

Staying Positive in a Negative World

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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By the time this is being read we have entered into another year of time. What will it hold for us as individuals, or as a nation, only God knows? So let us now hear from Him in His word. **Proverbs 27:1**, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Knowing this, how can we remain in a positive manner life, no matter what may happen?

First of all, a person can have this positive manner of life if they have completely obeyed the terms of pardon from sins. To obey is to first hear His voice. **Romans 10:17** says, "So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Bibles, preaching, and church attendance provide us with the opportunity to be hearers. Upon hearing the truth we can decide to turn from sin by a sorrowful repentance. To this we can confess before men that we believe that Jesus is the Christ, (**Matthew 10:32-22**). And then to complete the terms of our Lord, we must allow ourselves to be baptized in water. This is an illustration that we can accept the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This action causes our sins. To be remitted for this is the authority of the one who died for our sins. Just read **Matthew 28:18-20** and **Mark 16:15-16**. See if I tell the truth. After we are secured through obedience, we must live faithfully until we die (**Revelation 2:10**). Jesus says in **John 10:27-28**,

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." So then, if we have truly heard Him, and obeyed His commands that bring salvation, plus are continually following His faithful plans of worship, yes, we can have a positive manner of life in this ever, fastly changing, dangerous word of today.

The negative side of life is: that the most of this world are not hearing, nor obeying the Lord, and in so doing are in a state of condemnation says the Lord (**John 3:18**). Besides this our Lord is returning, maybe soon to judge us all. Sadly, He says that His coming is when most are not looking for Him to do so. It seems to me that many have the religion of the ostrich bird, whom, when they see danger, bury their heads in the sand, letting their bodies remain in plain view! So pretending things do not exist will not automatically make them go away. We are in a plague of trouble here in America and abroad. The world is poised in a war-like situation, the Middle East, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, nearly all of Africa, Syria, others. When they go to battle, and they will, all of America will be involved one way or another. How long will the Lord allow this? Only He knows. Even with conditions such as they are, every Christian can remain positive realizing that our Lord has always, and will take care of all who have trusted in Him. So get your head out of the sands of life. Prepare your hearts to obey our Lord. You will never be sorry.

Visit with us this next Lord's Day.

Sincerely, Bob Casey 1-WACO-369-4165

Americanisms



"It's not whether you fall down, it's whether you get back up."
 —Vince Lombardi

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ur in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was the act of God in making the heavens and the earth bringing forth life? Confirmation, Calvary, Creation, Communion
3. How many books of the Bible (KJV) begin with the letter "E"? 0, 2,

- 5, 6
4. What's a person who has changed from one religion to another? Zealot, Convert, Mediator, Pillar
5. From 2 Timothy 1, who was Timothy's devout grandmother? Dorcas, Lydia, Lois, Hannah
6. In biblical times, a "doric" was a Persian ... ? Gold coin, Headwear, Sailing ship, Well

Answers on bottom of Page 11
 Now available by Wilson Casey!
 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers from TouchPointPress.com



Everyone looks forward to a New Year and the hope it represents. "Well wishers" come at us from every direction wanting us to reap a harvest of joy and happiness, peace and prosperity. A "good new year" is a universal desire that everyone seeks. But how can we assure ourselves of having a Happy New Year? The answer comes from Isaiah 41:10.

First, we must honor the two "nots" - do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Fear and dismay will disturb our minds, trouble our souls and destroy our health. Only as we place our faith in the goodness and grace of God will our fears evaporate and dismay vanish. Second, add the two "I

ams" - I am with you and I am your God. Our God is always with us and we are never beyond His reach. When problems arise He wants to solve them. When needs arise He will meet them. When foes would destroy us He will conquer them. When storms appear He will calm them.

Third, we need to mix them with the three "I wills." I will strengthen you. He has all the strength we need with some to spare. I will help you. Here is help that is sufficient for every situation. I will uphold you. With what? The very same hands that hold the universe together!

If we want 2018 to be a Happy New Year we must begin every day of every week of every month of the year reading God's Word and spending time in prayer.

Visit us at: SowerMinistries.org.
New Year

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

MATTHEW 2:1-2

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** when it **rose** and have **come** to **worship** him."

