

August 19, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 1

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Introducing: Bob the Square!
- Almost Biblical
- Stories, a movie and a picture. How could it get any better than that?

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

All good newspapers have comics, and so it is with this one. Each week look forward to a new and exciting look into the extraordinary life of Bob the Square, as seen through the slightly warped reality present in the mind of Mr. Lyle.

Almost Biblical... But Not

Go to the ant, though sluggard, consider his ways. He rises early in the morning and goes about his tasks of gathering and storing. His back is strong for his work and he marches on with no commander, an army of one. He stores enough for the winter and his future is secure. At the end of the day, his labors have been fruitful. He rises to an high point at the setting of the sun and holds the weight for all to see. He is magnificent, excelling in wisdom, first among the creatures of the earth. But alas, he is still an ant, and I firmly step upon him with resolve and he is no more.



So, Who Is Mr. Lyle, Really?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Welcome to the Sixth and Seventh Grade Sunday School. Today will be your chance to get to know your teacher for this coming year.

Each week we will begin each class time by reading together the most important part of any newspaper—the comics.

Today, Mr. Lyle will share with the class an amazing documentary movie about his Olympic diving career many years ago.

When the applause has died down, he will probably regale you with a story or two from his past—just to help you understand him a little bit better. The first one is entitled:

How I Got My CB Handle

In 1972, Mr. Lyle got a summer job working for a custom wheat harvesting crew. The day after school let out for the summer, he would leave to work with a great crew of boys his age, cutting wheat for farmers in Oklahoma, Kansas, and all of the states northward, all the way to the Canadian border. Each week, as the wheat ripened further North, they would load up their equipment and “follow the harvest”. It was hard work, always under pressure to get the crops harvested as quickly as possible.

One year, when wheat harvest was over, he was asked to stay on and help with silage harvest

until school started the first of September. This was an even faster paced harvest time with even more pressure, but the pay was excellent and so he stayed on. His job was to drive a large truck in the field, following a silage cutter as it chopped the corn stalks into small pieces and threw them into the truck bed. Once loaded in this manner with 20 tons of silage, his responsibility was to get to the feedlot as quickly as possible, unload, and return to repeat the process over and over again through the entire day.

One evening, just as the sun was about to set, he had to follow behind the silage cutter as it opened up a path into a new field. To follow one of these machines into the field in this way was an unforgettable experience. Imagine yourself in the driver's seat. All you can see in front of you is a towering silage cutter that you are literally bumping up against with your big wooden bumper. The twin exhausts from the 671 horsepower Detroit diesel motor that powers the cutter are bellowing in your ears, and I mean BELLOWING!!!! To your left and right you can see nothing but 16 foot tall green corn stalks flapping up against your rear view mirrors. All the while, chopped corn is streaming over the top of your cab and into the bed of the truck—with stray bits of corn and corn juice dribbling all over your windshield. You blindly push along behind the cutter until you finally reach the end of the field, turn around and then follow along beside the

cutter as he finishes filling the truck. Then you are off to the feedlot to deliver your load.

That particular day, as luck would have it, he had opened up the field multiple times in this way. Typically he would carry a one gallon iced water jug with him at all times—for drinking, or course, but also to have an extra bit of water to throw on his windshield to clean it off nicely in situations such as this. But his water jug was now empty, and the pressure of getting to the feedlot and back was pushing him to just move on. So, reluctantly, and with a bit of poor judgment typical of a 16 year old young man, he pointed his truck into the western setting sun and headed for the feedlot.

The reddish dirt country roads of western Kansas were dry and 40 tons of heavily loaded truck barreling along created quite a cloud of dust behind. The sun was blinding as it set onto the horizon, and corn juice obscured most of his windshield view, but he resolutely continued careening along at 65 miles per hour into the western sun.

As he passed by one of the few farm houses on this road, he thought he felt some odd bumps as he flew by the driveway entrance, but a look in the rear view mirror gave him no view of what was behind him, so he continued on, but with a nagging question, “What had caused the odd bumps he felt?”

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

One of the other drivers on the crew was returning from the feedlot, having dumped his load, so Mr. Lyle flashed his lights and flagged him down to stop and ask him to look at the road near that old farmhouse and tell him later what was there.

A few minutes later, the CB radio crackled and his buddy told him that on his return trip to the field, he should either take a different route, or for sure to "not stop at the farmhouse driveway—just keep driving—it's not pretty!"

Mr. Lyle went on to dump his load at the feedlot, all the while wondering what this all meant. Curiosity got the best of him, and he decided to take the same road back to the field, so he could see what had happened at the old farmhouse driveway. He slowed down a bit as he came by. The family was out by the road, loading stuff into some 55 gallon barrels on the back of a pickup truck. They were yelling at him as he drove past and from what he saw, he knew immediately that it was probably not a good time to stop and chat with them.

That evening, as the sun was setting, creating a beautiful western Kansas sunset, 24 little piglets had broken out of their enclosure, their pink little skins blending in with all of the other reddish colored hues in the sky and in the dust clouds generated by all of the passing trucks. Let's just say that not one of those cute little piglets made it back home to their Momma that evening.

In those days, the harvest crews used CB radios to communicate among

themselves during the day, and each person had a CB nickname or "handle" as it was known back then. From that day forward, because of the events of that fateful day, Mr. Lyle became known as "The Butcher", a name that followed him the entire 5 summers he worked with that crew.

There are other stories to be sure, and if we have time, he might tell a couple of them. There's one about the world's largest toad frog, one about a mad serial killer that attacks people driving down country roads, and one about his neighbor, Mrs. Larsen. Oh, and he even tried to outrun the city police one night!

But as you might guess, we are here for a Sunday School lesson. Today's lesson will be Mr. Lyle's own personal testimony concerning his walk with the Lord and where he is right now in that process.

Again, welcome.

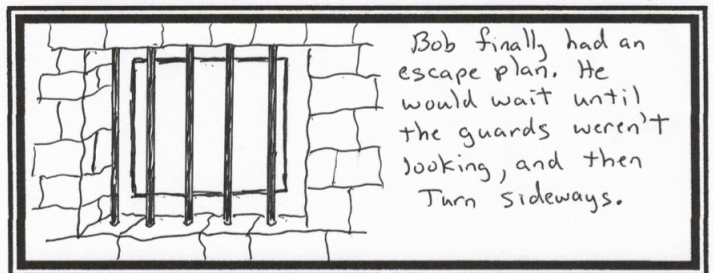
The Interpet



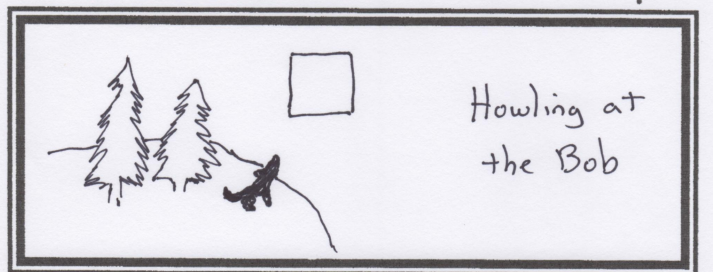
How Do I Love School?... Let Me Count the Ways...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. (When I come up with something, I'll let you know.)

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- Hammie!
- How to build a scale model of the universe

HAMMIE

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



First of all, you need to be aware that Mr. Lyle does not particularly care for cats. They don't come when you call, they aren't happy to see you when you come home. Who needs a lump of fur that you have to feed and take care of?

Don't tell anyone, but Mr. Lyle has developed a soft spot for Hammie, the cat who lives at his house. Each morning they talk to each other—really! Mr. Lyle goes out to the garage to put on his work shoes and he will ask Hammie a question like how his night was. Hammie meows back. Every question is responded to with a generous meow. And their conversation can go on like that for 10-15 minutes.

Day Four of Creation Is Incredible

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

2 Peter 3:3-7

³First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Genesis 1:1-19

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.⁸ God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear. And it was so."¹⁰ God called the

dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

How big is the God you worship? An honest answer will color and tint how you read and view the Bible. The pat Sunday School response is "Oh, He's very big." But are we convinced? At times, it can be advantageous to revisit a thought or concept in the spirit of genuine study. We can then walk away from the process, confident and

reaffirmed in our beliefs. Or, if necessary, adjust to additional information, and rethink our convictions, always aligning our beliefs with the Word of God.

It is fascinating that God used Peter to warn us that in our day, Creation would be questioned heavily by society. The theories that abound in our textbooks and media conclude anything but the Biblical model of a God who has the power and intelligence to create everything from absolute nothingness.

If we believe the Bible to be true, and we must, then the creation story found in Genesis must also be true. It is not fable or mythology written by people who just didn't know any better. The first chapter of Genesis is an accurate, thorough account of the beginning of history. And day four of creation must stop us in our tracks.

I have had Christian teachers in my life who have tried to explain away the Biblical account of creation, stating that God used time to create the changes in life (evolution). Even the Pope in Rome said recently that "God did not have a magic wand at creation." But day four of

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the creation story is "out of order" for every alternate theory that man can think up. After God had finished creating the earth with it's plants and animals, only then did He create the rest of the universe. The entire expanse of the heavens was put into place in one 24-hour period of time, spoken into being by none other than Jesus Christ.

The sheer size and magnitude of the universe is staggering. I like to plot a scale model of the universe to put things into perspective a little better. Let's suppose that the distance from the earth to the sun is one eighth inch—roughly the thickness of a nickel. Using the scale of 93 million miles equals an eighth inch, the earth would be an infinitesimally small speck of dust 1/8 inch from an imaginary point we will reference as the sun.

Pluto, although no longer granted the rights and privileges of being a real planet, I would still like to recognize it and place it approximately 5 inches out from the sun.

Next would be Voyager 1, a spacecraft launched in 1977 and is still operational. We know exactly where it is and it has been flying out into the unknown at roughly 38,000 mph. That's 20 times the velocity of a high speed rifle bullet. On our scale model, we would plot it's position at roughly 15 inches out from the sun.

Alpha Proxima is the closest star to our earth and is a mere 4.3 light years distant. Considering that there are stars that we calculate to be billions of light years from us, this one is quite close, at least our minds might think so. On our scale model, at

1/8 inch equals 93,000,000 miles, this closest star would be plotted over one half mile away! To continue on, the Milky Way galaxy would be nearly 250,000 miles across—roughly the distance to the Moon!

This universe, spoken into existence on day four by Jesus Christ, is absolutely enormous! What kind of God do we worship? A very, very big One to be sure!

The book of Colossians tells us that not only did He speak it all into existence, He also actively holds everything together! If He were to cease His input for even a moment, all things would immediately come to an end and disappear.

That amazingly powerful and awesome God is intently and intricately involved and concerned with each of our lives, lovingly guiding us along His perfect path that He also created and designed for us. This kind of understanding of God's love should humble us and cause us to fall on our knees in worship.

Day four of creation is indeed incredible!

The Kola Super Deep Borehole

One phrase in the passage in II Peter 3, has not been fully explained scientifically.

They deliberately forget that long ago, by Gods word, the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

Couple that with Genesis' mention of ***the deep***, and questions arise. Clearly, God has the ability to create an earth with the

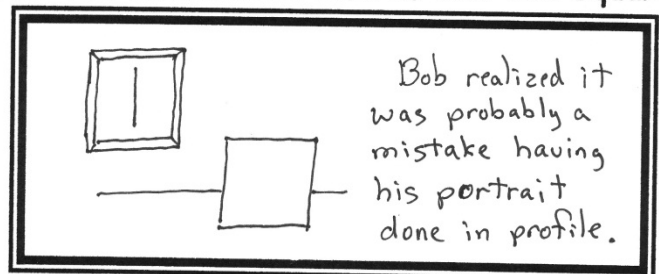
appearance of age. (Do we doubt that Adam was created with the developmental form of a mature man?) There is no solid explanation for the water, but one interesting observation.

During the early 1960's and until the fall of the Soviet Union, there was a tremendous rivalry between the two world super powers. The US and the USSR were both intent on showing the rest of the world that their system of life was superior. Most are familiar with the race for the conquest of space. Few are aware of another contest that was ensuing. Both nations proceeded with the task of attempting to drill deep into the earth's core. The United States conceded early, but Russia continued from 1965 until officially discontinuing drilling in 1994. Known commonly as the Kola Superdeep Borehole, the result was a nine inch diameter hole bored 7.5 miles deep. Drilling in the tremendous pressures and heat (356 F), are beyond the solutions of current technology. Two discoveries made at that facility are worthy of mention here. First, fossils were found at a depth of four miles. Secondly, and to the point of our subject, it was found that the granite at those extreme depths is super-saturated with water. There is currently no scientific explanation for this. In fact, it goes against all known models and theories.

Triple Coupon Day!



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- Walmart Deli
- The greatest teacher the world has ever known

Things I've Learned That You Cannot Do When Working At The Walmart Deli

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

You cannot offer extended warranties on the fried chicken or the pot roast.

Free samples must come from the Deli and not the electronics section.

Never imply that "We keep the good stuff in back."

Do not put price tags on the deli equipment and try to sell it to customers.

Do not put "Some Assembly Required" on the boxes of 10 piece chicken nuggets.

Do not wear multiple nametags and claim that you have a multiple personality disorder.

Do not try to fix the doughnuts with band aids. The holes are meant to be there.

Do not call the carrots "Snowman Noses".

Do not label the eggs as "Boneless Chicken".

Do not tell customers to "Choose rice if you're really hungry. That way you can have 2,000 of something."

How Do You Get To Heaven?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" "He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"²⁶ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."²⁷ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"²⁸ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."²⁹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.³⁰ So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³¹ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.³² He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.³³ The next day he took out two silver coins³⁴ and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'³⁵ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"³⁶ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Notice verse 25. The most important question anyone can ask is "How can I get to Heaven?" And it has been asked of Jesus himself. I don't know

about you, but I would like to hear the answer! But before an answer is given, the man asks yet another question about who he should consider to be his neighbor. At first glance you might think that Jesus was distracted by the second query. However, the greatest teacher the world has ever known answered both questions with one story! Here is how it breaks down:

A certain man: Our relationship with God is based upon ourselves and Him—no one else.

Went down from Jerusalem to Jericho: Physically, the trip from Jerusalem to Jericho is a downhill trek. From mountain city to valley city is a drop in elevation of nearly two thousand feet. Jerusalem is where the temple was located, where God had stated that His presence would be seen. Jericho was a cursed city, a city of sin that Israel had destroyed many years earlier. The spiritual picture positions man travelling away from God toward sin, and it is a descent downward, a steep decline.

And fell among thieves: Satan, the ever present enemy of man, is described on several occasions in the Bible as a thief and a robber who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. Our memory of what happened in the Garden of Eden confirms that concept.

Which stripped him of his raiment: Recall that the first reaction of Adam and Eve was an attempt to procure for themselves clothing to cover their nakedness.

And left him half dead: A very interesting choice of words. Physically, it is impossible to be half dead—one is either dead or alive, not half one way or the other. When seen from a spiritual perspective though, it is entirely possible and accurate. Before Adam sinned, God had warned

him that on the day he disobeyed, he would *surely die*. But the Bible says that Adam died at the old age of 930 years. Did God lie? Absolutely not, for though Adam did not die physically, he did die spiritually that day, and subsequently, everyone since has been born spiritually dead, in need of a Savior. In fact, he was personally in need of a Savior as well. He was left half dead, with no method of remedying his situation without help.

A certain priest: The most religious person in Israel journeyed by and refused to help. We will, likewise, not solve our circumstance with the church or other pious activity. They have no impact upon our dead spiritual condition. Religion cannot and will not save us.

A Levite: Known by all as a worker, it was the Levites who cut wood, carried water, cleaned, and successfully kept the temple in good repair. As he approached, he too avoided the man in need. Our accomplishments and our work are nothing compared to God and His majesty. Heaven will never be earned by our feeble attempts at good works.

A certain Samaritan: A most unlikely candidate for a solution. A despised half-breed, disdained by Jewish society, became the hero in the story. Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The religious establishment of the day refused to recognize who He was, and treated Him with blatant contempt. The story pointed to a "certain" Samaritan, a precise, special one. Jesus was the only one who could fulfill all of the Scripture prophecies concerning Him. He was very specific, chosen and planned before the foundation of the world, to fulfill the task before Him—our salvation.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Came where he was: It is most humbling and remarkable that Jesus left the glory of Heaven, laid aside all of His heavenly prerogatives, and came to where we are. The great I AM set his foot upon the same dirt we do.

Had compassion on him: God loves us while we are still in our sinful state. That is beyond comprehension.

Bound up his wounds: By his wounds we are healed spiritually. The implication of the parable is that the victim had no possible method of taking care of himself and his deadly problem. Without help, he would surely die. Notice that the Samaritan did all the work. Likewise, our salvation is a product of "the strong arm of the Lord", a solution we could never provide for ourselves.

Pouring on oil: Often in the Bible, oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit, and this is no exception. We understand from the New Testament that the Holy Spirit is poured into the life of everyone who becomes a Christian—we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

When I come again: The glorious hope and confidence of every saved individual is the eventual return of Jesus Christ someday.

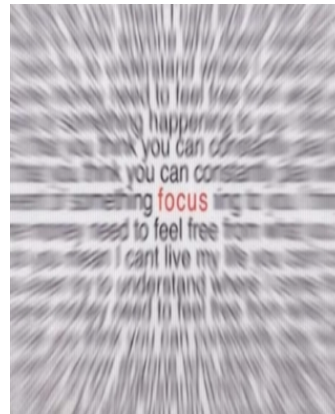
So, do you know how to get to Heaven now?

Matthew 1

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ **(standing O, cheers)** the son of David **(applause)**, the son of Abraham **(cheer)**. Abraham was the father of Isaac **(applause)**, the father of Jacob who stole his brother's birthright **(boo)**, and Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers who sold Joseph into slavery **(hiss)**. And Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah **(huh)** by Tamar **(hmmm)**, and Perez was the father of Hezron and Hezron was the father of Ram and Ram was the father of Aminidab **(huh)**. And Aminidab the father of Nahshon the

father of Salmon who was the father of Boaz by Rahab **(cheer)** who used to be a prostitute **(boo)**, and Boaz **(applause)** was the father of Obed by Ruth **(cheer and applause)**. And Obed was the father of Jesse the father of David the King **(cheer)**. And David was the father of Solomon **(applause)** by the wife of Uriah whom he had murdered **(hiss)**. Solomon was the father or Rehoboam who was a good king **(cheer)** but abandoned God's ways for years **(boo)**, and Rehoboam was the father of Abijah **(applause)** who had 14 wives **(boo)**, and Abijah was the father of Asa **(applause)** who did not walking in the way of the Lord at the end of his life **(boo)** and died of gangrene in his feet **(moan)**. And Asa was the father of Jehosaphat **(applause)** who ruled wisely most of the time **(hmmm)**. Jehosaphat was the father of Joram who was the father of Uzziah whose pride brought about his fall **(boo)**. But Uzziah was the father of Jotham **(applause)** a very good king in every way **(cheer)**, who was the father of king Ahaz, a bad king in every way **(boo)**. And Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah who cleansed the temple and the kingdom **(cheer and applause)**. Hezekiah was the father of Mannaseh **(boo)** who ruled almost his whole life as an evil king **(hiss and boo)** and Mannaseh was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon **(moan)**. After

the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel who was the father of Zerrubabel, a governor of the people and chosen by God **(applause)**. And Zerrubabel was the father of Abuid **(huh)**, and Abuid was the father of Eliakim **(huh)**, who was the father of Azor **(huh)**, who was the father of Zadok **(huh)**, who was the father of Akim **(huh)**. Who was the father Eliud **(huh)**, the father of Eleazar **(huh)**, the father of Mattan **(huh)**, the father of Jacob **(huh)** the father of Joseph **(applause)**, who was the husband of Mary **(cheer)** of whom was born Jesus the Christ **(standing O and cheers)**.



I got called "pretty" today!

Well, actually the full statement was "You're pretty annoying"

But, I only focus on the positive things.

A Letter To My Neighbor In the Apartment Above Me

Dear Neighbor,

Although we have never actually met, I feel I know so much about you.

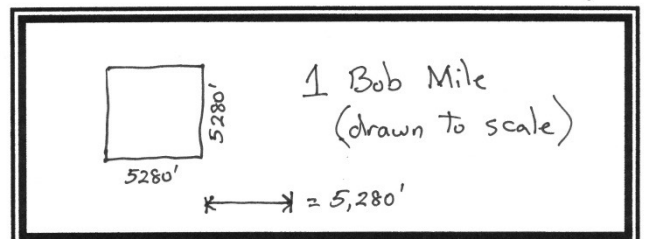
You must have just purchased a new pogo stick. Congrats on that. And you are the 2018 Double Dutch champs. Probably a really nice trophy, too. Where did you find your very own "Whack-A-Mole" setup? I wish I had one. Four mini ponies? Wow, lucky you. I am so jealous. And you are training to win Gold in gymnastics. Go USA! I am really jealous of your very own bowling alley. League play nearly every night! Nice way to make a few bucks on the side I bet.

Look, I'm not trying to be a pest or anything, but "Oh my goodness, what are you doing up there?!" And if you do by chance have mini ponies, I would sure like to meet them some day!

Sincerely,
Your neighbor

P.S. If you are secretly Spiderman and are practicing your Spidey skills...then please disregard this letter and keep up the good work!

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



September 16, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 4

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
(El Cuadrado Roberto)
- Unicorns
(Unicornios)
- La Isla De Dos Arboles
(The Island of Two Trees)

Isaiah 34:7 KJV

"And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls, and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

Dear Noah,

We could have sworn you said the boat wasn't leaving until 5:30.

Sincerely,
The Unicorns

Spanish:

Span: to bridge across something

Ish: sort of, or similar to

Definition: Sort of like a bridge thing that goes kind of across something?

La Isla De Dos Arboles

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Psalm 103:7
He (God) made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel.

Seeing life from God's perspective is one of the greatest challenges we face as Christians. He has an overall plan for our lives and knows what is best for us. We are selfish beings and tend to choose the direction that may be the most pleasant to us, with little regard for what is really at stake. We are in a spiritual battle. A very real fight that we cannot deny.

La Isla De Dos Arboles

This is the simple story of a man named Jose. You see, Jose lived in New York City his entire life, working in a high-rise office building. He walked every day to work and then at the end of the day, he would walk home. That was his life. Work and home again. But Jose held a dream in his heart that he would never let go. Jose loved the outdoors. He loved nature. But he especially loved the ocean. Oh how he wished that he could some day live on his own private island and enjoy the carefree life of an island dweller in the Caribbean. That thought kept him going. And as he got older, he wished all the more for his dream to come true.

Jose continued to work in New York City with his island ever present in his thoughts. As he neared retirement, he put a bold plan into action. Contacting a real estate agent, he informed her of his dream of a Caribbean island. He told her to spare no expense to find a way to fulfill his life long desire. She informed Jose that private islands in the Caribbean were very few, and that to find one that was for sale might be very difficult and take much time. But Jose was determined, and urged her to begin looking for the island of his dreams.

It wasn't long before Jose heard from his real estate agent again.

She had great news. She had found an island exactly as he wished for, and he could purchase it for a great discount, as it had been on the market for a very long time, with no interested buyers. But, she said, he would have to purchase it "sight unseen". That didn't bother Jose one bit. His excitement welled up as he thought about living out his days on his very own private island in the balmy waters of the Caribbean Sea. He could hardly wait for retirement.

Retirement day came at last, and Jose could hardly contain his excitement. Hurriedly he sold most of what he had, bought a plane ticket for his island, and waved goodbye to the city he had lived in for so many years. The Caribbean at last!

Jose's island was too small for a landing strip for an airplane, so he gladly landed on the big island nearby. He thought it would be fairly simple to get someone from there to chauffeur him by boat to his island. But he was sadly mistaken. As he walked around looking for someone to carry him across the waters, he was met with looks of shock and dismay. As he explained that he had recently purchased the little island that could barely be seen on the western horizon, the local islanders exclaimed that it was a horrible idea for him to even consider going near the island! They were adamant that he should never visit his island and simply turn around and go home. Jose's response to them was, "It is all a matter of perspective, my friends." They would shrug their shoulders in disbelief and walk away shaking their heads. But Jose was not going to give up on his dream that easily.

He finally found someone who consented to take him near his island, maybe a hundred yards

away, but certainly not going ashore with him. People from all over the big island kept coming up to him, begging and pleading with him to not go over to that cursed island. They kept talking as if he would die there almost immediately, but again he said with a smile, "It is all a matter of perspective, my friends, it is all a matter of perspective." The local islanders shrugged their shoulders and would walk away shaking their heads, mumbling about getting things ready to have a funeral.

The sun sparkled on the glistening waves as the little taxi boat approached Jose's little island. He could see it clearly now. It had two massive trees growing right in the middle. He decided then and there that the most appropriate name for his new piece of real estate would be "La Isla De Dos Arboles", "The Island of Two Trees."

His excitement grew as he thought about how he would be able to stretch a hammock between the two trees and rest, with the balmy ocean breeze gently cooling him as he lay in the shade. It was going to be absolutely amazing. But he was abruptly brought out of his thoughts as the boat owner informed him that he would have to swim the last one hundred yards to shore. He wasn't going to take any chances getting too near that island. He made one last gesture to try to convince Jose that moving to the island was a terrible idea, but again Jose's answer was the same, "It is all a matter of perspective, my friend, it is all a matter of perspective." Once Jose was in the water, he sped off for fear of his life, shaking his head, certain that Jose would soon die.

Living on "La Isla De Dos Arboles" was a wondrous experience for Jose. He would sit for hours in the shade of those two mighty trees and listen to the waves crash on the shore. The balmy ocean

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

breeze gently fluttering across the island always put a smile on his face. It was just as he imagined it would be. All those years working in New York City were soon forgotten.

As you can see, two huge trees dominated the little island. They stood proud and tall. From between them ran a quaint little path down to the shoreline. Jose would walk down to the water often, sometimes even wading out into the water a bit. And from time to time, an islander from the big island would row out into the bay and yell to Jose, "Jose, are you still alive?" And Jose would answer, "Yes mi amigo, I am fine." The next question was always the same. "But how can you live on that island and survive?" And Jose would promptly answer with a smile and a wave, "It is all a matter of perspective, my friend, it is all a matter of perspective." Then the visitor would hurriedly leave the area, for fear of their own life.

The locals on the big island held that Jose's island was inhabited by a ferocious, man-eating creature. Their fear was well founded, as many had perished simply visiting the island. But Jose seemed to be thriving there, and they could not understand how that could be, when so many before had disappeared. Jose seemed unfazed by the monster and that only heightened their curiosity. More and more often they would row out to see him, but not too close for fear of the monster, and they would yell, "Jose, Jose, are you still alive? Has the monster eaten you?" Jose would smile and wave, "No, mi amigos, I am fine. As for the monster, it is all a matter of perspective, my friends, it is all a matter of perspective." And as always, they hurriedly rowed away, shaking their heads as they went, wondering how Jose could survive for so long on that cursed island.

It wasn't long before Jose bought a canoe. How he enjoyed paddling around his island in the afternoon sunshine. One day, however, a huge fish was hiding in the shallows near Jose's boat, and as he pushed out from the shore, it was startled. With a mighty swish of its tail, it leapt from the water, very near to Jose. The splash startled him at first, but when he realized what it was, he made an effort to make friends with the fish. Before long, the two of them played every day there in the shallow water. It was an amazing sight, Jose in his boat, wearing that silly hat, and the giant fish splashing about, trying to get Jose wet. And Jose, being the good friend he was, played along with the fish,

pretending to be surprised each time it would jump.

For Jose, life was good there on "La Isla De Dos Arboles". But he still received visitors, from a distance of course, questioning him as always. And as always, he would smile and wave and say, "I am fine my friends. It is all a matter of perspective, it is all a matter of perspective." Jose lived there for many, many years, enjoying each and every day.

THE END

P.S. The inhabitants of the big island never understood how Jose survived living on that island. It actually was a cursed island! Never doubt that there was, indeed, a ferocious, man-eating monster that stalked that little island! A hideous monster did live there, and was so tall and huge that you could not miss him. The islanders had a name for the beast. They called it Pajaro Gigante. In fact they named the whole island after him. Their name for Jose's little patch of paradise was "La Isla De Pajaro Gigante", "The Island of The Giant Bird". But you don't see him do you? You are seeing the island from Jose's perspective, a beautiful, wonderful paradise. Let me show you this same picture from a slightly different perspective. As it is turned upside down, now you can see what the islanders saw each day. Do you understand their concern for Jose? There really is a giant bird monster, and he is eating Jose for lunch!

You and I live in a very dangerous, cursed world. For the Christian, there are often times when life is hard and unfair. How we deal with those issues is important. We can look at life from the perspective of the islanders and be afraid of a man-eating monster, or we can look at life from Jose's perspective, and have joy, even in the hard times.

It's your decision. You can choose to live on "La Isla De Dos Arboles", or you can choose to live on "La Isla De Pajaro Gigante". I hope you choose Dos Arboles.

Theiyr're

Take that, grammar police!

Misunderstood English Words

Texas: Every day my wife texas me and tells me how her day is going.

Wheelchair: There is only one doughnut left so wheelchair.

Juicy: Tell me if juicy my keys anywhere.

Jello: Every day we ride the big jello bus to school.

July: You told me a fib. Why did july to me?

Nissan: While running, I fell and burned my nissan the carpet.

Tissue: If you need help, I would be glad to tissue.

Juan: We have room for juan more.

Wafer: I wanted to go to the store with Mom, but she did not wafer me.

Brief: I laughed so hard I couldn't brief.

Texan/Horizon: My wife needs to stop texan and keep horizon the road.

Blueberry: During the storm the wind blueberry hard.

US Mail: Did you forget to shower, cause US Mail really bad.

Vitamin: Is that your boyfriend outside? Why don't you just vitamin to meet us?

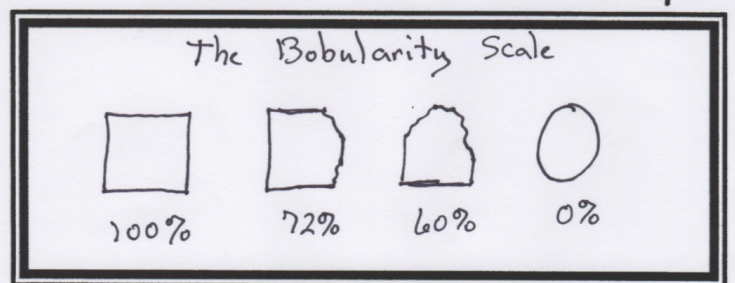
Mushroom: After we all get into the car, there isn't mushroom left.

Pikachu: I went shoe shopping with my wife, and after 4 hours I finally told her to hurry up and pikachu.

Dozen: I thought this was funny, but it looks like you dozen even care.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- Fred's Story
- Freedom

Abraham Lincoln Concerning Freedom

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought.

Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves.

Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

The Definition of Freedom

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

As Christians, serving God is an amazing condition to experience. The fences that keep us in, the rules that God gives us to live by, are for our safety as well. They keep unwanted things from coming into our lives.

Even a casual glance at any good dictionary will reveal that the word "free" has many subtle nuances to consider when looking for its definition. We will consider and look at a few of those this morning.

Psalms 91:9-10 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will come near your tent.

Before many sporting events, we all stand and sing the National Anthem. If you have ever looked closely at the words, they tell an amazing story of what our nation held dear in her early years. One of the final phrases in the chorus includes the words "and the land of the free." We are a free nation. And our system of government gives us tremendous liberty bounded by laws. Fences, as it were, that we do not cross. We are free to live our lives

within these perimeters. Fences work two ways. First, they keep us in. We learn that we are safe when we abide within the boundaries God has designed for our lives. But fences also keep unwanted things out. Do not smoke cigarettes and your chances of contracting lung cancer diminish drastically.

Psalms 55:22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.

Anyone who has travelled aboard a commercial airplane understands the concept of looking to see if the lavatory is "free", or is it "Occupied". As Christians, we should not be occupied or pre-occupied and worried about our lives. God is in control. We can be free of such concerns.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to set the captive free.

A pendulum hanging from the ceiling attached to a long string is a good example of how God often

works in our lives. He pulls us back and into position, plans our trajectory, and then turns us loose to do His work, freely swinging along, unhindered by anything else in our paths. A pendulum that resists or holds back will not operate as designed.

Mark 4:19 But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.

Our stuff that we accumulate around us through the duration of our lives can distract us from our true destiny. Imagine if your foot were tied to a chair. You would not be free to travel unimpeded through life. It is only when the rope is undone that real freedom can be experienced. So it is with our desires for our money and the things it can buy.

Romans 6:18 And having been set free from sin, we have become slaves to righteousness.

Prisoners are often chained and bound for the safety of those working with them or around them. As sinners, we are prisoners and in the chains of sin. We are not

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

free until Christ comes into our lives and sets us free from the penalty and bondage of our sin. And never forget that indulging in sinful things is indeed slavery to those things. We will never control the sin. The sin controls us. Our only hope is God's power working in our lives.

Romans 6:23 For wage of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

And Salvation is absolutely free. There is no cost to us; it is a free gift. Shop in any store in the country and if you find a "100% Off" label, you can be assured that the items on that sales table will be gone in moments. Why would anyone turn down an absolutely free gift? Free to us, but it cost God everything to provide the gift to us. Too often we forget the awful price that had to be paid and we take it all for granted.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

If you had the cure for cancer, would you keep it quiet? Would you not share your amazing discovery with everyone you met? We have the cure for the malignancy of the soul. And should be freely announcing to the world our discovery.

John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Early in our US history, we experienced what is

commonly referred to as the "Boston Tea Party." The early settlers of our country wanted free trade, not tariffs and duties attached to their goods. They wanted the choice to be able to market their goods as they saw fit. We also are free to choose to market, or share our faith. We serve out of love by choice. God never forces anyone to share, but He reminds us on many occasions in the Word, that the natural outflow of our salvation should be the desire to tell others of our great gift

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

In the TV cartoon world, from time to time, I remember seeing a character with a large wooden vice on his head wincing in pain as the screws were tightened. As Christians, we have the distinct privilege of being free from the pain of guilt and shame and can be content. Jesus has paid for our sins and has forgiven us. We are free of such issues.

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

And finally, God has given us free choice to choose Heaven or Hell. Free will is an amazing thing. I hope we all choose correctly.

What freedom!

Fred's Story

Fred lived in an ordinary neighborhood, doing ordinary things, living a very ordinary life. His family tree was filled with ordinary relatives also doing ordinary things. He expected his life would go on quite ordinarily. He supposed that few would even notice that he existed and would go on about their ordinary lives as well.

It is the way life in the Om household had always been—very ordinary. Grandpa Om, Grandma Om, Cousin Om...as far back as the records could be traced, the Om family name was synonymous with ordinary.

Until that fateful day when a stranger came into town and offered Fred a gift. He was handed an "e" and told to place that treasure deep within himself. "Place this 'e' in the center of your heart and keep it there. It will change your life forever," he said.

Fred accepted that stranger's gift and took his sage advice to heart. No longer would he be known as Fred Om. From that point on, with an "e" in the middle of his heart, he was known to all as Freed Om.

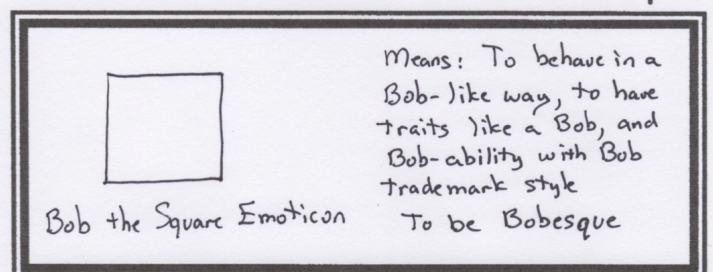
Even to this day, Freed Om is no longer ordinary, but highly sought after by all. A treasure to know and to live with that is so valuable that many have given their lives for Freed Om.

The moral to the story? What a difference an "e" makes!

Feel Free to Have an Extra Piece of Cake.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



September 30, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 6

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

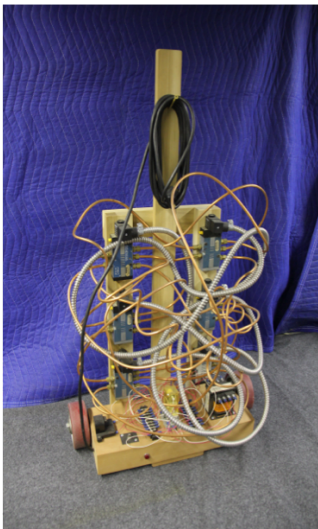
Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
-
- Turbo Encabulator

Introducing the Brand New 2018 Turbo Encabulator

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

On sale today at your local Turbo Encabulator store, the newly designed 2018 model is filled with upgrades and design changes that will make this machine the best one you have ever owned. Financing available, no reasonable offer will be refused. And we will trade for anything!



The Turbo Encabulator

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

James 2:18

Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you faith by my deeds.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you for coming to my news conference today. It is indeed an honor to stand before you today and introduce to the world, my newest invention. I have with me a prototype of what I believe may be the most incredible machine ever built. I call it "The Turbo Encabulator".

For many years now, I have been working to bring to perfection the crudely conceived idea of a machine that would function as an inverse reactive protoboloid.

Such a machine is the Turbo-Encabulator.

Throughout development, I felt that it should automatically synchronize unitary phase components. This was realized with the medial use of capacitive directance.

The basic premise focuses on the fact that magneto flux issues must be controlled by sublunary conductors.

As you can see, the base plate is made of prefabricated amulite and

surmounted by a logarithmic casing. This insures that the double spur magnetrons are in perfect alignment with the malleable flux line. The main windamere is of the normal Lotus-O-Delta type, which has effectively eliminated side cropping of the waneshaft.

You will notice 6 hydro-coptic marzelvanes attached to stator slots, each with a nonreversible tremie pipe connecting them to a differential girdlespring which is held in the "up" position by nofer trunnions.

Grouting brushes monitor the slip-stream remnants and inject a high S-value rotor resin as necessary. This process is equalized by an ingenious hopper dadoscope confirmed in each slot.

Electrical engineers will appreciate the difficulty in nubing together a regurging purwell and a standard wennelsprock. Indeed, this proved to be a stumbling block until I discovered in 2008 that the use of anhydrous nangling pins anabled the boiling shim to be tankered with very little effort.

Spiral decommutation was a second significant hurdle. The gremlin studs created insufficient gram protection.

When I discovered that with the simple addition of a nivel-sheave, the wending problem was completed displaced, and perfect running was secured.

Operating points are maintained as close as possible to the normal h.f.rem peak of 12,000 pti, and once the phase detractors have been remised, no dramcock oil is required. Sinusoidal depletionation is then controlled by the reciprocating dingle arm.

Undoubtedly, the Turbo-Encabulator is the most advanced on the market today.

I would like to demonstrate this magnificent piece of engineering for you. I will plug this into normal 120 volt electrical current, and when I press the "On" button, the machine will almost instantaneously reach its equilibrium point and from that point on it will run essentially vibration free and with absolutely no sound at all. There...no perceivable vibration and completely noise free.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you, The Turbo Encabulator. Thank you very much.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

There are a number of reasons that we should attend and be a part of a local church. First and foremost, God said so. That stands alone as reason enough. End of discussion. Let's get in the car and go home.

If you need more than that, you may have a spiritual problem that needs to be addressed. But there are advantages for the Christian who does attend church and does not just sit as a spectator, but gets involved. The key here is involvement. At the moment of our conversion, God gives each of us a spiritual gift. That gift is given with a goal in mind. We are to use that gift in the church, in cooperation with other people who also have their individual gifts, and work together to accomplish great things for God. He uses the picture in the New Testament of a human body. Many parts working together to move and breathe and live. The church likewise is many parts, each unique, but necessary for proper function.

Consider the concept of playing baseball. It's difficult to swing a bat with only one arm. With only one eye, depth perception fails and it becomes impossible to judge the distance and speed of the pitch. Only one leg makes the running of the bases a huge challenge. We need all of our parts to play a good game. The church needs all of her parts as well, and God has strategically placed people in the church for specific purposes. We need to learn what our specific gift is, develop it, and then use it for His kingdom.

The local church fills other needs in our lives as well. We were created as social beings. We need relationships to function well. Sitting in a fishing boat on Sunday morning and watching the sunrise may make us feel close to God for a moment, but there is little to no social interaction there, and whether we want to admit it or not, God created us

with a need that only the presence of other people can fill in our lives. We have all seen, or at least heard, of examples of the odd behaviors established by those who completely withdraw from society and social interaction. I recall, as a young man, hearing and reading about the richest man in the world at the time, Howard Hughes. A man with everything at his fingertips, and an amazing intellect, withdrew from everyone and lived as a very wealthy recluse. And died a very miserable, lonely man. He finished his life poorly. We need others—Christian others—who can challenge us and correct us if necessary.

