

the bread of life devotional

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

February 1, 2010

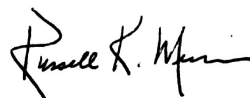
Dear Readers,

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) Jesus sacrificed His life for you and for me. There is no greater love than this! There is not a love more perfect than this! The Creator of the universe gave all He had so that we could live eternally with Him.

I am reminded of the hymn “And Can It Be.” The last two phrases say: “Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” Stand amazed, fellow Christian. God Almighty loves you with the greatest love in the world.

This month, keep your resolutions in full swing. Spend time in God’s Word. Set aside time for prayer. Be faithful to God’s calling in your life. He loves you so much, and He desires to spend time with YOU!

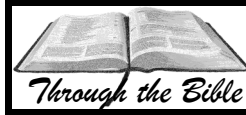
In Christ,



Pastor Russ Merrin
Monclova Road Baptist Church

Monday

February 1



Morning: *Exodus 27, 28*

Evening: *Matthew 21:23-46*

God's Job Description

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

Have you ever been confused? One of the most frustrating positions in which anyone can find himself is that of confusion, especially in the area of duty. A worker without a job description is often ineffective. He can find himself constantly in motion, but never quite sure he is fulfilling his purpose and duty to the company.

Occasionally, the life roles and duties of individuals can be clouded and unclear. When one finds himself in such a position, it is good to know that in the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul laid out the “job descriptions” of many of the roles in which we find ourselves in life.

Are you a wife? Submit yourself to your own husband (v. 22). Are you a husband? Be the head of the wife (v.23), love your wife (v.25), and give yourself to your wife (v.25). Are you a child? Obey your parents in the Lord (6:1), and honour your father and mother (6:2). Are you a parent? Don't provoke your children to wrath (v. 4), but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (v.4). Are you a servant or employee? Be obedient to your employer (v.5), be focused on your job while at work (v.5), and do good work (v.6). Are you a master or employer? Treat your employees right (v.9).

Keeping your “job description” clear makes life much easier. Know your role. Fulfil your

purpose. Do your job. Life will be much more fulfilling and satisfying when you know what you are to do and you do it. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

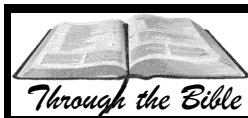
1. What did God tell Abraham to do on Mt. Moriah? Genesis 22:2
A. Have a picnic B. Take a rest
C. Offer Isaac as D. Meet an angel
a burnt offering
2. Who wrestled with a man all night? Genesis 32:24
A. David B. Jacob
C. Abraham D. Isaac
3. Who was the wife of Uriah? 2 Sam. 11:3
A. Bathsheba B. Abigail
C. Hannah D. Deborah

Quote of the Day

“To love God is the greatest of virtues; to be loved by God is the greatest of blessings.”
~*Author Unknown*

Tuesday

February 2



Morning: *Exodus 29, 30*

Evening: *Matthew 22:1-22*

What is Revival?

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10

What is revival? It is not just a specific scheduled event with a special speaker for a set amount of time, although it can be. It is not just a meeting that takes place only in a tent in the hot evenings of summer, though at times it is. Real revival is expressed by David in this verse. It is a moving of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of His people. It is a quickening and reviving of believers seeking after their Father.

God is looking to revive His people. Unfortunately, we have the tendency to be so busy that we become complacent in our walk. God intended for His children to be filled with the Holy Spirit, having a vibrant walk and a bold testimony.

Revival begins as God moves and we call upon Him. First, we call upon Him for forgiveness. Real revival starts when God’s people are broken over sin that separates them from Him.

Second, when real revival begins, we will have a renewed desire to be like Christ. This will be manifested in a passion to know His Word more, to avoid sin, and to seek after holiness.

Finally, when God’s people are revived, the lost will be evangelized. People who have been reminded of God’s goodness in their own lives want to share it with those who do not know. David found forgiveness for his sin and had the

joy of his salvation restored. He committed to God to teach transgressors the truth of the Gospel. If we want to reach our community for Christ, pray for revival. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: _____ not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

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

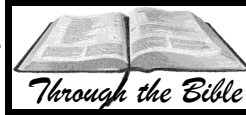
- _____ 1. Sarah was Abraham’s first wife.
Genesis 20:2, 25:1
- _____ 2. Abram’s first son was Ishmael?
Genesis 16:15
- _____ 3. The magicians interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams. Genesis 41:25-27
- _____ 4. God planted a garden in Eden.
Genesis 2:8

Quote of the Day

"Where Love is, God is." ~Henry Drummond

Wednesday

February 3



Morning: *Exodus 31-33*

Evening: *Matthew 22:23-46*

The Cost of Following

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.”
Mark 8:35

When I was a child, I would sometimes fantasize about the future day when I could eat whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I would picture myself going to the grocery store and loading up on candy bars, chips, and soda. The limitations my parents put on such delectable items made no sense to me.

Now that I have control over what I eat, I usually refrain from stuffing myself with sweets and snack food like I had planned. The benefits of energy, vitality, focus, and good health make it worth denying myself.

Often, the cost of following Christ seems too great to pay. A wise person observed that, “It costs much to follow Christ, but it costs more not to.” Sometimes we act like candy-starved children spiritually. Denying our flesh and taking up Christ’s cross may seem too hard. There are so many flesh-indulging pleasures, that we may fail to realize the high cost we are paying. God gives deep joy and transcendent peace to those in intimacy with Him. He gives the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and enable us. If you spent your entire life pursuing and experiencing the greatest pleasures of this world, at the end of your life, you would be empty. The message in Mark 8:35 is reiterated many times in the Bible; if you try to keep your life, you will ultimately lose it. Nothing in this world is comparable to the pleasure of giving

yourself away to God and finding true satisfaction and intimacy in the only place it can be found—in Him. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

Psalms 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: _____ not thyself because of him who _____ in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that complete the statement.

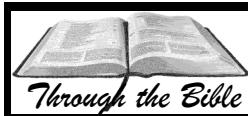
1. “There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto _____, whom the LORD knew face to face.” Deuteronomy 34:10
2. This king was “higher than any of the people from the shoulders upward.”
1 Samuel 9:2 _____
3. “It is better to _____ than to burn.” 1 Corinthians 7:9
4. This young man killed a lion and a bear while attending his father’s sheep.
1 Samuel 17:34-36 _____

Quote of the Day

Nature teaches us to love our friends, but religion our enemies.” ~Thomas Fuller

Thursday

February 4



Morning: *Exodus 34-36*

Evening: *Matthew 23:1-22*

Reality

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.”

1 John 1:1

It is exciting to know that the letter we read from the Apostle Paul is an eyewitness account. Mark in your Bible each time John says that he heard, saw, looked upon (gazed or studied), or handled the Word of Life in the first three verses.

My count is seven times John witnessed the Word of Life. Now the question is, who is the Word of Life?

We learn in the Gospel of John the identity of the Word. Turn to John 1:1, and answer these questions:

1. Who was in the beginning?
2. Who was the Word with?
3. Who was the Word?

Now look at John 1:14, and you will find that the Word was made _____ and dwelt or lived among us.

The conclusion is that Jesus is the Word of Life, and the Apostle John heard, saw, studied, and touched Him.

