

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

July-September 2019

“Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth” (2 Thessalonians 1:2). You are highly favored!

You are Invited: We are having non-denominational Bible studies on Saturday evenings in Kansas, Oklahoma. We meet at 5:30pm for a light supper followed by music and a Bible study. All of our friends and neighbors are invited to join us. We hope to see you here! Call 304-633-5411 for more information.

Givers and Takers

by Lynnford Beachy

You can recognize them pretty quickly; the people who are only around to see what they can get from a situation. They want to know what is in it for them. When they first meet you they size you up to see if they can get anything from you. “How is this person going to help me? What can I get from them?” They are takers, always taking and rarely giving; when they do give, it is with the expectation that they will get something in return.

Who am I talking about? Just about everyone! Selfishness is the common way of living on this sin-darkened planet, but it is not the way of Christ or of His true followers. Jesus is exactly the opposite of selfishness. When He sees people, He sizes up the situation to see how He can be a blessing to as many people as possible. He always sought to leave places better than He found them (Matthew 9:35; Luke 9:6;). This is



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how Jesus lived His life every moment of every day.

What do I mean by selfishness? To act selfishly is "...that supreme self-love or self-preference, which leads a person in his actions to direct his purposes to the advancement of his own interest, power or happiness, without regarding the interest of others. Selfishness, in its worst or unqualified sense, is the very essence of human depravity, and it stands in direct opposition to benevolence, which is the essence of the divine character. As God is love, so man, in his natural state, is selfishness." (Selfishly, *Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary*)

Seeking Their Own

Jesus said, "He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him" (John 7:18). Many people seek to build themselves up, even at the expense of others. The Bible says, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6).

God's character of love is different. The Bible describes love like this: "**Charity** [Godly love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil" (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5). Love does not seek her own. Love seeks to benefit others.

This is in contrast to those who are selfish, who seek to benefit themselves. Selfishness is a sad, lonely party, because, if this is you, you are the only one you are trying to benefit, and this often hurts those around you and leaves you lonely and hurting. Hurting people hurt people, so I feel sorry for the people who hurt others because I know they are hurting. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Hireling

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep" (John 10:11-13). An hireling is someone whose primary interest is what they can get for themselves. "...an hireling looketh for the reward of his work" (Job 7:2). In contrast to this Jesus is the good shepherd who gives His life for us: His sheep.

Speaking of hirelings in the church, the Bible says, "The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money..." (Micah 3:11). Sadly, many church leaders are in it for the money. They may have started out with good intentions, but far too many have become

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victim of the root of all evil, “the love of money” (1 Timothy 6:10).

A startling warning is given to this class of people. The Bible says, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them” (Ezekiel 34:2-6). That is what happens when church leaders are in it for the money.

Fortunately, God promised, “For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out” (Ezekiel 34:11). God said, “I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick...” (Ezekiel 34:15, 16). That

is a beautiful promise, and in love God permits us to participate in this work. Jesus said of Himself, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). This is the work of all true followers of Christ who love without any selfish motive; they have no desire to get something in return.

Losing Your Life

Jesus said, “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it” (Luke 9:24). Those who selfishly seek how they can build up themselves, and benefit themselves, will lose their lives in the long run. It is so much better to lose our lives now for Jesus sake, for only then will we find true happiness and eternal life.

Endeavoring to turn our attention to eternal things, Jesus admonished, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matthew 6:31-34). Seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness will be more satisfying than if we could gain all the temporary riches of this world (Matthew 5:6; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 2:20).

Living for Others

The Bible is full of instructions for us to live to serve others. Jesus said, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Our Lord and Master lived a life of service, even in the humble work of washing the feet of the objects of His love (John 13:4-17). Jesus "died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

The Bible says, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth" (1 Corinthians 10:24). Our lives are to be spent in the pursuit of the benefit of others. "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me" (Romans 15:1-3).

Paul wrote, "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10:33). The salvation and blessings of others brings the highest satisfaction to all those who are filled with the love of God. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4).

The Bible says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but

in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:3, 4). "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

Paul wrote, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved" (2 Corinthians 12:15).

God's children are willing to be spent in service for others without any expectation of being paid back for our service. When we have done all that God asks of us we say, "We are unprofitable

servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

No Earthly Reward

Jesus said, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, **hoping for nothing again**; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil" (Luke 6:31-35).

God wants us to give "hoping for nothing" in return. Even if we know

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that in the end we are lost, we will still serve God because it is the right thing to do, and it is the most fulfilling no matter what. Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). Serving God and others without hoping for anything in return is the true sign of the unselfish love of God in our hearts.

Jesus said, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:12-14).

