

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."

November 1, 2009

Redeemed Saints,

Happy Thanksgiving! This is a wonderful time of year, a time of giving thanks for all the Lord has done. Psalm 100:4-5 say, *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*

God wants our thanksgiving and praise. He is our Creator, Friend, Redeemer, and Coming King! He desires sweet communion with us on a daily basis. Set aside time in your personal devotions to praise and thank God for Who He is and what He has done.

In Christ,
Pastor Russ Merrin

This devotional is prepared and distributed as a ministry of:

Monclova Road Baptist Church
7819 Monclova Rd., Monclova, OH 43542
(419) 866-0773 – FAX: 419-868-1062
www.monclovabaptist.org

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Competition in Christ

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

I like to think that the writer of Hebrews was a sports fan. The analogies he uses would certainly lead one to support this idea. Just as the writer referred to great numbers of witnesses, athletes often compete in front of an audience of great numbers.

This is also true in the Christian walk. Both believers and non-believers comprise our audience. There are those who encourage us: our pastors or our Sunday school teachers; and then there are those who “boo” us ones who are opposed to any semblance of commitment to our Lord.

As we think about our example and our “coach,” Jesus Christ, we should be encouraged to continue being faithful even through the tough times of discipline and training. Just as surely as we strive for excellence in our chosen sport to gain that championship trophy, rewards await us that are worth the cost: the joy of realizing our victory over sin, the peace that comes from the knowledge of sins forgiven, and of course, eternal life!

1. What has your Christian walk cost you this week?
2. What are you doing to make sure you “go the distance?”

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

3. What are you doing to encourage someone else in his/her Christian walk? ~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? (John 2:1-11)
A. Corinth B. Colosse
C. Capernaum D. Cana
2. Where did Jesus heal the centurion’s servant? (Matthew 8:5-13)
A. Corinth B. Colosse
C. Capernaum D. Cana
3. Where did God appear to Paul in a vision? (Acts 18:1-11)
A. Corinth B. Colosse
C. Capernaum D. Cana

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.” ~A.W. Tozer

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Christian Maturity

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
2 Peter 3:18

The Apostle Paul, while in Ephesus, received news of a distressing nature, relating to the church of Corinth. The church was being divided by a spirit of contention. There were factions adhering to the teaching of Paul, another to Apollos, another to Cephas, and still others that gave their allegiance to Christ.

Now, read the first few verses of 1 Corinthians three. Because of their immature ways, the people were referred to as “babies.” They could not take in the “meat of the Word.” The Apostle Paul said he had to feed them with milk (as newborn babes), not with meat (as mature believers). He also said he had determined to preach nothing among them except Christ crucified. Nowadays, many people have the idea that this is all the preacher should preach from our pulpits. This is not true! Preaching Christ crucified could be considered as milk. It is necessary for the early stages of the Christian life, but God wants people to grow and mature in their Christian walk. God wants His servants to preach and teach the doctrines of the Bible to their congregations as well. Paul realized the people were not mature enough in the Word to understand the doctrines he wanted to teach them, so he had to teach them as if they were children.

There were many other sins in the church at Corinth (misuse of the tongues, immorality,

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

lack of love, etc.). However, the lesson for their devotion should be characterized by the desire to grow to the fullest in maturity. God wants us to grow in His grace and knowledge of His Word. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. All questions pertain to Jesus’ miracles in Matthew 9:18-26.

1. Who asked Jesus to heal his daughter?

2. On the way to the sick girl’s home, Jesus was interrupted by a woman who had been sick for how many years?

3. What healed the woman of her disease?

4. What was happening when Jesus arrived at the sick girl’s home? _____

5. When Jesus said, “The maid is not dead, but sleepeth,” what did the people do?

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“As the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, so likewise a cheerful thanksgiver.” ~John Boys



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Church Faithfulness

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

Yesterday, I attended our morning worship service and was so encouraged. The music was great, people were encouraging, and the preaching was just what I needed. The pastor’s message was so applicable to my life. I left encouraged, helped, and excited to apply the principles learned.

I grew up in the church. When the doors of the church were open, my family was there. I have attended everything from senior saints ministries to inter-church little league games. As a young child, my parents instilled in me the importance of church faithfulness.

Why? Why is church faithfulness so important? First, you never know when you will get an unexpected blessing. Yesterday is a great example. God spoke to my heart in a very special way. Secondly, you never know who you will be able to bless. Someone came up to me yesterday and just let me talk. The person listened and so encouraged me with their words. Third, spiritually, you need to be replenished often. Colossians 3:16 says, “. . . **Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.**” You need to be taught the Word of God. Just as Paul taught the believers in Colossae, so God has called pastors and teachers to instruct believers. Finally, you need to have fellowship with other believers. Let’s face it—life is hard! We need each other!

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Make sure church is a priority in your life. Go expecting a blessing, and look for someone to encourage! ~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God _____ in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the event in column 1 with the place in column 2.

Column 1

- _____ 1. Abraham lied the second time to Sarah
- _____ 2. Elisha visited a sick king
- _____ 3. Hometown of King Saul
- _____ 4. David hid from Saul in a cave
- _____ 5. Elisha cured a pot of poisonous stew

Column 2

- A. Gerar (Gen. 20)
- B. Gibeah (1 Sam. 10:26)
- C. Damascus (2 Kings 8:7)
- D. Gilgal (2 Kings 4:38-41)
- E. En-Gedi (1 Sam. 24)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The more fractured we are, the greater we become spectacles to the world. The more we are united in love, the more the world sees Christ.” ~Curtis C. Thomas



Morning: Jeremiah 36, 37

Evening: Philemon

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.” Ephesians 4:25

Have you ever told a lie? (Right now you are probably thinking: “Uh...yeah...I’ve told a lie, who hasn’t?”) Most Christians are willing to admit that they have lied, but with full expectation that they will lie again. Oh, this is not to suggest that anyone makes light of lying or does not recognize it as a sin. However, it seems that until a person is a chronic liar, the sin of lying does not rank up there in the “major sins” like adultery or murder.

In verses 22-24, the Apostle Paul laid out the pattern for overcoming sin. We are told to put off the sin (v. 22), put on the new man (v. 24) and, most importantly, change our mind about that sin (v.23).

In verse 25, he specifically applies this pattern to the sin of lying. Notice his specifics: 1. Put away lying (put off); 2. Speak the truth (put on); 3. We are members one of another (a change of mind). Just because a person stops lying does not mean he is not a liar. To speak the truth is better, but even liars will tell the truth sometimes. If we only take these two steps, we will lie again. So, what does the “members one of another” part have to do with a change of mind? To recognize that we are members one of another is to get the focus off of “what is best for me” (aka: lie my way out of the situation) and puts our focus on others (aka: my lie effects those around me). So, stop lying, start telling the truth, and be renewed in your mindset that we are members one of another. Change your thinking about lies. ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God _____ in your _____, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: How many? Match the statement in column 1 with the correct quantity in column 2.

<u>Column 1</u>	<u>Column 2</u>
_____ 1. Books in the Old Testament	A. 929
_____ 2. Books in the New Testament	B. 66
_____ 3. Psalms in the Book of Psalms	C. 150
_____ 4. Chapters in the New Testament	D. 39
_____ 5. Chapters in the Old Testament	E. 27
_____ 6. Books in the Bible	F. 24
_____ 7. Elders around the throne in Heaven (Rev. 4)	G. 260
_____ 8. Years Israel spent in Babylon (Dan. 9:24)	H. 70

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Let the fires go out in the boiler room of the church and the place will still look smart and clean, but it will be cold. The Prayer Room is the boiler room for its spiritual life.”

~Leonard Ravenhill



Morning: Jeremiah 38, 39

Evening: Hebrews 1



Great Is Thy Faithfulness

“They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:23

As Christians, do we step back to recall God’s faithfulness in our lives? It seems that we take so much for granted, such as our families, friends, jobs, even the air we breathe, and especially God’s faithfulness to us. Oh, that we might take time to do spiritual inventory.

