

## My Responsibility To My Spiritual Family

by Fernando Mesa, Midtown church of Christ, Victoria, Texas

The “R” word – RESPONSIBILITY! A word that is frequently used yet infrequently practiced. *“What does it have to do with me? I’m not an adult yet.” “I don’t have any responsibilities.” “That’s just for adults – old people. That’s not me!” “That word is for people who are married and have kids. I’m not one of those people yet!” “Someday when I get to be an adult, I will have responsibilities too, but not now, I’m still a kid.”* These and many more are the beliefs of so many young people in respect to the dreaded “R” word. Let us consider why.

Today, many young people are being raised with the belief that they are not responsible for their actions, if he/she commits a crime and are under age the responsibility for their actions lies on his/her parents. Leaving the young person in the clear, and at best, with a slap on the hand and a reminder to, “Be a good little boy or girl.” If the young person is older, he/she is led to believe that the fault for his/her indiscretion lies with society, and the type of environment he/she was “forced to live in.” To the extent now that children are being allowed to get a divorce from their parents if unsatisfied with his/her upbringing. Further strengthening the idea that he/she is not responsible for him/herself. On the flip side, parents are strongly discouraged (by way of state and federal laws) from disciplining his/her children whom according to the law he/she is responsible for, on the basis that discipline will damage his/her self-esteem. Thus inhibiting parents from taking responsibility for his/her children. Leading thus to the conclusion that young people are not responsible for themselves and neither are the responsibility of anyone. It’s no wonder why so many young people with high “self-esteem” participate in so many self-destructive behaviors. After all, they are neither responsible for anyone, nor to anyone.

But what do the scriptures teach concerning young people and responsibility? Paul, by inspiration wrote to his young son in the faith Timothy saying, *“Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity, till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine ... take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee”* (I Timothy 4:12-16). This exhortation from Paul to the young Timothy does not sound like Timothy was free from responsibility -- on the contrary, it placed a heavy responsibility on the young Christian. Paul reminded Timothy that by his obedience to the truth and life example he would both save himself and those looking up to, and watching him. Quite a difference from the world’s perspective of a young person and responsibility.

As we consider the responsibilities placed on the young man Timothy, let us also consider ourselves. Because whether we realize it or not, we each are responsible for one another and most importantly to our Heavenly Father.

Let each of us with fervor work to fulfill our responsibilities!

**Resolve in 2005** [to make up one’s mind; determine; decide] – *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 2 Timothy 2:15

### Contents

Page 2
The Books of the Bible - Mark
---
Upcoming Events
**
Page 3
Wrestling!
---
What Shall We Call Leaders in the Church?
**
Page 4
To Live With God
---
Peril and Prayer, Psalm 3
**
Page 5
The -Y-Page
**
Page 6
Bible Search
---
Admonition
**
Page 7
Fun Page
**
Page 8
Our Mission
---
Subscription Order Blank

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



## Upcoming events

Bible Search Competition Southwest church of Christ	March 4-5, 2005 512.282.2438
Southwest Bible Camp Hensel Memorial Camp	June 19-25, 2005 512.282.2438
Central Bible Camp Hensel Memorial Camp	July 24-29, 2005 512.670.3803

### Why the English Language Is Hard To Learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
4. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
5. I did not object to the object.
6. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
7. They were too close to the door to close it.
8. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese – so one moose, 2 meese? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd, or an end?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You fill in a form by filling it out; an alarm goes off by going on; when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible; quicksand works slowly; boxing rings are square.

### “Teen Talk” Articles and Reviews

Truth for Teens is an avenue open to anyone desiring to write articles or reviews for the Teen Talk features. If you would like to present a message to your peers, inspirational, spiritual or covering everyday issues, you can send it through our web site, [www.truthforteens.org](http://www.truthforteens.org), or mail to P.O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653, or email to [tfpub@austin.rr.com](mailto:tfpub@austin.rr.com). Space is limited to one column length [approximately 600 words in 11 point type]. It must include your name, address, school classification and place of worship.

**Editor's note:** We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable.



### THUS SAITH THE LORD . . . The Word of God Is Forever -

But he said, *Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.* Luke 11:29.

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.* Revelation 1:3.

