



**by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist**

A Strong Foundation

It held the best views of the land from French doors. No lesson there. From the billiard room, the music room, and the library to the indoor swimming pool, the lesson still hadn't been revealed. It wasn't even in the two weddings that were being set up on the grounds, though they were lovely.

The lesson of the Biltmore was found down in the basement.

When George Vanderbilt began the venture of building the Biltmore House in 1889, he planned for magnificence. Mr. Vanderbilt knew that a home this large, this wonderful . . . for it to last, would need a firm foundation. Far below the exquisite 250 rooms, massive foundation walls were built to hold every glorious feature in place. According to the Biltmore guide, it took almost two years to build the foundations and footings that extend down about 29 feet. (Full construction took six years and around 1,000 workers.)

Centuries before Mr. Vanderbilt lived, in approximately 960 BC, Solomon prepared to build the temple. David, his father, gave him insightful advice. His words were not about the gold or silver to be used, but the foundational truths on which to build Solomon's life. First Chronicles 28 enlightens us as father challenged son to walk

with God: "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel . . . and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God . . . acknowledge the God of your father and serve Him with wholehearted devotion . . . If you seek him, He will be found by you."

Not just empty words penned for a special day, David had lived them, clinging to the Lord, his Rock (Psalm 18:2, 18:31 and 46, 19:14, 28:1, 31:3, 42:9, 62:2, 6 and 7, 71:3-just to name a few).

Building a life on God is the firmest, wisest foundation. In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus taught that everyone who hears His words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. "The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

Is God my sure foundation? Is He yours? Are we building our lives on Him? If we are, when the rains come-and they will, when the creeks rise-and they will, and when the winds blow-you know they will, too...then we can stand firm. With Him.

A strong foundation is crucial for a 250 room mansion, a temple, and every man, woman, boy and girl.

Riding on the trolley, I noted the lush greenery that had been strategically planted along the road. I silently prayed, "Lord, if there is a lesson here, please show me." I would be watching for it.

My co-workers and I enjoyed a day at the Biltmore last Saturday, courtesy of our boss. The breathtaking landscapes, the house itself, and all that the estate encompassed were marvelous to the eyes and mind. I had experienced it all before. This trip, I was searching for the lesson.

We trekked over 9,700 steps that day, but that wasn't the lesson. It wasn't in the massive banquet hall with ceilings that were seven feet tall, a ginormous dining table, and three fireplaces. There was a luxurious room where all the Vanderbilt babies were born.

Is He Sound?

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

Several years ago, I was recommended by a faithful brother that had known me and my preaching for many years. When asked by an elder of a congregation in Western Kentucky, this question: "Is he sound?" This brother gave him this reply, saying, "In all the years I have known him, I have never heard him say or preach anything but what the Bible says." I know this, because he told me so.

First, what is the description of soundness in the adjective use? Because, in preaching this, what the Bible says, free from fault or defect, free from error or fallacy, and thorough or undisturbed. In **1 Timothy 1:10**, Paul wrote, "any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine." Then in **2 Timothy 1:13**, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me." Then, in **Chapter 4:3**, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine."

Then in writing to **Titus 1:9**, Paul said, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine (sound word or words) both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Also, in **Titus 2:7-8**, "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

I am thankful unto God that in fifty years of attempted preaching of the Gospel that anyone can, or has, publicly accused me of preaching any form of

false doctrine connected with any subject found in the Bible. Now, I am not so negated that I am without enemies that would attempt to destroy my life's work as a Gospel preacher. Neither am I feeling sorrow for myself. This I have learned, that when you attempt to be one of God's men, Satan will throw darts at you by anyone who disbelieves the simple truth in the Bible.

Now, I don't suppose anyone would take constant criticism, but this I also know, that if you stand uncompromising on the truth, you will have some in private who will attempt to destroy your credibility. So, in this situation, we should rejoice because this is what our Saviour and his Apostles also endured. So, if anyone out there is or has been assaulted in such a manner, then you are standing among God's faithful.

Paul wrote this in **Philippians 2:12-16**, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Friends, we are not working for a Saviour who forgets, so "keep on, keeping on" for the Lord Jesus who will come, and he says "my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelations 22:12

Visit with us this Lord's Day. We will do thee good!

