



the
bread of life
devotional

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not

October 1, 2010

Dear Friend in Christ,

It is hard to believe that October is already here. Pretty soon it will be time for all the holiday celebrations in November and December!

God is so very good! It seems in our weakest moments that we can see His strength and power the most. Sometimes, when things are going well, it is easy to take God for granted, only depending on Him when times get rough. Whatever stage you are in right now, whether soaring with the clouds or down in the gutter, God wants to spend time with you. He wants to be your first thought in the morning, your friend throughout the day, and your last thought before you close your eyes in sleep.

Give God time this month. Pray to Him. Let Him speak to you through His Word. Meditate on His attributes. Dear Friend, He is waiting to commune with YOU!

In Christ,
The Bread of Life Staff

Friday

October 1

True Greatness

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Matthew 23:11

Aspirations to greatness are often characterized by extreme self-focus. As the athlete, artist, or musician focuses on his body, skills, and talent, he can become self-consumed. While this type of greatness is admirable, it is also temporary. The Bible presents a different standard, a measure of greatness that is astounding and simple. The servant is great. Jesus not only spoke about serving, he lived a life wholly consumed with doing, speaking, and eventually dying, for others. The perfect Son of God set the highest example on earth for men to follow. He was the greatest man to ever live, and yet He also was a humble servant. Today, we do not have as rigid of hierarchy, but during the culture of Jesus’ time, it would have been counter-cultural for the master and Lord to wash the feet of his students and inferiors. This is a shocking and beautiful example of service. When my attention and focus is drawn to grandiose dreams of self-improvement and aspirations of greatness in a temporary realm, I am inspired and convicted by Jesus’ example of greatness in the eternal realm.

Focusing on self gets wearisome and leads to dissatisfaction, but service brings us out of ourselves and refreshes our joy in life. Pursue true greatness through serving others. ~AJD

Morning: *Isaiah 22-23*
Evening: *Ephesians 3*

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto _____ and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves _____, as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the _____, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

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

- ____ 1. The humble will be exalted. Mt. 23:12
- ____ 2. The person who is the greatest will also be a servant. Mt. 23:11
- ____ 3. Jesus Christ humbled Himself and became a servant. Phil. 2:5-8
- ____ 4. God the Father has highly exalted Jesus and given Him a name above every other name. Phil 2:9-11

Quote of the Day

“Fame and fortune will bend in the winds of time, but no force on earth is mightier than forgiveness and faith. Pray as if everything depends on God; work as if everything depends on you.”
~Anonymous

Saturday

October 2

Don't Just Hear—Act!

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” James 1:22

Hearers are the people who come to church each week, sit in the pew, give their money, sing some songs, and then go home. They have heard the Word but then what? James says they are like a man who sees his reflection then walks away and forgets what he saw. They read the commands of Jesus to go into the world, then they sit in their almost paid-off home and do nothing when they are surrounded by a world lost and bound for hell.

Some would say that soul-winning and witnessing are only for pastors, deacons, or fanatics. Jesus gave the great commission to those who were called his followers. There were no pastors among that group, just those who had given Jesus their lives. If we say that we are saved and follow Jesus, that we have given him our lives, why do we act like our life still belongs to us? We have been bought and paid for. Our will is no longer ours. Our life belongs to Him, and it is His to do with as He pleases.

Talk is cheap. Jesus told the disciples, ***“If ye love, me keep my commandments.”*** If we then say that we love Jesus and do not obey His commands, we have made ourselves liars. We are like a child who hears the commands of his father and then blatantly chooses to disobey. As a result, we may be chastened and lose the blessings our Father had in store.

Real love costs us something. Our salvation is free to us, but it cost Jesus His life. If we

Morning: *Isaiah 24-26*
Evening: *Ephesians 4*

then have given our lives to Jesus, obeying Him will cost us that life. We see it as strange, but yet that is exactly the echo of Jesus that James shares here. Stop just listening, and start doing something! ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And let us consider one _____ to provoke unto _____ and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves _____, as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the _____, as ye see the _____ approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Where was the prophet Samuel buried?
1 Samuel 25:1
A. Jerusalem C. Adullam
B. Ekron D. Ramah
2. Who was the captain of Saul's army?
1 Samuel 26:5
A. Ahimelech C. Ner
B. Jonathan D. Abner

Quote of the Day

“No Christian should enjoy complete soul-satisfaction so long as there is one solitary sinner in his acquaintance whose life is untouched by the redeeming blood of Christ.”

~Anonymous

Sunday

October 3

We Preach Not Ourselves

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.” 2 Corinthians 4:5

This verse puts things into perspective. It tells us what not to do; it tells us what to do; and it tells us what our role should be. We are not to preach about ourselves. Paul understood that we have no reason to boast. Anything we have done and anything that we will ever do has been accomplished through borrowed resources. All of our abilities come from God, and without Him we are nothing, and we can do nothing. So what could we possibly preach about ourselves?

Paul acknowledged that Christ is the one that we need to proclaim. We preach Christ Jesus the Lord. He is Christ, the Messiah; He is Jesus, the Savior; and He is the Lord of all things. He is the One Who willingly left Heaven and came to earth. He is the One Who overcame Satan with all of his temptations. He is the One Who satisfied all the demands of God's law. He is the One Who faced the shame and suffering of the cross. He alone rose from the dead, and He is the One Who is coming back to judge the world. We have nothing to preach about ourselves and everything to preach about Jesus.

Finally, the role that we have is that of a servant. If God is our Creator, if He gives us everything, and we are nothing without Him, it stands to reason that we should unite with His purpose and serve Him. Who do you preach,

Morning: *Isaiah 27-28*

Evening: *Ephesians 5*

and who do you serve? I hope that it is Christ Jesus the Lord. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Who Said It? After reading the following quotes, determine who spoke the words, and write your answer in the blank.

_____ 1. “There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.” Mk. 1:6-7

_____ 2. “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Acts 10:34-35

_____ 3. “And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Lk. 1:41-43

Quote of the Day

“The liberal who does away with the blood of Christ also does away with the Law and the result is lawlessness.” ~Warren Wiersbe

Monday

October 4

Jesus, The Son of God

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.” 1 John 2:22-23

Knock, Knock. Reluctantly, I opened the front door of my house. Standing before me was an older gentleman and a younger lady. They greeted me cordially and told me that they were in the neighbourhood doing the work of Jesus. “Great,” I thought, “not too often have I ever gotten a knock on my door from someone doing the ‘work of Jesus.’” Then their message changed: “We don’t believe that Jesus was God,” he continued, “but His life was an example to us on how we should live.” I am not sure that those are the exact words, but that was the gist of his conversation. “LIAR,” I screamed, as the man’s face contorted with shock.

As I shook my head, I realized that I had not actually shouted the word “liar,” but without a doubt I had wanted to. Actually, I listened for a moment and politely began to disagree with them using the Scripture as my foundation for belief. After being accused of being “closed-minded,” I shared with them a little more from the Word of God, knowing that it “will not return void,” and they left. John is crystal clear in his evaluation of someone who denies that Jesus is God. ***“Who is a LIAR but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?”*** When it comes to any religion, any denomination, any

Morning: *Isaiah 29-30*

Evening: *Ephesians 6*

sect, any faction or cult, the test of whether they are telling the truth hinges on one question: “What do they believe about Christ?” If you deny the Son, you do not have the Father.

Who is Jesus? What do you believe about Him? Make much of Christ. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

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

- ____ 1. Upon leaving Ahimelech the priest, David took with him the sword of Goliath. 1 Sam. 21:1-10
- ____ 2. In order to escape from King Achish of Gath, David killed several men. 1 Sam. 21:11-22:1
- ____ 3. Gad, the prophet, told David to go to the land of Judah. 1 Sam. 22:1-5

Quote of the Day

“Let us live as though Christ were crucified yesterday, risen today, and coming tomorrow!”
~Martin Luther

Tuesday

October 5

Paul Rebukes Peter

“But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Galatians 2:14

Read Galatians 2:11-14

To start this devotion, I need you to answer these questions:

1. Which is the greater testimony, what we say, or what we do?

2. Why did Paul rebuke Peter?

Many Christians struggle in the Christian life by trying to live in two worlds. They desire to live strictly by the Word of God, but find themselves slipping back into the worldly lusts, especially in their home, privately hoping that no one will discover their double lifestyle. Paul would call this hypocrisy. What should we do to overcome such a life?