Turn back to 1 John 1:4 and answer the question, “Why was the Apostle John write this letter?” John has told us that Jesus Christ is a real person and the Christian life is a reality.

~OV

Scripture Fill-In

Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: _____ not thyself because of him who _____ in his way, because of the man who bringeth _____ devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the women in Column 1 with the description of who she was or did in Column 2.

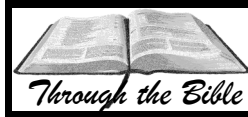
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Miriam | A. Mother of Samuel
1 Samuel 1:9-11 |
| _____ 2. Elisabeth | B. Mother of John
the Baptist
Luke 1:13 |
| _____ 3. Hannah | C. An orphan who
became queen
Esther 2:17 |
| _____ 4. Esther | D. Led women of
Israel in a victory
dance
Exodus 15:20 |

Quote of the Day

"Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectation." ~Andrew Murray

Friday

February 5



Morning: *Exodus 37, 38*
Evening: *Matthew 23:23-39*

Simply Trust

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
Genesis 2:17

When I was a child, there were things that my parents required of me that I simply could not understand. Why did I have to take a nap? Why wasn't I able to eat a whole sandwich when I got home from school? Why couldn't I play with certain foul mouthed kids in the neighborhood? Why was I the one that always had to set a good example for my younger brother? The answers to these questions and more were sometimes given, and sometimes, I was forced to just simply trust that my parents knew what was best for me.

When God the Father commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, there was no explanation given. Have you ever wondered why God gave this peculiar command? Why was there just one tree that they were not allowed to eat from? Oh, the questions could go on and on. The only information given to Adam and Eve was the consequence for eating from the mysterious tree.

You see, God does not have to give an explanation. He is God, and He is all-knowing, full of wisdom. He does see the big picture, and He has a purpose for not revealing it completely to us. So, we have to trust Him. That is easier said than done, I know. But, just like my parents knew what was best for me, our heavenly Father knows what is best for each of His

little children. Our job is to simply trust and obey! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: _____ not thyself because of him who _____ in his way, because of the man who bringeth _____ devices to pass. Cease from _____, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

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

1. To whom did the LORD speak these words, “Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.” Gen. 7:1

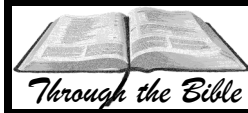
2. According to Mark 13:32-34, what are three things that we should do in preparation for Christ's return?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. “Behold the day of the _____ cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the _____ thereof out of it.”
Isaiah 13:9

Quote of the Day

“I do not want merely to possess a faith; I want a faith that possesses me.” ~Charles Kingsley

Saturday

February 6



Morning: *Exodus 39, 40*

Evening: *Matthew 24:1-22*

Sacrifice

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” John 15:12

Speed skater Kristen Talbot made headlines in 1992 when she gave up her Olympic dreams to donate bone marrow to her critically ill brother. Talbot proved she wanted to keep her brother around and was committed to doing everything she could to support him during his physical illness, even at the expense of the hard work and practice she had put in on the ice over the years. She demonstrated extreme personal sacrifice to benefit someone she loved.

Often, we take our brothers and sisters for granted. We do not carve out time from our schedule to spend with them. We do not invite them to join us in activities. We do not ask about their days or their lives.

In Ephesians 5:1-2, the Apostle Paul tells us to, *“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”*

Consider ways you can live out Paul's instruction by serving your family members. For example, you might want to surprise your brother or sister by doing their chores for them. Instead of ignoring them, take time to listen. Invite them to join you and your friends for an activity. Ask forgiveness for times when you treated them unkindly or for harsh words you may have spoken.

As you give up something for a family member, think about what Jesus Christ gave up for you: His life. And in doing so, He made it possible for you to experience ultimate forgiveness and a personal relationship with God for eternity. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and _____ patiently for him: _____ not thyself because of him who _____ in his way, because of the man who bringeth _____ devices to pass. Cease from _____, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose the person who does not fit in the Biblical account.

- Who does not belong in the family group?
Ruth 1:1-22
A. Ruth B. Naomi
C. Orpha D. Hannah
- Who does not belong with these people associated with the book of Esther?
A. Esther B. Job
C. Mordecai D. Haman

Quote of the Day

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies." ~Hudson Taylor

A Nobel Prize for the Prince of Peace

By Stephen Stallard

President Barack Obama has received the Nobel Peace Prize. Many people, including representatives for the White House, were surprised by the announcement. A question was immediately asked by those on both the right and the left: has the President really earned such a prestigious honor? Regardless of the answer, President Obama has taken his place in the historic pantheon of Nobel laureates. Indeed, he now stands in illustrious company. Former Nobel winners include Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat, and Teddy Roosevelt. Some certainly deserved the prize; others did not.

As I pondered this milestone, my thoughts turned to another man of peace, one whose arrival was not triumphal, one whose life was not glamorous, and one whose death was celebrated by many. Why is it that Jesus of Nazareth was rejected by the world He came to save? Why is it that He never garnered the applause of men or the international stardom that comes with a Nobel Prize?

The Bible clearly identifies peace as an important part of Jesus' ministry: ***“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”*** (Romans 5:1). Here the Bible speaks of reconciliation, not between bitter rivals or warring tribes, but between man and God. ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life”*** (Romans 5:9-10).

According to the Bible, mankind is at war with a just and holy God (James 4:4). Because

we fall short of God's standard of perfection, the Bible calls us sinners. We are people who are at war with God, sinners who are evil in the very core of our being. This sin nature sets us at odds with our Creator and places us into a constant state of rebellion.

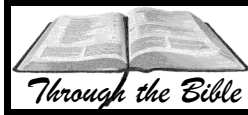
This is why Jesus came. This is why Jesus died. Only through Christ's death and resurrection can we experience peace with God. On the cross He bore the penalty for our sin, in order to satisfy the just demands of God's law (2 Cor. 5:21). His sacrificial death, when accepted by faith, bridges the gap between men and God. Because Jesus ***“made peace through the blood of His cross”*** (Col. 1:20), we can spend an eternity in Heaven.

This accomplishment surpasses anything ever achieved by any Nobel laureate, even for the best of the bunch. Yet Jesus has never been awarded a medal. He has never been acclaimed by all the world. And He has never been a television star. Yet Jesus does not need any of these things. The Bible teaches that one day Jesus Christ will return to the planet earth to establish His eternal kingdom (Rev. 19-22). On that day, the paparazzi will be overwhelmed and the Nobel committee will be speechless. For they will stand before God in the flesh, the One whose death and life reconciles men to God.

The Bible calls Jesus the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). He is better than any Nobel laureate, for He will one day bring lasting peace to this earth. This peace will be based upon His terrible death upon the cross on our behalf. Truly, this is an accomplishment deserving of our respect. We dare not trivialize it with an award. Instead, we should bow the knee before our Creator and Lord, the Prince of Peace.♦

Sunday

February 7



Morning: *Leviticus 1-3*

Evening: *Matthew 24:23-51*

I AM

“And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living.”

Mark 12:26-27

Jesus was making a point with the religious leaders of His day when He made reference to God’s conversation with Moses at the burning bush. In that conversation the Lord said several interesting things about Himself. Let’s take a moment to consider some of them.

