

05/02/2016
Don't Wear Our Welcome

"Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of His harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them, declares the Lord.... My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, they have dug their own cisterns that cannot hold water" (Jer.2:3 & 13).

Our homes are special places to us. We treat them with a higher set of standards because we spend most of our time there, and they contain many things that are dear to us. When we entertain, we expect folks to treat it with the same amount of respect. An ungrateful guest might help themselves to whatever they please and treat our homes with a lack of common decency.

The nation of Judah, in today's verses, had become unwelcome guests to God, and He was ready to let them know. Judah began to worship the false gods of their neighbors. Baal, the ancient god of storms and lightning, had a firm hold on God's people, and He saw their land as destitute and defiled because of their betrayal. God have given them blessings, but they didn't appreciate how much He had provided. Against this backdrop, while they may not be the same blessings God gave His people then, those who become Christians have the opportunity to be a part of God's family and live in His home... Lets be sure that we do not become like those who abandon their faith and cause God's heart to break. Unfortunately, many choose to pick up the idols of the world like money, addiction, gossip, and popularity, etc.... "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body" (I Cor.6:19-20). When we commit our lives to Christ, we must be on guard against the idolatry of the world... Lets all treat God's home with the respect that it deserves and not wear out our welcome...

Have a great start to your week.... Begin it with a RAK or two... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/03/2016
Seeds - Planted With A Purpose

"I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt and wild vine?" (Jer.2:21).

Seeds are simply amazing in their ability and purpose. Plants use the seeds as a means of reproduction, and many of them can withstand extreme conditions and still sprout at exactly the right time. Scientists have grown viable plants from seeds that were thousands of years old, and its crazy to think that each of the giant redwoods of Northern California began as a simple seed... God had planted a special seed in the kingdom of Judah, and He planned for it to grow

despite Judah's worst efforts. He had bigger plans for her than she could ever imagine because the Messiah would descend from her... Judah's spiritual adultery with the idols of Baal, as we see in today's verse, turned a seed of purpose into a weed before God. "So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom.10:17). Salvation begins for each believer through the hearing of the Word of God, and this is the precious seed planted into the heart of each Christian... In time, this seed of faith germinates and grows to produce repentance and confession, thus leading to baptism and salvation... Each Christian's story begins like this, but unfortunately, outside influences can corrupt this seed of faith... As God's special children, we must be extra careful of what we feed our hearts and minds so that they don't become polluted. Once the belief is within us, we must nurture it and continue to feed it with the nutrients of truth. It might be good for us to read the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:18-23 to be reminded of all the possibilities. Another wonderful aspect of all this is that we can produce seeds of faith in others, so that the Lord's kingdom on earth will continue to grow... Seeds planted with a purpose.

Have a great day... Do good and give God the credit... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/04/2016
Tainted Waters

"Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number" (Jer.2:32).

Water is a most essential ingredient to human survival. From ancient times through today, towns, villages, and cities were formed where people could get water easily and safely. We have but to read about the problems in Flint, Mich to amplify this point, for in order for the water to be beneficial, it must be clean and fresh. Jeremiah is prophesying to the people that they had tainted the waters and hoped that God had not noticed.... He did! It might be good to read Jer.2:32-37 today to get the fuller flavor of this story. The people's injustice toward the innocent did not go unnoticed by God, and though they were convinced that the things they did were secret, but God brought them into the light of day through Jeremiah. He compares the nation to a bride who forgot to wear the right clothing for her wedding. The people had forgotten the essential things in their relationship with God, and they would be punished by being exiled. God issues the same warning for us today...Believers who know the message and power of salvation, yet choose to associate with sin, become entrapped in a life that leads away from salvation... The deeper they tread into the waters of sin, the more consumed they become, and the more tainted the waters become..... Christians must always be cautious of the temptations of the world. Our churches must be prepared like the bride of Christ that they are. We want Jesus to find us adorned in Him, not in the tainted waters of sin....

Have a wonderful day.... Make your little part of the world better... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/05/2016
Beyond Blessed

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Lk.6:38).

