Trials of Life

by Elder Edward McIntyre
Fitzgerald, Georgia

1 Corinthians 10:13 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.

We are in a time of testing on many fronts: adversity in the loss of jobs, loss of homes, autos, etc, because of failing economic conditions which cause testing in personal lives. Families are affected, martial relations stressed, relationship with family and other trials are experienced, and people often turn to worldly ways to handle the trials or testing that come. This should not be the case, especially for a child of God. We have many promises of help from God for any and all trials of life. We all are subject to having things that tempt us (test i.e.: trials), from time to time. Paul in the scripture above states the same by using the phrase, "such as is common to man". No person is exempt to trials or testing as we live.

Jesus said the same in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation (trouble & trials*): but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (KJV) **We have all been forewarned and with scripture we have been forearmed as to how to deal with the testing.** (*for explanation)

Paul is not saying that the temptation will be absolutely removed or cleared out, but that we will be able to escape the turmoil of the trial, by finding a way through it or being able to "bear"(to be able to endure) the testing. When he wrote, "The Lord will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, he is simply saying the God will not allow the trials to overrun your ability to cope with the problem as we depend upon Him. The Lord instructed Paul that "His Grace was sufficient" when Paul was burdened by the thorn in the flesh. See 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Consider these verses of promise and of counsel:

Isaiah 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. 3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. 4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. 5a Fear not: for I am with thee:

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

As we go through those dark times, may we realize that we have One that is a present help in our time of need. Christ is The Light of the world!

May God bless us all to seek to walk in the Light and claim His promises.

Forgiveness

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

What do we mean to forgive? Let us define by a present day definition, according to Webster Dictionary the word "Forgive" means:

1) To cease to feel resentment against an offender

2) To grant relief from a payment or a debt

3) To give up bitterness of or claim to requital

SYNONYMS: overlook, *pardon, excuse*. These verbs mean to refrain from imposing punishment on an offender or demanding satisfaction for an offense. These three can be used as conventional ways of offering apology. More strictly, to *forgive* is to grant pardon without harboring resentment.

The teaching of the Bible is very clear about the teaching of forgiving. Yet, today, it seems as if there are many with an unforgiving spirit. This is not good! We are taught to forgive just as Christ forgave us of our sins.

If there was ever a cause not to forgive, Jesus had it! Yet He came to save us by forgiving us, and paying the ransom for our sins. What was the price? Jesus paid with: His shed blood, and the laying down His life in death that our sins would be forgiven. The study of God's Word reveals no resentment or bitterness, no demand for restitution as He has granted full pardons. As I understand it, Jesus met all the requirements of Webster's definition for forgiveness.

Jesus in teaching prayer in the Model prayer instructed the disciples to pray like this:

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12.) Then in verses 14 and 15, Jesus gave further instruction, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Mt 6:14-15) Pretty strong argument (reason) for us to be found with a forgiving spirit! Not only the spirit but be found "forgiving one another as He has forgiven us."

Consider this verse found in Luke Chapter 11 verse 4, as you think upon forgiveness: "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is

indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

Question? Have we come to the point of being able to forgive, as we ought?

Think upon this thought! May the Lord bless us that we will grow in the grace of forgiveness.

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"LESSONS FOR LIVING"

FOR OUR GRADUATES

(Though I wrote these for our graduating seniors, they are good lessons for us all! WMM)

1. **PRAY!** Fervently pray the example prayer Jesus gave us as your introduction to more fervent personal praying (study Matthew 6:5-13; I Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; James 5:13, 16). Prayer is communication with God. He cares for you more than anyone! He can help you more than anyone! He loves you more than anyone! He is pleased when you go to Him in prayer daily, many times during the day!
2. **Serve God and DO NOT WORRY!** Study Matthew 6:24-32. If you serve God and put Him first in your life, He will take care of you! Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-7). Do not fear (Isaiah 41:10, 13; 43:1-2; Matthew 10:28-33). You serve God by serving others without telling others the good you are doing! Remember Matthew 25:34-40!
3. **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** and all the necessities of life will be added unto you! (See Matthew 6:32-34.) The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17)! In order to have the peace of God, enjoy His fellowship every day in the kingdom of heaven, you must walk with Him in the light of His word! (See Matthew 7:21; Luke 16:16; Acts 14:23; I John 1:4-7.) Before seeking anything else, every day, seek first what Jesus has taught you! "Take heed and beware of covetousness" (Luke 12:15-21).
4. **DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU!** (Matthew 7:12).
   Treat everyone like you would want them to treat you. Be humble. Do not seek to be in the limelight, but help others shine! "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (See Galatians 6:7-9). Be loving, kind and generous! Be especially kind to the young children and elderly!
5. **LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS JESUS LOVES YOU!** (Matthew 22:36-40; John 15:12). Loving God FIRST, and loving your neighbor are of utmost importance! If you are not manifesting love for God and your neighbor, nothing else you do is of any significance! (John 13:35; I Corinthians 13; Colossians 3:12-14).
6. **CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS CAREFULLY!**
   "Birds of a feather flock together" is an old saying. If you have friends who are true Christians, they will have an influence for good in your life. If you have friends who live ungodly, they will pull you away from God! (Psalm 1:1-3; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Corinthians 6:14-18; II Thessalonians 3:6; Ephesians 5:11; Acts 2:40.)

BIBLE SCRAMBLE

by Sis. Earnestine Myers
Willacoochee, Georgia

OCCUPATIONS OF THE BIBLE

Unscramble the letters in each word or word group to spell the name of an occupation found in the Bible

1. greanrev _____
2. biomredrere _____
3. vrewae _____
4. djegu _____
5. nogervro _____
6. sfihere _____
7. racpneetr _____
8. sbanmuhdan _____
9. yalwer _____
10. ublicpna _____
11. gamtsirtae _____
12. lairoj _____
13. makretnet _____
14. pedtyu _____
15. lirsevsmith _____
16. senuoclrol _____
17. riehfsf _____
18. reashpeshere _____
19. lutreb _____
20. karbe _____
21. gicmanai _____
22. hespdreth _____
23. surne _____
24. lersel fo ruplep _____
25. sidtenpre _____
26. wimdife _____

They Builded the Sheep Gate

by Elder Greg Phillips
Chattanooga, Tennessee
3rd in a Series

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel. (Nehemiah 3:1)

Nehemiah had surveyed the city of Jerusalem and was fully aware of its condition. "Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach" (Nehemiah 2:17). To encourage the people, Nehemiah assured them that the Lord was with them. The words the king had spoken to him were a powerful testimony that the Lord was working for them. "Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work" (Nehemiah 2:18).

