

QUOTABLE QUOTATIONS:

“God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize,
but that we may intercede.”

Oswald Chambers

“Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not.”

Samuel Jackson

“Prayer does not equip us for the greater work –
prayer is the greater work”

Oswald Chambers

“A comprehended god is no god”

St. John Chrysotom

“The knowledge of God is very far from the love of Him.”

Blaise Pascal

“We cannot live with bitterness because it will first manifest itself in our spirit,
then in our emotions, finally in our bodies.”

Tom Drout

“We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity,
for in prosperity we forget God.”

Dwight Moody

“He who has not forgiven an enemy has not yet tasted
one of the most sublime enjoyments of life.”

Johanna K. Lavater

“Marking your Bibles is a good study help...
but it won't do much for your Christian life unless your Bible marks you. “

Anonymous

Today's Verse ...

taken from "Heartlight Magazine" on the web

John 17:23 :

"I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

Thought: How will the world come to know that God sent his Son? Through our unity? How will the world know that God truly loves us as his children? When we live together in unity. What is that unity? What's harder to define. The basis of unity is a life of character so consistent with the will of God that He can be seen living in us! Yet for this kind of unity to be seen by the world, it has to be visible in the way we work with each other in the cause of the Gospel, the way we handle our differences, the way as a group that we consistently treat people of the world, and the way we come together in areas that clearly matter to God. May it only be so!

Prayer: Father, please help us, your children, come together in ways that honor You, reveal Your character and lead others to call on Jesus as Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen

My Prayer

O God Almighty, you are the one who directs the paths of history and brings kingdoms to nothing when they interfere with your work in the world, please help me and those with whom I fellowship to never interfere with Your will. Please never let me be guilty of wanting to preserve my religious understanding at the expense of Your Kingdom, Your people and Your will. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Sword Of The Spirit

WHEN TEMPTATIONS COME, dear Father, and terrible things happen, help me remember what to do. Not only will I praise You for victory to come, but I will fine tune my whole being to obey Your will. I can't always sit back and do nothing, so I pray for guidance. I'll take a firm stand for right. Though evil beset me. I shall not be moved from my place by Your side. I'll reach for the most aggressive piece of armor You've given me; the Sword of truth.

Remind me not to run ahead of You but to await the instructions in Your Word. When I tremble with fear, I turn and see that You are beside me. I speak Your name and sense Your protecting presence.

How I marvel and praise You when I see You contend with the enemy who seeks to harm me or my loved ones. You take up the shield and buckler. In a heartbeat You come to my aid. You brandish the spear, the javelin. Your sword against those who pursue me. You are my God, My salvation. Through Your power, the wrongdoers are caught in their own snares and they fall in the very pits they have dug to destroy others.

Life's battle didn't used to be so intense. Times are worsening. It's like the forces of good and evil are warring all around us. Even those who don't profess to be Christians wonder if we are in the end times. Satan is a ravenous beast with sharp teeth eager to devour all in his path. His words are forked and cunning, ready to trip me up if I'm not alert to Your direction. I wait, I search Your Word for direction and strength. At Your signal, You call me to arms. I claim the precious Scriptures in Your Word with fearless authority. The very mention of Your name in praise causes the devil to shrink and flee. The Lord redeems me, His lowly servant. By Your righteous and powerful Word, the battle is won once again. Your word is a double edged sword in my hands. I will carry it in my heart everywhere I go and give You all the glory. Thank You, Father, for Your sword of the Spirit, Your holy Bible.

Called On Account Of Darkness

by Lynn Anderson

Last week NPR carried a brief blurb about a soccer game that never happened:

It seems, two soccer teams in Brazil met for an afternoon match. But an argument broke out over which team would get which bench. By the time they settled the argument, darkness had settled over the field. So the authorities called off the game. Seems that Brazil is facing a major power shortage and since field lights drain away mega watts, the Brazilian government has halted night soccer games....so that game never happened.

How human! Selfish human preferences thwarting larger purposes.

National progress neutralized by partisan politics in Washington.

Israelis and Palestinians both demand their own rights; resulting in neither rights nor peace for either side.

Surely not among Christians! Contemporary vs. traditional worship styles. Maintaining the past vs. shaping a future. Orthodoxy vs. Relevance. Male dominance vs. feminism. Pre-mill vs. Post vs. a-mill, My way or the Highway over this and that. On and on. While God's central mission gets shoved to the margins. Lost people stay lost. Saved people don't grow. Injustice grinds on. The community of faith does not get and mature. God is not glorified.