More than likely we have all heard someone say that they are "beyond blessed," and not even given it a second thought. On the other hand, we might have an association with a person whose next good day will be their first. I will dwell on the former today, rather than the latter... I would like to believe that as a Christian, I am in a constant state of blessing. If we think this way, just what do we attribute it to? Does today's verse give us a possible start point? "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap..." We ought to be confirmed optimists when it comes to living a blessed life that is brought on by living the way that God has instructed... Lets never make the false assumption that blessings are entitlements that can be attributed to other sources than the Lord. Now don't get me wrong here... We shouldn't enter into a relationship with God based solely on gaining blessings. We would then be like Demetrius the silversmith (Acts 19) who made a living from producing images of the Greek goddess Artemis... Our relationship with God must be based on our love and appreciation of Him as our Father, and this same appreciation should define how we are to live our lives. I can't help but think of the old song, "There Shall Be Showers" (Showers of Blessing)... "There shall be showers of blessing: This is the promise of love; There shall be seasons refreshing, Sent from the Savior above..." I think we can all become "beyond blessed" because of the spiritual blessings we gain by maintaining a healthy relationship with the Lord. Maybe the next time someone asks you how you're doing, you might say; "I'm beyond blessed..."

Have a great day.... Let His light shine through you... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/06/2016

Walk The Line

"I keep a close watch on this heart of mine
I keep my eyes wide open all the time
I keep the ends out for the tie that binds
Because You're mine, I walk the line"

"I Walk The Line" by Johnny Cash 1956

I'm going to turn the first stanza of Johnny Cash's famous song into a mantra for us this morning. Rebellion is constant in the world, and it has always been this way... People turn against those in charge because they are either dissatisfied or misinformed. People are unhappy with their bosses, and even children rebel against their parents because they want to be more in charge of their personal lives. One of the problems with rebellion is that those who rebel believe that their ideas and beliefs are superior to the law or the authorities, even if they are not... The people of Judah, during the time of Jeremiah, had rebelled against the Lord with their behavior and idolatry. But God, with His infinite mercy, wanted them to recognize their sins, repent and turn back to Him. Over the centuries, the only thing that has changed is that God sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sins... I think that if we apply this stanza of Cash's song, we can see what God expects of us. We must at all times keep a close watch on our hearts. We do this by having our eyes wide open at all times. Though belief in God and His Son, we are given a tie that binds... We can only maintain that tie if we have kept a close watch on our hearts and have our eyes wide open... If these three things are in place we can have a desirable outcome in our lives... Because you're mine, I'll walk the line... Because we have made God ours and sealed it with our faith, belief, and obedience, we will walk the line. If we stray off of it from time to time, we must recognize our wrongs, repent, and get back on the line... Lets enjoy it... Its a great walk....

Have a wonderful day... T G I F Through God I'm Free.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/07/2016

Some Famous Bible Moms

Since tomorrow is Mothers Day, I thought that today's quiz about moms who often play an important role in shaping the character of their kids.... As always, have fun...

Match Each Mom With The Proper Statement

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| _____ 1. Mother of all living | (a) Rachel |
| _____ 2. Helped son deceive his dad | (b) Mary |
| _____ 3. Was paid to care for her son | (c) Eve |
| _____ 4. Was commended by Paul | (d) Hannah |
| _____ 5. Sought the best for her sons | (e) Rebekah |

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| _____ 6. Wept for her children | (f) Athaliah |
| _____ 7. Became mother to a daughter-in-law | (g) Jochebed |
| _____ 8. Caused the death of John the Baptist | (h) Herodias |
| _____ 9. Killed her grandsons | (i) Eunice |
| _____ 10. Gave her son to ministry | (j) Naomi |
| _____ 11. Highly favored by God | (k) Salome |

Have a great weekend and a glorifying and uplifting day of worship on His day.... Love mark
Phil.4:11

05/09/2016
City Life

"At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations will gather in
Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord" (Jer.3:17).

Cities around the world have been given nicknames, usually denoting what the city is famous for. NYC is The Big Apple, Hong Kong is The Pearl of the Orient, and who can forget that Philadelphia is known as The City of Brotherly Love... (so maybe all of them don't exactly fit their nicknames)... The Israelites had a city like that this called Jerusalem. It had become the center of God's world since the Ark of the Covenant was brought there. It was the home of the temple of the Lord where all the Jews were to come once a year to sacrifice for their sins. The Lord was merciful, and willing to forgive His people, but He wanted them to know His laws and statutes. The prophet Jeremiah declared a promise to the people that God would provide for those who would find their way home. Since God is the same yesterday as tomorrow, He extends the same sort of invitation to us if we turn to His kingdom... The church was founded as God's new nation by the blood of Christ. The words of the prophet Jeremiah would extend far beyond the walls of Jerusalem... The city would serve as the starting point and catalyst for church growth in the 1st century. It would be the place where Jesus performed miracles, and eventually gave His life. The church would become the New Jerusalem through Jesus. (a pretty nifty nickname itself). The beauty is that God provides the Bible to serve as our source of wisdom and teaching. If we are to be a holy city for God's dwelling, we must prepare ourselves by learning as much as we can. It's all about getting accustomed to city life...