We need a reminder from time to time who God is and our place in His plan. The world we live in is going to try to get our attention away from things spiritual and fill that void with anything that it can. We can easily get caught up in the lights and glitter of the excitement of the world. Satan is the greatest showman who ever lived and can quite easily distract us from what is really important in life. We need to focus on God and what He has to offer. When our children were young, we enrolled them in team sports in the community. Specifically, soccer. Our oldest, our son, played from the time he was 4 or 5 years old through high school. If you have ever been around a community league team, as the age bracket rises, so does the possibility of having to travel to neighboring towns to play games. When he started playing years ago, it was unthinkable for a league team to play a game on a Sunday afternoon. But very gradually, something changed. First, it was a "make-up game" that was scheduled "just once" on a Sunday afternoon. A year or two later, a game or two was scheduled for a Sunday afternoon. I vividly remember the weekend we found ourselves at a tournament that scheduled the final game for the top two teams for Sunday morning at 11:00. Our son chose to not play in that game and risked losing his place on the team, rather than

compromise his convictions. Today, I teach a 6th-7th grade Sunday School class, and it is not uncommon during the sports seasons, to have half of the class out due to scheduled tournament games. God has described Himself as a still, small voice, a whisper. In the noise of today, that whisper is sometimes difficult to hear. Church gives us an organized, purposed time to reflect on God and his goodness. We need that structure.

Growth for the Christian occurs in many ways. Daily devotions are a wonderful thing. Listening to a sermon is a wonderful thing. But what I have noticed in my own life is that I tend to ignore my shortcomings. It is convenient for me to overlook things in my life that need to be addressed. I don't know that I don't know what I don't know. In the church, we will have the opportunity to meet those who may be much farther along in their walk with the Lord, and there will be things we can learn from them, simply by rubbing shoulders with them in the context of the church relationship.

A healthy church is a place filled with a family like atmosphere. Yes, there are moments of friction and disagreement, but those are fleeting and give way to laughter and joy and belonging. I grew up in a healthy family environment. I know first hand what that looks like. And I assure you, there is nothing quite like it. Being a part of a church gives us the opportunity to experience that joy. I had a friend in grade school who had spent his early years in an orphanage in Korea. He and his sister were adopted into a loving family that lived across the street from me when I was young. Do not ever underestimate the value of a family relationship. He clung to the concept of family. He had seen both sides, and much preferred a mother and a father and a family. We need each other. We spur each other on to maturity. And we actually are family—we are all God's children.

Nothing that we can do can possibly impress God, and cause Him to say that we have earned our spot in Heaven. Our very best is nothing to an infinite God. Our access to Heaven is based solely on the person of Jesus and what He did for us when He went to the cross and paid the price for our sins. However, God does expect us to show our faith through good works. The good we do should be a natural outgrowth of a close walk with Him. It should never be seen as a requirement for admission into eternal home. We love others because He first loved us. It is as simple as that.

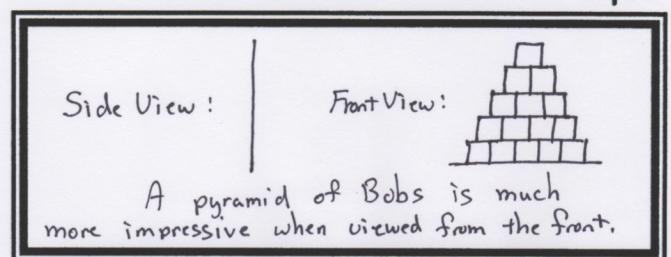
Turboencabulator Technical Industrial Specifications may be obtained from:

Torricelli Barometer Works, Ltd.
Toroidal Turboencabulator Dept. (TTD-3)
London, W.C. 1. England

Torboencabulateurs
Canadian-Francais. Ltee.
468 Jean de Quen, Quebec 10, P.Q.

Encabulators R Us
1523 Industrial Way
Pomona Beach, TX 65356

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



October 7, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 7

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- Canard Lee Reed
- The End

The End Is Just The Beginning

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

I Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

I Thessalonians 4:17

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be

caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

eternity. We have a God-shaped void inside of us that only He can fill. We are incomplete without Him. The world around us is rushing headlong into oblivion searching for that something that will satisfy. Everyone has an internal compass that is searching for Heaven.

What comes after this life is of tremendous importance. We are defined as eternal beings. We will either live eternally or we will die eternally. There is no third option.

The Bible is our only source for the truth about the future. We must be willing to set aside what the world tries to convince us to believe and trust God's Word implicitly.

Hollywood's version of Heaven and Hell are wrong in so many ways, and yet, many people have bought into the error that everyone will get to Heaven. After all, how could a loving God send anyone to eternal torment?

The brief glimpses we see in the Bible of Heaven are truly amazing and incredible. The brief glimpses of Hell, we choose to ignore because they are uncomfortably horrible.

(Continued on page 2)



Canard Lee Reed

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

Welcome to the Canard Lee Reed Book of the Month Club. As a member of this Sunday School class, you are automatically enrolled in the *Stupendous Fantasticus Incredibilious Bookworm Club*.

This month's choices are absolutely some of the best books we have ever offered.

1. A Children's Guide to Hitchhiking
2. Your First Picture Book—(Reading Is For Losers)
3. Mr. Fork Meets Mr. Electrical Outlet
4. The Little Engine That Thought He Could—But Failed Miserably
5. Some Kittens Really Can Fly—They Just Need Encouragement
6. Freeway Dodge Ball—Official Kindergarten Rules
7. Curious George and the High Voltage Fence

It is interesting to note that the very first mention of the end of time comes quite early in the Bible. In Genesis 49 we find Jacob prophesying to his boys about the end times and what each will accomplish as a family before then.

Solomon stated very plainly that God "has put eternity in the hearts of man." Deep inside every person is a desire to understand

(Continued from page 1)

The Bible is full of stories of heroes who struggled through very difficult times, but came out on the other side much better for having been through the bad times. As one reads their accounts, it is interesting to note how often their goal was their eventual reward in Heaven with their Maker. It is what kept them going in many of the hard times—knowing that they had a greater reward waiting for them one day.

He has set eternity in the hearts of man. Think of it as a computer program running in the background. There is a hollow in every heart that needs to be filled with God. We all experience it. Sir Winston Churchill had a file in his cabinet that only he and his secretary knew about. It was titled, "Operation Hope Not". When Churchill died, his secretary retrieved the file, and the world watched "Operation Hope Not" unfold. Many years before he died, Churchill planned his funeral in minute detail. There would be Christian hymns sung, and at the end of the service, a bugler high in the dome played taps, followed by a second bugler who played reveille. Churchill believed that the last note of history will be reveille, not taps.

And eternity is filled with mysteries. We must live by faith, content that our Father is sufficient. We see but a poor reflection of Heaven. The Bible says surprisingly little about what it is like. But the few passages that contain detail, are absolutely mind boggling. The four creatures described in the first chapter of Ezekiel are without comparison anywhere. The

new Jerusalem in Revelation is a city 1400 mile wide, 1400 miles long, and 1400 miles high. To put that into a context, the International Space Station orbits at a mere 240 miles. But it is the length of eternity that we find the most difficult to comprehend. After trillions of years, we will still be living! It very quickly overshadows our few years here on earth.

Solomon ended his book with these words, *Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* 80 years or so, of obeying God is easily worth the few difficulties we may face. Set your eyes on the future. If you are a Christian, you have an eternity to look forward to.

A few characteristics that we can be confident of concerning Heaven:

We won't miss our old lives. The perfect beauty of Heaven will completely overshadow anything in our past life here on this earth. The phrase is clearly "a new heaven and a new earth." That hints of a complete redo of the entire universe. Perfect in every way, it may be similar to what we see now, or God may have made plans to change everything about it.

We won't become angels. Angels are a separate set of beings, different in many respects from us. As of right now, they are considered to be at a slightly higher level than us. In the future, we will be above them. In fact the Bible mentions that we will judge angels. Whatever that means. So don't anticipate growing a set of wings anytime soon.

We won't be tempted to sin—ever! Sin will be done away with and gone. Everything will be perfect forever and ever. No sinful thoughts, no sinful acts, not even a hint of wrong anywhere.

We will have work to do. Note that in the story of creation recorded in Genesis, God put Adam into a perfect environment, a perfect relationship with Himself. There was no sin and Adam would have lived forever and ever had he not failed God. God gave Adam a job to do while he was still in his perfect state. To tend a garden. What will occupy our time in Heaven is anyone's guess. But it will not be boring!

We will still have emotions. The negative ones will be gone forever, but joy and laughter and peace and contentment—will all be there. God created us in His image and through the Bible we read of God's emotions. He is never changing. His emotions will flood Heaven and ours will respond in kind.

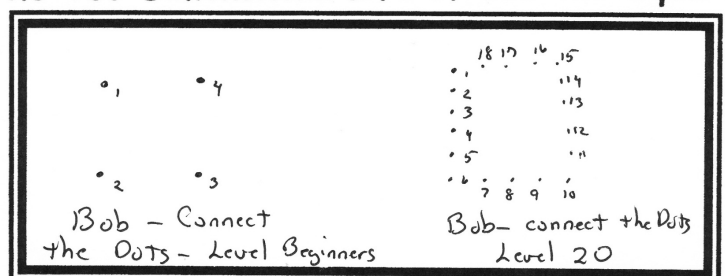
We will probably not know everything automatically. God has always encouraged man to be inquisitive and searching and learning. He could have created Adam and placed him in an environment of high technology and computers and vast libraries of knowledge to access. But He placed him in a garden and said, "Go and figure things out." (That is a rough translation by the way).

We will recognize each other. What age we will be is anyone's guess. Our physical selves will each be unique and perfect. We will not be a wisp of air or a spirit floating through the universe. The Bible talks of our enjoying food and eating meals together. But the best feature of all may be that we will all be likeable and best friends throughout eternity!

There is a verse we quote often a Christmas time. It comes from the book of Isaiah. It says there that "*of the increase of His kingdom, there shall be no end.*" Note the word "*increase.*" Heaven is not going to exist in a completely static condition, unchanging and the same through eternity. I take the word "increase" to imply that Day One in Heaven will be an absolutely incredible experience. Day Two will increase and be even better. Day Three—even better. I firmly believe God is capable of accomplishing such a feat.

Let us live our lives with a very real expectancy of our reward in Heaven. It is truly something to unashamedly look forward to, no matter what your age is presently. It's not just something for the future. It is an anchor that we can hold on to in the "here and now."

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
-
- The Pineapple Story

Pineapples: Interesting and Fun Facts

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. Christopher Columbus stumbled across pineapples in 1493 on the island of Guadalupe. He brought some samples back to Queen Isabella, who loved them. Many others in Europe felt the same way.

2. Pineapple is technically not a single fruit, but a *sorosis*—a hundred or more individual fruits that grow together.

3. You will rarely see fresh pineapple in Jell-O. The raw fruit contains a chemical called bromelain which keeps the gelatin from congealing.

4. If you twist the leafy top off of a store bought pineapple, let it dry for 2-3 days, and then plant it, it will very likely grow.

5. See, I told you this would be fun!

The Cost Of Discipleship Is High

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 14:33

So, likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Jesus, as he taught his disciples, spoke of the cost of being His disciple. This cost is not necessarily restricted to finances, but comprises everything we call our own. That includes our personal possessions to be sure, but it also encompasses our time, reputation, character...all that we have been given by God.

As Christians, we are referred to as being His possession. He bought us with His own blood, and we are His servants. Servants, or slaves, do not have rights as a free man, but are answerable to their owner completely.

Let us begin this discussion with one very important caveat. Throw out of your mind any preconceived ideas about the word slavery and its ties to our US history. That is not the slavery we are talking about here. God gives us an excellent picture of what He considers appropriate in regards to a Biblical view of slavery.

Immediately, we would do well to begin thinking more along the lines of an employer and employee relationship. The Mosaic Law promoted the idea that

a slave was to be treated almost like family, given many rights and privileges and treated extremely well and paid generously. In fact, the concept was so positively ordered, that a slave could voluntarily commit himself to the condition of slavery for the remainder of his life! A slave by choice—what an amazing New Testament idea!

We are called to be in this world, but not a part of it. You are growing up in a society that is increasingly guided by possessions and money and position in life.

To be sure, many of the heroes of the Bible were quite wealthy. And yet Jesus warned often of the tremendous draw that money has upon us. Can a Christian be wealthy? Yes, but it is NOT easy.

Our culture seems to be built upon the love of money and possessions. Consider how many commercials accompany every TV show today. This writer has counted as many as a dozen during a single commercial break. Fifty years ago that number would have been one or two.

When calculating what is of value to you personally, do not forget the non-monetary things. Friends,

reputation, and health are examples of areas we tend to take for granted. Often, we think that we have the right to have all of these, when in reality, Jesus said these things are gifts from Him. We possess them at His leisure and will.

When we commit our lives to Christ, we relinquish all of our rights. We must begin to look at life through His eyes and realize the larger picture that is in play. Our personal freedoms and priorities must be set aside and His allowed to take precedence. God's plan is not required to make us feel comfortable or at ease. But He did promise that it would be for our best interest.

Events of Interest Coming Soon

October 31-Halloween (My costume this year will be a t-shirt covered in Sunday school nametags from other people. I'm going as an identity thief.)

November 4-The end of Daylight Savings Time. (BTW, How much daylight did you save this year?)

November 11-Our annual Sunday school cookout and play time. Starts right after church.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The Pineapple Story (Part One)

Today, we will begin watching a movie called The Pineapple Story. Although the events took place some time ago, the truths presented here are timeless. A missionary to Irian Jaya, Otto Koenig, tells of his life there as he learned the lesson taught in Luke 14:33.

You will enjoy the sometimes comical story of a man who simply wanted to have a pineapple garden. Such a simple thing, and yet God often teaches us using the small things in our lives to bring big issues to our attention.

A Light Hearted Look At The True Cost of Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Jesus said that we are to forgive not just seventy times, but seventy times seven. Not only must you forgive, you also now have to do math.

If it were a reality TV talent show, the winner of "The Disciple" would get to give up all earthly possessions and follow Jesus through all levels of difficulties and hardships.

I wonder if when James and John went back to their fishing boats for a while right after the crucifixion, did they rename their boat "The Disciple Ship"?

If Jesus were here today, he might have to say, "No, I'm not talking about Twitter. I literally want you to follow me."

Jesus did not say, "Go ye therefore and make

disciples of all nations, developing task forces and strategic plans and surveying the congregation in order to craft a succinct and memorable mission statement that can be easily communicated on bumper stickers, website home pages, t-shirts, and coffee mugs."

If Lazarus were alive today, thanks to Jesus, he would have a birth certificate, a death certificate and, of course, a resurrection certificate.

I wonder how Simon felt the day that Jesus came up to him and said, "Simon, from now on you will be known as Peter." Now he would have to change his passport, driver's license, Social Security card, voter registration, and his subscription to "Fishermen of Galilee" magazine.

If Jesus had fed the 5,000 in our day, would he have heard comments like, "I can't eat that, I'm a Vegan," or, "Is that gluten free bread?"

Do you suppose Thomas ever said, "All I'm saying is we don't call Peter 'Denying Peter', or Mark 'Ran Away Naked Mark.' Why should I be saddled with this title?"

With a guy like Jesus as your teacher, it would be a bit pointless to try to call in sick for Discipleship Class.

Wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ cleverly disguised as a self employed woodworker, husband, daddy, son, and Sunday school teacher.

Famous, Well Known Prose With A Line Or Two That I Added At The End

One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints.

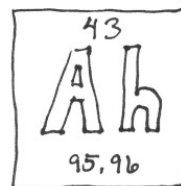
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you the most, you would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. Never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."

(And that long groove over there is when I dragged you for awhile. Sometimes you need a little help getting to where I want you to be.)



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



On the Periodic
Table, Bob is the
Element of Surprise

October 28, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 9

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- The Pineapple Story

Here and There in the News This Week

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

U.S.—As many people in the nation prepare to celebrate Halloween, experts are cautioning the nation that some people may be handing out candy corn along with actual candy this year. A report issued by government officials stated that many individuals may try to slip candy corn into your children's candy bags. "It appears many people are planning on putting small bags of candy corn in with the actual candy," said a CDC official. "Remember to check your kids' bags before they accidentally chew on the wax-flavored globs of disgustingness." Warning signs that your kids may have inadvertently ingested candy corn include a look of revulsion on their faces, and yelling, "Hey, why does this candy taste like I'm chewing on a crayon?" "Know the warning signs and educate your kids," the CDC official added. "If they see a stranger handing out candy corn, remind them to run away and alert a law enforcement official." At publishing time, CDC officials had also warned parents to look out for flavorless Circus Peanuts.

Next Week

Have you ever had a question about God, the Bible, church or religion in general? Well, you are in luck. Once per semester Mr. Lyle allows you to write down one question—anonously—and he will take time during class and attempt to answer your questions. No topic is off the table. So if you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask—here's your chance. And if it takes several weeks to get through them all, that's ok.

Can You Afford to be a Christian?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 14:33

So, likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Jesus is unashamed and unafraid of telling us up front the "worst" — the painful cost of being a Christian: hating family (verse 26), carrying a cross (verse 27), renouncing possessions (verse 33). There is no small print in the covenant of grace. It is all big, and bold. No cheap grace! Very costly! Come, and be my disciple.

But Satan hides his worst and shows only his best. All that really matters in the deal with Satan is in small print on the back page.

On the front page in big, bold letters are the words, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4), and "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). But on the back page in small print — so small you can only read it with the magnifying glass of the Bible — it says, "And after the fleeting pleasures, you will suffer with me forever in hell."

Why is Jesus willing to show us his "worst" as well as his best, while Satan will only show us his best? Matthew Henry answers, "Satan shows the best, but hides the worst, because his best will not counterbalance his worst; but Christ's will abundantly."

The call of Jesus is not just a call to suffering and self-denial; it is first a call to a banquet. This is the point of the parable in Luke 14:16-24. Jesus also promises a glorious resurrection where all the losses of this life will be

repaid (Luke 14:14). He also tells us that he will help us endure the hardships (Luke 22:32). He also tells us our Father will give us the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). He promises that even if we are killed for the kingdom, "not a hair of your head will perish" (Luke 21:18).

Which means that when we sit down to calculate the cost of following Jesus — when we weigh the "worst" and the "best" — he is worth it. Abundantly worth it.

Not so with Satan. Stolen bread is sweet, but afterward the mouth is full of gravel (Proverbs 20:17).

What can we afford? We can afford everything in Christ. To be His disciple is the greatest and best calling for any and all of us. Will it be easy? Maybe not. Will it be worth it? Absolutely, without any doubts whatsoever.

A Scripture Reading For Halloween

Exodus 7

⁹ "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts. ¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs

Wartime Disciples

Paul reminded us quite plainly that we are in a spiritual war. We fight very real battles against very real adversaries with very real consequences.

As I read and study history, I have been reminded that war, even sometimes just the threat of war, can unite a country in ways that nothing else can.

In the aftermath of 911 and the attacks upon this nation by terrorist organizations, I saw an overwhelming resurgence in patriotism and coming together of disparate peoples. Pickups and cars flew the US flag proudly, bumper stickers proclaimed our unity as a nation. We came together to fight a common enemy.

So it should be with the Christian community. We cannot as a church continue in a laissez-faire state of mind. We are, after all, at war. And the stakes cannot be higher.

In WW2, we heard stories of the "underground" working to undermine the Nazi take over of Germany. Where are our people getting together at night to plan the following day's attacks?

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

We need leadership to gather us together in basement rooms to plot our strategy to detonate Satan's bridgehead and liberate some of his prisoners of war.

We don't see ourselves as insurgents in the alien's territory of sin, planting explosives of righteousness and truth to destroy fortified walls.

When Paul reminded us of our conscription into the army of God, he told us plainly to stand and fight if necessary. The battle is God's to win—and He does win, by the way!

A Personal Discipleship Story

A few years ago, I had a friend, Brad, who lived an absolutely despicable lifestyle. He worked away from home on a pipeline crew, and spent many evenings after work hanging around in bars and getting drunk, fighting, and waking up the next morning with a terrible hangover.

His wife had started coming to our church and had finally come to the realization that she needed Jesus in her life. The difference for her was amazing, and she immediately began asking all of us to pray that her husband would come to the same truth that she had found.

It took some time, but Brad began to notice a difference in his wife's behavior. Curiosity got the best of him and he started coming to church once in a while. After a year or so of prayers for his salvation, Brad finally conceded that he needed

Christ in his life as well. He walked forward one Sunday morning and asked Jesus into his heart. It was a wonderful day, to be sure.

Time went on and I would talk to Brad whenever he was back in town and able to come to church. I wanted to keep tabs on his commitment to Christ and help him along if I could. One Sunday morning I asked Brad how his week had gone and he began telling me an excited story about how he had been in a bar that Friday night and had been drinking and got into a fight.

I looked at him in disbelief, until I finally realized that no one had taken him under their wing and explained to him that drinking and bar fighting was not something that a Christian should be doing any more. I kindly explained that to him and the look on his face as the truth sunk in was astonishing. He realized for the first time that he needed to stop visiting bars and getting drunk.

I decided then and there that I would make it a point to try to teach Brad a few basics of what his new Christian life should actually look like. We met together, one on one, for Bible study and prayer each week. We talked and I explained the basic truths of the Bible and he began to learn and grow.

When I think of discipleship, I think of Brad and the difference God made in his life when someone like me stepped up and came along side him and walked through a few basic truths to get him onto the right track.

I tell you that story simply to show what being a disciple maker can look like.

How Not to Find and Carve a Pumpkin Like a Pro

The first step involves the task of locating and obtaining an appropriate pumpkin. Once a huge one is located, slip it inside your shirt and casually walk out of the store with your prize. If you are caught, consider that being in jail means free food and housing during your stay there. And think of the great story you will have to tell your kids some day!

Next is the cleaning step. Cats are OK, but dogs are the best at licking, so I highly recommend a good licking cleaning. Saint Bernards are the slobberiset dogs that I know of, so try one of them first. You may also use an old pair of dirty socks to dry off the dog slobber. If no socks are available, you will discover that you can lick the dog slobber off yourself.

Now you are ready to carve. Grab the largest, sharpest knife you can find and begin cutting recklessly. Your family will love to watch your flare and gusto as you carve with huge sweeping strokes. There is no need to be concerned if you should accidentally cut yourself carving. There are plenty of doctors available to sew your fingers back on, should you need their expertise.

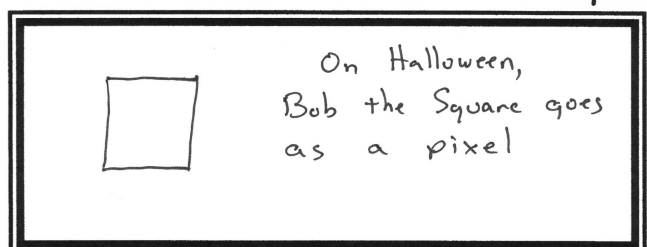
During the carving process, drop it on the floor a time or two. It adds character to the final product. A few cat or dog hairs are always a nice touch.

When you return from the Emergency Room, have someone help you to set your carved, bloodstained pumpkin up in a grand display, since your fingers are all bandaged up. And enjoy the holiday.



My Two Youngest Daughter Dressed in Their Halloween Costumes A Few Years Ago-Note The Facial Detail!

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



November 4, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 10

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square!
- The Pineapple Story

Questions, But Sadly, No Answers

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. If I *Save the Whales*, can I collect the whole set?
2. Can a fool be so sufficiently talented that nothing can be considered fool-proof?
3. Are fast reflexes an acceptable substitute for good manners?
4. Is it legal to fill out my taxes in Roman Numerals?
5. If a recipe calls for eggs to be beaten, consider this first—what did they do?
6. What disease did cured ham actually have?
7. Why do all toasters have a setting that burns toast to such a horrible black crisp that no human being could possibly eat?

This Week

Have you ever had a question about God, the Bible, church or religion in general? Well, you are in luck. Once per semester Mr. Lyle allows you to write down one question—anonously—and he will take time during class and attempt to answer your questions. No topic is off the table. So if you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask—here's your chance. And if it takes several weeks to get through them all, that's ok.

How To Use Your Tools Well

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 10:2

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the field."

What would you like to have written on your gravestone? I have considered this at times, and I believe the following phrase would suffice for me.

**Here Lies a Disciple
of Jesus Christ,
Cleverly Disguised as
a Woodworker. He
Used His Tools Well.**

I just hope that I can live up to it. Let me explain what I mean.

We as Christians are called to be disciples. That title requires more than just a desire to follow along behind a leader. We are to become like Jesus in word and deed. Everything else that we do pales in comparison to that task.

Life absorbs much of our time and assets. It is very easy to get lost in the everyday grind and its demands. But our focus must be where our citizenship really lies—in Heaven. All that we have in our lives is a gift from God. Gifts are given with reason and purpose. We are to use what we have to work for Him. Our tools, as it were.

Our tool chests consist of far more than just money. Included in the drawers and trays of that tool chest are our talents and abilities, health, reputations, and time.

As a woodworker by trade, I am quite familiar with the importance of tools. Without them, work does not progress very quickly or very well. Tools are specific to task, and size is sometimes critical.

Too often we judge success or failure in this life by the balance in our bank account. God judges by other criteria. He has given us a task, as well as the necessary equipment to adequately accomplish His plan.

Giving our money to His work is of value, to be sure, but our other assets must not be overlooked. We talk of giving a tithe of our money, but has anyone considered what a tithe of time, or a tithe of talent might look like?

In Luke 10:2, it is interesting to note there is no mention of a financial plan, or many of our other usual concerns. Rather, the focus is upon the time and effort of individuals willing to perform the necessary task.

You see, money is no object to a God who owns everything. But our time—now that is a commodity of immense value to God.

May we use our gifts—our tools—wisely!

Devoted (Malachi 4)

Malachi's soliloquy is the concluding scene in the final act of the Old Testament. As the curtain begins to descend, the closing expression we hear, the last word spoken by God, is *curse*. The audience sits in reverent silence, unsure if applause is appropriate at this point. The lights go down; it is a somber ending to the story to be sure. Four hundred years of silence follow. God will say nothing more until His Son steps out onto center stage in Matthew.

The Old Testament would seem to be merely backdrop scenery, were it not for the New Testament. It is there that we realize what God was doing, and why. The panoramic background on the stage is filled with the colors and subtle hues and tints that point to the person of Jesus Christ. We began this exercise with a study of the first word in Genesis. It would be appropriate to consider the final word found in the Old Testament.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Verse four, of the fourth chapter of Malachi, is a reminder that the Law given to Moses was much more than just a piece of legislation. David reassures us in the Psalms that the decrees of God are wonderful and are to be studied and meditated upon, and that a close walk with the Lord is predicated on that truth. They are a *lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*. The godly coordinate their lives by the commandments of the Lord. But as we have found, many of those laws also prefigure the person of the Messiah, making them doubly delightful to contemplate and reflect upon.

God's warning in the last verse is delivered with a cautionary portent. His exact words are, *lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*. That final word immediately takes us back to the Garden of Eden and the fall of man. When Adam and Eve sinned, a curse was pronounced by God upon mankind, as well as all of creation. Since that moment, the scourge of sin and the consequences of the judgment of God plague our daily existence. But our merciful God foreknew that, and planned a solution in eternity past. Salvation, and the eventual complete redemption of man from that curse, is the central theme of the Bible, from cover to cover.

In the original language, the word translated *curse* is quite interesting. It carries with it the subtle idea of a net or snare. Picture, if you will, a fisherman along the shore, working with a casting net. His polished technique is evident as the net unfurls in the toss and then drops into the water. Attached to

his hand is a cord which he deftly begins gathering back towards himself. As the net descends around an unsuspecting fish, he has already drawn the bottom closed, sealing off any chance of escape for his prey. Likewise, if the hearts of God's people are not focused upon Him, His judgment will be a shocking, sure, deadly surprise to the unprepared.

The common usage of this word also takes us into the realm of the camel driver. The more stubborn of these animals, at times, require a supplementary method of persuasion to submit to the master. The process of placing a large round guide ring through the soft cartilage between the nostrils is a bit unpleasant to imagine, and God is warning His people that He will administer the painful implantation of devices that will coerce obedience if necessary. God demands compliance with His Laws.

In addition to these nuanced definitions, the clear warning God communicated was a direct reference to Leviticus 27:29. In times past, as the Israelites were conquering and occupying the Promised Land, God had specific requirements assigned to individual battles for various reasons. In some instances, as in the case of the battle for Jericho, everything was to be *devoted* to the Lord. The identical Hebrew term translated as *curse* in Malachi, is translated differently in Leviticus. Everyone *devoted* to the Lord was to be killed. All that was flammable was to be burned. Nothing in the plunder could be ransomed, no one could be redeemed. Every living thing died, every combustible thing was destroyed, and anything that

was left after those two ravages, was God's. Consider the fact that those who were *cursed* or *devoted* to the Lord were not eligible for redemption. No price could be paid to bring them into a condition of relationship. Here we find the most significant concern of God. If His people were distracted and unconcerned with God and His love for them, they might miss the gift that was to come. He was planning to send a Savior, Jesus the Messiah, who would voluntarily go to a cross and shed His blood, and pay the necessary redemption price for all mankind who would accept the offer extended to them. Those not watching, those not attentive, would suffer the *curse* and miss the only possibility of redemption from sin.

The Old Testament begins with a subtle reference to the person of Jesus, and ends with a warning not to miss the Messiah and the redemption plan of God. Jesus Christ must be the focus of our lives. I trust that as you continue in your walk with God, your fascination with the Savior never ends, and that the reading and study of the Word of God become an ever increasing part of your life.

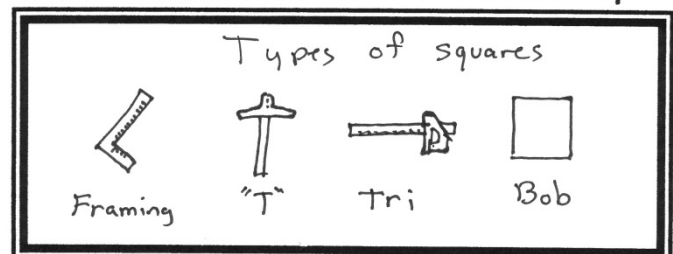
My Computer Repair Tools



Successful Virus Removal



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



The Eleventh Month,
The Eleventh Day,
Anno Domini 2018
Volume 7, Issue 11

Sunday School Times (Technical Edition)

*Impedimenta
propinquitous to
this diurnal course:*

- Maternal Anser
- The Paternally
Oriented Invocation
- Interrogative Query
and Rejoining
Sedulity

**Scriven
Solicitations
Persist,
Induce
Subsequent
Elucidation**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

We will persevere concurrently with our designed interrogative procedure. Those who excogitate previous class times will educe recollections of last week.

Critics acclaimed it:

The vingean stited ovetel was pathinsonal. As well the dilopedelving continued to be serand and moperfoint. We can only hope for a more or less borrinously tacitical and expanoratory galance.

*Promulgated relatively without exception every hebdomad,
but increasingly and comparably exactly now, so get used to it, OK?*

Technically the Seigneur Rogation

Transmografied By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Paternal relative associated with us, established in a celestial position. The designation assigned to your person is inviolable. Hasten the appearance of the sovereign theocracy retained by you. Your expressed intensions and purpose be realized similarly upon this sublunary macrocosm as the extra-terrestrial commorancy. Bequeath upon us diurnally circadian triticum comestibles. Exculpate incumbrances as we exculpate conditional liabilities obligated toward us. Cease inveiglement resulting in inducement, but emancipate us from perdition. For you possess sovereign monarchical disposition, dynamic efficacy, and eminent illustriousness in perpetuity. So be it.

**There's no place
like 192.168.1.1**

**There are 10 types
of people in the
world—those who
understand binary
code and those who
don't**

Maternal Anser

A trio of rodents of the species *Mus Muscula* suffering from acute ablepsia.

A trio of rodents of the species *Mus Muscula* suffering from acute ablepsia.

Observe the peculiar manner in which they ambulate!

Observe the peculiar manner in which they ambulate!

The entire group, with one accord, pursued the agricultural engineer's spouse.

She, in turn, retaliated both quickly and effectively by amputating their posterior appendages with a large blade typically used in cleaving the muscle tissue of animals which have been prepared for ingestion by cooking.

In all your existence, have you observed such erratic behavior as that just described, as

A trio of rodents of the species *Mus Muscula* suffering from acute ablepsia.

Educe Recollection and Rejoinder

Subsequent to ante meridiem, proper stratagem would dictate that you corporealize amidst the assemblage congregating at the Dow esplanade.

There you will ingest massive quantities of hominid provender and aqueous comestibles and forthwith disport and gambol with flourished abandon.

From Last Week

Those who were here last week will recall our last question of the day was concerning the Millennial reign of Christ—the 1,000 years that Jesus will be ruling the world physically in Jerusalem. The question was regarding the exact location in the Bible where this time is explained in detail. I realized after class that I had not really answered the question completely.

Revelation 20:1-6 speaks of a time in the future. The passage describes a 1,000 year period of history when Jesus will be physically on the earth, ruling the world from Jerusalem. It will be a time of great joy as the world witnesses first hand what it will be like to have Jesus ruling the entire world in perfection.

Many passages in the Old Testament refer to this time and describe it in detail. Zechariah, Ezekiel, and Daniel all speak of this time, but the book of Isaiah is probably the most descriptive book in the Bible concerning this time period. The following list features a few of the highlights mentioned.

1. 2:2—His kingdom will be worldwide.
2. 2:3—He will rule from His throne in Jerusalem.
3. 2:4—He will rule in absolute peace.
4. 4:2—There will be a redemption of the land. Imagine a world with no more weeds!
5. 4:5—The Shekinah Glory of God will be present over Jerusalem.
6. 11:4—Everything He does will be perfect.
7. 11:6—Animals will

no longer have a fear of man, or each other. A lion will lay down with a lamb, the Bible says.

8. 30:26—The moon will shine as bright as the sun does now, and the sun will shine seven times brighter than it does today.
9. 32:1—We who are Christians and have been caught up to meet Jesus in the air before this event, will come back with Him and rule and reign with Him.
10. 35:5—Probably every disease healed and gone from the earth.
11. 42:3—There will be absolute justice. Imagine, a criminal will never get away with anything. Jesus, who knows everything, will dole out perfect justice.
12. 65:20—Lifespans will be increased tremendously, probably to very near to the times recorded in Genesis.

Israel, as a nation, is looking forward to that day. It is no wonder that they hold Isaiah in a special place in their heart with respect.

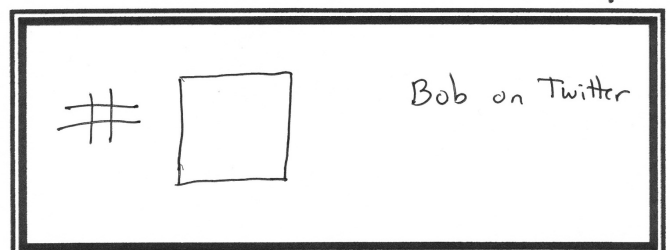
And as an interesting side note, of the Dead Sea Scrolls found many years ago, one book survived in its entirety and is currently displayed in a museum in Israel. The book of Isaiah. I have personally seen the display. The entire museum is built around the display of the book. It fills the entire center of the museum.

You might describe the Millennial reign of Christ as very near to conditions in the Garden of Eden. Nearly everything perfect—except the heart of man. Satan will be bound during this 1,000 years, but sin will still be present, confirming the fact that our sin problem originates in our sin nature.

The picture below is an actual photograph taken inside the central room of the museum. The pillar looking display in the center is made to look a bit like the end of a scroll. The lighted horizontal strip going all the way around the pillar is where the book of Isaiah is displayed. Visitors are not allowed to take photographs of any kind while in the building. Do not ask me where this photo came from. I have absolutely no idea, and I am certain that I would have NEVER just happened to have my camera around my neck and just happened to accidentally push the shutter button a few times when no one was looking. I am sure that I would never do a thing like that.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- How much do you really know about bacon?
- What Abraham Lincoln had to say on March 23, 1863
- How to properly say "Thank you" to God

Nobody— **NOBODY--** Doesn't Like Bacon!!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Bacon Facts

1. The Chinese were making it 3500 years ago.
2. A 250 pound pig produces an average of 25 pounds of bacon.
3. Yorkshire pigs are bred specifically for their bacon.
4. The average American consumes 18 pounds of bacon per year.
5. Frozen Pork Bellies were traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange from 1961-2011.
6. I would gladly be a vegetarian if bacon grew on trees!

Say *Thank you* to a Really Big God

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The Thanksgiving season is once again upon us. It is worthwhile to remind ourselves again of the importance of saying *Thank you* to God. But just how do you say thanks to a God as big as ours?

Throughout the Bible we are told to give thanks—to be grateful—to a very generous and loving God.

In the Old Testament we find the Law. The rules that God gave to the Israelites as they left Egypt are interesting in many respects. One law that might seem boring and trivial on the surface, comes alive when studied carefully. It is introduced in Leviticus 3.

3 "If someone's offering is a fellowship offering, and he offers an animal from the herd, whether male or female, he is to present before the Lord an animal without defect. 2 He is to lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood against the altar on all sides. 3 From the fellowship offering he is to bring a sacrifice made to the Lord by fire: all the fat that covers the inner parts or is connected to them, 4 both kidneys with the fat on them near

the loins, and the covering of the liver, which he will remove with the kidneys. 5 Then Aaron's sons are to burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering that is on the burning wood, as an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

Of the five sacrifices detailed in the Law, this one was quite different. The Fellowship, or Peace, Offering was the vehicle to be used for thanks giving. The other four included the complete burning of hide, feathers, fur, and such—the smell would well have been repugnant. Mentally compare that smell to the aroma of the burning fat of this offering. BBQ or frying bacon might be a good comparison. The difference is not an accident. This was to be an enjoyable time. In addition, the meat was to be eaten by the one who brought the offering and shared with friends and family—a meal.

The first Thanksgiving?!

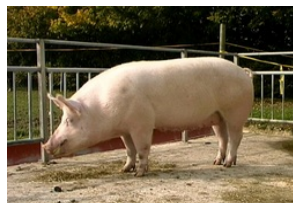
Where Are We As A Nation Today?

I am afraid that the world we live in today would like to forget the emphasis our nation once placed upon Christian values. Imagine the outcry in the news today if the President of the United States were to proclaim these words of Abraham Lincoln.

...whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all of history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord...

I would vote for a man like that!

This Is A Yorkshire Pig



Bacon

1. Leftover bacon? That ranks up there with unicorns and leprechauns.
2. 100% bacon salad—Low carb and gluten free—its gotta be healthy.
3. There are two kinds of people in the world: those who like bacon and those who will be used as fodder in the case of a zombie apocalypse.
4. There must always be bacon in the fridge—ALWAYS!
5. Math problem: Q. Billy has 32 pieces of bacon and he eats 28 of them. What does he have now? A. Happiness. Billy has happiness.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with

large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln



For all of your turkey carving needs this Thanksgiving, be sure to check out the brand new Husqvarna 455 Turkey Saw. This neat little aw has a 455cc two-stroke engine for cutting even the toughest of birds. (That's 45 horsepower if you are wondering.)

The 24 inch cutting bar allows you to stand back at a comfortable distance from your turkey for your personal cutting convenience.

And at only 98db, this machine will make sure everyone is wide awake and watching the carving with anticipation.

Chain tensioning is automatic—a very handy feature when you are powering through that drumstick.

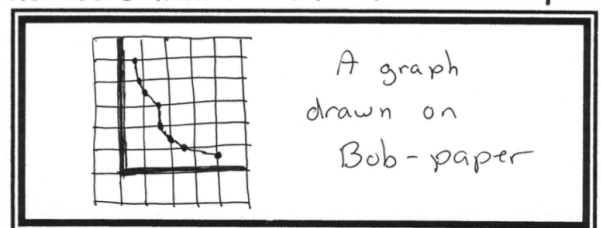
Automatic oilers keep the chain as well as the meat, well lubricated. We highly recommend our hickory flavored chain and bar lube, available in a handy one gallon size.

The saw comes with its own carrying case, for when you need to go to Grandma's house and show off your turkey carving skills.

Available with a 5 year optional warranty, guaranteed to get your machine through 535 birds with no hassles.

