, testified and witnessed by many, is more than just a story; it is the basis of Christianity and the hope of our salvation! I urge you to share the wonderful news of the resurrection. This life changing event that we celebrate at Easter brought hope and salvation to mankind! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the Bible event in column 1 with the Biblical character in column 2 that completes the statement.

- ___ 1 Who baptized Jesus? A. Joseph
Matt. 3:13-17
- ___ 2. She told her son to B. Pharoah
deceive his father?
Gen 27:6-10
- ___ 3. Who had a dream C. Rebekah
about fat and thin cows?
Gen. 41:1-3
- ___ 4 Who was Joseph’s D. John
full-blooded, younger
brother? Gen. 35:16-18
- ___ 5 Who was embalmed E. Benjamin
and put in a coffin
in Egypt? Gen. 50:26

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Yesterday is a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the cash on hand.”

~Dr. John W. Lewis



Morning: 1 Samuel 10-12

Evening: Luke 13:22-35

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.” John 4:50

It seems an over simplification for a person just to hear Jesus speak and to believe. Why? Jesus told the disciples that if they did not have the faith of a child they would not see the kingdom of God.

This nobleman knew who Jesus was and no doubt had heard of His power. Perhaps, he was even an eye witness to Jesus’ healing touch. For him, believing was just knowing Jesus and hearing him speak the words.

Sadly, today, people seem so captivated by spirituality and experience that simply hearing Jesus speak mercy and healing into their life and believing in Him seems too easy. He made it easy. They want more. People are looking for a sign written in the sky instead of a truth written in His Word.

In verse 48, before we see this man’s faith, Jesus addresses this lack of faith, *“Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.”* He knew the cynical heart of a sinful world. Faith has been shattered by the power of Satan. Today, it means believing anything. However, real faith is trusting in something you can’t completely understand.

This nobleman did not need a sign; he just needed Jesus to speak. Because of his faith, the child he thought would die lived. Jesus is the same today. He says believe, and though you were dead, you will live. He says follow me, and though you were lost, you will be found. He says give it all away, and you will

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

have it all to gain. Search God’s Word instead of looking in the sky for a sign, and you will find the cross, His sign. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the _____.”
John 16:16
2. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “_____”: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30
3. “For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A _____ of him shall not be _____.”
John 19:36

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It is the duty of parents to acquaint their children betimes with the word and works of God, that they may be trained up in the way they should go.” ~Matthew Henry,
Matthew Henry Commentary



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Disloyalty

“And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?” Number 16:3

One of the greatest sins is disloyalty. Children should be taught early in life to be loyal. They should be taught to be loyal to God, to their parents, pastors, spiritual leaders, their church, and their country.

It takes both an ear to hear and a tongue to participate in gossip. If there is no one to hear gossip, then the person who is trying to speak will not be successful. Every Christian should give himself to be diligent about refusing to listen to talk about their spiritual leaders. This is dangerous to you and your church. Though God knows His leaders are not perfect, He wants His leaders to be respected in the positions they hold. God will punish people who fail to respect them. Notice Moses’ response to the congregation: *“And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.” Numbers 16:26*

Criticism hurts the critic far more than it does the criticized. The reason that your pastor or spiritual leaders do not want you to criticize them or other church leaders is not for their sake, but rather for yours. You need to be a

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

strong Christian that is growing in the grace and admonition of the Lord. Criticism is often the first step toward a backslidden life. Let each of us take careful thought and consideration to guard against allowing ourselves to participate in criticism of any type. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS:

Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

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

- ___ 1. Soldiers cast lots for Jesus’ coat. John 19:24
- ___ 2. The soldiers gave Jesus wine as He hung on the cross. John 19:29
- ___ 3. The last words of Jesus on the cross were, “It is finished.” John 19:30
- ___ 4. Pilate sought to release Jesus. John 19:12
- ___ 5. John the Baptist went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. John 19:38

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Be sure you put your feet in the right place; then stand firm.” ~Abraham Lincoln



Morning: 1 Samuel 15, 16

Evening: Luke 14:25-35

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envying, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults.”

2 Corinthians 12:20

“Alright, Jimmy, I am going to be gone for a little bit. While I am gone, you need to clean your room, take out the trash and mow the grass. I’ll be back later. Make sure you get everything done before I come back.” With that, Dad leaves the house.

What a day to have chores to do! It is 85 degrees out, there is not a cloud in the sky and little Johnny, next door, is swimming in his pool. Jimmy makes his way to the shed and gets the lawnmower out. As he is filling it with gas, Johnny yells from across the fence, “Hey, man I thought you said you would come over today and go swimming.” Jimmy thinks for a minute, “Dad will not be back for a couple hours. I have plenty of time to get all that work done.” After a while, Jimmy realizes that he better get back to the house and complete all of his chores. As he gets out of the pool, he checks the time. It has been two hours. He had better hurry.