And time passes – swiftly, opportunities slip away. Doors close, Jesus mission is thwarted. Will darkness settle in before the game gets played?

What difference did it make who got which bench? They came to play soccer. What difference whose preferences win? We came to glorify God.

These times call for Christ following, people serving, mission fulfilling, God glorifying believers. Folks willing to 'each consider others better than themselves,' who 'look not only to their own interests, but to the interest of others,' for folks to 'think on' the positive things in each others. (Phil 2) Each believer can, as Michelangelo would say, "criticize by creating something beautiful."

Seems like I read somewhere, "We must work the works of him that sent us while it is day, for the night comes when no man can work."

Kitchen Stuff

Recipes

Taco Cornbread Squares

from Denise Hughes of Waynesville, Missouri

Ready in 1 hour or less.

1 (8 ½ oz) pkg corn bread/muffin mix
1 egg
1/3 cup milk
2 ½ cups cooked Taco Seasoned Meat
1 can refried beans
1 cup (8 oz) sour cream

1 ½ cups (6oz) shredded Mexican cheese
blend or cheddar cheese, divided
¼ cup chopped onion
1 medium tomato, chopped
1 cup shredded lettuce
1 can (2 ¼ oz) sliced ripe olives, drained

In a bowl, combine corn bread mix, egg and milk until blended. Spread into a greased 9 in square baking dish. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Combine taco meat and beans; spread over corn bread. Combine sour cream, 1 cup cheese and onion; spread over meat mixture. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted. Sprinkle with tomato, lettuce, olives and remaining cheese. Yield 4-6 servings.

Denise makes and freezes her seasoned taco meat.

She uses: 4 lb ground beef
 4 medium onion, chopped
 4 envelopes taco seasoning mix

Cook beef and onions until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add the taco seasoning and mix well. Cool. Spoon 2½ cups into four re-sealable freezer bags. Freeze for up to 3 months. Yield 10 cups total or 4 batches for whatever Mexican dishes you are preparing.

Frozen Berry Fluff

from Donetta Brunner of Savanna, Illinois

(Sounds like a summer dessert, but its good any time of year!!!)

2 cans (21 oz each,) raspberry or strawberry pie filling
1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
1 can (8oz) crushed pineapple, undrained, *optional*
1 carton (12 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed
Fresh berries and mint, *optional*

In a bowl, combine pie filling, milk and pineapple, if pineapple is desired. Fold in whipped topping. Spread into an ungreased 13 x 9 in pan. Cover and freeze for 8 hours or overnight. Remove from the freezer 10-15 minutes before serving. Cut into squares. Garnish each with berries and mint, if desired.

Yield: 12-15 servings .

Some Things To Do With Bacon

Mac and Cheese: prepare a box of mac and cheese according to package directions. Spoon into a serving dish. Sprinkle with 2 sliced scallions and 2 slices cooked, crumbled bacon.

Bacon Crostini: Brush 12 thin baguette slices with olive oil and bake at 375° for 8 minutes or until golden. Top each with half a strip of cooked bacon, crumbled blue cheese, and parsley.

Green pea soup: In large saucepan cook 2 strips chopped bacon until crisp. Remove to a plate lined with paper towels. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat from saucepan. Add 2 sliced shallots and 1 teaspoon chopped fresh ginger. Sauté 2 minutes. Add ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add 2 cups thawed green peas and 2 cups chicken broth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and let simmer for 5 minutes. Puree in batches in a blender until smooth. Ladle into 4 bowls. Top each serving with bacon.

Healthy chicken wraps: Toss 3 cups shredded rotisserie chicken with 6 slices chopped low sodium bacon, 1 cup grated low fat Monterey Jack, 3 chopped scallions, and light ranch dressing. Fill flour tortillas, add shred romaine and roll up. Cut in half.

Bacon wrapped shrimp: Wrap half a slice of bacon around each of 12 large, peeled and deveined shrimp. Brush with maple syrup and bake at 425° for 10 minutes or until shrimp and bacon are cooked through.

