

# United



## What Do They See When They Look At Me?

Issue 3

March 2009

In Acts 28, Paul and the other passengers, prisoners and Roman soldiers had just come ashore after a shipwreck caused by a fearsome storm (Euroclydon) to a small island called Melita. There they were met and showed kindness by the “barbarous” people of the isle. One definition of the word barbarous is to be uncivilized or no cultural refinement. So these people weren’t necessarily savages, they just were probably very primitive in their living. The first thing they saw about Paul was a man gathering sticks for the fire probably wearing a prisoner’s garb. Paul was a prisoner accompanied by a centurion on his way to an appeal to Caesar. Paul then lays down the bundle of sticks on the fire and a viper comes out from the heat and fastens to his hand. Then they said among themselves that Paul was surely some kind of murderer who, even though he had escaped the sea, vengeance suffereth not to live. Paul shakes the venomous beast off into the fire. Then they watch, waiting for him to swell up or fall down dead. The bible says that they watch him for a great while and when no harm comes to him they change their minds and they think he is a god.

**First of all, one thing is striking. It’s not recorded that Paul says anything to these people. They form their opinions based on what they see. Second, they change their minds after watching him a great while. If we profess to be a Christian, the people of the world will no doubt be watching us trying to find out what it’s all about. And there are some that are “barbarous” to the things of God; that is that they are in no way familiar with holy things. At the start they may**

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

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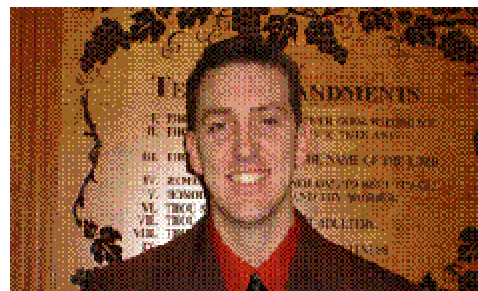
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## What Do They See When They Look At Me? (cont.)

think there's nothing to being a Christian, but if they watch for a great while they may change their minds. Problems and difficulties arise in the life of a Christian just as they do to anybody else but what the world is watching for is how we handle it. That viper should have caused Paul to die or at least be very ill, but he shook it off. The grace that's in us can cause us to shake off the struggles that keep others down. The world should see our manner of life and our daily conversation and know that there's a difference in the people of God, but when the problems and trials fasten on us we should "shake them off" or endure them by the power of the holy Spirit that indwells us.

Talk is cheap! The world is tired of hearing about Christianity and they want to see it in action. We'll not win them with our talk, but with our walk. They'll have to watch us a great while before they change their minds. We must be **consistent**. *Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.* This is a misunderstood verse in our time. The fruit of the righteous is the outward showing to the world what God has put in us. The fruit of a tree is the sign of what sort of tree it is. A Christian bares righteous fruit because he has within himself the righteous root (Christ). He that winneth souls does not refer to going door to door in attempt to peddle salvation like a salesman. He that winneth souls is he that produces good works and is consistent in his testimony so that others see him and desire what he has. Paul's experiences in Melita causes the people to have confidence in him. Our everyday life should cause others to have confidence in us and stir a desire to have salvation. The people of Melita saw a prisoner bitten by a viper who survived and changed their minds. What do others see when they look at me?

From Bro. Chris Black,  
Assistant Pastor,  
Memorial United Baptist Church



## Announcements

Westside United Baptist Church Of Muncie, IN will be having their monthly Saturday Night Sing on March 7, 2009 at 6:30 pm. The Ben Coffey Family of Indianapolis will be the Featured Singers. Everyone is Welcome!

The "United" newsletter is now online at the Memorial United Baptist Church website ([www.memorialubcmuncie.com](http://www.memorialubcmuncie.com)). There you will find the latest issue and check the archive for past issues you may have missed. The website also now features sermons & singing from our weekly and special services. Please make sure that your Windows Media Player is set to play your .mp3 files!



