

Give thought to your ways



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

I have a problem with pie. Not all pie; berry and peach are my faves-and the banana cream pie Betty Greene makes. While I love pie, it doesn't love me. It makes my stomach hurt every

single time, but I push through it. When my beloved brought an enormous bag of peaches home last week, I knew what was in my future! For the first few days I ate the fresh fruit with breakfast or as a snack. As the days passed and they ripened more and more, I had no choice but to make a pie to save them all. I ate pie for supper two evenings with a cup of strong coffee. (You won't find that on the food pyramid.) And then, this morning, the last piece began calling my name-loudly. I broke it down in my head that fruit is healthy, and butter and flour were like having a biscuit. I scooped it into a bowl as my coffee brewed. I was heading to the porch with my Bible. Pie, coffee, and Bible study. It doesn't get much better than that!

My inner voice said, "Why do you eat things that will make you sick?" That voice gets on my nerves.

Those were similar words I tell the girls at the jail when we go for Bible study. Most of them, if not all, are

there because of drugs. "Why do you keep doing things that will hurt you?" I ask.

Into the garbage my pie went. I pulled out my Bible to continue studying Haggai (Take Courage by Jennifer Rothschild). Today's focus was "Consider your Ways". "What is your heart set on?" she asked. My heart had been set on pie!

I knew quite well that if I had eaten it, I would be filled not only with peaches and crust, but also regret and frustration at my non-existent willpower. AND, I would have a stomachache. What am I? An idiot?

Haggai 1:5 reminded me, "Now this is what the LORD Almighty says, 'Give careful thought to your ways.'" God's Word truly is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12)! Only He could tie peach pie and words written around 500 BC, by a prophet many haven't heard of! My heavenly Father was saying, "Dawn, don't be dumb. Think about what you are doing." What relates to pie can relate to many other

things. In the book of Haggai, God's people had gotten their priorities mixed up. He was calling them to re-evaluate what was most important: "People! Think about what you are doing!" (my words). They were living in paneled houses, which doesn't sound like a big deal, but the house of God was in ruins! Not bad people, they'd just lost their perspective. They had their hearts set on their own comfort, their own homes, their own piece of the pie-so to speak.

I have to ask: What do I have MY heart set on? Do I daily have my eyes, my heart set on pleasing God? Or myself? Do I have a habit of focusing on things that are not good for me?

In Colossians 3:1, Paul wrote: "Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God..."

"Set my heart on things above..." Now, that's a recipe I can really sink my teeth into with no regret!

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Colossians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter (KJV) begins, "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month...?" Ezra, Ezekiel, Micah, Malachi
3. From Exodus 10, what was blown out of Egypt by a strong west wind? Rivers, Locusts, Sin-

- ners, Nightness
4. In 1 Chronicles, who killed a 7 1/2-foot tall Egyptian giant? Beniah, Gideon, Jannes, Baruch
5. From Genesis 28, what city was the site of Jacob's famous dream? Lachish, Perga, Haran, Bethel
6. In Colossians 4, what city was home to Philemon? Berea, Shechem, Beersheba, Colossae

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.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ROMANS 14:8-9

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

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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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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 9



"You're not supposed to fight over the coin!"

Taking Stock of One's Self

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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Did you know that we are actually told to take stock of ourself as a Christian? In **2 Corinthians 13:5**, it is called an examination of one's self. This is something all of us should do from time to time. The purpose of this examination of one's self must be privately done, saying "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith..." Now, since there is only "one faith," this is an imposing question. **Ephesians 4:5** Then he says, "prove your own selves." Now, can we take the Scriptures and prove that we have done and are still doing the things that faith is made up of? Then he says, "Know ye not your own selves." So, our plan for salvation and faith may not coincide with the Scriptural plan. He states how "that Jesus Christ is in you." Do you know how this became a reality with you? I remember very well the time and place when I surrendered my stubborn will to the will of the Lord. I remember the faith that led me to a complete surrender as I believed upon him as the Son of God. I remember well my repentance and sorrow of heart for my past sins. I also remember when I publicly confessed my faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Last of all, I remember so vividly when I was baptized for the remission of sins. Yes, I remember when all my past burdens were rolled away in Christ Jesus. And the good part is, I can take the Holy Scriptures and prove that all these were commands and I obeyed every one and for the right reasons, because my Lord said so. (Luke 6:46)

Then, after a period of intense Bible reading, the Lord began to impress it upon my mind to tell it to others. It was called "a charge" by Paul in **2 Timothy 4:1** to Timothy his fellow student. He told him to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." He went further to say in **Verse 5**, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." Then, after having read this, I could see my future herein, and so, for nearly 50 years now, I have had to take stock of myself to see if I still measure up to this great charge.

But, why do I do it? Down here in this passage, it says, "there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness"^{4:8} for those who have fought the good fight of faith, who have finished their course and have kept the faith. But, that is not all! I did so that I may help others too, so that they also might surrender their lives unto Christ and gain Eternal Life for themselves.

I know that the majority of my preaching years are behind me, and soon I will go the way of all the earth. So, I implore you to give your souls to Jesus while there is time and opportunity, for we are surely, fastly approaching the coming day of our Lord to judge us all.

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

Seeds of Hope



"Religion is an illusion of the emotions," declared Sigmund Freud the psychiatrist, "and its funeral is at hand." Frederick Nietzsche one day announced, "God is dead!"

No doubt that their gods died with them but our God is alive! Proclaimed the Psalmist in Psalm 97:1, "The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad!"

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," wrote Moses. And He never abandoned nor cast aside His role in controlling it. He continues to be the source and sustainer of all its life, the strength in all of its movements and the power behind its journey.

The earth spins like a top at a speed of

1,000 miles per hour without ever speeding up or slowing down so that we might have a predictable number of hours for each day and night. It is tilted at a specific angle that causes our seasons. And these two facts are simply the beginning of the marvelous miracles of our earth. And why is this so? To demonstrate the fact that "The Lord reigns."

Our sun maintains a temperature that is warm enough to sustain us but never hot enough to burn us intentionally or freeze us to death when winter arrives. Why this consistency that we never question? "The Lord reigns."

Wherever we look and whatever we study we see a pattern of consistency and continuity, predictability and potential. God does reign. God does rule. And because He does, we can rest assured in His love and salvation.

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Americanisms



"In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders."
— Sheryl Sandberg

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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS (sic)
by Terry Stickels

A little weather trivia ...

1. Can you name five main types of precipitation?
2. Which of the following is not a type of cloud?
a. nimbostratus b. altocumulus
c. stratocumulus d. altonimbus
e. cumulonimbus
3. An anemometer measures ___?

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