

Bread of Life

Devotional Guide

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

January 1, 2010

Dear Believers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, rejoicing over the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and celebrating the fresh start of the year.

At the close of each year, I take time to make a list of goals to achieve for the upcoming months. This is a wonderful time to reflect on previous goals attained or not yet accomplished. Plus, it is profitable to set goals, aspirations, and dreams for the future, so there are objectives to obtain in life.

God made each of us for a specific purpose, and He knows the plan He has for the lives of His creation. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* God knows what will happen to you in 2010. He has a plan. I challenge you to ask God what goals He wants you to accomplish this year. Then, let Him lead you as you seek Him through prayer and Bible study.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Russ Merrin

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

How exciting to begin a new year. In some ways it is similar to our salvation experience, "Old things passed away, all things are become new." In a small way, it is a chance to start over, dream new dreams and set new goals.

It is exciting and beneficial for me each year to set new spiritual goals—soul winning goals, Bible reading and memorization goals, prayer, and sacrificial goals. They do not have to be bigger or better than last year, but realistic to my own life's circumstances and opportunities.

Here are some things to prayerfully consider when setting your goals for this year:

1. God has given you enough time to do everything He desires you to do. Balance your work with home responsibilities, Bible reading (listening to God) with prayer (talking to God), church attendance with service, even work time with time to rest. There is balance in a successful Christian life. Schedule your time carefully; it may require eliminating wasted time or consuming habits.
2. Your spiritual success to a large degree will depend on your personal self discipline.
3. Your willingness to be faithful with little things will determine how much responsibility God will entrust to you.
4. Surrender your will to Christ; the

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. May the Lord bless you this year and lead you from victory to victory. Remember to "be found faithful," for He is coming. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 20:30-31 "And many other _____ truly did Jesus in the _____ of his disciples, which are not _____ in this book: But these are written, that ye might _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that _____ ye might have life through his name."

 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. Joseph was put in jail when he refused to sin. Gen. 39:20
- _____ 2. We are told to study to show ourselves approved unto God. 2 Tim. 2:15
- _____ 3. Less than 500 people saw Christ after His resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:6
- _____ 4. Paul called Timothy his son in the faith. 1 Tim. 1:2

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"We are responsible to obey the will of God, but we are dependent upon the Holy Spirit for the enabling power to do it." ~Jerry Bridges



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

Whether or not the new year has gotten off to a good start. Whether or not you are still on that diet that you said would begin on January 1st or that exercise program is still going strong, how can you be thankful?

The Apostle Paul gives some instruction on thanksgiving that, quite honestly, is difficult to handle. Notice, very carefully, the way Paul words this command. “Giving thanks **always** FOR all things.” What?!? To be perfectly honest, how in the world is someone to be thankful: 1. Always 2. For 3. All things? This would mean that even when things are bad, we are told to be thankful for them. How is that humanly possible? Well, humanly, it is not possible. It is only possible as we fulfill the instructions of the entire context of this passage.

Begin in Ephesians 5:18: *“but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things.”* When we are “filled” with the Spirit like a drunk man is controlled by alcohol, the result will be self-exhorting and God-glorifying singing and a perpetual, supernatural giving of thanks for all things. When we find that we have an unthankful heart (even in the bad times), it is easy to know who is in control. Be filled with the Spirit; you will be amazed what He will do through you! ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 20:30-31 “And many other _____ truly did Jesus in the _____ of his disciples, which are not _____ in this book: But these are written, that ye might _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that _____ ye might have _____ through his name.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who said, “Give me this mountain”?
Joshua 14:6, 12 _____
2. Who said, “The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another”? Genesis 31:48-49

3. Who said, “Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been”? Gen. 47:9

4. Who said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?” Exodus 5:2

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“People place their hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution. They don't put their hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible.” ~Jamie Raskin



Morning: Genesis 3-5

Evening: Matthew 2

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“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

This passage has been one of the most influential passages in my life. I have learned some great principles that have helped my life tremendously, and I would like to share them with you.

To have the best life with the greatest blessing, we must have a whole-hearted trust in the Lord. ***“Trust the Lord with all thine heart.”*** We cannot trust the Lord with all of our heart and trust something else with half of our heart. The most important thing to trust the Lord with is our salvation. Many people trust partly in the Lord and partly upon themselves or some religious system.

We need to trust Him with our circumstances as well as with our salvation. God cares about us, and He has the ability to meet the needs of our lives if we are willing to relinquish them to Him.

Along with trusting Him with all of our heart, we need to acknowledge Him in all of our ways. I take this to mean that we recognize that He has a plan for our lives and seek that plan in all that we do. When we acknowledge Him, He promises to direct our paths.

When God is in control of our paths and we are trusting in His promises for our eternal destination, we can have peace in our lives. Is your faith in God, or are you leaning upon your own understanding? ~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

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who found Moses in a basket in the Nile river? Exodus 2:1-6
 - A. King’s servant
 - B. Pharaoh’s daughter
 - C. His mother
 - D. His sister
2. Who was Moses’ spokesman? Exodus 4:14-16
 - A. Aaron
 - B. God
 - C. Miriam
 - D. Pharaoh
3. Whose heart did the Lord harden? Exodus 11:10
 - A. Moses
 - B. Miriam
 - C. Pharaoh
 - D. The priest

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!"

~Andrew Murray



Morning: Genesis 6-8

Evening: Matthew 3

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

2 Chronicles 29:1-5

Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord. In other words, he set the example. Everyone is watched by someone, so we should set the right example for all to see.

When a person has a revival in his life, the house of the Lord is always in the center of it. So many people try to build their lives around some organization other than the church. This is not God’s plan or the will of God. It is not wrong to support organizations other than the church as long as they are scripturally and doctrinally sound. However, the church has been ordained by God.

If real revival is going to come, we must have the right kind of preacher, those preaching the Word of God to their congregations and trusting God to stir their hearts. Just as Hezekiah led the people to revival in his day, our preachers can be used of God to lead their congregations to revival in our day.

Let us pray that preachers will strive to remain focused on their responsibilities to God in feeding their flocks and build soul-winning churches. Pray that the lives of our pastors are lives of purity that God can use in building His church here on earth.

Let every young man examine his own life to see whether God is leading him to a pastoral ministry. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is _____, 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 in Column 2.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| _____ 1. Hilkiah
Jeremiah 1:1 | A. Jemuel |
| _____ 2. Jehoiaken
Jeremiah 1:3 | B. Jeremiah |
| _____ 3. Cain
Genesis 4:17 | C. Baalhanan |
| _____ 4. Adam
Genesis 4:25 | D. Josiah |
| _____ 5. Milcah
Genesis 24:15 | E. Seth |
| _____ 6. Achbor
Genesis 36:39 | F. Enoch |
| _____ 7. Simeon
Genesis 46:10 | G. Bethuel |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“How sweet is rest after fatigue! How sweet will heaven be when our journey is ended.”
~George Whitefield



Morning: Genesis 9-11

Evening: Matthew 4

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“And rend your hearts and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him.” Joel 2:13-14

Joel is known as a revival prophet. He preached after a devastating invasion of locusts upon the land of Israel. He spoke of the coming judgment of the Lord but also told of God’s power of restoration. If His people would return to Him, then God would pour out his Spirit upon them. There were however some pre-requisites that needed to happen, and they are found here in these verses from Joel.

