

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 20

Michael R. Daily, February 2023

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These questions were submitted anonymously by a group of 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church & AWANAs.

Does the Bible say anything about laziness?

Yes, TONS! If we look at the definition of the word, “lazy”, and its opposite, “diligence”, one of the first things we notice is that they are not one-time events but are a characteristic of a person’s life. In other words, we each get to decide if we will live a life of laziness or a life of diligence, and people do just that. **Lazy:** *disinclined to activity or exertion; not energetic or vigorous; moving slowly.* **Diligent:** *characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort.* When an opportunity to work on something that will create value or profit is presented to the lazy person, their natural inclination is to try to avoid the activity or exertion. And if they are pressured or forced to engage in the work, the lazy person will do it slowly, expending the least amount of effort, provide a low quality result, and may not complete the work. The end result is a person who is not faithful. **Faithful:** *steadfast in affection or allegiance; firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty.* By comparison, the diligent person will respond with a natural inclination to view the work as important and steadily apply their full energy in the work to ensure the work is completed to a high level of quality. Nevertheless, laziness is not about legitimate needs to rest, go on vacation, or enjoy entertainment as long as those things don’t become the dominant characteristic of the person’s life (**Ps 127:2, Eccl 3:12-13, Eccl 5:18-19, Prov 26:14**).

There are two kinds of laziness we will discuss. The first one is laziness in our secular lives. The Bible talks about the numerous penalties that result from this type of laziness, as well as the numerous benefits that result from diligence.

Diligence enables us to:

- 1) Provide for our needs and to have a surplus that we can share with others (**Ephesians 4:28, Deuteronomy 15:10-11**)
- 2) Avoid poverty and demonstrate to others that we have wisdom (**Proverbs 14:23, Proverbs 6:6-11, Proverbs 10:5**)
- 3) Not have unmet needs or cravings or be a burden to other people (**Proverbs 13:4, II Thessalonians 3:8**)
- 4) Tend to rise to positions of authority, all else being equal (**Proverbs 12:24**)
- 5) Tend to increase our income, all else being equal (**Proverbs 10:4**)
- 6) Be trusted with more responsibility and less supervision in life (**Luke 16:10-12, II Kings 12:11&15, Nehemiah 13:13**)
- 7) Be trusted by God with more responsibility in eternity (**Luke 16:10-11**)

Laziness results in:

- 1) Being viewed by others as being a destructive person and an undesirable employee (**Proverbs 18:9, Col 3:22-24**)
- 2) A person’s life being destroyed (**Proverbs 21:25**)
- 3) A reputation as someone who exaggerates and can’t be trusted (**Proverbs 26:13**)
- 4) A person who has deceived themselves into thinking they are very wise when they are not (**Proverbs 26:16**)
- 5) Being forced to do work they don’t want to do (**Proverbs 12:24**)
- 6) Not taking action at the right time, resulting in needs and cravings going unmet (**Prov 20:4, Prov 13:4, Eccl 10:18**)
- 7) Experiencing hunger (**Proverbs 19:15, II Thessalonians 3:10**)

But there is another type of laziness that (I hate to say) is unique to Christians.

This laziness is a result of misunderstanding the grace God gives us for living the Christian life and confusing it with license. **License:** *a disregard for standards of personal conduct* (a.k.a. licentiousness). **Grace:** *unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification.* Grace is assistance given to us by God that we don’t deserve. There are two types of grace. There is the grace of regeneration (i.e. the grace of salvation) by which we are allowed to enter heaven and the divine assistance, grace, God gives us to enable us to live the Christian life. Whenever you are reading the New Testament and see the word “grace” ask yourself which type of grace the verse is referring to because they are not the same.