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.* James 1:22

## Books of the Bible

**Know Your Bible**, by Frank J. Dunn

### The Gospel Account By Mark

There are not four gospels, but four accounts of *the Gospel*. In Galatians 1:6-7, Paul records, *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

Mark's account of the gospel is written primarily for the Romans, who were men of power and mighty works. In recording the powerful deeds of Jesus, he pictures Christ as the wonder-working Son of God, the perfect Servant of God. "Citizens of the Roman Empire were attracted to the Almighty King who is seen in Mark as the ruler of an omnipotent and everlasting kingdom." [p. 437].



Mark is not named in the book, but it was the unanimous opinion of early writers that Mark wrote it. He was not an apostle, therefore, not an eyewitness of the events he records but was regarded as a disciple and interpreter of Peter. He is called "John, whose surname was Mark," John was his Jewish name, and Mark seems to be his Roman designation.

Mark records Jesus as the perfect and tireless Servant of God [1:1, 14-15; 10:44-45]. Jesus fulfilled the true law of service by His sympathy, suffering and sacrifice for mankind. His message is the gospel of a perfect servant, a perfected service, and a perfecting salvation.

Key verses are found in chapter 10:43-45, "*But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*"

Nineteen miracles are recorded demonstrating the supernatural power of Christ: eight which prove His power over disease [1:31, 41; 2:3-12; 3:1-5; 5:25; 7:32; 8:23; 10:46]; five that show His power over nature [4:39; 6:41, 49; 8:8-9; 11:13-14]; four showing His authority over demons [1:25; 5:1-13; 7:25-30; 9:26]; and, two that show His conquest over death, including His own resurrection [5:42; 16:9]. Even the Roman centurion at the cross said of Jesus, "... Truly this man was the Son of God" [15:39].

Chapter 16:9-20 relates the resurrection, great commission and ascension.

*And he said unto them,  
Go ye into all the world,  
and preach the gospel to every creature.  
He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;  
but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

Mark 16:15-16

# WRESTLING!

## On The Mat (Part 2)

### The “Standup”

The “STAND UP ” in life may be expressed this way, Lord, give me strength to remain firm and faithful. Help me to get up and give me the strength to stand for that which is right.

The “STAND UP” is crucial. Time in prayer is of the utmost importance. However, we are not to spend all our life down on our knees. The time comes for us to move from prayer to action. The time comes for us to stand for, and upon, God’s principles. In our prayers we may find ourselves wrestling as we acknowledge the lack of strength and courage to boldly stand up for that which is right. But let us pray. Let us pray in faith. And then let us stand knowing we are not standing alone.

We need to trust in God’s provision to help us STAND.

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to STAND against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

<sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to WITHSTAND in the evil day, and having done all, to STAND.

<sup>14</sup>STAND therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

<sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

<sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

<sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”. Ephesians 6:10-18.

So what shall we do?

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58.

Remember, the passage which kicked off this series referred to Epaphras wrestling in prayer for those at Colosse that they would “...STAND perfect and complete [fully assured] in all the will of God..” Colossians 4:12.

Have a great day STANDING on and for the Will Of God!

Carl Hanson, [www.the-churchofchrist.com/teenmail..](http://www.the-churchofchrist.com/teenmail..)

This series of articles on “Wrestling” will be continued next month.

---

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and long for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

Philippians 4:1

# WHAT SHALL WE CALL LEADERS IN THE CHURCH?

Many of the religious leaders in Jesus’ day were very proud! They wore special clothing so they would look important in the eyes of men. They chose the best seats when they came to worship God. They wanted everyone to see them and praise them. They especially liked to be called by special titles such as “Rabbi,” “Teacher,” and “Father.”

Jesus condemned these proud men. He commanded: “But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for one is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” [Matthew 23:8-12 NKJV]

Many preachers and other religious leaders today are just like the proud scribes and Pharisees who were condemned by Jesus. They like to wear “uniforms” or other special clothing so that they will stand out from other believers. They want people to see them. They think they are very important and deserve honor and praise from men. They especially like to wear religious titles such as “Reverend,” “Pastor,” “Doctor,” and “Father” to set them apart from their fellow believers. These vain people are guilty of the same sin the scribes and Pharisees were guilty of! They are condemned by the same words the Lord used to condemn the proud religious leaders in His day!

