

# Truth For Teens

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## ***ABSTAIN FROM WORLDLY FADS and FASHIONS***

Christians are unique and important to God. In 1 Peter 2:5, it is written, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” In 1 Corinthians 10:6, Paul explained that “...we should not lust after evil things...”

Today we see a world culture overcome by tattoos, body piercing, branding, immodest apparel and immodest speech. All these procedures are an intrusion made to your body. These are unnatural alterations that one makes to their body. This type of activity was against God’s will from the beginning. Paul, in Romans 15:4, writes that “whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...” In reading Leviticus 19:28, we see that these types of body intrusions were a significant part of the lives of those pagan nations; a culture that encompassed the children of Israel: “Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.” This was the culture of those outside the people of God. God knew that His people would be influenced by the idolatrous nations that surrounded them. As a spiritual priest and priestess, “... we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad, 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“Well, everyone is doing it!” is a common statement or excuse today. God speaks to this in Exodus 23:2a, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.” In God’s Word, it is written very clearly, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery; fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations [jealousy], wrath, strife, seditions [rebellion to authority], heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God,” Galatians 5:19-21. The words “such like” lengthens the list of actions that are against God’s Word; a complete definition can be found in diligent study of the Bible.

Christians, as priests of God, are exhorted, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1, [emphasis supplied].

How will you deal with the remaining scars and signs of a previous body intrusion? Why is the word “intrusion” used in studying this subject? Because these are unnatural alterations that one makes to their body. New fads and fashions of the world are worldly, totally immodest, and have no place in the life of a Christian.

As priests of God, service is required as well as presenting our “bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,” see Romans 12:1. Ask yourself the following questions – How does speech and conduct, including immodesty, and body intrusions, impact one’s ability to serve God and to seek and save the lost? What was or is the attitude surrounding the action? When a body intrusion or anything “such like” is considered, is the kingdom of God truly being sought first?

The Christian priest and priestess must be pure and holy and not partake in this world’s deeds. Christians are in the world but must be apart from this world, its fads and fashions. Examine yourself. God challenges you to prove yourself. As a Christian, our Lord commands His disciples in Matthew 5:13-16 to be the influence, the salt of the world, and to be the example, the light of the world. Excerpt: *The Everlasting Priesthood*, Kirk Tooley, Shenandoah Lectures, 2010.

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

**“Truth For Teens” – Our Mission**

Truth For Teens is a bi-monthly 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.

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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.**

***New Testament Quotes***

From which New Testament Book does the following quotation come?

- "Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you."
 

A. Romans	C. Galatians
B. 1 Corinthians	D. 1 Thessalonians
- "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
 

A. Romans	C. James
B. Ephesians	D. 1 John
- "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 

A. Ephesians	C. 1 Peter
B. Colossians	D. 1 John
- "But godliness with contentment is great gain."
 

A. Philippians	C. Titus
B. 1 Timothy	D. 1 John
- "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."
 

A. Romans	C. 2 Peter
B. 1 Thessalonians	D. Revelation
- "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures."
 

A. Acts	C. Galatians
B. 1 Corinthians	D. 1 Peter
- "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
 

A. John	C. 1 Timothy
B. Acts	D. 2 Timothy
- "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."
 

A. Luke	C. 1 Peter
B. 2 Corinthians	D. 1 John
- "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."
 

A. Matthew	C. Hebrews
B. 1 Corinthians	D. Revelation
- "I tell you, no; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
 

A. Luke	C. Philippians
B. Acts	D. 2 Timothy

(Answers on Back Page)



## DID YOU KNOW...?

That the Bible nowhere says, "Accept Jesus as your personal Savior?"

That the "Rapture" is not once mentioned in the Bible?

That no one was ever told to "Ask Jesus into your heart" in answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

That every verse in the New Testament in which baptism and salvation appear together lists baptism prior to salvation?

That nowhere in the New Testament is there a command or example for a baby to be baptized?

That "faith only" is mentioned just once in the Bible, and then it says, "not by faith only" (James 2:24)?

That Peter was not a pope and that he had a wife (Matthew 8:14)?

That there is no example or command in the Bible for preachers to wear special robes, clothes, etc.?

That everyone that has put Christ on in baptism is a "saint" (Ephesians 3:8; 4:12; 5:3; 6:16; Philippians 1:1; 4:2).

