

The Reflector

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WHO IS THE DEVIL?

The Bible gives us a lot of information about the devil that when correctly understood, will help us in overcoming him. Notice the following descriptions given in the scriptures.

1. He is the **“tempter.”** (1st Thessalonians 3:5)
2. He is a **“roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour.”** (1st Peter 5:8)
3. He is also our **“adversary.”** (1st Peter 5:8)
4. He can appear as an **“angel of light.”** (2nd Corinthians 11:14)
5. He is the **“serpent.”** (2nd Corinthians 11:3)
6. He is a **“murderer.”** (John 8:44)
7. He is a **“liar.”** (John 8:44)
8. He is **“Satan.”** (Revelations 12:9)
9. He is a **“great dragon.”** (Revelations 12:9)

From this list above you can see there is nothing at all to like about the devil. He is our enemy who is trying to defeat us in any way that he possibly can. He will use the **“lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”** to bring us down. (2nd Corinthians 4:4/1st John 2:15-17) He used these things against Adam and Eve with great success. (Genesis 3:1-19) And he used these same things against Jesus but this time **“Thank God!”** he was a miserable failure. (Matthew 4:1-11) If we will **“put on the whole armor of God, we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”** (Ephesians 6:10-17)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Josiah was the king of Judah who disguised himself to go into battle against Egypt. He was killed by an archer's arrow in this battle, which took place in the valley of Megiddo. (2nd Chronicles 35:20-24)

The apostles James and Peter were arrested by Herod the king in Acts 12. James was put to death but Peter was led to freedom by an angel of the Lord as the brethren in the church prayed for him. (Acts 12:1-16) After this Herod himself died when he was smitten by an angel of the Lord and eaten up of worms. (Acts 12:21-23)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What is the name of the king in the Bible who had eighty-eight children? (How many boys and girls did he have and how many wives did he have as well?)

Upon what day of the week was the Lord's church established? (How can you prove this answer?)

THE SHORTEST VERSE IN THE BIBLE!

Do you know which verse of scripture is the shortest in the Bible? It is John 11:35 which simply says, "**Jesus wept.**" Though short, it is very powerful. It reminds us of the fact that although Jesus was "**God in the flesh**"; He still had human emotions just like you and me. Jesus loved Lazarus and was touched by his death as well as the tears of Mary and Martha over the death of their brother. As Peter tells us in 1st Peter 5:7, we should "**Cast all our care upon Him, for He careth for us.**" He can be "**touched with the feelings of our infirmities**" according to Hebrews 4:15. Do you know where in the scriptures that another occasion takes place where Jesus weeps again? See if you can locate that for next month. Just remember that Jesus understands the sorrows and tragedies of life that bring us to tears. Thank God for that!

"UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK..."

In the Old Testament the Sabbath day was a special day among the Jews. As a part of the Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20, verses 8-11 say the following: **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy..."** The Jews were not to do any work on that particular day. It was to be a **"day of rest"** based upon the fact that God Himself had rested on that day from the work He did in the Creation. This day however, along with the rest of the Ten Commandments have been replaced by the New Covenant. (Hebrews 10:9-10) No longer is anyone commanded to observe the Sabbath day today as it was in Old Testament times.

In The New Testament the **"first day of the week"** has special significance. It is upon this day that **"Jesus arose from the dead."** (Mark 16:9) It is also upon this day that the Lord **"established His church."** We know this because the Day of Pentecost spoken of in Acts 2:1 fell upon the **"1st day of the week"** according to Leviticus 23:15-16. Furthermore, we as Christians have been instructed by the Lord through the example of Paul to **"take the Lord's Supper upon the 1st day of the week."** (Acts 20:7) To take it any other time would be a violation of the word of God. (Colossians 3:17) We have additional instructions from the Lord through Paul to **"take up a contribution also upon the first day of the week."** (1st Corinthians 16:1-3) To take a contribution on any other day would be to act without authority from Christ. If we want to please God, then we must do only those things that are authorized by the word of God and do them when the word of God says they are to be done!

Thus the **"first day of the week"** is a very special day as far as Christians are concerned. Let us keep it in the way that we have been instructed to and in so doing bring glory to God!
(Matthew 5:13-16)

ARE YOU OBEYING THE LORD IN ALL THESE THINGS?