

Eastern Ky. Columnist

Sometimes it seems like winter is lasting forever. The cold seeps into our bones. We long for spring and the new life it brings! Daffodils and forsythia yell, "It's here! It's here!" but the snow doesn't listen. Christmas seems like it was so long ago! When will spring truly begin?

cember 25th or not, it must have seemed like winter. It was a cold, dark time when no one had heard the Messiah. They watched and hoped. And finally, He came. Though not at all what they had anticipated: a baby in a manger. What kind of Messiah is born in a

Spring Has Sprung

abounded all over the countryside. Spring had finally come! New life was everywhere! He the women went to the tomb, healed the lame and gave sight to the blind. He fed the hungry and been rolled away and the tomb taught the crowds about His Fa- was empty. They had never seen ther. But there were some who or talked to an angel before. He didn't want these wonderful told them Jesus was not there, things. They did not need a Savior, that He was alive! Minds. Blown. they thought. He was rocking the Then the angel gave them marchboat. They would put a stop to all ing orders: go and tell. Did they of this madness, they decided.

And they did. But only because skip on their way? the Messiah allowed it. He is oming". He had known all along how it would go.

The Savior of the world had been first/last time THAT happened! When Jesus was born, De-crucified. Right there in front of from God. The people longed for the cross, wrapped tenderly in Please know that Jesus is ALIVE bled home trying to make sense has held you down for too long. of all that had happened.

as we know it changed forever! When the Baby grew, joy The spring of all springs came to Ierusalem, to the world!

> Early Sunday morning, when they found that the stone had squeal? Did they cry? Did they

I L-O-V-E that Luke 24 tells of niscient, which means "all-know- the exchange, "When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to On Good Friday, it must have all the others..." Verse 11 is my seemed like winter. The sky favorite: "But they did not believe turned dark in the afternoon. the women, because their words Surely, there was a chill in the air. seemed like nonsense." Not the

It may seem that winter is lineveryone. It had been horrific, gering cold, dark and too long in a nightmare, and now He was your life. You want spring in your gone. He was taken down from heart and new life in your bones. cloth and placed in a borrowed and ready to give you a fresh start, tomb. Friends and family stum- to melt the snow in your soul that

Winter is over. Spring has But . . . on the third day . . . life come and brought a risen Savior!

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore **God** exalted him to the **highest** place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of <u>Jesus</u> every <u>knee</u> should <u>bow</u>, in <u>heaven</u> and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of

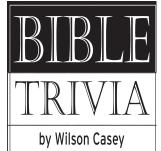
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



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



1. Is the book of Nehemiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?

was the number of wives in Nineveh? Nathan, Paul, and princesses, along with 300 concubines of King Solomon? 3, 50, 100, 700

3. When he had a vision, who said "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean"? Adam, Reuben, Samson, Peter

4. From Acts 7, who was the first person martyred for his belief in Jesus Christ? Apollos, John the Baptist, Jehu, Stephen

5. When he met King Abimelech, Abraham pretended that Sarah was his

Daughter 6. Besides Jonah, what

Mother, Neighbor, Sister,

2. From 1 Kings 11, what other prophet ministered Nahum, Philip

Answers on bottom of Page 13

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

Once Saved, Always Saved Is This Without Exceptions?

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

I can't remember the times that folks have said this very thing in defense of their lifestyle, but, is it true? It would be wonderful to all who claim salvation through one plan or another, because this statement actually is saying that one may not be held accountable for sins committed after they have supposedly been converted. It it were true, then every obedient Christian would never have anything to fear by any sins committed by them.

In Acts 8:9-24, Simon the magician, working witchcraft among the Samaritans, heard the Gospel preached, believed it, and he obeyed it by being baptized and for some length of time, he followed the Apostles. So, by reading the text, we can clearly see that he was considered an obedient Christian. Then in Verse 18, sin arose in Simon in so much that he wanted the gift that was given to the Apostles only, desiring no doubt to make a lot of money by doing so. Then, what happened? Peter said, "Thy money perish with thee." He went on to say, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the *sight of God.*" Then Peter called upon him to "Repent" therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." He added, "I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (lawlessness). Then, Simon asked the Apostles to "pray ye to the Lord for *me, that none of these things which ye have spoken* come upon me."

Now, some may argue from dust to dawn that this man was never saved in the first place, but they can never prove it from the Scriptures because Acts 2:38 refutes it. This man no doubt had fallen from the Lord because of the sin of lust and greed for money had overtaken him.

But, the Scriptures are full of warnings that we should ever be on guard because "the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." ^{1 Peter 2:8} Paul says in **1 Corinthians 10:12**, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

The writer of Hebrews wrote very strongly to the Jewish brethren not to tempt the Lord by refusing to live up to their commitment. In **Hebrews 3:6**, he wrote, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Then in **Verse 12,** he adds, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." He goes on to say in Verses 13-14, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."

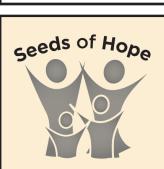
So then, the Scriptures give us examples and warnings to tell us to avoid sins that if continued and go unrepented of, will destroy us at the end. One of the saddest comments regarding those who do not believe sins unrepented of will destroy one, only need to read **2 Peter 2:20-21**, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. ²¹For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." Then he uses the nature of dogs and hogs to prove his point.

Friends, we will all have to fight the fight of faith as long as we live, but to let our guard down to believe that we cannot sin away our security with Christ, is a misleading idea.

Paul, in **Romans 7**, tells us of his warfare between the Spirit and the flesh (Verses 23-25), saying, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

So, don't be misled into the idea that we can "sin up a storm" and never be held accountable as a Christian. For further conversation, call any time, 1-WACO-369-4165.

Sincerely, Bob Casey



time has a way of bringing about a "lapse in memoevents in our lives - especially when God has intervened in a very dramatic way - have been forgotten over the years. Yes, there are moments when record them somewhere tainly this is a shortcoma "remember this" list.

No doubt that is why God had David add this "benefit" to his list of "Do not forget."

pit." In the previous verse we are reminded about His healing. Now we are

reminded to "store this 'benefit' - being rescued from death inside us." "The pit" quite literally

means "death." Those who have ever "walked through the valley of the shadow of death" understand the significance of It is well known that the "walking back into the light" of life. So, we dare not forget the great benry." Many of the important efit and blessing of the restoration of health and healing, hope and happiness.

But we must also remember the "benefit" of having been rescued they come to mind, but for from "eternal death!" Jethe most part, unless we sus promised us that, "I am the resurrection they are forgotten. Cer- and the life. He who believes in Me will live even ing for many of us and it though he dies; and whowould be good if we had ever lives and believes in Me, will never die." This great benefit, eternity with Him, is the greatest of all benefits!

May we remember "Do not forget that he and rejoice each day that redeems - or more literal- we enjoy the benefit of ly - rescues you - from the eternal life and the hope it gives us.

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"It's made especially for vacation wear... it attracts men and repels

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then

	TODAY'S WORD
Furnish REACT	
Belt PARTS	
Warning RINSE	
Cover RELAY	
rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag:	

Stickeler's Puzzle



Match the prefixes on the left with their respective meanings on the right.

- 1. meta-
- a. pertaining to the hand
- 2. apo-
- 3. genu-
- b. separated or derived from
- 4. manuc. thick 5. pachy
 - d. after, behind
 - e. pertaining to the knee

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