That there is nothing in the Bible mentioning or even suggesting that you can be brought out of or prayed out of purgatory?

That denominational churches did not exist in the first century?

That you can be saved without ever "joining" a denominational church?

Doug Smith, KneEmail: *"Test all things; hold fast what is good."* 1 Thessalonians 5:21

## W-A-L-K

*"Let us walk honestly, as in the day;  
not in rioting and drunkenness,  
not in chambering and wantonness,  
not in strife and envying.  
But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and make not provision for the flesh,  
to fulfil the lusts thereof."*  
Romans 13:13-14

**W** – Walk, worship – Matthew 4:10 – "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

**A** – Adore, admire – Matthew 22:37-28 – "And Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

**L** – Live right – play right – think right – Philippians 4-6 – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. [see also: Psalm 55:22; Proverbs 16:3]. Philippians 4:8-9 – "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

**K** – Keep – 1 Timothy 6:14, 15 – "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."

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"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."  
1 Corinthians 9:27

# CURIOSITY – NOT A BAD THING

Zacchaeus was curious enough to get into a position to satisfy that need. Luke 19:1-10. He wanted to know about this person, that Jesus who was receiving all the attention as He moved among the people. This Jesus had done some amazing things: He fed 5,000 people by Lake Galilee; He was seen casting out devils and healing lepers. He had even raised a dead man up on the mountain, and walked on the Sea of Galilee. Zacchaeus has just heard that Jesus had healed two blind men on the other side of town. Zacchaeus, being small in stature, “a wee little man,” climbed a tree to see Jesus as he came through his town. He made an effort to satisfy his curiosity by doing what was necessary to see for himself.

We all should be curious about Jesus and His plan of salvation; study to prove ourselves, Galatians 6:4. God has provided all the material needed to satisfy that curiosity pertaining to having an eternal life in Heaven, beginning with the way God expects us to live a life that is pure and striving for perfection, maturity. Curiosity is a good thing; a little child begins his vocabulary with the question, “why.” We need to put ourselves in a position to “see” this Jesus through His Word, printed and provided for our learning. When we see His way of life, then our questions about spiritual things will be satisfied. Christians of all ages should always be curious as to what God desires of us. He has given a plan of salvation; He has given us rules and regulations on how to live our lives.

Are you asking “why” about things concerning spiritual things? How curious are you concerning the life of Jesus; His divine nature, His ability to save your soul? When this life is over, the soul either enjoys Heaven with the saved, or damnation in a place called Hell. It is written in the Scriptures, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it,” Matthew 7:13-14.

Become curious enough to read and study your Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15 reads, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Ask a parent, Sunday School teacher, preacher or elder for some answers (cf. Matthew 17:10, Acts 8:31; 1 Corinthians 14:35). Take your Bible and investigate for your own satisfaction. Each person needs his own faith – not what other people think, parents, preachers, friends. Be able to say, “I believe this because it is written in the Scriptures.”

Investigate! Curiosity leads to investigation which leads to knowledge, which leads to faith (Romans 10:17); faith leads to obedience (Romans 16:26), which leads to salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Feed your spiritual curiosity. Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down from the tree and He would go to his house. After obeying what Jesus asked him to do, Jesus said, “This day is salvation come to this house...” Luke 19:10.

Climb that “tree of knowledge,” God’s Word, and through obedience, be a faithful member of God’s kingdom, the church that Christ built, Matthew 16:18.

## God's Plan for Man

### • Hear God's Word

Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17

### • Believe in Jesus

John 8:24

### • Repent of Sins

Luke 13:3; 2 Corinthians 7:10

### • Confess Jesus' Name

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### • Be Baptized

Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-19;  
Acts 2:38,41; Acts 22:16;  
Romans 6:3-4

### • Live Faithfully Until Death

Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10

## *I Will....*

Like Paul, forget those things which are behind, and press onward, Philippians 3:13.

Like Abraham, trust completely in my God, James 2:23.

Like Enoch, walk daily in fellowship with my heavenly father, Genesis 5:22.

Like David, lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence comes my help, Psalm 121:1.

Like Moses, choose rather to suffer, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Hebrews 11:24-25.

Like Job, be patient under all circumstances, Job 13:15-16.

Like Caleb and Joshua, refuse to be discouraged because of superior numbers, Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9.

Like Andrew, strive to lead my brother to Christ, John 1:40-42.

