

# 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."*

March 1, 2009

Dear Friend in Christ,

Spring is almost here! We have experienced a cold, rough winter in Toledo, Ohio, and we are certainly ready for the warmth of spring.

We serve Jehovah God who is in control of all the seasons. Daniel 2:21 says, ***"And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."*** We serve the One and only God who is in control of every aspect in our universe, whether the change of seasons or the hearts of kings.

Dear friend, if our God can control the climate with one spoken word, He certainly can handle the burdens in your life right now. Dig deep in His Word this month and discover God more intimately!

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ Merrin

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.” 1 Kings 15:11-12*

These verses are very easy to understand and are just more proof in the long line of evidence that God hates the sin of homosexuality and idol worship. King Asa did right in “God’s eyes” when he removed the Sodomites and the false idols from the land. If this was right in God’s eyes, then it is obvious that God is against this lifestyle. The very next verse states that Asa removed his own mother from being the queen because she had made an idol in a pagan shrine. He also destroyed the idol.

Some people try to argue that the New Testament never mentions the sin of homosexuality, but that claim is easy to disprove. In Romans 1:26, we read that God gave them up to evil affections: “For even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.” It is natural for a man to love a woman; it is not natural for a woman to love another woman or a man to love another man. Romans 1:27 says, “. . . Also the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly.” Paul’s final statement on sodomy is found in Romans 1:32: “They which commit such things are worthy of death.”

This sin resulted in the destruction of Sodom, and it may very well be the sin that destroys America. An individual’s sin affects

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

others. As God warned Cain, you are your brother’s keeper. Christians must stand against this vile wickedness. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. If we love Christ, we should keep His commandments. John 14:15
- \_\_\_ 2. It is possible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6
- \_\_\_ 3. The only way we can get to God is through Jesus Christ. John 14:6
- \_\_\_ 4. Repetitious praying will make sure God hears our prayers. Matt. 6:7
- \_\_\_ 5. Through Moses, God instructed the Israelites what they could and could not eat. They were allowed to eat locust. Lev. 11:20-23

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The riches of His free grace cause me daily to triumph over all the temptations of the wicked one, who is very vigilant, and seeks all occasions to disturb me.”

~George Whitefield



Morning: Numbers 24:15-27:23 Evening: Mark 8:10-38

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give...And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye... may abound to every good work...being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:7, 8, 11*

Have you ever seen a “Newton’s Cradle”? Perhaps you have, one or maybe you have seen one on the desk of some big CEO. Basically, it is a row of dangling steel ball-bearings, usually five, connected by strings, each to two fixed points. The device is used to demonstrate Newton’s Third Law of Motion: “For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” As the ball-bearings bounce off of each other, a “click-click” sound can be heard. As one ball is dropped (click), the opposite ball swings up (click). When the opposite ball falls (click), the original ball swings back up (click). “For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

In the Apostle Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, the “click-click” sound of this Law of Physics can almost be heard. “He which soweth sparingly” (click) “shall reap also sparingly” (click). “He that soweth bountifully” (click) “shall reap also bountifully” (click). “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give” (click), “and God is able to make all grace abound toward you” (click). “Ye...may abound to every good work” (click), “being enriched in every thing” (click), “which causeth through us thanksgiving to God” (click).

With Newton’s Cradle, if you swing one ball, one ball will react (sparingly). If you

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

swing four balls, four balls react (bountifully). Long before Newton was born, the click-clicking of his law could be heard. If you give, God’s grace abounds toward you. If you do good works, you are enriched, which causes thanksgiving to be directed toward God.

So, how is your giving? Is it done sparingly or bountifully? Do you give? If so, how has God’s grace abounded toward you? Do you do good works? If so, how have you been enriched? If you have been enriched, how have you directed thanksgiving back to God? It is simple physics. God designed it. Newton discovered it. You can prove it works. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “For I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.” Romans 1:16
2. “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against \_\_\_\_\_.” Acts 9:5

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

*Colossians 1:10*

What does it mean to walk worthy of the Lord? Let’s consider what Christ did for us. He left heaven. He ministered constantly. He endured an unjust trial, where He was declared innocent by the judge, and yet, was condemned to death. He was beaten and crucified. He rose again on the third day. He paid the penalty for our sin. He resurrected from the dead, and He gave us the gift of eternal life.

What is eternal salvation worth? What is the sacrifice that Christ made worthy of? Is it worthy of our worship? Is it worthy of our obedience? Is it worthy of our sacrifice? The real question might be, “Is there anything we might have or anything we could do, that we do not owe to Christ?” He is worthy; all we have and do should honor Him.

Look at this verse a little closer, and you will see that a worthy walk pleases the Lord. Do you walk a worthy walk? Are there things in your life that do not please the Lord? If so, how can you say that you are walking worthy of His sacrifice? A worthy walk is a fruitful walk. The natural outcome of living in a way that is worthy of Christ will be fruit in the life of the Christian. Praise, holiness, love, forgiveness, ministry, and certainly soul winning are all fruits. Are you producing fruit? Is your life pleasing to the Lord? Do you really think that He is worthy? The evidence is in your walk. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the Bible event in column 1 with the place where it happened in column 2. See how well you do without Scripture references, and check yourself on p. 36.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. ___ Where Jesus was born                          | A. Egypt            |
| 2. ___ Noah’s ark landed                             | B. Bethlehem        |
| 3. ___ Israelites wandered for 40 years              | C. Jerusalem        |
| 4. ___ It was plagued with frogs and lice            | D. Mt. Ararat       |
| 5. ___ Moses received the Ten Commandments           | E. Mt. Of Olives    |
| 6. ___ Joshua addressed the Israelites for last time | F. Mt. Sinai        |
| 7. ___ Jesus told disciples about the end times      | G. Nazereth         |
| 8. ___ Jesus grew up here.                           | H. Nineveh          |
| 9. ___ Jesus rode into the city on a donkey          | I. Schechem         |
| 10. ___ Jonah preached and people repented           | J. The Sinai Desert |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise.” ~Thomas Watson



Morning: Numbers 30, 31

Evening: Mark 9:30-50

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Fly to the Father**

*“Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest.” Psalm 55:6*

Psalm 55 was written by King David, probably during the time of the rebellion of his son Absalom. His close friend and confidant, Ahithophel had betrayed him and joined forces with Absalom. Surely, David must have felt betrayed and deceived. On top of the loss of that friendship, he was grief-stricken with the actions of his son; he probably felt like a horrible father. He says in verses 4-5, *“My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.”* In the climax of all these emotions, we get to our verse for today: *“Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest.”*

Have you ever wanted to fly away from all your problems? Maybe today you have just had enough and are ready to walk away from your marriage, your kids, or your job. Every day is a challenge, and you wish you could just start over in a different state where no one knows you. I have been there, too. King David had the same feelings, but he did not just give up. Later on in Psalm 55, David says he will call upon the Lord and trust in the all-powerful God. David had God confidence. He was assured that God would save, hear, and sustain him. *“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*(Ps. 55:22).”* Before you take flight, don’t lose sight of the Lord and His power to save, hear, and sustain! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. “Confess your \_\_\_\_\_ one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” James 5:16  
A. Faith            B. Love  
C. Sins             D. Faults
2. “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me \_\_\_\_\_ from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:2  
A. Open            B. Bound  
C. Free             D. Captive
3. “And \_\_\_\_\_ and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.” Luke 2:33  
A. Joseph        B. Ruben  
C. Benjamin     D. Jesus

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Faith is to rest, not in the best of God’s servants, but in His unchanging Word.”  
~ H. A. Ironside



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**The Great White Throne Judgment**

*“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*  
*Revelation 20:15*

There are two main judgments mentioned in the Bible:

1. The Bema Seat Judgment is for the saved and will happen immediately after the rapture of the church.
2. The Great White Throne Judgment is for the unsaved and will take place at the end of the millennium.