- A. Confess (1 John 1:9)
- B. Ask for forgiveness (Luke 11:4)
- C. Expect God to answer (1 John 1:9)
- D. Seek out teaching (John 8:31-32)

Can you really live by the old saying, “While in Rome, live as the Romans do?” No. Our living needs to be in accordance with the Word of God. ~OV

Morning: *Isaiah 31-33*
Evening: *Philippians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come _____ come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

_____ 1. Hanun (2 Sam. 10:1-19)

_____ 2. Hathath (1Chron. 4:13)

_____ 3. Jeshar (1 Chron. 2:18)

_____ 4. Hege (Es. 2:3)

_____ 5. Jezrahiah (Neh. 12:42)

- A. Son of Othniel
- B. A choir director
- C. Son of Caleb
- D. Became king of Ammon and dishonored David’s ambassadors
- E. Chamberlain of King Ahasuerus

Quote of the Day

“Spread out your petition before God, and then say, “Thy will, not mine, be done.” The sweetest lesson I have learned in God’s school is to let the Lord choose for me.”

~Dwight L. Moody

Wednesday

October 6

Sobriety Check Point

***“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”
Proverbs 27:17***

It was about 11:00 pm, and I was driving home from an hour and half trip. A big yellow sign was glaring at me, situated about one mile from my home. It read, “Sobriety Check Point.” I had never undergone one of these. The cars slowed down, and I waited for the officer to approach my vehicle. He briefly shone the light in the car, and he asked if I had been drinking. I said, “No.” He replied, “Are you sure?” I smiled and said, “Well, actually I have been drinking—a big ol’ coke from McDonalds!” I held up my cup, and we kind of laughed. Shortly afterwards, my checkpoint was complete.

I am sure many of you have undergone these checkpoints. If you have nothing to hide, then they are really not that big of a deal. However, if you have been breaking the law, the checkpoint is a completely different story.

In Proverbs, it says, ***“A man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*** As Christians, we need to keep one another accountable. Like the sobriety checkpoint, we should make sure our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are on the spiritual, straight and narrow road.

One way of keeping each other accountable is by having an accountability partner. It may be your husband or your wife or a friend. For your own well being, make sure your accountability partner is of the same sex, unless your partner is your spouse. Then, make time to

Morning: *Isaiah 34-36*
Evening: *Philippians 2*

genuinely ask your partner about his devotions, besetting sins, church attendance, and other important questions. Take time to pray with one another.

If you are living a life that is pleasing to the Father, these check-ups will be wonderful times of encouragement for both parties. If sin is involved, these check-ups will be times of restoration and healing. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come _____ come, and will not tarry. Now the _____ shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What did Gideon make that tempted Israel to sin? Jdg. 8:27
A. An idol C. A temple
B. An ephod D. A House
2. What sin did Achan commit? Josh. 7:20-21
A. Idol worship C. Adultery
B. Taking for himself D. Murder
the spoils of Jericho

Quote of the Day

“The time to get your spiritual instrument in tune is early in the morning before the concert of the day begins.”
~Anonymous

True Friendship

By Monica F. Vernot

continued on p. 24

Sad to say, true godly friendship is greatly lacking in the Christian world. I have met so many people that long for good Christian friends, but they have been hurt numerous times by fellow believers. I have heard the comment, "My non-Christian friends are more loyal than my Christian friends." If that is the reputation of Christian friendship, we have much work to do. Matthew 7:20 says, ***"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."*** We, as Christians, are known by our actions, by the fruit we produce. John 13:34-35 explains, ***"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*** If the world saw true love in the lives of believers, it would reshape the perception Christianity.

After Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the believers were left with the Holy Spirit and each other. They did not have the comfort of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation at easy access. They could not go to the Family Christian Bookstore and pick up a Bible commentary. They relied quite a bit on each other. ***"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were***

sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." (Acts 4:32-35) What a picture of Christianity! The church (meaning believers in Christ) gave according to people's need. Literally, people were selling their homes for others! The early church needed each other.

Today, on the surface, there does seem to be as great a need as the early church had for one another. In America, we are not getting persecuted in the extreme measures as was the early Christian church. However, Christians have a great need for one another.

First, Christians need one another for accountability. A couple years ago, I had a friend tell me that a circle of his friends had their phones and internet connected. When one of them visited a questionable site, every member of the group was alerted on their cell phone through a text message. Amen! With pornography rampant, Christians need to be accountable in their personal lives. James 5:16 says, ***"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*** When our sins are open and ugly before another Christian, it gives us accountability to stop the sin that is destroying our lives.

Secondly, Christians need one another for encouragement. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, ***"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."*** About five

Thursday

October 7

God's Plans

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."
Jeremiah 29:11

Most students often have to answer questions about their future plans. Whether they are asked about their plans for school, the weekend, or even just the afternoon, it generally is not that hard to answer. "Oh, I'm going to [this university] and participating in [this sport]." Or, "I'm going to chill with some friends." One day though, students find themselves answering a question that is a little more serious: "What are your plans for your life?"

This question is serious. This is a hard question for young people. They might have had their lives all figured out, but then things did not go according to plan. I have realized that having your life all planned is not that great.

Some figure out where they want to go for college, how high they want to reach in academics, and what they want to pursue in athletics. The problem is that they are so determined to make sure their plans are successful that they are not striving toward the plans the LORD has for them. In fact, they are completely missing the point because their focus is on themselves and on their plans.

God has a plan for each of our lives. Following His master plan is much better than anything we could ever plan for ourselves. ~AP

Morning: *Isaiah 37-38*
Evening: *Philippians 3*

Scripture Fill-In

"For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come _____ come, and will not tarry. Now the _____ shall live by _____: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."
Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- Which of the following does NOT describe Abigail? 1 Sam. 25:3-4
 - Good understanding
 - Wife of Nabal
 - Beautiful countenance
 - Wicked
- Which of the following does NOT describe Nabal? 1 Sam. 25:2-4
 - Of the house of Caleb
 - Very wealthy
 - Evil
 - Generous
- Who killed Nabal? 1 Sam 25:37-38
 - The Lord
 - David
 - Abigail
 - His servants

Quote of the Day

"Never be afraid to entrust an unknown future to a known God."
~Anonymous

Friday

October 8

The Greatest Love

***“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.”
1 John 3:1***

If you search the Bible for all the different references and types of love, you are bound to spend a great deal of time studying the Scripture. You will find that “God is love.” We are to love our enemies. We are to “love not the world.” If you do a study of Greek words, you will find the “Eros, Phileo, and Agape” loves of the Bible.” If you are a student of Christian literature, you no doubt have be introduced to Gary Chapman’s Book: *The Five Love Languages*. The way we give and see love according to him is through: Acts of Service, Physical Touch, Quality Time, Gift Giving, and Words of Affirmation. In everyday life, a person might say that they “love” their spouse and in the next breath say that they “love” ice cream. You might “love” your dog and “love” to swim. Love is all around us in various forms and nuances, and yet all too often, one of the greatest acts of love is forgotten.

The Apostle John energetically affirms his readers of a great act of service and divine gift that should lead to much quality time with the One who touched your life. Jesus Christ became your servant by giving His life so that you can be called the son of God. If you are His child and He has touched your life in this way, John’s words of affirmation should compel you to spend much time with Him.

