

# Lighted Lamp Magazine



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# From the Editor

I always love Thanksgiving time, because it reminds me of all the blessings in my life. My schedule tends to get full, and I get absorbed in all the day-to-day things that I have to do. Thanksgiving is a time that I can slow down and enjoy being with family and reflect on all the good things God has given me. Here are a few verses in the spirit of the season.

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

-1 Chronicles 16:34 (NKJV)

Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

-Psalm 107:15

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

- Psalm 97:12

God bless,

*Priscilla*

## **Matthew 5:16**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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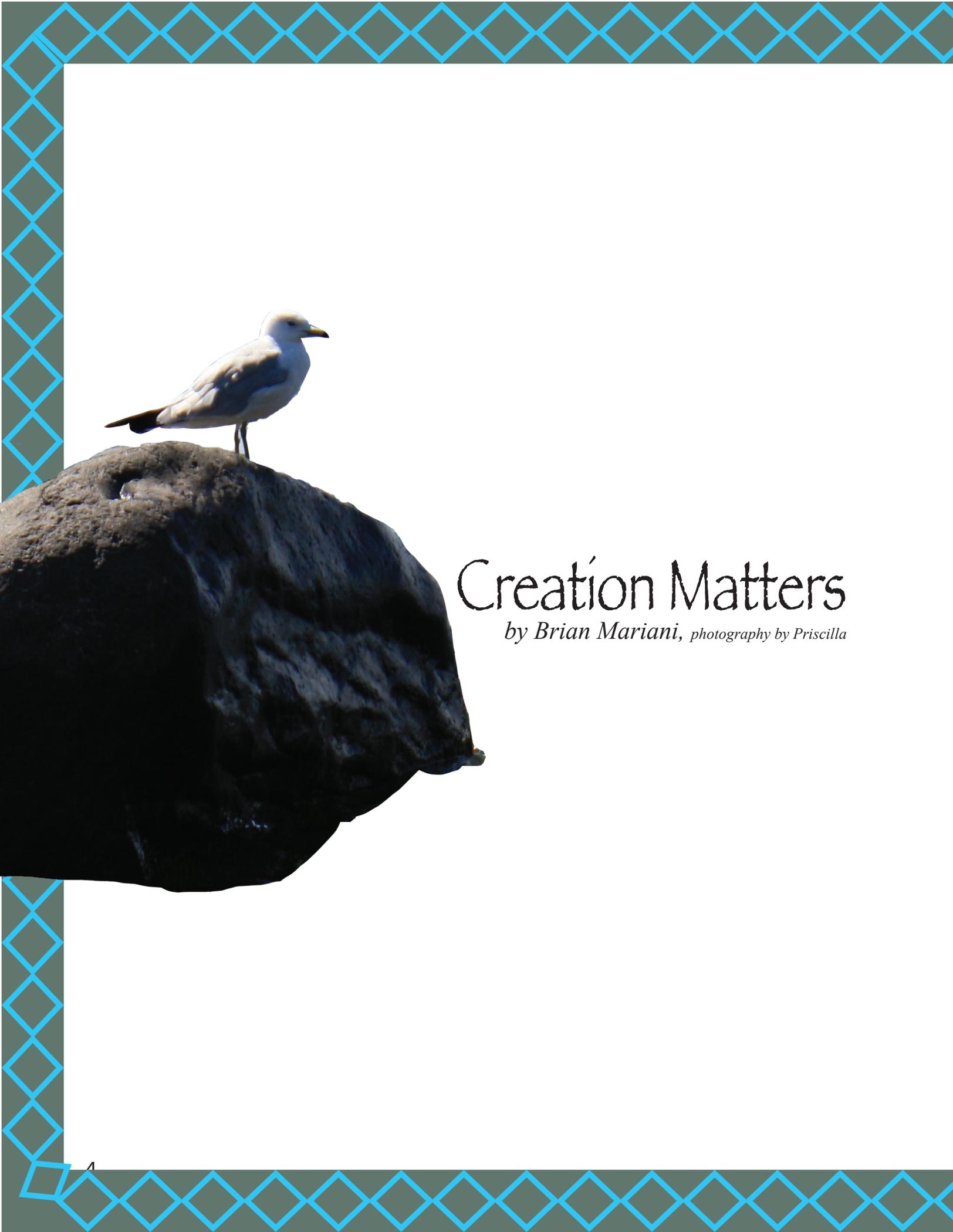
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# Creation Matters