We see here the pattern for all true restoration and revival. Every revival begins with God. He stirs the hearts and minds of His people, then opens a door of opportunity. In this case, God began with one man, Nehemiah. He made him aware of the desolation of Jerusalem and gave him a burden for restoration. He then gave Nehemiah favor with the king.

We can be sure, though, that the Lord was working on many fronts in this matter. God had previously placed Nehemiah in a position to be used in a powerful way. Not only did the Lord give Nehemiah favor with the king, He would also give him favor in the sight of the residents of Jerusalem. He would also give him power over their enemies.

In any revival God begins to work in a way that has not been seen before. He makes His people aware of their desolation, gives them a burden for revival, then opens doors of opportunity. The people then make a determination, and say, "Let us rise up and build…" and strengthen their hands "...for this good work" (Nehemiah 2:18).

It seems that today few are aware or concerned about the desolation of spiritual Jerusalem, the church. There is little evidence of a true burden for the condition of the church. Thankfully, there are some who are deeply burdened, and the number seems to be growing. While the number of people who are burdened for the church seems small, apparently the number of those who say, "Let us rise up and build…", is even smaller.

The angel who spoke to Zechariah asked, "For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth" (Zechariah 4:10). Many were discouraged at the small and poor beginnings of the rebuilding of the temple. The angel assured Zechariah that those doubters who despised such small beginnings would rejoice to see its going on to completion under Zerubbabel.

God often chooses weak instruments to bring about mighty things. The Lord demonstrates that success is "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

It is vital, then, that we do not become discouraged though it may seem that we face overwhelming odds. Our success does not depend upon our might or power, but on the power of God. We must "rise up and build" as He gives us opportunity.

The account of the building of the walls and gates of Jerusalem is not only a record of historical events, but also has spiritual meaning that reveals God's pattern of revival. There is typical meaning in the names recorded and in the order of building.

The first builder named is Eliashib, the high priest. Eliashib means God will restore. At the dedication of the temple, God made a promise to Solomon that applied to all of Israel: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). That promise applies to spiritual Israel as well. God will always restore when those conditions are met.

The rebuilding of the wall begins at the sheep gate. This leads us to consider why the gates are there. The walls are meant to keep in what is good and to keep out what is evil. In the case of Jerusalem's wall, its purpose was to keep in those who serve God and to keep out those who did not. Gates are the passage through the wall.

The gates in Scripture speak of authority and power. A city was usually regarded as taken when its gates were won. Gate, then, sometimes signifies power and dominion.

The Sheep Gate is thought to have been on the south side of the city, in that part of the valley which looked towards the city of David and the temple. The Sheep Gate is where the sheep were brought into the city of Jerusalem to be taken to the Temple to be sacrificed to the Lord. This is the only gate of which it is recorded that it was sanctified, that is, dedicated to God in a special way. They blessed it with

solemn prayers, and perhaps with sacrifices. It may have been thus sanctified on account of its being the priests' work, and of the relation which it had to sacred uses. Jerusalem and the wall and gates were destroyed, and needed Eliashib the high priest who sets up the doors of the Sheep Gate.

When God's children sin and stray from Him, they lose the joys and the blessings that He has for His obedient children. Their wall of protection is broken down, and gates of access to God are "burned with fire." "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

Satan and sin seek to destroy the fellowship of God and His children, so there is a High Priest, Jesus Christ, who is the Door of the sheep and who can save and restore men back to fellowship with God.

The Sheep Gate represents Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who is the author of our eternal salvation. This gate speaks to us of the cross and the sacrifice that was made for our sins. It is the starting point of everything. You will also notice if you read the entire chapter that the sheep gate is also mentioned at the very end once the wall has come full circle. That is because everything starts and ends with Jesus' death on the cross. He is "... the author and finisher of our faith…" (Hebrews 12:2).

Not only is Jesus the Author and Finisher of our eternal salvation, He is the Author of our timely deliverance as well. He is the Good Shepherd that keeps His sheep. He seeks His sheep that have gone astray.

Next to the Sheep Gate was the Tower of Hananel which means "God's mercy." David said, "Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted" (Psalms 25:16). He would come to understand, "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast" (Psalms 36:5-6).

As the builders continued with the wall, just beyond the Tower of Hananel was the Tower of the Me'ah, which means "one hundred." We remember Jesus' parable recorded in Luke's Gospel, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:4-7).

Sometimes, some of us go astray; some of us fall away. Sometimes, believers backslide. Sometimes, we simply wander off. But the Good Shepherd comes after us. He doesn't want to lose any. The Sheep Gate is representative of Christ's statement, "My sheep will hear My voice" (John 10:27).

It is said that no creature strays more easily than a sheep. None is so incapable of finding its way back to the flock once it has gone astray. It may bleat for the flock, yet run in the opposite direction from the flock. No creature is more defenseless than a sheep. Without a shepherd, the sheep would be in constant danger. In mercy the Lord seeks to restore those who stray.

We, like sheep, are prone to stray. Without the shepherd, we cannot find our way back to the fold. We are weak and defenseless creatures. Unlike sheep, however, we are rational, responsible creatures. It is comforting to know we have a Shepherd watching over us, but we must also remember that we are to conduct ourselves as His sheep. If we do go astray, we must turn and seek our Shepherd.

Rebuilding the Sheep Gate also pictures the straying sinner returning to Christ. He must be the beginning of our rebuilding. We must make Him first and foremost in our lives. Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Jesus is the King of God's kingdom, and to seek the kingdom is to seek Jesus. We must be mindful of His suffering for us, and what He accomplished on the cross. We must avail ourselves of the manifold grace of God. Those who seek Christ are assured that they shall find Him. The promise of the Lord is theirs: "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" (Isaiah 58:11-12).

