

# THE EDIFIER

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**Do** you know what tomorrow holds? Do you have any idea what might happen tomorrow?

How do you know? None of us do. Of course, we'd all like to know. We may have some general idea, based on our current circumstances, environment, disposition and trajectory, that in an ideal sense tomorrow will be as predictable as today was.

But you really don't know that! We don't know what tomorrow may bring. Listen to Jesus' admonition.

*"Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble". (Matthew 6:31-34 NKJV)*

The lesson from Jesus' words is clear. Tomorrow will come. Don't worry about tomorrow. Your worry and possible manipulation won't help, but hinder any redeemable outcome. Focus on today with eyes on Jesus, and bear the responsibility for the seeds you sow.

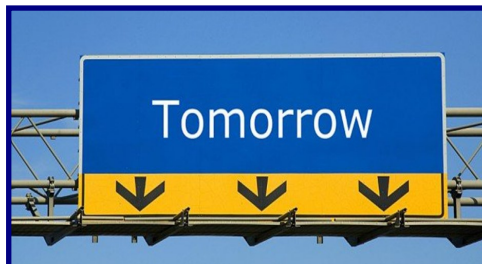
For tomorrow may bring joy, delight, wonder and awe! I hope it does. Tomorrow may equally bring sadness, grief, loss and dismay.

Whatever "time" is, as created by God, you and I are on the cusp of time. We are making history at this very moment.

Tomorrow, you may experience a death in your family. Tomorrow, your local doctor may call you to arrange an urgent appointment following some earlier blood tests. Tomorrow, you may lose your employment, or perhaps worse still, be persecuted for your faith at your workplace. Tomorrow, you might be involved in a traffic accident - God forbid!

Conversely, tomorrow you might discover the joy of being a grandparent again. Or, tomorrow, the long-awaited dream of home ownership becomes a reality. Tomorrow, you might discover that a rich uncle has bequeathed you a million-dollar mansion! (Maybe that's a bad thing – because now you have an additional concern to worry about).

The question we're exploring here is: What can we do, and how can we prepare and embrace the moment so the seeds of today become the flowers and fruits of tomorrow?



Because, quite frankly, we all want a good tomorrow, and a good outcome on our current investment in this time/matter/space continuum.

It's an interesting question and one that concerns all of us, because we all want a good tomorrow, and that given Jesus tells us that: we're not to worry about tomorrow; that our Heavenly Father will provide; and that our upward, forward and inward focus is to "*seek His Kingdom and His righteousness*".

What does this look like? How does it work on a daily basis – so that we have the assurance that we're on a reasonably assured trajectory?

I would like to propose four points today. Prayer. Prepare. Participate. Persevere.

A magazine dedicated to uplifting and transforming peoples lives through the uncompromised word of God.

Four essential elements that begin with “prayer”: Immerse yourself in daily prayer. Pray earnestly. Linger in prayer. Don’t take shortcuts in prayer. Pray alone. Pray with another. Pray as a group. Praise God. Give thanks to God. Intercede for others. Make your personal requests. Ask God those really BIG questions!

The next is “prepare”: Jesus said, *“I go and prepare a place for you.”* While Jesus will do the bulk of the heavy-lifting for you, we are however, to be good stewards of all we have with a Kingdom focus. Be the best person you can be in Christ – *“Be ye perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.”* Be awake. Be alert to all the possibilities. Don’t get caught napping.

The next is “participate”: Don’t waste the moment. Participate in life. Don’t just nibble around the edge of the pizza of life; enjoy the entire slice. Live the life you have in Christ to the full. Love abundantly. Forgive generously. Don’t take the lesser, weaker option of mediocrity. Strive for excellence. Seek that which is praiseworthy!



Finally, “persevere” might sound the most daunting, but when eyes are on Jesus, the battle is already won. Living in this world takes endurance and patience. Life’s gate is narrow and too much baggage won’t help. It’s the very “time” element associated with growth and maturity. “He that endures to the end,” is a powerful scriptural reminder to stay the

course. Don’t give up. A crown of righteousness waits for those who overcome!

Prayer. Prepare. Participate. Persevere! All point to tomorrow.

The reality is, you see, that this world is on a collision course with its destiny. Read Jesus’ prophetic “tomorrow” words – the narrative that surfaces and resonates in the lead-up to Jesus’ return.