Jesus is asking us to purposely do good to people who can't pay us back so we do not get any earthly benefit. If you are one of those who have lived a life of continual service, and you are always the one who is giving while everyone around you just takes and takes, don't lose heart, for that is exactly what Jesus said to do. Keep up the good work! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Unselfish Love

I used to think that the opposite of love is hate, but I have come to learn that the opposite of love is selfishness. Love is demonstrated by giving. Jesus

said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). Love gives, selfishness takes. God loved the world; not the evil in the world, but the people He created in His own image (Genesis 1:26, 27).

We are also called to love others (Mark 12:29-31; Romans 13:8-10). Yet, we often get things mixed up and place our love on things instead of people. You should use things and love people, but many have it back-

wards and love things and use people. Our love should be focused on God and all the people around us instead of on how we can benefit ourselves. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Don't fall

in love with the things you can acquire in this life, for Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

Love for God and others is what we need, but this cannot be generated by ourselves. The Bible says, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:7, 8). Love is of God and will only come to those who are born of God and who know God. These are both essential to our ability to love others. (For further study on

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this topic please request a free copy of the booklets, *The Source of Love*, and *You Must be Born Again*).

The Bible says, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death” (1 John 3:14). This love that identifies God’s children has no taint of selfishness in it. When you have this kind of love you can know for sure that you have eternal life (1 John 5:11-13) for this love cannot be self-generated.

Sometimes people have a selfish motive when they pray for others; such as asking God to change something about someone else so the person praying can feel better. Instead of praying for others to benefit ourselves, we should pray for ourselves to be in a place where the actions of others do not determine whether we are okay or not. Jesus never prayed from a place of selfishness, and He did not let the applause nor the rejections of others determine His status with God (John 2:23-25 “commit” is to “trust” or “believe”). Jesus always prayed for others for the purpose of benefiting them rather than Himself (John 17:19). When the soldiers who had beaten him began pounding nails through His broken and bruised body, Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). This is also how Jesus’ followers pray (Acts 7:60), for their lives are motivated by pure, unselfish love (1 Peter 1:22; 1 Timothy 1:5).

When God’s incredible love is the motivation for everything you do, your life will change dramatically.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:11). God’s love causes you to be “moved with compassion” for everyone you meet (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; Mark 10:21). Actions springing from deep, heartfelt, unselfish love for others are not drudgery, but delightful (Psalm 40:8). The happiest people in the world are those whose lives are fully surrendered to the One who loves unconditionally.

The Source of All

Our ability to love others is dependent upon our ability to receive love from God. The Bible illustrates this using comfort, but the same is true with love. “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). We are comforted so that we can comfort others with that same comfort we receive. The same principle applies to love (1 John 4:7-19). We love others based upon the amount of love we receive from God.

The Bible says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Every good thing comes from our heavenly Father; Everything! “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by

him” (1 Corinthians 8:6). The Father is the source of all things, and His “beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17), is the channel of all blessings.

How to Get Love

Jesus cried out, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” (John 7:37-39). The living water Jesus wants to flow through us is “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:2). If you want to be a giver instead of a taker, you must be connected to the source of all love (Galatians 5:22). Jesus is the vine, and we “are the branches,” “He that abideth in me, and I in him,” said Jesus, “the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).

God is the source, and Jesus is the channel of the wonderful Gift of “the Spirit of your Father” (Matthew 10:20). After Jesus “was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father” (Romans 6:4), He went to be “by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear” (Acts 2:33). Paul wrote, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy

he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 3:5, 6).

All blessings come to us from the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. The gift of God’s Spirit is the greatest gift to enable us to thrive while we live in this sin-stained world. This is the only way we can comprehend God’s love for us (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:16-19; 1 Corinthians 2:14),

which will result in God’s love shining out to those around us (1 John 4:7, 8). Jesus said, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

You can have this gift right now, for Jesus said it is free and all you have to

do is ask and believe. “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13; Mark 9:23). When you receive this gift you have a new power in your life that was not available before, “The Spirit of your Father” coming to you “through Jesus Christ” allows you to have “both the Father and the Son” (Matthew 10:20; 1 Timothy 3:6; 2 John 1:9; John 14:23). With this gift in you all of heaven is on your side, and the power of the Highest is able to “keep you from falling” (Jude 1:24).

Paul prayed to God, “That he would grant you, according to the

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riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:16-19).

God wants you to be 1) strengthened with might by His Spirit, so that 2) Christ may dwell in your heart by faith, so that 3) you can be rooted and grounded in love and 4) comprehend how deeply Christ loves you, so that 5) you can be filled with all the fullness of God. That is incredible! What a privilege! When this is a reality in you, “...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” makes you “free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). This can happen right now by faith. Believe it for you at this moment and don’t stop believing it. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). (For deeper insight into the wonderful gift of abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in you, request a free copy of *Christ in You*.)