When an unsaved person dies, his soul goes immediately to Hades, a place of torment. This is the place mentioned in Luke 16:22-23, where the rich man found himself. As the rich man was in torment, so shall all those be who go to their grave in an unsaved condition. After the Great White Throne judgment, the unsaved body will be cast into the lake of fire to burn for eternity.

In Revelation 20:13b, you will notice that every man is judged according to his work. All the unsaved will go to hell, but they will not suffer the same degree of punishment. They will be punished according to their works. Those who have lived a more sinful life will be punished more than those who lived less sinful. However, both will be in hell. This is a plain teaching in the Word of God.

May God help us to reach the unsaved with the Gospel and prepare them to escape the Great White Throne Judgment. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God! how \_\_\_\_\_ are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Israel is comprised of the ten sons of Jacob. Genesis 49:1-28
- \_\_\_ 2. Nebuchadnezzar was a king of Judah Daniel 1:1
- \_\_\_ 3. According to Lev. 11:3, Israelites were allowed to eat animals that parts the hoof, cloven footed and chew cud.
- \_\_\_ 4. Belteshazzar was the name given to Daniel upon arrival in Babylon. Daniel 1:7
- \_\_\_ 5. God brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs. Dan. 1:9
- \_\_\_ 6. Daniel was given the understanding in visions and dreams. Daniel 1:17
- \_\_\_ 7. Nebuchadnezzar fell down upon his face and worshipped Daniel. Daniel 2:46

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If Christ has once possessed the affections, there is no dispossessing of Him again. A fire in the heart overcomes all fires without.”

~Richard Sibbes



Morning: Numbers 34-36

Evening: Mark 10:32-52

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Food for My Soul**

*“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance . . . But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face.” Matthew 6:16a, 17*

Our church recently finished a fasting campaign. People fasted for half a day or for a certain meal each day. They spent the time they would have been eating in prayer. Many prayed for our church, for spiritual guidance, or for a specific need they had.

Jesus himself was led by the Holy Spirit to fast in Matthew 4. He prayed often, finding strength and nourishment from obeying the will of the Father. He told his disciples, “I have meat to eat that ye know not of...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”(John 4:32,34) Through fasting and prayer, Jesus communed with His Father, receiving direction and comfort. His prayers were answered!

Jesus gave instructions to the disciples on fasting. In Matthew 6:16, he told them, “When ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites.” Jesus told the disciples, when they had difficulty casting out a demon, that sometimes they would need to fast and pray to see the power of God (Mark 9:29).

Do you have a great concern upon your heart? Is there sin in your life over which you can't find victory? Has the Lord convicted you to witness to a friend, co-worker, or family member? Are you seeking God's will? If the answer is yes, then perhaps you need to fast and ask for further instruction from the Lord in these areas. God can speak during some of the

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

greatest times of trial and opportunity. The question becomes are we listening? Fast, pray, and wait upon the Lord to answer.

~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God! How \_\_\_\_\_ are his \_\_\_\_\_, and his ways past finding out!”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “If ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ any thing in my name, I will do it.” John 14:14
2. “Thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee openly.” Matthew 6:4
3. “For the Son of man is come to save that which was \_\_\_\_\_.” Matthew 18:11
4. “And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.” Romans 15:29

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Prayer is the way and means God has appointed for the communication of the blessings of His goodness to His people.”

~Arthur W. Pink



Morning: Deuteronomy 1, 2

Evening: Mark 11:1-19

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.” Daniel 1:8a*

fit; it is contrary to all that man teaches, and it is tempting to fall back on man's wisdom. Even if God's way looks like it will not work, the long term will always prove God is right! Proverbs 2:7 says, “He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.” ~JW

Daniel was about seventeen when Israel was taken into bondage to Babylon. He was one of four young Judean men who were chosen to receive special training in the king's palace. For three years, Daniel and his friends were subjected to a foreign culture and thinking. They were ordered to partake in the king's food, so that they would grow strong and fit for labor. Immediately, Daniel took a stand on the diet; it was food considered unclean according to God's Word. Daniel challenged the commander to let them eat vegetables and not eat and drink the king's food and choice wines. God moved in this as Daniel made public his faith in God and His Word.

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God! How \_\_\_\_\_ are his \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_ past finding out!”

When taken before the king at the end of the three years, Daniel and his friends were found to be fit and strong. Daniel 1:19-20 says, “And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” Normally, we would not equate veggies as food that would put meat on your bones, but in this case, it did! Daniel found favor with God because of his faithfulness.

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the parent in column 1 with their child in column 2.

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ Abraham   | A. Samuel    |
| 2. ___ Ahaz      | B. Abimelech |
| 3. ___ Bathsheba | C. Jacob     |
| 4. ___ Eve       | D. Solomon   |
| 5. ___ Gideon    | E. Hezekiah  |
| 6. ___ Hannah    | F. Ishmael   |
| 7. ___ Isaac     | G. Cain      |

We will never fail when we trust fully in the Word of God. Sometimes, while we are going through a trial, God's wisdom does not seem to

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“A godly man preferreth grace before goods, and wisdom before the world.”

~Richard Bernard



Morning: Deuteronomy 3, 4

Evening: Mark 11:20-33

## **The Cry**

*by Sumner Wemp*

Two thousand years ago angels announced the good news, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. He suffered and died on the cross for our sins, paid the debt of sin in full, rose again, went back to heaven and left us with the task of telling this good news to every person. We ought to, everyone of us, get serious and get the Gospel to the ones God puts us in contact with personally.

**1. Hear the cry from above.** "Preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15. Mark just wrote down what Jesus commands us to do. "To refuse to witness of a saving Gospel to a lost world day by day is nothing short of high treason, spiritual rebellion, and inexcusable disobedience to God's holy command," said Dr. L. R. Scarborough. We all need to learn to walk by faith and not by feeling or waiting for a burden. Just obey God, and do it.

**2. The cry from below.** The rich man in hell begged for a drop of water. When he was told he could not have it. He begged, "Send him [Lazarus] to my father's house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment (Luke 16:27-28)." Oh my soul, this is staggering. For every person you and I have a moment of personal contact, there must be someone in hell who would beg,

"Please testify to my loved one lest they also come to this place of torment." Now, isn't that logical? Of course, it is. If every one of us went to hell for 5 minutes, we would come back the greatest soul-winners of all time.

**3. The cry from without.** Jesus saw the multitudes and "was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36)." See the multitudes today without God and no hope in this world. To many believers, their theme song is "I shall not, I shall not be moved." When you see the terrible conditions of the world and the emptiness of the multitudes, unless we are terrible self-centered, it has to move us. Bless God, we have the answer, and we must tell them the good news, that God loves them, and Christ has paid the way to heaven in full. Then, they can be born again and have a brand new life.

**4. The cry from within.** One thing has been clear to me over the years: people I have had the joy of leading to Christ and had a chance to follow up, have always had a burden for someone else to be saved. Paul said, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved (Romans 10:1)." He also said about the Romans, "I want some fruit among you also." Now that is normal Christianity. I have found when I forgot myself and thought of others, my heart would desire that they would be saved too. Often, God would lead me to someone who He had ready.♦



### Restoration Reaps Blessings

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

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

However, verse two explains that our iniquities can separate us from His power. Sin can block prayer. So, the problem is not the power of God or His ability to hear our prayer, but He will not answer our prayer or use His power when sin has broken our fellowship with Him. You can be sure if prayers are going unanswered that it is you that has moved away from God and not the reverse. In James 4, God promises to draw near to those who will draw near to Him.

The one exciting thing about a broken relationship with God is His willingness to restore it. If we will confess our sins to Him, He instantly forgives us and cleanses us of all unrighteousness. With this restored fellowship, immediately His power and willingness to answer prayer becomes available. Amen!