First, the people needed to rend their hearts, not their garments. In mourning, the Jews would tear their clothes, but this outward display was not accompanied by a very real confession and repentance of their sin. For revival to come, real confession must come first.

Second, the people needed to return to God and remove anything that had taken up residence before the Lord. In doing so, they put all idols aside and made God their sole focus.

Third, Joel reminds the Israelites of God’s mercy and grace. Remembering the forgiveness they had enjoyed creates a renewed fervor for the truth. God didn’t hate them, but He did hate their sin. They remembered He was slow to anger and patient with them, and, as they did, their awareness of His kindness

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

and goodness grew exponentially in their hearts and minds.

Finally, they got ready to receive a blessing. After confessing their sin, returning to God, and remembering His goodness, they were ready to see God move. They were prepared for revival. Their hands were clean, their eyes were fixed on the Father, and their feet were geared up to follow Him.

Are you ready for revival? Repent, return, remember, and get ready! ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 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. As Christians, we are to run the race set before us with patience.
Hebrews 12:1
- _____ 2. Paul prayed three times that God would remove his thorn in the flesh.
2 Corinthians 12:7-8
- _____ 3. The Israelites sought after wisdom.
1 Corinthians 1:22

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God sweetens outward pain with inward peace.” ~Thomas Watson



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

What Are You Thinking?

“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; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”
2 Corinthians 10:5-6

Stepping up to the volleyball court, I served the ball and missed. The next time I was up to serve, all I could think about was my previous miss. The score was close, my nerves overcame me, and I missed again. Although I was physically capable of getting the ball over the net, my mental state defeated me.

Our mental state or thoughts play an integral role in life as well as in sports. Our thoughts can defeat us before we get out of bed in the morning. Dwelling on past failures can prevent us from living for God in the present. By picturing ourselves failing, we set ourselves up for failure. Many of our thoughts may not even be rational. The mind is a battleground. Because God knows the power of the mind, He repeatedly tells us to dwell on truth. He tells us to capture our thoughts and make them obedient to Christ. Today, purpose to discard thoughts that are not from Christ and choose to dwell on truth. ~AJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “God resisteth the _____, but giveth grace to the _____.”
James 4:6
2. “But my God shall supply all your _____ according to his _____ in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19
3. “I have _____, Apollos watered; but _____ gave the _____.”
1 Corinthians 3:6
4. “Be not _____; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man _____, that shall he also _____.”
Galatians 6:7
5. “_____ is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” Romans 12:19

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The gospel alone is sufficient to rule the lives of Christians everywhere...any additional rules made to govern men's conduct added nothing to the perfection already found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” ~Osborn Chambers



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 BIBLE QUIZ

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35

We have all seen the shirts that say "Football is life; the rest is just details." I used to own one of those shirts. Football was not the only sport made into these shirts. I have seen basketball, golf, fishing and so on.

As Christians and athletes, our shirts should say, "Jesus is life; the rest is just details." In Matthew 24:35, He says that Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will not. This means EVERYTHING: massive stadiums, gyms, buildings, earth, etc. Jesus and His Kingdom are the only things that will remain. In sports, we get caught up in training, practicing, and competing. In life, we get caught up with trials, work, finances, and business. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 that we must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Psalm 37:4 says that we should delight ourselves in the Lord and that He will give us the desires of our hearts. Today, ask yourself if Jesus is life to you or if you have let the details of this world get in the way. God wants to take first place in your life.

~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is _____, Eye hath not _____, nor ear _____, neither have entered into the _____ of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

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

1. Who said, "The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak"? Numbers 22:38 _____
2. Who said, "I have sinned against the Lord"? 2 Samuel 12:13 _____
3. Who said, "I know not this man"? Matthew 26:73-74 _____
4. Who complained to Jesus that her sister would not help her? Luke 10:40 _____
5. What was Abel's occupation? Genesis 4:2 _____
6. How was Sodom destroyed? Genesis 19:24 _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The very word authority has within it the word *author*. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls." ~R. C. Sproul



Morning: Genesis 18, 19

Evening: Matthew 6

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

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

When interpreting Scripture, it is important to view the topic or issue being discussed in light of the context in which it is found. Ephesians 5:18 is not a doctrinal statement on social drinking but on Spirit control. Ephesians 5:19 is not a doctrinal statement on music style, but on the purpose of the music being sung. Ephesians 5:20 introduces a lifestyle only possible under the control of the Spirit referred to in verse 18. Similarly, verse 19 introduces a command that, humanly, is difficult to fulfill.

Because of the verse divisions of our modern day Bible, it is easy to miss the full command that the Apostle Paul has given. If you look at your Bible, with the number “21” out to the side and the letter “S” capitalized on the first word of the verse, it is easy to think that this verse stands, alone and swells up within each one of us a feeling of resistance. However, look at the punctuation marks of the last few verses. Verse 17 ends in a period. The next period is not found until verse 21. So, in order to obey verse 21, read the whole passage. In a paraphrased edition, “Understand the will of the Lord (v.17). Be controlled by the Spirit of God like a drunk man is controlled by alcohol. When you are controlled by the Spirit, you will speak to yourself and to the Lord with singing. As a result of the Spirit controlling you, you will be thankful for all things and will submit yourself to one another.” This should be the goal of every

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Christian: to yield one’s self completely to the Spirit so that he no longer controls his life, but allows the Spirit to take control. When that happens, submission to others becomes possible. ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. A person was called unclean if he had what disease? Leviticus 13:2-3
A. Cancer B. Epilepsy
C. Lice D. Leprosy
2. When Moses threw down his rod before Pharaoh, what did it become? Exodus 4:1-3
A. Staff B. Serpent
C. Goad D. Stick
3. On what mountain did God give Moses the Ten Commandments? Ex. 34:1-4
A. Sinai B. Olivet
C. Moriah D. Nebo

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The right manner of growth is to grow less in one’s own eyes.” ~Thomas Watson



Morning: Genesis 20-22

Evening: Matthew 7

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Determination in 2010

“For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.” 2 Kings 18:6-7

I love the start of a new year! I enjoy writing in my planner all the birthdays, anniversaries, and special dates for the months ahead. Also, I like to make a list of all the goals I have for the year. A new year is like a fresh start, full of hopes, dreams, and expectations.

In 2 Kings 18, a new king began to rule, King Hezekiah. From the very beginning of his reign, he started fresh. He cleaned up the mess in Israel. Verse four says that he rid the country of idols and places of idol worship. In verse seven, he refused to pay tribute to the pagan country of Assyria. He provided a new start for Israel.

Verse six says that Hezekiah clave to the Lord, followed after Him, and kept His commandments. He was determined to do what was right in the eyes of God. We see the result in verse seven, *“And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth.”* The result of his determination to do what was right was a successful, prosperous reign as a king.

Maybe you need a new start this year. Maybe there are some “idols” that you need to rid from your life. Determine this year to

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

do the right thing, regardless of the sacrifice, and you will not be disappointed. ~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is _____, Eye hath not _____, nor ear _____, neither have entered into the _____ of man, the _____ which God hath _____ for them that love him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Creation story. Genesis 1

A. God	B. Jesus
C. Holy Spirit	D. Adam
E. Abraham	F. Eve

2. David and Goliath. 1 Samuel 17

A. Saul	B. David
C. Goliath	D. Eliab
E. Shammah	F. Noah

3. Story of Christ’s birth. Matthew 1 and Luke 2

A. Wise men	B. Mary
C. Angels	D. Jesus
E. Herod	E. Joseph

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Grace and glory differ very little; the one is the seed, the other is the flower; grace is glory militant, glory is grace triumphant.”

