

Wednesday

February 1

Morning: *Exodus 27-28*
Evening: *Matthew 21:23-46*

God's Hand

“For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.” Psalm 32:4

This entire chapter is titled a “prayer of distress.” Within it David is recalling his time under the hand of God’s judgment for his sins of murder and adultery. These sins left unchecked caused much turmoil in the life of David. Notice that David says that God’s “hand was heavy upon me.” God always has His hand on those who are saved and belong to Him. The question becomes how is His hand upon them. If they are living in unconfessed sin, then the hand of God will become a heavy press upon them. He will press upon them until they recognize their sin and confess it. God loved David, calling him “a man after God’s own heart.” Yet God’s love for David required stern discipline. Real love confronts people when they are in a place that will harm them spiritually. Some Christians spend much of their life in this place. While there, they grow very little and are not of much value to the cause of Christ.

Several verses later in the chapter, one sees the results of David’s repentance. Where once God’s hand was heavy upon Him, God now becomes his hiding place. God will put His hand to protect and even guide His children if they will learn to keep their sin list short and to obey Him quickly. His desire is to guide every believer forward to a successful walk with Him. He will lead them safely through this world if they will follow and obey.

The question is simple—do you want a hiding place with a hand that protects and guides, or do you want a heavy hand that presses until you repent? ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his _____. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” I John 2:3-5

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Take a moment to reflect on the last question within today’s devotional. Then, answer the following questions:

1. Give an example of a time when you experienced God’s hand of correction.

2. How does it make you feel to know that the God of the universe desires to protect and guide you? _____

Quote of the Day

“By nature I was too blind to know Him, too proud to trust Him, too obstinate to serve Him, too base-minded to love Him.” ~John Newton

Thursday

February 2

Return Unto Me

“Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?” Malachi 3:7b

Man has always had puzzling questions and personal dilemmas to resolve which usually start out with “how shall” we do this or “how shall” we ever accomplish that task. When man discovers his sins have been exposed, he often says in exasperation, “How shall we return?” Man asks about a return to God as if it is impossible. In reality, if the sinning man desires to return to God, he has an open door. The Lord said to the Israelites, *“Return unto me, and I will return unto you.”* In James 4:8 the Scripture says, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”* God’s door is always open. There is no need to feel defeated and ask rhetorical questions such as the Israelites did in Malachi 3:7: “In what way shall we return?” Answer—If you want to sincerely return to God, then stop violating His commandments which were given to you. John tells us in simplistic language how we can all return to God: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9*

Yet, some people ask, “How have I sinned?” They seek to justify their lifestyle. But the true believer asks, “How shall I return to my Lord and Saviour?” ~OV

Morning: *Exodus 29-30*

Evening: *Matthew 22:1-22*

Scripture Fill-In

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his _____. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the _____ is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” I John 2:3-5

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with his description.

____ 1. Philip

____ 2. John

____ 3. Andrew

____ 4. Peter

- A. A powerful forerunner of Christ; his ministry was not attested by miracles (Jn. 10:41)
- B. This disciple asked Jesus privately about the destruction of the temple. (Mk. 13:1-4)
- C. He brought Nathanael to Jesus. (Jn. 1:45-50)
- D. He refused to let Jesus wash his feet at first. (Jn. 13:6-11)

Quote of the Day

“We are too Christian to enjoy sinning, and too fond of sinning really to enjoy Christianity. Most of us know perfectly well what we ought to do; our trouble is that we do not want to do it.”
~Peter Marshall

Friday
February 3

He Is Our God

“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God.” Psalm 143:10

Who is your God? The Scriptures speak of the false gods that the nations around Israel worshiped. Their idols had ears that could not hear their prayers. They had eyes, but they could not see their needs. They had mouths that could not speak, and hands that could not act. They were false gods; in fact, they were not gods at all. They exist only in the minds of those who trust in them.

Our God is real. He created our universe. The stars and planets, our atmosphere, and our bodies; He made it all.

Our God not only created it all, He controls it all. With His voice He controlled the winds and the waves and calmed their raging.

Our God has given us His Word to direct our lives. He made prophecies and then fulfilled them. He has made promises to us in His Word, and He had the power and character necessary to keep them all.

Our God willingly provided Himself as a sacrifice to pay for our sins and iniquities. He embraced a cruel cross to prove His love for us and to purchase our eternal salvation.

Our God is preparing a place for us. He will come again to receive us unto Himself, and we will reign with Him forever. Aren't you glad that He is your God? ~DLW

Morning: *Exodus 31-33*
Evening: *Matthew 22:23-46*

Scripture Fill-In

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his _____. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the _____ is not in him. But whoso keepeth his _____, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” I John 2:3-5

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the questions in the spaces provided. Refer to Psalm 143.

1. What characteristic of God is mentioned in verse 8 ? _____
2. What did David ask God to do in verse 10?

3. What characteristic of God is mentioned in the last verse of the chapter?

Quote of the Day

“That the Almighty does make use of human agencies and directly intervenes in human affairs is one of the plainest statements in the Bible. I have had so many evidences of His direction, so many instances when I have been controlled by some other power than my own will, that I cannot doubt that this power comes from above.” ~Abraham Lincoln

Saturday

February 4

Most Likely to Succeed

“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.” II John 4

A common phenomenon in many high school yearbooks is the choosing of superlatives. Either by “vote” or by random choice of those who control the yearbook, the students take it upon themselves to define the members of the graduating class with an adjective that they feel typifies the person being discussed. Some common superlatives are: Most likely to succeed, best smile, most likely to get married first, most likely to be the president, nicest person, most likely to end up in jail, etc.

Many times these superlatives prove to be true; because by human nature, most are creatures of habit. The habits that are formed in high school often follow one throughout his life. More often than not, however, these superlatives are simply hasty generalizations, and as life changes so do people. With the popularity of Facebook and other social media sites, never in the history of mankind has it been easier to see if the superlatives turned out to be true. What is always nice is when one finds out that the person voted “Most Likely to Go to Jail” turned out to be a missionary in Thailand and the person voted to be the “Most Shy” is preaching the gospel in a mega church in the heart of New York City. The Apostle John gave a joyful reply when he heard that the children of the “elect lady” were walking in truth. Whether it was expected or not, the news of these children living godly was music to his ears.

Morning: *Exodus 34-36*

Evening: *Matthew 23:1-22*

What type of report would be given about you? Whether or not you were voted, most likely to succeed or most likely to fall on your face, is your Spiritual life a success? Would your life cause someone from your past to be filled with joy at the report of your lifestyle? If not, start walking in truth today! ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his _____. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the _____ is not in him. But whoso keepeth his _____, in him verily is the _____ of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”
I John 2:3-5

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Circle adjectives that others would use to describe you.

Generous	Selfish	Thoughtful
Patient	Irritable	Moody
Diligent	Lazy	Devoted
Unreliable	Kind	Curt
Busy	Spiritual	Merciful
Forgiving	Bitter	Joyful

Spend some time looking over this list. Do you need to make any changes?

Sunday

February 5

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

Relationship Check

*“And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”
Ephesians 4:32*

In February we usually spend some portion of time focusing on our close relationships. Sometimes that can be discouraging when our minds dwell on the past errors of those we love.