For one, He referred to Himself as I Am, not I was, nor will be, but I Am. Jesus is always relevant. Today, He is alive; today, He hears prayers; today, He is on the throne in Heaven orchestrating the affairs of the universe. The fact that He is always relevant is evidenced by the lives of those who He used to illustrate His point.

He is the God of Abraham. Moses was familiar with Abraham, who was called out by God, led by God as he wandered, received the promise of a nation, and received a son in His old age. And Abraham’s God is our God.

He is the God of Isaac. Isaac was miraculously saved before he was slain as an offering to God and ultimately became the heir to Abraham’s promise. Isaac’s God is our God.

He is the God of Jacob, who wrestled with God until he received a blessing and his sons

became the twelve tribes of Israel. The God of Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham is still the great I AM. And they are all living with Him today. The same God Who did great things for them can do great things for you. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

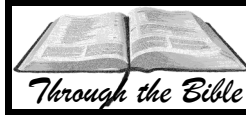
1. Who was the sweet psalmist of Israel?
2 Samuel 23:1
A. Saul B. Aesop
C. Jeremiah D. David
2. Which book of the Bible mentions a ferry boat?
A. John 6:22 B. 2 Samuel 19:18
C. Acts 27:16 D. Acts 27:32
3. How many sons did Gideon have?
Judges 8:20—9:5
A. 12 B. 71
C. 40 D. 35

Quote of the Day

“Beware you are not swallowed up in books! An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.” ~John Wesley

Monday

February 8



Morning: *Leviticus 4-6*

Evening: *Matthew 25:1-30*

Be Strong In The Lord

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

Ephesians 6:10

Does the name Zydrunas Savickas mean anything to you? Most likely, if you have heard this name, you would remember, not the name but the reason for hearing the name. Zydrunas Savickas is a 385 pound, 34 year old Lithuanian man who won the title of “World’s Strongest Man” in 2009. He achieved such a title by doing such things as squatting 900 pounds of bricks, carrying a car on his shoulders and pulling an airplane 100 feet to the finish line. Without a doubt Zydrunas is strong. How did he become strong? Did he just wake up one day with bulging biceps and massive thighs? Of course not. Without a doubt, Mr. Sayickas participated in a rather extensive training program and in a specialized diet. His goal was to be strong and without question he is.

The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 6:10, relays a command from God Himself to His children. We are told to ***“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”*** It is not a question of “if” you can be strong, but “when” you will be strong. God has called us to be strong in the Lord and His calling is within our ability. We are not going to “wake up” one morning with great spiritual strength. We must participate in the disciplines that are required for spiritual strength: a rather extensive training program of exercising our spiritual muscles and a steady diet of the Word of God. You are not called to

be the World’s Strongest Man. You are called to much more. ***“Be strong in the Lord.”*** It is the power of His might that will make you strong. Tap into that power today. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, _____ your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Bible Quiz

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

- _____ 1. Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land. Deut. 3:28
- _____ 2. The children of Israel called the bread God gave them in the wilderness, manna. Exodus 16:15
- _____ 3. Moses’ family buried him in Mt. Nebo. Deut. 34:5-6

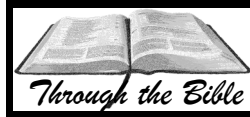
Quote of the Day

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

~Hudson Taylor

Tuesday

February 9



Morning: *Leviticus 7-9*

Evening: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Take Heed

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.” Hebrews 3:12-14

Be aware—the author of Hebrews (most likely Paul) begins with Take heed! He is saying listen; what I have to say is important. Keep your guard up. Sin unchecked will lead even the most devout believer to unbelief and a turning away from the living God. This is not to say they will lose their salvation. They can however slip farther and farther away until they are of little spiritual value. At this point, spiritual growth stops, and the joy they once new in Christ falls away—not because Christ moved but because they did.

Be encouraging—Secondly, the author is reminding us that we do not have to fight this spiritual battle alone. We are called to encourage one another. When two walk together in the faith, they are less likely to become disheartened. We keep each other accountable to be ever growing and to avoid sin. Just knowing that there is someone watching our testimony helps us to keep it clean. Furthermore, having a brother or sister to lift us when we are weary strengthens us in times of trial.

Be reminded—Finally, we are instructed to look back to the beginning when we first trusted Christ and see how He has been faithful. Sometimes, we allow the cares of this

world to shake our faith. Hold fast! He who began the work in us will be faithful to bring it to completion. We are children of the Creator of the universe, and someday we will reign with Jesus Christ. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, _____ your _____, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that complete the statement.

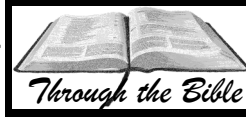
1. Peter said, “Thou are the _____.”
Mark 8:29
2. Jesus said to Matthew, “_____ me.” Matthew 9:9
3. Jesus had _____ disciples.
Matthew 10:1
4. Jesus gave his disciples power to _____ the sick. Matthew 10:1

Quote of the Day

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

Wednesday

February 10



Morning: *Leviticus 10-12*

Evening: *Matthew 26:1-19*

Facing the Furnace

“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Daniel 3:17-18

We are not pressured to worship idols of actual gold or stone in today’s culture. Yet, idols—things or people that consume our time, thoughts, and lives—abound.

When three Israelites in exile in Babylon, far from anyone who would hold them accountable, refused to bow to the king’s grand gold image, they went in direct and open opposition to the culture and societal expectations. They had integrity to a higher calling, to honor the one true God. Facing death, they placed themselves completely in God’s hands, believing that He would be glorified by their deliverance or their martyrdom. What a test of true worship. When life itself is at stake, true loyalties surface.

I wonder what I would have done as everyone around me bowed to the golden image. It is difficult to be objective when everyone else is doing something. Would I have caved to the pressure to conform? Would I have decided to save my life to live another day? I can see myself coming up with many good reasons to keep myself alive. Yet, obedience and true worship sometimes require going against popular opinion or the norms of culture. We must trust in God and realize that our lives are not our own.

~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, _____ your _____, bless them that _____ you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Bible Quiz

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

1. What prophet walked around naked for three years? Isaiah 20:3 _____
2. Whose entrancing dance proved fatal for John the Baptist? Matt. 14:6-8

3. Who held a feast with dancing when his son returned? Luke 15:11-25

4. Who laughed at Nehemiah’s plans to rebuild Jerusalem? Nehemiah 2:19

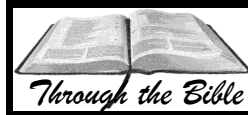
5. Who laughed when she heard she would bear a son in her old age? Gen. 18:10-12

Quote of the Day

“Love does not dominate; it cultivates.”
~Johann Wolfgang

Thursday

February 11



Morning: *Leviticus 13*

Evening: *Matthew 26:20-54*

Free Indeed

But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians 4:9

After serving fifteen years in the state correctional institute, the released prisoner was asked if he had any desire to return. "After being in bondage for fifteen years, living under the guidelines of other individuals, I'm finally free to do as I want and when I want. I have not a desire to go back into bondage." It was less than a year later that he was back in the state correctional institute in maximum security. He fell victim to his old habits and returned to bondage.