First, let’s look at what faithfulness means: it is a strict performance of promises, vows, or covenants. *Second*, take time to reflect how God has been faithful to you and your family. *Third*, think of the promises He has kept versus the promises you have not kept.

The book of Psalms states that God’s faithfulness reaches the clouds and is established in the heavens. It is shown day and night to all generations. Also, we see in Psalms that He is faithful to answer us.

Deuteronomy 7:9 is a *covenant* to the people: *“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”*

1 John 1:9 is a promise for the forgiveness of sin, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Isaiah 25:1 is about His counsel to us: *“O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”*

Please take time today to remember how good and faithful God is to you! ~KAT



Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God _____ in your _____, to the which also ye are _____ in one body; and be ye thankful.”



Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blank with the correct quantity—30, 40, or 50.

- Goliath taunted Israel for _____ days. (1 Samuel 17:16)
- Absalom appointed _____ men to run before him. (2 Sam. 15:1)
- Jonah preached to Nineveh for _____ days. (Jonah 3:4)
- Israel mourned for Moses for _____ days. (Deut. 34:8)
- The feast of weeks was _____ days after the Passover. (Lev. 23:15,16)



“Sin is almost the only thing we have in common with everyone else, and so at the feet of Jesus where sin is cleansed is the only place where we can be one. Real oneness conjures up for us the picture of two or more sinners together at Calvary.” ~Roy Hession



Morning: Jeremiah 40-42

Evening: Hebrews 2

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”
Galatians 5:16*

Avoiding sin is a full time job and is one of the most difficult things for the Christian to do. God gives us a great path to take in avoiding the lust of our flesh. He tells us to walk in the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit requires that we make some very deliberate choices. First, if we are not saved, we need to trust Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. Calling on Him to forgive our sins gives us a new direction for our lives. Without Him, we will never walk in the Spirit.

Second, we must know His Word. Taking a trip anywhere without a clear understanding of the path we intend to take is unwise. God wants to make the path clear. We can know His plan and our path through His Word, revealed in daily Bible study, memorization, meditation, and prayer. We are then able to hear Him speak to us through each of these times of fellowship.

Third, we must be willing to yield to Him in the places that He calls us to surrender. He will never ask us to give up something unless it is in the way of His will for us. By submitting to the Holy Spirit, we will find it easier to see God’s will and avoid sin. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God _____ in your _____, to the which also ye are _____ in one _____; and be ye thankful.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

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

1. What were the main events in the following chapters of Genesis?
 - a. Gen. 1 _____
 - b. Gen. 3 _____
 - c. Gen. 6-8 _____
 - d. Gen. 11 _____
2. What three people in the Bible witnessed a rainbow?
 - a. _____
(Gen. 9:12-19)
 - b. _____
(Ezek.1:3; 27-28)
 - c. _____
(Rev. 1:1, 4:3; 10:1)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“God’s purpose is to glorify Himself through His church. He is glorified as the church is true to Him and His Word, as the church mirrors His purity and holiness. Failure to keep the church pure brings discredit to God on this earth and brings to His name great shame in the failure of those who profess to know Him.” ~Richard P. Belcher



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

I Shall No Be Moved

“I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.” Psalm 16:8

How can someone be planted or grounded in the Christian faith and be able to say, “I shall not be moved”? Let me give you what the Bible says about this kind of unwavering faith.

First, we need to realize that Christians are not perfect, just forgiven. That is, we still have a nature that is capable of any wicked deed, so the flesh cannot be trusted. Secondly, we must depend upon the grace of God. Yes, that same grace that saves us will keep us from falling. Thirdly, we need to submit to God for direction in this life. Fourthly, we need to resist the devil. Yes, I believe in a personal devil. Fifthly, we need to draw nigh to God. We need to stay as close as we can to Him. Sixth, we need to go to God daily for the cleansing of our sins. Seventh and last is not to be double minded. We must serve either God or mammon. We cannot serve both.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 ~JWL

(excerpt from *Balancing Our Lives* by Dr. John W. Lewis)

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:15 “And let the _____ of God _____ in your _____, to the which also ye are _____ in one _____; and be ye _____.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- What are some of the occupations mentioned in the Bible?
 - _____ (Gen. 40:1)
 - _____ (2 Sam. 5:11)
 - _____ (2 Tim. 4:14)
 - _____ (Jer. 29:5)
 - _____ (2 Sam. 6:5)
- What were the four miracles performed by Peter?
 - _____ (Acts 3:6-8)
 - _____ (Acts 5:15)
 - _____ (Acts 9:32-34)
 - _____ (Acts 9:36-41)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Prayer (is) the genesis of revival. The beginning of a time of revival invariably has been marked by quickening of the ordinary prayer meetings, resulting in new vitality, more participation, more sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and more unction in intercession.” ~Erroll Hulse



To Deliver Thee

by Jeff Farnham

“To deliver thee from the way of the evil man. . . To deliver thee from the strange woman. . .” Proverbs 2:12, 16

At the very least, a hefty portion of God’s Word is dedicated to the moral purity of God’s people in each dispensation; furthermore, at the very least, another hefty portion of Scripture is devoted to the harsh, sad, and unnecessary consequences that come upon those of any generation who insist upon engaging in immorality.

The second chapter of Proverbs begins with three *ifs* (vs. 1,3,4) followed by the promise, ***“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God”*** (vs. 5). Obvious to the context is that such fear and knowledge is offered to the child of God so that he can learn to avoid the entrapping, entangling mess of immorality that accompanies the lifestyle of evil men (vs. 12-15) and strange women (vs. 16-19). So unbelievably important is it to avoid immorality that God warns, ***“None (the wicked man) that go unto her (the strange woman) return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life”*** (vs. 19) because ***“her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death”*** (7:27), and because ***“the dead are there; and . . . her guests are in the depths of hell”*** (9:18).

Dear believer friend, God wants to deliver you **from** wicked men and strange women so that He can deliver you **into** the paths of life. The Good Shepherd of Psalm 23 Who leads His sheep in paths of righteousness for His

Name’s sake is the same Son of God of Psalm 16 Who shows His servant the path of life where there is fullness of joy.

Immorality cripples the spiritual potential of those who engage in it, leaving them to grope and grapple for less than God’s best when they could have had God’s beautiful path of life, God’s wonderful plan of life, and God’s fruitful will for their lives.

Immorality does more to contribute to broken marriages than does any other one sin. And, broken marriages do more to contribute to immorality in the next generation than any other one tragedy, thus starting the cycle over! Children are amazingly resilient, able to adjust to and overcome nearly any tragedy or disappointment or grief; however, they are less able to recover from the evil effects and the wicked wantonness of their parents’ immorality.

Immorality is forgivable, but inexcusable. ***“Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.”*** (Proverbs 6:30-35). Obvious is the fact that thievery is understandable when a man is hungry and needs to feed his family or himself;

(See *To Deliver Thee* on page 33)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Power in Numbers

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:44-47

Have you ever tried doing something alone, like running, working out, or even watching a movie? If you have, then you know how lonely it can get and how much harder it is to finish the task. But, when you have a partner, doesn't it seem to make you push a little more and work a little harder?

When it comes to living as Christians, the same principle applies. Isn't it more difficult to talk to a stranger about God when you are alone? Isn't it so much more tempting to slip into sin when no one is there to help you fight temptation?

Read the verses above. I am not saying we should sell everything, but we should be there for each other. Christians all have God in common. We should express that by doing more than simply waving to each other in public. We should smile and hug, showing thanks that God is in our lives. If we show love and this uncommonly happy attitude toward each other, don't you think that people will become intrigued?

Today, let's express thanks to God in our relationships. If we share His glory together,

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

we have the best backup possible.

