



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

Mad at Tom Brady

Have you ever REALLY not liked someone because they weren't on your team or your side? And you didn't just not like him, but you judged him harshly and were quick to spew ugly words about him? Perhaps you were always swift to cheer against him because you felt like he was the embodiment of yuck and you wanted anybody, absolutely ANYBODY to outscore him, sack him, or beat him.

Does anybody know how I can get in touch with Tom Brady? I need to apologize.

I've been a Tim Tebow fan since he won the Heisman back in 2007. He was/is such a good and kind person. He wanted to be a quarterback so I wanted him to be one, too. I put him on my prayer list and prayed for him like he was in my family.

When Tim was drafted by the Denver Broncos in 2010, I became a Bronco's fan. He was going to realize his dream! I praised the Lord. In March of 2012, he was traded to the Jets. (My beloved bought me a jersey.) In April of 2013, he was released by the Jets. I kept praying. And then in June, 2013...the Patriots signed Tim Tebow for a two-year contract. I was now a die-hard Patriots supporter. This was it! I was so excited! (I'm sure Tim was, too.)

The only person standing in the way of him realizing his life-long dream of being a professional quarterback now was... Tom Brady. I prayed for Tom, the coach and all the Patriots. Because Tim Tebow was there and he loved Jesus so much, I was sure all of the Patriots and coaches would be saved and be the biggest and best winners EVER. The End. Throw the confetti.

But the Patriots let Tim go. Being a professional quarterback was not God's plan for Mr. Tebow. Not ready to accept that, I blamed Tom Brady. Meanwhile, Tom continued to win EVERYTHING. I rooted against him every game as he progressed to and often won Super Bowls.

Last year, after reading that Tom Brady was the 199th pick

when he was drafted, I was shocked. I searched for info on this famous Patriot, finally downloading his biography on my library app.

It's true! He WAS drafted at #199 in the sixth round in 2000, but it gets better. When Tom Brady was in middle school, he was over-weight and slow moving. Nobody thought he would ever play sports! He worked hard and pushed himself through high school, college, and then in the NFL. He has shown the world that he is an incredibly talented and dedicated athlete. (Never thought I'd type that!)

Now that I know his story, I'm a Tom Brady fan. When he moved to Tampa Bay, he became a Buccaneer; so did I.

Guess what! Tampa Bay is going to the SUPER BOWL!!!

Though neither Tim nor Tom knows about my prejudice, I've learned a big lesson. Matthew 7:1 reminds me, "Do not judge, or you, too will be judged..." I was judgy. The Life Application Study Bible commentary asks, "Do you find it easy to magnify others' faults while excusing your own?" Clearly, I did.

Convicted, I asked God to forgive me.

Never judge someone unless you've walked a mile in their cleats.

Things That Surprise People About the Church of Christ

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

When many are introduced to the Church of Christ, they often express surprise at what they learn. This is the first instalment of this lesson, for space sake, when one may have never heard the points before. The other is that maybe they have been taught something different. The fact that one may be surprised doesn't mean that what he hears is untrue, but, the question is, "Is it taught in the Bible?" So now, let us consider why some may seem surprised at what they learn.

- The Church of Christ doesn't tith.**
When a visitor hears someone say that we do not tithe today, they are surprised, *but why?* Because most have been taught that tithing is a church activity, so they have never known anything different.
The New Testament does not teach tithing.
Tithing simply refers to giving of ten percent of one's income. So, while that was practised under the Old Covenant, it is nowhere found in the New Testament. The very fact that it was practised at one time is not questioned by anyone. The issue is whether or not God requires it under the Law of Christ. **Read Hebrews 9:16-17.**
Now, that doesn't mean that we are not commanded to give; rather, the Apostle Paul instructed that we are to give as we have prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). As we give, we are told (2 Corinthians 9:7) to give cheerfully and wilfully. So, the question is not how much am I to give, *but how much can I give.*
- People are always asking preachers in the Church of Christ, "Are you the pastor?"**
Sometimes, people not knowing the Scriptures will refer, or ask, or address me as "Reverend." When I reply that I am none of those things, they are surprised and do not seem to understand why not. So,

we have to take the Bible and show them why.

In Ephesians 4:11, "pastor," is a term that refers to an elder or bishop in the church. The word, "pastor," simply again refers to one who feeds the church and oversees the work therein. Example, Acts 20:17-28. Then, sometimes, I am called a "reverend," which I am not. In Psalms 111:9 is the only time it is used in the whole Bible, and then, it refers to God alone! This term should not be used by preachers because a preacher has no more authority in the church than any other member.