*by Brian Mariani, photography by Priscilla*

What is important for teens (everyone) to know about creation? The Creation vs. Evolution issue is more about Faith than it is about Science. It is more about the Bible than it is about Science. It is more about your worldview or perspective than it is about the evidence. **We all have the same evidence; what matters is the way we interpret that evidence.** You could say that everyone has a different set of glasses that shape or distort the way they see the world. The issue is about two completely different histories...and they are not compatible. Most creationists believe in a young earth created by an almighty God approximately 6,000 years ago that was created perfect and amazingly complex and due to sin that perfect creation is now cursed. Most evolutionists believe that there is a naturalistic explanation (meaning without God) for everything that exists today, including non-life organizing by random chance into life and that life evolving by mutations and natural selection to the amazing complexity we see today. Notice in the last two sentences I said that creationists and evolutionists believe. That is the issue. That is faith. That is religion. **The people that say “we are not religious” are a religious group, because that is what they believe.** Let's think about these different religions.

Creationists believe that the Bible is not just a fictional book of stories, but instead a historical book of true accounts. This includes Genesis which says that everything including Adam and Eve were created within 6 days. From what the Bible says about the family history records, we can estimate that the creation of everything occurred about 6,000 years ago. The Bible is written as history. Noah built a large ark and he, his family, and all the animals were saved from the

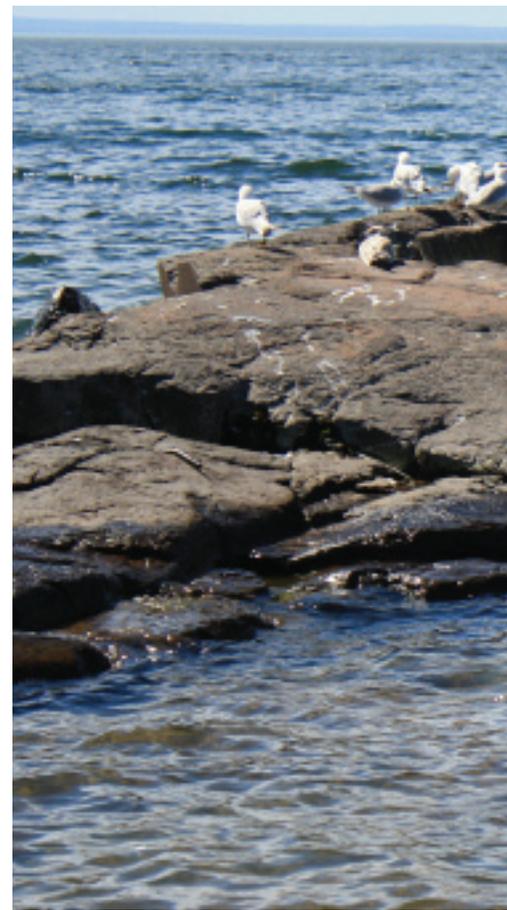
worldwide flood, which we can easily recognize by the evidence (rock layers) that exists all over the surface of the earth.

Adam and Eve were created sinless, but eventually did fall to the snare of the serpent and sinned against what God had commanded. Because of that sin, the creation is cursed and God had to sacrifice an animal to cover and atone for man's sin. So there is now animal death and human death because of sin. This animal sacrificial tradition was continued up until the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who was the last sacrifice (a perfect, sinless man and God, because He is God's own Son) who died on the cross to not only cover, but to take away our sins.

**If there really was a God, and He really loved us, He would give us answers and Truth with a capital “T.”** The Bible is this book, God's word. If we believe that the Bible is God's word as it claims, it is perfect, because God is perfect and cannot lie. We cannot pick and choose what is Truth within it (otherwise we are making up Truth)...it is all Truth.

Some Christians try to reconcile Evolution and the Bible. This means that they have to believe that Genesis is not completely true or not interpreted correctly. If Genesis isn't completely true as many claim, what parts are true and what parts are not true and if we have to read it and decide truth...whose opinion about Genesis is True? **If Genesis isn't all true then it undermines parts of the entire Bible.** We either can trust it fully or not at all, and that is what this issue is about.

