

YOU ARE THE FUTURE

Young people, you are the future of Christ's church, His kingdom on earth. You have the honor and responsibility of telling that same Gospel, through study and knowledge of the Scriptures, to "all nations" that was commanded by Jesus to His apostles in Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15-16. Young people, you need to hunger after the knowledge of God's Word and take on the challenge given by Jesus.

In the association with your peers and friends, you can be dynamic in spreading the Gospel, by your idealistic passion, never tiring in whatever work you believe in. You possess energy that adults fail in. You have a clean slate with which to work, clear of prejudices that older adults may have. Pray for strength and courage as Peter and John did after their arrest by the Sadducees as recorded in Acts 4.

Today, mega churches are developing rapidly around the nation. What makes them "mega" is their ability to draw people through practices of social and entertaining functions, the authorization of which is not given in the Scriptures – bands at worship, hand clapping and swaying with the rhythm of hymns and songs of praise, dramas, social gatherings, athletic teams, doctrine of "just believe on Jesus and you will be saved."

Social gatherings and athletic teams are not sinful events if they are held at proper places and at times that do not hinder the worship of our Lord, Hebrews 10:25. However, the Scriptures are silent about this kind of activity as being a part of the established worship of the New Testament church or of the Great Commission to the Apostles, which in turn became the duty of all Christians, Matthew 28:18, 20. Teaching that "just believing will bring salvation" was refuted on the day of Pentecost when Peter preached his inspired sermon on what the Jews had to do to be saved, Acts 2:38, 42 – a message that was given to the Jews first, and later to the Gentiles through Paul who had received the Holy Spirit, Acts 9.

As with dynamite, great good can be done when used in the right way; but used for wrong purposes, it is devastatingly harmful. Knowledge can be as powerful as dynamite if used in the right way. You may lack in the value of experience, but united with older, knowledgeable adults, your zeal and fire for the Lord can change the lives of people. Older adults should not discourage young Christians, *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity*, 1 Timothy 4:12. And young Christians need to respect older brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders *** for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*, 1 Peter 5:5.

Young Christians, don't be influenced by something just because it is different and entertaining. Paul, writing to Timothy, a young preacher in Ephesus, exhorted Timothy *to take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you*, 1 Timothy 4:16. Your example to your friends and your peers, your teachers and your elders in the congregation is to be treasured as a gem of great value. Prove your worth as a believer and follower of the complete Gospel of Christ by using your energy and desire to generate enthusiasm among your congregation in the work of evangelism, exhortation 2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 3:15, and benevolence, 1 Timothy 6:18-19. Paul closes his advice in 1 Timothy 6:20-21, *O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge – by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.*

God loves you, John 3:16, but you must love Him back – loving Him enough to keep His commandments, Mark 12:30.

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**A PUBLICATION
FOR
TODAY'S TEENS IN TOMORROW'S WORLD**

“TRUTH FOR TEENS” – OUR MISSION

Truth For Teens is a publication with a circulation of over 500 to youth throughout the United States. This is possible because a group of men and women feel a need to provide healthy, helpful information to our youth as they deal with daily situations.

This publication is supported and funded by contributions of individuals and congregations of area churches of Christ. By their support we are able to continue the publication and mailing without charge to our youth. This missionary program is non-profit and tax deductible. All contributions are used appropriately for the printing and mailing of the issues. Financial help from those who would like to join in this outreach program to our youth will allow us to continue publication. Most 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.

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“Teen Talk” Articles and Reviews

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

- - - CHECK IT OUT - - -
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Add To Your Favorites

Our Truth For Teens website has been placed on the www.thegospelofchrist.com home page as a part of its Young Talent section.

This site unlocks an accumulation of sermons on New Testament books and is made available without cost to those who request the material. Their purpose is to bring the gospel to as many as will partake of the spiritual food accessible through this venue.

This Explains It!

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.” Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don't know.”

