
Feeling Doom & Gloom?

Sometimes we think it's just not worth the effort to get up in the morning. Maybe you turn on the radio or television as you get prepared for the day. What do you hear? Fuel prices keep going up, tsunamis, earthquakes occur, there are world epidemics, global warming, global political unrest throughout the world – where will it stop?

There are some very real happenings in our world today that give cause for concern. There is over population, economic implosion, concern of our water quality, resource depletion, artificial intelligence, and very real is the occurrence of terrorism throughout the world. It is likely our day will involve people who are suffering in various situations and feeling doom and gloom.

When we get so overwhelmed by worldly happenings, having to be around those who suffer because of the events, we must remind ourselves of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:44-45, "...pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." We read in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." As Christians, we suffer, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," 2 Timothy 3:12. Paul, a committed follower of God, suffered, "...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure," 2 Corinthians 12:7.

Times are difficult, and worse for those who are not spiritually mature with a love for God's Word. How can we deal with the unrest around us? The first place to start is to put our faith and trust in God. His Word provides ways we can comfort those who are suffering.

Use opportunities to help others

- "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep, Romans 12:15.
- "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ," Galatians 6:2
- "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it," 1 Corinthians 12:26

Teach others through our suffering

- **Bear our burdens** – "For every man shall bear his own burden," Galatians 6:5
- **Be content** – "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need," Philippians 4:11-12.
- **By Prayer** – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," Philippians 4:6-7.
- **Be happy and endure** – "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy," James 5:11.

Exude faith and confidence

- **Confidence through faith** – "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him," Ephesians 3:11-12.
- **The Lord is my Helper** – "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me," Hebrews 13:5-6 [Psalm 23]
- **Confidence built up by the Word** – "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," 2 Timothy 1:7-9.
- **Study the Word for more faith and more confidence** – "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2 Timothy 2:15. Continued on page 5.

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Homosexuality Being A Sinful Life Style?

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

Bible Quiz [answers back page]

1. Who said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here: If thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias?”
 - John
 - Peter
 - Sosthenes
 - Phillip
2. Which of the seven churches in the Book of Revelation bore the name of a major American city?
 - Chicago
 - Bethlehem
 - Philadelphia
 - Houston
3. What were Thomas’ words after he put his fingers into Jesus’ nail prints?
 - “My Lord and my God!”
 - “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!”
 - “thou art the Christ.”
 - “Who art thou, Lord?”
4. When Herod the tetrarch heard of the miracles of Jesus, whose works did he think they were?
 - Moses
 - John the Baptist
 - Elijah
 - Elisha
5. Which book contains the statement, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”?
 - 2 John
 - 2 Timothy
 - James
 - 2 Peter
6. Who was not chosen to be a replacement apostle for Judas Iscariot?
 - Cephas
 - Matthias
 - Joseph of Arimathea
 - Joseph, who is called Barsabas
7. Complete the following verse: “My God, my God....”
 - “thou art the Christ.”
 - “Why hast thou forsaken me?”
 - “I have need to be baptized of thee.”
 - “whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose.”
8. Under whom did Paul study Jewish law?
 - Gamaliel
 - Gaddis
 - Moses
 - Peter
9. Who fell asleep during Paul’s preaching and fell to his death out of a window, but was later revived by Paul?
 - Reuben
 - Mordecai
 - Euyuchus
 - Jonathan
10. Who deserted Paul and Barnabas at Pamphylia?
 - Timothy
 - Simon Peter
 - Silas
 - John Mark
11. Finish the following quotation of Paul, “For to me to live is Christ....”
 - “for to morrow we die.”
 - “and to die is gain.”
 - “in spirit and in truth”
 - “but the way of sin is death.”
12. Who did not believe an angel when he was told that his wife would have a baby?
 - Abraham
 - Joseph
 - Ananias
 - Zacharias
13. What flowed from Jesus’ side when He was pierced at His crucifixion?
 - Blood and vinegar
 - Blood and wine
 - Vinegar and water
 - Blood and water
14. Who raised Dorcas from the dead?
 - Jesus
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - Lazarus
15. To whom did Jesus say, “Get behind Me, Satan!?”
 - Judas Iscariot
 - Saul of Tarsus
 - Sergius Paulus
 - Simon Peter

The Slavery of Tobacco



An addiction is defined as, “A compulsive need for and use of a habit forming substance (as heroin, nicotine, or alcohol) characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; a persistent compulsive use of a substance known by the user to be harmful” (Webster). While many of us recognize things such as pornography, alcoholism, and drug use to be horrific addictions we have in some respects failed to notice that tobacco use is just as dreadful. Both the Bible and science confirm that the use of tobacco is harmful physically and spiritually.