Job 14:1 tells us that *“man born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”* We all are a fallen race subject to the vices and wiles of Satan. Not only does he bring trouble to us, but sometimes we bring trouble on ourselves due to our own rebellion. The earth is cursed, and of course, we encounter trouble with our environment as well. In short, we are all guilty before a holy and righteous God. We **all** make mistakes we regret.

Just because we make some grave mistakes throughout our lifetime, they do not render us useless for Christ or for the edification of our brethren. Yes, sometimes we reap serious consequences to our choices that may follow us throughout our lives. However, if they are forgiven by Christ, they are not road blockers that inhibit God from using any one of us.

Let's think for a moment. Moses found grace in the eyes of His Lord to be a leader of the Jewish nation and deliver them from bondage. His past failures did not seem to disturb God. (Wiersbe, p. 19) King David made some huge blunders in life, but God looked on his heart and used him to write Scripture. Peter actually

denied Christ, but was found by God to be fit to be a minister of God and to glorify God in martyrdom. These men were collectively guilty of murder, adultery, cursing, and public denial of their faith. These were grave infractions.

If God can choose grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness for His own, so can we. Try to see your loved ones as God sees them. Concentrate on what God can do with your family in the future. They have a job to do as long as they are breathing. You do not have to dwell on living a life sub-par. If your loved ones have suffered great blows in life, undergird them with your prayer and love. Who knows the plans God has for them? He delights in those that seek His mercy and are humble. Seek to encourage your family and friends, and try to dismiss the errors of their ways. ~NBM

Warren Wiersbe. *JESUS in the Present Tense*. Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2011.

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” I John 2:9-11

Quote of the Day

“A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian . . . and most of all, his family ought to know.”
~D. L. Moody

Monday
February 6

Morning: *Exodus 39-40*
Evening: *Matthew 24:1-22*

Lonely People

Over the Christmas holidays, I came into contact with a few lonely people. They didn't have to share their feelings with me; I just instinctively knew that their lives were filled with loneliness. I was saddened by the thought and hoped that I could be a ray of warmth to their souls.

Unfortunately, we, as human sinners, have a tendency to get so involved in our own little world that we fail to see others who are hurting, lonely, and desperate. We go to work, spend time with our families, get involved in ministry, and then think we are doing okay. However, through all the business, we fail to recognize others and truly show them compassion. Oh, we might make a quick phone call to check on someone. We might even invite someone out to dinner after church. But, do we really go out of our way to encourage another believer who is hurting?

In James 1:27 we read, "*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.*" The word fatherless in this context can mean someone who is devoid of their mother or father or both parents. Basically, James is saying that believers need to take care of those who are in need, and in so doing they exhibit what true religion really is.

As we keep the second greatest commandment, to love our neighbors like we love ourselves, the world will see Christ. My home church has ministered to the people of a retirement community for years. The director of the social calendar at the home said to me

awhile ago, "Your church has been so good to our residents; we would love to do something for your church as well." What a testimony! Through the love of God's people to those who are elderly, God's love was shared.

I have an assignment for you this week. Take some time to pray and ask God to show you someone that needs to be shown compassion. Once God shows you someone, ask Him what you could do specifically to minister to that person. Act on what God shows you to do. Usually, I find that when I seek to encourage someone else, I am the one who is most encouraged. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." I John 2:9-11

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses.

1. John 15:12—"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have _____ you."
2. John 13:35—"By this shall all men know that ye are my _____, if ye have love one to another."

Tuesday
February 7

Morning: *Leviticus 1-3*
Evening: *Matthew 24:23-51*

Live for the Deliverer

“For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?” Psalm 56:13

What encouragement we find in this verse! As we read it, we find three things for us to consider. First, we see what God has done in the past. We also see what we can expect God to do in the present and the future. And, we can see what God should expect from us in light of the many ways that He has blessed us.

What exactly has God done for us? He has delivered our souls from death. All of us who have trusted Christ as Savior have experienced an amazing thing. We have passed from death to life. We were dead in sin, but we have received new life through the gift of the Father, the resurrection of the Son, the regeneration of the Spirit, and the power of the Word.

In light of the great effort that God made to save us and deliver our souls from hell, we can expect that He will deliver our feet from falling in the present and the future. What a blessing! *“If God be for us, who can be against us.”*

The purpose of this twofold deliverance is that we might walk before Him. God did this for us that we might live for Him. God delivered our souls from death, and He will deliver our feet from falling. Praise Him for it, and serve Him because of it. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” I John 2:9-11

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Matthew 3.

- _____ 1. John fulfilled a prophecy spoken by the prophet Isaiah. (vs. 3)
- _____ 2. John’s clothes were made out of camel’s hair, and he ate locust and honey. (vs. 4)
- _____ 3. John called the Pharisees and Sadducees ravenous wolves. (vs. 7)
- _____ 4. John said, “God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” (vs. 9)
- _____ 5. John jumped at the opportunity to baptize his Lord. (13-15)

Quote of the Day

“The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith; and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.”
~George Mueller

Ways to Pray for Missionaries

By Sumner Wemp

ANOINTING - Ask for the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that the missionary will operate in the Spirit's power.

BOLDNESS - Pray that the missionary will speak the Word of God with boldness.

COMFORT - Ask for comfort when the missionary is discouraged, brokenhearted, or stressed out.

DIRECTION - Ask that the missionary will sense God's specific direction in ministry.

FAMILY - Ask God to send someone to encourage the missionary.

GLORY TO GOD - Pray that the missionary will live each day to glorify God.

HUMILITY - Ask that the missionary have humility and reject pride.

INSIGHT - Ask that the missionary will see people and things from God's perspective.

JOY - Pray that the missionary will be full of the joy of the Lord in all situations.

KNOWLEDGE - Pray that the missionary will desire knowledge of God's Word and apply it consistently.

LOVE - Ask that the missionary will be a vessel through which God's love flows to others.

MOTIVATION - Pray that the missionary will labor from godly motives, not to please other people.

NEEDS - Pray that the missionary will realize that in Christ all needs will be met.

OPEN DOOR - Pray that the missionary will recognize opportunities to share the gospel.

PRAYER PARTNERS - Ask God to provide prayer partners who will intercede on a regular basis.

QUIET TIME - Pray that nothing will keep the missionary from having a quality quiet time each day.

REVIVAL - Ask God to work in the missionary's life so he or she will experience personal revival.

SERVANTHOOD - Pray that the missionary will do his or her work with a servant's spirit.

THANKFUL HEART - Ask God to give the missionary a thankful heart, even in difficult situations.

UNSAVED - Pray that the unsaved will develop a hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ in their lives.

VICTORY - Pray that the missionary will know victory in spiritual warfare.

WEARINESS - Pray that the missionary will not get bogged down in having too much to do.

X-RAY VISION - Ask that the missionary will have X-ray vision of the heart and desire a cleansed life.

YIELDEDNESS - Pray that the missionary will be completely yielded to Christ and willing to die to self.

ZEAL - Pray that the missionary will have a renewed zeal to share the gospel.