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"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly to implore His protection and favor." — George Washington

Raised From The Dead (Part 3)

by Elder McKinley Wright
Jacksonville, Florida

When Lazarus emerged from the tomb, no doubt he was walking. But his steps were short and halting. His body was bound with grave clothes. This clothing was probably a linen sheet that was wound around his body. His face was covered with a napkin. The napkin was not just lying over his face while he was lying in the tomb. It had been fastened in such a way that it could not be dislodged while his body was being placed on the slab on which it rested. His arms were wrapped inside the linen sheet. Although he had become alive, he couldn't free himself from the sheet nor remove the napkin from his face. Surely, it was very difficult for him to perform any kind of physical activity.

The difficulty that he experienced in carrying out the functions of his new life is a picture of the fact that when a person is born again, the person doesn't suddenly become a fully developed disciple. He is still bound by human depravity and that depravity has him bound so badly that his understanding of God, what He has done for us and what He requires from us is shallow indeed. The person needs to learn what God has done for him, what God requires of him, and how to follow the way God has appointed. When Lazarus emerged from the tomb in that bound condition, Jesus spoke to the disciples who had come with Him. He told them, "Loose him and let him go." The sheet that was wrapped around Lazarus had to be removed before he could even walk home with his sisters. Jesus instructed His disciples to remove the grave clothes so Lazarus could do the things that he needed to do. Jesus made the removal of his grave clothes become the responsibility of the disciples. In the same way, He has made the church responsible for removing the grave clothes from the little child of God that has so recently been born again.

She is to do this by teaching, primarily. The child of God needs to know what has happened. He needs to know what God has done for him and what God requires of him. On the day that Jesus ascended back to heaven after His crucifixion, He gathered His disciples (the church of that day) on the Mount of Olives, and delivered His last charge to them. He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20). Primitive Baptists have, for all practical purposes, failed in these things. We practice baptizing, so why have we neglected His charge to teach them? We have waited for God to reveal to the person the kind of behavior He demands. But God has put the instructions in His word. He has given the church the responsibility of teaching them to His little child. If she fails to do so, the little child goes lacking. God is not going to perform work that He has charged to us. The church should teach them what God's standard is, and then encourage them (and insist if they are reluctant) to live up to a reasonable semblance of that standard. None of us can be perfect, but we should earnestly strive for it. The church's lack of interest gives the little child the idea that these things are not important. Satan moves in and leads the child to worldliness. We complain about worldliness invading the church. If we knew and followed Bible principles, worldliness would not be a problem. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO BASICS! The writer remembers the time when if a person brought his Bible to church, the others would avoid him like he was some kind of fanatic. We have grown to the point that we bring our Bibles to church and kind of look down on those who don't do so. But we neglect reading it at church, and especially at home.

The ideal condition would be every child of God thinking all of the time about God, who He is, and what He has done for us; constantly talking to one another in our families, in the church and in the community about these things and obeying Him perfectly. This would be the ideal condition. But we live in the world, and it is necessary for us to give some attention to our lives in the world. The problem is that we have allowed the natural life to become more important than the spiritual. It ought to be the other way. When Jesus called His disciples, He made them fishers of men. We dangle our lines in the water, but we leave off the hook and the bait (truth). No wonder we catch so few fish!

The Bible says that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be (ought to be) saved. Being "saved" is not the same thing as being born again. In fact, no one is a candidate for being saved until he has already been born again. God adds them to the church so the church can save them. Being saved is being loosed from our grave clothes. The world is filled with God's little children who need to have their grave clothes removed (know the truth). The only way they will ever be set free is by being taught the truth. That will happen only when those who know the truth teach them. Our failure robs God of praise that is rightfully His. It also robs His little ones of joy that they ought to have. Let's change our ways.

Why Art Thou Cast Down?

Lic. Clay Gill
Patterson, Georgia

(Written after reading
Psalm 42 and 43.)

Each day comes
and each day goes
With a hunger and a
thirst in my soul.
It's an ache, it's a cry,
it's a mourning,
Yet I don't realize it
for what it is.

At the start of some days,
I find comfort in ways
That God's Word
condemns and forbids.
I try selfish ambition
and gain and pride,
But this is not
what soothes the ache.

So throughout the day,
I look for a new way
To dry my tears and
lite up my soul.
But food and friends
and things that I want
Leave me saying that there
is still something not right.

I'm discouraged
and despondent
and cast down;
And by the close
of each day I realize
That my efforts, my dreams,
and not even my strength
Have delivered me
from my own demise.

And then, with a
panting in my soul
That comes from
I know not where, I ask
"Why art thou cast down,
oh my soul?
And why art thou
disquieted within me?"

Deep calls unto deep,
And I pray unto
the God of my life.
I pour out my soul
at the throne of my Lord,
And I expect something
immediately in return.

God answers.
He speaks in a
still small voice
That reaches into
the depths of my heart,

"You've spent no time with Me
and you've walked
through your day
As though I had no part in it.
Yet out of my mercy and grace,
I see the pain in your face,
So I give you my Comforting Spirit."

And, oh, great peace
floods my soul!
There is now joy
in the place of the ache
and the cry and grief!

Thank You, says my soul!
Thank You once again!
You've lifted me out of despair,
And I resolve each day
to walk in the Spirit in faith,
Not in my own strength,
which is my sin.

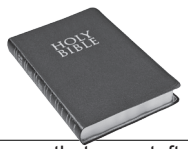
"Why art thou cast down,
O my soul?
And why art
thou disquieted in me?
Hope thou in God:
for I shall yet praise Him
for the help of his countenance."

(Psalm 42:5)

BIBLE SCRAMBLE ANSWERS

TREES OF THE BIBLE

1.	Engraver	2.	Embroiderer	3.	Weaver
4.	Judge	5.	Governor	6.	Fisher
7.	Carpenter	8.	Husbandman	9.	Lawyer
10.	Publican	11.	Magistrate	12.	Jailor
13.	Tentmaker	14.	Deputy	15.	Silversmith
16.	Counsellor	17.	Sheriff	18.	Sheepshearer
19.	Butler	20.	Baker	21.	Magician
22.	Shepherd	23.	Nurse	24.	Seller of Purple
25.	President	26.	Midwife		



"SIN will keep you from this Book.
This Book will keep you from SIN" — D. L. Moody

Keys of the Kingdom

by Bro. Jerry Forsyth
Waycross, Georgia

In Matthew 16:13-19, we find Jesus talking to His disciples and asking them, "Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

In the 18th verse Jesus tells Peter, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In verse 19 Christ says, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:…"

The phrase "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:" is what I have on my mind.