~RKM



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.”



**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. “And the sun \_\_\_\_\_, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.” Luke 23:45
  - A. was darkened
  - B. stopped shining
  - C. being obscured
  - D. was gone
2. “Children, obey your parents \_\_\_\_\_: for this is right.” Eph. 6:1
  - A. In the faith
  - B. In the Lord
  - C. In all things
  - D. Without murmuring
3. “Art thou \_\_\_\_\_? Seek not to be loosed.” 1 Cor. 7:27
  - A. Bound unto a wife
  - B. Loosed from a wife
  - C. Unmarried
  - D. Married



“He may look on death with joy, who can look on forgiveness with faith.”

~Thomas Watson



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.” 2 Corinthians 10:12*

Before a purchase is made, it is a good idea to do some comparison shopping. If a medical prescription is necessary, it might be good to find out the cost of the drug in generic form. If a new car is in your future, you might want to compare its cost at several different dealers. Need car insurance for that new vehicle? The insurance company, “Progressive,” has made a business of doing your comparisons for you. When shopping, it is simply good stewardship to do a little comparison.

However, the Apostle Paul takes quite a different approach to those who compare themselves with others. Let’s face it, when it comes to people, everyone is different. Ben Roethlisberger can play football. Donald Trump knows how to make money. Kevin Harvick can drive a race car. What if you cannot? Does that make you any less of a person than these men? So, someone in the church can sing, another person can teach, but you cannot do either. Are you less important than they?

The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian believers very clearly that making a comparison between yourself and someone else is not wise. Our goal in life should not be to preach like Billy Graham, swim like Michael Phelps, or drive a golf ball like Tiger Woods. Our goal should be to be like Christ.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Getting caught up in the comparison game can get discouraging. Before we know it, we convince ourselves that we will never be as good as “so-and-so,” and we decide to stop trying. So, check out the price of that new digital camera at several different stores and on several different web sites before you buy it. However, picture yourself, not in light of others, but in light of Jesus Christ and the gifts He has allowed you to possess. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a good 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

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

- \_\_\_ 1. The followers of Christ came to the sepulcher on the second day of the week. Mark 16:2
- \_\_\_ 2. We cannot see God; He is a Spirit. John 4:24
- \_\_\_ 3. It is impossible to escape from God. Psalm 139:7-12
- \_\_\_ 4. God knows a child in the mother’s womb. Psalm 139:13-15

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Peace on the outside comes from knowing God on the inside.” ~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“What shall we then say to these things?  
If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

*Romans 8:31*

What a great statement! With God on our side, who can be against us? Is there a rival that can overthrow his throne in heaven? That was already attempted by Satan, and he failed. There is no rival; there is no weapon that can be used against Him. There is no force nor will there ever be a force that can destroy Him. I have read the book of Revelation, and God wins.

If God be for us, who can stand against us? No one can stand against us if God is on our side. The good news of the Scriptures is that God is on our side. When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, the angel reminded him of the prophecy in Isaiah that told His name would be called Emmanuel, meaning God with us.

God is for us, and no one can stand against us. The only question becomes are we for God. Are we on His side? If we want God to be for us, we must make sure that we are on His side. As we are obedient to Him, we can expect His blessings to be upon us. So, I ask you today, as Moses asked the children of Israel, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “And I beheld, and heard an \_\_\_\_\_ flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth.” Rev. 8:13
2. “...and Jesus answered and said unto him, \_\_\_\_\_: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” Luke 4:8
3. “And no man hath ascended up to \_\_\_\_\_, but he that came down from \_\_\_\_\_, even the Son of man ....” John 3:13
4. “And the nations of them which are \_\_\_\_\_ shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.” Rev. 21:24

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“For years governments have been promising more than they can deliver, and delivering more than they can afford.” ~Paul Martin



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**The Love of the Father**

*“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

*Matthew 7:11*

I have a wonderful relationship with my father; I am truly blessed! In all honesty, he spoils me! He has provided physically, spiritually, and emotionally for my wants and needs above his own ever since I was born. One summer, I remember him selling his golf clubs so he could have enough money for a family vacation. Instead of doing a hobby or visiting with his friends, he attended ALL my childhood events. I have watched my dad distribute meat at dinner time, leaving himself with the smallest portion. My first year of college, I received letter after letter from him, containing a picture and a \$10 bill.

Recently, I received hundreds of dollars of medical bills. Knowing I could not afford them, he wrote me a check to help cover the costs. The next day, I walked into his office and said I could not accept that much money. He said, “I wanted to give it to you.” I persisted, “But I don’t like owing people money.” He replied with a simple heartfelt answer: “You don’t owe me anything; I’m your father.”

My father loves me unconditionally. He would do anything in his power to protect and provide for me. Jesus says in Matthew 7:11, *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*good things to them that ask him?* That’s a pretty amazing statement, isn’t it? The love of God the Father is limitless! He desires the best for you; He wants to give you good things. What are you desiring from your heavenly Father? Ask Him. Let Him determine if it is best for you or not. After all, He is the only perfect Father. ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the parent in column 1 with the child in column 2.

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. ___ Jehosphaphat | A. Joseph   |
| 2. ___ Jesse        | B. Jonathan |
| 3. ___ Leah         | C. Ham      |
| 4. ___ Noah         | D. Joshua   |
| 5. ___ Nun          | E. David    |
| 6. ___ Rachel       | F. Jehu     |
| 7. ___ Saul         | G. Reuben   |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God understands our prayers even when we can’t find the words to say them.”

~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Naaman, The Leper**

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

In II Kings 5:1-17, we see the story of Naaman, a captain in the Syrian army. He was an able military man, a mighty man of valor, well respected by his master, and yet, the last words in II Kings 5:1 say, “He was a leper.” In other words, being a great warrior will not eliminate the need for salvation. A great man must be saved just like all others. Naaman was a good man, well respected in his neighborhood; yet, good men, respected men, must be saved as well. Naaman was brave, courageous, strong, and able...but still needed salvation. So often, people think the “old-time religion” is good for the simple, the poor, and those who need it. The truth of the matter is the Joe Di-maggios, the Liz Taylors, the bankers, the millionaires, and the politicians all must be saved the same way as the poor man, by faith in Jesus Christ.

Man hates to admit he cannot save himself, and even after admitting so, he hates to admit that he cannot help in some way. Such was the case of Naaman. He tried to add his efforts to God’s plan. Picture Naaman in all of the pomp and ceremony, coming with his chariot and horses to the door of Elisha. It was a good day for Naaman when he realized that his candle-burning, ordinances, rituals, and bead-counting, could not save him; just simple faith in Jesus Christ provided salvation for his soul.

Let us thank God for several things:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

1. God has allowed us to realize our spiritual condition.
2. There is nothing we can do in our own strength for salvation.
3. By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, salvation was provided.
4. After salvation, God moves in the hearts of His people to serve Him. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a good thing to give \_\_\_\_\_ unto the LORD, and to \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

1. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: \_\_\_\_\_ was manifest in the flesh.” 1 Tim. 3:16  
 A. He                      B. Jesus  
 C. Christ                D. God
2. “They that \_\_\_\_\_ in tears shall reap in joy.” Ps. 126:5  
 A. Work                    B. Pray  
 C. Sow                     D. Help

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You can tell the size of your God by looking at the size of your worry list. The longer your list, the smaller your God.”

~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.” Acts 20:27*

In round figures, the Bible contains about 25% prophecy. It can be divided into two categories – fulfilled and unfulfilled. At this point in time, roughly half of the prophecy in the Bible has been fulfilled. Certainly, the prophecy fulfilled gives credence to the rest that is unfulfilled to this point.