As Christians we are saved by grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) and allowed to enter heaven. How does that work? When we appear before God at the Judgment is He just going to cut us some slack, lower His standard of perfection, pretend we never sinned, and then let us into heaven? No. God’s standard is perfection and He will not lower it for anyone (**Colossians 1:19-22, Hebrews 12:22-23**). He maintains His requirement of perfection for a person to enter heaven. But then, by grace, He provided us divine assistance to meet His standard of perfection in Christ. God did not cut anyone slack or lower His standard. He helped us meet His standard, at a horrible cost – the death of His Son on the cross. Christ took your sin and punishment on Himself and gave you His perfect righteousness. Because of that when you stand before God you will, in fact, be perfect and allowed to enter heaven! So, it cost God a lot to provide you with the divine assistance that enables you to go to heaven.

Unfortunately, we sometimes forget what the grace of salvation is and think that salvation is just God cutting us slack or pretending our sin doesn't matter. Then we carry that same attitude over into grace for living the Christian life and think that God's grace means that God will just cut us some slack and pretend our sin or lack of obedience doesn't matter. When in reality what we think is grace is actually licentiousness, us disregarding God's standards for our personal conduct (**Jude 1:4**)! If you gather all of the Bible passages on grace, then remove those that are talking about the regenerating grace of salvation, the verses that are left talk about the grace God gives us for living the Christian life. The picture of grace for living that emerges may surprise you. **Grace for Living:** *unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their sanctification.* **Progressive Sanctification:** Over our entire lives we are gradually, but steadily, changing to be more like Jesus in our faith and character, by the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (**II Corinthians 3:18**).

As Christians God gives us grace (undeserved assistance) to enable us to obey Him as we go about our daily lives. Because God gives us supernatural assistance, we are able to overcome sin in our lives (**Romans 6:14, II Cor 1:12**). This is not possible for non-Christians. They are enslaved to sin. They can't stop sinning even if they wanted to (**Ephesians 2:1-5, II Timothy 2:24-26**). Grace is about God enabling Christians to obey Him more fully, beyond what they could do by themselves. Most Christians don't think of grace in this way but that is what the Bible teaches. God's Grace enabled Paul and the other Apostles to help the Gentiles come to obedience in the Christian faith - a task they could not have accomplished by themselves (**Romans 1:4-5, Ephesians 3:7-8**). Because of this supernatural grace we have been given for living the Christian life we have everything we need to do all the things God tells us to do (**II Cor 9:8, Philippians 4:13**). These are the "no excuses" verses! For a detailed study on this topic please see, "Grace for Living – It Might Not Be What You Think It Is", at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

But some people go to the opposite extreme and say, "Well, if God is assisting me with His supernatural power then I don't really have to make any effort. I can just sit around doing my 'slug imitation' and God will move me when He wants to." This isn't true either. **I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.** God wants us to give it everything we've got – our whole mind, heart, soul, and strength (**Mark 12:30**). Then, He will add His supernatural assistance to our efforts to accomplish more than what we could ever have done on our own.

God's expectation for the Christian is to work hard in energetically obeying Him! God tells us to:

- 1) Work hard for His kingdom during our short time on Earth (**John 9:4**)
- 2) Labor in His harvest (**Luke 10:2**)
- 3) Assist orphans and widows (**James 1:27**)
- 4) Perform good works (**Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:14**)
- 5) Labor, strive, and be diligent in doing ministry and serving God (**I Tim 4:7-10, Rom 12:11, Heb 6:10-12, Col 1:28-29**)
- 6) Continuously abound in doing God's work (**I Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9-10**)
- 7) Help the weak (**Acts 20:33-35**)
- 8) Demonstrate our faith by our works (**James 2:18-26**)
- 9) Work hard at studying the Bible (**II Timothy 2:15**)

Also notice when Paul closes his letters he often greets certain people by name and describes them as people who have worked hard, suffered much, risked their lives, and been fellow workers for God's kingdom (**Acts 9:36, Romans 16:3-12**). Finally, there is a special crown (the Imperishable Wreath) God will award to those who have worked hard in the Christian life (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).

