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Psalm 100:3  
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Volume 10 Number 50  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024

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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## The Best Birthday, Ever!

Joy unto the world,  
He is here.  
Christ Jesus, the King!  
Christmas season.

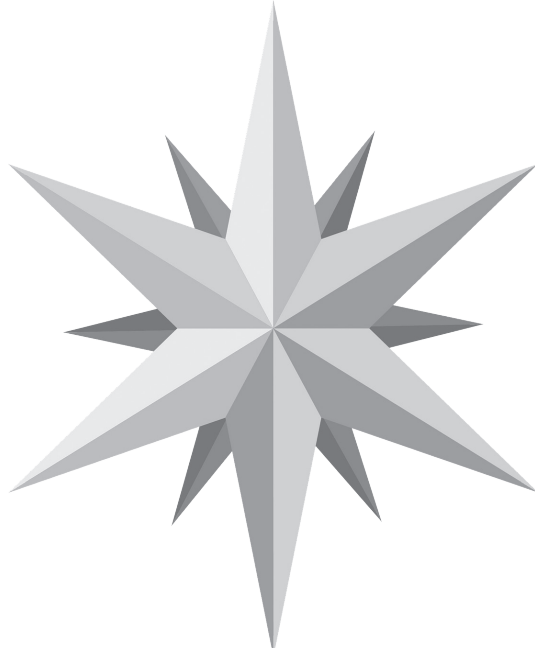
Is not at all about  
Games, food, and Bling.  
Hearts all around,

The world rejoice  
And happily Sing!  
While in our hearts,  
The bells of love

Will forever Ring!  
Jesus Christ  
Our Savior for  
Will always Reign!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

From Morgan County Today,  
Ms Ivory, and Ms Avery Pearl!



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Wed 18 **57°/35°**

Thu 19 **48°/31°**

Fri 20 **42°/23°**

Sat 21 **38°/19°**

Sun 22 **35°/19°**

Mon 23 **38°/25°**

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance & Accounting

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Resumes will be received until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 31, 2024.  
Resumes should be emailed to: [HR@Plateauelectric.com](mailto:HR@Plateauelectric.com)

### White Oak Missionary Baptist Church of Sunbright's Christmas Program

White Oak Miss. Baptist Church/Sunbright will be having their annual Christmas Program "Encounters with Jesus" on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Brent invites everyone to attend and promises to be blessed.



Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas  
from all the Staff and Employees  
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— In Loving Memory —

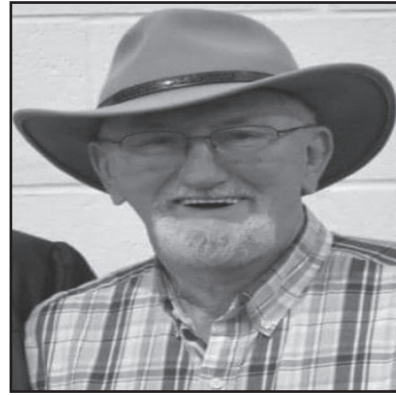


Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

**Psalm 123:1**

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,  
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

**Jeffrey (Wayne) Shannon, 70**



Jeffrey (Wayne) Shannon, also known to his trucking buddies as "Madjack", age 70 of Wartburg, TN went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, December 9, 2024. Wayne was saved at the age of 12 and a few years later he joined his brothers and sister (The Shannon Family), singing gospel music all over the country. Wayne had a beautiful voice and loved singing for the Lord. Wayne attended and was a member of the Meadowview Baptist Church in Wartburg, Tn.

He is preceded in death by his son Michael Wayne Shannon; parents John and Gladys Shannon; brothers Eugene, Vaughn L., Billy, Elmer Lee and James Shannon.

Wayne leaves behind his loving wife of 48 years Sheril Aslinger Shannon; his precious daughter and son-in-law Alice and Joe Freels of Sunbright, TN.; precious grandchildren John Wayne and Shannon Marie Freels of Sunbright, Tn.; sister and brother-in-law Mary Ruth and Ronnie Hamby of Rockwood, Tn.; brother Johnny Shannon of Sunbright, Tn.; and a host of sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends and special friend Heather Galyon that always called him dad. A special Thank You to Quality Hospice, Cathy, Tara, Pam, Barbar and Hillary.

The family will have a graveside service on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Church Cemetery in the Mill Creek Community in Sunbright, Tn.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jeffrey (Wayne) Shannon.*

**Sandra Goodwin Aytes, 82**



Concord in Farragut, TN, where she sang in the choir, served in multiple church ministries, and traveled with international mission teams to Chile, Nicaragua, China, Thailand, Morocco, and Ireland.

Sandra loved music, and in addition to singing in church choirs from her youth, she also sang with the Sweet Adelines and competed in a state championship as a member of both the chorus and a quartet.

Sandra married Roland Willis Aytes, Jr. on December 27, 1974, and was a loving, wonderful mother to her four children as well as a devoted grandmother of 14.

Over the years she worked in the bookstore at the University of Tennessee School of Medicine in Memphis, Tennessee, at the library at Memphis Preparatory School, where her children were

students, and at Cedar Springs Christian Bookstore in Knoxville, Tennessee. She always enjoyed engaging with the many people she met and worked with in each of her jobs and was well-known for her friendly, smiling face.