The word “reverend” describes someone who is highly exalted and worthy of great praise. In the old King James Version (1611) of the Bible, it is used to describe God: “Holy and reverend is his name” [Psalm 111:9]. The New King James Version translates this verse: “Holy and awesome is his name.” Only a very foolish and arrogant person would claim to be worthy to be called “reverend” or “awesome” like God!

Many religious leaders today like to be called “Doctor.” The word “doctor” originally meant “teacher.” Today it is used to describe one who is a physician or medical healer. It is also the name of the highest degree one can attain in education. But it is not a title to be worn by leaders in the church, whether preachers, teachers, elders, etc. Jesus said: “Do not be called ‘Teachers’ (Doctor)!”

“Father” is not meant to be used as a special title given to religious leaders. It is right for a child to call his male parent “father.” But it is wrong to use it as a special title for religious teachers. Jesus said: “One is your Father, He who is in heaven.”

“Pastor” is one of the most misused words in the entire Bible! The word “pastor” means “shepherd.” The Lord’s church is often described in the Bible as “the flock of God” [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4]. According to the Bible, pastors (shepherds) are the elders or overseers of the church [see Acts 20:17, 28; Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4]. It is God’s pattern for His church that each congregation will have overseers or shepherds who meet the special qualifications which He has given in His Word [Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9]. There must be two or more pastors (elders, shepherds, overseers) for they are always plural when mentioned as leading a congregation [see Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1; etc.].

Many people confuse the work of pastors with that of preachers or evangelists. Please note Paul’s words to the church of Christ at Ephesus: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some  
Continued on Back Page

## Peril and Prayer – Psalm 3

Lord, how are they increased that trouble me!  
Many are they that rise up against me. Many there  
be which say of my soul, There is no help for him  
in God. Selah. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for  
me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I  
cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard  
me out of his holy hill. – 3:1-4

We have here the peril, struggle, prayer and victory of an Old Testament character. It gives the experience of the *him* and the *then* – and hope to the *us* and the *now*. For we are all brothers in trial, the difference being only in time and degrees.

David's own son Absalom led a revolt against him. Trouble in the family. Trouble in the kingdom. When a man's family does not stand with him, it multiplies his hardships.

The scoffers got busy. They always do. They said, "There is no help for him in God." A common joy of sinners is to taunt the people of God in their trials with the ridicule that they are God-forsaken.

But the writer never lost faith. In the face of peril, David turned to prayer: "I cried unto the Lord with my voice." His enemies used their voice to defy God. But he used his voice to address God. What a difference! And enough to always make a difference. For God heard him. He won. They lost.

Repose came to David. He could sleep [ver. 5]. He was sustained. But more trials are ahead, and trust must go with him and it does. Thus he says, "I will not be afraid . . ." [ver. 6].

Living With the Psalms, Leroy Brownlow

\*\*\*\*\*

### Notes on the Psalms

"This is a morning psalm. It is the song of a soul whose circumstances are those of grave peril as a new day dawns. The consciousness of difficulty is first uttered. Adversaries are increased, and the bitterest part of the pain is that these mock him, declaring "There is no help for him in God."

Immediately succeeding are the words which tell of the sufferer's confidence, and its reason. Jehovah is at once "Shield" and "Glory," and "Lifter up." Between this man and Jehovah there is established communion – "I cry," and "He answereth."

Then follows the language of courage. He has "slept" and "awaked," because Jehovah sustained him. In this assurance he will not be afraid of the increased adversaries. Then out of these circumstances of peril and conviction of safety, the prayer arises for salvation, and is accompanied by the assertion that Jehovah has already heard and answered. A consciousness of the constancy of the Divine love has always been the strength of a trusting soul amid circumstances of the greatest peril. If that is lost, all is lost. If that be maintained no great waters can overwhelm." Notes on the Psalms

## TO LIVE WITH GOD

By Heather Waller - A member of the Oakland Drive church of Christ in Abilene, Texas and a senior at Merkel High School

There are millions of questions why I'm doing this;  
My friends have asked me each one.  
Just yesterday my boyfriend asked me  
Why this had to be done.  
"Life will be dull if you do it," he told me.  
"You won't have any good times, you know.  
Don't you want to party and have fun?  
Go out dancing, come with us to watch this show?"