First, the Kingdom of Heaven spoken of here is not the eternal heaven, but the Kingdom as we live here on earth.

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

Also, in Romans 9:11, the Bible says, "(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)."

Keys are Important

What is the purpose of a key? It can open or close a lock, start a car, and the list goes on and on for the use of a key.

An example of the importance of a key is: I work as an auxiliary policeman. One night I cuffed a man too tight, and I accidentally left my key at home. Well, I had to rush home and get the key to loosen the cuffs.

Sometimes when we get in a hurry, we might pick up the wrong key, which was what happened with my wife. She had gone out without her purse and had to go next door and call me. Was the key important in this situation? Yes.

In Matthew 16:19, Peter was given the Keys of the Kingdom by Jesus.

What are some of the keys to enter the Kingdom?

1) **Humility**

The essential key to enter the Kingdom of Heaven is humility. Example: Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

I Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

Luke 18:10-13, "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

This passage reveals the story of the Publican and the Pharisee. One prayed thus to himself, and the other said, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Keys are important! Keys are necessary! Keys are powerful!

2) **Forgiveness**

The key of forgiveness is taught when Joseph forgave his brothers. Eph. 4:32 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Another key to enter the Kingdom is to forgive as Christ did for our sins.

3) **Love**

Hebrews 13:1 says, "Let brotherly love continue." One cannot enter the Kingdom without love.

Gal. 5:22 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." We are to love one another. A good example of true love is found in Luke 10:30-36 when they good Samaritan helped his enemy.

4) **Service**

Read Matthew 25:31-46, looking clearly at verse 35 and 36: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Verse 40 says, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

5) **Obedience**

Acts 5:29 says, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

In I Samuel 15:22, "…Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice…"

By using these keys, we will be able to enter the Kingdom of God.

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing. Proverbs 20:4

Repentance and Turning are Inseparable!

by Bro. Joshua Leach
Waycross, Georgia

The theme of the New Testament, the message that John the Baptist and Jesus began preaching, is, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (See Matthew 3:1-2 and Matthew 4:17.) Remember that we are saved from eternal hell to the Eternal Heaven by the grace of God alone, not of our works, not by our works, and not according to our works (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, II Timothy 1:9). However, good works and repentance are required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven while we live in this world.

The Kingdom of Heaven (different from the eternal heaven) is defined as "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" in Romans 14:17. It is the manifestation of God's presence with us while we live in this world. It's that peace that passes understanding in the middle of hard times. It is that abundant joy that allowed Paul to shout and sing praises while in prison. Where is it? It "cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (See Luke 17:20-21.) It can't be seen with natural eyes because it is a spiritual kingdom, and it is right here and now, within us. How do you experience the Kingdom of Heaven while we live in this world? Matthew 7:21 states, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." You have to do the will of the Father! One of the primary works we have to do to enter the Kingdom (as John the Baptist and Jesus stressed) is to REPENT!

The main thought on my heart as I write this article is that REPENTANCE and TURNING are inseparable! You cannot truly repent without turning away from the wrong path and turning toward the right path. Repentance is more than just remorse. Remorse is feeling sorry for your sin, but repentance is feeling so much sorrow for your sin that you TURN away from it. Just being sorry isn't true, godly repentance.

Read II Corinthians 7:9-11. In I Corinthians, Paul rebuked the church harshly. They received his rebuke well, and REPENTED! They didn't just feel sorry, but they turned away from their wrongdoing. Therefore, Paul rejoiced in their repentance when writing II Corinthians! Paul said, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance…" Being sorry is one thing, but we should "sorrow to repentance" which means to TURN away from the wrongdoing!

In Jeremiah 31:18-19, Ephraim cried out to the Lord, "Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: **turn** thou me, and I shall be **turned**; for thou art the Lord my God. Surely after that I was **turned**, I **repented**; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth."

Ezekiel 14:6 states, "...Thus saith the Lord God; **Repent,** and **turn** yourselves from your idols; and **turn** away your faces from all your abominations."

A few chapters later in Ezekiel 18:30-32, the Lord God states, "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore **turn yourselves,** and live ye."

Notice that though we are not saved eternally by our works, of our works, or according to our works, we ARE judged "every one according to his ways" while we live in this world! If we repent and turn, we will enter the Kingdom of Heaven while we live. If we do not repent and turn, we will experience his chastening wrath and judgment while we live in this world.

In Acts 26:19-20, Paul told how he showed them "that they should **repent** and **turn** to God, and **DO WORKS meet for repentance**." See that it wasn't enough to just feel sorry. They also had to turn to God and DO WORKS that were meet for repentance. We likewise must "bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" as John the Baptist put it in Matthew 3:7-10.

Showing "fruits" and doing "works" meet for repentance means that you can't just feel sorry about the sin, but you have to SHOW that you feel sorry by turning away from it and doing good works in its place. Turn in the opposite direction!

Read Luke 3:7-14! John the Baptist said, "Bring forth therefore fruits WORTHY of repentance…" The people asked, "What shall we do then?" He told them, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." The publicans said, "Master, what shall we do?" He told them, "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." Then, the soldiers said, "And what shall we do?" He told them, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." Each time, John the Baptist told them specific WORKS to DO to SHOW their repentance! He told them things they had to turn away from and things they had to turn toward in the opposite direction.

In Matthew 12:41, Jesus proclaimed, "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they **repented** at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." Nearing the destruction of Jerusalem, many did not heed the preaching of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles when they said to REPENT for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Those who did not turn away from their wicked ways and REPENT experienced the judgment and wrath of God that was poured out upon the Old Jerusalem.

Jesus was far greater than Jonah! Still, even though many Jews did not repent at the preaching of Jesus, the men of Nineveh truly repented when Jonah preached to them! Read Jonah 3:5-8 to see how remorseful the people of Nineveh were. They didn't just feel remorse! They turned every one from his evil way! "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them." Then, a proclamation went out "by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying…**turn** every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands."