Have a great start to your week.... Begin it with a RAK or two... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/10/2016
New Coke

"This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it.' " (Jer.6:16).

Coca Cola was being challenged by other soft drink companies, so they decided to change their formula. On April 23, 1985 they introduced the new and improved recipe and named it "New Coke." I am sure that many of you remember. The results were disastrous, as people generally hated the new drink. Just 3 months later they returned to the old recipe, calling it "Coca-Cola Classic. The truth is that many times the original is better than the new updated version. Now I know that this may fly in the face of the way modern technology works and the desire for newer and faster things, but there are times when old is better. Jeremiah's message to Judah was a call to return to the truth, which was the "old way.." The new and improved false gods the people had chosen to worship were meaningless and pointless. They were desperate attempts at replacing the true and living God... He would tell them the old paths were the spiritual roads bringing them back to the truth of the Lord. Today's world is surely one of cutting edge technology and innovation, urging us to desire the newest and best things. While new and cutting edge ways of worshiping God exist in our world today, they may not be the right way to worship... Our journey with God should look to the Bible and find the old paths of truth and long to establish those truths in our hearts. Following the old paths should come from a desire to live according to God's Word and please Him.... The New Coke wasn't awful, it just wasn't Coke...

Have a great day... Do good and give God the credit... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/11/2016
Old Ways Vs Tradition

Put these in the correct order 1 to 6

- ___ Repay any wrong
- ___ Regret sin
- ___ Request forgiveness
- ___ Recognize sin
- ___ Remove the sin permanently
- ___ Reveal the sin, or confess

I may have left the door ajar yesterday when I wrote about the old ways being better than the new. That opening deals with the difference between the old ways and tradition... We can't go wrong when we go to the Lord's Word to find the answers. We can skew things if the old ways morph into traditions that we might accept because they have become comfortable. I recently parted ways with my old 1993 GMC pickup truck. It had been like an old friend to me, but there came a point that I was the only person who could drive it. It had little idiosyncrasies that made my driving it more of something that I did rather than should have done. There were a lot of memories in it, but not to much usefulness, so it had to go... There are parts of our relationship with the Lord that we do unflinchingly because the Word says that we should... Rather than a verse today, I gave you a little repentance quiz... Repentance is an act that we must treat as a necessity rather than an option... It is one of the old ways that should never be confused with tradition. Realistically, repentance is a process each of us chooses to undergo. It is a chance to conquer our sins with the help of Jesus. The road of repentance is a long and difficult one that requires the believer to confront his or her sins head on...Christians make mistakes because sin is in our world and will be there to entice us. The important thing to remember is that we have forgiveness in Christ... It is one of the old ways that must be followed and never confused with tradition...

Have a great day.... Make your little part of the world better... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/12/2016

Getting It Right - Jeremiah's Turn

"Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says; Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord' " (Jer.7:2-4).

There are many great speeches from important men like John F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr, and Winston Churchill out there that are worth listening to. Because of their place on the national or international stage, each of these people had an influence on the world. It was Jeremiah's turn to make an important speech to the people of Judah. Why? Because their lives would depend on these words... The speech continues on through the next few chapters. Jeremiah's big moment took place right in the midst of the great temple gate. He stood among the priests and worshipers who were seeing his early prophesies of Jerusalem take place...It just wasn't enough to be a Jew and respect the temple... The Lord wanted His people to know that their worship was meaningless to Him because they refused to live by God's Law in their daily lives... Its so easy to fall into a rut when it comes to worship... We may even fall into a kind of trance ----- being there in body, but not in mind. "God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in Spirit and and in truth" (Jn.4:24). Coming to worship merely out of obligation, rather than desire, is disrespectful to God. As we become more diligent students of

His Word, it will transform our approach to worship. We will begin to see the blessings of life coming from doing God's will along our walk... Jeremiah was telling the people that they needed to change their ways if they were to please the Lord. Worship is an opportunity to praise the Lord, and if necessary, we must change our ways if we desire to find His true blessings...

Have a great day.... Let His light shine through you... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/13/2016
Remembering Shiloh

"Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer" (Jer.7:12-13).