Potato Omelet: In a large skillet, cook 4 strips chopped bacon until crisp. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat. Add ½ cup thawed, diced hash brown potatoes, cook until very hot. Remove hash browns and wipe out skillet. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk 4 eggs, 3 tablespoon water, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Heat skillet over medium for 30 seconds. Add 2 tablespoon butter and let melt. Add egg mixture. Stir gently, then cook over medium heat, lifting cooked edges of omelet and letting uncooked egg run to edges of pan. Spoon potato bacon mixture and 3 tablespoons grated cheddar cheese onto omelet. Fold over and remove to plate Serves 2.

BLT with basil mayo: In a food processor, pulse ½ cup chopped basil leaves, 1 teaspoon chopped garlic, ¼ teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Add ½ cup mayonnaise and pulse until smooth. Spread mayo mixture on crusty bread. Add layers of crisp turkey bacon, thick tomato slices and lettuce leaves. Top with slice of bread. Cut in half.

Green beans and bacon: Steam 2 lb trimmed green beans for 10 minutes or until tender. In a skillet, cook 2 slices bacon until crisp. When cool, crumble very fine. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat and discard. In skillet, cook 1 small onion until very soft. Add beans and cook until heated through. Add salt and pepper to taste. Spoon into a serving dish. Top with crumbled bacon.

Savory biscuits: Prepare 2 cups Bisquick complete buttermilk biscuit Mix according to package directions. Stir 3 strips cooked, crumbled bacon into dough, roll out. Cut out biscuits with a round cookie cutter. Bake according to package directions.

Iceberg wedge with warm bacon and blue cheese dressing: In a medium bowl, combine 1 ½ cups mayonnaise, 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, 1 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper and 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce. Add 1 cup coarsely crumbled blue cheese. Cook ½ lb thick cut bacon, cut crosswise into 1 inch pieces, until golden brown and beginning to crisp. Wash 1 large head of iceberg lettuce and cut into 6 wedges, each with some core attached. Thinly slice ½ red onion. Arrange lettuce on plates. Drizzle a little dressing over each and reserve remaining dressing. Using a slotted spoon, transfer warm bacon from skillet onto salads. Garnish with red onion.

Cleaning With Baking Soda

We all know baking soda is a very good cleanser and deodorant. Here are a few more ideas...from a book called "Old Ways Rediscovered" by Clarence Meyer.

Soda cleans bug spatter and traffic grime from windshield, headlight, chrome and enamel. Wipe with soda sprinkled onto damp sponge or dissolved (3 tablespoons per quart) in warm water. Rinse with clear water.

Soda sweetens and purifies vacuum bottles, jugs and ice chests. For bottles use 2 tablespoons in hot water, shake and rinse. Four tablespoons in hot water for jugs and chests, then rinse.

A tablespoon of soda to a quart of warm water will loosen dirt, grease and stains on wrought iron furniture. For painted wood and wicker furniture use 2 tablespoons of soda to a gallon of warm water.

Use baking soda on a damp cloth to clean the white surface on the cooking range, or any other porcelain surface.

Soda moistened in milk or soapsuds will remove fruit or tea stains on table linen or napkins.

For scouring and brightening table and kitchen knives, use soda. Toilets, kitchen sink and laundry tubs can be kept sweet and clean with a generous use of soda and hot water.

To clean jewelry, put in a flannel bag with soda and shake freely, or let it remain and it will become bright and clean.

If your chinaware gets brown, put some soda in the pot, fill with water, make it hot. Boil your dishes in it then, and they will whiten up again.

Soda removes odors of fish, garlic, onions and the like from hands. Sprinkle liberally onto wet hands and rub thoroughly

No matter how badly a vessel is burned, you can clean it this way. Put 3 tablespoons of baking powder and 3 of soda in one quart of water—put on stove and boil hard for a while. If the crust doesn't pop loose, repeat and boil longer. Add more water as it boils down.

Odors such as those of fish are quickly removed from pans by soaking in soda water. Use about 3 tablespoons of soda to each quart of water then wash the pans with soapy water , rinse and dry.

Home Crafted Hurricane Lamp

By Noreta Mc Gowen

Finished size 18" tall (including glass)

Materials:

Plastic plates, 9" diameter & 6" diameter
Peanut butter jar with lid, small size
Whipped topping container, small size
Small stones or marbles (to weight the holder)
Flat black paint, or color desired
8 inch glass lamp chimney, 7 inch candle

Canning jar lid and ring
Aerosol hair spray lid
Desired flowers or greens
Hot glue gun and glue sticks
Paintbrush

Instructions:

Assemble...wash and dry all items. Fill the peanut butter jar with stones. Replace lid. Stack the containers in the following order.

