

# 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."*

December 1, 2008

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings in the name of the One who paid for our sin and conquered death, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 38, David asked God to have compassion on him. In verses 21 and 22, He cried out and said, "Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation." David was guilty before God and he was asking God for mercy. He had learned to go to the right Person. Jesus Christ is full of compassion and mercy. He is always willing and able to forgive the repentant sinner.

It is important for all of us to know the pathway to the throne of God; for it is there, that we will find forgiveness. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

May the Lord be your Encourager and Sustainer this month.

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ Merrin

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.” Hosea 4:11**

Israel was so far into sin, they had lost their ability to understand what was happening spiritually. This verse indicates they were guilty of spiritual adultery and worshipping false gods. In addition, they were guilty of drunkenness. Finally, they were guilty of new wine, which was the sin of having an insatiable desire for pleasure. The end result of these sins was that it “took away the heart,” which means they lost their ability to understand what was happening spiritually in their lives and the country.

America has reached a similar spiritual condition. It is evident in many of our churches; preaching the necessity for salvation has stopped. It is evident in our political leaders where there is a lack of reverence for a holy God. It is evident in our families which are crumbling at an astonishing rate. And yet, with trouble in all of these areas, there is little recognition that we have abandoned the things of God.

Now, the typical American might not agree with this conclusion, but I believe they have misinterpreted a form of godliness as a true picture of Christianity. Millions of people go through the motions of church every week but do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is clear in Matthew 7:21 that there will be many people who believe they are going to heaven, but they will never experience heaven in any way at all.

A true Christian’s experience must involve repentance from sin and a trusting in Christ.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

In conclusion, people who mistakenly believe they are saved do not have the Holy Spirit’s guidance and help in understanding the things of God. This ultimately leads to a false view of Christianity and an inability to understand spiritual things. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS:

Philippians 1:6 “Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who was the left-handed judge in the book of Judges 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was a herdsman of Tekoa and a gatherer of sycamore fruit? Amos 1:1, 7:14  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who were Moses’ parents? Exodus 6:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus? Luke 19:1-5  
\_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“People stay married because they have enough character to do right and because they keep their obligations.” ~John R. Rice



Morning: Ezekiel 45, 46

Evening: 2 Peter 3

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

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

The fall! Autumn! The colorful changing leaves! The brisk nip of the cool winter air trying to show up a few days early. Pumpkins. Zucchini. Apples. Beans.

The sounds from the kitchen reverberate in your ears. Snap. Snap. Snap. Snap. The never-ending task of stringing beans, snapping beans, or breaking beans (whatever you may call it), begins again. Glass jars banging against one another in the sink. The funny blue funnel and the funny shaped tongs lie on the counter top next to the bushels of freshly picked vegetables. On the stove, a smaller pot is boiling. The rubber rings in the pot are just about ready. A few minutes later you hear, “chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka-chukka.” The noise is the sound of the canner. You step into the kitchen and see a bright silver colored pot with a funny little knob on the top. The steam is pouring out and the knob is spinning around. You are witnessing preservation, the yearly canning of green beans.

I know the psalmist’s desire was not to be put into a glass jar and sealed for later use, but a human look at a waning practice may shed some light on his true desire. Although the practice of canning is becoming more and more obsolete, the memories of the autumn years of my childhood teach a valuable lesson. The psalmist asks the LORD to preserve him.

Beans are preserved for several reasons, one, of which is protection. If the beans are going to be good for future use, they must be

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

protected from the environment. The psalmist is asking God to protect him. Protect him from his enemies. Protect him from trouble. Protect him from his environment, so he will be good for more time than just the present.

He explains that he trusts God for his protection. And, trust is a big factor, because in that protection there may be some heat, some boiling, some uncomfortable positions, but God will protect. God will preserve. Even when it looks like you’re heading to the boiling pot, trust him. He desires your service right now, and He wants to preserve you so you are useful in the future. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 1:6 “Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very \_\_\_\_\_, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. Who asked for the body of Jesus after His crucifixion? Mark 15:43
  - A. Peter
  - B. Joseph of Arimathea
  - C. Lazarus
  - D. James

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Putting your children before the Lord Jesus Christ is a formula for losing your children.”  
~Russ Merrin





### Jude

As in the days of the writing of the book of Jude, we, the church, must stand against the growing apostasy that is all around us. There are those who would claim Christ and yet live so violently opposite to the truth of His Gospel that believers can only gaze upon them dumb-founded. We must raise the standard of the truth, using it as both our shield and our guide.

In verses 5-16, Jude gives example after example of the judgment God brought upon those who refused to follow His leading. These are not people who have never heard the truth but ones who have heard and in rebellion turn away. They are not only following a lie but are actively trying to spread it. Jude throws back the curtain on their deception and reminds the church to be on guard. Vigilance is the key, and, without it, we will slide ever so easily down the slope of a watered down gospel that is more concerned about feelings and feeding the lost than winning them to Christ. This is not to say that feeding the lost is wrong. Jesus Himself gave us an example to follow in the feeding of the five thousand. It was a means to an end. He fed them so that He could give them the real bread, Himself and eternal life.

In the closing passages of Jude, we come to the foundations of our fight for the truth. In verses 22-23, Jude lays out the pattern. First, in verse 20, we need to know what we know. If we don't know God's Word and His purpose contained within it, we will be ineffective in its defense and furtherance. We must read and know it, becoming Biblical scholars wielding

the Sword of the Spirit with skill instead of being spiritual novices who are not even sure where our armor and weapons are. Satan will capitalize on any advantage we give him.

Second, in verse 20, we must become prayer warriors. The greatest battles and victories in Scripture took place around those who regularly got on their faces before God. Third, verse 21 would seem to give a twofold instruction. We need to stay in love with our Saviour, reminding ourselves often of His goodness and mercy. Then, we should extend His mercy to others in the body, seeking their best not our own. Finally, in verses 22-23, following God, we must run fully into the battle, proclaiming the Gospel message of salvation through Christ alone and plucking the lost from the very fires of hell. ~DJJ



Philippians 1:6 "Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very \_\_\_\_\_, that he which hath begun a good \_\_\_\_\_ in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."



True or False. Label each statement with a "T" for true and an "F" for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Gideon had 82 sons.  
Judges 8:30-31
- \_\_\_ 2. David killed a lion and a bear while tending his father's sheep?  
1 Samuel 17:34-36



Morning: Daniel 1, 2

Evening: 1 John 2



### Why God Oftentimes Waits

Read Luke 18:1-8

In Luke 18, God's Word teaches us a parable on praying. Verse 1 says, ". . . **Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**" This actually means, "Men should not stop praying," or "men ought not to quit praying." We ought to keep praying and keep petitioning God because oftentimes God will wait to answer our prayers, especially if we are requesting something big from God.

One reason why God may wait to answer our prayer is the fact that we may be immature in our prayer life. This can be illustrated by the relationship between a parent and a child. We say to our little children, "Do not play with this wall plug." Or, we say to our older children, "You are too young to drive a car." You see, there is a certain maturity that must come before the privilege of using powerful instruments.

Secondly, God wants to know if we really mean it. Many times when we first begin to pray, we do not believe God will answer. After much prayer, bringing our requests over and over to Him, our faith is increased, and God answers in honor of our faith. Third, sin separates us from answered prayers. So, God will linger until we get right with Him.

Finally, perhaps God waits to answer our prayers because we spend so little time lingering in His presence. He may wait to answer our prayers because He loves to hear us when we place our needs before Him, and He enjoys listening to us talk to Him.

Let me encourage you today to earnestly petition God for your requests. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "**Pray without ceasing.**" God wants you to constantly be in a state of prayer. Plead with Him for your requests. He wants to hear from you! ~OV



Philippians 1:6 "Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very \_\_\_\_\_, that he which hath begun a good \_\_\_\_\_ in you will \_\_\_\_\_ it until the day of Jesus Christ."



Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. Which king was fatally injured when a woman dropped a millstone on him?  
2 Samuel 11:21  
A. Saul            B. Ahab  
C. Jehoram       D. Abimelech
2. Name the king who received a dead baby smothered by its mother when she rolled over on it in her sleep. 1 Kings 3:5-28  
A. Jehoram       B. Solomon  
C. Ahaziah       D. David
3. Which five-year-old boy fell from his nurse's arms and was made lame?  
2 Samuel 4:4  
A. Mephibosheth B. Baalzebub  
C. Gehazi            D. Lazarus
4. Which man sold his birthright for a bowl of red pottage? Genesis 25:30  
A. Cain            B. Abel  
C. Esau            D. Jacob



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**God-sized Miracles**

*“Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.” 2 Kings 20:5*

Are you in need of a God-sized miracle? Is there a situation or circumstance that needs the intervention of God? King Hezekiah was in need of a miracle. He had been told to prepare his house for he was going to die. Why? The Bible really does not give an answer. Hezekiah had been an upright king who had led God’s people to religious reform, yet he was to prepare to die at the age of 39. In our finite minds, we cannot see God’s ultimate plan, purposes, and reasons, but we must trust God’s wisdom. What did Hezekiah do when receiving the devastating news? According to the verse above, he cried out in prayer unto the Lord. God responded to Hezekiah’s prayers in verse 5. He told the prophet Isaiah that Hezekiah would be healed.

God chose to heal this devoted king. He does not always choose to heal, but in this circumstance, God blessed Hezekiah with 15 more years of life. Do you believe God still does miracles? James 5:16b says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Do not underestimate the power of prayer. God is so good, and He desires the best for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” We serve the same

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

God of the Old Testament, and He is still in the business of performing miracles!

~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 1:6 “Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very \_\_\_\_\_, that he which hath begun a good \_\_\_\_\_ in you will \_\_\_\_\_ it until the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the names in column 1 with the answers in column 2.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ___ 1. Ahaziah | A. Saw fire fall from heaven on sacrifices at Mt. Carmel<br>1 Kings 18:38                          |
| ___ 2. Jacob   | B. King who fell through a lattice in his upper chamber<br>2 Kings 1:2                             |
| ___ 3. Saul    | C. Thigh went out of joint during a wrestling match with the angel of the Lord<br>Genesis 31:24-25 |
| ___ 4. Ahab    | D. Israel’s first king<br>1 Kings 16:29  |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If a man is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss which he had better make all possible haste to correct.”

~Theodore Roosevelt



Morning: Daniel 5, 6

Evening: 1 John 4

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Psalm 90:12**

This psalm is awesome in the way that it contrasts the infinite God with the briefness of our frail lifetimes. How can we apply the wisdom of this passage to our lives? First, we must acknowledge that God knows a lot more about time than we do. He created time. He is outside of time. He is not confined by time. Verse 4 of this psalm states that one thousand years “are but as yesterday” to God. God in His sovereignty has placed us in time. When we fail to acknowledge Him regarding time, we will fail to make the best use of time.

This verse also tells us to number our days. In verse 10 of Psalm 90, we are told that the average life span of a person is seventy years. There the Bible says, “the days of our years.” We celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, but God is concerned with our days. If we cannot make the best use of our days and hours, it is sure that we will miss God’s plan for our years. Every day is important. God has a plan for your life today. This will be the only opportunity you will have in your entire lifetime to accomplish the plan He has for you today.

James 4:14 asks the question, **“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”** Paul urges the believers in Thessalonica to redeem the time.

So, are you being wise with your time? Time is life. It is the greatest gift we have next to eternal life. Live every day as if it were your

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

last, so when your last day comes you will not have to regret your wasted years.

~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 1:6 “Being \_\_\_\_\_ of this very \_\_\_\_\_, that he which hath \_\_\_\_\_ a good \_\_\_\_\_ in you will \_\_\_\_\_ it until the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Nicodemus said, “It is better to marry than burn.” 1 Corinthians 1:1, 7:9
- \_\_\_ 2. When Noah and his family entered the ark, God shut them in. Genesis 7:16
- \_\_\_ 3. Ephraim is described as a “cake not turned.” Hosea 7:8
- \_\_\_ 4. Jeremiah went “up by a whirlwind into heaven.” 2 Kings 2:11

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.” ~Phillip Brooks



Morning: Daniel 7, 8

Evening: 1 John 5

**Reasons Why Many Do Not Pray Today**  
**Part 2**  
**By Sumner Wemp**

**They Have No Desire to Pray**

Another reason some do not pray is—and this is a shocker—they have no desire to pray. This may be the saddest reason of all. ***“For it is God which worketh in you both to will [desire] and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).”*** Isn’t that mind-boggling? God has to take the initiative for believers even to “desire” to do His good pleasure, which includes praying.

God admonishes us to ***“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near (Isa. 55:6).”*** Many people, too late and to their own loss, have found that they did not respond to God “while He was near” and now, have no desire to pray. You simply do not shut God out nor shove Him aside until a “more convenient season.” You must respond to Him while He is near. Some have so “quenched” or “grieved” the Holy Spirit that they have no desire, no prompting by Him, to pray or do anything else for God or for His glory.

These people are probably worse off than any others. Gratefully there is a remedy. There is a reprieve for God promises, ***“Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you” (Jas. 4:8).*** They need to take the first step and rediscover that passion to pray. Isaiah expressed it poignantly: ***“And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee....” Isaiah 64:7*** What an indictment, but the grace of God provides an escape hatch. For the sake of the kingdom of God, they need to make a serious effort to “draw near to God.”

**They are worldly**

People fail to pray because of worldliness in their lives. ***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15).”***

Complicity with the world will surely kill your appetite to pray. Loving the attractions, allurements, and acceptance of this world will cause your love for God and His kingdom to diminish. You will never witness a worldly Christian who has a pressing passion to pray. Worldly pleasures to the worldly parishioner are like candy to a coddled child. When he eats candy, he loses his appetite for meat and potatoes. The attitudes and actions of the lost world can kill one’s propensity toward prayer. The media, so out of control today (television, movies, magazines, audio and videotapes, etc.) have drastically deadened more appetites for God than all else in present-day society.

Many of God’s people have had their appetite for prayer prostituted by some worldly pleasure, possession, or person. They need to heed ***2 Corinthians 6:17, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. (1 Corinthians 15:33).”*** It is better to be alone than in bad company. Some need to “... put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts (Ephesians 4:22).”

(See **Reasons Why** on page 24 )

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*  
Acts 17:11

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* 2 Timothy 2:15 Not all Christians or churches have the same commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. The church at Berea was “more noble” than the church at Thessalonica. Why? Because, they received the Word with a ready mind and searched the Scriptures daily.

The next verse says, therefore many believed. Because of their willingness to listen to and study God’s Word, many more were saved. It also tells us who the saved were, “honorable women which were Greeks” and “many men.” Like the Bereans, the person equipped with God’s Word and a heart for righteousness is going to be mightily used.

The soul that thirsts for God (Psalm 42:1, 2) will not be disappointed and will learn to hope in God. I am not sure that I can adequately explain why some believers hunger and thirst for God and others seem not to care for the things of God. However, I am certain that the hungering soul will one day prosper and delight in close fellowship with God.

We know that God’s evaluation of the Bereans was that they were more noble than the Thessalonians. So, it is trustworthy to believe we will reap what we sow. Plead with God

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

that you also will have a heart for Him and be pleasing to Him. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the names in column 1 with the answers in column 2.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Balaam      | A. Was given fifteen years to live after being sick Isa. 38:5 |
| ___ 2. Hezekiah    | B. Drove sodomites out of Judah 1 Kings 22:41, 46             |
| ___ 3. Jehoshaphat | C. Was called to defeat the Moabites Judges 3:15              |
| ___ 4. Ehud        | D. Had his foot crushed against a wall by a donkey Num. 22:25 |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“You can’t change circumstances, and you can’t change other people, but God can change you.” ~Evelyn A. Thiessen



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18***

This verse is one of the great promises of the Bible. Jesus is speaking to Peter and says, “...you are Peter” (*Petros*), which means “you are the little stone.” Peter was a man of flesh and bones, just as all other men.