J. Vernon McGee said, “I do not believe that one can have a full-orbed view of the Bible or be a well rounded student of Scripture without knowledge of eschatology, or prophecy.” I would say that the opposite is true as well: we cannot have a good understanding of prophecy without an understanding of Biblical history and other portions of Scripture. In short, we need to study the Bible in entirety.

If we are not taught the whole counsel of God, we can miss His moving. We cannot pick and choose what we want to study or what we want to believe about the Word of God. This is one reason why it is so very important to be in a church that preaches the Bible in its entirety, not leaving out parts that may be unpleasant.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus to show them a sign from heaven, Jesus answered in Matt. 16:3, “O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” By studying the entire Word of God, we will be more equipped to understand and be prepared for the times in which we are living. ~JW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_\_ 1. God already knows what we need before we ask Him. Matt. 6:8
- \_\_\_\_ 2. According to Lev. 11:3, lamb was a “clean” meat and acceptable to eat.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Noah was 400 years old when the flood was upon the earth. Gen. 7:6
- \_\_\_\_ 4. The ark rested on Mt. Ararat after seven months. Gen. 8:4
- \_\_\_\_ 5. The first bird sent out from the ark was a dove. Gen. 8:6-8
- \_\_\_\_ 6. After coming off the ark, Noah built an alter unto the Lord. Gen. 8:20
- \_\_\_\_ 7. God blessed Noah and his sons. Genesis 9:1

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The moral and religious system which Jesus Christ transmitted to us is the best the world has ever seen, or can see.”

~Benjamin Franklin





**Basis of Hope**

*“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.”  
Psalm 16:9*

In what do you place your trust? Every person must answer this question. Hope for everyone has a source. Will your basis for hope stand secure when the time comes?

Do you trust in health as your hope for living? If you are young and strong, it is very easy to think of yourself as invincible. Unfortunately, health can be taken from anyone at anytime. No one is even promised the next breath.

What about your money? Maybe, you have invested well, mapped out a clear financial plan and eagerly await the ease of retirement. Certainly, recent events have proven that money is not as secure as it once was. Property values can drop, buildings can be destroyed, and mutual funds can collapse.

Maybe the government will be your “bailout.” The government may be strong, but it has been weakened by the lack of acknowledgement of God, and as a result will lose His blessing. Government is only as good as the people governing and is helpless against the power of the corrupt.

Perhaps you have placed your hope in a religious system of good works. Maybe you trust in your belief that you are a good person. This is putting reliance on self instead of on the unmoveable, perfect God. Each person is capable of grievous sin and, therefore, mankind cannot be trusted.

David’s hope is clearly stated in the opening

verse of Psalm 16: “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.” He understood his frailty and need for a Saviour. David put his hope in God and was secure. Where does your hope lie? ~DJD



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



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

1. “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s \_\_\_\_\_? It is God that \_\_\_\_\_?” Rom. 8:33
2. “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from \_\_\_\_\_” Prov. 21:23
3. “To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than \_\_\_\_\_.” Prov. 21:3



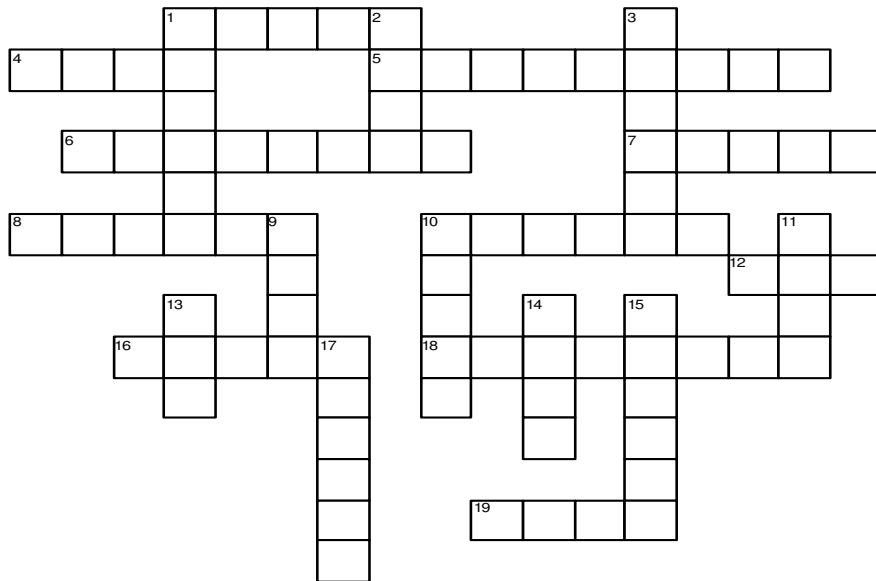
“I feel most ministers who claim they've heard God's voice are eating too much pizza before they go to bed at night, and it's really an intestinal disorder, not a revelation.” ~Rev. Jerry Falwell



Morning: Deuteronomy 23-25 Evening: Mark 14:51-72

## CREATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(All Answers can be found in Genesis 1:1-2:14.)



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

### ACROSS

- 1 Lights in the firmament were to be this (Genesis 1:14)
- 4 Darkness was on the face of this before light was created (Genesis 1:2)
- 5 One river in the garden (Genesis 2:14)
- 6 God divided this from the light (Genesis 1:4)
- 7 The trees were created on this day (Genesis 1:12-13)
- 8 What did God do on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2)
- 10 This light was made to rule the night (Genesis 1:16)
- 12 The origin of life (Genesis 1:1)
- 16 The whales were created on this day (Gen.1:22-23)
- 18 Another river in Eden (Genesis 2:14)
- 19 The earth was this in the beginning (Gen. 1:2)

### DOWN

- 1 This moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2)
- 2 The gathering together of the waters were called these (Genesis 1:10)
- 3 These were created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:24-25)
- 9 God formed man from this (Genesis 2:7)
- 10 God created this on the first day (Gen. 1:3-5)
- 11 These were created on the fifth day (Genesis 1:20)
- 13 Adam and Eve sewed leaves from this tree to make aprons (Genesis 3:7)
- 14 The name of the first garden (Genesis 2:8)
- 15 The firmament was created on this day (Genesis 1:8)
- 17 The name of the firmament God created (Genesis 1:8)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Prepare for Eternity**

*“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.” Psalm 39:4*

At some point, every family must face death. While growing up in the normal course of life, we lose grandparents, and then aunts and uncles. Then, we lose parents, until finally, those our own age begin to face death.

It is important to plan for what is inevitable. The only ones who will not die are those who will be raptured. All others must face death. In a sense, we are really not prepared to live, until we are prepared to die.

The time of death is unpredictable, but the fact of death is not. Regardless of who we are, we will all one day be forced to face it. The psalmist is wisely asking God to let him know the length of his life. The fact is that our life is frail, and we cannot avoid death. The good news is that Jesus HAS conquered death (through His resurrection) and has promised us eternal life. Greater is Christ that is in us, than Satan that is in the world.

Our tendency is to not want to think about unpleasant things, but it is to our benefit to plan for death. It profits those that love us if we plan for the future and that includes death. What must we get done before we die? Planning will help you prioritize the most important things in your life. Matthew 6:19-20 say, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and He will meet your every need! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match these Bible characters in column 1 with their occupation in column 2.

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. ___ Abel    | A. Tent maker                  |
| 2. ___ Boaz    | B. Scribe                      |
| 3. ___ David   | C. Wealthy farmer              |
| 4. ___ Deborah | D. Shepherd                    |
| 5. ___ Ezra    | E. King                        |
| 6. ___ Joash   | F. Judge                       |
| 7. ___ Paul    | G. Musician,                   |
|                | H. Musician,<br>Shepherd, King |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“... I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior, for whose Kingdom it stands, one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.” ~Vice President Dan Quayle



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“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.”*

**2 Corinthians 10:5**

About two years after I was born, Hasbro produced a crazy game called “Hungry, Hungry Hippos.” Complete with four hippos, game board, and twenty plastic marbles, the silly child’s game became an instant favorite of children all over the United States. Lizzy (the purple hippo), Henry (the orange hippo), Homer (the green hippo) and Harry (the yellow hippo) have found their way into the hearts of children and parents alike. Although the hippos have changed a little, the game is still being produced, today by Milton Bradley under the name “Hungry Hippos.”