(Note: If fit is not secure, replace with proper size)

Lay the large plate on your work surface. Place the peanut butter jar, with lid attached, on the center of the plate. Center the whipped topping container on top of peanut butter jar; fill 1/3 full with stones. Place the small plate on top. Center the canning lid with ring on the plate; lastly, place hair spray lid on top of all. If all pieces fit properly, hot glue together, in order given. Let dry.

Paint. Paint the entire piece in desired color.

(Note: You may also spray paint, if desired)

Finishing:

Set the candle in the center of hair spray lid. Place glass chimney over candle. Decorate the base with flowers or greens. Hot glue in place.

This is pretty easy to do and really is very pretty. You can make it whatever color and use whatever you desire to decorate it. Depending on if you are using it for a special occasion, for Christmas, Easter or ???

Or just for use in a room in your house enjoy your options!!

Family Matters

Matthew 19:13-15 (NCV)

Then the people brought their little children to Jesus so he could put his hands on them and pray for them. His followers told them to stop but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children. After Jesus put his hands on the children, he left there.

In a world dangerous to children, loving parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus. If he would bless them, pray for the, place his hands on them, then surely those children would be protected, healed and blessed.

Who could blame them? They had seen the amazing things Jesus had done for others. They loved their children. Jesus himself had talked about letting children come to him.

Why would the disciples stop them? Maybe it's the same reason we do. We get distracted by other things and let them take us, and our children, away from the Lord. We let problems with our spouse destroy our home and crush our children's hearts. We get involved in important religious things and forget to involve our children in our spiritual journey.

No matter what, Jesus' message is clear. "Quit!" Quit getting in the way of the children from coming to me!" Let's not only hear his words, but let's respond to them, especially in the context they are uttered here. Divorce! Let's acknowledge that so many children are kept fro Jesus because of the sin and rebellion of parents to honor their marriage covenant because of their selfishness and sexual sin. Being too busy, even with good things, if it causes us to ignore our responsibilities of teaching and showing our children Jesus...by word and example. Whatever it is that we might be even unknowingly doing that is keeping our children from Jesus....we need to take stock and make some changes if we need to.

Holy Father, Please make me aware of the children you have put around me that you want me to help bring to Jesus. Help me see them. Help me bring them to Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen

For Trivia Lovers

Some Coca-Cola trivia ...

The mother of all soft drinks Coca Cola origins can be traced to the 1885 experiments of an Atlanta chemical company owner named John Styth Pemberton. Pemberton, who had already created Globe of Flower Cough Syrup, Indian Queen Hair Dye, Triplex Liver Pills, and the blood medicine Extract of Styllinger, was trying to copy a popular health elixir of the time, Vin Mariani, a wine spiked with coca. Pemberton's concoction, which he dubbed French Wien of Coca, was designed to be a stimulant, a health drink like the kind favored by such noteworthy folk as Ulysses S. Grant and Jules Verne. Pemberton advertised it as an "ideal nerve tonic and stimulant."

But French wine of Coca was a flop. So Pemberton went back to the laboratory drawing board. He added kola nut extract because it contained the stimulant caffeine and substituted flavored sugar water for the wine. The result was a thick syrup with a sweet taste and a bit of a kick. It could be consumed straight or mixed in water. Pemberton's bookkeeper, Frank Robinson, gave the drink its name. Coca-Cola, changing the k in kola to a c to enhance the script logo he had in mind.

Pemberton took his new syrup drink to druggist Willis Venable at Jacob's Drug Store. It was Venable who added carbonated water, either on his own or at the suggestion of a customer. No one is sure which. During the first year Venable sold an average of thirteen glasses of Coca-Cola a day.

In July 1887 Pemberton and Robinson sold the formula for this new health tonic to Venable and his partner, George S Lowndes. They owned the rights –and the all important formula –for only five months before selling out to Woolfolk Walker and Mrs. M.C. Dozier. Obviously none of these folks knew what they had because Walker and Dozier turned around and sold the name and formula in 1888 to Asa G. Candler.