Then Jesus said, “***and upon this rock***” (*Petra*), which means this large ROCK, “***I will build my church.***” This ROCK is Christ. It is false doctrine to teach that Peter is the foundation of the church. *1 Corinthians 10:4* says, “... ***and that Rock is Christ.***” Jesus Christ is the foundation of our Salvation (*1 Corinthians 3:10, 11*), and it is upon this foundation that He will build His church, which is a great promise.

Now here is another great promise, “***the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***” *Matthew 16:18*. When death comes to each person, our soul separates from our body and our body is laid in the grave. When the rapture of the church takes place, God will open the graves of every believer and catch them up together to meet Him in the clouds, to present Himself a glorious church, without blemish. Therefore, this promise is given: the gates of hell (death) cannot hold down any person that knows Christ as Savior and is therefore a member of his church. Christ conquered death at His resurrection and became the first to raise from the dead to see death no more. We which believe will one day be raised to life everlasting. Amen! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. King \_\_\_\_\_ became so angry with his son he hurled a spear at him. *1 Samuel 20:30-33*
2. King \_\_\_\_\_ was angry because the man he had told to curse his enemies blessed them three times instead. *Numbers 24:10*
3. When God abandoned his plan to destroy Nineveh, \_\_\_\_\_ became angry. *Jonah 3:1-10; 4:1*
4. When \_\_\_\_\_ saw the Israelites worshipping a calf idol, he ground the graven image into powder, sprinkled the dust on water, and made the idolaters drink it. *Exodus 32:4, 19-20*

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Christ took our sins and the sins of the whole world as well as the Father's wrath on His shoulders, and He has drowned them both in Himself so that we are thereby reconciled to God and become completely righteous.” ~*Charles H. Spurgeon*



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. My foot standeth in an even place.” Psalm 26:1,12*

In the mountains of western Pennsylvania, close to where I was born, in an area between Greensburg and Latrobe, there is a Pennsylvania state park named, Linn Run State Park. Unique to this park is a natural rock slide. People from all over Pennsylvania, and from many other states for that matter, come to Linn Run State Park simply because in the middle of the creek is a huge bolder over which the water has run for years making it extremely slippery. The bolder stretched at approximately a thirty-five degree angle from the top of the stream to the bottom. Visitors start at the top and slide down the rock into a pool of water down below.

I vividly remember the last time I visited the park. I had been away from PA for a while after my family moved to Ohio. We had not been to the park in a long time, and my parents decided to re-visit. We had taken our turns sliding down the rock and into the water. I was standing at the top of the slide waiting for my next run. As I stepped down to the rock, I misjudged how slippery it was. The next thing I remember was a face full of water and a pounding headache. I had put my trust in the rock to hold me up and had found a slippery slope.

The psalmist also put his trust in something (actually, in his case, Someone). He says, “I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.” As I stepped onto the rock, my foot slipped; but the psalmist stepped onto the

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Rock, and his steps were sure. He later says in verse 12, “My foot standeth in an even place,” no thirty-five degree angle on which to attempt being balanced. His trust in the LORD is level.

What are you trusting in? Many times Christians look to their strength to hold them up. They look for support in the things of this world or in the money they can muster. But, all those things are as slippery as the Linn Run Rock. They are unlevel and unpredictable. Putting your trust in them will surely lead to a fall. Trust in the LORD. You will not slip. You will not slide. The ground on which you stand will be even. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye \_\_\_\_\_ see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. What leader lost his chariots in the Red Sea? Exodus 14:23-28  
A. Joshua      B. Aaron  
C. Pharaoh      D. Moses
2. What captain had 900 iron chariots? Judges 4:1-3  
A. Naaman      B. Sisera  
C. Barak      D. Deborah



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“But every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Judges 17:6**

Could you imagine a nation where everyone did what they believed was right? And, in this same nation, can you imagine pressure to never condemn any thought of another, no matter how vile and reprobate? How terrifying! Yet, this is not a new notion or only a modern problem.

Here in Judges 17, we find the nation of Israel in such a state. Without the direct influences of the divinely-appointed judges, the people slipped into grievous sin. They no longer had the standard of Jehovah as their measure of truth, and without it, they became idolaters, fornicators and much worse. Each person did as they saw fit to do.

Micah, the main character in this chapter, and his family had fallen so far away that they were blind to the truth. They set aside money unto the LORD and then, took it and made an idol out of pieces of silver. Micah’s mother even finds out her son is a thief and calls him blessed.

Without the moral compass of God’s Word and the standard of His truth, any nation is lost and doomed for destruction. Some believe that all gods are the same, and, in an attempt to please all “gods,” they bring upon them the wrath of the true God. “If it feels good, do it” becomes the motto of those consumed in the moment and not concerned with the consequences to their future. Convenience takes precedence over the life of the unborn because “I don’t feel I’m ready to be a parent.” Where does it end? Truth (not the truth we find within

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

ourselves, because we all “feel” different, like the law, must transcend feelings and be fixed upon the unmovable standard of the Bible. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye \_\_\_\_\_ see heaven \_\_\_\_\_, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. What did God give Jonah for shade? Jonah 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the longest name in the Bible? Isaiah 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who purified the waters of Jericho with salt? 2 Kings 2:19-22 \_\_\_\_\_
4. In the days of which king did people flee from an earthquake? Zachariah 14:5 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who called down fire that destroyed army captains and their men? 2 Kings 1:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I would rather go to heaven alone than go to hell in company.” ~R. A. Torrey



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Cornelius Responded  
To All the Light He Had**

**Read Acts 10**

People oftentimes ask about the heathen who have never heard the Gospel. It is natural to ask what will happen to them. An example of this situation is recorded for us in the life of Cornelius. He did not know the Gospel, but he did know there must be a God. He believed in what he knew and what revelation he had. This caused him to accept what truth he heard. Therefore, God gave him more light. The Bible says in John 1:9, that Jesus is “. . . *the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*” Every man has a conscience, and every man knows there must be a Supreme Being; at least, he has something within him that would make him understand. If he responds to this knowledge, God will give him more light and finally reveal to him the truth. If he does not respond to this knowledge, God will not provide further light.

Acts 10:35 it says, “*But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*” This means that people who have never heard the Gospel of Christ but respond to the light they do have, will be accepted by God, and He will give them more light so that they may understand and receive Christ.


Paul draws attention to this in Romans when he charges the Gentiles with this particular sin. *Romans 1:18* says, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the*

*truth in unrighteousness.*” You see, they did not obey the light they had. Looking at creation itself, they should have been able to see God, His divinity and His wisdom. Instead of following that light and worshipping God, they worshipped the creature more than the Creator and made for themselves images and worshipped them. Consequently, God did not give them additional light that they might understand the truth and be saved.

~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye \_\_\_\_\_ see heaven \_\_\_\_\_, and the angels of God \_\_\_\_\_ and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. The prophet Elijah parted the Jordan River with his mantle. 2 Kings 2:8
- \_\_\_ 2. On the thirteenth day and third month, God told Noah to leave the ark. Genesis 8:14-16
- \_\_\_ 3. David was the sweet psalmist of Israel. 2 Samuel 23:1

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God does not comfort us to make us comfortable but to make us comforters.”

