



December 30, 2007

Beech Grove Church of Christ

meeting at Beech Grove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

 P.O. Box 85 -- Beech Grove, TN 37018

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

Starting Over

Some of us make resolutions like one man, named George. George said to a friend: "There's nothing like getting up at six in the morning, going for a run around the park, and taking a brisk shower before breakfast."

His friend Bob asked, "How long have you been doing this?"

George said: "I start tomorrow."

The year 2007 is almost over, and many of you have made resolutions regarding what you plan to do differently in 2008. The most popular resolutions every year tend to be things like losing weight, exercising more, quitting smoking and getting out of debt. Of course, the hard part is not making the resolutions; the hard part is keeping them.

I heard of one wife who said to her spouse: "I don't want to brag, but here it is February and I've kept every one of my New Year's resolutions. I've kept them in a manila folder in the back of my desk!"

A new year seems to be an easy time to make changes. We can say goodbye to the

2008

past year with all of the mistakes we made and start afresh with a year that is unblemished. May I remind you, though, that each day of our lives we

have the opportunity to start over. In fact, I would encourage you not to wait until Tuesday to begin making changes in your life. If you have habits that need to be changed, start today! Don't wait until January 1st to start dieting. Start today! Don't wait until January 1st to quit smoking. Start today! Don't allow yourself to live two more days with habits you need to get rid of. And if you falter in your plans to make improvements, don't wait until January 1, 2009 to start all over again. Remember -- every day is a new opportunity to start afresh.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

This article was written last year by Alan Smith of Fayetteville, NC, and the date references were updated by Ken Thomas

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

(Wording is based on KJV)
by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of December 30

1. The flight of fowls is used to describe the defense of Jerusalem by God. In what passage?
2. What did the Lord do to make fish thirsty?
3. If fish could speak, what would their declaration be? (Read the context for the answer.)
4. What cunning widow seduced a widower and became pregnant by him? This one's name is also the name of two others, the beautiful sister and the fair daughter of a different man. Find the shared name and the references for all three women.
5. What reader was threatened with being reported to a king for what he had read?
6. How did this man (see question 5) explain the production of the book he had read, in terms of pronunciation and writing?
7. What prophet wrote almost the same thing that Peter wrote about the temporary nature of our earthly life?

Answers for week of December 16

1. What is the result of being a "lover" of sleeping?
Answer: Coming to poverty.
(Prov 20:13) "**Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty**; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread."
(Prov 6:9-11) "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? {10} Yet **a little sleep**, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: {11} **So shall thy poverty come** as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."
2. Who was told to go to a city and read God's condemnation of the city, and when the reading is finished, to throw the book from which he read into a great river (with a stone attached to the book).
Answer: Seraiah (see next question for reference)
3. What city's doom was pictured by the action of the man described above?
Answer: Babylon
(Jer 51:59-64) "The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of

Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince. {60} So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. {61} And **Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; {62} Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. {63} And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: {64} And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her:** and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah."

4. Introduction. . . (Isa 40:28) "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." According to the scripture above, God does not have the same problem that humans have with becoming tired (weary). But there is a passage that clearly teaches that some things have been said by people that made God "weary". What statement does God get weary of, and what question?
Answer: (Mal 2:17) "Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, (STATEMENT) Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; (QUESTION) or, Where is the God of judgment?"

It seems that Malachi had to deal with those who tried to convince people that evil is good and that God delights in evildoers. He also was challenged by those who implied that there is no God who will bring men to judgment. We still have many in our world who call evil "good" and think there is no divine judgment for what evil people do.

5. What was the occupation of the men who (by stoning him) seriously injured a man's head for asking them for fruit of the vine?

Answer: Husbandmen (farmers, in this case keepers of vineyards)
(Mark 12:1) And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. 2 And at the season he sent to the

husbandmen a servant, **that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard.** 3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty. 4 And again **he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head,** and sent him away shamefully handled.

6. Who threw something into Jesus' teeth, and what did they throw?

Answer: This happened when Jesus was on the cross. The **WHO**, was *they that passed by (39), the chief priests, scribes and elders (41), and the thieves* that were crucified with him (44). The **WHAT**, was *insults and mocking him*. This would be what we call today "throwing it in our face". Wonder if we could keep the attitude he did through all of that?