Sandra is survived by many who will miss her gracious presence: Roland Willis Aytes, Jr., her husband of 50 years; her children Don Overall (Gabby), Amy McCrady (Rob), Daniel Aytes (Rachel), and Matthew Aytes (Holly); her grandchildren Corey Overall, Haley Overall, Riley Overall, Kelsey Overall, Shelby Overall, Allison Beason (Grayson), Evan McCrady (fiancée Emma), Taylor Aytes, Caleb Aytes, Madison Aytes, Hannah Aytes, Laura Aytes, Amanda Aytes, and Cara Aytes; and her great-grandchildren Aiden Overall and Colter Beason.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 20, 2024

from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with a funeral to follow 11:00 a.m. with Bro. Steve Peek and Bro. Daniel Aytes at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, TN handling the arrangements. Interment will follow in the Frankfort Cemetery in Frankfort Community.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to either First Baptist Concord Missions or Samaritan's Purse.

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Tom Redmon Columnist

## It is a New Direction for Our Country

God has given us another chance to change our direction for America. We have strayed so far from what our forefathers had given with a great constitution based on our Christian faith. Some have even taken sides with those who have attacked Israel. They have turned against our Lord and Savior who has blessed us with everything we need to have a good life.

I believe we have chosen us a good president to lead us and in turn he has chosen good men and women to help him with turning this country back to greatness. They cannot do this alone. What we can all do is pray for them, support them when they are right, and vote them out when they are wrong. They will make some mistakes but I believe they are taking these positions to make America great again. It won't be easy but the changes the voters voted for in November 2024 was loud and clear "lead Americans out of this wilderness and darkness that we are in and in four years we might have you back for four more." I believe Trump will do his best to fulfill his promises to the American people. On the first day he will close the border and start removing criminals who have come to the USA illegally from many different countries. He will give the governors support and those who support him will find life a lot easier.

He will reopen the Alaskan pipeline and "drill baby drill" and in less than a year gas at the pump will be about have of what it is now. I cannot understand why any president would do what Biden did on his first day in office. We have more oil in the country than the Middle East and Russia combined. Biden had rather purchase oil from Saudia Arabia and Venezuela then get it from our rich resources that God had provided us with. We have had to pay a high price for gasoline and oil products for the past four years when we didn't have to. Trump's plan will not only give us more affordable energy but will also put more men to work.

Food prices will go down because of this. Food prices went up over a reported 22% but I feel that it was closer to 40%. You will see a change because Trump understands inflation and economics. I could do a better job than the democrats did for the past four years. A lot of people were living from paycheck to paycheck and many were getting close to starving. I guess welfare was their savior.

Trump has promised to bring our car and truck industries back to the US and believe me he knows how. I don't guess we will ever see the same

prices we had on automobiles as they were 20 years ago but they will improve and more high paying jobs will be return in the automobile industry.

What we should be prouder of is something you can't put a price on. We will have most of our freedoms back. Our freedom of speech and freedom of religion will strengthen without fear of losing them again. Our right to bare arms will not be infringed upon. Gun owners can relax.

I believe Trump meant it when he said the Christian faith needs to return to our country. We need to support Israel, the only democratic country in the Middle East. They have a true friend in Trump and like in biblical days I believe America will be blessed because of this. I really believe God is on our side.



Something will be done about wasteful spending. I really think we will see a difference in government spending over the next four years with this administration. Our food and drugs should be healthier and possibly cheaper. I'm like a lot of people, I will have to see this before I believe it. We have been joined by a few democrats and I hope they work out. The president might have to remove some but I'm hoping not many.

Let's hope there is great improvement in the Justice Department. We cannot have the corruption continue as it has the

past four years. The FBI chief says he will not retire but Trump will remove him. We've got to have fairness in government especially in the Justice Department.

I hope we can return to honesty in government. When government officials lie to the people all the time we have serious problems. We must have officials we can trust. We have not had those the past four years.

The GOP says we have a mandate to do the things that Trump promises in his campaign. Maybe if we do our part and turn back to God, we will remain in power for serval terms. I'm looking forward to truth and honesty in our government and I know you are as well.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. - Isaiah 44:18

I believe, because of sin the above is what God does to those who aren't listening to Him. We have experienced these the past twenty-five years in our country. It really shows in one political party.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

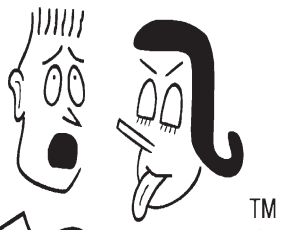


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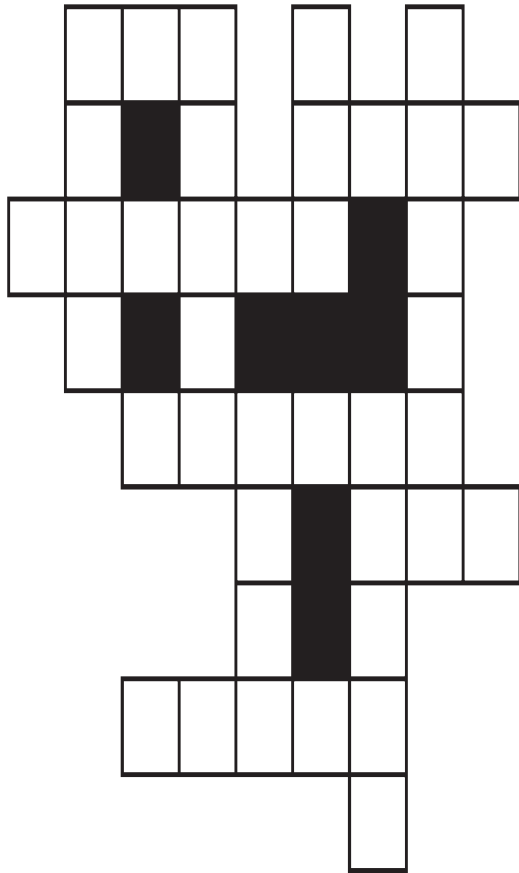
# FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!