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## THE HELP MATE

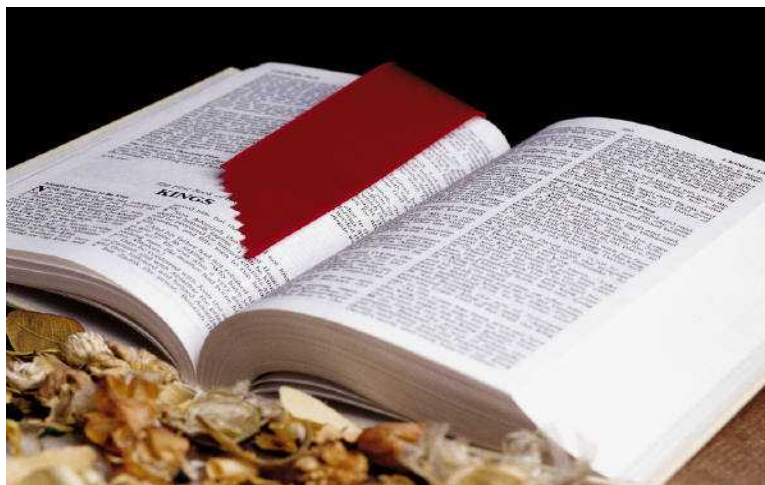
By Linda Black



*Luke 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and **intentions of the heart.***

This month we're going to consider the natural organ known as the heart. An extremely hard-working muscle vital to the life and well being of every human being. Have you ever considered all the heart does to and for the body by the simple action of alternating dilation (expansion) with contraction (shrinking) we call a heartbeat. Four chambers and four valves working together supplies blood to every portion of the body to sustain life. The spiritual heart of the Christian is also vital. Without a proper spirit-motivating, faith-exercising diet the Christian's life will suffer. Like the natural heart, if all a Christian consumes is "cake and ice cream gospel" the heart will soon clog and become less functional and productive. The ability to filter the true Word from the false will be impossible to separate. Exercising your faith will strengthen the heart and not allow clots of doubt to form weakening the whole body. Straight bible-based doctrinal preaching is the best nourishment a spiritual heart can ingest. The gospel will produce a strong, functional, life sustaining heart that will continue to pump the tainted blood on through for purification and insure that the good blood is sent on its way to nourish the whole body affecting our thoughts and actions unto good works. Have you had your heart checked lately? Do you find your strength has weakened? Is your diet healthy? Have you let your spiritual exercise slip away? Don't wait until the heart becomes so weak that your Christianity suffers for lack of interest. Remember, a heart attack may not kill the body but it will affect it for the rest of its life and it leaves scars!

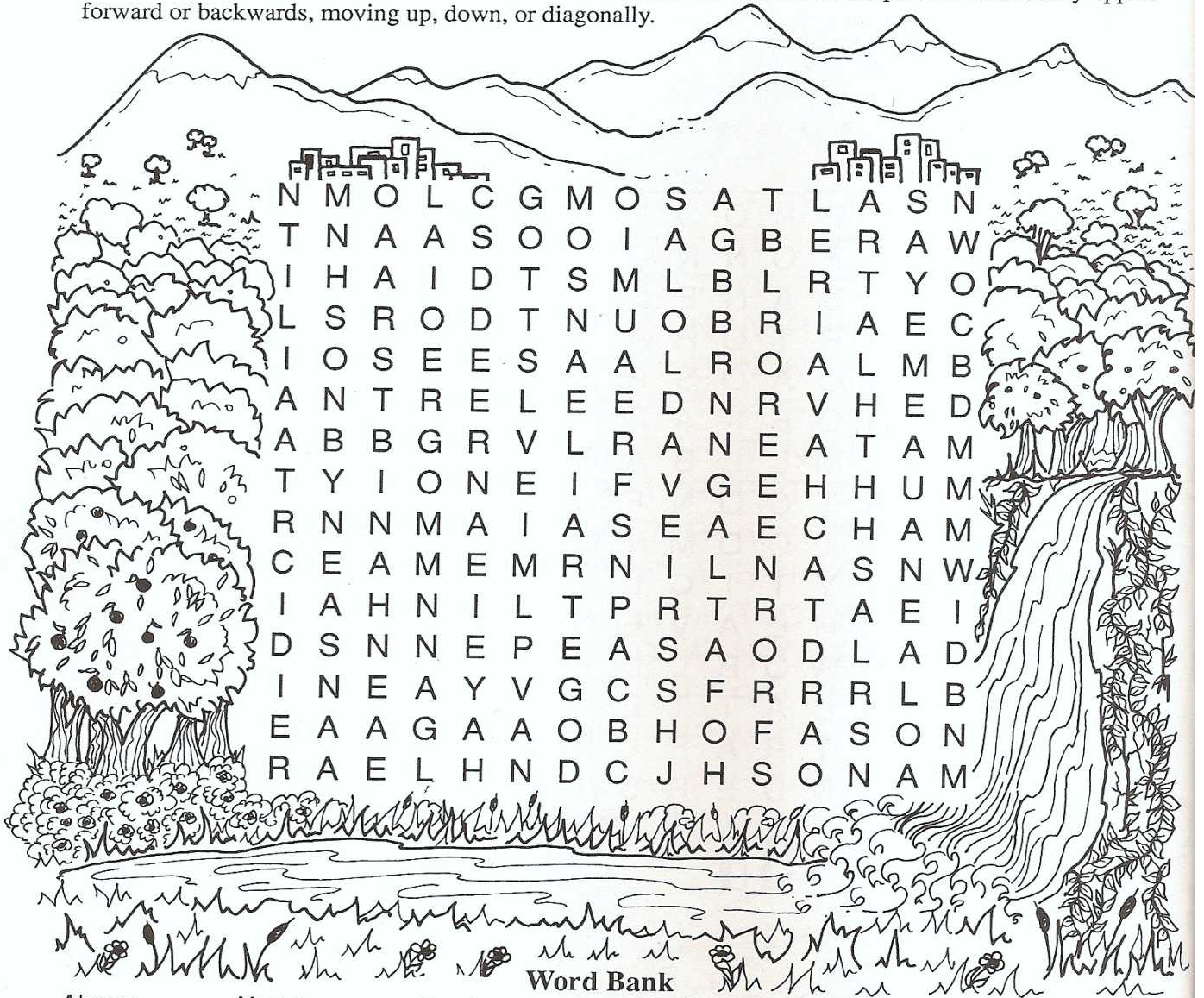
God bless all the ministers in our sister churches who preach the true gospel. Let us all take advantage of the spiritual food they feed us every week. When properly digested, it will keep us heart-healthy and strong in the days to come.



# Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12-20

Read the Scripture, then circle each word from the word bank hidden in the puzzle. Words may appear forward or backwards, moving up, down, or diagonally.



- |         |          |             |                |        |         |
|---------|----------|-------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Abram   | Negev    | Sarah       | Sodom          | sister | old     |
| Abraham | covenant | maidservant | Gomorrah       | Bethel | son (3) |
| nation  | Hagar    | descendants | Abimelech      | Jordan | God     |
| famine  | Ishmael  | Canaan      | three visitors | land   | Lot     |
| Egypt   | Sarai    | Isaac       | offspring      | salt   |         |

**Bonus:** To discover what God said to Abram, write the uncircled letters on the lines below.

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## A Preserved Seed

The God of all creation is a God of Preservation. The Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy affirms this truth - *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day* (II Timothy 1:12). As we consider the scriptural record, there are so many things that God has preserved, that it fails us be able to know them all. The most blessed act of preservation that stands forth in the scripture is the preservation of the promised seed – Christ, *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed* (Genesis 12:3). As I pondered the preservation of the promised seed, it occurred to me that this was not one simple act in time, but an eternal preservation that spans the eons of eternity, past, present, and future.

### Eternity Past

I cannot say much about eternity past, because it lies beyond my understanding and resides in the eternal purpose of God. However, we do know that in the endless ages of eternal past, God had purposed a Savior, a promised seed - *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup>Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you* (I Peter 1:18-20).

### Ancient Past

In the beginning...From the word of God, we understand that God created the heaven and the earth. What a wonderful expression of God's sovereign act of creation. True is the man who marks the wickedness of mankind, for by the third chapter of the book of creation, man (Adam as the head of the human race) had sinned against God and plunged all of creation into wreck and ruin. Despite the misery wrought by sin, God foretold of the promised seed, when he foretold of the destruction of Satan, by Christ. This promise seemed in jeopardy from the very start, when the first man ever born on this earth (Cain), murdered his own godly brother - *And Cain talked with **Abel** his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him* (Gen 4:8). From this act of murder, so prevalent in the DNA of mankind, it would seem that the promised seed would be extinguished forever. However, God is in the business of preservation, *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name **Seth**: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. <sup>26</sup>And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name **Enos**: then began men to call upon the name of the **LORD*** (Gen 4:25-26). Let us consider the godly lineage of Seth, with an accounting of his descendants to Shem. These include Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, **Enoch**, Methuselah, Lamech, **Noah**, and **Shem**. The godly descendants Noah and Shem serve to preserve the promised seed by connecting the ancient antediluvian past before the destruction of the world with the great flood to the pre-Abraham past.