Morning: *Isaiah 39-40*
Evening: *Philippians 4*

“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us!” If you have trusted Christ for your salvation, please reflect upon the great love that you have been given. This type of love should change your life. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come _____ come, and will not tarry. Now the _____ shall live by _____: but if any man draw back, my _____ shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the husband and wife.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| ___ 1. Zechariah (Lk. 1:5) | A. Vashti |
| ___ 2. Ahasuerus (Es. 1) | B. Jochebed |
| ___ 3. Haman (Es. 5) | C. Elisheba |
| ___ 4. Amram (Ex. 6:20) | D. Elisabeth |
| ___ 5. Aaron (Ex. 6:23) | E. Zeresh |

Quote of the Day

“Being a servant of Jesus Christ is a process of giving up your rights and accepting your responsibilities.” ~Howard Hendricks

Saturday

October 9

The Vapour of Life

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” James 4:14

Life is so precious and fragile. The fact that all of you reading this are finishing a breath should be nothing less than amazing. When you consider all that could go wrong from prenatal problems and child illnesses to cancer and unforeseen accidents, life is astounding. God reminds us of this here in the words of His servant James. He tells us that we need not to be caught up in this limited life. In light of eternity, these eighty, ninety, or one hundred years are really not that big of a deal.

So what then? If we have a God view of our lives and our time here is a vapour, what should we do? Would you work more over-time, polish your classic car, or leave on a really exotic trip? Perhaps, you would sit down to count your rare expensive coins. Maybe you would go on a shopping spree. Why? None of those things will last any longer than the vapour of our lives.

It is not wrong to enjoy a good life in this world. But why should we forfeit the blessing of all eternity for rusted, moth-ridden trinkets that we leave here? We should live each moment to the fullest for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you were sure that you only had one day left to live, what would you do? Tell someone about Jesus? Read your Bible and pray more? Hug loved ones longer? Spend more time with family and friends?

Morning: *Isaiah 41-42*
Evening: *Colossians 1*

If we can choose to live each moment as if it is on the edge of eternity (and it is), then they will be all the more precious. What are you going to do with your vapour? Please use it to serve Jesus, tell the lost of His love, and love your family into eternity. ~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“For yet a _____ while, and he that shall come _____ come, and will not tarry. Now the _____ shall live by _____: but if any man draw back, my _____ shall have _____ pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:37-38

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: If you were sure that you only had one day left to live, what would you do? Use the spaces provided, to write your answer, and then pray that God would enable you to fulfill His purpose for your life.

Quote of the Day

“The Bible should transform us, not just inform us.”
~Anonymous

Sunday

October 10

A Second Look

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
2 Corinthians 13:5

In our economy, many people are trying to sell their homes but are having difficulty. My family is currently in this predicament. However, the waiting period has given us quite a bit of time to explore numerous houses in which we may like to buy should our home sell. In fact, we found the “perfect” home. This house had all the space and rooms we wanted. It had been completely remodelled inside and outside. It was beautiful, and the price was a steal! We kept watching online to see if it sold. A short while ago, we decided to go through our “perfect” house one more time to confirm our decision. We walked inside and began to explore a little more in depth than our previous two visits. When pulling out one of the cabinets, the door broke right in front of the realtor. When we came up from the finished basement, it took me a little while to work the doorknob to let us open the door. We noticed that the fence was on a rapid decline. There was no mirror in the upstairs bathroom. The carpet wasn’t wearing well from the traffic in and out of the home, and the list continued. Our “perfect” home was not quite so perfect. Needless to say, after a more thorough look, we decided that the house was not near what it appeared to be.

Morning: *Isaiah 43-44*
Evening: *Colossians 2*

How about you? Does that describe your life? If someone were to look past the Sunday clothes and thick study Bible you carry to church, would he find an active, vibrant Christian every day of the week? Psalm 26:2 says, *“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”* You may look great on the outside or at a glance, but when truly examined, how does your life really look? ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Complete the following verses.

Psalm 139:23-24—“(1) _____ me, O God, and know my (2) _____; (3) _____ me, and know my (4) _____; and see if there be any (5) _____ way in me, and (6) _____ me in the way (7) _____.”

Quote of the Day

“There is a Sunday conscience, as well as a Sunday coat; and those who make religion a secondary concern put the coat and conscience carefully by to put on only once a week.”

~Charles Dickens

Monday

October 11

Justified by Faith in Christ

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Galatians 2:16

Read Galatians 2:15-19

You mean, Jesus died for you? You accepted His atoning death, and now you have eternal life? Don't you have to do any work to prove that you are saved? Most new Christians have a difficult time believing that trusting Jesus alone for salvation is enough. They feel so undeserving so they want to contribute to their salvation by some honorable work. The first-century Jews wanted to do the same thing. Read the scripture above and answer these questions:

1. How many times does Paul say we are not justified by works (or the law)?

2. How are we justified?

3. How does the law enter into faith? (Rom. 3:28) _____

~OV

Morning: *Isaiah 45-47*
Evening: *Colossians 3*

Scripture Fill-In

“Through _____ we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with her description.

- _____ 1. Jemima
- _____ 2. Gomer
- _____ 3. Azubah
- _____ 4. Jezebel
- _____ 5. Jephthah's daughter

- A. Job's daughter (Job 42:14)
- B. Wife of King Ahab (1 Ki. 16:30-31)
- C. Unfaithful wife of Hosea (Hos. 1:3)
- D. Paid for her father's rash vow (Jdg. 11:34-40)
- E. Wife of Caleb (1 Chron. 2:18)

Quote of the Day

“If all you care about is pleasing people, you'll never please God.” ~Pastor Jim Glover

Tuesday

October 12

Abounding Mercies

***“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”
2 Corinthians 1:5***

I doubt anyone asks God for an abundance of suffering. When I hear of intense suffering experienced by others, I feel a chill in my heart and wonder if I would have the endurance to bear it well. My present strength does not seem enough. Yet, I am reminded by the words ***“our consolation also aboundeth by Christ,”*** that God gives what is needed for one day or even one hour at a time. If I am drained, I can depend on strength in proportion to my need. If I feel unloving, I can depend on His love to enable me to love the person before me. If I am grieving, I can depend on his comfort to sustain me.

It seems that the deepness of our need also enables us to experience the deepness of His mercies. We see his greatness to the degree of our humility. A seed first has to be put in the ground and be covered with dirt before it shoots up with life, buds with new leaves, and eventually bears fruit. If we are never willing to die as the seed and be covered in darkness, then we may never experience the abundance of what God can do with our lives. Willingness to suffer for Him is a prerequisite to great glory and oneness with him. Today, we may not pray for suffering, but we can pray for tender hearts that are willing to see His abundance through our lack. ~AJD

Morning: *Isaiah 48-49*
Evening: *Colossians 4*

Scripture Fill-In

“Through _____ we understand that the _____ were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”
Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Refer to 1 Samuel 24.

1. Instead of killing King Saul when given the opportunity, what did David do? (vs. 5)

2. Why did David not want to harm Saul? (vs. 6) _____
3. What did David do when King Saul saw him? (vs. 8) _____
4. What did Saul do after David finished speaking to him? (vs. 16) _____
5. In verse 17, Saul said to David, “Thou art more _____ than I.”
6. What did David swear unto King Saul? (vs. 21-22) _____

Quote of the Day

“All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.”
~Anonymous

Wednesday

October 13

Second Chances

“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

In basketball, or in any sport, running a timed mile is not unusual. Players get butterflies in their stomach wondering if they will make it in the eight-minute time frame. If they do not, they will not even be considered for the team. The players pray for strength and quickness. When the coach says, "Go," the words "strive, stretch, strain, succeed" begin running repeatedly through their heads.

Being a Christian can be a very hard thing. We are daily presented with temptations and problems. But whether it is lying to our boss or cheating on a test, God has given us the power to withstand these temptations. Some challenges are harder than others, but regardless of the level of difficulty, you will always have to strive, stretch, and strain in order to succeed.

After the player finishes his mile in eight minutes and seven seconds, the coach sometimes says that everyone who did not make the mile in eight minutes has two weeks to practice and then can try again. The athlete is very thankful for the second chance! God will often give us second chances after we fall into temptation or do not follow His will. But what we choose to do in those second chances is completely up to us. ~AP

Morning: *Isaiah 50-52*
Evening: *1 Thessalonians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“Through _____ we understand that the _____ were framed by the _____ of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer. Refer to 1 Samuel 26.

