

Jesus said unto them, *Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*  
Luke 24:46, 47

## A New 366 Days! What Will You Do With Them?

2008, a new year! And, we have an extra day, February 29, to honor and praise God.

Immediately the thought of making New Year resolutions comes to mind. Some things we want to stop; some things we want to start. Resolving to start a new year with good objectives is to be appreciated. But accomplishing those good objectives takes more than talking the talk. There is no power in making New Year's Resolutions unless you have the proper motivation to start or stop the chosen activity. There are numerous physical and health activities that people want to acknowledge. But, have you thought of resolving to be a better spiritual person?

Seek ye first  
the kingdom  
of God

Resolve to read the Bible every day, attend church regularly, stop this, start that. Nice goals! We have to want to read the Bible every day – not to give it lip service, but to honor God and grow spiritually. We have to want to attend church services – not to be seen, but to worship God in spirit and truth as declared in John 4:24, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Resolve to share the “fruit of the Spirit,” listed in Galatians 5:22-24 – be loving, joyful, peaceful, longsuffering, gentle, show goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Verse 25 says, *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* The persons around you could not help but notice your behavior. Our secular world today is filled with opposite qualities – how you would shine among them.

Philippians 4:13 tells us, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” John 15:5 declares, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” If God is the center of your resolve, and you are committed to it, He will help you fulfill your efforts. Pray to the Lord for wisdom as to changes you want to make and ask how to fulfill your goals, James 1:5. Through faith we obtain the promises of God, Hebrews 11:33. Rely on God's strength to help you – find a friend who will help and encourage your efforts. Give God the glory, *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever,* 1 Timothy 1:17.

Resolve to study  
the Bible every  
day.

We are exhorted to “*seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you,*” Matthew 6:33. Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 16:24, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.* This comes as a command, not a choice depending on how we feel.

Commit to attend  
all services  
regularly.

Let's be positive as we face 2008. We have only this minute to practice our love for our Savior by keeping His commandments. As written in Psalm 40:16, *Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.* Strive for a GREAT 2008 with rejoicing that we have a Savior willing to give His life for us. *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice,*

*because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.* John 14:28.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? QUIZ	PAGE 2
RESOLVE EVERY DAY IN 2008 TO -	PAGE 3
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO	
CHURCH TODAY	PAGE 3
DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH -	PAGE 4-5
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?	PAGE 6

BASICS FOR CONTENTED	
LIVING	PAGE 6
NO MAN APOLOGIZES FOR	
DOING RIGHT	PAGE 6
FUN PAGE	PAGE 7
THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR	PAGE 8

**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](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.**

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**“TEEN TALK” ARTICLES AND REVIEWS**

Truth For Teens is an avenue open to anyone desiring to write articles or reviews for the Teen features. If you would like to publish 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 [tftpub@austin.rr.com](mailto:tftpub@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, using God's Word as our guide.

- - - CHECK IT OUT - - -  
[www.thegospelofchrist.com](http://www.thegospelofchrist.com)  
[www.truthforteens.org](http://www.truthforteens.org)