The object of the game is to capture the most marbles by pressing the little black lever on the back of your hippo which controls the hippo’s mouth. The person who captures the most marbles is the winner. This addicting little child’s game can be used to teach us a huge “grown up” lesson.

The Apostle Paul, after telling the Corinthian believers to cast “down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself,” told them, in essence, to capture all their marbles. The task he proposed, while huge, is vital to the spiritual growth of any Christian. We must control our thought life. Whether it is setting up accountability with another man, guys, or turning off the afternoon soaps and talk shows, ladies, we must control our thoughts. As it has been said, “Thoughts become words. Words

become actions. Actions become habits. Habits become character. Character becomes destiny.” What is your destiny?

In your life, what is exalting itself above God? Is it a sport? Is it a child? Is it a television show? Do you have something in your life that is more important to you than knowing God? Will you cast it down? Will you make the conscious effort in your life to bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ?” If not, you have lost your marbles. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. What is a name Satan goes by in the Bible? Rev. 12:9 & Rev. 20:2  
 A. Dragon                      B. Serpent  
 C. Devil                        D. All the above
2. Which one of these things were the apostles not to do? Matt 10:5  
 A. Cast out Devils    B. Heal the sick  
 C. Preach                      D. Go to Samaria

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

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





**Behind the Scenes**

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

*Philippians 1:6*

As the audience members leave the theater, the echoes of praise waft from their voices. “Oh, the set pieces were magnificent!” “Did you hear the lead’s voice? He was absolutely amazing!” “Oh, and the costumes were so unique!” “You know, I have never seen a show like it before in my life!” Little do these audience members know that one of the wheels was broken off of a moveable set piece, presenting a problem in Act I. The leading male had his song recorded, and he mouthed the words. A couple of chorus members had snaps pop off of their costumes in the dance number and missed a couple of key moves to avoid a disaster on stage. In all actuality, it was one of the worse shows of the season, but the audience members still leave dazed by the performance.

Behind the scenes. When I worked at a professional theater for a year, I saw all the trauma that can go wrong before, during, and after a performance. And, yet, as actors, it was our job to look past the missed cues, broken set pieces, and sound bloopers. As they say, “The show must go on!” So, we would try to perform as if everything was running perfectly.

Sometimes, I believe, Christians view other believers like they are actors on the stage of life. “She is such a good mother; I’ll bet she never yells at her kids in anger.” “He



is so godly; he probably only has to confess sin once a week.” “She lives such a fulfilled life; I would guess she never gets discouraged or struggles with depression.” The truth is no one’s life is perfect. You see, behind the daily performance of life, there is a real person who sins and struggles just like everyone else. Instead of trying to measure up to others, keep your eyes on Christ; he is working behind the scenes in the lives of all His children. ~MFM



1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”



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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The fool says there is no God. Psalm 14:1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The heavens declare God’s humanity. Psalm 19:1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The whole earth is full of God’s glory. Isaiah 6:3



“The true greatness of any church is not how many it seats but how many it sends!”

~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**A Brawling Woman**

*“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” Proverbs 21:9*

Have you ever been around brawling (fighting) or contentious (angrily debating) women who have nothing nice to say about anything? God isn't going to use a man or woman with this attitude. It doesn't matter what your problems are, who caused them, or why you are going through them; God is in control. When you get to heaven, you will not be able to blame anyone but yourself. God will look at your heart and how YOU handled the situations He allowed into your life.

When we are fighting, complaining, passing the blame, and angrily debating, God is grieved. Instead of being known as a brawling and contentious person, seek to develop a lifestyle that draw others to you, not away from you. Women strive to be Proverbs 31 women, instead of allowing fighting and debating to ruin your home. Men, encourage the women in your lives to display Christ-like characteristics, not through force or anger but with a loving spirit.

Here is a prescription for healing a bad spirit and attitude:

1. Read God's Word daily.
2. Pray daily.
3. Practice what God's Word says.

*“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” James 3:10*

*“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*speaking guile.” Psalm 34:13*

*“And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.” Psalm 35:28*

*“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”*

*I Peter 3:10 ~KAT*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant \_\_\_\_\_ hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. What was the name of Timothy's grandmother? \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Timothy 1:5
2. Paul's journey to Rome in Acts 27:14 was hampered by a tempestuous wind which was called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who was the man who sought to “buy” the power of the Holy Ghost with money? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 8:9-19

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Your weakness is no excuse: ‘He giveth power to the faint.’” ~Author Unknown



Morning: Deuteronomy 31, 32

Evening: Luke 1:1-23

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Justification by Faith**

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Justification: A righteous declaration by a Holy God, declaring Jesus (God-Man) as sinful as the sinner and proclaiming the sinner just as righteous as Jesus Christ. A good way to remember the definition of justification is by the following play on words: “Just as if I had never sinned.”

A Holy God will have no fellowship with man because sin’s stain on the life of man. Because of this, a great gulf is fixed between man and God. Man has tried to construct a bridge of character. He has tried to span the gulf with the bridge of ritual. He has tried baptism, sacraments, human effort, and many other things to eliminate the distance between God and man. However, all these works are futile efforts in the eyes of God.

Amidst the failing of human bridges, God stepped in and provided the bridge of justification by faith alone. All manmade devices to reach God are futile according to Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:9, and Romans 3:28. Justification by faith is the only way of restoring the guilty sinner to fellowship with God. It is simply God’s stamp of approval making legal our salvation. The plan of salvation was Jesus’ part. Faith is our part. Regeneration is the Holy Spirit’s part. Justification is God the Father declaring it all acceptable to Himself. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_ us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the book of the Bible in column 1 with the incident in column 2.

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ Acts       | A. Paul’s presentation of sin.      |
| 2. ___ Exodus     | B. Prediction about Servant/Messiah |
| 3. ___ Genesis    | C. Songs of praise                  |
| 4. ___ Isaiah     | D. Beginnings                       |
| 5. ___ Joshua     | E. Story of Jesus                   |
| 6. ___ Matthew    | F. Story of early Church            |
| 7. ___ Proverbs   | G. Israelites entry into Canaan     |
| 8. ___ Psalms     | H. Israelite escape from Egypt      |
| 9. ___ Revelation | I. Visions of the end of the age    |
| 10. ___ Romans    | J. Wise sayings                     |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The Bible is not a science book, but it is scientifically correct. And when science contradicts the Bible, it is sooner or later found out not to be true science.” ~CWH



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**O Worship the King**

**“Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty” Psalm 104:1**

While listening to a recording of Dr. Harold Wilmington’s message on the “Doctrine of the Trinity,” I was struck by his description of the hymn, “O Worship the King.” In the message, he recited the words of the final verse of this song. In it, God is described as our *Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend*. Although I had sung these words for many years, I became newly aware of how awesome God is.

God is our Creator. He alone has the power to create, as this hymn states, our feeble bodies, minds, and souls. Without Him, we would never have existed. His power is infinite and His creative genius should cause us to bow our knee—if for no other reason than the mere wonder of the vast universe and its splendor that lies before us.

God is our Defender. He stands in the gap between an eternity of separation and glorious eternal life with God and says, “I will make a way!” Willingly, He takes the stand in our defense. He is the shield and standard, “defending” us from the wiles of Satan himself.