The Bible clearly teaches that death came by



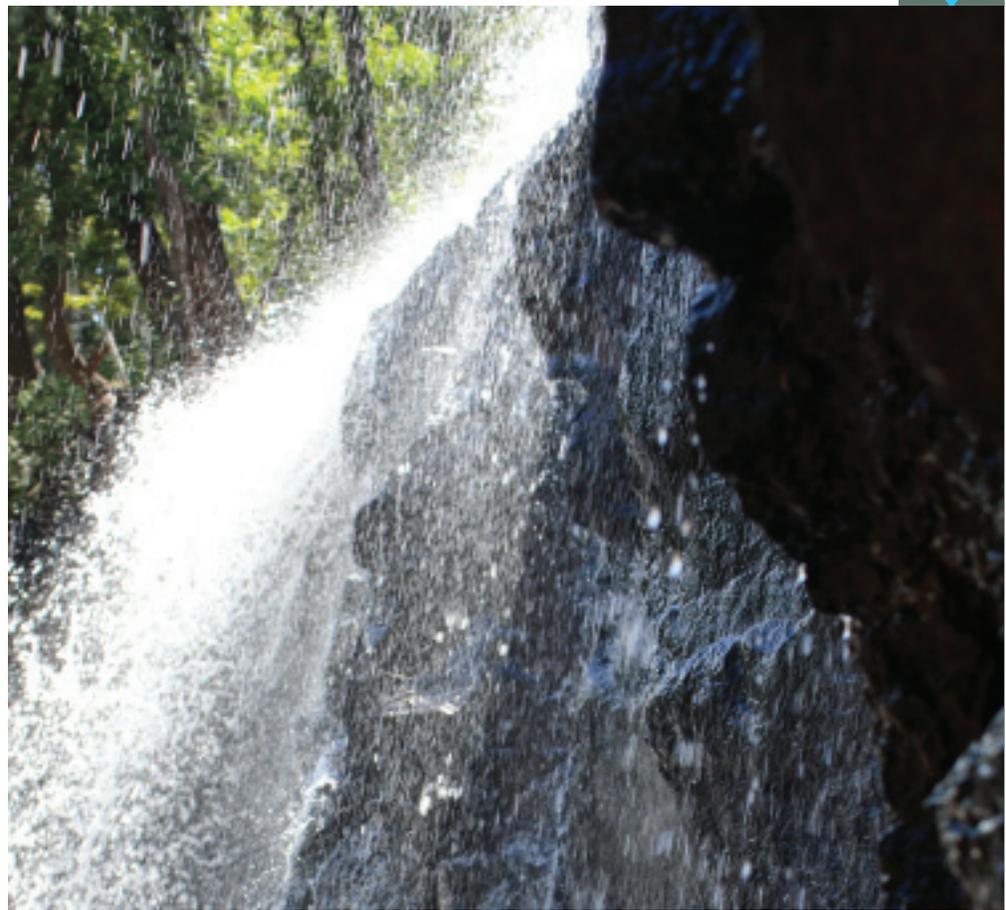
sin. This is a consistent and yet a very easy answer to the question of “If there is a Good God, why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?” There is pain and suffering and death because of sin...and ultimately our sin.

If evolution were true, there was sin, sickness, cancer, and death before mankind ever showed up. So basically death would be responsible for the advancement and evolution of life, because the weak ones would be done away with by the stronger ones who would then continue their genes instead. This, when taken to its extreme, is racism. Hitler believed that Jews and Blacks were an inferior race and was simply trying to help advance evolu-

tion to make a better world where the strongest are left. **If evolution were True, there would be no problem with racism, war, and genocide.**

The Creation vs. Evolution issue comes down to the question of: do we truly believe God and that the Bible is God’s Word and therefore that it doesn’t just contain Truth but that it is the Truth (all of it) with a capital T? Or do we trust scientists and their “cold, hard facts” gained through science which are influenced by their own worldview and assumptions?

We have a tendency to live by sight and not by faith and therefore we have a need to find the evidence to prove or disprove God or how God



works. We also live in this world that runs on natural laws. When we jump, we know through experience (a.k.a. scientific experimentation) that we will fall back down, but we in reality are also living by faith because we have faith that those natural laws will not change; gravity will still pull with the same force. We just typically don't think about all the times we have faith. We have faith that the properties of fluid dynamics stay the same so that water flows to our showerhead. We have faith that the properties of mechanics stay the same so that when you turn the key, your car starts.