Wednesday

February 8

Irreverence Wearies God

“Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him?” Malachi 2:17a

The Israelites in Malachi’s time were ready to justify their corrupt lifestyles. When questioned about their adulterous, sinful lifestyles and how it wearied the Lord, all they could say was, “In what way have we wearied him?” How soon they forget what the prophet Isaiah said, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Is. 5:20)*

God will not allow sin to go unchecked. Sin has eternal punishment. But God is also gracious in withholding His punishment for a time. II Peter 3:9 says: *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Read Roman 1:24-32 for the result of unbelief in God and the outward manifestation of sin. The sad commentary in Romans 1:32 tells us how far removed from God man can become when the evil of his own heart becomes his guiding light. *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*

Today, make sure your sin is confessed, and pray for righteous living. ~OV

Morning: *Leviticus 4-6*

Evening: *Matthew 25:1-30*

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of _____ in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” I John 2:9-11

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Using the Word Bank, write the name of the sin in which the following people are guilty.

Word Bank

Jealousy Murder Rape
Gossip Unbelief Idolatry

- _____ 1. Joseph’s brothers
(Gen. 37:3-4)
_____ 2. Sarah (Gen. 18:1-15)
_____ 3. Absalom
(II Sam. 13: 22-29)
_____ 4. Israelites (Ex. 32:1-7)
_____ 5. Amnon
(II Sam. 13:1-14)

Quote of the Day

“Jesus is all we have; He is all we need and all we want. We are shipwrecked on God and stranded on omnipotence!” ~Vance Havner

Thursday

February 9

A Broken Spirit

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:17

God picks up the broken pieces of our lives, sheds tears for our mistakes, holds them in His mighty hands, and uses the sacrifices to mold us into usable vessels. The meaning of sacrifice is to destroy, surrender or suffer to be lost for the sake of obtaining something. Now, how many of us truly sacrifice for God? Remember, what Jesus did at the cross, that was a true sacrifice. A broken spirit means our heart and spirit are depressed or crushed by grief or despair. I imagine God’s heart felt that way when His Son was on the cross. Let’s look at the word contrite. Contrite means to be deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God. It grieves me to think of how many times we have failed God.

My fellow laborers in Christ, all God wants from us is that broken heart and spirit. If we surrender and destroy that old nature, let our heart grieve over the sin in our lives, and know how we cause God to grieve too, then, just maybe we can give God our all. I challenge you to strive for a broken and contrite heart for the things of God. ***“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”*** (Is. 64:8) ~KAH

Morning: *Leviticus 7-9*

Evening: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of _____ in him. But he that _____ his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” I John 2:9-11

Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble the following words used in today’s devotional.

- _____ 1. P I I T S R
- _____ 2. T H R A E
- _____ 3. R R D R N E S E U
- _____ 4. T N E U A R
- _____ 5. B K O R N E

Quote of the Day

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

Friday
February 10

How to Have a Wonderful Marriage

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

Keep courting and dating after you get married. It is amazing at the maneuvers of men to woo and to win a woman and the wiles of women to be attractive and appealing to a man. Then, too soon after the wedding bells turn into bills, the courting stops! It must not. This is the first step to the honey leaking out of the honeymoon.

Men, remember when you were dating and she said, "Let's run to the mall; I need to get some hair spray"? You jumped to your feet eager to do her bidding. Remember the thousands of other things you did to please her just because you loved her and wanted to win her affections? Keep working at winning her affections. It worked then, and it will work today.

Women, remember how you fixed yourself up to be as beautiful as you could and put on some of that “come hither and get closer perfume” to be attractive to him? Keep it up! It worked and will still work to make him attracted to you. ~SW

Morning: *Leviticus 10-12*

Evening: *Matthew 26:1-19*

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of _____ in him. But he that _____ his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth _____ whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”
I John 2:9-11

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. Rebekah was the daughter of Bethuel and the grandniece of Abraham. (Gen. 22:20-23)
- _____ 2. Following in his father's footsteps, Isaac passed Rebekah off to be his niece instead of his wife. (Gen. 26:6-11)
- _____ 3. Rebekah was displeased with Jacob's choice of wives. (Gen. 26:34-35)
- _____ 4. Rebekah discouraged her son Jacob from deceiving his father and begged him to do the right thing in the sight of God. (Gen. 27:5-29)
- _____ 5. Rebekah was buried alongside Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, and Leah. (Gen. 49:30-31)

Saturday

February 11

Stand Fast

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9

This epistle was written by Paul to his Greek convert, Titus. Before our verse for today, more qualifications for pastors and elders were given. These qualifications can also be found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. No one is perfect, but these character qualities which include hospitality, self-control (temperate), and a separate lifestyle (holy), should be demonstrated by pastors, but they should also be shown every believer. If every follower of Christ lived by this set of standards, the face of America would dramatically change.

The qualifications end with, *“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught.”* As has been seen by many pastors and spiritual leaders, the truth of the Gospel has been distorted, and men of God have fell into deceptive traps. Why? Satan. Satan seeks to destroy God’s appointed spokesmen, and he seeks to destroy you! If Satan can destroy a man, who has devoted his whole entire life and career to preaching God’s Word, what do you think he can do to you? Destroy. Therefore, it is imperative to hold fast to what you have been taught. Hold fast to sound doctrine. Line up every teaching with the Word of God. Also, it is essential to stay close to God through Bible reading and prayer. When a believer is not in tune with the Savior, Satan uses the opportunity to lie, deceive, and destroy.

Morning: *Leviticus 13*

Evening: *Matthew 26:20-54*

As Christians, if we hold fast to sound doctrine, we will be able with the Lord’s help to stand against the opposition. Dear believer, do not be deceived by Satan. Stand fast! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in _____ even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the _____, and there is none occasion of _____ in him. But he that _____ his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth _____ whither he goeth, because that darkness hath _____ his eyes.” I John 2:9-11

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with the Scripture concerning his martyrdom.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| ___ 1. Zechariah | A. II Chronicles 24:20-22 |
| ___ 2. John | B. Acts 7:58-60 |
| ___ 3. Prophets | C. Mark 6:18-28 |
| ___ 4. Stephen | D. Acts 12:1-2 |
| ___ 5. James | E. I Kings 18:4, 13 |

Quote of the Day

“Faith is living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.”

~Martin Luther

Sunday

February 12

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

Important Reminder

“And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.” II John 5

Two plus two is four. Valentine’s Day is on February 14th. Saturday is the day after Friday. Hershey kisses are chocolate. Zebras have stripes. Ohio is a state in the United States.

Okay, by now you might be thinking, “I know. So what?” To most people reading this devotional, the information given above is not breaking news. It is doubtful that as the first paragraph was read, anyone said to themselves, “Wow! I didn’t know that. Thank you so much Mr. Devotional writer for enlightening me on such profound information.” It is just common knowledge. If we were given a test over the material in the first paragraph, the most common grade would be a 100%. The Apostle John wrote a similar statement in his tiny epistle of Second John. He reminded his readers that they have the commandment to love one another. In fact, much like this devotional, John calls attention to the fact that what he was writing was common knowledge. He said, “Not as though I wrote a new commandment.” In other words, this is nothing new. You already know this, but here it is again, Love one another.”

Why would he do that? Apart from the fact that the Holy Spirit directed him to pen those words, it is possible that John simply wanted to remind them of this truth because (although it is easy to know) it is not always easy to practice. According to verse 7, they were

dealing with deceivers. With the confusion of questioning the truth, (due to the false teaching in their midst) John wanted them to stand firm on this second greatest commandment. So, how about you? Have you forgotten the basics? How will you love others today? Oh, did you know, Valentine’s Day is on February 14th?
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Think about the question poised at the end of today’s devotional, and then answer the following questions.