Conclusion

Friends, God is inviting you to participate in His wonderful plan to make all things new in you right now. He loves you “with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). Don’t delay, “behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). I know that God

has the power to transform your life and make it so much more fulfilling and wonderful than you have ever imagined. He did this for me and I have never regretted it for a moment. I was a lost sinner going to hell, but God rescued me from a drug party and filled me with “everlasting joy” that has caused me to “rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (Isaiah 51:11; 1 Peter 1:8). (To read my testimony of how God delivered me from drugs, request a free copy of *Rescued from Addiction*.)

There are too many takers in this world. Be different! Be the change! You can be a giver by partaking of God’s free gift to you. Jesus “came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:11, 12).

Please read the included *God’s Love Letter to You*. Be blessed beyond your biggest imagination. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3). “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:9, 10). »

God's Love Letter to You

The words you are about to experience are true. They will change your life if you let them, for they come from the very heart of God who loves you. He is the Father you have been looking for all your life. This is His love letter to you:

My child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. ***Psalm 139:1***

I know when you sit down and when you rise up. ***Psalm 139:2***

I am familiar with all your ways. ***Psalm 139:3***

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. ***Matthew 10:29-31***

For you were made in my image. ***Genesis 1:27***

In me you live and move and have your being. ***Acts 17:28***

For you are my offspring. ***Acts 17:28***

I knew you even before you were conceived. ***Jeremiah 1:4, 5***

I chose you when I planned creation. ***Ephesians 1:11-12***

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. ***Psalm 139:15-18***

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. ***Acts 17:26***

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. ***Psalm 139:14***

I knit you together in your mother's womb. ***Psalm 139:13***

And brought you forth on the

day you were born. ***Psalm 71:6***

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. ***John 8:41-44***

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. ***1 John 4:16***

And it is my desire to lavish my love upon you. ***1 John 3:1***

Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. ***1 John 3:1***

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. ***Matthew 7:11***

For I am the perfect father. ***Matthew 5:48***

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. ***James 1:17***

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. ***Matthew 6:31-33***

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. ***Jeremiah 29:11***

Because I love you with an everlasting love. ***Jeremiah 31:3***

My thoughts toward you are as countless as the sand on the seashore. ***Psalm 139:17, 18***

And I rejoice over you with singing. ***Zephaniah 3:17***

I will never stop doing good to you. ***Jeremiah 32:40***

For you are my treasured possession. ***Exodus 19:5***

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. ***Jeremiah 32:41***

And I want to show you great and marvelous things. ***Jeremiah 33:3***

Present Truth

If you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me. **Jeremiah 29:13**

Delight in me and I will give you
the desires of your heart. **Psalms 37:4**

For it is I who gave you those
desires. **Philippians 2:13**

I am able to do more for you
than you could possibly imagine.

Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encour-
ager. **2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17**

I am also the Father who com-
forts you in all your troubles.

2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

When you are brokenhearted, I
am close to you. **Psalms 34:18**

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I
have carried you close to my
heart. **Isaiah 40:11**

One day I will wipe away every
tear from your eyes.

Revelation 21:3, 4

And I will take away all the pain
you have suffered on this earth.

Revelation 21:3, 4

I am your Father and I love you
even as I love my Son, Jesus.

John 17:23

For in Jesus, my love for you is
revealed. **John 17:26**

He is the exact representation of
my being. **Hebrews 1:3**

He came to demonstrate that I
am for you, not against you.

Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not
counting your sins.

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19

Jesus died so that you and I
could be reconciled.

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19

His death was the ultimate ex-
pression of my love for you.

1 John 4:10

I gave up everything I loved that
I might gain your love.

Romans 8:31, 32

If you receive the gift of my son
Jesus, you receive me. **1 John 2:23**

And nothing will ever separate
you from my love again.

Romans 8:38, 39

Come home and I will throw the
biggest party heaven has ever
seen.

Luke 15:7

I have always been Father, and
will always be Father.

Ephesians 3:14, 15

My question is; will you be my
child?

John 1:12, 13

I am waiting for you. **Luke 15:11-32**

Love,

Your Dad,

Almighty God

(Someone recently shared a video with me on Facebook that was so incredible that I can't help but share it with you. This collection of Bible verses is arranged in such a way that paints a very beautiful picture of God's love. I like it so much that I typed it out before realizing it is already posted many places on the Internet. I tried to find the source to give credit, but I could not. I am sharing the text with you even though I do not know who put it together. I give all credit to God for putting this message in His Word. I cannot take credit for any of it. To view this as a video search for 7BrS95TgcdQ on youtube. *Editor*)

Let Your Light Shine

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16



Present Truth - Kids' Korner

Bible Word Search

Find the underlined words...

