

Do you really love Jesus?

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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Has anyone ever asked you the question, "Do you really love Jesus?" Just recently, in an earlier article, I mentioned that we are to examine ourselves to see if we are really in The Faith. Then, we read that a failure to do thy will brings us into a state of rejection if we fail the test. II Corinthians 13:5-6 says you can examine yourself. Notice also, that it says to "prove your own selves." How can this be done? And what is the rule book that governs this examination. Well, to me, the answer is very clear, it is the Bible, the Book of God and Christ Jesus. In this book is given "all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." **2 Peter 1:3.**

So, if you want to examine your claim to be a Christian, open The Book and see if you measure up!

First, if you claim to be a Christian, what commands can you point out that will justify our claim? Always remember this, Jesus said in **John 14:21-23**, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

Secondly, did you hear, obey and keep the commandments that pertain to your salvation? Did you hear all the truth about it? Did you fully repent? Did you make the confession that is found in the Bible (Acts 8:37)? Were you baptized (immersed) in water for the remission of your sins? Notice that Jesus

says in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16. And the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles, in Act 2:37-40, says that in order to have your sins forgiven, baptism is commanded by the Lord in order for this to be accomplished. So, can you prove so far that you really love Jesus.

Thirdly, have you faithfully kept the commandment not to forsake the assembling of yourself together on the Lord's day? (Hebrews 10:24-25) If not, then you need to fully read, follow the instructions.

Fourth, did you remember to keep the commandments of the Lord, last Lord's day, to eat the loaf and drink the cup of the Lord, to remember and communicate to yourself, that was our Lord who suffered and died to bring us unto himself through obedience? Or, did you trade him off for a weekend of secular activities instead? Can you still prove that you love him?

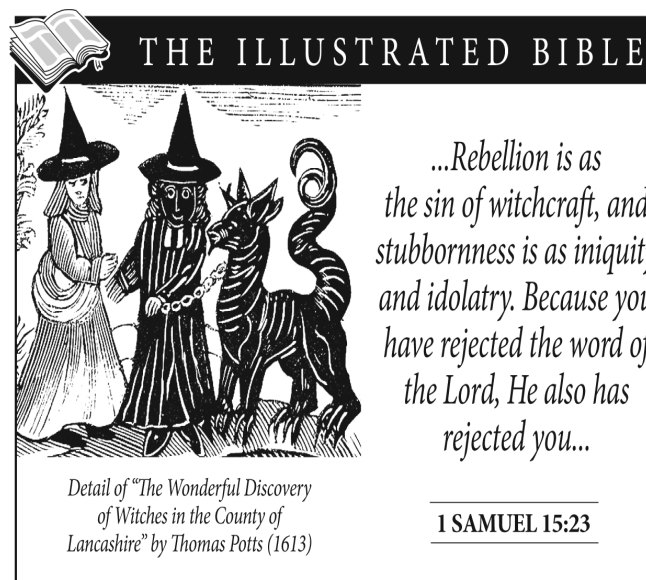
Fifth, when you purposely married Jesus (Romans 7:4), did you take the name of Christ Jesus? Or did you commit adultery by adding another name to your title claim? You can't do this and prove that you love the Lord!

In closing, in my marriage to my wife of 55 years, she has expected me to be a devoted mate and to give her first place in this earthly union. But in my marriage to Christ Jesus, he asks for my complete devotion and commitment be first given to him, even above my commitment to my wife. Thus, she and I fully understand. Why? Because we want to prove and show the Lord that we love him by keeping his commandments.

Friends, there is no other way that this can be proven, and to add to this, if we do this as we live here, then on that great day of Christ, he will know it. And, if anyone does not obey the commandments of Jesus, make no mistake about it, he will know it as well.

So, don't think that you can falsely claim to love Jesus without proving it that you will go to Heaven. Think about these things. Jesus is sure to return.

Visit with us soon, or call 1-859-369-4165.
 Sincerely, Bob Casey



Detail of "The Wonderful Discovery of Witches in the County of Lancashire" by Thomas Potts (1613)

...Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you...

1 SAMUEL 15:23

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Kitchen Diva The Wonders of Winter Squash

by **ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS**

I used to look at the hard, oddly shaped exteriors of winter squash and pass them by, mainly because I had no idea what to do with them. Then I discovered that winter squash are actually easy to prepare and are a healthy addition to any meal. They're also a good source of vitamins A and C, potassium and fiber. Even better, one-half cup of cooked winter squash has only 40 calories.

Winter squash are picked when fully mature and the skin is thick. This thick skin is inedible, and is designed to provide a protective covering for the squash. It also allows for a long storage life in cool or cold weather. Winter squash can be stored for three months or longer in a cool, dry place, preferably in a single layer.

