

# Singing Instead of Complaining



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

Since this is election year, I want to LOUDLY vote "NO!" on Coronavirus!

As we begin the second half of 2020, I'm tired of it. COVID 19 has changed EVERYTHING! No person, no family, no church, no ministry has been untouched by it. Every employer, employee, and workplace has been affected.

For decades, my beloved and I have been committed to reaching the lost, the unchurched, the hurting. We've made no difference of color or social standing. We know that all are loved by God in heaven and need to feel love. How exactly do you do that six feet apart and wearing a mask?!

I'm frustrated today and want to stomp my foot.

I often smile and say hello but people don't know it because of the cloth. I'm unrecognizable in a mask with a cute pattern of cows, pigs and chickens. I want to acknowledge those I meet but sometimes I'm too busy trying to follow the arrows on the floor to make sure I'm going the right way!

I quickly pass people without masks and don't want to ride on elevators with anyone else. They think I have germs and I wonder if they do. This is not how I want things to be!

I think back to when life was simple: 2019. So many things I took for granted! So much ministry, so many more-than-10-people moments! I miss them and could cry at the loss if you would give me a minute. I feel like we are in Egypt in the middle of the plagues!

And yet, God is still good. He is still in control. He didn't just come back from vacation and say, "Oops! How did all that happen?!" He has a plan.

I am reminded of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20. Three humungous armies were coming to fight against the people of Judah. (For 2020's sake, let's call them the armies of "Corona, unemployment and problems with prejudice".) They had no clue and no power to face them! They would sure-

ly die! What on earth could they do?! Jehoshaphat called all the people to come to the temple and cry out to God. (Genius idea!) And they did! As one! Men, women, boys, and girls stood before the God of heaven laying everything on the line. He. Was. Their. Only. Hope.

God spoke through Jahaziel-a previously unheard of spokesperson. The word was for them to be strong and courageous and go out to face their foes-not with canons, rifles, or explosives, but with singing. Big test of faith!

And they did! Go people of Judah! They lined up, marched out singing, and GOD DID SOMETHING AWESOME! Shew and ptL!

So, instead of bemoaning the state of 2020, I need to get up and get singing-mask and all! God is still good. God is in control. God still has a plan. Maybe I can work that to a tune of "Farmer in the Dell".

## Seeds of Hope



Everyone seems to worship someone or something for one reason or another. Early in life we realize that we need help to survive and cannot make it on our own. Initially it is a parent or a parent-substitute that is there to help us. Then, as we get older and become more independent, we begin to realize that there are other sources to meet our needs. We begin to look to them for what they can do for us or perhaps give to us in exchange for our allegiance or respect. We think that they will bring us something we need. It's only natural.

The question is not whether or not we worship - but what or whom we worship. It can be fame or fortune, power or prestige, a person or a philosophy someone

or something that we believe is greater than ourselves and will bring us peace and happiness, joy and satisfaction. It is someone or something that we believe is superior to us and we are willing to surrender and submit ourselves to it. But, really, it only reveals our lostness and our need for Someone Who is above us, beyond us - yet cares for us.

The Psalmist invites us to, "Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." He wants us to recognize the superiority and sufficiency of God our Creator. Once we acknowledged God as our Creator we immediately recognize Him as the source of all that we have or ever will have. Worship becomes God-centered and not man or thing centered. Worship results in turning our lives over to God and recognizing His grace and sovereignty as we bow before Him in awe.

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## Dead to the Voices that once Called Me

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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It is written in **Romans 6:1-2**, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Then the same chapter, verses 3-6, gives us the partial description of the release that sin can have on us.

When we are obedient, even unto baptism for the putting away of our sins, we are baptized into the death of Christ. This is when we touch or contact his shed blood. **John 19:34** says, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." Then, here we are, plainly when we do this we enter into his death where he shed his blood.

The results are that one should walk in newness of life.

He goes on to say that the process is a planting (union) of the likeness of his death. Plus, it will result in a newness of his resurrection. Here he says that this is where we crucify (put to death the old man of sin) that from this moment on we should not serve sin for he that is dead to sin is freed from sin. Then, he proceeds within the next four verses to say that we that as Christ died once and was raised from the dead, death hath no more dominion over him. Plus, we ought to reckon or consider ourselves dead unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then, he says, let no sin reign (rule) therefore in your mortal body that ye should obey it in the lust thereof. Then he tells us that when we obeyed from the heart, that form of doctrine (baptism) which was delivered you; Being then made free, ye became the servants of righteousness. Friends, read the whole chapter, it is good reading.

How said it is today that many times some who were obedient are not fully compliant to the will of God with consistent actions of obedience. While we may show a lack of attendance, interest or the fever

we once had, demonstrate that one may be giving in to the voices of the past world where he was once delivered from.

Now, Friends, we cannot help it when Satan tempts us to relapse unto sin, but we do not have to listen and succumb to his temptations. This is why God has designed prayer, Bible study, church attendance, is to help us cope with those voices of the past.

Someone once said that nearly 60% of all the monies earned by folks are being spent on some type of recreation. Never is this more evident that upon the Lord's Day, with all the boat traffic, motor-cycles traffic, and a host of others that take up all of one's time on the Lord's Day.

I know from past experiences that it is possible to engage in some secular activities on the Lord's Day afternoon, but not at the expense of one's duty to give the Lord his time as well. It is said that you have a total of 165 hours a week to use for all of life's other demands, but normally if one attends all the functions of the church, 5½ hours would be spent in worship. I ask, "Is our Lord demanding too much of our time?" I have never heard a faithful Christian say, "We spend too much time in church." So if some do, then we may be listening to the voices of the past.

I encourage all, especially in the days that we are living, to rise up and renew your dedication that you once had, but have slipped from. We do not know exactly when our Lord is coming again, but every indication given in the Bible has been nearly fulfilled. So, don't let the voices of the past lull you back into its grips. This is Satan working his deceits, his subtlety, his cunning, lying to get you to fail of the grace of God. It is written in **Hebrews 3:13-14**, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." <sup>14</sup>For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." **What a warning!**

So, start renewing yourselves today, attend with us at Cornerstone. You will be glad you did.

PS - My condolences to the family of a faithful brother in Christ, Charles Samples, who passed away from this life to eternal life, last week.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

GALATIANS 5:24-25

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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E P H P E O E S I F  
X C E S O N J E T I  
Z E O A X S P D V E  
K H Z G N O L E B D  
T J F E L H K H B F

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

LUKE 15:20,21

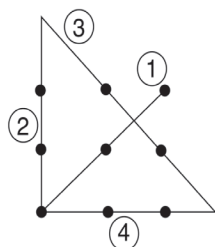
Detail from *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Rembrandt (1636)

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## Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic]  
by Terry Sticklers

You may remember the old puzzle that asks you to connect nine dots with four lines and the solution is:



Here's a new and more difficult puzzle. Can you connect 25 dots with eight lines?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Philemon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Samuel 17, how many stones did David take with him to fight Goliath? 2, 5, 7, 14
3. Which book first refers to Jesus as the Prince of Peace? Isaiah, Daniel, Matthew, Luke

4. Who is thought of as being the "mother of all the living"? Ruth, Sarah, Eve, Esther

5. In Numbers 22, to whom did the donkey speak? Silas, Daniel, Jeremiah, Balaam

6. Where was Paul the Apostle born? Thessalonica, Tarsus, Ur, Antioch

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.

## Cob Hill Cemetery

### Flower Removal

Please remove all flowers except those on headstones and on shepherd's hooks from the ground at Cob Hill Cemetery before mid-July so that mowing may resume.

## Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

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