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
(James 1:17)

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FAMILY
★ WHERE ★
LIFE BEGINS
★ AND ★
Love
===== NEVER ENDS =====

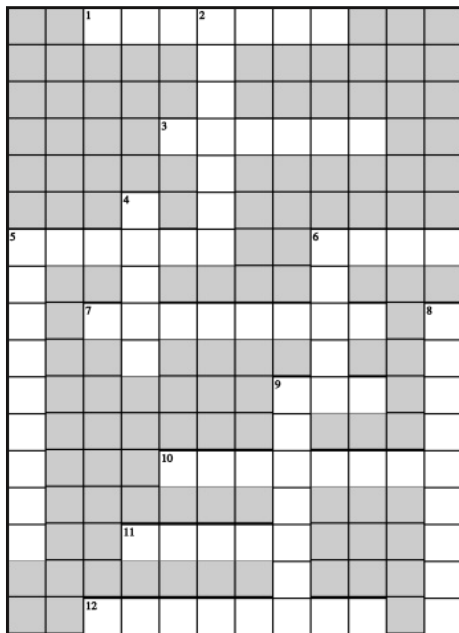


Present Truth - Kids' Korner

Bible Study Crossword - Personality of God - Part 12

(The King James Version is required.)

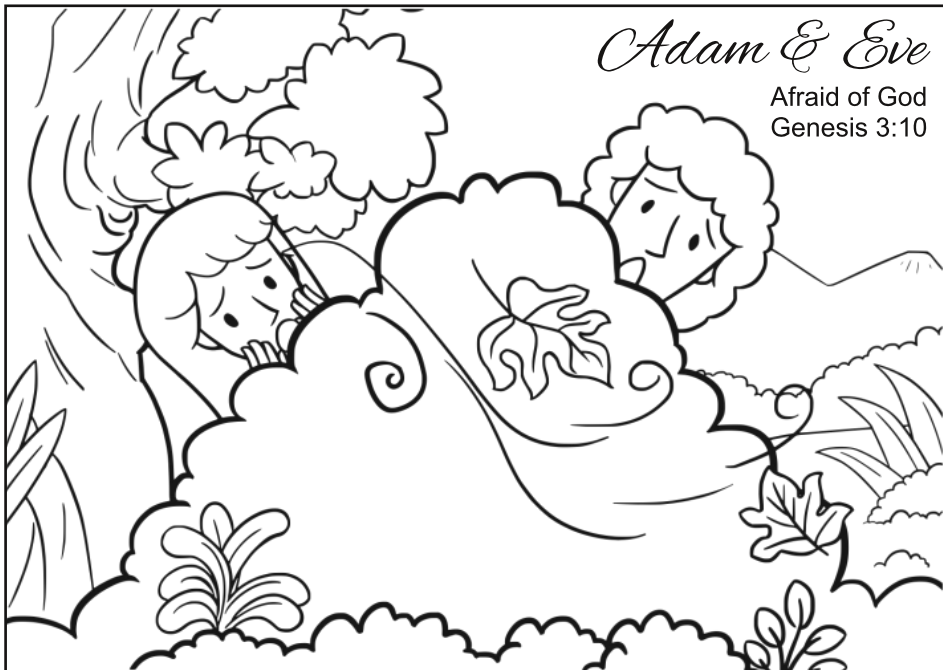
- "Of which ____ the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you." 1 Peter 1:10—**5 Down**
- "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the ____ that should follow." 1 Peter 1:11—**4 Down**
- "For in that he himself hath ____ being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18—**12 Across**
- "And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into ____ man." 1 Samuel 10:6—**9 Down**
- "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points ____ like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15—**2 Down**
- "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the ____ through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57—**1 Across**
- "Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to ____ you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Acts 3:26—**6 Down**
- "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ____ him?" Luke 11:13—**9 Across**
- "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an ____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1—**10 Across**
- "But there is a ____ in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Job 32:8—**3 Across**



- "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my ____, and the visions of my head troubled me." Daniel 7:15—**6 Across**
- "And immediately when Jesus ____ in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?" Mark 2:8—**8 Down**
- "And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was ____ to know the dream." Daniel 2:3—**7 Across**
- "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man ____ is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11—**11 Across**
- "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are ____ unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30—**5 Across**

Adam & Eve

Afraid of God
Genesis 3:10



How God really feels! "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."
Matthew 14:27



You Are
Highly Favored

"I will greatly rejoice
in the Lord..."
(Isaiah 61:10)

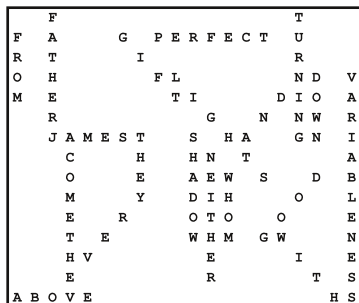
Answers



Bonus

How many
times can you
find the word
"selfishness" in
the first article?

