



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

God Is For Me

was irresponsible. An appointment with the orthodontist was made for the next day. Addi did not sleep much that night. She was filled with guilt and pictured a terrible scene.

Addi's mom texted me after she found out. I was fairly sure I could imagine what was going on in Addi's head. When she came in, she pulled the broken pieces of her trays out of her mouth and braced herself. We tried in her new trays and all was well, though we still needed to figure out why she kept breaking them.

She'd been so afraid we would break bad. I wanted to still her racing heart! "Listen," I began, "we will never yell at you or be mad at you over your teeth." Her eyes were big and she nodded as she soaked up my words. "We are for you. We are not against you," I finished. She was so relieved. I thought I saw her eyes water just a little.

The words to "Who You Say I Am", by Hillsong came to mind: "You are for me, not against me, I am who You say I am..." I was an adult before I grasped, I mean REALLY grasped, that God is for me and not against me.

When I was young, I thought I was in trouble all the time with God. Growing up in the '70s, there was a LOT of things church people were against. I knew more about that than what we were FOR. I didn't know about the unconditional love of my Heavenly Father.

So, when I messed up, and boy-oh did I ever, I felt so ashamed, unfixable, undeserving of anything good. I tried to work things out on my own. I was afraid to confess my failings/sins to God, though He already knew. I was afraid of the reprimand or speech. What would He do? How could He love me still? I didn't think He could. I was wrong. His love is unconditional!

I often tell kids who have braces/Invisalign to tell their parent/guardians right away if something is wrong. If they confess immediately, there will be less fear, guilt, and consequences. The same is true with my relationship with God. If there is a problem or crisis, I need to go straight to Him for help. The longer I avoid it or put it off, the worse I will feel. After I have poured my heart out to Him, I feel relieved. Then, He lovingly straightens me up better than an Invisalign tray!

Psalm 103:8 calms my racing heart and mind: "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding love." Verses 11-12 sum it up beautifully: "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

If He can raise the dead (and He did!), He is big enough to take care of anything that comes up in my life!

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 4:6B-7A, 8

Let the **light** of your **face shine** on us. **Fill** my **heart with joy**. In **peace** I will **lie down** and **sleep**, for **you alone, LORD**, make me **dwell** in **safety**.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

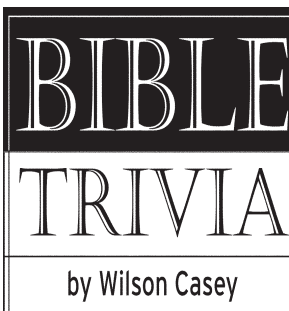


Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12



reign over Israel? 7, 33, 40, 57

4. The prophecy of Obadiah is basically about what nation? Shem, Edom, Tabor, Nebo

5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant

6. David was what relation to Boaz? Brother, Son, Grandson, Great-grandson

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 Hosea in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Emboldened by God's declaration, which Old Testament king went into battle with singers leading the army? Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Jehoshaphat

3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David

Seeds of Hope



Centuries ago, there was a legend that mystics would share with their followers. "The Lord, at one time," went the legend, "colored all the flowers green. But one day He dipped His finger in the pot at the bottom of the rainbow and when He took it out it was covered with many different colors. When He saw how beautiful the colors were He decided to paint each of the flowers a different color and give each of them their own name."

"One morning," the legend continues, "a beautiful flower with small blue, pink and white flowers was asked, 'What's your name?'" Hanging its head, the flower sighed and said, "Oh my, I forgot."

In shame the flower confessed to the Lord, "I'm so sorry, but I have forgotten my name." And the Lord said, "That's all right. Some are likely to forget. But I have not forgotten you." Then He added, "Whatever else you do, For-Get-Me-Not, for I am the God who created you!"

From that day until today, this lovely little flower has been called "For-Get-Me-Not." Whenever we see it, we need to remember the words of David, "Praise the Lord, all my soul, and forget not all - or perhaps better stated - forget not any of His benefits."

We seldom think of the extensive range of His benefits: Every beat of our hearts, every breath we inhale, every sight we see or noise we hear, every step we take, every taste we enjoy, every friend we have, every gift we receive, every promise of His that we claim - and mostly our salvation - are only the beginning of His benefits to us.

Sower Ministries.org
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Stickeler's Puzzle



Here's an alphabetic puzzle that could sum up some folks' attitudes toward money. Each letter equals a number, and the puzzle must add up to a correct sum.

GIMME
MORE
+ GREEN
MOOLA

Let A = 3
E = 7
There is no 4.
Remember, no word can begin with zero.

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12

Time . . . How Do We Perceive It?

