

# The Messenger

A Publication of Community Bible Fellowship

July 2018



*Blessed* is the  
nation whose  
**God** is the **LORD**,  
The people whom  
He has *chosen*  
for *His* own  
*inheritance*.

Psalm 33:12

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## A BIG THANK YOU

Over the course of just a few months, our congregation gave our Haiti and Chad missionaries a total of \$7356.47. Of that amount, \$1309.03 was raised in the change jar alone! Thank you to all who gave of themselves in some way!

## THE BOOK OF DANIEL BIBLE STUDY w/Bob Hoffman

Because July 4th falls on a Wednesday this year, Bob Hoffman's Bible study will not meet on that particular evening. Class will resume on the following Wednesday, July 11th.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10 - 14

VBS is coming! This year's theme is MORE FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES. We'll meet from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Tuesday through Friday, July 10th - 13th. On July 14th, we'll gather in the CBF Party Trees at 5:30 PM for our annual VBS cookout. Be sure to sign up and fill out a registration form for each child attending by June 24. Visit the sign-up table in the east hall for all necessary forms. See Robin Barnhouse for more information.

## RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

July 19

CBF is once again the site for our area's River Bend Mobile Food Pantry. This mobile food pantry will be held on July 19; the time of the event will be advertised as soon as it becomes available. We are in need of many volunteers for this day event. If you'd like to help, please see Mark Barnhouse or Mandi Andresen.

## FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER

July 20

Join us on Friday evening, July 20, for a special food pantry fundraiser here at CBF. Be sure to watch for coming details!

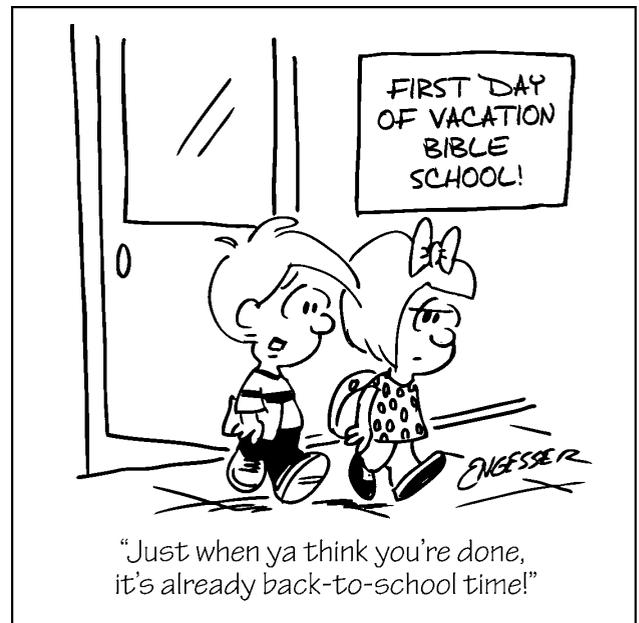
## PRAISE & WORSHIP SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

July 29

Plan to join us for our PRAISE & WORSHIP Sunday and potluck luncheon on Sunday, July 29. It's a perfect time for inviting friends to worship and fellowship with us. Be sure to bring a dish or two to share!

## THIS FALL @ CBF...

3rd WEDNESDAY EVENINGS | Resume August 15th  
YOM TERUAH (Rosh Hashanah) | September 9th  
YOM KIPPUR | September 18th





# Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

- 1. eivn
- 2. illy fo het elavyl  
-----
- 3. albm fo dgo
- 4. estmra
- 5. sseju
- 6. okrc
- 7. rdbae fo fiel  
-----
- 8. htligi fo eth dwlro  
  -----
- 9. voasir
- 10. dorl
- 11. ishrt
- 12. ehspredh
- 13. teh dowr
- 14. rncpie fo cepae  
  -----

What do these have in common?

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Answer: Names of God's Son

## A Prayer For Independence Day

by Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.



## Ten Challenges to Being a Tzaddik (Part Two)

by Cajun Pauley

In last month's edition...

*I have publicly stated on numerous times that I am working toward becoming a tzaddik (a righteous and holy person who dedicates themselves to establishing peace between God and man and between men). I know that in Christ, my "righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees" but I want to experience not only the grace of imputed righteousness, but the joy of personal and practical righteousness as well. Color me ambitious perhaps, but there you have it.*

*In my attempts at practical holiness, I have often stumbled. Sometimes it was because I struggled with and lost to my yetzer hara. Just as often, I seriously did not know what "the right thing" was!*

Continuing...

I'd like to continue sharing with you the last of the ten things that I have found to be particularly pernicious problems in my path toward becoming a tzaddik. Last month, I began with the ones I seem to struggle with the least; I will end with those things I find the most difficult.