- PNE
- COPHON
- IDACT
- CAIP
- ♥ SEEDRI
- DOA
- ♥ EPDE
- ♥ PEDTO
- ♥ DSA
- PRACOT
- ♥ ARNEC
- ♥ HPSO



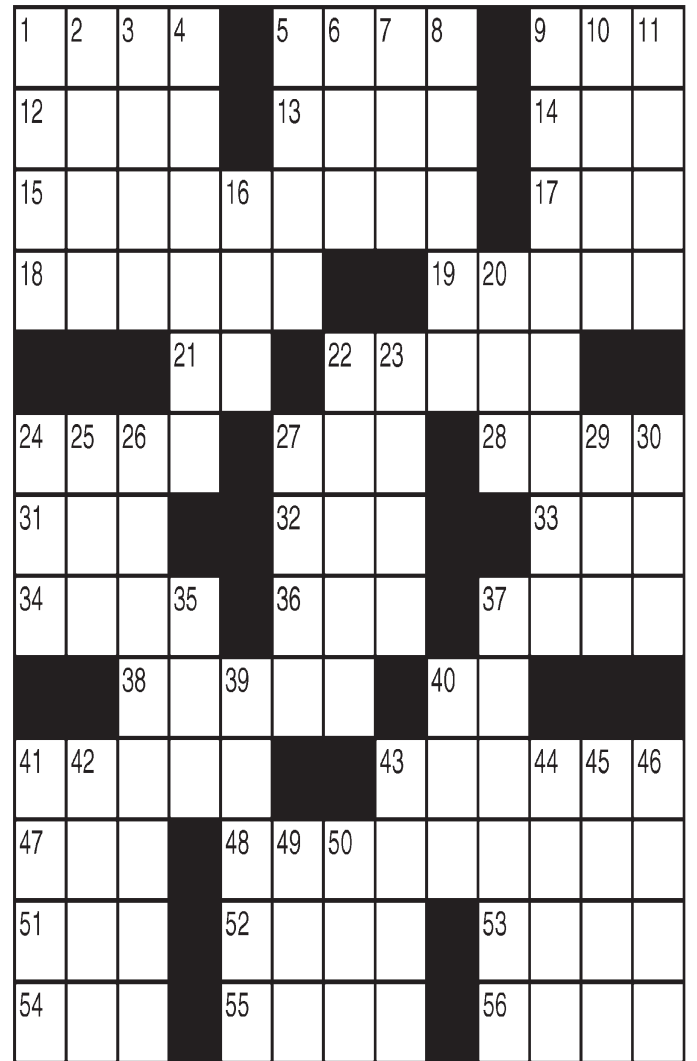
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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Nuisance
- 5 Emmy winner Alan
- 9 Blond shade
- 12 Actor Epps
- 13 --do-well
- 14 Female rabbit
- 15 Biscuit type
- 17 Poetic tribute
- 18 Big bargains
- 19 Himalayan land
- 21 Baseball's Cobb
- 22 Meager
- 24 Boxing arbiters
- 27 Hasten
- 28 Flintstones' pet
- 31 Capote nickname



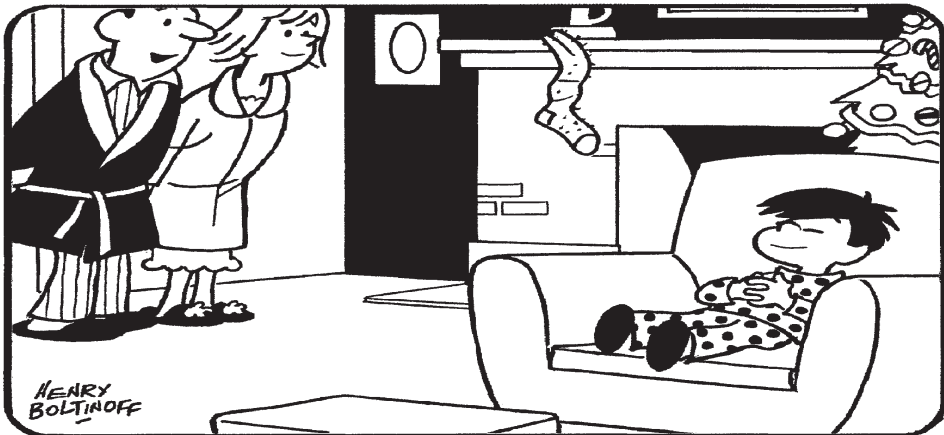
- 51 Calendar abbr.
- 52 Sandwich treat
- 53 Exploits
- 54 Away from WSW
- 55 Canine cry
- 56 Section
- 7 "Lion" star Patel
- 8 Stadium
- 9 Like some parents
- 10 Fizzy drink
- 11 Cad
- 16 Devious
- 20 Conclusion
- 22 Crazy Horse, for one
- 23 Penny
- 24 ACLU concerns
- 25 Time line period
- 26 Escapee
- 27 Roll call reply
- 29 French diarist Anais
- 30 Feedbag tid-bit
- 35 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 37 Didn't lag
- 39 Shill
- 40 French pronoun
- 41 Sea eagle
- 42 Any time now
- 43 L-Q bridge
- 44 Tower city
- 45 Always
- 46 Try out
- 49 Raw rock
- 50 Solidify