Husqvarna. The only name you need to remember when looking for a new Turkey Saw this holiday season.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



November 25, 2018
Volume 7, Issue 13

Sunday School Times

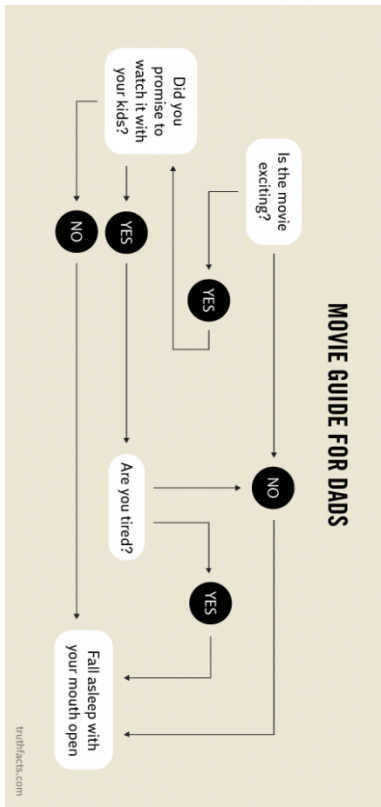
Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Handy Movie Guide for Dads
- Questions and Answers Continue

A Movie Guide for Your Dad

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



(An empty corner—how disappointing!)

The Windsor Guildhall

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

In the sixteen hundreds (approximately 1688) Christopher Wren, a well known architect, was commissioned by the Windsor town councillors to build the Windsor Guildhall - a picture of which is shown below.



As you can see from the picture, the ground floor of this building is completely open, with the main part of the building being supported by 18 pillars around the edge. This open space was designed to be used as a public market.

When the town councillors saw what Wren intended to do, they (in their infinite architectural wisdom) protested to the great architect that his design would never work. Eighteen pillars would not be enough to support the weight of the building, and the whole thing would collapse.

Christopher Wren insisted that his design was solid and safe, and an argument ensued. The upshot of it all was, Christopher Wren agreed to add four more columns into his design. These four columns were interior columns, and can be seen in the picture below.



But Christopher Wren had the last laugh; when he designed the four inner pillars, he deliberately designed them to be two inches too short; the tops of the columns do not even touch the beams of the ceiling. They bear *no weight at all!*

Over the centuries, many people have had a good laugh at Christopher Wren's subtle jab at the town councillors (although today, if you visited

the guildhall you would discover that at some point wooden shims have been placed above the pillars, so they really do bear weight.)

But Christopher Wren obviously knew what he was doing; for centuries this building stood strong and tall without those center columns supporting any weight.

The book of I Peter describes the church as a building...not made of stone, but of *living stone*. We, as Christians, make up the structure of the church.

I Peter 2:4-5 says: And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

A Touching "After Thanksgiving" Story

Just as men rejected and disbelieved Christopher Wren's architectural plans, mankind has rejected the foundation (Jesus Christ) upon which God is building His church. But our foundation is a foundation which will never disappoint, and the structure built on that foundation will never collapse.

But God is not like Christopher Wren; unlike Wren, God has not put any "useless" columns in His church. The book of Ephesians tells us that we are *all* being fitted together. There are no useless or unimportant parts in God's building. We each have a part to play, a work to do, a section of the building to support. And when we choose not to do our part, the whole building suffers.

If we refuse to bear the weight given to us, the building will not collapse, but another - stronger - part of the building will have to carry the burdens we refuse to bear. In other words, our choice to not do our part in God's work is a choice to place a heavier burden on the back of another part of the church.

Alan had purchased a horse, a religious horse it appeared. Strangely, the horse only reacted to two words: the word "Hallelujah" to make it go, and "Amen" to make it stop. Excited, Alan took his new horse out on the range and was riding it happily when he realized he was heading towards the edge of a cliff. Terrified, Alan forgot which word was the one to stop the horse. Obviously wanting to prevent falling over the cliff to certain death, he began praying a prayer quite loudly, ending with the word - Amen. The horse stopped right on the edge of the cliff. Those who were there say that the relieved Alan expressed his thankfulness with one word. "Hallelujah."

Handy "After Thanksgiving" Tip

Wrap turkey leftovers in aluminum foil and accidentally throw them out. (You are welcome.)

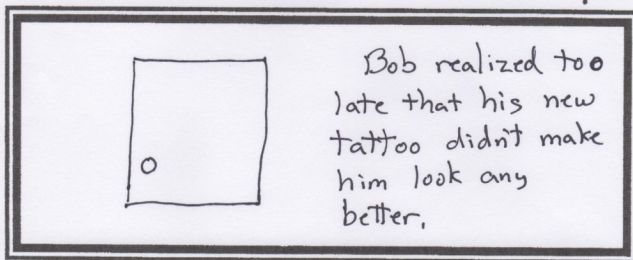
A Beautiful "After Thanksgiving" Poem About Leftovers

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey be great.
May your potatoes and gravy
Fill your whole plate.
May your veggies be good.
May your pies retain taste.
May all of your leftovers
Stay off of your waist.

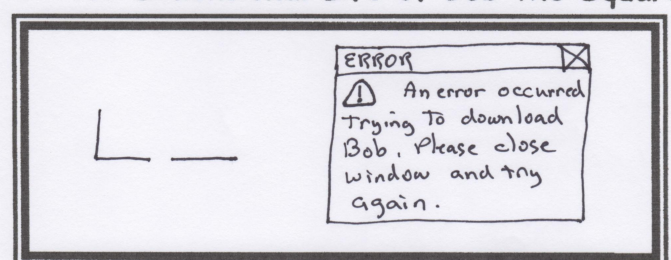
Advice For Northerners Moving To The South

1. Remember, "y'all" is singular, "all y'all" is plural, and "all y'all's" is plural possessive.
2. Get used to hearing "You ain't from round here, are ya?"
3. Don't be worried at not understanding what people are saying. They can't understand you either.
4. If you hear a Southerner exclaim, "Hey, y'all, watch this," you should stay out of the way. These are likely to be the last words he'll ever say.
5. If there is the prediction of the slightest chance of even the smallest accumulation of snow, your presence is required at the local grocery store. It doesn't matter whether you need anything or not. You just have to go there.
6. In the South: If you run your car into a ditch don't panic. Four men in a four-wheel drive pickup truck with a tow chain will be along shortly. Don't try to help them, just stay out of their way. This is what they live for.
7. If you forget a Southerner's name, refer to him (or her) as "Bubba." You have a 75% chance of being right.
8. The first Southern expression to creep into a transplanted Northerner's vocabulary is the adjective "Big ol'", as in "big ol' truck" or "big ol' boy." Eighty-five percent begin their new Southern-influenced dialect with this expression. One hundred percent are in denial about it.
9. Do not try to understand country music. You haven't helped your Mamaw shell peas, been to a revival, or had your picture taken holding up a giant bullfrog. If you haven't done all of these things, your Southern ancestry is questioned.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Devil Motors
- Questions and Answers Continue

Henry The Elephant

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Directly below is the most amazing photograph ever taken. It is a dazzling photograph of Henry the Invisible Elephant doing a headstand, while on a porch swing and twirling a hula hoop around his back leg as little invisible monkeys climb up and down his back. Also, notice how he is balancing a kitchen table with his trunk. Truly amazing. (I trained him, by the way.)

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8

Satan is a master at His craft. He is wicked and is very knowledgeable of his ultimate end burning in torment forever. His simple plan is to take as many of us with him as possible. To do that he has devised schemes quite expertly and we would do well to be watching carefully. Arsenic in an arsenic bottle is clearly defined and recognized as dangerous. But a bit of arsenic in a bottle of otherwise good Coke, is deadly, unmarked, and a gigantic problem. That type of work is where Satan excels, taking what is otherwise good, and mixing in just enough sin to make it a deadly combination but still very, very enticing.

Devil Motors (An Advertisement)

It's time once again for the fantastic Summer blow out sale at Devil Motors. That's M-O-T-O-R-S as in Many Old Tricks Of Real Sneakiness. At Devil Motors we're slashing prices. We're marking them down for immediate sale. We're overstocked and management has said, "Move 'em out!" Prices have

Devil Motors

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

been slashed all over the lot, and our complete inventory of sins has been priced so low we can't advertise them here. You've got to come by to believe what we've done. We have over 400 sins marked BELOW dealer's cost, and they are ready for immediate delivery. No money down, but lots of interest. We guarantee your credit is good here. Buy now, and really pay later. We've got old sins, new sins, cute sins, ugly sins, big sins, little sins, deadly sins, and not-so-deadly sins. Why, we've even got some sins that don't even look like sins anymore. You'll be sure to find anything you're looking for in our vast inventory.

Do you know a Christian that needs to be brought down, that needs to be ruined, that needs to be destroyed? We here at Devil Motors have just the thing for you. Check out our used CARS. That's C-A-R-S as in Completely Annihilate Redeemed Saints. Cream 'em, smash 'em, and trash 'em. Let those Christians know you're around. Our used cars are ready to go now. They are ready for immediate delivery, with

on the spot financing available for everyone. No money down. You can pay and pay for it all later. We have the hottest deals on used cars here at Devil Motors. Hot, HOT, HOT!!!

Every one of our used cars has passed a rigorous 666 point check by our certified mechanics. It's our way of assuring you that these sins are in perfect running order. We've slashed prices all over the lot. How low can we go? Come by Devil Motors and see for yourself. You're not going to believe the deals we are making. No reasonable offer will be refused. And we take everything nice that you have in trade. And remember our slogan, "We promise to sell our sins \$300 less than the competition, or we'll burn in Hell forever." Hey, wait a minute, we're doing that already! No wonder our prices on used cars is so low. The heat has made us mad.

Come by Devil Motor today and check out our inventory. Remember the deals are hot, Hot, HOT!!!

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

How about this little sporty model? A two-seater convertible. She looks fast and cheap just sitting there. A 2015 Pre-Marital Sex. Buy our extended warranty, and we'll throw in an unwanted pregnancy, AND, the incurable STD of your choice. It's the gift that will last a lifetime. The manager has said, "Sell it now!"

Or how about this little green gem? A 2014 Jealousy. Everyone's driving one and you just gotta have one, right? Wait 'til you find out how empty it is, and what it really costs. But that's just more profit for you because these units are marked for immediate delivery. Pay a small acquisition fee and take several home tonight. You'll be the envy of the neighborhood.

Oh, now here's a real deal! Priced to move today. A 2013 Fear. Now, don't let its size fool you. Under the hood of this little package sets the heart of a monster. 4,000 cubic inches of fuel injected terror! Looking for just the right gift for the graduate in your life, well, this is it. And it gets great mileage. Remember, a little Fear goes a long way.

Oh, look at this oldie, but goodie. A bright red Anger-n-Fear. Sure, it's been around for years, but it has many good days left. And my, they are tough, and practically indestructible. It's a classic, but the Boss said, "Sell it now, we've got to make room for the new models and trade-ins coming in."

This is indeed a rare find. Need some Strife in your life? This 4x4 Strife will go anywhere you want to take it. And it has the size and power to crush anything that

opposes it. This is truly a must have for the discerning. And with the optional towing package, you can carry all of the baggage you need to the fight.

We even have a few classics here at Devil Motors. Still in great shape, just take a look at this 1973 Drunkard. This one was way ahead of its time. Its environmentally friendly—runs on pure alcohol. No, it's not a family car. Everyone who owns one of these leaves their family behind anyway, so why bother making one with more than one seat. And no need for a modern GPS. Because when you're in a Drunkard, you won't care where you are.

Maybe you're looking for a pickup. Our pickup line is complete with the top of the line 2017 Grudge. A $\frac{3}{4}$ ton chassis with the cargo capacity of a container ship, there's plenty of room to store all of the hurts and bad feelings you can possibly imagine. And our slogan is, "How you gonna hold a Grudge if you don't pickup a Grudge?" Catchy, isn't it. And so is the price. Hot, HOT, HOT!!! That's what we are. Prices so hot they sizzle. Prices so hot they boil. Prices so hot they melt. Prices so hot they're on fire.

This year's Murder comes with several package options. Of course we have the ever-popular Gunshot Murder. Great for those "drive-by's", but by far our most popular model is this little baby, the Abortion. Devil Motors is proud to be the world's largest dealer of this model. We have moved over 1.5 million this year in the US alone, and nearly 25 million worldwide!

When you're out shopping later today, don't forget to come by and look at this show stopping number. It's big. It's bad. It's bold. It's bodacious. It's bothersome. It's the brand new 2018 stretched Bald Faced Lie XLT. No one will believe you when they see you in one of

these. We offer a cash back bonus on this one. It's a deal too good to turn down.

And new this year, a subcompact version of the Bald Faced Lie. It's only available in white. It's the Little White Lie. It's just about the cutest thing out there. And no one will think it's a Lie. They are so small, we can offer volume discounts for those who want to purchase 25 or more at a time.

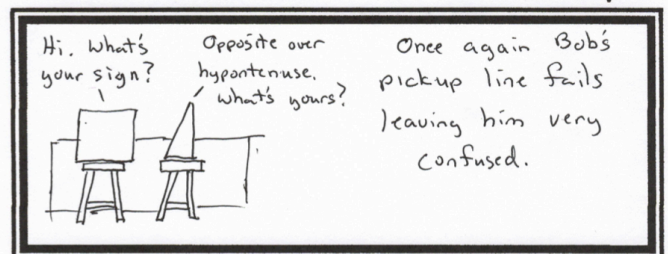
And last but not least, for that Christian that seems to stand up to everything, we have the crushing blow. Here at Devil Motors we have the one that set the standard of the industry. You've seen monster trucks on TV, but wait till you see this jacked up, huge tired, bruising beauty. Priced so low, we're giving them away. The twin turbine, 8,000 horse power deal of a lifetime! The Discouragement. Capable of pulverizing and destroying anything it touches, the Discouragement is the ultimate in used CARS. And now with prices so low, you can have one of your very own. When you have one of these parked out front, you can go out and let your fingers run all over it. There's nothing quite like feeling Discouragement.

So come on down to Devil Motors today, and see for yourself. The prices are hot, Hot, HOT!!! And remember, we promise to sell our sins for \$300 less than the competition, or we'll burn in Hell forever! That's Devil Motors. Call 666-6666, or visit us online at itsreallyhotdownhere.com.

Ultimate Fan Car



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Top 10 Christmas Truths
- All About Moose

How To Decorate Your Moose For the Holidays

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



Decorating a moose is actually much easier than one might expect. A wild moose has a unique desire for interaction with people. Humans learned centuries ago that applying Christmas ornaments to a moose's antlers, while singing or humming Christmas carols, was a festive way to add to holiday cheer. The moose seem to know that the season is joyful and always sit quietly during the decorating process. Then they will casually stroll off and show their antlers to the other moose nearby. DO NOT try to un-decorate a moose however! They become very attached to their adornments and will fight to keep them.

Are You A Moose?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Proverbs 3:3

I would like to ask you a question that you probably have never been asked before. "Are you a moose?" Before you answer, allow me to tell you a little story.

I stepped out of the back door of my business one day and caught a glimpse of a stray dog running away from the building and disappearing into the tall grass. Another stray, I thought. The creek nearby seems to be a magnet for those unscrupulous people who no longer want to care for an animal and mistakenly think that the poor animals will fare well there by the water. They don't. In short order, they find their way back to the first civilization they see, my business, and park themselves close by, looking for a friend or a handout. Thinking little about it, I went back inside.

A full month later, I again had occasion to go out the back door to take care of something and saw that same dog running off into the grass. I now knew I had a vagrant living near me, so I kept an eye open for her appearance again. Two days later, I again walked out the back door, this time stealthily and in search of the elusive animal. What I was greeted with was a most awful stench! Now my thoughts changed. I was sure that I had a dead animal on

my hands, and I also knew that if it was the dog I had been seeing, she was large enough that it would just not do to ignore the smell. It would have to be buried. So I began searching. My nose led me to a flat bed trailer surrounded by tall grass. The smell was most certainly coming from underneath that trailer, so I bent down, pushed the grass aside, and was shocked to see a live animal looking back at me with weak, pleading eyes.

I quickly found a bit of my leftover afternoon snack, and coaxed her out from under the bed of the trailer. What I saw and smelled was burned into my memory forever. She was a walking death. Nearly all of her fur had fallen off and in its place was raw, oozing skin covered in scabs. Worms and maggots were crawling in the open sores on her body. She smelled terrible. She smelled dead! I will admit, my first thought was to put her out of her misery and bury her. But it was the middle of dry season here and the shale ground is almost impossible to dig through without a pickaxe. To top it off, I really didn't want to get out there in the hot summer sun and dig, so I did what I thought would be the humane thing to do. I took her to my veterinarian to

have her put down and buried.

Once there, I put on a long sleeve shirt and gloves and carried this bleeding, oozing, dying animal through the back door of the hospital. I didn't want to take her through the lobby with all of the people there. The vet met me, looked her over for a minute or two and surprised me by saying that he could fix this. Shocked and unprepared for this turn of events, I blurted out my decision to pay the money to heal her. \$350 later, I had a new pet dog. Much to my family's chagrin, I named her Moose.

It took several months, but in due time she was a normal dog again. She was MY dog, and no one else's! Moose worshipped me! I supposed that she identified me as the one who had saved her from a horrible existence. She was right beside me always, never disobeying my commands, placing herself within inches of my feet. If I moved a foot or two to the right, she dutifully got up and moved to the right the appropriate amount and would then lie back down. She was the living, breathing definition of loyalty.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

My vocational choice involves woodworking. When I began my foray into the world facing me many years ago, I made a conscious decision to learn from people that I met whom I respected. The opportunity presented to me involved working with wood for some very wealthy, influential, successful people. I made a genuine effort to discover what it was that got them to where they were in life. I knew it had to be far more than just blind luck. Sometimes, it was simply to observe their behaviors. Other times, I took advantage of direct one-on-one time across a table in restaurants for "interviews". What I learned surprised me, and I would like to pass it on to you.

Accomplished people tend to have some character traits in common. I was not surprised to find these firmly set in their foundational makeup. First, there is no such thing as an overnight success. Many times, a lifetime is required to amass the necessary skills for achievement. Their stories told of small successes and failures that they learned from and built upon. It took time. That did not surprise me. Second, they were not afraid of hard work—really hard work. They knew the feel of dirt on their hands and sweat on their forehead, long hours, and at times, low pay. But their belief in what they were doing drove them on. That did not surprise me. Thirdly, they understood the thrill and passion of their commitment. It drove them to do their absolute very best—at all times. Excellence: always, always, always! That did not surprise me.

But one character trait common to all did surprise me! Allow me to relate to you an observation that I believe

is a most excellent example. I was on a particular job site, and watched another subcontractor walk into the house carrying and sipping on a canned soft drink. I watched in disbelief as a woman walked up to the man, grabbed the can from his hand, and threw it in the trash. She then walked to a well-stocked refrigerator, took out a soft drink, popped the top and handed it to him. He was informed in very firm language that on THAT job, there would be nothing other than her brand products! You see, she was the wife of the CEO of a major soft drink company. The character trait that I quite unexpectedly found in every successful individual was **LOYALTY**. I found examples of extreme loyalty. Their lives were filled with loyalty to their product, or their family, or any number of things.

Loyalty is a rare commodity in our culture today. Decisions are often made based on cost, or convenience, or emotion. Loyalty is the embodiment of devotion, honesty, integrity, sincerity, and fidelity. How does loyalty play out in the real world of everyday life? Think of it as the "duct tape" of life. Relationships are founded in loyalty. A true friend will be there when others have disappeared. Marriage is supposed to be the public display of the definition of loyalty. Divorce would be nonexistent if loyalty were the norm. And your ultimate loyalty is to God. No matter what happens, stay close to Him!

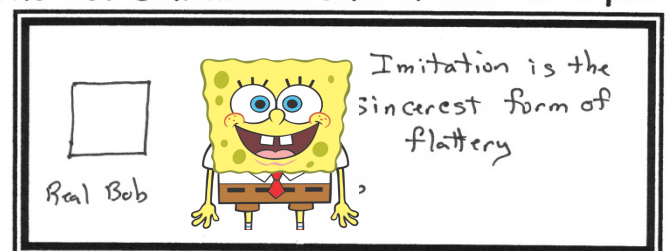
Loyalty will take you far in a world that has largely forgotten about it. Develop it. Embrace it in your life. Don't make decisions based solely on emotion, or convenience, or cost. Factor in a generous amount of trustworthiness, reliability, honor—even duty. Be loyal.

So, I ask you once again. Are you a moose?

Top 10 Truths About Christmas

1. Anyone who believes that men and women are equal, have obviously never seen a man wrap a Christmas present.
2. You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage at the airport, and tangled Christmas lights.
3. Nothing is quite as mean as giving a little kid something useful for Christmas.
4. You can always tell when you stop believing in Santa Claus. He starts bringing you underwear.
5. You will know that you have grown up when none of the things you **really** would like for Christmas can be purchased at Walmart.
6. On the first day of Christmas your true love gave to you.....nothing, because you're still too young!
7. If you buy a family member gift wrap as a Christmas present and have it gift wrapped, be sure to tell them to use a different wrapping paper, so they will know when to stop unwrapping your gift on Christmas morning.
8. Always "jingle all the way"! No one like a jingler who only jingles half of the distance.
9. This holiday season let us treasure what is truly important in all of our lives, the reason for the season—**COOKIES!**
10. There are 16 days until Christmas. So guys, that means we have 15 days till we need to start shopping, right?

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- How well do you know Christmas?
- A Kroger Christmas

How Well Do You Know Christmas?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. ____ There are 32 "la"s in the first verse of "Deck the Halls".
2. ____ "Jingle Bells" never mentions Christmas.
3. ____ "Silent Night" was originally written for guitar.
4. ____ "Joy to the World" was not written as a Christmas song.
5. ____ Snowflakes have 6 sides.
6. ____ Animal cracker boxes have strings on them so they can be used as Christmas tree decorations.
7. ____ Pointsettias, mistletoe, and holly are all poisonous.
8. ____ Snowmen fall from the sky unassembled.
9. ____ Santa did not live at the North Pole until 1882.
10. ____ Santa's North Pole has an official Canadian Zip Code.
11. ____ Mistletoe means "bird poo on a twig".
12. ____ Both male and female reindeer have antlers.
13. ____ Rudolph's real name is Rollo. He was also known as Reginald.
14. ____ All Santa's reindeer are males.

18th Annual Kroger Christmas

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 1: 26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called ^bthe Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary

answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 2

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while ^aQuirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the

people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Continued on Page 2)

How Well Do You Know The Christmas Story? (Yup, Nope, or Dunno)

Matthew 2: 1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

1. ____ Gabriel told Mary she would have a son.
2. ____ Jesus was named before He was born.
3. ____ Mary and Joseph were married when Jesus was announced.
4. ____ Jesus and John the Baptist are related.
5. ____ Ceasar commanded all to be registered for taxes.
6. ____ Joseph was from Bethlehem.
7. ____ Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem.
8. ____ When they got to Bethlehem, the Inn keeper said there was no room for them.
9. ____ They were allowed to use a stable instead.
10. ____ Jesus was born in a stable.
11. ____ Jesus was the only baby ever born who was older than his mother.
12. ____ There were animals there.
13. ____ Jesus' first bed was a feed trough.
14. ____ Jesus was born on December 25th.
15. ____ God chose shepherds because they were well respected men in the community.
16. ____ An angel appeared at night with a message for them.
17. ____ The angel appeared in the sky.
18. ____ The angel was very frightening because he was so bright.
19. ____ An angel choir sang to the shepherds.
20. ____ The angels then suddenly disappeared into the night sky.
21. ____ The shepherds then hurried to see the baby Jesus.
22. ____ They found everything just as they had been told.
23. ____ The shepherds stayed a long time at the manger.
24. ____ An arch angel was above the manger.
25. ____ Three wise men came to the manger with gifts.
26. ____ They showed up right after the shepherds left.
27. ____ They had followed a star to the manger.
28. ____ The gifts they brought were significant.
29. ____ Mary understood everything about what had happened that night.
30. ____ And everybody lived happily ever after.

Editorial

"He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good..."

Does no one else find this a little on the creepy side, that an older man is watching all of the children of the world 24/7?

Maybe it would be better if he just followed everyone on Twitter or Facebook. Or perhaps we could just email our videos of good behavior in to the North Pole.

One last thought for the holiday season. Christmas is the only time of year that you can sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of socks.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Technology Pick of the Week
- Probably the bloodiest story in the Bible. It is the only Kroger Bible story that must be edited for violence!

The 7 Sunday School Commandments

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Thou shalt bring 2 million dollars in unmarked bills to the corner of 43rd and Jackson Streets....oops, wrong list!

Thou shalt bring a smile. If thou can't not find thine and thou hast left thine in a dumpster, then thou shalt return to that dumpster, and retrieve thy smile.

Thou shalt be breathing. And having brushed thy teeth this morning, verily it shall be minty fresh.

Thou shalt not poke thy neighbor in the eye lest he smite you on the nose.

Thou shalt not smite thy neighbor on the nose lest he kicketh hard against thy shin.

Thou shalt not kick hard against thy neighbor's shin lest he poke thee in the eye.

Thou shalt have a good time, for verily verily I say unto thee; he that refuseth to have a good time shall be cast into the Lake of Fire... oops, wrong list again!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

I Samuel 15, Esther

The "Six Hundred Year Story" begins in I Samuel 15. Saul was commanded by God to execute judgment upon the Amalekites. The nation of Amalek had proven themselves to be worthy of annihilation. Many years previous to Samuel and Saul, Israel had gained their freedom from Egypt. Led by God through the desert toward the Promised Land and arriving at the border, they sent a group of men over the Jordan to go through the land and bring back a report of what they saw there. Those men returned with a demoralizing description, one based in doubt and a lack of trust in God. The entire assembly agreed that it was indeed hopeless. In response to their disbelief, the Israelites were banished to wander in the wilderness for forty years. During that time, Amalek was an ever-present harassment. Troops from Amalek were known to come up behind the huge nomadic nation of Israel, and pick off inevitable stragglers who lingered behind the main group for one reason or another. Guerrilla tactics were effective from their viewpoint, but extremely offensive from God's view. As Saul took on responsibility as the newly appointed king of Israel, Samuel informed him that he was to devote all of Amalek to the Lord. They and all that was theirs was to be destroyed, totally.

Saul failed at this directive miserably. He did not kill all the people of Amalek. He allowed some to escape, and brought at least one back to Jerusalem—

Agag, their king. Neither did he destroy all the livestock. The explicit charge given by God forbade the taking of any articles or animals owned by the Amalekites. Ignoring the clear instruction he had been given, he brought many of them back, using the excuse that he would sacrifice them to God. In our culture, we look back at such incidents with a bit of horror at the bloodshed decreed by God. God is righteous, and the judge of all mankind. Scripture clearly states that those whom God deemed to be destroyed had been given many chances to repent and be forgiven. In failing to do so, they had made the choice to reject His salvation and had earned the wages of death.

Samuel arrived on the scene and confronted Saul face to face. Saul, true to his character, made excuse after excuse for his actions. This seemingly simple request made by God concerning Amalek, was not unimportant, or a minor concern. God understood the potential problems in the future posed by this lack of Saul's obedience. Samuel reflected that disappointment in his extreme display of anger. Moved by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate to those present the significance of this offense, Samuel, in righteous anger, hacked Agag to pieces before the Lord. One can imagine the surprise and shock on the faces of the witnesses there as an old man of nearly

ninety years old performed a physical feat that in any movie of today would require an extreme warning label.

Agag was now dead, Saul was reprimanded by God, through Samuel, and life went on. But the story was far from over. Years later, Saul faced his final moments. Mortally wounded in battle, with no hope of survival, he attempted suicide by falling on his own sword. He failed, and was found in an awkward predicament, dying, but not yet dead, afraid that he would be found by the enemy and mistreated horribly, probably spending his last moments in torture. Coincidences do not exist when God is involved. The man, who stumbled upon the gasping Saul in the final throes of death, was ironically, an Amalekite! Responding to the request made by Saul, he promptly finished what Saul began, with his own sword.

For most people of that day, the issues represented in this story, and the actions displayed, were probably disregarded over time. But God was still interested. The story was not yet over. Six hundred years later, everyone but God Himself had forgotten. As the seventy years of Israel's captivity in Babylon drew to an end, the issue was rekindled. God would have His judgment fully realized six centuries and eight hundred miles from where it all began.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

A new cast of characters is introduced in Esther. The place is Babylon. Immediately following the end of the Jewish captivity there, anyone who wished could return to Jerusalem. Some chose not to go back. Our "Six Hundred Year Story" continues here. The king of Babylon made a choice to put aside his current wife and find another. Those close to him recommended that he begin by collecting a huge harem made up of young ladies to be found in the kingdom. He could make his choice from this group. Esther was one of the girls forced into the palace harem. The king took a special liking to her and proclaimed her queen. She happened to be Jewish, but told no one this fact because her adopted father, Mordecai, had told her to keep her background a secret. He was a part of the inner court of the king, with access to some levels of government. At one point, Mordecai was privileged to information that exposed an assassination threat to the king of Babylon. Esther informed the king of the plot, giving Mordecai credit for the intelligence.

Haman appears in chapter three. A politically ambitious person, he was arrogant, proud, and despicable. His anti-Semitic feelings came to the forefront immediately. Mordecai showed him no reverence. Responding to the apparent disrespect, Haman made plans to have him put to death and destroy the Jews as well, because Haman knew Mordecai was a Jew.

The stage was now set to play out the final judgment of God upon Amalek. Six centuries are nothing to an eternal God. But a moment has passed for Him. His justice will not be postponed or delayed any longer. What has transpired here is not a random series of events with little or no significance. The characters in this story were specifically chosen by God, their positions not accidental, and their ancestry of special importance. Mordecai is introduced in the beginning of Esther as a son of Kish. Kish was Saul's father. That places him directly into the same family tree as Saul, most likely a descendant of one of Saul's brothers. Haman is labeled as an Agagite, a direct descendant of the king of Amalek, whom Samuel so efficiently dispatched six hundred years previous. Only God could orchestrate something this complex and perfect. The confrontation between Saul and Agag commences once again, this time with Mordecai and Haman, but with dramatically different results.

The plan put in place by Haman denoted a special day on which Jews could be killed at will. He had presented them to the king as a nuisance to be eliminated, and the king, ignorantly respecting his opinion, agreed to his plan. Esther was informed of the heinous proposal through Mordecai, and in response, invited the king and Haman to a banquet. Her secret intention was to ask for relief for the Jews. Haman was puffed up by the invitation, completely oblivious to the impending disclosure, and had a wonderful time the first evening. Esther put off the question that night, and extended a second banquet invitation for the following evening. Haman was elated and agreed to attend. He

New for 2019: the B.O.O.K

(Advertisement)

Announcing the new **Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge** device.

Just lift the cover of your new **B.O.O.K.** and you will find it delightfully compact and portable. It can be used anywhere, yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD rom disk.

Here's how it works. Each **B.O.O.K.** is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper, each capable of holding thousands of bits of information! And by using both sides of each sheet, our manufacturing costs are cut in half. And we pass that savings on to you!

When using the **Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge** device, each sheet is scanned optically and the information is registered directly into your brain. A simple flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The "browse" feature allows you to move very quickly to any sheet, even forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an "index" feature, which pinpoints elected information for instant retrieval

An optional **B.O.O.K. mark** accessory allows you to open the **B.O.O.K.** to the exact place you left in a previous session- even if the **B.O.O.K.** has been closed. **B.O.O.K.marks** fit universal design standards: thus a single **B.O.O.K.mark** can be used by various manufacturers.

Portable, durable and affordable, the **B.O.O.K.** is the entertainment wave of the future, and many new titles are expected soon! And be watching for our new programming tool, the

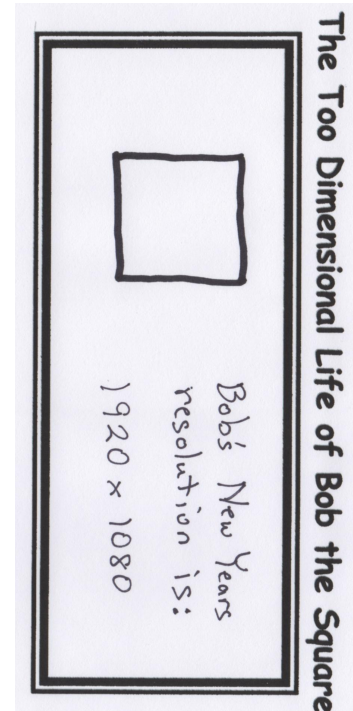
Portable Erasable-Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus P.E.N.C.I.L.S.

Thank you again for your interest in our **B.O.O.K.** And remember, now is the time to invest, at the ground floor of this exciting wave of the future!

went home in high spirits until he remembered Mordecai. Through the night, Haman had a construction crew working to build a gallows seven stories tall, a challenge for any contractor during the daytime, and much more so at night. By morning, the project was finished. Humor is not absent from the character of God. Irony and comedy mesh as the story unfolds. Haman had made plans to have Mordecai hanged publically on his brand new gallows. As he stepped into the king's presence to request a public execution, he found that the king had suffered through a sleepless night. To combat his insomnia, he had a servant read the annals of his reign to him, and found that Mordecai was a hero who had never been rewarded for his actions. Before Haman could ask anything, the king looked to him for suggestions on how to honor a hero. Thinking that the king was referring to him, he recommended some wonderfully public appreciations, only to find out that the man who would be the recipient of all this fanfare was Mordecai. Adding insult to injury, he was the one responsible for implementing it all. (Now, is that a wry smile creeping across your face?)

Haman spent that day leading Mordecai around as a VIP. By the end of the day, he was mortified at the turn of events, but did not have much time to reflect upon it before he was whisked off to the second banquet with Esther. At the banquet, Esther shocked the king and Haman with her statements as she explained the problem with the newly implemented Jewish extermination program. She also surprised the king with the fact that she was a Jew. The king was furious with Haman and left to get guards. Haman, in pure terror, attempted to beg for his life. He stumbled as he began walking towards Esther, who was seated at the table, and fell on her just as the king walked back into the room! (That smile is getting bigger.) Haman's fate was sealed, and he was hung on the very gallows that had been built for Mordecai.

That ends the "Six Hundred Year Story". There are many lessons to be learned in the study of these scriptures. Through this story, we meet people of dubious character who failed, and we also encounter others worthy of admiration, those who succeeded in doing the will of God. The book of Esther is a shining example of a notable characteristic of God—His purpose and perfect will cannot be frustrated or stopped. He will accomplish that which He desires, and we can rest assured that God's attention to details is capable of spanning centuries.



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- What is a Dieffenbachia, and what is it doing in the middle of the classroom?
- How to know for sure that you can trust God and all of His promises

**The Only Real Estate Joke I Know
Hey, I Realize It Isn't That Great, But At Least It's Something. I Know, It's Almost A "Dad" Joke, But It Is Kinda Funny, Right? Well, Anyway, Here It Is. Enjoy!**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

A small real estate broker was dismayed when a brand new real estate franchise much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read WE HAVE THE BEST AGENTS. He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and promptly announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading WE HAVE THE LOWEST COMMISSIONS. The small real estate broker panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own brokerage-it read...MAIN ENTRANCE.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Corinthians 1: 18-22

¹⁸But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No."¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas²⁰ and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."²⁰For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Once upon a time there was a young man who owned a prime piece of real estate. It was a wonderful piece of ground in an excellent location and with unlimited potential. Now, with real estate, there are three things to consider: location, location, and, of course, location. The particular property that we are concerning ourselves with today was in an excellent location. Let's take up our story here.

The young man was very proud of his real estate. You could tell by the way he would admire it. He would fold his arms across his chest, lean back just a bit, and say "Wow, this is a really nice piece of real estate". Then he would dance a little jig of happiness, and smile. Life was good for the young man. But the property was bare and needed something. One day he said, "This land is bare." "It needs something." He stroked his chin as he contemplated his options. After straining himself this way for a little while, he suddenly had a wonderful idea. "I have a wonderful idea." "I know just what this land needs", he said. "One of the most exotic plants in the whole wide world." "It needs...", he hesitated for dramatic effect, "a dieffenbachia!" So, after locating an incredible specimen of dieffenbachia, he planted it in the middle of his property. It must have been incredibly difficult work because when he was finished he had to find a seat to rest and catch

his breath. When he was rested, he stood up. The young man, as was his custom, folded his arms across his chest, leaned back just a bit, and said "Wow this is an even nicer piece of real estate now with a dieffenbachia." And, yes, you guessed it, he danced his famous little jig of happiness and smiled.

Years went by, and the young man's situation in life changed just a bit, and the time came when he was faced with a very difficult decision. In order to pay his bills, he needed to sell the piece of property. With his hands clasped tightly together near his chest, he looked longingly at the ground he had loved for so long. He knew in his heart that he would miss his dieffenbachia the most. A bug flew into his eye and he wiped his eyes to remove it, but everyone knew there was no bug. He was really wiping back his tears. With one last look, he dropped his gaze to the ground. Turning in sorrow, he shuffled along slowly as he began his search for a Real Estate Agent to help him sell the property.

He searched high. He searched low. Then he searched high again, just to make sure he hadn't missed anything. Out of the corner of his eye he spotted an agency not far from where he was. He ran to where the Real Estate Agent was sitting and knocked on the door. The agent answered, "Come on in". The young man opened the door and went in to talk to the agent about selling his property. When he turned to close the door behind him he realized that the door was indeed just an imaginary door and really didn't need closing after all. But before he took his seat, he danced his little jig of happiness and smiled. It was good to have found a Real Estate Agent.

As he sat down in the chair, the young man took the Real Estate Agent's hand in his own, looked deeply into her eyes, and said..."I want to sell a piece of property." He held on to her hand as he waited for her response. It was then that they both realized that this was not a love story, but a real estate story, so they stopped holding hands and began acting a bit more professionally. "Good" said the agent. The two of them began making plans for selling the property. The agent wondered how much money the young man would want for his real estate. She put both elbows on her desk and cradled her face in her hands as she gazed up at the ceiling dreamily. But that question was answered when the young man abruptly said "I want \$400,000 for my land." The Real Estate Agent was a bit startled and sat back just a bit. "Do you think we can get that?" he asked the real estate agent. "Indubitably" said the real estate agent. The young man had no idea what indubitably meant, but he was sure that it was good, and that meant he needed to dance his little jig of happiness and end with a smile. The Real Estate Agent said "Let's ask \$500,000 for it and deal with the buyers." As they both stood to their feet, the young man again took her hand in his own, looked deeply into her eyes, and said, "I'm gonna be rich!" Then they both remembered again that this was not a love story, but a real estate story, and they began acting a bit more professionally. He then turned to the door, opened it and walked through. Turning to close it he remembered that it was an imaginary door, and didn't need closing. He went off dancing his little jig of happiness.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Meanwhile, the Real Estate Agent got up from her desk, opened the door, went outside, and turned to close the door. It was then that the Real Estate Agent remembered that the door was an imaginary door and really didn't need to be closed. She walked over to the piece of property that she had just listed, and placed her "For Sale" sign right where everyone would be sure to see it very well. Then she went back to her office. Took out her keys, unlocked the door, and opened it, and walked inside. She turned to close the door. Why is it so difficult for actors to remember imaginary doors? She sat down behind her desk and busied herself with her work.

Now we wait for a prospective buyer.....and we wait.....and we wait.....and we wait.....and we wait.....and wait.....and wait.....and wait.....and wait. Sometimes it takes awhile to sell a piece of property.

Then, it happened. The moment for which we have been patiently waiting—a prospective buyer came walking along. She looked at the property very closely. She admired the land from all four sides. She admired the dieffenbachia. She admired the idea that anyone would have the idea of planting a dieffenbachia there. She admired the idea that someone would have the idea that having an idea concerning a dieffenbachia would become such an important idea and an integral part of a story. Admiring it, she folded her arms, leaned back just a bit, and said, "Wow, this is a nice piece of property". But she didn't dance a little jig of happiness. She just smiled. She walked over the Real Estate Office, opened the door and went in. As she turned to close the door, she realized that it was an imaginary door and really didn't need to be closed at all.

"Hi" she said to the agent. "Hi" she said back. She pointed in the direction of the property with the "For Sale" sign on it and said "I want to buy that property" Her next question was expected. "How much is it?" The Real Estate Agent said "\$500,000" "Wow" she said, "That seems a little high." With that, she got up, opened the door, stepped out of the agent's office, and as she turned to close it she remembered that the door was imaginary, and didn't need to be closed. Now she was searching for something. She looked high. She looked low. She looked high again, just in case she might have missed something. Then she saw him, an appraiser, standing off in the corner. She quickly made her way over to him.