Family dynamics when it comes to the birth order of children can be interesting. Parents might be the hardest on the oldest sibling because every phase of life is a new experience for all. Those who have an older brother or sister can watch the mistakes and punishments and learn from them. Jeremiah's message today was reminding God's people not to make the same mistake(s) Israel had made. If you remember your Bible history, Shiloh was the center of Israel's religious happenings for about 50 years during the time of Eli. The tabernacle was temporarily placed there and the people came from all around to worship at it. In I Samuel, we learn that Eli's sons corrupted the the worship there at the tabernacle, and God punished Shiloh by wiping it off the map... Today, when we stumble and fall on our walk with the Lord, we need to recognize our mistakes and adjust our actions. God knows the good and the bad we have done, and He is willing to forgive those that choose to stay on the walk... Mistakes can be disastrous if we do not understand why we made them. The mistakes Eli's sons made were in seeking their own ways over God's, and thus corrupting the worship. "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil" (I Thess.5:21-22). Christians are responsible for testing all things the Bible instructs us to do, and are supposed to cling to the good and reject the evil... By allowing the Lord's will to override ours can squash our own selfish desires, and we can live a more fulfilling life...

Have a wonderful day... T G I F Today God Is First.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/23/2016
A Lesson From Tophet

"The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the Lord.. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my name and have defiled it. They have built in the high places of Tophet in the valley of Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire ----- something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind" (Jer.7:30-31).

It doesn't get any worse than this for the people of Judah! Tophet is believed to be a place where child sacrifices were done to appease the god of Molech. Needless to say, this disgusted the Lord, and it probably makes our skin crawl too.... The kingdom of Judah had reached such a stage of depravity, that this form of idolatry had crept into their lives. A totally repulsed God sent Jeremiah into this situation with a dire warning. Unless they abandoned this practice and returned to their walk with Him, they would face the fate of their sacrificed kids... Prophets were not only responsible for telling the people why the Lord was angered with them... They also delivered the message with a warning of impending doom. Through all this, God still gave them an opportunity of repentance and atonement... Today, sin still leads those who fall into its arms, down a dark path of depravity and hopelessness.... Just because folks might think its okay or right, doesn't mean that it is. We look at the people of Judah and their actions, and they make no sense at all to us, but we may be just as guilty in acting foolishly because we believe that it will bring some desirable result. Just because a sinful practice is acceptable to people around us doesn't make it right. Jesus came into the world to teach us the right way to walk, and it is only in God's Word that we find the true guide for what is right or wrong. Tophet ought to teach us all a powerful lesson....

Have a great start to your week... Begin it with a RAK or two.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/24/2016

Avoiding Rube Goldberg Games

"Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good" (Jer.10:5). (To get the full effect, read vs 1-6).

Are you familiar with "Rube Goldberg" machines?" Rube Goldberg (1883-1970) was a sculptor, author, engineer, inventor, and news reporter... He gained his greatest fame, however, from being a cartoonist. His best cartoons depicted inventions (contraptions) that featured a series of complicated gadgets put together to perform a simple task. They often used normal household items placed together in an elaborate and well-planned order. Their goal was to duplicate the original task in the most complicated way possible, usually taking many more steps than the common task it attempts to replicate... God kind of compared the idols that the people of Judah had taken into their lives as Rube Goldberg machines... They were man-made and ridiculous in their purpose. Unfortunately, Judah did not see this. The Lord wanted the people to see the

futility of their ways, as they had abandoned their relationship with God for idols... No matter how intricate these man-formed idols might have been, they were powerless, and in today's verse, Jeremiah is mocking the people for the silliness of their behavior. "No one is like You, O Lord; You are great, and your name is mighty in power" (Jer.10:6). The idols of the world pale in comparison to the power of the true and living God... As believers, we understand and know God's power over the entirety of the universe. We should be careful not to give too much importance to the material things He formed. Nothing physical in this realm contains a fraction of the power that God wields... Money will turn to dust and beauty fades, but the power of the Lord endures forever.... There are not enough Rube Goldberg machines out there to replace how God works....

Have a great day.... Do good and give God the credit.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/25/2016

King Of Kings And Lord Of Lords

"And He shall reign forever, forever, and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords! King of Kings and Lord of Lords! And he shall reign forever, forever and ever. Forever and ever forever and ever."