Read II Corinthians 12:19-21 where Paul writes, "we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying. For I fear, lest, when I come...there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not **repented** of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed." Do you see all the sins they had been warned about? Debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults, uncleanness, fornication, lasciviousness! If Paul came and found them committing these sins, then they did not repent because they did not stop and turn away from those sins.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus commends the churches for some things they had been doing well, and then brings up wrongdoings that they each needed to REPENT of! Read Revelation 2:20-22 where Jesus warns the church at Thyatira, saying, "...I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to **repent** of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds."

Read Matthew 21:28-32! Jesus gives a parable about a man who had two sons. The father "came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he **repented**, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not." After giving the parable, Jesus asked which of the two "did the will of his father?" (Remember, that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must do "the will of the Father" as Jesus taught in Matthew 7:21!) Of course, it was the one who REPENTED and WENT! Notice that he didn't just feel bad that he told his father that he wouldn't go! He showed that he was sorry by DOING what the father said. He TURNED around and WENT to work in the vineyard!

I'm afraid that we, more often than not, are like the second son! We say that we are sorry to God, but don't change. We say that we will start to study our Bibles daily, go to the nursing homes, visit the elderly, give to others, and serve Him. We say that we will stop getting angry with others, holding grudges, and gossiping. We say we will stop cursing and our addictions. Whatever specific temptations we struggle with, we are like the second son and say, "Lord, forgive us! I will turn away from that sin and serve You!" Then, we don't actually implement it into our lives. How many times have we sat under the preaching of God's word and been moved in our hearts? We felt REMORSE, and intended to change when we left the church building! However, once we left those doors, no change took place in our lives. There was no REPENTANCE, just REMORSE. The word had no root and brought forth no fruit!

Jesus continues after the parable to say, "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." In light of the parable, why would publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before them? They entered in because they actually REPENTED of those sins at the preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus. Though they initially said "No" to forsaking their sinful lifestyles and following God's way, they REPENTED afterward and WENT! They stopped living in that sinful lifestyle, and started working in God's vineyard, bringing forth fruit meet for repentance. The others, when they had seen and heard the preaching of John the Baptist, "repented not afterward." Lord, help us to truly REPENT and TURN at the preaching of Your word!

Proverbs 28:13 states, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." To forsake our sins, we must TURN AWAY from them. We must REPENT!

Remember that repentance and turning are inseparable in the Bible. Repentance gets us into the Kingdom of Heaven while we live in this world. It is the path toward righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit!

We should repent and TURN AWAY from idols, abominations, transgressions, evil ways, uncleanness, fornication, lasciviousness, divisions, envyings, backbiting, evil deeds, adultery, and more!

We should repent and TURN TOWARD God! We should DO WORKS WORTHY of repentance! We should visit the fatherless and widows, give to others, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, show kindness and mercy, be

content with what God has given us, labor in His vineyard, and more!

I pray that God will help us to truly REPENT and TURN away from our sins and toward God each and every day, and that He will help us to rejoice in the grace and new mercies that God bestows upon us each and every day!

(Also study Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 15:1-24; Luke 17:3-4; Revelation 2:5,16, 21-22; Revelation 9:20-21; Revelation 16:9,11; Judges 19-21; I John 1:9; Acts 2:38, and more.)

* *

Grow in Knowledge

"LOVE"

1. Many waters cannot _____ love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

2. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the _____ of the law."

3. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that _____ another hath fulfilled the law."

4. "And above all things have _____ charity among ourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

5. "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily _____, thinketh no evil;..."

6. " Let _____ love continue."

7. "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a _____ heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned..."

8. "There is no fear in love; but _____ love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

9. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of _____, and of a sound mind."

10. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in _____; but in deed and in truth."

"God Moves In a Mysterious Way"

by William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea Anaides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs, And works His sovereign will.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.
His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain

Don't Widen Home Plate

Submitted by Bro. Robert L. Kiser
Loganville, Georgia

In Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January, 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA convention.

While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name, in particular, kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — "John Scolinos is here? Oh man, worth every penny of my airfare."

Who is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter, I was just happy to be there.

In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate. Seriously, I wondered, who is this guy?

After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage.

Then, finally …"You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck. Or maybe you think I escaped from Camarillo State Hospital," he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. "No," he continued, "I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years."

Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. "Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?" After a pause, someone offered, "Seventeen inches?" more question than answer.

"That's right," he said. "How about in Babe Ruth? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?"

Another long pause.

"Seventeen inches?" came a guess from another reluctant coach.

"That's right," said Scolinos. "Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?" Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. "How wide is home plate in high school baseball?"

"Seventeen inches," they said, sounding more confident.

"You're right!" Scolinos barked. "And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?"

"Seventeen inches!" we said, in unison.

"Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?"

"Seventeen inches!"

"RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide is home plate in the Major Leagues?"

"Seventeen inches!"

"SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!" he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. "And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can't throw the ball over seventeen inches?" Pause. "They send him to Pocatello!" he hollered, drawing raucous laughter. "What they don't do is this: they don't say, 'Ah, that's okay, Jimmy. You can't hit a seventeen-inch target? We'll make it eighteen inches, or nineteen inches. We'll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can't hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.'"

Pause.

"Coaches …"

Pause.

" … what do we do when our best player shows up late to practice? When our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him? Do we widen home plate?"

The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach's message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows.

"This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don't teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We widen the plate!"

Pause. Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag.

"This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?"

Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross.

"And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. - Our church leaders are widening home plate!"

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curveballs and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

"If I am lucky," Coach Scolinos concluded, "you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: if we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards; if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to…" With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside. "…dark days ahead."

Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach.

His message was clear: "Coaches, keep all your players, your own children, and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches!"

How many churches are widening home plate, trying to make the church (their social club) more inviting.

* * * \

Facing the Wall!

by Elder W. M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia

Scripture reading- II Kings 20:1-6

"Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD" (II Kings 20:2).

Hezekiah had just received the most shocking news he had ever heard. Through Isaiah, God told King Hezekiah, "Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live" (v.1). What did Hezekiah do when he faced this grave problem? First, he turned his face to the wall. Then, he prayed unto the Lord.