Like Stephen, manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my hurt, Acts 7:60.

# Be Pure!

“Don’t play in your church clothes!” Remember that reprimand from parents? They wanted you to be clean and to look your best when you went to worship. Even now you want to look your best when you are invited to gatherings by your friends. It becomes a way of life to be clean, to have nice clothes and to be neat in appearance.

Parents are dedicated to establishing the importance of the outward appearance of their children as they grow into teen years and on to adulthood. They are as committed to instill a desire to be inwardly clean and pure as teenagers, and as an adult. In a Christian home, children are encouraged to be modest and pure and “to save your purity” for your true love in marriage. God instituted marriage in Genesis 1:27-28, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:...” In Genesis 2:24, God further instructed man, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.” Being united in marriage is a divine ordinance.

In Hebrews 13:4, we read, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Marriage is for companionship; it not good to be alone,” Genesis 2:18. It affords man and woman a legitimate means of satisfying the God-given sexual appetites of the flesh, 1 Corinthians 7:2. Sexual promiscuity is condemned before and after marriage.

God’s marriage law involves:

1. Love, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,” Ephesians 5:25;
2. An agreement or contract to be exclusively one another’s for life;
3. Conformity to whatever legal requirements the parties are subject to, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God,” Romans 13:1; and becoming “one” in the act of sexual congress. [authority of the law]. Civil laws are intact as to living in adultery, etc. God’s law is in effect in reference to “trial marriage”, “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Sexual practices without marriage are sin, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ...,” Galatians 5:19. Fornication is sexual immorality or unlawful sexual conduct, which would include premarital sex or homosexuality; lascivious behavior is any that is lustful, obscene indecent, offensive, or suggestive. It is shameless conduct. There is conflict between the Spirit and the flesh, “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would,” Galatians 5:16.

In marriage, vows are taken to cherish and love one another “until death do us part.” Jesus says, “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery,” Matthew 19:9.

Marriage between a man and woman who love one another provides stability wherein one has the right to a family name, security of property, and an intimate atmosphere of love and trust.

The importance of being pure in morality before marriage for a man and woman eliminates cause for jealousy or envy of a mate’s former life. To present your mate a pure and clean body is a foundation of trust that will strengthen your marriage. The world today accepts behavior that tends to deprave the morals in regard to sexual relations. Abstain from fleshly lusts, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,” 1 Peter 2:11. The person conducting the marriage says, “What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder,” Matthew 19:6. Young people feel love is what keeps the marriage together; marriage or commitment keeps the love there. God hated immoral and impure sexual acts, “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God,” 1 Corinthians 6:9.

God chose a pure and proper place for the physical relationship between man and woman, and it is in marriage. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart,” 2 Timothy 2:22.

# The Boyfriend That Matters

Once upon a time there was a girl who had four boyfriends. She loved the fourth boyfriend the most and adorned him with rich robes and treated him to the finest of delicacies. She gave him nothing but the best. She also loved the third boyfriend very much and was always showing him off to family and friends. However, she feared that one day he would leave her for another.

She also loved her second boyfriend. He was her confidant and was always kind, considerate and patient with her. Whenever this girl faced a problem, she could confide in him, and he would help her get through the difficult times. The girl's first boyfriend was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining her wealth and territory. However, she did not love the first boyfriend although he loved her deeply. She hardly took notice of him!

One day, the girl fell ill and she knew her time was short. She thought of her luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four boyfriends with me, but when I die, will I be alone?" She asked the fourth boyfriend, "I loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" replied the fourth boyfriend, and he walked away without another word. His answer cut like a sharp knife right into her heart.

The sad girl then asked the third boyfriend, "I loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!", replied the third boyfriend. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to marry someone else!" Her heart sank and turned cold. She then asked the second boyfriend, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!", replied the second boyfriend. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave." His answer struck her like a bolt of lightning, and the girl was devastated.

Then a voice called out, "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The girl looked up, and there was her first boyfriend. He was very skinny as he suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the girl said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!"

In truth, you have four boyfriends in your lives: Your fourth boyfriend is your body. No matter how much time and effort you lavish in making it look good, it will leave you when you die. Your third boyfriend is your possessions, status and wealth. When you die, it will all go to others. Your second boyfriend is your family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for you, the furthest they can stay by you is up to the grave. And your first boyfriend is your spirit; often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, your spirit is the only thing that will follow you where ever you go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of you that will follow you to the throne of God and continue with you throughout Eternity.

