

Test your Bible Knowledge

1. A bishop, wrote Paul must keep “in subjection with all gravity” his:

- a. Home
- b. Wife
- c. Children
- d. The church

2. John wrote “God” is:

- a. Love
- b. Powerful
- c. Good
- d. A man

3. As a speaker Paul evidently thought himself to be:

- a. Superlative
- b. Effective
- c. Average
- d. Weak

4. Candace was:

- a. Queen of Ethiopia
- b. A Daughter of Simon
- c. High priestess of Egypt
- d. A town

-Fred Singleton

Scriptures: 1) 1Timothy 3:4-5

2) 1 John 4:8 3) 2 Corinthians 10:10; 11:6 4) Acts 8:27

Schedule:

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 PM

Jefferson City Church of Christ

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“...Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”-1King 22:16

Reasons or Excuses?

My wife was teaching the story of Moses and the burning bush to a class of kindergartners. As you know, Moses offered a number of different excuses as to why he was not up to the task of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” (Ex 3:11). “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice” (Ex 4:1). “I am not eloquent” (Ex 4:11). As she attempted to convey the concept of an excuse to the class, my wife tried to use an example to which they might relate.

“Imagine it is Sunday morning. You are all warm and toasty in your bed, but you know that you will be very cold as soon as you get up. You just want to stay in bed, keep warm, and sleep a while longer. Your mother comes into your room and says, ‘It’s time to get up so we can get ready for worship services.’ You tell her ‘I’m not feeling well’ just so you can stay in your warm bed. Is that an excuse?” One little boy looked at her and replied, “I call that a lie!” Out of the mouths of babes!

Time after time we read in the Scriptures about people offering excuses. In the parable of the great supper (Lk 14:15-24), those who had been invited to partake of the feast all asked to be excused because they felt there was something more important to which they needed to attend. To them it may have seemed just a matter of priorities, yet we see in verse 24 that their choices were wrong as the master said, “None of these men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

In the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30), the one talent man tried to excuse his lack of service for his master by stating that he was afraid. Yet the master showed that this man’s choices were wrong when he took away the one talent and cast him into outer darkness.

In Matt 25:31-46, we see that on the judgment day, some will attempt to excuse their inaction because they had not seen the Lord Himself when He was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, or in prison. Yet

HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY? Answers 1.c 2.a 3.d 4.a

"inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away unto everlasting punishment" (Matt 25:45-46).

Can you imagine the excuse the foolish virgins must have used for running out of oil for their lamps?

"We didn't know that the bridegroom would be delayed for so long!" Yet regardless of their excuse, the door was shut to them because they were unprepared. And the Lord says, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (Matt 25:13).

What excuse do you think Peter was telling himself as he denied the Lord three times? Or what excuse do you believe Judas might have used as his reason for betraying the Savior?

How often do we try to come up with excuses for ourselves when it comes to the service of the Lord?

- "I don't know enough to talk with others about the Lord."
- "I'd like to read my Bible more, but I just don't have the time."
- "My bills are so high that I cannot give anything back to the Lord."
- "I can't sing a lick so I just keep my mouth shut and read the words."
- "I know I need to talk with my friend about his soul, but the time is never right."
- "We had some visitors come in from out of town so we missed Sunday night."
- "The kids had a lot of homework so we couldn't come Wednesday night."
- "I live too far away to practice hospitality" or "My house is too small to invite people over."

Valid reasons ... or excuses? What do you think? More importantly, what will the Lord think?

-Terry Bennett

DID YOU KNOW?

Gad was the name of a Canaanite god of fortune or fate that the Israelites worshiped (Isaiah 65:11).

Question: Question: How about Astrology?

Answer: The Age of Aquarius seems to have ushered in an age of pagan superstition. According to old statistics in my file, in the U.S. alone there are estimated 2, 000 newspapers that ten million Americans seriously believe in Astrology, we are told.

Man has a preoccupation in wanting to know the future. Modern Astrology is simply defined as, "Type of divination that consists in forecasting earthly and human events by means of observing and interpreting the fixed stars, the Sun, the Moon, and the Planets..." (Encyclopaedia Britannica). The Bible teaches, "...A man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?" (Eccl. 10: 14, see also 3:22, 6:12). James emphatically taught, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow..." (Jas. 4:14). Revelation chapter five presents a search that was made in "heaven" and "earth" to find one worthy and able to reveal the future (vs. 1-3). It is significant that "no man was found worthy to open and read the book (tell future, vs. 4). Only Jesus, the Lamb of God, was found (vs. 6 ff.).

The emphasis of the Bible is on "today." We are not to worry about tomorrow, but address the problems of the present day, Jesus taught (Matt. 6: 34). We are to think in terms of "today" relative to salvation (2 Cor. 6: 2).

Beloved, God alone knows the future (Isa. 46: 5-10). Man's efforts to know the unrevealed future often involve him in sorcery and "such like" (Gal. 5: 20, 21). Horoscopes, tarot cards, and crystal balls do not reveal the future. Instead of dwelling on the future, man needs to learn to concentrate on the present (Eph. 5:16). We do not and cannot know the future. However, we can know Him who holds the future within His sovereignty! (Acts 17:22-31; Acts 2:36-46.)- Don Martin