1. Give two tangible ways you will show God’s love to your neighbors this week.

2. List something that you can do special for your pastor this week.

3. Think of a way that you can minister to a member of your congregation this week.

Monday
February 13

Kindness to Strangers

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware.” Hebrews 13:2

Have you ever met an angel? Most people would answer “no” to that question. Perhaps some, however, who are reading this, have met an angel and been unaware of it. Many times in the Bible, godly people were about their work when they were met by strangers or travellers that were actually angels bringing a message from the Lord. These strangers were received and treated with kind hospitality. Imagine if God’s people had chosen to be selfish rather than welcoming their guests with open arms.

Shouldn’t all Christians have the same attitude of hospitality? This verse makes it clear that they should be ready to receive those that are strangers not knowing if they have been sent by God. This may take the form of helping a person broken down along the road, offering kind words to a person that is in distress, or providing a gift for those who are needy. This is also obeying Jesus. By doing these things in His name even to the very least of people, it is as if they are done unto Jesus Himself. It may not be known until heaven if the person that was received or helped was an angel.

Think back. How many times have you been prepared to receive a stranger, and how many times have you missed a blessing by not having received them? This is not to say a person should be unwise, but that each believer should be ready to be a blessing. This can be

Morning: *Leviticus 15-17*

Evening: *Matthew 27:1-31*

done by having an attitude of service and by looking for opportunities to welcome and be kind to those you have just met. Maybe today could be the day that you entertain one of God’s heavenly messengers. ~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“Love not the _____, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the quotation from the heavenly messenger to the person visited.

- _____ 1. “The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.” (Jdg. 6:11-22)
- _____ 2. “Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.” (Lk. 1:13)
- _____ 3. “Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?” (Jdg. 13:1-21)

- A. Zacharias
- B. Manoah
- C. Gideon

Quote of the Day

“Kind words don’t wear out the tongue.”

~Anonymous

Tuesday
February 14

Morning: *Leviticus 18-19*
Evening: *Matthew 27:32-66*

Attitude in Relationships

An Attitude Indicator tells an airplane pilot how the plane is tilted in flight. If the plane is tilted upward, then the attitude is pointed up. If the plane is tilted downward, then it follows that the attitude is pointed down. And, like a plane, attitude indicator is important for telling the pilot which way to turn the plane up and down when needed. Your attitude regarding your marriage is a good barometer of what you should do in your marriage as well.

A change in attitude can do wonders for your marriage. If your attitude is positive in marriage, many other things will follow suit. If your attitude is negative, then likewise, things will probably go poorly. Now, that may seem fairly obvious to the casual observer, but you'd be surprised what a simple action like changing your attitude will change the outcome of your marital relationship! So, how exactly does someone change his attitude to get to positive outcomes? Follow the next four steps to gain some insight that might help you see how to do just that.

- 1) **Learn when it is time to change your attitude.** Be realistic about how you handle things and understand that others don't control your behavior. When you become self-aware about your reactions and actions, you have begun the process of a developing positive attitude.
- 2) **Stop blaming your spouse for your attitude.** Did you know that blaming others for your attitude actually gives them power over you? Complaining about the fact that such and such person is responsible for how you act is saying that person controls

how you do things. By not blaming your spouse for your attitude you do two things: You stop making your spouse responsible for your feeling bad, and you stop putting a burden on him/her that really belongs to you.

- 3) **Change your way of thinking.** Keep an attitude journal! Write down what you tell yourself about various situations to see the connection between your thoughts and your behavior. Write down when and how you deal with your spouse.

Change your behavior. You can change your way of thinking; but if you don't follow through, it doesn't mean a whole lot. But, when you put your new way of thinking into action, you are making a difference. Here's an idea: speak an encouraging word to every person (including your spouse) you see today! I bet by the end of the day you will notice that your attitude "feels" a lot better.

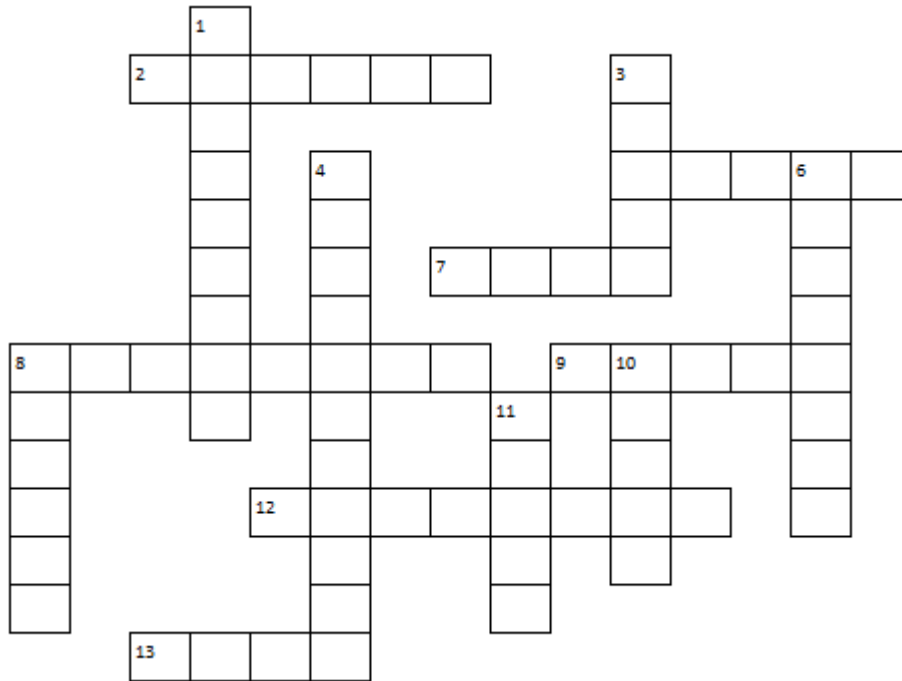
Whether you are flying a plane or living your Christian life with your spouse, it is important to keep your attitude positive. You must be aware of your behavior and act positively in order to make a real difference in your relationship. ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

"Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:15-16

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

“Relationships”



ACROSS

2. *First wife of King Hezekiah (Esther 1)*
5. *Cousin of King Saul (I Sam. 14:50)*
7. *Mother of Reuben (Gen. 29:32)*
8. *Teacher of Saul (Acts 22:3)*
9. *Father of Methuselah (Gen. 5:21)*
12. *Friend of David (I Sam. 18:1)*
13. *Grandmother of Timothy (II Tim. 1:5)*

DOWN

1. *Grandfather of King Hezekiah (II Ki. 18:1-2)*
3. *Father of Gideon (Jdg. 6:11)*
4. *Friend of Paul (II Tim. 1:16)*
6. *Wife of Aaron (Ex. 6:23)*
10. *Abigail's first husband (I Sam. 25:3)*
11. *Brother of Andrew (Jn. 1:40)*

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” John 5:12

Answers on Page 32

Wednesday

February 15

Morning: *Leviticus 20-21*

Evening: *Matthew 28*

The God of Our Fathers

“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.