What's our best defense as Christians? What's our best offense? What are a couple of ways to show God's love for us to others? Are you demonstrating His love in your current interactions with others? ~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS:

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

Matching: Match the miracle in column 1 with the person who performed it in column 2.

Column 1

- ___ 1. Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- ___ 2. Overcoming a lion and a bear
- ___ 3. Causing an axehead to float
- ___ 4. Healing a cripple
- ___ 5. The fleece

Column 2

- A. David (1 Sam. 17:34-37)
- B. Elisha (2 Ki. 6:1-7)
- C. Gideon (Jdg. 6:25-40)
- D. Paul (Acts 14:8-10)
- E. Daniel (Dan. 2:19-45)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Between two evils, choose neither; between two goods, choose both” ~Tryon Edwards



Morning: Jeremiah 49, 50

Evening: Hebrews 5

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

The Way to Live Away from Home

“Children in whom was no blemish, but well-favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.” Daniel 1:4

When the Jews left the Promised Land and were taken captive by Babylon, the craftsmen as well as the rich were taken. The very poor were left behind. Some of the Israelites were exceptional people. They were taken and trained for places of responsibility. Such was the case in the life of Daniel. He was a tremendous young lad with unusual abilities, and he had a rich heritage. While in training and while in the high place, he was tested. It was Daniel who would not cease praying in his usual manner and was cast into the lion’s den. It was Daniel who refused to eat the king’s meat and drink the king’s wine.

Not only was Daniel away from home, he was in a worldly country, a country of idolatry, sensuality, and paganism. Therefore, it was even more important that he stand. There are many reasons why Daniel stood. You will notice in Daniel 1:4 that he had been taught to have character. Perhaps, the underlying cause behind all of these reasons was that he had good examples to follow. Daniel grew up under Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ezra, and other great men. They imparted to Daniel things that made him stand firm in his convictions while he was away from home among a worldly crowd.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

There are people who look up to each of us. We must live the “right” kind of lives, be the proper example, and be the proper kind of teachers so they too will be like Daniel. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. God commanded, “Be fruitful and multiply,” to whom? (Gen. 1:28;9:1)
 - A. Adam
 - B. Noah
 - C. Both A and B
 - D. Neither A and B
2. To whom did God command to gather seventy men of the elders of Israel? (Num. 11:16)

A. Moses	B. Aaron
C. Joshua	D. Samuel
3. Which one of the following commands is not one of the ten commandments? (Ex. 20)
 - A. You shall not steal.
 - B. You shall not covet.
 - C. You shall be holy.
 - D. Honor your father and mother.



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Doubting

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.” Matthew 21:21

“Never doubt in the darkness what you saw in the light.” This is one of my favorite quotes. I do not know who authored it, but I remembering hearing it in high school from a counselor on a mission’s trip. I struggled with my salvation for many years, and this quote has stuck with me during times of doubt and frustration.

Sometimes, God shows us things and teaches us lessons, and we are very quick to forget what we were taught when a trial comes or a disappointment crowds our thoughts. However, what God shows us in the good times is still true in the difficult times as well. He is still faithful when the paycheck is not enough to cover the monthly bills. He is still good when a friend’s comment hurts deeply. He still forgives when sin has broken fellowship. His love is still unfathomable when a loved one passes away. Though life changes, God is still the same, and He will always be. (Heb. 13:8)

In our verse for today, the disciples had just witnessed a miracle. God caused a fig tree that was not yielding fruit to wither up and die before their very eyes. The disciples were amazed! God told them that if they had faith and did not doubt, they would be able to experience even bigger miracles.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

I encourage you today to recall some of the miracles in your life. Do not doubt the lessons learned during those special times; instead cling to the promises God revealed.
~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with _____: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: God’s Word is full of promises. Match the promise in column 1 with the Scripture reference in column 2.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ___ 1. Abundant life | A. Isaiah 51:3 |
| ___ 2. Comfort | B. Isaiah 42:16 |
| ___ 3. Guidance | C. John 14:27 |
| ___ 4. Hope | D. Hebrews 6:18-19 |
| ___ 5. Rich rewards | E. James 1:5 |
| ___ 6. Peace | F. Philippians 4:13 |
| ___ 7. Wisdom | G. Matthew 10:42 |
| ___ 8. Strength | H. John 10:10 |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The art of thanksgiving is thanksgiving.”
~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Ephesians 4:28

The year: 1988. The store: Meijer. A twelve year old boy and avid baseball card collector stands in the aisle with all the packs of cards. He has learned that the clear “rack packs” produced by the Donruss Card Company can be “sorted through” to make sure that the pack he buys has the card he is looking for. His excitement builds as he finds two different packs with that “rookie card” he wants. A quick glance one way and then the other as he slides the packs into his pocket next to all the money he has: “two nickels.” As he saunters toward the door, a hand grabs his shoulder and changes his direction from exiting the store toward entering the security office. He has been caught!

Have you ever stolen anything? In verses 22-24, the Apostle Paul laid out the pattern for overcoming sin. We are told to put off the sin (v. 22), put on the new man (v. 24) and, most importantly, change our mind about that sin (v.23). In verse 28, he specifically applies this pattern to the sin of theft. Notice his specifics: 1. Steal no more (put off); 2. Work with your hands (put on); 3. Give to him in need (a change of mind). Just because a person stops stealing does not mean he is no longer a thief. Just because a thief starts working does not mean he ceases to be a thief. But when a thief stops stealing (what is good for me) and works so he can give to others (a focus on others), he has renewed his mind. So, stop stealing, start

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

working and be renewed in your mindset by giving to others. Change your thinking about stealing. ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with _____: be _____ unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Circle the correct answer.

1. What famous Biblical king committed suicide? (1 Samuel 31:4)
A. Saul B. David
C. Solomon D. Nebuchadnezzar
2. What people group tricked Joshua into believing they were wearisome travelers from a far off country by wearing old clothes and old shoes? (Joshua 9)
A. Canaanites B. Gibeonites
C. Amorites D. Tribe of Benjamin

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“I always give all the glory to God, but I do not forget that He gave me the privilege of ministering from the first to a praying people. We had prayer meetings that moved our very souls, each one appeared determined to storm the Celestial City by the might of intercession.” ~C.H. Spurgeon



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Calling All To Himself

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Matthew 11:28-30 is an awesome three part invitation to receive Jesus’ gift of a light yoke or burden.

1. Come and receive salvation:
 - A. Admit you are a sinner.
 - B. Believe that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again.
 - C. Confess your sin.
2. Learn discipleship (vs. 29):
 - A. Read and study your Bible daily.
 - B. Meditate on the Word of God.
 - C. Hide God’s Word in your heart by memorizing it.
 - D. Pray God’s Word daily.
3. Rest (vs. 30):
 - A. Peace of mind: Hebrews 4:10-11
“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”
 - B. Peace in your soul: John 14:27
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
 - C. Freedom from sin: James 4:7
“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

God loves each and every one of us, and He wants us to come to Him. Accept Jesus Christ today! ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with _____: be _____ unto him, and _____ his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Short Answer: A *simile* is a figure of speech consisting of a comparison using like or as. Find the simile in the following verses and write them on the blanks provided.

1. Isaiah 53:6 _____

2. Judges 6:5 _____

3. 1 Peter 1:24 _____

4. Revelation 1:10 _____

5. Luke 10:3 _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” ~A.T. Pierson



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1

This verse begins with a charge to spiritual believers, people who are mature in their walk with Christ. Perhaps they have seen trials and God’s hand of protection in times of need. In fact at one time, they were fallen. Not that they were necessarily in great sin, but they were once lost without Christ. Paul reminds them of this truth to put things in perspective. At one time, we all were overtaken in our own faults. We have all, at one time, stood before Christ with the stains of our sin covering us. It was then that we were found and began to understand His grace and mercy.

