

Laying down the burdens



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

This morning, we had walked half a mile before I felt not-too-guilty about dropping the little pests. (Who am I kidding? It was probably only a fourth.) I LOVE the feeling when I lay them down! There's a spring in my step, my pace picks up. Yes! I think to myself. That's what I'm talking about!

After several laps, it was time to pick them back up. I may have made groaning noises. Carrying the weights slows me down. It makes me tired-er. I count the minutes until I can be free of them.

Jesus knew a thing or two about carrying weights. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus implored, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest," (NIV). Though spoken hundreds of years ago, He is still inviting each of us to come and unburden our hearts and souls. With Him there is peace. With Him there is relief. With Him there is joy!

Countless times in the past, I have taken heavy loads to my Heavenly Father, even going to the

altar at church, but then after a few laps of life, I find that I picked the burden right back up again lugging them with me every step. (It might have been a concern about my beloved or one of our children, a job, etc.) Each time it slowed me down. It made me tired. I'm learning with age that's not a good work-out.

It's interesting that if I carry weights while walking, I will get stronger. Yet, when I continue to carry the heavy weights/burdens of the world on my own, I don't get stronger . . . I only get weaker. I must go to my Maker, unloading heart, mind, and soul. He is strong enough for the both of us.

What burden do you need to fully lay down at the feet of Jesus? Go ahead. Quit talking/thinking about it. Do it. He LOVES you! He ADORES you! He wants to be your burden-bearer!

There will be a cleansing exhale after the weight is released. Then an exhilarating inhale of freedom. It's priceless!

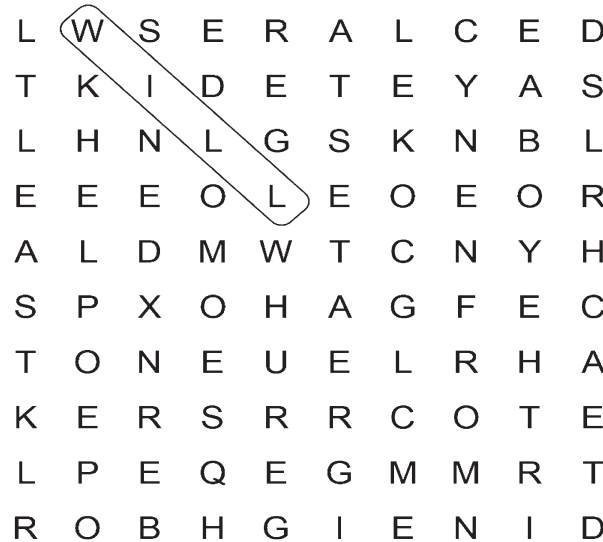
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Jeremiah 31:33C-34B

I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another. 'Know the LORD, because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the LORD.

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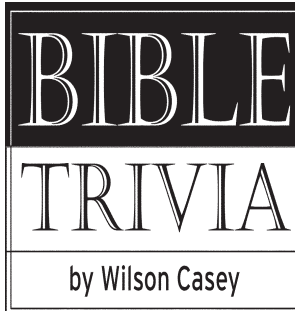


Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 13



1. Is the book of Gethsemane in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What signal or mark did Judas use to betray Jesus to the religious leaders of the day? Marked Jesus with ash, Pointed to Him, Gave Jesus a kiss, Washed Jesus' feet
3. In John 11:45-53, who was the high priest who called for Jesus' death? Elionous, Joazar, Simon Cantheras, Caiaphas

4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers

5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus

6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

Answers on bottom of Page 13

"Test Your Bible knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

Seeds of Hope



A few years ago I was sitting in the office of a dear friend and orthopedic surgeon. Because of his God-given skills he was able to correct the misdiagnosis of another physician that enabled me to walk once again.

As we sat and talked he asked me how things had been going with my health. After explaining my ordeal with cancer and several other illnesses, he looked at me and said very seriously, "You have no reason to be alive!"

But he was wrong. There was every reason for me to be alive. It was God who brought the healing to my body even though there were several physicians who worked with Him along

the way. David was certainly aware of God's role in the healing process when he wrote, "and heals all your diseases." If God is the one who heals all of our diseases, why does He do this? Who is the beneficiary of His healing? Us or Him?

