



**by Dawn Reed**  
**Eastern Ky. Columnist**

# Waiting for The Ending

I love a good drama as well as the next girl, but sometimes I don't want to wait; I want to know how things are going to turn out right then and there. Googling the movie, I found everything I needed: the cast, characters, and plot. I knew exactly what would happen. I felt better.

When reading the Bible, I have the luxury of studying lives of real people, their crises and then the exciting and often miraculous conclusions. They did not. They were in the throes of it. They had to depend on God.

No matter how many times I've heard it, the story of Noah can reveal new truths applicable for life today. He had faith in God. He trusted Him though he had to wait for the outcome. He didn't have the privilege of turning to page 21 (NIV) to see how everything turned out. Without internet, he couldn't Google it. When he didn't become a father until the age of 500, Noah had no idea that he would literally end up being the father of everybody. After he received the plan for the ark, he worked for over a hundred years not knowing that it would encourage generations thousands of years later. About the wild and crazy boat ride? What's

40 days and 40 nights of rain and a year afloat when he had been through so much already? We talk about the patience of Job, but I'm thinking Noah knew a thing or 200 about being longsuffering.

Today, like Noah, we don't know how our story will turn out. In the last while, we've had to be patient. We've waited for COVID test results and then waited to get out of quarantine. We waited for the vaccine and then its distribution. We waited for the snow to stop and then the power to come on. Next, the rain came with thunder so loud it raised us off the couch. We waited for it to stop. The flooding began and we waited for the water to go down. Shew! Every day, we are stuck in the waiting and not knowing. How will God use this for good? What is His plan? What in tarnation is going on up there?!

We may not know how the story ends, but we can trust the One Who is writing it! One day at a time. And there's plenty to do while we wait . . . instead of worrying. Let's love, bless, encourage, and-if you're from eastern KY-help clean up some flood mud!

I feel like Noah knew a little about mud.

My beloved and I were thrilled when the electricity came back on last week. ("Uri" is a four-letter word in these parts.) At one point, we went out to eat so we could charge our phones and I drove around in search of internet, but no real worries. We had food, shelter, and each other. We were blessed.

When the internet returned, the cable was still out so my beloved pulled out his 782-hour DVD set of Lonesome Dove. "Sure!" I agreed, not realizing it was a mini-series that would be followed by a second: Return to Lonesome Dove. We spent hours soaking up the adventures of Gus, Captain Call, Newt, Pea Eye, and a host of others.

## Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide?

**by BOB CASEY, preacher**  
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How many times have you heard this statement, Let your conscience be your guide? I ask, is this a safe way to live and please God? Yes, man has a spirit of conscience given to him by God during Creation, for this is exhibited when God said unto him, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: <sup>17</sup>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." <sup>Genesis 2:16-17</sup> Was Adam given a conscience to guide him as he lived. He did not know what death was, for most likely, nothing in the garden up this point had ever died. But, there was something in God's warning that pricked his mind, 'I'd better not eat of that tree because God says not to!' And so it is today, all men everywhere have been given a conscience through the Bible, the spoken word, to guide us in the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong. So, when it comes to matters of living life in a society, we have the laws of God to guide our conscience safely to do good and not to do evil.

So, how did Adam and Eve go wrong? It is clearly expressed by what they did when she partook of that tree, and convincing her head (Adam) to eat with her, they offended God; plus, wounded their own consciences as well!

Sadly, but, a great deal of mankind are still doing this same thing today. What is the cause? Men are casting aside that which is written and replacing it with their own ideas and schemes. This is involving nearly every thing that man is doing today; plus, there is no other thing among mankind that does it more than the religions of the world. We are warned by Paul in **1 Corinthians 4:6**, "not to think of men above that which is written." Yet, men in worldly reli-

gions have developed plans that are foreign to God's plans, consisting of The Plan of Salvation, the name of his Church, the commands of worship, the work of his Church, and many other devices. I ask, 'Can man do these things and still please God?' The very last warning given by our Lord Jesus in Revelation 22:18-19, is not to add to his Word or to take from it. Concerning the things that are written, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life. Our Lord himself also says in **John 12:47**, "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." So, what is Jesus saying? That a day is coming for a time where all shall be judged. **2 Corinthians 5:10** declares it, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." He goes on to say, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." <sup>John 12:48</sup>

So, why will some wound their own consciences by deliberately ignoring the written word that will save them when fully obeyed? We are informed in 2 Timothy 3:5 and 4:3 that in these last days, most religions will only be a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof and that sound doctrine would be refused. Nowhere is this more noted than the plan to save man is given, to hear only the Lord (Matthew 17:1-5); to believe in Jesus (John 8:24); to turn in repentance to the Lord (Luke 13:1-5); to confess his name before man (Matthew 10:31-32); and to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Anyone who has obeyed these commands from the heart is of the Church of the Lord. Acts 2:47 says so. Then, in closing, 1 Peter 3:21 says this is the only way that one can have a clear conscience before the Lord, guaranteed by his resurrection from the grave! If not, why not?

Call me for further discussion, any time, (1-859-369-4165)

*Sincerely, Bob Casey*

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I **urge**, then, **first** of **all**, that **petitions, prayers**, in-tercession **and** thanksgiving be **made** for all **people**—for **kings** and all **those** in **authority**, that we **may** live **peaceful** and **quiet lives** in all **godliness** and **holiness**.

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I	<b>I</b>	<b>E</b>	R	K	O	E	A	E	V
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D	N	Q	T	U	W	N	L	U	L
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G	A	H	O	L	I	N	E	S	S

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

### BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Nehemiah 10, what's the most common starting letter of the numerous names listing priests, Levites, chiefs, and fathers? C, B, T, H
3. Which prophet foretold the ministry of John the Baptist?

Levi, Isaiah, Aaron, Mordecai

4. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem during the "Triumphal Entry"? On foot, Carried by slaves, On donkey, In golden chariot

5. From 1 Chronicles 20, Elhanan slew Goliath's ...? Father, Brother, Mule, Oxen

6. In which book is the parable of the Good Samaritan? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**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.**



As John left for the Army in World War I his mother slipped a copy of the Twenty Third Psalm into his hand. "Here," she said with tears in her eyes and pain in her heart, "take this with you wherever you go, never lose it and read it every time you are afraid and ask God to protect you!"

He followed her advice, even in combat. One day during a time of fierce fighting he slipped the Psalm from his pocket and started to read it. Suddenly, a bomb burst near him and he jumped into a fox hole and lost the tattered piece of paper. It frightened him and he said, "Now, I'll always have bad luck." After the battle he went to a tattooist with a copy

of the Psalm and asked, "Please, Sir, tattoo this Psalm on my arm. I never, ever want to be without it."

Many of us are like that soldier. We have God's Word in our Bibles but not in our hearts. We keep His Word on our tables or desks but not in our minds. We do not allow it to become part of us. It's outside and "nearby" but not inside where it can make a difference in our lives.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul," said David, "and do not forget all His benefits - Who forgives all your sins, Who heals all Your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."

When we pause and think of this Lord that David is writing about, it does not make any sense to keep Him in a Book or on a piece of paper. He deserves to be living deep within our hearts, guiding and guarding our lives. **Sower Ministries.org 274**

## 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!

Raider

**PARTIE**

Veer

**WEVERS**

Sugar

**CORUSES**

Chide

**CLODS**



"They're the famous \_\_\_\_\_ team."

### TODAY'S WORD

## Stickeler's Puzzle



Eight countries border Saudi Arabia. How many can you name?

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## Stickeler's Answer on Page 12