"I need an appraisal" she told him. "I can do that" he replied. "Come with me" she said. "I'll show you the property that I would like to buy." The two of them walked over to the piece of real estate. The appraiser looked the property over very, very carefully. He sniffed the dirt. He stuck his fingers in the dirt. He looked at the land from all sides. He walked around and around the property, all

the while stroking his chin—deep in thought. "Hah!" he said. Then he wrote a number on a piece of paper and handed it to the young lady. He then said "It's worth about \$400,000". "Thanks" she said. The appraiser then went back to his corner and just stood there.

Now the young lady had the information she needed to bargain with the Real Estate Agent. She walked over to her office. She opened the door and went in. Turning to close the door, she remembered that it was an imaginary door and didn't need to be closed. It is getting painfully obvious that actors suffer from severe short-term memory loss. She then sat down, and told the Agent "I want to make an offer on that property". The agent said "How Much?" The young lady then said "I had the land appraised." The agent was not surprised. This was common business practice with potential buyers. The young lady then said "I am offering \$400,000." The agent then said, "Let's make this official". She then got the necessary forms and began filling out the official offer form. She had the young lady sign it on the bottom line, and then said "All we need now is earnest money in the amount of \$4,000." Now is when the guy who wrote this magnificent play says "Let's stop here and talk about this \$4,000 earnest money".

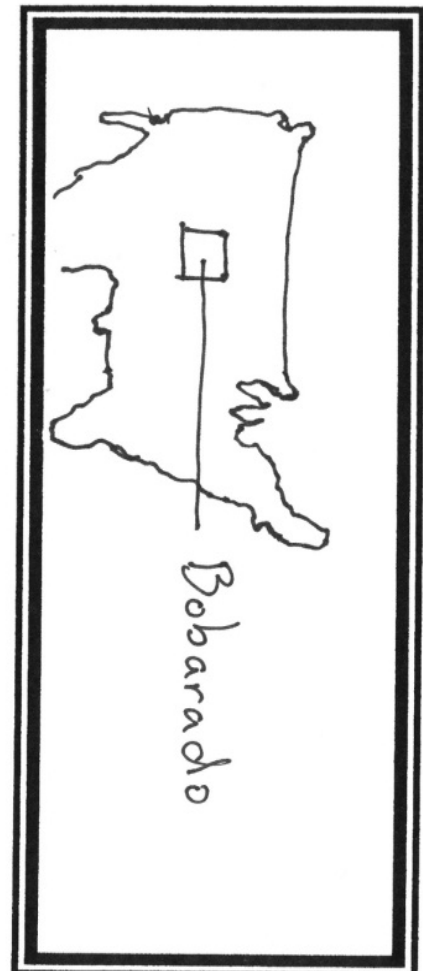
I am not going to even pretend that I have an understanding of the Trinity. I don't. And I seriously question anyone who says they comprehend the idea. I am constantly amazed at the complexity of our incomprehensible God. I fall on my face in awe in response to what He has shown us in the pages of the Bible. The concept of the Trinity is elusive because we have no parallel with which to compare. God the Father is spirit and cannot be seen by our physical sense of sight. God the Son, who we know as Jesus, came to this earth and made Himself like us. We could touch and talk to and see God in human form. And then there is God the Holy Spirit, also a spirit. He is a person of the Trinity, just as the Father and Son are and is not just a force as in the Star Wars concept of "may the force be with you". God has said through the Bible that the Three work in such perfect unison and agreement that we can call God One. Three unique, separate, distinct, beings and yet, they are one!

At the moment of salvation, God places His Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. He lives inside of us, comforting, teaching, guiding, and always pointing us towards the person of Jesus, showing us the perfect example of what our lives should look like. He is a spirit and therefore, invisible. But He is there. So the question then becomes, "How can I know that He is there if I can't see Him?" I'm glad you asked. The answer...by His power. When we push ourselves out of the way and allow God to work through us, we can see the results around us as God accomplishes His perfect plan. Jesus is the perfect example of how a Christian should operate and live by the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything Jesus did, He accomplished through the Spirit. The many miracles were result of the Holy Spirit doing what He does best. Pointing to Jesus and proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is paramount to our success at living the Christian life. In addition to that, God has said that the Holy Spirit is given to us as a guarantee that everything that He has promised us regarding eternity future will come to pass. What a guarantee. Earnest money in a real estate deal is forfeited if the individual backs away from their promises to purchase. God will not forfeit part of Himself. He will complete the deal that He has made with us regarding Heaven. It is guaranteed.

The Real Estate Deal (a critique)

"A good return on investment!"
"Incredible assets!"
"A Tony Award dividend!"
"We need an extension"
"A special affects insolvency"
"The movie had less liabilities!"



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Free advice you can take out into the world as you grow older
- If you could only use four words to describe God, which four would you choose?

**Enthusiasm: (noun)
Great Excitement
For, or Interest in,
Some Thing**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Every two years we have a very special meal. It is unlike anything that you have ever experienced before! Absolutely great food, more fun than you can possibly imagine, and a memory you can take with you for the rest of your life. We will be giving you the time and place soon. But expect great food, a movie, and some live entertainment. This will be your only chance to see and experience this. (That is, unless you flunk this class and have to come back for a third or maybe a fourth year.)

Reviews have been tremendous—5 out of 5 stars every year!!!!!!

The “Forgotten” Character Trait

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Isaiah 59:17

*He put on righteousness as His breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on His head;
He put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak.*

How big is the God you worship? An honest answer will color and tint how you read and view the Bible. The pat Sunday School response is “Oh, He is very big.” But are we convinced? At times, it can be advantageous to revisit a thought or concept in the spirit of genuine study. We can then walk away from the process, confident and reaffirmed in our beliefs. Or, if necessary, adjust to additional information, and rethink our convictions.

Genesis 1, the account of creation, is a central focal point that must be considered in any discussion of “How big is God?” We have already examined the first word in the Bible. The second is as fascinating. “In the beginning, God...” we read. Hebrew is not unique in structure. Several other languages have the distinction of containing nouns that can be *singular*, *dual*, and *plural*. English is generally limited to the singular and plural construct of nouns. An “s” added to the end of the word in

English is, in most cases, sufficient to transform the noun into its plural configuration.

The Hebrew word for God, *Elohim* in the original text, is in the plural (three or more) form. One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible—how can God be three distinct, unique, equal persons and yet considered One? Will that riddle ever be solved this side of the grave? It is sufficient that the Bible, the Word of God, teaches it. Our feeble minds find the comprehension of the infinite impossible, at best.

God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit, were present at creation, each actively taking part. The vantage point of Colossians 1:16-17 gives the impression that Jesus Christ was “center stage”, as it were. (On a personal note, one could imagine that when the Bible says “And God said...” Jesus could well have been the One speaking the words out loud.) The account in Colossians goes on to say that not only did He speak

the world into existence, He holds it together. If He were to let go or turn away for an instant, all would cease to exist! The question again, “How big is the God you worship?”

An infinite God is difficult to define, explain, or understand. He knew that, and ingeniously put together a Book containing everything that we need to know about Him. An infinite God, displaying Himself in a finite number of pages means one thing. Every word on those pages is important. Very important. And yet how many have not availed themselves of the opportunity to read every one of those words?

A most interesting portrayal is found in Isaiah 59:17! Few are familiar with this verse, yet it describes the essence and character of God more succinctly than any other passage in the Bible. We find there four character traits that picture Him to us in an extraordinary way. An infinite God defined by four words.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

He put on righteousness as a breastplate. Righteousness. God is absolutely, totally and completely perfect in every way. End of discussion. He cannot abide with sin. He loathes it. He will not allow anything less than His standard to prevail. Everything God does is righteous and good. Everything.

And the helmet of salvation on His head. Salvation. From before the creation of the world, God knew we would have a problem with sin. So He made plans for the redemption of man, salvation. It is the central theme of the Bible from beginning to end. Christ is the sacrifice, the Son of God. And if the references to the breastplate and helmet sound familiar, it is worthy of note that Paul, in writing to the Ephesian church, wasn't the first to use an analogy of armor. A careful study of Isaiah 59 will reveal all the other items Paul mentioned as well.

He put on garments of vengeance. Vengeance. God is a vengeful God. He is Judge, Jury, and Executioner. That description is discomfiting to us. And yet, through the pages of the Bible we see over and over again God judging sin—harshly. It may even frighten us a bit. That is not all bad—the *fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

The fourth character trait may surprise most. Few think of God in this light, which is truly unfortunate.

And wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak. Zeal. The “forgotten” character trait of God, zeal, is defined as “intense enthusiasm, to be deeply passionate about.” Everything God does, He accomplishes with eagerness and excitement. He is sincerely fervent about all He has ever done. That is an amazing

idea. Just think what that can mean. Not only was He intensely passionate and enthusiastic about the big moments, like creation. But He is also as ardently interested when dealing with individual people on a day to day, moment by moment basis.

The zeal of God is awesome to behold. An example is found in Job 38:7. God was talking to Job, upbraiding him for his behavior, and reminding him about creation. He concluded with the phrase *while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy.* The picture that comes to mind is of overwhelming scope. Imagine the entire population of Heaven gathered together. Billions and billions of the heavenly host are looking on. Jesus Himself steps out into the nothingness. With the enthusiastic and passionate zeal of God Almighty, He declares “Let there be light.” As He speaks the words, light comes into being, (and probably all the laws of physics and time as well). In His zeal, He acknowledges the awesome, perfect, amazing thing He has done and says “It is good!” All of heaven recognizes it too, and a deafening cheer goes up to God for the wonderful things He has done in that moment. The universe that we live in is not merely an average creation prepared by a mediocre God. It is an absolutely astonishing creation completed by an enthusiastic, passionate God intent on doing His very best, if that is even appropriate to say.

Life Hacks

Change all of your computer passwords to “Incorrect”. That way, when you forget your password when trying to log in, your computer will tell you “Your password is incorrect”.

Don't throw out old doll heads. You can make a neat night light for your little sister. Just put a bulb inside and watch the eyes glow in the dark!

Tired of boiling water every time you make pasta? Just boil a few gallons and then freeze it for later.

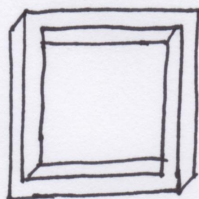
Eggs are very healthy and should be the foundation of your diet. Don't like the taste? Just add chocolate, butter, and flour, and bake for 30 minutes.

Stirring a generous amount of coconut oil into your kale makes it easier to scrape into the trash.

Add a touch of magic to your life by putting some glitter in your mouth before you sneeze.

You are welcome!

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Impossible Bob

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- The greatest card trick in the world (well maybe) performed here live!
- Imputation—What is it?

A Few Words of Wisdom For the Year Ahead

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. Enjoy deadlines, especially the “wooshing” sound they make as they go by.
2. It is so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say, and then don't say it.
3. Yesterday's yesterday's tomorrow's tomorrow is actually tomorrow's yesterday—AND THAT'S TODAY!
4. Brush your teeth with someone else today. 4 out of 5 dentists agree—you can't stop tooth decay by brushing alone.
5. Never buy tickets to an Amish World Series night game.
6. Who is General Failure, and why is he reading my hard drive?

The Theological Ramifications of the Imputation of the Righteousness of Christ Upon the Heart of the Believer

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 4:20-25

²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. ²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; ²⁴But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; ²⁵Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

All mankind has a huge problem that we cannot solve for ourselves. It is called sin. In our frail humanity, we fail to see sin from God's perspective. His view of sin is clearly defined as He placed the death penalty upon all who are guilty of even the slightest wrong. But our God also loves us and shows us mercy and grace by offering to us, free of charge, salvation. It is the prime ingredient of our lives. Everything else that matters, hinges on one question and its answer. Have we come to the point in our lives that we recognize our sinful condition, and our absolute inability to help ourselves out of our precarious predicament, and accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives.

I would like to talk to you today about what it means to be a Christian. And just to be sure we are all on the same page here, let me explain something right up front. We use many words and phrases to talk about Salvation. We talk about being saved, being born again, becoming a Christian, becoming a new creation, inviting Jesus into our heart, being redeemed, being converted, or being reconciled. There may be slight differences between each phrase in it's focus, but we are essentially talking about the moment in someone's life when they realize that they are a sinner in need of a Savior, and turn to God and ask Him to be a very real part of their life.

That is when God steps up and begins His amazing work. On our part, our salvation may seem simple and easy and we may even almost take it for granted. But salvation is anything but simple and easy for God.

There are many miracles recorded in the Bible for us to look at and stand in awe of our mighty God. My favorite is not Moses parting the Red Sea, or David fighting Goliath.

No, my favorite is, in my opinion, the greatest miracle God has ever done. He did it for Himself, really, but we get to celebrate and rejoice in it. Only He can see it, and the only reason we even know about it is that He told us that He has done it.

Have I piqued your curiosity by now?

Allow me to introduce it to you by it's technically theological term or name—"imputation".

God imputes His righteousness upon the life of everyone who places their faith and trust and belief in Jesus for their salvation. This is no small feat.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

I would like to use this deck of cards to illustrate some truths about Salvation. First, you will notice that from the back, these cards all look the same. As humans, we all have similarities that we recognize to be human: eyes, ears, nose, arms, and such. But God looks past that, and sees us for what we really are. When I show you the other side of the deck, you can see for yourself just how unique we all are. But one man was very different, Jesus Christ. Let's let the ace of hearts represent Him. He came to this earth as a genuine human being—100% man, and yet 100% God also. He demonstrated for us what a perfect life, a perfect heart looks like. As I turn the ace over you will notice that Jesus looked much the same as you and I. In fact the Bible says that He looked remarkably unremarkable. There was nothing about Him physically that would have drawn our attention. As I shuffle the cards may I remind you that the Bible says that He walked among us as an average looking man—but with a perfect heart.

I would like to take a moment now and talk about what it means to be saved. Let's look at four average people who we might meet. As I show you the bottom card, I ask, "Is that a perfect heart?" Obviously, no. So I will lay that card face down on the table. I will show you the next card and ask the same question, and the answer is again the same. Again and again I show you a card and ask the same question concerning a perfect heart, and each time I get "No" for an answer. We now have four cards on the table face down.

The Bible says that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. None of us is perfect. None of us has a perfect heart. So let's look at the four people once more, just to make sure. As we go through them again, you agree, none has a perfect heart. But, the fine print in the Bible says that nothing imperfect can enter Heaven. So where does that leave us? In need of a Savior! Here is how it all works. I divide people into four groups, when it comes to dealing with them.

First, we have those that will have nothing to do with God. Their vile

hatred of anything religious is evident in their behavior and words. They will die one day, and they will stand before God and He will look at their heart. As I turn the card around, we can all see a very imperfect heart. As I toss the card behind me to the floor, I remind you that God will say, "Away from me, I never knew you." And they will be cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever and ever.

So let's look at our second individual. Their attitude about God is a little different. They believe that God is real, but they have no desire to have a relationship with Him. They tolerate others who believe but, they themselves, have no time for such nonsense. One day they will stand before their maker and answer for their choices here on this earth. As I turn the card over, you will notice again, there is no perfect heart here. And again, the judgment of an Almighty God prevails and they burn in Hell forever and ever. And I toss the card behind me to the floor, and remind you that God will say, "Away from me, I never knew you." And they will be cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever and ever.

Will our third candidate fare better? They go to church! In fact they may even teach Sunday School, or be a Deacon. They busied themselves working in the church, but forgot one very important thing. They never got around to asking God into their hearts. They never became a Christian, even though they were surrounded by those who were Christians. Allow me to turn the card over and show you that unfortunately, their heart is as far from perfect as the others. And their punishment will be the same, awful fate. And this card is tossed away as well, behind me to the floor, and I remind you that God will say, "Away from me, I never knew you." And they will be cast into the outer darkness where there will

be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever and ever.

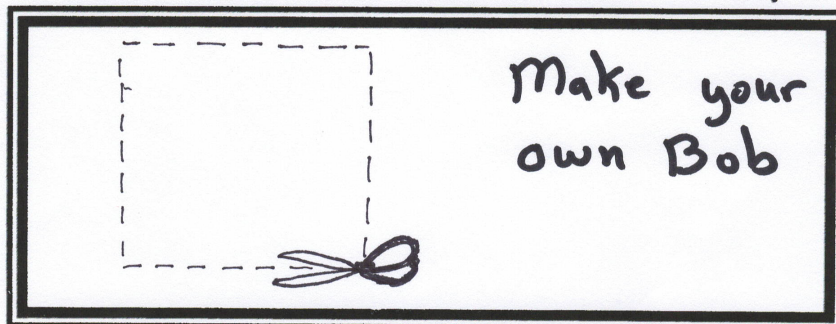
So far, this is a sad story with sad endings. But there is a glimmer of hope with this fourth person. This individual understands their need of a Savior. They realize that they do not have a perfect heart, and repent of their pride and humble themselves and ask God for forgiveness. And can you believe, God reaches down into their life and changes them completely! They are made into a new creation. And because of the transformation of salvation in their life, God does an amazing miracle. He imputes the righteousness of Christ into the heart of the saved individual. And when God looks at them, He no longer has to look upon the imperfect heart of a sinner. As I turn the card over you will notice that there is now a perfect heart where once was something else. What a miracle.

Now does that mean that they no longer sin? Of course not. We all fail in our everyday lives, but the righteousness of Christ, imputed into the life of every believer, covers our imperfections and allows God to see us as positionally perfect in Christ. And that means that when we die and stand before God, He will look at our heart and see the perfect heart of Jesus, and say, "Welcome home my child."

Rscheearch

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are , the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can siltl raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh??

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



February 3, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 21

Sunday School Times

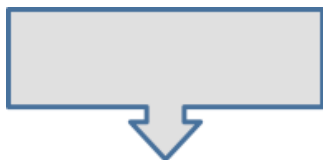
Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Welcome to Febrooaree
- Let's play some football

The Field For Today

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



10yd _____

20yd _____

30yd _____

40yd _____

50yd _____

60yd _____

70yd _____

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Peter 1:5-7

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love

I watched Superbowl I. The Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs met in the Los Angeles Coliseum on January 15, 1967. As an eleven year old who did not follow the game much, it left little impression on me.

It was not called *Superbowl I* until retro-

actively given the name in 1970. It was simply known as the *AFL-NFL World Championship Game*.

Broadcast on both NBC and CBS, it was the only Superbowl game to date that was not completely sold out. For those who care, the Packers beat the Chiefs 35-10.

Seventeen years ago, an idea was born that has consistently appeared in Sunday School every first Sunday in February. It is called the *Mr. Lyle Bowl*, and it returns again today.

The playing field looks somewhat like a regulation football field, and we use a football, and there is a referee, but that is where any similarity ends.

This game is an analogy of the life of a Christian. With an impossible set of rules, and a ref that knows them all too well, winning is all but impossible—on your own.

You see, for a Christian living in the world, playing the game of life is difficult at best. God has an incredible standard that we are to maintain—perfection. On our own, that is an impossible goal.

The good news is that God never intended for us to tackle this game on our own. He has provided a Way in the person of Jesus Christ.

The key to winning in this life is to maintain a relationship with Him. We need to allow Him to lead, and then be brave enough to follow.

2,000 years ago, Jesus took the field as a human being just like us, and won, by living a perfect life. He showed us how, wrote it all down in a Book called the Bible, and gave us an internal referee, the Holy Spirit, to call the plays for us.

Play the game of life according to God's plan—and win!

(Continued on Page 2)

Upcoming Dinner Theater March 1st

The Most Masterfully Measured and Made Major Mouth Moving Main Meal Moment in March is coming.

Check and mark, and draw on, and post-it-note, and push-pin, and circle, and highlight in yellow your calendars.

BE THERE!

The Most Incorrectly Pronounced Word in the English Language: February

(Continued from Page 1)

We are to add to our faith **goodness**. Exceptional moral character, like courage, strength and valor, should mark the Christian life. What is our word worth in the world? In my life I have very few heroes. I have not met many people who I hold up as shining examples of a life well lived. My grandfather is one of the few heroes I cherish to have known. As a man in his prime, he was physically tough and stout. The story is told of some men at the farmer's supply store who were standing behind a pickup one day, trying to decide how to pick up a huge bag of feed and load it in the bed of the truck. My grandfather, annoyed by the commotion, pushed his way to the middle of the onlookers, bent down and grabbed it up and placed it, by himself, into the bed of the truck. He then turned to the men who were still standing with their mouths agape and said, "That's how it is done." And then he simply walked away and went about his business. I knew him later in life, after the ravages of Parkinson's disease had taken its toll on his physical self. By the end of his life, he could not feed himself because of his shaking hands, he needed help to use the bathroom, and his heart did not allow for any strenuous activity. My grandmother told me later, after he had passed, that not once, NOT ONE TIME, did he ever complain or ask "why me". That may seem small to many, but to me, it showed tremendous character. Hero type character.

Add to goodness, **knowledge**. Do we read and study the Bible as we should? This is an amazing book. It contains everything that we need to know about life, God, our future—it's all there. I have met few people in my life who have read through the Bible even one time. And fewer still who have done it more than once. Why? We have the most incredible book, the living Word of God, at our fingertips, but we ignore it and spend our time on other things. God has said of his Word, that it will not go out from Him and return void or empty—it will have an effect. Nothing will change your life as profoundly as simply reading Scripture. Read the Word of God!

Add to knowledge, **self-control**. Restraining emotions is difficult for most of us. We tend to witness an event and immediately react emotionally. A wise person moves slowly, thinking through an emotionally charged issue to make sure that decisions are made wisely, and with no regret later. As I look at the political unrest that has been present in our country for as long as I can remember, there is one consistent feature that I have seen now for 60 years in the news. And that is that the average demonstrator is a young person. It is rare to see 80 or 90 year olds out throwing bottles and pillaging businesses. Reigning in our emotions requires time and effort, but it is worth it in the long run.

Add to self-control, **perseverance**. We live in a world that is full of stress. It is the nature of the beast and will always be there. We are to learn to endure under hardship. We must never give up—never! The writer of Hebrews said we are to have faith, work hard and endure. This trio is to go together always. I recall, many years ago, my grandmother died and I wanted to go to the funeral, which was out of state. The cabinet job I was working on at the time was for a lady who had little or no concern for me, or my family issues. I was told in no uncertain terms that her cabinetry must be in place before I left the state or she would sue me for breach of contract. I knew quite well that she was unsaved and I was determined to display to her an example of how a Christian reacts to difficulty. I had no recourse but to work straight through and complete her job—44 hours worth, non-stop. I have never forgotten that episode in my life. She got her cabinetry, and I got to say goodbye to my grandmother at her funeral.

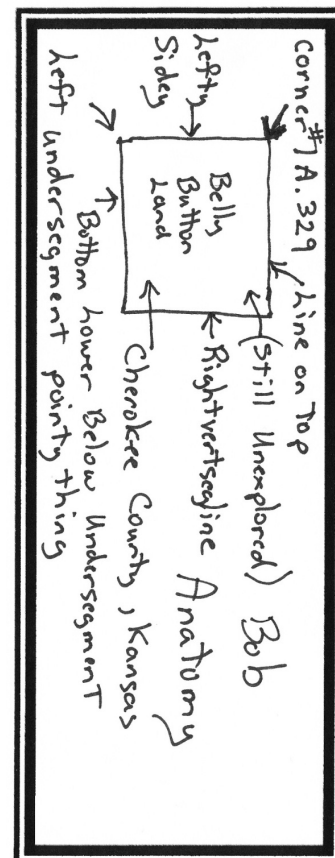
Add to perseverance, **Godliness**. I can sum this one up very concisely. Godliness is having an appropriate fear of God. God is worthy of respect, our deep respect and honor. The more I learn about God, the more I know I need to learn about God. That is achieved through a lifetime commitment of having a personal devotional time. It cannot be achieved through any shortcuts. This one takes time. A lifetime.

Add to Godliness, **brotherly kindness**. God made us creatures that need relationships. We have in the book of

Genesis the account of creation. And as each day ended, God looked at what He had done and said, "It is good." But when He had finished creating Adam, his words were, "It is not good..." What a striking contrast. It is not good that man should be alone. We are social beings and need each other to fulfill our lives as God desires. We must learn to accept each other, regardless of our warts and all. Kindness to those around us who are Christians, who wear the same title we do—children of God—deserve our respect, our love, and our kindness.

Add to brotherly kindness, **love**. There it is, the "Holy Grail" of life, the greatest thing that we can ever obtain and attain—love. What is love? God is love. When we understand God, we will see love in perfection. It must motivate all that we do, it must come before all that we say. Let me give you an example of how this works. If I tell you I have 1,000,000 dollars, you would be impressed. All those zeros look pretty impressive lined up like that. But the most important numeral in that number is the "1". Without it the rest is worthless. So it is with life. If love isn't first, if love isn't before, if love isn't motivating everything we do or say, we have gained nothing.

And that, my friends, is how you win the game!



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

February 10, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 22

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Mr. Lyle has a magical paper cutter—and, like, dude, it does magical stuff.
- Why would anyone sit outside their house for a whole week?

Armadillo: How Much DO You Really Know?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

What possible connection could there be between an armadillo and our Bible lesson today?

I'm glad you asked. Allow me to explain.



We all know that this very recognizable shape does not even come close to looking like the real human heart, so, just where did this symbol come from?

Records of the first use of this symbol are found in ancient Babylon—shortly after the great flood of Noah's day.

The Bible talks of a man named Nimrod (see Gen. 10:8-12). History tells us that he married a woman named Semaramis. Upon his untimely death, she did not want to give up her throne. So she invented a religious system that promoted her to be a god.

One of the symbols she used to make herself more familiar and memorable to her people was the **Sacred Heart**. Its shape has remained largely the same for thousands of years

Happy Valentine's Day!

Leprosy Cured?-One Week To Go

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Leviticus 13:1-2

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron,² "When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a bright spot on his skin that may become an infectious skin disease,^a he must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons^b who is a priest.

Leviticus 14:3

³And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper.

Leviticus 14:8

⁸And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

Types in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, are always a fascinating study. And so it is with leprosy, a dreaded skin disease of that day. God set aside two entire chapters of Leviticus to address the issue of leprosy, even spending an entire chapter delineating the process of being cleaned from this incurable disease. Curious. Until you realize that leprosy, in the Old Testament, is a picture of sin. Another truly deadly problem that, in the life of a Christian, can be dealt with.

The Old Testament is fascinating. Much may seem archaic from our vantage point today, but it is the Word of God and therefore very,

very special. One of the most often overlooked, but most rewarding studies that a student of the Bible can do is to look carefully at The Law, given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Old Testament is full of types, that is, parallels, to New Testament truths. Many of the laws pointed directly at Jesus. One in particular, though, addressed our New Testament understanding of sin. God spent 2 complete chapters in Leviticus alone, carefully explaining the problems with leprosy and the results of the disease if found present in a person's life.

According to the Law, if someone was found to have the disease of leprosy, they were to be cast outside the camp of Israel, and were to have no contact with anyone. Never again to live with loved ones, never allowed to experience a comforting hug, but rather, they were required to shout, "Unclean" at people who might accidentally come near them. To hear the diagnosis of leprosy, meant loss of social contact, loss of income and a life of destitution, and an eventual ugly death.

There are some interesting parallels between leprosy and sin.

(Continued on Page 2)

The Illusion Explained

Many people wonder how the paper cutter illusion is performed. In the past, I have been reluctant to give away my secrets. It has nothing to do with an illusionist's code. I just have chosen to not reveal my methods.

But, I considered the idea for a while, and came to the conclusion that you might enjoy knowing the truth about it. It will require an in depth explanation. So, for the first time ever, I will reveal the deep dark secret of this wonderful trick.

The single most important step when performing this trick is to prepare with special care the one

Upcoming Dinner Theater March 1st

The Most Masterfully Measured and Made Major Mouth Moving Main Meal Moment in March is coming.

The evening will be much better than when I was a kid. My mother lived by this adage: "If you wait long enough to make dinner, everyone will just eat some cold cereal." #ithopethemilksstillgood #ihatecheerios

(Continued from Page 1)

Leprosy was loathsome. We often fail to understand the view that God has towards sin. He hates it. It is a very, very big deal to Him. We seem to be able to just pass it off as part of life sometimes. Sin, even small things in our lives, should break our hearts with disdain.

Leprosy is not a respecter of persons. Anyone could contract the disease, from the lowest slave, to the king. Sin, likewise, affects all. No one is immune to its lure.

Leprosy begins small and grows and grows. Sin works the same way. We start with something very minor, get accustomed to tolerating it, maybe even enjoying it a bit, and then we move on to something larger.

Leprosy grows surely. The walk of a Christian is just that. It is a walk. It is not a sit down and rest a bit. We are either growing in the Lord or we are growing away from Him. There is no neutral gear in the transmission of the Christian life. Only forward and reverse.

Leprosy was a living death. Leprosy attacks the nerve endings and blocks the sense of pain. A person suffering from the disease might cut a finger and never notice, and it become infected and eventually even fall away. The wages of sin is death. Those caught up in a life of sin are looking death straight in the face and not realizing it.

Leprosy is ultimately fatal. It is never a pretty death, but leaves behind a maimed and deformed corpse. Unchecked sin in any life, will ultimately lead to destruction. It is the nature of the beast. Sin destroys.

Leprosy is actually not painful. The pain sending nerve endings have been dulled and are not communicating with the brain. When we allow sin in our lives, we get comfortable with it. It doesn't offend us as it should. Our sin should break our hearts and cause us to fall on our faces before an Almighty God.

A diagnosis of leprosy meant separation from the congregation of Israel. Completely alone. Sin separates us from God and from others. One of the most frightening aspects of Hell is that those who will be there in torment, will also suffer complete "aloneness".

Leprosy was considered highly contagious. When we allow sin to remain in our lives, others may see our foolishness and think that they can do that too. A rotten apple will always spoil the rest of the bushel basket. Sin tolerated, will cause problems.

To be cured of leprosy was nothing short of a miracle. God's offer of forgiveness is nothing short of a miracle. The requirements for being declared clean from the disease, was for the priest to come to the individual and thoroughly inspect the skin. It is a relationship with Jesus that points out the sin in our lives as well. Jesus lowered Himself to our condition as a human being for that very reason. He came to us.

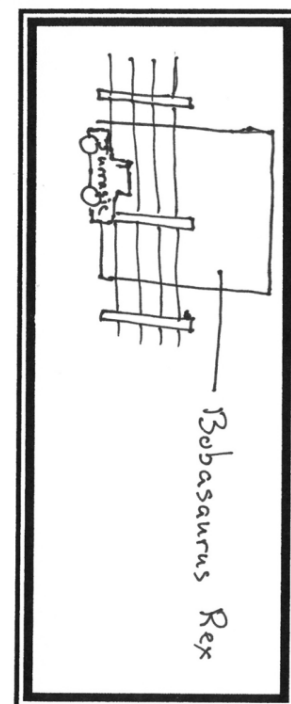
To be cured of leprosy required a special offering in response. Our "cure" for sin, the Atonement, is a very special thing that God has done.

There is an interesting clause that considers the possibility of a cure. In that eventuality, the healed individual was to appear before a priest, submit to ritual cleansing, and then sit outside his home for a week. What may seem incongruous initially begins to make sense when

you contemplate the spiritual picture here. God is able to forgive us when we do wrong, but many times the sin has spoiled our reputation. The cured person was to be seated outside his dwelling for a week as a testimony to his healing. Interested or curious persons could come by and see for themselves that the individual was definitely now cleansed of leprosy. Likewise, a sinner may indeed be forgiven, but human nature is wary of those kinds of claims, until proof can be seen of a genuine change of heart. It requires time to re-establish a tarnished reputation.

God took a tremendous amount of time detailing out for Israel how to deal with leprosy. That was no accident. It is a picture of sin. And sin is a very, very large concern.

For God so lo__ed the world
that He g__ve
His on__y
b__otten
So __
__hat whosoever
bel__eveth in Him
should __ot perish
but have __verlasting life



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

February 17, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 23

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Recall Notice
- Most Incredible Word Ever

The Most Amazing Word Ever!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Heaven is an amazing place. It already exists—God abides there with myriads of myriads of Heavenly beings. We as Christians look forward to a day when we will experience it firsthand.

However, it is out of our reach. We cannot get there by anything that we can accomplish. Were it not for the grace and love of God, we would all burn in Hell forever.

The promise of God is clear; only those who are saved shall be allowed to enter that magnificent place. And only God can save us from our immense problem with sin. Try as we might, it is useless to think that we could solve the issue of sin by ourselves.

On our very, very, very best day, doing our very, very, very, best thing, compared to God, my goodness, your goodness, is nothing.

The good news is that all sin can be forgiven. There is nothing so heinous that God is not able to erase the penalty.

Because of what Jesus accomplished, salvation is available to all who believe. Creation was finger work—delicate and intricate. Salvation is described as the strong arm of the Lord at work—powerful and amazing.

Eternal life in Heaven is an incomprehensible idea. God has set eternity in the hearts of men, but we struggle to understand it.

The Christian has been bought and paid for. The penalty for our sin has been met. We have been redeemed. That word infers freedom.

So what is the incredible word?

Class time today will include a detailed introduction of the word

Hoosumaber!

(Continued on Page 2)

SPACIAL MEEL MARSH 1th

Peas be member duh
spacial meel data wee
half plant four duh Marsh
1th.

Eat whale bee berry,
berry munch fund, ant
eye wood knot wont ewe
too four gate a boot eat.

Uh meel ant uh moofy
ant otter tinks wheel bee
munch, munch fund.

Sew, be member two
bee dare Marsh 11th ate
6:00 inn duh Fail-o-
sheep Hull hear @ duh
charch.

Important Recall Notice

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named A.D.A.M. and E.V.E., resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, "Sub-sequential Internal Non-morality", or more commonly known as SIN as it is primarily expressed.

Some symptoms of this problem include: (a). Loss of direction, (b). Confusion of the mental component, (c). Amnesia of origin, (d). Foul vocal emissions, and (e). Erratic, and self-destructive behaviors.

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable or at fault for this defect, is providing factory authorized repair service free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs.

There is no additional fee required. The number to call in all areas is P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, JESUS, into the heart component.

Please see the operating manual. HOLY BIBLE, for further details on the use and implementation of these fixes. With the upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring and assistance from the resident Maintenance Technician, the Holy Spirit.

Warning: Continuing to operate the human being unit without corrections voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

For free service, dial J-E-S-U-S.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped and disposed of by burning. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice.

(Continued from Page 1)

Heaven is a wonderful place. It is an amazing place. It is so amazing that God says it has not entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for him. Think the most amazing thought that you can think Heaven might be like and know that you are not even close. Heaven is that awesome. We can't comprehend the majesty and incredibleness of Heaven. But, as I said, it is very, very real, and I want to go there some day. God has promised that reward to everyone who believes in Him.

There is **One** way to get to Heaven. It is not based upon how good we are or how hard we might work at getting there. The one way to Heaven is through the person of Jesus Christ. He is the one who can save us from our sins.

Let's review. Heaven is an amazing place. I want to go there some day, and I hope to see all of you there also. It is going to be absolutely incredible. And there is one way to get there, and that is through the person of Jesus Christ. He is the one way. In fact, He is the **Only** way. We have a problem and Jesus is the only one who can save us from our problem and give us a chance at Heaven. God placed a very high price on sin. It carries the death penalty. Jesus paid that price for us. He is the only one who lived a perfect life and is, therefore, an adequate payment to satisfy God.

Ok, let's review. Heaven is an amazing place, as I said before. It is very real, and it should be the goal of everyone here to get there someday. But there is one way to get to Heaven and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. He is the only one who paid the price for our problems and is the only way to get to Heaven. You see, we all have a **Sin** problem. We are not perfect, and God has stipulated that anything that is not perfect is considered sin. We are born with a sin nature and struggle with that nature our entire lives. As we make mistakes, God is able to forgive our sin. Nothing less than perfection can get into Heaven. That is a problem for us. We are not perfect, but Jesus is.

Let's look at this again. Heaven is an absolutely incredible place where I plan to spend my eternity. It is going to be amazing. But, as I said before, there is one way to get there, and that is through Jesus. In fact, He is the only way to get there, because we all have a sin problem that only He can forgive. It is absolutely **Useless** to think that I could do it on my own. On my very, very, best day, doing my very, very, best things, I don't even come close to the righteousness of God. I can try and try, but it is useless to think that I have any chance of impressing God or gaining a ticket into Heaven based upon my own abilities.

Let's review where we are so far. I plan to go to Heaven some day. It is going to absolutely the greatest thing ever. And there is one way to get there, and that is through Jesus Christ. In fact, He is the only way anyone can get to Heaven, because we all have a sin nature. We all sin. And try as I might, it is useless to think that I have any chance of getting to Heaven on my own. It's not going to happen. Because **My** goodness is nothing compared to the perfection of an Almighty God. His Heaven is so magnificent and perfect, He has said that nothing but perfection will be allowed to spend eternity there with Him. I am nothing compared to an infinite God. My best, my goodness, my everything just won't do.

Now, let's review what we have covered so far. Heaven is an awesome place, a very, very, real place. There is one way to get to Heaven. In fact there is only one way to get to Heaven. And that is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. We all have a tremendous problem called sin and it is useless to think that my goodness is capable of getting me anywhere. The focus must be on Jesus. It is **All** because of what He did on the cross for us. It is all about Him and not us. I put up nothing of value for consideration. He is everything. My chance to go to Heaven is based solely on what He did for me on that cross many years ago when He paid the price for my sin.

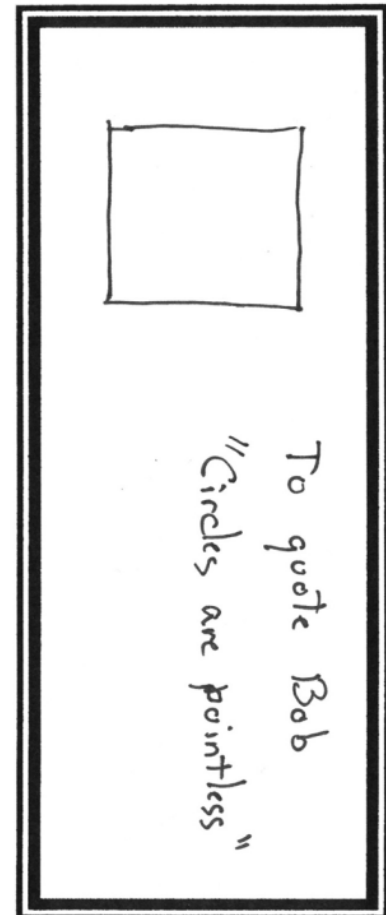
Let's review once again. You cannot even begin to imagine how great Heaven will be. There is one way to get there, and that is only through a relationship with Jesus Christ. And that is because you and I have a problem called sin. It is absolutely useless to think that you can achieve Heaven on your own, because your goodness, my goodness, is nothing compared to God's standard of perfection. **All** of our focus must be on Jesus. It is **Because** of what He did that we even have the opportunity to have a relationship with God. He loved us so much that He took a step downward to our condition, that of being human, and went to a cross for us. It is because of what He did that we can even hope to be reconciled to God.

Let's review. I want to go to Heaven some day. It is going to absolutely fantastic. There is one way to get there. The only way to get there is through a relationship with Jesus. Only He can solve our problem with sin and it is useless to even try to do it on our own. Because our goodness, my goodness, is nothing when compared to God's goodness. We must understand that it is **all** about Him. It is because of what He did those many years ago that I have the chance, the opportunity to have **Eternal** life. Eternity is a very, very, long time. We struggle to understand just how long that is. Here is my favorite explanation of eternity. Suppose there was a solid granite mountain, 100 miles long, 100 miles wide, and 100 miles tall. And suppose that a little, tiny chickadee would fly to the top of that mountain once every 1,000 years and sharpen its little beak on that mountain, wearing an infinitesimal amount of that mountain away in the process. When

that mountain has been completely worn away, not even the equivalent of one day of eternity will have passed by.

Do you follow all of this so far? Let's review once again. Heaven is going to be the most amazing thing ever. I want to go there some day. But I know that there is one way to get there, the only way, and that is by inviting Jesus to live in my heart. I know I have a sin problem and that it is useless to think that my good works can get me anywhere. **All** of my focus must be on Jesus, because what He did when He went to the cross paid the price for my sin and because of that I have the promise of eternal life. The New Testament word for paying the price is to **Redeem**. Jesus Christ Redeemed me from my sin. Only He could have paid that price, and because of His love, I will spend eternity in Heaven with Him some day.