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

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

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, _____ your _____, bless them that _____ you, do _____ to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Bible Quiz

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

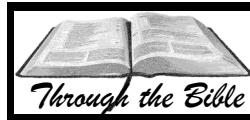
- _____ 1. There is a special blessing awaiting Christians who are watching for Jesus' return? Luke 12:37
- _____ 2. Many shall say, "I am Christ" and deceive many people. Mark 13:6
- _____ 3. Moses and Aaron's sister, Miriam, was a prophetess. Exodus 15:20
- _____ 4. Aaron made a golden calf for the people while Moses was on Mt. Sinai.
- _____ 5. Joseph and Benjamin were the sons of Jehosaphat and Rachel. Genesis 46:19

Quote of the Day

"The history of the world suggests that without the love of God there is little likelihood of a love for man that does not become corrupt."
~Francois Fenelon

Friday

February 12



Morning: *Leviticus 14*
Evening: *Matthew 26:55-75*

Devotion

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

Devotion is the state of being dedicated (given wholly to), consecrated (separated), or solemnly set apart for a particular purpose.

Oh that we would strive to be more like Paul. **First**, he states that he is a servant, a slave to Christ. Everything he desires to do is for the cause of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 9:19, Paul states, ***“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.”*** Are you gaining, Christian?

Second, Paul says, I am an apostle. I am commanded to preach. In Romans 1:15, he says, “As much as is in me, I am ready to preach.” This is where we sit back and take spiritual inventory; am I doing all for Christ, or am I ready to witness to that salesclerk, that neighbor, or that family member? Paul said in Philippians 3:8, ***“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”*** So, how are you doing, Christian?

Third, Paul tells us he is separated, wholly set aside for Christ’s use. 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; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*** Paul is saying, “Let’s go, let’s get busy.” There is a world of people dying and going to Hell. Come on peo-

ple, are you going to continue to serve yourselves, or are you going to separate yourself to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ? What is it going to be, Christian? ~KAT

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, _____ your _____, bless them that _____ you, do _____ to them that hate you, and _____ for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Bible Quiz

Short Answer. Fill in the blank that answers the question, “Who said that?”

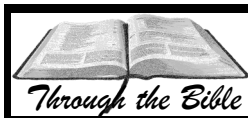
1. “...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...”
Matthew 3:1-3 _____
2. “Bless are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:1-8 _____
3. “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16 _____
4. “...How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me?...” John 4:9

Quote of the Day

“Faith, as Paul saw it, was a living, flaming thing leading to surrender and obedience to the commandments of Christ.” ~A. W. Tozer

Saturday

February 13



Morning: *Leviticus 15-17*

Evening: *Matthew 27:1-31*

Leadership

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.” Ephesians 5:1-2

If you have been on a team, chances are you’ve heard the phrases “Be a leader,” and “This team needs leadership!” Statements like those constantly remind us as players to work hard, demonstrate integrity, and display a model of intensity for other players.

Leaders are necessary on any team. They give other athletes the confidence of knowing they can look to someone for guidance, either by words (encouragement) or by example (on-field excellence). When striving to be leaders on our teams, we must remember that we are given the perfect leader to model: Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 5:2, Paul encourages us to be imitators of God and to ***“walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”*** Essentially, we need to imitate the perfect life of Christ so that we can let our ***“light so shine before men”*** (Matthew 5:16). By preaching the Gospel and guiding people out of the darkness of the world, we can lead them into the light and hope of Christ. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, _____ your _____, bless them that _____ you, do _____ to them that hate you, and _____ for them which despitefully use you, and _____ you.”

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- Which book of the Bible tells about the sun standing still?
A. Genesis 5 B. Exodus 20
C. Joshua 10 D. Judges 3
- In which book of the Bible is the parable of the prodigal son?
A. Luke 15 B. Acts 5
C. Mark 3 D. Matthew 7
- In which book of the Bible would you find the phrase, “God is love”?
A. John 3 B. Revelation 21
C. 1 John 4 D. 2 John 2
- What book of the Bible comes directly after Micah?
A. Jonah B. Nahum
C. Amos D. Malachi

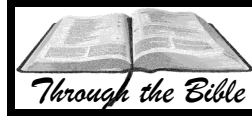
Quote of the Day

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

~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

February 14



Morning: *Leviticus 18, 19*

Evening: *Matthew 27:32-66*

Walk Worthy

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Colossians 1:10-11

In this passage, Paul is expressing his desire and prayer for the believers at Colosse. The things that he desired to see happen in that day are all things that we could hope to see happen today. Look at six things that Paul desired to see these believers experience.

First, the Apostle Paul hoped that they would walk worthy of the Lord. We should walk in a way that we reflect His worth. The next desire Paul had for the believers was that they would be pleasing unto him.

He also desired to see them be fruitful. Jesus said that he had ordained us to bring forth much fruit, fruit that would remain. If we abide in Him, we will produce fruit. Here Paul said that we should be fruitful unto every good work.

He wanted to see the Colossians increase in knowledge of God, for we can only know His will and our purpose when we know Who He is and what He is about.

His hope was to see them strengthened according to glorious power, so that they would have the ability to endure trials with patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

Are you walking worthy of Him, being pleasing and fruitful. Are you increasing in your knowledge of Him. Are you strengthened with His glorious power? If not, why not?
~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

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

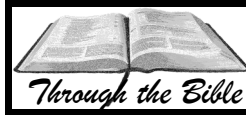
- ___ 1. There is no fear in love. 1 John 4:18
- ___ 2. Christians are to love this world. 1 John 2:15
- ___ 3. Jacob worked seven years for Rachel because he loved her. Genesis 29:20
- ___ 4. “Open rebuke is better than secret love.” Proverbs 27:5

Quote of the Day

“God loves with a great love the man whose heart is bursting with a passion for the IMPOS-SIBLE.” ~William Booth

Monday

February 15



Morning: *Leviticus 20, 21*

Evening: *Matthew 28*

Put On Your Armour

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:11

The word “armour” has been defined as “a protective covering used to prevent damage from being inflicted to an individual or a vehicle through use of direct contact weapons or projectiles, usually during combat, or from damage caused by a potentially dangerous environment or action.” In the past, armour has been made out of all types of material including: wood, metal, leather, bone, Kevlar and even ceramics. When a soldier goes into battle, it is safe to assume that he would have sense enough to put on his armour. When a policeman “walks the beat,” one would assume he first put on his bulletproof “armour.” In the American society of today, the media constantly reiterates that those who ride bicycles and motorcycles put on their “helmet armour.” Armour is a preventative necessity. Ask anyone who has to wear it and they will tell you that it is not always comfortable to wear and certainly not the quickest way to get dressed, but the potential benefits clearly outweigh potential alternative.

It might take a little more effort to “gird” your loins with truth. Often, deception is easier. To have on the breastplate of righteousness may be cumbersome when the carefree life is so much more “liberating.” Carrying the shield of faith might make you weary and unable to grab hold of the “things life has to offer.” But when you realize that your spiritual life is a

battle against the forces of darkness and that Satan is hurling his fiery darts in your direction, putting on the whole armour of God clearly outweighs the alternative of spiritual failure. It’s time to get dressed! ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that complete the statement.

