



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

I've never wanted to go to jail so much in my life! Legally, of course. Stupid COVID shut down all Bible studies there like a steel trap.

So, last Sunday we stood outside praying-hands on the jail building, eyes closed. I had no words-only tears. It was a moment where I knew the "Spirit Himself would intercede for us with groans that words cannot express," (Romans 8:26). I could only whisper "Please, Lord."

Meanwhile, on the inside of the jail, the devil is having a field day. When you take out all the good, you are left with no good.

We want good things for the inmates, but God wants more. He yearns for all to come to Him, not so He can be the boss, but so He can save them and give them

Wanting to go to Jail

abundant life-even if they must remain incarcerated. Criminals do need to be punished, but that doesn't mean their lives are over!

Right now, we are begging God to intervene in their situations, to penetrate the bricks and mortar straight to the hearts of every man and woman who are imprisoned there. While we can't go in, He surely can! He's been through the fiery furnace, the lion's den, the Red Sea, and the desert. A little concrete and metal are no match for the God of the Bible!

For 10 years pre-pandemic, we enjoyed weekly studies with large groups and small. True tales from the Bible came alive as we applied them to life today, even if you're incarcerated. (A men's Bible study was just getting off the ground before Corona.)

Our ministry team has found that prisoners are often an unreached people group. While we taught the women about Jesus, we learned from them how hard life can be. Many of them were in desperate situations. Some inmates had never heard of Jesus. Others had known Him, gone to church and even church camp but ended up far away from His will. We want them to know that there's hope! And that God STILL loves them ALL!

I had been immersed in Sunday School and Training Union from an early age. They had been steeped in the ways of drugs as early as age 10. Many have lost numerous family members to drug addiction. It's difficult to break the cycle without a safe place to reside and a good support system.

As COVID terrorized our nation, jails and prisons eliminated visitors. Though we understand, we are heart-broken that we're not able to connect with the women at our county jail. We see the newspapers and hear stories. All hell seems to be breaking loose inside! So we beseech our Heavenly Father to move. This day, we prayed for the male and female inmates, employees, and the jailer. I invite you to pray for a jail or prison near you. Write the name down. Put it on your fridge. Ask God to invade the building and do something only He can do!

While we were praying on Sunday, several people came through, stopping in their tracks when they saw us in what looked like the "frisk" position against the walls of the jail. "You can go in," I called to each one. "We're just out here praying." Still confused, I finished with, "Somebody needs to be out here praying, don't you think?" They did.

Things That Surprise People About the Church of Christ

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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Last week, we mentioned four things the Church of Christ observes as obedient members; and, as promised, we will try to complete this subject in today's article.

Some are surprised that the Church of Christ does not have an earthly headquarters.

Many times we have been asked this question, and many are surprised that we do not have anything like it that has been established by man.

However, the denominations have set themselves up this way, and most just take it for granted that this is the way it should be.

We find these in Rome, Italy; another in Utah, one in Cleveland, Tennessee; another in Atlanta, Georgia; and Indiana, and others. These are designed so that a central organization can control all the churches that belong to it. And, they do so rule!

But, the Lord's Church that one can read about in the Book that will judge us all, says in **Colossians 1:18** that Jesus Christ, "is the head of the body," that he alone built. Thus, he speaks to us from His Word that he gave from Heaven. If you want to call that his headquarters, this would be correct. Now, in the local sense, each Church of the Lord is autonomous, or self-governed, by a selection of elders who oversee its work; do its own missionary work, care for its members. This Church is directed by the Bible without any headquarters of committee members taken from among men. (See Acts 14:23 and Acts 20:17).

6. The Church of Christ has no posters nor creed books to guide them in worship.

Most churches of men have their creed books, manuals, or a book of disciplines, or articles of faith. Thus, some are surprised and made to wonder why

the Church of Christ does not have these things. So, to be as fair as we can be, we will let the Bible speak to us.

Notice by reading **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (or actions of faith). So, then, the Bible is all that we need that we can rightly, and justifiably use to guide us in all matters to make us truly be called a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ. Why do members of the Church of Christ call for book, chapter, and verse to decide how to rightly obey? Simply because they know that in John 12:48, we will be judged by his word. So, in conclusion, to believe or accept something else is to be accursed. Galatians 1:6-9 declares it to be true!

7. In many of the churches of men, some think that only the preacher can physically baptize another. Is this true, or has someone just made it up. Many have thought that only the clergy holds that special right. When we say that this is not a teaching of the Bible, many are surprised, since they have always did it that way. There are no restrictions on the one doing the baptism; the emphasis in the New Testament is not on who does the baptizing but who is baptized and what for. A quick reading of Matthew 25:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, and Acts 22:16 should make it clear for anyone.