It would be Candler who would turn Coca Cola into a household name. He did a little tinkering with the sacred formula, by all accounts improving the taste of the drink. William Poundstone, in the book *Big Secrets*, speculates that Candler added phosphoric acid, among other changes. He also turned the formula into a closely

guarded secret. Only Chandler and his new partner, Frank Robinson—the same—were allowed in the lab when the formula was being concocted. Ingredient labels were removed as bottles arrived. Only Candler was allowed to open the mail; only Candler was allowed to pay the bills. The name Coca-Cola was trademarked on January 31, 1893. In 1945 the company trademarked the name Coke. But because it didn't trademark the second part of its name, "Cola," the term has become synonymous with an entire category of dark brown soft drinks.

Shortly thereafter Candler took out an ad in the Atlanta Journal. "Coco-Cola." "delicious" . "Refreshing." "Exhilarating." "Invigoration."

"The new and popular soda fountain drink containing the tonic properties of the wonderful coca plant and the famous cola nuts on draught at the popular soda fountains at 5 cents per glass."

Also in the ad was a pitch for Candler's other product, Delectalave, the Great Toth Wash.

By 1894, sales of Coca-Cola were too large to handle production of the syrup in one central location. That's when Candler devised his numbered ingredients system. Instead of giving the formula to each branch plant, he shipped the ingredients to them in numbered bottles. They were to mix up the formula, using bottles 1 to 9, according to a recipe provided from Atlanta headquarters.

But the Coca-Cola secret formula was not as secret as Candler would have liked. An Atlanta woman named Diva Brown claimed that John Pemberton sold her the Coke formula shortly before he died in 1888, and over the next couple of decades she sold passable imitations under the names Better Cola, Celery Yum, Lime Cola, My-Cola, Vera-Cola, Vera Cola and Yum Yum. She died in 1914 but not before selling her secrets to two other manufacturers, businessman John Fletcher and the Koke Company. Both were eventually put out of business by Coca-Cola.

In 1914, with imitation cola drinks running rampant, Candler decided Coke needed its own distinctive bottle, one that coke lovers could recognize in the dark. To accomplish the task he went to Don Samuelson at Root Glass in Terre Haute, Indiana. Samuelson looked in the Encyclopedia Britannica for a picture of a kola nut and created the now famous green bottle to match the egg shaped nut.

Coca-Cola came under scrutiny from government watchdogs in 1909. Government agents seized a shipment of Coke syrup bound from Atlanta to Chattanooga and charged the company under the recently minted Pure Food and

Drug Act of 1906. The government believed that Coca-Cola contained the recently banned substance cocaine. There was also concern about the name. If it was called Coca-Cola, it should have coca and kola in it. If it didn't then it was misbranding, also a violation of the Pure Food and Drug Act.

During trial in the case of U.S. v/ Forty Barrels and Twenty Kegs of Coca-Cola, the government presented several chemical analyses of Coca-Cola, the closest official reading we have to date of what is in a Coke. By one analysis Coca-Cola was 48.86 percent sugar. Water was pegged at anywhere from 31 to 40 percent. Also present in detectable amounts were caffeine, phosphoric acid, caramel, glycerin, lime juice and oil of cassia (Chinese cinnamon).

No coca, no kola.

To be continued....more about Coke and other Colas in future issues!!

Birthstones

This month's birthstone is the garnet. It signifies eternal friendship and trust...making it the perfect gift for a friend. Garnet, derived from the word granatum, means seed and is called so because of the gemstones resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the stone date back to 3100 BC, when the Egyptians used garnet as inlays in jewelry.

Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a variety of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of the tsavorites. Today the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka and India.

The Bowmaker

As you probably know my husband, Lynn is an avid archer and bowhunter....and has been since he was a small boy. So the following was a poem he carried with him in his bowcase and other places for many years. I think it is a good analogy so thought I would share it with you.

"The Bowmaker"

By Dan A. Biddle, 1993

I find myself like an Indian Bow, as my Maker gently carves me into who I will become.

My Maker sees me inside the tree. Before I am created, He sees my finished form and faithfully works me into who I will be.

First, I am taken from my roots from where I first received my nourishing, life giving sap, I am left to season, until I become strong; then I am ready to be carved and shaped.

Deeper and deeper my master cuts through the years of my growth until He reaches my heart – the very core of my being.

He is careful to find the strongest grain and stay within its course; for I would be weak and the very strength of me be broken if the deepest part in me were cut off – the part I grew when first joined with Him.

He is careful not to force my shape or design as He stays within the way I was created. My flaws and knots are gently worked around to preserve the final form He wishes to make.

