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*"Holding forth the  
word of life; that I  
may rejoice in the  
day of Christ, that  
I have not run in  
vain, neither  
labored in vain."  
Phil 2:16*

# THE WORD OF LIFE

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## Ye Did Run Well

by Donald Wright

**P**aul experienced a lot of disappointment as an apostle. There were false brethren with which he had to deal (2 Cor. 11:26). There were false apostles and deceitful workers he was forced to confront (2 Cor. 11:13). There was the rejection of the gospel he preached (Acts 13:44, 45). And there was the time when Peter withdrew from the Gentiles, fearing what other Jews might think (Gal. 2:11-17). Paul was an emotional man and these things must have broken his heart. But nothing disappointed Paul more than when the brethren at Galatia began to give in to Judaizing teachers. Paul was not only disappointed, but shocked. *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel..."* (Gal. 1:6). They started off so well. Paul was surprised that they could be deceived so easily. In Gal. 5:7 Paul expressed his surprise in the following way: *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"*

The Bible often pictures our lives as Christians as a race. And it is a race that we can lose if we are not careful. The Christians at Galatia ran well at first. But Paul indicates that they stopped doing so. They were not the last ones to follow that path. Many over the years have started the race well, but stopped before they reached the goal.

How are you running? Have you started the race yet? One cannot run well without first getting into the race. The track is in Christ. To get into Christ one must obey the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). You must enter the race the same way the saints at Galatia did it. They were justified by faith (Gal. 3:1-7, 22-24). However, they were not justified by faith only. They did not begin the race until they were baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). You too must begin running for Christ by having faith in Christ and obeying

*(Continued on page 2)*

the gospel. Once you take that last step of being baptized, the gun sounds and the race begins.

If you have obeyed the gospel, do not stop running like those in Galatia did. You need to continue run well. Let's see how we do this.

**1. We have to run like we want to win the race.** Paul said, "*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain*" (1 Cor. 9:24). Running to obtain begins with one's attitude. To want to run at your very best you have to desire to do so. You have to be determined to do so. There will be stumbling blocks. There will be temptations at times to slow down or even quit. There will be distractions of different sorts. If you are going to continue to run well through it all, you must make up your mind ahead of time that you will not let anything stop you from reaching the goal. Then you have to go out and perform. To purpose to do something is one thing, but to perform what you purpose is another thing. To run well you must purpose and perform.

**2. We have to run with faith.** The Hebrew writer says that faith is the "*assurance of things hoped for...*" (Heb. 11:1). The one who has faith in God and His word has confidence that he can finish the race and win the prize. In an earthly race, one is defeated before he starts if he does not believe he can win. Such is the case in our race for an incorruptible crown as well. We must believe that we can win. We must have faith that the power of God can make us stand and give us the strength to run until the end. Our faith and confidence is made stronger when we know the kind of race we need to run. We must know what direction to run. We need to know how to properly pace ourselves so that we can finish. The word of God helps us with that. It tells us how to live. It shows us how to run. Remember, faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). So, the more you study the word of God the more faith you will have in this spiritual race you have entered. You can only run well if you are able to run with certainty (1 Cor. 9:26).

**3. We have to run with patience (Heb. 12:1).** Endurance is the key to winning any long race. To have patience is to have staying power. If you have this characteristic, you do not quit when you get tired. You do not drop out of the race at the first twinge of pain. You keep on running. This is important in the race for heaven. You see, it in this race no one comes in first. That is not the goal. The goal is to just finish the race. Everyone who finishes the race, that is, those who keep on running until the race is over, will all go to heaven on the same glorious day. So, while beginning the race is important, staying in the race is even more important. You will need some temperance to carry you through the tough times (1 Cor. 9:25). You will need to remain focused on the goal (Phil. 3:14). This requires the staying power of patience. If you are going to continue to run well, you must have it.

## Granpa's Advice to the Youngin's

by Author Unknown (Taken from Mike Davis' weekly bulletin)

**W**hether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past — but never the present.

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin', and scrubbing'. No wife of mine is gonna work."

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.



## Feelings of Doubt and Uncertainty

by Mitch Temple

**T**he sudden change that comes after the honeymoon can be one of life's most sobering moments. Some young couples describe this as "being hit in the face with a cold glass of water" or "being struck by lightning."

Others express it this way:

"I feel like I'm on another planet, and I want to go home!"

"I miss being able to do what I want to do, when I want to do it."

And here's a favorite that marriage therapists hear often: "If two becoming one means that I disappear as a person, forget it!"

