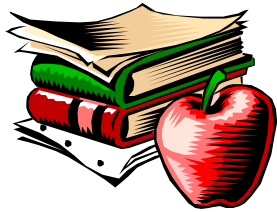


# Hunger For Truth

September 1, 2011



**“Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.**

**Proverbs 7:2**

**Matthew 5:6**

**John 8:32**

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

**Hebrews 4:2**

## **Special Interest Articles:**

- Emotions in the Bible – Pt. 2
- “Pondering, Purposing and Preparing” by Andrew Lacroix
- Practicing Liberty and Responsibility in the “Children for Christ” column

## **Individual Highlights:**

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“Hunger For Truth” is a monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA where the Pastor is Dr. David Smith.



## Greetings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the latest issue of Hunger For Truth. Summer is coming to an end, children are soon returning to schools and colleges across the globe.

In This Issue: you'll find a dev. from Bro. Lacroix along with part 2 of the study on Bible passages that relate to emotions entitled

“Emotions in the Bible”. This series will be a study of many passages that I have taken down in personal devotions, from messages and more.

See the “Special Interest Articles” section for just some of what you will see this month in the newsletter.

Also, please note that back issues of the newsletter are available to

view, print or save at [www.studytoanswer.net](http://www.studytoanswer.net).

The goal of this ministry and newsletter is to edify and encourage believers using the truth of God's precious Holy Word.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for me. I greatly appreciate your comments and I praise God for each and every one of you.

## **Meditate on The Word (Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:148)**

### **Pondering, Purposing and Preparing (By: Andrew D. Lacroix - 8/11/11)**

**Andrew D. Lacroix is a member of the Heritage Baptist Church in Norwood, MA (Pastor Steve Hathaway)**

*“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19*

*“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...” Daniel 1:8*

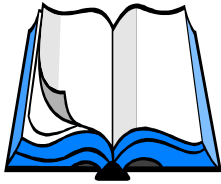
*“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.” Ezra 7:10*

Mary, Daniel, and Ezra were three very different people in different times in Scripture. Yet all three had impacted not only their own lives, but others as well by simply living their own lives right. All three dealt with their hearts while they were open and tender, just as the heart of godly king Josiah was soft and God used him in a mighty revival in Judah (2 Kings 22:19). Today I give you three heart issues we would do well to consider: pondering, purposing, and preparing. *(Continued on Next Page)*



## Pondering, Purposing and Preparing *Continued* (By: Andrew D. Lacroix)

Let's start with Mary, the earthly mother of Christ. Mary was a very young lady when she was told she would give birth to Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). She had quite the testimony beforehand, and continued knowing she could suffer severe attack. Back in those days, unmarried pregnant young women were frowned upon (today, thanks to godless media ventures like MTV it is sadly encouraged). Joseph, her fiancé, desired to break up their engagement but an angel told him to go through with it. A few months into her pregnancy she visited Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. During her visit, praise flowed from her mouth, with such verses as "My soul doth magnify the Lord" (Luke 1:47) and, "And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation" (1:50). What a testimony this young lady had! She was set apart by God for His Honor and Glory and she pondered all of His truths in her heart. Later she may have shared these verses to the physician, Luke, who under inspiration of the Holy Spirit penned this gospel.



### Matthew 5:6

*"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."*

### John 8:32

*"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

**"For the saved the best gift you have is eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ alone, for the unsaved, the best gift you have is today!"**  
**II Cor. 6:2**

-Unknown

As she pondered upon God's greatness and truth in her heart, it would be wise of us to ponder upon God's Word. Proverbs 21:2: "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord pondereth the hearts." The Lord will judge whether every aspect of our walk is right. The word "ponder" can be also translated as "observes" as in "for the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings" (Prov. 5:21). The Lord observes all of our ways, good or bad, and tries our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 17:10). It would be best for us to ponder upon all the ways of the Lord our God and apply them to our hearts and lives.

Next we go to the Old Testament to find a young man of God, the prophet Daniel. Daniel was but a teenager when he was captured by the Babylonians, but he surrendered to God and lived for God amongst a godless culture, led by the idolatrous Nebuchadnezzar. He had to be a testimony not only to the king and all his followers, but also to his three friends: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Do you know these three men? (Think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). Belteshazzar (a Babylonian name given to Daniel) refused to eat of the king's meat, which was against the OT law of eating meat offered to gods or prohibited in the dietary laws that Moses gave to the Israelites in Leviticus 11. By him already purposing not to defile himself in this one area, the Lord would no doubt use him in other areas, whether by interpreting dreams, his praying leading to a testimony in the lions' den, or even prophesying the Seventy Weeks, Daniel and his friends were used. God gave them knowledge in all learning and wisdom (1:17) and they had an impact in the life of king Nebuchadnezzar. Another testimony to what a person can do when they purpose in their heart to honor the Lord with their life.