~John Henry Jowett



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Learn to Laugh

*“A time to weep, and a time to laugh . . .”  
Ecclesiastes 3:4*

Abraham Lincoln said, “Gentlemen, why don’t you laugh? With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh, I should die. You need this medicine as much as I do.” Laughter. There are numerous references in the Bible to the merry heart. Perhaps Proverbs 17:22 is one of the most familiar, “A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Laughter is a powerful tool. It transforms one’s countenance (Prov. 15:13), heals the soul (Prov. 17:22), releases tension, encourages and uplifts others, and is a reminder of God’s goodness. It is easy to be happy, cheerful, and humorous when life is going well . . . the bills are paid; everyone is healthy; vacation is just a week away. However, living a cheerful life full of laughter and joy presents somewhat of a challenge when you are beaten down with the struggles of life. Ella Wheeler Wilcox wrote a few lines: *“Tis easy enough to be pleasant, when life flows along like a song; but the man worth while is the one who will smile when everything goes dead wrong.”*

As Ecclesiastes 3:4 says, there is “a time to laugh.” God uses the gift of laughter as a healing balm, a release. So, I encourage you today to look for the humor of life. Enjoy each day and feast on the goodness of God! **Proverbs 15:15** says, *“He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.”* ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye \_\_\_\_\_ see heaven \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ and descending upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- Name two men who did not die.  
Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Which king consulted the witch of Endor?  
1 Samuel 28:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Which men were known as “the sons of thunder?” Mark 3:17  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who was accused of turning the world upside down? Acts 17:6 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Name two men who walked with God?  
Genesis 5:22 and Genesis 6:9  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In Genesis 17:2-5, who, after he made a covenant with God, had his name changed? \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his.”  
~Billy Sunday



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Luke 12:15*

This statement from Jesus was sparked by brothers arguing over an inheritance. He used the opportunity to warn the crowd of the dangers of coveting. Jesus went on to tell a parable of a rich farmer who had reaped a bumper crop and decided to build bigger barns so that He could hoard his unnecessary wealth and live lavishly. God responded to his plan in Luke 12:20: *“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.”*

If we are not careful, we can let the focus of our lives be on accumulating things instead of acquiring godly character. We have a tendency to want what others have, thinking that the things will bring us happiness. “Thou shall not covet” is the last of the ten commandments. Here and in many other places, Jesus condemns coveting and greed. Paul is very bold in Colossians where he said that covetousness is idolatry. Coveting will cause stress and worry; it can create debt and conflict. When we covet, we demonstrate that we are discontent with God’s current blessings.

According to Jesus, the biggest problem is that coveting causes us to misplace our priorities. Jesus said, *“A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”* In other words, what and who we are in Christ is far more important than what we have accumulated. My question for you today is what is the focus of your life? Is it based on the things of the world or your relationship with

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Christ? Jesus called the man in His parable a fool. What would He have to say about you?  
~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye \_\_\_\_\_ see heaven \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Son of man.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

- Whose ten children were killed by a falling building? Job 1:1-2, 18-19  
A. David      B. Job  
C. Aaron      D. Moses
- Whose head got caught in the bough of a tree? 2 Samuel 18:9  
A. Absalom      B. Jezebel  
C. Sarah      D. Jude
- Who fell backward from a wayside seat and broke his neck? 1 Samuel 4:13-18  
A. Elisha      B. Priscilla  
C. Eli      D. Moses
- Who was bitten by a serpent as he laid sticks on a fire? Acts 28:3  
A. John      B. Paul  
C. Jesus      D. Saul

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works.” ~Augustine of Hippo

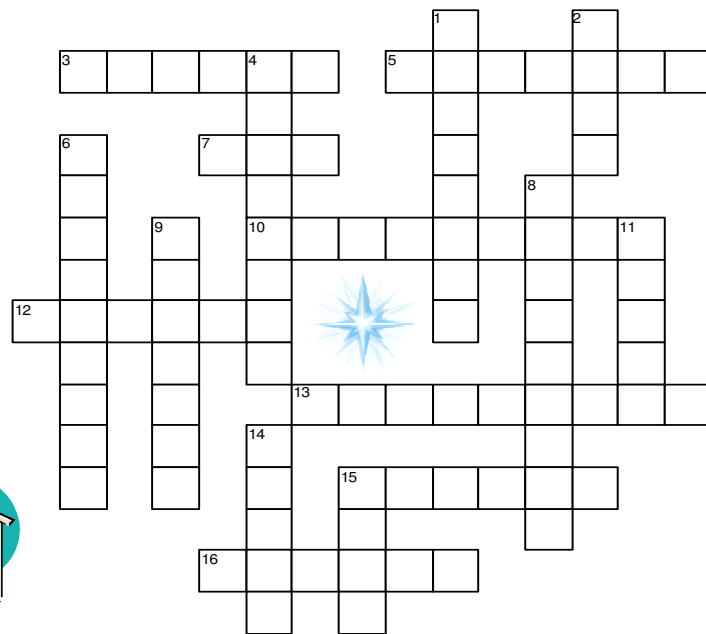


Morning: Joel

Evening: Revelation 4

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### People, Places, and Things from the Christmas Story



www.CrosswordWeaver.com



#### ACROSS

- 3 Mary's betrothed (Luke 1:27)
- 5 Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)
- 7 The place where no room was available (Luke 2:7)
- 10 Wife of priest (Luke 1:5)
- 12 Lodging for Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:12)
- 13 Tenders of the sheep (Luke 2:8)
- 15 The first bed Jesus had (Luke 2:7)
- 16 Announcement regarding the tax (Luke 2:1)

#### DOWN

- 1 Mary considered herself one (Luke 1:38)
- 2 He was a promised son (Luke 1:13)
- 4 Mary thought about all that was in her heart (Luke 2:19)
- 6 Parents of John the Baptist were found to be this (Luke 1:6)
- 8 City of David (Luke 2:4)
- 9 Angel who spoke to Zacharias (Luke 1:19)
- 11 King of Judea (Luke 1:5)
- 14 Appeared to Zacharias (Luke 1:11)
- 15 Virgin espoused to Joseph (Luke 1:27)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Ephesians 5:21**

Years ago there was a very popular pop song by Aretha Franklin entitled, “Respect.” While singing “Respect,” the soloist repeatedly spells out the word R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Everybody wants respect.

God made both men and women different, not only physically but emotionally. In this verse, we find that it is required by God for both the husband and the wife to submit to each other. The act of submission in a marriage takes a certain amount of R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

In verse 25, we find that the husband is commanded to love his wife, using Christ’s love for the church as the example for man to follow. However, in verse 22, the wife is encouraged again to submit to her husband. Therefore, submission is instructed in two consecutive verses.

In a typical marriage, the woman gets her self-esteem from the way her husband treats her: by his love, attention, and appreciation. The husband, on the other hand, receives his self-esteem to some degree from his job. It is important to realize, however, that the key ingredient to a man’s being fulfilled is his need to be respected by his wife.

In so many marriages, the wife is crying out for love and attention, but at the same time disrespecting the effort her husband is making. This is a two way street, but each will give an individual account to God. The wife must submit and respect her husband’s effort and position in the home. The husband must love his wife unconditionally. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the names in column 1 with the answers in column 2.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Abraham        | A. Who was afflicted with leprosy and became angry with the prophet’s instructions for his healing?<br>2 Kings 5:9-12    |
| ___ 2. Naaman         | B. This king became angry because his nightmare could not be interpreted.<br>Daniel 2:1-12                               |
| ___ 3. Jacob          | C. This man became angry because his father-in-law pursued him and searched his belongings for gods.<br>Genesis 31:26-37 |
| ___ 4. Nebuchadnezzar | D. Who, following God’s instructions, built an altar and laid his son on it as a burnt offering?<br>Genesis 22:1, 2; 6-9 |



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

*Psalms 46:1, 10*

Be still! God is always on time and never unprepared. We live in a fast-paced world where it seems that everyone is busy. Rush, rush, rush is the feeling many people have almost everyday. So, what is the solution?

Before I give you the solution, let me make a few observations. Every one of us has the same amount of time, twenty-four hours a day. We must all have a certain amount of time for sleep, food, and personal needs (shower, hair, etc.). The time which we have left now falls into our priority list.

In Philippians 1:21, Paul states, *“For to me to live is Christ.”* Paul means his purpose in life is to live for Jesus Christ. This purpose surpasses all others. In Matthew 6:33, the author says, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* Our priority list must place God at the very top.

So, how do I have enough time to accomplish all of the duties? BE STILL, and put Christ first everyday. Begin each day in God’s Word: and by doing this, you will be giving Him an opportunity to speak to you and prioritize your day. You can be sure that He has not given you too much to do. If you are overloaded, you will have to evaluate your circumstances and begin to adjust your schedule. This will require God’s wisdom and guidance. If

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

necessary, seek out godly counsel and begin today to arrange a schedule in which Christ is at the top.

