

GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

"Go into all the world, and give the Good News to everyone." (Mark 16:15)

Kihei Baptist Chapel
"Good News Messenger"

1655 S. Kihei Rd.
or
P.O. Box 693
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753

Postage Paid
US Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 137
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753

We're on the web!
Visit us at:

www.kiheibaptist.org

Phone:
808-879-5618
Email:

info@kiheibaptist.org

WEEKLY LINE-UP

Sunday:

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

Wednesday:

6:00 Hula Practice
7:00 Worship Practice

Friday:

5:30 Feed the Homeless
(1st Friday / monthly)

The **Good News Messenger** is published monthly by Kihei Baptist Chapel. All articles must be received by the **20th** of the month. No submissions will be accepted after this deadline.

Copies are sent bulk mail. You may request an e-mail version at newsletter@kiheibaptist.org, or you may view the newsletter monthly on our website: www.kiheibaptist.org.

ADDRESS LABEL HERE

**We are a growing church in a growing community.
Come grow with us as we share the Son on Maui!**

SURRENDER IT!

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto
thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5*

Ever notice how much energy it takes to keep a tight grip on something? Come on, you know what you're holding on to, don't you? You're in turmoil because you can't control the people or circumstances in your life. Hey, release your grip. Go ahead: surrender it to God. You'll be amazed at how much more energy you'll have, and how much easier life will be. Once you make the choice to surrender it to God, your hardest days become your easiest.

A. W. Tozer wrote: "Father, my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from you my terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that you may enter and dwell there without a rival." You say, "Surrender what?"

(1) Your position! Place it all before your God. Find your security, your identity and your contentment in Him.

(2) Your plans! Plan wisely, but be ready for God to rearrange things and take you along paths that may be uncomfortable for you. Nothing this side of Heaven is permanent, including relationships. Enjoy the time you have with your loved ones, but avoid the temptation to cling.

(3) Your anxiety! If your emotions are wrapped around some issue involving a possession, a job, a particular expectation or a relationship, you aren't fully relying on God. No, you're still clinging to lesser things. Stop. Let it go! You're delaying the surprise God has waiting for you.

(The Word for You Today, September – October – November 2006)

September

2	Communion	10:00
	Council Meeting	11:00
3	Labor Day	
7	Feed the Homeless	5:30
9	Worship	10:00
16	Worship	10:00
	Potluck	11:00
23	Worship	10:00
30	Worship	10:00

Happy Birthday!!

9-03	Fran Armstrong
9-08	Jesse Yamada
9-09	Rowena Kruger
9-14	Frances Phillips
9-15	Gwen Clark
9-20	Virgil Christensen
9-20	Curtis Foster
9-28	Isabel Saunders
9-29	Rick Morse
9-29	Tanoka Beard

Happy Anniversary!!

9-04	Tom & Grace Bell
9-27	John & Louise Simpson

A Look Inside

Faith for the Future	
Building Report	4
Quizzes for Young & Old	5
Are You Listening to Me?	6
"J" for Jesus	7
Surrender It!	8

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD BECAUSE HE IS...I CAN BE...

Reverend Glenn Armstrong, D.D.
August 21, 2007

I. THE PROBLEM: CHRISTIANITY IS LOSING ITS DOCTRINAL DEFINITION

Biblical Christianity has a vocabulary all of its own. We use terms the rest of the world hears, but doesn't have the faintest idea what we mean. Because of this, Christian concepts are often rejected as not fitting reality. What is even worse, the non-Christian world often gives our terms and vocabulary completely different meanings, often making generalizations where Christian doctrines are specific. A general definition of a theological concept is really no definition at all! It permits anyone and everyone to believe anything, and no one is expected to be precise.

In time, everything for everyone becomes nothing special to anyone, and theological terms lose their meaning and purpose. Thus Christian theological liberalism now embraces paganism (other non-Christian religious systems), pantheism (the idea that life in nature is divine), and animism (worship of the spiritual life force in physical objects), and often resists and writes against the supernatural necessities of Christianity such as a supernatural creation, the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection, etc. To make matters even worse, evangelicalism now embraces liberalism.