In conclusion, many churches of men put off baptism until a special service has been set; calling this period the watch care of the church. Thus one who desires baptism must have to wait. In ever case of conversion in the Bible (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12-13, Acts 8:36-38, and Acts 16:39), here these sinners were all baptized immediately after they had the Gospel preached unto them. So, we see that any repentant sinner can, and should be baptized at any hour of the day or night for the remission of their sins. **If not, why not?**

I hope you will contact us in regard to these truths. Call any time, 1-859-369-4165, or visit with us at Cornerstone on Bond Street. We stand ready to publicly debate these truths at any time.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 147:1, 3, 5

Praise the **LORD**. How **good** it is to **sing** praises to our **God**, how **pleasant** and **fitting** to praise **him**! He **heals** the brokenhearted **and binds** up their **wounds**. **Great** is **our** Lord and **mighty** in **power**; his understanding **has no limit**.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

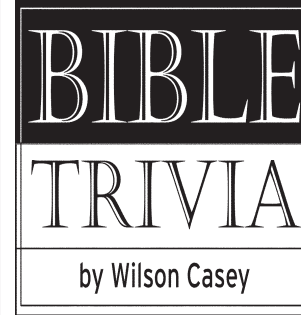
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T **E S I A R P** C L A

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 12



Jesus compare Christians, salt and...? Water, Bread, Light, Mountains

4. Saint Luke said Jesus was about how old when he began to teach? 18, 22, 30, 45

5. Who became leader of the children of Israel after Moses' death? Isaac, Joshua, Aaron, Abraham

6. What was the trade of Paul? Shepherd, Carpenter, Tent-maker, Tax collector

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.

1. Is the book of Song of Solomon in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Revelation 21, what perfectly square city is described as having walls made of jasper? New Damascus, Jericho, New Jerusalem, Philadelphia

3. In Matthew 5, to what two things did



be delivered from sin, they wanted to be delivered from their suffering. But that's not the way God works!

"You will arise and have compassion," he wrote, "for it is time to show favor to Your chosen." There was no doubt in his mind that God would show compassion - but it would be in His time and on His terms. Our God is a righteous God and we cannot expect Him to show us His favor if we are disobedient to His Word.

"You will arise," said the Psalmist in confidence. He knew that God was not inattentive to their needs. He knew that "the appointed time had come."

What determines the "appointed time" for God to respond to our prayers? Our attitude: repenting and asking for forgiveness. Then He will open our eyes and we will see Him in all of His glory at work in our lives. **Sower Ministries.org 268**

The waiting passenger became furious with the gate attendant when the time of departure for his flight had been delayed. "What good are those numbers if you have to change them and tell us that the flight is being delayed?" he demanded.

"Well, sir," said the attendant, "no one would be prepared for the departure of the flight unless we keep our passengers informed."

There is a strong statement about the character of God in this Psalm. The people were suffering and felt separated from God because of the sin in their lives. We often forget that suffering and sin are inseparable. And instead of crying to

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!

Swish

LAGGER

Trajectory

COVERT

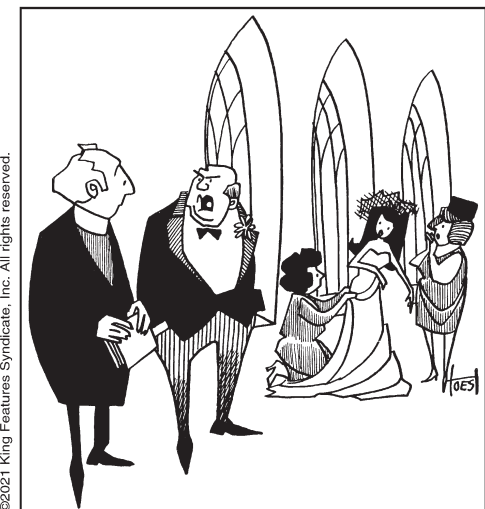
Scoundrel

VINILLA

Tarsus

KLEAN

TODAY'S WORD



"I'm not _____ the bride away, Reverend. It's costing me \$10,000!"

Stickeler's Puzzle



I have three cousins. If I multiply their ages, I get 36. If I eliminate the possibility that any cousin is 1 year old, what is the probability of getting the ages correct on the first try?

- 1) 1 in 2
- 2) 1 in 3
- 3) 1 in 4
- 4) 1 in 6

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12