Many people rush and work a whole day and then have their time with God at night. Your time with God at night is good, but add to this a time with Him in the morning. Martin Luther is said to have prayed two hours every day. However, on days when he was extremely busy, he would pray for three hours.

Giving Christ extra time each day will test your faith, but it will also begin to solve your rushed schedule. God might say, “Test Me today and see what I can do.” ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Judah sold his brother to a camel caravan. Genesis 37:25-28
- \_\_\_ 2. Elijah helped a widow repay debt by selling oil. 2 Kings 4:2-7
- \_\_\_ 3. Balaam, after beating his mule, confessed to an angel that he had sinned. Numbers 22:27-34



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

Much has been said in the recent past about “change.” “Change you can believe in.” “Change is coming.” “Vote for change.” “You can always count on change, except from a vending machine.” With the leaves changing from green to yellow, the season changing from autumn to winter, and the president changing from a Republican to a Democrat, it is hard not to think of change. Some change is unstoppable. Some change is simply unavoidable. Some is undesirable, but some change is exciting.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18, the Apostle Paul describes an exciting change that is absolutely necessary and unavoidable given the circumstances. He reminds the people of Corinth that those who have the Spirit of the Lord, those who have “looked full in His wonderful face,” are changed into the image of the One on whom they have glanced. Now, as they look in that spiritual mirror, they reflect the face of the One who changed their lives. What an extreme makeover! What tremendous, radical transformation to be changed from glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ!

Oh, Christian, no longer do you have to hide your face! For on that earthly face of skin and bone, reflecting for all to see, is the glorious face of Jesus Christ. In you, a work has been done so that you can stand boldly and say, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

that believeth.” My friend, that is “change you can believe in.”

**How has the glory of the Lord changed your life? How will your behavior change as a result? Go back and read 2 Corinthians 3:6-18. ~PMO**

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match the names in column 1 with the answers in column 2.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ___ 1. Aaron   | A. Was called to build a ship Gen. 6:14                           |
| ___ 2. Noah    | B. Was called to leave home and go to a strange land Gen. 12:1, 2 |
| ___ 3. Abraham | C. Was called to lead Israel into the promised land Josh. 1:1-9   |
| ___ 4. Joshua  | D. Was called to be Israel’s first high priest Lev. 8:12          |



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Power of the Cross**

***“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God: For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.”***

***1 Corinthians 1:18, 4:20***

Fools. This is the title that modern humanistic society would ascribe to anyone who would place their faith in something that they can't see. Preaching the cross and the death of One accused of blasphemy over 2000 years ago makes absolutely no sense. Why would someone waste his time and even his life on such a silly notion?

Imagine for a moment that you were boarding the *Titanic*, and as you stepped off the gangplank onto the ship, you were given a life preserver. You are told to wear it because at some point the ship is going to sink. This might seem strange if these instructions were given by another passenger, but they are given by the captain. The captain knows this ship better than anyone else. He designed it and oversaw its construction. Suddenly, with this knowledge, that life preserver becomes so much more important. It is no longer foolish to walk around the ship with the life preserver tight to your body. Instead, it gives you security.

This is no different from the Creator of everything having a plan for the redemption of sinful man, calling for each person to place his trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, His work on the cross and the empty tomb. It is not foolish; it is salvation. It is not weakness; it is the power of

Almighty God to transcend time and space to know and love you beyond understanding.

The ways of God are foolishness to them that do not believe. The heathen see believers as weak, and we certainly are. Fortunately for us, our trust is not in our weakness but in Christ's power and promise in word and deed that He will save us, take us to heaven, and one day come again. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Bible Knowledge. Fill in the blank or blanks with the correct answer.

1. At the sound of trumpets and men shouting, \_\_\_\_\_'s city walls fell flat. Joshua 6:1-20
2. Eighty-five priests of the city of \_\_\_\_\_ were slain. 1 Samuel 22:11-19
3. The cities of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were destroyed by fire and brimstone. Genesis 19:24

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

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



Morning: Obadiah

Evening: Revelation 8

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Nicodemus Questions Jesus**

The day had ended; it was night. Jesus had preached and performed many miracles. Great crowds of people had witnessed those events. Among the people in the crowd were some Pharisees. One of the Pharisees was a man by the name of Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a very intelligent, very well-educated man. As a Pharisee, he knew the Scriptures. He had also memorized and could repeat hundreds of man-made traditions that had been added to the law. Because Nicodemus was such a learned, influential man, he had been made a leader of the Sanhedrin. As head of this Jewish governing body, He was an honored, important man. He was also a teacher of the law.

Nicodemus was sought to visit Jesus and talk with Him. He went at night—he may have been afraid of his colleagues on the (John 12:42). Nicodemus told Jesus that he knew that God must have sent Him. Jesus’ reply impressed upon Nicodemus his need to be born again.

Being educated and religious are not the proper qualifications for a person to get to heaven. Being born again is the only way to earn the right to go to heaven. Someone has said, “It is not learning but life that is wanted by Messiah’s kingdom, and life must begin by birth.” Neither reform nor good works will qualify a person to get to heaven. Martin Luther said, “My teaching is not of doing and leaving undone but of a change in the man—so that it is not new works done, but a new man to do them; not another life only, but another birth.” We must come to Jesus for this new

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

birth. John 3:18 says, “*He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already . . .*” ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. In 2 Kings 9:20, who drove furiously?  
A. Jehu            B. Ruth  
C. Elijah         D. Ahaz
2. This man anointed a stone that he had used for a pillow. Genesis 28:18  
A. Joseph        B. Joshua  
C. Jesus           D. Jacob
3. This man wrestled with an angel “until the breaking of the day.” Genesis 32:24  
A. Josiah         B. Jacob  
C. Jesus           D. Amos

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Despair is such a waste of time when there is joy, and lack of faith is such a waste of time when there is God.” ~Larry Burner

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Complete Abandon**

***“If I perish, I perish.” Esther 4:16***

Queen Esther had just been told that there was a decree posted proclaiming the annihilation of the Jewish people. King Ahasuerus had been tricked into signing the document and was not aware that his own wife was of Jewish descent. Mordecai, Esther’s uncle, sent word to the queen. We see Esther’s reply in ***Esther 4:16: “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.”*** Esther was going to intercede for her people. However, not even the king’s wife was allowed to approach the throne unless summoned. The queen knew it was a risk to go directly to the king, but she knew the power of prayer and the power of God. She told Mordecai to make sure the Jews fasted and prayed for her courageous move of intercession.

Complete abandon. Jesus says in Matthew 16:25, “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” Esther was ready to completely sacrifice herself for God’s people; she totally surrendered her future and placed it in the ever-capable hands of God. I have found that complete surrender requires a daily commitment to God. “Lord, today, I surrender to Your perfect will. I completely give my dreams, my future, and my life to You.” Can you pray that prayer today? The Bible prom-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

ises, “Whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law: for by the works of the law shall no \_\_\_\_\_ be justified.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

True or False. Label each statement with a ‘T’ for true and ‘F’ for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. The Lord appeared as a still small voice to Peter. 1 Kings 19:12-13
- \_\_\_ 2. Barack, the Judge of Israel, slew 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. Judges 15:15-16
- \_\_\_ 3. King Saul was “higher than any of the people from the shoulders upward.” 1 Samuel 9:2
- \_\_\_ 4. According to Matthew 3:4, John the Baptist ate berries and bread.
- \_\_\_ 5. According to Deut. 34:10, the Lord knew Aaron face to face.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“When a Christian is winning souls, he isn’t messing around with sin.” ~George L. Smith



Morning: Micah 1 - 3

Evening: Revelation 10

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

*Psalm 19:14*

This verse has always been a great help and encouragement to me. David is expressing his desire to please the Lord in two areas of his life. The words of David’s mouth and the meditations of his heart were both difficult areas for David. It is encouraging to realize that King David, a man after God’s heart, (1 Sam. 13:14) struggled to keep his words and his thoughts under control. I am not alone in my struggle.