To the honest mind there is no question that tobacco addiction is severe. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse tobacco use kills approximately 440,000 Americans each year. The reason it has this terrible death grip is the nicotine that is in it. Nicotine is a poisonous alkaloid made by the tobacco plant. It is powerfully addictive. When a smoker takes a puff they immediately begin to feel the effects of the nicotine in their body. The heart beats faster, the pulse quickens, veins constrict, blood pressure increases, adrenaline increases the heart rate in order to relax muscles and raise your metabolic rate, and even the electrical activity of the brain changes.

The drug provides many physiological and psychological effects that cause it to quickly become an addiction. A tobacco user becomes accustomed to having a certain level of nicotine in his or her body. Research has shown that a smoker will subconsciously regulate the number of cigarettes they smoke in order to maintain their body’s preferred level of nicotine. Between doses of tobacco the user experiences withdrawal effects which prompt them to take another dose in order to soothe their body’s craving for the drug. This physical dependence on nicotine leads further to a psychological dependence. The user begins to feel like they must continue in order to feel comfortable. The nicotine addict must use it in order to maintain a feeling of self assurance.

Although it is commonly known that nicotine addiction is not much different than heroin and cocaine addiction, it is excruciatingly difficult to quit. Even when tobacco users identify their habit as dangerous and attempt to throw it away, often times they cannot. Research shows that approximately 35 million tobacco users express a desire to quit each year. However, more than 85 percent of those who try quitting will relapse within a week. Men and women are brought under the power of tobacco and become enslaved to it.

Tobacco is used for the purpose of reaching the sense of euphoria and sensual gratification that the nicotine provides. The Bible speaks clearly against such. In Romans 13:14 Paul wrote, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.” God does not want His people to be physiologically or psychologically dependent upon the things of the flesh. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). When a person becomes addicted to a work of the flesh that person no longer has full allegiance to Christ. The child of God is to be controlled by Christ, not the flesh.

In listing the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-20, Paul lists two works that are worthy of our consideration; witchcraft and drunkenness. The word translated “witchcraft” (KJV) is from the Greek word *pharmakeia*. This term has the idea of "poisoning or administering drugs for a purpose other than what is intended." This alludes to an abuse of drugs which leads to addiction. This would include nicotine. "Drunkenness" is the Greek word *methe*, which deals with "intoxication from alcohol or any other chemical substance that would control the mind and render a person unable to function normally." According to Scripture, participating in either of these practices will cause one not to inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21).

Furthermore, one should consider the obvious end of nicotine addiction. It is a well established fact that using tobacco is physically detrimental. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reads, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” With every puff, chew, and spit of tobacco a person does more and more damage to their body. God cannot be served with body and spirit by a person under the control of tobacco.

You and I have the choice of whom to serve. However, we must remember that there is an end result for our decision (Romans 6:16). I pray that each one of us will recognize the detrimental effects of slavery to tobacco both physically and spiritually, and avoid this terrible plague. Cody Westbrook, Minister; McLish Avenue church of Christ, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Scripture or Tradition?



Christ said, in Matthew 16:18, “And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” The apostle Paul related to the Corinthians, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ,” 1 Corinthians 3:11. He continued to teach the Ephesians, “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,” Ephesians 2:13. He continued in verses 19 and 20, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone,**” [emphasis added].

In Mark, we read that Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem approached Jesus and questioned Him as He and some of His disciples were eating bread with unwashed hands in contrast to a well known tradition in effect by commands made by man that “the Pharisees and all the Jews did not eat except they wash their hands often [Mark 7:3]. They asked Jesus, “Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?” The Pharisees believed that Scripture and tradition were equal in importance. Christ did not share their reasoning. They were “making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye,” Mark 7:10-13. They were following human traditions, not God’s commandments delivered by Moses, a spokesman of God.

Today it is well known that men’s traditions are a part of religious practices, ignoring the authority of our Lord in distinguishing between Scripture and tradition as between God’s written Word and human interpretations and additions.