### DOWN

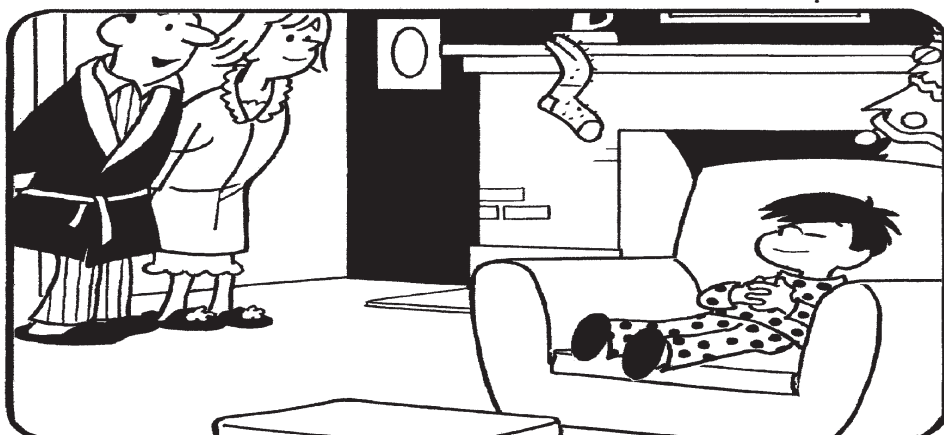
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's legs are longer. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Stocking is shorter. 4. Woman's leg is moved. 5. Belt is shorter. 6. Robe collar is different.

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



I HAD TO GO BUY AN EXTRA SEAT BECAUSE YOU OPTED TO BUY A LARGE POPCORN AND SODA.

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**Chad Campbell**

& the Staff of

**Rusty Wallace Honda**



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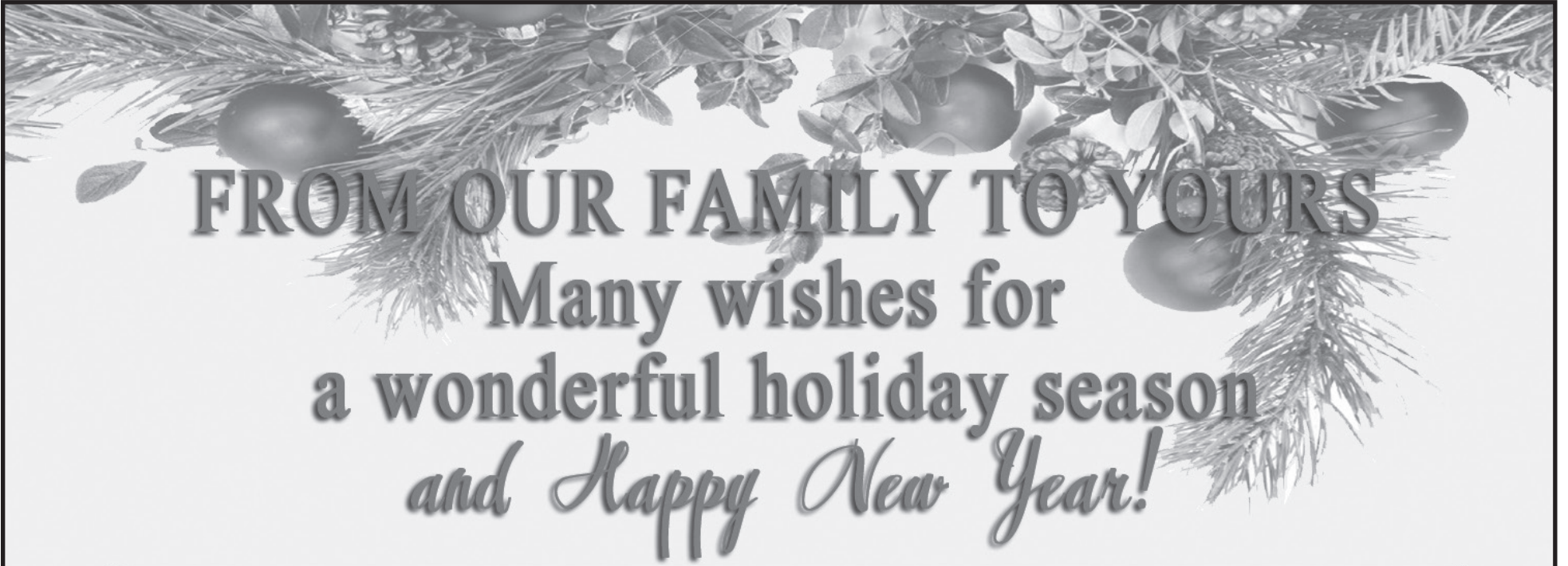


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 Friday, November 29th-**CLOSED**  
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 Wednesday, December 25th-Christmas Day **CLOSED**  
 Thursday, December 26th-**CLOSED**  
 Tuesday, December 31st-Closing at 1pm  
 Wednesday, January 1st-New Year's Day **CLOSED**



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David Zubler  
Columnist

## BOI Suspended

The beneficial ownership information (BOI) report deadline has been suspended due to a recent district court injunction in Texas. The injunction came just weeks before the January 1 deadline.

A federal district court found that the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) is likely unconstitutional and issued an order prohibiting the enforcement of the CTA and the BOI report.

The court concluded that, given the extent of the constitutional violation shown by the plaintiffs, the injunction should apply nationwide.

The plaintiffs were a group of small business owners and a trade association. They argued that the CTA intimidates free speech, infringing on First Amendment protections. They also addressed issues about privacy violations under the Fourth Amendment.

The nationwide injunction means that businesses are not currently required to file the BOI. However, future guidance or court decisions could reinstate the requirement to file.

The Department of the Treasury is appealing against the order. If the injunction is overturned on appeal, businesses may need to act quickly to meet reporting deadlines.

The BOI requirement was finalized two years ago to help the CTA detect money laundering.

Willful violations were punishable by a fine of \$591 a day, up to \$10,000, and two years in prison.

