

Monday

January 2

Morning: *Genesis 3-5*
Evening: *Matthew 2*

A Dwelling Place

“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.” Psalm 90:1

The authorship of Psalm 90 is generally attributed to the work of Moses. The exact time that the psalm was written is not conclusive. However, some theologians believe that it was written when the Israelites received the sentence that they would wander around and die in the wilderness and never enter the promised land.

In this psalm, Moses gives hope to God’s people. He states in our verse for today that God is our “dwelling place.” In God, we find safety. How wonderful to know that despite our shortcomings we can always find a safe place with God. Not only does He provide a refuge for us, but He also has taken care of “all generations.”

I have a very godly heritage. Throughout the years, I have seen God’s faithfulness in my grandparent’s lives and my parents’. When each of my grandmothers past away, I received a journal. My maternal grandmother’s journal showed God’s faithfulness amidst mankind’s mistakes. My paternal grandmother’s journal was filled with quotes and verses she had collected over the years, and I knew that she had leaned on those truths throughout her lifetime. My grandmothers’ lives were filled with much sorrow, but both of them chose to dwell in the safety of their Heavenly Father. In so doing, their lives pointed to an amazing personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

Being able to look back at God’s provision of past generations gives me hope today. Charles Spurgeon said in the *Spurgeon Devotional Commentary*, “We wander in tents, but, like our fathers, we dwell in thee. Sweet thought, in every age—God is the home of his people.” Oh, how sweet to dwell in the safety of Almighty God! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Copy: Verse two of Psalm 90 gives further assurance that God has always been and will always be. Copy verse two in the spaces provided.

Quote of the Day

“The sacred promises, though in themselves most sure and precious, are of no avail for the comfort and sustenance of the soul unless you grasp them by faith, plead them in prayer, expect them by hope, and receive them with gratitude.” ~Charles Spurgeon

Tuesday

January 3

Wilderness Wanderings

“Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, as LORD spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days.” Deuteronomy 2:1

As I was reading this chapter, I noticed that the children of Israel were on their way to the promised land. But before arriving, they passed through some foreign nations. God told Moses to gather the people together and instruct them as to how they should behave on their journey through a foreign land. The foreign land represents the world. The children of Israel represent God’s people.

Several verses in Deuteronomy 2 instructed the Israelites as to how they were to behave as they journeyed through these lands. Let us take notice of them:

1. They were not to meddle with the foreigners. (vs. 5)
2. They were not to become involved or enraptured with the possessions of the heathen land. (vs. 5)
3. They were instructed to be honest. (vs. 6)
4. They were not to be affected by the Moabites. (vs. 9)
5. They were instructed not to enter into conflicts with the Moabites. (vs. 9)
6. They were to stay on the highway. (vs. 27-28)

God has charted us a course through this pagan world. We are to follow that course, ever doing His will. ~OV

Morning: Genesis 6-8

Evening: Matthew 3

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy _____, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Moses or Joshua? Put an ‘M’ in the blank if the statement refers to Moses. Put a ‘J’ in the blank if the statement refers to Joshua.

- _____ 1. He killed an Egyptian taskmaster. (Ex. 2:11-22)
- _____ 2. He led the people into the land of Canaan. (Josh. 1:1-18)
- _____ 3. His father was Nun (Num. 13:8)
- _____ 4. He died at age 110. (Jdg. 2:8)
- _____ 5. He was present with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Mt. 17:3)
- _____ 6. He reproved his own flesh and blood for making a golden image. (Ex. 32:22-23)

Quote of the Day

“It is a mistake to suppose that God does not want us to be holy until death, for that would mean that He wants us to be unholy until death. God does not want us to be unholy at any time.”
~Anonymous

Wednesday

January 4

Morning: Genesis 9-11
Evening: Matthew 4

Who You Are in Christ

“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 the darkness into his marvellous light.” I Peter 2:9

Jesus Christ has called us to come out of the darkness of sin and become his special people. This verse provides some insight into what God thinks of us and who we should be.

We are a chosen people. Jesus died specifically for each of us. His desire was never for mere religious activity to “appease” Him. The relationship He desires is one that is personal.

We are a royal priesthood after the order of Jesus Himself and pictured in Melchizedek with complete access to the throne of God through the Son. Jesus is our King and High Priest; and as His priests and as children of the Father, we have been adopted into the royal family. We have been saved to rule with Him and to have access to Him.

We are called a holy nation because we are no longer slaves to sin. We are no longer to spend our time in idolatry, but having yielded to the only true God Jehovah, we are to be holy as we seek to be like Him.

Finally, we are peculiar in our called-out status. We are to live in this world but to be very different than it.

Having been given such great gifts and standing before God, we should sound forth thunderous praise of our Redeemer knowing

that one day we will rule and reign with Him.
~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy _____, _____ in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble some of the words found in today’s Bible verse.

- _____ 1. H O S N E C
- _____ 2. I G T H L
- _____ 3. O R A L Y
- _____ 4. C L E P A R I U
- _____ 5. A E P I S R S
- _____ 6. K E S D N A R S
- _____ 7. T N N O A I

Quote of the Day

“I am to become a Christ to my neighbor and be for him what Christ is for me.”
~Martin Luther

Thursday

January 5

Morning: *Genesis 12-14*
Evening: *Matthew 5:1-26*

Let Your Light Shine

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

God is glorious and worthy of all of the glory of our lives. This verse gives us a pattern of how we can bring glory to Him. We are called to let our light shine, which begs the question, “What is our light?” According to this verse, our light is the good work that we do in obedience to the Scriptures and the Savior.

We let our light shine before men. As others see our good works, they will question what makes us different. Why are we willing to sacrifice? Why are we willing to serve? Why are we willing to forgive? Why are we willing to suffer? What causes us to assemble together on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and on Wednesday night? Where do we get such peace and what gives us such wisdom? How did we change from what we once were? When they see it, they should desire and thirst for it. That is when God receives the glory that He deserves. When the Christ-like changes in our lives become evident to the world, then God receives glory.

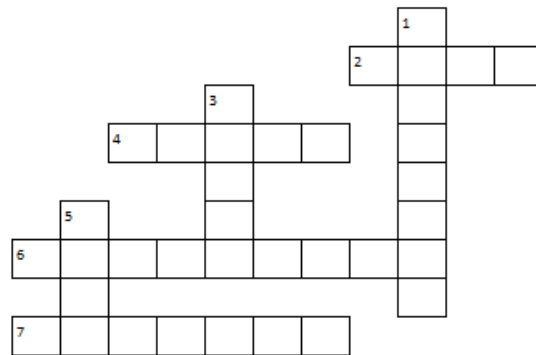
That is the time when we have the best opportunity to share Christ with others. When the unsaved receive Christ, there are more people available to bring glory to God. Do good works; let your light shine; and your Father in Heaven will receive the glory in which He is worthy. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy _____, _____ in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the _____ of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Crossword Puzzle: Complete the verses by filling in the puzzle.