He starts the lawn mower and as fast as he can mows the grass. As he heads inside, his cell phone rings. “Hello,” he answers. “Hello son, this is your father. ‘I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not,’” says the voice on the other end of the line.

The Apostle Paul had a similar conversation with the Corinthian believers, only his was

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

written in the Word of God, and he was concerned, not with chores, but with sin. Basically, Paul told the Church at Corinth that there was a standard of living that he expected from them, and he was worried that when he showed up, they would not be living right.

So, how are you living? One day, Jesus Christ will return to earth. On that day, how will he find you? Are you ready for His return or too busy swimming in the things of the world? He will return. Are you ready?

~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of _____, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match each Biblical incident in column 1 with the book in which it occurs in column 2.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| ___ 1. The account of the early church | A. Proverbs |
| ___ 2. Israelites entry into Canaan | B. Revelations |
| ___ 3. Visions of the things to come | C. Acts |
| ___ 4. A book of wise sayings | D. Luke |
| ___ 5. Anna and Simeon | E. Joshua |





Hardened Hearts

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.” Exodus 7:14

Like Pharaoh, we sometimes harden our hearts when God calls on us to do something that we think we're not ready to do. We think we have enough going on in our lives, and surely God isn't seriously prompting us to add another ministry or service to our schedule. You may have found yourself saying, “I don't have time for visitation or work in the nursery. Are you kidding? Maybe I will do that later, but right now I am too busy with ME.” Friends, there may not be a later. Every time we harden our hearts, we miss opportunities to be obedient and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who gave His all.

In Pharaoh's case, his disobedience led to ten plagues. The ten plagues not only affected him but the whole nation of Egypt. Can you imagine your water being turned into blood or swarms of lice enveloping you and all you have? Pharaoh just didn't want to let the people go. Just think, everything you do has an effect on you and those around you. Your hardened heart may keep others from doing what God has asked them to do. You are an example to others. No matter what you think, others are WATCHING!

Will you continue to harden your heart, or will you give God first place in your life?

~KAT



Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of _____, and acquainted with _____: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”



Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. The Lord made a covenant for the land of Canaan with _____. Gen. 15:18
A. Noah B. Lot
C. Abram D. Jacob
2. What was the name of the well where God spoke to Hagar? Gen. 16:6-14
A. Beerlahairoi B. Beersheba
C. Jacob's well D. Beeroth
3. How old was Abram when God changed his name to Abraham? Gen. 17:1-5
A. 90 B. 99
C. 125 D. 100
4. What did Abraham do when God told him Sarah would have a child in her old age? Gen. 17:17
A. Cried B. Fainted
C. Laughed D. Denied
5. What did Sarah do when she heard the three men tell Abraham she would bear a child? Gen. 18:12
A. Laughed B. Died
C. Fainted D. Ran off



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16:30-31

Our witness and testimony are crucial in sharing Christ. Paul and Silas were locked up in prison. I’m sure it was not as nice as the prisons today. Certainly, most of those in prison today live better locked up than they did in the free world. These prisons were cold, dark, and damp, but Paul and Silas, encouraged by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. They weren’t crying and whining to each other. As a result, the jailer was saved.

Why do we cry and whine? We have all been tried and tested on many levels, some of us to a greater degree than others. When we respond to difficulties with joy and praising God, we become a great testimony to the unsaved around us. People are watching us. They see how we respond in difficult times such as we are in right now. They are scared. Let them see the hope that is within Christians. Let them see us wholly trust in Christ, not our bank accounts or government provisions. We have no reason to walk in fear, but we have every reason to pray and sing praises to God. We’ve read the end of the Book, and we know how it will all end. Any sorrow in our hearts or on our faces should be for those who are perishing, not for ourselves. Remember “Jesus is LORD!” *“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.” 2 Corinthians 1:9-10 ~JW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of _____, and acquainted with _____: and we hid as it were our _____ from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “Abraham _____ his son Isaac being eight days old.” Gen. 21:4
2. “Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, _____.” Gen. 21:9
3. “Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a _____.” Gen. 22:8
4. “God told Abraham, I will multiply thy seed as the _____ of the heaven, and as the _____ which is upon the seashore.” Gen. 22:17

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Because you have a problem, it doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love you.”
~David Arnold



Morning: 1 Samuel 22-24

Evening: Luke 16:1-18

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

The other day I was reading through Hebrews, and I came across the phrase “hold fast” twice in my reading. My curiosity was sparked, so I did a search, and here is what I found:

2 Tim. 1:13 “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

We are admonished by Paul to hold fast to sound doctrine in faith and love. We are to embrace the truth of God’s Word and live it out in our daily walk.

Heb. 3:6 “ . . . hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

We should cling to the confidence that we have in Christ, and this should cause rejoicing in the hope that we have in Him.

Hebrews 4:14 “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.”