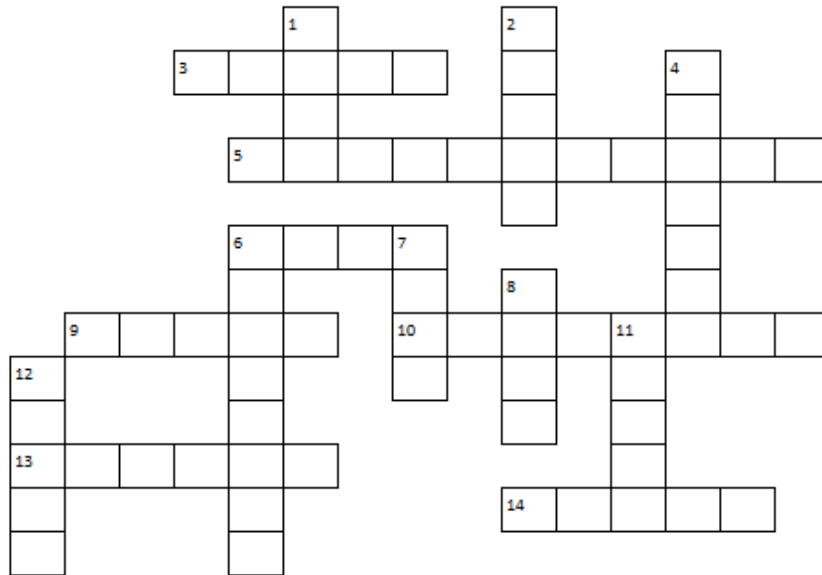
1. Who did David take with him to Saul’s camp? (vs. 6)
A. Zeruah C. Ahimelech
B. Abishai D. Joab
2. What did David take from Saul when he was in the camp? (vs. 12)
A. Spear and water container
B. Bow and arrows
C. Scrolls and a map
D. Shield and knife
3. What did Saul promise David in verse 21?
A. He would kill him one day.
B. He would kill his wives and his children.
C. He would not harm him anymore.
D. He would crown David king.

Quote of the Day

“Choose well—your choice is brief but endless.” ~Anonymous

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

David and Goliath—1 Samuel 17



ACROSS

3. The material of Goliath's helmet (vs. 5)
5. Israel's enemies (vs. 1-4)
6. Number of David's stones (vs. 40)
9. David said to Goliath, "All this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with ___ and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands." (vs. 47)
10. One of David's brothers that was in battle with Saul (vs. 13)
13. David said to Goliath, "I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of ___, whom thou hast defied." (vs. 45)
14. The number of days Goliath taunted Israel (vs.16)

DOWN

1. Goliath was from this land (vs. 4)
2. David's father (vs. 12)
4. Goliath's spear head weighed six ___ shekels of iron. (vs. 7)
6. David's stone hit Goliath here (vs. 49)
7. The battleground (vs. 19)
8. An animal David killed (vs. 34-35)
11. Captain of Saul's army (vs. 55)
12. David's only weapon (vs. 40)

"David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine,

Answers on Page

Thursday

October 14

Be Faithful to Pray

*"Noah . . . a preacher of righteousness."
2 Peter 2:5*

Noah was one of the most unusual people of all time. He was "moved with fear" (Heb. 11:7) and built an ark. Even though it had never rained and there was no place to float that monster, he obeyed God. Then, he was a preacher, probably for 120 years; and he did not have one convert! No doubt he was ridiculed, but he kept on preaching. He had no converts, but he made the "hall of fame" in Hebrews 11.

We are told to pray for "all men" (1 Tim 2:1). What are we to pray for them? The context tells us, "who would have all men to be saved" (vs. 4). We are to pray that they might be saved. We will not see those 6 billion for which we pray, but we are obeying God and that will pay off handsomely in eternity. Then, this may be one of the most important things of all: it pleases God right now when we just do what He says like Noah did.

Pray for all men daily. When some missionary comes across someone "whose heart God opened," (like Lydia in Acts 16:14) and he leads them to Christ, you will have had a vital part in their salvation. ~SW

Scripture Fill-In

"Through _____ we understand that the _____ were framed by the _____ of _____, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:3

Morning: *Isaiah 53-55*
Evening: *1 Thessalonians 2*

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: In the spaces provided, answer the following questions.

1. Which book of the Bible comes first— Psalms or Isaiah? _____
2. Which book of the Bible comes first— Ephesians or Colossians? _____
3. Which book of the Bible was written by John—1 Corinthians or Revelation? _____
4. Which book was written by Solomon— Ecclesiastes or 1 Kings? _____
5. Which book means "going out" and is one of the five books in the Pentateuch? _____
6. Which of the four Gospels is the shortest? _____
7. Titus and Philemon were both written by whom? _____
8. What is the last book in the Old Testament? _____

Quote of the Day

"As His child, God holds you to a high standard; He does not hold the world to the same standard."
~Anonymous

Friday

October 15

Citizens of Zion

“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” Psalm 15:1

David asks a very pointed question at the beginning of this psalm, and then answers it in the verses following. Basically, David asks, “Who is going to be in Heaven?” In giving the answer, David shows the character traits of the future citizens of Zion. The following is a list of some of the characteristics he mentions:

1. He walks uprightly. (vs. 2)
2. He is honest. (vs. 2)
3. He is not a backbiter. (vs. 3)
4. He does good to his neighbors. (vs. 3)
5. He finds honor in them that fear the Lord, and he despises wickedness. (vs. 4)
6. He is not unjust in his usage of money. (vs. 5)

Are these character traits descriptive of your life? If they are not, you need to evaluate yourself. First, determine if you truly are bound for Heaven. Have you really accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and truly repented of your sins? Secondly, search your heart for sin, and confess it before Almighty God.

Psalm 15 gives a great description of the characteristics of those bound for Heaven. Read through it, and ask God to search your heart. ~MFV

Morning: *Isaiah 56-58*
Evening: *1 Thessalonians 3*

Scripture Fill-In

“Through _____ we understand that the _____ were framed by the _____ of _____, so that things which are _____ were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Complete John 10:27-29.

“My (1)_____ hear my voice, and I (2)_____ them, and they (3)_____ me: and I give unto them (4)_____ life; and they shall never (5)_____, neither shall any man (6)_____ them out of my hand. My (7)_____, which gave them me, is (8)_____ than (9)_____; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's (10)_____.”

Quote of the Day

“We should always keep in mind the infinite loving kindness of God. No one need fear to put his life in His hands.” ~A.W. Tozer

Saturday

October 16

There Is A Judge

“So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.” Psalm 58:11

In the context of this psalm, David’s desire is to see God judge the wicked and have the righteous exalted. David recognized that mankind is wicked because they do not acknowledge God and His holiness. David longed for the day when men would embrace God in His true character. If you think about it, it’s easy to see how David’s sentiments could be just as easily conveyed today.

In this verse, two aspects of God’s holy character are expressed. First, He rewards the righteous. In a world where we face so many struggles and temptations, it is good to know that God is watching. He will reward every sacrifice. He will remember all of our toil and effort. Our labor is not in vain in the Lord. God will reward our service, and it will be worth it all when we stand before our Lord in eternity. I can never get over the fact that God not only saved us but gives us an opportunity to serve Him, and then, He rewards us.

