

Truth for Teens

Volume 1 – Issue No. 9
October 2002

“DRAW NIGH TO GOD THROUGH FAITHFULNESS”

By Fernando Mesa

As I reminisce about my childhood, I am reminded of one of the saddest days of my young life: the day my grandfather passed away.

I will never forget that hot day in July of 1981, when the news was broken to my cousin and me that “Grandpa has just died.” For that split second, time stood still. I can remember every aspect of that day as clearly as if it just took place. I remember my cousin running out of the hospital waiting room and running across the street to a nearby parking lot, and my mom following him, telling him that, “Everything will be all right, you’ll see.” As I stood there watching my mother console my cousin, I remember thinking, “Who will take me fishing and hunting, now that grandpa is gone?” I then remember hearing my mother’s loving voice calling out, “Acercense” asking us to “come closer,” as she gently put her arms around us, giving us the reassurance that we both needed.

Several days later, while attending my grandfather’s funeral, I recall feeling lost and alone amongst a crowd of individuals I hardly knew. I remember hearing their whispers and sobs, and that’s when I recall hearing my mother’s loving voice still echoing in my head, saying, “Acercense.” This gentle pleading once again reassured me that this too would pass, and that tomorrow would be another day. That day, through the sadness and loneliness of the hour, I remember feeling a sense of comfort from the echo of her words.

It has been twenty years since my grandfather’s passing, yet I am still reminded of my mother’s loving voice calling us to come closer. As I recall my feelings as a young boy, I am reminded of God’s love for us, and how He must have felt offering up His only son to die on the cross for a world of lost sinners. Peter writes in II Peter 3:9, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” John echoes these words as he reminds us of what a great sacrifice our God was willing to make on our behalf: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” [John 3:16] What great words of comfort to us all, that God is *not willing that any should perish*, but that *all should come to repentance, and have life everlasting!*

God’s sacrifice is not without its due; James tells us in James 4:7-10, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*” We must be willing to humble ourselves and come closer to God with a pure and true heart, as the Psalmist stated: “*It is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.*” [Psalm 73:28]

Unlike the Psalmist, however, Jesus also spoke concerning those whose worship is vain or impure, in Matthew 15:8-9, “*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*” God has called us to draw nigh unto him out of a pure and humble heart, with the willingness to commit ourselves completely to His will. The invitation remains extended, as Jesus offers His rest from the toils of this world, when he says, “*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” [Matthew 11:28]

Just as a scared five-year old boy found reassurance in his mother’s words, and comfort in her arms, we too can find reassurance in our Father’s words, and comfort in knowing that He has provided for us an opportunity for eternal life, through Jesus Christ His Son.

The choice is ours to make. Will we come closer to our Father for reassurance and comfort, or will we simply continue in a state of unrest?

The answer is simple, “Acercense a Dios. ~ Draw Nigh to God.”

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Our Mission

Subscription

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A Monthly
Publication
For
Today’s Teens
In
Tomorrow’s
World



Mansions Over the Hilltop

By Rachel Marr – Age 18. A 2002 graduate of Manor High School and member of University Hills congregation

There’s one song that I remember singing a lot when I was younger, and that I sing a lot to this day. That song is *Mansions Over the Hilltop*. I love that song. It’s very pretty. Whenever my dad got up to lead the song, he would always say this one thing about it. At the end of the song it says “Streets that are purest gold.” Before my dad would lead the song, he would always say something to the effect of, “At the end of the song, you’ll notice it says ‘streets that are purest gold,’ but in the Bible it only mentions one street, so let’s sing ‘street that is purest gold.’” Now, I’ll hold up one finger, which doesn’t mean to go back to the first verse, but to remind y’all to sing “street that is purest gold.” I remember, though, every time my dad would lead the song I got tickled because it was always the same routine, tell everyone it’s only one street, and hold up one finger. I still get kind of tickled whenever my dad leads the song, but it always helped me to remember it is one street. I always believed my dad when he would say that it was one street. I never really researched it until one day somebody was giving a lesson and mentioned a verse in Revelation 21. While I was still listening to the lesson, I kept reading on down Revelation 21. I got to verse 21 where it says, *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.* I researched it a little further by looking up *streets* in my concordance. I didn’t find anywhere where it says “streets of gold” nor “gold streets.” I did, however, find a verse that mentions gold and streets in the same verse, but they weren’t together. That scripture is Zechariah 9:3, and it says, *And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets.*



