



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

Refreshed and Encouraged

lowed. COVID numbers rose significantly, changing the date from September to March. Plans were modified due to social distancing, etc. Zoom meetings kept our momentum going. We continued to pray...for the speaker, the ministers' wives who would be attending.

Finally, after 14 months of planning and praying. The time came for the Retreat. It was last weekend!

I looked forward to hearing Tanya York speak. The year 2020 was tough for those in ministry. Over 150 ministers' wives had come to the retreat hoping to be encouraged and refreshed. Each one needed a word from the Lord. We waited expectantly as she opened her Bible.

Mrs. York asked us to turn to Second Peter: "...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love," (2 Peter 1:5-7). Through those verses, she shared a plan to live a godly life in spite of everything.

Drawing from her decades as a pastor's wife, Tanya encouraged that though ministry is hard, God will help us do it and through it. "Lean into Him. Every day get in the Book," she told us. She shared about loving people well, even if they never get us or like us, "It's OK to not be loved by everybody

... but love everybody." She reminded all of us that God had called our husbands and us to ministry-an important job. She shared many good things, helping us keep our focus on God and urging us to keep going, never quitting.

This was exactly what we needed to hear! How often do we feel like quitting when times get tough?!

Tanya also shared a break-out session on the importance of dating your husband. (Wives sometimes need to be reminded that in spite of ministry responsibilities, we need to intentionally have time together.)

It was a different kind of girl's weekend. We didn't leave Cedarmore just feeling glad we had been out of town. We made real connections with our sisters from other mothers. We studied God's Word, worshipped Him, and sang with all our hearts. When it was time to go, we left more than encouraged; we were motivated to link arms with our minister husbands, ready to serve and love.

Whether you are in ministry, in the workplace, a stay-at-home mom, etc., do you need some words of encouragement? When life gets tough, we often want to quit. Running away sounds better. Although starting over somewhere else is tempting, God has a plan to use us right where we are. **DON'T GIVE UP!** In the words of Tanya York, "Be focused. Be faithful ... keep pressing on."

In January 2020, the puzzle pieces were falling into place for a Kentucky Baptist Convention Minister's Wives Retreat. Guided by Peggy Berry, of the KBC, and Nicole Coomer, pastor's wife from Paducah, the planning committee was made up of a handful of incredibly gifted minister's wives from across Kentucky. (In a wild card move, I was invited to be a part of the welcome team.)

Activities/break-out sessions, decorations, food, and greeters were organized. The event was to be held at Cedarmore in Bagdad, KY. Tanya York was asked to be the speaker. (She is the Senior Pastor's wife at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, a gifted teacher, and mentor to many.) Jason "Bubba" Stewart (Worship and Music Consultant from the KBC and friend) would be the worship leader.

The Corona virus hit hard just weeks after our initial planning meeting. A difficult year fol-

A World of Hyphenated Religions

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In **Matthew 23**, we find the Lord (speaking) concerning hypocrisy and division. Sadly, all of the orders he castigated here were to people who claimed to be the sons of Abraham. In the beginning our Lord said, "*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ³All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*" Matthew 23:2-3

So, as one reads this chapter, our Lord points out their many religious flaws. Eight times here he says, "*Woe unto you.*" Now, all this was said in relation to Jews of his day, but it makes one to wonder just how many woes would he cast upon the religious world that we are presently living in. I believe that one of the most serious woes is found in **Verse 13**, "*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*"

What is he talking about? Clearly, he is talking about their false concepts of religious truths which they had rejected and had added their own ideas. This is how that all religious divisions exist today.

For example: The miracles of God in all recorded history, occurred in the ministry of Christ and his Apostles; but, for the most part, they were rejected by the majority of the religious leaders. It happened during the lowest ebb of spirituality. Even at the Exodus, God's people had hyphenated his name with the name of Baal. Not just at the time of Christ and

his Disciples, but this began in Elijah and Elisha's days.

During the time of Christ, God's people had made the divinely prescribed system of worship an idolatrous object to such an extent that they had become so steeped in self-righteousness and hypocrisy. They read the Old Testament scriptures diligently but they read with a dark veil of darkness over their eyes and hearts. This is just what our religious world is still doing today. Those of Jesus' day were so religious in their pride that they crucified the Lord of Glory. I believe that if he returned today, as then, this world would do it all over again, and the popular religious leaders would be at the head of the pack. This is exactly the kind of world that God sent his son into. He came to redeem them from their sinful ways, as he did to everyone that heard him, believed on him and obeyed his commands. He is still doing the same thing today as men take hold of his word.

Some may ask, 'Why does this preacher spend so much of his time preaching on this subject of divided religions?' Let me say this, because the greatest threat to one's salvation is being spread all around by false concepts of salvation. The word, 'hyphenated,' means to add man's ideas, mixing it with some truth; therefore polluting it or making it destructive instead of saving one's soul. Just look all around us in our county, we see over a hundred different forms of supposed worship. But still, our Lord said he could build only one church (Matthew 16:13-18). He is the founder; He is the head; and it is the only one He shed His blood for (Ephesians 5:22-26).

Do you desire to go to Heaven? Then you'd better get your nose into the Bible and do what it says.

Take note, we stand ready to defend what we write about publicly. Call any time, 1-859-369-4165.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

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!



"Daddy cooked dinner, and then the _____ came."

Shooter	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
RIPENS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Shoal	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
FREE	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Foil	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
MISTEY	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Bare	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
UNTIDY	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

TODAY'S WORD

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one **mediator between God and mankind**, the man **Christ Jesus**, who **gave himself as a ransom for all people**. **This** has now **been witnessed** to at the **proper time**.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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

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 Mark in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 8:4, where did Noah's ark rest after the great flood? Dead Sea bottom, Mountains of Ararat, Near Garden of Eden, Atop Mt. Sinai
3. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have

of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs

4. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? 3, 40, 100, 346

5. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul

6. How old was Abraham when he died? 70, 175, 202, 256

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.



We rarely stop and count the many benefits that we have because of God's grace. Perhaps David clearly and carefully listed five of them beginning with what we can say is the entrance to the benefits He has in store for us: His forgiveness.

The word forgiveness here means to "deviate" or to "stray" from the expectations, laws or commandments He established from the beginning of time. When we do so, we become guilty of sin and need His forgiveness for us to have a relationship with Him and enjoy His blessings.

Forgiveness is the beginning, the foundation of our relationship with God. And it is something some of us may need more often than others. The call

of God's Word is first and foremost the call for us to ask for forgiveness and repent of our sins. When we repent and confess our sins, the Gospel promises us that He will cleanse us and forgive us. John wrote that "If we freely admit and confess our sins, He is faithful and just - true to His own nature, faithfulness and promises - and will forgive us of our sins and continuously cleanse us of all of our unrighteousness - everything that separates us from Him."

If, in our daily lives, we are not experiencing His benefits or blessings, it is because there is some sin in our life that has come between us and the Lord. And if we want His blessings to return to our lives, we must go to Him in prayer and ask for His forgiveness. Forgiveness is not a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is something we must do repeatedly as we do a daily inventory of our lives.

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Stickeler's Puzzle



Billy can eat one hundred peanuts in 30 seconds. His friend Alex can eat half as many in twice the length of time.

How many total peanuts will be eaten by both in 15 seconds?

Stickeler's Answer on Page 12