**What Is Your Life? – Bible Quiz – Part 1**

Answers on Back Page

1. According to Psalm 119:160, what do we find within the pages of the Bible?
  - a. guidance for life.
  - b. well written proverbs.
  - c. truth.
  - d. regulations and prohibitions.
2. According to 2 Tim. 3:16-17, why did God give us His Word?
  - a. So that we might be perfectly furnished for every good work.
  - b. So we could know His nature.
  - c. So we could learn about Christ.
  - d. So we would know how to convert others.
3. According to 2 Pet. 1:3, what do we find within God's Word?
  - a. A lengthy, in-depth list of do's and don'ts.
  - b. All things that pertain unto life and godliness.
  - c. Information about God, his Son, and the Holy Spirit.
  - d. Two different covenants, one for Jews and one for Gentiles.
4. What is the point of Psalm 14:1?
  - a. It is foolish to say that God does not exist.
  - b. God's Word is always true.
  - c. Most people do good things if given an opportunity to do so.
  - d. Few people really understand God's nature.
5. What, according to Psalm 19:1-2, do the heavens teach us?
  - a. The fact of Christ's Sonship.
  - b. The inspiration of the Bible.
  - c. The glory of God.
  - d. All of the above.
6. What, according to Romans 1:18-20, does nature teach us?
  - a. God's existence, power, and attributes.
  - b. The truth about what to do to be saved.
  - c. The fact of Christ's Sonship.
  - d. The truthfulness of god's Word.
7. What characteristic of God is found in Heb. 6:18 and Titus 1:2?
  - a. He is eternal.
  - b. He cannot lie.
  - c. He is omnipotent.
  - d. He is omnipresent.
8. What characteristic of God is found in Malachi 3:6?
  - a. God cannot be tempted.
  - b. God tempts no one.
  - c. God is Alpha and the Omega.
  - d. God does not change.
9. Explain point of Hebrews 3:4.
  - a. When we see design around us, we know that there was a designer, and that that designer was God.
  - b. God followed a pre-planned, specific pattern when He created the Universe.
  - c. Every physical structure must have an architect.
  - d. All of the above.
10. What lesson is taught in Luke 12:15-21?
  - a. While God is eternal, we are not.
  - b. Our lives are not valued by our physical possessions.
  - c. It is not within man to direct his own steps.
  - d. God cannot lie.
11. What message for us today can be found in 1 John 2:15-17?
  - a. Satan is the god of this world.
  - b. God will never tempt us beyond what we can bear.
  - c. Christ's words will one day judge us.
  - d. If we love the world, then the love of God is not in us.

## Resolve Every Day in 2008 To –

**Use the Bible Daily!** – Use the Bible as a blueprint for thinking and living, as well as spiritual food. Study faithfully each day with the goal of being edified, instructed and challenged, and with a desire to become more mature. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Train your mind to desire the inspired words from God. Use your day planner for assistance, an organizer and a journal for things learned.

**Choose Friends Wisely!** – Surround yourself with friends who encourage and teach godly ways. Distance yourself of friends who are a negative influence. Reject all outside influence of sinful nature – television shows, magazines, activities, fashion. *Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world,* Titus 2:12.

**Show Respect to Family!** – Build stronger relationships with your family members, Ephesians 6:1. This relationship is important following your relationship with the Lord. Make your family members your best friends and set an encouraging example to brothers and sisters. Ask for forgiveness from those you have wronged.

**Sustain Yourself!** – Clothe yourself with the armored quality of a gentle and quiet spirit. Have your inner self pure and let it shine through to the outside. Mold your characteristics with strength and dignity. Flee from fornication, *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body,* 1 Corinthians 6:18.

**Develop Decent Relationships!** – Start now to do good and not evil every day to those you date or plan to date, Proverbs 31:12. Preserve and prepare yourself by remaining pure physically, emotionally and mentally. Be a worthy bride for a godly man, Ephesians 5:22. Be a loving husband, as Christ loved the church, Ephesians 5:25. Develop all the character and skills that will uphold a Christian relationship. *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow [seek] righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart,* 2 Timothy 2:22.

**Hold Steadfast in Your Faith!** – Be steadfast in your faith. Resolve to not be a compromiser or adopt a combination of different beliefs. Study to show yourself approved unto God, 2 Timothy 2:15. There is a battle among the religious world. *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,* Ephesians 6:11. As soon as you compromise on a moral issue, you have lost the battle. Win victories for Christ by fighting His battles His way.

**Watch!!** – *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,* 1 Peter 5:8.

Start each day with the words of Joshua who was chosen by God to lead His people following the death of Moses, *...choose this day whom ye will serve; \*\*\*, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.* Joshua 24:15.

## “I DON’T WANT TO GO TO CHURCH TODAY!”

<sup>25</sup>*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* <sup>26</sup>*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*  
Hebrews 10:25-26.

