



# SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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YOUR IDENTITY IS  
FIRMLY ANCHORED IN  
CHRIST'S  
ACCOMPLISHMENT,  
NOT YOURS; HIS  
STRENGTH, NOT  
YOURS; HIS  
PERFORMANCE, NOT  
YOURS; HIS VICTORY,  
NOT YOURS.

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# G O D ' S E T E R N A L P U R P O S E

**Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

**Rom 12:2 ...the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.**

Brothers and sisters, God created us with a purpose, and He also saved us with a purpose. God's intention is that we express the life of His Son and partake of the glory of His Son. In eternity past God had a purpose; He did not want just an only begotten Son, but many sons. Hence, Romans 8:29 says, "Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers." God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. Then He bought us and redeemed us so that He could gain us. This is our ultimate goal today....God has an eternal

purpose, which is accomplished through His Son. God created everything through Him for this purpose. Redemption is for this purpose, the defeat of Satan is for this purpose, and the salvation of sinners is for this purpose. We have to know God's eternal purpose before we can accomplish what God wants us to accomplish. We are not here merely for the salvation of sinners; we are here for the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose. If we do not consecrate ourselves [i.e. give ourselves to God] , we will never realize that this will is good....We can sing about the goodness of God's will! We can say hallelujah because of the goodness of God's will! God's will is good and not malicious. His will is for our profit and without malice. We are too shortsighted. God's will is good.





## LIVING TO HIM

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**2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us...**

**2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.**

When a Hebrew man [in the Old Testament] bought a slave, the slave had to serve the master for six years. In the seventh year, the slave could go free.

However, if he said that he loved his master and would not go out free, the master would bring him to the judges and the doorpost and bore his ear through with an awl. Then the slave would serve his master forever (Exo. 21:2-6). Brothers and sisters, God has saved us and bought us with the blood. He did not purchase us with corruptible gold but with the precious blood of His Son. Many Christians feel that they have to serve God for their conscience's sake. But when we see the Lord's preciousness, we will voluntarily

and willingly consecrate ourselves to Him. When we tell the Lord that we are willing to be His slave, He will take us to the door and the doorpost, and He will bore our ear through with an awl. The doorpost is the place where the blood of the Passover lamb was applied... We love the Lord and choose to be His slave forever. Because we know that He loves us, we are willing to serve Him forever. We have no choice but to declare, "Lord, You have loved me and saved me and released me! Lord, I love You and cannot help but serve You forever!"

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What happened to the sons of Aaron that offered 'strange fire' before God?

- a. the ground split open and swallowed them
- b. they were stoned
- c. fire came from God and devoured them
- d. they were banished

2. What were the two conditions for a clean, edible land animal during the time of Moses?

- a. cloven-footed and chews cud
- b. fur and no tail
- c. snout and doesn't play in the mud
- d. there were no rules

3. What were the two conditions for a clean, edible water animal in the time of Moses?

- a. tentacles and ink
- b. fins and fur
- c. fins and scales
- d. legs and eyes
- e. there were no rules

4. How many days after birth is circumcision performed according to the law of Moses?

- a. two days
- b. eight days
- c. seven days
- d. three days

5. During the time of Moses, if someone were afraid they had leprosy, who would they go see?

- a. Moses
- b. their parents
- c. a priest
- d. no one

## HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE: DID YOU KNOW?

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The oldest surviving manuscript, of any part of the New Testament is a papyrus fragment containing verses from John 18; scholars estimate it was written about 125.

We may have sayings of Jesus that are not recorded in the four Gospels. They come from books that never made it into the New Testament but which nonetheless contain some reliable historical information. Extra-biblical sayings that might be from the lips of Jesus: “The one who is near me is near the fire; the one who is far from me is far from the kingdom”; “There shall be divisions and heresies”; “No one can obtain the kingdom of heaven who has not passed through temptation.”

Many early Christians, to discover the answer to a problem, would randomly open the Bible, read the first line their eye fell upon, and consider it a divine message for them. So popular was this practice, it had to be repeatedly condemned by early church councils.

The word Bible comes from the Greek word for “papyrus plant” (biblos), since the leaves of that plant were used for paper.