Spiritually mature believers are called to have meek and gentle spirits in helping their brothers and sisters when they have fallen. We would not scold a baby for falling as he is learning to walk. It is this same mentality that should pervade our thinking as we see younger believers learning to take their first spiritual steps. Gently pick them up, dust them off, and encourage them to try again. In love, show them where they can avoid pitfalls. Then, as their support system through trials, we can spur them on to good works - always being careful not to be judgmental or condescending. Instead, we should look back and see that we were once where they are now.

To the saint who has fallen, be willing to hear loving instruction from concerned members of your spiritual family. They are obeying God as they help you and are seeking your

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

best. Hear them and learn. Watch them as they follow Christ and grow as God leads.
~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with _____.: be _____ unto him, and _____ his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is _____; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What did Balaam use to beat his donkey? (Numbers 22:27)

A. Rock	B. Staff
C. Rod	D. Whip
2. Where did Abraham meet Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:17-18)

A. Valley of Gerar
B. Valley of Hinnon
C. Valley of Jezreel
D. Valley of Shaveh
3. What does God promise to every believer in 1 John 5:4?

A. Understanding	B. Trials
C. Victory	D. Faith

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“What! At peace with the Father, and at war with His children? It cannot be.”
~John Flavel



Morning: Ezekiel 4-6

Evening: Hebrews 10:1-23

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Patience

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” Psalm 27:14

The Lord wants us to have patience. The Bible says tribulation worketh patience, so in other words, patience does not come easily. Patience is a virtue. We should let patience have its perfect work in our lives. Notice James 1:3-4, ***“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”***

After we pray for something, we should wait on the Lord for the answer. We see this in Hebrews 10:36: ***“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”*** Patience will keep us in the Christian race. Hebrews 12:1: ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”***

It is not for us to know the times and the seasons or the how and why of God’s working in our lives. But it is for us to trust and obey. So, when you feel like saying, “How long, Lord?” just bite your tongue and say, “You know best, God.”

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11

~JWL (excerpt from *Balancing Our Lives* by Dr. John W. Lewis)

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 100:4-5 “Enter into his gates with _____, and into his courts with _____: be _____ unto him, and _____ his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is _____; and his truth _____ to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- Twenty-nine types of trees are mentioned in the Bible. What are a few of them?
 - Numbers 17:8 _____
 - Song of Sol. 3:2 _____
 - Isaiah 55:13 _____
 - 2 Samuel 5:23-24 _____
 - Psalm 137:1-5 _____
- Jacob met Rachel by what well? (Gen. 29:1-12) _____
- In what vineyard did Samson kill a lion? (Judges 14:5) _____

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“We do not want, as the newspapers say, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.”

~G.K. Chesterton

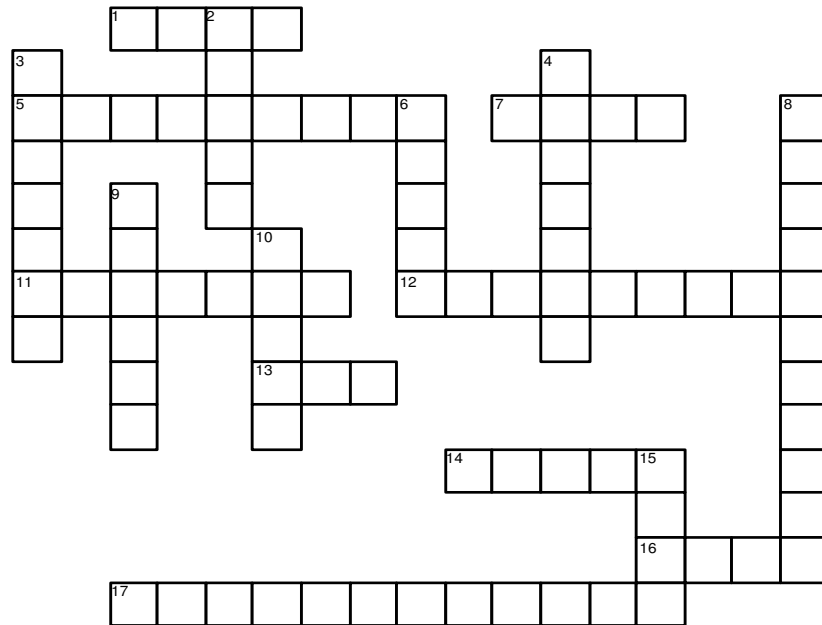


Morning: Ezekiel 7-9

Evening: Hebrews 10:24-39

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Thankfulness



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable _____." 2 Cor. 9:15
- 5 "And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with _____." Ps. 107:22
- 7 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the _____ of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess. 5:18
- 11 David said he would sing _____ unto God's name in 2 Samuel 22:50.
- 12 In Psalm 116:17, the psalmist said he would offer God the _____ of thanksgiving.
- 13 "And he took the _____, and gave thanks" Matt. 26:17
- 14 "... call upon his name: make known his _____ among the people." Ps. 105:1
- 16 "Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his _____," 1 Chron. 16:8
- 17 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with _____." Col. 4:2

DOWN

- 2 "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the _____, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:7
- 3 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to _____ in Christ" 2 Cor. 2:14
- 4 "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the _____ through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:17
- 6 "Enter into his _____ with thanksgiving ..." Ps. 100:4
- 8 "Thanks be unto God for his _____ gift." 2 Cor. 9:15
- 9 "Surely the righteous shall give _____ unto thy name" Ps. 140:13
- 10 "God's _____ endures forever." 1 Chr. 16:34
- 15 "I will praise the name of God with a _____, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." Ps. 69:30

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.” Luke 5:18-19

Former Dallas Cowboys fullback Ron Springs, who played from 1979 to 1985, had suffered from Type 2 diabetes for sixteen years and had spent three years on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. To say the least, things were not looking very good until teammate. Everson Walls, decided to donate one of his kidneys to Springs. After a successful transplant, Springs no longer needed dialysis for the first time in many years.

In Luke 5, four friends went the distance and beyond for a friend who was a paralytic. A crowded room and the inability to physically reach Jesus did not discourage nor turn them away. They brought their friend on top of the roof and created a hole large enough to lower their friend down into the view of Jesus. The Savior then healed the paralytic and commanded him to “Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Have you had the opportunity to go the distance and beyond for a friend, classmate, or teammate? If not, why? Are your own fears holding you back from being this kind of friend? Ask God to open the doors for you to go the extra distance, and then, keep an eye out for these opportunities. It might be as small as encouraging a struggling friend, or it could be a

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

larger task that requires more time, energy, and resources. Either way, you will be putting others’ needs before your own, making an impact for the Kingdom, and you can be assured God will be smiling on your actions.

~AP

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 79:13 “So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What was the vow that Jezebel made in 1 Kings 19:1-2?
 - A. To serve the Lord God
 - B. To forsake her sin
 - C. To kill Elijah
 - D. To destroy followers of Jehovah
2. Jacob made a vow to God at what place? (Genesis 28:18-22)
 - A. Valley of Shaveh
 - B. Beer-sheba
 - C. Bethel
 - D. Kadesh

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Someone has said that the marks of a strong church are wet eyes, bent knees, and a broken heart. We’ll never be powerful until we let God be God and jealously guard His honor.”

~Erwin Lutzer



Morning: Ezekiel 10-12

Evening: Hebrews 11:1-19



Running with the Right Crowd!

*“And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, **Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? Therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.**” 2 Chronicles 19:1-3*

Jehoshaphat would have been a successful king if he had run with the right crowd. He was a good man and a good king, but he chose to run with the wrong crowd. Jehoshaphat refused to accept the advice of his spiritual leader. Jehu came to Jehoshaphat and warned him about associating with such a king as Ahab. Jehu said, *“Should thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord?”* Jehu constantly warned Jehoshaphat against his unholy alliances, but the king refused to accept the warning and the counsel of the man of God. Here is a vital point: almost everyone who has fallen into sin has had a warning.