Barnabas was on the first missionary journey with Paul, and it was said that, "when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart, they would cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23). He exhorted those at Antioch to continue living for the Lord just as him and Paul were to be sent to plant other local churches. God blesses those who ponder upon His works and purpose to not obey man, but rather obey God.

God also blesses one who prepares their heart. Ezra, a scribe in the time of king Artaxerxes (over 100 years after Daniel's time in the Babylonian empire), "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it..." Ezra did two very important things here: First, he sought the law of the Lord. A lot of us may seek counsel from others on things such as moves, jobs, marriage, etc., but are we really seeking the law of the Lord in these aspects? The Bible says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14). Seek godly advice and go to the Book on all matters, whether it is easy to discern God's Will or not on the issues of your life. Not only did Ezra seek the law of the Lord, but he DID it. What good is seeking advice if you are just going to spurn it anyway? How can the Lord bless a life that reads the Word of God but does not apply it to their life? He can't! The foolish man didn't heed what he heard and he lost his house! (cf. Matthew 7:26-27) Ezra studied and did the law of the Lord, and he was able to lead a group back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

Others have prepared their hearts as well. Samuel told the Israelites to put away strange gods and prepare their hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only in order for their deliverance (I Samuel 7:3). Although Jehoshaphat was a godly king, the people were not prepared for serving Him and the high places (for pagan worship) were not removed (2 Chronicles 20:33). Isaiah warned: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (40:3). John the Baptist quoted it urging his listeners to repent, because the Lord was coming!

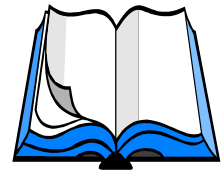
We can have success in our Christian walk by simply pondering His truths as Mary did, purpose in our hearts to not defile them with sin, and prepare our hearts to seek His Word and then do it.

*Editor's Note: This is an excellent and well-written article that greatly convicted me. I hope it does the same for you.*



## Emotions in the Bible (Part 2) (By: Craig G.)

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**



### II Timothy 3:16-17

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

**Passage:** Psalm 88

**Emotion(s):** Joy (Vs. 1a), sorrow, misery, agony, defeat, discouragement, depression, confusion and fear

**Cause:** Seeming broken fellowship with God (Vs. 6-8, 14-18) and obvious total separation from lover, friend and acquaintance (Vs. 8, 18)!

**Effect:** The psalmist is a broken, defeated, discouraged, depressed, weak (Vs. 4), lonely and miserable person overwhelmed with trials and troubles (Vs. 3).

**What does the passage say?** This is one of the saddest passages in the Bible. Sadly, most people overlook verse 1a! Yes, some believers will go through the trials that we read of in Psalm 88, why? Nobody but God knows, but one thing the psalmist knew in this almost life long great and grave darkness that he was in (Vs. 15), was that the Lord God is the God of his salvation! He knew he could trust in and pray to God and take all his cares and concerns to the Lord in prayer (Vs. 1-2, 9, 13 ). He seeks out God with questions (Vs. 10-12, 14). Though he appeared to be far from God, I believe he was very close. It is possible that satanic attack made him feel as if he was distanced from God.

**What does the passage say to you and I?** Why is this in the Bible? God makes no mistakes! We can trust in Him and depend on Him for all things, for He is in control! The psalmist in this passage did and though he was afflicted mightily since he was a child (Vs. 15), which shows he may have been saved as a child, he kept on trusting in the God of his salvation through it all. He did not quit! He endured hardness as a good soldier! He loved God, trusted God and prayed to God and was daily living by faith seeking His mighty hand of victory and blessing during his affliction. This affliction caused him to seek, lean on and trust God more! This man appeared to have strong faith in God in spite of his great afflictions that caused him to press on! It reminds me of a hymn I heard a few years ago that often helps me press on entitled, *“But for Calvary there go I”*. Calvary love should make all of us willing to take up our cross and die daily (1 Cor. 15:58).

**What should you and I do about it?** Do what the psalmist did! Pray, seek His face, trust Him fully. Walk by faith and not sight and circumstance. Someone once said, “it is better to be in the worst of circumstances in God’s will, than the best of circumstances out of God’s will.” Believer, whatever trial(s) you are facing, seek God who is more than able!

**How do you and I stay accountable?** Seek fellowship with God and other believers daily.

### Hebrews 4:12

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*



## Quotes of The Month

(Source Unknown)

*"We have available all the **Help** we need. Size and strength are non-issues to God. What He looks for is dependency!"*

*"Let us become a people like Daniel who, when discovered suddenly by those around us, might be found praying." (Dan. 6:10-11)*

*"We have a lot of excesses these days in government, in amusements, in welfare abuse and more, but **Prayer Can Never Be in Excess!**"*

*"Three precious commodities that the eyes of God are searching for among us: a tender heart, a teachable heart and a trembling heart. Lord, let it be in me!"*

*"Can you count on God 'knowing your name' when you call out as an intercessor? Today, we need men, women and young people who know how to call upon the Lord on behalf of others."*

## ☺ Children For Christ ☺ - "Practicing Liberty and Responsibility"

**Memory Verse:** 1 Cor. 10:23 – "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."

**TEXT: I Corinthians 10:23-33**

In this passage, the believer is taught principles and given examples in practicing their Christian liberty in a responsible and Christ honoring way. Christian liberty is not a license to sin or to please self, but to please God!