Today, theological studies and definitions are seldom part of a church's purpose or its program. The rush to be everybody's church will soon give way to being nobody's church. The current theological hodgepodge church looks successful, but unbiblical methodology always gives way to modernism, which is an attempt to update or modernize the Christian faith to make it more palatable to the unregenerate mind. This dilemma is not new; it is the story of church history. In modern times it simply recycles faster (about once per decade) than it did throughout history. Degenerative changes occur

faster when there is little resistance resulting from doctrinal understanding and Christian convictions.

II. THE PRACTICE: WE USE TERMS WE NEVER DEFINE

Consider the most basic term in the Christian faith, "God created man in His own image," as an example. Forget for a moment that believers are often unable to give a usable definition of God. Forget also that believers often openly reject creationism. But we should have some understanding of being created "in His own image," (Genesis 1:27). This is not only the opening concept taught in the Holy Scriptures, but it is the most foundational doctrine of Christian anthropology! But what does it mean?

I preached my first sermon in 1950. Since then I have preached or taught about 13,000 sermons or lessons. I have undoubtedly used the term "in the image of God" repeatedly. I only recently asked myself what do I mean when I use this statement. To my surprise I realized I didn't have a clue as to what I meant, and I had only hoped that the people who heard me teach and preach had a better understanding of the term than I did.

III. THE POSSIBILITIES: SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS ARE OFTEN VERY INCOMPLETE

When I say I didn't know what the term meant, it is not to say that, like everyone else, I didn't have some general idea. I was satisfied to repeat other people's thinking rather than do my own. After all, thinking is hard, and studying is even harder! Harder yet is putting concepts into meaningful vocabulary.

I knew that "in the image of God" could mean:
1. Man having a three-part existence, body (physiological), soul (psychological), and mind (intellectual), as God has intellect, sensibility, and will. But my Maltese dogs have the ability to think,

(continued on page 2)

PASTOR'S ARTICLE...continued

the ability to love, and the will to act, believe me. They prove it at 2:00 a.m. when they want chocolate ice cream!

2. Man has the capacity of conceptualizing God and the inward compulsion to love and obey Him. This is doubtlessly true, but you sometimes have to look hard for the compulsion to love and obey God.

3. Man can know God.
4. The original creation of man was in fellowship with God, but this was lost through sin.
5. Perfected, man is like God.
6. Man alone in God's creation is capable of experiencing God.

I knew all of these, and there are possibilities of other concepts if I wanted to share them. But so what? What meaningful and practical help were these concepts even when I did know them? More importantly, is this really what God means when He uses the phrase "created in the image of God"?

IV. THE PURSUIT: AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE PHRASE, "IN THE IMAGE OF GOD," AND FIND PRACTICAL MEANING FOR MY LIFE

Because of limited space, the rest of this article will be in outline form.

A. GOD IS AN ETERNAL PERSON

1. Definition: God is an infinite eternal spirit Person who is the cause behind creation.
2. Infinite: Every attribute of God is unmeasurable and inexhaustibly great.
3. Finite: Everything about created things is in contradiction to God in the sense that they are always limited in time, space, and energy.
4. Text: Acts 17:28 "...in him (the Lord) we live, move and have our being...we are His offsprings..."
 - a. Live = cause to exist, created
 - b. Move = cause to accomplish
 - c. Our being = cause to continue
 - d. Offspring = we are His creative and accountable accomplishments
 - e. God is too great to be housed in temples and idols, or shared through any part of His creation.
5. Application: Because God is an eternal spirit Person (John 4:20), I can be an everlasting person always existing in eternity in either heaven or hell (I Thessalonians 5:23). I am also capable of receiving eternal life as a gift from God through Christ (John 10:28). This makes the difference between heaven and hell.

B. GOD IS A SUPERNATURAL PERSON

1. Creation: God created without counsel, Isaiah 40:9-12.
2. Accountability: at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10.
3. Application: Because God is a supernatural creative person, I can and must be an eternally accountable person.