The area of trouble for David was his words and thoughts. The stated goal was to please the Lord in these two matters. That would be a great goal for every Christian. If your words and thoughts over the last week were examined, would you be embarrassed? Would God be pleased with what you have said to and about other people? If you are like me, your answer would sometimes be yes, and other times, it would be no.

That brings me to the second part of this verse that encourages me. Not only am I not alone in my struggle, but the verse tells me there is help for me as well. Look at how David described the Lord. He called Him “my strength, and my redeemer.” In a sense, this verse is a prayer, a prayer to the One who can give us the strength to be victorious in whatever we face. God is our strength who can help us with our struggle. God is also described as our Redeemer. He can cleanse us and forgive us when we fail.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

How is your tongue? Is it pleasing to the Lord? How is your thought life? Is it pleasing to the Lord? He can give you the strength you need to please Him. If you fail, He will be your Redeemer, if you will repent and call upon Him for forgiveness. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law: for by the works of the law shall no \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ became angry when a man would not bow to him, that he planned to destroy all Jews throughout the kingdom. Esther 3:5-6
2. When a man refused to sell him a vineyard, \_\_\_\_\_ became so angry he went to bed without eating. 1 Kings 21:1-4

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Of two evils, choose neither.”  
~Charles H. Spurgeon



Morning: Micah 4, 5

Evening: Revelation 11

## The Bread of Life . . . Page 24

(Continued from Reasons Why on page 8)

### **Because of Sin**

***“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me (Psalm 66:18).”*** You will never be sinless in this life, but you must be blameless. We cannot be sinless, but we can sin less. If there is a covert and covered sin, unconfessed or unforsaken sin that you know about, then, you “regard” iniquity in your heart. God not only will not answer your prayer, He will not hear your prayer.

Gratefully, there is a righteous remedy. For ***“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*** [A wise word is you will never submit to God what you never admit to yourself.] ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).”***

The devil tries to persuade people that their sin is too terrible and that God could never forgive them. What a lie! Satan is the father of lies (see John 8:44). What about adultery? Remember the woman at the well who had been married five times and was living with a man right then to whom she was not even mar-

ried. Sounds like today, doesn't it? The woman taken in adultery went away forgiven, but she was told not to do it again. “Go and sin no more.” What about murder? Think about the terrible thief on the cross who pleaded for mercy. Jesus forgave him.

There is no excuse for sinning, but there is also no excuse for not being forgiven for Christ died for our sins. He paid the debt in full. Yet, if the sin has not been confessed and forsaken, the believer will often feel forsaken of God. Like Adam and Eve, they often run from and hid from God. They simply need to confess the sin and claim the promise of God by faith, that it is forgiven and forgotten.

When sin has been forgiven and forsaken, that person will be loosed and let go to behold the blessing of God and acquire answers to prayer.♦

***“Then shall ye call upon me,  
and ye shall go and pray unto me,  
and I will hearken unto you.”  
Jeremiah 29:12***

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If you have any questions or comments please call 419-866-0773 or send an email to [r.merrin@monclova-baptist.org](mailto:r.merrin@monclova-baptist.org).

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

*Ephesians 4:32*

This verse is for every Christian, and it is one of my favorite verses in marriage counseling. It cannot be over estimated how important it is for us to treat each other in a Christlike manner.

God gives us three specific words of instruction here. First, “Be ye kind.” The Greek word for “kind” is “crestos” and means serviceable, good, pleasant, and gracious. Every marriage would benefit from each spouse expressing kindness to one another. Only immaturity, pouting, negligence, or the like would lend itself towards not being kind.

Secondly, “tenderhearted” is the Greek word, “eusplanchros,” meaning compassionate and tender-hearted. In 1 Peter 3:8, it is translated “pitiful.” Again, this quality in a relationship would be as soothing ointment to the one who is hurting.

Finally, we are to forgive as God has forgiven us. So, we must ask the question, “How has God forgiven us?” Here are a few examples. He forgives us over and over, many times for the same repeated sins. He also forgives us even though we do not deserve His forgiveness. Finally, He forgives and promises to never hold that sin against us again.

This verse is good counsel. Why not apply it to your relationships? ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

Matching. These people had an encounter with an angel. Match the person in column 1 with the Scripture telling of their encounter in column 2.

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Gideon    | A. 1 Kings 19:1-7    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Peter     | B. John 20:11-12     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Abraham   | C. Acts 12:5-7       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Mary      | D. Genesis 18:1-2    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Elijah    | E. Judges 6:19-20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Shepherds | A. Genesis 16:6-8    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Ornan     | B. Genesis 19:1      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Hagar     | C. Acts 10:30-31     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Cornelius | D. 1 Chron. 21:18-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Lot       | E. Luke 2:8-9        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Jacob     | A. Num. 22:31        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Moses     | B. Zech.3:1-3        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Balaam    | C. Exodus 3:1-2      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Daniel    | D. Gen. 31:4-13      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Joshua    | E. Daniel 6:21-22    |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“There’s a price to pay to be a holy man of God. You have to buck the current because the tide’s running the other way.”

~Vance Havner



Morning: Micah 6, 7

Evening: Revelation 12

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

***“But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.” Acts 14:2***

Some things don’t ever seem to change. In this verse, Paul and Barnabus have come to Iconium preaching the “good news” of Jesus Christ. Verse 1 says, ***“that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.”*** So, we have here a multitude of people getting saved.

What doesn’t change is the reaction of the unsaved to this mighty working of God. The unbelieving Jews stirred up the unsaved Gentiles and caused them to oppose the Christians. This is still happening today. A good example is our television and newsprint media railing against the “Christian fundamentalists,” the “radical right-wing Christians,” or the “religious fanatics.”

There is not a better American citizen than a Christian whose heart is right with God. He is honest, trustworthy, and obedient to the laws of the land. He prays for the leaders of our country. He is a good neighbor and willing to work, the list could go on and on. However, an amoral media portrays the dedicated believer as a religious bigot and dangerous to our society.

Verse 4 says, ***“But the multitude of the city was divided; and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.”*** This verse could be used to describe America today. Our politics have divided us along spiritual lines. Abortion, the rights of Sodomites, prayer in our schools, and the display of Christianity in our communities have divided the saved and the media elite, who have in turn aroused the general populace

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

of unbelievers.

Paul and Barnabas’ reaction to being driven out of Iconium was to go to the next city and preach the Gospel. Do not be dismayed. God will ultimately vindicate the righteous. Press on in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus talked to the woman at the well in the city of Sychar. John 4:5
- \_\_\_ 2. A man waited for 50 years at the pool of Bethesda for healing. John 5:5
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus overthrew the tables and poured out of the money of the changers in the temple. John 2:15
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus was baptized by a priest. Matthew 3:13

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.” ~V. Raymond Edman



Morning: Nahum

Evening: Revelation 13

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: //

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

One of the most unique, confusing sections of any newspaper is the “opinion” section. If you ever want a good laugh, if you ever want to get mad, or if you simply want to ride the “roller coaster” of emotion, try reading this section. One guy has the answer to all the mayor’s problems. Someone else has got the answer to ending the War in Iraq. Yet, another is upset that the editor allowed a person of a different religious background to be published on the page. How some of these articles ever made it past the first set of screening and proof-reading is beyond human understanding. This section of the newspaper is irritating because it is full of opinions. And, as is often stated, “Opinions are like armpits; everybody has them, and most of them stink.” In this section of 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul addresses this matter of personal opinion, a matter that has become so prevalent in today’s society with the attempt to rid our world of absolutes. Paul writes his first absolute in verse 2 with these words: “Nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the TRUTH.” Paul reminds the people of Corinth that, first of all, the Word of God is true. No discussion, no debate: the Word of God is true.

Paul’s second address concerning opinions is found in verse five when he writes, “For we preach not ourselves.” Paul reminds the people of Corinth that he is not just spouting an opinion on which they might agree or disagree. Paul stands firmly on the fact that the Bible is

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: //

true, and those truths are not mere opinion. Paul describes His message when he wrote, “For we preach not ourselves.”

In this world of relativity and hatred for absolutes, we must not simply accept a message as true or valid. All “opinions” must be sifted through the Standard, that is the truth. Whether that message comes from the media, a relative, or from a pulpit, we must not accept opinion as fact.

