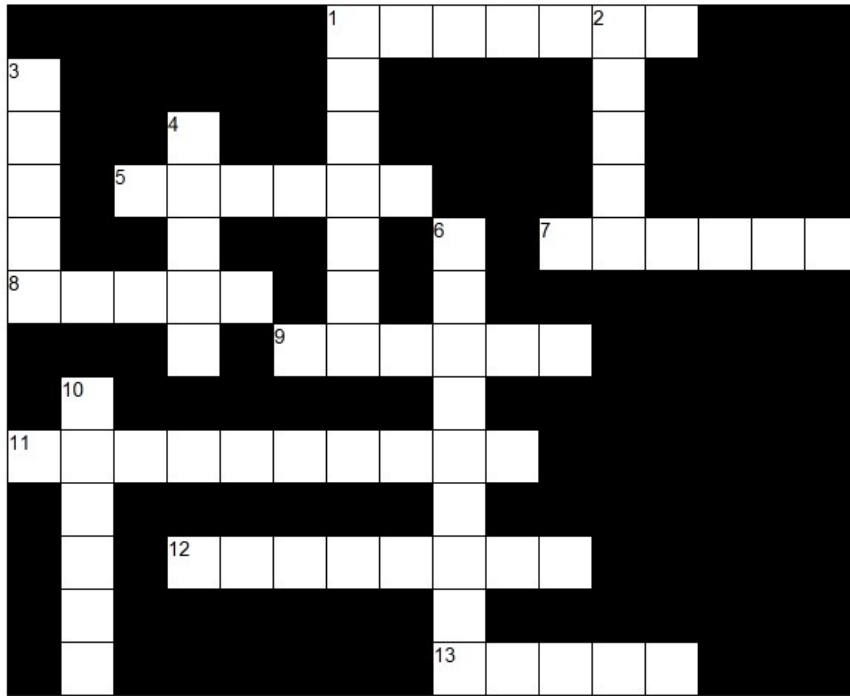


A Bible Crossword: The Book Of Acts, Part 14

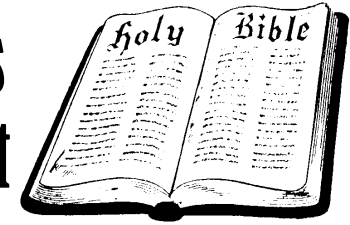


Across: 1. Paul's ship failed to reach this harbor in Crete which shares its name with an Arizona town. 5. The way Paul's guard treated him. 7. Paul's ship sheltered at this island—where Barnabas was from. 8. One told Paul there would be no loss of life during the shipwreck. 9. The prophet Paul quoted who spoke of Israel being dull of hearing. 11. The name of the wind that drove Paul's ship of course. 12. Paul used the Law of Moses and these to persuade the Jews about Jesus. 13. The sailors secured it with difficulty, but as the storm grew, cut away the ropes and let it fall off.

Down: 1. The leading citizen; Paul healed his father. 2. The nation of destination to which Paul sailed. 3. The island where Paul was shipwrecked. 4. One fastened itself onto Paul's hand, but Paul was uninjured. 6. The soldiers on the ship planned to kill them, but Paul's centurion intervened to save him. 10. The name of Paul's centurion.

—All answers can be found in Acts 27-28, NKJV.

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



2137 Penhall Drive NE / Huntsville, AL 35811
256-536-5296 / www.chapmanacreschurch.com

The Statute of Limitations

It was reported on the news this week that a court in India sentenced a 75-year-old man to three months in jail for accepting a bribe. Two facts about the case made it particularly newsworthy. First, the sum he received was only 25 rupees. In American currency, 25 rupees converts to 51 cents. Second, the offense took place in 1985, almost 25 years ago.

This carriage of justice seems a miss to us. Given the severity of the offense, or lack thereof, and given the amount of time that has passed, a jail sentence seems unwarranted. Indeed, lesser crimes in our country are typically constrained by a statute of limitations, setting a maximum period of time after a crime has been committed when legal proceedings may be initiated.

Though harsh from our perspective, the court case in India does remind us that others may take a stronger view of things than we do.

One such example is God's view of sin. In His view, there is no such thing as a lesser sin. John declares, "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5b). To Him, all sin is darkness, and the wages of all sin is death (Rom. 6:23). There is also no statute of limitations. More than any court, God is patient, giving us time (2 Peter 3:9), but if we fail to repent, our sin will find us out (Num. 32:23).

—RAB

STRIVING GIVES STRENGTH AND CHARACTER

We realize that physical training and striving molds one's body into a muscular, hardened machine prepared to cope with the physical necessities of life. One that starts out in life and continues as a couch potato is not prepared for a lot of the physical things he might be called upon to do. His body becomes heavy and flabby with fat and he is forced to drag around much more weight in his life than is healthy for his body.

A man found a cocoon of the emperor moth and took it home to watch it emerge. One day a small opening appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled but couldn't seem to force its body past a certain point. Deciding something was wrong, the man took scissors and snipped the remaining bit of cocoon. The moth emerged easily, its body large and swollen, the wings small and shriveled. He expected within a few hours the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, but they did not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its short life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings. What the man learned was the constricting cocoon and the struggle necessary to pass through the tiny opening are God's way of forcing fluid from the body into the wings. The "merciful" snip of the scissors was, in reality, cruel. Sometimes the struggle is exactly what we need.

The same thing is true in building and strengthening spiritual character. The more we overcome strife and temptations in our lives the stronger we become spiritually. Let us not only struggle to have a strong physical body, but even more so we should struggle in the preparation of our spiritual lives.

—Jim Sasser

SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

Many times in the secular world it is necessary to take inventory to see where a business is. This is also needed in the spiritual realm. Let me give you some suggestions for a good "spiritual check-up":

1. Do People know I'm a Christian where I work?
2. Is my Lord respected or reviled because of my lifestyle?
3. Do I criticize the church and my brethren in front of my children?
4. Does my speech suit one in the world, or that of a Christian?
5. Do I read my Bible daily? Do I desire to?
6. Can other people work with me? Can I with them?
7. Am I a selfish person? Do I look for others need before my own?
8. Do I practice what I preach to others?
9. Am I an asset or a liability to the church?
10. Do I come to worship when I can or when I want?

—Keith Greer

Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Gene Shannon
David Depew	Sara Nance	James Howard