Answer for the
Last
Issue:
Fasted 7



Present Truth
Colombia Trip Report

by Lynnford Beachy

Martes (Tuesday) July 9, 2019

On the evening of July 9th, 2019 I boarded an airplane headed for Bogota, Colombia. I had a layover in Houston, where I met up with Alfred Irizarry and his mother Pilar. At the airport I was able to practice a little of my poor Spanish with some of the people who were heading to Colombia. As I was boarding I spoke with an oil-field worker about the country of Colombia. He assured me that the people in the country are very Christian minded and talk about the Lord all the time. This helped to alleviate my minor concern about my safety in Colombia. He was happy to receive a copy of my recent booklet, *The Source of Love*, and the tract, *Finding Your Identity*. I try to always have literature available to give to people.

On the airplane my seat companions were an outspoken chef and a very nice Catholic man, who were both excited to talk about the Lord and their favorite part of the world, Colombia. The chef asked me how I came to the Lord. I was happy to have the opportunity to share my conversion testimony to such an eager audience. They were glad to receive a written copy of my conversion story, along with *The Source of Love*, and the tract, *Finding Your Identity*.

Miércoles (Wednesday) July 10

We arrived just before 5am in Bogota and stayed in the lovely home of Giovanni and Jhanna where we were warmly welcomed by several brethren from various locations. We spent the day getting ready for the upcoming camp meeting. That evening we were happy to participate in an evening meeting that was lively with testimonies from people from many different countries. I was privileged to see some brethren whom I have not seen in years. I also met some people whom I had corresponded with by email. Several of my books have been translated into Spanish which have been widely distributed in many countries in Central and South America, so several people knew me through the books, and I was now privileged to meet them in person. Later, our kind hosts acquired extra mattresses and spread out sleeping areas for about twenty people.

Jueves (Thursday) July 11

Several other brethren from other areas arrived on Thursday. The house nearly reached its maximum capacity. After morning worship we were treated with a variety of local fruits, including guava, granadilla (similar to



Present Truth

passion fruit), and tomate de arbol (Tree tomato), pitalla (a bumpy yellow-skinned fruit with pale-white flesh and small black seeds that are soft and pleasant – this was my favorite of the new fruits I tried).



About forty of us boarded a bus and traveled three hours to a beautiful camp meeting area in San Francisco, Colombia at about 5,800 feet elevation. In Bogota we were at 8,400 feet, so it is warmer in San Francisco and it is surrounded by beautiful mountains. The location for the meetings was well maintained and very inviting. For the

first meeting there were about 80 people in attendance from about ten different countries. The meeting started with some vibrant singing, after which I spoke on our need to be born again, and shared my testimony of how God delivered me from drugs. The Lord led some to dedicate and rededicate their lives to God.

That evening I had the privilege of sharing a room with three of my brothers in Christ. It cost \$10 per person to stay in a tent, and \$40 per person to stay in a room. That cost was for three nights and included three meals per day, and the meeting area was available for no additional cost. It was a very beautiful and economical place to have a camp meeting.

Viernes (Friday) July 12

During the day on Friday we were blessed by some great messages about health, country life, and admonishments to give glory to God in preparation for Christ's soon return



(Revelation 14:6-12). After supper I was asked to share a shortened version of the study on being born again with a few people who had not been able to attend the first message. Brother Alfred did a great job translating for me, and it was beautiful to see the Lord softening hearts to receive Christ.

Sábado (Sabbath) July 13

The day was filled with practical studies on working for the Lord, God's supernatural power to protect the Bible, consecration, and the love God. There were times for small group Bible studies as well. In the evening several people dedicated their lives to God in baptism.

I went to sleep early since I was to preach at 5:30 the next morning.

Domingo (Sunday) July 14

The morning meeting started with songs at 5:30, and my sermon at 6am. I shared the message, *The Source of Love*, similar to my recent booklet on the topic, demonstrating our need for love and how we can acquire it. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). The Lord really blessed this presentation and several people commented on how much more deeply they could see the incredible love of God.

For the next meeting everyone representing a country or particular regions of Colombia was asked to come to the front as a group and introduce themselves so everyone could be known. It was beautiful to see so many areas represented at the camp meeting. Some had come from very far away.

After lunch everyone was busy packing to get ready for a bus to bring us back to Bogota, but not too busy to pose for a lot of pictures. The weather had been mostly cloudy, but this day it was sunny and mostly clear, which made for some great photos with the mountains in the background.