(Psalm 127:2, Eccl 3:12-13, Eccl 5:18-19, Prov 26:14, Eph 4:28, Deut 15:10-11, Prov 14:23, Prov 6:6-11, Prov 10:5, Prov 13:4, II Thess 3:8, Prov 12:24, Prov 10:4, Luke 16:10-12, II Kings 12:11&15, Nehemiah 13:13, Prov 18:9, Col 3:22-24, Prov 21:25, Prov 26:13, Prov 26:16, Prov 12:24, Prov 20:4, Prov 13:4, Eccl 10:18, Prov 19:15, II Thess 3:10, Eph 2:8-9, Col 1:19-22, Heb 12:22-23, Jude 1:4, II Cor 3:18, Romans 6:14, II Cor 1:12, Eph 2:1-5, II Tim 2:24-26, Rom 1:4-5, Eph 3:7-8, II Cor 9:8, Phil 4:13, I Cor 15:10, Mark 12:30, John 9:4, Luke 10:2, James 1:27, Matt 5:14-16, Eph 2:10, Titus 2:14, I Tim 4:7-10, Romans 12:11, Hebrews 6:10-12, Col 1:28-29, I Cor 15:58, Gal 6:9-10, Acts 20:33-35, James 2:18-26, II Tim 2:15, Acts 9:36, Rom 16:3-12, I Cor 9:24-27)

How long were Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden?

The Bible does not say, but we can infer from other evidence that they were not there very long. We know that sin entered the world through Adam and affected all people (**Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:22**). If Eve had conceived a child before Adam's sin, the child would not have inherited a sin nature which would be in conflict with these verses. As a result, Adam and Eve would have had to have sinned and been expelled from Eden before Eve conceived her first child. This is also consistent with what the Bible tells us about their first child being born after they left Eden (**Gen 3:23 to 4:2**). Therefore the tempting and sin of Adam and Eve happened relatively quickly after their creation.

(Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:22, Genesis 3:23 to Genesis 4:2)

What will happen at the end of the world?

Over 8,300 verses of the Bible were prophecies of the future at the time they were written. Out of these, about half have been fulfilled and the other 4,000+ prophecies will be fulfilled in our future. Most of these 4,000+ prophecies are regarding the seven year Tribulation (**Daniel 9**), the 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom (**Revelation 20**), and the New Jerusalem (**Revelation 21**). Since there is such a large volume of detailed information about what will happen at the end of the world its not possible for me to go through all of it in detail. As a result, I will hit some of the major points to give you a general idea but you will need to study the Bible yourself to get all of the details. OK, here we go. The last prophecy that had to be fulfilled before the End Times could happen was the reconstitution of Israel as a nation again (**Ezekiel 11:16-17**). The ancient Roman Empire destroyed Israel in 73 AD and dispersed the Jews across the nations of the Earth at that time (a.k.a. "the Diaspora"). 1,875 years later, Israel was miraculously reconstituted as a nation back in their land in May 1948 - the same people, the same piece of land, the same name, with the Star of King David on their flag. This marked the beginning of the "End Times" which we now live in. All Bible prophecies that had to be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church have been fulfilled, so Christ can now return at any moment the Father wishes Him to. (**Deuteronomy 28:63-67, Leviticus 26:44-45, Ezekiel 36:22-28, Jeremiah 16:14-16**)

As we approach the end of the world the number, popularity, and power of false teachers is going to increase. In fact, Jesus said that toward the end, the false teachers will start performing actual miracles (by the power of satan) and will be so convincing they will mislead everyone except for those that God supernaturally protects from the deception (**Matthew 24:24-25**). There will also be an increase in wars and natural disasters - storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, diseases, etc. (**Revelation 6**). Then a time will come when four things will happen close to each other. These things are: the attempted invasion of Israel by Russia and the supernatural destruction of the Russian military (**Ezekiel 39**), the rise of a single world leader (**Daniel 11**), the signing of a treaty guaranteeing Israel's security from its enemies (**Daniel 9**), and the Rapture of the Christian church (**I Thessalonians 4, Matthew 24**). The Rapture means that one day all the Christians in the world will disappear as they are taken up to meet Christ in the air and then taken to heaven. We don't know exactly what the order of the timing of these four things is but they will happen relatively close together.