Certainly, we ought to be careful to consider the warnings of our pastor or religious leader. Our pastors are here to help us, and the right kind of pastor will not do it selfishly but will work for the good of God’s people.

Jehoshaphat was not an idolater such as Solomon. He was not a wicked man such as Jeroboam. He was not a selfish man such as



Rehoboam. He was a simple man who tried to live a righteous life, but he ran with the wrong crowd. It never works! The Bible warns us, and God forbids it! ~OV



Psalm 79:13 “So we thy _____ and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”



Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. The walls of Jerusalem were **originally built** by whom? (1 Kings 9:15)
A. Solomon B. David
C. Joshua D. Saul
2. The walls of Jerusalem were **destroyed** by whom? (2 Kings 25:1-21)
A. Rezin B. Nebuchadnezzar
C. Benhadad D. Sennacherib
3. The walls of Jerusalem were **rebuilt** by whom? (Nehemiah 2:17; 6:15)
A. Hosea B. Jeremiah
C. Nehemiah D. Micah



“Mercy can never be earned. Its very necessity is evoked by unworthiness, else there would be no need for it. Because we have sinned, we need mercy, not because we have obeyed. The only qualification for mercy is affliction.” ~Bob LaForge



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.” Ezekiel 2:6

Ezekiel was called to be a prophet. God used him to spread His Word. This was probably not always an easy task. In our verse for today, God tells Ezekiel not to be afraid of the people, their words, nor their looks. In fact, God describes the people as scorpions. Surely, there were moments when Ezekiel really did not want to speak God’s honest truth, for the truth sometimes is convicting, humbling, and confrontational.

God’s will for your life is to spread His Word. There is no question or alternative to this command of our Savior. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus leaves us with His last words on earth: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.”* But, this command was followed by a promise in verse 20: *“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”* Did God know that witnessing would be difficult? Did He know that sometimes we would feel inadequate? Yes.

God prepared Ezekiel for the task ahead of him. God has also prepared you. He has promised always to be with you. So, as you seek to daily be in God’s will, get out of your comfort zone and share God’s Word with the world. You may run into some rebellious people like Ezekiel did, but God’s presence is always with

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

you, enabling you to speak the honest truth.
~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Psalm 79:13 “So we thy _____ and _____ of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Fill in the Blanks: Psalm 40 is a Messianic Psalm. David is being restored to the throne of Israel, but the greater picture is the prophetic description of Jesus Christ on the cross. Fill in the blanks to complete some of the verses from this great psalm.

Vs. 2 - “He brought me up also out of a horrible _____, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a _____, and established my goings.”

Vs. 10 - “I have not hid thy _____ - _____ within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy _____: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.”

Vs. 17 - “But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord _____ upon me: thou art my help and my _____; make no tarrying, O my God.”

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together.” ~Corrie Ten Boom



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29

others. Change your thinking about the way you speak. ~PO

STOP! Read the passage above one more time. Did you see that? It does not read, “Let no curse words proceed out of your mouth.” It reads, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.”

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 79:13 “So we thy _____ and _____ of thy pasture will _____ thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”

What is “corrupt communication”? Curse words are, without question, corrupt communication, but think not, dear Christian, that just because you do not use profanity that you are obeying this verse. A few synonyms for the word “corrupt” are: “depraved,” “wicked,” “evil,” “tainted,” and “lacking integrity.”

 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.

Your communication that is truthful may be wicked or evil if it is hurtful to others. Corrupt communication might be your gossip or embellished story about a fellow Christian. In verses 22-24, the Apostle Paul laid out the pattern for overcoming sin. We are told to put off the sin (v. 22), put on the new man (v. 24) and, most importantly, change our mind about that sin (v.23). In verse 29, he specifically applies this pattern to the sin of corrupt communication. Notice his specifics: 1. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth (put off); 2. but that which is good to the use of edifying (put on); 3. That it may minister grace to the hearers (a change of mind). We are called to not speak corruptly (that which benefits me by degrading another), to edify with our words so others may be ministered grace. So, stop the corrupt communication, start edifying others and be renewed in your mindset to minister to

- _____ 1. Rahab lied to the Jericho search party. (Joshua 2:4)
- _____ 2. To determine who would live in Jerusalem during Nehemiah’s time, the people cast lots. (Neh. 11:1)
- _____ 3. Lamech had two wives. (Gen. 4:19)
- _____ 4. Joseph was married to Asenath. (Genesis 41:45)
- _____ 5. David’s wife, Michal, lied to her father, King Saul. (1 Sam. 19:13-17)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The church, as defined by the Word of God, is a group of Christians who dedicate themselves to meeting together for the regular preaching of the Word of God; who submit themselves to Biblical eldership; who regularly celebrate the ordinances of the church (baptism and the Lord’s Supper); and who practice and submit themselves to church discipline as laid out in Scripture.”

~Wayne Mack



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Satan

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.” Luke 22:31

Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines Satan as the grand adversary (enemy or foe) of man. The Bible in 1 Peter says Satan walks about like a roaring lion and seeks to devour us.

Who is Satan? He was an angel in Heaven who let his pride and conceit rule over him. In Isaiah 14:12-14, we see that he was arrogant enough to think he could be as high as God. Other names have been used for Satan such as the following: dragon, that old serpent, the devil (Rev. 20:2), the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2), Abaddon and Apollyon (Rev. 9:11), and Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24).

Where is Satan? Job 1:7 says, *“And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.”* In this verse, we see that Satan can be on the earth, but he can also appear before the Lord.

What is Satan’s objective? 1 Peter 5:8; *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”* It is evident that Satan is out to get us. He wants us to lie, cheat, steal, murder, and have a bad testimony. In summary, Revelation 21:8 says, *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

burneth with fire and brimstone.” Satan desires that we be with him.

I challenge you today to make sure of your eternal home. Which shall it be, Heaven or Hell? ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 79:13 “So we thy _____ and _____ of thy pasture will _____ thee _____ for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. What did Jacob give to Esau? Why? (Genesis 32:13-15)

2. What did the queen of Sheba give to King Solomon? Why? (1 Kings 10:1,2)

3. What did God the Father give to the world? Why? (John 3:16)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“You’ve got to get people lost before you can get them saved.” ~D.L. Moody



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“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

Earlier in this chapter, Paul encourages the saints to walk in the Spirit. He gives this instruction to help them avoid falling into sin. However, there are some more benefits for spiritual walking than just escaping sin. These are the fruits of the Spirit listed above.

Spiritual walking demonstrates love, manifesting the love of Christ. This is a love that does not seek its own desire but is yielded to the Father and busy seeking what is best for others. Most see joy as happiness, but it is deeper than that. Real spiritual joy does not depend upon our circumstances. It is a sense of rest and contentment in our Saviour. It is a choice to be “happy” no matter our surroundings. Peace is similar but perhaps even more intense. It is security. Spiritual peace is not being worried because we know Who is in control. Longsuffering is patience. This can be difficult for many. Spiritual walking causes us to be mindful of God’s longsuffering with us. If we really think how often He has patiently waited in our lives, we can be longsuffering with others. Gentleness is simply choosing not to be harsh in our dealings with the saints and the sinners. We display goodness as our choices reflect a desire to be right before the Lord. Making good choices points others to Christ. With spiritual eyesight, we can see God at work, and our faith increases as prayers are answered, even if the answer is no. Meekness is described as power under control. It is lead-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

ing without being loud. It is control without force. Temperance is self-control. Having a clear head even in the midst of conflict shows a faith that has been tested and affirmed. None of these blessings of a spiritual walk come by following the law but by simple acts of obedience. Walk the path the Father gives, and follow the Spirit’s lead. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 79:13 “So we thy _____ and _____ of thy pasture will _____ thee _____ for ever: we will _____ forth thy praise to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Short Answer: The following questions deal with spiritual gifts. Use the following references to answer the questions: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; Eph. 4:7-16.