We are to hold fast to our profession because of our great High Priest. He made the saving sacrifice that saved us, and He lives forever to keep His promise. Hebrews 10:23 states that we are to hold our profession without wavering because of God’s faithfulness.

1 Thess. 5:21 “ . . . hold fast that which is good.”

We must be discerning between what is sinful and what helps to live a holy life and cling to that which is holy.

Rev 2:25 “ . . . hold fast till I come.”
~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:3 “He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of _____, and acquainted with _____: and we hid as it were our _____ from him; he was despised, and we _____ him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- ___ 1. The angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham out of a burning bush. Ex. 3:1-2
- ___ 2. Moses’ father-in-law was Jethro. Ex. 4:18
- ___ 3. God told Moses He would bring him into the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Ex. 6:2-8
- ___ 4. In Exodus 15, Moses and the Israelites sang a song of God’s redemption.
- ___ 5. The children of Israel did eat manna in the wilderness for forty-five years. Ex. 16:35
- ___ 6. Moses was to speak to the rock in Horeb to get water to drink. Ex.17:6

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Obedience and self-judgment and faithfulness and diligence in our service will result in full assurance.” ~M.R. DeHaan



The Bread of Life . . . Page 22

"When God Says No" continued from page 6

We must continue to be faithful to our responsibility before God.

And **thirdly**, we need to realize that the answer may not be "no," but only "wait a while." God always answers our prayers immediately, but sometimes there's a delay in the giving of the answer, and that can be a difficult thing for us to accept. The ability to wait for an answer is one of the marks of maturity. Be willing to let God answer in His own time, in His own way, and in His own power.

Many people see God as a divine vending machine in which you deposit one prayer and out pops a blessing. But what happens when you put your money in the Coke machine and nothing comes out? You get angry; you kick the Coke machine. So, it's not surprising that such a view of God and prayer leads to disappointment when God says no.

I believe that we need to foster an entirely different view of prayer from that one. Our God is the Great God of the Universe, the Creator of all things that exist other than Himself. For us to even venture to speak to Him is presumptuous. For us to ask Him to pay attention to our requests and then hope for Him to meet them requires bold expectation. In fact, such would be arrogance if it were not for the simple fact that God tells us to do just that.

Looking from the proper perspective, we will not ask, "What happens when God says no?" But rather, we will ask, "What happens when God says "yes"? That the God of the heavens would listen to us and our needs is a great testimony to His great love for us, and it is that love that will lead Him to say "no" from time to time. At those times, we must

trust Him knowing that He loves us and desires what is best for us. We must never forsake Him nor our duty toward Him, and we must realize that what we interpret to be an answer of "no" may just be God telling us to wait a while.

"This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us." (I John 5:14)♦

CRUCIFY OR IGNORE?

Author Unknown

*When Jesus came to Golgotha
They hanged Him on a tree;
They drove great nails through hands and feet
And made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns,
Red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days
And human flesh was cheap.*

*When Jesus came to our town,
They simply passed Him by;
They did not hurt a hair of Him,
They did not watch Him die;
For men had grown more tender,
They would not cast a stone;
They only passed Him on the street
And left Him there alone.*

*Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them
For they know not what they do;"
For you and you and you;
We pass Him by and leave Him there,
Without an eye to see,
And crucify our Lord afresh,
As He prays for Calvary.*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.”

2 Corinthians 11:30

How do you handle difficult situations? During the presidential election season of 2008, it was intriguing to hear the Republican candidate, John McCain, tell of his account of the events which he suffered in Hanoi, Vietnam. After his plane was shot down on October 26, 1967, he spent five and a half years as a prisoner of war. During that time, he suffered broken bones, beatings, interrogations, little nourishment, solitary confinement and many other horrific events that no human being should have to suffer. His personal account of the events were published in the May 14, 1973, edition of U.S. News and World Report magazine and can now be found on-line at <http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/2008/01/28/john-mccain-prisoner-of-war-a-first-person-account.html?PageNr=1>.

Despite the torture, the interrogations and cruel treatment, when asked about military information his standard response was, “name, rank, serial number and date of birth.” When the Vietnamese offered to release him, he refused release so as not to demoralize his fellow prisoners. He refused to use his “status” as the son of an admiral to receive preferential treatment. He believed in the United States and all she stood for so much that he endured such hardship and counted it an honor to serve such a country.

Long before John McCain was ever thought of, the Apostle Paul gave a rather descriptive account of his difficulties. In 2 Corinthians

11:22-28, Paul records his own account of his difficulties. During this time, he was beaten, thrown into prison, shipwrecked, went without food and even suffered perils from his own countrymen. He believed in Jesus Christ and His kingdom so much that he endured such hardship and counted it an honor to serve such a Master.