Todd McCracken, the president and CEO of the National Small Business Association (NSBA) said It is "a huge relief to the millions of small business owners across the country who were facing a wildly complex regulatory regime," along with fines and prison time, he said.

A statement from Melanie Lauridsen, the AICPA's vice president—Tax Policy & Advocacy, said, "The AICPA understands the confusion and anxiety that business owners have struggled with regarding the BOI reporting requirement. We believe that the injunction ... is applicable nationwide to all small businesses. While we are still awaiting formal guidance from FinCEN, if this injunction is applicable as we believe, many small businesses would receive the much-needed BOI reporting relief. The AICPA will continue an open dialogue with FinCEN in the hopes that our questions and concerns will be addressed, and we will continue to advocate on behalf of small businesses for clarity and relief."

Companies may continue to file the BOI reports on a voluntary basis on the FinCEN website.

Anyone who doesn't currently plan to file a BOI report, should stay updated on changes in policy under the next administration.

The incoming Trump administration could take several steps to limit or halt the enforcement of the CTA.

*David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*

## FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

1. "You're the One That I Want" was used in which musical film?
2. Name the all-girl group that released "I Met Him on a Sunday."
3. Which artist released "The Wanderer"?
4. Who released "People Got to Be Free"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Sometimes the love rhymes that fill that afternoon, Lose all their meaning with the rising moon."

### Answers

1. "Grease," in 1978. The duet was performed by Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. The song hadn't been used in the stage version of the musical and was written especially for the film. More recently the song was used in the superhero film "Deadpool & Wolverine."
2. The Shirelles, in 1958. The four friends formed a group and wrote the song before performing in their high school talent show.
3. Dion, in 1961. He recorded the song as a b-side single, but it became the more popular of the two songs.
4. The Rascals, in 1968.
5. "Do You Wanna Make Love," by Peter McCann, in 1977. McCann was well known as a songwriter, producing chart-topping music for a long list of artists across the genres, including pop and country, and was active for decades lobbying for the rights of songwriters.

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Proverbs 22:1

**Historically Speaking****ETTP Cleanup:****Honoring the Past — Shaping the Future**

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This Historically Speaking column is written by Ben Williams, Public Affairs Specialist for the Department of Energy here in Oak Ridge. He is a good friend, and we have worked together on many of the historical preservation efforts over the years. I asked him if he would consider writing a summary of transformation efforts at the East Tennessee Technology Park and he agreed. I think you will find what he has written to be informative and will help put the transformation of that site in perspective for you. As you know, small modular nuclear reactors are being built there now! And more to come with the K-25 Building footprint viewing platform under construction. Exciting times are ahead for ETTP Heritage Center!

Enjoy Ben Williams' update on environmental cleanup at Heritage Center.

\*\*\*

Cleanup of the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), formerly known as the K-25 site, honors the patriotic workforce who decades ago carried out a top-secret mission that helped end World War II. Today, their successors have ignited a reindustrialization boom—25 businesses, \$1.35 billion in announced investments, and an expected 1,400 private sector jobs—transforming a once-contaminated, shuttered government site into a vibrant hub of innovation and progress. The story of ETTP opens as the nation's first uranium enrichment plants, beginning operations during the Manhattan Project to help produce an atomic weapon to end World War II. At the time of its construction, K-25 was the world's largest building. Its footprint spanned 44 acres—so expansive that workers used bicycles to go from one work station to another in the facility.

Over the next decade, four more uranium enrichment plants joined K-25, and the site was renamed the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The added enrichment facilities included K-27 in 1945, K-29 and K-31 in 1951, and K-33 in 1954. In addition to these facilities, the site was also home to more than 500 support facilities. For four decades, employees at the site produced nuclear fuel for weapons for the United States and commercial power across the globe. In 1985, enrichment operations at the site were placed on hold, and in 1987, shut down permanently.

Milton "Mo" Beeler was among the workers who honed his skills at K-25. An area supervisor, Beeler recalls the plant's achievements and its eventual closure. In 1974, he began a multi-decade career at K-25 that led him on a recurring tour of miles of piping that connected processes in the uranium enrichment plant. Mo's career took him through operations, shutdown, and the beginning of decades of cleanup.

"I was here when K-25 was operating, and I was here when they tore it down," Beeler said. "I have personally sat on, crawled over, and inspected hundreds of miles of pipe. I've seen it all."

Beeler was present in Building 402-9, the purge cascade, on August 27, 1985, when his co-worker, John Shoemaker, shut down the final motor. "The thing I remember most was how quiet it got," he said. "For the entire 15 years I had been there, the noise was constant. I had never experienced so much quiet within those walls. It was eerie."

As the nation's environmental regulations expanded, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed the Oak Ridge Reservation on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site, designating it to be cleaned up under provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

In the years following the site's shutdown, most of the abandoned processing and support facilities fell into disrepair. An issue future crews would inherit and address. For cleanup crews, the facilities' structural degradation made them challenging work settings, complicated by the presence of radioactive contaminants, hazardous chemicals, materials and wastes, and environmental conditions.

Four global contractors addressed the challenges over the years for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM). The latest, United Cleanup Oak

Ridge (UCOR), spent nearly a decade bringing demolition to a successful conclusion in 2020. That feat was a challenge of monumental proportions, and it marked the first time in the world an entire enrichment complex had been successfully removed. ETTP became the first of the nation's Manhattan Project "Secret Cities" to achieve cleanup. In total, workers took down more than 500 structures that had a combined footprint that could span 225 football fields.

That achievement was made possible through close partnerships among DOE and its contractors, community stakeholders, and the workforce in the field. The partners included all three unions that represent the bargaining employees at both the state and national level, including the National Building Trades Unions Metal Trades Department, the Atomic Trades and Labor Council, and the Knoxville Building and Construction Trades Council.