After these four things happen there will immediately be a seven year time period known as the Tribulation (**Daniel 9**). During the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation the world leader will solidify his power and build his government headquarters in a city close to the ocean (**Revelation 18**). The Bible gives this city the symbolic name of "Babylon" so we don't really know what city it will be, only that it will be a major city with an ocean port. This city will also be the headquarters of a powerful world religion that kills Christians (**Revelation 17**). The world leader will tolerate this powerful religion but he will not like having to share power with it. This city will also be a center of world commerce so it will be an economically powerful city as well as being politically and religiously powerful. Its interesting to note that Russia, China, and European nations are referred to as important actors during the Tribulation but there is no direct mention of the United States. This seems to indicate that the United States will be in a weakened state during the Tribulation. We don't know why. It could be because of a war, some type of economic collapse, or something as simple as a national collapse because there are a lot of Christians in the U.S. who will have disappeared at the Rapture. Also, during this first half of the Tribulation the peace treaty guaranteeing Israel's security allows them to rebuild the Old Testament Temple in Jerusalem and restart their animal sacrifices as was done in the Old Testament.

In the middle of the Tribulation, around the 3.5 year mark, the world leader is going to be assassinated with a wound to the head and will be dead for a number of days (**Revelation 13**). At the end of these days he will appear to be resurrected from the dead. In reality, the man's body will be rejuvenated by the power of satan and satan himself will possess the man's body and take over as leader of the world. He will then enter the rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem and publicly declare himself to be God (**Matthew 24, Mark 13**). The second half of the Tribulation will be much worse than the first 3.5 years (**Revelation 6**). During the second 3.5 years the anti-christ will demand that everyone worships him, he will kill any Christians he can, he will destroy the world religion and declare himself to be god, and he will require that people receive a mark or special tag on or embedded in their foreheads or their hands that will be required for them to get paid or to buy or sell anything. But to get this mark you have to give your allegiance to the anti-christ and forfeit your eternal destiny (**Revelation 14**). Also during this time, God's judgments will be unleashed on the Earth resulting in much of the Earth's water turning into blood, the death of much of the Earth's vegetation, and the death of billions of people (**Revelation 8**). God's judgments during this second half of the Tribulation also include hailstorms with 100 pound hailstones (**Rev 16**) and the releasing of demonic war criminals from the Abyss to torment non-believing people with severe pain without killing them (**Revelation 9**). The Sun, Moon, and stars will also be in chaos during this time. There will also be 144,000 Jewish evangelists (12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel) that God will raise up to share the gospel around the world (**Revelation 7&14**) and there will be two Old Testament prophets that will show up in Jerusalem and preach the gospel for a period of time before God allows them to be killed (**Revelation 11**). All of these judgments are intended to push people to make a final decision to repent and become Christians and many of them will. Although the anti-christ is the world leader, there will still be regional leaders, not all of who are happy about what the anti-christ is doing. The result of this is what appears to be the use of both smart weapons (**Jeremiah 50:9**) and nuclear weapons (**Revelation 18**) against the city symbolically known as "Babylon". As the end of the seven year Tribulation gets close, the anti-christ assembles his armies to battle Jesus Christ when He comes to Earth at the end of the Tribulation. These