Secondly, God will judge the world. As we look around us, we see all problems and philosophies in the world today. We can easily be tempted to wonder, “Where is God? Why doesn’t He intervene.” I bet Noah wondered the same thing, but then, judgment came. The spiritual atmosphere the day Noah got off the ark was a lot different than the day he entered the ark. God will judge, and He will be exalted over all the earth. ~DLW

Morning: *Isaiah 59-61*
Evening: *1 Thessalonians 4*

Scripture Fill-In

“Through _____ we understand that the _____ were framed by the _____ of _____, so that things which are _____ were not made of things which do _____.” Hebrews 11:3

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- Which of the following were NOT one of Job’s three friends that came to visit him? Job 2:11
A. Eliphaz C. Zophar
B. Naham D. Bildad
- In John’s vision in Revelation, what was in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks? Rev. 1:12-17
A. One like unto the Son of man
B. A Golden statue of the Tree of Life
C. Aaron’s blooming rod
D. A flowing river
- In which of the following passages is the parable of the ten virgins found?
A. Matthew 25 C. Luke 17
B. Matthew 26 D. Mark 5

Quote of the Day

“There is no way Christians can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer. “
~Jonathan Edwards

Sunday

October 17

God So Loved the World

*“And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”
1 John 3:5&8*

Why did Jesus Christ come to earth? Why would the infinitely, holy Son of God agree to take on the form of a man (whom He created)? After He had lowered Himself to this level, why would He then allow the very beings that He created to mock Him, torture Him, and ultimately crucify Him on a cross between two thieves? The most popular answer is love. **“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”** Without a doubt, love was the motivation for such radical action on the part of God the Father. Motivation, however, is different than purpose. What was His reason for becoming a man and dying for men?

In Isaiah 14, the prophet gives an account of an event that happened in Heaven. Lucifer, the anointed cherub, rebelled against God in the ultimate show of pride. After being expelled from Heaven, he took his works to the earth; and in Genesis 3, Moses records the deception of man and the separation from God. Satan, through deception, “created” a chasm between God and man. The works of Satan would not allow God to accept man; for man was tainted with sin. In the ultimate show of love for mankind, Jesus came to earth to “destroy the works of the devil.” Without a doubt, God so loved the world, but He came to take away our sins and destroy the works of the devil. With our

Morning: *Isaiah 62-64*
Evening: *1 Thessalonians 5*

sins paid for and the works of the devil destroyed, we could have a relationship with the Father. Have you allowed Jesus to take away your sin? He loves you so much that He wants to destroy the works of the devil that you can never destroy. Will you let Him do that today?
~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blanks: Complete 1 John 4:8-10.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is (1) _____. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten (2) _____ into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he (3) _____ us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Quote of the Day

“God’s loving initiative to step into time and space to restore us to Himself is still a cause for wonder and praise.”
~Anonymous

Monday

October 18

Motivated Prayerfully

**“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
Matthew 5:6**

Today, instead of praying for a list of things, drably and half-inspired, I decided to just pray for desire. I asked God to give me desire for prayer, for Himself and to see Him work powerfully in my life. After I was done, I felt excited because I realized that a small seed of belief was planted in me that responded to the thought that God heard me and will increase my desire for Him.

What caused me to pray this prayer was a chapter entitled “Prayer and Desire” in E.M. Bounds book on prayer. Because I struggle with consistent prayer, I decided that a daily reading about prayer would help motivate me to pray. When I read the following quote, I was freshly moved to pray and to start by asking God for desire. “God draws mightily near to the praying soul. To see God, to know God, and to live for God—these form the objective of all true praying. Thus praying is, after all, inspired to seek after God. Prayer-desire is inflamed to see God, to have clearer, fuller, sweeter, and richer revelation of God.”

I continually get distracted from prayer. I need constant reminders of the importance of prayer. I hope that you will ask God for more desire for Himself today. I think He will gladly fulfill your request. ~AJD

Morning: *Isaiah 65-66*
Evening: *2 Thessalonians 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“But without _____ it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Jonah 1.

- ____ 1. Jonah’s father was named Joppa.
- ____ 2. God called Jonah to go to Tarshish.
- ____ 3. When Jonah was running from God, there was a big storm at sea. During the storm, Jonah was found praying and asking God for forgiveness.
- ____ 4. After the men of the ship threw Jonah overboard, they were scared. They offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.
- ____ 5. Jonah stayed in the belly of a fish for three days and two nights.

Quote of the Day

“If you have discovered your own spiritual insufficiency, you are a good candidate for the ministry of the Holy Spirit.” ~Tony Evans

Tuesday

October 19

Comfortably Full

*“According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten.”
Hosea 13:6*

In the verses before this, God recounts His providence to Israel in their flee from Egypt and then in the wilderness. In His compassion, He delivered them from bondage and gave them the promise land. They had lands; their cattle was full; and they were satisfied. They were filled and forgot where their blessings came.

Many of us are the same way. We are saved and have a good life. We love our church and are raising good kids. Unfortunately, in the process of our Christian ease, we have lost sight of the prize and forgotten God.

We should be terrified at the prospect of being comfortable with where we are spiritually. None of us should be sitting the bench when the war rages around us. The authors of the New Testament were examples of holy discontentment. They were at rest in Jesus but were not content with their level of commitment to him. Paul, in writing to the early church, said that he counted himself not to have apprehended. Instead, he kept moving and giving a full spiritual press toward the mark. He was filled but chose to seek to be hungry.

Those who enjoy the feast are those who have been hungry the most. With this in mind, we should pray that God would keep us spiritually hungry. Ask God that you would never become comfortably full. Ask Him to fill you

Morning: *Jeremiah 1-2*
Evening: *2 Thessalonians 2*

today and keep you hungry for tomorrow.
~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“But without _____ it is _____ to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- ____ 1. Abijah (1 Ki. 14:1)
- ____ 2. Ahijah (1 Ki. 14:2-4)
- ____ 3. Enoch (Gen. 5:21)
- ____ 4. Ephraim (Gen. 41:51-52)
- ____ 5. Milcom/Molech (1 Ki. 11:1-8)

- A. Second son of Joseph
- B. Father of Methuselah
- C. Son of Jeroboam
- D. A god worshipped by Solomon’s wives
- E. Blind prophet

Quote of the Day

“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.”

~Anonymous

Wednesday

October 20

The Way, The Truth, The Life

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

Today, we are looking at a direct quote from the Son of God! In this quote Jesus says that He is ***“The way, the truth, and the life.”***

First, Jesus is the way. He is the only way to Heaven. There are so many religions, and among those religions are even more religious sects. Many religions have different “ways” to obtain eternal life in Heaven, but clearly here, Jesus says that He is the ONLY way. We have to come to God the Father through His Son.

Secondly, Jesus is the truth. Certainly, we have heard the phrase, “Truth is relative,” in the past few years. It is being taught in schools across the globe. However, truth is found in Jesus Christ. Soak in the truth by reading the Word!

Finally, Jesus is the life! Abundant life can be found in Jesus Christ. Without him, there is no reason to live, no reason to exist. So many are searching for some reason to live, something that will give them purpose, fulfilment, and meaning. The answer is found in Jesus. He is life!

Although this verse may be very familiar to you, look at it with new eyes today. The way to Heaven, all truth, and your very life is found in Jesus Christ! Church, cling to Him! Without Him, life is meaningless! ~MFV

Morning: *Jeremiah 3-4*
Evening: *2 Thessalonians 3*

Scripture Fill-In

But without _____ it is _____ to _____ him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose and circle the person who does not belong in the Biblical account.

- 1) Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
Reference: Genesis 18-19
 - A. Lot
 - B. Lot’s wife
 - C. Lot’s daughter
 - D. Abraham
 - E. Terah
- 2) Healing at the Temple Gate Beautiful
Reference: Acts 3
 - A. Peter
 - B. John
 - C. The Beggar
 - D. Jesus

Quote of the Day

“My hope is built on Jesus,
No other hope have I
I cannot live without Him
And without Him dare not die.”

~Anonymous

True Friendship

By Monica F. Vernot

continued from p. 8

years ago, I was diagnosed with Bells Palsy. Half of my face went paralyzed. Seeing that I had focused my life on a singing career, this was absolutely devastating. The doctors did not know if I would ever heal. I spent many days praying, resting, and waiting. On top of the Bells Palsy, some other nerves in my brain were being attacked. I could not tolerate bright light and would get dizzy upon standing. Basically, I had to lie in a dark room. Needless to say, I was at an emotional and physical low point in my life. During this time, Christians demonstrated such love to me! I received cards and gifts and visits. My Christian friends ministered to me during my time of need. I remember one gift in particular. A girl friend of mine brought a Christian book on CD. This was such a huge blessing because I was unable to read and watch TV. After suffering for three weeks, the Lord healed me completely! God showed Himself to be so good through my illness. Not only did He comfort me, but His children comforted me. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, ***“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”*** Because our Lord has comforted us through trials and adversities, we are able to comfort others who endure rough times in their lives. We are God’s ministers. Through showing love, we reveal His love!