Our Western nations rose to greatness and prominence on the back of our Judean-Christian heritage and value system. But, if we’re awake in the Holy Spirit, this foundational ethos is now progressively being dismantled. Instead of thanksgiving, we have a prevailing spirit of entitlement.

So, the prophets of old, by the Holy Spirit, saw this coming. And, in Jesus’ words, both in the gospel accounts and in Revelation, point to a picture – as given by the sovereignty of God outside of time/matter/space – of what this looks like in the lead-up to Jesus’ return.

So many of Jesus’ parables point to this, but none so poignant and relevant to the body of Christ. You know the story of ten maidens awaiting the groom. He’s late. But at midnight, when all are asleep, and not expecting His arrival, the cry goes out! From their slumber, half of the maidens trim their oil lamps (the Holy Spirit), and ready themselves to meet the groom. But the other five maidens had let their lamps run dry. They had allowed the Holy Spirit to smoulder out. Tragically, they

missed out on the wedding they were waiting for – Jesus as the honoured groom. Can you imagine the “weeping and gnashing of teeth!”

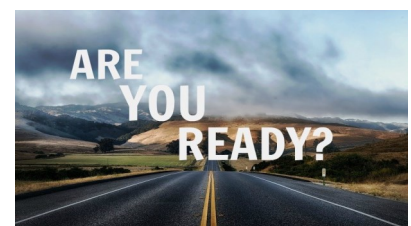
They were all asleep, and half were un-replenished by the Holy Spirit – because they were not in Christ and Christ not in them. Remember Jesus’ words in John 15:5 *“I am the vine. You are the branches.”*

We have been created out of matter, but given the Holy Spirit. We exist in time, but we believe in an eternal future. We recognise the moment, and the fleeting space it occupies. Time/matter/space with the addition of God’s Spirit and thus created in Christ, we’re sustained by Christ’s Word with awesome and great promises.

Jesus assures us that, *“In this world you will have trouble.”* He tells us, however, that in Him we can have peace, hope and a glorious future.

He calls us to be about our Heavenly Father’s will. To be about His work. To love and forgive. To allow faith in Christ to become the faith of Christ.

There will be storms ahead. But, more important, Jesus is coming. Are you praying? Are you prepared? Are you ready? Tomorrow is coming!



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Jesus has laid down His life for us already. The thief and robber have no power over us.

Not one person has been lost that has been given Him (except Judas of which it was prophesised. Rather, we have strayed from Him)

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.”* John 10:27-30 NKJV

**Written by Richard Todd**

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**Tomorrow**

*Continued from page two*

Jesus tells us to *“take heed to ourselves”*, for tomorrow will certainly snare the whole world. He then went on to say, *“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”* (Luke 21:36 NKJV)

That’s the tomorrow we all want!

**Written by Pastor John Klassek**

## Do Not Go Astray

*By Deborah Ann*

Do not lose heart,  
do not go astray  
from the Good Shepherd  
be not lead away.

Do not give up,  
do not give in  
do not let temptation  
ever, ever win.

Do not wander,  
do not roam around  
do not lose the faith  
that you have found.

Do not turn,  
do not separate  
do not get distracted  
from the narrow gate.

Do not leave,  
do not go your own way  
do not let sin tempt you  
from God to ever sway!



## Two-Year Daily Bible Reading Schedule



*Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a light  
to my path.*

**Psalm 119:105**

Please send for the free  
booklet



# The Great Shepherd

Of all the themes written about Jesus in the scriptures, it is the Great Shepherd that epitomizes His love and caring for those entrusted to Him by the Father.

We will discover that the following scriptures establish personal guarantees rather than just poetic imagery.

## I Am the Door (John 10:9)

Then as now, sheep pens in Israel were both simple and practical. Low walled enclosures consisting solely of the abundant stones placed on top of one another. Completely weather proof and lasting generations, they required no painting, no mortar repairs, no rotting wood or damaged hinges. And if shepherds moved to grazing areas where no pen was available, one could easily be constructed in a day whilst minding the sheep.

The walls need not be any higher than the sheep, enough for a wind break and to prevent both sheep and wolves from jumping out or in. The 'door' was merely an opening in one wall. The shepherds themselves became the door when they slept on the ground across the opening.

The sheep would not jump over the shepherd, while a wolf would be reluctant to venture near, let alone attempt to jump over the shepherd. The wolf

would not want to be trapped inside the pen. The shepherd was usually armed with either a staff or sling, (and had plenty of practice whilst minding the sheep).