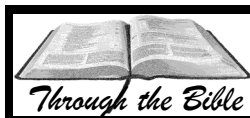
1. The disciples asked Jesus to send the multitudes _____. Mark 6:36
2. Jesus said, “Freely _____ have received, freely _____.” Matthew 10:8
3. Cain said, “Am I my _____ keeper.” Genesis 4:9
4. Stephen said, “Lord, lay not this _____ to their charge.” Acts 7:60
5. There was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called _____. Acts 9:36

Quote of the Day

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” ~C. S. Lewis

Tuesday

February 16



Morning: *Leviticus 22, 23*

Evening: *Mark 1:1-22*

Take It Captive

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:5

Cowboys of the old west were responsible for herds of cattle sometimes numbering in the thousands. They were to take them from ranch and then to action. This would require long cattle drives across the plains. If one of these cattle were to stray, the cowboy would have to chase in down and bring back into the safety of the drive. On some occasions, stray cattle led them into treacherous territory, places where even the cowboy was in danger. His job required that he put the safety of his cattle above his own, keeping the cattle safely among the others.

It is much the same with our thought life. At work, home from church to play, and elsewhere our minds are under attack from satanic forces. Knowing this, we need to be ever vigilant to protect each thought. We should be willing to recapture thoughts that have the potential to do us spiritual harm. Our mind unchecked and unguarded from temptation can take us to places we would never go while on guard. These harmful places can lead to fall and to shame the name of our Savior.

Given correction, the cattle for which a cowboy is responsible will do as they have been told, but they must be told. If we allow our minds to wander into areas that are spiritually unsafe, we put ourselves and the thoughts under our control in peril. We need to guard

our minds and quickly retrieve any thought that runs amuck being wise as we travel our journey in service to our King. ~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the father in Column 1 with his daughter in Column 2.

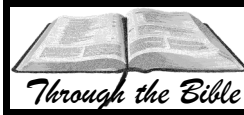
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Haran
Gen. 11:29 | A. Rebekah |
| 2. Bethuel
Gen. 24:15 | B. Rachel |
| 3. Ishmael
Gen. 28:9 | C. Asenath |
| 4. Laban
Gen. 29:10 | D. Mahalath |
| 5. Jacob
Gen. 34:3 | E. Dinah |
| 6. Potipherah
Gen. 41:50 | F. Milcah |

Quote of the Day

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

Wednesday

February 17



Morning: *Leviticus 24, 25*

Evening: *Mark 1:23-45*

February Doldrums

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”
Psalm 43:5

It is commonly known that February is a month of doldrums for many. The anticipation of the holidays is over, bills pile up, winter stretches indefinitely, and New Year’s resolutions are already broken. Then there is Valentine’s Day, which for many is a painful reminder of the love they lack in their life. Is it possible to prevent these despondent feelings?

These feelings are often exacerbated by the absence of hope. When you cannot see beyond the present circumstance, you are left depressed.

Looking past the present and into the future can revive hope. Imagine how we would feel if we knew the Lord was returning tomorrow to take us to Heaven with Him. We would be ecstatic! None of the temporal problems would matter. Extra pounds? Who cares; I am going to have my glorified body soon. Bills to pay? No problem; I will be walking on streets of gold.

When hope is restored, our soul is lightened. Jesus may come back tomorrow. Whether He does or not, our hope should be in God alone, not in the rise and fall of temporal circumstances. God—unchanging, loving, faithful, sacrificial, holy, righteous, truthful—He is

enough everyday, no matter how dismal life seems. He is our hope. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

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

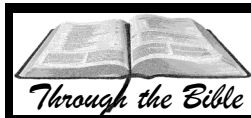
1. In the book of Revelation, John was shown a river of water proceeding out of the throne of God which had a certain type of tree on each side of it. What was this tree called? _____
2. What musical instrument did David play that got rid of King Saul’s evil spirit?
1 Samuel 16:23 _____
3. Who spoke these words? “Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.” John 17:1 _____

Quote of the Day

“We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.” ~*Johann Wolfgang*

Thursday

February 18



Morning: *Leviticus 26, 27*

Evening: *Mark 2*

Sons of God

“And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.” 2 Samuel 9:3

King David invited Mephibosheth the son of Jonathon to eat at his table (2 Samuel 9:3-11). What a privilege it was for Mephibosheth to dine everyday with the king and his family.

In a sense, we have the same privilege after we come to Christ for salvation. God gives us the privilege of dining at the table of our great King of kings and Lord of lords. Mephibosheth sat around the table as one of the king’s sons. A white linen tablecloth fell across his lap and covered his crippled legs. When he sat at David’s table, he looked like every other member of the family.

As God’s people, our weakness, our sins, and our infirmities are paid for by the blood of Christ. This is a beautiful picture of justification. Our sins are paid for by the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. To be sure, Mephibosheth was still crippled, but his condition was covered. We are still imperfect, but God does not see our sins because they are paid for with the blood of Christ.

Mephibosheth was not really the king’s son, but the king adopted him. He was accepted at the king’s table because his father was a dear friend of King David. Just as Mephibosheth was accepted into the king’s family, we too have been accepted into the family of the King of kings and Lord of lords through adoption. Jesus is heir to the throne of God, and we are

joint heirs to the throne of God, joint heirs with Him.

Though we are not as Jesus, having been a son of God all along, we are nevertheless one of the sons of God through faith in Christ by adoption. What a beautiful picture of our salvation! ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man _____ down his life for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

Short Answer. Answer the question, “Who said that?”

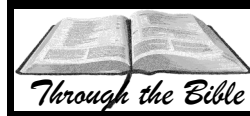
1. “Here am I; send me.” _____
Isaiah 6:8
2. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” _____
Genesis 4:9
3. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”
2 Timothy 4:7 _____

Quote of the Day

“Obedience to the call of Christ nearly always costs everything to two people- the one who is called, and the one who loves that one.”
~Oswald Chambers

Friday

February 19



Morning: *Numbers 1, 2*

Evening: *Mark 3:1-21*

Desperate For Love

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” John 15:12

It is February, the month of love. I remember making Valentines Day boxes for the yearly school party. When the special day would arrive, I would secretly hope that an admirer would come out of the woodwork and express undeniable devotion. I remember having so much fun going through my box later in the day and seeing what each person wrote on the little cards. Then, I would read a little more into the ones that had potential to be an “extra special” friend.

Everyone wants and needs to be loved. The dictionary uses the following words in associated with the word ‘loved’: appreciated, respected, esteemed, treasured, cherished, and prized. It is natural to want to be treasured and cherished, but unfortunately, many people are walking around with their love tanks empty.

I think of a girl I once knew who desperately needed love. Her mother had died when she was young, and her father was not the gentle, loving sort. When I met her, she was pregnant. The father of the child was barely an acquaintance and was no where to be found. I watched her as she went forward and confessed her sin in front of the church with a broken heart. That heart was broken again several months later as she gave her daughter away to another family to raise.

Perfect love is found only in Christ Jesus. He never disappoints, and His love never fails. He uses the church to be ministers of His love. Unfortunately, sometimes we are too focused

on our own problems to see others crying out for love. So, instead of complaining about a friend who is getting on your nerves or your spouse who always forgets Valentines Day, look for someone desperate for love. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man _____ down his _____ for his friends.”