"Walls" in the word of God often represent obstacles: troubles, problems, or afflictions. Sometimes, people react in different ways when they have problems (walls) in their lives: sometimes, they run from the problem (wall); sometimes, they ignore the problem; other times, they freeze, or crumble when they have a problem (wall). But the word of God teaches us to face our troubles and problems as Hezekiah "faced the wall!"

In our personal lives, homes, Church, and nation, we need to learn the valuable lesson of "facing the wall." However, if we face the wall (problem) in our own strength and wisdom, we will merely beat our head against the wall, kick the wall, and become frustrated because we cannot conquer the wall in our own strength. It takes supernatural power to overcome the wall, therefore we must pray unto the Lord once we have faced the wall!

Like Hezekiah, David knew how much God helped him when he faced the various "walls" in his life. What are some "walls" David faced? (The lion; the bear; his brothers; the Israelite army; King Saul; Goliath, to name a few!) Each time he faced one of the aforementioned walls, he looked to God to help him. He faced the wall, and prayed unto the Lord. And the Lord helped him each time. For example, David declared, "For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall" (II Samuel 22:29-30).

All through the Scriptures, we find references to God's people facing the walls and God helping them in various ways as they looked to Him. Joel declared, "They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war" (Joel 2:7). In Ezekiel 38:20, we read, "every wall shall fall to the ground." Does this remind you of the walls of Jericho? When the spies went into the land of Canaan, they said there were "great walled cities" in the land, and used that as an excuse NOT to do what God had commanded them. They did not face the wall, and they did not pray unto the Lord. They ran, and they died. Forty years later, under the leadership of Joshua, the children of Israel faced the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, and the walls came tumbling down! The battle was not theirs, but the Lord's. If they had tried to knock the walls down, or break the walls down after facing the walls of Jericho, they would have been defeated. However, they looked to God, listened to God, and obeyed God. THAT is the way to be able to overcome all the walls we face in our lives!

When Moses had come to the Red Sea, it was a wall in front of them and the Egyptian army was a wall behind them. God parted the sea, and the wall before them became a wall on each side of them, and they marched between those two walls to victory. Then God brought down the walls on the Egyptians!

When King Jehoshaphat and Judah were faced with the great "walls" of the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites, they faced the wall! They knew the seriousness of the situation and knew they could not win by themselves. Therefore Jehoshaphat said, "we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (II Chronicles 20:12). Like Hezekiah, they faced the wall and prayed unto the Lord!

Look at Isaiah 49:13-16. In this passage, God told the children of Israel he would help them in the wall (affliction) they had. But they murmured against God and said He had forgotten them. God's reply was, "thy walls are continually before me." God loves you! You will never face a wall (problem, trouble, affliction, grief, sorrow, or loss) without God! He sees and knows all you face!

Every "wall" of temptation you face, God is there! Face the wall! Acknowledge it is real! Then look to Him and pray to Him for the grace you need! "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" (I Corinthians 10:13).

Face the wall! Pray unto the Lord! His grace is sufficient! We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! The Lord is our helper, and we should not fear the walls of life!

Only those who have struck the deepest note of penitence, can reach the highest note of Praise! — A. J. Gordon

Manna From God's Word

Wisdom / Knowledge / Understanding

Webster Definition:

• **Wisdom:** ability to discern inner qualities and relationships: insight.

• **Knowledge**: range of one's information or understanding

• **Understanding**: to grasp the meaning of something.

• **Hebrew and/or Greek Meaning:**

• **Wisdom:** discretion, intelligence,

• **Knowledge:** consciousness, perceive,

• **Understanding:** comprehend.

2 Chronicles 9:23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.

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

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

2 Chronicles 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

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

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Proverbs 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

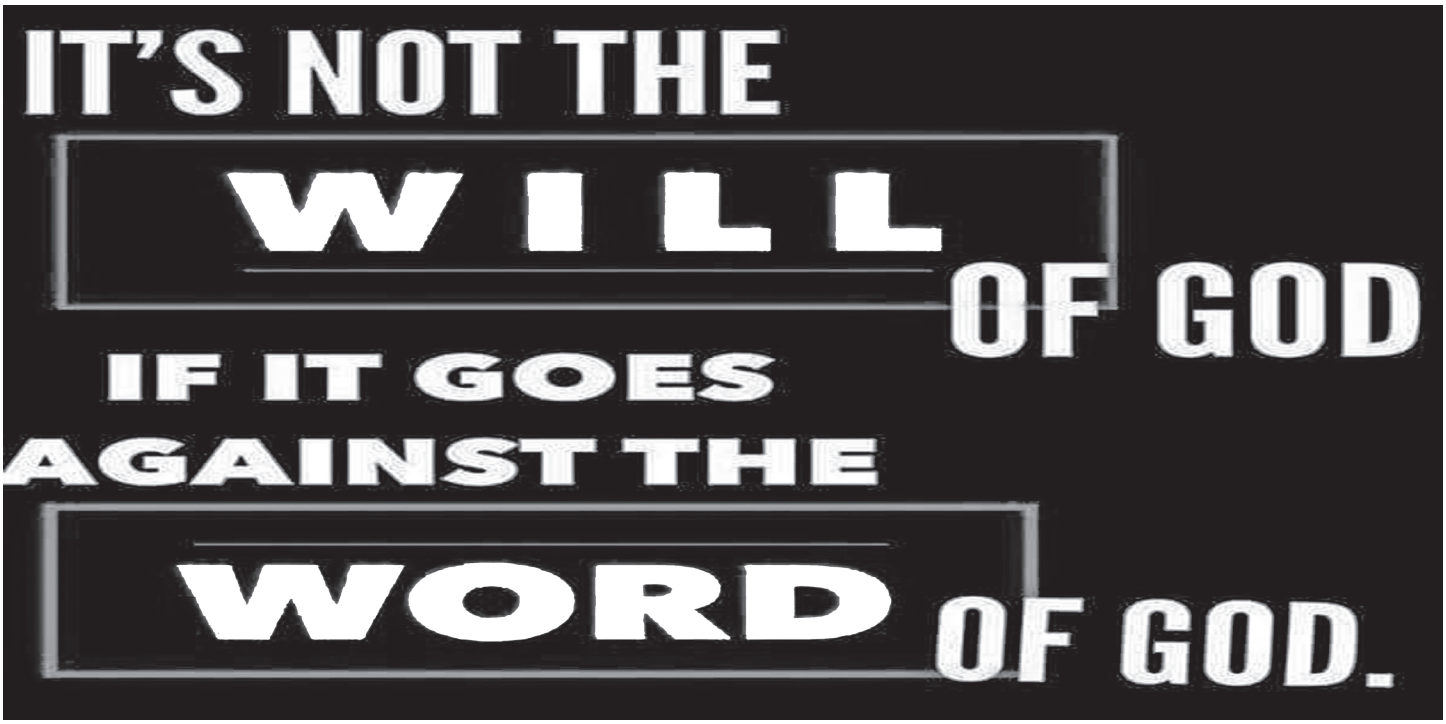
Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Colossians 1:9 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;