C. GOD IS A TOTALLY KNOWING PERSON

1. God knows everything about every person as well as every situation and circumstance, Psalms 139:1-6.
2. Jesus presented himself as truth, John 14.6.
3. Truth in order to be truth must always be true at all times, in all cultures and under every circumstance. It can never not be true.
4. Truth must be eternal, fixed, and final to be truth.
5. Truth is not a precept, it is a Person. He is the source of truth.
6. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
 - a. Way spans the distance from man to God.
 - b. Truth is full and complete knowledge of everything.
 - c. Life is the process of being from creation to eternity.
7. Three reasons to know Jesus:
 - a. Without truth there is no correct knowing of facts fitting reality.
 - b. Without life there is no correct measurement of living.
 - c. Without the way there is no correct process of existing, either now or in heaven.
8. Application: Because God is always an all-knowing Person, I can know some truth in this life and in eternity.

D. GOD IS EVERYWHERE

1. There is no place where one can escape the presence of God, Psalms 139:7-10.
2. Jesus promised to be with the believers everywhere they might be and at every point in time, Matthew 28:20.
3. Application: Because God is an always everywhere present God, I can and will always be somewhere present and will always be fully under His awareness.

E. GOD NEVER VARIES

1. God is good and perfect, James 1:17-18.
 - a. Father of lights = creator and maintainer.
 - b. Nothing can cause even a shadow cast by a change made by turning.
 - c. No variableness = God has an unalterable set of purposes.
 - d. Word of truth = The revealed Holy Scripture is the source of information which one needs to understand the message of salvation.
 - e. Beget us = being born again through the message of the gospel.
 - f. Firstfruits = man is created as the highest form of creation and is capable of knowing, loving, and being consecrated to God.
2. God is capable of caring, James 1:19-21.
 - a. God asks for meekness rather than anger.
 - b. God asks for our attention to major on His sufficiencies rather than our selfishness.
 - c. God asks for our separation from sin rather than our becoming the servant of sin.
 - d. Application: Because God is always constant and changeless in His character, I can be expected, by Him and by others, to have consistency in my conduct.

V. THE MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO BEING "CREATED IN HIS IMAGE"

The moral attributes of God determine how we are to live as extensions of God's morality through creation. They become the sole

"J" FOR JESUS

Teen Missions' Poland/Czech Republic team arrived in Poland on July 10. Joy Flabetich, a current Teen Missions participant from Kihei Baptist Chapel, accompanied the team of thirteen 18 year olds to Poland as a Teen Leader Assistant. Their purpose in being in Poland was three-fold: 1) Evangelize the local people, 2) Transform a barn into a church building, and 3) Help teens to grow in their relationship and service to the LORD.

Outreach to the locals included open-air meetings using puppets, drama, music, and tracts. Joy said distributing tracts is legal in Poland. Many people thought it was money and kept the tracts! (Tract used was the 10 commandment "coins" with the Plan of Salvation on the back.)

Because the people are so poor, when the team handed out balloons, tracts, and bread, the people would stand and watch—wondering why someone would do this for them. Then they would scurry off to get more people to come back and watch/listen. The response was more than Teen Missions had counted for, and they soon ran out of tracts. Joy said they had to hand out Bible coloring books to adults!

They were invited by a local church (12 people) to attend the baptism of two in their group. It was a long distance to walk (10 km), but very important to them that Teen Missions attended so they all went.

Please pray for these people to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow in Him. Joy reported there was

much tele-evangelism there, but the people could not relate to it. They were seeking a reason for hope. (Teen Missions personal contact with the people, giving of bread, and the enthusiasm in the LORD of these teens gave these people hope.)

Manual labor came in the form of transforming a barn into a church. The barn had not been touched since WW II—so much cleaning out, digging a ditch for a foundation, re-roof and repair the structure. It was fascinating to Joy, as there were carvings in the upper story, pillars and domes (probably used as a government building).

They were able to spend a little time in sightseeing, taking in an historic castle in the area and going through its tunnels which Hitler had dug to take it over from underground. It became a concentration camp where many Jews were killed. They also explored caves by foot and boat that Hitler had built for a means of his escape.

The group headed the second week in August to Switzerland for debriefing for five days—enjoying a hike in the Swiss Alps. Currently, Joy has one week of vacation in Canada before returning to Bible/Ministry/Works in Florida for her second year of training. Thank you for continuing to pray for her.

