

Speckled Bananas



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

Two black-speckled bananas are on my kitchen counter. If you stopped by the parsonage and saw them, you would probably suck in air through your

teeth. You'd tell me to throw them away but I won't; they're too valuable. I know if I take a few ingredients that are not-so-delicious by themselves: flour, soda, oil, vanilla (have you ever tasted pure vanilla?!) and eggs, then throw in some sugar, those over-ripe bananas will become something wonderful... banana bread.

God does the same thing with us! When we feel unworthy, unlikely, and past helping, He takes us in His Hands and makes a whole new-and-sometimes wonderful-creation! He often uses the not so great experiences in our lives to help shape us. But He never, EVER throws us away because we are too valuable to Him! **Second Peter 3:9** reminds me: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish". He knows

our potential! Our worth! I'm encouraged that all through the Bible, God used unlikely to do great things! In Casting Crowns' song "Nobody", one line is: "He used 12 outsiders nobody would've chosen and He changed the world". And HE STILL does!

There are even speckled bananas in the Christmas story! (Yes, the Christmas story!) Being young, poor and female, Mary was an unlikely choice to do anything important. Still, when others might have counted her out, she was the one prophecies had spoken of! And what about those shepherds?! They were dirty, outcasts of society but were the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth one holy night at work! Then they told everybody they met! Jesus' story

was just beginning! He left a trail far and wide of untouchables He changed forever.

As followers of Christ, do we see the potential of others or do we judge them by the specks on their peel? Do we see their worth or do we discard them? I wonder how many times I have appeared to be a speckled banana and people have counted me out. Yikes!

My friend, Beverly (not her real name), is one of my favorite bananas. She has speckles and scars from many years of drug use-since age 11-but now has been clean for over 300 days! Thank you so much for praying for her last week! I spoke to her a few days ago on the phone through the plexiglass at the jail. I told her people all over were praying

for her. (That made her cry.) I could not fix all of her problems and I could not make it to court with her. I told her there would be times in her life when she only had God and He was/is enough.

I received many emails with suggestions and directions for her future. Thank you so much for those! God did open a door for her! She has been taken to a rehabilitation center where she can continue her recovery. She sleeps in a real bed and wears clothes that are not jail issued. I cannot call or visit her for 30 days and that's absolutely fine. I know she is safe. I know she is warm. And I know she has God with her. He sees her worth and is helping her to become something wonderful!

Now, I have a hankering to make some banana bread!

Church News

Mail announcements to The Estill Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336
Call (606) 723-5012; Fax to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <News@EstillTribune.Com>

Saturday, November 16th at 6pm

New Bethel #1 Church Singing

The New Bethel Baptist Church #1 on Barnes Mountain will be having a singing on Saturday, November 16 starting at 6 p.m.

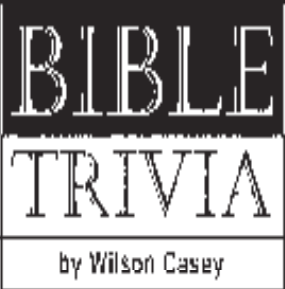
New Harvest will be the guest singers. Refreshments will follow the singing. Everyone is welcome.

Americanisms



"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."
— John F. Kennedy

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Moses, Jacob, Lot

4. Who had seven sons who always celebrated their birthdays with a feast? Eli, Job, John, David

5. The pool of Bethesda is near which "gate" to the city of Jerusalem? Sheep, Camel, Horse, People

6. Who was Caiaphas' father-in-law? Annanias, Ananias, Pilate, Nicodemus

Answers on bottom of Page 12

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online.

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Luke 17, when Jesus healed 10 lepers, how many came back to thank Him? 0, 1, 5, All 10
3. In Genesis 32, whose thigh went out of joint wrestling with an angel? Adam,

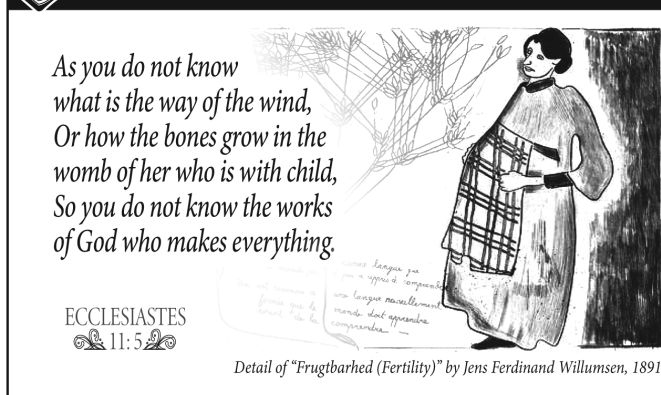
CRIM THE BEAR IT



"I'm not sure I trust a baby sitter desperate enough to watch our kids."