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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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The Apostles Heal Many (Acts 5:12-16)

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

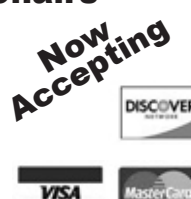
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Kitchen Diva Meatloaf: The Ultimate Comfort Food

by ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS

There's no disputing the power of food to provide consolation in times of stress, and a classic meatloaf is no exception. There are very few dishes that combine tradition and innovation the way that meatloaf does. My husband, Michael, loves meatloaf, and evidently, he's not alone.

Statistically, affluent baby boomers order the entree on a regular basis when dining out. Whether it's made from ground beef combined with pork or veal, or a more modern version featuring ground turkey or chicken, meatloaf is at the top of the list of comfort foods. It's about time this humble dish got the recognition it deserves.

It takes about 1 1/2 pounds of ground meat to make a meatloaf that serves six people. I've found that "marinating" the ground meat in a bowl with 1/4 cup of water, a tablespoon of mild to medium salsa, and a tablespoon each of Worcestershire sauce and steak sauce makes for a moister, more flavorful meatloaf.

I season my meatloaf with salt, pepper, minced bell pepper, garlic, onions and 1/2 of a shredded carrot, along with fresh herbs including parsley, thyme and basil or a tablespoon of dried Italian Seasoning.

A cup of a starch or binder is the next component in a classic meatloaf. I use seasoned breadcrumbs or crushed crackers, and an egg. A gentle touch when combining the mixture ensures that the meatloaf will be well-seasoned without being tough.

The final step in making a traditional meatloaf is adding the "gravy." I combine ketchup with salt, pepper and medium salsa or barbecue sauce. I pour off any accumulated fat, and then slather the topping on the meatloaf halfway through the cooking process.

Meatloaf isn't a complex dish, nor does it make a visually stunning presentation. As a friend of mine once said, "It's a lot of meat in a loaf, and you don't have to chew it very much -- what's not to like?"

Meatloaf has provided a tasty way to stretch a dollar for generations of American families. In these uncertain economic times, we could all use a plate full of comfort.



Photo credit: Depositphotos.com

MINI-MEATLOAVES

The great thing about this recipe from the Betty Crocker kitchens (www.bettycrocker.com/recipes) is that the mini meatloaves provide individual servings and are ready in just 30 minutes. This would make a great main-course dish for children or a unique appetizer for a retro recipe party.

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 tablespoon packed brown sugar
- 1 pound lean (at least 80 percent) ground beef
- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1/2 cup Original Bisquick mix
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 small onion, finely chopped (1/4 cup)
- 1 egg

1. Heat oven to 450 F. In small bowl, stir ketchup and brown sugar until mixed; reserve 1/4 cup for topping. In large bowl, stir remaining ingredients and remaining ketchup mixture until well-mixed.

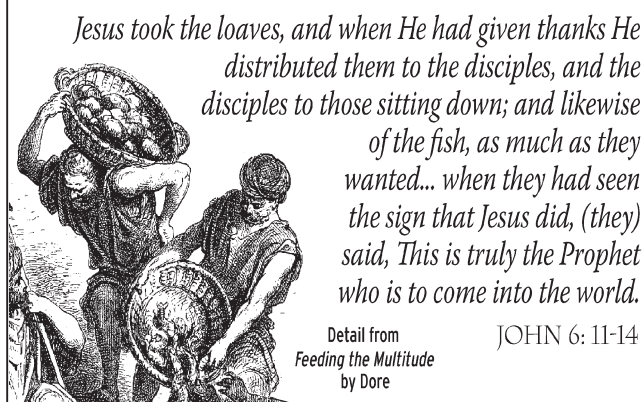
2. Spray 13-by-9-inch pan with cooking spray. Place meat mixture in pan; pat into 12-by-4-inch rectangle. Cut lengthwise down center and then crosswise into sixths to form 12 loaves. Separate loaves, using spatula, so no edges are touching. Brush loaves with reserved 1/4 cup ketchup mixture.

3. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until loaves are no longer pink in center and meat thermometer inserted in center of loaves reads 160 F. Serves 6.

Substitution: While the mixture of ground beef and pork gives these little loaves a unique flavor, you can also use 1 1/2 pounds of ground beef instead of the mixture.

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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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted... when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, (they) said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.

Detail from JOHN 6: 11-14
 Feeding the Multitude by Dore