armies include 200 million men from China (**Revelation 9**) as well as other troops. They assemble in the Valley of Armageddon in Israel and await Christ's return (**Revelation 16**). Christ returns physically to Earth at the end of the Tribulation with a long procession of previously raptured believers (i.e. us) on white horses and His angels. Everyone in the world will see this procession from the heavens down to the Earth. Once Jesus sets foot on Earth He utters a command and all of the armies of the anti-christ as well as all other non-believers on Earth at the time are instantly killed (**Rev 19, II Thessalonians 1, Luke 17**). The only people left on Earth are the believers who came back to Earth with Jesus in their resurrected bodies and the people who became Christians during the Tribulation who are still alive in their fallen, sinful bodies (like the ones we currently have). The end of the seven year Tribulation is also characterized by significant geological changes in the Earth's surface - raising of valleys, lowering of mountains, etc. (**Revelation 16**).

After the Tribulation there will be a 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom on Earth. Christ Himself will physically live on Earth and rule the world from Jerusalem (**Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-5**). The judgments against the Earth will cease and Earth will become a pleasant place to live again (**Isaiah 65:1-25**). The resurrected believers that returned to Earth with Christ (i.e. us) will also live on the Earth along with the believers that survived the Tribulation and continue to live on Earth in their fallen bodies. During this 1,000 year timeframe satan is locked in the Abyss (**Revelation 20:1-3**). As time progresses during this Millennial Kingdom the Christians who survived the Tribulation have children and, even though Christ Himself is living on Earth and ruling the world's government, some of these children and their descendants will not be believers. At the same time, animal behaviors will change and animal violence will cease (ex: the lion will lie down with the lamb, **Isaiah 11:6-9**). There will no longer be any wars. Life on the Earth will be close to what it must have been like in the Garden of Eden except that part of the population will still be in their sinful bodies so there will still be some sin and crime and death but not anywhere near the extent we have those things today.

At the end of the Millennial Kingdom satan will be released from the Abyss and will gather any non-christians on Earth and lead a final rebellion against Christ (**Revelation 20**). Once again, Christ will utter a command instantly killing all the non-Christians on Earth and satan and his fallen angels will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity (**Rev 20:7-10**).

Following the Millennial Kingdom, God is going to destroy the current universe (**II Peter 3:10-13**) and replace it with a New Universe, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem. We don't have much information about the New Universe and the New Earth but God tells us quite a bit about the New Jerusalem (**Revelation 21&22**). The New Jerusalem is what we commonly think of as heaven.

For more on the New Jerusalem please see the study, "The New Jerusalem – An Engineering Feasibility Study", at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(Daniel 9, Daniel 11, Revelation 6-9, Revelation 11, Revelation 13-14, Revelation 16-22, Ezekiel 11:16-17, Deuteronomy 28:63-67, Leviticus 26:44-45, Ezekiel 36:22-28, Jeremiah 16:14-16, Ezekiel 39, I Thessalonians 4, Matthew 24, Mark 13, Jeremiah 50:9, II Thess 1, Luke 17, Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-5, Isaiah 65:1-25, Isaiah 11:6-9, II Peter 3:10-13)

What do I do if my parents are in a fight? How do I help?

One of the most frustrating things about life is that we cannot control the decisions and behaviors of other people, even those we are close to. Even God expressed His heartache that His people would not do the things He told them would be best for them (**Deuteronomy 5:29, Matthew 23:37**). So, there is not much you can do directly and you should not get in the middle of their fight, comment on it, or take sides (**Proverbs 26:17, Proverbs 10:19**). Having said that, the Bible does say that there are two specific things you can do that will be helpful over time: 1) You can be an example to them by your own speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (**I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 17:27**), 2) You can pray that God would work in them as those having authority over you so that the result would be that you could live a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity (**I Timothy 2:1-2**).

Here are a few things to keep in mind: 1) Their fighting is not your fault, 2) When people fight they often say things that are not the real issue, the real issue might be something completely different (this is why we don't get involved in someone else's fight), 3) They are probably not aware of how their fighting is affecting you. If you feel comfortable talking to them about it you might consider talking one-on-one with each parent during a calm time (not during a fight) and let them know how it is affecting you. I also recommend you study the following Bible passages regarding family relationships (**Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21, Titus 2:1-8, I Peter 3:1-9, Ephesians 5:22-33, I Cor 7:3-5**) just so you know what God's plan for those relationships is. This will help you keep in mind what God's expectations are for you in your current role as a child and your future role as a spouse or parent.