- Who gives the spiritual gifts? _____
- What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts?

- There are some 18 spiritual gifts; read about them in these passages. What do you believe is your spiritual gift(s), and how are you using it?



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

Persistent Prayer

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Very simply, if you have not received an answer from God, keep reminding Him that you are expecting an answer. Keep knocking until God opens the door or directs you to door number two. **“For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2 Corinthians 12:8-9**

The needs we have and the command to keep asking keep us in fellowship with God. If we did not need anything, I am afraid we would not spend much time in prayer. Some people only pray in crisis situations, so God allows trouble to come in their lives so they might return to Him in prayer. The wise child of God recognizes his daily needs and approaches the throne room each day to request power, provision, and protection. So, we see persistent prayer is needed because our heavenly Father so desires our fellowship.

When we keep on asking, it allows His mind to merge with ours (Phil. 2:5). When we pray, more is going on than just putting in an order. When our heart believes in God’s Word, we pray, which says We have faith that produces hope. Hope orders us to action, so by our will we obey the Word of God. Then, we see good results because our minds are abiding in His Word and He in us (Jn. 15:7). God uses persistent prayer to merge His mind with ours as we abide in Him. The abiding in Christ, we

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

find, is as enjoyable as answered prayer. Answers will come with persistent prayer, but also we will receive more faith, hope, and Christ likeness. ~JWL (excerpt from **Online with God** by Dr. John W. Lewis)

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalms 79:13 “So we thy _____ and _____ of thy pasture will _____ thee _____ for ever: we will _____ forth thy _____ to all generations.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Fill in the Blank: Proverbs 6 warns of various sins. Based on this chapter, answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Verses 4-11 warn against what?

2. What are the seven things mentioned in verses 17-19 that are an abomination unto God?

3. What sin does verses 24-25 warn against?

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I believe young people are indifferent to the church today, not because the church has required too much of them, but because it has demanded so little.” ~Mort Crim



We Gather Together

*We gather together
To ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens
His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing
Now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to his name:
He forgets not his own.*

*Beside us to guide us,
Our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining
His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning
The fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side,
All glory be thine!*

*We all do extol thee,
thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still
Our defender wilt be.*

*Let thy congregation
escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free! Amen*

~Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn
(A translation by Theodore Baker: 1851-1934)
Author Unknown

**Give Thanks
Unto God for His
Unsearchable Riches!**



ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Order your Bread of Life Devotional Guide today. Send your check of \$25.00 for a 1-year subscription (shipping and handling included) to: Monclova Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 77, Monclova, OH 43542.

If you have any questions or comments, please call 419-866-0773 or send an email to r.merrin@monclova-baptist.org.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24

In this passage, Samuel is addressing the nation regarding their decision to have a king reign over them. Samuel admonishes them to do three things in this verse: fear the Lord, love Him wholeheartedly, and remember His great works that He has done for them. It is my belief that we will never fear Him or serve Him as we should until we recognize Who He is and what He has done for us. So, let’s consider some of His great works.

First, let us see His great work of creation. God was fine before He decided to create us. Because He desired to have a relationship with us, He created the universe, our galaxy, our planet, our atmosphere, and this ecosystem to support us, so that we could walk with Him.

Next, let us consider the great love that He has for us, a love that is unconditional, unchanging, and undeserved, yet unending. I do not understand why He loves me with a great love, but I know that He does.

Thirdly, let us ponder the great salvation that He provided for us. He put on human flesh, lived a sinless life, died a sinner’s death, and resurrected from the grave victorious.

Finally, let us look at the great purpose that He has for us. His purpose is to fulfill the great commission of His church by winning the lost and teaching the saved until the world is reached. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-INS

Colossians 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

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

- ___ 1. The book of Proverbs has 30 chapters.
- ___ 2. Solomon is considered the author of Proverbs. (Prov. 1:1)
- ___ 3. The last chapter in the book of Proverbs deals with the adulterous woman.
- ___ 4. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. (Prov. 8:13)
- ___ 5. A beautiful woman without discretion is like a jewel of gold in a pig’s nose. (Prov. 11:22)
- ___ 6. There is wisdom in getting advice and counsel from only one person. (Prov. 11: 14; 15:22)
- ___ 7. A man can direct his own way. (Prov. 16:9)

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.” ~C.S. Lewis



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“For this cause we also since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” Colossians 1:9

Oftentimes, circumstances determine for us the will of God. This includes the normal opening and shutting of doors, which we must accept as being of God. Although every door that opens is not the Holy Spirit’s leading, often an open door is the will of God for our lives. Someone has said that it is impossible for a person to do the will of God and difficult for him to know the will of God as long as he has his own will.

It is easy for us to get our will and His will mixed up. We must come to the place where we say, “Lord, I do not have my own will.” Then, God can reveal His will to us. The inward persuasion of the Holy Spirit helps us to know the will of God.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is a person, and we must be willing to do what He says. Acts 16:6 says, *“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.”* Here Paul and Timothy experienced this type of guidance. There are many other things in the Bible that reveal God’s will to us. If the Bible says it, we do not have to pray about it. We know it is the will of God because God said it. ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the Biblical character in column 1 with the description in column 2.

Column 1

- _____ 1. Phinehas (Numbers 25)
- _____ 2. Jephthah (Judges 11)
- _____ 3. Othniel (Judges 1,3)
- _____ 4. Shemaiah (1 Kings 12)
- _____ 5. Abimelech (Judges 8-9)

Column 2

- A. An Israelite judge who made a harsh vow
- A. A murderous son of Gideon
- B. High Priest, son of Eleazar
- C. First of the Israelite judges
- D. Prophet who advised Rehoboam

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It is not our job to “produce” unity. Unity is “of the Spirit” (Ephesians 4:3). Unity is automatic when the Spirit is in control of everyone's lives. Our job is to “preserve” the unity of the Spirit – to do nothing to disrupt the unity He is producing.... We must take care of our relationships and be quick to clean up our offenses. We must make right our wrongs so that the unity of the Spirit is not disrupted.” ~Eddie Rasnake



Morning: Ezekiel 29-31

Evening: James 5

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Here I Raise My Ebenezer

“O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.” Isaiah 25:1

An Ebenezer is a memorial to the faithfulness of God, a reminder of a time when God provided for the need of His people. The children of Israel had many opportunities to raise a standard in testimony to God’s goodness.

As Joshua led the Hebrew children over the Jordan, they raised such a memorial. God had led Israel through the wilderness and was about to bring them into the land of promise. The Jordan River was a natural barrier to moving into the land. God did a miracle by splitting the river and allowing Israel to walk across on dry ground.

When they had safely crossed, God commanded them to place within the river a monument of stones. When the river was high, this would not have been seen, but when the dry season came, it could be seen. Then, Israel could look back and remember that God had been with them in the river. On the other side of Jordan, they built another monument. This monument was there for the generations to come. Their children would ask, “What is the meaning of these stones?” The parents could tell them of the faithfulness of Jehovah, how He brought them through the Jordan and began to give them the Promised Land. The parents remembered, the children learned, and both could rejoice.

We each should have some Ebenezers in our life: salvation, obedience to God’s leading, spe-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

cific needs met, or God’s safety and provision through a fiery trial. Have you raised an Ebenezer to the faithfulness of your Father in Heaven? If not, seek Him and ask Him to remind you of His goodness, and raise your memorial today. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in _____ or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the Biblical character in column 1 with the description in column 2.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Zadok | A. Led the first return of the Jews back to Jerusalem (Ezra 3) |
| ___ 2. Zerubbabel | B. Wife of Moses (Exodus 2) |
| ___ 3. Zipporah | C. High priest in the time of David and Solomon (2 Sam. 15; 1 Kings 1) |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“God’s mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow, than diminish the great mercy of God.”