OK, Let's review one more time. Heaven is the most incredible place that anyone can possibly imagine. In fact it is beyond our greatest imagination. There is one way to Heaven, and that is by inviting Jesus to live in our hearts. He is the only way to get there. You and I were born with a sin nature, and nothing imperfect can get into Heaven. It is useless to think that we have the ability to please God enough to earn our way there. My best good works on my best day are nothing when compared with God's perfect standard. It is **all** about what Jesus did when He went to the cross. It is because of His great love for us that He offers us eternal life with Him in Heaven. He was willing to pay the price for our salvation. He was willing to redeem us from our problem.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

February 24, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 24

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Recall Notice
- Most Incredible Word Ever

Special Meal March 1th

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Upcoming Dinner Theater

The March 1th meal will be absolutely incredibly fun!!!! Do not miss it. Critics have hailed as:

More fun than when the Penguins of Madagascar did that funny thing they did in the movie when the guy said that stuff and then the other guy laughed and then the penguins did that thing, and I laughed and laughed and it was sooooo great!

As great as that was—this will be even better!



I HATE WHEN YOU OFFER
SOMEONE A SINCERE COMPLIMENT
ON THEIR MUSTACHE AND
SUDDENLY SHE'S NOT YOUR
FRIEND ANYMORE.

A Golden Lampstand—Beautiful!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Exodus 25:31-39

³¹“Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them. ³²Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand—three on one side and three on the other. ³³Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. ³⁴And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. ³⁵One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair—six branches in all. ³⁶The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.

³⁷“Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. ³⁸Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. ³⁹A talent⁴⁰ of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories.

Never before had the world witnessed an enormous nomadic nation travel across the countryside. With the visible presence of God ever before them in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night, the Israelites moved with precision and order. The entourage was very organized and always moved in an identical manner. They never knew God's plan for the upcoming day, until the morning. Their encampment could be for only the night, or

they might remain for a year. When the cloud would lift and move, they would pack up everything they owned and follow. This required ease of mobility, and tents were fitting for the cause. Even with something as important as the building in which they centered their worship of God, there was the need for portability. God gave Moses the plans for a Tabernacle. It was, quite literally, a large tent and courtyard that could be broken down with relative ease and reassembled at the next camping spot. When a suitable site was determined, the carriers of the Tabernacle materials would erect the courtyard and tent. The entire assembly would then be allowed to come near to set up their tents. They were required to always camp in the same order, in a prescribed location, leaving the Tabernacle perfectly centered in the middle of the complete encampment. It was to be the focal point of everything they did. The Tabernacle was not exceptionally ornate, nor would it even be considered particularly beautiful from the outside, but it was very, very special. The building is, in fact, an astonishing picture of the character and attributes of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. We do not have the venue now to look at each detail. An entire book would be needed to discuss all that can be found in the chapters that chronicle the construction of the most amazing tent ever made.

A few moments will be spent here examining some furniture. The actual Tabernacle itself was a tent sitting just off center in a good sized courtyard enclosed by curtains. A rectangular structure, it was divided into two rooms. With only one entrance and no windows, curtains made of various types of hides and materials formed the ceiling and walls of the structure. The first room was called the Holy Place. Day to day activity occurred there continually. The second, slightly smaller room was known as the Holy of Holies. That room was to be entered only by the High Priest one day per year, the Day of Atonement. The two rooms were divided by a heavy curtain. An imaginary tour would be in order at this juncture to help explain what we will discover here.

(Continued on Page 2)

Gripping



This well-known scene from the Sistine Chapel shows God reaching to touch the tip of the finger of man. For those who claim Christ as their Savior, the connection is more than just a touch. John 10:28-29 stipulates that we are in His grip. Imagine the strong arm of the Lord holding onto your own arm—and not letting go. Our salvation is not secured by our strength, but rather, it is bound by His hold on us

(Continued from Page 1)

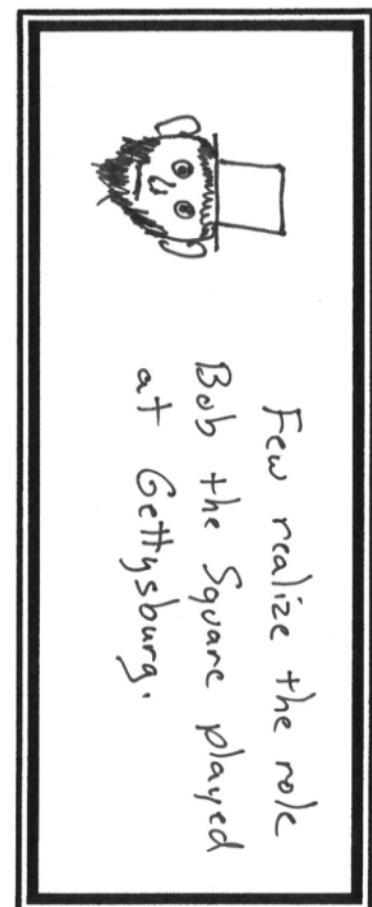
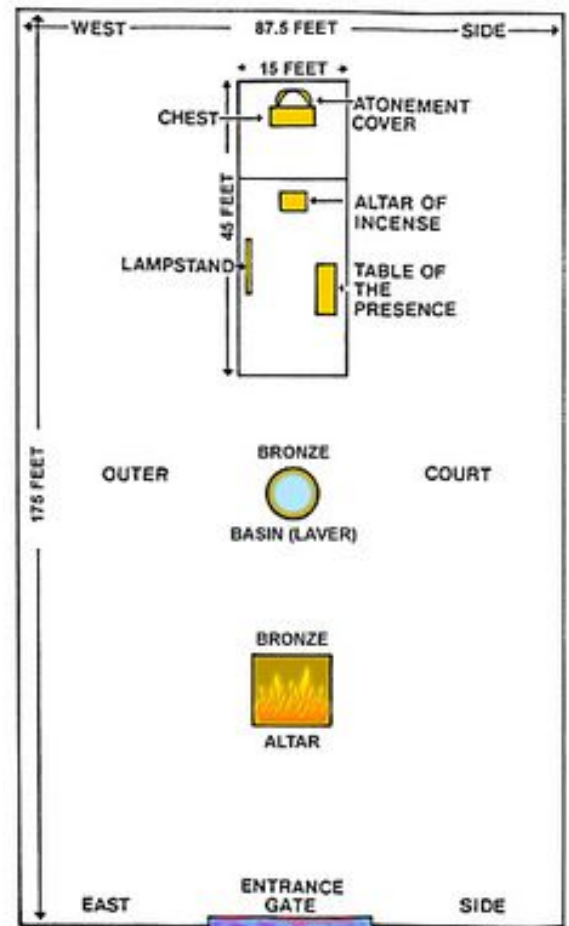
As we enter the tent through the singular door, it is noticeable that there is only one source of light for the work that transpires here. To the immediate right, stands the Table of Shewbread, a gold covered table with twelve loaves of bread, meticulously replaced each week. The bread reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of Life. He is our Daily Bread. Moses was instructed by God to place a jar of manna into the Ark of the Covenant. God fed His people for forty years with this bread from Heaven. The manna that appeared each day was also a picture of Jesus Christ. They named this unique substance manna, which literally in Hebrew means "What is it?" When Jesus came to this earth, many of the people who met him and heard His message had the same question weighing heavily on their minds, "Who is He?"

Directly ahead and center, next to the curtain divider, is the gold covered Altar of Incense. With a fire continually burning and smoke from incense rising, the aroma would be quite noticeable. The book of Revelation tells us that the smoke of the incense represents the prayers of the saints rising up to God, a sweet savor to Him.

Immediately behind the Altar of Incense, on the opposite side of the curtain in the Holy of Holies, is the Ark of the Covenant. This ornate, gold covered, wooden box is itself, a picture of Christ. The wood speaks of the humanity of Jesus and the gold, His deity. In the chest is a copy of the Law, (Jesus came to fulfill that Law), a jar of manna, (Jesus is the Bread from Heaven), and the rod of Aaron, the priest, (Jesus is our High Priest). The lid to this box had two angels facing each other looking down upon a bowl-like place called the Mercy Seat. This is where the Shekinah Glory of God would appear. When Jesus died upon the cross, the Gospels tell us that the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom, exposing the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies to the first room. That placed the Altar of Incense adjacent to the Ark. We now have the right to go boldly before God with our prayers. No longer do we need an earthly priest to do that for us. Jesus, our High Priest, is ever before God on our behalf.

One additional furniture item is to be found in the Holy Place. Upon entering this room, looking to the left, one would see the only light source, a Lampstand of incredible beauty. We will spend some time discussing this object, as it prefigures the Messiah more completely than any other in the Bible. The Lampstand was made of solid gold, emphasizing His deity. Standing with its base touching the bare soil floor, we are reminded of the fact that Jesus left Heaven behind and put His feet upon the same earth that we tread upon. It was not cast or welded or jointed. It was beaten into its shape. On His way to the cross, Jesus was beaten severely, to the point of being unrecognizable. The craftsmanship that went into fabricating this lamp was so incredible that God gave the person who made it special dispensational ability. It was a remarkably beautiful piece of workmanship, breathtaking in detail. Seven arms protruded upwards, each holding a bowl of oil. With wicks in place and lit, the shower of light cascading down the intricate gold detail would have been beyond words. Jesus is the Light of the World, and He is to be the focus of our lives, just as that Lampstand was a focal point in the Holy Place.

One of the great mysteries of God is His triune essence. How He can be three distinct, unique persons and yet be one person is beyond the comprehension of our feeble intellect. It is sufficient that God says that it is so. Perhaps the eternity of Heaven will shed light on the subject for us. Until that time, we have a few hints in the Bible to help expand our understanding of this very difficult concept. The Tabernacle pictures for us all three Persons of God working in concert. Above the Ark of the Covenant, on the Mercy Seat, the very presence of God the Father was manifested in a blinding light display, called the Shekinah Glory of God. God the Son is seen in the Lampstand, voluntarily beaten for us, a beautiful example for us to behold and see, God in human form. God the Holy Spirit is pictured in this room as well. The Holy Spirit is never calling attention to Himself, but pointing us to Christ, and illuminating Scripture. The oil in the bowls illustrates for us how The Spirit works. Odorless, tasteless, and colorless, all but invisible, but still there, the oil is expended in a chemical release of power we call fire and light. That light illuminates the Lampstand for all to see, making something beautiful even more so. The Holy Spirit works similarly. He is always pointing us to Christ, illuminating the Word of God for us, making God more amazingly beautiful to all who are looking.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Japanese Proverb
- A Family Tree

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Ancient Japanese Proverb



Our Family Tree



By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Genesis 5

This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created man, he made them in the likeness of God.² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Man"³ when they were created.

³ When **Adam** had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him **Seth**.⁴ After **Seth** was born, **Adam** lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.⁵ Altogether, **Adam** lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

⁶ When **Seth** had lived 105 years, he became the father⁷ of **Enosh**.⁷ After he became the father of **Enosh**, **Seth** lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters.⁸ Altogether, **Seth** lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

⁹ When **Enosh** had lived 90 years, he became the father of **Kenan**.¹⁰ After he became the father of **Kenan**, **Enosh** lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters.¹¹ Altogether, **Enosh** lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

¹² When **Kenan** had lived 70 years, he became the father of **Mahalalel**.¹³ After he became the father of **Mahalalel**, **Kenan** lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters.¹⁴ Altogether, **Kenan** lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵ When **Mahalalel** had lived 65 years, he became the father of **Jared**.¹⁶ After he became the father of **Jared**, **Mahalalel** lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters.¹⁷ Altogether, **Mahalalel** lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸ When **Jared** had lived 162 years, he became the father of **Enoch**.¹⁹ After he became the father of **Enoch**, **Jared** lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.²⁰ Altogether, **Jared** lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

²¹ When **Enoch** had lived 65 years, he became the father of **Methuselah**.²² After he became the father of **Methuselah**, **Enoch** walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.²³ Altogether, **Enoch** lived a total of 365 years.²⁴ **Enoch** walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

²⁵ When **Methuselah** had lived 187 years, he became the father of **Lamech**.²⁶ After he became the father of **Lamech**, **Methuselah** lived 782 years and had other son and daughters.²⁷ Altogether, **Methuselah** lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸ When **Lamech** had lived 182 years, he had a son.²⁹ He named him **Noah**³⁰ and said, "He will

comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed."³⁰ After **Noah** was born, **Lamech** lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters.³¹ Altogether, **Lamech** lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.³² After **Noah** was 500 years old, he became the father of **Shem, Ham and Japheth**.

(Continued on Page 2)

Ancient Japanese Proverb Translated

Much care is required when translating words and phrases from one language to another.

After considerable study, I have made the determination that the proverb on the left can be loosely translated:

"If you cannot read Japanese, tilt your head to the right"

You're welcome!

(Continued from Page 1)

A Chart Showing The Information Found in Genesis 5

NAME	YEAR BORN	YEARS TO SON	TOTAL AGE	YEAR OF DEATH
Adam	0	130	930	930
Seth	130	105	912	1042
Enosh	235	90	905	1140
Kenan	325	70	910	1235
Mahalalel	395	65	895	1290
Jared	460	162	962	1422
Enoch	622	65	365	987
Methuselah	687	187	969	1656
Lamech	874	182	777	1651
Noah	1056	500+	950	2006
Shem	1559			

Take note of the year that Adam died. Notice that Noah was born shortly after Adam passed away. But Lamech could have known Adam personally and talked with him.

Enoch was taken at a relatively “young” age. The Bible tells us here that he walked with God. That is said of no one else in scripture. What a remarkable man he must have been. Other passages tell us that he was a preacher of the message of God. One would imagine him to have been a wonderful example of a godly man in every respect. His son would have witnessed the life of his father first hand, and no doubt, respected it. Remind yourself at this point of the commandment to “Honor your father and mother”, and note that it came with a promise of an extended lifespan. Methuselah is on record as the man to have lived the longest. Is that just coincidence?

The great flood came in the year 1656. It is the belief of this writer that God took his people home and spared them His wrath and destruction. Only Noah and his immediate family survived God’s judgment as the flood came upon the earth. They were miraculously and wonderfully saved.

Tremendous lifespans in those days allowed for overlapping of many generations. Imagine the experience and knowledge that could be passed down through the family. That could also work negatively, in that a poor example of a father would continue to influence many generations of impressionable minds.

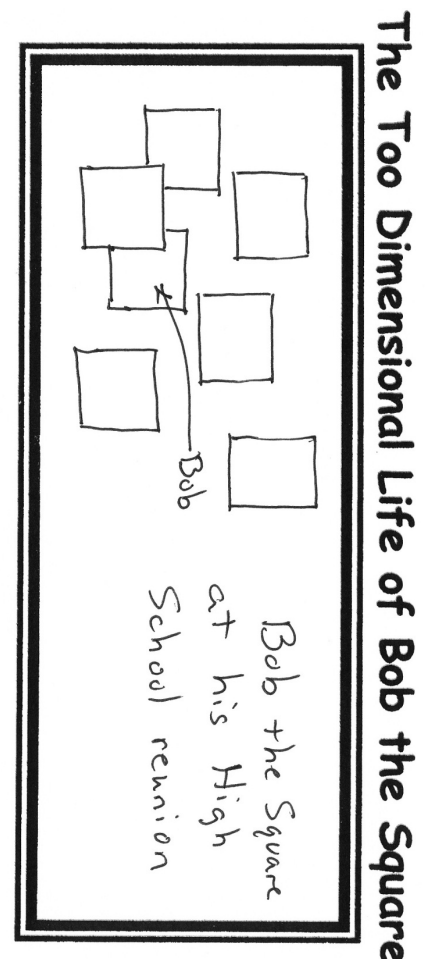
This generational account also pins down time for us in an interesting way. The earth is not as old as the world says it is. It was created with the look of age, and to say otherwise, is to disregard Genesis 5.

Three Things About Johann

First, Johann was an officer in the German army, and as a new Christian, was searching for a church to attend. The Mennonite church he approached was not ready to accept him with open arms, so He moved to Sweden where he found a bit more liberal Mennonite church to become a part of and served there for a number of years. After some time had passed, he returned to Germany where he once again approached the church there about becoming a part of their fellowship. Noting his acceptance in Sweden, there was little they could do but allow him to join. But, because of the uniqueness of his background and his remarkable conversion, they wrote it all down in church records for future reference, should there ever be a need of this somewhat odd information.

Second, he is the first Ratzlaff recorded in any church documents.

And thirdly.....well.....let's let Mr Lyle tell you the rest of the story.



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Japanese Proverb
- A Family Tree

Howddaya Eat Potatoes ?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

We eat them

1. Fried
2. Boiled
3. Baked
4. Au gratin
5. Twice baked
6. French fried
7. Hash browns
8. Soup
9. Mashed
10. Cheesy
11. Curly fried
12. Tots
13. Broiled
14. Gnocchi
15. Roasted
16. Chips
17. Pancakes
18. Scalloped
19. Pierogi
20. Salad
21. Grilled
22. Steamed
23. Latkes
24. Pave
25. Pureed
26. Candied
27. Croquettes
28. Rösti
29. Waffles
30. Pommes Dauphine
31. Vichyssoise
32. Flakes (just add water)
33. Dumplings
34. And of course RAW!

Potatoes: Very Interesting Creatures

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

As hobbies go, I participate in what may be one of the most intriguing ever. I study potatoes.

Potatoes in their native habitat are fascinating creatures to observe. Their interactions and behaviors are absolutely mesmerizing to watch.

I discovered potatoes a number of years ago and have spent a rather sizable amount of time cataloging and assembling what I believe may be the most extensive collection of potatoes ever.

As I have studied potatoes, observing them for hours at a time, I have come to the conclusion that there is much that we can learn from the lowly potato. As difficult as this may be to believe, I am of the persuasion that potatoes have character and behaviors quite similar to our own.

My ensemble of potatoes, I affectionately call them "Taters", is second to none. And I have brought my entire collection here today to assuage your curiosity. I will introduce you to them.

Dictater: Philippians 2:3—Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Dictaters rule. They want everything to go their way. They call the shots, they command. They want to be the boss, and if everything doesn't go their way, they get

angry and are generally miserable. God tells us to put other people first. To consider others more important and put our wants and desires aside. Jesus poured his life into the people he met. He never demanded—he invited and asked. There is a huge difference.

Imitater: Ephesians 5:5—Be ye imitators of God.

Everyone wants to imitate to a degree. It is how we blend in with each other. While there is something to be said for uniqueness, ostracism usually follows those who are too unconventional. But an imitator needs a role model. And the greatest role model ever is God himself. When we strictly imitate each other, we are facing the distinct possibility that we may fail each other as role models. God never fails.

Rotater: II Timothy 3:14—Continue in what you have learned.

It is a challenge for all to stay focused on the right path. The world we live in is distracting and Satan would love nothing more than to get us off course and following a wrong path. It requires concentration and a genuine commitment to follow the straight and narrow, even if it gets tough at times

Graviter: Ephesians 4:14—Therefore we will no longer be blown here and there by every wind of doctrine.

Closely related to Rotater, Graviter is motivated by things that may look exciting. The desire for something new and different motivates him to be caught up in anything that has a somewhat reasonable foundation to it, but is drastically off track. Satan has learned that mixing just a little lie in with a whole lot of truth can make almost everything palatable. It's like putting a little bit of arsenic in a clearly labeled bottle versus an open bottle of Coke. The Coke bottle will always be the potentially more deadly of the two options.

Comentater: Proverbs 15:7—The lips of the wise spread knowledge.

When something happens, how quick are we to simply express our opinions or disdain? Without thinking, we react verbally, and loudly. The Bible says that Jesus was, in most instances, a very quiet man. When he did speak, it was well thought out and worthy of listening to. How often do we talk just to "hear ourselves talk?"

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Agitater: I Timothy 6:3—If anyone teaches false doctrines, he has an unhealthy interest in controversies.

There are those who live to stir up controversy. They enjoy the feeling of power that it gives them, to see others get angry and turn on each other. They sit back and watch the show, ever learning how to do it better the next opportunity that comes their way. And because they are in a group, they can usually keep a bit of their “anonymity” and rarely get blamed for their underhanded schemes.

Cogitater: I Peter 5:7—Cast all of your cares on him for he cares for you.

Cogitaters may tend to think themselves well thought out and simply being conservative minded. While it is good to plan and consider all options before striking out on a plan, there are limits to that part of the process. At some point, it becomes evident that too much consideration leads to confusion and reservation and simply failing to act in a timely fashion.

Spectater: James 1:22—Do not merely listen to the Word, do what it says.

How many sit in the stands and watch a few play the game? That may be a great ratio for sports, but a horrible ratio for the Gospel. God needs workers. He desires people willing to play the game. When we study the Bible, we learn that he does expect something of us. And we fail him when we refuse to become involved. While it is easier to sit and watch, those who do not participate miss out on the thrill of being a part of what God wants to do in this world.

Irritater: Ephesians 4:32—Be ye kind one to another.

An abrasive personality is difficult to deal with. There are those we

just sometimes wish would go away and leave us alone. We find them to be loud and obnoxious, or rude, or we might disagree strongly with their views on one thing or another. Sometimes God puts abrasive people in our path to sand the rough edges off of ourselves. We need to be kind and love those who are not very lovable.

Hesitater: Proverbs 28:1—The wicked man flees, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Confidence should be one of the standing attributes of a Christian. We have a head knowledge that God is in control, but we may have a heart desire to hold back and wait. We hesitate, even when we know where we are to be going and what we should be doing. The Bible is quite plain regarding God's expectations for Christians. But we tend to hold back maybe in fear or trepidation. God continually confirms that we can trust him in every circumstance.

Facilitater: Galations 6:2—Carry each other's burdens.

Do we expend our energy on other people's behalf? Many around us could use help and may not be asking, but a wary eye can spot situations that could use a helping hand. Jesus poured his life into his disciples. They were his greatest concern. Jesus lived for others, to help others, to make a difference in every life he touched. We would do well to live with the same abandonment of our own selfishness.

Meditater: Psalm 1:2—But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Our fast paced world shouts for our attention and usually succeeds in getting it. God's “still small voice” can be heard if we quiet down and consider God and his ways. Often it requires a commitment on our part to actively set aside time to just stop and slow down and consider God and his goodness and mercy. It is always time well spent.

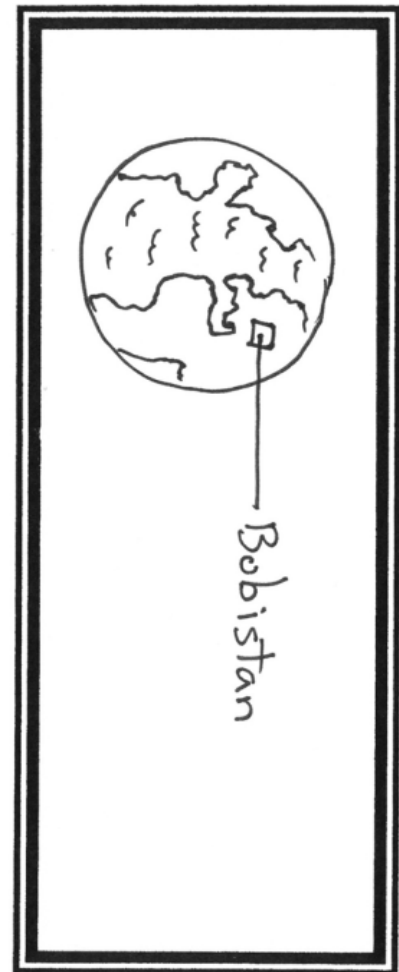
Deep Potato Thoughts

Everything is either a potato, or it is not a potato.

There is a special place for many of God's special creatures: right next to the mashed potatoes.

What do you get when it rains potatoes?
Spuddles.

If you are looking for someone to make potato puns, you can always count on me to chip in.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Marshmallows
- How to Drive an Ox

Marshmallows: What Are They Really?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Have you ever chomped down on a s'more and had ooey, gooey stuff run down your chin?

Have you ever made an attempt to crush the world record for stuffing as many little white fluffy cylinders into your mouth as possible? (And then started laughing, and had white drool stuff run out of the corners of your mouth?)

Have you ever gotten a yellow Peep at Easter and decapitated it like a ravenously hungry tiger, ripping it to shreds, and then gulped it down? (And had its internal organs stick to your teeth?)

Have you ever wondered to yourself "Just what mysterious stuff is in a marshmallow anyway? And what makes it sticky on the inside, but not on the outside?"

I have many questions that medication doesn't solve.

Chocolate Covered Marshmallows

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Psalm 39:4-5

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am.

⁵ Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

In this passage, David talks about how short life is—how fleeting. Note the last half of verse 5. Its structure is fascinating.

The word **verily** appears, followed by a short phrase, and then the word **Selah**. **Verily** is an expression that denotes earnestness, as if to say, "Take note of what is to follow". **Selah** generally suggests that the reader stop and take heed, contemplate and consider what was just read.

Used together, it would seem appropriate to study carefully the phrase that falls between them.

Althaea Officinalis

Marsh Mallow is an herb that grows naturally in the East. Sap from its roots was used to make white fluffy candy thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt.

In the original Hebrew, the sentence consists of three words. We will take a few minutes to look at each word in detail.

Every Man--Each person is personally responsible for their relationship with God.

At his best state—This is a very specific term. A farmer of that day would recognize it immediately. An ox goad, a pointed shaft made of wood or iron, was used to steer oxen while working. When an iron goad's point was broken, it was taken to a blacksmith for repair. This word was used to describe the needed repairs. Man is damaged, in need of repair—salvation.

Is altogether vanity—One word in Hebrew, it refers to a brief period of time, shortness. It is also a proper name. Because of the short span of his life, Abel's name came to be synonymous with terms like fleeting or unfinished.

Translators did an amazing job bringing the Hebrew over into English. However, due to the limits imposed by cultural differences, not all words translate perfectly from one language to another.

We will look at this complete phrase in the light of Abel's story.

Zydefex

From Lyle Pharmaceuticals comes the miracle drug of the 21st Century – Zydefex.

For years, our researchers have looked for the cure for the common cold, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and of course, cancer. That cure is now available in an over-the-counter version we call Zydefex. Zydefex is truly the wonder drug of all drugs. We have found it to cure everything! Yes, everything! From aches to acne, from dandruff to dangling particples, Zydefex is YOUR cure! And is available today in a handy 40,000mg capsule form.

TESTIMONIAL

I started taking Zydefex for my complexion problems 2 year ago. Within two weeks, the pimples just melted away, and so did 3 of my front teeth. A week later, my 20/20 sight began to change. I see 2 of everything now. I'm now taking 80,000mg a day. And my friends say that they hardly even notice my third eye any more! Thanks, Zydefex!!

DISCLAIMER

Zydefex has been shown to cause epilepsy, kidney stones, and cancer in all laboratory rats. Once a regimen is begun, Zydefex must be taken continually for at least 20 years, or death will result. Zydefex has also been shown to be the cause of heart failure, diabetic shock, the sudden growth of additional fingers or toes. Those using Zydefex as a hair re-growth regimen should be aware that each hair shaft that re-grows will be at least ¼ inch thick at the base. Zydefex has also been shown to be a key cause of incontinence, drooling, and slurred speech. Most users of Zydefex soon learn to ignore the limp that occurs as the left leg muscles atrophy to ½ their normal size.

Jesus and the Fig Tree

Matthew 21 recounts a moment in the disciples walk with Jesus, when they saw an aspect of His character that they did not fully understand. The Word tells us that Christ walked up to a fig tree, and finding no figs on it, said to it, "May you never bear fruit again." The tree immediately withered and died. My Bible headlines this portion of Scripture with, "Jesus curses a fig tree." But did He actually curse the tree? Technically, He simply made a statement of fact. The tree would never bear fruit again.

We often think of Jesus in terms of what He has done—past tense. In Genesis we saw Him stand in absolute nothingness and command the universe and everything in it into existence in 6 days. Throughout the Old Testament, He appears time and again, always for a reason and always obtaining results. Then in the New Testament, we are introduced to the God/man named Jesus. We read the stories and consider all that he accomplished in so short a time. He voluntarily died on a cross, He rose again, He offered salvation to all. All of this is true, to be sure, but it is all seen from a past tense view.

The prophetic books like Revelation, also tell of the future. We see in detail what Christ will one day accomplish. And we rest confident that He will do everything He said that He would. But what about the here and now?

Colossians 1:17 points to a very "present tense" aspect of His story. All things consist, or are held together by Him. The reality of that thought may be even more impressive than the creation story found in Genesis 1. It points to the ever present, active interest that God has in His creation, even in the smallest, most minute details. He numbers the hairs on our head! How much more mundane an accounting can you imagine? So, it was Jesus who was holding that fig tree in the palm of his hands, so to speak, and causing it to grow and become a tree.

Can we wrap our minds around the idea that He had an efficacious part in it's sprouting, growth, and maturity? Without His direct and constant involvement, the tree would not have existed at all.

I wonder if, rather than thinking of what He said as a pronounced curse, we should see it as an announcement to the world that His sustaining power would no longer continue with that particular plant. With the withdrawal of His input, the plant immediately died. To continue on with the passage, what keeps a mountain together? The basic physics terms are friction, molecular bonding, and gravity, among others. Were it not for these established laws of physics operating perfectly as planned, the mountain would collapse and disappear into a flat wasteland. I firmly believe that God was not bound by any pre-existing physical laws. He created them to interact exactly as He ordained them. Were it not for the sustaining hand of Christ upholding the laws of physics, the mountain would indeed flow into the sea and be gone.

Jesus then talks of faith and doubt and accomplishing amazing things. But the key point is to be found in verse 22. If you believe, you will receive (emphasis mine.) It's not about what you or I can do or will do. It's not about how much faith we can muster. The focus must be upon what God does. Too often this passage is read from the viewpoint of what we must do to achieve great things. That places us in the foreground, shading the glory that should be going towards God. We attempt to insert our ability to have faith or believe into the equation as if it were an ingredient that God must have before He can act. His sovereignty allows Him to proceed regardless of our abilities or inabilities. When we recognize the tremendous power of God, and that He is actively and aggressively holding everything together, we can trust Him in all things and in every situation.

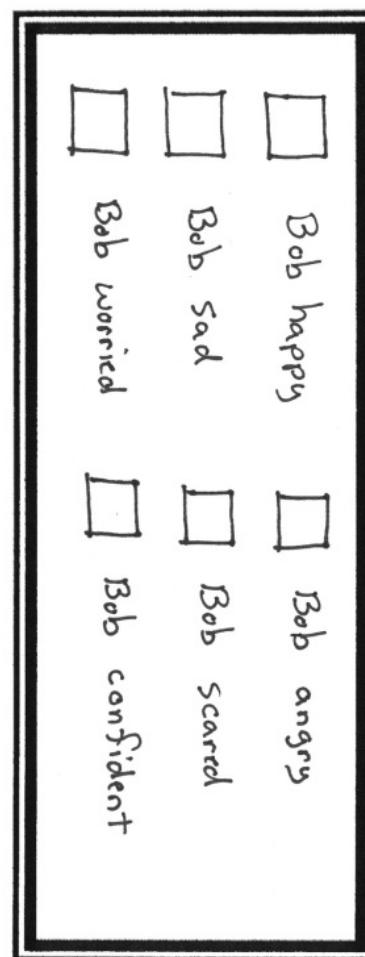
The last thing He mentions is prayer. He saved the most important item for last. It is our opportunity to be involved in what God does. The great mystery of prayer is that God allows us to petition Him. Why would a God of that magnitude value our input in anything?

But He is genuinely interested in our concerns, so much so that He commands us to always pray! Those last few words reminding us to pray may well be the most striking part of this passage.

In short, I would argue with those who claim this passage as a definition of hyper-faith and it's necessary position in the life of a Godly Christian. I see it rather as an amazing display of the ever-present sustaining power of Christ in even the smallest of things—a fig tree! And a personal reminder from Jesus Himself, that a God with that kind of incredible power is interested in my input, my prayers, my thoughts. It is humbling.

The Last Word

Zyzyva /'zizivə/ is a genus of tropical American weevils often found in association with palms. It is a snouted beetle.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- H.o.r.s.e. and a UFO
- A little black and white bear breaks a primary law of physics.
- How to prove the unprovable.

A Portal To Another Dimension

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Some things even science fiction struggles to rationalize. Allow me to explain as best I can.

The story is told of an ancient forest in a dark, uncharted region of Africa with trees unknown to science or the modern world. Legends tell us of peculiar things—strange things—that happen in the presence of the few remaining samples of this wood that have survived the millennia, carefully handed down from one generation to another.

It is said that a manuscript of extreme antiquity reveals that even the simplest box, built of this wood, defies all known laws of physics, and is proof itself of the existence of other dimensions.

After much careful study and research, and a bit of luck, I must have obtained some of this very lumber!

A simple box with a very odd characteristic—the stuff legends are made of!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Corinthians 5:7

We live by faith and not by sight.

Taken in context, this verse refers to Heaven. Paul is talking to the Corinthian church about their ultimate future—where will Christians spend eternity? The truth of this verse, though, extends into all areas of the Christian walk.

So much of our Christianity is “unprovable” by the standards of the world. The culture we live in demands a reality check based upon the five physical senses: taste, touch, hearing, sight, and smell. The spiritual world, which is very real indeed, is not accessed by any of these senses. So the unsaved look at our belief system as foolishness.

For the Christian, the Bible must be seen as absolutely dependable.

It does not just contain the Words of God—it is the Word of God! And if God is perfect, (He is, by the way), then His Word is also perfect.

Mankind, since the fall, has been separated from God by sin. I believe that Adam understood firsthand how incredibly awesome God actually is. The Bible says that Adam walked with God in the garden in the cool of the day. Have you ever wondered what God looks like—or sounds like—or feels like—or smells like? Adam knew.

Everything that we need to know about God is described in the Bible. We trust, we have faith that what God has said in His Word is true and unchanging. And what is even more amazing, He gives us the faith that we need to believe!

Will there at times be days of doubt? Yes, even some of the heroes of the Bible exhibited skepticism at times. Usually that uncertainty was a result of their physical senses. What they saw, and felt, and heard, and smelled overwhelmed the truth that they knew, deep down, was unchanging.

Learn to trust God implicitly. Don't waste your life in pursuit of some physical evidence of God. Your five senses are not infallible. They are, in reality, quite easily deceived. Trust the Bible to be true, no matter what!

Fractured History: The Motel Industry

Grand hopes had prodded their effort and research to create the greatest motel chain in history. This was to be a nationally known brand and everything looked as if it just might work. But sometimes the bottom falls out of even the best-made plans.

Investors rarely see such a dismal failure of something that, at its beginning, looked so promising. Construction had gone well. Placement of facilities was impeccably researched and planned. A national advertising campaign left no stone unturned. It seemed a sure success.

Then the reviews on social media began coming in. Every one was negative! In spite of all of their effort, no one gave them a positive review. Those on Yelp were especially awful. “Sticky floors!”, “Couldn't check out!”, “Worst ever!”, “Keep away!”, “Do not stay here!” (Continued Page 2)

Recipe Corner

Iced Water

Ingredients: 2 cups tap water
1 cup bottled water

Place one cup of tap water in a mixing bowl. Gently add one cup of bottled water. Whisk briskly until thoroughly mixed. Pour into pre-heated sauce pan. Place over high heat until ingredients begin to bubble. Fold in remaining one cup of tap water. Heat and stir frequently until mixture reaches a full boil. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 30 minutes.

After mixture is cooled to room temperature, pour entire contents into a metal mixing bowl and chill in a refrigerator overnight. The next day, portions may then be poured into individual drinking glasses.

Serving Suggestions: Place five cubes of ice in the bottom of each glass. Gently drizzle cooled liquid over the ice and fill cup to brim.

Makes three servings.

Saul

Occasionally, strange characters appear in Scripture. Like creatures of the night they move about, appearing in the bright light of inspection for mere moments before darting off into the darkness again. First Samuel Chapter 9 introduces an abstruse individual, whose problematical character leaves more questions than answers. In our visually motivated world, this debonair, tall, dark, and handsome young man, if alive today, would undoubtedly be well received by the general population.

Israel wanted a monarch to rule over them. God, being patient and permissive, allowed a man to be appointed as king of Israel. The individual chosen for this all important position was a young man named Saul. Taller than most and described as an impressive specimen, he seemed an excellent choice for the job. Following an initial period of esteem and admiration by the nation of Israel, a troubled personality arose to the surface. Remarkable moments recorded in Scripture illustrate acute and profound defects in his behavior and temperament.

Chapter 13 of First Samuel recounts a moment when Saul, rationalizing to suit his own ideas, intruded into the arena of the duties of the priests. The dreaded Philistines had gathered for war, and Samuel did not arrive at the specified time. As events unfolded, they were not progressing in the manner Saul had envisioned. His solution involved him personally presenting an offering before God. This encroachment upon the office and role of the priesthood was a serious offense before God. Arrogant disregard and disrespect of the Law was not a small blemish in character. It was a huge stain.

The darkness in the heart of Saul continued to deepen. Chapter 14 records an event that, under the auspices of a true leader, would have been a great time of victory and celebration.

Jonathan, his own son, had just led Israel in a small but significant victory over the Philistines. In an attempt to look pious and religious in front of his men, Saul made a hasty, foolish command. Not a person was to eat even one bite until evening. Jonathan was unaware of the oath taken by his father and tasted a bit of honey that the men happened upon when going through the forest. That evening, the truth came to light, and Saul was prepared to kill his own son for this minor infraction. The men of Israel came to the rescue of Jonathan, and refused to allow Saul to accomplish his ill-conceived plan.

The clouds hovering over Saul and his personality continued to darken. God gave Saul a very clear, precise command. He was to totally annihilate the Amalekites. They had proven themselves to be a particularly troublesome people, and God no longer would tolerate their presence on the earth. He failed at this miserably. He brought their king, Agag, back to Jerusalem. Others had also escaped, and God was not pleased. Samuel was incensed at Saul's behavior and, in righteous anger, took a sword and performed ultimate extreme surgery by hacking Agag into pieces before the Lord. What a sight to behold! God rebuked Saul that day and turned away from him. This failure of Saul was not a trivial matter. Centuries later, a descendant of Agag nearly succeeded in destroying the entire Jewish nation.

Leaving Saul to his personal flaws, God turned His attention upon a young boy named David who would eventually become king. Saul knew in his heart that God had turned from him and was now grooming His own choice as successor to the throne. This idea galled Saul, and in his bitterness and hatred, he tried to kill David on numerous occasions. His homicidal thoughts became actions against his own son Jonathan, and anyone else that stood in his way. Even innocent priests did not have immunity from his raging anger. The Bible portrays a man sitting on the throne who behaved almost as if demonically possessed. Saul had become a dark, brooding, depressed murderer.

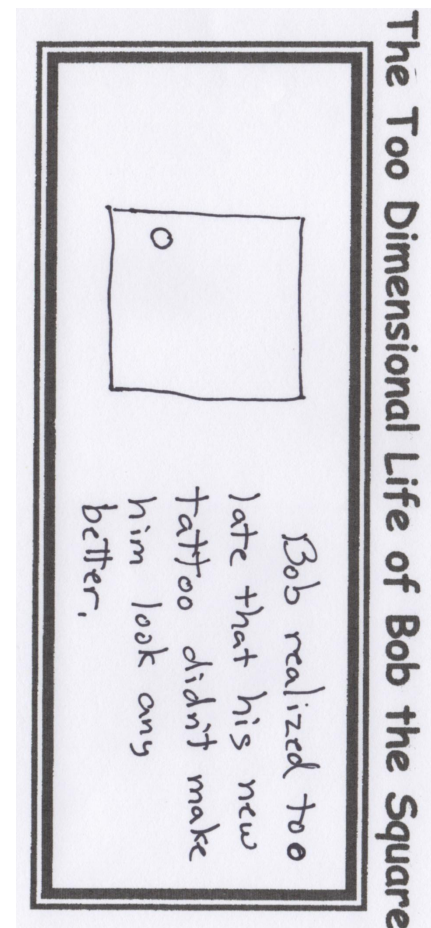
Nearing the end of his life, Saul dabbled in witchcraft and the occult. Expressly forbidden for any individual, his decision making processes were in shambles. He failed miserably in nearly everything he did. Ironically, even his attempted suicidal death was bungled. Saul is remembered as a disappointment and an example to history of the conclusion to a self-destructive life.

(Continued from Page 1)

Motel

All with exclamation points and vitriolic comments decrying the awfulness of their respective stays.

It seemed that the much anticipated motel chain was doomed. It would require a complete rebranding to bring it back from the ashes of defeat. But they did succeed in their efforts, and those involved with the Roach Motel chain bask in the name recognition that is now theirs, even to this day.



Stuff For Today

- Short history lesson regarding the nursery rhyme *Mary Had A Little Lamb*
- A Crossword Puzzle
- What Donkey? And why in the world should I care what color he is?!!!