Case in point, the Bible says that there is only one street of gold. Now, whenever you hear *Mansions Over the Hilltop*, you can remember what I have told you and you can sing “street that is purest gold.”

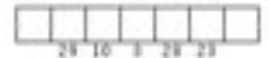
The Austin School of Religion:
 5:30p Sunday; 6:30p Wednesday
 University Hills COC --- 512 926-2431
 Central Texas Teen Lectures November 22-23
 University Hills COC
 Fall Devo/Hayride 5:00 pm October 26
 University Hills COC [Lormands]
 Thanksgiving November 28

{We cannot attend all events, therefore, please use biblical judgment when attending an event listed above}

EVER WONDER

- Why you have to click on “start” to stop Windows 98?
- Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- Why Noah didn’t swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why doctors call what they do “practice”?
- Why they call the airport “the terminal” if flying is so safe?
- Why “abbreviated” is such a long word?

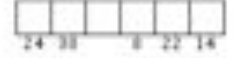
LEAN, SLOPE, SLANT



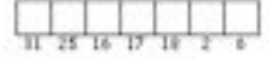
ONE ____ OF BREAD (EX.29:23)



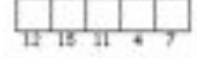
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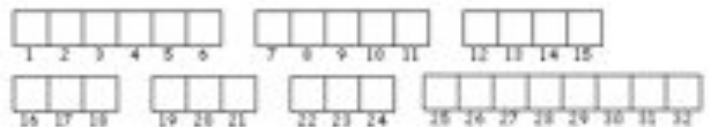
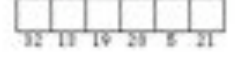
NOT DEEP



A YOUNG LION OR BEAR



SECOND SON OF JACOB



Firewalls

By John M. Fellers



This review is going to be a little different from the others I've done. It deals with something for the computer, but I'm not reviewing a specific program, just giving you comments on a type of program. In this case, a FIREWALL.

A major thrust in marketing toward computer users has been Broad Band service. This comes in various forms, through a Cable or DSL connection. It allows you to always be connected to the Internet, and to be able to download Web pages and programs at speeds far greater than a Dial Up connection. It has it's advantages, (I'll never go back to a regular phone line!), but it also has some risk.

That risk comes from the "always on" connection. It's convenient, but without some kind of safe guard, it leaves you open to hackers who can access your computer without your knowing it, and possibly, get personal data off the machine. This is a ground form of "Identity Theft."

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E** A Virus program helps a little, but it's not a complete solution. It looks for viruses attached to e-mail files and attachments. A Firewall Program is another piece of the solution and puts up a buffer between your computer and the Internet, monitor's incoming and outgoing traffic, even when you are not there, and blocks unauthorized and suspicious activity.

Many companies sell Firewall programs. Ontrack, McAfee and Norton are some of the most popular. They can be bought as 'stand alone' programs, or bundled with other software offered by the company. In my personal opinion, and from experience, the bundled software is often the better buy since the various programs they come with, like Virus Scanners and Disk Defragmenters, are far better than what comes already installed in Windows. (Sorry Bill)

So, for all the parents and teenagers out there reading this, if you have a Broad Band connection, I would suggest that you consider installing some kind of virus protection program *and* a firewall. It can well be worth the investment. (Note: These programs won't necessarily make your computer run faster. Depending on how old your computer is, it may even slow it down just a little as they actively check your transmissions for possible risk.) In my opinion, that small delay is worth the security.