About forty of us boarded the bus and sang songs the three hours back to Bogota. The theme song that was sung over and over at the camp was sung over and over in the bus as well. It is thoroughly stuck in my mind now, and I like it. The chorus, "Oh, el Rey ya viene, el Rey ya viene!" (The king is coming) was sung with exuberance.

About twenty of us again packed into Giovanni's home. We had a great evening of fellowship and a peaceful night's rest.

Lunes (Monday) July 15

We spent Monday getting laundry done and making preparations for our next trip. We were scheduled to leave Tuesday morning to look at a possible piece of property for a school to be located. The local brethren in Colombia have started a medical and missionary training school called "The



Madison Foundation,” and they want to expand. They already have a bakery to support the work.

Martes (Tuesday) July 16

We awoke early enough to get packed and out to the road by 6:15 to wait for a taxi to bring us to the bus so we could take a three-hour trip where we would look at the potential property for their school. The property is impressive. There is a lot of work to do to get it up and running, but it has great potential. The property has three

large structures along with two houses, many fruit trees, very large bamboo, a raging river running along the edge, and a beautiful view of the mountains on all sides.

The evening was filled with praises to God in song and prayer, along with some beautiful fellowship. The people in Colombia in general are warm and friendly. The weather is very nice, and whatever location you are in, the temperature pretty much remains the same all year because they are so close to the equator.

Miércoles (Wednesday) July 17

We awoke refreshed and got ready for a long trip to visit some brethren in a jungle area near Puerto Rico, Colombia. Before leaving the brethren had a discussion about the new missionary training school they are starting. I didn't understand everything they said, but enough to be excited about the project. I pray that God will bless it abundantly and cause it to bring many people into His kingdom. If you would like to support this work, contact the brethren at www.juan173.org.

Along the trip back to Bogota, while stopping in the town, Oscar and I walked through the city park, where we met two men to whom we gave a



Spanish copy of *God's Love on Trial*. Oscar is the man who translated that book into Spanish, so it was a special treat for us to be distributing it together.

Shortly after arriving back in Bogota we loaded up in two van taxis to take the twenty of us and our luggage to a large bus station, where we found out that no busses were going to the city of Puerto Rico that night, and that we would have to stay at the bus station until 4:30 and 5am when we could catch the first two busses in the morning. We tried to sleep, but the bus station has a policy that will not allow you to lay down on the floor, and whenever you did a security guard would wake you up and make you sit up. I got about an hour's worth of sleep leaning against a large post. Others had similar success at sleeping, while some just stayed awake the whole night.

Jueves (Thursday) July 18

One small bus left at 4:30am and brought half of our crew, while another small bus left at 5am and brought the rest of us on our journey to Puerto Rico, Colombia. The trip consisted of about eighteen hours on a bus followed by a forty-five minute float down a river in a large canoe and about an hour on foot through the jungle. The location is outside of electrical service except for their small solar panels. The reason the trip is so long is because recent rains have caused landslides that destroyed bridges and a large section of a key road. This bus ride was normally a five-hour trip, but on this day it took eighteen hours. We arrived at Brother Jaime's house near Puerto Rico late in

the evening, where we would spend the rest of the night.

Viernes (Friday) July 19

Early in the morning we took two taxis from Jaime's house to Puerto Rico. As we passed another taxi beside the road that had a flat tire, our taxi driver stopped and provided a jack to get the job done more quickly. It was refreshing to see strangers helping each other like that.

After arriving in Puerto Rico we boarded a larger than usual canoe with a motor mounted on the back to take a 45-minute trip up a river. They also loaded a motorcycle onto the canoe. We were headed to the house of Brother Arnulfo where we would be staying for the next few days. After the canoe trip we began the one hour walk to Arnulfo's house. Along the walk we saw a large group of small monkeys climbing in the trees. One was carrying a baby, and all were making lots of noise. We also saw some leaf-cutter ants carrying pieces of leaves.

We arrived at Brother Arnulfo's house which was a simple structure with dirt floors. The people there didn't have a lot to work with, but they were very hospitable. They served us lunch, water, and fruit drinks. After lunch several brethren from the local area arrived and congregated in the meeting area. At 2pm I shared a study on the importance of being born again, along with my testimony of being delivered from drugs. Some other brothers shared studies on the gospel and righteousness by faith.