DOWN

- “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in _____, but shall have the light of life.” (Jn. 8:12)
- “Arise, shine; for thy _____ is come.” (Is. 60:1)
- “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an _____ cannot be hid.” (Mt. 5:14)

ACROSS

- “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should _____ in them.” (Eph. 2:10)
- “That ye may be blameless . . . in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye _____ as lights in the world.” (Phil. 2:15)
- “Then shall the _____ shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Mt. 13:43)
- “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and _____ your Father.” (Mt. 5:16)

Friday
January 6

A New Year

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

We stand on the threshold of a new year. Most people generally look at the new year as a fresh beginning, an opportunity to start over, to overcome a habit, or do a better job of something they see as important and that needs improvement. It may be parenting, being a better spouse, losing weight; it may be developing different priorities, using our time better, or a whole list of things that we would like to change.

So, we usually hear a lot about New Year's resolutions—resolutions which are usually broken in a matter of weeks. Many people are very pessimistic about the whole issue of making resolutions, and rightly so, because so many good intentions are followed by a history of past failures.

But the new year is a time to reflect and think about what the past year has brought and what the new year could bring. It is a time to stop and take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits, and goals. We need to introspectively ask ourselves particular questions. “What should I be doing as a Christian with my life?” “Is my stewardship pleasing to God seeing all that God has given me?” After all, according to the Word of God, all of life is stewardship—stewardship of our time, talents, treasures, and God's truth. In other words, since God's plan and our stewardship revolve around and through the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, we

Morning: *Genesis 15-17*

Evening: *Matthew 5:27-48*

need to each ask, "How well am I responding to the Savior and the spiritual life that He has given me?"

Let us stop and examine the past year, and make a conscience effort for Christ in this New Year. ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy _____, _____ in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the _____ of God, _____ for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. What strides did you make spiritually in 2011? _____

2. What could you have done better?

3. How can you be a better steward of God's blessings in 2012? _____

Saturday

January 7

Sibling Love

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” I John 4:7-11

As Christians, we are all on the same team. Growing up, my brother and I got into many fights. I usually won and also had the knack for winning the fight and still coming out with the scratches, so he got in more trouble. However, there was always the looming punishment if we got caught fighting.

One time, we were in a heated battle in our bedroom. We were punching and rolling over things. After quite a fight, it all ended when my brother got thrown through the sliding closet door, busting it off its tracks. It is amazing how fast our differences were resolved. We worked together and were concerned with trying to get the door fixed before anyone got home. Somehow, at the tender ages of 10 and 8, we got the door back in place. However, there was permanent damage. Every time the door got to a certain point in the track, it fell out. Amazingly, we escaped detection and punishment.

Several years ago, my mom went into our old bedroom that now belongs to my sister. She opened the closet door. It of course fell off the hinges. She asked my sister what she did to the door. My brother and I just looked at each

Morning: Genesis 18-19

Evening: Matthew 6

other and laughed. Ten years too late, Mom.

It is somewhat the same in our Christian lives. We tear down another believer for some difference or habit. We have feuds at church over church expenses. We avoid a brother or sister in Christ forgetting that we will spend eternity with them in heaven. We are all on the same team. We should help a brother or sister when they fail. We should forgive and be forgiven. Instead when a problem arises, sometimes we do not unite; and our bitterness makes it worse.

None of us are above this reproach. We all have trouble loving one believer or another. Change. Help them to change. Treat others as brothers and sisters should. Get rid of self and serve others. Join the team; work together.
~JSV

Scripture Fill-In

“But ye, beloved, _____ up yourselves on your most holy _____, _____ in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the _____ of God, _____ for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal _____.” Jude 20-21

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the brothers.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| ___ 1. Levi (Gen. 29:33-34) | A. Simeon |
| ___ 2. Peter (Mt. 10:2) | B. Eshbaal |
| ___ 3. Jonathan (I Chron. 8:33) | C. Andrew |

Sunday

January 8

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting. *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14*
2. Smile at people. It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, only fourteen to smile. *“The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.” Proverbs 13:9*
3. Call people by name. Music to anyone's ears is the sound of his/her own name. *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” Romans 12:10*
4. Be friendly and helpful. *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35*
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is genuinely a pleasure; and if it is not, learn to make it so. *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3*
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try. *“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?” Proverbs 20:6*
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism. *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on*

Morning: Genesis 20-22

Evening: Matthew 7

our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:6-8

8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. *“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” I Peter 2:17*

9. Be alert to serve. *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. II Corinthians 4:5*

10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded manifold through life. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 ~SW*

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:6-7

Quote of the Day

“In company, guard your tongue; in solitude, your heart. Our words need watching; but so also do our thoughts and imaginations, which grow active when alone.” ~Anonymous

Monday
January 9

A Revelation

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.” Revelation 1:1

Read Revelation 1:1-8

“I know something you don’t know...I know something you don’t know.” This phrase can be heard in just about any grade school in the world. Usually it is heard right after someone lets slip that little Johnny likes little Susie while Susie’s best friend Sally is within hearing distance. So, naturally, little Sally must torture little Susie with the “oh-so-important” secret that Susie must find out to avert sure “death.” As little Susie begs and pleads for that information, what she is asking for is a revelation.

How do you feel when someone lets you in on a secret? Maybe they keep you in suspense for a long time and then finally reveal to you their plans. The word “revelation” means “unveiling.” As John recorded the events he was privileged to see, he unveiled not only God’s message about the future but also His Messenger: Jesus Christ.

The first truth that the Apostle John unveils to the seven churches of Asia is that Jesus Christ, the One Who was and is and is to come, was going to return to earth for every eye to see.

Are you ready for His return? Make sure that if Jesus Christ were to come today that

Morning: *Genesis 23-24*

Evening: *Matthew 8*

you are prepared to meet the Alpha and Omega. Go back and read Revelation 1:1-8.
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:6-7

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 Revelation 1:1-8.

- ____ 1. Peter wrote the Book of Revelation.
- ____ 2. The writings of the author were a result of a vision given to Him by God.
- ____ 3. Seven churches in Asia are specifically addressed.
- ____ 4. Through Jesus Christ’s blood, we are made kings and priests unto God.
- ____ 5. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and mean “beginning and end.”