Prayer

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Compiled by
Bro. Jimmy Hitchcock
Young Harris, Georgia

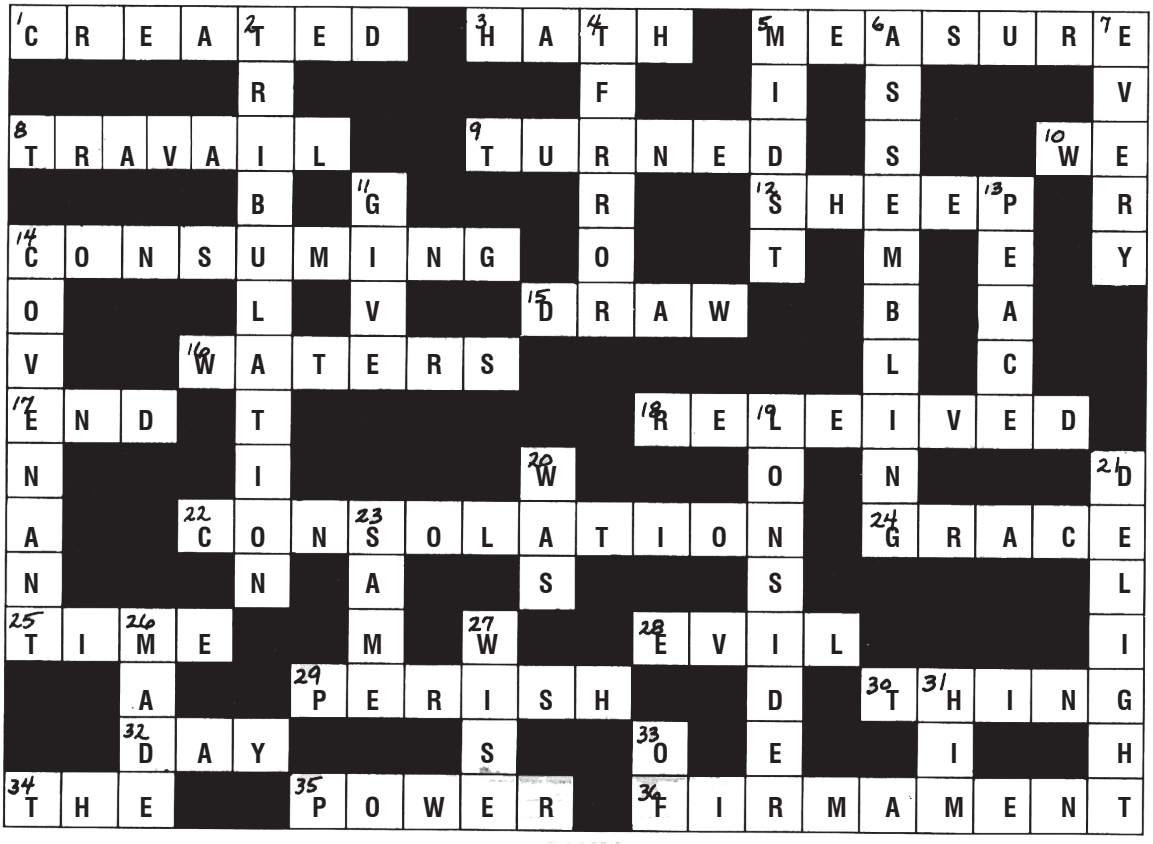


Bible Reading Calendar for July

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Job 19,20	Acts 9:23-43
2	Job 21,22	Acts 10:1-23
3	Job 23,24,25	Acts 10:24-48
4	Job 26,27,28	Acts 11
5	Job 29,30	Acts 12
6	Job 31,32	Acts 13:1-23
7	Job 33,34	Acts 13: 24-52
8	Job 35,36,37	Acts 14
9	Job 38,39	Acts 15:1-21
10	Job 40,41,42	Acts 15:22-41
11	Psalms 1,2,3	Acts 16:1-15
12	Psalms 4,5,6	Acts 16:16-40
13	Psalms 7,8,9	Acts 17:1-15
14	Psalms 10,11,12	Acts 17:16-34
15	Psalms 13-16	Acts 18

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Psalms 17,18	Acts 19:1-20
17	Psalms 19,20,21	Acts 19:21-41
18	Psalms 22,23,24	Acts 20:1-16
19	Psalms 25,26,27	Acts 20:17-38
20	Psalms 28,29,30	Acts 21:1-14
21	Psalms 31,32,33	Acts 21:15-40
22	Psalms 34,35	Acts 22
23	Psalms 36,37	Acts 23:1-11
24	Psalms 38,39,40	Acts 23:12-35
25	Psalms 41,42,43	Acts 24
26	Psalms 44,45,46	Acts 25
27	Psalms 47,48,49	Acts 26
28	Psalms 50,51,52	Acts 27:1-25
29	Psalms 53,54,55	Acts 27:26-44
30	Psalms 56,57,58	Acts 28:1-15
31	Psalms 59,60,61	Acts 28:16-31