Third, Christians need one another for motivation. Hebrews 10:24, ***“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good***

works.” Last week, I had a conversation with a friend of my husband and I. He talked for over a half hour about the urgency of the Gospel. He told stories about witnessing engagements. He talked of Christian books that he was reading. It was such an encouragement to talk with him. Since then, I can honestly say that I have thought about witnessing more in the last week than I had in months. Our friend motivated me to be a better Christian, to be more of a witness for Jesus Christ. How awesome!

In every task the Lord gives us to do, He requires faithfulness. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, ***“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*** Being a faithful friend is ever so important. You will not be a good accountability partner if you do not consistently ask your friend about his spiritual life. Oh, how important is faithfulness! I believe that this is where Christians fall short in the friendship department. We get so busy doing “good things” that we fail to be faithful in our friendships and relationships.

Christians need faithful Christian friends for accountability, encouragement, and motivation. Take time to reflect on your friendships. Is there a friend that you have neglected lately? Maybe you need to call or visit someone. Are you lacking good Christian friendships? I challenge you to faithfully ask God to bring friends into your life. Then, make the choice to reach out to others. Find someone that is lonely or discouraged. Look for someone in need. By your acts of love, a new friendship could be born. Through godly Christian friendship, the world will see true Christianity.♦

Thursday

October 21

Commit the Keeping of
Yourselves to Him

“So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.” Psalm 58:11

In the context of this psalm, David’s desire is to see God judge the wicked and have the righteous exalted. David recognized that mankind is wicked because they do not acknowledge God and His holiness. David longed for the day when men would embrace God in His true character. If you think about it, it’s easy to see how David’s sentiments could be just as easily conveyed today.

In this verse, two aspects of God’s holy character are expressed. First, He rewards the righteous. In a world where we face so many struggles and temptations, it is good to know that God is watching. He will reward every sacrifice. He will remember all of our toil and effort. Our labor is not in vain in the Lord. God will reward our service, and it will be worth it all when we stand before our Lord in eternity. I can never get over the fact that God not only saved us but gives us an opportunity to serve Him, and then, He rewards us.

Secondly, God will judge the world. As we look around us, we see all problems and philosophies in the world today. We can easily be tempted to wonder, “Where is God? Why doesn’t He intervene.” I bet Noah wondered the same thing, but then, judgment came. The spiritual atmosphere the day Noah got off the ark was a lot different than the day he entered

Morning: *Jeremiah 5-6*
Evening: *1 Timothy 1*

the ark. God will judge, and He will be exalted over all the earth. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“But without _____ it is _____ to _____ him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Jonah 2-3.

- _____ 1. Jonah refused to pray in the belly of the fish.
- _____ 2. The fish vomited Jonah out of its mouth in the middle of the ocean.
- _____ 3. When Jonah arrived in Nineveh, he proclaimed that the city would be overthrown in 40 days.
- _____ 4. When Jonah preached in Nineveh, the people believed God, put on sackcloth, and fasted.

Quote of the Day

“We have the natural ambition to be great in the sight of men. But true greatness is to be great in the sight of God.” ~Matthew Poole

Friday

October 22

Sin Weighs Down

“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, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Have you ever noticed that runners tend to wear the lightest outfit or the least amount of clothing possible? It ranges from the weight of their shoes to the amount of hair on their heads. Why is this so important to them? The answer is easy: because the less they have weighing them down, the faster they will be and the more endurance they will have.

The same principle applies to the Christian life. Several times in his letters, Paul relates our lives as Christians to running a race. When running this race of faith, God wants us to run with perseverance because He has great things set out for us for do. But, when we allow sin to cling to us, it slows us down.

Picture running a race with an alcohol bottle in your pocket, a backpack of stress on your shoulder, a helmet full of pride, or a sexual partner clinging to your leg. Any of those burdens would tire you and slow your pace. The author of Hebrews says that we must lay aside the sin that entangles us so that we can run the race marked out for us in Christ Jesus. We must keep our eyes locked on Him. Cast off all

Morning: Jeremiah 7-8
Evening: 1 Timothy 2

the sin and throw it at the foot of the cross. Then, we will be able to run freely. As the scripture says in John 8:36, once Christ has set us free, we are free indeed! ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“But without _____ it is _____ to _____ him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that he is, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Complete the following verse.

1 John 1:9—“If we (1) _____ our sins, he is faithful and just to (2) _____ us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Quote of the Day

“Some day you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody of East Northfield is dead. Don’t believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all; out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch; that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned unto His glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.” ~D. L. Moody

Saturday

October 23

Counted Dead to the Law

“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Galatians 2:19-21

Paul is asking, “Do I seek to please the favor of man or God?” He continues to answer the question in verse 19 by saying, “I live unto God.” Notice the progression in Paul’s spiritual understanding about his position in Christ.

1. I am crucified with Christ.
2. I live; yet not I.
3. Christ lives in me.
4. I live by faith of the Son of God.
5. Christ gave Himself for me.

If Christ did all the above for me, and I fall back into living by the law, what would be the effectiveness of Christ in my life? It would be of no effect. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“But without _____ it is _____ to _____ him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that he is, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently _____ him.” Hebrews 11:6

Morning: *Jeremiah 9-10*
Evening: *1 Timothy 3*

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Because of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, Paul said that we are ____ to the law. Gal. 2:19
A. Alive C. Dead
B. Aware D. Indifferent
2. Paul said he was _____ with Christ. Gal. 2:20
A. Crucified C. Alive
B. Dead D. None of the above
3. Paul said he lived by _____ in the Son of God. Gal. 2:20
A. Faith C. Works
B. Sight D. All of the above
4. If righteousness came by the law, then Paul said that Christ died in _____. Gal. 2:21
A. Sin C. Earnest
B. Vain D. Upmost importance

Quote of the Day

“No scene in sacred history ever gladdens the soul like the scene on Calvary. Nowhere does the soul find such consolation as on that very spot where misery reigned, where woe triumphed, where agony reached its climax.”

~Spurgeon

Sunday

October 24

Who Do You Want to Be Like?

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”
1 John 3:2*

Although it had been around since 1965, I cannot remember Gatorade being so popular, at least in my little world, until 1991. At the height of his popularity, Michael Jordan, joined with Gatorade in 1991, and they produced a commercial that greatly expanded Gatorade’s popularity. The jingle heard on the commercial would be sung for several years by kids and adults alike. “Like Mike. If I could be like Mike...I wanna be...I wanna be...I wanna be like Mike. If I could be like Mike.”

The commercial ended with these words: Be like Mike. Drink Gatorade.” Despite the millions of dollars that they spent on the contract with Michael Jordan, no doubt they reaped the windfall of return from the sales of Gatorade to all the “would-be” Michael Jordan’s.”

Who do you strive to be like? A star athlete? A movie star? A politician? Fill in the blank: If I could be like _____?

The Apostle John reminds his readers of their current status: “Now are we the sons of God.” To those who have trusted Christ as Savior: we ARE the sons of God! We are His children. The funny thing about children is that they tend to look like their parents. It is natural

Morning: *Jeremiah 11-13*
Evening: *1 Timothy 4*

for children to be like their parents; either physically or in action. John reminds us that we ARE the sons of God. Are you like God? Everyday our actions should be more and more like the actions of God. In the future, when Christ shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is! But for now, you are the son of God. How can you be more like Him today? And, by the way, it has nothing to do with Gatorade. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Jonah 3:6-4:3

- _____ 1. The king led Nineveh in repentance.
- _____ 2. Jonah was very glad that God did not destroy Nineveh.
- _____ 3. After preaching in Nineveh, Jonah wanted to die.