Quote of the Day

“When the Spirit of God comes into a man, He gives him a world-wide view.”

~Oswald Chambers

Tuesday

January 10

Dependency on the Vine

“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 used often and referred 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.”*

Morning: Genesis 25-26

Evening: Matthew 9:1-17

Total dependence upon the Savior leads to freedom in life. Daily find your source of strength, wisdom, and hope in God, for without Him, you can do NOTHING! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we _____, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:6-7

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with his description.

- ____ 1. Gatam (Gen. 36:10-11)
- ____ 2. Gadaliah (II Ki. 25:22-24)
- ____ 3. Hiel (I Ki. 16:34)

- A. Rebuilder of Jericho
- B. Grandson of Esau
- C. Governor appointed by Nebuchadnezzar after carrying the Jews into captivity

Quote of the Day

“Wait in prayer. Call on God and spread the case before. Express your unstagging confidence in him. Wait in faith, for unfaithful, untrusting waiting is but an insult to the Lord. Wait in quiet patience, not murmuring because you are under the affliction, but blessing God for it.” ~Charles Spurgeon

Wednesday

January 11

Physical Strength Found in the Vine

*“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?”
Psalm 27:1*

Yesterday, we discussed the branches, God’s children, depending upon the Vine, Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are placed in the midst of situations where God wants to teach us this lesson in a very practical way. Without controversy, trials, and problems, sometimes we lose sight of how much we do need God on a daily basis; and sometimes we need God’s gentle reminder.

As I write this devotional, once again, God is reminding me that my daily physical needs are found in Him alone. About a week ago, I was hospitalized with a kidney stone; and at this time, I still have not passed the thorn in my side. For those of you that have experienced stones, you know full well just how much excruciating pain comes with this physical condition. Through the bouts of nausea, pain medicines, and stabbing pain, every day I am learning to lean more and more upon my Savior. He is my Hope of relief and the Rock on which I am standing.

Our verse today asks, “Whom shall I fear?” Maybe you fear a person. Maybe you fear a disease. Maybe you fear the unknown. In my situation, I am facing possible surgery and some other complications due to my physical condition. But God is the strength of my life. If my trust is in Him fully, what honestly do I have to fear?

Morning: *Genesis 27-28*

Evening: *Matthew 9:18-38*

It all goes back to the concept of the branches depending on the Vine. When our faith and dependency is in Jesus Christ completely, we have nothing to fear.

Friend, whether you are in the midst of a trial or on top of a mountain, you need Jesus. Don’t think for a moment that you can do things by yourself. Accept that He is all-sufficient, and daily cling to His strength.
~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we _____, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the _____, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:6-7

Bible Quiz

Who Said It?: Write the name of the author beside his quote.

_____ 1. “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?” (I Sam. 15:22)

_____ 2. “I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.” (I Sam. 15:24)

Quote of the Day

“God has one Son without sin, but he never had a son without trial.” ~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

January 12

Confronting Sin

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:6

Malachi is God’s messenger to the Israelites. His message came from a God Who loves like a father. A father must share His concern for His children before evil overtakes them. Malachi does not hesitate to lay forth all the charges. The Israelites were disrespectful, unfaithful, worldly, adulterous, and arrogant. They also robbed God of tithes and offerings. Malachi strongly warned them of the consequences of such living and also stressed the blessing of righteous living; then instructed them to live according to God’s written Word.

We can learn a great deal from Malachi about dealing with people living in sin and how to approach them. First, always express your sincere love, as God did, for the persons you wish to help. Second, be clear in your charges against them. Be definitely sure you are correct. Third, express how these charges are personally against God. Fourth, make them aware that God will always punish sin, yet provide a way back to His grace. Fifth, show them the blessing of living today for God by your life example. Sixth encourage them to daily read and follow God’s Word. ~OV

Morning: *Genesis 29-30*

Evening: *Matthew 10:1-23*

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we _____, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the _____, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the _____ of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:6-7

Bible Quiz

Good or Bad?: Put a ‘G’ in the blank if the king served God and an ‘B’ in the blank if the king did not live a God pleasing life.

___ 1. Jeroboam (II Ki. 14:23-24)

___ 2. Nadab (I Ki. 15:25-26)

___ 3. Ahab (I Ki. 16:30)

___ 4. Jehoram (II Ki. 8:18)

___ 5. Hezekiah (II Ki. 18:1-3)

___ 6. David (II Sam. 5:10)

___ 7. Hoshea (II Ki. 17:1-2)

Quote of the Day

“Sin is not weakness, it is a disease; it is red-handed rebellion against God and the magnitude of that rebellion is expressed by Calvary’s cross.”
~Oswald Chambers

Friday
January 13

Morning: *Genesis 31-32*
Evening: *Matthew 10:24-42*

Jesus Christ, The Comforter

“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.”
Isaiah 49:13

In this verse, we see Isaiah calling the inanimate creation to rise up and sing praises to God. Why is he calling them to worship? He is calling them to worship because of the great and mighty thing that God has done for His people. He begins with the heavens—let the sky praise God. Then the earth as a whole is ushered into the celebration. Even the mountains praise Him. They each praise Him not for the great wonders that have been performed within themselves but for all that He has done for “His people.”

Isaiah speaks often of the coming Messiah. This passage although not overtly Messianic does present a picture of what the Messiah was to do. This Messiah—Jesus would provide comfort for His people. We are not worthy of this comfort; and yet in our rebellion, Jesus calls us to turn from our un-yielded self-centered nature and look to Him. In doing so, we find rest.

The afflicted find mercy in Jesus. The result of our sin is separation from the Father and the affliction of a sinful world. Christ calls us to Himself. The Lord has comforted His people. He has done so through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we _____, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the _____, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the _____ of Jesus Christ his Son _____ us from all sin.”
I John 1:6-7

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Take a moment to praise the Lord for His wonderful gifts. Write your thoughts below.

Quote of the Day

“The holy walk, the devoted life of our Lord Jesus Christ could not avail to put away sin. It was life poured out in death that saved. Apart from His death, His life could only bring out in bold relief our exceeding sinfulness. But His blood shed for us was life given up, poured out in death that we might live eternally.”
~H. A. Ironside

Saturday

January 14

The Blessed Man

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
Psalm 1:2-3

Psalm 1 is all about the man that God blesses. In verse 2, we see what the man does to be blessed by the Lord. In verse 3, we see some of the blessings that he receives. Together they give us a pattern for how to live a blessed life.