After the historic completion of demolition in 2020, DOE and UCOR turned their focus to completing soil cleanup. This year, workers finished excavating nearly 50,000 truckloads of soil impacted from historic operations, and DOE also finalized plans with its regulators that provide guidance on how to address groundwater at the site – marking the final phase of cleanup at ETTP.

**A Nuclear Site Reenergized**

With hazards removed and the environment restored, DOE has partnered with the City of Oak Ridge, Roane County, the National Park Service, and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to advance its ultimate vision of transforming ETTP into a multi-use industrial park, conservation area, and national park. That vision is being realized more each passing year.

DOE transferred more than 400 acres this past fiscal year, bringing the total to 1,700 acres. It is also scheduled to transfer another 900 acres over the next three years to enable additional economic development on the west end of town.

DOE and UCOR recently completed the final transfer of major utilities, which is another significant step in transitioning the site from federal ownership. In some cases, that process involved performing repairs and upgrades to ensure the community received infrastructure that is up to date with the latest codes and standards. ETTP is now entirely served by a public infrastructure system of water, sewer, electric, and natural gas utilities. Invested landowners and tenants and a growing number of prospective companies are attracted to ETTP because of its existing infrastructure, local workforce development, and a business-friendly environment.

As cleanup nears completion, momentum toward its next chapter is growing as larger businesses announce plans to locate on transferred land at ETTP and other nearby parcels. Triso-X, Kairos Power, and Ultra Safe Nuclear Corp. are the latest companies to seize the potential of locating on former DOE land that offers proximity to robust infrastructure and top industry minds at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex. Together, these companies are investing hundreds of millions of dollars, creating new jobs, and developing technologies that will help generate affordable and abundant energy.

This summer, Kairos Power broke ground on its Hermes low-power demonstration reactor on the footprint of the former K-33 building. This is part of the company's \$100 million investment at the site, and Kairos Power has already applied to construct a second reactor at the site. This new facility, under construction, is the first nonlight-water reactor to be permitted in the United States in more than 50 years.

These developments culminated in the biggest news yet when Governor Bill Lee traveled to Oak Ridge this fall to announce the largest investment in Tennessee's history. Orano USA unveiled a multi-billion-dollar plan to build one of the largest enrichment



**The Viewing Platform that will give visitors an overview of the K-25 Building footprint. The footprint is part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This latest addition to the historical initiatives at the ETTP Heritage Center is scheduled to be completed by May 2025. (Courtesy of the Department of Energy)**

facilities in North America. The company will build on land DOE is set to transfer for reuse near ETTP. This positions Oak Ridge to become the nation's leader for next generation nuclear. In poetic fashion, the renewed focus on nuclear power happening now is giving new life to the former enrichment site and bringing new growth and opportunities to Oak Ridge again.

**National Historic Preservation and Conservation**

Historic preservation initiatives at ETTP are honoring the men and women who designed, built, and operated the world's first gaseous diffusion plant at K-25 and the hundreds of facilities and structures that followed.

Today, a 7,500-square-foot K-25 History Center tells the story of this historic production facility with interactive exhibits and more than 250 original artifacts. Adjacent to the K-25 History Center, the footprint of the K-25 building is a destination within the nation's Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and more visitor attractions are on the way.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently overseeing construction of the K-25 Viewing Platform. When it's completed next year, the elevated viewing platform will provide a sweeping, panoramic view of the K-25 building's massive 44-acre footprint through 10-foot-tall wraparound glass windows. Multimedia exhibits inside will demonstrate the scale of the site and explain the site's previous operations.

DOE has also set aside nearly 3,500 acres, adjacent to ETTP, as part of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement to provide greater access and opportunities for people to enjoy greenspace initiatives and the outdoors through hiking, biking, and nature watching. These efforts are taking another step forward through a partnership DOE signed with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. That formalized partnership expands natural resource management on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

**Cleanup Ushers in New Chapter**

ETTP's transformation is a case study into the positive impact of DOE's environmental cleanup mission. DOE's projects have cleared away the risks associated with aging, deteriorated, and contaminated structures, and they have opened significant acreage for new economic development that benefits the community. DOE has also built facilities that preserve and share the site's important history with future generations, and it has set aside thousands of acres for residents and visitors to enjoy the beautiful East Tennessee landscape. Only through cleanup could Oak Ridge be the birthplace of the nuclear industry and the home of its resurgence.

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Thank you, Ben Williams, for insight into the transformation taking place in the west end of Oak Ridge. With the resurgence of nuclear energy interest throughout the nation and the world, the location where the gaseous diffusion of uranium helped start the nuclear age will again help lead the way to nuclear related advancements in reactors, nuclear fuel, and advanced technologies to address our clean energy needs.

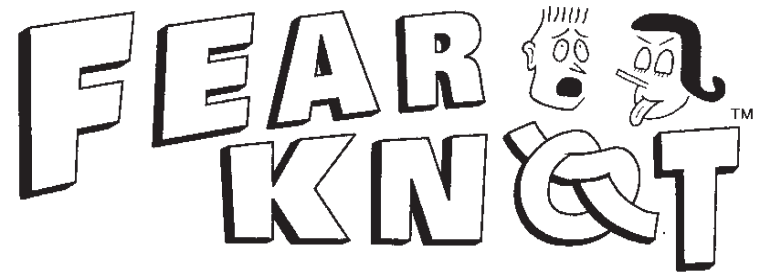
The Manhattan Project National Historical Park and the K-25 Atomic History Center are features that will also be advancing new destinations for tourism. "Great things happen in Oak Ridge every day," Mayor Warren Gooch!