“You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?” The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing – I know my Master is there and that is enough.” Author Unknown

The tongue weighs practically nothing.
But so few people can hold it.

It is possible to make a sound argument
without making a lot of noise



BE A “GOOD FRIEND”!!

On planet Earth we cannot avoid social associations with fellow human beings. Since creation, God saw the need for friendship among people of the Earth. As Christians, our dealings with other people must be managed with good judgment. In Colossians 4:5-6 we learn that we should *[w]alk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.* *

Let's go to the book of Proverbs, inspired writing by the wise man Solomon, and obtain God's wisdom concerning friendship. Through His words we learn how to develop good relations with those around us and also how to avoid the obstacles that often destroy good friendships.

A “good friend” is someone who can give comfort as seen in Proverbs 17:17, *A friend loves at all times, sometimes better than a brother or sister, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, 18:24.* A friend is someone who can be a source of good guidance, *And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel (counsel of the soul), 27:9.* A trusted friend with good counsel is a blessing.

A look at God's word gives advice on the selection of friends. **Some people that should be avoided as friends are:**

1. Gossips – *He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips, 20:19.*
2. People who are quick to anger – *Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul, 22:24-25.*
3. People that drink and are gluttonous – *Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags, 23:20-21.*
4. People that are quick to change – *My son, fear the Lord and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?, 24:21-22.*
5. Liars, those untrustworthy, and those inconsiderate - *A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow. Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart, 25:18-20.*
6. People that are known for violence – *My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause *** My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, 1:10-19.*

Proverbs 13:20 gives a description of friends who are desired – *He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed;* those whose direction will help guide you in the right way. *Evil company corrupts good habits, 1 Corinthians 15:33.* A good and sensible friend is a blessing; avoid losing good friends. Some things that will protect a good friendship are:

1. Don't gossip, “... *he who repeats a matter separates friends, 17:9.*
2. Avoid arguments, “*The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts, 17:14.*
3. Don't pry in affairs of others, *He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears, 26:17.*
4. Don't play bad jokes, *Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, “I was only joking!” 26:18-19.*
5. Don't be a tattletale, *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases, 26:20.*
6. Don't be quick-tempered, *As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife, 26:21.*
7. Don't use insincere flattery, *He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him, 27:14.*

If we take note of these things, friends are less likely to be offended. If we do offend, regaining their trust isn't easy, *A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle, 18:19.* Ways to resolve problems are to first be right with the Lord, *When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him, 16:7.* Then,

1. Be slow to anger, *A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays [alleviates] contention, 15:18; cf. James 1:19-20, So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*
2. Think before responding, *He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him, 18:13.*
3. Avoid quarreling, *It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel, 20:3.*
4. Be kind, *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger, 15:1.*
5. Be brief, *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise, 10:19.*
6. Show love, *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins, 10:12. He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward than he who flatters with the tongue, 28:23.*

The wisdom of Proverbs gives good advice on how to “win friends and influence people.” The greatest friend is Jesus Christ our Lord who “sticks closer than a brother,” if we do whatever He commands us to do, John 15:14. God believes in friendships and gives great words of wisdom in maintaining friendly relations with your peers.

*All scripture is from New King James Version

HOW MANY ABSENCES WILL GOD ALLOW?

Five days a week, nine months of the year, attendance is taken for students as they attend an educational facility, be it public or private. In the military, those enlisted in the services will be checked daily for their attendance in whatever field they work. In basic training, the usual beginning of each day involves an early morning roll call. Most business employees have a time to be at work, some having to check in with a time clock. What happens in these scenarios when absences are apparent? In school, you fail or drop out; in the military, absences can result in time in the “brig” or dishonorable discharge, with no questions asked or answered; and in business, there will be no advancement, and most likely, a job is lost.

How much can you learn if you go to school two hours a week? How long would it take a student to get a diploma or a college degree? There are benefits in attending the required days. You keep up with homework, no annoying remarks from parents or teachers; so, better grades. Completed homework improves your average, a higher grade at completion of the courses and brings a better career opportunity.

