



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

Facing the New Year

hearing of many we know with COVID, I jokingly/not-jokingly told my beloved that I was thinking of painting the doorposts and lintels with blood (Exodus 12:7). It seemed that the death angel had been coming through the camp! By the end of 2020, I had developed an everyday habit of saying out loud—so my brain and heart could hear—“Nothing will happen today that God can’t help me through!”

Sometimes I plan through worst case scenarios in my head so if they do happen, I will be ready. In one way, I feel by pre-thinking situations in advance it will keep me from losing my mind if it all comes down. In reality, I’m spending precious moments today concerned (aka fretting) about things that may never come about tomorrow. My husband was sick that very night. Was it COVID? As I tried to go to sleep, I pondered hospitalization and future life. Playing the worst case scenario game before bed is not conducive to falling sleep quickly.

Could 2021 be worse than 2020? I felt like the Israelites standing on the precipice of the Promised Land. They HAD to be nervous. They HAD to be scared at what lay ahead. Very New Year 2021. They had come out of Egypt,

through the Red Sea, and through the desert. Bread had fallen from heaven in the mornings, meat had flown in just in time for supper. They had seen the Hand of God at work. He had delivered them to the very place where they stood—and their shoes had never worn out! There had been nothing, not one thing, God had not helped His people through! Still, they faced uncertain days, unknown dangers, unfamiliar territory.

So what word did God give them at that monumental moment? Joshua 1:9: “Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Remembering the story, I knew THIS was my verse for the new year!

I, too, have seen God at work. He has been good. He has been faithful. He can be trusted. There is nothing God can’t help me/us through in 2021. Even death. Heaven awaits those who know Him!

So I will forge ahead into the new year. Yes, there will be giants. Yes, there will be battles. But God will be with me every step of the way!

UPDATE: Four days into 2021, we have both tested positive for COVID. God is still good! Joshua 1:9!

I always stay up to greet the new year. I feel like it’s my duty to be awake when it comes sashaying in.

New Year’s Eve 2020 was no different. With a strong cup of Dunkin’ Donuts to assist my spirit, I watched the ball drop in New York and then tiptoed to bed.

When my head hit my pillow, I pondered the significance of a new year. Two thousand twenty had been hard. My precious mother went to heaven in February from what we now are fairly certain was COVID. The country and world had been turned upside down from the virus, but also from hate and division. December brought the passing of my father who had battled cancer.

To be honest, I was nervous. Earlier in the evening after

A Ministry of Reconciliation

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, it is written, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

When I first obeyed the Gospel by finally really listening to the words of Christ and believing it, I was fully repentant of every sin I had ever committed. Then, after confessing my faith in Jesus before many people, I then was taken to a water hole and was baptized for the remission of those sins because I was baptized in order to put them away forever because my baptism was for that very purpose of putting them under the blood of my Saviour.

I will never forget the moment that my life was changed forever, and I have never looked back ever since. Then, after some intense Bible study, I felt this inner need to tell it to others; so after a year, I tried my hand at trying to teach and preach. As one would expect, I was not as able to do much, but the longer I went, the more intense I became to do more and more as one of Christ’s servants. I could not begin to tell you how rewarding spiritually that my life has been. So, when Paul said, “if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature,” he certainly knew what he was talking about.

But, in a short time, I began to realize that my life was here on a mission to accomplish a thing that Paul is here in our text talking about. For he said

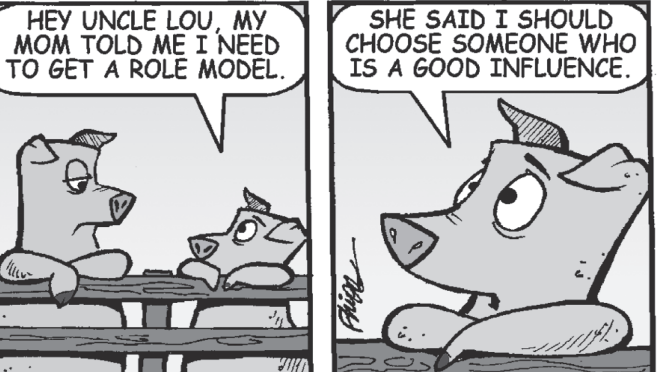
this, “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18