He referred to Himself as, I AM. Not I was, nor will be, but I AM! Jesus is always relevant now. Today, He is alive; today, He hears prayers; today, He is on the throne in Heaven orchestrating the affairs for the universe. The fact that He is always relevant is evident 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. Thus 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 the 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

“Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world. If any man love the world, the _____ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Write the name of the biblical character’s father. Use the genealogy in Matthew 1 to help.

1. _____ Issac
2. _____ Judas
3. _____ Phares & Zara
4. _____ Amram
5. _____ Boaz
6. _____ Solomon
7. _____ Joram

Quote of the Day

“To see His star is good, but to see His face is better.”
~D. L. Moody

Thursday

February 16

True Worship

*“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24*

Today, as I helped to lead worship in our church, I was blessed watching other believers worship God in their own way. One couple opened their mouths wide and sang every word. The wife had her eyes closed, and the couple stood close to each other holding hands. It blessed my heart to see them worshipping. Then, there was another couple who were holding hands. They were a little more reserved, but sang right along with us. I saw young people and older people worshipping the Lord, singing and praising our God. It was a wonderful sight from the platform.

Can you imagine the view Christ has from heaven as He views believers from China, India, America, Africa, and all over the world worshipping Him? Wow, what a sight! But more so than just seeing His people worship, Christ can see each person’s heart; and that is where true worship begins. We can sing every word to a song; we can close our eyes as we meditate on the lyrics; but if we are to truly worship our magnificent God we must do so with a sincere heart. The very nature of God should be emulated in our worship—love, purity, holiness, righteousness, etc.

How do you “worship” God? Are you sincere? Do you just go through the age old words of the hymns while the worship leader waves his hands? Do you limit worship to just the fifteen minutes of music during the Sunday wor-

Morning: *Leviticus 22-23*

Evening: *Mark 1:1-22*

ship service? Spend some time evaluating how you worship. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world. If any man love the world, the _____ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the _____ of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses.

John 4:23-24—“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the (1) _____ worshippers shall (2) _____ the Father in spirit and in (3) _____: for the Father (4) _____ such to worship him. God is a (5) _____: and they that worship him must (6) _____ him in spirit and in (7) _____.”

Quote of the Day

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”
~Psalm 138:2

Friday
February 17

So, I Speak

Read John 12:44-50

The following excerpt is from an ancient Indian fable translated by William Carey:

“A devout Brahmin asked an alms at the house of a cobbler. The cobbler’s mayna cried crossly, ‘Be off, you hypocrite! you thief!’ Timid and vexed, the Brahmin moved away. At a sage’s he next begged.

‘Come in, man of God, come in,’ said the sage’s mayna. ‘This house is blessed by your presence.’ Then the Brahmin told how he had been insulted by the bird of the cobbler. ‘And yet,’ said the mayna, ‘we are from one nest. Only he has learned to talk like his master; I like mine.’” (Jan Anderson, editor. *World Literature*. 3rd ed. Pensacola: A Beka Book, 2002. p. 334.)

I think this an excellent illustration of the importance of imitating the right master. We may be ruled by many masters as we go through life. However, the greatest Master is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He that we want to mimic spiritually.

He left us a great example in our reading passage in verse 50: ***“...whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”*** Jesus Christ followed His Father and spoke His words; we are to follow Christ.

Christians, it is high time to speak like our Master. I am around a lot of Christian teens in my profession, and I am grieved with the words from our own offspring as Christian brethren. One flagrant difference between us and the nonbeliever should be the way we talk.

Morning: *Leviticus 24-25*

Evening: *Mark 1:23-45*

Other than our dress, it is probably the first distinguishable difference that the unsaved world will notice about us. It’s an easy fix — just stop saying the slang words. Don’t allow God’s name to be degraded around you. Go the extra mile and forfeit the substitution words as well. Others will be glad you did. ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world. If any man love the world, the _____ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the _____ of the flesh, and the lust of the _____, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

How’s Your Talk? Just like you go to the doctor for a health check-up, answer these questions truthfully and evaluate your speech.

1. How many times a week do you use profanity? _____
2. How many times a week do you use slang words? _____
3. How many times a week do you speak out of anger? _____
4. How many times a day do you hold your tongue when tempted to say something you should not? _____

Take some time to pray about your speech.

Saturday

February 18

God Is My Refuge

“I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.” Psalm 142:5

As the psalm writer pours out his words of praise, he recognized two things about his God. First, he acknowledged that God was his refuge—the place that he could come to find safety and protection when facing troubles. God is capable and willing to be our refuge if we will let him. When a conflict comes into our lives, we can call on him, trusting in His wisdom and power. As we relinquish our troubles into His hands, we can experience His peace.

He also is our portion. As I read this description of God being a portion, I imagine a table overflowing with a Thanksgiving feast. On the table there is only one plate with a nametag bearing your name. The meal is so large that you could not finish it over the entire holiday weekend if you did nothing but eat. God is truly our portion; He is more than we could ever need and more than we could ever wish Him to be.

The next time things seem to be going wrong in your life, just step back for a moment and remember Who your refuge is. Then take a moment to recognize that the Creator and Sustainer of the universe is your portion. ~DLW

Morning: *Leviticus 26-27*

Evening: *Mark 2*

Scripture Fill-In

“Love not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the world. If any man love the world, the _____ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the _____ of the flesh, and the lust of the _____, and the pride of life, is not of the _____, but is of the world.” I John 2:15-16

Bible Quiz

Name That Composer: Match the author & composer with the well-known hymn.

- _____ 1. “Amazing Grace”
- _____ 2. “It Is Well with My Soul”
- _____ 3. “Blessed Assurance”
- _____ 4. “In the Garden”
- _____ 5. “Rock of Ages”

- A. Horatio Spafford & Philip Bliss
- B. C. Austin Miles
- C. John Newton
- D. Fanny J. Crosby & Phoebe P. Knapp
- E. Augustus M. Toplady

Quote of the Day

“No matter how dear you are to God, if pride is harbored in your spirit, He will whip it out of you. They that go up in their own estimation must come down again by His discipline.”

~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

February 19

Morning: Numbers 1-2
Evening: Mark 3:1-21

Your Legacy

“For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.” Philemon 7

What comes to your mind when you hear the name Abraham Lincoln? What about Albert Einstein, William Shakespeare, or Walt Disney? Upon hearing any of these names, your mind, no doubt, connects them with a fact about their life. Perhaps with Abraham Lincoln the thought of the emancipation of slaves came to mind. With Albert Einstein, it may have been $E=MC^2$. Is William Shakespeare “to be or not to be?” Perhaps you starting singing, “M-I-C...K-E-Y...M-O-U-S-E,” as you read the name Walt Disney.

As Paul writes to Philemon, his dearly beloved and fellow labourer, he tells Philemon of an exciting truth about Philemon. When the name Philemon was mentioned, it brought up thoughts of one who was an encourager. Paul wrote that “the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee.” In other words, because of the life and actions of Philemon, other believers were encouraged. He was known as one who encouraged others.

How are you known? Perhaps you might be thinking, “There are about 7 billion people on the earth, I am never going to be known like Abe Lincoln, or Albert Einstein.” Maybe not, but one could make the argument that neither was Philemon. He was however, known to Paul and to the saints around him as an encourager. It was his testimony; and since it is written in Scripture, his legacy.

