

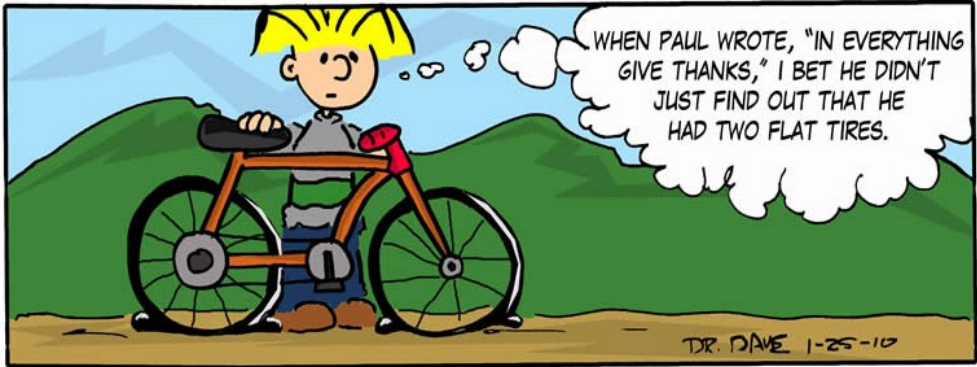
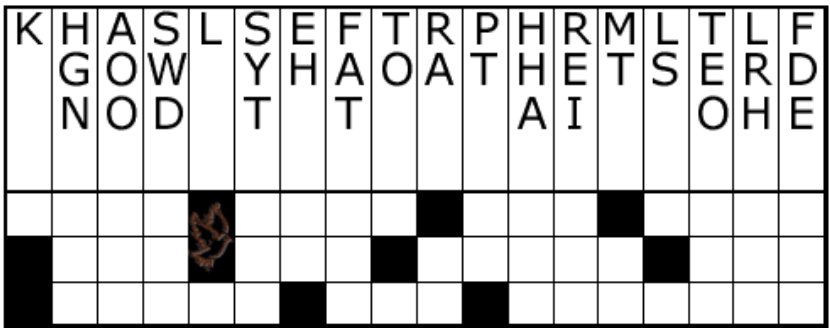
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● The Church of Today!

Bible Quotefall Puzzles



Teen Scene

Ridgewood Church of Christ

July 18, 2010

Summer, Issue 5

Weekly Development: Quality/Excellence

Read Colossians 3:23-24

In his book *The Winner Within*, NBA coach Pat Riley offers some insights on the danger of compromising excellence: "Being a game player is a fiction some people use to excuse themselves from working as hard as they should. People who think they are game players are what coaches call 'floaters.' They float along on a cushion of talent or sheer physical size and strength. They don't see what all the fuss over concentration and work ethic is about—until players of lesser talent start scoring in their face, quarter after quarter, simply because they are more in tune with their game...Eventually, every team has to learn that excellence isn't a destination. It's a process that must be continually improved."

Of course, NBA players and

coaches are committed to excellence because they want to win a championship. Corporate executives are committed to excellence because they want to please their customers and increase profits. These can be good motives. But as followers of Christ the motive that drives us to excellence should be a desire to please the one who will give us our final reward. Everything we do should be done with a conscious awareness of his presence, a realization that he is watching.

Paul reflected that such awareness should prompt us, regardless of our field of endeavor, to "work at it with all [our] heart." Men and women who follow Christ aren't "floaters." They give their best effort all of the time, knowing that there is never a circumstance during which the one they

follow is not with them, urging them on to their finest.

Are there situations in which you "float"? Why? Identify a practical way in which you could use Paul's words to help you to strive for excellence in all you do.

Passage to memorize this week

—Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

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The Dew Drop

As the sun rose, a dew drop became aware of its surroundings. There it sat on a leaf, catching the sunlight and throwing it back out. Proud of its simple beauty, it was very content. Around it were other dew drops, some on the same leaf and some on other leaves round about. The dew drop

was sure that it was the best, the most special dew drop of them all.

Ah, it was good to be a dew drop.

The wind rose and the plant began to shake, tipping the leaf. Terror gripped the dew drop as gravity pulled it towards the edge

of the leaf, towards the unknown. Why? Why was this happening? Things were comfortable. Things were safe. Why did they have to change? Why? Why?

The dew drop reached the edge of the leaf.

Dew, page 3

July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Events

- * July 18—
Devo @ Church Building
- * July 19—
TTYL
- * July 20—
\$2 Tuesday @ Colorado Canyon
(4:00-6:00)
- * July 21—
Early Birds (6:00-7:00)
- * July 30—
Astros Game (See Matt to Sign Up)

God Speaks

In 1998, an anonymous client gave the Smith Advertising Agency in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, \$150,000 to create an advertising campaign to reach people who used to be faithful to a religion but had drifted away. The result was a humorous, thought-provoking, nondenominational series of quotes from God, run on billboards. The campaign called "God Speaks" began running in September 1998, and the billboards were scheduled to be up for three months.

The campaign created such a positive response that the Outdoor Advertising Association of America picked it as its public-service campaign for the year and began running it in two hundred cities nation wide. The billboards have been featured on the

Today show, *ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, and CNN and covered by more than two thousand newspapers and countless local radio and television stations.

Life is a test
(#2 pencil not required.)
-God

Throughout the Campaign more than one hundred lines were created and eighteen of those were chosen to run as ads in Fort Lauderdale. Due to the campaigns great success, Charles Robb decided to include all of the over one hundred lines in a book conveniently titled, "God Speaks."

Each week a new quote from the book will be included in this section.

Sports Facts

1. The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece in 1896. There were 311 male but no female competitors.
2. A baseball ball has exactly 108 stitches, a cricket ball has between 65 and 70 stitches.
3. The Major League Baseball teams use about 850,000 balls per season.
4. A badminton shuttle easily travels 180 km/h (112 mph).
5. Golf the only sport played on the moon - on 6 February 1971 Alan Shepard hit a golf ball.
6. About 42,000 tennis balls are used in the plus-minus 650 matches in the Wimbledon Championship.
7. Boxing became a legal sport in 1901.
8. Football (soccer) is the most attended or watched sport in the world.
9. Fishing is the biggest participant sport in the world.



The Rose Within

A certain man planted a rose and watered it faithfully and before it blossomed, he examined it.

He saw the bud that would soon blossom, but noticed thorns upon the stem and he thought, "How can any beautiful flower come from a plant burdened with so many sharp thorns? Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose, and just before it was ready to bloom... it died.

So it is with many people. Within every soul there is a rose. The God-like qualities planted in us at birth, grow amid the thorns of our faults. Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns, the defects.

We despair, thinking that nothing good can possibly come from us. We neglect to water the good within us, and eventually it dies. We never realize our potential.

Some people do not see the rose within themselves; someone else must show it to them. One of the greatest gifts a person can possess is to be able to reach past the thorns of another, and find the rose within them.

Dew

It was terrified, certain that it would be smashed into a thousand pieces below, sure that this was the end. The day had only just begun and the end had come so quickly. It seemed so unfair. It seemed so meaningless. It tried desperately to do whatever it could to cling to the leaf, but it was no use.

Finally, it let go, surrendering to the pull of gravity. Down, down it fell. Below there seemed to be a mirror. A reflection of itself

seemed to be coming up to meet the dew drop. Closer and closer they came together until finally...

And then the fear transformed into deep joy as the tiny dew drop merged with the vastness that was the pond. Now the dew drop was no more, but it was not destroyed.

It had become one with the whole.

