Something **Was Missing**



by Dawn Reed E. Ky. Columnist

alarm, everything is fine." I the buttermilk. I patted out time. texted our neighbor after it the biscuits into round shapes up emoji.

dows, and even brought in a 450 degrees, as usual. box fan. Still smoke hung in the air.

family loves them. Whenever when they had gone into the the oven. Hence the smoke. my kids are in, they can al- heat. Something was wrong.

ter. They tasted different, too,

"If you hear our smoke ter into the flour, then adding smoke alarm went off-the first are necessary for followers

A few minutes later, I what was missing! The butter us that there's a problem. peeked in at the biscuits. They in the dough had melted and

ways count on buttery home- Suddenly, smoke began billow- are necessary for biscuits to Your Word." made bundles of goodness. ing out of the oven! I turned on rise to all that they are meant Last Saturday morning, I set the exhaust fan and opened to be. Reading God's Word Saturday, my family decided to to work early, cutting the but- the window. And then ... the and spending time in prayer have toast.

of Christ to rise to all they are What the thunder was go- meant to be. If we neglect daily went off the fourth time, lest and placed them on the cookie ing on? I made the biscuits the reading of Scripture and being he come over with a water sheet. They looked the same, same way I always did. I used in contact with our Heavenly hose and/or the fire depart- but something seemed differ- the same type of butter, the Father, we may look the same, ment. He sent back a thumbs ent. I tasted a pinch of the bat- same pastry blender and but- but eventually-when the heat termilk. But . . . someone try- is on-it will become clear that My beloved and I fanned like something was missing. ing to help had put all-purpose something is missing. Alarms the sensors, opened the win- Still, I put them in to bake at flour in the self-rising flour bin. will sound in our hearts (the Salt and baking powder were Holy Spirit at work!), alerting

Psalm 119:147 shares I make biscuits. And my were still the same size as dripped onto the bottom of a wonderful recipe for good day: "I rise before dawn and cry Salt and baking powder for help; I have put my hope in

After the smoke cleared on

seeds of Hope

Can you remember a time in your life when you thought, "God has abandoned me! I can't find Him anywhere! When I pray, my words bounce back from the sky and when I cry God won't wipe away the tears. What did I do to deserve this?"

Often in our journey to become disciples of Christ we resent the discipline that comes with our calling. We want the journey to be sunshine and flowers and not showers and lightening. Yet in the midst of those times of drought we do indeed wonder. No doubt that's why the Psalmist gave us some choice words of comfort: "The Lord will not abandon or reject His people, He will never forsake His inher-

itance."

The Bible tells us of two men who "went out from the presence of the Lord." One was Cain and the other Jonah. When Cain went out, the Lord left Him alone. He chose not to go after him and bring him back into His presence. But when Jonah went out, the Lord did not choose to leave him alone. Why the difference? Cain was not one of the Lord's - but Jonah was.

Jonah was disobedient to the calling of God but was willing to accept God's discipline. He had a terrible time surrendering to God but God never left him because he did want God's will for his life. God stayed with him and disciplined him because he accepted God's plan for his life. Cain was different. He refused to honor God and do what was right. And God rejected him because he would not give God his best. Sower Ministries.org

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Making the Most of Our Opportunities? by BOB CASEY, preacher **Cornerstone Church of Christ** 70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

The definition of 'opportunity' is "to advance one's circumstances and to take advantage of a situation." There are a few others, but this is enough at this time.

First of all, what type of circumstances do many find themselves in today? The thing I wish to point are surely facing; that it, the cessation of life.

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, "To every *thing <u>there is a season</u>, and a <u>time to every purpose</u> that could come to a healthy man because he was* under the heaven: ²A time to be born, and a time to *die.*" There we have it very clearly. Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15:22,** *"For as in Adam all die."* **He**brews 9:27, says, "*it is appointed unto men once to* <u>die</u>."

at our hand concerning the reality of death, why do tice the rich earthly-advantaged man was not so forso many shun discussion about it? Reasons for each tunate because he had the same opportunity as did person may vary, but this we know from dying is, the poor man but did not take time to put preparathat it is a <u>cessation of living</u> here upon this earth. Along with this occasion brings forth an end to all our walk upon earth is over.

you doing these days?' His reply was, 'Well, I am making the most of my opportunities.' This is probably a good way to live; that is, if we include godly living and preparations to die. But, sadly, many feel **Ephesians 1:3**, that "God and Father of our Lord Jethat all opportunity for future advancement ends at sus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessthe grave. Plus, and for many, it does end the oppor- ings in heavenly places in Christ." tunity to live forever after life here on earth is over.

but to leave out our investing in the future life is but to utterly fail in God's plan for you.