In the ancient and medieval worlds, some Christians memorized large portions of Scripture. Eusebius of Caesarea said he once met a blind Egyptian who “possessed whole books of the Holy Scriptures . . . in his heart.”

The Roman Catholic Bible is larger than the Protestant, but the largest Bible in Christendom belongs to the Ethiopic church. It contains the Old Testament Apocrypha and books such as Jubilees, 1 Enoch, Joseph Ben Gurion’s medieval history of the Jews and other nations, Ethiopic Clement, and the Ethiopic Book of the Covenant.

The cost of a Bible in the 1300s might easily amount to a priest’s whole yearly income.

The medieval church did not object to Bible translations; by the early 1500s, there were Bibles in most European languages. But the church opposed the work of Wycliffe and Tyndale because these translators held “radical” views.

When English Bibles were first published, people were fascinated with them. One Essex man recalled that “poor men bought the New Testament of Jesus Christ and

on Sundays did sit reading in the lower end of the church, and many would flock about them to hear their reading.”

As Erasmus was pulling together his celebrated Greek New Testament (1516), he could find no ancient Greek manuscripts of the last six verses of Revelation. So he made his own “backward” translation—from Latin back into Greek! For centuries, in fact, some Greek New Testaments still concluded with Erasmus’s Latin-to-Greek translation of these verses.

The Bible’s chapter divisions were created in the early 1200s by a lecturer at the University of Paris. Its current verse divisions were not fully developed until 1551.

Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German in a blitz of only 11 weeks.

Tyndale’s translation introduced many new words into the English language, such as longsuffering, peacemaker, scapegoat, filthy lucre, and even the word beautiful.

William Tyndale’s first English New Testament, finished in 1525, had to be printed outside of England and then smuggled back inside barrels of flour and bolts of cloth. 7

Catholic bishop Tunstall of London bought up most of Tyndale's first edition in order to stamp out Tyndale's "heresy"—but the proceeds financed new editions!

When the King James Version was published in 1611, the Geneva Bible was by far the most popular English Bible. It was the Geneva translation, not the King James, that was used by William Shakespeare and the early American Puritans.



A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S  
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E  
W A Y



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## **Ephesians 1:9-10**

Making known to us  
The mystery of His will  
According to His good pleasure,  
Which He purposed in Himself,

Unto the economy of the fullness of the times,  
To head up all things in Christ,  
The things in the heavens  
And the things on the earth,  
In Him, in Him,  
(repeat)

In Him.

# MARK 5

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## WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

**Mk 5:1** And they came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes.

**Mk 5:2** And when He came out of the boat, immediately, from out of the tombs, a man with an unclean spirit met Him,

**Mk 5:3** Who had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one could bind him any longer, not even with a chain,

**Mk 5:4** Because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

**Mk 5:5** And continually night and day, among the tombs and in the mountains, he cried out and gashed himself with stones.

**Mk 5:6** And when he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and worshipped Him,

**Mk 5:7** And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What do I have to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God, do not torment me!

**Mk 5:8** For He had said to him, Come out of the man, unclean spirit.

**Mk 5:9** And He questioned him, What is your name? And he said to Him, Legion is my name, because we are many.

**Mk 5:10** And he entreated Him much not to send them out of the region.

**Mk 5:11** Now there on the mountainside was a great herd of hogs feeding.

**Mk 5:12** And they entreated Him, saying, Send us to the hogs, so that we may enter into them.

**Mk 5:13** And He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered into the hogs, and the herd,

about two thousand, rushed down the steep slope into the sea, and they were drowned in the sea.

Mk 5:14 And those who were feeding them fled and reported it in the city and in the countryside. And they came to see what had happened.

Mk 5:15 And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man sitting down, clothed, and sane, the man who had had the legion, and they became frightened.

Mk 5:16 And those who had seen it related to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man and concerning the hogs.

Mk 5:17 And they began to entreat Him to depart from their borders.

Mk 5:18 And as He got into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might stay with Him.

Mk 5:19 And He did not allow him, but said to him, Go to your house, to your own people, and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.

Mk 5:20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him, and all marveled.

Mk 5:21 And when Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered to Him, and He was beside the sea.

Mk 5:22 And one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name, and seeing Him, fell at His feet;

Mk 5:23 And he entreated Him much, saying, My little daughter is at the point of death. Please come and lay Your hands on her that she may be healed and live.