First, let us consider what the blessed man does. If you want to be blessed, the key is found in obedience to God’s Word. According to verse 2, the blessed man delights in the law of the Lord. In other words, the Bible is the love and focus of his life. He does more than love God’s law, he meditates in it all the time. The blessed man’s life is directed by the Word of God.

We find the result of a man’s life that is directed by the Scriptures. The results in his life are four fold. First of all, that he will be spiritually nourished like a tree planted by a river of water. Then, the blessed man will produce fruit in his life. He will also be healthy and strong. Finally, the blessed man will be prosperous in all that he does. Delight yourself in the Word; meditate upon it; let it be the guide for your life. Then, be the blessed person that God wants you to be. ~DLW

Morning: *Genesis 33-35*

Evening: *Matthew 11*

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in _____, we _____, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the _____, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the _____ of Jesus Christ his Son _____ us from all _____.” I John 1:6-7

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete Psalm 1 by filling in the blanks.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the (1) _____ of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his (2) _____ is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a (3) _____ planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall (4) _____. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall (5) _____ stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD (6) _____ the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall (7) _____.”

Sunday

January 15

Gleaning

“And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.” Ruth 2:2

In the charming story of Ruth, we observe that there is a husbandman. In Ruth’s case, it was Boaz. He is a picture of our heavenly Father, the Great Husbandman. God is the Great Husbandman of the earth. Man may plough the soil, and sow the seed; but as Jesus said, “My Father is the husbandman.” He appoints the clouds and allows the sunshine; He directs the winds and distributes the dew and the rain; He also gives the frost and the heat, and so by various processes of nature He brings forth food for man and beast.

In this story, there is a humble gleaner—Ruth. She may be looked upon as the representative of every believer. There is a gracious permission given to Ruth: *“Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not,”* and the same permission is spiritually given to us. She rises early in the morning, and she trudges off to a field; if that be closed, she hastens to another; and if that be shut up, or gleaned already, she hurries further still; and all day long, while the sun is shining upon her, she continues gathering the ears one by one. She returns not to her home till nightfall.

So let each one of us seek spiritual food. Let us not be afraid of a little fatigue in the Master’s fields: if the gleaning is good, we must not soon weary in gathering the precious spoil, for the gains will richly reward our pains. ~KAH

Morning: Genesis 36-37

Evening: Matthew 12:1-21

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9

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. Ruth’s sister-in-law was named Chilion. (Ruth 1:4)
- ___ 2. Ruth had an opportunity to go back to her own people after the death of her husband. (Ruth 1:8-18)
- ___ 3. Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the berry harvest. (Ruth 1:22)
- ___ 4. Boaz was from the family of Elimelech. (Ruth 2:1)
- ___ 5. Boaz knew of Ruth’s character before he ever approached her. (Ruth 2:10-11)

Quote of the Day

“Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.”
~Jim Elliot

Monday

January 16

Jesus, Our Example in Witnessing

“The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.” John 4:25-26

Read John 4:1-42

Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a soul winner that we know. We see Him with the woman at the well naturally speaking about spiritual things. He meets her on her turf in a common, everyday experience of drawing water. We find Him quickly engaging in a conversation about everlasting life and using the simple term “water” in an analogy. Soon, He is able to get her to admit that she is an adulteress. This woman already had a head knowledge of the Messiah and a belief that He would come. The punch line of the conversation was when Jesus said, “I am He.”

This is a brand new year with witnessing opportunities waiting in store for us. If you are alive and reading this, then God is not done with you yet. Nearly everyday, we meet people on their turf. It is a natural setting—non-threatening. Why is it that we keep our mouths closed about the Messiah? Most have heard about Him and believe He exists. Could we venture in some type of analogy to quickly turn the conversation to everlasting life? People need to see that Christ is alive and real in you.

Plant seeds at least. Speak about Christ naturally. I was recently on a trip and decided

Morning: *Genesis 38-40*

Evening: *Matthew 12:22-50*

to tell cashiers that God loved them as I checked out. The responses were favorable. We never know who is on the brink to receive or reject Christ. It just may be something you say that changes their eternal destiny. ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have _____ sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9

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 John 4:1-42.

- _____ 1. Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at Abraham’s well.
- _____ 2. Jesus confronted her with the sin of thievery.
- _____ 3. The Samaritan woman broadcasted the news of Jesus in the city and brought people to Him.
- _____ 4. Jesus said, “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

Quote of the Day

“We know what it is to lose health and wealth and reputation . . . but what is the loss of all these things compared with the loss of the soul?”
~D. L. Moody

Tuesday

January 17

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 hear 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

Morning: Genesis 41

Evening: Matthew 13:1-32

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have _____ sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9

Bible Quiz

Wise or Foolish?: Label each one of the following verses. Put a “W” if the verse is speaking of a wise man or an “F” if the verse is speaking of a foolish man.

___ 1. Proverbs 9:9

___ 2. Ecclesiastes 8:5

___ 3. Ecclesiastes 9:1

___ 4. James 3:13

___ 5. Proverbs 14:7

___ 6. Job 5:2

___ 7. Proverbs 7:8-27

___ 8. Matthew 7:24

Quote of the Day

“A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.”

~Proverbs 17:10

Wednesday

January 18

Vision of Christ

Saying, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches . . . And I turned to see the voice that spake with me." Revelation 1: 11-12

Read Revelation 1:9-16

I am a huge fan of illusion and slight of hand. I love to watch a so-called "magician" do tricks that amaze. One of the best tricks I have ever seen was done with a deck of cards. The assistant was asked to pick a card and sign his name on it. The "magician" then put the card back in the deck and the deck back in the box. He then threw the box at a window. When the box hit the window, the card that the assistant had signed was stuck to the window on opposite of the glass. It was unbelievable! It simply "blew my mind."

Have you ever seen something that "blew your mind"? Maybe it was an unbelievable stunt or an inconceivable performance like a trick or illusion. Did you ever try to describe it to a friend? If it was awesome, you usually want to talk about it, right?

While John was in the Island of Patmos, he was allowed to see and to be chosen to record a vision of the glorified Christ, but this was no trick. John was not seeing an illusion. He got to see a vision of Christ. After standing in awe of the Son of Man, he used the best words he could find to describe the majesty of the One whom he beheld. He compared His voice to the sound of trumpets. He compared His eyes to a

Morning: *Genesis 42-43*
Evening: *Matthew 13:33-58*

burning fire, His feet to brass, His words to a sword and His face to the brightness of the sun.