As you read 2 Corinthians 11:22-30, ask yourself a few questions: “Have I really suffered for Jesus Christ?” “Do I believe in Jesus so much that I would be willing to suffer for Him?” How do you handle difficult situations? When it is all said and done, glory, not in yourself, but in the things that concern your infirmities. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Isaiah 53:5 “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.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Abel | A. Musician/shepherd and king |
| ___ 2. Boaz | B. Judge of Israel |
| ___ 3. David | C. High Priest |
| ___ 4. Deborah | D. Shepherd |
| ___ 5. Eleazar | E. Farmer |



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.” John 7:7 “If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” John 15:20

If you have ever tried to be hated, it is an easy exercise. It takes little more than going against the “norm.” If you don’t go along with the crowd, you can get labelled with lightning speed.

Jesus was calling the Jews to live beyond just the law. His higher standard brought questions about the validity of their actions. Like the people of Jesus’ day, His standards place everyone at a crossroads. We can evaluate our choices and replace them with a correct ones, or we can retaliate against the standard bearer. Sinful man almost always chooses the latter.

No one knew this better than Christ Himself. In John 7, Jesus avoids travel through Jewry because of the threats on his life. The Jews hated Him. His presence raised a new standard that their false humility and prideful tithes could not reach. His purity reminded them of their sinfulness. With each example of Jesus’ compassion and power, the Jews grew more indignant.

They failed to see His correction as love. Each time He testified of their sin, their cries for His death became louder. He sought reconciliation—they looked to quiet Him. He brought compassion—they delivered him to death.

We should expect nothing more than a death sentence for ourselves. The world who killed our Messiah hates those who stand with Him. They can kill the body, but Christ holds our

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

souls. He does, however, promise reward for our obedience to Him. Let this assurance be our security. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. Who in Jericho protected Israelite spies? Joshua 2:1-4
A. Rachel B. Rahab
C. Rebekah D. Dinah
2. How many years of plenty in Egypt were in Joseph’s dream ? Gen. 41:47-48
A. Ten B. Twenty
C. Seven D. Seventeen
3. Joseph was sold by his brothers to a caravan and eventually to whom? Gen 37:36
A. Potiphar B. Pharoah
C. Pharez D. Gehazi

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“This life is a dressing room for eternity. There is no second chance.” ~W. E. Dowell



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Jesus' Displeasure

“And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.” Luke 2:48

As was the custom, Mary and Joseph travelled to Jerusalem every year for the Passover. At the age of twelve, Jesus went with them and remained behind in the temple talking to the priests and answering their questions.

His parents had missed seeing Jesus for a whole day and could not find Him among the travelers. So, they returned to the city to seek Him. It took three days to find him. This is always the case. It is easier to lose the presence of Jesus Christ than to regain it! It took three times as long to find Him than it did to lose Him. However, when they found Him, He was in the temple answering the learned scholar's questions. Mary, His mother, said, “Your father and I have sought thee.” Jesus seemed to show His displeasure even at the age of twelve. He told her, “...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” Jesus was saying, “Joseph is not my father; the Heavenly Father is my Father.” There is no doubt that He was displeased with Joseph's misunderstanding regarding their relationship. God was His Father, and He must be about His Father's business.

Bear in mind that I am not advocating anger or temper tantrums. Neither am I advocating Pharisaism. I am teaching that it is not wrong for God's people to have a holy displeasure toward sin. Let us be careful not to teach a false piety. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was _____ for our _____, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “Thou shalt have no other _____ before me.” Ex. 20:3
2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven _____.” Ex. 20:4
3. “Thou shalt not take the _____ of the LORD thy God in _____.” Ex. 20:7
4. “Remember the _____ day, to keep it holy.” Ex. 20:8
5. “Honor thy _____ and thy _____: that thy days may be long upon the land.” Ex. 20:12
6. Thou shalt not _____. Ex. 20:13
7. “Thou shalt not _____.” Ex. 20:14

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God loved freedom so much that He allowed Adam and Eve the freedom to make the wrong choice, even when He knew that choice would plunge the whole world into sin.” ~CWH



Morning: 2 Samuel 1-3

Evening: Luke 18:1-17

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3

Sometimes, I think God must be disappointed by our little prayers. God gives us four principles in this verse.

First, “Call unto me.” If you don’t ask, you will not receive it. Jesus says, “Ye have not, because ye ask not.” If you don’t seek, you don’t find. If you don’t knock, the doors will not open. And, if you don’t ask, you will not get an answer.

Second, if you call on God, He will answer. Put Him to the test! See if God will not answer your prayer. God’s promise is always good. It is certain, and God does not change. So, this promise of the Old Testament is good for today!

Third, God’s answer will be great, and He will show us mighty (hidden) things. Have you ever had someone ask you for something that was a small favour, and you were disappointed they didn’t ask for more? God wants to do great things for us. He wants to show us things we have never seen before. Apparently, some things are hidden from us because our prayers are small.

Fourth, and finally, God will do over and above what we have even thought possible, things we don’t even know about. I believe heaven will unfold stories to us where God went way beyond our prayers with His answers. Souls will be saved that we never even asked for. Many answers to prayer will be given that we never expected.