~Thomas Brooks



Morning: Genesis 23, 24

Evening: Matthew 8

A Fresh Start

by Monica Vernot

Have you ever closely observed a child a couple weeks before a new school year starts? Whether or not school is a favorite place, the excitement for a new beginning builds. Just the right clothes are purchased after hours of deliberation. When the long awaited school letter is delivered, the child scans the document quickly to see what teacher he has been given for the new school year. Then, the child scans the supply list. Pencils, pens, notebooks, paper, a book bag, calculator, ruler, compass, protractor, colored pencils, and more are on the list, and it is off to the store to try and decipher between Crayola and the off-brand.

Through all the shopping and purchasing, children go through a variety of feelings including anxiousness, self-awareness, and anticipation. I remember one horrible night when I, as a child, collapsed beside my bed in a heap and cried my heart out. Fortunately, my mother was right next to me comforting and soothing me. Why this dramatic state of being? Well, I feared I would have no friends at school. My mother tried with all her heart to erase my fears by her words and prayers. But, every year, on the first day of school it felt like my heart was in my throat, thumping so loudly surely everyone around could hear. However, through all the fears and worry, there was a feeling of hopefulness. Maybe this year, I would find a best friend that would stick with me. Maybe this year, I would earn straight A's. No matter what had happened the previous year, I was hopeful

that this school year would be better. After all, it was a fresh start.

Joseph is a character in the Bible that truly fascinates me. He was distinctively loved by his father, maliciously hated by his brothers. He must have had a rough time in his youthful years. So much so, his brothers actually sold him into slavery. Now, at that point, Joseph had a decision. He could wallow in his previous fate in life, or he could determine to start fresh, emboldened to forget past hurts and move on to what God had in store for him. This was not the only time Joseph would be called to forgive and move on, including a lengthy jail stay for a crime he did not commit. Fortunately though, Joseph kept embracing the "new starts." So, as the account goes, Joseph became second in command in all of Egypt and was used by God to feed thousands during a horrible famine in the land. And, in the end, he was restored to his family.

Do you need a fresh start this year? Do some things in your life need to change? In order to start fresh, you need to wipe the slate clean. You need to make sure that your sins are confessed before Almighty God. 1John 1:9 says, ***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** Not only will God forgive you, but He will also forget your sins. Psalm 103:12 says, ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."*** All you have to do is be honest with God and confess and turn from your sin. Oh you can say sorry, but a truly

(Continued on page 27)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.” 2 Peter 3:11

In this passage, we find Peter challenging us regarding the end of the world. He reminds us what will happen to the world and how we should live in light of what will happen.

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved.” Through faith in the Scriptures, we can see something that those without the Bible cannot see. We know that in God’s time He will destroy the world. All that we have in this world will be dissolved. Nothing is going to last. If it is not going to last, it is foolish for us to live for it. Seeing that we have been warned of the upcoming judgment, we have a responsibility to live differently. There are two words used to describe our different lifestyle, holy and godly.

To live a holy life means that we have been set apart to accomplish God’s special purpose. God wants us to worship Him, walk with him, witness for Him, and work for Him. If all the things of this world are going to be destroyed, we have no reason not to be holy and to live our lives for Him. The other word is godly. Godly means God-like. Live like God would. Ask what Jesus would do.

Considering that all these will pass away, what kind of life are you living? ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

 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. We should go to the throne of grace to obtain mercy. Hebrew 4:16
- ___ 2. Paul escaped from Damascus by camel caravan. 2 Cor. 11:32-33
- ___ 3. The body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19
- ___ 4. The devils believe and tremble. James 2:9
- ___ 5. The victory that overcomes the world is the power of God. 1 John 5:4

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“There is a difference between Moses and Paul. Moses was the great Lawgiver to the nation of Israel, while Paul is the great dispenser of Grace to the Church, the body of Christ.” ~Henry Grube



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?” Numbers 16:8-10

The sons of Levi were dissatisfied with the task God had given them to perform. In their eyes, the job they had been called to do was insignificant. This is so often true where the people of God do not realize the importance of the “little tasks” that need to be accomplished in the plan of God. The Levites were given the job of carrying the tabernacle furniture. What a job that was!

If the work of God is to bring honor and glory Him, every person must realize the importance of his job and must do it with all of his ability. Each task should be completed as if it were the greatest of all tasks.

Do not be envious of another’s task or another’s place in the body of Christ; but rather, do the job God has given you to the best of your ability, realizing every job for God is a “big” job. The Levites wanted the priesthood, but God had given that job to the sons of Aaron.

How sad it is when a Christian desires the job of another Christian! We should not covet what God has given to another brother.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Rather, we should do what God has given us to do, and do the job to the best of our ability.
~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Whom did Deborah ask to go and fight the Canaanites? Judges 4:6-8

2. Whose family was saved when the Israelites conquered Jericho? Joshua 6:25 _____
3. How many times did Samson give Delilah the wrong answer as to the secret of his strength? Judges 16:15

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“No religion can long continue to maintain its purity when the church becomes the subservient vassal of the state.”





“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts, let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD....”

Joel 2:15-17

Joel is speaking of revival and shows the progression of revival growth. It begins with hearing the call to be revived—to be filled anew with the Holy Spirit. As moved by the Holy Spirit, God’s children see the need for separation from sin. That is what the fast was all about. People were separating themselves from food for a time to focus on the Lord.

This individual revival becomes the solemn assembly as the Holy Spirit moves upon God’s people to confess sin. A willingness to be clean before the Lord begins revival. The people were then called together to be sanctified. Notice the “revival services” had already begun in the hearts of those who would hear God. Only then is the congregation brought together. No one was to be left out. The children, the older folks, even the newlyweds were called to be revived. Even the priests and ministers were called to weep before God. They were to have broken hearts before the Lord, broken over their sin and then broken over the unrighteousness of God’s people. This leads to concern for the lost.

In Biblical and modern times, there have

been many revival, some greatly published and others mostly unnoticed by the world. One thing was constant in each of these movements, they began with the hearts of believers convicted of their sin and confessing it before God. Revival will begin only as we have the same heart to repent. ~DJJ



Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with _____ let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”



Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- How did the Lord lead the children of Israel at night? Exodus 13:21
 - Star
 - Cloud
 - Wise men
 - Pillar of Fire
- What was the name of the body of water in which Pharaoh’s men drowned? Ex. 15:4
 - Sea of Galilee
 - Jordan River
 - Lake of Gennesaret
 - The Red Sea
- Of what material was the cherubim on the mercy seat made? Exodus 37:6, 7
 - Gold
 - Wood
 - Brass
 - Stone



Morning: Genesis 29, 30

Evening: Matthew 10:1-23

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Was It Worth It?

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7

Two-year-old Allan gleefully pulled a large box of toys off the shelf and grinned in delight when they cascaded across the floor. Within minutes his mother told him to pick up all the scattered toys and put them back. This process was not fun. In fact, it was painstaking. Each toy was grasped by a chubby hand and slowly transported back to the box. He was close to tears.

Toddlers rarely think about the consequences of their actions. They see something that looks fun, and they do it. They are focused on the fun of the moment, not on the laborious process of cleaning what took an instant to spill.