**6. Being positively holy rather than negatively holy.** (Leviticus 19:2-3; Luke 11:46-52; Colossians 2:16-23)

Here again, it is far too easy to fall into the habit of "negative holiness." What do I mean by "negative holiness?" I mean the approach many take that goes like "I don't drink and I don't chew and I don't go with girls who do." However, not doing evil is not

as good as actually doing good. Negative holiness may keep you from doing harm, but it does not actually enhance life. However, I often find it difficult to differentiate positive good from negative good. For instance, clearly and categorically stating that homosexuality or sex outside of marriage is harmful to one's self is doing a person a positive good. You are warning them away from potential harm. However, it is done in a negative manner. You see what I mean? It is easy to fall into the habit of negative holiness. The best way that I've been able to avoid the problem is:

- a. to make sure that I present negative truths in as positive a manner as possible;
- b. to make sure that the person I'm dealing with knows that I love him/her and am seeking his/her good;
- c. and to make sure that I am living what I'm saying.

**7. Doing what is right in the sight of the Lord.** (Deuteronomy 6:18)

We could also consider Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 12:25; 1 Kings 11:38; Isaiah 56:1; Ezekiel 45:9; 2 Corinthians 13:5-7; 1 John 3:10 or Philemon 1:8. Again and again Adonai has urged us to do what is right in His eyes.

"Doing right" is so important that it is part and parcel with being truly ransomed! If I cannot do what is right on a fairly consistent basis, I need to test myself to determine if I am even in the Faith!

The difficulty (for me at least) is often determining what is right "in the sight of the Lord." I unfortunately do not think like Him. His thoughts are as different from mine as the heavens are high above the earth (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Fortunately, God understands our dilemma and has provided a way – hearing and heeding His Holy Word which never fails to do its needed job.

**8. Going by the intent of the law rather than the letter of the law.** (Deuteronomy 27:26; Proverbs 2:20; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; John 6:63)

The problem here is the issue of exercising balance and good judgment. Most of Hashem's mitzvot require interpretation. We all know that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, but what does that mean? Many things. It means to not covet his things. It means to put his good before my own. It means being able to courageously speak the truth to him even when he may not appreciate it. It means speaking that truth in as gracious and well-presented manner as possible. So, we've gone from a simple statement, "love your neighbor as yourself" and come very quickly to many, varied and subtle applications.

However, the problem is just like the last point where the difficulty is in distinguishing between our will and the Lord's. Again, the Holy Scriptures come to the rescue. We must take the principles that are taught and see how they are applied. For instance, we know that it is generally wrong to lie, and yet Rahab was blessed for lying. When we determine why, we will better understand the spirit of the law. We know that the shew bread was reserved for the priesthood and yet David and his men ate of it unharmed. When we grasp why we will better understand the spirit or intent of the law. Being able to do that is critical to being able to apply the law in our modern, complicated and convoluted world.

**9. Determining and enabling justice.** (Exodus 23:2-3; Deuteronomy 16:19-20; 2 Samuel 8:15; 1 Kings 3:11-12)

The problems just keep mounting. We first have the difficulty of determining what is just. Let me give you an illustration. A lot of people opposed sweatshops and child labor. So, they boycotted some shoes that

were being sold in a popular chain of stores because it was discovered they were made by children who worked in sweat shops in third world countries. The boycott was wildly successful. The chain found it nearly impossible to sell the shoes. So, they closed down the factories where the shoes were made. Unfortunately, all the children who worked in those factories now had no income and many died of hunger. Those who did not die of hunger died of AIDS or drug related illnesses as they turned to prostitution to feed themselves.

The difficulty of determining the right thing to do is often only surmounted by the difficulty of knowing what to do about it. Here, the Scriptures advise careful examination and systematic research. It suggests being open to new ideas and the ability to flex with the circumstances and the Spirit's leading. It further advises the counsel of many wise and knowledgeable advisors. It further commands a humble and prayerful spirit.

**10. Learning to be humble.** (Deuteronomy 8:2; Ecclesiastes 7:16; Romans 12:3, 16; 1 Peter 5:6)

At last, we come to what I personally find to be the greatest challenge. It is not that I am more arrogant or pride-infested than the average bear. It is that this step lies so closely to the principle struggle with the yetzer hara that I, like Paul, often despair of accomplishing the task and cry out, "Who will save me from this wretched state?" Fortunately, I don't have to worry too much about this last difficulty because I have a wise and loving Father who is very good about introducing "thorns in the flesh" and "various trials" in order to keep me humble and improve my character. The main thing I have to do is to be patient in trial and gracious in my handicaps so that I can get the full benefit of Adonai's ministrations.

**Conclusion:** I am grateful to know that father Abraham struggled with many of these same problems. I am more grateful to know that I have a High Priest who empathizes with my wrestling with the yetzer hara and is fully capable of saving me in spite of myself.

# Should Christians be on Snapchat? What are the benefits and dangers?

by Gerald Koh / 8 June 2017 / fervr.net



Snapchat is now one of the most popular social media outlets in the world, with millions of users, many of whom happen to be teens! People love the fun of sending streaks to their friends and recording whatever is happening around them. It's no surprise that countless people across the globe use this app on a daily basis!