How many absences do we expect God to allow? Our hope of salvation is determined by what we give of ourselves to God’s promise. With this in mind, think of benefits by attending all scheduled services of the church of our Lord. True, we are not “tested” in our lifetime to record knowledge of the Scriptures in a way that would give a failing grade. God keeps that book in Heaven and we will get our “grade” on the day of judgment. If we don’t pass God’s requirements as He refers to our page in His book of life, there will be no chance to return to “summer school,” re-enlist or apply for a different job.

There are benefits when answering “here” at each opportunity of worship and planned activities for fellowship and encouragement. There is a hope of salvation, the same as a hope of success when school and job responsibilities are met. Study of the scriptures, as commanded in 2 Timothy 2:15, widens knowledge and strengthens faith; singing praises to God and enjoying the gift of prayer to God bolsters us in daily living. Fellowship with one another leads to a loving companionship with those who have the same goal. There is strength in spending time with persons who are of the same accord, *fulfil my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*, Philippians 2:2. [NKJV] As the apostles established the church as recorded in Acts, we find that the believers were all of “one accord,” that Christ is our Savior and that He died on the cross, was buried and rose again.

God has rules – commandments – that must be followed in order to get the “grade” that will get us into heaven. If we are sluggish in our “attendance,” we will not pass the test. We are given the problem solver in Hebrews 10:25, *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some; but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching*.

There is a familiar cheer – “two, four, six, eight! Who do you appreciate?” Jesus died for our sins to fulfill the promise of an eternal life in heaven. God doesn’t require such action; He only requires that we worship Him, *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit: and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*, John 4:23-24. And, in so doing, keeping His commandments is required, *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome*, 1 John 5:3.

By study we learn how to live Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7; it is as alive today as it was 2000 years ago. Christians are to be a loving people. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, study of the New Testament provides patterns for marriage, making a home, being parents, treatment of others and many other ways to solve problems faced in the world.

The most desirable way to acquire this knowledge is to be present at all church services and absorb the substance of the Scriptures from church leaders. Be proud to put on the armor of God, Ephesians 6:13-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

If this reflects your attendance chart, what grade would God give you?

Sunday	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening	Devotionals	Bible Study
✓	X	X	X	X
✓	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X
✓	X	X	X	X

Habit

The only way to get rid of a bad habit is to stop it at once. If you try tapering off, this is the result. You drop the “H” and you still have...**A bit**

You think you’re getting over it by dropping a little bit of the evil thing, so you go on and drop the “A,” but you still are ...**Bit**

That is to say, you are not getting on at all. You are deceiving yourself. You are just where you were. You are still bitten by the evil thing. However, you think you are progressing and so you drop the “B.” But you still lack; you still have ...**It**

And “it” is the sting of habit. “It” has been the trouble all along. You are where you started. Even when you drop the “I” you still have ...**T**

Which stands for temptation. And temptation is a longer word to get rid of than habit. Better do the thing “wholesale” and drop all the letters at once.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” – 1 Peter 2:11

Why is it that opportunity always knocks, but temptation feels free to walk right in? HeartToHeart.com

Bible Quiz

Answers on Back Page

1. What was the name of the man to whom Jesus was speaking when He said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”? _____
2. Was Jesus Christ a Jew? _____
3. On what sea did Jesus Christ walk on the water? _____
4. Did Jesus Christ ever teach at the synagogue when He lived in Capernaum? _____
5. Did Jesus Christ have actual brothers? _____
6. What town was Lazarus from? _____
7. What were the names of Lazarus’ two sisters?
_____, _____
8. What was the name of the man who lost an ear to Peter’s sword when Jesus was being arrested? _____
9. What was the name of the Roman governor who ordered Jesus Christ crucified even though he knew that Jesus was completely innocent? _____
10. Who owned the tomb in which Jesus Christ was buried?