# King Crossword

## Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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answer

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# The Achaemenid Empire



**John Burns**  
**Opinion Columnist**

Nebuchadnezzar would rule Babylon for 43 years from 605 BC until his son Amel-Marduk would become heir in 562 BC. He is most famous for releasing King Jehoiachin of Judah after 43 years in confinement. He would be assassinated in 560 BC by his brother-in-law Nereglissar.

He was of Aramean descent and he became a prominent official during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. His reign would last for 4 years until his death in 556 BC. He is most famous for his campaign to capture the kingdom of Appuwashu in Anatolia and bringing the Babylonian pantheon into the west.

His son would reign for two months before being assassinated by Nabonidus. He is the Bible King Belshazzar who would be the last Neo-Babylonian king during the time of Daniel. Cyrus the great would enter Babylon, ending the Neo-Assyrian line of Kings in Babel.

Cyrus would enter Babylon as Belshazzar mocked the God of creation and his plans for the people of Daniel. Cyrus dammed the Euphrates River and his men entered Babylon without a battle and unseated Nabonidus who himself usurped the Babylonian throne.

Cyrus begins the prophesied reign of the Medo-Persian empire destined to replace Babylon while adopting the Babylonian pantheon and mixing it with the Persian religion centered in astronomy and science. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Persian religions were melded first under Cyrus the great.

Cyrus proves God is indeed ordering our footsteps as men. We first hear of Cyrus in the book of Isaiah who prophesied the reign of Cyrus in Chapter 45:1. Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him, and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leafed gates, and the gates shall not be shut.

Isaiah prophesied the events occurring in the book of Daniel, when Cyrus entered the palace to find Nabopolassar, mocking the God of Daniel. Daniel opens the scroll of Isaiah, penned 200 years prior, to read to him what God has ordained for his life.

The mighty Medo-Persian empire begins with the overthrow of Babylon, and the introduction to the Zoroastrian beliefs of Cyrus. It is a form of monotheism. The Achaemenid dynasty now ruled over the largest empire in history. The year is 550 BC.

Cyrus would issue the decree found in the book of Ezra, allowing him to return to Jerusalem to begin the rebuilding of the temple. Cyrus would fund his journey, and he would issue decrees guaranteeing their protection. Jeremiah's prophecy of the 70-year captivity was coming to a close.

Daniel would serve Cyrus faithfully. I believe Nabopolassar's mother possibly played a role. Cyrus executed the last Babylonian King, establishing control of Babylon under his Medo-Persian line. To save her skin, she would advise the king on matters of history dealing with Daniel.

Daniel had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. His destiny and the destiny of the wife of Nebuchadnezzar were intertwined. She alone understood that Daniel heard from the living God of creation. Her and Daniel had known each other since 605 BC.

Cyrus entered Babylon in 539 BC during the Hebrew Feast of tabernacles. It was October 12th on the pagan Babylonian calendar. While Jews were in captivity in Babylon, Daniel was keeping the shabbat ordained in the wilderness by God forever. The feast of tabernacles points to a yet future desert wondering for the tribes of Israel.

As Nabopolassar threw a Pagan party lasting 7 days, Daniel and the Hebrews were captives in Babylon looking forward to the end of Jeremiah's prophesied 70-year captivity. They were in temporary shelters when Cyrus crossed the Euphrates and entered Babylon.

As Nabopolassar mocked the God of the Hebrews by consuming wine in the consecrated temple vessels, Cyrus had entered Babylon and the Handwriting appeared on the wall. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah to the letter and the day God told Jeremiah it would happen.

The queen mother sends for Daniel at sunrise, to interpret the Hebrew handwriting that has appeared with a supernatural hand on the wall of the palace. Daniel brings the scroll of Isaiah to the palace and interprets the handwriting telling of the end of Babylon as an individual empire.

Nabopolassar's loins are loosed as the news reaches him that the Medo-Persian king is in Babylon and on his way to the palace. It would be the last time Nabopolassar breathes. Cyrus restores Daniel to his position as Prime Minister and chief advisor to the Medo-Persian crown in Babylon.

Daniel would serve Medo-Persian kings faithfully until his death in 538 BC.

Cyrus is God's man on the pagan throne. He is being used by God, to begin regathering the Jewish people to their Land to await the coming Jewish king and Messiah. His decree given to Ezra, is proof that God wrote the entire script before speaking man into existence.

Cyrus would conquer the Lydian kingdom, the neo-Babylonian kingdom, thus consolidating the Medo-Persian empire. Cyrus begins melding Persian culture with the territories he rules in Macedonia to the west and Afghanistan in the east. He inherited Egypt and now melds sun worship with moon worship and Zoroastrianism.

Cyrus the great had a view that empires were best served when all Gods were accepted and religions all were tolerated. He orders the consolidation of the great libraries of learning and places them under the control of the priest class in the 127 provinces under his control.

Cyrus sets about manufacturing utopia and rules as an autocrat. Greece and Persia with their polytheist beliefs, were now on a predicted collision course with the plans of the God of creation.

Biblical monotheism and pagan polytheism can never coexist. God raises up kings to prove that he is at war with the seat of Satan on earth. Time for an introduction to the Sar Paras or angel of Persia.

Let him who has ears, hear what the spirit is saying.