## So, is using Snapchat fine?

Is God okay with you using Snapchat? Well, the Bible never explicitly states that using Snapchat is sinful or harmful. So, generally speaking, there is no harm in using Snapchat to chat and share safe pics with your friends.

In fact, you could even use Snapchat to send snapshots to your friends of Bible passages, or you could send them reminders to spend time with God, as I myself have done so before. Despite this, we should still be aware of how Snapchat could pose a danger to our spiritual life.

## Be aware of its pitfalls.

Snapchat is increasingly a reflection of the 'selfie culture' that has permeated our culture over the past few years. It's a problem that is based on a desire to fit in with everyone and get our self-esteem from all the wrong places.

Growing numbers of people use social media as a means to enhance their reputation or their self-esteem levels by taking selfies and posting them for others to see, in the hope that they will gain attention. Snapchat is just one major platform to do so, even if there is no actual 'like' option available.

There is a possibility that anyone could become hooked on this 'selfie culture' mentality by spending too much time on Snapchat. It can lead to the trap of placing too much emphasis on what others think of you, rather than what God thinks of you. For example, a guy could start streaks with numerous girls simply to feel good about himself, rather than to build meaningful relationships. Girls could get caught up



in sending pictures of themselves in a vain attempt to convince others of how pretty or attractive they are. It can even lead to the sending of sexual pictures, which has the potential to do significant long-term damage.

As Christians, we must reject such a mindset from permeating our lifestyles. The glorious truth that our sense of worth is not found in achievement or other people's opinions, but in Christ, should motivate us to chase after God's will rather than a transitory social reputation or temporary feelings of self-worth.

### **A biblical perspective on Snapchat...**

As John 1:12 says, to all those who believe in Jesus, He gives us "the right to be children of God." As we realize our value comes from our status as God's sons and daughters, it therefore means that there is no need to obsess over your reputation among peers or on social media.

Glorify God in all that you do. 1 Corinthians 10:31 gives us a guideline on the decisions we should make

in our lives. As it states, *"Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* Whenever choosing to do something, our priority should be whether we're doing so for God's glory!

Paul says in Romans 14:5, *"One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind."* Using Snapchat may be perfectly fine for many people, whereas for others it could be a hindrance. Something more important is whether you feel such an action is what 1 Corinthians 10:23 says, *"Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial."* So even if Snapchat is not actually forbidden in the Bible, still be wary of whether it is good for you personally or not.

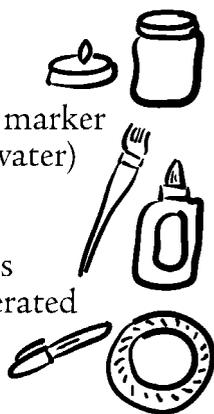
So, happily snap away if you wish (keeping in mind everything above!), but remember that your identity in Christ is more important than your social media life and what others think of you.



Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

#### What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



#### What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.

### July Birthdays & Anniversaries

7/1	Mae Konie	7/20	Amber Link
7/2	George & Susan Ewing	7/20	DJ Stropes
7/5	Rory Leenerts	7/23	Travis & Stephanie
7/9	Brandon & Cindy Martin		Canaday
7/16	Kimberly Eskridge	7/27	Sam Barnhouse
7/19	Isabel Ewing	7/31	Susan Ewing
7/20	Donald Dowd	7/31	Timothy Shaw

### Mark Your Calendar

\*Every Monday & Thursday | HIIT workout w/ Brittany Dowd | 6:15 – 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

7/08, Sun | YA Bible Study | 2:00 PM | Nathan & Jeanette Sipes' Residence

7/08, Sun | High School Youth Group | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Activity Room

7/10, Tues | Vacation Bible School | 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Chapel

7/11, Wed | Vacation Bible School | 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Chapel

7/11, Wed | The Book of Daniel Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7:00 PM | Room N2

7/12, Thurs | Vacation Bible School | 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Chapel

7/13, Fri | Vacation Bible School | 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM | Chapel

7/14, Sat | Vacation Bible School Cookout | 5:30 PM | CBF Party Trees

7/18, Wed | The Book of Daniel Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7:00 PM | Room N2

7/19, Thurs | River Bend Mobile Food Pantry @ CBF | Time TBA | Sanctuary & West End

7/20, Fri | Food Pantry Fundraiser | Time TBA | Sanctuary

7/21, Sat | Blood Drive | 7:00 – 10:30 AM | Chapel

7/22, Sun | YA Bible Study | 2:00 PM | Nathan & Jeanette Sipes' Residence

7/22, Sun | Jr. High School Youth Group | 5:00 – 6:00 PM | Activity Room

7/25, Wed | The Book of Daniel Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7:00 PM | Room N2

7/29, Sun | Potluck Luncheon | 11:30 AM | Sanctuary

### CBF Financial Report - May

	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
Total Income	\$14,447.57	\$83,702.16
Total Expenses	\$16,318.39	\$82,538.28
Net Operating Income	\$(1,870.82)	\$1,163.88



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