Life is not a problem to be solved, but God's gift to be enjoyed. Keep happiness in your heart. God will be with you always if you place your attention to pleasing Him in your daily life.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Matthew 28:19-20.

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## Sheep In the Midst of Wolves

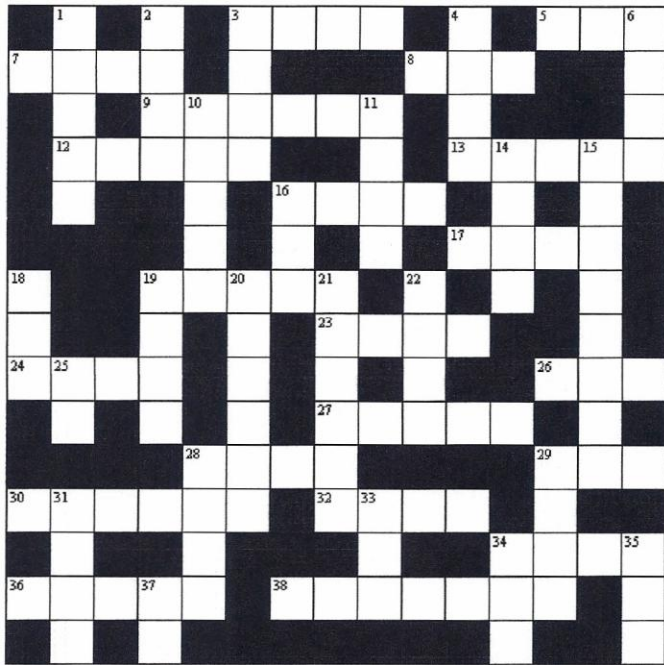
The Bible is God's prescription for our continued existence, health, prosperity, happiness and salvation. To live by biblical principles is to live in obedience and submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Undoubtedly, we all desire to live rewarding and significant lives. This can be fully achieved, but only if we share God's eternal perspective in this life. God's principles are challenged daily as we walk along the exciting and difficult road called life. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus says, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves."

One such wolf is the gambling industry. It is a human predator that consumes societal stability, personal wellbeing, marriages, families, life and, ironically, financial prosperity. We must be wise and stealthy to avoid the teeth of gambling. Gambling is not addressed directly in the Bible, but it is not exempt from God's instruction.

In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus laid down a test by which every activity or philosophy could be evaluated, and its true value assessed. He said that "every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." Jesus' statement was addressed specifically to false teachers, but it certainly can be applied to various philosophies and activities of life (such as gambling). What kind of fruit does gambling produce? Does legalized gambling raise the moral standards of a community? Does it help to lessen the hardships of families in that community? Or, is the opposite the case? Does legalized gambling place a burden for those who already are working with a poverty-level budget?

What can one conclude from a cursory glance at the "fruits" of gambling? Gambling is addictive, it preys on those with lower incomes, it affects teens, and it often leads to dysfunctional family relationships and abuse. Surely these would classify as "bad fruits." Playing the lottery is a form of gambling; gambling is a moral issue. Galatians 5:19-21.



### Down

1. Goliath was one of these
2. Wicked king of Israel whose wife was Jezebel
3. One of the false gods mentioned frequently in the O.T.
4. One type of creature that God made on the fifth day
6. Ark builder
10. The other faithful spy, along with Joshua, who said that the Israelites could take the land of Canaan
11. A free gift to the poor
14. He sold his birthright to his brother Jacob
15. In the Book of Revelation, one of the seven churches of Asia
16. Satan told the first one of these
18. Jesus once cursed a tree that should have been producing this fruit, but was not
19. Book in the New Testament that records the beginning of the church
20. He was told to go dip 7 times in the River Jordan
21. Leah's little sister
22. Where Christ's crown of thorns resided
25. You are not to muzzle me when I work
28. First human born
29. Jesus sometimes is referred to as the \_\_\_ of Judah"
31. What Prophet is quoted in the following? "Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'"
33. Jesus told a parable about ten foolish virgins who did not have enough of this for their lamps
34. Aaron's \_\_\_ budded
35. "He who has an \_\_\_ to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
37. Tool used to chop down trees; the prophet Elisha caused the head of one to float on water