- The fact remains that one cannot "join the Church of the Lord."**
Still, it is a common thing in the denominational world to speak of "joining" the church. Yes, you can join them; but, not the Church of the Lord. **Surprised?** Well, it is true. Becoming a member of the Lord's church is *not* like joining a civic club or a social order because the Lord only adds those to the church when they obey his commands. Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
- The Lord's Church observes Communion, every Sunday.**
Visitors may say, "You people do this every Sunday?" Yes, ever Sunday, God's people keep this memorial feast. Though many are surprised; yet, **this is exactly what the Bible teaches** (Acts 20:7). The disciples came together **on the first day of the week to break bread.** Just as the Sabbath Day meant every Saturday, likewise, the first day of the week means every first day of the week. If God desired an annual observance, he would have said the day of the year. Just as if he wanted a monthly observance, he would have mentioned what day. But, he did none of any other day except the first day of the week. So, in spite of what the Bible says, it is surprising to some, for they are accustomed to monthly, quarterly or annual observances. So, sadly, the fact remains that many are doing things without authority to do so.
Next week, we aim to finish this lesson by discussing "no creed books" or "ways of faith," "no earthly headquarters or associations," "what time should one be baptized?" and "can any Christian baptize others?"

Sincerely, Bob Casey

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Matthew 4:3-4

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

S	E	N	O	T	S	S	D	Q	L
B	R	E	A	D	F	U	O	I	N
D	I	A	S	M	R	S	V	O	D
H	T	U	O	M	O	E	S	R	R
C	A	M	E	H	M	J	D	T	O
Y	W	R	I	T	T	E	N	H	W
R	A	M	R	E	T	P	M	E	T
E	M	O	C	E	B	G	T	S	U
V	U	S	E	M	O	C	O	E	O
E	J	A	L	O	N	E	N	D	Y

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

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- Is the book of Simeon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- In which book's 13:12 does Jesus predict children rebelling against their parents to be a sign of end times? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- After hearing many things, what did Job call the ones after they tried to console him? Sore losers,

Miserable comforters, Wretched sons, Cowardly lions

- From 2 Samuel 4, what 5-year-old boy was dropped by his nurse and lamed for life? Moses, Mephibosheth, Peter, Andronicus
- How many times in the Bible (KJV) do the words "Christian" or "Christians" appear? 3, 13, 30, 300
- What prophet was the son of Elkanah and Hannah? Samuel, Huldah, Daniel, Nathan

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.



It was time for her prayers before jumping into bed. Little Susie began her prayer by thanking God for all His blessings that day. She did really good on her tests and her best friend came to visit her after school. So she spent a special time thanking Him for all the good things He did for her that day. But when it was time for her to conclude her prayer, she said, "Good night, Dear Jesus, wherever You are. We're moving to New York in the morning. It's been nice talking to You. Amen." To her, Jesus could only hear her prayers if she was in the right place at the right time.

There are times

when each of us feels that God is not paying attention to us when we pray. It seems as though the doors of heaven are locked tight and God is too busy to hear us. Or maybe we've moved away from Him and He no longer cares about us or our needs. Even the writer of Psalm 102:1 felt that way when he wrote: "Hear my prayer, O Lord, let my cry for help come to You."

This was no ordinary prayer. He was desperate and begged God for His attention. He sensed a distance between himself and God, was in a crisis and could not endure this sense of alienation. And he continued by saying, "Do not hide from me - answer me quickly!"

Perhaps a lesson we can learn from this prayer is that God's "time piece" is different from ours. It includes eternity. We must always remember that He is at work in and with us shaping us into Christ's likeness.

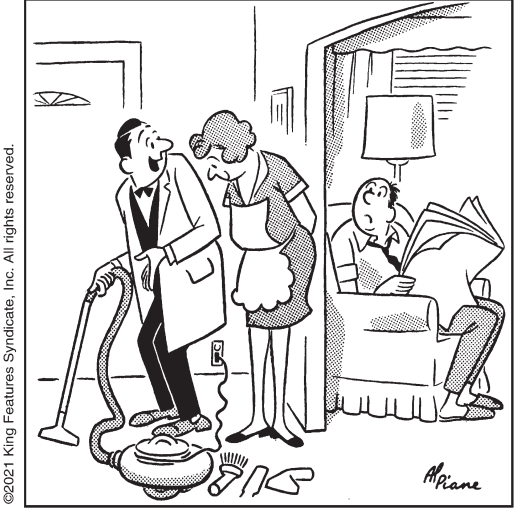
Sower Ministries.org

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!

- Robust: **EARTHY**
- Simple: **SCABI**
- Package: **DUBLEN**
- Inform: **DEIVAS**

TODAY'S WORD



"It's so simple... why, even the _____ will be able to operate it!"

Stickeler's Puzzle



Match the word on the left with its meaning on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. fecund | a. inhabitant, citizen |
| 2. jejune | b. dull, lacking interest |
| 3. denizen | c. false, not genuine |
| 4. corpulent | d. prolific, fruitful |
| 5. spurious | e. obese |

©2021 King Features Syndicate

Stickeler's Answer on Page 12