Rating System



All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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Translations

The Bible has been translated into every known language and into most dialects. The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, was translated some time during the 4th century B.C. It was called this because it was said that 70 translators took part in the work. The Vulgate version was translated by Jerome in about 350 into the Latin language. In 1380 John Wycliff translated the Bible into English from the Latin Vulgate. The King James Bible was published in 1611. There have been numerous translations of the Holy Scriptures and we must always be on guard as to which one we should use. There is *some* good found in nearly all the different versions, but we must always be careful, *extremely careful*, in choosing the version we use to teach from. Just because it has *Bible* on the cover doesn't make it the inspired, revealed word of God.

New International Version (NIV)

The completed New International Version was published in 1978. It was edited by a committee from five English-speaking countries representing 10 different churches. There are apparent flaws in this translation. In attempting to make passages more easily understood, it paraphrases, leaves out words given by God by inspiration, creating confusion and difficulty for many in correctly discerning the inspired Word.

Following are excerpts from an article authored by Gary Colley:

"Its Errors Include:

1. It mistranslates Psalms 51:5 to teach the false theory of Total Depravity!
2. It changes "flesh" in Romans 8 to "SINFUL NATURE", teaching the false theory of original sin.
3. It denies the deity of Christ by removing "begotten" from every text referring to Jesus Christ! (Cf. John 3:16).
4. It deletes both the statement of Philip on the condition of baptism and the eunuch's answer! (Cf. Acts 8:37)
5. It falsely teaches the premillennial concept of the final and complete salvation of national Israel in Romans 11:26.
6. It falsely teaches that sinners are "included in Christ" at the point of hearing Ephesians 1:13
7. It further tampers with the plan of salvation in Romans 10:10, teaching that justification is reached at the point of faith.
8. The same verse teaches that salvation is reached at the point of verbal confession! Romans 10:10.
9. It lends itself to the Calvinistic view that the Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand the Scriptures...1 Corinthians 2:12-13.
10. It changes 1 Corinthians 1:6 from "the testimony of Christ" (the Gospel) to "our testimony about Christ" (Testimonialism!)
11. It makes Peter teach that baptism is "the pledge of a good conscience toward God" advancing the false theory of faith alone. 1 Peter 3:21

Many of these errors may be explained by the representatives of Oral Roberts (1), Rex Humbard (2), and the Nazarene Church (7), who served on the translating committees. May we remind you that God said to all "thought" translators: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah.*" Isaiah 55:8"

Paul's Plea For Purity

By Reda Parks – A member of the church of Christ, and student at Berkley School of Law

As Christians, we learn from a young age that sex outside of marriage is wrong. There are numerous passages in the Bible concerning the subject, such as Hebrews 13:4, that condemn such action. However, how frequently do we stop to think about why fornication is wrong? In I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Paul explains this very point.

In the first two verses of the chapter, Paul tells the brethren that they ought to try more and more each day to be like Christ. He says they should do this because they know what is right. Thus, reason number one to be abstinent is because it's the right thing to do. Verse three is a bit more specific: "*this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.*" Paul is telling Christians 'okay, you know what is right, you know that you are supposed to uphold the will of God, and God's will is that you be sanctified.' The word sanctified means "set apart," that is, not like everyone else. How are we to be different? By abstaining from sexual immorality. This is an important point to remember the next time a guy tells you "but everyone is doing it." Your response should then be "well, if everyone is doing it, sounds like I can't. I'm a Christian."

But why can't we? Paul goes on to tell us in verse 4: "*that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.*" What does this mean? It means that we are supposed to be rulers of our bodies, and not allow our bodies to be the rulers. "*Not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.*" [verse 5]. Paul is very straightforward on this point. He says that heathens behave without self-control because they do not know God. BUT Christians have a Lord, we have someone to answer to for our actions, and it is His will that our conduct be set apart and honorable. Basically, if you are doing something that you could get a bad reputation for, you are not pleasing God, because you are not behaving honorably.