The walls were not intended to prevent thieves from entering, and as Jesus said, that is what they were if they did not enter by the door. Even if asleep, the shepherd would be alerted by the struggling sheep. Jesus told us who the thief is: Satan. He has no power to enter the door and the true sheep do not recognize his voice that they may be enticed away from the protection of the true shepherd.

Jesus in describing this said:

*".... I AM the door of the sheep"*  
John 10:7 NKJV

*"I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"* John 10:11 ) Not a hireling).

*".... I know My sheep, and am known by My own"* John 10:14

We have full assurance from Jesus that He has complete authority from the Father for the welfare of His sheep (John 10:17-18).

## Tending the Flock

Another major difference of how Jesus looks after His sheep compared with nations such as Australia, is in how they tend their

flock. Jesus is gentle, considerate and full of compassion. He calls His sheep by name indicating He has a personal interest in each one. The sheep feel secure and respond to this nurturing. He leads and *"goes before them, and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice"* (John 10:4).

Contrast the above with normal practices, where the sheep do not know the farmer's voice (but I must say not in all cases) and so he cannot call and have the sheep respond of their own accord. Instead they must be driven forward by a dog, barking if they move in the wrong direction (they do not know where they are going). Fear of the dog and moving to get away is what moves them to where the farmer wants them to be.

Rather than trusting their master the sheep are stressed. If wolves or foxes come at night the farmer will only know in the morning. He does not sleep or stay with his flock. Nor does he lay down his life for them. He instead hires someone to get rid of the predators.

Here are the guarantees that we have from both Jesus and the Father:

Jesus tells us that He has been given all authority (and power) from the Father to protect His flock.

*Continued on page three*

## The Truth Will Set You Free

Recently, while engaged in an awareness walk up Mount Maunganui for a special prayer with friends from Papua New Guinea and others concerned about suffering West Papuans gaining independence and freedom from Indonesia, a Chinese tourist passing by trumpeted *money is freedom* whilst scoffing at democracy.

Jesus had a different take, not promoting money or democracy for freedom. He said, *the truth will set you free*. Those first hearing this failed to see their need for freedom, not considering themselves in bondage. Jesus replied, *whoever commits sin is a slave of sin*. That's what we all need to be free from – the consequences of sin, but do we realize it?

Sin truly does enslave or restrict us individually and nationally. For example, how often have our sinful lifestyles impacted our health and liberty to do as we please? How often has our ill-treatment of others shut doors to us? How often are people hurt or entrapped by their own or others' anger, hate, resentment, unforgiveness or greed? How much more restricted is the government in providing the services we need and in providing lower tax rates due to tax cheats?

Unfortunately, sin will shut the biggest door to our eternal freedom unless we put our faith wholeheartedly now in the one who *is the way, the truth and the life*. Indeed, Jesus, died on the cross as our substitute taking the penalty for our sins so we could be free from sin's ultimate consequence – eternal death. There's true freedom in Him!

***Written by Pastor David Kidd***

*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:32

## God Has Been Foreshadowing Jesus Since Original Sin



### In every book of the Old Testament:

- Genesis** - He's Abraham's ram
- Exodus** - He's the Passover lamb
- Leviticus** - He's the high priest
- Numbers** - He's cloud/day & fire/night
- Deuteronomy** - He's the city of our refuge
- Joshua** - He's the scarlet line in the window
- Judges** - He's our judge
- Ruth** - He's the kinsman redeemer
- Samuel 1&2** - He's the trusted prophet
- Kings & Chronicles** - He's our reigning King
- Ezra** - He's the faithful scribe
- Nehemiah** - He's the rebuildler of things broken
- Esther** - He's the Mordechai sitting at the gate
- Job** - He's the redeemer who ever lives
- Psalms** - He's the Shephard
- Proverbs & Ecclesiastes** - He is our wisdom
- Song of Solomon** - He is the bridegroom
- Isaiah** - He's the suffering prophet
- Jeremiah & Lamentations** - He's the weeping prophet
- Ezekiel** - He brings the valley of dry bones to life
- Hosea** - He's my love, ever faithful
- Joel** - He's the baptizer & Holy Spirit
- Amos** - He's the burden bearer
- Obadiah** - He's the Saviour
- Jonah** - He's the commissary who takes the word of God to the world
- Micah** - He's the messenger with beautiful feet
- Nahum** - He's the avenger
- Habakkuk** - He's the watchman praying for revival
- Zephaniah** - He's the Lord, mighty to save
- Haggai** - He's the restorer of lost heritage
- Zachariah** - He's the fountain
- Malachi** - He's the sun of righteousness in his wings