Are you guilty of saying, “I don’t want to go to church today?” And, when you say you don’t want to go, do you hinder others from attending worship services because you decide you don’t want to go? God forbid that parents will allow children under their rule to decide whether or not they go to worship their God! Would a parent let you stay home from school – just because you didn’t want to go? Schools have rules concerning unexcused absences. God has rules against unexcused absences. Hebrews 10:25-26 sets out the penalty for forsaking the assembly of His servants.

Do you believe God when He tells us to keep His commandments, Deuteronomy 5:29, *O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!* Do you want to do Christ’s will? In John 14:15, He tells us, *If ye love me, keep my commandments.* To willfully miss the assembling is to be disobedient to the will of God and this is a transgression of God’s law, 1 John 3:4. It’s clear that when we miss church assembly *there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.* Without Christ, we have no sacrifice for our sin, Hebrews 10:10-12. So the sacrifice Jesus made for our sin is worthless if we willfully refuse to attend the scheduled assemblies. John reminds us in Revelation 22:14, *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

What a privilege it is to go to the assembly! Where else can we go and dismiss all the cares of the world and center our thoughts and heart on the very one that created us and made it possible to be alive? Do you not want to give thanks to that Holy One and praise His name? God does give you a choice, but He is a jealous God, Exodus 20:5.

There is an exhortation in 1 Peter 5:5, *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.* Don’t be a stumbling block, *...that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way,* Romans 14:13. If you think that attending scheduled services is not important, how can you be an example to your family and friends?

*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.* Ephesians 5:17. You alone are in charge of your destination on the Judgment Day.

## DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH - - - - -



We hear the words “Shut Up” used in various ways today – teens use it to show skepticism; parents use it with authority when dealing with children; teachers use it as discipline. It’s not a pretty phrase but there are occasions that the words give sound advice. We all should mentally practice its rebuke as a warning in our daily conversations. We are admonished by God’s Word of a range of occasions and actions where we should know and practice to “keep our mouth shut.”

### So, Don't Open Your Mouth –

**In the Heat of Anger.** *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.* Proverbs 14:17.

**When You Don't Have All The Facts.** *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.* Proverbs 18:13.

**When You Haven't Verified The Story.** *At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.* Deuteronomy 17:6.

**If Your Words Will Offend A Weaker Person.** *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?"* 1 Corinthians 8:11.

**When It Is Time To Listen.** *A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."* Proverbs 13:1.

The same words, from the same father, will be interpreted as “instruction” or as “rebuke, depending upon whether you are wise or whether you are a scorner.

**When You Are Tempted To Make Light of Holy Things.** *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.* Ecclesiastes 5:2.

**When You Are Tempted To Joke About Sin.** *Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.* Proverbs 14:9.

**If You Would Be Ashamed of Your Words Later.** *All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward [deceitful-ed.] or perverse in them.* Proverbs 8:8

**If Your Words Would Convey The Wrong Impression.** *He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.* Proverbs 17:27.

**If The Issue Is None of Your Business.** *The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.* Proverbs 14:10.

**When You Are Tempted To Tell An Outright Lie.** *Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.* Proverbs 4:24.

**If Your Words Will Damage Someone Else's Reputation.** *An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.* Proverbs 16:27.

**If Your Words Will Damage A Friendship.** *A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.* Proverbs 16:28.

**When You Are Feeling Critical.** *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:* Ephesians 4:31.

*Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.* James 4:11.

<sup>1</sup>Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, <sup>2</sup> To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves also were

sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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;" Titus 3:1-5

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 2 Peter 2:10.

<sup>8</sup>Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. <sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. Jude 8-9.

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. James 3:9.

**If You Can't Say It Without Screaming It.** *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.* Proverbs 25:28.

**If Your Words Will Be A Poor Reflection of The Lord or Your Friends And Family.** <sup>21</sup>For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: <sup>22</sup> Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 1 Peter 2:21-23.