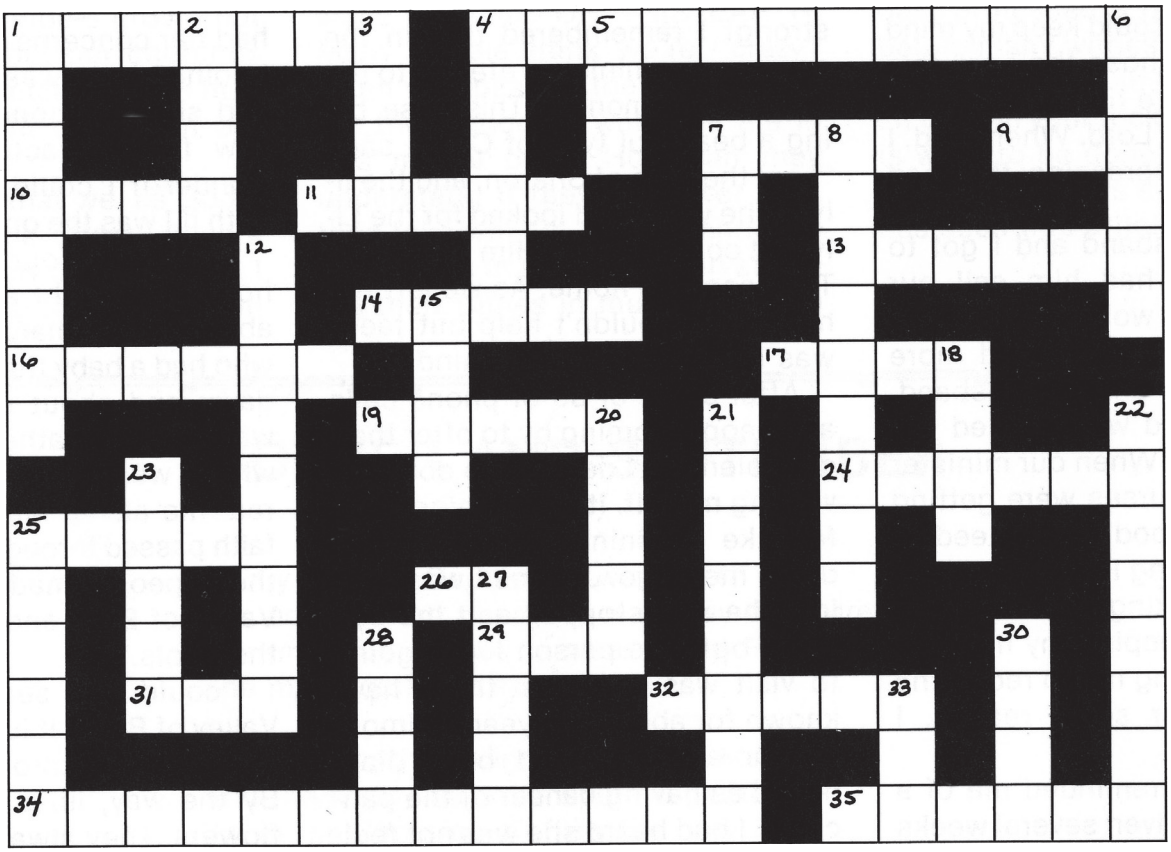
ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE JUNE 2016



Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "The _____ of the Lord standeth forever..." 4. "the _____ of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." 7. "Moreover _____ He did predestinate, them He also called..." 9. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and _____ seed..." 10. "For all have sinned and _____ short of the glory of God." 11. "A new _____ also will I give thee, and a new spirit will I put within you..." 13. "...the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special _____ unto himself..." 14. "...and I will take away the stony heart out of your _____, and I will give you an heart of flesh." 16. "...Behold, a _____ shall conceive..." 17. "As far as the east is from the _____, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." 19. "For ye are bought with a _____..." 24. "Behold, I was _____ in iniquity..." 25. "...the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by _____." 26. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth _____ with benefits..." 29. "But he was wounded for _____ transgressions..." 31. "...If _____ be for us, who can be against us?" 32. "...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of _____..." 34. "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink: but _____, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." 35. "All we like sheep have gone _____..."



DOWN

1. "...and in sin did my mother _____ me." 2. "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy _____ in all the earth." 3. "Mercy unto you, and peace, and _____ be multiplied." 4. "Who shall lay anything to the ____ of God's elect?" 5. "For thou _____ an holy people unto the Lord thy God..." 6. "...we have _____ everyone to his own way..." 7. "...ye should earnestly contend for the faith which ____ once delivered unto the saints." 8. "He was _____, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth..." 12. "And you hath he ____ who were dead in trespasses and sins." 15. "...and the _____ hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." 18. "He _____ is our God is the God of salvation..." 20. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall ____ into the kingdom of heaven..." 21. "The law and the _____ were until John..." 22. "...for I will forgive their _____, and I will remember their sin no more." 23. "And she shall _____ forth a son..." 25. "...but he that doeth the will of my _____ which is in heaven." 27. "Confirming the _____ of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith..." 28. "Whereby are given _____ us exceeding great and precious promises..." 30. "...therefore glorify God in _____ and body..." 33. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth _____ Son..."


God shed His
grace on thee

America The Beautiful

Written by Bro. Brooks Strickland
Waycross, Georgia

In 1893, a group of school teachers from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, headed west to Colorado to teach summer courses at a school in Colorado Springs. Amongst this group was Katherine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful".

As the summer session was coming to a close, the teachers decided to take a trip to nearby Pike's Peak. They rode a prairie wagon to the top. Upon arriving, Ms. Bates was taken by the majestic view and was inspired to write the lyrics. She wrote, "It was then and there as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind." She also proclaimed that "All the wonder of America seemed displayed there…".

When they left Colorado Springs, she had all 4 stanzas written in her notebook. She didn't pay much attention to the lyrics for the next two years. Finally in the summer of 1895, she sent them to a newspaper where they first appeared in print on July 4, 1895.

On their way to Colorado, the group went to the Chicago Columbian Exposition, more commonly known as the World's Fair. It was commemorating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's exploring the Americas. Bates makes reference to the amazing sights of Chicago and the Exposition in one of the verses, "…thine alabaster cities gleam."

The music that accompanies the lyrics called Materna, was written by a church organist named Samuel Ward in 1882. Ward and Bates never met. Ward died in 1903 before the lyrics were set to his music. Ms. Bates never sought royalties for the song and only retained the copyrights to protect the words from being altered. When she died in the late 1920's, there was a movement to make "America the Beautiful" our national anthem. A few years later in 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" became the official national anthem. That same sentiment has remained over the years, and though no change has ever been made, it remains the unofficial anthem to many Americans today.