Sin often beguiles us with its instant gratification. It is pleasurable, within reach, and when we decide to “live in the moment,” we then live to reap the consequences. A wise person said that, “Sin takes you farther than you want to go, costs you more than you want to pay, and keeps you longer than you want to stay.”

There are many choices in life that I would give anything to do over now that I know the painful consequences. We can permanently alter our lives and the lives of others by an impulse that seemed easy and pleasurable in the moment. One principle of sowing is that you reap more than you sow. The lin-

gering pain of consequences quickly erases the memory of the fleeting pleasure. Sin is not worth it. ~AJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with _____ let your requests be made _____ unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| _____ 1. Pedahzur
Numbers 2:20 | A. Zuriel |
| _____ 2. Pagiell
Numbers 2:27 | B. Ahira |
| _____ 3. Enan
Numbers 2:29 | C. Ocran |
| _____ 4. Abihail
Numbers 3:35 | D. Gamaliel |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.”
~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:11

Mike was a great athlete. He could play almost any sport with ease. He was popular, and everyone wanted to follow his example. Mike had given his heart to Christ and had begun following God's plan, but his old friends and old ways resurfaced often. So, when he was approached by his friends who were going out to party and wanted him to attend, Mike had to make a choice.

The Apostle Paul was a man who made a dramatic turn in his life. He went from persecuting Christians to persuading people to become believers. What a transformation! Now, I am sure that Paul's old friends and old ways continued to rear their heads from time to time, but Paul made it very clear in Romans 6:11 that he was indeed dead to those former ways of life and that he was walking a new road to righteousness.

When Mike was asked to go out to the party with his friends, he politely said, "I am dead to that now." His friends looked at him as if they had seen a ghost, but they respected his decision. Mike made the choice to be dead to the sins that entangled him, and he chose to live in Christ. Though tempted and tried many times, he continued to stand firm in his faith.

Will you make the choice to daily die to your old sins and live a life pleasing to God?
~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with _____ let your requests be made _____ unto God. And the _____ of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

 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. If we lack wisdom, we should study our Bible to get it. James 1:5
- _____ 2. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels. Hebrews 2:9
- _____ 3. Paul considered himself the “chief of sinners.” 1 Timothy 1:15
- _____ 4. The head of the church is the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:23
- _____ 5. The devil walks about as a roaring lion. 1 Peter 5:8
- _____ 6. Moses made a serpent of gold. Numbers 21:9

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The winter prepares the earth for the spring, so do afflictions sanctified prepare the soul for glory.” ~Richard Sibbes



Morning: Genesis 33-35

Evening: Matthew 11

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
Ephesians 5:19*

What type of music do you like? Where do you get your standard for what type of music is right and what type of music is wrong? Again, in Ephesians 4, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are one body and should “endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit.” Like verse 18, the topic discussed in verse 19 has become another source of controversy and division among Christians. And, once again, it need not be.

Ah, music...it is hard to find a more controversial topic in the church. It is sad to think that the unsaved world does not argue about style, yet Christian people will waste time debating whether or not a drum is godly or a song that hits on the down beat can actually glorify God.

Notice how the Apostle Paul deals with music. He focuses his attention, not on the instruments being played, the volume of the singers, nor the style of the song. The context of this passage is not intended to be the doctrinal statement on music style, but on the purpose for singing. His focus is two-fold, inward exhortation and God-ward glorification. “Oh, but wait,” you might say, “he lists three styles of music.” Yes, he does. And he says for you to use ALL THREE styles! It is not a debate to decide if “psalms” are better than “hymns,” or “spiritual songs” are better than “psalms,” it is a command to use all

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

three styles to “speak to yourself” and “make melody...to the Lord.”

So, get your focus on the reason for singing and stop the debate of style. Sing psalms, sing hymns, sing spiritual songs; and as you do, “speak to yourself and make melody in your heart to the Lord.” ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with _____ let your requests be made _____ unto God. And the _____ of God, which _____ all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. How many men were originally in Gideon’s army? Judges 7:3

2. How many stones did the Israelites take out of the Jordan and set up as a memorial? Joshua 4:20

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon.”
~John Piper



Morning: Genesis 36, 37

Evening: Matthew 12:1-21



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 seen in 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 fallen 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.

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



Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with _____ let your requests be made _____ unto God. And the _____ of God, which _____ all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds _____ Christ Jesus.”



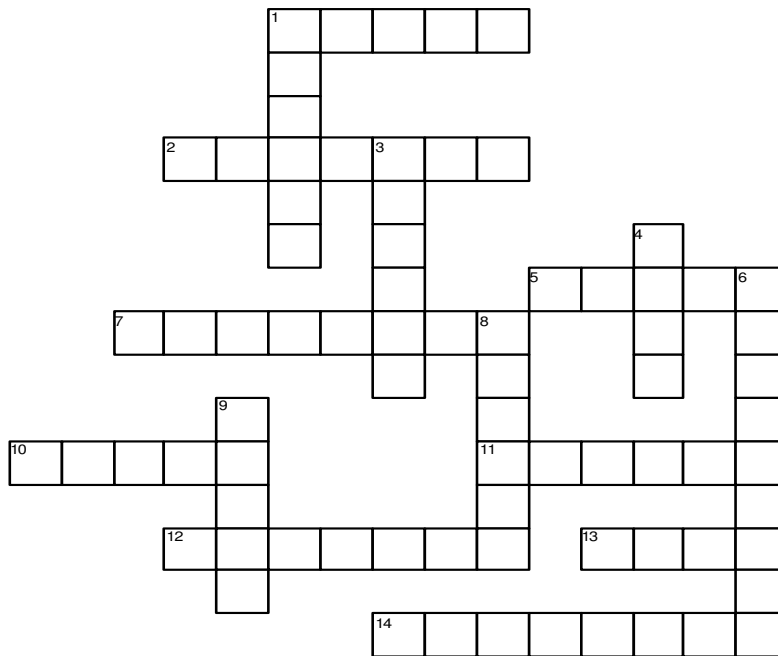
Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What or who is Pithom and Raamses?
Exodus 1:11
 - A. Pharaohs of Egypt
 - B. Cities in Egypt
 - C. Rivers in Egypt
 - D. Kings of Egypt
2. Oshea was another name for whom?
Numbers 13:16
 - A. Jesus
 - B. Pharaoh
 - C. Aaron
 - D. Jehosua
3. How many cities of refuge were there?
Joshua 20:7-8
 - A. Three
 - B. Five
 - C. Six
 - D. Seven



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Bible Facts



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 First bird sent out of the ark Gen. 8:7
- 2 Abraham's second wife Gen. 25:1
- 5 Joseph called his brothers this when they came to Egypt to buy grain. Gen. 42:9
- 7 How many cows were in Joseph's dream? Gen. 41:2-3
- 10 God confounded language here. Gen. 11:9
- 11 First son of Jacob Gen. 35:23
- 12 Sarah did this when she was told she would have a son. Gen. 18:10-12
- 13 Second bird sent out of the ark Gen. 8:8
- 14 Hagar's nationality Gen. 16:1

DOWN

- 1 God did this on the seventh day. Gen. 2:2
- 3 She was Jacob's favorite wife. Gen. 29:28-30
- 4 Rachel did this when Benjamin was born. Gen. 35:16-19
- 6 Joseph was _____ when he was sold into slavery in Egypt. Gen. 37:2, 28
- 8 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Gen. 10:9
- 9 Noah built this when he came out of the ark. Gen. 8:18-20

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”
Romans 16:20

In this passage the Scripture calls God the God of peace. But it also says that the God of peace is going to go to war with Satan and bruise him. God wants to give us peace. But in order for us to have the peace of God, we must be at peace with God. Our God truly is the God of peace. He is the Prince of Peace, and He can give us the peace that passes all understanding. In order for us to experience that peace, we must be on His side and in His will.