God is our Redeemer. Knowing the cost of our freedom, He bore the burden of our sin. As the kinsmen redeemer of the Old Testament bought the freedom of his kin, so Christ with tender compassion laid down His life for us.

God is our Friend. Christ broke down the barrier that lay between God and man. Where once there was a mighty gulf, Jesus made a

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

bridge allowing us to enjoy sweet fellowship with our friend—God. Jesus himself referred to His disciples as friends, as He shared the will of the Father with them.

O worship the King, but not from afar. No longer do we need to see our King as a tyrant in a distant castle. Instead, we can enjoy who God is as we partake of the free gift of salvation. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_ us again unto a lively \_\_\_\_\_ by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. How long did God tell Jeremiah He knew Him? Jeremiah 1:5
  - A. Few months
  - B. A few minutes
  - C. Ten years
  - D. Before he was born
2. Why was Daniel cast into the lions den? Daniel 6:10-13
  - A. He was caught praying to God
  - B. The people thought it was funny
  - C. He was a murderer
  - D. He was a thief

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Love is not one of the attributes of God but the sum of them all.” ~Rev. J. M. Gibbon



Morning: Joshua 1-3

Evening: Luke 1:57-80

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Dividing Our Time**

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

Each day brings the same fourteen hundred forty minutes, no matter how you slice it. Life is to be lived one day at a time. So, if we are going to divide our time, it must be on that basis.

*Psalm 118:24 says, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* Notice that good days are made; they don’t just happen. But also notice that not every day is our best day. We can’t always control the circumstances around us. So, to divide our time or, to balance our day is to make sure certain things are added to our lives no matter what the circumstances.

Each day should be lived to the fullest and on purpose; that would include doing first things first. *Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* God deserves first place. If we take care of our spirit’s needs first, He will help us with our mind and body.

Common sense dictates that time be allotted for eating, sleeping, playing, and working. Additional time is needed for mind expansion and physical fitness. Guard your time. It is the most precious thing you have to give. When it is gone, it can never be brought back.

We need not only to balance our time, but also to interweave our activities so that we accomplish more than just one thing. Learn something in order to help someone else; fellowship as you eat; or perhaps, teach as you

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

play. Above all, remember to ask yourself, “What will I do today that will last for eternity?” *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). ~JWL*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_ us again unto a lively \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God made man in His image and after his likeness. Genesis 1:26
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Great Commission reveals a Trinity. Matthew 28:19
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The baptism of Christ reveals a Trinity. Matthew 3:16-17
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God the Father is not an eternal being. Psalm 90:2

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“This life is a dressing room for eternity. There is no second chance.” ~W. E. Dowell



Morning: Joshua 4-6

Evening: Luke 2:1-24

**Destroyed for Lack of Knowledge**

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6*

*By Russ Merrin*

In Hosea chapter 4, we find God has a complaint with Israel. Israel was guilty of swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery. The question that must be asked is this: What was God going to do about the sin? The answer is found in verse 6. *“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”* God allowed both Israel and Judah to be taken into captivity.

Why is this important to us today? It is important because in truth, God still hates sin. He will ultimately judge sin today just as He judged Israel. In fact, as Israel grew in population, their sin increased, resulting in even greater judgment.

My friend, you will never be satisfied with sin. In verse 10, God said, “...they shall eat,

and not have enough...because they have left off to take heed to the Lord.” Israel was unwilling to listen and unwilling to repent. In principle, the same is true for us today. If we will not listen, we will be judged.

I think it is interesting to watch the progress of our society accepting the lifestyle of sodomy. Years ago, sodomy was disgusting in almost all circles of society. Since then, there has been a steady push by the media, to promote it as “normal.” Today, even some politicians are promoting it as if they are champions of civil rights. Clearly, God created male and female, and He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. Adults in a sodomite relationship have a hard time obeying this command. As much as they would like to ease their guilt stained conscience, they were not born that way, and they will be one day held accountable.

In Hosea 4:11, God says, *“Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.”* This means adultery, both spiritual and physical, drunkenness, and a constant desire for pleasure, take away our ability to understand spiritual things. ♦

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

***“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”***  
*Proverbs 27:1*

The war in Iraq is certainly an example of the enemy striking when least expected. The car bombers seem almost impossible to stop. You don't know how or when they will strike, but you do know they hate Jesus Christ and His children.

This verse reminds me of the uncertainty of today, let alone tomorrow. We must be careful not to plan and boast of things we are going to do, especially on our own. It is only in God's willingness to let us do things that we have the power and freedom to do them. James 4:15 says, ***“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”***

The terrorist may strike at any moment upon any individual. This is such a good example of the way Satan operates. He is not particular; he will destroy the innocent as well as the enemy. Either one is a victory for the evil one.

On the other hand, ***“Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).*** God may have a miraculous day planned for you. Spiritual strength and great victories may be just around the corner, but be careful not to faint. Keep your eyes on the Lord; fear Him, and He will keep you and bless you.

You can live a life of fear and discouragement, or you can live a life of faith and bold

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

ness. It is your decision. Remember, perfect love for our Savior and Lord will cast out all fear. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ:

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

1. What was the name of the high priest's servant who lost an ear to Peter's sword?  
\_\_\_\_\_ John 18:10
2. Job \_\_\_\_\_ God. He was a perfect (mature spiritually) man, and he was from \_\_\_\_\_. Job 1:1
3. Name the mountain top on which Moses apparently died? \_\_\_\_\_  
Deuteronomy 34:1-6
4. What was the name of the valley which God was to give to Gomer for a door of hope? \_\_\_\_\_ Hosea 2:15
5. Who were the two men who withstood Moses? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Timothy 3:8

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The best thermometer of your spiritual temperature is the intensity of your prayer.”  
~C. H. Spurgeon



Morning: Joshua 7, 8

Evening: Luke 2:25-52

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.”**

**2 Corinthians 10:17,18**

At the writing of this devotional, the Pittsburgh Steelers have just won their “record setting” sixth Super Bowl. With the score 23-20 in favor of the Arizona Cardinals and with only 35 seconds left on the clock, Ohio State graduate Santonio Holmes made a spectacular, toe-dragging catch in the back of the end zone to put the Steelers on top for good. Super Bowl XLIII is the second Super Bowl win in four years for the Steelers. Right now, they are on top of the football world. If anyone has a reason to brag or glory, it would be the Steelers.

Have you ever been on a mountain top spiritually? Did you ever feel like you were at the “top of your game” as far as your Christian walk was concerned? Occasionally, in our Christian life, we find ourselves at a high point in life, and it can be very tempting to look at our accomplishments and let them go to our head. “Look how big my Sunday school class is!” “See how many people I have led to the Lord.” “I have not missed a day of church for 16 years, 25 days, 3 hours and 26 minutes.” When we get to those spots in life, it is absolutely necessary to remember that it was all because God allowed it to happen. We have no right to glory in our accomplishments. Our glory should be in the Lord. We can only do what we do because of Him. So, whether the score is 27-23, or you have 110 people in your Sunday school class, please recognize that all your accomplishments are a result of the good-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

ness of God. It is good to keep it all in perspective. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match the book of the Bible in column 1 with the author in column 2.

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. ___ Deuteronomy  | A. Paul          |
| 2. ___ Revelation   | B. Ezekiel       |
| 3. ___ Acts         | C. Apostle Peter |
| 4. ___ Philippians  | D. Luke          |
| 5. ___ Lamentations | E. Solomon       |
| 6. ___ Peter        | F. Jeremiah      |
| 7. ___ Ezekiel      | G. Moses         |
| 8. ___ Proverbs     | H. Paul          |
| 9. ___ Titus        | I. John          |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptized into a church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God."