It’s God’s will and blood was shed by Jesus making available to all the opportunity of having salvation from sins. But only through obedience of God’s Word. Christ’s church was built upon the confession of Peter that Jesus was the Son of God, and our obedience to God’s Word in the New Testament scriptures, and not man’s traditions, was the only way to receive the blessings and promise of eternal life with God in heaven.

With Jesus’ death on the cross, a plan of man’s salvation was set out. In Ephesians 2:8, it is written, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” And in Romans 5:9, we are reminded that, “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” This gift was given to all who would **obey** God’s plan. Paul relates to the Romans in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to **every one** that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” [emphasis added]. It comes by faith:

“... **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house,” Acts 16:31.

So what does a person do?

Jesus said, “I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,**” being sorry and turning away from sinful ways, Luke 13:3.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and **with the mouth confession is made unto salvation,**” Romans 10:10.

“**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,** and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,” Acts 2:38.

“Therefore we **are buried with him by baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,” Romans 6:4.

As children of God, we have the promise of hope, and “if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it,” Romans 8:25. A commitment to “be faithful unto death” is required to receive a “crown of life” promised by Jesus in Revelation 2:10.

“Scripture says” and “God says” are synonyms. Following things of man’s “traditions” is not approved by Scripture. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments, [principles, KT] of the world, and not after Christ,” Colossians 2:8. Each person is required to “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

“Prove all things, hold fast that which is good,” 1 Thessalonians 5:21

"Got any grudges weighing you down?"

They say that elephants have good memories, but they're not the only ones. Those who have ever been mistreated or wronged, especially by a friend, have some of the longest memories of any creature alive. Grudges are easy to pick up and carry, but they are very difficult to lay aside and forget. However, if we want the blessings of God, we'd better think twice.

Satan caused Job to lose everything he had. When Job needed the love and support of his friends the most, they accused him of egregious sins. At one point, Job told his friends that they were miserable comforters (Job 16:2), and even God became angry with them (Job 42:7). However, Job was not blessed, nor were his losses restored to him (two-fold), until "he prayed for his friends" (Job 42:10). *Wow! What a great deal of humility and compassion that required!*

If we want the mercy of God, we must extend mercy (Matt. 5:7). If we want the forgiveness of God, we must extend forgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15). Holding grudges can cost you big time! By David Sproule

God Uses

If something is broken, we generally discard it. However, God uses broken things to accomplish His purposes.

God used broken pitchers (Judges 7). Gideon conquered the Midianites by putting their lamps within pitchers; at his discretion, the soldiers broke their pitchers and revealed the light, which greatly confused the Midianites, and they were defeated. The light of truth is often hidden by error, and it is when the error is broken that the light is revealed.

God used broken tables of stone (Exodus 32). Aaron had erected the golden calf because Moses had been gone and the people thought they had been abandoned. When Moses came down off the mount and saw what was happening, "he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them" (Exodus 32:19). He then took the golden calf, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder. Next, he put it in the water supply and made the people drink it (Exodus 32:20). We must get rid of the world from our lives.

God used a broken alabaster box (Mark 14). "And she brake the box, and poured it on his head" (Mark 14:3). With this, the woman did what she could; we also must do what we can.

God used the broken body of Jesus (Matthew 26). When He instituted the Lord's Supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it (Matthew 26). Paul later wrote, quoting the Lord, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you" (1 Corinthians 11:24). Note from the Scripture that His bones were not broken: "A bond of him shall not be broken" (John 19:36; Psalm 34:10).

God used the broken heart of David (Psalm 51). We must have a broken heart over our sin. David said, "A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Yes, God uses broken things. Perhaps your life has been broken by sin, but unlike Humpty Dumpty and the king's horses and men, God can put it back together again. www.housetohouse.com, Larry Acuff, Lithia Springs, Georgia.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

Feeling Doom and Gloom? – continued from Page One

Overcome / Know Victory

. – "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand," Ephesians 6:10-13.

. – "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." 2 Timothy 4:17-18.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:35-39.

Instead of being overcome with doom and gloom, God has provided a way of escape from all worldly tribulations – "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28-30.

A Divided House

There are approximately 300 major churches in America. Is God pleased with this situation? Each claims to be pleasing God, but they all teach conflicting doctrines. According to the Bible, such division is not right.