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

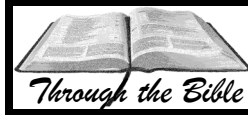
1. Jesus told his disciples that they should be as harmless as what? Matthew 10:16
A. Lambs B. Doves
C. Puppies D. Babies
2. Who was described as “the voice of one crying in the wilderness”? Mark 1:3-4
A. Elijah B. Moses
C. David D. John the Baptist
3. Who said, “I know not the man”? Matthew 26:73-74
A. Peter B. Andrew
C. Thomas D. Luke

Quote of the Day

"Swallowing your pride seldom leads to indigestion." ~*Author Unknown*

Saturday

February 20



Morning: *Numbers 3, 4*

Evening: *Mark 3:22-35*

Follow Me

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said to His disciples, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Even though you may have heard this verse a thousand times, I encourage you to take a look at it from a leadership perspective. As we become followers of Jesus and deny ourselves and the ideals of this world, we become “fishers of men.” In other words, we are given the opportunity and responsibility of leading others to Christ so that they may be saved.

On a team, it is important to remember that anyone can be a leader, no matter what age—anybody can lead by example or through their words. In 1 and 2 Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy, a young friend of his, to ensure Paul’s work would continue. Paul offers these words of advice: ***“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”***

It does not matter what age you are. As long as you have Christ in your heart and know Him as your Savior, you can set an example to a dying world. You can proclaim the Gospel, demonstrate love, and live a life that resembles the purity of Christ. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

John 15:12-13 “This is my _____, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man _____ down his _____ for his _____.”

Bible Quiz

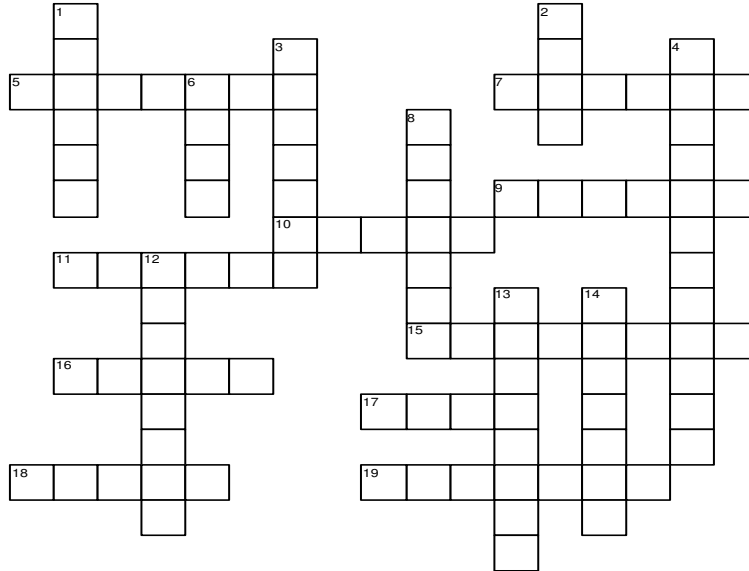
True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. After his family and all the animals were in the ark, Noah shut the door. Genesis 7:16
- _____ 2. John the Baptist’s diet consisted of locusts and wild honey. Matthew 3:4
- _____ 3. Elijah parted the Jordon River with his mantle. 2 Kings 2:8
- _____ 4. Elisha, the prophet, went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 2 Kings 2:11
- _____ 5. God appeared to Elijah in a still small voice. 1 Kings 19:12-13
- _____ 6. Hannah was married to Elkanah. 1 Samuel 1:8

Quote of the Day

“There are those who hate Christianity and call their hatred an all-embracing love for all religions.” ~G. K. Chesterton

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 5 And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his _____ also. 1 John 4:21
- 7 For if ye love them which love you, what _____ have ye? do not even the publicans the same? Matt. 5:46
- 9 For God hath not given us the _____ of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7
- 10 I love them that love me; and those that seek me _____ shall find me. Proverbs 8:17
- 11 Better is a _____ of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred there with. Proverbs 15:17
- 15 I will love thee, O LORD, my _____. Psalm 18:1
- 16 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy _____. Deuteronomy 6:5
- 17 He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is _____. Deut. 6:5
- 18 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine _____ dwelleth. Psalm 26:8
- 19 _____, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:11

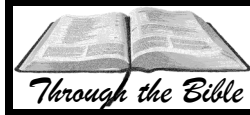
DOWN

- 1 And the Lord _____ your hearts into the love of God, and Into the patient waiting for Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:5
- 2 If ye love me, _____ my commandments. John 14:15
- 3 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall _____ that love thee. Psalm 122:6
- 4 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be the _____ for our sins. 1 John 4:10
- 6 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His _____. John 3:35
- 8 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be _____ therefore, and repent. Revelation 3:19
- 12 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy _____ as thyself. Matthew 22:39
- 13 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not _____. 1 John 5:3
- 14 Beloved, let us love one _____: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7

Answers on Page

Sunday

February 21



Morning: Numbers 5, 6
Evening: Mark 4:1-20

My Rock

“The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.” Psalm 18:2-3

As the psalm writer states that the Lord is worthy to be praised, he lists several roles that the Lord played in His life. When we focus on Who God is and what He has done, we cannot help but praise Him. Consider what the Lord is according to this passage.

He is a **ROCK!** Steadfast and unmovable.

He is a **FORTRESS!** A place to hide for peace and protection.

He is a **DELIVERER!** One who rescues us from danger and captivity.

He is **GOD!** the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

He is a source of **STRENGTH!** Able to help us overcome our weakness.

He is **TRUSTWORTHY!** Too wise to make a mistake, too just to be wrong, too kind to be cruel, too loving to hurt us

He is a **BUCKLER!** This is another word for a shield, able to protect us from the attack of the enemy.

He is a **HORN!** A show of strength and a form of defense

He is a **HIGH TOWER!** A rocky refuge where we can hide

No wonder David said, *“I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.” ~DLW*

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that complete the statement.

1. After Jesus rose from the grave, what were the soldiers instructed to say if they were asked about Jesus? Matthew 28:12-13

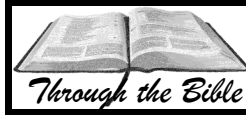
2. How did the priests influence the soldiers to go along with their plan? Matthew 28:15

Quote of the Day

"An honest man speaks the truth, though it may give offence; a vain man, in order that it may."
~William Hazlitt

Monday

February 22



Morning: *Numbers 7-9*

Evening: *Mark 4:21-41*

Stand Against The Devil

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

The Apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian believers in verses 11 and 13 of chapter six that they were to put on the whole armour of God. The reason that they were to put on the whole armour of God was to 1. Stand against the wiles of the devil (v.11) and 2. Withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand (v.13). Because the Christian is to “take unto” himself five different defensive pieces (vv.14-17) and only one offensive weapon (v.17) and the language of both verses 11 and 13 imply retaining ground (the words “stand” and “withstand”), it is easy to think that defence is the primary goal of a Christian. (i.e. “Just do your best to hang in there and not be defeated by the devil and his army.)