(Deuteronomy 5:29, Matt 23:37, Proverbs 26:17, Proverbs 10:19, I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 17:27, I Timothy 2:1-2, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21, Titus 2:1-8, I Peter 3:1-9, Ephesians 5:22-33, I Corinthians 7:3-5)

If I kill someone can I still go to heaven?

Yes. You are going to heaven if you believe that God's Son, Jesus Christ, shed His blood on the cross to pay for your sins (**John 5:24**) and make the decision to receive Christ as your Savior and Lord (**John 1:12**). Once that decision is made it is not possible to lose your salvation because God transfers you into His Kingdom and that transfer cannot be undone (**Colossians 1:13-14**). God has given us the gift of eternal life by His grace alone, without contribution from us (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). God has taken away any option of our contributing to our eternal life, otherwise we might have a basis for taking some credit for it. As a result, eternal life is a gift, fully paid for by God, then given freely to us (**Rom 11:6, Galatians 2:21, Romans 3:28**). Our eternal life was 100% done by God. Because He is completely faithful and reliable, this means that we cannot lose our eternal life (**I John 2:25**). But what if our eternal life depended 99% on God and 1% on us? How would that change things? Since we are not 100% faithful and reliable, it would mean that there would always be a possibility that our eternal life could be lost. But we cannot lose this eternal life since we did nothing to earn it, not even 0.000000001%! The reason that the Bible tells us we can know right now that we have eternal life (we don't have to wait until we die to find out) is because we can't lose it (**I John 5:11-13**). Paul describes our regeneration and seating with Christ in the heavenly places in the past tense. In other words, this has already happened. Our eternal life started the day we became a Christian (**Ephesians 2:4-7**). *Eternal: having infinite duration, continuing without intermission, valid or existing at all times, timeless.* Since eternal life is infinite in duration and is also valid and existing at all times, and it started the day we became a Christian, that means it can never be lost.

The Bible condemns murder as a sin but allows for killing in other circumstances such as the execution of certain criminals (**Genesis 9:6, Ex 21:12-29, Num 35:17-31**) and killing while defending your nation (**I Chronicles 19:16-19**), family (**Genesis 14:13-16**), or innocent people who are under attack (**II Samuel 23:8-12**). The Bible also allows for police (i.e. government officials) to kill in certain circumstances (**Romans 13:1-4**). The previous verses also show that Abraham and King David killed people during military actions but were both highly esteemed by God. We also know that Moses was highly esteemed by God (**Matthew 17:1-4**) even though he had committed the sin of murder (**Exodus 2:11-15**). Although most translations of the Bible translate the Sixth Commandment (**Exodus 20:13**) correctly along the lines of "do not murder" there are a few that mistranslate the commandment as "do not kill". The word used here is *rasah* which actually does mean "murder" and when *rasah* is used in other parts of the Bible (ex: Numbers 35) it is translated as "murder" or "murderer" with the Sixth Commandment being the only place it is sometimes incorrectly translated as "kill". The dictionary definitions of murder and kill are: **murder** - *the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with premeditated intent*, **kill** - *to cause the death of*.

(John 5:24, John 1:12, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 11:6, Galatians 2:21, Rom 3:28, I John 2:25, I John 5:11-13, Ephesians 2:4-7, Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12-29, Num 35:17-31, I Chron 19:16-19, Genesis 14:13-16, II Samuel 23:8-12, Romans 13:1-4, Matthew 17:1-4, Exodus 2:11-15, Exodus 20:13)

How did Cain get married if they were the only people on Earth?