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In Ecclesiastes 3:1, this is written, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Some may have said, "I will do it if I have the time," or, one may say, "I aim to do this if time permits," ect. There is one thing I know about time, "there is no partiality among men in regards to time, because all have the same amount of it within any single day."

In doing some research for this article, I have found that time is divided into many descriptions. There is a time that is appointed. Then, there is a thing called past time. Also, a second time. Then, there is a set time. Then there is a time of redemption. This includes an uncertain time. There is also a time to discern. And there is a time of salvation, and there is a time of judgment. These are just a few of the many descriptions of time. So truly, the preacher Solomon, knew what he was talking about.

Now, the question that I would like to impose upon our readers is, "How am I using my time?" The older I get, this is a question I often ask of myself. I realize that in any age, we may be approaching the completion of our time here on this earth. It happens every day. Then, if we have lived with many days that are past, how have we used them? Sadly, time can be wasted if we do not use it to prepare of the future. Because, there is a set time for the return of our Lord to judge us all, and God alone knows this time.

Plus, there is a time of separation coming wherein

all the righteous will be eternally separated from the unsaved, and this time will last forever. All these, and there are many more terms used in the Bible, and all of them are worthy of our consideration, because time is the most important commodity that one will ever process in this world.

So, all the time we may have had in this life will all end when we draw our last breath. And then, we will rest our case to the hands of Jesus. I like to tell people that when they may be thinking about using the present time in thinking about salvation, that "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." **2 Corinthians 6:2** says so. **James 14:4** adds, "ye know not what shall be on the morrow . . ." So, we need to so preach that we may awaken folks to discern the time. For we have already mentioned that there is a redemption day coming to us all. **2 Corinthians 5:10** and **Matthew 25** declare it. So again, know not how long we will live or when the Lord will return the second time. We need to know that now it is high time. **Romans 13:11** says, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

So, how have we used the past times? And, how are we now using this present time? Because tomorrow may not be a part of our time. The poet George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evans) tells us in her poem, "count that day lost whose low descending sun views from thy hand, no worthy action taken."

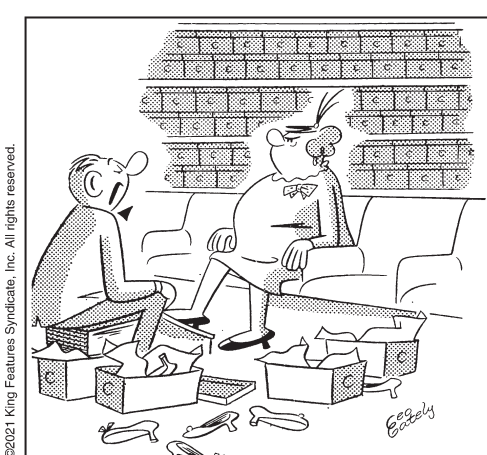
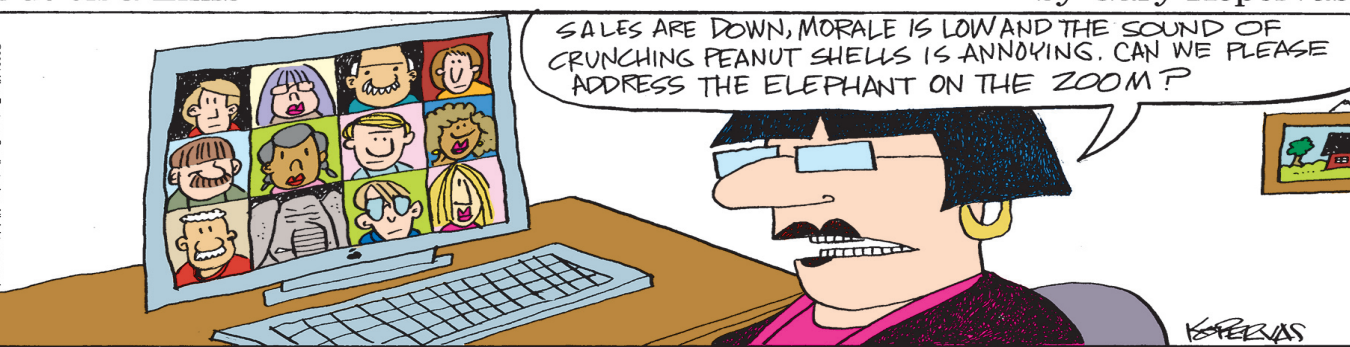
So, we all need to use our days to prepare for the time when we will certainly give an accounting of how we have used them. So, I encourage all I meet not to squander the time you are given by the Lord.

P.S. Visit with us at Cornerstone, we will be glad to have you.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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!

Sediment
LEASH

Bloom
REFLOW

EXIT
TRAPED

Cover
DELISH

TODAY'S WORD

"_____ around a bit and see how they feel!"