BUT WHY? Why no sex before marriage? We understand we have to obey God, and He says no, but why? The first part of verse 6 gives us a very specific answer: "*that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we forewarned you and*

testified." Verse 6 actually gives us two reasons for abstinence. First, encouraging someone to have sex with you before marriage is taking advantage of them, and having sex before marriage is letting someone take advantage of you. Second, encouraging someone to have sex before marriage defrauds them, and allowing someone to convince you to do so means you are letting them defraud you. What does that mean?

Frankly, some people are weaker, and are more tempted by sexual sins than others. You may be a weaker person, or you may know that your boyfriend is one of those people. If you put yourselves into tempting situations knowing that, you are taking advantage. If you let him put you in those situations, you are allowing him to take advantage of you. What is he taking advantage of? He's taking advantage of the fact that you know you are supposed to be pure, but lack the self-control to do it on your own. Does that make it right to falter? No, but it does mean that you will have to work especially hard not to.

The second point in the verse is much more important to understand, I think. What does "being defrauded" mean? Literally, it means to be robbed. If you convince someone to have sex with you outside of marriage, you are robbing them, and if you let someone convince you, you are allowing them to rob you. I Corinthians 6:12-20 explains in detail exactly what is stolen from you if you are "robbed." Basically, God's gift for marriage is that "two become one flesh." This gift, since it is from God, is supposed to be pure when it is given. Having sex before marriage allows someone to take that precious gift away in the heat of the moment, robbing you of your purity.

Verses 7-8 explain that making His holy act of matrimony commonplace is not what God intended, and further, that people who engage in such activities reject God. As cliché as it sounds, God meant for one man to be with one woman for their whole lives. It has been his plan since the third chapter of Genesis, and deviating from his plan is a proverbial slap in God's face, telling Him that you think your way is better. However, if you do stumble and are genuinely sorry, sexual sins, like any other sins, are willingly forgiven by God. But it is our job to obtain that level of self-control Paul speaks of, to steer clear of tempting situations, and strive to serve and please God more and more each day.

Continued on Back Page



"CALLING ALL TEENS"

Mark Your Calendar for the 4th Annual Central Texas Teen Lectures

November 22-23, 2002



FROM ORE TO PURE GOLD

Speakers

Fernando Mesa
Denny Wilson
Joe Cox

Matt Albrecht
David Dugan
Kirk Tooley

Friday

6 pm **Registration/Check-In**
8 – 10 pm **Program/Activities**
11:00 pm **Lock-In**
3:00 am **Lights Out**



Saturday

8 am – **Breakfast**
9:00 am **Program**
11:30 am **Lunch**
1:00 pm **Program**
4:00 pm **Departure**

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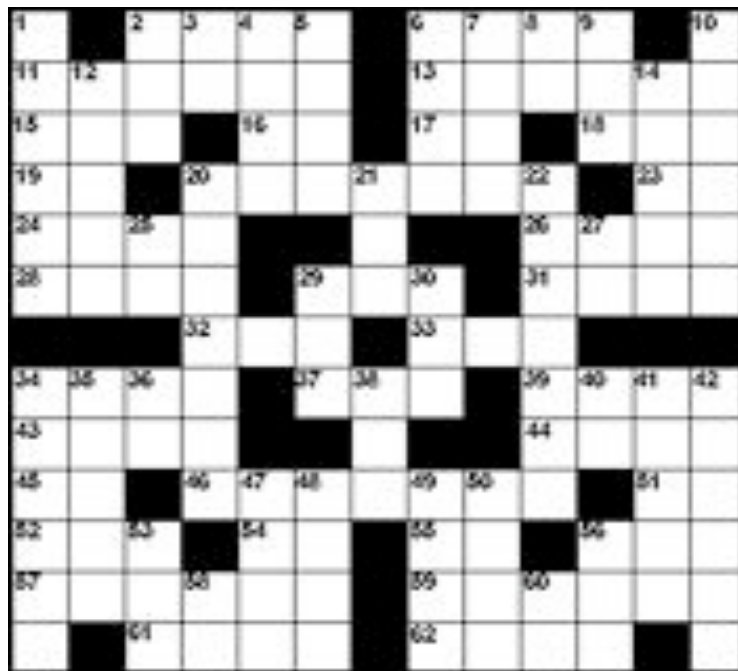
Fun Page