If you feel like this, don't think you're alone or that your situation is hopeless. The following quotations illustrate the fact that the adjustment period from aloneness to togetherness is often complex:

I figure that the degree of difficulty in combining two lives ranks somewhere between rerouting a hurricane and finding a parking place in downtown Manhattan.—Claire Cloninger

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.—Rita Rudner

Many couples wonder how the blending of two personalities and sets of ambitions, desires, and dreams could ever be expected by a wise and all-knowing God! Trying to adjust from "freedom" to partnership can be difficult and exasperating — but it's a process, not just a destination.

### The Feelings are Normal

When we shift from being single to being married, we experience loss. Losing something leaves us feeling sad. But as we grow in our relationship with the person we committed to, the grief can turn to joy and contentment.

It's common for young couples to experience various levels of "buyer's remorse." That was the case with Nicole and Ted.

Nicole had waited for many years to find the right man to spend the rest of her life with. At age 33, she met Ted. Within 13 months they were married in her hometown of Atlanta.

*Follow the Sermon*

**Living Large for the Lord (Joshua 17:12-18)**

**I. The Problem of \_\_\_\_\_**

Josh 17:12

12 Yet the children of Manasseh could not \_\_\_\_\_

**1. The Canaanites \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. The Canaanites \_\_\_\_\_**

**II. The Problem of \_\_\_\_\_**

Josh 17:14

14 And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me \_\_\_\_\_ and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Gal 6:3

3 For if a man think \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_, when he is \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

**III. The Problem of \_\_\_\_\_**

Josh 17:17-18

17 And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, even to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, Thou art a great people, and hast great power: thou shalt not have one lot only: 18 But the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be thine; for it is a \_\_\_\_\_, and thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong.

Luke 16:10

10 He that is \_\_\_\_\_ in that which is \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also in \_\_\_\_\_: and he that is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also in \_\_\_\_\_.



## Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

R	J	E	S	A	E	L	E	R	D	A	M	S	E	L
D	E	N	I	E	D	I	E	E	T	S	I	R	H	C
E	W	V	P	P	B	V	R	S	U	I	T	N	O	P
H	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	N	M	B	X	T	W
S	T	S	D	I	F	Y	T	I	A	U	R	M	I	I
A	N	S	R	F	S	L	O	R	F	Y	O	O	P	T
W	E	Y	U	E	D	R	V	F	A	V	T	C	S	N
G	C	S	L	J	T	E	E	N	V	Y	N	K	C	E
P	O	U	M	U	L	T	I	T	U	D	E	E	A	S
A	N	V	F	L	E	T	O	F	E	V	M	D	R	S
L	N	T	E	D	N	I	A	P	I	L	G	E	L	U
A	I	D	G	R	O	B	E	L	D	C	D	F	E	S
C	R	E	P	E	N	T	E	D	D	D	U	E	T	E
E	J	A	R	E	N	O	S	I	R	P	J	R	R	J
B	L	O	O	D	E	G	R	U	O	C	S	D	C	S

### Trial of Jesus #2

### Puzzle #60

Matthew chapter 26 - 27

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| BETRAYED  | MARVELLED |
| BITTERLY  | MOCKED    |
| BLOOD     | MULTITUDE |
| BUFFETED  | PALACE    |
| CHRIST    | PONTIUS   |
| COUNSEL   | POTTERS   |
| CRUCIFIED | PRISONER  |
| DAMSEL    | REED      |
| DENIED    | RELEASE   |
| ELDERS    | REPENTED  |
| ENVY      | ROBE      |
| EVIL      | SCARLET   |
| GOVERNOR  | SCOURGED  |
| INNOCENT  | SILVER    |
| JESUS     | SOLDIERS  |
| JEWS      | SPIT      |
| JUDGMENT  | SUFFERED  |
| JUST      | WASHED    |

WITNESS



MORE PUZZLES AT:  
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*(Continued from page 4)*

Though she was certain Ted was the man God had chosen for her, Nicole missed her independence. Often she felt sad, conflicted, confused — wondering whether she'd made the wrong decision about marriage. She loved Ted and was thankful for him, realizing she couldn't have asked for a better man. But she struggled with having to give up her "alone time" and sense of freedom.

After praying, studying the Bible, and getting direction from Christian friends, Nicole began to see that her feelings were normal and that most people experience them. She accepted the responsibility of honoring the relationship God had given her with Ted. Each day she made conscious efforts to enjoy her relationship with her new husband in the fullest sense.

Though she occasionally needed time alone, Nicole learned to think in terms of two instead of one. When tempted to do her own thing at Ted's expense, she resisted. When it would have been easy to plop down on the couch after a hard day's work, she spent time with her husband first. Ted responded in a similar way, and their marriage developed into a bond filled with joy and intimacy.

That's how closeness and biblical oneness develop in marriages in spite of selfish tendencies. Though challenging and often confusing, the transition from independence to interdependence is absolutely vital to your union.