From The Hallelujah Chorus by George F. Handel 1742

Eternity is a hard concept to wrap our minds around at times. If we think as far back in time as we can and as far into the future as we can, that length of time is nothing compared to eternity. Imagine how long it would take to move every grain of sand on every beach in the world to a different spot and then move them back to their original spot again... This would not even make a blip on the radar screen of eternity. There is one great thing that remains constant through all of this immeasurable amount of time... God is King through it all...."But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God, the eternal King" (Jer.10:10). Jeremiah made a declaration of God's power to His people. No matter how much work the people would put into the the making and worshiping of false idols, the false gods would never have real power like the Lord... Handel's words still ring out to us with a lovely clarity... King of Kings and Lord of Lords... And He shall reign forever, forever, and ever...The very elements that people used to replace God were brought into their very existence through Him. Just as He was the genesis of these elements, He would be their end as well. The irony of it all is that the people of Jeremiah's day forgot how the power of the Lord had saved them over and over again. The lesson should not be lost on us today... Believers must think twice before choosing something of this world over the dominion of the true and living God... If we choose wrongly, we find that our bad choices are temporary in every way. If we find some void in our heart that needs to be filled with one of these temporary things, we haven't made God important enough in our lives. Our eternity depends on making Him our priority.... After all, He is Forever, forever and ever...

Have a wonderful day.... Let His light shine through you.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/26/2016

10,000 To 1

"But God made the earth by His power; He founded the world by His wisdom and stretched out the heavens by His understanding" (Jer.10:12).

There is an urban legend story about Henry Ford and Charles Steinmetz out there that I would like to share with you this morning. We all know that Ford was the inventor of the "assembly line" process for building his cars, and he needed huge amounts of electricity to make it work. He hired electrical guru Charles Steinmetz to build huge generators to make it happen, but one day they came to a screeching halt. He called in Steinmetz to fix the problem, which he did by pondering over it and flipping a switch. A few days later, Ford got a bill for \$ 10,000 from Steinmetz, which he questioned. Steinmetz offered this explanation; "That's \$ 1 dollar for working on the generators and \$ 9,999 for knowing how to make them work... Ford paid the bill and learned a lesson... Power is worthless if you don't know how to use it... In today's verse, Jeremiah declares the power of God to the people of Judah. The power that God wields would be disastrous in the hands of anyone who did not possess the wisdom and understanding He has. Christians have access to God's overwhelming power to forgive and save, yet we don't have the wisdom to use this gift properly. God supplies us with that wisdom through His Word. When we put time into it, the scriptures provide us with the knowledge and understanding of our relationship with the Lord. We learn when to lean on His strength and might, and see the love contained in His forgiveness... Christians have the access to the astounding power in the blood of Christ, and the Word provides us with the wisdom to use it correctly... These odds are much better than 10,000 to 1....

Have a great day... Make your little part of the world better.... Love mark Phil.4

05/27/2016

Give It To God

"When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; He makes the clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightening with the rain and brings out the winds from His storehouses ----- the Lord Almighty is His name" (Jer.10:13 & 16b).

Jeremiah's words are a reminder to us that God is in charge... They let the people of Judah and us remember just how in control God is. The people of Judah, despite their rich history of God's

involvement in their lives, continued to forget this. I guess that part of Judah's turn to gods made with hands stemmed from the ability to actually see and touch what they decided to worship. Having difficulty in giving up control of various aspects of life happens because of lack of trust. Maybe a part of some folks problem is the same. Perhaps it is the inability to put trust in what they cannot see... After all, we can all see and feel money. We can see what it can do and how it controls some aspects of our lives. People put trust in the almighty dollar because they view it as an answer to all their problems. Many will chuckle at the people of Judah for worshipping man-made idol gods, while they allow other things to become too important in their own lives. Those things have only the power that people will choose to attribute to them. Any material thing that one puts their trust in runs the risk of becoming an idol. The truth is that God has more wisdom and power than we or anything else in our lives could possibly have. Putting our faith in Him will pay off in the end. Sometimes we just have to step back, and give it to God...

Have a wonderful day... T G I F Today God Is First.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/28/2016
Just As A Reminder

Since Memorial Day is coming up on Monday, I thought that this week's quiz should be about famous reminders in the Bible. As always, have fun...