However, all this will be missed by some

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

because of a lack of calling on the Lord, and a lack of faith in asking God for big things.
~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was _____ for our _____, he was _____ for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine heart that God hath _____ Him from the dead, thou _____ be saved.” Rom. 10:9
2. “For it is _____, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall _____ to me, and every _____ shall confess to God.” Rom. 14:11
3. “For the _____ of the cross is to them that perish _____; but unto us which are saved it is the _____ of God.” 1 Cor. 1:18

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“When sinners grow over much wickedness, they die before their time.” ~Matthew Henry



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Fleshly Cravings

“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. 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 2:15-16

Lust is defined as desiring something eagerly or to long for something.

Lust of the flesh – This is a longing for sexual fulfillment, excessive amounts of food, alcohol, or anything else that you want to consume.

Lust of the eyes – This consists of looking at others with improper thoughts, pornography, or reading material that is not good for your mind.

Pride of life – Pride is defined as an unreasonable conceit about one's own superiority, an arrogant display of oneself.

God hates all these things. If we indulge in these things, verse 16 tells us that we are not of God, but of the world. We all should be evaluating our lives daily, asking ourselves, “Am I lusting? What am I lusting for? Who am I lusting after? Am I prideful?”

On the other end of the spectrum, here are some things that are of God:

Love - deep affection

Joy - delight and exhilaration of spirit

Peace - a state of quiet or tranquillity

Longsuffering - being patient and not easily provoked

Gentleness - sweetness of disposition

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Goodness - moral qualities which constitute Christian excellence

Faith - belief in unseen things

Meekness - a softness of temper, mildness, or gentleness

Temperance - patience and moderation

Compare the fleshly cravings to the things of God, and ask yourself, “Am I of this world, or am I pleasing God with my thoughts, actions, and disposition? The choice is yours! ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was _____ for our _____, he was _____ for our iniquities: the _____ of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- ___ 1. There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ. Rom. 8:1
- ___ 2. The payment for sin is death. Rom. 6:23
- ___ 3. All have not sinned. Rom. 3:23

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Before an individual can be saved, he must first learn that he cannot save himself.”
~M. R. DeHaan, M.D. (1891-1965)



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?”

Matthew 6:25-26

I am forever encouraged at the way the Lord moves in our lives. Three days ago, I was called into my manager’s office, and he told me I was being laid off. Now, financially, that is never good news. However, as he was telling me this, a smile just grew on my face (I don’t think he expected that). The hand writing had been on the wall; I knew it was coming. It was just a matter of when, not if. The next day, since I didn’t have to go to work, I was finishing up my preparation for my Bible study class that night. We are in Daniel 3 where Nebuchadnezzar tries to cook Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. As I was looking up some Scripture references, I came to *Isaiah 43:2: “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”* What a thrill! The Lord spoke to my heart right then, that He is with us. I was concerned about telling my wife and how she would take the news. When I finally told her that night after Bible study, she was just fine.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

I believe that for the last 3-4 years the Lord had been preparing us for this time financially (we live as cheap as anyone we know) and spiritually (we have come to the point where we are just forever trusting in the Lord’s provision). *“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* *Matthew 6:31-33*

These are exciting times; treat them that way daily, drawing ever nearer to the Lord.
~JW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was _____ for our _____, he was _____ for our iniquities: the _____ of our _____ was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the Bible character in column 1 with their occupation/status in column 2.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ 1. Ishamel | A. King |
| ___ 2. Jezebel | B. Tentmaker/
missionary |
| ___ 3. Joash | C. Queen |
| ___ 4. Paul | D. Son of Abraham |



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

True Purpose

“I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”

Isaiah 43:6-7

There is a task that awaits me this very minute at home. I don't want to think about it. I don't want to do it. In fact, with all that is in me, I am dreading it. The task is the organization of my bedroom. It has almost become a joke to my household. After being sick for three months, the organization of the bedroom has gone from bad to worse. Yes, this task has to be completed soon, but it is not my true purpose for today. My true purpose is to honor the Lord and give Him glory.

Cleaning. Washing. Cooking. Weeding. Mowing. Dusting. Vacuuming. Working. Shopping. All of these are tasks that most people face regularly during the hum drum of a day, week, or month. In all the doing, it is easy to lose sight of the true purpose in life—to live for God's glory.

So, how can we keep our eyes focused on our true purpose while doing our everyday tasks? Here are three principles:

Do not complain about the tasks.