**If You May Have To Eat Your Words Later.** *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* Proverbs 18:21.

**If You Have Already Said It More Than One Time.** *A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.* Proverbs 19:13.

**When You Are Tempted To Flatter A Wicked Person.** *He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:* Proverbs 24:24.

**When You Are Suppose To Be Working Instead.** *In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury (poverty).* Proverbs 14:23.

When we think back, most of us have experienced a personal occurrence that we can relate to the above situations. Most likely, we have been on both sides of the situation. The tongue, our words, is the one most red-flagged part of our physical body.

*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth [controls, ed.] not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.* James 1:26. And speaking of evil persons, the Scriptures say, *They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips.* Psalm 140:3. Solomon in his wisdom wrote, *Who keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.* Proverbs 21:23.

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## Compare!! 1900 and Now

In 1900, fathers shook their children gently and whispered, "Wake up, it's time for school." Today, kids shake their fathers violently, shouting: "Wake up, it's time for practice."

In 1900, fathers prayed their children would learn English. Today, fathers pray their children will speak English.

In 1900, a father was involved if he spanked the kid now and then. Today, a father's involved only if he coaches Little League and organizes Boy Scouts and car pools.

In 1900, a father's horsepower meant his horses. Today, it's the size of his minivan.

In 1900, when fathers entered the room, children often rose to attention. Today, kids glance up and grunt, "Dad, you're invading my space."

In 1900, a father came home from work to find his wife and children at the supper table. Today, a father comes home to a note: "Jimmy's at baseball, Cindy's at gymnastics, I'm at adult-Ed, Pizza in fridge."

In 1900, a happy meal was when father shared funny stories around the table. Today, a happy meal is what dad buys at McDonald's.

## YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. **You expect me to believe that?**

At some point, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. **You expect me to believe that?**

Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new “humans” gave birth to the human race. **You expect me to believe that?**

One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. **You expect me to believe that?**

I’m sorry. I don’t have that much blind faith. It’s all just too farfetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I can’t believe intelligent people claim it is “science” (cf. 1 Timothy 6:20).

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. **That I can believe!**

Phil Gear, [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).

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### THE JOY OF LIVING

If nobody smiled, and nobody cheered,  
and nobody helped us along;

If each one only looked after himself,  
and the good things all went to the strong;

If nobody cared just a little for you,  
and nobody cared for me,

And we all stood alone in the battle of life  
what a dreary world it would be!

Life is sweet because of friends we have made  
and the things which in common we share.

We want to live on, not because of ourselves,  
but because of the people who care.

It’s giving and doing for somebody else –  
it’s on that all life’s splendor depends.

The joy of this world when we’ve summed it all up  
is found in the making of friend.

---

*Let that therefore abide in you,  
which ye have heard from the beginning.  
If that which ye have heard from the beginning  
shall remain in you, ye also shall continue  
in the Son, and in the Father.*

1 John 2:24

## BASICS FOR CONTENTED LIVING

**Health** – enough to make work a pleasure;

**Wealth** – enough to support your needs;

**Strength** – enough to battle with difficulties;

**Grace** – enough to confess your sins and overcome them;

**Patience** – enough to toil until some good is accomplished;

**Charity** – enough to see some good in your neighbor;

**Love** – enough to make you to be useful and helpful to others;

**Faith** – enough to make real the things of God;

**Hope** – enough to remove all anxious fear concerning the future.

---

### NO MAN APOLOGIZES FOR DOING RIGHT

So you are not going to church this morning, my son? Ah yes, - I see “the music is not good.” That’s a pity; that’s what we go to church for, to hear the music. And the less we pay, the better music we demand.

“And the pews are not comfortable.” That’s too bad; the Sabbath is a day of rest, and we go to church for repose. The less work we do during the week, the more rest we clamor for on Sunday.