However, a quick study of one word in verse twelve will prove that we are not called to simply hold our ground and maintain our current position. The word “wrestle” is used in verse twelve to describe the struggle that Christians have with the devil. Because we get so caught up in the fact that we are not wrestling flesh but the devil, it is easy to over look the meaning of the word “wrestle.” Literally, the word means “a contest between two **in which each endeavours to throw the other.**” Our goal must not simply be to remain “un-thrown.” Our goal must be to “throw the

devil.” Putting on the armour of God will protect us from the attacks of the devil, but it is time for us to wield the Sword of the Spirit and turn the tables on our enemy. Put on the armour and charge. It’s time for Satan to fall. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the sons in Column 1 with their father in Column 2.

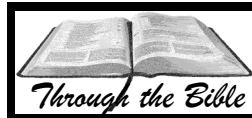
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| ____ 1. Jared
Gen. 5:16 | A. Noah |
| ____ 2. Enoch
Gen. 5:19 | B. Jared |
| ____ 3. Noah
Gen. 5:30 | C. Japheth |
| ____ 4. Shem
Gen. 6:10 | D. Mahalaleel |
| ____ 5. Gomer
Gen. 10:2 | E. Lamech |

Quote of the Day

"The chief occupational hazard of leadership is pride." ~John Stott

Tuesday

February 23



Morning: *Numbers 10-12*

Evening: *Mark 5:1-20*

God Breathed

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16

The word “inspiration” is taken from the original word which means God breathed. That is to say that these words were spoken directly into the hearts of those who picked up the pen and put them on paper. God used the individual personalities of the authors to make His message plain. In doing so, He has given a perfect, infallible book, valuable to all, leading people to Christ and then equipping them to become like Him in deed and passion.

There are some people who claim to be “believers” in God, and yet they deny that God’s Word is completely true. This presents an interesting question. Do these people pick and choose which parts of Scripture are correct and which are not? Do they just accept the portions of Scripture that make them comfortable? If so, then how do they decide what to keep? If the Word makes them uneasy about their sin, do they just throw that part out.

If part of the Bible is tainted and incorrect, then the logical conclusion is that none of it can be trusted. Picking and choosing what to believe or not to believe makes it easier to do what we want to do. Unfortunately, that is not the way God sees things. That is precisely why this verse in Timothy was given. It is a simple reminder that the Bible was given by God, not man. And for that reason alone, we must accept it from cover to cover. If we are to accept

in all His fullness the God of Whom it speaks, then we must be willing to trust HIS WORD.

~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

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

1. Who was the first Christian martyr?
Acts 6:7-8:2 _____
2. What is the first dream mentioned in the Bible? Genesis 20:3-8

3. What was the first war mentioned in the Bible? Genesis 14

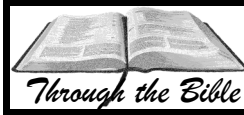
4. What is the first commandment in the Bible? Genesis 1:28

Quote of the Day

"God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician." ~David Livingstone

Wednesday

February 24



Morning: Numbers 13-15

Evening: Mark 5:21-43

In Control?

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Ellie wanted to hold the spoon and feed herself. Even though she struggled to bring the spoon to her mouth and most of the cereal ended up on her clothes, she insisted upon doing it herself. When her mother reclaimed the spoon to get food where it belonged, Ellie burst into willful cries of thwarted independence.

Watching this incident, it struck me that my nature is the same as Ellie's. As an adult I have learned to hide my desires better, but it does not change the fact that I resist when God tries to take the spoon out of my hand. Even though I may be damaging myself, I still grasp for independence. I want to have control, or I am afraid my life will be hopelessly wrecked.

Proverbs tells us to not depend on our own understanding. *Understanding* according to the dictionary is “An individual's perception or judgment of a situation.”

Who is able to perceive a situation better than God? Who is able to judge more clearly than God? When I meditate on God's character and capabilities, I am then ready to hand over control to Him. In reality, my control is merely an illusion anyway. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that will complete the statement.

1. “I came not to call the _____, but _____ to repentance.” Luke 5:32
2. Joseph forgave his _____ for their wrongdoing. Genesis 45:4, 5
3. “Christ _____ came into the _____ to save _____.” 1 Timothy 1:15
4. When God told Abraham to leave his home, Abraham _____ God. Hebrews 11:8
5. Without faith, it is _____ to please God. Hebrews 11:6

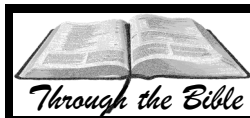
Quote of the Day

“God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue.”

~Thomas Watson

Thursday

February 25



Morning: *Numbers 16, 17*

Evening: *Mark 6:1-32*

Samuel

hear God's call and follow His leadership.
~OV

“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.” 1 Samuel 1:10-11

Most of the great men in the Bible had some time of serious backsliding in their lives. Examples of this would be David, Peter, Samson, Saul, Solomon, and many others. However, we have no record in the Bible of Samuel ever backsliding. I like to call him, the Paul of the Old Testament. It is good to be delivered from deep sin, but it is better to keep from sin.

Months before Samuel was born, his mother dedicated him to the Lord. The name “Samuel” means “asked of God.” In other words, he was an answer to Hannah’s prayer. Hannah was a praying mother. Our young people should thank God if they have mothers who pray for them and determine now to build a Christian home someday.

Samuel was brought to the house of God (1 Sam. 1:22). It is so important that our children be brought by their parents to church, not sent. Samuel was called of God (1 Samuel 3:1-8). Children can be saved and called of God at a very early age. Notice Samuel said, *“Speak, for thy servant heareth.”* He was ready to hear. We should be close enough to God to

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

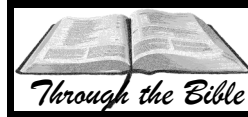
1. What kind of tree did Jesus say, “Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever”? Matthew 21:19
A. Olive B. Mango
C. Fig D. Coconut
2. How many basketfuls were left over after Jesus fed the four thousand? Mark 8:8-9
A. Seven B. Five
C. Three D. Twelve
3. Who did Jesus say had spoken of the abomination of desolation? Matthew 24:15
A. John B. Daniel
C. Paul D. Ezekiel

Quote of the Day

“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.” ~Billy Graham

Friday

February 26



Morning: *Numbers 18-20*

Evening: *Mark 6:33-56*

Small Man, Big God

“The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.” Psalm 93:4

Over the holiday season, I spent some time in Florida. My hotel room overlooked the ocean front. At night, I would leave the balcony door open and be lulled to sleep by the powerful waves rolling onto the shore. One day, I attempted a little swim in the ocean. Wow! Those waves made me feel like a little stick being tossed into the sea, powerless. Looking at the expanse of the ocean and feeling the intensity of the water reminded me once again how small man is and what a big God we serve.

Nehemiah 9:6 says, ***“Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth thee.”*** What an incredible God! He created the heaven and earth and is in control of all of His creation. He has control over the seas and the rising and setting of the sun, and He has control of you and every circumstance that bombards your life.

Are you trying to control different aspects of your life? Are you trying to manipulate to get your own way? It is a pointless struggle. Let go, and let God! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

Romans 8:28 “And we _____ that all _____ work _____ for good to them that _____ God, to them who are the _____ according to his purpose.”

