



# Beech Grove Church of Christ

meeting at Beech Grove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

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Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

## Christmas and the Family

The jingle bells are ringing, and though I've yet to see a sleigh swish by me, the Christmas holidays are fast approaching. Why not make this the best Christmas ever, by preparing for special moments with family and friends?

Here are three ideas how we can do that.

1. Clear the past. . . For all his faults, Esau's reaction upon meeting up with Jacob after so many years of separation is one of the most precious in all Scripture. The last time they had parted, Jacob ran for his life after his brother threatened to kill him. The night before their reunion, Jacob, terrified at the prospect of meeting again, spent the night in agonizing prayer and struggle. When the moment came, no words were needed. "But Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, hugged his neck, and kissed him. Then they both wept" (Genesis 33:4 NET).

Forgiveness and reconciliation are so easy, so wonderful, so joyful, we wondered why we didn't do this years ago. But all things have their moment . Make this Christmas that moment for you, if need be. Let the past be forgotten so you can cherish your family.

2. Enjoy the present. . . .Christmas can be a stressful time. Travel, decoration, present-buying, visits, meal preparation, extra expenses and more all add up to change our schedules and turn good humor to bad mood. Psychologists say the holidays cause a spike in the number of cases of depression. (Continued, back page)

### Sunday Schedule

<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>11 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>6 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday: Bible Classes</b>	<b>7 PM</b>

### Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart  
 Restoration Radio  
 Jim Waldron  
 Manuelito Children's Home



# Bible Search

(Wording is based on KJV)

by Kenneth L. Thomas

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## Questions for week of December 9

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1. Question: Good tidings from a distant land are compared to frigid liquid refreshment to a person who thirsts . . . in what passage?
2. To what king did God promise to straighten his path and give him riches? (This promise was made in prophecy before the king was born.)
3. Whose son was a preacher who straightened the path for the Lord?
4. What provision was made for a person under the law of Moses to participate in the Passover if they were not able to keep the Passover at the appointed date (fourteenth day of first month) due to either contacting a corpse or traveling afar?
5. What regulation related to the Passover had to do with the bones of the sacrifice, and is related also to the crucifixion of Jesus? Give reference for both aspects of the question.
6. What fabric composed the covering of a youthful follower of Jesus who escaped a group of young men who were trying to hold him? (He left the garment behind!)
7. What king rejected the consultants that his predecessor had and followed the advice of new consultants to the ruin and division of his kingdom?

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## Answers for week of December 2

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1. Two part Question: Of whom were Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, Joel, Benaiah sons, and what was strange about their wives?  
**Answers: 1) They were sons of Nebo, and 2) their wives were "strange" because they were of "the people of the land", conquered people whom the Jews were not supposed to marry.**  
Ezra 10:2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto

Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

Ezra 10:43 Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah. 44 All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

For further study. . .notice that God forbade mixed marriages with those whose religion was devoted to serving idols. When God's people today show little concern for the spiritual condition of those they marry, we should not be surprised when they are seduced away from the pure religion of Christ and follow their spouse into unfaithfulness to God.

(Exo 34:14-16) "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: {15} Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; {16} And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods."  
(Judg 3:5-7) "And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanite, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: {6} And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. {7} And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves."

(1 Ki 11:1-2) "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; {2} Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for

surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love."

2. Question: According to the King James version, some people are pitiful. Is this good or bad?

**Answer: It is good. It is a virtue to be pitiful in the biblical sense.** . . . Compassionate, tender-hearted . . . full of pity. The Lord is pitiful and urges the Christians to also be pitiful.

James 5:11 - Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that **the Lord is very pitiful**, and of tender mercy.

1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, **be pitiful**, be courteous:

Sadly, some lose their natural compassion in times of deprivation of food: (Lam 4:10) "The hands of the **pitiful** women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people."