“The church is so far away, it’s too far to walk and you detest riding your bike when you’re all dressed up.” This is indeed distressing; sometimes when I think how much farther away Heaven is than the church, and that there are no conveyances on the road, of any description, I wonder how some of us are going to get there.

“And the sermon is so long, always.” All these things are indeed to be regretted.

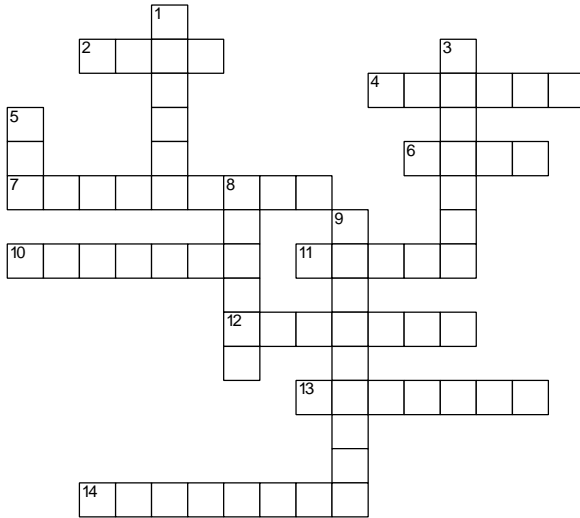
I would regret them more sincerely, my boy, did I not know that in a few weeks after the frost is out of the ground, you will squeeze into a hot stuffy car loaded far beyond its stated capacity and ride twenty-miles in miserable traffic, then pay a dollar and a quarter for the privilege of sitting on a hard seat in the broiling sun for three hours watching the local heroes perform at the ball park.

Ah, my boy, you see what staying away from church does? It develops a habit of lying. There isn’t one man in a hundred who would go on the witness stand and give under oath the same reasons for not going to church that he gives his family every Sunday morning. My son, if you didn’t think you ought to go, you wouldn’t make any excuses for not going. No man apologizes for doing right. – Robert Burdette, The Joy of Words

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*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:  
but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*  
Proverbs 12:15

## Controlling Our Tongue



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

### Across

- 2 And through thy knowledge shall the \_\_\_\_ brother perish. 1 Corinthians 8:11  
 4 Death and life are in the power of the \_\_\_\_: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:21  
 6 Fools make a \_\_\_\_ at sin; ... Proverbs 14:9  
 7 At the mouth of two \_\_\_\_, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death, Deuteronomy 17:6  
 10 And through thy knowledge shall the weak \_\_\_\_ perish. 1 Corinthians 8:11  
 11 He that is soon \_\_\_\_ dealeth foolishly: ... Proverbs 14:17  
 12 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing \_\_\_\_ or perverse in them. Proverbs 8:8  
 13 He that answereth a matter before he \_\_\_\_ it,... Proverbs 18:13  
 14 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and \_\_\_\_ lips put far from thee. Proverbs 4:24

### Down

- 1 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 4:31  
 3 An \_\_\_\_ man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. Proverbs 16:27  
 5 Be not rash with thy mouth, ... therefore let thy words be \_\_\_\_\_. Ecclesiastes 5:2  
 8 A froward man soweth \_\_\_\_: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. Proverbs 16:28  
 9 He that hath \_\_\_\_ spareth his words; ... Proverbs 17:27

## Internet Definitions

- Mosquito – An insect that makes you like flies better.  
 Raisin – Grape with a sunburn.  
 Secret – Something you tell to one person at a time.  
 Toothache – the pain that drives you to extraction.  
 Yawn – An honest opinion openly expressed.  
 Skeleton – A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.  
 Handkerchief – Cold storage.  
 Egotist – Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.  
 Dust – Mud with the juice squeezed out.  
 Committee – A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.  
 Beauty Parlor – A place where women curl up and dye.  
 Tomorrow – One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

## A Mathematical Viewpoint at Life:

Take a look at this 101%!

What equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?  
 We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about ACHIEVING 101%

What equals 100% in life? Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions:

If:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ is represented as  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
 25 26.

If:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

But

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$$

Then, look how far the love of God will take you:

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close,  
 and Attitude will get you there,  
 it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

L N G C F T T B L H R M C V S  
 W M B E A E U W D E Q A O U H  
 D A A E N I W X D F P R I H R  
 Q S H H L P D L R I E R N Q X  
 T W S D D L O R A R A I Q B M  
 W I E P E H A F A H R A X N H  
 F R N W E U K B T W L G V I S  
 S E F S S M K O O W E E U U E  
 L W U R D S A M A R I T A N E  
 Y O V I R G I N S F E D S Z R  
 H S F X A P E E H S A R O A T  
 Q C A Q T A R E S G Y T S W G  
 P R X U S R C H A Y H T H X I  
 Z O W Y U D R E H P E H S E F  
 B Z B C M M H S S H F E Y A R

BUILDERS	MUSTARDSEED
COIN	PEARL
FATHER	SAMARITAN
FEAST	SHEEP
FIGTREE	SHEPHERD
FISHNET	SOWER
HOUSEHOLDER	STEWARD
LABORERS	VIRGINS
MARRIAGE	WIDOW
TARES	
WHEAT	

# THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the years, ‘Give me a light that I may safely tread into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be unto you better than light and safer than any known way.’” Author Unknown. The following are rules suggested as aids to the practical fulfillment:

1. Travel Light. Shed excess baggage – failures, disappointments, worries, griefs, and resentments. Stop opening old sores and bad memories.
2. Live One Day at a Time. The man of faith refuses to shove into the unknown future the decisions that should be made today. Present responsibility is first.
3. Be Generous. A world reeling with greed, intolerance, bitterness, prejudice, hunger, disease, and cold needs now simple goodness in our hearts.
4. Let’s Face Our Problems with faith and courage and not run away from them, resent them or fear them. We are children of God; we do not have to work alone.
5. Don’t Let Our Virtues Become Our Vices. Jesus reserved his choicest scorn for those whose goodness had become stale, stiff and severe. Joyful privilege versus duty.
6. If We Cannot Change Our Circumstances, Let’s Change Our Attitudes. There are times when we feel we could do a better job with our lives if we could start over. It is not a new environment, but a new inner life that we need; not a new job, but the insight to see new opportunities in the old work.
7. The Secret of Relaxation is Essential to Health. Stress endangers our dispositions, our emotions are frayed, and irritation clouds the air about us. Inner quietness must be cultivated.
8. Resolve to Trust in God for the Future. God supplies strength to carry our load, wisdom to solve our problems, grace to enrich every experience. –Dale Foster, Rule church of Christ Bulletin, December 1987

**Bible Quiz:** 1)c; 2)a; 3)b;4)a; 5)c; 6)a; 7)b; 8)d; 9)a; 10)b; 11)d.

**Crossword Puzzle – Across:** 2) weak; 4) tongue; 6) mock; 7) witnesses; 10) brother; 11) angry; 12) froward; 13) heareth; 14) perverse. **Down:** 1)malice; 3) ungodly; 5) few; 8) strife; 9) knowledge.

## They Walk Among Us

I told the girl at the steakhouse register that I wanted the half-pound sirloin. She informed me they only had an 8-ounce sirloin. Not wanting to make a scene, I told her I would take the 8-ounce steak instead of the half-pounder.

My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car that’s designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the trunk.

I couldn’t find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and I was in good hands. “Now,” she asked me, “Has your plane arrived yet?” From the Internet

## Smile For You

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin  
When he smiled I realized I’d passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile then I realized its worth,  
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don’t leave it undetected  
Let’s start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Author Unknown

“Soul winners are not soul winners because of what they know, but because of Whom they know, and how well they know Him, and how much they long for others to know Him.” Dawson Trotman

Under oversight of  
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at Pflugerville  
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using God’s Word as our guide.

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