(Compilation of Joy's communications to her parents)

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

As a child, for me, Saturday morning cartoons were just a part of life; overall, TV was a big part of it. There were no computers, Game boys, dance revolution (ask a kid), or I-pods. You would not even think of talking to me when my favorite TV shows were on. The Brady Bunch, Speed Racer, Casper the friendly ghost, and a little seal whose name I don't recall, had my total attention. My mother, however, was not so thrilled with that. She would call for me, ask me questions or ask me to set the table, clean my room, the list goes on. I claimed I did not hear her. (I think we call that selective listening.) I wonder what words of wisdom she shared those years ago that I missed out on. I do remember some words she said: "did you hear me?"

God was forever telling Job to listen to him. Job did not quite get it. Even arguing with God, not understanding Him, and thinking He was a quack. (Job 13:4 NLT) In the end, Job took back everything he said and repented. He died an old man, blessed by God. Finally, he listened.

Job 34:2: Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning.

Job 34:10: So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, for the Almighty to do wrong.

Job 34:16: If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say.

Job 35:13: Indeed, God does not listen to their empty plea; the Almighty pays no attention to it.

Job 35:14: How much less, then, will he listen when you say that you do not see him, that your case is before him and you must wait for him.

Job 36:10: He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.

Job 36:12: But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

Job 37:2: Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

Job 37:14: Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders.

Job 42:4: You said, Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

Job 42:5: I have heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.

As our parents did when we were children, God wants us to hear Him, to give Him our ultimate attention and to

understand what it is He is saying to us.

Proverbs 4:20: My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

Proverbs 5:1: My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding.

Listening is sometimes a challenge. Understanding can be even more difficult. Making a determination before listening to the whole story or really listening to what God is trying to tell you can really make for some disappointments and unexpected surprises. You just move ahead, go with your own thoughts without even considering what God has to say. That usually does not work out. Have patience to listen and really pay attention to what is really being said. Like God's words. He always knows what to say. We just need to know how to listen to what he is saying. We should make sure we have wholly listened to His word before we take action. God will not bless you unless you are faithful to Him, and listen to His word and follow His wishes.

Proverbs 18:13: He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

His word, His advice, all right there for us. He has great advice! When in doubt, ask Him. He will listen and guide you. Pray with a faithful heart and he will listen. Be thankful for His wisdom.

Philippians 4:6: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

God is all knowing, all loving and faithful, always! When I forget that, I read Psalm 46, specifically verse 10; it puts me in my place.

Psalm 46:10: Be still and know I am God.

Listen to Him and understand the best you can. He knows best, as mom always did. Do His will and you will be blessed.

Have a great September. For those of you on the mainland, enjoy the fall colors to come, the change in weather, and all autumn has to offer. To our Maui friends, take a look at that ocean and revel in God's awesome creation.

God Bless and take care.

~Beth Wright

PASTOR'S ARTICLE...continued

standard for man's virtues and vices. Through them we can know right from wrong and what we ought to do and ought not to do.

Correct human social mores are then as fixed and final as God's moral attributes. Trespasses and sins are a measurement of meeting or missing the mark of God's moral attributes rather than man's constantly changing judgment of what is good or relevant.

A culture will always tend to become like its concept of the creator.

A. GOD IS HOLY

1. Isaiah called God "The Holy One" 30 times Isaiah 40:25-31.
2. Holiness is God's foremost ranking attribute.
3. Holiness means that God is absolutely separate from and completely above all His creatures and equally absolutely separate from all moral evil, sin.
4. Holiness is co-extensive with all of God's other attributes. His purity of being precludes His purity of doing.
5. The believer is asked to be holy because God is holy, I Peter 1:15-21; Hebrews 12:10; John 17:11.
6. Three corollary truths:
 - a. God and man are separated because of human sin.
 - b. God can only be approached through the merits of another.
 - c. God must be approached in reverential respect.
7. Application: Because God is an infinitely holy God, I can identify evil and live separately from it. In doing so, I can live for the Lord in an honorable way.

B. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST

1. God is always just and righteous in all the ways He treats his creation.
2. The Judge of the earth shall do right, Genesis 18:25.
3. God has instituted a moral government, imposed just laws, and attached sanctions on His creation.
 - a. Sanctions include the certainty of judgment.
 - b. Sanctions include the varied severity of judgment.
 - c. Sanctions include punishment as a preservation of justice.
 - d. Sanctions include having no favorite persons, Romans 2:11.
4. Redemption is the result of vicarious rather than personal punishment. At Calvary, Christ became a substitutionary sacrifice for sin. The gospel is the result of personalizing the work of Christ on the cross, Romans 5:8-11.
5. Application: Because God is righteous and just in all His actions, I can identify violations of His virtues and seek forgiveness from Him.

C. GOD IS GOOD

1. Jesus taught that God does only good, Mark 10:18.
2. Three corollary truths related to God being only good.
 - a. God works through love, versus the pagan concept that gods hate and work through anger. Love is always kind and never cruel. God's love is a display of His rational and voluntary affection, Ephesians 5:1,2.
 - b. God works through mercy. In mercy, God responds to man's needs in ways that are good for us while undeserved by us. Mercy

is God's way to respond to man's misery. In mercy, God shows compassion, pity, caring, and kindness, I Peter 1:3,4.

c. God works through grace. Grace is that part of God's attributes which causes Him to act in mercy. Love prompts grace and grace acts in mercy. All good things we receive from God are unmerited, I John 4:8.

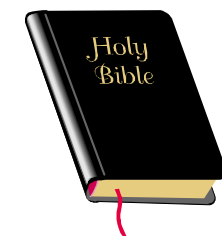
3. Application: Because God is always and only good, I can have a model for my life to display God's love and grace by showing mercy to all people at all times and under all situations.

D. GOD IS TRUTH

1. The most complete revelation of God is in the person of Jesus Christ. He revealed God the Father as full of grace and truth, John 1:14.
2. Truth is more than facts fitting reality (knowledge). Truth to be truth must always be truth. It must be so at all times, in all cultures and on all occasions. If it is flexible or changeable, it is not truth. Thus, truth must be eternal! Truth then is not a set of precepts or principles, rather it is the reflection of an eternal Person.
3. Truth is an attribute of God. He is the foundation of all knowledge.
4. Pilate did not recognize truth when it was standing in his presence, John 18:38. He asked a philosophical question which does not have a philosophical answer.
5. Jesus' revelation of truth is that the ultimate truth is God, and that He was the earthly manifestation of truth, John 14:6.
6. Truth surpasses the wisdom of man, Romans 11:33-36. That is to say, that man can never counsel God. We can only stand in awe of His vastly superior wisdom and glorify Him as subjects of His creation.
7. Application: Because God is truth in its source, I can demonstrate faith in His total trustworthiness. I can trust Him for life as I now live it on earth and I can trust Him for life eternal.

E. SUMMARY

Being created in the image of God has both earthly and eternal blessing. The great challenge for all believers is to demonstrate a high level of efficiency in living up to the nature of the God who created us in His image. He is...so I can be...



FAITH FOR THE FUTURE BUILDING REPORT

The building program is making progress. To be sure, it is moving a lot slower than I wish; but then I have to keep reminding myself that God knows the future and He is still in control of time as well as everything else.

I thought we would be finished with the building and Fran and I would have completed what God called us to Kihei to accomplish. However, it looks like we are still about a year away from being finished here.

The building has been approved by the Planning Commission, but with conditions. The list of conditions contains many formal items that are attached to every approval and just a few that are a direct result of our application.

One of the conditions was to reduce the height of the building three feet. This is a result of needing to build the base of the building three feet above grade because of soil conditions. We need three feet of compacted gravel below grade and three feet above. This need was determined by the company that did our soil testing. The topsoil of our site is wind-blown noncompactable material and not stable enough for our building.

By raising the ground, we had to lower the peak of the roof. To do this, we have to change the pitch of the roof which in turn required different truss construction and a heavier steel truss than first needed. All of this required a structural engineer's design. We now have that work finished, and we

are expecting to have all the conditions ready to respond to by the end of August.

When we get the county departments to "sign off" on our meeting the conditions of approval, we will be given a construction permit. This takes time here when every department is very busy, understaffed, and behind in their work.