Word & Letter Play – Startling

You can take one letter out of the 9-nine letter word *startling* so that without rearranging letters you will have a real 8-letter word: starling, which is a bird. Continue to remove one letter at a time to make new English words until you get down to a 1-letter English word. Remember, do not rearrange any of the letters; just remove the letters one at a time to create 7 more real words.

Answers on back page

“Best Man”

When you think of brides, what is the picture that comes to mind? Do you picture a woman, in all her beauty, walking down the aisle? Is it hard to picture anything more beautiful than a woman adorned in a flowing white gown, stutter-stepping toward the front of a crowded auditorium?

I’ve attended lots of weddings. I’ve been a member of the wedding party. I’ve performed many wedding ceremonies. I have watched those assembled wait in great anticipation for the point at which the bride would come through the door and begin the long walk up the aisle. I even got married once myself. I remember waiting next to my selected “best man” (and the rest of our wedding party) for the doors at the back of the auditorium to open and my bride to walk in with her arm hooked in the arm of her father. However, as my bride came down the aisle, she did not have her eyes on my friend, but she focused on me as the “best man” as I was focused on her as the best lady. She was not the bride of the witnesses. She wasn’t the bride of the ushers. She wasn’t the bride of the minister. And I wasn’t going to let my “best man” have her. She belonged to the BRIDEGROOM and we were prepared to enter into a lifelong commitment. After thirty plus years she is still the love of my life. I am her husband and she is my wife. We belong to each other.

As John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus and was told that many were going over to Him, John rejoiced. He wasn’t concerned about losing his following, because it was the Christ Who was to be exalted. (John 3:26-28) John knew who the truly “best man” was and faithfully directed others toward Jesus.

John stated...“(29) THE ONE WHO HAS THE BRIDE IS THE BRIDEGROOM. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (30) HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.” (John 3:29-30 ESV)

Does the world see us as the church, the Bride of Christ? (Revelation 19:7; 21:2 & 9; Ephesians 5:23 & 32) Are we conducting ourselves in a manner that draws attention to the BRIDEGROOM and our proper connection with Him? The church does not belong to the congregation. They are merely it. Neither does the church belong to the elders. They are its shepherds. The church also does not belong to the minister. His role is that of a servant to teach and help equip the church for working and maturing in Christ. The church must be seen as belonging to Christ. The relationship should be seen as one of lifelong commitment to Him; an inseparable union marked by faithfulness, joy, and steadfast love.

Paul emphasized this relationship when he focused away from himself to the connection of those he had taught and drawn to Christ. “I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I BETHROTHED YOU TO ONE HUSBAND, to present you as a pure virgin TO CHRIST.” (2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV)

The Greek, translated “betrothed,” is “harmozo” from which we get our English word “harmony.” It is also translated “espoused” (KJV) and “promised” (NLT), with the Greek word literally meaning to fit or join, and as used by Paul here signifies marrying or giving in marriage.

Continued on Back Page

Events of Acts

N U M R T C S N G V W M S C G
 J O I A H L E E J H A K T O N
 B O I U R H U G V R L N S N I
 T E R T P T A A K E O A I V R
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ADDRESS	GATHERING
APOSTLES	GREEKS
ASCENSION	HELLENISTS
ASSAULT	MARKET PLACE
ATHENS	MARTYRDOM
BEAUTIFUL GATE	RIOT
CALLS	RISEN CHRIST
CHOICE	SEVEN
CHURCH	SHARING
CONTENTION	STEHEN
CONVERSIONS	STONING
GAMALIEL	

Commitment

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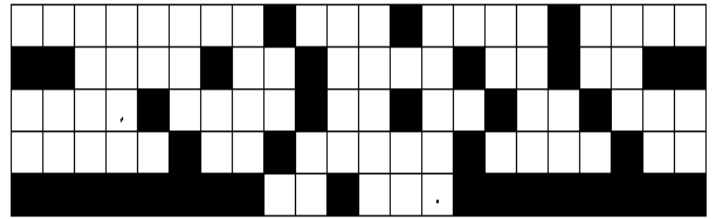
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Answer on Back Page

To Whom It Is Due

Answer on Back Page



T
 E F W I G T
 W I T E H W O E D N O I N I H I D S O M
 D O T H E M L D O O H T O E O O A N I T T E
 P U W H R O H T N T I H T M S I D N F R H O

Ever Wonder?