~C.H. Spurgeon



Morning: Ezekiel 32, 33

Evening: 1 Peter 1

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31-32

If you have been reading Ephesians 4, no doubt you have recognized a fairly consistent pattern that the Apostle Paul has continued. In verses 22-24, he laid out the pattern for overcoming sin. We are told to put off the sin (v. 22), put on the new man (v. 24) and, most importantly, change our mind about that sin (v. 23).

In verse 25, he applies this pattern to the sin of lying. He applies it to theft in verse 28, and, in verse 29, it is applied to what comes out of our mouths. No doubt, at one point or another, the thought has crossed your mind: “But I do not steal, I am not a liar (most of the time) and I really make a point of not talking inappropriately.” Well, if you have not found specific application of the Apostle Paul’s pattern yet, today is your day. In verse 31, the Apostle Paul reminds us to “put off” bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice. In verse 32, we are to put on kindness, tender mercies, and forgiveness. The change of mind that he suggests is simple, yet profound. Instead of being so wrapped up in how we have been treated, so as to “justify” our wrath or bitterness, we are to reflect upon how we have been forgiven by Christ. Our change of mind comes when we recognize all that Jesus Christ has done for us. If we truly have a change of mind through re-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

lecting on Christ’s forgiveness, bitterness, wrath and all the rest will easily be put away. Change your thinking: you are forgiven! ~PO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in _____ or deed, do _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the Biblical character in column 1 with the description in column 2.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Susanna | A. A woman who helped Jesus financially (Luke 8) |
| _____ 2. Tabitha | B. Raised up from the dead at her own funeral (Acts 9) |
| _____ 3. Martha | C. Sister of Lazarus and Mary (John 11) |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“From a heart overflowing with gratitude, we will want to honor and glorify God by gratefully offering back to Him the many good gifts He has bestowed on us. We will not go to church to be entertained, to see "what we can get out of it" for our own private gratification, but rather to praise and worship the triune God of grace and glory.”

~Author Unknown



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Temptation

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”
1 Corinthians 10:13*

Unger’s Bible Dictionary defines *temptation* as the enticement of a person to commit sin by offering some seeming advantage. Here are four sources of temptation:

1. **Satan.** In Genesis 3, Eve is tempted. In 1 Chronicles 21, Satan entices David to take a census of the people. In Job chapter 1, God gives Satan permission to test Job. In Luke 4:2, Satan tempts Christ: *“Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.”* In the above Scriptures, we see Satan certainly roams the earth trying to trip us up.

2. **The world.** These temptations could be power, wealth, political gain, or revenge. These are just a some lies Satan throws at us to get us on the wrong path.

3. **The flesh.** These temptations could be sex, drugs, food, alcohol, or pornography.

4. **Other gods.** These could include the occult, witchcraft, idolatry, and sorcerers. In Revelation 21:8, the Bible says that those who practice these things will have a part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

Beloved in Christ, today’s verse says God promises two things. First, He will never let

you be tempted above what you can bear. Secondly, if there is temptation in your life, there is a way to escape. Though temptation is everywhere, let God make you into a better vessel by resisting temptation. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in _____ or deed, do _____ in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the Biblical character in column 1 with the description in column 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Salome
(Matt. 20) | A. Servant girl who recognized the voice of Peter outside the door but failed to let him in the house |
| _____ 2. Rhoda
(Acts 12) | B. Grandmother of Timothy |
| _____ 3. Lois
(2 Tim. 1) | C. Mother of James and John |

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Thankfulness flows out of a heart that is rooted in Christ. If Christ is the Lord of our lives, we will live in Him, be built up in Him, and be strengthened in Him. Ultimately we will find ourselves overflowing with thankfulness to Him for all that He has done on our behalf.” ~Karl Graustein



Morning: Ezekiel 36, 37

Evening: 1 Peter 3

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.” Genesis 37:33

As Jacob looked at the blood stained coat that he had given to his son, he assumed that his son was dead. He was inconsolable; his beloved son was gone just like his true soul mate Rachel. The plan of his other sons had worked to perfection. There was no way for Jacob to discern that the blood on the coat was not actually the blood of his son but the blood of a goat. Jacob had no idea that Joseph's step-brothers had sold him into slavery and lied to their father for their own selfish reasons. He also was completely unaware that he was reaping what he had sown.

Galatians 6:7 says, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”** Years earlier, Jacob had killed a goat in a deceptive plot to steal a blessing that belonged to his own brother. Now, his children were doing the same thing to him.

This should cause us to stop and think. When Jacob deceived his father, he thought that he was getting away with something. He thought that it was in his best interest to steal the blessing meant for his brother. But he was actually demonstrating his lack of faith by trying to manipulate circumstances to promote himself. God is in control; He will work out His purpose. I wonder if Jacob would have deceived his father if he had known the pain that it would eventually cost him. I think that he would have let Esau keep the blessing and trusted God instead. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in _____ or deed, do _____ in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, _____ thanks to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Matching: Match the prophecy in column 1 with the fulfillment in column 2.

Column 1

- _____ 1. Israel served 400 years in Egypt (Genesis 15:13)
- _____ 2. John the Baptist's birth (Luke 1:13-17)
- _____ 3. Christ's birth (Luke 1:26-33)
- _____ 4. Solomon to build the temple (1 Chronicles 17:1-12)
- _____ 5. Judas to betray Christ (John 6:71)

Column 2

- A. Luke 2:4-7
- B. Luke 1:57-64
- C. Matthew 26:47-50
- D. 1 Kings 7:51
- E. Exodus 12:40

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Take heed of abusing this mercy of God.... To sin because mercy abounds is the devil's logic.... He that sins because of God's mercy shall have judgment without mercy”

~Thomas Watson



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

Do You Love Money?

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10

Before you answer the question, “Do you love money?” please ask yourself these thought provoking questions: Do you measure success by outward gain rather than inward qualities? Do you delight more in material riches than in spiritual riches? Do you allow your job and making money to choke out time for God’s Word? Do you adjust ethics to avoid financial loss? Do you sacrifice friendship for financial gain? Do you participate in “get-rich-quick” schemes? Do you build your family around your job, instead of building your job around your family? Are you working for retirement ease rather than preparing for Christ’s return? Are you unwilling to be content with what God provides? Do you withhold your tithes and offerings from God? Are you reluctant to make financial sacrifices to meet the needs of others? Do you only respond to fervent appeals for money, rather than looking for opportunities to invest in the Lord’s work?

In our society money is a necessary tool, but it should not become the object of our affection. Loving and coveting after money will cause many sorrows. Proverbs 16:16 says, *“How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!”* Proverbs 23:4 states, *“Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.”* Finally, Proverbs 13:7 says, *“There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing:*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.”

What is your answer? Do you love money? ~JWL (excerpt from *Being Found Faithful* by Dr. John W. Lewis)

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Colossians 3:17 “And _____ ye do in _____ or deed, do _____ in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, _____ to God and the Father by him.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What did Joshua remove outside the city of Jericho? (Joshua 5:15)
 - A. His helmet B. His sword
 - C. His shoes D. His belt
2. How many trumpets did Gideon’s army use in Judges 7?
 - A. 100 B. 200
 - C. 300 D. 400

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Oh, my friends, we are loaded down with countless church activities, while the real work of the church, that of evangelizing the world and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected.” ~Oswald Smith



The Bread of Life . . . Page 33

(To Deliver Thee continued from page 9)

however, immorality is never understandable.

Just as obvious is that thievery is a transgression for which repayment can be made. However, there is no repayment for immorality. Those who enter into immoral relationships are not feeding necessary-to-life appetites like the man who steals food for himself or his family. They are feeding an evil, foolish self-indulgence that can be avoided.

The person who commits immorality destroys his own soul, paralleling the concept of Proverbs 2 where he cannot lay hold of the paths of life. Destruction takes places in the soul and spirit of a man or woman who engages in the irresponsibility of immoral sin. There is a sullyng, a tainting, a contamination, a ruination that occurs for which there is no remedy. God is a most reasonable God, but He is not soft to the unreasonable sins of immorality.