While we are waiting, we are pricing and locating the material we will need for construction and securing bids.

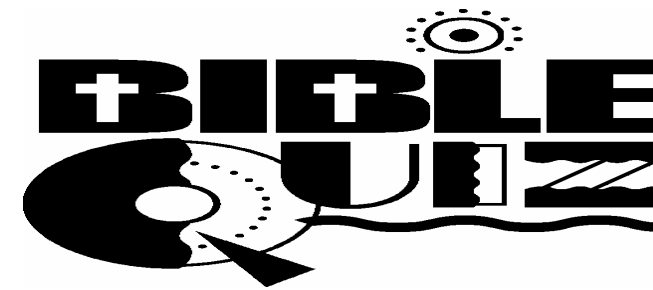
Reporting on the building program has so much of the same information on it every time that I often feel like the little boy who cried "wolf" so many times that when the wolf did come no one paid attention.

Our goal is to build the building without borrowing any money and leaving the church in debt. If we can accomplish this, we will save about \$600,000 if we borrowed one million. Then, anticipated cost of construction, site development, parking lots, bringing in fire hydrants, and many other improvements that are required in addition to the building is about \$2,200,000.

At present, God has guided individuals to give \$1,833,382 to the building fund. We still have \$377,788 left to raise to reach our goal. Thank you for giving by faith to the future of God's global ministry through Kihei Baptist. We will soon see the building become reality.

~Glenn

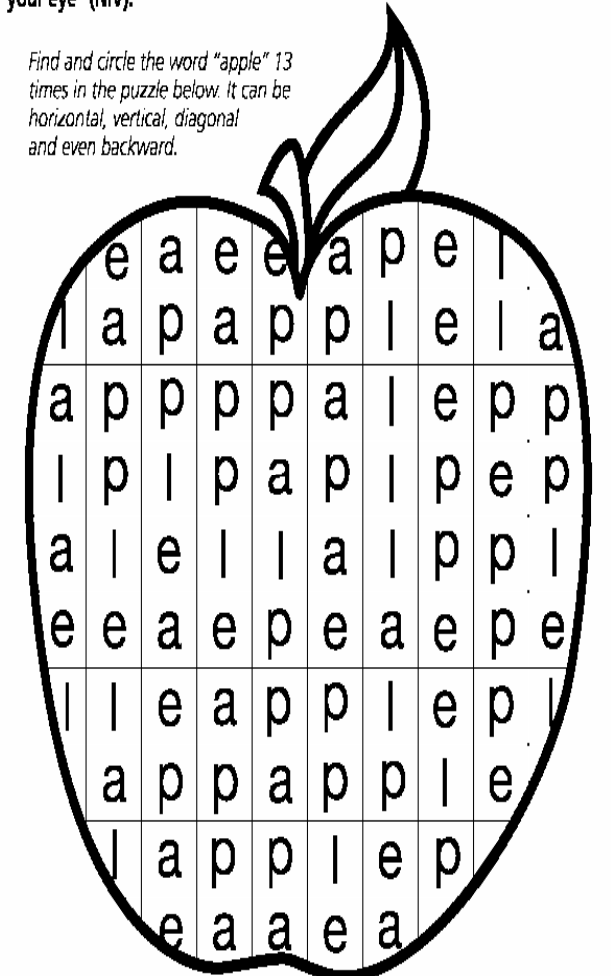
QUIZZES FOR YOUNG & OLD



Apple of Your Eye

When something is said to be the "apple of your eye," it means it's precious to you and you would protect it as you would your own eye. With school starting up again, we should remember God's instructions in Proverbs 7:2: "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye" (NIV).

Find and circle the word "apple" 13 times in the puzzle below. It can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even backward.



The Bible mentions mountains numerous times. Three mountains are listed in the first column below. In the second column are the names of three people, each of whom was on a mountain. Which man was associated with each mountain?

- 1. Mount Sinai A. Elijah
- 2. Horeb B. Jesus
- 3. Mount of Olives C. Moses

The correct answers are found in Luke 22:39; Exodus 19:20; and 1 Kings 19:8.

Answers:
1. C.
2. A.
3. B.