**And in the New Testament His name is Jesus!**

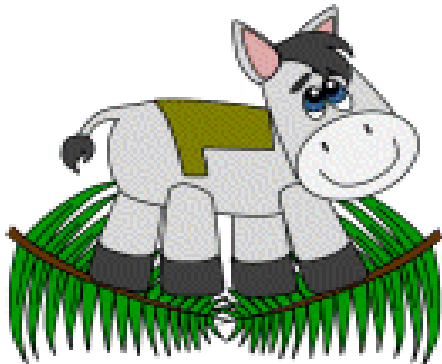
*Written by Richard Todd*

# Youth Corner

## People Wave Palms to Jesus

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### BIBLE WORD SCRAMBLE

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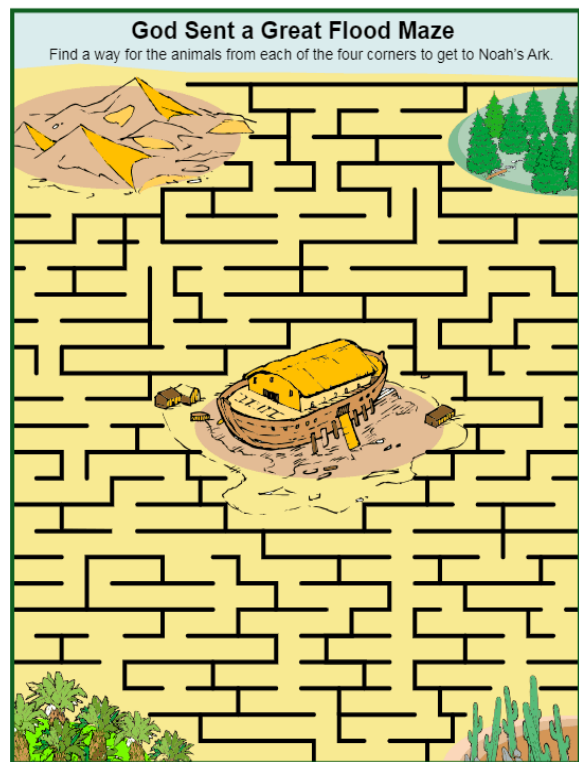
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The Bible is grouped into five classifications. Historical Books, Poetical Books, Prophetic Books, Epistles and Gospels.

The term "Bible" comes from the Greek word "Ta Biblia" which means "the books" or "the scrolls." The word derived from the old city of Byblos in Lebanon, since it was the official supplier of paper production to the ancient world.

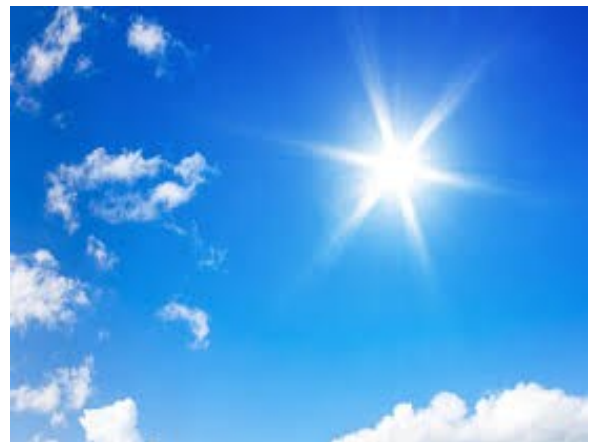
The completion of the Old Testament took over 1,000 years in history.

The twelve minor prophets in the Bible all contributed to the Old Testament. These prophets are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

China leads the world in Bible production. The Amity Printing Company in Nanjing, China, continues to produce Bibles year after year. China is currently the biggest producer of Bibles in the world with over 600 employees.

The smallest Bible is smaller than the tip of a pen. The Nano Bible is the world's smallest Bible. It easily fits on the tip of a ballpoint.

## MUST JESUS COME AGAIN?



### Be Ready

We feel secure in our daily routine, we dismiss the urgency of being ready for Christ's return. Though some laughingly mock the idea of Christ's return as antiquated, Jesus is coming again - unexpectedly: *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.....The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."* (Matthew 24:42,44)

**Please send for the free book**

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