

A Woman of Faith



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

She was a woman of limited means. Oh, she's had money back in the day, but it left years

ago with the coal. And she was 79; old by many standards, but not ours. It was remarkable, amazing even, the impact she had on others in our area and on social media.

Hundreds lined up last Sunday to pay their respects and share tidbits of her presence in their lives—many with tears, others with smiles. One friend shared, "This is a loss for the whole community." I agreed. We were talking about my precious mother, Nancy Loftis Blackburn, who had died suddenly a few days before.

I'd never planned to be in this club. I had comforted others—or tried to—who had lost their mothers but had rarely pictured myself in their shoes. She and I talked often about going to heaven in the Rapture. (We both said 2020

sounded like a great year for it!) Many in my family were trying to lure her to live or at least stay with them in other parts of the state. We had lots of plans for her and with her!

My mom loved her Lord and shared Him with others. She loved her church and was absolutely thrilled about her new pastor and his wife. Life was flowing again at the church where she had attended and served since the 1940's.

Our mother had overcome many obstacles during her life. She was very strong—and stubborn, too. A trait she had passed down in abundance to me—my beloved says.

Decades ago, with six kids in tow, she left an abusive marriage with my step-father and quickly descended into

hell. We went into hiding for a long period of time. During those intense months and difficult years that followed, my mom didn't wring her hands and walk the floor. She planted her feet firmly in the Word of God, desperately believing all of it. Her favorite passage was Psalm 91.

She had a Bible verse for every day and every situation. Though as a teenager I didn't fully appreciate it, it made a lasting impression. From that "valley of the shadow of death" experience I learned many things about God: that He could be trusted, His Word was true, alive and active. From my mother, I learned what faith looked like. She didn't just hear the Word, she was a "doer" also—James 1:22. As my beloved shared in

her Celebration of Life service on Sunday, February 9, 2020, God was our mom's Plan A. She did not have a Plan B.

Her passing has been way harder than I expected. To be honest, I had gone through the scenario in my head several times. She was 79 + so I knew her days were probably numbered. I pictured myself saying, "We know she is in heaven," and smiling at the thought. While I CAN say that and know it's true, it hurts like a hog bite. (A "hog bite" is the bite from a hog.) My brothers, sisters and I are still numb.

But...we, too, can find comfort and strength in God's Word. We can trust in the God of our mother. We also can say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust," Psalm 91:2.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. JOSHUA 24:15



Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua" by Marc Chagall

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

MATTHEW 11:28-29

"Come to me, **all** you **who** are **weary** and **burdened**, and I **will give** you **rest**. **Take** my **yoke upon** you and **learn from** me, **for** I am **gentle** and **humble** in **heart**, and **you** will **find** rest for your **souls**."

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Seeds of Hope



Young Timothy was helping his Dad clear a lot next to their home for a garden. Things went well until Tim ran into a large stone that he couldn't budge. After struggling for a few moments he called to his Dad and said, "Dad, this one is too big for me to handle. What should I do?" "Well," said his Dad wanting him to learn a lesson, "what have you tried to do?" "I've pulled on it with both hands," he said looking down at the stone. "And I've tried to pull it with a hoe, too, but that didn't work either." "Sounds like you've tried to move it with all the strength that you have," his Dad said patiently. "Sure have, Dad.

There's nothing else for me to do but up give up on it," he said with discouragement.

"Give up, son? Why would you give up?" he asked.

"There's nothing else to I can do," said Tim.

"Oh, but there is. You can always call on me to help you, Son," he said with compassion.

Often God allows us to realize how weak we are without Him. We struggle and fail. We try and give up. We worry and become depressed. We think and realize that many things are beyond us. We practice and still make mistakes. We work and still can't make ends meet.

Then suddenly we realize that God has put a "gap" between us and the solution to our problem. It's His way of saying, "You can always call on me for help. And when you do, I will answer you and I will be with you!"

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A Godly Sorrow, What Does It Imply?

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In 2 Corinthians 7:10, it is written, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

My question is, "How does one enter into a condition of 'Godly sorrow'?" My study reveals that some things must have entered into a person's conscience to cause him to feel remorse for his previous actions of life. This is called, 'conviction of sins.'