Quote of the Day

“The closer to the light, the more visible the impurity; the nearer to the Holy One, the stronger the sense of unworthiness.”

~Andrew Murray

Monday

October 25

A Prayer List

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

If you want to have an effective prayer life you must have a prayer list. Nothing will enhance your prayer life like having a written prayer list. Why is one so important? We pray for something for a week or two then what do we do? We forget it or give up or just quit, and that is where we miss it. We are to keep on asking. Remember Hannah? She prayed for years and God gave her a Samuel. Was it ever worth it to "keep on asking!" Over and over, I have told how I prayed for my dad for thirty-five years before he got saved.

A prayer list helps you to keep focused. I found it so easy to let my mind wander when I was praying until I wrote out a prayer list. Now, I have a prayer list on 3 by 5 cards which I can easily carry with me when I travel. Secondly, it helps you keep a balanced prayer life to write out the names of people you might not otherwise remember to pray for. Thirdly, a prayer list helps us pray for the very things in which God tells us to pray; so often we fail to do this. Maybe the best reason of all is that with scores of people, ministries, and requests, you can easily "watch with me for an hour" in prayer. The time just flies by when you do this.

Take the challenge. Start a prayer list TODAY. Use it as a tool to have an effective prayer life. ~SW

Morning: *Jeremiah 14-16*
Evening: *1 Timothy 5*

Scripture Fill-In

“For _____ him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Complete the following verses on prayer.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - “Pray without _____.”
2. **Matthew 9:38** - “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth _____ into his harvest.”
3. **Matthew 26:41** - “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into _____: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
4. **1 Timothy 2:8** - “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and _____.”

Quote of the Day

“If we take the problems of life and lay them down, they become a path on which we can walk on through life. However, if we stack them up, they become a wall that closes us in from life.”
~Anonymous

Tuesday

October 26

How Far Will You Go?

Read Judges 16:1-22

Recently, I found myself lying in bed resting my eyes with a condition that is termed keratitis, which is inflammation of the cornea in the eyes. If you have ever had a corneal abrasion, the pain is similar. When the condition was coming on in each eye, any ray of light beam, even from the cell phone, sent piercing responses to my pain sensors eliciting screams. I literally had to cover my eyes with sunglasses, wear a hat, wear a jacket over my head, and use my hands to shield my eyes to go outdoors to the car. Needless to say, I retreated indoors for a few days.

While lying in bed on one of these days, the Old Testament character, Samson, came to mind. I tried to imagine the pain that he must have went through to literally have his eyes bored out by the Philistines. I honestly can not imagine it. My ophthalmologist explained that the cornea is the most sensitive tissue of the entire body, thus the pain that Samson endured had to be excruciating beyond expression.

How does this evolve into my devotional thought? I will repeat what my husband says from the pulpit so often: "Sin will take you farther than you ever planned to go." Samson had no idea whatsoever, that when he was flirting with Delilah, that she would lead him in revealing his precious secret as to why he possessed great strength from the God of Israel. The great Nazarite vow that he had taken in service to God was broken as he slept on the knees of Delilah. This betraying female led a man in the room to prey upon Samson and cut his long

Morning: *Jeremiah 17-19*

Evening: *1 Timothy 6*

locks which would in turn cause the strength of God Almighty to depart from his life.

Pain! Pain! Oh, the pain! The physical pain was deniably unbearable. However, Samson received a triple whammy. Have you considered the pain in his heart as well? One, the betrayal by the woman he loved was bad enough, right? That would be enough to cause most of us to fall off the edge. How about the pain in his heart that he had to face in regard to losing the strength and delight of Almighty God? The guilt and shame must have been enormous, not to mention the mockery he endured by the Philistines of himself and of his God.

Sin. Are you in sin? Are you flirting with sin? Think a bit. I repeat: Are you flirting with sin? Samson was unaware that "the LORD was departed from him." Granted, God may bring unimaginable pain into your life. He still does that today. You will not escape the eye of God. Having a bout with recent keratitis is a reminder how severe physical pain can be. Spiritual pain—absolutely heartbreaking. Please, don't allow sin to take you farther than you ever planned to go. ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

"For _____ him that _____ such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:3

Quote of the Day

"Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming tomorrow."

~Anonymous

Wednesday

October 27

It's All About Him

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:10

Why is humility such a hard thing for the church today, not false humility but real spirit filled humility? Countless times in God’s Word, He tells us that He turns away from the proud but exalts the humble. We know this to be true. Jesus gave many examples of this while He was here on earth, the greatest of which was Himself. Yet, we dust-formed people have such difficulty with this.

When we get together to talk with friends, the majority of our time is spent telling them how great things are for us and all the good we are doing. Maybe we should try something new. Perhaps we should try to only talk about what God is doing, not in a “look how spiritual I am” kind of way, but in a real “bragging on God” way.

If our perspective is correct, we will recognize that we are really nothing apart from God’s work in our lives. We of ourselves have nothing of any real lasting spiritual value. When we come with empty hands, the only thing that can fill them is Him.

Sadly, so much of our time is spent attempting to impress other people who are made of dirt. How silly! Then, we try to impress God with how much we have done for Him and how devoted we are. None of these things please God. He is pleased when we have a broken and contrite heart before Him. When we have gotten on our face before His awesome power and declared our total inadequacy

Morning: *Jeremiah 20-22*
Evening: *2 Timothy 1*

and pleaded for His help—then He is pleased. Then, and only then, can He lift us because it is not about us and all about Him. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“For _____ him that _____ such contradiction of _____ against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Jonah 4.

- ____ 1. After preaching in Nineveh, Jonah went outside the city and pouted.
- ____ 2. God used a gourd as an example to show Jonah how much He cared for Nineveh.
- ____ 3. There were more than 60,000 people in the city of Nineveh.

Quote of the Day

“We have many organizers, few agonizers; many players, few prayers; many singers, few clingers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion.” ~Anonymous

Thursday

October 28

Salvation Is By Faith,
Not Works

*“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”
Galatians 3:1*

Satan, our adversary, is like a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may deceive with confusion, presenting lies to alter the true Word of God. Paul asked the Galatians, “Who has tricked you into not obeying the truth of God’s Word?”

By the power of God, He showed them these errors of their ways by asking a few questions. First, he asks in verse two if they received the spirit by the works of the law or by hearing of faith. The answer is by faith. Secondly, in verse three, he asks, *“Having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh?”* No, you are not made perfect by the works of the flesh.

Paul goes on in the chapter to give an explanation of living by faith through the life of Abraham. To continue this study on salvation, read Romans three and four. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“For _____ him that _____ such contradiction of _____ against _____, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”
Hebrews 12:3

Morning: *Jeremiah 23-24*
Evening: *2 Timothy 2*

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. Answers are based from Matthew 13:1-43.

____ 1. Jesus spoke these parables standing in the desert with multitudes surrounding Him. (vs. 1-2)

____ 2. In the parable of the sower, the seed in the stony ground is like the person who hears the word but lets the things of the world choke him so that he is unfruitful. (vs. 22)

____ 3. In the parable of the wheat and tares, the master of the home told the servants to immediately uproot the tares. (vs. 24-30)

____ 4. The mustard seed is one of the biggest seeds. (vs. 31-32)

____ 5. The final destination for the “tares” of this world is the furnace of fire. (vs. 36-43)

Quote of the Day

“Sin breaks fellowship with God. A little girl committed a certain offense; and when her mother discovered it, she began to question her daughter. Immediately the child lost her smile and a cloud darkened her face as she said, ‘Mother, I don’t feel like talking.’ So it is with us when our fellowship with God is broken by sin in our lives. We do not feel like talking to Him. If you do not feel like praying, it is probably a good indication that you should start praying immediately.” ~Billy Graham

Friday

October 29

Behold, He Comes!

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Last week, I was riding in our car and was entranced as I gazed out the window. The clouds were absolutely breathtaking! They looked like huge, puffy cotton balls. Then, they kept getting smaller and smaller. They formed what seemed to be a road to Heaven. Accentuated with the oncoming sunset, the view was certainly one to behold.