Let us note several things:

1. **If you have never been immoral, never be immoral.** Do not even start! Do not click that mouse, buy that magazine, enter that establishment, or hang around "that person."
2. **If you are immoral, repent.** Whether in print, on the screen, or in person, repent. On your face before God, cry out in penitent sorrow and sincere brokenness because God will respond to a broken heart.
3. **If you have been immoral, trust in God's forgiveness.** God forgave Rahab. He also forgave the woman at the well and the immoral citizens of Corinth.
4. **If you have been forgiven, change.**

Seek godly counsel, accountability, and Biblical support through pertinent Scripture, fervent prayer, faithful mentors, and regular worship and fellowship at the church.

5. **If you have changed, accept.** Accept the scars that remain, the memories that haunt, and the regrets that grieve. Accept them and move on. Learn and progress.
6. **If you have accepted, rejoice.** Regardless of past damages, there are future rewards. Third-best is better than tenth best. Rejoice in God's forgiveness and forbearance, and do all the good you can until Jesus comes!♦

We Give Thanks

*Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the pleasure
Of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live
As You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ,
Our Heavenly Father.
~by Harry Jewell*

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.”

Colossians 1:18

It pleased the Father for Christ to have the preeminence (first place) in all things. It is only right that Christ should be in first place because of Who He is and all He has done. He created all things; He keeps all things together; He saved us and has been placed as the Head of the Church by the Father.

In his third epistle, the Apostle John wrote about a man whose name was Diotrefes. John reported that he loved to have the preeminence. When compared to Christ, it seems so absurd to think anyone could feel like they deserved to be in the first place.

As strange as that may seem, I can't help but wonder how many times you and I have placed our interests, goals, wishes, and desires ahead of that which would please Christ. We can only accomplish His purpose if we put Christ in the highest seat of honor in our lives. We must always guard our hearts to make sure that we keep Christ in the place where the Father is pleased to have Him. If we get Christ out of place, we will never be in our rightful place. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

2 Thessalonians 2:13 “But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- Who fasted as he lamented over his child's sickness? (2 Sam. 12:16)
A. Samuel B. David
C. Solomon D. Saul
- Who fasted as he worried over Daniel's fate? (Daniel 6)
A. Darius B. Mesach
C. Abednego D. Nebuchadnezzar
- What people group fasted as they heard the preaching of Jonah? (Jonah 3)
A. Israelites
B. Ninevites
C. Babylonians
D. None of the above

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough for the next six months, or take sufficient air into his lungs at one time to sustain life for a week. We must draw upon God's boundless store of grace from day to day, as we need it.”

~D.L. Moody



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

A Just God

“Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.” Proverbs 11:21

Are you a reality TV enthusiast? Maybe you are a Trading Spaces, Extreme Make-over, or Survivor fanatic. Perhaps, you like the shows about celebrities’ houses, cars, or lifestyles. Have you ever found yourself wishing that you were the one with the elite furnishings, the million dollar house, the new car, or the in-ground pool with a waterfall in your backyard?

Sometimes, when we, as Christians, see the extravagant lifestyles of people who are unabashedly against God and anything moral, it is easy to question why they have seemingly been so blessed. Then, the questioning can turn into envy, and the envy can turn into bitterness. It is so important to remember that God is JUST. Proverbs 11:21 assures that the wicked will be punished. Also, Proverbs 11:31 says, ***“The righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.”*** God will justly reward everyone according to His infinite wisdom.

It is impossible to know the mind of God and to understand why one person appears to be blessed more than another person. God warns against relying on our own perceptions in Proverbs 3:5: ***“Lean not unto thine own understanding.”*** Next time you’re tempted to compare your situation with someone else’s, remember that human understanding fails to compare to God’s all-knowing wisdom. He is just! ***“There is no God else beside me; a just***

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

God and a Savior; there is none beside me.”
Isaiah 45:21b ~MFV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

2 Thessalonians 2:13 “But we are bound to give _____ always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true or an *F* in the blank if the statement is false, based on Genesis 2:8-3:24 about the Garden of Eden.

- _____ 1. It was watered by two rivers.
- _____ 2. It contained the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- _____ 3. It was the home of the first man and woman and their first child.
- _____ 4. It witnessed sin enter the human race.
- _____ 5. It was home to beautiful trees and foliage.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.”

~C. H. Spurgeon



Morning: Ezekiel 43, 44

Evening: 2 Peter 2

Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

Crossword: Thankfulness
Page 17 Our Responsibility

Wordsearch: Be Ye Thankful (Inside Back)

Quiz Answers:

Nov. 1 Pg 2 1D, 2C, 3A
 Nov. 2 Pg 3 1 Ruler (Jairus), 2-12 years, 3 Her faith, 4 The people were mourning, 5 Laughed him to scorn.
 Nov. 3 Pg 4 1A, 2C, 3B, 4E, 5D
 Nov. 4 Pg 5 1D, 2E, 3C, 4G, 5A, 6B, 7F, 8H
 Nov. 5 Pg 6 1-40, 2-50, 3-40, 4-30, 5-50
 Nov. 6 Pg 7 1-a creation, b fall of man, c flood, d Tower of Babel

Quiz Answers: continued

Nov. 7 Pg 8 2 Noah, Ezekiel, John
 1 Bakers, Carpenters, Masons, Gardeners, Coppersmiths, Builders, Musicians, 2 Healing of the lame man, healing of many, healing of Aeneas, raising Dorcas from the dead
 Nov. 8 Pg 10 1E, 2A, 3B, 4D, 5C
 Nov. 9 Pg 11 1C, 2A, 3C
 Nov. 10 Pg 12 1H, 2A, 3B, 4D, 5G, 6C, 7E, 8F
 Nov. 11 Pg 13 1A, 2B
 Nov. 12 Pg 14 1 "All we like sheep have gone astray." 2 "For they came up...as grasshoppers." 3 "All flesh is as grass, 4 "A great voice as of a trumpet." 5 "I send you forth as lambs among wolves."
 Nov. 13 Pg 15 1B, 2D, 3C
 Nov. 14 Pg 16 1 Almond, Apple, Fir, Myrtle, Mulberry, Willow, 2 Horan, 3 Timmath
 Nov. 15 Pg 18 1C, 2C
 Nov. 16 Pg 19 1A, 2B, 3C
 Nov. 17 Pg 20 1 Pit, rock, 2 Righteousness, salvation, 3 Thinketh, deliverer
 Nov. 18 Pg 21 1T, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T
 Nov. 19 Pg 22 1 He gave 220 goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, 30 milk camels with their colts, 40 cows, 10 bulls, and 30 donkeys to make up for cheating Esau out of his blessing. 2 She gave spices, jewels, and gold to assure good relations between Israel and Sheba and to prove King Solomon's Wisdom. 3 He gave His only Son, Jesus, so the world could have everlasting life.
 Nov. 20 Pg 23 1 The Holy Spirit, 2 To glorify God, to progress the ministry, and to edify the believers and the church, 3 Answers will vary
 Nov. 21 Pg 24 1 Laziness, 2 Pride, lying, murder, planning wickedness, running to mischief, a false witness, and sowing discord, 3 adultery
 Nov. 22 Pg 26 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6F, 7F
 Nov. 23 Pg 27 1C, 2A, 3D, 4E, 5B
 Nov. 24 Pg 28 1C, 2A, 3B
 Nov. 25 Pg 29 1A, 2B, 3C
 Nov. 26 Pg 30 1C, 2A, 3B
 Nov. 27 Pg 31 1E, 2B, 3A, 4D, 5C
 Nov. 28 Pg 32 1C, 2C
 Nov. 29 Pg 34 1B, 2A, 3B
 Nov. 30 Pg 35 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T

***"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."
 2 Corinthians 9:15***