How will you be remembered? The little things that you do to and for those whom your life touches will ultimately be how you are remembered. Start working on your legacy today! ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

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

1. Get a dictionary and write down the definition of heritage. _____

2. Rehoboam did not take wise counsel and continued in the ways of his father. What did he do to Israel that disheartened them? (I Kings 12:1-16) _____

3. What sin(s) in David’s legacy is like a big black spot on a white sheet?

Quote of the Day

“Attempt something so impossible that unless God is in it, it’s doomed to failure.”
~John Haggai

Monday
February 20

Wise Counsel

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

One of the challenges in teaching private music lessons is motivating and challenging my students to practice. This age old problem arises usually after the first few months of lessons and then pops its ugly head many times down the long road of mastering an instrument.

The other day, I had a “talk” with one of my students. First, I made her see that despite her protesting she did have plenty of time to practice. I explained that if she practiced on a regular basis the songs would not be as difficult and she would enjoy playing the piano more. Tears started to well up in her eyes as she nodded. After the lesson, I had the same discussion with the child’s mother; both of them agreed that practice needed to be increased in order to continue to grow in piano skills. This was a difficult “talk” for me and for the mother and child. No one likes to confront others on their lack of work, and no one likes to be confronted.

The same is true in Christianity. It is difficult to confront someone, and it is difficult to be confronted and respond in the appropriate way. When you are confronted with a sin issue or something else that needs to be changed in your life, you have a choice to make. Will you listen and make needed changes, or will you cock your head and choose to be offended by your concerned brother in the Lord?

According to our verse today, the right choice when confronted by wise counsel is to

Morning: Numbers 3-4

Evening: Mark 3:22-35

listen, learn, and make needed changes. Oh, this is not easy! In fact, all that is within you will want to argue and plead your innocence; but do not let your own pride get in the way of your spiritual growth. Adhere to wise counsel and change! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

How Many?: Answer each of the following questions with a number one, two, three, four, or five.

- _____ 1. In Matthew 14:19, Jesus and his disciples used how many fish to feed the multitude?
- _____ 2. In Matthew 17:27, how many coins did Peter find in the mouth of the fish?
- _____ 3. How many nights was Jonah in the belly of a fish? (Jonah 1:17)
- _____ 4. How many changes of clothes did Joseph give to his brother Benjamin? (Gen. 45:22)

Quote of the Day

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

Tuesday
February 21

Morning: *Numbers 5-6*

Evening: *Mark 4:1-20*

Hardened Hearts

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

Like Pharaoh, we harden our hearts when we refuse to do something that God has called us to do. Maybe we think that we have enough going on in our lives. Have you ever heard yourself say the following statements?

1. I don't have time for visitation.
2. I have no desire to work in the nursery. Are you kidding?
3. Maybe I will do that later, but right now I am too busy with ME.

Friends, there may not be a later. Every time we harden our hearts, we miss an opportunity to be obedient and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who gave His all.

In Pharaoh's case his disobedience led to ten plagues. These ten plagues not only affected him, but the whole nation of Egypt. Can you imagine your water being turned into blood or swarms of lice enveloping you and all you have? Pharaoh just didn't want to let the people go.

Just think, everything you do has an effect on you and all around you. Your hardened heart keeps others from doing what God's asks them to do. Will you continue to harden your heart, or will you give God first place in your life? ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“And the _____ passeth _____, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”
I John 2:17

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose the person(s) who does not fit in the biblical account.

1. Jesus Walked on Water: Mark 6:45-52

- A. Jesus
- B. Pharisees
- C. Disciples
- D. King Agrippa

2. Lot's Escape from Sodom: Genesis 19: 15-26

- A. God
- B. Angels
- C. Lot
- D. Lot's Wife
- E. Lot's Two Daughters
- F. Lot's Grandson

3. Hagar's Expulsion into the Wilderness: Genesis 21:9-20

- A. Abraham
- B. Sarah
- C. Hagar
- D. Ishmael
- E. Jacob
- F. God
- G. The Angel of God

Wednesday
February 22

The Controlled Tongue

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlETH not his tongue, but deceivETH his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.”
James 1:26

To bridle means to gain and keep control over something. Just like a horse, having a bit and bridle in its mouth, is controlled by his rider, so a person who controls his tongue can harness its great power. James, in writing to the believers of his day, had seen the empty religious conversations of the ruling Jews. They had great speech but also blasphemed God by their rejection of Jesus. Their religion was vain and empty. They spoke of lofty spiritual matters but missed the simple message of Jesus.

Many people seem to be religious today. Yet their tongues, according to this verse, deceives them. They do not understand and may have even been tricked into following something that is not true. With the same tongue they attempt to bless and curse, some even attempt to use “godly language” and cursing with the same mouth. Their uncontrolled tongues show their true colors and demonstrate that they may not be as far along as they believed themselves to be.

James goes even further saying that their religion is vain. That is to say that their religion is empty having no depth and meaning. James is saying that if their religion really had depth, it would effect their tongue. Since their tongue seems to be unaffected by their religion, then their religion must be of little value.

Morning: Numbers 7
Evening: Mark 4:21-41

Demonstrations of real religion, that pictures a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Saviour, are clearly seen in the control of a person’s tongue to serve as a blessing to Christ and His Church. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And the _____ passeth _____, and the _____ thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” I John 2:17

Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble some of the key words used in today’s devotional.

- _____ 1. D B R L I E
- _____ 2. N T C L O O R
- _____ 3. N O G U T E
- _____ 4. E L I I R O N G
- _____ 5. S B S N G I E L

Quote of the Day

“All the way through the Bible man is rebellious. Adam and Even rebelled in the Garden of Eden against God. Cain rebelled against the teachings of God. The Tower of Babel was nothing but a rebellion. Lot rebelled against Abraham. Esau rebelled against Jacob. Absalom rebelled against David. And every one of us today is a rebel. Earth is a planet in rebellion against God.”
~Billy Graham

Thursday

February 23

I Will Rejoice

*“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24*

When I read this verse I see two responsibilities. God’s responsibility is to make the day. Our responsibility is to rejoice and be glad in it.

God has been faithful to do His part. He made this day. He has made all days; days were His idea. He made the very first day and every day in between, now and then. When He made the first day, He declared that it was good. Any bad things that have happened in any day since that first day have been the result of sin. Whether we like or dislike what has happened in any given day, it has been God’s day; and He has done His job.

The other responsibility belongs to us. Notice that the psalm writer said, “I will rejoice.” Rejoicing is a matter of the will. We do not know what the day will bring, but we can be sure that the Lord brought the day and that He is in control. The events that happen today may seem bad to you, but God is the giver of this day; He has a purpose in it. When I choose to acknowledge that God is in charge, it will help me to rejoice in His purpose, understanding that He is wiser than me. He has called us to rejoice in His day.

This is the day that the Lord hath made: what are you going to do today? ~DLW

Morning: Numbers 8-10

Evening: Mark 5:1-20

Scripture Fill-In

“And the _____ passeth _____, and the _____ thereof: but he that _____ the will of God abideth forever.” I John 2:17

Bible Quiz

Name that Tune: Match the lyrics of the hymn to the title.