One day, God’s kingdom will be established on the earth, and Satan will be out of the way. Then, we will have the true peace that only God can bring. Until that day, we have the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to sustain through any trial that we might face, the peace that comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the promises from the Holy Scriptures.

Before Jesus was going to be crucified, He gave comfort to His disciples with these words. ***“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*** John 14:27

The same God of peace can give you His peace today. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Arrest of Christ. John 18
A. Judas B. Mary
C. Jesus D. Peter
E. Malchus F. Pilate
2. Crucifixion of Christ. John 19
A. Soldiers B. Mary, His mother
C. Nicodemus D. Mary Magdalene
E. Thieves F. Saul of Tarsus
3. Resurrection story. John 20
A. Peter B. Disciples
C. Angels D. Jesus
E. Solomon F. Mary Magdalene

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Afflictions are light when compared with what we really deserve. They are light when compared with the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. But perhaps their real lightness is best seen by comparing them with the weight of glory which is awaiting us.” ~Arthur W. Pink



“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 3:18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were compatriots of Daniel. Along with Daniel, they were taken captive by the Babylonian army. These young Jewish men were of good breeding and superior stock. They were selected to be trained in Babylon and become leaders while they were under captivity. They alone, with Daniel, refused to eat the king’s meat or drink his wine. When they were commanded to bow down to the golden image, they refused. Why? Most would admit, if they were honest, it would be much easier to compromise their convictions when they are away from home, away at college, or on a vacation, etc. Someone has said that the test of true character is what you would do if nobody found out about it. Following the majority is not always the right thing to do before God.

The Babylonian empire was the greatest the world has ever seen, but Daniel and his friends would not compromise all they had been taught. Due to the fact that they held positions in authority, they would no doubt suffer great loss if they did not compromise their convictions.

In Daniel 3:16, the first word said by three Hebrew boys to King Nebuchadnezzar was “We.” There were three of them, and that made it easier for them to stand together. It is always easier for us to stand if we have some-

one to stand with. Therefore, it is very important for us to find others of like faith and convictions to stand with us at school, at work, etc.

Because the three Hebrew boys stood for God, the Son of God stood with him in the fiery furnace. Be assured that Jesus will do the same for us if we take a stand for Him.
~OV



Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”



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. God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7
- _____ 2. Greater than love and hope is faith.
1 Corinthians 13:13
- _____ 3. The just shall live by faith.
Romans 1:17
- _____ 4. The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword. Heb. 4:12
- _____ 5. Believers are not to be yoked together with unbelievers.
2 Corinthians 6:14



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed Him.” Mark 1:17-18

Do we really believe what we say we believe? This is a question that has plagued me recently. If I really believe what I say that I believe, how has it affected my life? If I am convinced that the Bible is the perfect infallible Word of God, then why do I spend so little of my life mining its riches? If I am staking my eternity upon a belief that Jesus Christ is the only path to salvation, why have I not shared that truth with every person I know?

Peter and Andrew did not merely say they “believed” in Jesus; they forsook everything to follow Him and put actions to their words. They stopped having a religion and began the greatest relationship of their lives. Nothing became more important than following Christ. Their conviction and commitment, coupled with that same conviction of others who followed Jesus, changed the world forever. The twelve disciples were used by God because they lived what they said they believed.

Perhaps, we do not commit this way or are not excited because we are not really convinced of this truth. Maybe we have spent so little time in prayer and studying God’s Word that we do not even know what we believe or why. How personally has the God of the universe affected our lives? If we are convinced that the Bible is true, that Jesus has come to save us—forgiving our sin and giving us a new life— and that He IS coming again, why

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

in so many cases do our lives not show it? Many people wanted to be healed by Christ. Many wanted a life change. Many “believed,” but how many followed? Are we believers—content with our salvation—just happy not to be going to hell—or are we disciples—willing to give our very breath to serve our Saviour? ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give _____ unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Name the god of the Philistines.
Judges 16:23 _____
2. In the battle in which the sun stood still, what caused most of the enemy to be slain? Joshua 10:11-13

3. Gideon’s father had an altar to what false god? Judges 6:25 _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“If Jesus preached the same message ministers preach today, He would have never been crucified.” ~Leonard Ravenhill





Running from Bulls

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

As I jogged past a farm that had over twenty powerful rust-colored bulls, my heart started pounding hard. Their black, beady eyes looked out between yellowish horns. My eyes darted from bull to bull, and I wondered which one would rip through the fence and end my life. I ran away fast and decided to avoid jogging on that road again.

A few weeks later, someone told me those huge bulls were actually longhorn cows. The owner called them names like Daisy, Martha, and Dotty, and they responded to their names like docile sheep. Emboldened by this new information, I faced my fears and jogged past the bull fence. I was shocked when instead of charging me, they ran away—they were scared of *me!*

Fear is a powerful emotion, but it is not always based in reality. Fear can cripple us and control our actions and thoughts. Fear often stems from something that is partially true but distorted by our imagination. I have been afraid to obey God before—afraid of what the outcome would be. Now, that is irrational! By dwelling on the imagined results of my obedience, instead of on the character and promises of an all-powerful, all-knowing God, I limited God’s ability to use and bless me. Even faced with an overwhelming threat, David, a young shepherd, faced a giant war-

rior and defeated him. That’s the kind of God we serve. He can conquer our fears, both real and imagined. If you have fears about the future, if you are reluctant to obey God; then give those fears to God today and allow him to change your perspective.

~AJD



Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give _____ unto the LORD, and to sing _____ unto thy name, O Most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”



Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What nationality was Samson’s wife?
Judges 14:1-15
A. Egyptian B. Philistine
C. Hebrew D. Greek
2. Who was Delilah’s boyfriend?
Judges 16:1, 4
A. David B. Reuben
C. Samson D. Joseph
3. What city was given to Caleb for his part in spying out the land? Joshua 14:13
A. Canaan B. Jerusalem
C. Ai D. Hebron



“Those who give much without sacrifice are reckoned as having given little.”

~Erwin Lutzer



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.” Romans 7:15

I love watching football. I love watching those 300-pound linemen push their opponents down the field. The discipline they have to hold their block for ten, fifteen, or more yards is always very impressive. The power they show and keep throughout a play separates the good from the great.

I have known many players just like this over the years who have had the power to drive their opponents into the ground, but when it comes to other areas of their life, they do not have discipline or power. They can't help but click a mouse and go to Internet sites they do not need to visit. They have no power to say no to others who want them to drink, do drugs, or engage in sexual activities. The discipline on the field is where it stops.

