

Eyes on The Sky



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

I'm fixated on the sky. OK, maybe obsessed. There are more cloud pictures in my phone than anything else. The magnificent display morning and night takes my breath! When Psalm 19:1 reminds me, "The heavens de-

clare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His Hands," it's the gospel truth!

The clouds are marvelous, the sunsets, too. Isn't it sweet that while overseeing the universe, God takes time to paint the horizon with colors only He could design?

I'm watching the sky, but there's something else I'm watching for at this time of the year . . .

Many Bible scholars believe that Jesus will return for the church during the Jewish Feast of Trumpets. Some call it "the rapture" though that term is not mentioned in the Bible. The Feast of Trumpets is an annual celebration of thanksgiving held in September.

Years ago, the trumpet was the signal for the field workers to come into the Temple. The high priest stood on the southwestern parapet of the Temple and blew the trumpet so that it could be heard in the surrounding fields. At that instant, the faithful would stop harvesting even if there were more crops to bring in and leave immediately for the worship services.

Numerous Scriptures speak of trumpets. ". . . We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised and we will be changed," 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

First Thessalonians 4:16-18: "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words." It doesn't say "scare one another with these words" but "encourage one another".

To be honest, it used to scare me more than encourage me. Years ago, older-than-me people would talk about the Lord coming back and I thought, "Whoa now, I have a whole lotta livin' still to do!" I loved Jesus and all, but I wasn't ready for life to be over.

As I have grown and grown closer to God, I realize it's all about Him. The thought of being in heaven WITH Him sounds better every day!

Lots of Bible verses talk about how life will be just before Christ returns, too. First Timothy 3 tells us: "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God . . ." Sounds like it was ripped from today's headlines!

If we really thought the Lord was coming back this September . . . how would we act/live, what would we do?!

Of course, nobody knows the exact hour or day when Jesus will return. It might be this year; it might be next. (PLEASE, PLEASE BE THIS YEAR!!!)

Meanwhile, I'm keeping my eyes on the sky!

OBITUARIES Continued from Page 6

Monday, September 7, 2020

Sidney Marcus Sparks, 89

Sidney Marcus Sparks, age 89, died on Monday, September 7, 2020 at his home 110 Maple Street Irvine, Kentucky. He was the husband of the late Janie Ruth Barrett Sparks and the son of the late Isaac Thomas Sparks and Mary Margaret Shearer Sparks.

Sidney was born on May 16, 1931 in Irvine, Kentucky. He was a retired trucker with Carhart Inc. manufacturing and was of the Holiness faith. He loved his children and grandchildren, and going to church, as well as playing his guitar and singing.

He is survived by his children, Sidney Sparks (Esther), Ray Sparks (Sandy), Wayne Sparks (Teresa), Ronnie Sparks (Beverly), Delorice Riddell, Naomi Gabbard (Cecil), Wanda Murphy, Thelma Brinegar (Michael), Charlene Brinegar (Ronnie), Kenneth Sparks (Jerei), Franklin Sparks (BeLinda) and Marsha Sparks; twenty two grandchildren, forty eight great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren; numerous foster children that called him Daddy and Papaw; siblings, Herman Ray Sparks, Earl Sparks Jr. and Coffa Etta Embry. In addition to his wife, Janie Ruth Sparks, he is also preceded in death by



Sidney M. Sparks

one daughter, Shirley Faye Sparks and one son, Wayne Sparks; five great great grandchildren; daughter in law Marlene Rose Sparks; two sons in law, Rex Murphy Jr. and Roger Riddell; three brothers, Johnny Lee Sparks, James Sparks and Glendon Sparks; two sisters, Marie Culton and Elsie Still.

Funeral services were conducted 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2020 at the Oldham, Roberts & Powell Funeral Home with Bro. Jerry Rose, Bro. Larry Riddell and Bro. Phillip Smith officiating the services. Burial followed in the Boian Cemetery in Estill County. Visitation was from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, September 9th at the funeral home.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Boaz in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 3:16, to whom did Jesus speak, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son . . ."? Mountain's multitude, Simon Peter, Shepherds in field, Nicodemus
3. Whose first chapter (KJV) begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of

God"? 1 Timothy, Titus, James, 2 John

4. From 2 Samuel, who killed a giant having 12 fingers and 12 toes? Mephibosheth, Jambres, Abimelech, Jonathan

5. What false prophet preached a message of peace during the days of Jeremiah? Simon Magus, Noadiah, Bar-Jesus, Haniah

6. In John 11, what city was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus? Corinth, Gaza, Bethany, Sardis

Answers on bottom of Page 9

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

seeds of Hope



Little Johnny clutched his blanket tightly and pulled it up under his chin. His Dad was reading a bedtime story about God, Noah and the flood. When he finished, his Dad asked what he liked best about the story.