I must die out to my own form – to my original shape and be formed anew in order to be useful.

Finally, my new person emerges bent, tested, and slowly made until balanced and even until I can bear the load I am designed to carry.

At last I am finished. He crowns me with décor and glory. He uses me and displays me as His own, ready and willing to be used.

He is careful to unstring me and give me times of rest so I can preserve my shape and strength and serve Him at my best.

Oh, but how I must stay flexible and ready – ready to be used to bring glory to my Maker and serve the purpose for which I was created.



Answers To Last Month's Quiz :

1. Nothing. Luke 2:13-14 tells us. "suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, peace to men on whom His favor rests." Nowhere in the Bible does it say that angel sing. Of course, Scripture never says they don't either!
2. The West. Matthew 2:1-2 reads, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." The Wise Men were in the East and they saw the star in the Western sky. Had they been traveling toward a star in the East, they would have started from somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The house. Not the stable. Matthew 2:9-11 says, "After (the wise men) had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him..." By the time the Wise Men would have arrived, Mary and Joseph would have left the stable. It would have taken a while for the Wise Men to arrive. Perhaps a couple of years, since Herod killed children in Bethlehem under the age of two.
4. We don't know. Three is the traditional number, but Scripture only tells us of three gifts, not necessarily three wise men.
5. Probably Spring. Luke 2:8 tells us, "and there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night." It is unlikely they would have been living in the fields during winter. Spring is the most likely time. (scripture doesn't say...if it had been important for us to know, we would have been told!)
6. We don't know. Christmas cards may favor a donkey, but scripture doesn't tell us.
7. We don't know. Christmas cards may favor camels, but Scripture doesn't tell us.
8. Germany
9. The 4th century. Christmas Carols began in the 14th & 15th centuries. Christmas cards were first sent in the early 19th century.

10. Yes. In 4th Century AD. Nicholas showed acts of kindness and charity early in his life. He served as bishop of Myra (now in turkey) and was considered a saint since the 6th century.

11. The nativity scene.

12. No. But he did tell us to remember his death. "Do this in remembrance of me" Luke 22:19

This Month's Quiz

Each of the following is the first verse of a book of the bible. Name the book in each one.

1. The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

3. there was a man in the land of Uz

4. the former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began to do and teach.

5. The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

6. In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem and besieged it.

7. Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.

8. The words of the Preacher ,the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

9. God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets.

10. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.

Smiles

“Only men call a fifty mile hike physical fitness;
women call it shopping.”

“Blessed are they who have nothing to say
and who cannot be persuaded to say it.”

Sing Praises

*“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our
sufficiency is from God.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:5*

In his book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence claimed to be as close to God while working in the kitchen as when praying in the chapel. The Lord after all, is always near us, thus wherever we are is holy ground. That was the experience of Annie Hawks, a housewife and mother of three in Brooklyn, New York.

As a child Annie Sherwood had dabbled in poetry, her first verse being published when she was fourteen. In 1857, she married Charles Hawks and they established their home in Brooklyn, joining Dr Robert Lowry's Hanson Place Baptist church. With the good doctor's encouragement, she began writing Sunday school songs for children and he set many of them to music.

“I Need Thee Every Hour” was written on a bright June morning in 1872. Annie later wrote, “One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness of the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain. These words, I Ned Thee Every Hour, were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me.”

The next Sunday, Annie handed these words to Dr Lowry, who wrote the tune and chorus while seated at the little organ in the living room of his Brooklyn parsonage. Later that year, it was sung for the first time at the National Baptist Sunday

School Association meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio and published in a hymnbook the following year.

When Annie's husband died sixteen years later, she found that her own hymn was among her greatest comforts. "I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity." Annie wrote. "It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace."

Some times after Charles' death, Annie moved to Bennington, Vermont, to live with her daughter and son in law. All in all, she wrote over four hundred hymns during her eighty three years, though only this one is still widely sung.

I Need Thee Every Hour, 1872

Words by Annie Hawks

Music and Chorus by Robert Lowry

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord.
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou near by,
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour in joy or pain,
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

I need thee every hour, most Holy one,
oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou Blessed Son.

I need thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee.
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

About Our Presidents

(excerpted from Kenneth C. Davis's book "Don't Know Much About the American Presidents.")