- _____ 1. “I need thy presence every passing hour. What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?”
- _____ 2. “Now I’ve given to Jesus everything. Now I gladly own Him as my King.”
- _____ 3. “Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise. Thou mine Inheritance, now and always.”
- _____ 4. “O safe and happy shelter, O refuge tried and sweet.”

- A. At Calvary
- B. Beneath the Cross of Jesus
- C. Be Thou My Vision
- D. Abide with Me

Quote of the Day

“The joy that Jesus gives is the result of our disposition being at one with His own disposition.” ~Oswald Chambers

Friday
February 24

Morning: Numbers 11-13

Evening: Mark 5:21-43

A Holy Seed

“Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.” Malachi 2:14

God’s messenger must remind the Israelites that marriage to one woman was for life, according to God’s Word. God has a charge against them because they were divorcing their childhood sweethearts and marrying ungodly, heathen women who knew not God. According to Malachi 2:15, God made a husband and wife to be one, and He did not want the Israelites marrying the ungodly because He wanted their offspring to be holy.

Parents, God wants your children to be a holy seed. He wants them to serve the Almighty God. Therefore, it is necessary for both parents to be actively serving God in order to surround their children in a Christian growth environment.

Single adults and teenagers, God wants you to raise yourself up in a godly environment, with biblical principles concerning morality, speech, and demeanor. Therefore, be careful when you pick your friends and your future mate. Keep yourself pure before the Lord, and He will lift you up. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“And the _____ passeth _____, and the _____ thereof: but he that _____ the _____ of God abideth forever.”
I John 2:17

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answers.

- Using a dictionary to help, what is the best definition for the word—holy?
 - Virtuous and chaste
 - Dedicated or set apart for religious purposes
 - Of a high quality or standard, either on an absolute scale or in relation to another or others
 - Based on what is truly and deeply felt
 - Connected by an affinity of the mind, spirit, or temperament
- “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” What is the reference for this verse?
 - II Peter 2:9
 - Hebrews 2:9
 - James 2:9
 - I Peter 2:9
 - II Timothy 2:9

Quote of the Day

“I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God’s law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God.” ~ D. L. Moody

Saturday

February 25

Morning: Numbers 14-15

Evening: Mark 6:1-32

Time for a Check-Up

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:21-22

Remember those new year resolutions you were determined to keep this year? How are you doing? Has your time with God been consistent this year? Are you growing spiritually? How is your speech? Have you been in the fellowship with other believers? It’s been about two months since the start of the year. Go back and review your goals. Think about what you wanted to change this year. Make it happen!

Paul and Barnabas, although going through their own personal trials, “exhorted” others to keep the faith. The word exhort means to strongly urge someone to do something. They urged the disciples of Jesus Christ to continue in the faith.

Today, I am urging you to keep on keeping on. It is so easy to stay stagnant spiritually. Christians that just go through the motions will never experience the joy of living a fulfilled life in Christ. So, evaluate yourselves today. Are you on the path of growth this year, or have you started slipping back to old habits?
~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“And the _____ passeth _____, and the _____ thereof: but he that _____ the _____ of God abideth _____.” I John 2:17

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the following questions.

1. Circle the following words that describe your spiritual life so far this year.

Consistent	Sporadic	Dull
Vibrant	Distracted	Full
Growing	Mediocre	Empty

2. How are you planning to grow closer in your relationship with Christ this year?

Quote of the Day

“The more I pray, the more I feel my need of the Word. The more I read God’s Word, the more I have to pray, and the more power I have in prayer.”
~Andrew Murray

Sunday

February 26

Entrance into Heaven

*“For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”
II Peter 1:11*

In the ten verses before this one, Peter lays out the virtues that are needed for a person to have a successful Christian life. Here he is calling those reading his letter to prepare to enter into the kingdom of God in abundance. They were going to go to heaven because of their salvation, but whether or not they entered in abundantly is dependant upon their time here.

Each person who has trusted Christ as his personal Saviour will enter heaven. The question then becomes how will they enter? Will it be an entrance that comes with the rewards of a yielded life filled with abundance, or will it be a entrance accompanied by small rewards.

Peter desired that his disciples have great rewards waiting for them in heaven. He knew that it would require some work. As they demonstrated an increased knowledge of God, patience, brotherly kindness, and self-control, he knew that rewards would follow.

For each modern day believer that same can be true. A life surrendered will yield eternal blessings. We can enter into heaven in abundance if we will follow and obey Christ, or we can enter in without a great deal of reward if we choose disobedience. ~DJD

Morning: Numbers 16-17

Evening: Mark 6:33-56

Scripture Fill-In

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I John 2:22

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. How does Hebrews 4:9 describe Heaven?
 - A. A place of rest
 - B. A place of praise
 - C. A place of peace
 - D. A place of sacrifice
2. Who is Jesus addressing in a physical sense when He said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (Jn. 14:2)
 - A. Little children
 - B. His disciples
 - C. The Pharisees and Sadducees
 - D. A multitude of Jews

Quote of the Day

“A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.” ~C. S. Lewis

Monday
February 27

I Have Much People

“Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.” Acts 18:9-10

Recently, at our Christmas Eve service, the pastor asked for everyone to hold their red and green candle holders with lit candles in them very high so everyone in the auditorium could see the flickering glow. It was a beautiful sight in the night. We were reminded to let our spiritual light for Jesus shine in a dark world where others so desperately need to see the Savior of the world.

It was comforting to me to see all the beautiful lights for Jesus held high. Sometimes we think there are so few Christians in our own little part of the world. Granted, in many parts of the world, there are very few Christians. However, God said that the gates of hell would not prevail over the church. It will exist until the rapture.

Christians, take heart. God sees you. You are not alone. There are thousands upon thousands of others praying, seeking, fasting, witnessing, studying, baptizing, reading, and looking for the return of Christ all over the world.

The media would have the liberal ideology to appear as if it is the heartbeat of America at this time in our nation’s history. Contrary to this, Christianity is alive and well. He has “much people” in various cities planted firmly in the faith.

Morning: Numbers 18-20

Evening: Mark 7:1-13

The church has been commissioned to make disciples. We must continue to hold our lights high and lift our voices to proclaim that the Messiah has come. There is safety in numbers. Let’s find ourselves encouraging the saints by remaining faithful and making disciples.
~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“Who is a _____ but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I John 2:22

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses.

1. **Matthew 16:18**—“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my _____; and the gates of _____ shall not prevail against it.”
2. **I Timothy 4:12**—“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an _____ of the believers, in word, in _____, in charity, in spirit, in _____, in _____.”

Quote of the Day

“Optimism is the cheerful frame of mind that enables a teakettle to sing, though in hot water up to its nose.”
~Anonymous

Tuesday
February 28

Morning: Numbers 21-22
Evening: Mark 7:14-37

Used for the Good

“For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever.” Philemon 15

As one views the world and the actions of its inhabitants from a broad perspective, it would be easy to focus on the negative and evil things. Even in individual circumstances, it is quite simple to allow the negative to outweigh the positive. When one connects the fact that God is omnipotent and in total control of everything that happens, it might be very easy to begin to question just where God was or what He was doing while some of the more difficult things happened.