Two different people that cannot agree on anything are simply clashing from their different worldviews. The Bible says that peo-

ple are “willingly ignorant” or deceived – not stupid (2 Pet 3:5, Rom 1:20-25). In fact, they are very intelligent, they just don't want to or can't see the Truth. You could even say that they are rich in intelligence. Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Perhaps Jesus was not only referring to monetary wealth, but also to higher intelligence or other types of riches. Great intelligence may even be a stumbling block for faith in Christ, because it is the foolish things that confound the wise (1 Cor 1:23-2).

Evolutionists see the world and all the evidence and it makes sense that everything has

evolved and that what they don't currently understand, they will be able to figure out using science. Creationists see the world and all the evidence and it makes sense that God created everything and what they don't understand, they will be able to figure out using science. For example, evolutionists see the rock layers around the world as forming slowly over long periods of time, whereas creationists see them as rapid flood deposits from one great flood that we even have reliable eyewitness testimony of. The evidence in geology points more strongly in favor of the sediments forming really quickly. Evolutionists see the wide variety of species and realize animals change and therefore have evolved over a long period of time. Creationists see the variety as small changes from God's created kinds. The evidence in biology points more strongly in favor of the impossibility to create or change the genetics as is needed for the theory of evolution. Both sides can look at the opponents and believe that they are foolish, and the Bible even says that the ungodly will consider the things of God as foolishness.

Everything makes more sense using the Bible. Don't ever try to prove your point without the Bible or by dropping the Bible because it is "biased," because your opponents are biased too. There is no such thing as objectivity. Don't get consumed with winning the argument, but respond in love, willing, ready, and able to teach the other person. (2 Tim 2:24) There is evidence that clearly confirms the Bible from all areas of life and science if you are simply willing to open your eyes and see it. **Ultimately, evidence will not change a person, but the Bible is what will convict and change the heart and mind.** It is not our job to win them, but the Holy Spirit's job.

Research and learn these concepts for yourself and take everything back to God and the Scriptures, and ultimately everything we believe should start from the Bible (2 Cor 10:5). Remember, be skeptical about what I say...and about what anyone says. Continue to study and be ready to give an answer of the hope that is in you. (1 Cor 3:15) I will be praying for you and may God Bless You! 🙏



## How can teens spread the message of creation?

- 1) Get familiar with the main message and concepts of Creation. Get familiar with the webpages, resources, and material from organizations like Answers in Genesis, Alpha Omega Institute, and other Creation ministries.
- 2) Create a Bible study group with some friends or people from your church and use materials from Creation ministries to lead you even if it is simply watching a creation based video or reading a book. If you are challenged on something, try not to get defensive, simply give yourself time to research the answer to that challenge.
- 3) Contact a Creation ministry to become connected (as much as you are able) to the ministry effort. Alpha Omega Institute is in the process of starting a one year, Creation Training Institute that will teach Creation. It will also train people to create, speak, and give presentations to teach others about Creation to spread the creation message and the gospel itself to our own communities and ultimately to this whole scientific world. We are working to set up a system to connect people who wish to get more involved in creation ministries that would be connecting small, local ministries together. Contact us at [brianandaimеeforcreation@gmail.com](mailto:brianandaimеeforcreation@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping me set up this type of ministry.

# Lapt

Do  
HE





tops

Don't Go To  
Heaven

*by Meggie, photography by Jen Forsberg*

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have.

For God has said,

"I will never fail you.

I will never abandon you."

So we can say with confidence,

"The LORD is my helper,

so I will have no fear.

What can mere people do to me?"

~ Hebrews 13:4-7 NLT

The devil is out to get us, always tempting us to give in and sin. He is very good at tempting us to be unsatisfied with what we own. Think about it. No matter where we are, advertising surrounds us: "Life is just not worth living unless you have this product, you will be cool if you buy this, look at your old, daggy stuff- how could you keep that old thing, when you could buy this?" Ads don't really encourage us to be content with what we own, and to remain satisfied with our own stuff.

Dictionary.com describes 'content' as: satisfied with what one is or has; not wanting more or anything else. Are you ok with the stuff you have, or do you wish you had more? Is there anything that you really really want, that has become a 'need' in your life?

As I was writing this, I found myself on a website that sells books, and I started surfing it, wishing I had a little bit more money so that I could buy all that I want. Just a little bit more, and I would be content. I mean, I would be so happy- no one would be more satisfied than me, if I only had more money.