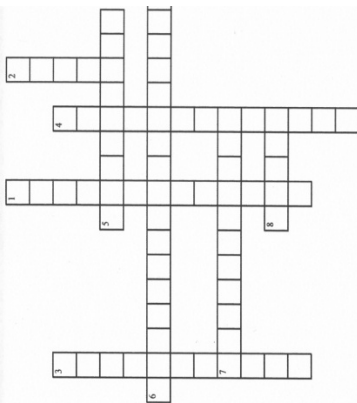
"A" Crossword Puzzle

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 5. Roller Coaster Scream | 1. Perfect Heavy Course Load Report Card |
| 6. Ghost Sighting Exclamation | 2. Starting Letter of First 5 words in the Dictionary |
| 7. Sigh of Relaxation | 3. Carried Away Initially Writing Aardvark |
| 8. Repeated Alphabet Beginning | 4. Tongue Depressor Vocalization |

Across

Down



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

So, What Color Was The Donkey?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 12

That's right! The entire chapter!

The Gospel of John recounts events in the life of Jesus from a unique perspective. His attention to detail often includes mention of geographical location. Many times, he gives insight by placing things accurately on a timeline. John 12 is a beautiful example of this.

These verses take us back to one week before the Jesus' death on the cross. Between the four Gospels, much is

recorded about His last week. Many prophecies of Scripture were being fulfilled during this time. A lot was going on.

I Corinthians 5:7 tells us that Jesus is our Passover Lamb. That takes us back into the Old Testament. The Passover was an extremely important event in the lives of the people of Israel. The laws regarding how it was to be celebrated and observed were quite detailed and explicit. They were to pick a lamb without any flaws or blemishes, observe it for four days, and then, on the evening of the Passover, they were to kill it and eat it in a solemn meal.

Many things in the Old Testament point to the person of Jesus, His character, His actions, His attributes. This Passover lamb is one of the most striking and touching pictures of Jesus to be found in the Law.

A flawless lamb was chosen (Jesus was without sin), and was to be observed for four days. I have seen lambs before, and they are absolutely adorable! I can imagine the attachment that might develop when an animal like that was brought near the family for a few days? And then, at sunset Passover evening, it was slaughtered and roasted

and eaten. The sense of personal loss would have been evident, I am sure.

Mary did indeed have a little Lamb--our Passover Lamb--Jesus Christ.

So, what color was the donkey? A fair question. For that answer, we must consider the Jewish culture.

The king of Israel was an honored position. One that demanded respect. It was the feeling of the people that God called a king to be humble. He places great emphasis upon the humility of His people--especially the leadership.

So, to promote that idea, instead of riding upon a horse, the kings of Israel rode upon donkeys. It was a gentle reminder of how their heart attitude should be.

And to set them apart from the common man, they rode upon white donkeys. Though probably somewhat rare, a king could afford to find one and own one.

The horse was an animal of war. The donkey, an animal of peace.

Many classic paintings depict Jesus riding into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday morning. A few painters researched their subject and knew this fact, and painted their donkey white.

(Continued Page 2)

A Short History

The words of the American nursery rhyme *Mary Had a Little Lamb* were inspired by an actual story. Young Mary Sawyer decided to take her little lamb to school one day at the suggestion of her brother. Visiting Mary's school that day was a young man that was very taken by the presence of the lamb. The next day he returned to the little red school house and handed Mary a piece of paper with the three original stanzas written on it.

The Redstone School built in 1798, believed to be the school house mentioned in the rhyme, is now located in Sudbury, Massachusetts. In the town center of Mary's home in Sterling, Massachusetts stands a statue of Mary's lamb.

In the first recording of the human voice in 1877, Thomas Edison recited *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. He re-recorded it again in 1927 for posterity

A Donkey and A Lamb

By Mr. Lyle

As I stand here on this hill
And overlook the city
I gaze across the valley 'til
I must look down in pity.

Three crosses stand against the sky.
Crowds gather to watch the show--
Three men condemned to hang and die
Upon that forsaken plateau.

I recall the day I met
The middle man up there.
I will never, ever, ever forget
His kindness and his care.

A Sunday morn five days ago
A day unlike any other
Why I was chosen I do not know
I was standing near my mother.

Two men came by and simply said,
"The Teacher needs them now."
Untying us both, we were led
Toward a waiting, cheering crowd.

Just outside the gates he came.
He seemed so mild and meek.
He called me softly by my name
And gently stroked my cheek.

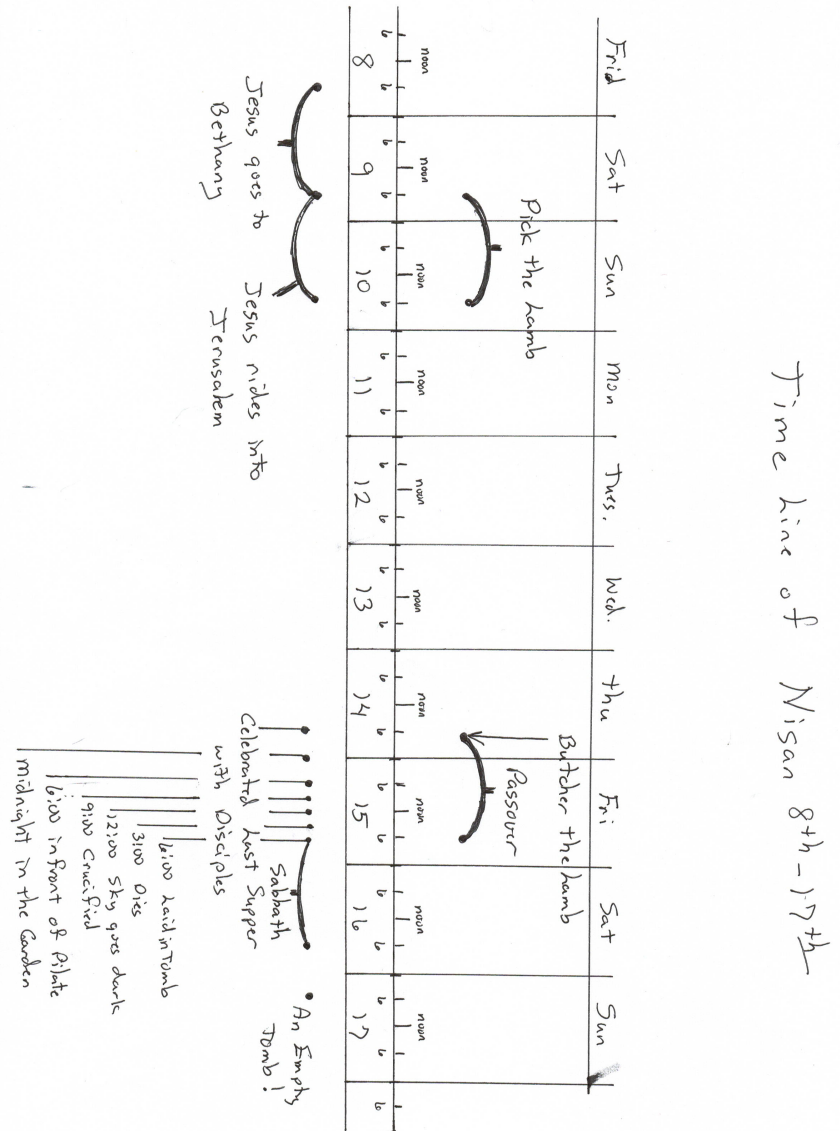
I carried a king that day!
He sat there oh so humble.
Palm branches lined the entire way
I did not dare to stumble.

All were singing praise to God,
Shouting as loud as they could.
Through all that noise I was awed
As we traveled each neighborhood.

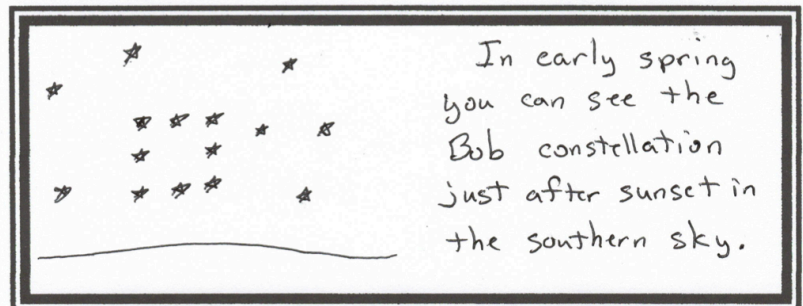
I wondered how the Son of God
Could have entered the town that way--
Up on the back of this old clod.
A creature that just eats hay.

And now I see him on that tree!
The man dying in the middle!
He gave his life for you and me.
It's truly a wondrous riddle!

As donkeys go I'm not much.
But the gift that I was given
Was to hear his voice and feel his touch.
And carry the Lamb from Heaven.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



April 21, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 30

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Questions about Easter
- Random Idea #16
- Why the cross was so important

Easter Questions

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Does anybody else find it odd that in this day and age of attempting to raise educated children, we insist on trying to convince them that bunny rabbits do indeed lay eggs?

Does anybody else find it odd that in this day and age of trying to raise children who are conscious of cleanliness, that we tell them it is OK to go around picking up stuff that obviously dropped out of a bunny rabbit, and then put some of that very stuff in their mouth?

Does anybody else find it odd that in this day and age of people suffering from malnutrition, that we do not explain to our children the nutritional benefits found in the consumption of Lepus steaks?

Does anybody else find it odd that in this day and age of trying to teach children about God, that we attach stories about egg laying bunny rabbits to the day set aside to remember the most important moment in world history?

Resurrection Day Math

1 Cross
+ 3 Nails

4 Given

Random Idea #16

Place a slinky on an escalator and never be bored again!

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

The Focal Point of All History

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Bible tells us that in eternity past God had a plan. He foreknew that we would all have a problem called sin. And that sin would stand in the way of our having a relationship with God. His plan involved an amazing solution so incredible that I Peter 1:12 tells us that angels desire, or long, to look into it.

Computus: Why Should I Even Care?

The early church faced difficulty in placing a date on the calendar for Easter. You see, there was not a universally accepted calendar as we have now. Some used the Jewish calendar of approximately 360 days per year, some used the Roman calendar with 365 ¼ days per year.

A complex mathematical compromise was reached that, technically is known by the term "Computus". The date is determined as:

Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon, or next after the 21st day of March; and if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after."

Using this method, Easter can only occur between March 22 and April 25.

Spring Equinox 2019 fell on March 21. Full moon was next on April 19th. The Sunday following is today, April 21, 2019.

The angels witnessed especially the angels. creation and cheered each They understood the step of the process. They magnificence of God, His also watched as Satan unlimited abilities, His became proud and arrogant majesty! And they watched and challenged God. that very same God love in Judgment was swift, final, the most supreme way.

and unimaginably painful, as God swept him and his followers from Heaven, and condemned each to one day burn in unquenchable fire for all of eternity.

Adam sinned also. But is. That an infinitely instead of a guaranteed Hell, powerful God would he was given a chance to subject Himself to the experience forgiveness from degradation of the cross is God. How remarkable the without equal. contrast!

On the cross that day The very idea of love, as over 2,000 years ago, the God would define it, is a entire universe watched as concept best understood by God demonstrated love— demonstration. Placing His perfect, complete, and plan into motion brought without equal. *Jesus loves* enthusiastic interest to all *me* the song says. He gave who were watching— us dying proof!



It is sad that many of those in the world today see the most important moment in all of history from this perspective.

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus taught of the mysteries of the kingdom in Matthew 13. It has been fulfilled here and now, but will not be consummated until... one day in the future.

In the Parable of the Sower we see that the kingdom is not sweeping through the whole world at present. Some are turning to salvation, but most are not until...

In the Parable of the Wheat and Tares we see that the kingdom exists at present with righteous and evil people side by side until...

In the Parable of the Mustard Seed we see that the kingdom came as a mustard seed in the person of Jesus Christ, and not in a huge military coup. It will grow and grow until...

In the Parable of the Fishing Net we see that those who come under the power of the kingdom are a mixed bag. Some are true disciples and some are not. They will not be separated out from each other until...

There is a present tense and future tense to this idea of the kingdom of God. Jesus has come and died on the cross for our sins and the wrath of God is diverted away from us who are Christians. At present we have the promise of eternal life, forgiveness of sins, justification, and the imputation of his own righteousness, peace with God, escape from hell, and the enjoyment of all the new covenant promises.

Until... in the future when **we will experience the best and highest of everything we can ever hope for or dream of: "I will be your God, and I will be with you, and you will be my people."**

Do we see God through that lens? Is a deep personal relationship with Him our greatest desire? Until we do, we are missing the truth concerning the most important part our future in the kingdom of God—Him.

Large Numbers of Dead People Come Back to Life!

Few passages are as ignored into oblivion as is Matthew 27:52-53. There we find this account recorded:

At that moment ... the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and⁵³ went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

At the moment that Jesus gave up His spirit, many saints suddenly came to life and walked into the city and the implication is that they interacted with people living there.

Stop and consider that idea for just a moment. I have had several family members who I dearly loved who have gone on into Glory many years ago. I was at their funerals. In many cases, I saw their embalmed, lifeless bodies lying in a coffin just moments before witnessing them being lowered into a grave and covered with earth.

If one of those people from my past suddenly appeared at my door and told me strange tales about what God was doing in my community that day, you better believe I would have sat upright and took notice. That is not something that you can walk away from and think nothing much more about.

It would have affected countless thousands deeply! The stories would have been everywhere. The death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah was indeed the crossroads of history and God was determined that it would not slip by unnoticed.



I saw what you did
To your chocolate bunny.
You may have laughed
And thought it was funny.

You planned it right down
To the smallest detail.
You picked it right up
And my face went pale.

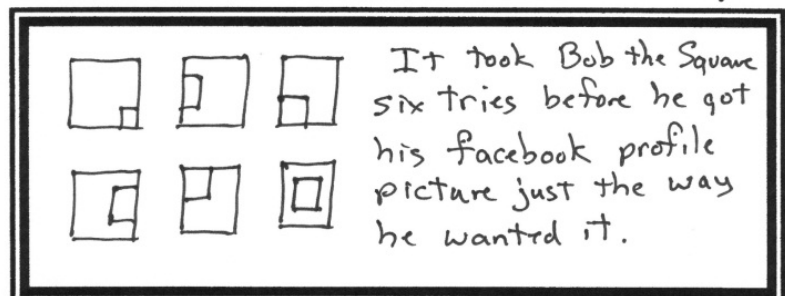
I saw your teeth
Come down with delight
I saw how you tore
Each morsel just right.

Your face showed no fear
No remorse for your act.
In fact you were laughing
And that is a fact.

My Easter is ruined
Its etched in my mind.
How you devoured that bunny
From ears to behind.

I learned from you
That bunnies are food.
So I went and caught one
And we played and played and it
was so much fun and you won't
believe all the things we did and I can't
believe we never did this before and
they say that imitation is the sincerest
form of flattery, so I plan to eat this
thing from the ears to the behind just
like you did and it will be amazing and
wonderful and I will look at you and
grin from ear to ear when I am done.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Stuff For Today

- Punctuation
- Life Truth #6
- How many times can you tell a story before people begin to take notice and wonder why you are telling it over and over?

Pray Without Ceasing

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. God, grant me the serenity to accept stupid people as they are, the courage to maintain self-control and the wisdom to know that if I act on it, I will end up in jail.

2. Dear God, did you really mean for a giraffe to look like that, or was that just an accident?

3. Dear God, I thank you for my younger brother. But what I really prayed for was a puppy.

4. Dear God, I have a wonderful suggestion for you. Please change the taste of asparagus and brussell sprouts to cotton candy.

5. Dear God, it must be very difficult for you to love everyone in the world. I have only four people in my family and I can't even do that.

6. Dear God, So far today I think that I've done pretty well. I haven't gossiped, or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, crabby, mean, or nasty. I haven't lied or stolen anything either. I am very grateful for that. But God, now I'm going to need a lot more help with these things. I have to get out of bed in a few minutes.

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

A Story x Three = ?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Kings 18-20

II Chronicles 29-32

Isaiah 36-39

History from a textbook consists of names, dates and events of interest. The Biblical record, divine history, is not merely a chronicle of past occurrences. There are spiritual truths cast, and many times hidden, in the narrative. Scripture details past experiences rarely more than twice. God saw fit to pass down to us a few facets of Hezekiah's reign over Judah. He did so with three distinctive authors, three varying viewpoints, and placed the information in three different locations in the Bible. That act flags this small portion of the historical record as noteworthy, even though the events are relatively insignificant and minor compared to the rest of the world of that day.

Of the twenty-one kings who ruled over Judah following the reign of David, none are equal to Hezekiah. If David was number one in God's eyes, Hezekiah was number two. His reign is one of transforming the struggling southern kingdom back into what it was meant to be, a nation the entire world would look upon with respect because of their relationship to Jehovah God. His father, Ahaz, had boarded up the temple and urged the nation to

worship pagan gods. Hezekiah took his position as the leader of Judah upon the death of his father, when he was but twenty-five years of age. One has to admire his conviction and drive. He opened the doors of the temple again, and cleaned it. He, having discovered the truth of the Law, for the book had been lost and forgotten, reintroduced the practices once again. Temple worship had been restored after a very long time of neglect. Return to the Word of God always results in great things.

It is fitting that the first nationwide celebration would be the Passover. That meal in Egypt was a turning point for Israel, and an appropriate place to begin again this second time. Recall that the northern kingdom of Israel had been taken by Assyrian invaders during the reign of Ahaz. Hezekiah did one of the classiest, most proper and admirable things any king could have done. He invited everyone from the northern kingdom who would like, and was able, to join in the celebration in Jerusalem. Many availed themselves of the opportunity, and a wonderful time was experienced by all, so

much so that they extended the celebration an extra week in length. Revival had begun in Judah, a very rare commodity to be sure.

Hezekiah immediately began clearing the land of idols. The very successful campaign netted at least one interesting catch. Many years before, when Israel was wandering in the desert, they disobeyed God. He promptly sent deadly serpents among them. Many died, but God chose to supply a remedy. Moses built a brazen serpent, put it on a pole, and anyone who looked to the serpent on the pole lived. We are told of the parallel to Jesus in John 3:14-15. The pole, with its bronze sculpture, was a picture of the future cross that Jesus would die on. Over the years, there were those who attributed the healing in the desert to the pole and its serpent, rather than to God, who had performed the healing. They developed a more than mere sentimental attachment to it and began worshipping it, calling it Nehushtan. Hezekiah found this relic, called it what it was, and destroyed the four or five hundred year old artifact.

(Continued Page 2)

For your own safety, please do not stop here and read, there is nothing to see. Go on to another article. Thank you.

Punctuation

You, need to learn: punctuation—for. Later! "In Life" (You may be) wondering why. You have! To study about, things of: this nature? Believe -me when I (say it) is very "important"

Life Truth #6

Daddys are right 97% of the time. Nobody cares about the other 4%.

(Continued From Page 1)

Midway through his reign, troubles came to him to test him. The Assyrians were a formidable enemy. Judah had seen their sister nation, Israel, fall to them in the not too distant past. And now Sennecherib, was at their doorstep and had surrounded Jerusalem. They were under siege and their situation seemed hopeless. We get a glimpse into the heart of Hezekiah as he took the threat of invasion and laid it all out before the Lord in the temple. How much better would our world be if our politicians behaved accordingly! God listened, and so worked, that 185,000 of the Syrian army died that very night. They withdrew in defeat and humiliation. But Hezekiah had an even tougher enemy to face. He became sick during this time and was informed by God that he would die very soon, and that he should get his affairs in order. He cried out to God, who heard his prayers, and gave him fifteen more years of life. The accompanying supernatural sign, the shadow of the sun traveling in the wrong direction for a short period of time, was evident elsewhere in the world, for even Babylon traced the odd occurrence to Jerusalem and Hezekiah.

God allows His children options. It would seem that He has a perfect will, and a permissive will. The first is always the best choice. The second can also be a proper selection, but there are pitfalls and potholes along that route that must be recognized and negotiated safely. The extra fifteen years granted to Hezekiah were marred by three substantial failures. Manasseh, his son, was born during this time. After the death of Hezekiah, the Bible describes him as the most evil king of all those to disgrace the throne of Israel. It was he who offered his own sons as child sacrifices to idols. Blood flowed in Jerusalem because of his actions. Manasseh was despicable, and Hezekiah a failure as a father figure.

Because of the kindness of God upon his life, Hezekiah became proud. Pride is a dangerous commodity, and he owned much of it. In his arrogance, he made an additional, potentially fatal decision. Babylon, upon hearing of the tremendous sign God had given Hezekiah, sent emissaries to Jerusalem to congratulate him. Personally puffed up over the turn of events, He committed an act that ultimately came back to haunt him. The ambassadors from Babylon were given a tour of Jerusalem. They saw everything there, including the world's largest cache of precious metals and gems. Babylon took note, and it was not long before they came back in force to take the gold back to their city nation. And in the process of collecting all of that wealth that Hezekiah had foolishly shown them, they destroyed the city of Jerusalem completely. The second greatest king of Israel started well, but finished so poorly.

The Bible (A Slightly Abridged and Shorter Version)

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some angels. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.'

Anyway, God said, 'Someone turn on a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family in it and turned it into a floating zoo. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother Esau. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my wife is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say just once, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

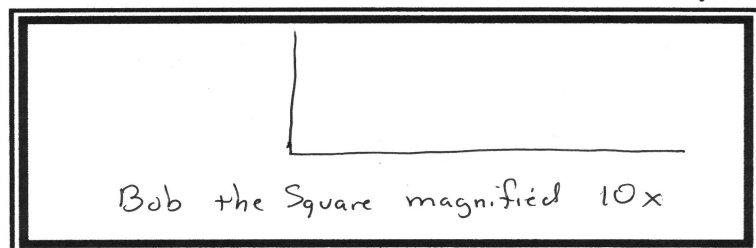
Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. We celebrate that with chocolate rabbits and eggs. Go figure!

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



May 5, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 32

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Sinko De Mayo
- Questions and Answers

The Proper Way to Pray

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The proper way for a man to pray,
Says Deacon Lemuel Keys,
And the only proper attitude
Is down upon his knees.

No, I should say the way to pray,
Says Reverend Doctor Wise
Is standing straight with
outstretched arms
And rapt and upturned eyes.

Oh, no, no, no, said Elmer Slow.
Such posture is too proud.
A man should pray with eyes fast
closed
And head contritely bowed.

It seems to me his hands should be
Austerely clasped in front.
Both hands pointing toward the
ground,
Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.

Last year I fell in Hitchkins' well,
Head first, said Cyrus Brown.
And both my heels were stickin' up,
And my head was pointing down.

And I made a prayer right then and
there,
The best prayer I ever said.
The prayin'est prayer I ever prayed
Was standin' on my head.

Q and A Today!

**You got questions, and I
got answers.**

(at least I hope so, or this is
destined to be a VERY boring
Sunday School class time.)

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Questions and Answers!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Fractured History

For May 5th

In the settlement of the New World, the early settlers considered mayonnaise to be a much sought-after delicacy. But the Spanish Conquistadores did not have the recipe, as it had been kept a closely guarded secret in Europe since the Middle Ages. This resulted in a rather large trade of mayonnaise across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World from Spain and Portugal.

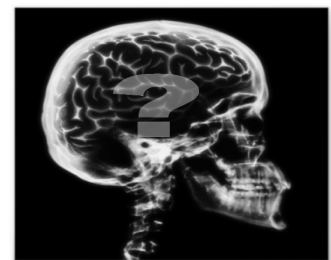
As the delicious spread became even more popular and demand began to increase, the mayonnaise trade became quite lucrative. Soon there were countless grand sailing vessels venturing onto and conquering the Atlantic as they worked to supply the ever-burgeoning demand for fresh mayonnaise.

One Spring, however, the weather did not cooperate, and an entire fleet of ships bearing the precious cargo was caught in a horrific storm just outside of the harbor. All of the ships were lost, as well as every jar of their cargo, but all of the crew members miraculously made it to shore relatively unharmed.

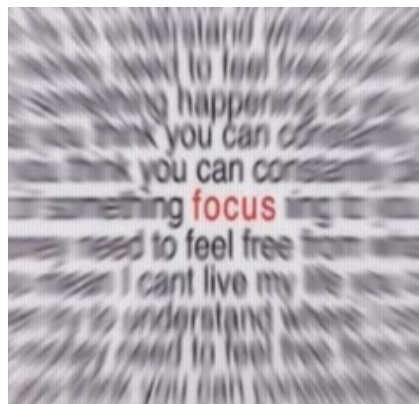
Horrified onlookers from the town braved the wind and the rain and watched sadly as the last of the mighty vessels slipped under the waves. The entire mayonnaise shipment had been lost. And there would not be any new shipments of mayonnaise for many months.

The local mayor, recognizing the grief of his townspeople regarding the lost mayonnaise, decided to immortalize the day on the calendar in remembrance of the tragedy. The people there still honor that lost shipment on a holiday they call "Sinko de Mayo."

Archeologists X-ray Skull of the Disciple Thomas

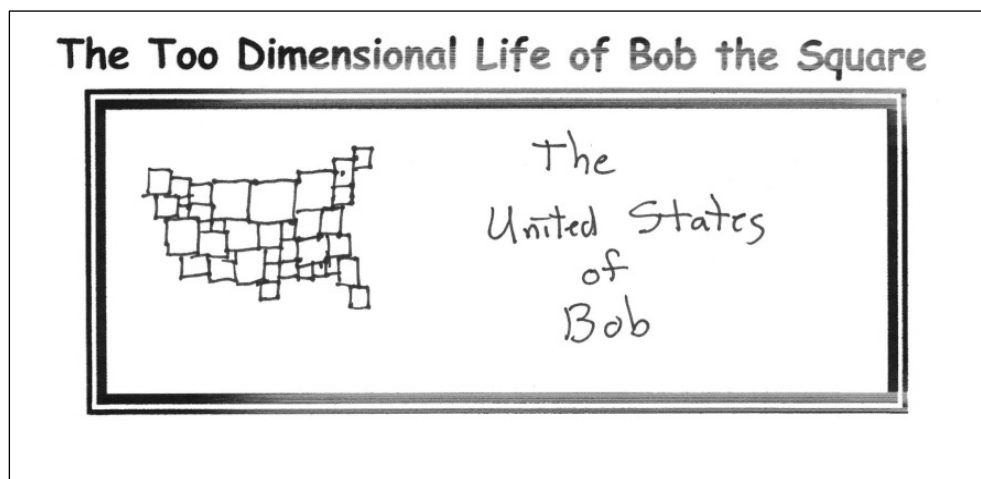


My extreme inventiveness has led to the announcement of this discovery. For centuries, readers of the Bible have wondered at the doubt displayed in the actions of Thomas the disciple. As the x-ray clearly shows there is an abnormality in his brain tissue. Now, we have no doubt regarding his medical condition—he was just like the rest of us!



Rules For The Questions and Answers
Remember: One Question Only Per Person

1. Have you ever had a question about God, the Bible, church, or other religions? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 2. If your answer is "no", just continue to sit there and act like a bump on a pickle.
2. Do you know what a pen or a pencil is? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 3. If your answer is "no", I have serious concerns about you...very serious concerns!
3. Do you have a pen or a pencil handy? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 4. If your answer is "no", make a valiant attempt at trying to locate one, please.
4. Can you write or print in English? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 5. If your answer is "no", "Ooday ooyay eakspay igpay atinlay?
5. Write down your question. Did you write it? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 6. If your answer is "no", please stop wasting my time and write it down already.
6. Did you sign your name to the paper? If your answer is "yes", erase it or cross it out immediately! If your answer is "no", continue on to line 7.
7. Do you recognize Ms. Jeanette at the back table? If your answer is "yes", turn around and wave at her and continue on to line 8. If your answer is "no", turn to the person sitting next to you and say, "I believe I am the dumbest person in this room because I do not know who Ms. Jeanette is."
8. Did you see her at the table? If your answer is "yes", continue on to line 9. If your answer is "no", a table is a flat thingy with four leg thingies that go down to the floor and hold up the flat thingy and all of the stuff setting on the flat thingy.
9. Place your unsigned question into the special box setting on that flat thingy with four legs that she is sitting behind. Did you do it? If your answer is "yes", congratulations, you have successfully accomplished a highly complex task that was probably well beyond your normal expectations. If your answer is "no", you have failed miserably, and left the rest of us with nothing but painful memories of your monumental blunder, further deteriorating our own personal hopes and aspirations.



Dear Mom

May 12, 2019

Volume 7, Issue 33

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Happy Mother's Day From Bob the Square
- A Mother's Day Story and A Mother's Day Poem
- Questions and Answers

A Very Touching Mother's Day Story

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother."

The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver."

The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible, and you know she can't see very well. I sent her a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000.00 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. Mom just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks.

"Marlon," she wrote the first son, "the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Marvin," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Melvin," she wrote to her third son, "You were the only son to have the good sense to know what your mother likes. That chicken was delicious!"

If you forgot to get your mom a Mother's Day card, feel free to sign your name here and give this edition to your mom in lieu of a card!

(Sign Here)

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

"Be Careful!"

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Mothers seem to have an obligation to worry or fret over their children. It's part of their job. At least it certainly seemed that way to me when I was young. My mother's advice for me each day usually finished with the same familiar two words that I so often casually ignored—"Be careful!"

I could have saved myself much hurt, confusion, heartache, and trouble if I would have listened better. I was too busy being my own person, in control of my own destiny. And of course, as with most young people, I saw myself as indestructible.

I have learned much—the hard way!

Paul, in his advice to the Ephesian church, warned them to "Be careful". He understood that the world was, and still is, a very dangerous place to be. We are not talking necessarily about physical danger, but rather, issues of spiritual significance.

We all, very conscientiously, strap our seat belts on every time we get in a car to drive somewhere, very mindful of the possible dangers that we face. In contrast, we will often face life's big issues with little or no thought to God's perfect will for our lives. We take a carefree attitude and many times "just wing it", hoping for the best.

Scripture points toward the idea that we should be prepared for the challenges in life. Verse 16 above states that God's desire for our lives is that we seize each opportunity with every fiber of our being. And using our talents to the best of our ability, make a difference wherever God has placed us.

It is too easy to forget that the world is watching us go through life. No matter who you are, or what

position in life you have, or your age, everyone has someone who is watching and looking upon them as a role model.

The question then becomes, will you be a good or bad model?

Verse 17 goes on to clarify a very important detail. All that we do should be in alignment with God's perfect will. That may be one of the toughest concepts for us as human beings. We tend to be selfish and hardheaded and reluctant to bend to God's desires.

To understand what the Lord's will is for our lives requires a couple of things from us. First, knowledge of God's word is paramount. It is amazing to me how many people go through life, rarely reading the Bible. We will not know His will without knowing Him.

Secondly, we need to develop a close walk with Him, avoiding sin,

praying, and spending time building a relationship with God.

God and my mom were both right. Be careful!

A Precious Mom's Day Poem

Mom, I know you do the dishes
And I know you cook the food.
I know you scrub the floors
Even when you're in a bad mood.

And every night you walk the dog
While I'm watching all my shows.
On Thursdays you take out the trash
And you clean and wash the windows.

You always do my laundry,
And always make my bed.
You let me sleep late every day
And play video games instead.

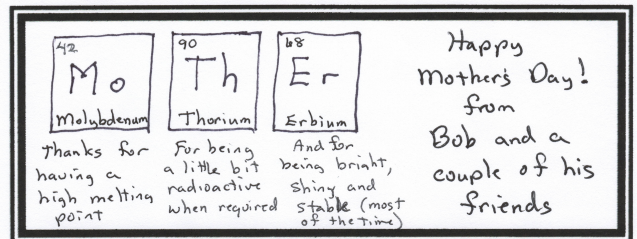
Mom, I know you're sad I'll go someday
And leave you all alone.
But right now I'm only 38
And I really like it here at home!

Remember This:

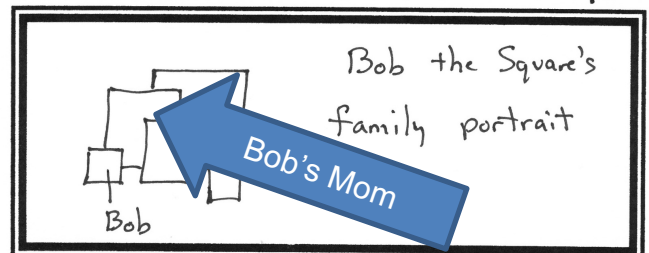
Good Moms always let you lick the beaters.

Great Moms turn them off first.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



This Mother's Day, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR:

- ☐ MAKING YOU TAKE CARE OF THE HAMSTER
- ☐ QUITTING EVERYTHING
- ☐ AGES 12-17
- ☐ KEEPING YOU AWAKE FOR ROUGHLY 5 YEARS
- ☐ DRAWING ON YOUR FURNITURE
- ☐ REFUSING TO SIT AT THE TABLE LIKE A NORMAL CHILD
- ☐ THE INCIDENT WITH THE CAR
- ☐ BEFRIENDING AND/OR DATING BAD INFLUENCES
- ☐ THAT WEIRD PHASE OF PRETENDING TO BE AN ANIMAL
- ☐ MY MESS (EMOTIONAL AND/OR LITERAL)
- ☐ CONSTANT PLEAS FOR A PET/POOL/SIBLING/LIMO
- ☐ REFUSING TO BATHE WITHOUT A FIGHT
- ☐ _____

LOOK HOW FAR I'VE COME, MOM!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. ♥

Things You Probably Should Avoid Telling Mom Today

Mom, I know I'm not your favorite, but I am Dad's, so it's not so bad!

Mom, there is no greater proof of my sincere affection for you than the fact that I have never set fire to one of my siblings—no matter how much fun that might have been.

Mom, If I win the lottery some day, I will pick out the nicest and best nursing home for you no matter how far away it is from me.

Mom, thank you for giving me life. And I thank you in advance for not taking it back during my teen years.

Mom, thanks for putting up with a selfish, sloppy, spoiled, ungrateful, messy, bratty, rotten child...like my sibling.

Mom, after hearing it at least 20,000 times, I will always remember you for your, "Ok kids, listen up...I'm only going to say this one more time!"

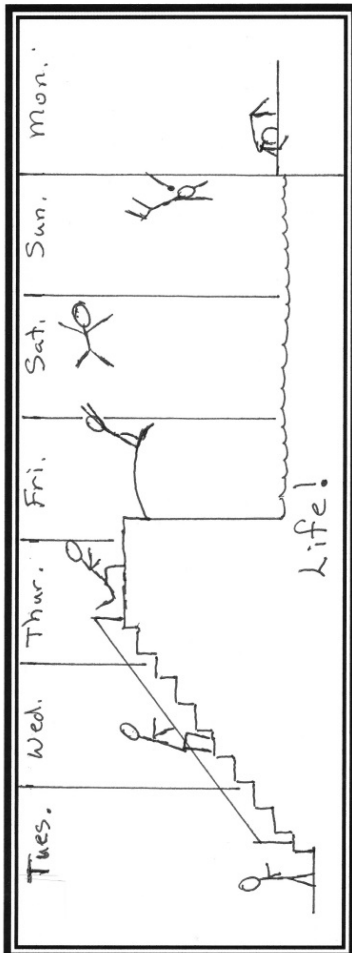
Mom, I hope this day is filled with laughter, sunshine, and everything you love...well, actually I was just hoping that you would let me watch TV and play video games all day because I'm less bad today than I usually am.

Stuff For Today

- Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron
- Questions and Answers

So, How Was Your Week?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

A story loosely based on the first 17 chapters of Exodus

Kung-Fu Ninja Moses lived out in the desert perfecting his Kung-Fu Ninja moves.

The Great Kung-Fu Ninja Master lit a great flaming torch. Kung-Fu Ninja Moses went over to it and tried to extinguish the flames with his Kung-Fu Ninja moves.

Though he tried again and again, he could not put out the flaming torch.

The Great Kung-Fu Ninja Master told Kung-Fu Ninja Moses "Find your brother Aaron. He is also a Kung-Fu Ninja. Perfect your Kung-Fu Ninja moves, and go to the Evil Jujitsu Lord Pharaoh of Egypt. He has my Kung-Fu Ninjas and he must let them go!"

Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron went to Egypt and showed the Evil Jujitsu Lord Pharaoh some of their best Kung-Fu.

The Evil Jujitsu Lord Pharaoh of Egypt was not impressed until Kung-Fu Ninja Moses showed him some of his very best Kung-Fu Ninja moves.

Finally, the Evil Jujitsu Lord Pharaoh of Egypt said that all of the Kung-Fu Ninjas could leave his country. Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron Kung-Fued for joy!

All of the Kung-Fu Ninjas then left Egypt and all of its Evil Jujitsu ways, and went out into the desert, led by Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron. They all practiced their Kung-Fu Ninja arts out there in the desert.

After an afternoon of Kung-Fu Ninja practice in the desert heat, all of the Kung-Fu Ninjas were thirsty. They complained to Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron that there was no water there.

Kung-Fu Ninja Moses responded with a, never before seen, Super Kung-Fu Ninja move.

Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron led all of the Kung-Fu Ninjas to a large rock there in the desert. They Kung-Fued them there until all of the Kung-Fu Ninjas were quiet.

Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron then did an Extra Super Kung-Fu Ninja move—in super slow motion!

They told the Kung-Fu Ninjas "The Great Kung-Fu Ninja Master has great compassion. He will Kung-Fu to us and show us how we are to quench our Kung-Fu thirst.

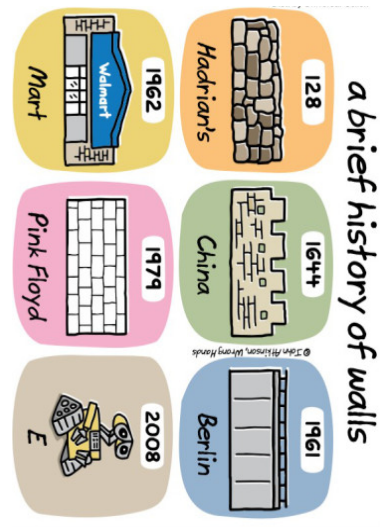
Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron Kung-Fued like the greatly

Kung-Fu Ninjas Moses and Aaron Kung-Fued like the greatly skilled Kung-Fu Ninja warriors they were, approaching the rock as they Kung-Fued in front of the thirsty Kung-Fu Ninjas.

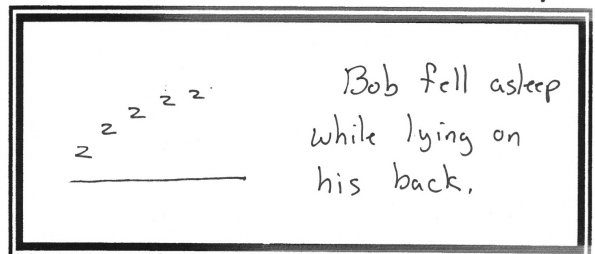
Then Kung-Fu Ninja Moses said to all of the Kung-Fu Ninjas watching his Kung-Fu moves, "Today I will expertly strike this rock. I have been taught well by the Great Kung-Fu Master. My blows will be so powerful, that I will break this rock in two, and water will gush out for everyone."

It was an amazing sight to behold—Kung-Fu Ninja Moses used Super Slow Motion Kung-Fu moves, landing blow after blow, in super slow motion, until the rock broke in two, also in super slow motion!

Water came gushing out and all of the thirsty Kung-Fu Ninjas Kung-Fued for joy.



The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



How Do I Gain Self Esteem?

Self esteem: **Self:** n. a person's essential being that distinguishes them from others, especially that which is deep inside.

Esteem: n. respect and admiration, honor and reverence for an individual.

Living in the world today we are inundated with the idea that we need to feel good about ourselves. The concept of a positive self-image and sense of personal worth seems to have risen to near the top of the pyramid of character traits we wish for our children. The result is that we teach our children from a very early age that ultimate right and wrong are not necessarily the most important thing. Rather, we have rewarded their efforts with "participation trophies", we have played sports where no one keeps score so that there are no "losers", we confirm that their efforts were wonderful, regardless of their outcome.

A positive self-image is undoubtedly an important character trait for anyone to possess. The question at hand is, how do we accomplish that task from a Biblical perspective? What does God have to say about our social development? How do we develop Godly, well balanced children in the environment that we find ourselves in?

Social media confirms to those immersed in it's "make believe world" that other's lives are wonderful and amazing. We see only the positive posts from other people of their incredible adventures, but never the down side of their existence. And we then compare those rose-colored stories to our meager experience. As a result, our personal self-worth plummets.