3. What can a wife do to cause a man to be like a decayed skeleton?

**Answer: She could live as a non-virtuous woman, one who brought shame to her husband.**

Proverbs 12:4- A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but **she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.**

Adam Clarke comments: *[ Is as rottenness in his bones. ] Does not this refer to a woman irregular in her manners, who by her incontinence not only maketh her husband ashamed, but contracts and communicates such diseases as bring rottenness into the bones? I think so. And I think this was the view taken of the text by Coverdale, who translates thus: "A stedfast woman is a crowne unto her hussbonde: but she that behaveth herself dishonestly is a corruption in his bones."*

4. What sin is described as bone decay?

**Answer: Envy**

Proverbs 14:30 - A sound heart is the life of the

flesh: but **envy the rottenness of the bones.**

5. What prophet warned that God would destroy houses built for summertime and wintertime as well as large houses?

**Answer: Amos**

Amos 3:15 - And **I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end**, saith the LORD.

6. Who was warned of the perils of an assignment with an illustration of four types of animals: gentle mammals and birds, fierce canines, and reptiles?

**Answer: the twelve disciples.**

**Gentle mammals - sheep; gentle birds - doves; fierce canines - wolves; reptiles - serpents**

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. . . 16 Behold, **I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.**

7. What does God know about the thinking of wise people? (The passage from which this question is made does not flatter man's wisdom!)

**Answer: He knows that the thoughts of the wise are vain.** 1 Cor. 3:20 Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God. 1 Cor. 3:19. Other verses were related but this contains parallel wording with the question.

(1 Cor 3:18-20) "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. {19} For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. {20} And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

## Prayer Needs and Requests

◆ Pray for the sick and injured of our congregation. Iva Rose fell at home and hurt her back last week. She went to the doctor and fortunately no broken bones were found. Ann Conner had knee replacement surgery at St. Thomas hospital Thursday. Nick Graham's father has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Jaycee Willis, a four-year-old friend of the Green family has an eye tumor. Surgery was to be at Vanderbilt.

◆ Remember our shut-ins and the older members who have to deal with the infirmities that come with age.

◆ Wayne Gannon will preach for both services next Sunday. Ken and Judy will be joining relatives in Georgia for their annual family gathering for the holidays.

(Christmas . . .Continued from front

The issue here is perspective. Focus on people, not things. Be a chatty Mary, not a busy Martha. Instead of going all out on the tree and table trimmings, take time for loved ones. Talk about deep things. Share your faith. Celebrate God's blessings together. Recount the history of his presence in your life.

3. Arm the future. . . .Writers and speakers have emphasized making memories for family. More than memories, make windows for future growth with family and friends.

Use the time now to improve opportunities later. Send a two-minute email. Make a five-minute phone call. Do something no one else does: send a card by snail mail. Make plans together. Work out holidays to spend with others. Save up for a special deal on flights.

You can make it happen.

With nuclear and extended family often

scattered across a country or even the world, we have to put out more effort and even funds to make it happen . But we do have the tools, usually, to bring our loved ones together.

Christmas is a time for family and friends. Let's make sure that time is spent as it should be.

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Randal Matheny, missionary in Brazil, wrote the article above. While we do not agree with the adoption of a particular date to celebrate the birth of Christ, the fact that our culture has adopted a season in which families can take some time together and share good times is a blessing that cannot be ignored. Randal has accentuated the positive in a healthy way.

The season we are in will be used by some for an opportunity to scam others. Some will use it for debauchery. Some will see it as a very holy time. Though I do not believe the church can rightly make a religious observance, we can always thank God for the gift of His Son. And at this time I am especially grateful to the Beech Grove congregation for your kindness and love toward Judy and me.

Ken Thomas

Assignments	December 9	December 16
<b>Song leader (SS)</b>	Wayne Gannon	Wayne Gannon
<b>Announcements</b>	Junior Conner	Junior Conner
<b>Songleader-Worship</b>	Tim Waldron	Tim Waldron
<b>Scripture reading</b>	T J Waldron	T J Waldron
<b>Opening prayer</b>	Wayne Gannon	Lee Rose
<b>Table service (center)</b>	Joe Green	Joe Green
<b>(center)</b>	Nick Graham	Daniel Green
<b>(outside)</b>	Andy Miller	Nick Graham
<b>(outside)</b>	Daniel Green	T J Waldron
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Lee Rose	James Mason
<i>If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner</i>		

For the record:	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2
Bible Study	24	24	15	20
AM Worship	37	32	28	26
PM Worship	18	20	28	29
Wed. Bible Study	15	14	18	21
Contribution	\$626	\$718	\$581	\$650