1. Read vs. 23-24. Here you will find what: A. The Principles B. The Precepts  
C. A story D. None of the above

2. Take a look at **The Principles of Christian Liberty:** (Vs. 23-24)

- A. Some things are not expedient (23a)
- B. Some things do not edify (23b)
- C. Consideration of others before self (24)

Write down three things that come to mind that are not expedient: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. We also see that some things do not edify (23b). Write down three things that come to mind that do not edify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. We also need to consider others before self (24). Do you? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Take a look now at **The Practice of Christian Liberty:** (Vs.25-33)

- A. When liberty can be practiced (25-27)
- B. When liberty should not be practiced (28-30)
- C. How liberty should be practiced (31-33)
  - 1. To the glory of God (31)
  - 2. Avoiding offense (32)
  - 3. Putting others first (33)
  - 4. Soul winning (33)

Please read and study this very important passage, then outline the above in your Bible or on a blank sheet of paper. *Believer, may God help you practice liberty and responsibility?*

## National Heritage

**Charles H. Spurgeon, 1834-1892**  
**--19th Century Baptist Preacher--**

*"What is needed is thought, truth, and sound doctrine, and the Spirit of God. Young men are apt to think less of what to say than of how to say it; but our advice is, think of both in due proportion. Set the matter before the manner; get the horse first, and get a good one, and then harness him. Give the people the grand old Gospel, and plenty of it, and they will not much mind the way in which you bring it forth."*



## Song of the Month – “Just as I Am”

This great hymn is sung at invitations in local churches all across the world. We need to see that Christ will take you just as you are when you come to Him in repentance and faith.

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me. And that thou bidd'st me come to Thee O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve: Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down; Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

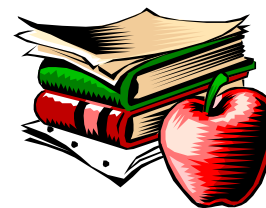
Believer, what a Savior He is that He knows us. He knows all about us and just who we are. He wants to make you and I vessels for the Master's use. Sing this song over and over and let it's powerful message bring you to Him “Just as I am.”



If you have a praise, prayer request, study, devotional or article you would like posted in Hunger For Truth, please e-mail it to me at [svtdtday@yahoo.com](mailto:svtdtday@yahoo.com)

## Praises

- I praise God that though we oft forsake Him, He never leaves nor forsakes us!
- I praise God and want to say thank you to each and every one of you who take the time to read this every month and to those who have sent emails or have spoken to me about how the Lord has blessed you. Please keep them coming. They are a great blessing.
- Praise God for solid Local NT churches all across the land.
- Praise God for Victory in Jesus! Hallelujah, What a Savior!
- Praise God for health, safety, friends, family, and fellowship.
- I praise God for the privilege & blessing of preparing and sending this newsletter to people all across the land.
- Praise God that all we are and have belongs to Him. We should not want it any other way.



## Prayer Requests

- Children and teens across the globe with serious health ailments.
- Expectant mothers all across the globe to know the Lord and raise the children for the Lord
- Clara Vasel (Age 5) (Brain surgery on 8/30 and for a full and speedy recovery)
- Gods grace, strength, wisdom and victory regarding an unspoken request for the HFT editor.
- Those in need of employment and ones seeking other jobs •Wisdom for HFT editor in leaving current jobs
- Pray for wisdom in finding work in MA in God's perfect timing and for process of house sale in PA to go well.
- Pray that God would help the H.F.T. editor find the one wife that God has for him.
- Our nation and its leaders and for revival in this land
- Salvation of my sister Wendy & friend Ben • Local New Testament churches with building needs
- Salvation of my nephew Jacob and Aunts' Sybil and Bernice
- Salvation of our family, friends and co-workers
- Souls devastated by the earthquake & tsunami in Japan. Pray for souls to be saved.
- Wisdom regarding HFT, HFT ministries and for FT service as the Lord leads
- Parents across this land to raise their children for the Lord
- Health and needs of Pastors, Missionaries, and Evangelists and their families
- Tract distribution and outreach to lost souls all over the world who were witnessed to last month for salvation

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## In The Next Issue

Emotions in the Bible study continues, a special Bible study on Solomon, plus a study in the “Children For Christ” column.

Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Servant,

Craig G. – Prov. 3:5-6

If you do not wish to continue receiving this monthly newsletter, please e-mail me with “please remove” in the subject line.