What is your view of Jesus Christ? Is He the most awesome person you have ever met? Will you tell your friends about Him today? Go back and read Revelation 1:9-16.
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

"If we say that we have _____ sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we _____ our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:8-9

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Refer to Revelation 1:9-16.

1. Where did John receive the Word of God for the book of Revelation? _____

2. In the description of Christ, what came forth from His mouth? _____

Quote of the Day

"Never think that Jesus commanded a trifle, nor dare to trifle with anything He has commanded."
~D. L. Moody

Thursday

January 19

Your Own Little World

During the holiday season, I was shopping at a retail store and met this woman who freely shared with me just how hard her week had been. I thought to myself, "Lady, you have absolutely no clue how difficult the last two weeks have been for me." I just kind of rolled my eyes to myself and left thinking that poor lady is so caught up in her own little world she has no idea what other people go through in life.

After arriving home, I talked on the phone with my Dad for awhile; he told me of a lady he had just visited that was having both of her legs removed next week. Wow! And yes, I realized that I am in my own little world, too.

We are such selfish creatures. If we are not careful, our little worlds revolve around every ache or pain, every unkind word, and every little mishap throughout the day. Is that the example that Jesus taught us while living on earth? Absolutely not! His world revolved around OTHERS.

Jesus came to earth for others. John 10:10 says, "***I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***" Jesus not only came for others, but He lived and died for others. Philippians 2:8 says, "***He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***"

Take a moment to evaluate your life. Are you consumed with your work, health problems, and financial or social status? Does your life scream, "Me, Me, Me," or does it point to Your Savior through deeds of self-sacrifice.

Morning: Genesis 44-45

Evening: Matthew 14:1-21

Dear friend, American culture makes the endeavor to live selfishly very easy. Don't give into the "How's That Going to Benefit Me?" attitude. Instead, die to self; and live for Jesus! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

"If we say that we have _____ sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:8-9

Bible Quiz

Order: Place the following New Testament books in order of appearance. Put a '1' by the book that appears first, and continue to '7.'

____ 1. Romans

____ 2. Colossians

____ 3. Galatians

____ 4. Ephesians

____ 5. I & II Corinthians

____ 6. Philippians

____ 7. Acts

Quote of the Day

"A good example is far better than a good precept."
~D. L. Moody

Friday
January 20

Your Inheritance

“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:4

What an awesome verse! Peter is encouraging believers to remember their eternal inheritance. The Scriptures not only tell us that we have an inheritance, but also that we are joint heirs of the universe with Christ.

This verse tells us four things about our inheritance. First, it is incorruptible; It will never perish or be destroyed. Next, our inheritance is undefiled. It is free from any contamination. It is pure and clean, brand new, unwrapped, and in its original packaging. Our inheritance is in perfect condition, incorruptible, and undefiled. Third, our inheritance is eternal. This verse states that it will not fade away. This is why Jesus told us to lay up for ourselves treasure in Heaven and not on earth. Our heavenly treasures will not be corrupted or stolen. All of our earthly treasures will eventually be left behind and destroyed. Finally, our inheritance is reserved for us in heaven. The book of John tells us God is going to prepare a place for us. If you have received Christ as your Savior, there is an eternal home waiting for you.

There are eternal rewards awaiting you with your name on them. They are reserved for you, and you will have all eternity to enjoy your inheritance. ~DLW

Morning: *Genesis 46-48*
Evening: *Matthew 14:22-36*

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have _____ sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and _____ to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:8-9

Bible Quiz

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

- _____ 1. N H R E I A C E N T I
- _____ 2. E H R S I
- _____ 3. E R E U T A S R S
- _____ 4. N E V A H E
- _____ 5. T E E N L A R
- _____ 6. W D S A E R R
- _____ 7. J N E Y O

Quote of the Day

“It is not preaching, teaching, singing, or organizing; it is the Word of God brought against Satan’s lies through prayer. Our prayers build the kingdom of God and destroy the kingdom of Satan. But where there is no prayer, there is no warfare. Where there is no warfare, there is no spiritual victory. Where there is no victory, there is nothing glorifying to God.”

~Charles Stanley

Saturday

January 21

Robbing God

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.” Malachi 3:8

Are you a biblical thief? God asked the Israelites if they would rob God, and the obvious answer would be “no.” Even today men would not dare to intentionally rob the almighty God.

Answer these questions today as you read the Book of Malachi:

1. How did the Israelites rob God?
2. What was the individual consequence?
3. What was the national consequence?
4. What did God want them to do with their tithes?
5. What individual promise did He make?
6. What national promise did He make?
7. Will God bless the one who tithes today?

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” (II Cor. 9:6-8)

Examine your heart in the area of giving? Are you robbing God? Do you give with a cheerful heart? After evaluating your own heart and confessing your personal sin, pray for

Morning: Genesis 49-50

Evening: Matthew 15:1-20

our nation in this area of robbing God. Pray for forgiveness and healing in our country. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“If we say that we have _____ sin, we _____ ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and _____ to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from _____ unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9

Bible Quiz

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

1. Jacob promised to give what percentage of all he was given back to God? (Gen. 28:22)

2. In Nehemiah 10:38-39, it says that the Levites stored the tithes where?

3. According to Matthew 23:23, what were the Pharisees guilty of? _____

Quote of the Day

“One said to a minister who preached a sermon, after which there was to be a collection, ‘You should preach to our hearts, and then you would get some money.’ The minister replied, ‘Yes, I think that is very likely, for that is where you keep your money.’”

~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

January 22

Morning: Exodus 1-3
Evening: Matthew 15:21-39

Jesus, The Light of the World

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Read Matthew 5:14-16

I was saved at Children’s Bible Mission Camp as an eleven year old in the hills of eastern Tennessee. I so looked forward each summer to the last service of the week which was Friday night. Campers could sign up to take part in a particular dedication service for the evening that involved lighting a candle from a missionary’s candle. The camper would then take his lit candle and walk to surround the inside of the entire chapel. This act was to symbolize the commitment of taking the light of Christ within one’s heart to a world of darkness that needed the light of Christ. If I remember correctly, I signed up to do that every year I attended. As a little girl, I thought this was a beautiful sight, and I meant it with all my heart.

Lightness and darkness are two very strong words in any language. Every culture understands both. Light is seen as needful and good, whereas darkness seems to be equated with bad or evil. Hence, for Christ to be declared as the Light in John 1 is understood metaphorically as being the One Who is our answer to all of life, for here and eternity. He is the One Who is needful. Every man that enters the world is in need of this Light. John 1:12 tells us that we actually become the sons of God once we receive this Light. As Christians,

you know this. Unfortunately, those in darkness do not.