- God hates the promoter of division: “A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:19.
- Division is sinful: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” 1 Corinthians 1:10.
- Division is carnal: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:1. Carnal mindedness is death: “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6
- Those who promote and practice division are spiritual babes: “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” 1 Corinthians 3:2, 3.
- Those who cause division by teaching false doctrines do not serve Christ: “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” Romans 16:17, 18.
- A divided house cannot stand: “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” Matthew 12:25.
- Religious division promotes infidelity: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:21.
- Those who foster religious division indulge in a work of the flesh and shall not inherit the kingdom of God: “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Galatians 5:19-21.

Heart to Heart.

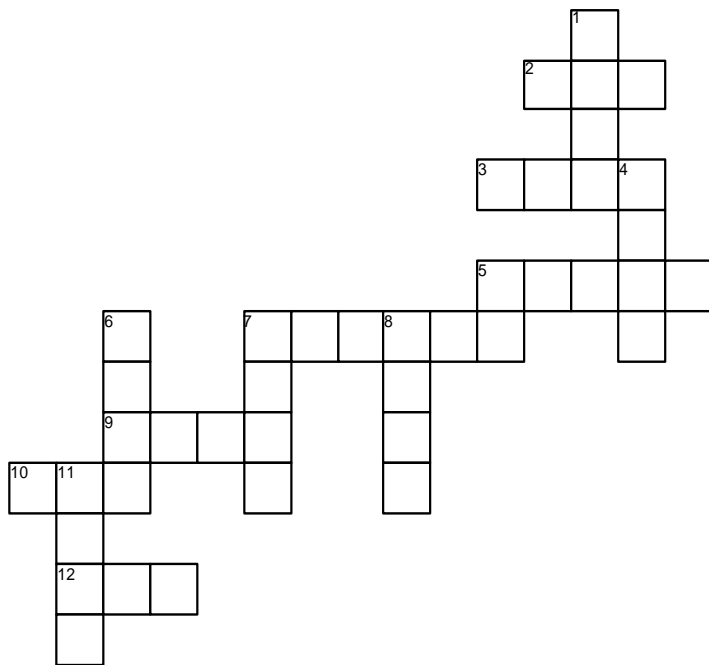
Meaningful Words of Advice For Obedient Christians

Sometimes we wonder, “What did I do to deserve this?” or “Why did God have to do this to me?” This mother presented a meaningful explanation to her daughter. Her daughter tells her Mother how everything is going wrong, she’s failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, “Absolutely Mom, I love your cake.”

“Here, have some cooking oil,” her mother offers. “Yuck” says her daughter. “How about a couple raw eggs?” “Gross, Mom!” “Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?” “Mom, those are all yucky!”

The Mother replied: “Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way they make a wonderfully delicious cake! God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!”

God loves you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He’ll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. Anonymous



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 2 The number of plagues God sent on the Egyptians.
- 3 Who once slept at the feet of her future husband?
- 5 What Joseph received from his brothers in Egypt.
- 7 "He that shall ____ himself shall be exalted." Matt. 23:12
- 9 "How shall they ____ without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14
- 10 One of two tribes of Israel whose name had only three letters.
- 12 "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me, ____ my reins and my heart." Ps. 26:2

DOWN

- 1 In Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats, on which side did he say the goats would be?
- 4 "Take ____ that no one deceives thee." Matt. 24:4
- 5 Jesus asked, "... lovest thou ____ more than these?" John 21:15
- 6 Which of the apostles lived the longest?
- 7 What David used to soothe Saul.
- 8 A piece of sporting equipment mentioned only once in the Bible. Isaiah 22:18
- 11 In which book is Peter's sermon at Pentecost found?

ROAD TO SALVATION

E C I F I R C A S U S E J H S
 S S E N S U O E T H G I R O S
 T T W G G B T S A K R Z N P E
 F Q N R N S A T A B V O O E N
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|--------------|---------------|
| ATONEMENT | JESUS |
| BAPTISM | LIFE |
| BELIEVE | MESSIAH |
| CHRIST | PEACE |
| COMMANDMENTS | REDEMPTION |
| CONFESS | REGENERATION |
| DELIVERANCE | REPENT |
| FORGIVENESS | RESURRECTION |
| GRACE | RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| HEAR | SACRIFICE |
| HOLINESS | SAVIOR |
| HOPE | SHEPHERD |
| HUMILITY | SUFFERING |

WORKS

Can you answer all seven of the following questions with the same word?