~Helen Keller



Morning: Joshua 9, 10

Evening: Luke 3

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city.” Acts 16:20*

What did these men (Paul and Silas) do to cause so much trouble? They cast an evil spirit out of a woman, a woman who was making a lot of money for her masters through fortune telling. The men became angry because of the loss of their income. Their solution was to put Paul and Silas in jail. They could have thought maybe their God is the true God. They could have listened to the message of their soothsayer: *“These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.”(Acts 16:17)* But instead of embracing the message, they tried to silence the messengers. How did their plan work?

Paul and Silas were beaten and put in prison. At midnight, God performed a miracle. The men were loosed from their chains, and the prison doors were opened unto them. At the sight of the miracle, the jailer asked the missionaries, *“What must I do to be saved (Acts 16:30)?”* Their answer was *“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”* (Acts 16:31) The jailer and his family were saved. Not only was this family saved, but thousands of others have trusted Christ as pastors, evangelists, teachers, and soul winners have recited this story. The more the enemy attacks the message of God, the more God shows His mighty power to change lives. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who was John the Baptist’s mother?  
Luke 1:57-63  
A. Martha      B. Elisabeth  
C. Eunice      D. Lois
2. Who was the oldest living man according to Genesis 5:27?  
A. Methuselah      B. Abraham  
C. Noah      D. Moses
3. Which Bible books are call the Gospels.  
A. John, Acts, 1 & 2 Corinthians  
B. 1 & 2 Timothy, James, Jude  
C. Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, Acts  
D. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
4. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?  
A. Aesop      B. David  
C. Daniel      D. Jesus
5. What was the occupation of Luke according to Colossians 4:14  
A. Fisherman      B. An Apostle  
C. Physician      D. Shepherd

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It is not enough to do God’s work; it must be done in His way and for His credit.”

~ Erwin Lutzer



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Longing for Spring**

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As I type this devotional on my laptop, I am in bed with a cold. It is mid January, and there is over a foot of snow outside my house. Oh, the joys of winter! Actually, I do love the snow, but I am ready to give a shout out to spring. Sometimes when we are in a certain season of our lives, it is easy to wish we could advance a couple weeks, months, or years. However, in so doing, we lose the blessings that come with each season.

The “winter” months of the soul can be absolutely agonizing. Maybe you have just recently experienced a death in your family. Perhaps you have been struggling with an illness for months and are tired of the tests, doctor’s appointments, and medicine. For the past year, I have experienced “winter” in my soul. God has allowed trial after trial to enter my life, leaving me broken and dependent on Him alone. My desperate prayers for God to bring “spring” back into my life have been answered, “Wait.” In my human ignorance and self pity, I have not been satisfied with that answer and have questioned and complained about this seemingly never ending season of my life. Yet, God in His loving mercy keeps assuring me in His Word. *“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the Lord.” (Ps. 31:24) “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” (Ps.30:5b) “But he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.” (Ps.*

32:10b)

If I could have it my way, I would celebrate ‘spring’ every day of my life. Trials would be over; problems would be solved, and heartache would have no place. However, I would miss some of the blessings God has planned for me, such as getting to know God more intimately. Yes, winter is tough! Trudging through the snow, driving on ice covered roads, and paying increased heating bills are not pleasant. But, oh the joy when spring finally comes! How much more we will appreciate the blessings that the new season brings after having gone through the winter! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus was part of the creation of universe. Colossians 1:13-16
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus was part of the creation of man. John 1:1-3

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We have staked the future of American civilization upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

~President James Madison



Morning: Joshua 14, 15

Evening: Luke 4:33-44

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Gideon’s Success**

*“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon . . . Who through faith subdued kingdoms . . .”*

*Hebrews 11:32-33*

Faced with a multitude of problems the only logical explanation of Gideon’s success is that he had faith. In Hebrews 11:32, Gideon is called a man of faith. He is mentioned among the heroes of faith. So, in spite of all the hindrances, all the drawbacks, and all the reasons why he should not have been a success, Gideon was willing to do what God asked him to do. He was willing to put his fear aside. He was willing to forget all of his hindrances and follow God’s direction.

God gave Gideon instruction on who should be part of his army. Gideon began with twenty-two thousand men, but according to God, that was too many people. He was instructed to let those who were afraid and fearful return home. Gideon still had a ten thousand man army, but that was still too many for God’s plan. When God was finished with Gideon’s army, he had 300 men remaining to fight the Midianites.

Who would have thought a battle could be won by using pitchers, lamps, and trumpets? Yet in Judges 7 we find this was the way the enemy was defeated. Gideon and his men broke the pitchers, shined their lamps, and blew their trumpets to defeat the Midianites.

Even though God’s instructions on how to fight the Midianites seemed strange to Gideon, he was willing to trust God for the victory

more than he was willing to trust his own judgment.

Let us hope that we will be like Gideon in times of testing and trials, trusting God instead of our own judgment. Remember, *Proverbs 3:5-6*, “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.” ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Galatians 6:7 “Be not \_\_\_\_\_; God is not \_\_\_\_\_: for \_\_\_\_\_ a man \_\_\_\_\_, that shall he also reap.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, what was Paul willing to glory in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Blessed be the Lord, who daily \_\_\_\_\_ us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah” Psalm 68:19

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“There are three steps in the downfall of any nation. There is religious apostasy, then moral awfulness, and finally political anarchy.” ~J. Vernon McGee



Morning: Joshua 16-18

Evening: Luke 5:1-16

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Amazing Grace**

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”*

*Ephesians 2:4-8*

Amazing (exciting astonishment) grace (unmerited love or favor) has always been an unfathomable concept for me. My mind is blown away when I think of God sending His precious Son to die for me. Because of His amazing grace and love, I find it hard to know I never can measure up to what God expects of me. I know that on a daily basis I have disappointed Him and others around me, never being that perfect person.

Praise the LORD, I don't have to dwell on these failures. *Psalm 103:12* says, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”* Isn't that a beautiful and encouraging verse? God truly is rich in mercy and grace. Brothers and sisters, I am a chief sinner, and if God can work in me, He can also work in you. I encourage each of you to take yourself to the cross daily. At the cross, there is healing for all. God can fix your every hurt, pain, and broken heart.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Come to Him today, and experience His amazing grace. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Galatians 6:7 “Be not \_\_\_\_\_; God is not \_\_\_\_\_: for \_\_\_\_\_ a man \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ he also reap.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Matching.** Match person in column 1 with the correct statement in column 2.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___1. Jesus (Lu. 4:2)              | A. Received tablets of stone      |
| ___2. Noah (Gen. 7:17)             | B. Received 39 stripes five times |
| ___3. Paul (2 Cor. 11:24)          | C. Tempted by Satan               |
| ___4. Moses (Acts 7:38)            | D. Searched the land for 40 days  |
| ___5. Spies (Num. 13:25)           | E. Road out the flood in an ark   |
| ___6. John (Rev. 1:9)              | F. Lost head at a birthday party  |
| ___7. Peter (Acts 2:14)            | G. Banished to Isle of Patmos     |
| ___8. Philip (Acts 8:5)            | H. Preached to men of Judea       |
| ___9. John the Baptist (Mark 6:25) | I. Preached to Samaritans         |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.”

~Dwight L. Moody



Morning: Joshua 19, 20

Evening: Luke 5:17-39

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“Who art thou that repliest against God?”**  
*Romans 9:20*

Have you ever gotten mad at God? Have you ever questioned His plan? Have you ever talked back to Him in anger? This verse poses a great question: Who are thou that repliest against God? In other words, who do you think you are?

When Job experienced his great trial and was trying to sort out why it all happened, God said unto him, **“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.”** (Job 38:4) God has done just fine for all eternity without our help. He has never once called me for advice on a single topic. Let us consider some of His accomplishments:

1. He spoke the world into existence.
2. He created man and everything else.
3. He gave you an intellect, without which you would not comprehend Him, let alone question His actions.
4. He inspired and preserved His Word, so that we could know Him.
5. He took on the form of a man, so He could pay for our sins on the cross.
6. Three days later, He rose from the dead to prove that He had the power of eternal life.