(Mat 27:38-44) "Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. {39} And **they that passed by reviled him**, wagging their heads, {40} And saying, *Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.* {41} Likewise also the **chief priests mocking him**, with the **scribes and elders**, said, {42} *He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.* {43} *He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.* {44} The **thieves** also, which were crucified with him, **cast the same in his teeth.**"

7. Most uses of the word "craft" refer to the work or skill people use to make a living. For instance, Paul was a craftsman making tents. What use of the word (in the King James Version) uses the word as an evil plot?

Answer: (Mark 14:1) "After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might **take him by craft**, and put him to death."

Other passages that use the word in a similar way: (Luke 20:20-25) "And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor. {21} And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teaches rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: {22} Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? {23} But **he perceived their craftiness**, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? {24} Show me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. {25} And he said unto them, Render

therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

(Job 5:12-13) "He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. {13} He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong."

(Job 15:5) "For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and **thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.**"

(Psa 83:3) "They have taken **crafty counsel** against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones."

(Dan 8:23-25) "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. {24} And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. {25} And through his policy also **he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand**; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."

(1 Cor 3:19) "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, **He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.**"

(2 Cor 4:2) "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, **not walking in craftiness**, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

(Eph 4:14) "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and **cunning craftiness**, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

I think this is a "sly remark" indicating that Paul caused them to "trap themselves."

(2 Cor 12:16) "But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, **being crafty, I caught you with guile.**"

June Marie (in California) commented: "How can one little word take on such evil meanings, and all this time I thought that it meant some ones handicraft or workmanship like making cabinets. . . . sure is amazing what you can find out when doing these questions."

Prayer Needs and Requests

◆ Pray for the sick and injured of our congregation. Ann Conner is rehabilitating after knee replacement surgery. Nick Graham's father (lung cancer). Jaycee Willis (eye surgery and followup treatment).

◆ Remember our shut-ins (Laura Singleton and Wm. Miller) and other members who have to deal with the infirmities that come with age.

Interesting Wednesday

This past Wednesday we smelled gas in the air around the church building. It turns out that we were just "out of gas" in the tank, but to take the cautious path, 23 of us met at the house. Being close together the singing was exceptional, and I think we enjoyed the experience.

After most people had left, Steve Miller stayed behind to talk with me. We were talking about getting him back into active service for the Lord. He had made a decision to do so, and became convinced that there was no reason to delay. We had prayer together that night, but want to inform the whole congregation of his decision. He has a lot of talent to be used in the church, and we look forward to his spiritual growth.

Thanks

As a congregation we need to express thanks to Charlene Brandon for keeping the building clean, to Daniel Green for the grass mowing, and to James Mason for taking care of deposits, payments, and financial reports. Thanks to the ladies who have taken their turn with preparing communion, and for Doris Mason for making the bread. There are probably many who should be mentioned, but these jobs have to be done regularly and might go unnoticed . . . unless they go undone!

Personally, I appreciate those who speak words of encouragement and show their love to me and Judy, and other members here. *Ken T.*

Ben Reneger Reports Tonight

Just about a year ago this congregation gave \$1000 (and individuals increased that amount) to help Ben Reneger go to India to preach and teach. The work has been very productive, and you will want to hear about the fruit that has been harvested in that vineyard by the team of workers that Ben worked with. Please come back tonight and hear him speak to us. This was the best time for his schedule, and it will be good for us to hear what our contribution helped to accomplish.

House to House, Heart to Heart

Our mailings into this community are beginning to open some doors and perhaps pave the way for some Bible studies. We have received calls and cards from a few folks expressing appreciation, and others have indicated personally that they appreciate the paper. We have also been given permission to leave copies at the store which has just reopened next door.

For the record:	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23
Bible Study	20	12	23	14
AM Worship	26	31	35	31
PM Worship	29	29	19	19
Wed. Bible Study	21		10	23
Contribution	\$650	\$626	\$409	\$684

Assignments	December 30	January 6
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Announcements	Junior Conner	Joe Green
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	Wayne Gannon	Lee Rose
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Tim Waldron
(center)	Daniel Green	Junior Conner
(outside)	Nick Graham	Steve Miller
(outside)	T J Waldron	Andy Miller
Closing Prayer	Lee Rose	James Mason
<i>If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner</i>		