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?

God is not a secret to be kept! - Newsboys-

The story is told of a daughter who asked her father for permission to visit a girl from a worldly home, and the father refused. The daughter said, "You must not trust me, father." The father picked up a coal from the fire and handed it to the daughter, but she hesitated to take it. When the father said, "It will not burn you," she took the piece of coal, but her hands became blackened. The young daughter said, "Father, you can't be too careful in handling coal." "That's right," said the father, "for even if they do not burn you, you will become blackened." The wise father goes on to say, "So it is with evil companionships."

Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals, (1 Corinthians 15:33). [That Christian Website](#)

- - Character - -

One of the largest school districts in Texas has a district-wide character education initiative program called "Creating Tomorrow's Citizens." The program focuses on teaching what is described as "touchstone character skills": caring, courage, fairness, honesty, integrity, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-discipline and trustworthiness. Isn't this what God has been teaching for some 4000 years? The program was instituted in an effort to develop better citizens and curb school violence.

"Our view of character is that there are certain basic behaviors in our society that make us civil," quoted the district's executive director for educational support services.* There is no question that children should be taught character skills. The model was set by God long ago. Parents of our youth, being faithful in God's Word, should relieve the schools of using their time for this instruction. The school's plan is to teach the character skills during assemblies or advisory periods, taking a "word of the month."

God, in His infinite wisdom, speaks of character skills:

Honesty – Being free of deceit and fraud; being honorable in character and action, 2 Corinthians 8:21, *Providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

Self Discipline – Bringing your own body under subjection through obedience to the Holy Spirit, Proverbs 25:28, *Whosoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.*

Caring – Having a friendly, good-natured, harmonious attitude toward others, Colossians 3:12, *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.*

Tolerant – Accepting other people's opinions and their actions even if you don't agree with them, Romans 14:13, *Therefore let us not judge one another any more: but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

Responsible – Doing what is expected of you, Romans 14:12, *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Respectful – Being decent or correct in character or behavior, First Peter 3:8, *Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.*

Humble – Not proud or haughty, not arrogant or assertive, Philippians 2:3-4, *Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

These are just a few character skills that are commanded in the Scriptures, The Bible is a good textbook for study in choosing a way of life, 2 Timothy 4:16-17.

*Austin American-Statesman, March 29, 2005.

"Best Man": Continued from Page 6 Jesus still has His loving eye on His church. She is very precious to Him. He gave Himself for her. (Ephesians 5:25-27) Are we being faithful to the relationship? May we continue to view Him as the "best man" -- He being the Son of man and Son of God -- acknowledging it is not "until death do us part," but rather for a glorious eternity. [Carl Hanson, the-churchofchrist.com](http://CarlHanson.the-churchofchrist.com).

Fallen Puzzle Answer: Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Proverbs 3:27.

Bible Quiz Answers: (1) Nicodemus, John 3:1; (2) Yes, John 4:9; (3) Sea of Galilee, John 6:16-17; (4) Yes, John 6:59; (5) Yes, John 7:3; (6) Bethany, John 11:1; (7) Martha and Mary, John 11:1; (8) Malchus, John 18:10; (9) Pontius Pilate, John 19:4, 16; (10) Joseph of Arimathea, Matthew 27:57-60.

Double Puzzle Answers: hear, believe, repent, confess, baptized, faithful worship: Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established. Proverbs 16:3

Word & Letter Play Answers: The words are startling, starling, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I.

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

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