Mk 5:24 And He went with him, and a great crowd followed Him and pressed upon Him.

Mk 5:25 And a woman was there, who had a flow of blood for twelve years.

Mk 5:26 She had suffered much under many physicians and had spent everything she had and had not benefited at all, but rather became worse.

Mk 5:27 When she heard the things concerning Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His garment,



**Mk 5:28** For she said, If I touch even His garments, I will be healed.

**Mk 5:29** And immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she knew in her body that she was cured of the affliction.

**Mk 5:30** And immediately Jesus, realizing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, Who touched My garments?

**Mk 5:31** And His disciples said to Him, You see the crowd pressing upon You and You say, Who touched Me?

**Mk 5:32** And He looked around to see her who had done this.

**Mk 5:33** But the woman, frightened and trembling, knew what had happened to her, and she came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

**Mk 5:34** And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your affliction.

**Mk 5:35** While He was still speaking, some came from the house of the ruler of the synagogue, saying, Your

daughter has died. Why bother the Teacher any longer?

**Mk 5:36** But Jesus, overhearing the word spoken, said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be afraid — only believe.

**Mk 5:37** And He did not allow anyone to accompany Him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

**Mk 5:38** And they came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and He saw a commotion and people weeping and wailing greatly.

**Mk 5:39** And He entered in and said to them, Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child has not died but is sleeping.

**Mk 5:40** And they laughed scornfully at Him. But He, putting them all out, took the father of the child and the mother and those with Him and went in to where the child was.

**Mk 5:41** And He took hold of the child's hand and said to her, Talitha koum! which being interpreted is, Little girl, to you I say, Arise!

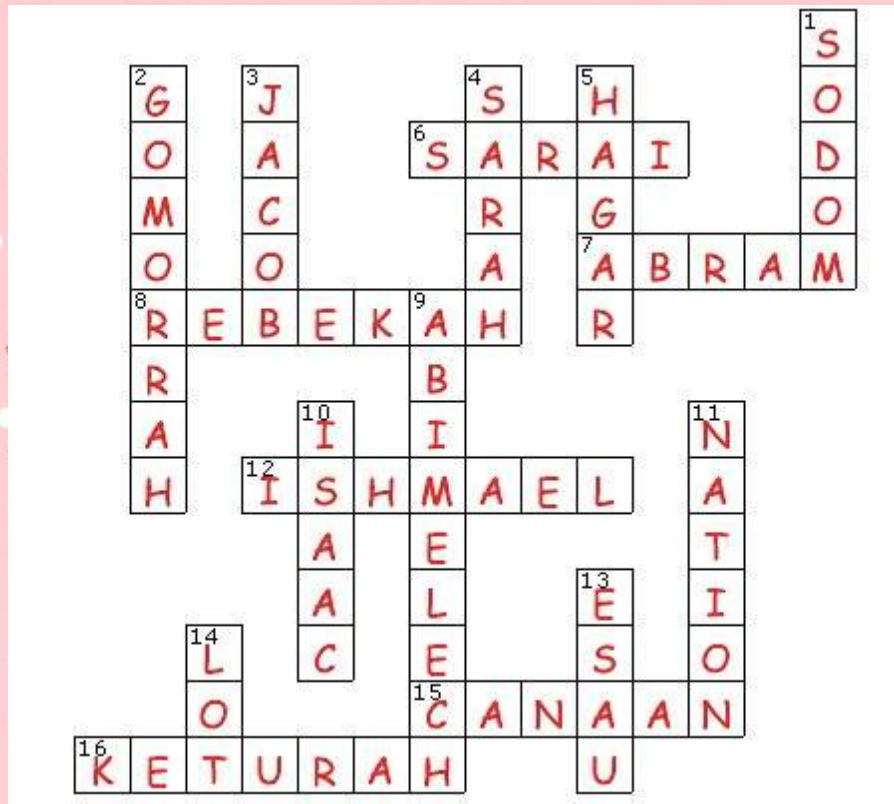
**Mk 5:42** And immediately the little girl rose up and walked

about, for she was twelve years old. And immediately, they were amazed with great amazement.

Mk 5:43 And He strongly commanded them that no one should know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

last week...

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ABRAHAM



this week...

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. C