9-18-2024 John Burns

**Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.**

**Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.**

**He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word**



# Luke Chapter 14



**Melvin Howard**

Luke 14:1-6) A healing on the Sabbath: As firm as he was with the Pharisees on occasion (Mt.23), Jesus still loved them and attempted to teach them and influence them for good. An eventual and powerful convert would be a Pharisee, namely, Saul of Tarsus. On this occasion the Lord entered into the home of a Pharisee for a meal. The guests were watching him intently. There was a man afflicted with "dropsy." This is a disease caused by fluid in the tissues that could manifest itself in several illnesses, cancer or heart, liver, or kidney disease. The Lord addressed the lawyers (scribes) and Pharisees and asked: "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" (v.3). They decided not to answer! He then employed the donkey-ox argument used on a previous occasion (see 13:15). If it was lawful to retrieve an ox on the Sabbath (which they conceded), then it was lawful to rescue a man from disease on the holy day, the man being of greater value than the animals.

Luke 24:44 "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

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Galatians 3:19 "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

Colossians 2:16-17 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Hebrews 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

Hebrews 9:16-17 "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Hebrews 10:9 "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."

Hebrews 10:28-29 "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

(Luke 14:7-14) Rebuking the quest for prominence: This segment follows the events of the preceding section. Apparently, other guests subsequently arrived at the dinner in the Pharisee's house. As they did, the Lord noticed that some of them were attempting to secure the more important seats, perhaps near the lawyers (v.3). He rebuked this quest for prominence, the very antithesis of humility, giving an illustration that conveyed a lesson. If one attends a feast and seek the most prominent seat, he might be asked to move down should a more important guest arrive. Or the situation might be reversed---he could be moved from a lower seat to the higher. Justice has a way of leveling the situation. One's goal, however, should be humility, not the exaltation of self---to which the Pharisees were prone (Mt. 6).

Presently, Christ turned his attention to the Pharisee host who had invited him. He admonished him as to the nature of the guests he had invited (or might invite) to his dinners. If he invites only his friends, kinsmen, or rich neighbors, his motive would not be right. In reality, he would be attempting to solicit benefits for himself in the future. Instead, he should invite those who really are in need (the poor, physically incapacitated, etc.) and he then truly would be blessed---because he acted selflessly. He thus would be rewarded on the great resurrection day when the "just" are honored by God. Jesus clearly taught that earthly conduct has an eternal consequence.

(Luke 14:15-24) The parable of the great supper: One of the guests at the feast (v. 1), listening to the Lord teach, exclaimed: "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." One would hardly know how to interpret the statement but for the Lord's response. The particle "but" which begins verse sixteen indicates an adversarial response. The man likely viewed the messianic reign as one of a great banquet involving only the elite of the Jews and no one else. Christ's rejoinder was both corrective and prophetic (involving the Gentiles).

A man prepared a great feast and invited many. At the appropriate time, he sent his servant to inform the guests that all things were ready. But those who were invited offered a series of flimsy excuses, revealing their lack of interest in the association and their disrespect for the host. The master was most indignant, commanding his servant to go find others who

would appreciate the offer---the blind, crippled, etc. These happily came, and yet there still was room for more. The servant was sent again, constraining those in the highways and hedges to come---that the house be "filled." The constraint was not that of force, but the compulsion of the gospel of forgiveness for sin-guilt. Those who rejected the invitation were not allowed to partake of the feast.

These facts are apparent: (a) God is the Lord of the house. (b) His "servant" sent to issue the invitation was Christ (Phil. 2:7). (c) The things "made ready" were the longtime preparations for the Lord's kingdom (Gal. 4:4). (d) The first invitation, which was rejected, pictured the significant Jewish rebuff of Jesus and his gospel (Jn. 1:11). (e) The second invitation involved the lower classes of Hebrew society (publicans, harlots, etc.) who did respond to the Lord's teaching. (f) The third invitation projected the Gentiles' enthusiasm for the gospel. (g) Those who rejected the invitation were not permitted to partake of the feast. (h) That the house was "filled" reveals the ultimate success of the divine plan, regardless of the ignorant human scorekeeping of the divine plan.

In this context, "you" (plural; v. 24) represents the Jews assembled at this dinner. They had the will to accept, but did not. They were, therefore, to be excluded because of their unbelief. This point is fatal to the dispensational theory that speculates of a final restoration of national Israel.

(Luke 14:25-35) The challenge of counting the cost: Great crowds were following the Lord; doubtless, many were merely caught up in the excitement. Suddenly, Jesus turned and gave them a strong challenge. If anyone was inclined to follow him without adequate conviction, his effort would be worthless. The disciple must "hate" his own father, mother, children, siblings, and even his own life, or he cannot be a disciple. The easily misconstrued term is "hate." This is an idiom that simply means "to love less" (Gen. 29:30-31; Mt. 10:37). Christ will not take second place; his identity as deity demands first order in one's life. One must bear his own cross (persecution for the cause of truth) and follow, or he cannot be a disciple.

Two examples are employed to illustrate the principle of sacrifice. The opening phrase, "For which of you," anticipates that the listeners will have common sense enough to appreciate the value of the examples. (a) A wise builder does not start a project without first evaluating whether he will be able to finish it. Otherwise, he exposes himself to the ridicule of his fellows. (b) A prudent king does not impulsively go into battle against an army twice the size of his without taking into consideration whether he is able to be victorious. At least, he should have the foresight to petition for peace before the conflict begins. (c) The application is this: are you willing to "count the cost" as to whether you are prepared for the rigors of discipleship? This requires total commitment---a concept so many in today's church have never realized.

A Christian without dedication is like salt that has lost its savor. The Lord likely refers to the Palestinian salt commonly gathered from around the Dead Sea. This is a conglomerate of salt and other chemical compounds which allows the saline content to be leached from the salt crystals. There is no inaccuracy in Jesus' illustration, as some allege. Salt that has lost its principle power is worthless and is problematic as to its disposal. But "cast out" it must be. Those who are wise should carefully listen to the Lord's instruction and make personal application.

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