Thomas Jefferson

Milestones in his life:

Born at Shadwell plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia, April 13, 1749

Began practicing law in 1767

Served in Virginia legislature 1769-1779

Member of Virginia delegation of continental congress 1775-1776

Drafted Declaration of Independence July, 1776

Governor of Virginia, 1779-1781

Member of Virginia's delegation to Congress 1783-1784

Diplomatic commissioner of Congress in Europe 1784-1785

U.S. Diplomatic minister to France 1785-1789

Secretary of state under Washington 1789-1793

Vice President under John Adams 1797-1801

Third president 1801-1809

Died at Monticello, Virginia, aged eight three July 4, 1826

Gathering a group of Nobel Prize winners for a White House dinner in April 1962, John f. Kennedy quipped, " I think this is the most extraordinary collection of human knowledge that has ever been gathered together here at the white House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

And that just about says it all. Like a true Renaissance man, or the giant of the Enlightenment Age that he was, Jefferson was conversant in music, architecture, botany, meteorology, wine, mechanical engineering, philosophy and books -"I cannot live without books," he famously wrote.

On the other hand, there is no more stunning example of the contradictions of America's founding and creation than the "Sage of Monticello,". Though a tireless champion of liberty, Jefferson owned slaves all of his life, even though he considered the practice immoral and had included a condemnation of slavery in his draft of the

Declaration—deleted by the Continental congress. Like Washington, Jefferson believed that slavery would eventually die out in America. Encouraged by his friend abolitionist Benjamin rush, he wanted to plant maple trees in the hope that maple sugar would replace the cane sugar produced by slaves and put a dent in the slave economy. But slaves, presumably, would still tend his Monticello maple trees.

As Garry Wills, a self professed admirer of Jefferson, wrote, “I disagree with those who would diminish his great achievement, the Declaration of Independence. Or those who call him more a friend to despotism than to freedom. Or those who would reduce his whole life to one affair with a slave. My Jefferson is as giant, but a giant trammeled in a net.”

Lawyer, writer, scientist, philosopher, architect, visionary, Founding Father, principal author of one of the greatest documents in the history of freedom,. Slaveholder. And therein lies the rub.

Fast Facts:

Religion: No formal affiliation—Deist

Career before Politics: Planter, lawyer

Education: college of William and Mary

Political party: Democratic-Republican

Spouse: Martha Wayles Skelton (Oct 30, 1748-Sept 6, 1782) Jefferson’s wife, Martha, first married at age eighteen, and was widowed two years later. Her first son, John Skelton, died at the age of four in June 1771. In January 1772, she married Thomas Jefferson and the newlyweds set off for Monticello in a rare blizzard. Although there are no known portraits of Martha Jefferson, she was described by friends and family as small, graceful, attractive, and an accomplished musician like her husband. With Jefferson she bore six children, but only two survived to adulthood, and Martha Jefferson died four months after the birth of a daughter, Lucy (who died at the age of two) Contemporary accounts depict Jefferson as disconsolate after his wife’s death, which he wrote “left him a blank.” He added these lines from the Iliad, in Greek, to her tombstone:

“Nay even in the house of Hades the dead forget their dead,
Yet will I even there be mindful of my dear comrade.”

Children: Martha (Patsy) and Mary (Polly). Thomas and Martha had six children together, but four of them did not live to maturity. Eldest daughter Martha Jefferson Randolph filled the role of first lady at times during Jefferson’s White House

years. Dolley Madison, the wife of Jefferson vice president also filled in ably as Jefferson social hostess.

He was the first president inaugurated in Washington, D.C. on Wed. March 4, 1801, a day described as mild and beautiful. He broke precedent by walking to and from his swearing in ceremony.

He was the third of eight Virginia born president.

He did not deliver his Message to Congress (or State of the Union address) in person as Washington and Adams had done, but sent it in written form. That remained the precedent until Woodrow Wilson delivered the annual Message to Congress in person.

Consider these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote on the front of his well worn Bible: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator." He was also the chairman of the American Bible society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

(Note....again there is so much more interesting information in this book, I highly recommend it to anyone interested in knowing more about all of the U.S presidents.)

OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

Continued from information from Wallbuilders, David Barton...that we started last month.

On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "the highest glory of the American revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th U.S. President reaffirmed this truth when he wrote..."the foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

In 1782 the United States congress voted this resolution. "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools."

William Holmes McGuffey is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools with over 125 million copies sold until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the “Schoolmaster of the Nation.”

Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey : “The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our notions on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. From all these extracts from the Bible I make no apology.”

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first, Harvard University, chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard Student Handbook rule number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek so that they could study the scriptures. Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3, and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation for our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments. James Madison, the primary author of the constitution of the United States, said this: we have staked the whole future of our new nation not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten commandments.”

Today, we are asking God to bless America. But, how can He bless a nation that has departed so far from Him? Prior to Sept 11, He was not welcome in America. Most of what you have read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country’s Christian roots.

(Note: Once again read II Chronicles 7:14....God’s instructions to Solomon....He is the same God today as then...pray He will do the same for us today, if we do what He says.....sincerely and from our hearts, with repentance and godly sorrow for how far away we as a nation (and individually) have strayed.)

Woman

This is an excerpt from a book by Marge Green entitled “Martha, Martha”.

Ladies if you don’t feel better about being a woman after you read this, you should. We are a special creation and have been created for specific reasons. In our society today this is something you will not hear about....that doesn’t mean it isn’t true or that it has changed. Times may changes but God’s eternal purposes do not and His

creation of us and His purpose for creating us is still the same as it was when He made Eve. We are not a second thought, we are a special, unique creation!!! Praise God!

And God saw that it was good! His earth, His heavens, His sun, His moon -- He beheld them and saw that they were good. He spoke into being the plants and the trees and He saw that they were right. Each day He continued to create and as He looked upon His work, He knew that it was perfect. He spoke to His Son, saying "let us make man in our image." And from the dust man was fashioned. This was the creature to whom God would give His blessing so in His own image, He breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul!

The sixth day was drawing to a close and God surveyed all His labor. The beauty of nature at its most perfect stretched before Him. Into this paradise He placed Adam, for it was to be his job to dress and keep the garden of Eden. All seemed complete for Adam had finished naming all the living creatures brought before him by God. Yet all was not accomplished -- there was something lacking, "and the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone, I will make an helpmeet for him." And it was thus that woman came into being.

Everything which God created was good! We are told this in His own words. Yet there is only one creation for which He saw a specific need and created just to fulfill that need. This is the blessing He passed to woman. God saw all that He had done and that it was good. Yet He saw there was a need for something else, and that was woman. How humble this should make very female since she, and she alone, was created because God saw the necessity for it. What a place of honor woman was given and in truth, it might be said that she was the crowning glory of God's work. Man was to be the head of all creation but woman was given the opportunity to be the crown for that head.

Not only was woman created to fill a specific need but she was made from finer material than that of man. Adam was formed from the dust of the earth but God did not choose the dust to produce his mate. She was made from part of Adam's body. "Why" we ask. By searching the word of God we can get at least some reasons for this thought the complete truth will never be ours until that first day of Eternity when we shall know all. First woman was formed from man to show her unity with him as part of himself. When a man and woman are married, God says they become "one flesh." This can be more literally seen when we realize we were fashioned from a physical part of man and not from some unrelated material.

Because she was made from him, woman has a right to man's love and protection. God did not want Adam to be alone so He fashioned woman and brought

her to him. All things were in readiness for this being; a husband, a home, a purpose. Because she was 'bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh' Adam knew he must love her. He did not have to be told this for when God presented woman to him, he knew that she was a part of him and therefore deserved his care and allegiance.

In the NT (Acts 17:2) Luke testifies that from one blood or flesh God created all mankind. This, too would give and added reason for woman to be made from man instead of dust. God created Adam full grown and from Adam He created woman, also full grown. Their propagation from this time forward was to be according to the law of God set forth that each should reproduce in its own seed after its own kind. This gives absolutely no comfort to those who try to make us believe that humanity evolved. For in the first human beings, we see one created full grown from another. Certainly no hint of evolving could come from this. God created Adam and all mankind came from this one flesh or blood.

When Adam awoke and saw the being which God gave to him, he called her Woman. Literally, this means "from man" or in some translations, "womb-man." Her creations signified the closeness of these two for as one ancient philosopher wrote, "She was made of a rib taken from his side - not made out of his head, to rule over him, nor out of his feet, to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm, to be protected and near his heart, to be loved." No more accurate description of her position has ever been penned.

I will leave you this month with the above thoughts and a prayer.

Lord, help us to always be the women that You intended us to be when You created us!!! In Jesus name, Amen