You may be one who has achieved a great amount of prosperity in earthly things, but if you have ignored and left out on your life a plan for your future when death comes upon you, then you have been a complete and utter failure in your earthly life. In John's **3rd epistle**, **1:1-2**, we find this *"The elder unto the* wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.²Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

What a greater desire could anyone express to a out is this. We may find ourselves so engulfed in the well-beloved friend? So, as we may wish for earthly cares and attempted achievements of this life that prosperity of wealth or health, the main thing is that they may crowd out the most important thing we all we must not ignore the prosperity of the soul that lives on after we leave this earth. The poor man in Luke 16:19-31; he enjoyed none of the prosperity crippled. But some time in his misery he had the prosperity of soul by believing and obeying the Lord. So when he died, the Lord sent an escort of angels and took him to Paradise, the intermediate state of the dead, and he was now comforted in this place. <u>Now then</u>! Faced with this information we have <u>Why</u>? Because he had prepared before now. But notion to die upon his schedule. How sad!

In closing, is it wrong to lay up for future earthly our earthly involvements in a personal way; and things. No! Because we are instructed to do it. 2 Coralso, the opportunity to prepare for the future after inthians 12:14 says so. But if earthly possessions are the only things we prepare for, we will have made a One time, a man was casually asked, 'How are poor choice of what the Lord intended us to live for, and that is to live with him in his heaven forever.

> Why not have the best of both worlds? The abundant life with Jesus here, plus, as it is written in

So, are you making the best of your life here? Once an elderly brother replied to the preacher Only you and the Lord know. So, do not wait until the

If we can help you to do this, call 1-859-369-

The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. 🔬 ISAIAH 2:11 🕰

Olmec stone head, Veracruz, Mexico

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🗭 THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

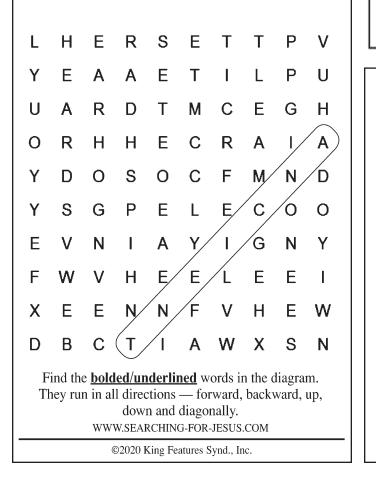
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ISAIAH 64:4

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

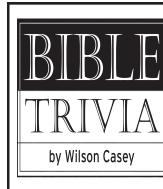


after he had brought a sermon about Heaven, 'I sure Judgment Day where all your work will be exposed. am glad to hear that sermon about Heaven for I have Obey the Gospel, get your life in order before it is too an interest in it for many years now, and I have been late to do so. investing in it every week.' What a good manner of life to live. So, investing in earthly things is not wrong, **4165.** Sincerely, Bob Casey.



"I've never lost a game. I just ran out of time." — Michael Jordan

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1. Is the book of 2 Chronicles in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. How many pieces of silver did Joseph's brothers get when they sold him into slavery? 0, 2, 19, 20

3. Where does it command brides to shave their heads and manicure their

nails? Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

4. From Exodus 28, what fruit was used as a design on priestly garments? Grapes, Pomegranates, Pears, Figs

5. In which Psalms does it talk about grease? 1, 23, 119, 150

6. From 1 Kings, which prophet was fed by birds? Paul, David, Elisha, Elijah

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 mul-tiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

BAROW

"Harold used to throw his _____

around — now all he can do is drag it."

SCRAM Unscramble the letters w rearrange the boxed lett	ithin each rectangle to		
Peek		ſ	
DANGER			

DANGER	
_{Guard} DARWEN	
Fairy PRIEST	
^{Stigma} MESAH	
T(DDAY'S WORD