We must each individually show the lost the great and marvelous light. It is not just enough to come to church. It is not just enough to say you are a Christian. It is a start; but oh, so many do that without ever pointing anyone to heaven.

Pray about people. Pray that God will lead you to people who need Him. Plan to actively soul win. Carry tracts with you. Be conscious of everyone’s eternity as you meet people. Read a book on soul winning. Brush up on salvation verses and those verses that help you counter excuses and skepticism. Also, get involved in a ministry of your church. God may even use you to begin a new ministry. Won’t you be determined to be a very bright light for Jesus’ sake? ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Write the name of Jesus used in the following Scripture references.

- _____ 1. Romans 11:26
- _____ 2. Hebrews 12:2

Monday
January 23

He Searches the Heart

*“I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”
Jeremiah 17:10*

God not only knows our hearts, but He searches our hearts. The Psalmist knew this truth as he wrote in Psalm 139: **“Search me, O God, and know my heart.”** In some ways this truth can be the source of great comfort. God knows when we have been wronged and kept a correct attitude. He knows when our motives are pure and our desires are to please him. He sees our heartfelt longings to know Him.

He also searches our hearts to see the deepest places where we may have allowed sin to still reside. He sees the real motives for our “good actions.” He knows when we have been wronged; and rather than allowing Him the opportunity to bring retribution, we desire to enact it ourselves. He tries our reins; He wants to replace our sin-ridden hearts with new, clean hearts that reflect our redeemed status.

He gives rewards that represent our actions. As we have yielded to Him, He provides comfort. As we have sought His face, He provides His presence. When we have been faithfully obedient, He gives blessings we may not have expected. In like manner, He also chastens when we have chosen an opposite path than the one He describes.

He is searching your heart today—what will He find? What will the reward according to your ways be? What kind of fruit does your “doings” produce? ~DJD

Morning: *Exodus 4-6*
Evening: *Matthew 16*

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with the sin he committed.

- ___ 1. Solomon
- ___ 2. Saul
- ___ 3. Ananias
- ___ 4. Abraham

- A. Greed and falsehood (Acts 5:1-5)
- B. Unequally yoked in marriage (I Ki. 11:1-4)
- C. Jealousy (I Sam. 18:8-9)
- D. Deceived Abimelech (Gen. 20:1-18)

Quote of the Day

“In his pride, Moses lost his temper and was kept out of the Promised Land (Num. 20:1-13). Pride kept Joshua from seeking God’s will at Ai, and he lost the battle (Josh. 7). King Nebuchadnezzar’s pride turned him into an animal (Dan. 4), and Peter’s pride led to his denial of Christ (Lk. 22:31-34).”

~Warren Wiersbe

Tuesday
January 24

Morning: *Exodus 7-8*
Evening: *Matthew 17*

An Overwhelming Experience

“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.” Revelation 1:17

Read Revelation 1:17-20

“But I just can’t do it! This is too much for me to handle.” Have you ever been at this point in your life? Maybe your world has just crashed in on you, or perhaps you have been asked to complete a task that is so much bigger than you realized. When I was in college, I remember feeling this way a lot. Finals week had just begun, and I was facing six tests in the next three days. The teacher that “never asks if you have done your reading” was reportedly asking about the book that he assigned at the beginning of the year: the book that I had “forgotten” to read. I was working to pay my school bill that was not even close to being paid, and I had to pack and be out of the dorm by Thursday.

When we get to this point, it is always great when someone puts their arm around us and says, “Calm down. I’m here for you.”

John was faced with an overwhelming experience. Oh, it had nothing to do with tests and school bills. John had seen the glory of the Lord in a vision. This experience literally caused him to fall on his face. However, in the midst of his dramatic situation, the Lord lifted him up and let him know that everything was all right. The Lord comforted John by revealing Himself to him and giving him a task to perform: the task of writing the book of Revelation.

Will you allow the Lord to be your comfort in your next overwhelming situation? See Him for Who He is and trust Him to lead you right. Go back and read Revelation 1:17-20. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Refer to Revelation 1:17-20.

1. What did John do when he saw Christ?

2. What do the seven stars represent? _____
3. What do the seven candlesticks represent?

Quote of the Day

“Our world is filled with fear, hate, lust, greed, war, and utter despair. Surely the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the only hope of replacing these depressing features with trust, love, universal peace, and prosperity. For it the world wittingly or inadvertently waits.”

~Billy Graham

Wednesday
January 25

Morning: *Exodus 9-10*
Evening: *Matthew 18:1-20*

Family Strife

“And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.” Genesis 13: 7-8

Remember those petty, sibling scuffles that are not foreign to any of us? I grew up with three bothers, and we had our share of some unforgettable moments. It’s amazing how you look back as an adult, and you realize that the parents often had no clue what all went on. One day, I told my aged mother about some incidents on the farm that took place with my brothers, and she said, “Oh, that so distresses me. I had no idea that you kids were acting like that!” I laughed. Those were just the “growing up days.”

We are all grown up now. We don’t play pranks with water and twist each other’s arms behind each other’s backs; we don’t pull hair and make up derogatory names. However, as grown-ups, our family squabbles can have much more depth than holding someone down until they cry “uncle.” The Scripture passage puts a high priority on getting along with family; it is essential—for they are our brethren.

Abraham realized that being at peace with Lot, his nephew, and all Lot’s herdsmen was far more important in eternity than who got the best piece of land on this side of heaven. Abraham decided to put himself last, and allow Lot

to choose first which land he wanted. That whole principle of denying self and granting others to choose before you, does seem to solve a lot of family matters over the years.

We have just finished celebrating the holidays with family. I would venture to say that every conversation and decision with your family and your extended family members wasn’t completely joyous. Even over the past year—there may be leftover problems with family members that need your attention. It is essential to just be the peacemaker and get it fixed among your brethren. Family relations are to be protected and guarded at whatever cost. It can be very difficult at times.

Remember God is watching. He will take note of your decision. For Abraham, the legacy of his family will live on through eternity.
~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not. And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
I John 2:1-2

Quote of the Day

“Snarling at other folks is not the best way of showing the superior quality of your own character.”
~Anonymous

Thursday

January 26

Fears

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

The first day of school from K-12 were some of my most fearful days of adolescence. Would I like my teacher? Would I make some friends? Would I be dressed like the rest of the kids? Where were my classes located? The drive to school on that first day was horrible. My stomach was in knots, and I just wanted to hide behind the backseat and pretend I was sick.