Jimmie L. Johnson, DMD, PSC
Family Dentistry
87 Wildwood Place (off Court St.)
Irvine, Kentucky
(606) 723-3213

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



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seeds of Hope



Years ago it was a heart-warming experience for me to take my wife and sons to visit my childhood home. With some hesitation I knocked on the door. The new owners remembered me and invited us in.

We began our tour in the living room, then went into the dining room and eventually the kitchen. We walked upstairs and paused in my childhood bedroom before visiting the attic. Then we went to the basement. Though there had been some changes, many things remained the same. Walking through my "original home" brought back many memories that flooded my heart. There were tears of joy mixed with tears of sadness as I thought of my family.

As we returned to the car, I began to think of the many different "homes" I'd lived in since my parents died. The final number was rather staggering but not unusual for most people. A recent census study revealed that the average American will live in 11.7 different "homes."

Psalms 90 begins with the word "Lord" referring to our God as a sovereign God who is our eternal shelter - our dwelling place. Moses used the same words in Deuteronomy when he wrote, "the eternal God is your dwelling place." He told the Israelites that God was then and would always be their "home" - their refuge no matter where they were - whether in the wilderness or in the promised land. Home is not a place but a Person.

This same Lord is the eternal God who will become the eternal shelter and refuge for all who accept His Son.

Sower Ministries.org
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

2 THESSALONIANS 1:12

We pray **this** so **that** the **name** of our Lord **Jesus** may be **glorified** in **you**, and you in **him**, **according** to the **grace** of our **God** and the **Lord** **Jesus** **Christ**.

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

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

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Exercising One's Right to do Evil

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

Someone is probably thinking that by the title of this article, "Well, here goes the ravings of another sore loser!" But, I assure you that this is not my intention. I believe that there still exists today many responsible people who would like to think of themselves as good members in the Kingdom of Christ. But, even with this being said, many seem to be drifting fastly away from the trends of faithful devotion to the Lord. **Does the Word of God have anything to say about this trend?** Yes! In the Book of God in **2 Thessalonians 2**, we read about the discussion about the expected-soon return of Jesus back to judge this earth; but Paul wrote, "... *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first...*" (**verse 3**) That the man of Sin (satan) would be revealed and exalted all that is called Godly and was also worshiped as God, sitting in places of supposed righteousness, showing himself as being in control of all things.

To point out these trends of apostasy, we see the fast decline of once practicing church members that no longer are consistent in their attendance or maybe have just stopped attending at all. Why is this? They are eating from the trough of worldliness and exercising their rights to do what they want to do. But, when it comes right down to reality, **men want to say we are one nation under God but don't expect us to do what He says.**

Another point is, just a few days ago we held a statewide election for governor and 50% of our voters chose to install a man who advocates that a woman has rights over her own body to the rejection of a pregnancy conceived in lust and then aborted by murder. Is this exercising one's rights? Or, is it in the eyes of God the deliberate killing of the defenseless baby? Do you believe that we can claim to have the blessings of God upon us even as we practice to do evil? I think not!

Bro. Ron Holbrook, a short time ago, wrote a book based upon the **trends of the new apostasy**. In this book, he points out that apostasy didn't just one day appear suddenly but by individuals rejecting God's simple truths in one area or another. Things believed among churchgoers are no longer believed and practiced as they once were. A cousin of mine said to me recently (**and he attends a Methodist church**), "It seems to me that preachers are no longer preaching about hell any longer as though it had disappeared. **Then he said**, they are substituting it with sermons based upon physiology and or the functions of a feel-good religion, substituting God's righteousness with something that will make you feel good even though one may be doing evil.

I believe that the only thing that will stop the trend of disbelief is a good season of **repentance**. One time a few years ago, an elderly brother said in his public prayer, "**Lord, I ain't the man I need to be**" (hence, a prayer of recognition of one's failure to do God's complete will). Then, he said further, "**But, I sure ain't the man I once was**" (again, a reflection upon the past of his former life of sin and his day of forgiveness). Then, he finished with these words, "**And Lord, I'm sure not the man that I am going to be**" (here, we can clearly see a renewing of his duty to once again practice his faith by being obedient to the will of God who will have all me to be saved and come to the knowledge of God, the truth).

Yes, America needs a resurgence of old time religion that is based upon the **belief and obedience** to our Lord in all things.

But this resurgence depends upon everyone's decision to do better, and we can if we want to.

Come, visit with us, will assist the Lord in giving you a spiritual heart transplant that our county, state, nation seems to be in need of.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local