Would you like to compare His accomplishments to yours? Do you still want to question Him? Or, do you think maybe He has everything under control? ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Galatians 6:7 “Be not \_\_\_\_\_; God is not \_\_\_\_\_: for \_\_\_\_\_ a man \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ he also \_\_\_\_\_.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**List.** Write the following books in the order in which they appear in the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Haggai
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Habakkuk
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Amos
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Malachi
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Hosea
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Nahum
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Ezra
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Joel
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The Jesus that men want to see is not the Jesus they really need to see.”

~G. Campbell Morgan



Morning: Joshua 21, 22

Evening: Luke 6:1-26

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 12:2-3*

God made a covenant with Abraham. Part of that covenant was to bless those that bless the seed of Abraham. With the trouble we are experiencing with Arab terrorists and Arab nations, it is significant to remember what God has promised. We can be certain that Christ will one day rule the Middle East with a rod of iron. He will be King of kings and Lord of lords. Israel will stand; all those who oppose Israel will lose.

Mankind can choose whom they will follow, whether it be Jesus Christ or a false prophet. However, the bottom line with God is that only those who have placed their faith in Christ and Christ alone will be saved for eternity. All of those that choose another way, rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior, will suffer ultimate defeat. Those cursing and persecuting His chosen people (Israel) will one day be cursed.

As the terrorist attacks increase, resulting in more and more death, Jesus Christ will in the end judge the wickedness of this sin. The terrorists have rejected Christ and those that name the name of Jesus for salvation, thus guaranteeing His curse.

Remember, **Romans 12:19**, *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” ~RKM*

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- \_\_\_ 1. God gave His son, Jesus, to redeem mankind from hell, so we could spend eternity in heaven. John 3:16
- \_\_\_ 2. The Holy Spirit was sent to us in the name of Jesus Christ to teach us. John 14:26
- \_\_\_ 3. The word *Trinity* does not appear in our printed Scriptures.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus Christ is God. John 1:1-2; 10:30; 14:9
- \_\_\_ 5. Jesus did not say He was the Alpha and Omega. Revelation 1:8

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Let my heart be broken with the things that break God’s heart.” ~Bob Pierce



Morning: Joshua 23, 24

Evening: Luke 6:27-49

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Unconditional Love**

*“And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.” Hosea 2:19*

Why would anyone knowingly stay in a marriage to a person who lives in continual rebellion and adultery? This is a valid question for those who are married today. Here in America, fifty percent of marriages end in divorce. Sadly, that number is the same among those who would call themselves “evangelical Christians.” Instead of trying to pick up the pieces of a broken marriage, many couples get a divorce as if it were the only option. However, in Hosea, we see a picture of a man who loves his wife unconditionally.

In Hosea 1, God tells Hosea to marry Gomer, who was known to be a harlot. Some commentators believe that Hosea may already have been in love with her. The question still remains. Why? God was going to use the personal experience of Hosea to demonstrate how much he loved His chosen people, Israel. In spite of their spiritual whoredom, He loved them very deeply.

Each time Hosea went to bring His harlot wife back home, he was an example of God’s love. His commitment, longsuffering and deep desire was steadfast against the backdrop of a wife that seemed not to care. Fortunately for us, God treats us with the same tender, forgiving love. He longingly seeks us out and waits patiently for our return, willing to receive us at the first word of repentance.

Hosea sought Gomer even when she was

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

unrepentant. Christ has the same type of love for mankind. In the midst of sin and even denial of His existence, Christ loves the vilest of sinner. Amazing! He loves us before we even speak His name. Thank you Lord for loving us, even when we rebel and go astray.

~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Titus 3:5 “Not by \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. “The LORD is my light and my \_\_\_\_\_; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Life; of whom shall I be afraid?”  
Psalm 27:1
2. “Thou hast also given me the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy \_\_\_\_\_ hath made me great.” Psalm 18:35

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress." ~Ronald Reagan



Morning: Judges 1, 2

Evening: Luke 7:1-30

**THE WORD FOR TODAY**

**Love to Serve, Serve with Love**

*“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*

*Galatians 5:13*

Love is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as benevolence, esteeming of someone or something. John 13:34 says, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”* One of my goals for 2009 is to love others more and serve them better, not being selfish. Since God sent His Son just to love me, the least I can do is love and serve others in the same way. “Here I am Lord; use me.” Just imagine if we all took this attitude to heart. What would happen if we all jumped with joy at the call to His service?

It is said that 10% of church people do the work of serving. That statement being made, what if each of us did one service? Then, collectively, we would have 100% of the church doing a service. Here are some ministries that your church may have available: nursery, Sunday school, AWANA, children’s church, teen group, greeters, ushers, parking lot attendant, deacons, and choir. Maybe you could help with cleaning, landscaping, or cooking. There is a place for everyone to serve in church. I challenge you to evaluate your service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Match your talent with a service and see what the Lord will do through you for His honor and glory! ~KAT

**SCRIPTURE FILL-IN**

Titus 3:5 “Not by \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness which we have done, but \_\_\_\_\_ to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

**BIBLE QUIZ**

**List.** Write these books in the order in which they appear in the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Colossians
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Mark
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 1,2,3 John
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Philemon
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Jude
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Titus
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions."

~Pastor Adrian Rogers



Morning: Judges 3-5

Evening: Luke 7:31-50

Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

- 3/1 - Pg 2 T, F, T, F
- 3/2 - Pg 3 Gospel, the pricks
- 3/3 - Pg 4 B, D, J, A, F, I, E, G, C, H
- 3/4 - Pg 5 D, C, A
- 3/5 - Pg 6 F, F, T, T, T, T, T
- 3/6 - Pg 7 Ask, reward, lost, Gospel
- 3/7 - Pg 8 F, E, D, G, B, A, C
- 3/8 - Pg 10 A, B, A
- 3/9 - Pg 11 F, T, T, T
- 3/10 - Pg 12 Angel, get the behind me Satan,  
heaven, heaven, saved
- 3/11 - Pg 13 F, E, G, C, D, A, B
- 3/12 - Pg 14 D, C
- 3/13 - Pg 15 T, T, F, T, F, T, T
- 3/14 - Pg 16 Elect/justifieth, troubles, sacrifice
- 3/15 - Pg 18 D, C, G, F, B, E, A
- 3/16 - Pg 19 D, D
- 3/17 - Pg 20 T, F, T
- 3/18 - Pg 21 Lois, Euroclydon, Simon the  
sorcerer
- 3/19 - Pg 22 F, H, D, B, G, E, J, C, I, A
- 3/20 - Pg 23 D, A
- 3/21 - Pg 24 T, T, T, F
- 3/22 - Pg 26 Malchus, feared/Uz, Nebo,  
Achor, Jannes & Jambres
- 3/23 - Pg 27 G, I, D, A, F, C, B, E, H
- 3/24 - Pg 28 B, A, D, B C
- 3/25 - Pg 29 T, T
- 3/26 - Pg 30 Infirmities, loadeth
- 3/27 - Pg 31 C, E, B, A D, G, H, I, F
- 3/28 - Pg 32 Exodus, Joshua, Ruth, Ezra,  
Hosea, Joel, Amos Nahum,  
Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi
- 3/29 - Pg 33 T, T, T, T, F
- 3/30 - Pg 34 Salvation, strength/shield,  
gentleness
- 3/31 - Pg 35 Matthew, Mark, Romans, Epe-  
sians, Colossians, Titus, Phile-  
mon, 1, 2, 3 John, Jude,  
Revelation

Creation Crossword Puzzle

Hebrew Names or God

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God” John 1:1-2***