(Phil. 2:14)

Do each duty as if working for Jesus Christ Himself. (1 Cor. 10:31)

Praise the Lord and give thanks while working. (Psalm 108:1)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Let's face it, each of us has chores, duties, and errands that require attention. They may seem insignificant in light of eternity, but they are important for the benefit of our family, livelihood, and health. Instead of complaining about the tasks, look at them as opportunities to fulfill God's true purpose for your life, giving glory to Him! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was _____ for our _____, he was _____ for our iniquities: the _____ of our _____ was upon him; and with his _____ we are healed.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

- Who was second-in-command to Pharaoh in Gen. 41:42-43?
A. Joseph B. Daniel
C. Moses D. Joshua
- According to Psalm 23, what is the Lord?
A. Avenger B. Care Taker
C. Strength D. Shepherd
- In Judges 6:11, Gideon is found threshing wheat in this place.
A. Winepress B. Cave
C. Sheepfold D. Wheat field

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God's heart is the most sensitive and tender of all. No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small.” ~Richard J. Foster



Morning: 2 Samuel 13, 14

Evening: Luke 20:1-26

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.” 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

The day begins with anticipation as you prepare to leave for your first visit to the Air Force Museum. As you travel down the highway, you begin to imagine all the fascinating machines you will soon view. Surely, the museum will have a full scale model of the Wright Brothers first airplane. You might even get a glimpse of a Stealth Bomber. Anticipation turns to excitement as you pull onto the grounds of the museum property. Outside, you get a view of a Cybertronian Jet, a helicopter, a tank and a Ford Mustang; the Mustang seems out of place, but you do not seem to pay it much attention.

As you enter the museum, your every anticipation is fulfilled. The museum is filled with row after row of antique and modern day aircraft. As the minutes turn to hours, you are so wrapped up in the excitement of aviation that you are jolted to attention as the wall of the museum explodes. Through the gapping hole, you watch horrifically as the nice, little Ford Mustang in the parking lot transforms into an evil robot named Barricade. The quiet little tank and the helicopter have already transformed into Devastator and Blackout. People scatter as the Cybertronian Jet transforms into their leader: Megatron.

If this were to happen, no doubt you would “marvel.” The “bad guys” in the fictional

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Transformer world are called the Decepticons. What a fitting name! They appear to be harmless, but without warning they are transformed into a destructive enemy.

Many times, as Christians, we can be so wrapped up in life that we let our guard down when it comes to the enemy. Our favorite television program seems so harmless; then without warning, an episode begins to promote the homosexual lifestyle. We watch so many movies that we do not even realize the horrific language and immoral innuendoes. *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (v.14).*

Obviously, your Jaguar is not going to turn into the robot Ravage and destroy your house, but be careful that your computer does not transform into the villain Fornication and destroy your home. **“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” ~PMO**

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. _____ stretched out his hand over the Red Sea to divide the water? Ex. 14:21
2. _____ was Moses’ spokesman? Ex. 4:14-16

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:28-29

My father was a big man. He stood 6’4” and had hands that seemed as if they could cover my entire head. If he wanted to wrestle, there was not very much a skinny kid such as myself could do about it. Yet, when he held me with those big arms, I felt as safe as could be.

Within his embrace, no one was moving me without a fight. I knew he would protect me with his very life if needed. What a great picture of God the Father! Jesus, under the authority of His Father, makes us the same promise about His hold on us. He is bigger and mightier than any father this side of heaven.

Although he displayed physical strength, my father’s emotional strength really captivated me. I never experienced a time when I felt that my father no longer loved or cared for me. In fact, I am certain that nothing I could have ever done would have quenched his love.

The love of God the Father is even greater. Once saved, nothing we do will remove us from His redemptive power. If we could remove ourselves by an act of rebellion or carelessness, then the FINISHED work on the cross would be suspect. It would be good only as long as we were. Salvation based upon our faithfulness is a sandy foundation left to wax and wain with our obedience.

Instead, as we have trusted Christ as our

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Savior, we are assured that no sin will remove us from His tender embrace. We may strain in His arms (and be unhappy as a result), but His hold is secure. Thanks be to God for salvation, not dependent upon me.

~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like _____ have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- ___ 1. It was not until after the death of Moses that the Lord allowed the Israelites to go into the promised land. Joshua 1:1-2
- ___ 2. The Lord cast down great stones from heaven to destroy Israel’s enemies. Joshua 10:11
- ___ 3. The Lord caused the sun and moon to stand still for Joshua. Joshua 10:12-13

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Great truths that are stumbling blocks to the natural man are nevertheless the very foundations upon which the confidence of the spiritual man is built.” ~H. A. Ironside



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Wise Counsel

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” Proverbs 1:5

A professional nurse who worked in a mental institution said that the number of young adults, especially young ladies, who are being admitted with nervous breakdowns, has risen sharply over the last few years. Often young adults have not been trained to handle responsibility and decision making. They are now in mental wards, where they are shut off from their spouses, children, and parents. Most of these young people came from homes where they lacked for nothing of a material nature, but had spiritual and mental deficiencies. They lacked inner strength that comes from God.

The Christian must establish in his own mind certain convictions and principles from which he will never stray. He should also be very aware that he needs to have a personal cabinet of advisors. However, he should never seek counsel from the ungodly. Psalm 1:1 says, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”* He should highly value the advice of those who are godly. It is impossible for any person to decide correctly about every choice in life.