We know that God commanded Adam and Eve to have lots of children (**Genesis 1:28**). We also know that Eve was the mother of all the living (**Genesis 3:20**). And we know that Adam and Eve had other children that the Bible does not mention by name (**Genesis 5:4**). As a result, the only person Cain could have married would have been one of his sisters or nieces. God did not prohibit marriage between close relatives until about 2,500 years later, during the time of Moses (**Leviticus 18**). We know today that marriage between close relatives can cause physical problems or disease in their children. This is due to the close relations having the same mutations in their DNA. The risks from the continual degradation that is occurring in human DNA (that we inherit from our parents) is reduced significantly by not marrying close relatives since the mutations in the DNA of unrelated people tend to not be the same. But Adam and Eve were created with perfect DNA. After their sin the world began to decay and death entered creation (**Romans 8:18-25**). Over time, human DNA would slowly begin to accumulate damage so that by the time of Moses, God issued the commands against marriage of close relatives in order to mitigate this problem. This is why, today, marriage to a close relative is prohibited by God and most societies consider it a crime (i.e. incest). But before God issued the commands in Leviticus, it was not a sin or a crime to marry a close relative.

(Gen 1:28, Gen 3:20, Gen 5:4, Leviticus 18, Romans 8:18-25)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 127:2, Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, Ecclesiastes 5:18-19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 26:14, Ephesians 4:28, Deuteronomy 15:10-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 14:23, Proverbs 6:6-11, Proverbs 10:5, Proverbs 13:4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Thessalonians 3:8, Proverbs 12:24, Proverbs 10:4, Luke 16:10-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Kings 12:11-15, Nehemiah 13:13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 18:9, Colossians 3:22-24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 21:25, Proverbs 26:13, Proverbs 26:16, Proverbs 12:24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Prov 20:4, Prov 13:4, Ecclesiastes 10:18, Prov 19:15, II Thess 3:10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 1:19-22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 12:22-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jude 1:4, II Corinthians 3:18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 6:14, II Corinthians 1:12, Ephesians 2:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:24-26, Romans 1:4-5, Ephesians 3:7-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 9:8, Philippians 4:13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:10, Mark 12:30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 9:4, Luke 10:2, James 1:27, Matt 5:14-16, Eph 2:10, Titus 2:14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 4:7-10, Romans 12:11, Hebrews 6:10-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 1:28-29, I Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9-10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Does the Bible say anything about laziness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 20:33-35, James 2:18-26, II Timothy 2:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 9:36, Romans 16:3-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 9:24-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long were Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 5:12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 3:23 to Genesis 4:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 6-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 13-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 16-22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel 11:16-17, Deuteronomy 28:63-67*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Leviticus 26:44-45, Ezekiel 36:22-28, Jeremiah 16:14-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel 39*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Mark 13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 50:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Thessalonians 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What will happen at the end of the world?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 65:1-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 11:6-9, II Peter 3:10-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What do I do if my parents are in a fight? How do I help?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 5:29, Matthew 23:37*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 26:17, Proverbs 10:19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 17:27, I Timothy 2:1-2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What do I do if my parents are in a fight? How do I help?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 6:1-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 3:18-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Titus 2:1-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What do I do if my parents are in a fight? How do I help?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 3:1-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 5:22-33*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 7:3-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *If I kill someone can I still go to heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 5:24, John 1:12, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 11:6, Galatians 2:21, Romans 3:28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 2:25, I John 5:11-13, Ephesians 2:4-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *If I kill someone can I still go to heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 9:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 21:12-29*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Numbers 35:17-31*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *If I kill someone can I still go to heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Chronicles 19:16-19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 14:13-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Samuel 23:8-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *If I kill someone can I still go to heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:1-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 17:1-4, Exodus 2:11-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 20:13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How did Cane get married if they were the only people on Earth?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 1:28, Genesis 3:20, Genesis 5:4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Leviticus 18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:18-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?