**What is the source of your beliefs? Do you derive your beliefs from the media, a pastor, or wise family member? Remember, your belief system must find its source in the absolute, never-changing Word of God. Go back and read 2 Corinthians 4:1-7. ~PMO**

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: //

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ //

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. This man was wounded in battle and died in his chariot. 1 Kings 22:29-39  
A. David      B. Solomon  
C. Haman      D. Ahab



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”**

**2 Timothy 3:5**

This verse is applicable to the church age. As we near the rapture and second coming, the Bible warns that it will be a spiritually dangerous time. In 2 Timothy 3:1-4, the Bible warns us of men being lovers of themselves, blasphemers, disobedient children, homosexuals, and despisers of those that are good, to name just a few. Many of these men will have a form (appearance) of being godly, but they will not have the power of God upon their lives. Having no spiritual power is a result of not being saved or being saved but living in sin.

These that have a form of godliness may very well be spiritual leaders, pastors, evangelists, teachers, missionaries, or professing Christians found in all areas of the church. They will give lip service that they are godly people, but still, there will be no real power.

In 1 Corinthians 4:19-20, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church of his coming and said, he **“...will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.”** When the power of God is upon a person preaching, there will be souls getting saved. Sadly, there are thousands of church buildings and congregations in America where there is no one getting saved. These are or will eventually become those having a form of godliness. The building will carry the name of a church and have a pastor and congregation, but the Spirit of God will have left long ago. This

is very dangerous because seeking souls will often attend these churches and experience a sense of “doing right” but will not experience the joy, excitement, and power of God upon the church. Therefore, they leave the church thinking God doesn’t really have anything for them. It will leave them with the totally wrong impression of true Christianity.

The final warning is clear: “from such turn away.” If you are in a spiritually dead church, get out as quickly as possible and find a Bible believing, soul winning church.

~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Bible Knowledge. Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

Genesis 19:24 “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and \_\_\_\_\_ from the LORD out of heaven.”

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Though every believer has the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not have every believer.”

~A. W. Tozer



Morning: Zephaniah

Evening: Revelation 15

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”*

Luke 1:38

Mary had just heard some shocking news. There was going to be a remarkable change in her life, and things were never going to be the same again. Mary was just told that the plans that she had for her life were going to be changed because God had chosen her to perform a special task. Yesterday, she was no different than a hundred other teenage girls in her home town. Today, she had become the most significant woman on the planet. God was going to do the most amazing thing that He had ever done. He was going to enter into her womb so that He could become a man.

How could she make Joseph understand that she had not been unfaithful to him? What would she tell her parents? What would people assume about Mary and Joseph? What about all of her life plans? Mary did not worry about all those things; she simply told the angel, “I will do whatever the Lord asks of me.”

What if God decided to change your life today? What would your response be? Would you have the same attitude that Mary had, or would you argue with God to keep the plans that you created for yourself? Is He really the Lord of your life, or is “Lord” just a meaningless title? As far as Mary was concerned, God had full control of her life. That day, she had no idea what was going to happen in the days, weeks, and years to come, but I am sure that

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

today she is glad that she said, “. . . be it unto me according to thy word.” ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am \_\_\_\_\_ that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. He carried the doors of a city gate to the top of a hill. Judges 16:3  
A. Jacob      B. Elisha  
C. Samson    D. Paul
2. She “took a timbrel in her hand” and danced. Exodus 15:20  
A. Miriam    B. Sarah  
C. Hannah    D. Leah
3. He outran another runner.  
2 Sam. 18:19-23  
A. Saul      B. Ahab  
C. Pharaoh   D. Ahimaaz

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The blessedness of Christmas is all wrapped up in the person of Jesus. Our relationship determines the measure of the blessing.”

~Author Unknown



**Philip and the Eunuch**  
**Read Acts 8**

The eunuch is saved in this chapter, and what is the first thing he does after salvation? The qualifications for baptism are outlined here so simply. There are those who would say that a person must be tested and must wait for a proving period before baptism. You will notice, however, that the question came very simply, “*What doeth hinder me to be baptized?*” In verse 37, Philip gave the only true prerequisite which is believing “**with all thine heart.**” Consequently, the eunuch was baptized immediately.

Now someone may say, “Yes, this is true in the United States, but on the mission field you have to be more careful; you don’t know the people.” They are of different races and backgrounds.” However, that was exactly the case here. Philip was a Jew; the convert was an Ethiopian eunuch. Their backgrounds were different, but the Bible and God’s plan are the same for all people. The eunuch was baptized the same day.

It is interesting to note that they both went down into the water. This could not be anything but immersion. Some say that they went down into the water, and Philip then sprinkled him. How absurd! Why would they go down into the water to sprinkle the eunuch? Why not bring some of the water up in a container? The truth is the word *baptize* actually means *immersed*.

Finally, let’s take a look at the end of verse 39; which says, “He went on his way rejoicing.” This could be referring to the eunuch, a



new convert, or it could pertain to Philip, who was happy because he had won a soul. Let’s say it pertains to both of them. They were both happy. There is joy in becoming a Christian, and there is joy in winning the lost for Christ! Proverbs 11:30b says, “He that winneth souls is wise.” ~OV



2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am \_\_\_\_\_ that he is able to \_\_\_\_\_ that which I have committed unto him against that day.”



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

- \_\_\_ 1. Deborah was a judge of Israel.  
Judges 4:1-4
- \_\_\_ 2. Balaam had a donkey that spoke.  
Numbers 22:28
- \_\_\_ 3. Miriam was the wife of Moses.  
Exodus 2:21



“Jesus has many lovers of His heavenly kingdom but few bearers of His cross.”

~Thomas A. Kempis



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.” Job 5:17*

God pities a believer just as a father pities his son. He also chastens a believer just as a good father will chasten a disobedient child. God’s chastening is evidence that a person is a true believer.

Happiness follows obedient actions. God’s persistent love and correction will ultimately cause a person to obey, and when he obeys, he will be happy. Therefore, we should not despise God’s chastening because it is evidence of His love and will make us more Christlike.

On a personal note, my father’s correction was never pleasant, but it resulted in my being a better person. Many times his discipline kept me safe from the dangers of childhood.

Wise is the person who learns to listen and to obey. Foolish is the one who rejects God’s instruction and chastening. Each time we learn to respond well to His chastening, we mature in Christ. If we fail to heed God’s correction, it will probably be a lesson we will have to learn again.

You can be sure God will finish the work. He doesn’t make any mistakes, and when He saved us, He set us apart and began to help us mature through His love, protection and chastening. He will never lose a convert. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am \_\_\_\_\_ that he is able to \_\_\_\_\_ that which I have \_\_\_\_\_ unto him against that day.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. With the help of his wife who let him down a window, he escaped from his father-in-law who was trying to kill him. 1 Samuel 19:10-12  
A. Adonijah    B. David  
C. Caleb        D. Joshua
2. Being warned by an angel in a dream, he escaped to Egypt with his wife and child. Matthew 2:13-14  
A. Joseph        B. Levi  
C. Abraham      D. Jonah
3. To escape his brother who wanted to kill him, he fled to his uncle’s home. Genesis 27:42-43  
A. Joash          B. Job  
C. Joshua        D. Jacob

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way.” ~A. W. Tozer

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.” 2 Timothy 4:9-10*

The Christian’s life is one of service. Jesus said in Mark 10:45 that He came to serve, not to be served. We must be diligent to stay focused on the task before us, or we may forsake the opportunity God has given us.

Paul was writing to Timothy from prison. He was alone and longed for fellowship with his brethren. That can be true for us today, even when we are busy at work for the Lord.

It is important to remember this with our own friends in Christ. On a normal Sunday, there are many in church that long to see their friends. This is one reason faithfulness to church is important. Our absence will be a discouragement for another. Also, Paul needed a coat for warmth in prison and books for spiritual encouragement; without another friend being faithful, he would not receive them.

Demas could have been a great help, but instead, he loved the things of the world more than the things of God. He lost the opportunity of being a blessing, and no doubt the present and eternal rewards which would have come with his faithfulness.