- _____ 1. What was given as a reminder that the world would not be destroyed by a flood again?
(a) the building of dams, (b) famous droughts, (c) a rainbow, (d) thunder and lightening.
- _____ 2. What was to be a reminder of Christ's body and blood? (a) Easter, (b) The Lord's Supper, (c) Manna, (d) Blood on the doorpost.
- _____ 3. What day of the week was to be a reminder of God's completed creation? (a) Sabbath, (b) Monday, (c) Tuesday, (d) Sunday.
- _____ 4. What was the manna put into the ark of the covenant a reminder of? (a) God's provision in the desert, (b) spiritual food, (c) the coming of Jesus, (d) it doesn't say.
- _____ 5. What festival was to be a memorial of the Jews salvation from the wicked Haman? (a) Passover, (b) Purim, (c) Succoth, (d) Shavuot.
- _____ 6. What feast was to be a memorial of the simple homes the Israelites had in Egypt? (a) feast of lights, (b) feast of tabernacles, (c) Yom Kippur, (d) Purim.
- _____ 7. What feast was a reminder of the death angel killing the Egyptian first-born? (a) Passover, (b) Rosh Hashanah, (c) Yom Kippur, (d) Purim.

_____ 8. Who made brazen lights to remind the people that only Aaron's descendants would serve as priests? (a) Korah, (b) Dathan, (c) Abiram, (d) Eleazer.

_____ 9. What woman did Jesus say would have her story remembered in doing kindness to Him? (a) woman at the well, (b) woman who anointed His feet, (c) Mary Magdalene, (d) Martha.

_____ 10. Who set up 12 stones to remind the people of God's power in bringing them across the Jordan? (a) Moses, (b) Caleb, (c) Joshua, (d) Aaron.

Have a great weekend and an uplifting and glorifying day of worship on His day.... Love mark
Phil.4:11

05/30/2016

Memorial - Root Word, Memory

"Each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crosses the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will be a memorial to the people of Israel forever" (Josh.4:5-7).

Jane and I recently visited Hawaii, and one of the places we visited was Pearl Harbor. We took the tour of the memorial to the Battleship Arizona. It is only accessible by boat, and it takes you to a structure that sits in a perpendicular position over the ship. It is a moving experience to view the ship, visible underneath you. Small amounts of oil come to the service and are called "the tears of the Arizona..." 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors and marines killed on the Arizona are entombed there, and it is a poignant reminder of what happened almost 75 years ago. Joshua was instructed by God to put 12 stones at the place where the people crossed the Jordan River, much like they had crossed the Red Sea. Why? It was all about a memorial... The verse says; "when your children ask..." It says; "These stones will be a memorial to the people of Israel forever... Because of a visit to the Arizona, I will have a greater appreciation on this Memorial Day of those who gave their lives in the defense of our country. NJ marks Memorial Day as the beginning of the tourist season to the shore. Many people get the day off from work, and the smell of charcoal is everywhere. Let's be sure today, between the hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks, that we pause at 3:00 and remember what the day is for. It is a day of memory, so when your children ask....

Have a great start to your week.... Begin it with a RAK or two.... Love mark Phil.4:11

05/31/2016

All Sunshine Makes A Desert

"You are always righteous, O Lord, when I bring a case before you. Yet I speak to you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do the faithless live at ease?"
(Jer.12:1).

Because Jeremiah has been a wonderful prophet for the Lord, he feels bold enough to ask a question that has bothered mankind forever, especially good folks. The world can seem quite unfair at times. We see all around us, even on the nightly news, that the innocent often suffer while others prosper. Prosperity doesn't seem to bother people until someone we believe to be unworthy begins to prosper. It can seem unfair that the person who lives a faithful and dedicated life to God suffers from excruciating illnesses while the lying businessman lives a dream life. Chapter 12 of Jeremiah does a great job explaining all of this, and it might be worthwhile for us to read and meditate upon it...Many Christians can relate to the question asked by Jeremiah to God in today's verse. Many believers have dedicated their entire lives to doing the Lord's will, but have struggled with the prosperity thing... I don't pretend to have the complete answer, but I do understand this; Christians need to remember that the path to heaven isn't always one of reward or wealth. While in Hawaii, we climbed to the top of Diamond Head. The steep steps weren't easy, and the footing was often uneven, but our goal was to get to the top. We endured the difficult climb to enjoy the magnificence of the view and experience. Believers should caution themselves when comparing their lives to those of unbelievers. We can be assured that their earthly trinkets are fleeting when compared to the spiritual wealth found in Christ... Enjoy the climb, and by the way, my title today is an old Arabian saying...

Have a great day... Do good and give God the credit... Love mark Phil.4:11