I don't understand why they can't tell  
That that's not how I want to be.  
I want to be a Christian;  
To live with God for eternity.  
I want to go down in that water,  
And come up feeling new.  
I want to have my sins washed away,  
To see life from a whole new view.

It won't take away my happiness.  
It won't lessen my amount of fun.  
I know it's time to give my life to Jesus, though,  
To realize He is number one.  
I'm sure when Jesus was here  
There were things He wanted to do,  
But instead He led the perfect life  
So He could die for me and you.

So what right do I have  
To live my life immorally  
When He gave His life to save my soul  
Up on Calvary's tree?  
I want to be an example  
In all I do and say.  
To live as a faithful Christian should  
And go to heaven one day.

I'm thinking about all this  
As in baptism I become clean  
And I know that when I come up from the water,  
A child of God's I will be.

**Answer to Double Puzzle, page 7:** James 1:22 – "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." – doers, hearers, not, deceit, only

## The Heavens Declare God's Glory

By Wayne Jackson

Psalm 19 is one of the memorable compositions in that collection of 150 inspired songs of praise that adorns the pages of the Old Testament. According to the superscription, it is a psalm of David. The superscriptions are not inspired, but they do reflect an ancient conviction. One might surmise that this psalm recalls the awe David experienced while observing the stars during those nights he worked as a shepherd lad. The song very naturally falls into three sections: (1) God has abstractly revealed himself in nature [1-6]; (2) Jehovah has concretely made himself known by verbal communication, i.e., his Law [7-10]; (3) the practical value of the Law is to regulate human activity [11-14].

In this article, we wish to discuss three implications of the initial portion of this psalm, namely, the testimony of the heavens to the Creator. Consider the following: (1) the heavenly splendor declares the existence of a Maker; (2) the magnificent universe asserts the power of God; (3) the intricacies of the heavenly mechanisms affirm the wisdom of the Divine Mind.

### The Heavens and the Power of God

The power of the Creator is seen in the vastness of the great universe which he fashioned. Though its limits have not been measured, it is estimated that the universe may be some 20 billion light years from "border to border." That is actually the distance that light would travel in 20 billions years at the speed of 186 miles per second. This is really beyond our comprehension.

The sun is our nearest star. It is 93 million miles from earth. Do you know how far away our next-nearest star-neighbor is? Suppose we attempted to draw a crude map of the universe on a blackboard. Let us place a dot in the center of the board. This will represent the earth. One inch away, we will place another dot. This will represent the sun. Our map scale will be: 1 inch = 93 million miles. If we wanted to place yet another dot, identifying our next-nearest star, the blackboard would need to be four and one-half miles long! Remember, each inch of that distance would represent 93 million miles. If we desired to extend our map just to the center of our own "little" star-community, the Milky Way galaxy, the blackboard would need to be 25 thousand miles long, each inch of the way being the equivalent of 93 million miles. It is an understatement to suggest that the universe is "vast."

It is a fact of human experience that when something becomes commonplace, it ceases to retain its mystery, its enchantment. The curious human mind will never lose its fascination with the sublime universe. We will ever be challenged to contemplate the power of him who made it all. Dr. Arthur Harding, in his textbook on astronomy, asked:

"Who can study the science of astronomy and contemplate the star-lit heavens with a knowledge of the dimensions of the celestial bodies, their movements and their enormous distances, without bowing his head in reverence to the power that brought this universe into being and safely guides its individual members?" (Harding, Arthur M., *Astronomy* [New York: Garden City Publishing Co., 1940], p. 386).

[Editor's Note: This article will be continued in forthcoming issues - The Heavens and the Existence of God and The Heavens and the Power of God.]

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Visitors to the services of the churches of Christ are often surprised how simple the worship is in contrast to the ritualism of other churches and the man centered, fun and games approach found in some denominations. A difference which is very obvious is that there are no mechanical instruments of music. The only music used in churches of Christ is **vocal** music, songs of praise sung by the whole congregation without instrumental accompaniment.