Product commercialization has led us to become a society that values physical attractiveness-however that is defined at any given moment-as the greatest factor in deciding how acceptable we are to others. We all are prone to develop a personal definition of what we consider the perfect goal. The deciding factors include money, body weight, height, color of hair, body type, whiteness of teeth, personal hygiene, clothes...all physical issues over which we may have very little control. We don't want to become the butt of a joke or the target of a bully.

Left to our own thoughts and personal inward focus, our tendency is to spiral down into self-pity and loathing for the hand that we have been dealt in life. Not everyone descends deeply into the abyss, but an honest evaluation of our lives will show that all of us, at times, teeter on the edge of a very deep chasm.

The question then becomes, "How do I gain self esteem?" Strangely, the Bible NEVER tells us that we need to gain self esteem, that we need to feel better about ourselves. Rather, God tells us that we need to have less inward focus on our lives and more outward focus upon others. Romans 12:3 is a perfect example. Paul states, "*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment...*" He then immediately segues into the concept of concern and investment in other people's lives.

Does God not want us to feel confident about ourselves and have a positive self-image? Certainly, but in balance. Low self-image, low self-esteem, is the natural outgrowth of pride. That may seem to be an oxymoron but allow a bit of explanation. Many times, through the Bible, God warns us of pride. It is the default characteristic of the human condition. When our focus is upon ourselves, we tend to see only the aspects of our lives that we want to see, and we ignore those things that are of concern to God. And as our lives revolve more and more upon ourselves, we will, ultimately, discover them to be empty and shallow, puffed up like a marshmallow—a life with very little actual substance. Adam was created with an innate need to invest his life in other people. We all inherited that characteristic. It's how God planned things. And our complete fulfillment in life can only be realized when we do things God's way.

Jesus was asked what He considered to be the greatest commandment. His response is quite telling. He taught that we are to love God with every fiber of our being. That we can understand clearly. But He followed that statement with a second comment that must follow the first. We are to love others. Truly there are moments that we must reflect upon ourselves and correct or adjust our lives according to God's teaching. Introspection can be a wonderful tool to bring our lives into alignment with the Word. But the commandment is specifically geared to remind us that the focus of our lives must move from "me, myself and I" to others that we are in contact with each day. Only then will our lives have meaning and fulfillment—and ultimately, self-worth.

We don't need SELF-esteem. We need GOD-esteem!

We will only be comfortable and content with our condition and place in life when we see that we are His creation. Formed in His likeness and placed in the exact position in life that He desired, He gave us the physical attributes and personality that pleased Him most—warts and all! Who are we to say He was wrong?! We must respect and follow His plan.

God loves us dearly. None of us is simply a random face in a sea of humanity to God. One of the key character traits of God is that of zeal. Zeal is defined as "being intensely interested and invested in something or someone." When we recognize that simple truth involves each of us, that God is pouring His love and affection into each of our lives, it changes everything.

The Bible describes our position as "being heirs." Have you ever seen the movie "Tangled"? A young lady going through life begins to realize that she has been lied to. She is not who she was initially led to believe. She discovers that she is the long-lost child of the king and queen, is ultimately reunited with them, and they live happily ever after. Sounds a bit like salvation to me. He gave us an amazing gift—salvation. A relationship with Him now, and an eternity of perfection to come!

Ultimately, the Biblical recipe for personal self-esteem is tied firmly to how well we live by God's standards. His plan revolves around the concept that we focus upon others, that we display love in the world that we walk through each day, that we invest our time, talent, and money into the lives of other people. When we get that balance correct, when we have God-esteem, our sense of self-worth, our view of our lives will be where it needs to be.

Stuff For Today

- Books I would like to write
- Welcome to the Canard Lee Reed Book of the Month CLub
- What "The Last Hurrah" and Mr. Lyle's Bucket List have in common

Books I Would Like To Write

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Over these many years, I have had occasion to consider a writing career. Processing many ideas through my fertile imagination, I have come up with some exceptional ideas for books targeted toward small children

1. A Childrens Guide to Hitchhiking.
2. Your First Picture Book (Reading Is For Losers)
3. Connect The Dots (No Matter How Well You Follow The Numbers, They Still Don't Make A Picture)
4. Why Can't Mr. Fork And Mr. Electrical Socket Be Friends?
5. Some Kittens Really Can Fly!
6. Freeway Dodgeball—Official Kindergarten Rules
7. The Little Engine Who Thought He Could—But Failed Miserably
8. Curious George and the High Voltage Electric Fence

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

A Book Report On A Bucket List

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Allow me to take you back in time to 1972. Also, let me introduce to you a 16 year old kid sitting in his American Literature class. His teacher, a brilliant man by the name of C. Nevin Miller has assigned a book report—three pages—typed.

The young man promptly goes to the school library in search of a suitable novel. Unfortunately, his mind is not set on actually reading that novel. He searches through the paperback books

The Canard Lee Reed Book Of The Month Club

Welcome to the most amazing book club you could ever belong to. Sign up today, and be on your way to enjoying titles such as

1. *How to Write Large Books* by Warren Peece
2. *The Lion Attacked* by Claude Yarmoff
3. *Archery for Dummies* by Beau N. Arow
4. *Irish Heart Surgery* by Angie O'Plasty
5. *Desert Crossing* by Rhoda Kamel
6. *School Truancy* by Marcus Abscent
7. *I Lost My Balance* by Eileen Dover and Phil Down
8. *Shhh!* By Danielle Solloud
9. *The Philippine Post Office* by Imelda Lettur
10. *Great Party Games* by Bob Frapples
11. *Stop Arguing* by Xavier Breth
12. *The Complete Guide to Raising Pet Mosquitoes* by lam Reelie Etchey

found at the east end of the shelving, knowing full well that, included on the back cover, would be a short synopsis of the entire story.

Finding a book with a fairly detailed rendition of the general story line, he chooses a rather famous novel by Edwin O'Conner titled *The Last Hurrah*.

Quickly scanning through the chapters, he locates and reads two or three pages, noting a few of the minor details found in the story line.

In less than 15 minutes of this pathetic, hurried note taking, he attempts to create the illusion of actually having read the story. The final result—three pages—typed.

This brilliant plan was fraught with errors. *The Last Hurrah* was a very well known book in its day, having spent much time on the *New York Times* best seller list at number one! It had, in 1958, been adapted into a movie, with characters performed by top Hollywood box office celebrities.

Seldom seen in this world are graded and returned book reports with so much red ink on them that they tend to glow with an eerie reddish hue.

Mr. C. Nevin Miller assessed my book report as barely worthy of a *D-minus*. The lowest grade I ever received from a teacher. I had never read the book, and my report clearly showed my bluff.

So here is my question for you. Do you read the Bible? Do you study it? As a Christian, God has assigned you and I the responsibility of putting together a book report telling and showing the world what God has for all. And the world can tell if you have read *The Book!*

Before I die, I plan to read *The Last Hurrah*. It is on my bucket list—a miserable failure I would like to correct as best I can over 47 years late.

Top 10 Reasons to Not Read the Bible

Living by your own rules is such a refreshing and exciting way to live life. Just ask anyone in prison—it's free room and board.

It's much easier to ignore facts and just make things up as you go along. And it makes things so much more interesting and it is great fun to keep people guessing what you might come up with next.

Having God show you what to do with your life stifles your creativity to do wrong stuff—and doing wrong stuff is what we all live for, right?

It's kinda fun being lost and confused. Especially the confused part. Imagine never being held accountable for anything you ever do because everyone has determined you to be a helpless case.

Eternity is over-rated. I've heard all of the country songs about Hell, and it doesn't sound so bad.

Constant struggle with relationships with other people keeps your Christmas card list small and your Christmas present list short.

If you do it often enough, you can get to the point where you can almost enjoy failing in life.

Everyone knows that a truly interesting person will always "wing it" when it comes time to make large or life altering decisions.

Reading strains the eyes. Just wait for someone to make a movie about a Bible story and then go see that. And the music is WAY better!

Remember, failure and fun both begin with the letter "f", and that just cannot be a coincidence.

King David

Red hair and freckles are not physical characteristics most associate with those of Middle Eastern descent. However, the Bible describes one young man in Jewish history as exhibiting those traits. He was portrayed as a fearless fighter, possessing a hot temperament. A man so fraught with character flaws, that many of us would probably shy away from him as a person. Presiding over the poster family for domestic dysfunction, he was found guilty of marital infidelity and murder. In spite of all the negative attributes, he was called by God a *man after God's own heart*. How could this be? The answer to that question necessitates a deeper look into the life of a man we know as King David.

That journey begins near Bethlehem, where David, as a boy of probably sixteen, tended sheep. God identified him to Samuel, who then anointed him to be king of Israel. We find out later in the Biblical text that, at this young age, he had fearlessly killed a bear with his bare hands! Even as he told the story to others, it was not in arrogance, but in humble recognition of God's mighty hand at work in his life. *A man after God's own heart*.

Still a young man, David traveled to visit his brothers, who were with Saul, fighting the Philistines. It was here that he was introduced to a giant of a man named Goliath. Nearly nine and one half feet tall, this angry Philistine, each morning, would stand in front of the armies and shout a condescending dare for anyone to step forward and fight him. No one accepted the challenge, and in naiveté, he volunteered. Or, was he actually oblivious to the realities here? No, David understood the power in the hand of God. With confidence, he stepped forward to fight Goliath with only a sling as a weapon. Take note that he grabbed five stones in preparation for the fight. As he ran toward the man, he loaded his sling and let a stone fly. It struck the giant in the forehead, knocked him unconscious, and David took Goliath's own sword and cut off his head. David's confidence and trust in God displayed here is multiplied many times over, when we find in Scripture the reason for the five stones. Goliath had four relatives, probably brothers, who David met later in life. But he was prepared to face all of them together in that first meeting. *A man after God's own heart*.

The accolades David received became a thorn in the heart of Saul. David soon had to run and hide in the wilderness. A relatively large group of men gathered around him there. The Bible describes them as being fraught with personal problems of their own. David learned to be a leader under the most difficult of conditions. He made many mistakes, but each time, when reminded of his failures, he humbled his heart immediately and sought the forgiveness of God. His songs recorded in Psalms give us a picture of his heart—complete trust and reliance upon God. *A man after God's own heart*.

Among the many bright spots in the life of David, few shine brighter than his treatment of the son of his best friend. After the untimely death of Jonathan, David had a choice to make. The prudent reaction, in the eyes of the world, would have been to hunt down and destroy any remaining members of the family of Saul, to ensure his own throne and security. He had made a promise to Jonathan, and was determined to keep it. Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth was located and brought to live in the palace of David for the rest of his life. In this touching story are some spiritual lessons for us to see.

1. We are all spiritually crippled in God's sight.
2. David extended kindness to Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. God extends his kindness to us for Jesus' sake and the price he paid.
3. David never mentioned Mephibosheth's physical problems. He treated him as if nothing was wrong at all. God has so completely forgiven us, that He treats us as sons and daughters.

David was indeed a *man after God's own heart*.

The Bible records the faults as well as the failures of men and women. It is easy to focus upon those blemishes. On a large white canvas, a black smudge is easily seen and gathers attention. That dark spot becomes the focus of consideration instead of the vast white areas that are unscathed by discoloration. David made an enormous mistake with Bathsheba. He compounded that sin by murdering her husband—a man whom David had known and considered a friend for many years. Nathan, the prophet, confronted David openly. Nathan put his life on the line when he challenged David. The king could have had him executed right then and there. Instead, David immediately admitted his guilt and asked for forgiveness from God. In Psalms we are given a first-hand look into the private thoughts of this man as he dealt with this issue. His instant humility and heart condition are traits God desires in all. He was a *man after God's own heart*.

Few families have suffered as much heartache as did David's. Partly as punishment by God for David's behavior and sin, and partly because of poor parenting skills, this was a dysfunctional family with a capitol "D". Within the confines of his immediate family David witnessed disrespect, the untimely deaths of four of his children, incestuous rape, a political coup to take over his throne, and murder. Through all the sorrow, the Bible reminds us of the fact that David never lost sight of his God and the strength that can be found in a personal relationship with Him. *A man after God's own heart*.

Please, do not read the next sentence!

You little rebel! I like you!

To understand the heart of David is difficult from our vantage point. We see a boy with his sheep, a young man challenging giants, and a man with huge mistakes as well as huge successes in his life. Remember it was David who brought the nation together, who planned and financed Solomon's temple, and who wrote many of the Psalms that today still touch many hearts. One Psalm, written by David, places our attention appropriately upon the secret of his success as a man of God. It is not found in the Book of Psalms. It is a song he wrote as he neared the end of his life and is now recorded in II Samuel 22. Verse 36 places everything into perfect perspective. *Thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness has made me great*. Our relationship with our Lord is based upon his gift of salvation. It is the foundation block that everything else stands upon. David also understood that nothing in his own self was of any lasting value. The gentleness of God, His bending down towards man in love, His tender care for us, His compassion delicately touching our lives—that is what makes anyone great. The understanding of that truth may allow any of us to develop into men and women *after God's own heart*.

Phrases You Probably Didn't Know Came From the Bible

To escape by the skin of your teeth—
Job 19:20

*A drop in the bucket—*Isaiah 40:15

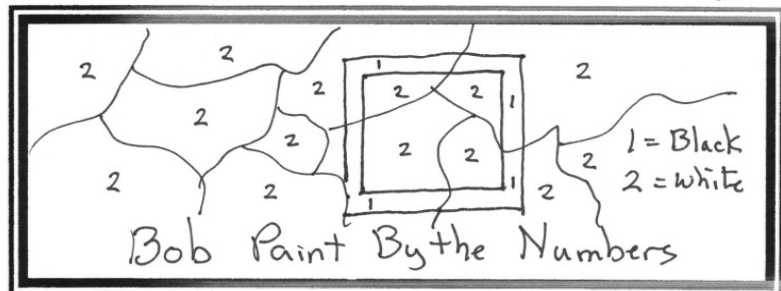
*A behemoth—*Job 40:15-24

*A scapegoat—*Leviticus 16:8

Casting pearls before swine—
Matthew 7:6

The ends of the earth—
Deuteronomy 33:17

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Helping you to keep your room clean this summer
- Diputseromneve
- Why Habakkuk disliked Babylon

Keeping Your Room Clean This Summer

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

A few helpful hints to facilitate your efforts to keep your room clean during the summer:

1. Remember **Vern's Theorem: $E=TP^2$** (Every one likes an extra role of toilet paper).
2. If you can't remember the formula, have **2 parts water—1 part Spic-n-Span** tattooed on your forearm.
3. On the first day of each month ask yourself this question: Does my room really need to be cleaned this month?
4. **Percussive Maintenance:** to whack the snickers out of an electronic device to get it to work again.
5. Keep a picture of your school janitor on your wall as a motivation to do well. Heroes are hard to find and a janitor is a great hero.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The book of Habakkuk

Scripture describes the love of God as perfect and complete. His chosen people, Israel, defied Him repeatedly, deliberately refusing to bow their stiff necks in reverence and respect for what He had accomplished on their behalf. God was ultimately patient with them in their repeated refusals to honor Him, and as a result, we can see from the Biblical account, the character of God in action. His merciful, kind and longsuffering nature did not destroy Israel even when they probably deserved such treatment. The honest individual will admit that their own behavior is, at times, just as abhorrent to God, and is deserving of judgment. We owe our lives to the fact that He is slow to anger. However, a line does exist over which a child of God should not cross. Where that line is technically, only God knows. The patience of God does have a limit, and we would do well not to test that limit. The prophets Habakkuk and Zephaniah explore a concept we will call "the dark side of love". Consider the following story.

Under cover of darkness, two vehicles arrive at a small rural home. Some hushed words are exchanged between the three armed men as they exit their vehicles. One runs up to the front door, and finding it locked, kicks it open with a blow. All three then run hurriedly through the domicile, searching. One of them

finds a small girl lying in her bed. He grabs her up. She is now screaming and does not want to go. She does not know these men, but they take her from the home, lay her in the back seat of one of their cars and tie her down with the seat belts, so she cannot move. All three quickly get back in their automobiles, and they are gone as swiftly as they arrived. As they drive to the other side of the county, they ignore many traffic laws. Moving with haste and arriving at a tall building, the young girl, still sobbing, is taken to the third floor where a fourth man has been waiting. She is laid out on a hard table. He places something over her mouth, and her cries are stifled. He then plunges a knife deep into her abdomen.

We think to ourselves, what an unfortunate turn of events. But a few key pieces of information were purposely subtracted from the account. The three armed men were policemen. The young girl was crying in pain, not fear. She had been home alone, and was suffering a severe attack of appendicitis and had called 9-1-1. This was a small town situation, and the law enforcement officials made the judgment call to take her to the hospital immediately, rather than wait for an ambulance. The doctor, waiting on the third floor, deftly removed the burst appendix and promptly saved her life. That information changes the complexion of the story completely. The trauma, caused by the actions of the policemen, was for the young girl's ultimate good.

God had chosen Israel as His people and His covenant with Abraham would not be ignored or vacated by Him. But they were sinning greatly and sin left unattended will ultimately lead to death. In His sovereignty, God chose to salvage His people with love—the dark side of love. No parent enjoys punishing a child, and neither does God find pleasure in disciplining His children.

The necessary reprimand is meant to admonish and correct a bad behavior. Habakkuk was a curious prophet, a man of many questions. His inquiries are relevant even today, and worthy of a closer look. He understood God's relationship with Israel, but as many today in our world wonder, how can God permit sin to continue and not be dealt with? It seemed then, as it does now, that the ungodly go along in life unchecked, able to do as they please, and the righteous suffer at their hands. God's solution to the uncaring, wandering hearts of His people was a nation called Babylon. Habakkuk was informed that the Chaldeans would become a world power, the greatest the world would ever know, and they would be His tool of judgment upon His people. The prophet then points to the fact that the Babylonians were a ruthless horde. It seemed unconscionable that Jehovah God would raise up a godless nation to judge His own people. But God reminded him that Babylon, too, will be judged for her sins, eventually.

The warning of impending judgment rang clearly from Zephaniah. The patience of God is not to be mocked or taken lightly. He will ultimately judge. It will be a righteous act, and those who are guilty will be punished. The chastening of a loving God, and the repercussions accompanying that act, are not comfortable at implementation. Romans 8:28 reminds us that all things work together for the good of those who are His. The ultimate goal of God in the ensuing rebuking and disciplining of Israel, was to bring them back to Himself. They would see seventy years of captivity in Babylon for their sins. The severity of the consequences of their disobedience was mediated by the love of God. Displacement from Jerusalem was difficult for any Jew, but a hint of mercy is seen in the fact that God chose to send his people into captivity in the most technologically advanced nation of the day.

(Continued Next Page)

Diputseromneve

The word
Diputseromneve
may look ridiculous,
but backwards it's
even more stupid!

(Continued From Page 1)

Babylon was a fabulously wealthy realm, a world power unmatched in any day. The capital described by ancient historians was one of astonishing architecture. A thirty story tall wall surrounded a city of two hundred fifty-six square miles. With stores of food, arable land to grow additional crops, and a river flowing through the city, they could withstand a siege forever, completely self-sufficient. Written accounts describe eighty story buildings inside the city, with indoor plumbing. This was also the home of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Reportedly, it was built by the king for his wife who was from Lebanon and was homesick for the mountains where she had grown up. Nebuchadnezzar promptly built a huge “mountain” garden for her personal pleasure. Historians describe it as a tiered structure, a multilevel horticultural paradise, watered by pumps capable of lifting the necessary amounts of the precious liquid to the top of his five hundred foot tall edifice. Full size trees and plants beyond imagination, populated the various levels. Incredible to behold, it was just one of many achievements of one of the greatest rulers the world has ever known. The Israelites would face difficulty, but they would do so in a most luxurious environment. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God even urged the displaced Jews to pray for the welfare of the country to which they were being deported. He clearly told them to flourish while they were there and that if the nation of Babylon prospered, they would also.

God chose seventy years of captivity for His people for a very specific reason. The Law required the observance of the Sabbath. Clearly detailed for the Israelites was the fact that the Sabbath rests were not just a one day per week occurrence. Among the many additional times of rest, God pointed to a special Sabbath rest for the land. Every seventh year, the land was to lie fallow, unworked and unplanted. God had issued a challenge to his people. If they would abide by His commandments, their crop production would be augmented abundantly during the sixth year to survive the year of no production. In fact, He promised sufficient excess to ensure the need to throw out surplus grain at the harvest on the ninth year. Scripture says they chose not to trust God in this area. His patience simmered for four hundred ninety years. The Bible describes the exile in Babylon as a time that God’s Promised Land would enjoy the seventy years of Sabbaths that it was not given during the time Israel tended the land for God. They were reminded by Him, on numerous occasions, how the land belonged to God and He was simply allowing them to live there. Today, we too are stewards and tenants, faithfully administrating the things that God has entrusted to our care.

During a period of approximately twenty years, the Babylonians successfully took Judah captive. The temple was looted and destroyed, the walls of Jerusalem pulled down, and the city burned. Those who were not killed by the ravaging Chaldean army were taken back to Babylon as servants and slaves. Only a small handful of poor people were left behind to work the land for the Babylonians. God’s own chosen people would experience the dark side of the love of God for seventy years. Before and during this time of trauma, several prophets of God warned and explained in detail exactly what was happening and why. They had tested the patience of God and lost. The loving God who had brought them to the Promised Land removed them in loving punishment for their lack of obedience.

The book of Habakkuk, though short, is quoted by the great theological books of the New Testament. Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews refer to passages found there as proof texts, to support the challenges Paul put forth to the Jews and Gentiles that Jesus was the Christ, and that the ultimate plan of God was the salvation of all men. Habakkuk, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, records an amazing claim in chapter two, verse five. *The just shall live by his faith.* Our salvation is not found in our observance of rules or regulations. It is to be found in a child-like faith in Jesus Christ, and a belief in what He did on the cross many years ago.

How to Remember the Minor Prophets

Hunting	Hosea
Jaguars	Joel
And	Amos
Overweight	Obadiah
Jockeys	Jonah
Might	Micah
Not	Nahum
Help	Habakkuk
Zebras	Zephaniah
Have	Haggai
Zany	Zechariah
Mustaches	Malachi

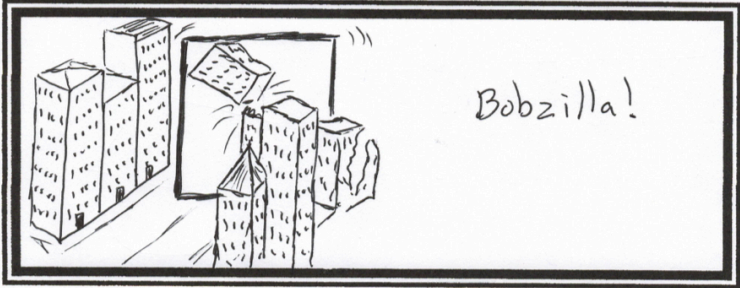


For your own personal safety and of those around you, DO NOT hold this hole up to the light and attempt to look through it. Thank you



Habakkuk, the miner prophet. (I think.)

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Happy Father's Day from Bob the Square
- Miscellaneous Dad stuff
- Ed—What? You have never heard about Ed?

Stuff Your Daddy Never Taught You

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

How to set your cat to Daylight Savings Time



Rotate the cat 12.5 degrees counterclockwise.

Always remember that dads are right 97% of the time!

Nobody cares about the other 4%

Ed

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Joshua 22

Conquering and possessing the Promised Land had been a long, arduous task. With many mistakes along the way, the Israelites were no longer as dedicated to the cause as they once were. Joshua aged, and the intensity and commitment of the people waned. They decided to call a halt to the conquest for a while, and the sad truth is that they never concluded what they started. God had clearly delineated for them the exact geographical boundaries for each of the twelve tribes to inhabit.

(Continued Next Page)

Dear Dad...

Dad, for Father's Day we got you a t-shirt that says, "Do Not Resuscitate". You can wear it every time Mom takes you to the opera or ballet.

Dad, I would give you what you want the most for Father's Day, but I can't afford to move out yet.

Dad, you're by far the best dad that I could have ever asked for. That is, until you start dancing. Then everything changes.

Dad, I've come up with a new children's song for Father's Day. It's called, "If You're Happy and You Know It, Keep It to Yourself and Let Your Dad Sleep."

Dad, your Father's Day gift from me is another year of not having to pay for my wedding.

Dad, I was going to give you the most amazing gift ever for Father's Day. And then I remembered that you already have me.

Dad, you've always been the coolest. Like all those times you said, "Yes" when Mom said, "No."

Dad, when I was little I used to think you were Superman. Now that I'm all grown up. I realize you're just a regular guy who wears a cape.

Dad, I finally figured out that you used to throw the ball right at my head. I learned to catch pretty quick, didn't I?

Things Your Dad Will NEVER Say

No son of mine is going to live under this roof without an earring. Now quit your belly-aching and let's go to the mall.

Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car. Go have some fun!

Well, how about that. I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions.

If you kids don't know what to eat, it might help to stand in front of the fridge with the door open for 10 minutes while you think about it.

Have fun on your date with my daughter. And don't worry about getting back at any specific time. Just whenever.

Stepping on a LEGO is so refreshing!

Please, just take one bite of chocolate. Just one, and then go back to eating your vegetables.

I get tons of compliments when I wear dark socks with sandals.

All your friends are doing it? Well, that's good enough for me. Have fun.

Hey, look at your phone when I'm talking to you.

We got you that phone for a reason—texting boys (girls).

Hey, don't put that back where you found it, just leave it lying around when you are done.

When I was little my dad had me convinced that the Ice Cream truck only played music when it was sold out.

Well played, Dad, well played.

(Continued from Page One)

He had promised them unequivocal success if they would but obey Him. All they had to do was walk in and claim the land—flowing with milk and honey, with houses they didn't have to build, trees they didn't have to plant, and crops already in the ground—absolutely free. They grew tired and complacent, not willing to trust God entirely.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, had requested that they be allowed to reside on the East side of the Jordan River. God permitted it, but do not think for a minute that it is what God would have preferred. He simply allowed them to live there, knowing full well that problems would lie ahead of them if they refused His perfect inheritance in the Promised Land. The two and one half tribes had committed themselves to cross over the Jordan with the rest of the nation and assist the other tribes as they conquered the land. Much time passed. Having kept their word, tired and worn, they wanted to go home. Joshua warned them explicitly to keep the commands of God, and never forget Him.

With permission to leave granted to them by Joshua, they headed for their inheritance. Upon reaching the Jordan River, they decided to build a very large, imposing altar to God. All of Israel heard of it and misinterpreted their actions. Thinking that the two and one half tribes had turned their backs on God, they prepared to go to war with their own brothers. Tempers flared until it was learned that the tribes that they had assumed to be rebellious weren't wayward after all. The explanation given for their questionable behavior was this—they had fear and concern that someday, they would no longer be considered part of Israel because they lived on the East side of the Jordan. The dramatic altar was to be a witness to future generations that there was indeed a link between the two groups of people. The clarification calmed emotions, and everyone went their separate ways.

Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh called their altar "Ed", which means "a witness". On the surface, the building of this monument seems like an appropriate gesture. A more in-depth look at the altar named Ed exposes a few complications. First, the nation of Israel was to have one and only one altar, and God had mandated that it be located in front of the Tabernacle in Israel. Sacrifices were to be offered only there. Ed was a bloodless altar, and represents the theology of today that ignores the blood sacrifice of Jesus. The church today is a divided entity. There are those that hold to the fundamental truths of the Word, and others who define the Word down so far as to try to make it say what "their itching ears want to hear". The actions of these errant Israelites were indicative of their true hearts. Many hundreds of years later, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and visited the Gadarenes. That visit was memorable. They were pig farmers, a ceremonially unclean animal under the Law. They had a problem with demonic possession, and upon seeing Jesus work miracles, they told Him, in no uncertain terms, to leave their land.

A Family Tree

His family tree was interesting.

Let's begin with Great, Great Grandpa Sequoyah, a larger than life character. But once you got beneath his rough exterior, he was softer than most in his dealings. That gene was probably passed on to the rest of the family.

Grandma Willow was a kind hearted soul, with flowing tresses that almost touched the ground. I guess everyone has their faults, and she was no different. She left a mess everywhere she went. When something dropped to the ground, there was never any effort on her part to pick up after herself. It was actually quite annoying to many. But the family learned to accept that it was just her way of doing things.

Aunt Olive never took a bath. You know how stringy and oily your hair gets when you go quite a time between washings? Aunt Olive was the poster child for that oily look.

Cousin Hazel could be described in one word. Her unpredictability and unique behavior convinced everyone that she was a nut, pure and simple.

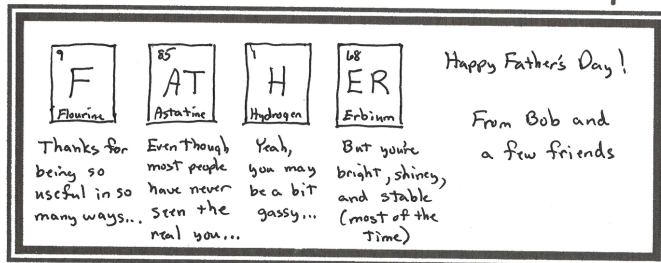
Uncle Forrest had a habit of walking out into the trees and getting lost each time. No one is sure exactly why. Maybe it was because he blended into the background so well. He was almost impossible to see once he entered a grove of trees.

Great Uncle Woody was quite a character. Tough and hard, but one of the most willing to allow himself to be used for anything that he could do.

And no one could forget Aunt Magnolia. She always wore green. She wore a fragrant flower nearly every day through the Spring and Summertime. And perhaps it isn't so polite to say, but everyone thought it. When she got older, she was huge!

We don't have time to discuss Laurel and Linden in detail now, but suffice it to say, all of these characters succeeded in passing down their quirks and character. Few have such an interesting family tree as did the one we know as Pinocchio.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



June 23, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 38

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Summer Camp
- Movie Time

Camelot and the Round Table

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The tale of Camelot and King Arthur and the knights in his employ is the stuff of legend. Many might ask about one unique aspect of the story. Why a round table?

Many theories have been put forward to explain the oddity in the legend, but until now, the truth has been obscured by time. New documents recently discovered point to a definitive answer.

We remember knights such as Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad, Sir Gareth, and Sir Loin of Beef. But one knight in particular, who was a woodworker in his off hours, simply produced the now famous round table and presented it as a gift to King Arthur, who adopted it readily. History had all but forgotten the name of that woodworker knight, Sir Cumference.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Letters From Summer Camp

Dear Mom and Dad,

I was forced to write this so I could eat. Love, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

Some kid put ten pieces of cheese on different parts of the toilet. Love, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

I love and miss you.

I hate the woods.

Camp is cool.

Try to find the secret message.

Love, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

I haven't found a girlfriend at summer camp yet. I'm still a Single Pringle. Love, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

Summer camp is great. I've gotten a chance to get really close to some exciting wildlife.



Your son, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here at summer camp someone tried to convince this guy that our cabin was haunted. So, being the helpful person that I am, I moved his bunk to the other side of the cabin while he was sleeping. He just sits in the corner now and stares at everyone. It's kinda creepy. Love, Lyle

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, the fire is finally out now. We lost all of the cabins, but I will always remember how we all gathered together afterwards and roasted marshmallows last night. Next time we won't make a campfire in the middle of the cabin floor.

We all look forward to swimming in the lake each day. They say there is a creature out there in the deep water of the lake. But if we're quiet, it will usually leave us all alone. So far we have lost only three campers. One was from our cabin. We have a lot more room now that he is gone, so it's not so bad.

The camp counsellor got arrested last night for fighting with a kid. The kid was a jerk, so we all felt it was a righteous

fight. So, until he bails out of jail, we are kind of on our own. None of us knows how to cook and we are getting a bit hungry.

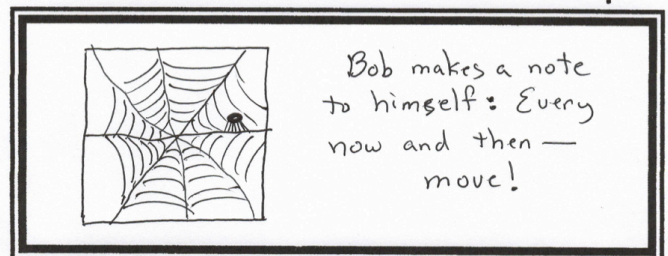
There must be a rather large wild animal coming down out of the hills at night. Whatever it is, it only takes one of us each night. There are 25 of us left and only three more days of summer camp, so I feel pretty good about my odds.

It has rained every day here at camp. Lots of lightning and thunder. With all of the cabins gone from the fire, we set up tents to sleep in. Evidently the metal frames attract lightning. The good thing is, it's so wet, after a lightning strike, the tents usually don't burn.

We tried to take the camp bus into town yesterday to find some food. Evidently, the earthquake was stronger than we realized. All of the bridges are out and the road into camp slid off the mountain. We may be here awhile longer. Don't worry, though. We know how to take care of ourselves. Do you have any recipes for possums or raccoons?

Anyway, I am having quite an experience here at summer camp. Hope I never have to come here again. Love, Lyle

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Bob the Square
- Random Thoughts
- What is truth?

Random Thoughts... Worth Every Penny You They Cost You

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. Am I the only person in the world who has never actually seen any one slip on a banana?
2. Choose very carefully and wisely today...you never know which donut may be your last!
3. Somehow I don't think any of the Christian TV networks are going to produce a TV show called "Worship Idol".
4. Sin wouldn't be so attractive if the wages were paid immediately.
5. Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Of Checkerboards and Shadows

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Galatians 1:6-7

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.
Galatians 1:6-7

God has been very definitive and honest in the Bible about right and wrong. He has displayed, many times in graphic detail, what sin looks like and where it leads. An honest study of His Word leaves little guesswork when it comes to discerning absolute righteousness. But our human nature is questioning. Much like a bull fenced in a pasture, we test the fences, seeing how hard we can push or how far we can reach through before we get reprimanded or hurt. Fences work two ways. They keep us in, but sometimes more importantly, they keep unwanted things out as well. Sexual promiscuity and STD's. Alcohol and addiction. Pornography and addiction. God says "No" for more reason than a "just because I say so". Sin unchecked ultimately destroys.

God has much to say about right and wrong in the Bible. Interestingly, I can find no place where He condones situational ethics in any shape or form. God has a sincere list of right and wrong. It is vividly black and white—clearly detailed and explained, but our sin nature is always looking for an excuse or a reason to doubt God's commands. And they are commands, by the way, not

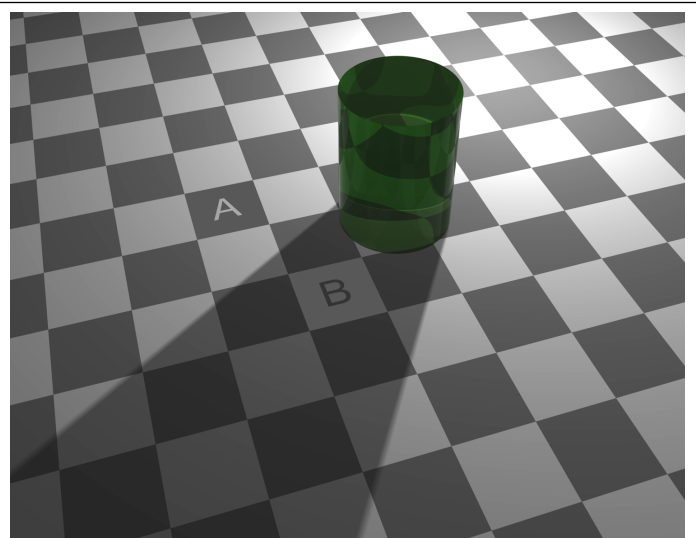
mere suggestions. He has delineated good from bad, right from wrong, and acceptable from inappropriate.

Sometimes we might have the tendency to look at the Word of God as a list of "Thou shalt not's." An honest look through the Scripture does point to a large number of warnings and dire predictions for disobedience. We need the warnings, because we don't heed the warnings. I was taught by my father to be very cautious buying a used car from anywhere very far north. Winter weather results in the application of a salt mixture to the roads to melt the ice and snow, and if the residue is not intentionally washed off regularly, the result is a slow decay of rust. Our compromising with the world around us can work that very same way, slowly creeping in and if unchecked, surely causing eventual catastrophic damage.

Compromise can be disastrous for even the most Godly of believers. We can never claim immunity from the temptation of sin. As I read through the Bible, I find God has recorded both the good and the bad concerning the lives of many of the heroes mentioned in Scripture. God does not white wash their lives, but gives us the entire story as an example to us of what can happen if we are asleep at the wheel in regards to Satan's efforts in our lives.

Satan sets snares to catch the unsuspecting Christian. Snares are, by design, difficult to perceive if the intended target is not constantly vigilant. I have over the years had a few instances of nuisance wild animals around the house. Setting live traps to capture and relocate these creatures is a challenge. They are wary of everything that does not look normal and familiar to them.

(Continued Next Page)



Continued from Page 1

We likewise, should be so familiar with God's Word that we recognize immediately when something does not look quite right or normal and avoid being caught in the trap. I make my traps as enticing as I possibly can, adding food and placing them as conveniently as possible for the animal to consider. Satan uses the identical game plan. He knows what works and uses the perfect bait for his prey, placing it at a very handy location.

We are especially susceptible to compromise through wrong relationships. We develop friendships with those who can, and will, drag us down. It is a fine balance between showing Christian love and embracing sin. We are told in the New Testament that *they will know we are Christians by our love for one another*. And that is indeed true. But at what point do we identify unacceptable sin in another person's life and say, "I cannot condone, nor accept what you are doing because your actions might be interpreted as acceptable and be imitated by another person who is watching." Paul addressed more than once the sexual sins that were being tolerated in the local churches. We still struggle with that very issue today.

Satan is an expert in gray. He can take a large amount of good, mix in a little bit of bad, and entice us with the deadly mixture. As we respond to Satan's ploys, he gradually leads us into the shaded area on the picture. And before we realize, we are living in a false reality. We look at square "B" and tell ourselves it must be OK. But it's not. The first things that come to my mind are the behaviors that are not just tolerated by society today, but proclaimed to be worthy of notable praise. Sins that God chastised Israel for many years ago, are hailed by our society today. Homosexuality, single gender marriages, fluid gender identity, abortion, sexual promiscuity—all were clearly proclaimed wrong by God, and yet we see even in the church today, acceptance and support. When will we return to the original black and white checkerboard of what is truly right and wrong? Or will we continue in the Satanic shadows of our culture.

So, What Kinds Of Stuff Do We Place In The Gray Areas Of Life?

As I think back on how things have changed in just my life time, I can't help but wonder where we are headed as a nation.

Abortion became legal in the US in January 1973. Since that time, in the US, nearly 60 million children have lost their lives to this medical procedure. The number of abortions in the US peaked around 1990 and has gradually been declining since that time. But we still kill nearly a million children each year.

Of those who choose abortion, a significantly higher proportion are black and Hispanic. Since 1973, 18.5 million black babies have lost their lives to abortion. The woman who started Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was an avowed racist and even spoke at KKK rallies!

By far, most of the women who get an abortion are poor. The statistics say that a poor woman is 5 times more likely to get an abortion.

And this may be the most under reported aspect of abortion. Women who have had abortions are 3 times more likely to commit suicide. Teens who have had an abortion are 10 times more likely to take their life. They are 81% more likely to have mental health issues.

And yet we see in the news stories of famous people proudly proclaiming that they were "proud to have had an abortion".

World wide, the statistics become even more profound and saddening. Since 1980, over 1.5 billion babies have been aborted.

1.5 BILLION!!!!

In the past, the USA has pressured other countries to join us in the push for world wide abortion. We have openly refused to send aid or trade with them unless they adopted an open abortion policy in their nation similar to ours. This concept was pushed heavily in the mid to late 1990's.

I will be quite honest with you at this point and freely admit to you that I have personally become a "One Issue Voter." My primary concern about the leaders in my community, state or nation, are this: where do they stand on the issue of abortion?

For me, how they feel about immigration, crime, or social needs is eclipsed by their stance on abortion.