Unfortunately, we don't get less fearful as we enter adulthood. Where will I find a job? Where is my future spouse? Will I ever have a child? Will someone break into my home tonight? How will surgery go on my knee? When am I going to die? On and on, our fears consume us.

I do not believe that our Savior would have us live in this fearful state. He has given us, as believers, His power to overcome fearful attitudes.

So, what are we to do when troubled by fearful thoughts? First, we should **rest** in the fact that Jesus Christ has conquered death. Our future is secure. Secondly, we should **reflect** on God's promises. Hebrews 13:5b says, *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* God promises He will never leave us. Finally, we must **rely** on God's strength to get us through whatever circumstance or problem may enter our lives. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, *“My grace*

Morning: Exodus 11-12
Evening: Matthew 18:21-35

is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

May we say with David, *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” (Ps. 56:3) ~MFV*

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not. And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, _____ Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

- List your top three fears:
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
- Find and list a Scripture passage to help you as you deal with each fear.
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____

Quote of the Day

*“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”
~Psalm 100:5*

Friday
January 27

A Calming in the Storm

“And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.” Matthew 8:26

The Christian life is never smooth sailing. These disciples were experienced fishermen who knew all about the Sea of Galilee. As they rowed their small boat across the lake, they suddenly encountered a great storm; but this was not an uncommon occurrence. The Sea of Galilee stretches thirteen miles from north to south and eight miles from east to west. In a basin surrounded by mountains, the lake is known for sudden, violent storms. This phenomenon causes a twisting, whirlwind action that churns the waters into an angry tempest.

This particular journey started out smoothly. Because He was physically exhausted, Jesus had immediately laid His head down and gone to sleep. Suddenly, there was a quake. Great winds and waves arose which began to beat against the boat. As the boat filled with water, it was in danger of sinking. But Jesus slept through all of these things. Even when you go in the way God commands you, there may be trouble, commotion, and storms; but you can have peace.

We can experience great calm in the midst of the great storms of our lives through Jesus Christ. Romans 8:37-39 says, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things*

Morning: Exodus 13-15
Evening: Matthew 19:1-15

present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not. And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, _____ Christ the righteous: and he is the _____ for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the miracle with the Scripture passage in which it can be found.

- ____ 1. Healing of nobleman’s son
- ____ 2. Catch of fish
- ____ 3. Healing of immobile man
- ____ 4. Widow’s son raised to life

- A. Luke 5:1-11
- B. John 5:1-16
- C. Luke 7:11-16
- D. John 4:46-54

Quote of the Day

“What does a child do whose mother or father allows something to be done which it cannot understand? There is only one way of peace. The loving child trusts.” ~Amy Carmichael

Saturday

January 28

He Will Freely Give Us All Things

*“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”
Romans 8:32*

What would you be willing to give to help someone? One thing that I would not want to give is one of my children. I can not imagine a greater sacrifice than that. But that was exactly what God was willing to give for us. This verse said that He spared not His own Son. God willingly delivered Him up for us all. What kind of love is that? It is a love that would give the one thing it treasures the most. That is the kind of love that God has for us. If God spared not His own Son, what would He hold back? The obvious answer is that God will not withhold a single thing that is in our best interest in regards to accomplishing His will.

God loves us, and He wants to bless us. He has already made the greatest sacrifice for us. Knowing this truth should affect us in several ways. First of all, it should effect us in our thanksgiving. We should understand that God is good. He has given us what we need the most and what was the costliest to Him. It should impact our prayer life, causing us to want to ask Him to meet our needs because we know how gracious He is. We should want to come to Him in prayer expecting His goodness. Understanding God’s sacrificial grace should influence our service. God wants to bless us as we serve Him. He will not keep back anything that we need to accomplish His purpose in service. He will freely give us all things. Are

Morning: *Genesis 16-18*

Evening: *Matthew 19:16-30*

you asking for them? Are you looking to receive them? Are you thankful for them?
~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“My little _____, these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not. And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, _____ Christ the righteous: and he is the _____ for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the _____ world.”
I John 2:1-2

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blanks: Complete each of the following verses.

1. John 10:28—“I give unto them _____ life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my _____.”
2. John 6:51—“I am the _____ bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my _____, which I will give for the life of the world.”

Quote of the Day

“We make living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” ~Winston Churchill

Sunday

January 29

Morning: *Exodus 19-21*
Evening: *Matthew 20:1-16*

Spiritual Arrogance

“Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?” Malachi 3:14

God takes account all the blasphemous talk from sinners. Such impudence arises from pride, naughtiness, and contempt for God, without considering that God hears all such charges (Ps. 56:8). What blasphemous words did the Israelites actually say? Read their charges:

1. It is vain to serve God.
2. It is unprofitable to keep His commands.

They complained that they had gotten nothing by their religion. They were still in their poverty and affliction. How do they claim man would find the way of prosperity? Their answer is found in Malachi 3:15. Wickedness was the way of prosperity. Their arrogant spirit of ungodly pride reaches its height in Malachi 3:15 when they claim, “We have tested God with our ways and have escaped His hand of wrath.”

The wicked do not prosper by their evil doing. It is only the righteous that are rewarded by God. Not all Israelites lived in contempt of God. There were some that retained their integrity and zeal for God. They feared the Lord. They respected the Lord. They spoke of righteous living and godly service, and they submitted to His authority. They were bold, courageous, and increased in faith while others spoke against God and righteous living. Did

God really notice these God fearing individuals?

Yes! *“... A book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:16-17a)* God remembers the service of His people, that He may say, *“Well done thou good and faithful servant.”* God will distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve. It is not vain to serve God—all shall be made to see their errors. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, 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: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Examine your heart. Are you prideful, impudent, or blasphemous? Do you have an arrogant spirit? _____

2. What changes do you need to make in your life? _____

Monday

January 30

Attitude of Apathy

*“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”
Revelation 2:4*

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Have you ever gotten into a rut? **Sunday:** Sunday school, Morning Service, Choir Practice, Evening Service; **Monday:** Visitation; **Tuesday:** Orchestra practice; **Wednesday:** Work in Teen Group/AWANA...

At times, it seems that all of our good deeds have simply become routine. We go to church when we are supposed to, stand and sing when we are supposed to, sit and listen when we are supposed to, shake a few hands when it is time, then smile and compliment pastor on his sermon on our way out the door. When we are called upon to serve in the teen group or children’s church, we give a half-hearted effort all the while justifying our action with the lie of “It doesn’t matter, it’s only the teens/kids.” Many times our relationship with Jesus Christ seems too much like a religion.