Why this difference? Are churches of Christ too poor to afford instruments? Or do members not appreciate good instrumental music? Perhaps members of churches of Christ lack musical talent to play instruments? Maybe churches of Christ just want to be different from all others? None of these is the reason we do not accompany our singing with mechanical musical instruments.

Churches of Christ stand upon the Word of God. They seek its authority for all that they do in the work and worship of the church. They seek to return to the New Testament pattern for the church and thereby restore

**"... sing with grace  
in your hearts to the  
Lord." Col. 3:16**

the Lord's church in the present day. The Apostle Paul commanded: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17). To do all "in the name of the Lord" is to do it by His authority. There is simply no authority in the New Testament for mechanical instrumental music in the worship.

The Apostle Paul also wrote: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). A similar passage by Paul says: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

Please note the expressions "speaking to yourselves" and "teaching and admonishing one another." This indicates reciprocal action. All the members of the congregation unite their voices in song and thereby speak, teach and admonish one another.

Please note too that an instrument is mentioned. It is **not** a mechanical instrument made by man such as an organ, piano, guitar, or drum. We are commanded to sing and make melody "in the heart." We accompany the "fruit of our lips" (Hebrews 13:15) with the devotion of our human hearts, instruments made by God, not man. No mention is made of man-made mechanical instruments!

If we simply follow that which God has revealed, we will use only singing by the whole church in our worship in Him. No other kind of music is commanded. To add mechanical instruments or choirs or solos is to "go beyond the things which are written" (1 Corinthians 4:6 ASV). It is to "transgress the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9). It is to be guilty of adding to the Word of God (Revelation 22:18,19). It makes our worship vain [empty, useless] (Matthew 15:9). Truth for the World Tract.

# Bible Search –First Principles

(Multiple Choice)



**1. If we love God, what will we do?**

- A. We will join the church
- B. We will obey Him.
- C. We will love Him in return with or without obedience.

John 14:15; 15:10

**2. Whom does God desire to save?**

- A. Everyone.
- B. Only certain people whom He predestined to be saved before creating the world.
- C. No one.

2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4

**3. Did Jesus receive all authority (power) in heaven and on earth before His ascension into heaven?**

- A. Jesus retained all authority over the church, but Satan retained power over the earth.
- B. Yes.
- C. No.

Matthew 28:18-20

**4. Do we live under Christ’s law today?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. People on earth will live under Christ’s law after the rapture.

1 Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2

**5. Are Christ’s commands revealed in the New Testament?**

- A. Many of Christ’s commands are revealed in the New Testament.
- B. All of Christ’s commands are revealed in the New Testament.
- C. Only the apostles’ commands are revealed in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11-12  
Galatians 1:8; Matthew 15:9

**6. Do we live under the Ten Commandments today?**

- A. Yes, but only in spirit.
- B. No.
- C. Yes.

2 Corinthians 3:3, 6-7

Answers on back page

## -- ADMONITION --

by Rachel Marr, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Southwest School of Bible Studies, Austin, Texas

We see a lot of things in the world around us. We see everything from people to how people act. We see things that occur a lot and we also see things that do not happen very much. One thing that I see lacking in society today is exhortation and encouragement, especially when someone has made a great accomplishment. Proverbs 3:27 says, *“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”*

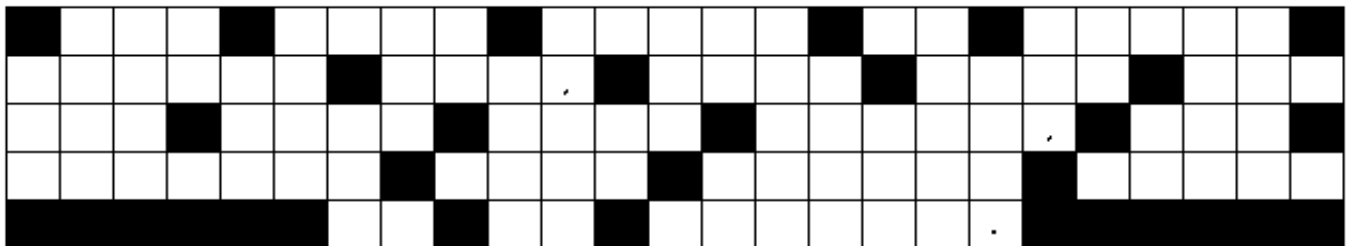
Withhold here means to hold back, and due means deserve. This verse is commanding us to not hold back good from those who deserve it. The second part of this verse means if one is able to exhort someone, then they should exhort those who need it. Hebrews 3:13a says, *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day.”* Which makes more sense – praising someone for committing a sin, or for doing something good for the LORD and for others around you? Praising the one who commits a sin will lead them to think they can get away with anything, and praising some who did good will make them feel good about themselves.