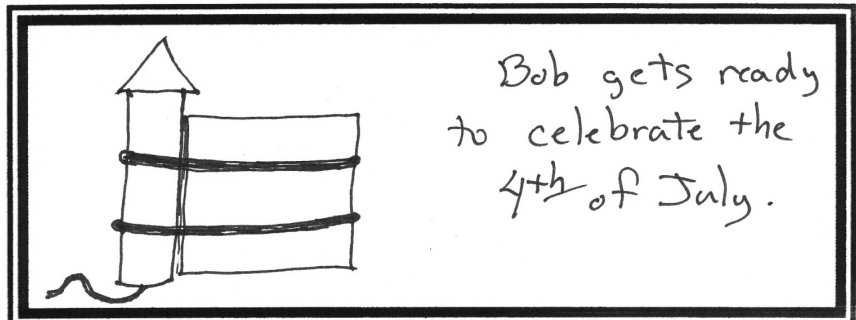
During the last presidential election, we had a poor selection of candidates at best. Jill Stein, running on the Green party platform, was decidedly pro-abortion. Gary Johnson, representing the Libertarian Party, believed a woman had the right to choose abortion until late in the pregnancy. Hillary Clinton, Democrat, was as strong a proponent of abortion as anyone I have ever seen.

One candidate was pro-life—Donald Trump. For all of his flaws, or his personal life failures in his past, he stood proudly and solidly against abortion. And his vice-presidential running mate, Mike Pence, was even more conservative! That sole issue guided my vote. For me, all of the other issues pale in comparison—all of the other issues!

I firmly believe that we as a nation will answer to God one day for our acceptance of abortion here in the US. As I read the Bible and study the nations mentioned there that have since disappeared, it is notable that their final act of rebellion that brought God's patience to an end, was the act of child sacrifice.

Too many children have been sacrificed in our country on the altar of abortion.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



July 14, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 40

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Bob the square
- Cafeteria Food
- The Feast of Tabernacles

Extreme Computer Skills

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

(A)bort
(R)etry
(D)elite
(B)ack
(E)nter
(C)ommand
(S)hift
(O)ption
(I)nfluence
(with a very large hammer)

A Handy Guide to The Three Basic Cafeteria Food Groups This Coming Year



Brown Stuff



Not So Brown Stuff



Almost Tan Stuff

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

The Feast of Tabernacles

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 7:37-38

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.'

The Feast of Tabernacles is described in detail in Leviticus 23:33-43. It was one of the three major feasts that Israel was to celebrate. And celebrate is a key word here. This was to be just that, a week long celebration of God and His goodness, a gathering together of the community, a special time for everyone to enjoy. It was to take place in the Fall of the year, after the crops had been gathered in. There was a special feature that was to be incorporated into this feast that was unique. They were to build temporary "booths" or structures, a tent of sorts, and live in those structures during the feast.

From our perspective today, we can see some characteristics of these times that probably went un-noticed in those early days. The Feast of Tabernacles was a celebration pointing to, and amplifying the concept of the humanity of the coming Messiah, Jesus. Jesus stepped into this world 100% human. He was and is still 100% God. The God-Man. Unique, amazing, loving. His life here on earth was

under the same physical restraints that we experience. God lowered Himself to our condition to demonstrate His love towards us. He took on the same temporary, frail body that each of us possesses. Paul talked about living in a tent while here on this earth. Not a canvas structure. His reference was to his physical self, his temporary body that would be replaced one day in Heaven with a permanent one. Jesus took on the same temporary body that we have. The Israelites were to live in temporary housing during this feast.

Of all of the Law given to Israel by God at Sinai, the Feast of Tabernacles is the only portion that I am aware of that will continue to be observed during the Millennial Reign of Jesus when He returns to this earth. Zechariah 14 points this out quite plainly. Why would only this one feast, one aspect of the Law be continued during that thousand years? It is a celebration of the humanity of Jesus, who during this time will be sitting on a physical throne in Jerusalem, ruling the world perfectly. And Revelation 21:3 points to the announcement that Jesus, God, will dwell with men forever.

While the Israelites travelled through the desert, wandering for those 40 years of punishment, they had occasion to arrive at a rock, thirsty. Exodus 17:6-7 gives us a record of that event. Moses was to go up to the rock, strike it with his staff and water would come out for the people. And that is exactly what happened. Nearly 37 years later, the people found themselves again thirsty and they just happened to be at the very same location. Moses was told to simply speak to the rock and it would produce water, but in anger, Moses struck the rock a second time. Water did come out, but Moses was severely punished for this irreverent act. He was denied access to the Promised Land. Why was God so angered?

The rock was a picture of The Rock, Jesus. He was to be struck once and only once. The cross was not to be a multiplied experience. Moses had tarnished that picture, and God was displeased. It is interesting how God is capable of using everything to His advantage. The people of Israel added many things to their worship experience, both good and bad, but miraculously still kept sight of the beauty of God in the process. The Feast of Tabernacles was no exception. Their culturally inspired celebration grew to include a moment of remembrance of God providing for them in the desert those 40 years, specifically the miraculous supply

of water coming from a rock in the wasteland.

We are told by Jewish historians that it became a custom of the day that on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, they would gather many huge containers of precious water into the temple, and on cue, pour the water out on the floor of the temple and allow it to run out of the building and into the courtyard. A unique, beautiful picture of the providence of God.

Now we come to the seventh chapter of John. John tends to give more exact references to time and place than the other Gospel writers. That alone makes his work unique. For background into the setting of this episode, understand Jesus has been going about Galilee and the surrounding areas teaching about God for almost three years. There had come opposition to Him from those who were jealous of His popularity. So Jesus delayed his going to the Feast of Tabernacles until about midway through the celebration. His arrival and subsequent teaching disturbed some and bewildered others.

John 7:37 is one of my favorite verses in the Bible! Remember that the Jewish leaders had adopted the idea of pouring a huge amount of water out on the temple floor on the last day of the feast in remembrance of God's provision. In this verse, in my mind, I imagine Jesus standing on the temple steps, arms outstretched, ankle deep in the cascading water rushing out of the temple floor, and proclaiming in a very loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty, come to me and drink." What an amazing sight to behold!

Jesus is the Water of Life (John 4:10), He is Spiritual Drink (I Corinthians 10:1-4). The very last words of the Bible, found in Revelation 22, remind us of what is yet to come. In verse 17 we find God's final promise of our future in Heaven, and it is no coincidence that we find water mentioned here as well. Let these be our final words. *The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.*

Did You Know?

Young MacDonald grew up on the farm. He knew all of the animals well and cared deeply for them all. But few are aware that his tenure on the farm almost did not come to reality, and my, how our world would have suffered the loss.

It seems that his early educational career was in shambles. As hard as he tried to understand the idiosyncrasies of the English language, one concept eluded him his entire life. He struggled with differentiating vowels. As his mind developed, it became increasingly evident that this young man would go through life with a severe linguistic handicap.

We recall the song that has been sung over the many years about the Old MacDonald who owned a farm and tended his myriad of animals. But few were aware of the educational lapse that brought about the refrain of that song. A young boy who believed with all of his heart that there were only three vowels in the English language and absolutely refused to acknowledge any others. His teachers tried to convince him that there were indeed 5 vowels to be cherished and used. His response was to simply use two of them a second time, creating his own personal 5 vowel system. E-I-E-I-O.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation (An Essay)

Most of our vacation was in Consequential. Our best friends asked us to meet them in Vitation. We couldn't decide where to spend our first night so we stayed in Decision. We thought about staying in Considerate, but felt it might offend them. Our stay in Eptitude was a fail. In short, our vacation was awful!

No one seemed to even notice us while we stayed in Conspicuous. We spent a miserable afternoon in Tolerable, and the bugs were terrible in Sect. Nothing went right for us during our time in Correct. I started keeping track of all of our difficulties when we travelled in Dex. We were treated like animals in Human, and the temperature was unbearable in Ferno. We were very careful while in Trepid, and never got a good night's sleep during our stay in Somnia. I thought our time in Finitude would never end. We never felt safe in Secure, and our evening walks in Cline were always uphill. Things got worse in Crease!

There was a problem in Cident that we wanted no part of, so we never stayed in Volved. In fact, we had to spend the night in Nocent to clear our names with the local law enforcement. And our trip got even worse in Ferior. Our hotel room was robbed in Vasion, our credit cards quit working while we were in Active, and I had to undergo minor surgery in Cision. I fell off of a cliff in Jure and we got lost looking for a hospital. We finally got directions when we stopped in Quire. By

(Continued next column)

(Continued)

the time we stopped for lunch in Fection, it was really getting bad. We then took a wrong turn in Variably, and the pain became unbearable in Tensify. A stranger came to our rescue in Tervene. On our last day we were in Sane. Apparently they have no airport. We were driven there by friends and family.

Here's A Few Emoticon Smiley Faces You May Not Already Have On Your Phone!



That zit is hardly noticeable anymore!

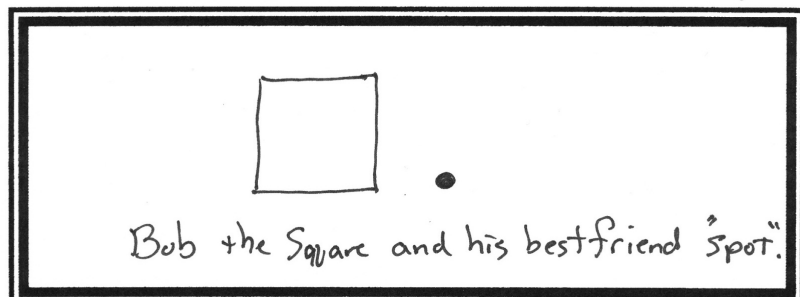


Do you think I need a hair cut?



**We got a new kitten today.
It still has a few issues with
unresolved anger.**

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Stuff For Today

- Bob the square
- Cafeteria Food
- Kabul the Camel

Camel Trivia

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The word "camel" is derived from the Arabic word for "beauty".

Camels can drink as much as 40 gallons of water at one stop.

In 1855, the US Congress allowed the War Department \$30,000 to purchase camels. They were used for several years until the soldiers got tired of their bad temperament and smell.

If you ever visit Abu Dhabi, be sure to look around for a store that sells a real camel milkshake, made from real camel milk.

Camels can hit speeds of nearly 40 mph for short periods of time, and can hold 25 mph for lengthy periods of time.

Baby camels are born without humps.

Giraffes and rats are the only animal that can last longer without water than a camel.

Approximately 750,000 wild camels roam the outback of Australia.

The oldest known camel lived to be over 35 years old.

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

The Five Wishes OF Kabul The Camel

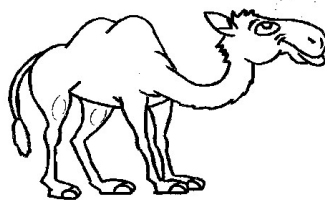
By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

The Five Wishes of Kābul the Cāmel

Once upon a time, on the hot sands of the Sahara, there lived a camel. His name was Kābul, but no one referred to him by that name. Instead, they called him "Ol' bag o' bones". You see, Kābul was not what most would consider cute or pretty. He wasn't noble, stately, or handsome. He was just plain homely.



Now, one would not expect a camel to be beautiful because that is just not the way camels are created, but to Kābul, that simply was not good enough. Every day he watched the other animals around him, wishing he could be like them. But at the end of each day, when he looked in the mirror, he was still the same "ol' bag o' bones" camel.

One particular morning, Kābul awoke with an uneasy feeling. Oh, the day was normal enough, and yet something about that day would be different from any other

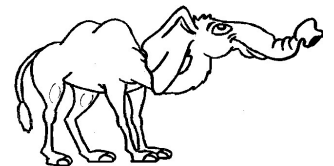
he had ever experienced. As Kābul plodded through the desert sands, his mind wandered here and there. As he walked along, a glint of light caught his eye. There, sticking out of the sand dune, was *something*. What in the world could this be? Bending his scruffy neck downward, his lips grasped it's handle, and with a gentle tug, out came an oil lamp. It was tarnished and dented, but still in reasonable condition. It's rounded, flowing form was covered in dust, so he gave it a lick with his tongue. What happened next left Kābul wide-eyed and frightened. Smoke began pouring out of the spout of the lamp. As the desert breeze caught the drifting smoke away, there appeared a short, fat, man with a magnificent turban on his head. In a booming voice he said, "You have released me from my fate. For that I am very grateful. I will reward you with five wishes, but be sure to use them wisely!" With a nod of his head, he was gone.

To Kābul, this was too incredible to be believed, and yet he wondered, was it really true? Common sense told him that fairy tales are for library books, not real life! Yet, his heart wanted to believe. Deep in thought, he shuffled along, dreaming and hoping.

Just past a grove of palm trees, Kābul met a most magnificent animal—an elephant. Kābul watched this beast intently. What power! How impressive! Oh, to have a trunk like an elephant, he thought. My, what he could accomplish with a trunk like that! And those huge ears—how handy they must be on a hot

day. Gently fanning the air, ears like that could keep someone like him very comfortable on a hot day. And so he wished. He wished for an elephant's trunk and ears. "I wish I was a *camelephant*". (That was wish number one.)

The most incredible thing then happened. His nose began to grow, and his ears as well! In no time at all, Kābul had a most wonderful trunk and ears to match. He was so excited and happy. This new trunk was absolutely magnificent! How handy this will be, and useful too. Kābul was the happiest *camelephant* there ever was. And as the day grew hotter, he began slowly flapping those large ears. The resulting breeze cooled him nicely. It was simply heavenly.

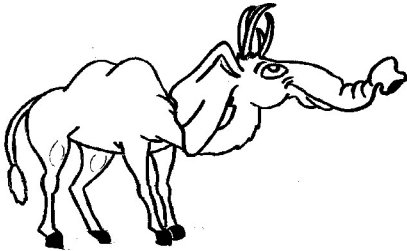


Kābul paraded himself across the sand proudly, a handsome *camelephant*, if there ever was one. As he continued his walk, an antelope bounded across his path. What a free spirit, he thought! To be able to run and jump so effortlessly would be such fun. And those horns! Those horns would command respect, if only he had some. Kābul wished he had feet like an antelope, and horns like an antelope. "I wish I was a *camelephantelope*" (That was wish number two.)

(Continued next page)

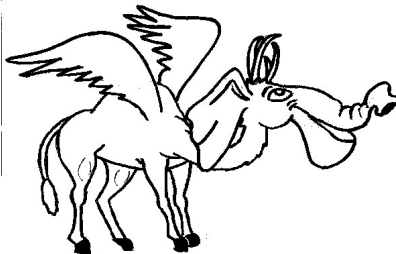
(Continued)

The most incredible thing then happened. Kābul's large padded feet changed to small antelope hooves, and an impressive rack of horns sprouted from his head. Giving his new feet a try, he leapt into the air. Never had a *camelephantelope* jumped so high and so far. This was absolutely wonderful! Now he bounded along, seemingly effortlessly. The wind almost whistled through his horns. Kābul paraded himself across the sand proudly, a handsome *camelephantelope*, if there ever was one.



Continuing his journey happily, he came across an amazing animal—a pelican. As he approached, the bird spread his wings. What a display. The bird effortlessly took flight, carrying something in his huge bill. Kābul thought to himself how wonderful indeed it would be to be able to fly like that. And how useful a pouched bill would be to carry things in. He wished he could fly and carry things like a pelican. "I wish I was a *camelephantelopelican*". (That was wish number three.)

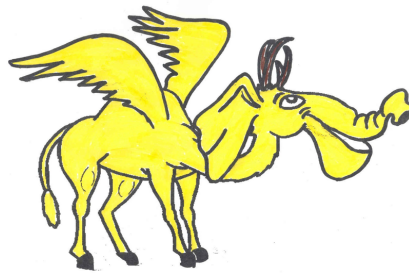
The most incredible thing then happened. His lower jaw began to grow. And it grew and grew. And on his back he felt a strange sensation. Wings complete with feathers formed in no time at all. Kābul spread his new wings and flapped them with all his might. Never had a *camelephantelopelican* flown so freely. It was a magnificent sight to behold. Kābul was happy—very happy indeed!



As he soared through the sky, Kābul noticed a little canary fluttering along. He admired those little feathers. The bright iridescent yellow was absolutely gorgeous. If only he were that color.

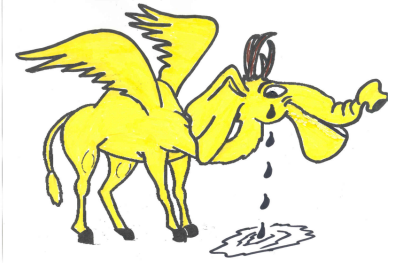
Everyone would then stand in awe. He found himself wishing he had the plumage of a canary. "I wish I was a *camelephantelopelicanary*." (That was wish number four.)

The most incredible thing then happened. In no time at all, Kābul was completely covered from head to hoof in bright yellow feathers. What a sight to behold! Kābul flew through the sky towards home—a beautiful, awesome, *camelephantelopelicanary*, if there ever was one.

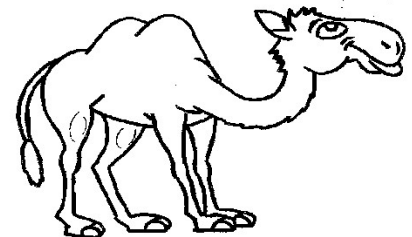


As he approached his home, from his vantage point high in the sky, he could see all of his friends and family. This will be great, he thought. He was certain they would be impressed with his improvements to himself. It was glorious to be a *camelephantelopelicanary*!

His wings hardly made a sound as he lightly touched his hooves to the ground. Those around him were startled to see him. In an instant, that emotion transformed into pure terror! What kind of creature had come from the sky, they didn't know, and they weren't waiting to find out. Everyone ran away and would not venture out of the safe hiding places. This had not worked out at all the way Kābul had planned—all of his friends running in fear! He had hoped they would admire his magnificent changes.

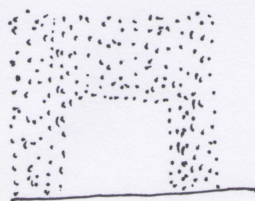


It was when he looked at himself in the mirror that it began to sink into his brain. All the things he had wished for just weren't meant to be a part of a camel. He didn't look wonderful at all. In fact, he looked quite hideous. But fortunately for him, he had one wish left. "I wish I was back to my old self", he said. A puff of smoke, and a flash of light, and Kābul was back to his "ol' bag o' bones" self. And, you know, it wasn't so bad after all. A smile spread across his face. A camel is meant to look, act, and behave like a camel, and not like a *camelephantelopelicanary*.



The End

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Rain renders
Bob's invisibility
cloak useless

July 28, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 2

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Bob the square
- The Civil War
- Acupuncture Demonstration

The Civil War

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The battles raged on for years as the two factions fought for control. Early skirmishes were referred to as "The Cooler Wars". The different levels of the society entwined in the fight were fighting for supremacy, each asserting that his or her level or position in life was the most acceptable and necessary. The results were often bloody between the years of 1861-1865.

Leadership that could not have been more disparate guided the two factions. General Porterhouse led his troops with precision and finesse. His military background could not have suited the situation better. Flanked by his followers, his exploits along the New York strip were legendary.

On the opposing side was "Old Flat Iron" Chuck. He possessed no military training whatsoever. His seemingly haphazard techniques, though, resulted in dramatic wins at Brisket Point and Tri-Tip.

Everything culminated one early summer morning as the two warring factions met for the Battle of Skirt. Porterhouse commanded his troops to light a fire in an attempt to roast out the opposition. "Old Flat Iron" decided to skewer through the center cut...and the history books remember the epic battle as the greatest battle in the "War Between the Steaks."

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

A Needle Through The Arm

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Sin is a really big deal to God! To be found guilty of sin carries the death penalty. We all are found to have fallen short of God's perfection, and are therefore in need of His salvation. Fortunately, we have a God who loves us and offers us a way out of the punishment we deserve. In His mercy and grace He offers us an amazing gift, and all we need to do is believe in Him and accept the salvation that is offered to us free of charge. But that free gift cost God dearly. He gave His Son for us.

God is love. It is such a simple statement but has a profound truth behind it. We often see love as simply an emotion or a feeling and we live our lives governed by that description. Rarely do we love as God loves—unconditionally. God could have told us over and over what true loves looks like and we might have developed a reasonable understanding of the truth. But He chose to demonstrate His love. And that demonstration was so incredible, even the angels in Heaven are watching this thing called salvation play out here on this earth in wide eyed wonder.

We cannot pay the price for our failures. We simply cannot suffice a holy God with anything that we can offer. We have nothing of

value to give in exchange for our souls. The best that we can offer is as filthy rags compared to the absolute perfect holiness of God. Without someone stepping in with the ability to pay the cost, we would surely die because we deserve it. We have earned a place in Hell, but God's love steps in that no one need perish in the fires of Hell. His grace is deeper than the deepest pit of Hell. But the requirement is that we accept and believe Him. That last step is difficult for many.

The Creator of the universe stepped out of Heaven and came to us as one of us, as a human being, and lived among us. Laying aside His Heavenly prerogatives, He suffered an unimaginably painful beating and voluntarily died to pay the ultimate and complete price for our sins. We must see this for what the Bible claims it to be, and that is the fact that had only one person in all of history accepted His gift of salvation, Christ would have gone to the cross for that one. His love is that deep and awesome. But He also went to the cross for those who reject Him as well.

The final result is that God can now point to the cross and with confidence proclaim that it is finished; love has been demonstrated for all to see and to consider. Eternity hangs in the balance and we hold the key to our future. Where we spend forever depends on the choice we make today.

Discount Acupuncture With Quillbert, the Porcupine



Welcome to our infamous "One Second Acupuncture" treatment.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, our little porcupine may not cure your problems, but when we drop a 40 pound live porcupine on your back, your old problems won't seem so large after all.

Most of our customers find it almost impossible to recall their old issues, once this little creature, in pure terror and desperation, massages your back with those cute quills on his back.

And remember, any quills left behind, (or in your behind), are yours to keep. It's just our little way of saying "thank you" to a good customer.

Remember, for the month of July it's 10% off for anyone nicknamed "Spike", "Splinter", or "Mr. Needles".

David

David was indeed *a man after God's own heart*.

The Bible records the faults as well as the failures of men and women. It is easy to focus upon those blemishes. On a large white canvas, a black smudge is easily seen and gathers attention. That dark spot becomes the focus of consideration instead of the vast white areas that are unscathed by discoloration. David made an enormous mistake with Bathsheba. He compounded that sin by murdering her husband—a man whom David had known and considered a friend for many years. Nathan, the prophet, confronted David openly. Nathan put his life on the line when he challenged David. The king could have had him executed right then and there. Instead, David immediately admitted his guilt and asked for forgiveness from God. In Psalms we are given a first-hand look into the private thoughts of this man as he dealt with this issue. His instant humility and heart condition are traits God desires in all. He was *a man after God's own heart*.

Few families have suffered as much heartache as did David's. Partly as punishment by God for David's behavior and sin, and partly because of poor parenting skills, this was a dysfunctional family with a capitol "D". Within the confines of his immediate family David witnessed disrespect, the untimely deaths of four of his children, incestuous rape, a political coup to take over his throne, and murder. Through all the sorrow, the Bible reminds us of the fact that David never lost sight of his God and the strength that can be found in a personal relationship with Him. *A man after God's own heart*.

To understand the heart of David is difficult from our vantage point. We see a boy with his sheep, a young man challenging giants, and a man with huge mistakes as well as huge successes in his life. Remember it was David who brought the nation together, who planned and financed

Solomon's temple, and who wrote many of the Psalms that today still touch many hearts. One Psalm, written by David, places our attention appropriately upon the secret of his success as a man of God. It is not found in the Book of Psalms. It is a song he wrote as he neared the end of his life and is now recorded in II Samuel 22. Verse 36 places everything into perfect perspective. *Thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness has made me great.* Our relationship with our Lord is based upon his gift of salvation. It is the foundation block that everything else stands upon. David also understood that nothing in his own self was of any lasting value. The gentleness of God, His bending down towards man in love, His tender care for us, His compassion delicately touching our lives—that is what makes anyone great. The understanding of that truth may allow any of us to develop into men and women *after God's own heart*.



The Thief On The Cross

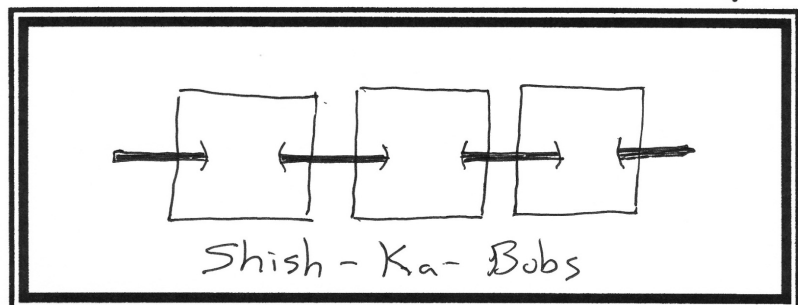
God describes Salvation as the most difficult thing that He has ever done. Creating the vast expanse of the universe, with all of its billions and billions of stars, each different and unique, was a simple thing for Him. In Genesis, He gives it but a casual mention, and in Psalms, describes it as "finger work". Yet when the topic of His Salvation is considered, the phrase found in Isaiah is telling—"the strong arm of the Lord has worked Salvation for Him." Finger work versus a strong arm is quite a comparison.

Our Salvation is a tremendously complicated thing. There are so many things that God does on His side of the equation. He sanctifies us, He justifies us, He adopts us, He forgives us...and I could go on and on. But on our side of the equation, we simply need to accept Him as our personal Savior. We do not earn or deserve our standing with an almighty God. It is His work and His alone that grants us grace and mercy and the promise of Heaven and a relationship with Him while we are here on earth.

So what happened that day? 1. The man on the cross recognized that he was a sinner. 2. He recognized that he could not help himself. 3 He knew he was condemned to die. 4. He recognized Jesus as being totally innocent. 5. He recognized Jesus is God. 6. He saw Jesus as someone close to him who he could identify with. 7. He knew that Jesus could make a difference in his life. 8. He called out to Jesus in the only way he knew how. 9. Jesus lovingly responded. 10. And gave him confirmation that his life was now different than it had been previously.

And that's how you become a Christian!

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



August 4, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 43

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Bob the square
- Teacher Quotes
- 11th Commandment

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

The 11th Commandment

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

My Favorite Quotes From Teachers

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. My desk is not a rummage sale. One day, you will have office supplies of your very own, and then you will understand. Until then, please refrain from manhandling the items on my desk.
2. Leave the plants on my desk alone. There are days unknown to you when the well-being of my plants outranks the well-being of my students. Don't make me pick; you might not win.
3. Can you still turn this in? Sweetie, there is no such thing as a grade lower than zero, so you don't have much to lose. Hand it in and let's see what happens.
4. In a ceremony that has lasted thousands of years, I have been bestowed with magical powers that tell me when you want to go to the bathroom just because you are bored.
5. What do you mean "what's on the test?" I've just spent the last three weeks telling you what's on the test.
6. Sometimes I'm tempted to take you down to the 4th grade so that you can meet the other kids in your graduating class.
7. I cannot believe you wore that to school today.
8. Yes, dear, we did do something in class yesterday. We saw that you were absent and somehow gathered the courage to move on without you. Here's your homework assignment. It's due tomorrow.

Exodus 21:2-6

2 "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. 3 If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free. 5 "But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' 6 then his master must take him before the judges.[a] He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

Israel had bid farewell to the oppression of Egypt and was traveling through the desert. God was leading them day by day, by way of a cloud. A group of probably millions, with no government or laws to order their new society by, relied upon God absolutely. With Moses as their leader, challenged by a multi-faceted social structure with many types of personalities, success would be a miracle. Remember, most of these people were Israelites, but few had been followers of God until witnessing the judgment of the mighty hand of God upon Egypt. At Mt. Sinai, they received from God a complete set of laws to live by, simply known to them as "The Law". This set of laws governed every aspect of their normal lives, and especially, their worship of God. Through the Law, they would learn right from

wrong, good from bad, and live accordingly.

Jesus said in the New Testament that He had come to fulfill the Law, not do away with it. That statement reinforces the idea that much of the Law pointed to, or foreshadowed, the coming Messiah. Most people have a familiarity with the Ten Commandments. Few realize what the "eleventh" was. Immediately following the first ten are the remaining laws. At first glance, it may appear peculiar, but the eleventh law addressed slavery. An acceptable practice in those days, it should be described as being culturally similar to an employer and employee relationship. The technical points in this particular law allowed a servant voluntarily to become a permanent slave of his owner. Due to the way slavery was to be structured and practiced among the Israelites, this was not necessarily a repugnant idea, and so it was a very real possibility. It required the piercing of an earlobe, and the slave was to repeat these words specifically—I love my master, I love my wife, I love my children.

Let's move now to a New Testament thought. Jesus was voluntarily pierced for us. Jesus loves the Father, His master, He loves His wife, Israel, and He loves His children, the Church. Jesus came to fulfill the Law, not to destroy it.

The Ten Commandments of Bacon

1. Thou shalt have no other protein before it.
2. Thou shalt not make unto it any graven error in cooking it.
3. Thou shalt not take the bacon's name in vain when it is all gone.
4. Remember the "fresh until..." day, and keep it.
5. Honor thy smell and thy taste.
6. Thou shalt not kill the cook who burns the bacon.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery and cheat with turkey or veggie bacon.
8. Thou shalt not steal other people's bacon.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness and blame others for eating thy bacon.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's bacon.

A Brief Visit Of The First Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other Gods before Me...

In the fast paced world that we live in, it is not easy to remind ourselves constantly through the day that there is a God who cares about every moment that we experience. Talk to God constantly throughout your entire day. Make Him a part of each decision you make. Practice the idea that God is right beside you every moment of every day!

2. Make no idols...It would seem to most of us that we have this one under control...but do we? If there is anything in our lives that we place more importance on than the commands of God, we have a problem. If God asked you today to walk away from EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE, could you do so and never look back with a longing desire for what you once had? If not, its and idol.

3. Don't misuse the name of God...that includes swearing and cussing. But we must also admit that this commandment warns us about claiming the name of Christ—being a CHRISTIAN—but living like the rest of the world.

4. Remember the Sabbath Day...While we no longer hold to honoring Saturday now in the New Testament church age, remember that the concept of the Sabbath, a day of rest, extends all the way back to Creation. God graciously gave us a day of rest. He told us to follow His example and set aside one day to honor Him and do no work. It is possible, in fact, it is a gift of God, that we can have a better life overall, if we set one day a week aside for rest.

5. Honor your parents...That is not easy at any age. But respect towards parents is a requirement of God. The concept of family and how it is supposed to operate in our world has huge implications to society. When the foundation of the family is eroded, the culture fails along with it. It is an essential building block that God instituted in the Garden, to help make our lives better. And this command comes with a promise of a longer life. Do we really believe that? This promise is astounding! A longer, happier life if we honor our parents. Could it be that simple? Yes.

6. Do not murder...We all understand that taking the life of an individual, by an individual, is wrong. But one might ask, "What about capital punishment? Can a nation put criminals to death?" The law that followed the ten commandments, clearly delineated the process whereby a nation could take the life of an individual. The expressed reason was listed—to deter crime. And it worked. I don't know where you stand on the subject of abortion, but it is this author's belief that it is nothing short of murder. Taking the life of an innocent child cannot be condoned or tolerated in any way!

7. Do not commit adultery...Jesus defined this law when He explained that it also extended to our thought process. By implication, all of the ten commandments are defined as including our thought process. Anything that we think about, or dwell on, or wish for, can bring as much guilt upon an individual as the actual act.

8. Do not steal...we clearly understand the concept of taking someone's belongings as being wrong. To take what is not ours and claim it for ourselves cannot be condoned. But what if the target of our stealing is a large company? It is just as wrong for the Christian to waste their time at work, as it would be to steal cash from a cash drawer. To do less than we could possibly do for our employer, is always wrong. And do we waste other people's time as well? Do we listen to and obey our teachers, or do we do as we want and cause delays or consternation?

9. Don't give false testimony...Telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is a rare commodity in our world today. Lying has become so commonplace that we expect it as a regular part of business. There was a day when a person's word was their bond. God expects us to honor our commitments regardless of the inconveniences to us. Telling the truth, even when it makes us look bad, is part of the task of living righteously. And half truths designed to make others seem less is wrong as well.

10. Do not covet...This last commandment may well be the one that trips us all up the most. God saved it for last, and went on to explain it in detail so that we would not miss it. We generally think of murder as being at or near the top of any list of wrongs that anyone could commit. And yet, God simply says, "Do not murder," with no further explanation. To covet is not an outward action. It is a condition of our heart that God can see clearly, whether we want to admit it or not. Anytime we look at anyone who we come in contact with each day, and wish we had what they have—no matter how insignificant that thing might be—is a problem. To covet implies that we are dissatisfied with what God has given us. That our life doesn't measure up to what we want. That God does not supply enough, or give us enough, or the right things.

No one alive has ever been able to keep these ten commandments—except Jesus. We fail at all of them. When we come to the point that we admit where we fail, we can ask for forgiveness, and our God is more than willing to forgive and forget. And do not forget that the remainder of The Law followed right after this passage, and explained in even greater detail the standard of right and wrong that God holds unwaveringly.

A Question For You

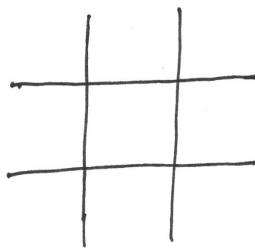
Dearthus Studentius Magnus Greaticus,

I do pray and beseech thee, oh thou Greaticus Classmemberus, take thee heed unto my supplication. Yeah, for verily, verily, I say unto thee, unless thou shalt bend thine ear to my plea, I can't not abide. For when thou doest demonstrate thine abilities to such a worm as I, I can't not bear my frailty. For thou, oh Studentius, are indeed the Magnus Greaticus, The Stupendous Wondermous, and the Fantasticus Amazingus!

I stand in awe as I contemplate thee. And I bow in thine presence and present my request unto thee. Oh Greaticus Classmemberus, the Maximus Awesomus, though I am not deserving an answer from thee, yet I make my petition before thee now. May I be so bold as to ask thee this one question, and I will never more bother thee for another, for I knowest that thou art the Numberoneamongus! My question of thee this once, for I sincerely desire to know, is verily this: **"How art thou, oh Greaticus Studentius?"**

For verily I do submit this as only a humble servant.

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Bob the Square
always plays center
position when
participating in his
favorite game.

August 11, 2019
Volume 7, Issue 44

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Bob the square
- Saying "good bye"
- Graduation 2019 with a very special guest speaker

How to Say Goodbye Without Actually Saying Goodbye

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

See ya later, alligator
After awhile, crocodile
In an hour, sunflower
Move out, brussel sprout
Toodle-oo, kangaroo
Gotta go, buffalo
Leave regal, bald eagle
Adios, hippos
I am gone, white swan
Roll like a wheel, little seal
Chow chow, brown cow
See ya soon, baboon
Adieu, cockatoo
Need to go, little doe
Better swish, jelly fish
Bye bye, butterfly
See ya manana, iguana
Take a walk, red tailed hawk
Gotta jog, hedgehog
Out the door, dinosaur
Give a hug, lady bug
Farewell, gazelle
Take care, brown bear
Stay loose, bull moose
Good wishes, little fishes
Hit the road, spotted toad
I'm outa here, white tailed deer
See ya soon, raccoon
Time to scoot, little newt
Better shake, rattlesnake
Be sweet, parakeet
Gotta sail, little quail
Are you still here? Go home!
Seriously, just go...now!

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

The End

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Psalm 119:105

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path always.

To the departing seventh graders we bid farewell. Another year has passed and life continues. I trust that as you continue to grow and mature that you will always remember bits and pieces of what you have been taught here in this Sunday School class. I consider it a great honor to have had the opportunity to stand in front of all of you each Sunday.

I thought it might be fun to remember our year together. See how many of the lessons you can recall. Roughly in order:

1. An Olympic Diving Documentary and An Up Side Down Testimony Picture.
2. A Scale Model of the Universe
3. La Isla De Dos Arboles
4. Defining the Word "FREE"
5. The Good Samaritan
6. The Turbo Encabulator.
7. The Pineapple Story
8. Frying Bacon
9. A Kroger Christmas
10. Are You A Moose?
11. 600 Year Story
12. The Real Estate Deal
13. Isaiah 59:17
14. A Card Trick Looking for a Perfect Heart
15. Mr Lyle Bowl XVII
16. Hoosumaber
17. Paper Cutter
18. The Golden Lampstand.
19. Adam to Noah timeline.
20. My Tater Collection.
21. Chocolate Covered Marshmallows
22. A wood crate that was a portal to another dimension
23. The Trial of Gill Teeman
24. The Story of Ed
25. The Checkerboard
26. The Feast if Tabernacles
27. A Needle Through the Arm

Graduation Program

Welcome and Prayer

Pomp and Circumstances beyond our control

The Reading of the Sunday School Times

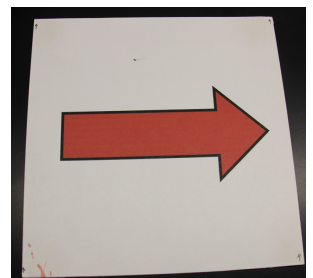
*Address by Class
Valasafutadictatorian
Magnanimous
Canunimous
Laudinum*

*Presentation of
Diplomas and Various
Other Incredible Items*

Closing Prayer

You're Outa Here!

So... What's the Arrow All About?



Stuff I Never Got Around To Putting In The Sunday School Times Because There Just Wasn't Room. (Also, It Might Not Have Been Very Important)

1. Listening to a teacher is sometimes like reading the terms and conditions of a website or piece of software. You understand nothing, but you still agree.

2. I want the job where you push scared skydivers out of the plane.

3. At times we are all grateful that our thoughts don't appear in bubbles over our heads.

4. Many people have only three different moods:

1. !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. ???????????????????
3. ?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?

5. Don't you wish that at the end of each day, life asked, "Do you want to save the changes?"

6. Taking a dog named "Shark" to the beach is probably a bad idea.

7. Sometimes I wonder what ever happened to the people that I gave directions to.

8. Never go at the first call of, "Come, dinner is ready." It's a trap for you to help set the table.

9. Thought for the day: If you feel like doing some work, sit down and wait...the feeling goes away.

10. Some people are not actually funny. They are just mean and people think they are kidding.

11. Lazy people fact #354768934577689: You were too lazy to read that number.

12. Foxes are just cat software that has been hacked to run on dog hardware.

13. If you really want to slap someone, do it, and say, "Mosquito."

14. Are all of the boys in a "boy band" singing about the same girl? That's a little creepy.

15. Do dogs ever ask, "Who let us out?"

16. If you ever get an email about pork, ham, salt, and preservatives, don't open it—it's spam.

17. I thank God every day that I don't have to hunt for my food. I have no idea where tacos live in the wild.

18. Starting tomorrow, whatever life throws at you, duck, so it hits the person behind you.

19. A complete list of things that "Ain't nobody got time for!"
1. That

20. School life summed up:
Most irritating moment: The morning alarm.

Most difficult task: To find your socks.
Most dreadful journey: Going to class.
Most tragic moment: Surprise test in 1st period.

Most wonderful news: Teacher is absent!

21. We still have a landline, or as we like to call it, a "cell phone finder."

22. I would like to thank my arms for always being by my side, my legs for always supporting me, and my fingers, because I can always count on them.

The Closing Lines from Things On My Desk

1. "The player with the highest score at the end of the game wins." (The instructions for the game Rummikube. Published 1982)

2. "The tilting table top includes a miter t-track that fits a standard 3/8" x 3/4" miter bar or safety bar." (MLCS router bit catalog. Published July 2019.)

3. "The precise relationship of Anatolian to Indo-European is still subject to question, but evidence indicates that a relationship exists and that characteristics of the "Centum" languages appear in Hittite." (The Webster's New World Dictionary, Collegiate Edition, published 1970.)

4. "In every case, the English pronoun referring to the Holy Spirit should be in the masculine gender, thus showing that He is a Person, since the teaching of Scripture is that He is a Person." (Untranslatable Riches From the Greek New Testament by Kenneth Weust. Published 1963.)

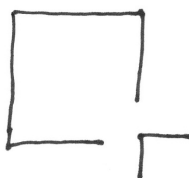
5. "Grace is still offered to man." (Through the Bible With J. Vernon McGee. Published 1983.)

6. "Current meter reading 7/17/2019-10:16 AM 95437

Previous meter reading 6/18/2019 11:13n AM 94817" (Entergy monthly statement for service location at 6730 US Hwy 64 Pottsville, AR. Published 7/23/2019.)

7. "Once again we finish another year and say "Good-Bye" to our graduating 7th Graders, going on to bigger and better things. Our time together will be cherished always...at least until the new crop of 6th Graders arrive next week and erase all of our fond memories. History has shown that it generally takes less than two weeks to completely forget that the graduating class members even existed or were a part of our class. So we remember them now while we still can." (The Sunday School Times, Volume 7, Issue 44. Published August 11, 2019)

The Too Dimensional Life of Bob the Square



Bob the Square turns
a corner in his life,
and it is not
pretty!