Bible Quiz

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

- _____ 1. David’s wife, Michal, deceived her father by allowing David to escape. 1 Samuel 19:11-17
- _____ 2. God sent an angel to tell David that he had sinned in 2 Samuel 12:1-7.
- _____ 3. The Philistines returned the ark of God to Israel on a new cart pulled by cows (milch kine). 1 Samuel 6:1-12
- _____ 4. Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah were brothers of David. 1 Samuel 17:13-14
- _____ 5. The two sons of Eli, the priest, were Hophni and Phinehas. 1 Samuel 4:4

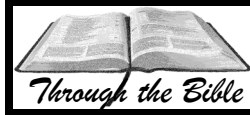
Quote of the Day

“Temptation usually comes in through a door that has deliberately been left open.”

~Arnold Glasow

Saturday

February 27



Morning: Numbers 21, 22

Evening: Mark 7:1-13

The Fire Is Not Quenched

“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.” Mark 9:43

Dear reader, it is my fervent desire to share with you what the Bible has to say about Hell. First, Hell is mentioned in 56 verses in the Bible. It must be pretty important!

Hell is a real place. Luke 16:23 testifies to that fact, ***“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”*** 2 Peter 2:4 says, ***“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”*** So you see my friend, Hell is a real place.

Now, let's look at what Hell will be like. In Luke 16:19-28, we see that there will be fire, a fire that will never be quenched (put out). Can you imagine being on fire and never being able to put it out? The man in Hell says, ***“For I am tormented in this flame.”*** The torment and the pain you would feel would be unbearable. It is also a place of total darkness. Matthew 8:12 says, ***...shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*** Verse 26 says it is a place that you can never get out of. Never, ever. You are there eternally.

My friend, you do not have to go to this place called Hell. All you need to do to secure your eternal home in Heaven is to accept what Jesus did on the cross, repent of your sins, and

ask Jesus to come into your life to rule and reign. It's that easy. Won't you accept Him today? ~KAT

Scripture Fill-In

Romans 8:28 “And we _____ that all _____ work _____ for good to them that _____ God, to them who are the _____ according to _____ purpose.”

Bible Quiz

Fill In: Fill in the blanks that complete the statement.

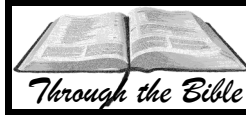
1. “Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors is _____.”
Proverbs 13:15
2. “The eyes of the _____ are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
Proverbs 15:3
3. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. _____ the devil, and he will _____ from you.” James 4:7
4. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth _____.”
James 5:16

Quote of the Day

“A little lie is like a little pregnancy—it doesn't take long before everyone knows. ~C. S. Lewis

Sunday

February 28



Morning: *Numbers 23-25*

Evening: *Mark 7:14-8:9*

Are You Ready?

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”

2 Timothy 4:6

“I am now ready to be offered.” This is a statement that we all would like to be able to make. To be honest, many are not ready for many different reasons.

The first reason many are not ready is that they are not saved. Earlier in this letter, Paul said, ***“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.”*** He was confident that Christ had taken care of his eternity.

Another reason some are not ready is that they are not sanctified. They have never completely given themselves to Christ. There is some sin that they are holding on to, or they do not have the faith to trust God for victory over a particular sin.

Some are not ready because they are not soul winners. There are people that God wants them to witness to, but they are afraid or unwilling to be obedient.

There are others who are not ready because they are not serving. They have one or many talents to use, yet they are unemployed as far as the kingdom of God is concerned.

How about you? Are you ready?

~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the father in Column 1 with his son or daughter in Column 2.

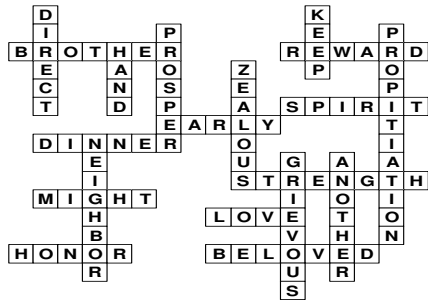
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| _____ 1. Jethro
Ex. 18:2 | A. Canaan |
| _____ 2. Zur
Num. 25:15 | B. Sarah |
| _____ 3. Ham
Gen. 10:6 | C. Eliphaz |
| _____ 4. Ishmael
Gen. 25:13 | D. Nebajoth |
| _____ 5. Asher
Num. 26:46 | E. Cozbi |
| _____ 6. Esau
Gen. 36:15 | F. Jochebed |
| _____ 7. Levi
Num. 26:59 | G. Zipporah |

Quote of the Day

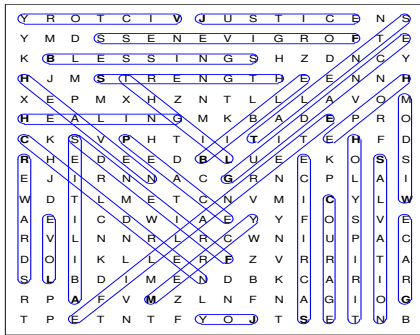
"A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God." ~Charles Finney

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle: God So Loved



Word Search Puzzle: Gifts of God to His Saints



Bible Quiz Answers

- Feb 1, Pg 2 1C, 2B, 3A
 Feb 2, Pg 3 1T, 2T, 3F, 4T
 Feb 3, Pg 4 1Moses, 2King Saul, 3marry, 4David
 Feb 4, Pg 5 1D, 2B, 3A, 4C
 Feb 5, Pg 6 1Noah, 2Take heed, watch, pray 3LORD, sinners
 Feb 6, Pg 7 1D, 2B
 Feb 7, Pg 9 1D, 2B, 3B
 Feb 8, Pg 10 1T, 2T, 3F
 Feb 9, Pg 11 1Christ, 2Follow, 3Twelve, 4Heal
 Feb 10, Pg 12 1Isaiah, 2Daughter of Herodias, 3Father of the prodigal

Bible Quiz Answers Continued

- son, 4Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, 5Sarah
 Feb 11, Pg 13 1T, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5F
 Feb 12, Pg 14 1John the Baptist, 2 Jesus, 3Simon Peter, 4Samaritan Woman
 Feb 13, Pg 15 1C, 2A, 3C, 4B
 Feb 14, Pg 16 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T
 Feb 15, Pg 17 1Away, 2Ye, give, 3Brother's 4Sin, 5Dorcas
 Feb 16, Pg 18 1F, 2A, 3D, 4B, 5E, 6C
 Feb 17, Pg 19 1Tree of Life, 2Harp, 3Jesus
 Feb 18, Pg 20 1Isaiah, 2Cain, 3Paul
 Feb 19, Pg 21 1B, 2D, 3A
 Feb 20, Pg 22 1F, 2T, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6T
 Feb 21, Pg 24 1His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. 2So they took the money, and did as they were taught.
 Feb 22, Pg 25 1D, 2B, 3E, 4A, 5C
 Feb 23, Pg 26 1Stephen, 2Abimelech, he was told to return Sarah to Abraham, 3War of the kings of the north led by Chedorlaomer, 4Be fruitful and multiply
 Feb 24, Pg 27 1Righteous, sinners, 2Brothers, 3Jesus, world, sinners, 4obeyed, 5Impossible
 Feb 25, Pg 28 1C, 2A, 3B
 Feb 26, Pg 29 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T
 Feb 27, Pg 30 1Hard, 2LORD, 3Resist, flee, 4Much
 Feb 28, Pg 31 1G, 2E, 3A, 4D, 5B, 6C, 7F

***“Thy word have I hid
 in mine heart, that I might
 not sin against thee.”
 Psalms 119:11***