Remember that any good advice, whether received or given, is a result of wisdom which is given by the Lord. Daniel had great wisdom and understanding, but he knew that he received it from the Lord, and gave Him credit for it. (Daniel 2:1-30, 46-49) The king, who

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

received the advice, glorified God and honored Daniel because of the wisdom which the Lord had given. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like _____ have gone _____; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the Biblical person in column 1 with his/her *other* name in column 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| ___ 1. Abraham | A. Zedekiah |
| ___ 2. Mattaniah | B. Jedidiah |
| ___ 3. Israel | C. Naomi |
| ___ 4. Belteshazzar | D. Jacob |
| ___ 5. Solomon | E. Abram |
| ___ 6. Mara | F. Daniel |
| ___ 7. Simon | G. Hadassah |
| ___ 8. Esther | H. Peter |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We are but tenants, and shortly the great Landlord will give us notice that our lease has expired.” ~Joseph Jefferson



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Parable of the Rich Fool

“And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Luke 12:19-20

This is the parable of the rich fool. He made a critical mistake when he ignored the possibility of sudden death. All of his wealth had been planned for this life and not eternal life. He was a materially rich man, but he was not rich toward God. He had given too much thought for this life and not enough thought for life after death.

My dear friend, the attitude that promotes the “eat, drink, and be merry lifestyle” can be pleasurable for a season, but it is only temporary. Death for each of us is certain; the only question is when will death knock at our door? We must always be prepared to die, for it is only when we are prepared to die, that we are ready to live our lives for Christ.

If we live only for ourselves, our treasure is squandered on worldly pleasure and self-satisfaction. The appetite for self is never satisfied; in contrast, living for God will bring us peace, joy, and contentment in this life, as well as eternal rewards.

The fool leaves the fruit of his labor to others when he dies; the wise man receives his treasure when he enters heaven. God is preparing a place for us in heaven, but it is our decision what we will do with this opportunity.

Don't forget God's words to the fool, *“...this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided.” Luke 12:20. ~RKM*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like _____ have gone _____; we have _____ every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. Which judge cut down the idols of his father, Joash? Judges 6:24-27
A. Tola B. Eli
C. Samson D. Gideon
2. Who was the only female judge? Judges 4:4
A. Jair B. Deborah
C. Elon D. Abigail
3. How many sons did Gideon, son of Joab have? Judges 8:30
A. 70 B. 12
C. 1000 D. 40

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God's delays are not denials. We need to learn that and to wait for the Lord, for in His own time and in His own way He undertakes and answers prayer. We cannot dictate to Him how or when He is to act.”

~Dr. H. A. Ironside, Litt.D.





The Fear of Death

*“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
Hebrews 2:15*

I remember as a child praying all the time that my parents would live long lives. I comforted myself in knowing that my mom and dad (from what I was told) had been obedient to their parents; I claimed Ephesians 6:1-3. The potential death of my parents was one of the worst fears I experienced as a child. My mother worked as a nurse while I was young, and she would sometimes have to take the late shift, arriving home at about midnight. There were many nights I would lay in bed praying for her safety until I heard the garage door open.

As an adult, I have experienced the fear of death as well. Why do we fear death? As Christians, we have been promised eternity with Christ; our future is secure. However, as human beings, we are susceptible to fear and worry. Perhaps, we are concerned about the well being of our family members if the Lord calls us home. Maybe, it is the fear of the unknown that worries our souls. Possibly, there are many things in this world that we want to experience before death knocks on our door, and we are afraid of missed opportunities. To some extent, at some time, for some particular reason, the fear of death enters into the heart of man.

So, what are we to do when troubled by fearful thoughts? First, we should **rest** in the fact that Jesus Christ has conquered death. Be-

cause of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, we can say as in I Corinthians 15:54, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” Secondly, we should **reflect** on God’s promises. Hebrews 13:5b says, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” God promises He will never leave us, even through death. Finally, we must **rely** on God’s strength to get us through whatever circumstance or problem may enter our lives. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Yes, death can grip our hearts with fear. However, as we rest in God’s sacrifice, reflect on His promises, and rely on His strength, we put our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Conqueror of death! ~MFM



Isaiah 53:6 “All we like _____ have gone _____; we have _____ every one to his _____ way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”



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

1. Nehemiah’s profession before he rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem was _____ - _____. Neh. 1:11
2. Haman died on the _____ he built for someone else. Esther 7:10
3. King _____ had Daniel thrown into the lions den. Daniel 6:6-16



Stay on the Wheel

from "No Problem Too Big"

by Dr. John W. Lewis

As a little child in the barber's chair, we are told to sit still and don't move. Why? Our parent didn't want the barber to nick us and give us a bad haircut. Staying put on God's wheel isn't easy, but it is necessary if we would attain His likeness. We are like clay in the potter's hand, and God is the Potter.