For this to occur in a person's life, one must first hear the truth of the Gospel preached. Then, upon hearing, one has the opportunity to consider what is said. At this point, the Holy Spirit working with the Word of Truth helps to reveal, convince, and begin convicting a person of their failures in life as regards their duty to God to hear his Son (Matthew 17:5, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.") Thus, also the preaching of the Gospel reveals to ourselves our sin. David, in seeing for himself what he had done (Psalm 51:3) said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." So, the Gospel exposes our sins. So, we, after hearing, are at a critical point in our lives because the decisions we make will have an eternal consequence.

In John 8:1-4, there is a story of supposed religious men bringing a woman caught in the act of adultery (under the penalty of death). But, they asked Jesus, what do you say should be done unto her? Then, as they continued to demand an answer from him, Jesus began to write. But, we know whatever it was, he was able to see their faults; and so doing, they, being convicted of their own consequences, fled the scene.

So, by this example, we can clearly see that our Lord knows all about us and has set a message through Jesus to convict and convince us all to re-

pent of our sins before it is too late! So, Godly sorrow is an expressing of guilt and conviction by the Word that will bring us to a state of repentance if we will submit ourselves to it. And, an expression of Godly sorrow is an illustration that will lead us to the confession of our faith toward Jesus our Lord. Romans 10:10, "For with the heart (mind) man believeth unto (toward) righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto (toward) salvation." So, the teaching point is this, both, altogether; believing, repentance, confession, will not alone bring salvation, it only leads one toward it. We must also obey our conscience to be baptized to solidify our commitment to fully obey the Lord. A person may complete all the four things mentioned in our command to obey; and yet, if a person has not been baptized for the remission of their sins, his conscience will be offended and will continue to bother them throughout their life. Read carefully 1 Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

This is the most serious part of me. There are many of you who have read this article who have been through some form of baptism. But, if your baptism was not for the remission of sins; this I know is taking place in your mind, your conscience bothers you concerning it. Plus, there are many of you that claim to be Christians that have never been obedient to the command to be baptized for the remission of sins, and yet you have a battle with your conscience every time that the subject comes around. I have been attempting to preach nigh on 50 years now, and have baptized some who said that they have never been scripturally baptized. One lady said, 'I have been scared to death for over 30 years,' being a member of the Church of God, but then she said, 'now, I have obeyed the truth.' And she was joyful (true story).

In closing, if you are one of those who are living with a guilty conscience, I implore you to obey Jesus today and clear your mind before it is too late!

Sincerely, Bob Casey.
Call us any time (1-859-369-4165), local

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 John in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Esther 7, who met his death on the gallows he had built for another man? Ahab, Elijah, Haman, Dathan
3. In Proverbs 30, which is not listed as small, but exceedingly wise? Ants, Flies, Locusts, Conies, Spiders

4. From Genesis 37, who dreamed that the sun, moon and stars bowed to him? Moses, Abraham, Aaron, Joseph

5. Who were the two sisters of Lazarus: Mary and ... ? Ruth, Martha, Sarah, Miriam

6. The name Barnabus means "son of ..."? The field, Fasting, Encouragement, Tempest

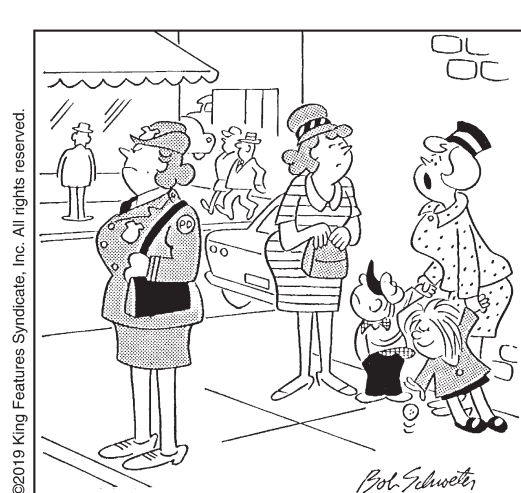
Answers on bottom of Page 12
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

Americanisms



"Lent was invented so Catholics could take another shot at their New Year's resolutions."
— Melanie White

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"Too bad she got a job as a cop — she was the best _____ we ever had."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Effective
- MICANDY
- Simulated
- TRAILVU
- Connection
- LEAKING
- Avoid
- REGION

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