The attitude of apathy had invaded the church at Ephesus as well. They were performing many good deeds and did not tolerate false teaching, but they had forgotten the reason for service. Sure, they did much to further the kingdom of God, but it was all done out of habit and ritual. They were serving the Lord because it was expected of them not because they loved Christ. If we simply “go through the motions,” we are no better than those who say the “Hail Mary” and count the beads on their rosaries. Be real!

Morning: *Exodus 22-24*
Evening: *Matthew 20:17-34*

So, why do you attend church? Why are you involved with Christian service projects? Is it because you “ought to” or is it because you “want to”? Spend some time right now in prayer and fall in love with Jesus Christ again. Go back and read Revelation 2:1-10. ~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 not his commandments, is a liar, 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

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Refer to Revelation 2:1-7.

1. Which church was specifically addressed first in Revelation? _____
2. According to verse four, what was the problem with this church? _____

Quote of the Day

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

Tuesday

January 31

Morning: *Exodus 25-26*
Evening: *Matthew 21:1-22*

Title of Devotional

“And these were they which went up also from Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not show their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel. The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two. And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.” Nehemiah 7:61-64

In these verses Nehemiah has listed the names of those who have returned to Israel. Among these names are the nobles, rulers, and people who have gone into captivity. In searching the names, Nehemiah is trying to find the family lines that were returning with him. In verses 61 through 64, Nehemiah meets Tel-melah, Tel-haresha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer. Sadly none of them are able to produce any evidence of their father's name or family heritage. Through inner marriage with non-Jews their family line had become polluted. The result was that they lost their places among the priesthood.

Spiritually, much of America is in a similar state. We have mingled our biblically based Christianity with the New Age, mysticism, and nominal Christianity until we can no longer retrace the steps of our faith. We have no idea

where we are going because we do not know where we came from. Instead of knowing the walk of faith that led our parents to become born-again believers, we rely on tradition and familiarity as our foundations. The result is a shaky faith, biblical illiteracy, and “church membership” that is not worth the paper that contains our name.

These men were lost without any connection to their spiritual heritage. They could not prove their family line and lost their spiritual reward as a result. The choices of their fathers had a dramatic effect on their lives and even their futures. Oh that the spiritual leaders (both as pastors but more importantly as parents) would provide a clear path for the children of tomorrow to KNOW where they came from so that they may KNOW where they are going! ~DJJ

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 liar, 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

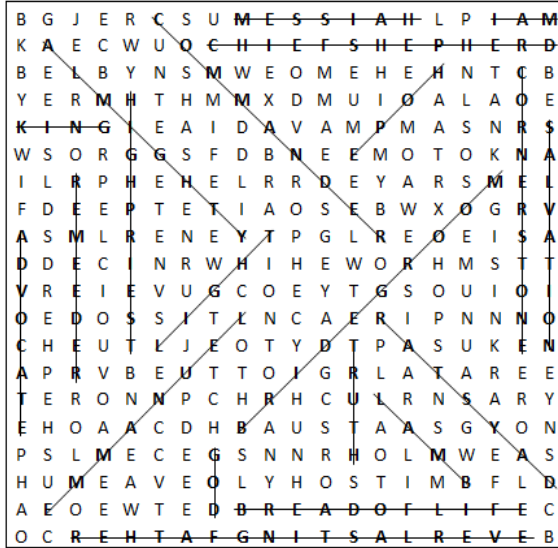
Quote of the Day

“We have forgotten the gracious Hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”

~Abraham Lincoln

Answers

Word Search



Bible Quizzes

- Jan. 1 Pg. 1 **DOWN**
1. Light 2. Jordan 4. Snow
ACROSS
3. Harvest 5. Linen
- Jan. 2 Pg. 2 Refer to Psalm 90:2.
- Jan. 3 Pg. 3 1. M 2. J 3. J 4. J 5. M 6. M
- Jan. 4 Pg. 4 1. Chosen 2. Light 3. Royal
4. Peculiar 5. Praises 6. Darkness
7. Nation
- Jan. 5 Pg. 5 **DOWN**
1. Darkness 3. Light 5. Hill
ACROSS
2. Walk 4. Shine 6. Righteous
7. Glorify
- Jan. 6 Pg. 6 Answers will vary.
- Jan. 7 Pg. 7 1. A 2. C 3. B
- Jan. 8 Pg. 8 No quiz
- Jan. 9 Pg. 9 1. F 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. T

Bible Quizzes Continued

- Jan. 10 Pg. 10 1. B 2. C 3. A
- Jan. 11 Pg. 11 1. Samuel 2. Saul
- Jan. 12 Pg. 12 1. B 2. B 3. B 4. B 5. G
6. G 7. B
- Jan. 13 Pg. 13 Answers will vary.
- Jan. 14 Pg. 14 1. Counsel 2. Delight 3. Tree
4. Prosper 5. Not 6. Knoweth
6. Perish
- Jan. 15 Pg. 15 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T
- Jan. 16 Pg. 16 1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T
- Jan. 17 Pg. 17 1. W 2. W 3. W 4. W 5. F
6. F 7. F 8. W
- Jan. 18 Pg. 18 1. Island of Patmos
2. A sharp, two-edged sword
- Jan. 19 Pg. 19 1. 2 2. 7 3. 4 4. 5 5. 3
6. 6 7. 1
- Jan. 20 Pg. 20 1. Inheritance 2. Heirs
3. Treasures 4. Heaven
5. Eternal 6. Rewards
7. Enjoy
- Jan. 21 Pg. 21 1. 10 % 2. The Temple/
House of God 3. They were
doing "outward" good works
but ignored their sinful hearts.
- Jan. 22 Pg. 22 1. Deliverer
2. Author & Finisher of Faith
- Jan. 23 Pg. 23 1. B 2. C 3. A 4. D
- Jan. 24 Pg. 24 1. He fell at His feet as dead.
2. The angels of the seven
churches
3. The seven churches
- Jan. 25 Pg. 25 No quiz
- Jan. 26 Pg. 26 Answers will vary.
- Jan. 27 Pg. 27 1. D 2. A 3. B 4. C
- Jan. 28 Pg. 28 1. Eternal, hand
2. Living, flesh
- Jan. 29 Pg. 29 Answers will vary.
- Jan. 30 Pg. 30 1. Ephesus 2. They lost their
first love.
- Jan. 31 Pg. 31 No quiz