Oftentimes, I have gazed at the awesome sky that God created and wondered what it will look like when He comes to take His children home in the rapture of the church. I imagine the sky to be a brilliant display of God’s incredible glory. Oh, what a day that will be!

It is so easy to get bogged down with the cares of this world. People get frustrating. Taxes get overbearing. Illness is painful. Hiring help goofs up your home projects. People say hurtful words. Death creates loneliness. The list could go on and on.

Sad to say, some days I put too much focus on my worries and not near enough focus on my God. Someday, all the problems will fade away, and we will behold our Saviour face to face. Thinking of being with our Lord for eternity puts the cares of today into perspective.

Morning: *Jeremiah 25-26*
Evening: *2 Timothy 3*

Church, He is coming! Jesus Christ is coming with a shout, in the clouds, with a sound of a trumpet! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“For _____ him that _____ such contradiction of _____ against _____, lest ye be _____ and faint in your minds.” Hebrews 12:3

Bible Quiz

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

1. Who wrote the book of 2 Corinthians?

2. 2 Corinthians 1:3 says that God is the “**God of all**” what? _____
3. Why should Christians be able to comfort others? 2 Cor. 1:3-4 _____
4. Sufficiency is found in Whom? 2 Cor. 3:5

Quote of the Day

“Soul winning is the chief business of the Christian minister, indeed it should be the main pursuit of every true believer.” ~Anonymous

Saturday

October 30

Our Firm Foundation

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7

Athletes are likely more skilled in their sport today than when they first started playing. After an athlete initially picked up that ball or held that hockey stick or bat, he made the choice to practice and play and to improve and grow.

As college athletes, my teammates and I chose to work on our individual skills and watch game film to improve and be prepared for upcoming games. We chose to grow every day so that we could continue to help our team be successful.

As followers of Christ, God does not intend for us for us to receive Him and stop there. He wants us to continue to grow in Him once we receive Christ as our Savior. He wants us to experience the joy that comes from His freedom and for us to be used by Him to make a difference for His Kingdom. However, we can not expect to be able to do either of those things without being, as it says in the verse above, “rooted and built up in Him.”

How do we do that? First, the foundation of our faith is built on His Word. Our faith is not built on feelings, emotional experiences, or even other people. Our roots of faith and the ensuing growth can take place when we spend time reading His Word and making it important

Morning: *Jeremiah 27-28*

Evening: *2 Timothy 4*

in our everyday lives. Just like athletes choose to train, we can choose to train spiritually, being disciplined to read the Bible daily. ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“For _____ him that _____ such contradiction of _____ against _____, lest ye be _____ and faint in your _____.” Hebrews 12:3

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Take a minute to evaluate your Christian life and honestly answer the following questions.

1. Like an athlete, are you consistently training for your Christian life? _____
2. Are you daily in the Word of God? _____
3. Do you set aside time daily to spend with God in prayer? _____
4. Are you faithful to a local Bible believing church? _____
5. What can you do to better train in the Word of God? _____

Quote of the Day

“You may run things; things may run you; but God runs it all.” ~Anonymous

Sunday

October 31

My Expectation Is from Him

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.” Psalm 62:5

I do not know what David was facing or why he was crying out, but I know he had the right answer to his problem. We may be facing a problem, a nagging illness, a conflict at work, a financial struggle, or a relationship issue. There seems to be no end to the trouble that life can bring our way. David faces his share of difficult times, and he has the Psalms to prove it. In this particular one, David seems to have embraced an important principle as a child of God. What was the important principle? God is my help!

David expressed this principle in two ways in this verse. The first expression was my soul is waiting only on God. In other words, in my soul, in the deepest part of my being, I am trusting that God is going to do something. It is when we are overwhelmed that we have the opportunity to learn this. It is when we are at that point, when we are facing troubles that are bigger than us, that we can learn experientially that God is enough.

Next, David said that his expectation is from God. He knew that God had an answer. He knew that God had a game plan. And, he knew when he heard from God that God would do the right thing. How about you? Who are you trusting? Where does your expectation come from? David trusted in God, and when his expectation came to pass, he was not disappointed. ~DLW

Morning: *Jeremiah 29-30*
Evening: *Titus 1*

Scripture Fill-In

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Hebrews 12:6-7

Bible Quiz

Who Said It? After reading the following quotes, determine who spoke the words, and write your answer in the blank.

_____ 1. “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” Dan. 4:28-30

_____ 2. “What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?” Neh. 4:1-2

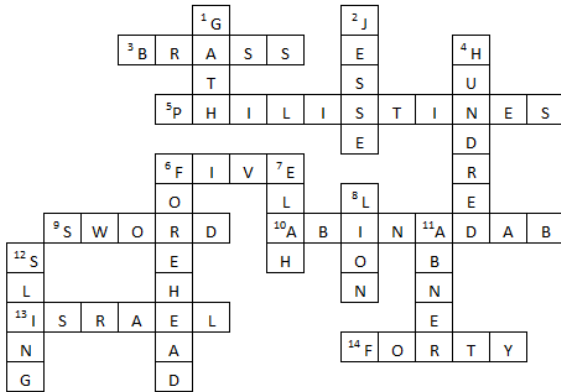
_____ 3. “I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.” Josh 2:1-9

Quote of the Day

“No one whose heart has had a vision of God will ever consent to think of himself as being great.”
~A. W. Tozer

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle



Word Search



Bible Quizzes

- Oct. 1 Pg. 2 1. T 2. T 3. T 4. T
 Oct. 2 Pg. 3 1. D 2. D
 Oct. 3 Pg. 4 1. John the Baptist 2. Peter
 3. Elisabeth
 Oct. 4 Pg. 5 1. T 2. F 3. T
 Oct. 5 Pg. 6 1. D 2. A 3. C 4. E 5. B

- Oct. 6 Pg. 7 1. B 2. B
 Oct. 7 Pg. 9 1. D 2. D 3. A
 Oct. 8 Pg. 10 1. D 2. A 3. E 4. B 5. C
 Oct. 9 Pg. 11 Answers will vary.
 Oct. 10 Pg. 12 1. Search 2. Heart 3. Try
 4. Thoughts 5. Wicked
 6. Lead 7. Everlasting
 Oct. 11 Pg. 13 1. A 2. C 3. E 4. B 5. D
 Oct. 12 Pg. 13 1. Cut Saul's robe 2. Saul was
 God's anointed king. 3. He
 bowed down before him.
 4. He wept. 5. Righteous
 6. He would not destroy Saul's
 name and seed.
 Oct. 13 Pg. 14 1. B 2. A 3. C
 Oct. 14 Pg. 17 1. Psalms 2. Ephesians
 3. Revelation 4. Ecclesiastes
 5. Exodus 6. Mark 7. Paul
 8. Malachi
 Oct. 15 Pg. 18 1. Sheep 2. Know 3. Follow
 4. Eternal 5. Perish 6. Pluck
 7. Father 8. Greater 9. All
 10. Hand
 Oct. 16 Pg. 19 1. B 2. A 3. A
 Oct. 17 Pg. 20 1. Love 2. Son 3. Loved
 Oct. 18 Pg. 21 1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F
 Oct. 19 Pg. 22 1. C 2. E 3. B 4. A 5. D
 Oct. 20 Pg. 23 1. E 2. D
 Oct. 21 Pg. 25 1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T
 Oct. 22 Pg. 26 1. Confess 2. Forgive
 Oct. 23 Pg. 27 1. C 2. A 3. A 4. B
 Oct. 24 Pg. 28 1. T 2. F 3. T
 Oct. 25 Pg. 29 1. Ceasing 2. Labourers
 3. Temptation 4. Doubting
 Oct. 27 Pg. 31 1. T 2. T 3. T
 Oct. 28 Pg. 32 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T
 Oct. 29 Pg. 33 1. Paul 2. Comfort 2. God
 has comforted us through
 trials. 4. God
 Oct. 30 Pg. 34 Answers will vary.
 Oct. 31 Pg. 35 1. King Nebuchadnezzar
 2. Sanballat 3. Rahab