There is no doubt in my mind that God heals us that we might bring honor and glory to Him by serving Him faithfully. If He restores our health, we must realize that it is a gift of His grace and we show our gratefulness to Him by giving Him the glory and working with Him in this, His world.

We can only demonstrate our gratitude to Him, after we thank Him, by what we do for Him. Gratitude is not gratitude unless we become involved in building His Kingdom. Working with Him and through Him is not an option. It is a requirement if He has "healed our diseases."

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How negative must one be?

by BOB CASEY, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
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In John 8:31-32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

I ask, 'How important is the truth?' We can read in John 1:14 that Jesus is identified by John as the one "full of grace and truth." Then, our Lord himself says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

So, then, we can clearly see by these few places that our Lord Jesus Christ is the only source of all truth. Our Lord has promised in John 8:51-52, "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." Then he adds, "If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death." So, it is very clear, to avoid the penalties of death by living in sin, we need and must keep the truthful teachings of our Lord Jesus. Then in Hebrews 5:9, it says that Jesus "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Then, in John 6:66-67, after the Lord's teachings concerning his body and blood that was consumed as spiritual food; misunderstanding this, "many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Then he turned to the twelve and said, "Will ye also go away?" Simon Peter quickly said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

So today, my thinking is and always has been, 'If the Lord does not endorse a thing, then we'd better reject it; denounce it strongly.'

A man once said unto me, 'You are the most negative, stubborn, heard-headed man I ever have known.' This might seem to have been hurtful to some, but I took it as a compliment. But this it will

do, it will cause one to re-examine his stand for the truth.

For instance, the church that I worship with, the Church of Christ, is it to be found in the New Testament? Is it the only one that Jesus said he would build? Consider the truth, when we hear what Jesus has said in Matthew 16:18. Jesus says, "That thou art Peter (meaning a small stone that any man can move thee), and upon this rock (meaning Petra, a rock which no man can move), I will build my church (meaning Ekklesia, called out assembly); so the Lord says he will build (future) his church! "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

So, in Acts 2, we see it as it happened. Ephesians 1:22 declares our Lord "to be the head over all things to the church." Ephesians 5:35 declares that "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Colossians 1:18-24 declares that the body, the church, and the kingdom are the one and same. And, in Romans 16:16, Paul spoke to all the churches, calling them all "the churches of Christ." There are 34 verses in the New Testament that call the Lord's church only by his name; so, I declare that I am on a solid footing with my Lord when I preach there is only one Church.

Then, someone may say, 'What about the Church of God?' The teaching is found in Acts 20:28. But notice what is said to those elders, "to feed the church of God, which he (See Ephesians 5:25) hath purchased with his own blood." I personally have no argument with anyone who refers to the church as the church of God as long as they worship according to his plans for it. But, this is another lesson that I will deal with next week, if the Lord wills.

As it has been estimated by some that this article is being read by thousands each week, if you are one of them, then we would like to hear from you. You may reach us at 1-859-369-4165 or drop us a letter; even if you disagree, at Bob Casey, 6168 Fike Rd., Waco, KY 40385-8012.

Sincerely, B. Casey

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Is not God in the height of heaven?
And see the highest stars, how lofty they are!
And you say, What does God know?
Can He judge through the deep darkness?
JOB 22:12,13

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...If a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:15

Francoise by Pablo Picasso (1946)



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!

Average

MAILED

Ship

FIGHTER

Tasty

VARYOS

Cycle

PLEAD

TODAY'S WORD

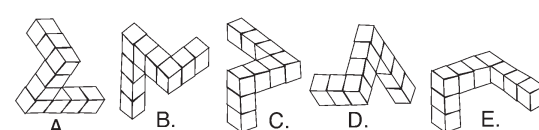


"We can discuss a date after you get _____"

Stickeler's Puzzle



Are the following five orientations of cubes the same or different? If you think there is a difference in the way one or more of the choices is oriented, can you identify which ones?



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Stickeler's Answer on Page 13