Paul speaks of this battle in Romans 7. Though Paul loves God's Word, there is a power within him—and each of us—that is at war with the mind. What is this thing that is so powerful that it causes us to struggle so much? It is our sinful nature and desires. And I am as guilty as the next person. As an athlete, I was disciplined to follow through on the given play, game plan or strategy, but off the field the same discipline was not always practiced. We need to make sure that we renew our mind each day by spending time in God's Word and in prayer. ~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give _____ unto the LORD, and to sing _____ unto thy name, O Most High: To _____ forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- To what city in Judah did Ruth come? Ruth 1:22
A. Bethlehem B. Bethel
C. Moab D. Jerusalem
- To which tribe of Israel did Samson belong? Judges 13:2, 24
A. Dan B. Levi
C. Benjamin D. Reuben
- Where did David get the stones with which he fought Goliath? 1 Sam. 17:40
A. On the plain B. At a quarry
C. From a brook D. At home
- What kind of people were the sons of Anak? Numbers 13:33
A. Giants B. Midgets
C. Dead People D. Friendly

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"We believe that the work of regeneration, conversion, sanctification and faith, is not an act of man's free will and power, but of the mighty, efficacious and irresistible grace of God." ~Charles Spurgeon



Morning: Genesis 49, 50

Evening: Matthew 15:1-20

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”
Ephesians 5:18**

In Ephesians 4, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are one body and we should “endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit.” In chapter 5, the words of the apostle have been the source of controversy and division among Christians for centuries, but they need not be.

Pause for a minute and take a look at one verse and interpret it in light of the context in which it is found. Many good people have used verse 18 to justify social drinking by stressing the word “drunk.” (i.e., “Paul said not to be ‘drunk’ with wine. He never said not to drink it. If I am not drunk,” they reason, “I can drink alcohol.”) However, when interpreting Scripture, or any writing for that matter, you must understand what is written in light of the passage. Look closely; nowhere before or after this verse does the Apostle Paul address the topic of alcohol.

This passage was never meant to be the standard by which someone decides the morality of drinking alcohol. Notice the context: “but be filled with the Spirit.” The Apostle Paul is using a known idea (how someone is controlled by alcohol when they are drunk) to picture how someone should be controlled by the Spirit. This passage should not be one’s standard for social drinking, but rather one’s standard for a Spirit controlled life. Give up control of your life. Allow the Spirit to take control just like alcohol controls a drunk man. When the Holy Spirit is in control of your life and my life, we can be one in Christ and

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

whether or not to drink alcohol is not an issue for debate.

Want a Biblical standard for alcohol? See Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 23:29-35 ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give _____ unto the LORD, and to sing _____ unto thy name, O Most High: To _____ forth thy _____ in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

 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. Jesus called Herod a devil. Luke 13:31-32
- _____ 2. Jesus cast many devils out of a man called Legion. Luke 8:30
- _____ 3. Jesus cast out demons from a man and into a herd of cows. Luke 8:33
- _____ 4. A beggar named Lazarus sat at a rich man’s gate. Luke 16:20
- _____ 5. The story of David and Goliath is found in 1 Samuel 17

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet.” ~E. M. Bounds



Morning: Exodus 1-3

Evening: Matthew 15:21-39

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Good to Bad

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

After God created the world and everything therein, He said it was good. It was perfect. There was no job half done. There was nothing in his engineering that was a wee bit off. There was no color scheme that was not in line with His original intent. There was nothing that could have been done better. It was good!

So, what happened to God’s perfect creation in which nothing was wrong? How do we live in a polluted, blood hungry world in which we lock our doors and night, fear stepping foot on an airplane, and worry about death? The answer is simply SIN. Oh dear believer, this was never the intent of our Creator. He strategically designed a world with no fear, worry, or death. In this perfect world, we were designed to have a wonderful life, communing with God Himself.

Thinking of how life could have been if not for sin should make us hate sin so much that we rid our lives of the sin that holds us captive. What sin is that in your life? Is it bitterness, gossip, worry, stealing, deceit, pornography, unfaithfulness, or pride? James 4:7 says, *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

Because of sin, we live in a polluted world. Because of sin, we fear fellow man. Because of sin, we worry about tomorrow. Because of sin, death is sure. Oh believers, we must hate

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

sin. Hate it with all your heart, and run as far away from it as you can. It has destroyed this world, and it will destroy you. ~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a _____ thing to give _____ unto the LORD, and to sing _____ unto thy name, O Most High: To _____ forth thy _____ in the morning, and thy _____ every night.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. Who was told to be “strong and of a good courage?” Joshua 1:1,6

2. Who was the son of Manoah?
Judges 13:2, 24 _____
3. Who claimed to wholly follow the Lord?
Joshua 14:6-8 _____
4. Which of the judges defeated Ammon?
Judges 11:32-33

5. What happened to Ruth’s first husband in Moab? Ruth 1:4-5

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Prayer is the acid test of devotion."
~Samuel Chadwick



Morning: Exodus 4-6

Evening: Matthew 16

The Bread of Life . . . Page 27

(Fresh Start continued from page 11)

repentful heart turns from the error of his ways.

After your relationship with God is restored, evaluate your relationships with other people. Have you offended someone and not tried to restore that relationship? With your words or actions have you hurt someone? Sometimes, others are not willing to give you a second chance, but you are just responsible for yourself. Make sure that you have done what God would have you to do in restoring relationships with others.

When you have a clean heart, you are ready for a fresh start. After David committed adultery and murder, he cried out to God, **“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”** (Psalm 51:10) With fellowship restored with the Father, you can seek God’s will for your life. Ask Him what course He wants you to take, what dream He wishes for you to accomplish, or what obstacle He wants you to tackle.

Dear friend, life is too short to live lamenting, regretting, and dwelling in the past. We are urged in Philippians 3:14 to **“press toward**

the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” At the start of 2010, make sure you are heading in the right direction. Make your relationship with God and others is right. Then, determine that you are going to press on for Jesus Christ. As you start fresh this January, anticipate God working in your life in a magnificent way!♦

FACING A NEW YEAR

Standing at the portal of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us, hushing every fear;
Spoken through the silence by our Father’s voice,
Tender, strong, and faithful, making us rejoice.
Onward then, and fear not, children of the day!
For His Word shall never, never pass away!

For the year before us, oh, what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy living streams shall rise;
For the sad and sinful shall His grace abound;
For the faint and feeble, perfect strength be found.
Onward then, and fear not, children of the day!
For His Word shall never, never pass away.

~Frances Ridley Havergal

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.” Psalm 101:3

upon wicked things. We would do well to make the same decisions in our own lives.
~DLW

This passage tells us about some things that the psalm writer had determined that he was not going to allow in his life. He knew that they would affect him in a negative way, so he made a commitment to remove their influence from his life.

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

The first choice was in regards to what he was going to view. In verse three, he said ***“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”*** This would be a great verse to put on top of your television. What effect do the things you watch have upon you spiritually? Do they cause you to lust, to covet, to be dissatisfied with things in your life? Do they influence your philosophies or effect your moral opinions?

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

He also realized that he had to use the same power of choice when it came to his friends. In verse four, he said, “I will not know a wicked person.” I know that many of us do not have the ability to pick our associates in the workplace or classroom. I know that you will not win most people to Christ until you have established a relationship with them. We must use caution and discernment when choosing our close friends. The question becomes how are my close friends affecting my walk with God.

1. What was Andrew’s occupation?
Matthew 4:18
A. Tax Collector B. Fishing
C. Carpenter D. Prophet
2. What was the man carrying who led the disciples to the place where they would share the Passover? Mark 14:13-14
A. Bowl B. Bundle
C. Pitcher D. Bow
3. How many sparrows were sold for a farthing? Matthew 10:29
A. One B. Two
C. None D. Three

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.”
~George Whitefield

David decided that he would not have wicked friends and that he would not look



Morning: Exodus 7, 8

Evening: Matthew 17



True Greatness

“But whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.”