Let's examine what Jeremiah saw concerning the potter's house in Jeremiah 18:1-4: "The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it." Notice the vessel was broken in his hand not by his hand. God finds us in our sins, broken and in need of repair.

So, the great Potter begins to make us into another vessel.

The clay, like us, needs to be made pliable. In art class, we were told to beat and pound on it to make it soft and pliable. That's how we feel sometimes, but God says in 1 Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

The wheel is like a tabletop that spins when a foot pedal is used, much like the old sewing machines. When a potter begins his work, he uses much speed in roughing out his vessel. Then, he slows the wheel down for the important detail work. Just remember, there is no loose motion with God; every detour and set back is working patience in our lives.

Time after time, we near completion. The outside looks great, but God disturbs our innermost being, trying to bring us to the place of total surrender. Just a few more spins on the wheel, and we could be of great service to God, but we crack under pressure or jump off the wheel. Let's stay on the wheel and yield ourselves to the touch of the Master's hand.♦

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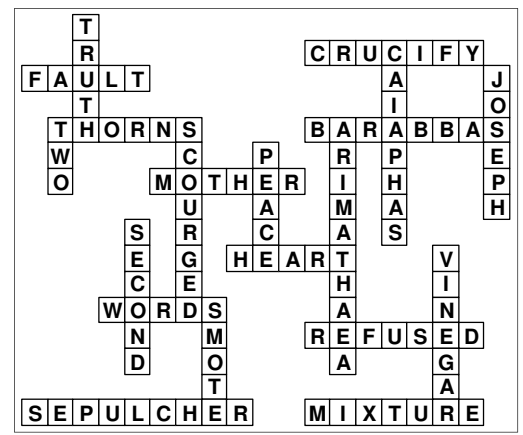
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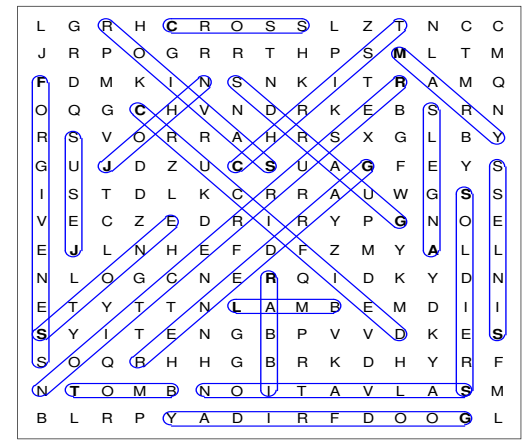
Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

- 4/1 pg 2 1F, 2F, 3T,4F, 5T
 4/2 pg 3 1E, 2F, 3D, 4B, 5A, 6C, 7I, 8G, 9H
 4/3 pg 4 1A, 2B, 3C
 4/4 pg 5 1Michael, Gabriel, 2Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan Naphtali, Gad, Asher
 4/5 pg 7 1F, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T, 6F
 4/6 pg 8 1J, 2H, 3E, 4B, 5C, 6A, 7I, 8F, 9D, 10G
 4/7 pg 9 1D, 2A, 3B
 4/8 pg 10 1Lamb, 2Zimri
 4/9 pg 11 1T, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T
 4/10 pg 12 1E, 2D, 3A, 4B, 5C
 4/11 pg 13 1B, 2C, 3D, 4B
 4/12 pg 15 1D, 2C, 3B, 4E, 5A
 4/13 pg 16 1The Father, 2It is finished, 3bone, broken
 4/14 pg 17 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5F
 4/15 pg 18 1C, 2E, 3B, 4A, 5D
 4/16 pg 19 1C, 2A, 3B, 4C, 5A
 4/17 pg 20 1circumcised, 2mocking, 3burnt offering, 4stars, sand
 4/18 pg 21 1F, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5F, 6F
 4/19 pg 23 1D, 2E, 3A, 4B, 5C
 4/20 pg 24 1B, 2C, 3A
 4/21 pg 25 1gods, 2image, 3name, vain, 4sabbath, 5father, mother, 6kill, 7commit, adultery
 4/22 pg 26 1confess, believe, raised, shalt; 2written, bow, tongue, 3preaching, foolishness, power
 4/23 pg 27 1T, 2T, 3F
 4/24 pg 28 1D, 2C, 3A, 4B
 4/25 pg 29 1A, 2D, 3A
 4/26 pg 30 1Moses, 2Aaron
 4/27 pg 31 1T, 2T, 3T
 4/28 pg 32 1E, 2A, 3D, 4F, 5B, 6C, 7H, 8G
 4/29 pg 33 1D, 2B, 3A
 4/30 pg 34 1Cupbearer, 2 gallows, 3. Darius

Easter — The Salvation Story



Biblical Celebration of Easter



“And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”
Mark 16:6