### Across

3. Ephesians 4:4 tells us that there is just one \_\_\_ (church)
5. During one O.T. battle, God caused this to stay in the sky longer than normal
7. The \_\_\_ man and Lazarus
8. Eve was made from one
9. Wood used to build the ark of the covenant
12. Wicked husband of Abigail who refused to help David and his men
13. Hell is sometimes referred to as "the second \_\_\_" (Rev. 2:11)
16. John the immerser once said upon seeing Jesus, "Behold, the \_\_\_ of God"
17. The mother of Jesus
19. Captain of King Saul's army
23. He was murdered by his brother Cain
24. The blood of this animal cannot take away sins (Heb. 10:4)
26. Joseph, as a boy, was thrown into this by his older brothers
27. Place where souls of the dead go to await the Day of Judgment
28. David once hid from King Saul in one of these
29. The Old \_\_\_ was nailed to Christ's cross
30. Another name for Palestine
32. "Why do you call me '\_\_\_,' but do not the things I say?"
34. Bible garment
36. Jesus was born when the \_\_\_ Empire was in power in Palestine
38. Had to make a tough decision about which woman was a baby's real mother

### Brain Teaser

There are two men fishing in the middle of a lake. They are doing well when a man calls from the bank and asks to join them. They say yes and he gathers his bait and rod and goes to them. The lake is fairly deep but the fisherman just walks over to them and starts to fish. How? [answer on back page]

A store manager heard his clerk tell a customer, "No, ma'am, we haven't had any for a while, and it doesn't look as if we'll be getting any soon..."

Horrified, the manager came running over to the customer and said, "Of course we'll have some soon! We placed an order last week." Then the manager drew the clerk aside. "Never," he snarled, "Never, never, never, say we're out of anything; say we've got it on order and it's coming. Now, what was it she wanted anyway?"

The clerk said, "Rain..."

KneEmail: *"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are His delight."* Proverbs 12:22

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

John 17:17

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Ecclesiastes 12:1`

# WHERE IN THE BIBLE WILL I FIND . . .

## THE WAY OF MAN IS NOT GOD'S WAY?



From the earliest beginning man has desired his own way. Eve had her own way when she ate the forbidden fruit after God had said, "...Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen. 3:3). Adam and Eve's punishment for this sin brought on their spiritual death and they were driven from the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24). Cain had his own way when he offered the fruit of the ground to the Lord in place of what was pleasing to the Lord (Gen. 4). His disobedience and rebuke caused him to be so angry with his brother that he killed him. For his sin God put a curse on him and drove him out from the presence of the Lord (Gen. 4:16). Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, had their own way when they used a

different fire than what God had commanded. For their sin God struck them dead (Lev. 10:1-2). King Saul had his own way when he spared the king of Amalek and some of the flock after God had commanded that he was to utterly destroy all the Amalekites (I Sam. 15:3, 18-19). For his sin Saul was removed from being king of Israel (I Sam. 15:26). God had said through the prophet, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes..." (Prov. 12:15). There are two ways listed in the Bible, man's ways, which are unrighteousness, and God's ways, which are righteousness. The prophet declared, "There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

Man today is still desiring his own way. He reads in the Old Law about the Sabbath day, the use of instruments of music in the worship, the wearing of robes, tithing, etc., and so he wants to bring them over into the New Law where God has not authorized them. Man thinks his ways are better than God's ways. But God has said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9). If only man would harken to the voice of the prophet, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Our Lord Jesus Christ taught about the way, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14), and, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

We must remember that God is still in control, He made man, He made the law and the way in which man is to follow. When we seek to disobey this law and go by our own way we will most certainly suffer the consequences.

. . . -Where In The Bible Will I Find..., I. D. Byars, Volume 2, pp. 174-175.

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**Bible Quiz:** 1) Romans; 2) Ephesians; 3) 1 John; 4) 1 Timothy; 5) Romans; 6) 1 Corinthians; 7) 2 Timothy; 8) 1 Peter; 9) Hebrews; 10) Luke.

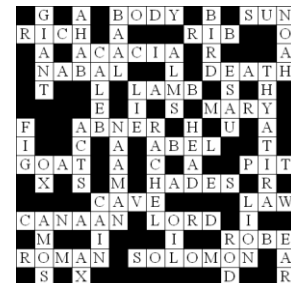
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### Truisms of Age

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

**Brain Teaser:** The men are ice fishing!



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