Mark 10:43-44

Some of the greatest people on this earth in God’s eyes are probably people you and I have never heard of. They are not rich or famous. They have not ruled nations, led churches, or been written up in the newspapers. They are not wealthy or famous. Nevertheless, they are truly great because they are faithful servants of Christ. They have been faithful with the tasks that God gave them to do.

You may be familiar with the parable of the talents. A man gave a different amount of money to each of his servants. He commended those servants who were faithful with what they had received. He did not criticize the man who had received two talents for earning less than the man who had received five talents. He praised both men for being good stewards of what they had received.

If you are a student of church history, you may have heard of the missionary Adoniram Judson, the first Baptist missionary from America; but have you ever heard of the name of his servant Ko Tha Byu? Byu was a slave from Burma (modern day Myanmar) who was bought by a Christian friend of Judson. Judson won Byu to Christ and discipled him. Byu subsequently undertook many preaching

tours through the jungles to share the Gospel with his own people. Within a hundred years of Byu’s conversion, there were more than 150,000 Karen believers in 800 churches. Such is the impact of a faithful servant of the Lord. ~DJB



John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”



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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| ___ 1. Aaron
Exodus 6:25 | A. Aholiab |
| ___ 2. Uri
Exodus 31:2 | B. Amminadab |
| ___ 3. Ahisamach
Exodus 31:6 | C. Bezaleel |
| ___ 4. Nahshon
Numbers 2:3 | D. Eleazar |



Death is only a grim porter to let us into a stately palace. “ ~Richard Sibbes



Morning: Exodus 9, 10

Evening: Matthew 18:1-20

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“And the servant of the Lord must not strive but be gentle unto all men...in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive.”
II Timothy 2:24-26*

this, Paul calls us to actions using the same salvation message that set us free to share the message of freedom with our captive world.
~DJD

There are several gems of Biblical truth in this passage. First, Paul, by the power of the Holy Spirit, instructs us to be gentle. That is we should see the world as Christ does—full of lost souls for whom He died. This is not to say we cannot be bold with the truth of the Gospel but that we should do so with compassion.

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be _____ me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

Secondly, we need to share the truth. Our world is so deceived by the lies of Satan. His lies say that we are nothing special, just descendants of monkeys. He says that we are basically good and do not really need a Saviour. Using the media and humanism, he has convinced the world that our time here on earth is to be nothing more than a self-serving search for pleasure. Just like in the garden, God has a perfect plan for the best in life, and Satan provides a counterfeit that brings death.

 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.

Finally, we are reminded that those without Christ are held captive by the prince of this world. Seeing the lost as captives of war can really change our perspective on soul-winning. Imprisoned in a life that leads to emptiness, they are starving for the love of Christ, and He wants us to be the vehicle by which they find it. We were once there and sometime still fall prey to the captive lies of Satan. Knowing

- ___ 1. A repetitious prayer avails much. James 5:16
- ___ 2. Judas was called the beloved physician. Colossians 4:14
- ___ 3. Paul’s desire for Israel was that they would be saved. Romans 10:1
- ___ 4. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah
- ___ 5. David caused the death of Uriah. 2 Samuel 11:15

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" ~Corrie Ten Boom



Morning: Exodus 11, 12

Evening: Matthew 18:21-35

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

2 Corinthians 6:17

We are plainly commanded in this verse to be separated from the world. There are times when a Christian does not know exactly which way he should go. There are things that would seem right to some, and yet to others, they seem wrong. I suppose every consecrated Christian has a thing or two that he separates himself from that is peculiar to his own life. We must certainly have Christian grace and observe Christian charity in such cases. However, there are some tests that will help each of us to know what is right and what is wrong.

1. Will it glorify God? - (1 Cor. 10:31) We are commanded that in everything we do, we are to glorify Him.
2. Is it doubtful? - (Rom. 14:23) The Apostle Paul said, “In case of doubt, it is best not to participate.” This is the safe thing to do. If there is doubt, do not do it until all doubts are erased.
3. Will it hurt my testimony? There is nothing more important than reaching folks for Christ. We must be sure that we do nothing to keep people from accepting Christ as Saviour. If something is not basically wrong, but it would hurt our testimony with the unsaved, then we should not do it.
4. Will we disappoint those who have confidence in us? Would it cause someone to be disappointed in us or hurt their Christian walk? If so, we would be very wise to not participate. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be _____ me where I am; that they may _____ my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

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

1. Who was described as “ruddy, ...of beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to”? 1 Samuel 16:12-13

2. Who tried to be king before David? 2 Samuel 15:1-10 _____
3. Who mourned the death of Absalom? 2 Samuel 18:33 _____
4. Where did David live when he was King over Judah only? 2 Samuel 2:11

5. Who gave David his royal robe? 1 Samuel 18:4 _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Faith and obedience are inescapably related. There is no saving faith in God apart from obedience to God, and there can be no godly obedience without godly faith.”

~John MacArthur



Morning: Exodus 13-15

Evening: Matthew 19:1-15

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Love Without Fear

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.” Proverbs 29:25

I wrestle with a habitual fear of losing friendships. This does not indicate a healthy love but a misplaced desire to gain my sense of worth from other people. I make people my idol. When I love people with fear of losing them, I do not speak the needed words that may be hard for them to hear. I may cater to their weaknesses instead of encouraging them to change. The realization of this has set me down the path to love people the way God wants me to. True friends are those who speak the truth in love. When a friend rebukes me, it may sting momentarily, but I then realize that it took courage to risk losing my friendship. I realize they truly care about what is best for me; therefore, I value their friendship even more.

Ed Welch wrote, “The most radical treatment for the fear of man is the fear of the Lord. God must be bigger to you than people are.... Regarding other people, our problem is that we need them (for ourselves) more than we love them (for the glory of God). The task God sets for us is to need them less and love them more.”

The antidote to idolizing people is to put God in the proper place in your life. When you are secure in His love, you are free to love people without fear, knowing that God will never forsake you. ~AJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be _____ me where I am; that they may _____ my _____, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Who said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”? Matthew 16:16
A. Simon Peter B. Andrew
C. John the Baptist D. Judas
2. From what town did the man come who buried the body of Jesus? Matt. 27:57-60
A. Bethel B. Arimathea
C. Bethlehem D. Judah
3. Out of what did Satan suggest that Jesus make bread? Matthew 4:3
A. Flour B. Wheat
C. Stone D. Barley

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Wise leaders should have known that the human heart cannot exist in a vacuum. If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh....Christ died for our hearts and the Holy Spirit wants to come and satisfy them.”

~A. W. Tozer



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things.”

1 Timothy 4:8

I love the fact that Paul draws a comparison between physical and spiritual training. But most of us do one of two things with this passage. We either completely discount the benefits of physical training, or we miss the fact that we should actually engage in spiritual training.

To be honest, neither of these responses is correct. Obviously, spiritual training is superior to physical training. Eventually, our bodies will wear out and break down. Thankfully, we will receive a new, incorruptible body in Heaven! But, that doesn't mean we shouldn't take care of everything that God has entrusted to us—including our bodies. In fact, we are called to love God with all of our mind and strength. That means that our physical condition will have a direct impact on our moods, our emotions, our clarity of mind, our energy, and our strength.