"Nothing! I'm afraid God will flood our house and all my toys will be gone!" he replied.

Many people see that one side of God. Whenever there is a disaster or a tragedy they point a finger and say, "What kind of a god would do that? See, that's why I can't believe in him. I can't trust him."

Psalm 97 seems to add to the confusion. It begins with a statement about the Lord reigning and that we ought to be glad and rejoice. Then the Psalmist writes,

"Clouds and thick darkness surround Him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of His throne." If that is the only picture of God that people have, no wonder they are frightened. Most people would be.

But what did the Psalmist mean when he wrote those words? He is reminding us that God exposes and expresses Himself on His terms. Our God is a Holy God - and He, in love and compassion, made Himself available through His Son. When we read that He is surrounded by "clouds and darkness" it does not mean that He is hiding from us and is unapproachable. Not at all. Only that we come to Him on His terms. And what are His terms?

Jesus defined them: "No one comes to the Father except through Me!" When we accept Christ as our Savior He enters our life and nothing can separate us from Him.

Sower Ministries.org 253

Stickeler's Puzzle



Walking at 3/4 of her usual speed, Molly arrives at her destination 2 1/2 hours late.

What is her usual time for walking this distance?

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Justified by Faith

by BOB CASEY, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

On January 9, 1776, Thomas Paine wrote "These are the times that try men's souls," in his book "Common Sense" while trying to stir up revolutionary spirit in the colonies. He continued, "the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country . . ."

One hundred sixty-four years later, on June 4, 1940, Winston Churchill, during the height of World War II, declared a goal of victory, saying, "We will never surrender! So, Churchill had faith in a better time to come. **And so it did!**

But now, we find ourselves in another time by the rising up of this corona virus. Many have died around the world and even here in nearly every state, we are threatened by it. My question is this, "Can we make it go away by acting if it doesn't exist?" Many seem to think so; but facts are facts, and we are faced with it. What should we do, and are many doing, while this thing rages? How many more such things may occur; only the Lord knows. Since Paul wrote that during the closing of the door of this present age is now upon us, I suggest that a person take stock of himself to see if he/her life has been obedient and faithful and are we patiently enduring all the conditions that we are faced with. We must with patience endure by continual prayer, seeking God's grace and mercy up on each one. But still, how sad that it is that many are continuing that all things are well and will soon pass away as others have. Paul says that the devil is behind this pandemic. Even this Chaldean word is a derivative of the meaning "the devil is raging everywhere." How does he do it? Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:4**, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." But, we are warned of his great wrath in **Revelations 12:12**, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

I don't know how much longer this present world will exist until the Lord calls a halt to it, but this one thing I know, we must with much patience and constant vigilance, continue to attempt to live as our Lord Jesus directs us. I am so afraid that Satan really has things in his control because it seems that not all are listening to the Lord anymore. But, thanks be unto God that many ARE listening as well. In **Luke 12:40**, here are some strong warnings to all of mankind, concerning his return, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Then in **Verse 46**, he continues to say, "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."

But, on the other hand, **Hebrews 9:28** says, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." How about you, Friend, are you prepared for his coming or for your impending death? Are you justified by faith, have you heard his word, believed it? Have you repeated, have you confessed his name before men? Have you been baptized all the way under water for the remission of your sins? Are you faithfully following all his commands? Remember, **Hebrews 5:9** says that Christ "being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Will you know if you have, and he knows if you are doing so presently.

Justified, simply means "to be declared righteous." I hope that you are one of these persons. If you have any questions concerning your eternal security, call us anytime. We will, with the Bible, search out to find the answer.

Call anytime, Waco (859) 369-4165
Sincerely, Bob Casey

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

PSALM 145:8, 17-18

The **LORD** is **gracious** and compassionate, **slow** to **anger** and **rich** in **love**. The **LORD** is **righteous** in all **his ways** and **faithful** in all he **does**. The **LORD** is **near** to all **who** call on **him**, to **all** who **call** on him in **truth**.

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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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