'Come on, Meggie', I thought, 'Look at you, writing an article about being content, and

yet still learning to be content yourself!' The scary thing is, I didn't realise I was thinking it. The devil has planted it into our society, the thoughts come so naturally, the desire to have more comes up and we don't even notice it.

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

~ 1 Timothy 6: 6-10 NLT

Why would we bother with being content?

Ads are yelling at us: "Why be content; you can have all you want, all you dream of having - if you just sign on the dotted line'. Sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? Well, it is too good to be true. The more you get, the more you want,



the more unsatisfied you become. People who long to have everything are plunged into ruin and destruction, and pierce themselves with many sorrows. Don't worry, that doesn't mean you have to sit in a corner and never buy anything or never enjoy anything; it's about having the right outlook, and keeping your eyes completely on Jesus.

We brought nothing into this world, and we can bring nothing out. Think about everything you wish you had: iPad? Music? Movies? Books? When you are in heaven, kneeling before the Lord, by the sound of angels worshipping Him, is it going to matter if you have the most recent technology? We cannot take anything to heaven - it is not going to last. Everything in this world is going to pass away. It's gonna turn to dust; yet how much time do we take up buying things and wishing for things that we just don't need? Catch yourself before you start listing off the things you wish you

had next time, and remember, all of that is nothing compared with the riches of Heaven, and the riches of God.

“Too many people spend money they haven't

earned to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like.” – Will Rogers

At the end of the day, God will be with us throughout this life, and the life to come. He is the only thing that is unchanging and will always be. In Him, we have everything we need. He has promised to provide for what we actually need, and He blesses us with so much more. He is our protector and provider.

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

~ Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

Paul learned that in Christ, he can be content no matter what situation he is in. Whether he was poor and hungry, or whether he was rich with a full stomach. I think it is time we changed our thinking and our outlook. We can be content in Christ if we see Christ as our everything. God is the thing of most value in our lives, not what we own. Make Him the top priority in your life - you are dead and buried, and now Jesus Christ lives His life through you. Tell Him, ‘You, God, are the only thing that will never leave me, and I decide to be content, because I know that I cannot take anything out of this world. I cannot bring my laptop to Heaven, and so I will regard it as nothing compared to You’.

God will help you. At the end of those verses, Paul said that God was His strength. If you have no muscle, are you capable of lifting anything? Anything at all? Nope! Paul had no strength,

but God gave him the muscle to be able to be content. Ask God to help you, ask God to give you the muscle, and He will.

We need to have the proper attitude towards the stuff of this world. It will just become dust in the light of eternity, and that's what we need to remember. It doesn't matter if we have all the stuff we have ever wanted, it doesn't matter if we are starved or if we're full, it matters that God's name is lifted high and that His name is preached. Don't throw your life away wishing you had more. Be thankful for what you have today; and remember- God is the greatest treasure you could ever wish to have, and you already have Him!

He has the most who is most content with the least.

~ Diogenes ☪



# Quiz:

# Relatives In the Bible

**1. How many siblings did Martha have?**

- a. Four
- b. Two
- c. Three
- d. None

**2. Who was Ephraim's father?**

- a. Jacob
- b. Joseph
- c. Isaac
- d. Levi

**3. Mordecai was Esther's**

- a. Cousin
- b. Brother
- c. Father
- d. Uncle

**4. Which of Adam's sons was an ancestor of Joseph, the husband of Mary?**

- a. Cain
- b. Seth
- c. Abel
- d. Enoch

**5. In all, how many children did Job have?**

- a. Ten
- b. Seven
- c. Five
- d. Twenty

**6. Who was David's grandfather?**

- a. Jesse
- b. Obed
- c. Lamech
- d. Saul

**7. What was the name of Deborah's husband?**

- a. Deborah wasn't married.
- b. Sampson
- c. Micah
- d. Lapidoth

**8. Besides James and John, which two of Jesus' disciples were brothers?**

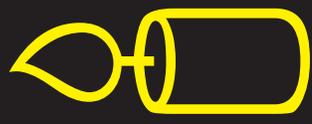
- a. Peter and Andrew
- b. Philip and Bartholomew
- c. Thomas and Matthew
- d. Judas and Matthew

**9. Mephibosheth was what relation to Jonathan?**

- a. Grandson
- b. Nephew
- c. Son
- d. Grandfather

**10. How many generations were there from Abraham to Jesus?**

- a. One hundred
- b. Seventy-seven
- c. Thirty
- d. Forty-two



# LL Maggazine

Matthew 5:16