*(continued on next page)*

### Pre-Abraham Past

According to the biblical record, we understand God destroyed the world that existed before the flood – *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished (II Peter 3:6)*. We also know that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and that he and his family (8 souls), were saved and lived beyond the flood – *And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation (Gen 7:1)*. Although NOT a necessity in the preservation of the Godly seed, it is interesting to note, that God preserved a near first-hand account of the creation beyond the flood (i.e., Adam was 622 years old when Methuselah was born and Methusaleh was 290 years old when Adam died. Methuselah was 369 years old when Noah was born and Noah was 600 years old when Methuselah died). On this side of the flood, Noah could have told the creation story as recounted from Methuselah, direct from Adam himself. In continuance and preservation of the Godly seed, the descendants of Shem include Arphaxas, Salah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, and **Abram**.

### Abrahamic Past

God in his infinite goodness and grace called Abram (Abraham) out of his country into a land that God would shew him - *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee (Gen 12:1)*. He further promised Abraham a seed (Christ) in which all the nations of the earth would be blessed - *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal 3:16)*. When we consider the record of Abraham's descendants, we see the emergence of a Godly seed by the divine handwork and preserving work of God. These descendants include **Isaac, Jacob, Judah**, Pharez, Hezron, Ram, Amminidab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and **David**. There is more that could be said about these Godly descendants than time or my limited knowledge would permit. Simply put, God preserved a Godly seed to the house of King David.

### Davidic Past

The Gospel of Matthew clearly depicts Our Lord Jesus Christ as the son of David and rightful heir to king David's throne. The descendants of David include Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jeconiah, Shealtiel, Zerubbabel, Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, Zadok, Akim, Eliud, Eleazar, Matthan, Jacob, **Joseph**, the husband of **Mary**, of whom was born **Jesus**, who is called **Christ**. In all we learn that there were 42 generations from Abraham to Christ - Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ (Matthew 1:17).

*(continued on next page)*

### Present thru Eternity Future

In conclusion, let us consider the present and future preservation of the revealed Christ and our association with the Godly seed. First the scriptures record that as born-again Christians, we have been made to be a part of the Godly lineage <sup>16</sup>*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>17</sup>And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together* (Romans 8:16-17). We have been made to be joint-heirs with the exalted Lord. Exalted through his obedience - *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Phil 2:9-11).

Praise God that he fulfilled the promised seed of Christ from the book of Genesis to Revelation !

Andrew S. Phipps, Jr.,

Pastor, Memorial United Baptist Church



# Church Directory

Old Fashion United Baptist Church  
9211 W. Arch Street  
Yorktown IN 47396  
Pastor Terry Dobbs  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Thursday Evening 6:30 pm

Gloryland United Baptist Church  
2001 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Muncie, IN 47302  
Pastor Alvis Sewell  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Westside United Baptist Church  
3021 W. Cornbread Road  
Muncie IN 47302  
Pastor Larry Waters  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Thursday Evening 6:30 pm

Eastside Missionary Baptist Church  
100 Holland Ave  
Muncie, IN 47303  
Pastor Eric Lambert  
Sunday Morning 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm





# Church Directory



Memorial United Baptist Church  
2911 S Philip Dr.  
Muncie, IN 47302  
Pastor Andy Phipps  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm

Riverview United Baptist Church  
6601 E Black Mill Rd  
Albany, IN 47320  
Pastor Tony Bilbrey  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Tuesday Evening 7:00 pm

First Southern United Baptist Church  
1009 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Muncie, IN 47302  
Pastor Chris Sewell  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 7:00

Community Missionary Baptist Church  
1005 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Alexandria, IN 46001  
Pastor Raymond Garret  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Lower Hickory Grove United Baptist Church  
Highway 741 (Blue Heron Mine Rd)  
Revelo, KY 42638  
Pastor Mark Sewell  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm

Second Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 1188  
Whitley City, KY 42653  
Pastor Michael Casada  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Faith United Baptist Church  
Brick Church Rd.  
Hagerstown, IN 47346  
Pastor Eldon Denney  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

New Salem United Baptist Church  
2311 E. Washington St.  
New Castle, IN 47362  
Pastor Brett Rains  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening 6:30