The word ‘reconciliation’ means the action of trying to reconcile, meaning to settle differences and to bring to submission or acceptance. This is just the thing that a preacher of the truth will try to do. We must harmonize our teachings according to the Lord’s Word. He goes on to say, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 19, 20, & 21 So, all preachers of righteousness must study, know and deliver the message of salvation to all the lost that will hear it. In verse 11 in the same chapter, it says, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

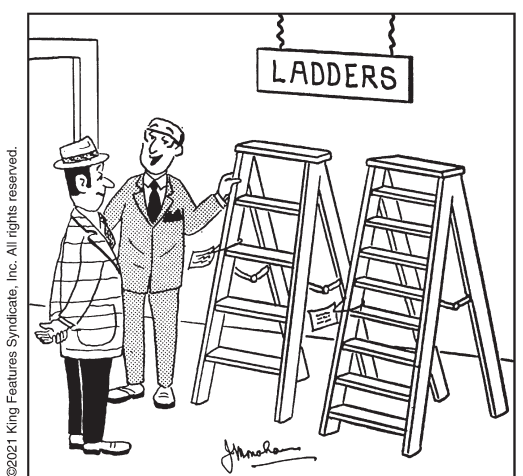
So, this is why I attempt to preach. I have a desire to go to be with the Lord when the Judgment is past. Plus, I want you to go along with me. If you have never obeyed the truth of the Gospel, let me say this out of concern for you, ‘You are now in an unsafe position because Christ is going to return to judge us all. Also, know not this day nor the day of our death, when all your opportunities to obey will be gone forever.’ Please don’t waste your life, turn it over to Jesus and become a new creature. You will never be sorry.

Call any time, 1-859-369-4165
Sincerely, Bob Casey

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



"This one's _____."

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!

Creak
ORGAN

Wild
FLARE

Lone
LOSE

Blunt
CREDIT

TODAY'S WORD

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Isaiah 55:1A, 2B, 3A

“Come, **all** you **who** are **thirsty**, come to the **waters**; and **you** who **have** no **money**, come, **buy** and **eat**! Listen, **listen** to me, and **eat what is good**, and you **will delight** in the **richest of fare**. **Give ear** and **come** to me; listen, **that you may live**.”

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

E	W	S	R	E	T	A	W	I	E
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H	G	I	U	E	T	M	S	C	R
A	W	C	O	Y	E	Y	E	I	E
T	M	A	Y	Y	E	N	O	M	L

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

who/what did Jesus point to? Peter, Birds, Lilies, Little child

4. How many books of the Bible (KJV) begin with the letter “E”? 0, 2, 5, 6
 5. From 2 Timothy 1, who was Timothy’s devout grandmother? Dorcas, Lydia, Lois, Hannah
 6. In biblical times, a “daric” was a Persian ...? Gold coin, Headwear, Sailing ship, Well
- 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.



“What the eyes cannot see,” says an old Dutch proverb, “the heart cannot crave.” And the Italians seem to agree with one of their own: “If the eyes do not admire, the heart will not desire.”

But long before them David had his own proverb that addressed the same issue: “I will set before my eyes no vile thing.”

Our eyes are the gateway to our hearts, souls and minds. It is what we see, day after day, that shapes our thoughts and values and - ultimately our behavior. What we see we desire and what we desire is what drives us in one direction or another. Our vision triggers our thoughts and our thoughts our behavior.

Here’s an example:

When Jericho was destroyed no one was to take any of the spoils. But Achan disobeyed the order; he stole a beautiful garment, a bag silver and a bar of gold. This was unfortunate because disaster visited Israel as a result of his greed and thirty-six were left dead on the battlefield. Joshua was alarmed and decided to search the tents of his soldiers. He found the “accursed thing” in Achan’s tent.

In making his confession before being stoned to death and being buried in a criminal’s grave Achan said, “I saw...I coveted...I took...and I hid.”

And that’s the path to sin: First we look. Then we desire. Then we decide. Then we sin. Then we try to find an excuse. Then we lie. Then we try to hide our wrongdoing. But it’s too late. The consequences will come.

It all begins with a simple glance.
[Sower Ministries.org](http://SowerMinistries.org)
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Stickeler’s Puzzle



Draw a square. Now divide the square into four equal and congruent parts with three straight lines.

None of the lines can cross each other within the square. How can this be done?

Stickeler’s Answer on Page 12