After supper brother William and his wife shared with me his testimony of being delivered from drugs. He

started drinking, and smoking cigarettes and marijuana at 13, and continued until the age of 27. He was an atheist who did not believe in God at all, and was a guitarist trying to make it big into the music industry. He came to a place where he was in great trouble and, out of nowhere, he called upon God, saying God save me. He thought that was strange since he didn't believe in God, but that night in his sleep he was overwhelmed by God's love for him, and in the morning noticed that the marks on his arms from the drugs were gone. He was completely delivered from drugs and never did them again. That is an amazing testimony of God's power to heal and deliver from addiction.

Sábado (Sabbath) July 20

We were awoken at 4:30am to get ready for a study at 6am by Brother William who shared a message on justification. Several more local brethren joined us in the meeting area after breakfast. Some powerful messages of God's love were shared, and after lunch I shared a message on *The Source of Love* focusing on 1 John 4:7, 8, which says, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

After a short break Brother Alfred shared a message encouraging us to treat others with love and respect even when they are difficult. In the evening Brother Jaime shared a message on moving "From Servants to Sons" explaining how God accepts us as His children and does not want us to view ourselves as servants (Galatians 4:6, 7).

Domingo (Sunday) July 21

After breakfast we packed our things to get ready for the long trip back to Bogota. A mule was loaded with a large amount of luggage, and a couple motorcycles carried the ladies along the one-hour walk on a narrow dirt road to the canoe. The large canoe was loaded again with our luggage, a motorcycle, and about twenty of us. I got the privilege to ride at the front of the boat, and it was my job to look for logs or other debris in the river that could be a problem for the motor. It was very peaceful to be riding on a canoe in Colombia enjoying the view. Afterwards, we loaded our things into two taxis to bring us to the bus station where we boarded a large, comfortable bus for the eighteen-hour trip back to Bogota. This was a lot nicer than our first trip. The bus had a bathroom in the back, and we only stopped once or twice to allow people to get food at a restaurant. I was able to get some sleep on this bus. We arrived early the next morning in Bogota.

Lunes (Monday) July 22

We spent the day packing to be ready for our flights home. Several of us also took the bus downtown where we did some shopping and drank some delicious lemonade made from freshly squeezed sugarcane and limes. On one of the busses we were smashed in so tightly that the door barely shut, and there was no room to move around.

Martes (Tuesday) July 23

We awoke at 4am to get ready to leave for the airport at 5am. It was hard to say goodbye to my new friends and brothers in Christ. We

Present Truth

made it to the airport with plenty of time to make my flight. I was concerned because my flight back was delayed about an hour, and I was not sure I would be able to make my connecting flight. I had only an hour and 35 minutes scheduled between flights in Houston, and I had to go through US Customs in that time. I learned that I should not be alarmed or concerned, since our heavenly Father is looking out for us (Philippians 4:6). Amazingly, I went through customs very quickly. I only waited in line for about five minutes. I made it to my next flight right before they started

boarding, so I had plenty of time. Praise God!

By the grace of God, I arrived home safely. Overall it was a very good trip filled with rich Bible studies, wonderful fellowship, divine protection, and several baptisms. The Lord blessed in so many ways. I have a new appreciation for Colombia and the work the Lord is doing there. If you would like to learn more about the work there, or help with the school they are starting, contact www.juan173.org. Please pray for more laborers in the harvest to help spread the gospel all over the world. »

His Love

(A Message About God's Great Love for You)

by Laura Beachy

No matter what you've done,
No matter how far you've run,
There's not a place high or low,
That can keep you from His love.
No matter what you've done,
No matter how far you've run,
There's not a thing in this world,
That can keep you from His love.

There He stands with arms wide open,
Waiting for your embrace,
With a huge smile on His face,
He can't wait to see you again...
He says, "Welcome home, child.
I'm so glad you found your way."
"I've been waiting for this day,
And I have something to say..."

"No matter what you've done,
No matter how far you've run,
There's not a place high or low,
That can keep you from My love."
"No matter what you've done,

No matter how far you've run,
There's not a thing in this world,
That can keep you from My love."

"Lay your weary head upon My chest."
"I will hold you and give you rest."
"Lay your burdens at My feet."
"Trust that I will give you everything
you need."

"No matter what you've done,
No matter how far you've run,
There's not a place high or low,
That can keep you from My love."
"No matter what you've done,
No matter how far you've run,
There's not a thing in this world,
That can keep you from My love,
That can keep you from My love." »

(These words are the lyrics of a song written by my wife, Laura Beachy. I pray you will be blessed by it. *Editor*)