On the other side, those of us who understand how important it is to be physically healthy often miss the fact that we need to train spiritually. That means we need a plan. And we need to sacrifice time, effort, and energy in order to get stronger in our relationship with God. We must intentionally do whatever it takes to renew our mind, hear from God, be refreshed, and combat the influence of our flesh and the world. ~AP

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be _____ me where I am; that they may _____ my _____, which thou hast _____ me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Fill In: Fill in the blank that completes the statement.

1. “God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to _____ for you.”
1 Samuel 12:23
2. “I have _____ against the LORD.” 2 Samuel 12:13
3. “And God gave Solomon _____ and _____ exceeding much, and largeness of _____, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.” 1 Kings 4:29
4. “And the LORD was _____ with Solomon, because his heart was _____ from the LORD God of Israel....”
1 Kings 11:9

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.” ~George Whitefield



Morning: Exodus 19-21

Evening: Matthew 20:1-16

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

The Dependency of the Branches

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5

The vine is the source of nutrition for the branches of a tree. Without the vine, the branches will die. Jesus used this illustration to show the dependency of Christians on Him, the True Vine. The verse for today closes by saying, **“For without me ye can do nothing.”** That is a pretty dramatic statement, but oh so true! The parable of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-14 is referred often to in pulpits across America. Even little kids have sung the truth of the parable in the song, “His Banner Over Me Is Love.” But do we really continually live with the mindset that we can do NOTHING without our True Vine? Physically, mentally, and spiritually, God’s children are dependent upon Him.

Physically—Psalm 27:1 says, **“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”**

Mentally—Proverbs 2:6 says, **“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”**

Spiritually—Psalm 119:114 says, **“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”**

Total dependence upon the Savior leads to freedom in life. Daily find your source of

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

strength, wisdom, and hope in God for without Him, you can do NOTHING! ~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou _____ given me, be _____ me where I am; that they may _____ my _____, which thou hast _____ me: for thou lovedst me before the _____ of the world.”

 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. Jacob was sold into slavery. Genesis 37:28
- ___ 2. Isaac’s wife was Rachel. Genesis 24:62
- ___ 3. Noah had three sons. Gen. 6:10
- ___ 4. Reuben tried to save Joseph from being sold into slavery. Genesis 37:21-22
- ___ 5. Joseph’s brother, Judah, offered to become a slave in place of Benjamin. Genesis 44:33

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Whatever subject I preach, I do not stop until I reach the Saviour, the Lord Jesus, for in Him are all things.” ~Charles Spurgeon





Wise or Foolish

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man . . . And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man.” Matthew 7:24, 26

Are you wise or foolish in God’s eyes? What distinguishes the two? From these verses we learn that both the wise and foolish person hears Jesus’ words. The only difference between the two is obedience. The wise person hears and obeys, but the fool hears and does not obey.

It is time we stop considering Bible knowledge the mark of wisdom. Anyone can learn facts about the Bible. Anyone can impress others with his command of the content of the Bible. Bible knowledge is important, but it does not necessarily mean a person is wise.

Jesus identifies obedience as the mark of true wisdom. James wrote, *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”* (James 1:22) It is not enough to hear the Word. It is not enough to know it. We must obey it. James also wrote, *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”* (James 4:17) We know we are supposed to forgive, but we don’t. We know we are supposed to love our neighbor as ourselves, but we don’t. We know God’s Word, but we do not obey it.

That is foolishness. Do you want to be wise in God’s eyes? Obey him! ~DJB



Psalm 37:7-8 “Rest in the LORD, and wait 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.”



Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. How much money did a poor widow cast into the treasury? Mark 12:42
A. One mite B. Two mites
C. Three mites D. Four mites
2. Name the place where Jesus prayed after the Last Supper. Matthew 26:36
A. Mt. of Olives
B. Gethsemane
C. Upper room
D. The temple

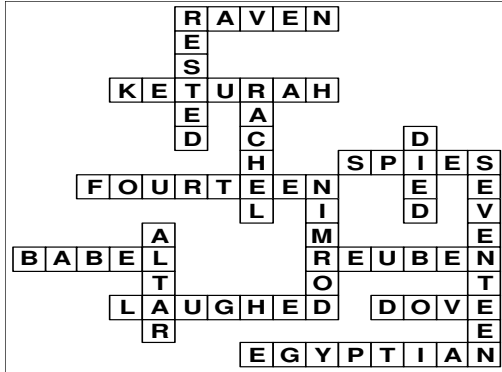


“The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.” ~A. W. Tozer

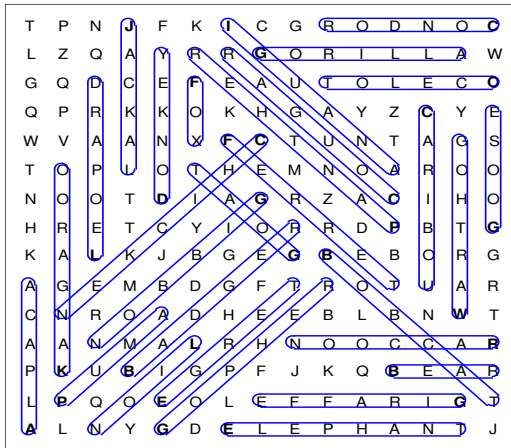


Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

Bible Facts



Noah's Ark Zoo



- Jan. 1 Pg 2 1T, 2F, 3F, 4T
- Jan. 2 Pg 3 1Caleb, 2Laban, 3Jacob, 4Pharaoh
- Jan. 3 Pg 4 1B, 2A, 3C
- Jan. 4 Pg 5 1B, 2D, 3F, 4El, 5G, 6C, 7A
- Jan. 5 Pg 6 1T, 2T, 3F
- Jan. 6 Pg 7 1proud, humble, 2need, riches, 3planted, God, increase, 4de-

- Jan. 7 Pg 8 1Balaam, 2David, 3Peter, 4Martha, 5A keeper of sheep, 6By fire and brimstone
- Jan. 8 Pg 9 1D, 2B, 3A
- Jan. 9 Pg 10 1E, 2F, 3A
- Jan. 10 Pg 12 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5F
- Jan. 11 Pg 13 1Barak, 2Rahab's, 3three times
- Jan. 12 Pg 14 1D, 2D, 3A
- Jan. 13 Pg 15 1D, 2C, 3B, 4A
- Jan. 14 Pg 16 1F, 2T, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6F
- Jan. 15 Pg 17 1-32,000, 2-Twelve
- Jan. 16 Pg 18 1B, 2D, 3C
- Jan. 17 Pg 20 1B, 2F, 3E
- Jan. 18 Pg 21 1T, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T
- Jan. 19 Pg 22 1Dagon, 2Hailstones, 3Baal
- Jan. 20 Pg 23 1B, 2C, 3D
- Jan. 21 Pg 24 1A, 2D, 3C, 4A
- Jan. 22 Pg 25 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T
- Jan. 23 Pg 26 1Joshua, 2Samson, 3Caleb, 4Jephthah, 5He died
- Jan. 24 Pg 28 1B, 2C, 3B
- Jan. 25 Pg 29 1D, 2C, 3A, 4B
- Jan. 26 Pg 30 1F, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T
- Jan. 27 Pg 31 1David, 2Absalom, 3David, 4Hebron, 5Jonathan
- Jan. 28 Pg 32 1A, 2B, 3C
- Jan. 29 Pg 33 1pray, 2sinned, 3wisdom, understanding, heart, 4angry, turned
- Jan. 30 Pg 34 1F, 2F, 3T, 4T, 5T
- Jan. 31 Pg 35 1B, 2B