- 1. The word has seven letters....
- 2. Preceded God...
- 3. Greater than God...
- 4. More Evil than the devil...
- 5. All poor people have it...
- 6. Wealthy people need it....
- 7. If you eat it, you will die.

Did you figure it out? Answer on page 8.

No Time

There's a loving letter I mean to send
 There's a visit I mean to pay
 There's a careless habit I hope to mend,
 When I get the time someday.

There's a dusty Bible I mean to read
 There's an hour I'll keep to pray
 I'll turn each dream to a golden deed,
 When I get the time someday.

I'll carry flowers to the sick and sad
 I'll seek for those who stray
 You can trace my steps by hearts made glad,
 When I get the time someday.

So somebody thought, so somebody said,
 But wasn't it just a crime?
 Too busy with less important things
 They never did get the time.

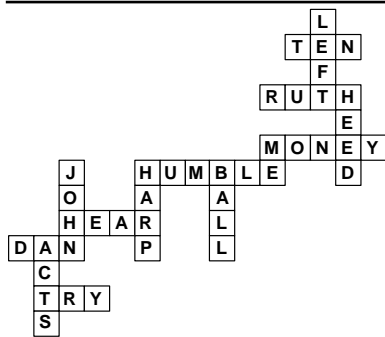
Anonymous

WHERE IN THE BIBLE WILL I FIND . . .

HOMOSEXUALITY BEING A SINFUL LIFE-STYLE?



...For many years, some people have tried to explain homosexuality as being either inherited, a sickness, or just anything other than what it actually is, "a selected, chosen, sinful practice." Those who would try to uphold it is not to anyone's glory, but to one's shame. Some are claiming that those who are practicing this sin "just cannot help it," and "perhaps" were just born to be participant of this "sickness" and should have "equal rights" with upright, moral, and law-abiding citizens. The truth is, the Bible clearly condemns homosexuality as sin (Gen. 13:13; 18:20; 19:4-5; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:21-23). The Bible never condemns sickness, but shows compassion toward the sick (Matt. 25:34-36); therefore, homosexuality, which is condemned in the Bible, cannot be classified as "sickness." Those who have allowed themselves to be overcome, to practice such sin, have clearly not sought the promised "way of escape" from sin (1 Cor. 10:12-13); and, without repentance, there is no escape for them from a burning hell fire (Rev. 21:8). Practice of homosexuality is becoming more prevalent, and those participating in it are becoming more blazon and militant; but, because of the attitude toward their sin that is manifested by these militant homosexuals and lesbians, is spiritually fatal to their souls. Rather than purportedly "taking pride" in their perversity, these ungodly pathetic people should be mourning over their wicked behavior and seeking God's forgiveness. Let there be no confusion about the fact that homosexuals and lesbians are engaging in sinful conduct which is repugnant both to God and right thinking people. Because of the practice of this "very grievous sin" of homosexuality in those ancient cities, the "Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven" (Gen. 18:20; 19:24). Under the law of Moses, the sin of homosexuality was punishable by death (Lev. 20:13). In the New Testament, homosexuality and lesbianism are termed "vile affections" and those who commit such sins are described as among those who are "worthy of death" and who "shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Rom. 1:24-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). Homosexuality in the Old Testament was sinful to God, homosexuality in the New Testament was sinful to God, and homosexuality today, and throughout the ages, is sinful to God, and those engaged in it "...shall be punished with everlasting destruction..." (Rev. 21:8; II Thess. 1:7-9). -*Where In The Bible Will I Find...*, I. D. Byars, Volume 1, p. 276.



Bible Quiz: (1) Peter, Matthew 17:4; (2) Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7; (3) "My Lord and my God!", John 20:28; (4) John the Baptist, Matthew 14:1-2; (5) 2nd Timothy 4:7; (6) Joseph, called Barsabas, Acts 1:23-26; (7) "Why hast thou forsaken me?", Matthew 27:46; (8) Gamaliel, Acts 22:3; (9). Euyuchus, Acts 20:9-12; (10) John Mark, Acts 15:37-38; (11) "and to die is gain.", Philippians 1:21; (12) Zacharias, Luke 1:11-20; (13) blood and water, John 19:34; (14) Peter, Acts 9:37-42; (15) Simon Peter, Matthew 16:23.

Did you figure it out? Answer is "nothing."

When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities.

When God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.

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