Why would God allow that loved one to die? Why would God let those planes fly into the twin towers? Where was God when the levy broke in New Orleans or the tsunami crashed the shores of Indonesia in 2004 or Japan in 2011?

The answers to these questions will not be fully known in this life, but despite the lack of answers we must not begin to blame God. We as finite human beings must not try to fit an infinite God into our limited “box” of thinking.

Paul did not have the answer as to why Onesimus ran away. He did, however, give his opinion in verses 15-16 and with it some incredible insight into the idea of unanswerable questions. The truth is this: God is not helpless when bad things happen. God can use the bad for the greater good. Paul did not know the reason, but with his response reminded Philemon that God was not caught off guard and in the

midst of the sin of Onesimus, worked His will. You may, in this life, never know why God allowed certain things to happen to you, but you must come to the realization that God can work for your good and His glory in even the most difficult circumstances. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Who is a _____ but he that _____ that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I John 2:22

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. Describe a “bad” situation that God used for the good of His kingdom?

2. Describe a situation you are experiencing right now in which you have do not have the answers. _____

3. Spend some time in prayer.

Quote of the Day

“If you don’t get everything you want, think of the things you don’t get that you don’t want.”

Wednesday

February 29

We Have Been Delivered

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” Colossians 1:13

What an encouraging verse this is. I love it because it reminds us of what Christ has done for us through salvation.

The first half of the verse tells us how Christ has delivered us from the powers of darkness. Since the first rebellion of Satan, his dark powers have been at work. He has deceived the whole world according to the book of Revelation. He has blinded their minds to the truth of the Gospel, leading them on the pathway to hell. Christ saw our need, and He delivered us from Satan’s destructive powers. The word ‘delivered’ makes me think of a postman dropping off a package in person to make sure that it reaches its destination. The Bible tells us that He has delivered us. Though we are not in heaven yet, as far as God is concerned it is a done deal; we are as good as in—it’s just a matter of time.

The Bible says that He has translated us. We are part of a new kingdom, Christ’s kingdom. Our speech should be new. Our citizenship is new, and now we are pilgrims looking for our permanent place. Our allegiance is new; we no longer belong to Satan, or to ourselves. We belong to Christ.

We have been delivered.
We have been translated.
Everything has changed.

~DLW

Morning: Numbers 23-25

Evening: Mark 8:1-21

Scripture Fill-In

“Who is a _____ but he that _____ that _____ is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I John 2:22

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Using the Word Bank, answer the following questions about the books of the Bible.

Word Bank

Pentateuch	Luke	28
Minor Prophets	Paul	24
Poetic Books	John	10

1. Author of Acts _____
2. Biblical category of Numbers _____
3. Author of I Timothy _____
4. Biblical category of Malachi _____
5. Number of chapters in Matthew _____
6. Number of chapters in II Samuel _____
7. Biblical category of Proverbs _____

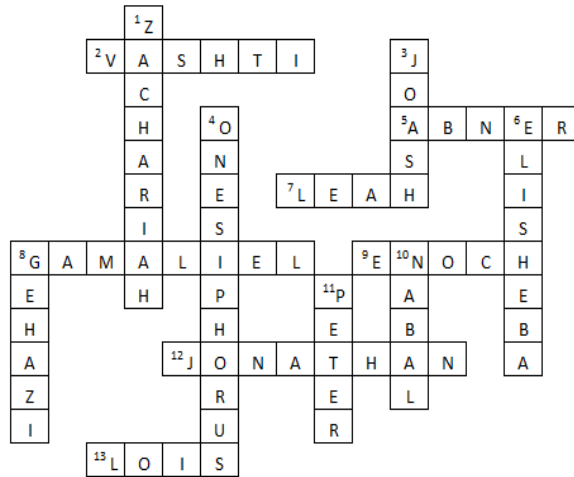
Quote of the Day

“You cannot change the past, but the past can change you, either for better or for worse. It all depends on how you look at it. The past can be a rudder that guides you or an anchor that hinders you. Leave your past mistakes with God, and look to the future by faith.”

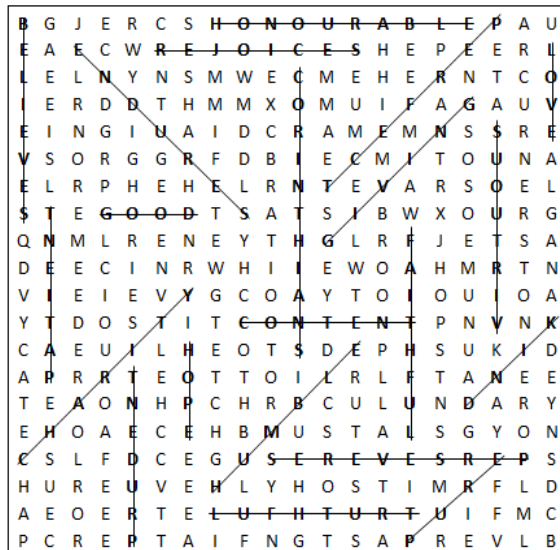
~Warren Wiersbe

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle



Word Search



Bible Quizzes

- Feb. 1 Pg. 1 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 2 Pg. 2 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D
 Feb. 3 Pg. 3 1. Lovingkindness 2. Teach him to do God's will and lead him to uprightness 3. Mercy
- Feb. 4 Pg. 4 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 6 Pg. 6 1. Loved 2. Disciples
 Feb. 7 Pg. 7 1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T
 Feb. 8 Pg. 9 1. Jealousy 2. Unbelief 3. Murder 4. Idolatry 5. Rape
- Feb. 9 Pg. 10 1. Spirit 2. Heart 3. Surrender 4. Nature 5. Broken
- Feb. 10 Pg. 11 1. T 2. F 3. F 4. F 5. T
 Feb. 11 Pg. 12 1. A 2. C 3. E 4. B 5. D
 Feb. 12 Pg. 13 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 13 Pg. 14 1. C 2. A 3. B
 Feb. 15 Pg. 17 1. Abraham 2. Jacob 3. Judas 4. Esrom 5. Salmon 6. David 7. Josaphat
- Feb. 16 Pg. 18 1. True 2. Worship 3. Truth 4. Seeketh 5. Spirit 6. Worship 7. Truth
- Feb. 17 Pg. 19 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 18 Pg. 20 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. E
 Feb. 19 Pg. 21 1. The status, conditions, or character acquired by being born into a particular family or social class. 2. Work was harder and chastisement crueller. 3. Adultery & murder
- Feb. 20 Pg. 22 1. 2 2. 1 3. 3 4. 5
 Feb. 21 Pg. 23 1. B & D 2. F 3. E
 Feb. 22 Pg. 24 1. Bridle 2. Control 3. Tongue 4. Religion 5. Blessing
- Feb. 23 Pg. 25 1. D 2. A 3. C 4. B
 Feb. 24 Pg. 26 1. B 2. D
 Feb. 25 Pg. 27 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 26 Pg. 28 1. A 2. B
 Feb. 27 Pg. 29 1. Church, hell 2. Example, conversation, faith, purity
- Feb. 28 Pg. 30 Answers will vary.
 Feb. 29 Pg. 31 1. Luke 2. Pentateuch 3. Paul 4. Minor Prophets 5. 28 6. 24 7. Poetic Books