ACROSS

- 2 And the ____ also went in after the blade (Judges 3:22)
 6 I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and ____, Go (Rev 10:8)
 11 ____ was as if a man had inquired at the ____ of God (2 Sam 16:23)
 13 the LORD made an east wind blow ____ the land (Exodus 10:13)
 15 young bullocks, and one ____, and seven lambs (Num 28:19)
 16 abbr. for each
 17 abbr. for feet
 18 abbr. for et cetera
 19 the eyes of them that see shall not be di ____, (partial word)(Isaiah 32:3)
 20 we ought to give the more ____ heed to the things(Heb 2:1)
 23 John also was baptizing in ____ non near to Salim, (partial word) (John 3:23)
 24 taken you but such ____ common to man (two words)(1 Cor 10:13)
 26 Take ye a kid of the goats for ____ offering (two words)(Lev 9:3)
 28 There shall the great owl make her ____ (Isaiah 34:15)
 29 he does not ____ away from the sword. (Job 39:22) (NIV)
 31 I then, your ____ and Master, have washed your feet (John 13:14)
 32 sent unto ____ am king of Hebron (partial word)(Joshua 10:3)
 33 What mean these seven ____ lambs (Gen 21:29)
 34 ____, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James (Jude 1:1)
 37 abbr. for estimated time of arrival
 39 and ____ walked with God 9Gen 6:9)
 43 by this time there is a bad ____, (John 11:39) (NIV)
 44 the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah (Gen 46:13)
 45 abbr. For South Dakota
 46 for the ____ of the evening are stretched out (Jer 6:4)
 51 believe not every spirit, but ____y the spirits (partial word)(1 John 4:1)
 52 keepeth the commandment shall f ____ no evil thing (partial word)(Eccles 8:5)
 54 abbr. for the the twenty first book of the old Testamnet
 55 Whereunto shall ____ liken the kingdom of God? (Mark 4:30)
 56 Why is thy countenance ____, seeing thou art not sick? (Neh 2:2)
 57 every man hath his ____ gift of God (1 Cor 7:7)
 59 ye might be partakers of the divine ____ (2 Pet 1:4)
 61 son of man, take thee a ____, and lay it before thee (Ezek 4:1)
 62 with a girdle of a ____ about his loins (Mark 1:6)

DOWN

- 1 ____ and was baptized of John in ____ (Mark 1:9)
 2 the sons of Noah, Shem, ____, and Japheth (Gen 10:1)
 3 and the ____t of violence is in their hands. (partial word)(Isaiah 59:6)
 4 after a dead dog, after a ____ (1 Sam 24:14)
 5 The lion did ____ in pieces enough for his whelps (Nahum 2:12)
 6 killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him ____ and sound. (Luke 15:27)
 7 who had done many ____, he slew two (2 Sam 23:20)
 8 Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and f ____ trees (partial