WARNING! Don’t follow the steps of Demas. Be on guard against the love of the world. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching. Match column A with the correct answer in column B.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ___ 1. Jesus   | A. A man of vision<br>Acts 26:13-15    |
| ___ 2. Abraham | B. Exiled to Patmos<br>Rev. 1:9        |
| ___ 3. David   | C. Obedient<br>Genesis 12:4            |
| ___ 4. Paul    | D. Carpenter<br>Matt. 13:55            |
| ___ 5. John    | E. Savior<br>Matt. 1:21                |
| ___ 6. Joseph  | F. Walked with God<br>Genesis 6:8-12   |
| ___ 7. Noah    | G. Shepherd/King<br>1 Sam. 16:19; 21:1 |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Faith, as Paul saw it, was a living, flaming thing leading to surrender and obedience to the commandments of Christ."

~Martin Luther



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2*

God's power cannot be limited. He can save out of the most impossible situations. He is all powerful! He is also able to hear the faintest prayer of the smallest amount of faith. So, God's hand (power) is never shortened.

However, verse 2 explains that our iniquities can separate us from His power. Sin can block prayer. So, the problem is not the power of God or His ability to hear our prayer, but He will not answer our prayer or use His power when sin has broken our fellowship with Him.

If your prayers are going unanswered, you may have moved away from God. You can be sure it is not because God does not have the power to answer. There is also the possibility that you are praying outside of God's best for you, and, in His goodness, He is not answering.

The exciting thing about this broken relationship is God's willingness to restore it. If you will confess your sin to Him, He instantly forgives you and cleanses you of all unrighteousness. So, with this restored fellowship, immediately His power and answered prayer become available. Amen! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Jonathan tried to kill David with a javelin. 1 Samuel 18:11
- \_\_\_ 2. Daniel was thrown into a lion's den. Daniel 6:16
- \_\_\_ 3. Joshua was given a coat of many colors by his father. Genesis 37:3
- \_\_\_ 4. Abel said, “Am I my brother's keeper.” Genesis 4:9
- \_\_\_ 5. A lame man begged from Peter and John at the gate called Beautiful. Acts 3:2-3
- \_\_\_ 6. Jesus appeared to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:1-6
- \_\_\_ 7. Ham was one of Noah's three sons. Genesis 5:32

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If you have no joy, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere.” ~Billy Sunday



 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*

There are several things to learn from these verses. First, we would be false witnesses if Jesus Christ had not really risen from the dead; our faith would be all in vain, 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 five hundred others.

John gives testimony in 1 John that he saw Him and studied Him. John also says that he touched Him, and he heard Him speak. All of this is wonderful evidence that Christ did rise from the dead (1 John 1:1-3). It is our job in today’s world to give testimony of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

Finally, when the Scripture was written claiming Christ’s resurrection, even the general population accepted the word of the witnesses. 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! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

Bible Knowledge. Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ washed his hands before a crowd to prevent a riot. Matt. 27:24
2. \_\_\_\_\_ instructed a blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. John 9:1-6
3. Elisha watched Elijah depart heavenward in a \_\_\_\_\_ of fire. 2 Kings 2:11-12
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wept, as he lay on the ground in front of the temple while making confession. Ezra 10:1
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were prisoners and felt a great earthquake shake the prison foundations and had their cell door opened. Acts 16:25-26

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I do not want merely to possess a faith; I want a faith that possesses me."

~Matthew Henry



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Mini Faith, Mighty God**

***“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”***

***Matthew 17:20b***

Wikipedia.org, a free online encyclopedia, gives some insight as to the structure of these seeds we read about in Matthew 17. “Mustard seeds are the small seeds of the various mustard plants. The seeds are about 2mm in diameter, and may be colored from yellowish white to black.” Now, there are 1,000 millimeters in one meter, so, hopefully, you get the picture of the actual size of mustard seeds.

A short time ago, I hiked a mountain in the hills of Pennsylvania. To reach the summit, we climbed for four miles, and my legs started complaining at about mile marker number two. I kept wondering throughout the hike, “How much longer until we are at the top?” In the eyes of an inexperienced mountain hiker, this obstacle was huge!

What a comparison Jesus makes in Matthew 17:20! ***“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.”*** A man had brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus’ disciples, and they could not cast out the demon. However, Jesus was able to cast the demon out and restore the son. The disciples questioned Jesus in verse 19, “Why could not we cast him out?” In the first part of verse 20, Jesus gives the reason, ***“Because of your unbelief.”***

Dear friend, with just the faith as miniscule as a mustard seed, you too can move mountains. What a tragedy to be in heaven someday and see what God could have done through your life, but because of a lack of belief, the mountains were left unmoved! What mountains stand before you? What dreams do you feel could never be fulfilled? What work for God has burdened your heart, but you have not pursued? James 4:14 says, “For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” Life is too short to miss opportunities because of a lack of belief. ***“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you.”***

~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

Bible Knowledge. Fill in the with the correct answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ put a curse on anyone planning to rebuild Jericho. Joshua 6:26
2. \_\_\_\_\_ built the first city and named it after his son. Genesis 4:17

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“There were many who saw the babe, but did not see the salvation.” ~John Calvin



Morning: Malachi

Evening: Revelation 22

## Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

- 12/1 - Pg 2 Ehud, Amos, Amram & Jochebed, Zaccheus
- 12/2 - Pg 3 B
- 12/3 - Pg 4 F, T
- 12/4 - Pg 5 D, B, A, C
- 12/5 - Pg 6 B, C, D, A
- 12/6 - Pg 7 F, T, T, F
- 12/7 - Pg 8 D, A, B, C
- 12/8 - Pg 9 Saul, Balak, Jonah, Moses
- 12/9 - Pg 11 C, B
- 12/10 - Pg 12 Gourd, Mahershalalhashbaz, Elisha, Uzziah, Elijah
- 12/11 - Pg 13 T, F, T
- 12/12 - Pg 14 Enoch & Elijah, King Saul, James & John, Jason and certain believers, Enoch & Noah, Abraham
- 12/13 - Pg 15 B, A, C, B
- 12/14 - Pg 17 D, A, C, B
- 12/15 - Pg 18 T, F, T
- 12/16 - Pg 19 D, A, B, C
- 12/17 - Pg 20 Jericho, Nob, Sodom & Gomorah
- 12/18 - Pg 21 A, D, B
- 12/19 - Pg 22 F, F, T, F, F
- 12/20 - Pg 23 Haman, Ahab
- 12/21 - Pg 25 E, C, D, B, A; E, D, A, C, B; D, C, A, E, B
- 12/22 - Pg 26 T, F, T, F
- 12/23 - Pg 27 D
- 12/24 - Pg 28 Fire
- 12/25 - Pg 29 C, A, D
- 12/26 - Pg 30 T, T, F
- 12/27 - Pg 31 B, A, D
- 12/28 - Pg 32 E, C, G, A, B, D, F
- 12/29 - Pg 33 F, T, F, F, T, T, T
- 12/30 - Pg 34 Pilate, Jesus, Chariot, Ezra, Paul & Silas
- 12/31 - Pg 35 Joshua, Cain

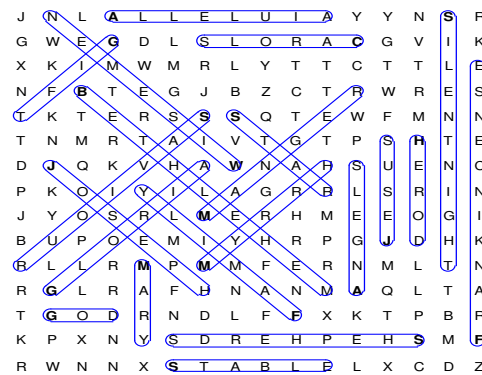
### Crossword Puzzle Answer

People, Places, and Things about the Christmas Story  
Taken from the Book of Luke



### Word Search Puzzle Solution

#### Words You May Hear at Christmas Time



*We wish you a very  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy, Healthy New Year!*