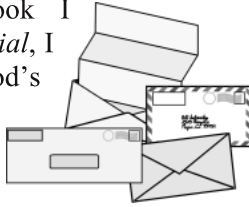
Letters from our Readers



“While attending Lifeline Wellness Center in Knoxville, Illinois, I noticed they had a free book section and I started browsing. The book I picked was *Gods Love on Trial*, I just gravitated towards it. God’s fate :) I kept asking myself that I wanted to understand the trinity because I didn’t. Then God showed me the truth and how happy am I that this book was at Lifeline! I’m so grateful to God and Lynnford Beachy! I’d love to get a subscription to my home. I’d love to get a couple copies for my church and anyone that God leads me to. I’d like all of the following books in both English and Spanish: *God’s Love on Trial*, *Christ in You*, *Understanding the Personality of God*, and *Answering Objections*.” **Florida**

“Dear *Present Truth Fellowship*, First, I want to thank you for all of your help in spreading the truth of God’s Word and thank you for sending the list of materials that you have. I have always enjoyed learning about God’s word; it is always a blessing to learn His holy truth. I pray that He continues to bless you all in your spreading of His word. Next, I would like to request some of your materials for study, if you would, please send the following items, *God’s Love on Trial*, *Understanding the Personality of God*, *Answering Objections*, *A Time to Choose*, *God’s Love on Trial Bible Lessons*, *These Last Days Bible Lessons*, and *Study to Show Thyself Approved*. If you would please send

those to me. Thank you very much for everything. I pray that God blesses you always.” **Missouri**



“I am not sure how I got signed up for a subscription but I am glad I did! This article [‘Prayer and Fasting’] was a such a blessing :) I would love to share with a handful or so of ladies in prison. Would I be able to get them signed up?” **Email Contact**

(We are so glad you have been blessed by the study. Of course you can get others signed up. We send our studies out free of charge, and pray they will bless everyone they reach. **Editor**)

“Oh the last *Present Truth* (‘Prayer and Fasting’) was so good. It should be made into a booklet.” **Ohio**

“Please remove us from your mailing list for the *Present Truth* magazine.” **Michigan**

“Thank you for sending me the booklets and printed materials a few months ago. The materials are truly helpful in the spirit of Christ. Here is a donation from the Father and His Son. Love you all in Christ at *Present Truth Fellowship*.” **Prisoner in New York**

“I would like to be signed up for the email newsletter. Also, I believe the truth on the Godhead... This message and truth has so wonderfully and powerfully impacted my life, and given victory over sin, and a vibrant life with Christ. My desire isn’t to

Present Truth

prove people wrong or debate or argue, but to vindicate the name and character of God, and show that this message is so important for these end times, especially to the soul who lets it impact their life personally. Keep me in prayer for I can not do this myself, but only Christ in me and through me... could you possibly send me some literature that I can give to a couple of my friends/fellow students here at the college? Thanks, I have been reading *God's Love on Trial*, what a blessing! :) God bless!"

Arkansas

"Thank you for your monthly, rather quarterly, newsletter booklet. I really love and appreciate each one. Would you add my friend to your mailing list. She has several of your booklets and really loves them. May the Lord continue to bless and grow your ministry for others."

Texas

"I read the little book, *The Source of Love*. I thought it was really good and I really appreciated this booklet. Bless you brother. I look forward to seeing you tomorrow. Happy Sabbath!"

Arkansas

"Hello, I was wanting to be a more efficient Christian and was wondering if you guys produced any tracts that I can hand out to folks I come in contact in my line of work. I am currently

doing ride-share (LYFT/Uber) work and sometimes encounter people that are ripe and ready to be introduced to God. I've even pulled over and given some a bible study. It would be great if I could also leave them with some literature of a tract size."

Colorado

(Thank you for your interest. Yes, we have several tracts, my favorites are *Finding Your Identity* and *The Incredible Love of God*.
Editor)

"I do without a doubt receive a refreshing from the Holy Spirit when I read your newsletters. This ministry has a small town, country flavor to it that I really enjoy. I have become keenly aware of so many falsehoods that have stemmed from this misappropriation of the Spirit of truth. Sure, we can be moved by the Spirit, yet it is only God's word that can confirm what spirit is at work in our hearts at any given moment. Because I am in prison, in this respect this is a very spiritual place as to what drives us? It more than likely is the same out there, especially when there is this spirit of unity devoid of truth. Thanks again and God bless all of you."

Michigan

"I am writing you in regards to the Bible study you offer for free. I would like to start this Bible study. Please feel free to send me the material. Thank you in advance."

Texas

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Editor: Lynnford Beachy, PO Box 315, Kansas, OK 74347, **phone: (304) 633-5411.** Jim Raymond, phone: (407) 421-6025, e-mail: newsletter@ptfellowship.org.

Present Truth Fellowship

PO Box 315
Kansas, Oklahoma 74347
U. S. A.

“For God so loved the world, that he
gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not
perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

Contact us for your own

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Email: newsletter@PTFellowship.org

Website: www.PTFellowship.org

“And this is life eternal, that they might
know thee the only true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3