- word)(1 King 5:10)
 9 Naphtali is a ____ set free that bears beautiful fawns. (Gen 49:21) (NIV)
 10 and shall ____ out of the bottomless pit (Rev 17:8)
 12 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, ____ the dead (Matt 10:8)
 14 they went up with winding ____s into the middle (partial word)(1 King 6:8)
 20 So ____ maids and her chamberlains came (Esth 4:4)
 21 abbr for the thirty fourth book of the Old Testament
 22 he gave five ____, to another two, and to another one(Matt 25:15)
 25 Jesus Christ, who ____ the faithful witness (Rev 1:5)
 27 Why are ye ____ fearful? (Mark 4:40)
 29 as soon as ____ heard that Jesus was coming (John 11:20)
 30 For when we were ____ without strength (Romans 5:6)
 34 Mary was espoused to ____, before they came together (Matt 1:18)
 35 loosed the r ____ bands, and hoisted up the mainsail (partial word)(Acts 27:40)
 36 I cannot ____ any thing till thou be come thither (Gen 19:22)
 38 the other holy offerings ____ they in pots (2 Chr 35:13)
 40 I understood not; things t ____ wonderful for me (partial word)(Job 42:3)
 41 thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the ____ (Exodus 29:18)
 42 A brother offended is ____ to be won than a strong city (Prov 18:19)
 47 it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his ____ (Gen 3:15)
 48 within as it were an half ____ of land (1 Sam 14:14)
 49 everything he ____ he has entrusted to my care. (Gen 39:8)(NIV)
 50 the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is ____ (Matt 26:41)
 53 Abram took Sarai his wife, and ____ his brother's son Gen 12:5
 56 the righteous shine forth as the ____ in the kingdom (Matt 13:43)
 58 sixteenth letter of the Greek alphabet
 60 abbr. for the seventeenth book of the New Testament

Paul's Plea for Purity, Continued from Page 5

Another important thing to remember is this. Later on in life, when you are dating THE ONE, if he is a Christian, he will ask you about your purity. Imagine how your heart will sink if you have to tell him a truth he doesn't want to hear. BUT, imagine the look on his face if you can honestly say "I've been waiting for you my whole life, in every sense of the term."

Italian-Seasoned Crisps

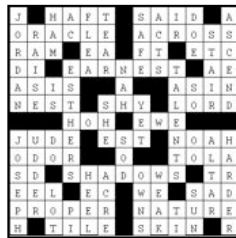
- 1 package [6 ounces] wonton skins, cut into _-inch strips
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
- _ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Separate the cut strips and place in a medium bowl. Spray the strips with nonstick cooking spray; add Italian seasoning and salt and toss to coat evenly. Spread strips on large baking sheets and bake for 16 to 18 minutes, or until golden and crisp, stirring frequently.

Cinnamon-Sugar Crisps

- 1 package [6 ounces] wonton skins, cut into _-inch strips
- Nonstick cooking spray
- _ cup granulated sugar
- _ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Separate the cut strips and place in a medium bowl. Spray the strips with nonstick cooking spray; add sugar and cinnamon and toss to coat evenly. Spread the strips on large baking sheets and bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and crisp, stirring frequently. Cool on baking sheets before serving. -- Mr. Food



Our Mission



This publication is an effort by a group of men and women striving to provide healthy, helpful information to our youth as they face concerns they deal with daily.

This publication is supported and funded by contributions of individuals and congregations of area churches of Christ. We hope to continue the publication and mailing without charge to our youth, however, the support of individuals and congregations is necessary and will be used appropriately. Even more important are the prayers of Christians for the success of this endeavor.

An account has been set up in the name of Truth for Teens Publication. Checks can be made to that account and mailed to P. O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653. This is a non-profit publication.

If you would like to advertise an event, or include an article for the publication, please mail it to our publication address or email to fttpub@austin.rr.com.

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Doublepuzzle solution – INCLINE, LOAF, DEFEAT, SHALLOW, WHELP, SIMEON
-Follow Peace with all men and holiness. [Heb. 12:14]

Truth for Teens
fttpub@austin.rr.com

Editor
Kirk Tooley
katooley@minister.com

Tom Stewart
tstwasc@austin.rr.com

We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable, using God's Word as our guide.

Oversight of the publication is by the Elders of the University Hills church of Christ
7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78723
(512) 926-2431

University Hills church of Christ
Truth for Teens
7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
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