## NAME THE PROPHETS

1. This prophet asked if a leopard could change his spots.
2. This one saw a flying scroll in a vision.
3. Who talks about the “sword of the Lord?”
4. This prophet ate a scroll.
5. A seraph touched this prophet’s mouth with a hot coal.
6. He made an axe head float in water.
7. Who was slapped in the face for calling one of King Ahab’s prophets a liar?
8. This prophet wrote the shortest book of the Old Testament.
9. This one lost his shade tree to a hungry worm.
10. He was a shepherd and a fig-tree gardener.

Answers on back page

Answer on back page



T E

L F O U R O O G H W T R T I E

G E E O R F Y S R G N I T F A V H K H H H N C

B L O R Y E O M Y N U R D E A T S N R E Y A M A H

S E E T I Y I U E I L O H H A O E O S S W I N D Y



**What Shall We Call Leaders, continued from page 3**

prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, and teachers” [Ephesians 4:11]. Evangelists are preachers of the Word of God. Their job is to “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” [2 Timothy 4:2]. Elders (pastors) are only over the local congregation where they are members [1 Peter 5:1-4]. But evangelists may serve just one congregation in preaching the gospel or they may be sent out to establish new congregations. Evangelists are not pastors (elders) and do not have the authority to rule the local congregation. Neither “evangelist” or “pastor” is meant to be a special religious title. They simply describe different workers in the church.

Jesus said of His disciples: “You are all brethren.” It is sinful for a Christian to exalt himself above his fellow Christians by wearing special clothing to set himself apart from them. It is also sinful for a Christian to insist he be called by some special title such as “Rabbi,” “Father,” “Reverend,” “Doctor,” or “Pastor”! It is wrong for workers in the church to insist that special seats be reserved for them or that they be given special greetings. God is our Father. All Christians are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Let us honor God as our heavenly Father and Jesus as our Teacher. Let us humbly serve them and take no pride in wearing man-made titles to exalt ourselves. Let us always remember Jesus’ warning: “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted!” Truth for the World, Rod Rutherford.

Teacher? Evangelist?  
 Pastor? Bishop? Elder?  
 Apostle? Preacher?  
 Servant? Prophet? Father?  
 Rabbi? Reverend?

**O  
u  
r  
M  
i  
s  
s  
i  
o  
n**

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 [tftpub@austin.rr.com](mailto:tftpub@austin.rr.com).

**To send this publication to a friend, please complete the form below and mail to TFT Publications, PO Box 581, Manor, TX 78653. Please print clearly.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Search Answers:** (1) B; (2) A; (3) B; (4) A; (5) B; (6) B

**Fallen Puzzle:** Matthew 5:16

- 13:23; 2. Zechariah 5:1-3; 3. Isaiah 34:6; 4. Ezekiel 3:3; 5. Isaiah 6:6-7; 6. 2 Kings 6:6; 7. 1 Kings 22:24; 8. Obadiah 21; 9. Jonah 4:6-8; 10. Amos 7:14.



**--- CHECK IT OUT ---**



**WE ARE ON THE WEB**  
[truthforteens.org](http://truthforteens.org)

Under oversight of  
 Central church of Christ  
 At Pflugerville  
 (512) 496-9256

Truth for Teens  
[tftpub@austin.rr.com](mailto:tftpub@austin.rr.com)

Editors

Kirk Tooley  
[katooley@minister.com](mailto:katooley@minister.com)  
 Tom Stewart  
[tstwasc@austin.rr.com](mailto:tstwasc@austin.rr.com)

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

Central church of Christ  
 Truth for Teens  
 P. O. Box 2343  
 Pflugerville, Texas 78691-2343

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NONPROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AUSTIN TX  
 PERMIT NO. 521