Sincerely, Bob Casey, 1-859-369-4165

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

HEBREWS 5: 8-9

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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N	Y	C	B	E	C	A	M	E	E
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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 Joppa in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What businesswoman from Thyatira opened her home to Paul and saints after her conversion? Rachel, Keturah, Lydia, Shiphrah
3. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your ___ be

also"? Love, Heart, Faith, Friends

4. From 2 Samuel 18, whose hair became tangled in a terebinth tree? Samson, Herod, Absalom, Joab

5. On the outskirts of what city did Jesus meet Zacchaeus? Smyrna, Tarsus, Jericho, Antioch

6. From 2 Samuel 14, what was the name of Absalom's daughter? Ruth, Tamar, Miriam, Sarah

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.



Miss Burrell was my second grade teacher and next door neighbor. It seemed as though I could never get beyond her "watchful" eye. When she called on me in class I would "shrivel" up inside and have difficulty getting any words out of my mouth. And when I was out in our yard playing, I imagined that she was "peeking" at me and my friends from the corner of a window. Perhaps it was feelings of guilt for not being a better student or more gracious when she came to visit my mother.

But in spite of those feelings I remember the many evenings she would knock on our front door and ask me to join her in the front yard and study the stars

and constellations. She would bring her flashlight and point out "The Big Dipper" and "The Little Dipper" and all of the constellations that God formed in the sky. She would also point out different stars - some that shined brightly and some that we could barely see. I remember asking her often how many miles they were from where we were standing.

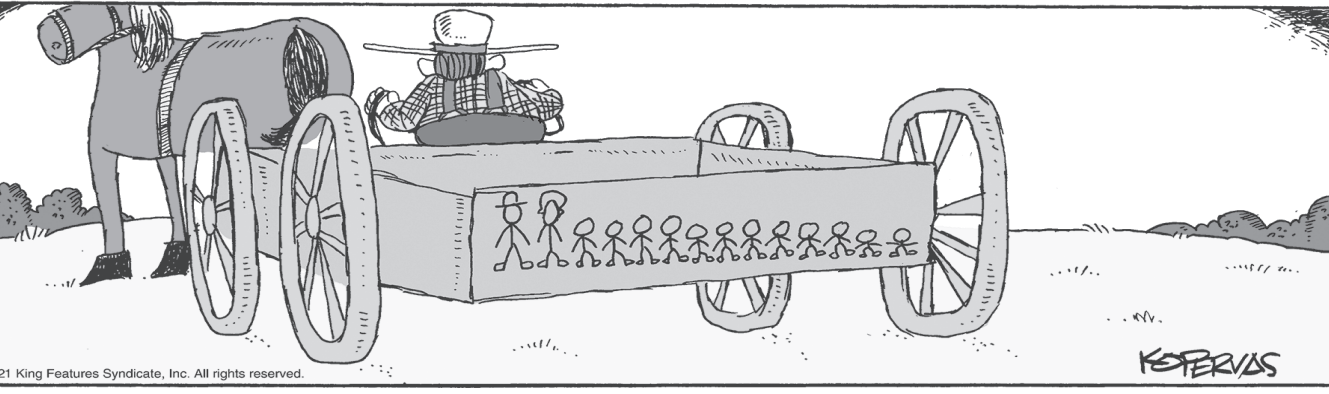
"No one will ever be able to measure the most-distant star because we will always be finding new ones that are even farther away." So, "we'll never know" was her answer every time I asked that question.

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who stand in awe of Him," said the Psalmist. What a marvelous statement about the love of God. It is so immense, as are His heavens, that we will never be able to measure it.

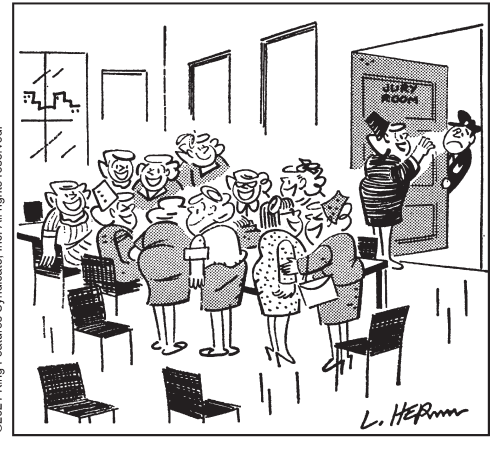
[Sower Ministries.org](http://SowerMinistries.org)
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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"Goodness no, we haven't even considered a verdict yet — we're still exchanging _____!"

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!

- Grimace
CLOWS
- Declare
PEAKS
- Avoid
WEECHS
- Rule
GERNI

TODAY'S WORD

Stickeler's Puzzle



Match the field of study on the left with its meaning on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1) hagiology | a. study of the moon |
| 2) selenology | b. study of mountains |
| 3) apiology | c. study of hair |
| 4) orology | d. study of bees |
| 5) trichology | e. study of the saints |

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12