Three of the most common winter squash are butternut, spaghetti and acorn squash. Butternut squash is tan in color and has a long, bell-like shape. Spaghetti squash is oblong or oval in shape and yellow in color. Acorn squash gets its name because it is shaped like an acorn. It is dark green in color and has a ridged rind or skin.

When shopping, look for squash that are heavy for their size, free of soft spots and have a dull sheen (a shiny skin is an indicator the squash is not fully mature). With a few selection and preparation tips for preparing winter squash, you can create delicious and flavorful dishes all season long.

All types of winter squash can be baked in the same way, but not prepared the same. All winter squash bake well. Cut the squash in two, scoop out the seeds and brush the cut surface with oil. (The hard shell of the squash can be difficult to cut in two, so be sure to have a sharp, heavy-duty knife.) Place the cut side down in a baking dish with 1/4 cup of water. Bake uncovered at 350 F until the flesh is soft.

Spaghetti squash isn't used in recipes in the same way as other winter squash. It was given that name because of its spaghetti-like interior. Once cooked, use a fork to peel the flesh away from the skin to form long strands like spaghetti. You can serve it with any type of pasta sauce, in the same way you would serve spaghetti noodles.

Butternut or acorn squash can be used interchangeably in recipes. Once cooked and cooled, they can be scooped out and stuffed, or peeled away from the skin, cut into cubes and used in soups, stews and casseroles along with other vegetables.

This recipe for Acorn Squash Filled with Cider Spiced Apples uses this winter squash in a flavorful way that serves up beautifully and pairs well with pork or chicken. It's the perfect fall side dish!



Photo credit: Depositphotos.com

Acorn Squash Filled with Spiced Apples

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 small (1 pound each) acorn squash
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 Granny Smith apples, peeled and cut into 3/4-inch dice
- 1 1/2 cups apple cider
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup or brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1. Set oven at 400 F. Using 2 tablespoons of the melted butter, coat the bottom of a shallow 3 or 4 quart baking dish.

2. Cut a thin slice off both ends of each squash. Halve squash horizontally. Scoop out the seeds. Place squash halves in the baking dish with the cut sides up. Brush with 1 tablespoon butter and sprinkle with 3/4 teaspoon of the salt and the pepper. Set pan aside.

3. In a large bowl, combine the apples, 1/4 cup of cider, the maple syrup or brown sugar, 1/4 teaspoon of nutmeg and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Divide the apples among the squash halves, distributing the excess liquid among them evenly. Drizzle with the remaining tablespoon of the butter and sprinkle with the remaining nutmeg.

4. Pour the remaining 1 1/4 cups of cider into the baking dish. Cover loosely with foil and bake for 1 1/4 hours until the apples are tender. Serves 4.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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(KJV) Zero, 3, 49, Over 1,000

4. In 1 Samuel 16:15, God allowed an evil spirit to trouble whom? Abaddon, Daniel, Saul, Sapphira

5. According to Jesus, what was Satan from the beginning? Deceiver, Evil, Thief, Murderer

6. Who was the first son of Moses and Zipporah? Haggai, Gershom, Mark, Zebudah

Answers on bottom of Page 11

Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers from TouchPointPress.com

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

2. In Revelation 12, when Satan was banned from heaven, he took what part of all the angels with him? Fourth, Third, Half, Tenth

3. How many times is the word "Bible" mentioned in the scripture of the Bible

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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COLOSSIANS 3:15

Let the **peace** of **Christ rule** in your **hearts**, **since** as **members** of **one body** you were **called** to peace. **And** be **thankful**.

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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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Run Your Race to Win (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Seeds of Hope



Our Bible says much about prayer. It informs us about how we are to address God and that we are to pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. We are also directed to pray with and through the guidance of and in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Psalm 88, however, we read that the writer tells us what he does when he prays: "I call to You, O Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to You." Not a day went by in his life that he literally did not cry out to the Lord.

The writer of this Psalm was in constant contact with his Lord - Yahweh. He identified Him not as a god who was removed from his life, who lived in a distant location, who may or may not be available when he faced

difficult times or wanted to worship Him. Indeed not. His God was a personal, present and powerful God who was always by his side. And his God was a God whom he could speak to as though he were speaking to a friend and companion who was beside him waiting to be involved in a conversation.

What an impressive picture for us to place deeply in our minds. Wherever we are, whatever we are doing and whatever time it may be - day or night - Yahweh is by our side and we can call upon Him as our friend.

Notice, however, his body language when he prayed: "I spread out my hands to You." Hands that were "spread out" because when he prayed he expected God to respond immediately as any friend would do to a friend in need.

And he did this "every day." As Jesus would one day say, "Give us this day" what we need for "this day." pray with us.

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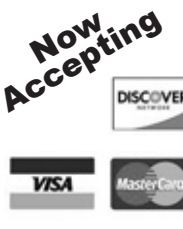
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