

The Broadmoor Bulletin

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Samson

How NOT to Choose a Wife

Samson was a man endowed with extraordinary strength from the Lord, but he did not always make wise decisions. On a trip to Timnah, he saw a beautiful daughter of the Philistines, and he determined to make her his wife (Judges 14:1-2). Notice the single criterion mentioned for his choice. Samson thought that "She is right in my eyes" or as some translations say, "She looks good to me" (Judges 14:3, 7). His parents urged him to choose a daughter from among his people, someone who would share a common faith. Instead, Samson chose an uncircumcised Philistine named Delilah. In marriage, Samson's spouse did not seek his best interest. She manipulated him for her own purposes and betrayed him to the Philistines (Judges 16:4-22).

Choosing a spouse is one of the most important decisions in life. A mate can either be a help or a hindrance in service to God. Far too many people choose a mate for the wrong reasons. They base their decision on superficial matters like appearance, wealth or social status. Proverbs states the important truth, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (31:30). Do not imitate Samson's example. The main criterion for choosing a life-long partner should be their devotion to the Lord. Marrying a devout Christian is the best and wisest decision.

Jeremy Sweets

For One Indulgent Moment

What some will pay for a moment's reckless folly is recorded again and again in the Book of Ages. Do you think these people got their "money's worth"?

1. Adam and Eve, for one bit of luscious fruit when they were not even hungry, brought sin, suffering, shame, and death upon themselves and the human race (Genesis 3).
2. Lot's wife, revealing her longing for the things that pertain to earth, took one look back at Sodom and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19).
3. Esau, to satisfy one day's fleshly appetite, lightly esteemed his birthright and forfeited his right to the ancestry of Christ (Genesis 25).
4. Achan, for a garment he could not wear, and silver and gold he could not spend, paid with all his possessions, his family, and his life (Joshua 7).
5. Samson, for the caress of a hypocritical woman, lost his eyes, and finally his life (Judges 16).
6. David, to enjoy another man's wife, hands to posterity a tale of his life with adultery, shame, and tears, boldly written for all to read (2 Samuel 11).
7. Ahab, coveting another's little vineyard, permitted his wife to have its owner killed, claimed it for his own, and heard his own funeral preached in these words, "In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall the dogs lick thy blood, even thine" (I Kings 21). - **Selected**

The Mission of the Church

It is not the mission of the church to furnish amusement for the world or even for its own members. Innocent amusement in proper proportion has its place in the lives of normal people, but it is not the business of the church to furnish it. The church would come off a poor second if it undertook to compete with institutions established for the express purpose of entertaining people. It would make itself ridiculous if it entered into such competition.

Again, it is not the responsibility of the church as such to furnish recreation for its members. A certain amount of recreation is necessary to the health and happiness of the individual. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, it is said, and rightly said; but it is not the function of the church to furnish the play. The church was not established to feature athletics.

Rather it emphasizes the principle that "bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things; having promise of the life which now is and of that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:8) Sometimes one would conclude, from the emphasis given to recreation, that godliness is profitable for a little and that bodily exercise is profitable for all things.

For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. It is to degrade its mission. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church. The church, like Nehemiah, has a great work to do; and it should not come down on the plains of Ono to amuse and entertain.

As the church turns its attention to amusement and recreation, it will be shorn of its power as Samson was when his hair was cut. Only as the church becomes worldly, as it pillows its head on the lap of Delilah, will it want to turn from its wonted course to relatively unimportant matters.

B. C. Goodpasture
Gospel Advocate, 1948

??Did You Know??

1. Samson killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:15 - 16).
2. The name Samson means "sun".
3. Samson offered to give 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes to the guests at his wedding feast if they could solve his riddle. The guests made Samson's wife find the answer to the riddle. Samson killed 30 men in Ashkelon to get the garments to give to his guests. (Judges 14:10 - 20)
4. Samson caught 300 foxes and put torches between the tails of each pair of foxes. He then lit the torches and let the foxes run through the grain fields of the Philistines. (Judges 14:4 - 5) **Marshall Hunt**

3 "R's" for the Young

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. (Eccl. 11:9)

If you follow the lusts of your heart to do any and every thing you desire, you better know that you will be judged for it! There are some who dare to tell the young to go ahead and sow their wild oats. But if you follow that advice, it will be to your destruction, because you will reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7, 8). So just remember young person, don't let your sinful pleasure condemn you at the judgment day! Is there one pleasure worth it?

Remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity. (Eccl. 11:10)

The world says to rejoice by doing whatever feels best. God shows the way to truly rejoice is to "remove sorrow from thy heart". This is how to truly rejoice and is contrasted with the empty and worthless carousing of a rebellious youngster. And the best way to remove sorrow from your heart is to remove the evil from your body. If you follow whatever your heart desires, it will bring you pain, sorrow, and grief. Youth is fleeting; therefore, use it wisely.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. (Eccl. 12:1)

Young person, you can be so useful for the Lord. Do not live your life for sinful pleasures, but live your life for God. If you have your pleasure now, you won't have pleasure remembering how much valuable time, enthusiasm, and energy was wasted to futility. As much as you might not like to think about it, the "evil days" of old age and loss of bodily functions will come. So remember God now, while there is time!

Andrew Mitchell

Samson – A Strong Man Who Was Weak in Self – Control

Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."
Judges 16:28

God sent judgment upon the Philistines by the hand of Samson, but Samson suffered a great price because of his lack of self-control. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, and we can gain it in our lives when we allow God's word revealed by His Spirit to transform our lives. If we live based on our desires and do not seek wisdom from God, we will destroy ourselves as Samson destroyed himself.

"For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." (Gal. 6:8) Our enemy entices us to give in to the lusts of our flesh, but we must not listen to his lies. For a detailed discussion about some of the destructive consequences that can follow fornication, please see an article by David and Flora Tant stored on the internet at <http://simplychristians.org/Ponder/PremaritalSex.html>.

If we want to experience the blessings and joy that result from a close relationship with God, we need to seek after that which is pure and keep our passions under the control of God's word. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). Paul encouraged his brethren in Philippi to fill their minds with things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, excellent, and worthy of praise (Phil. 4:9). We would do well to learn from the poor example of Samson and find the spiritual strength that God's word can supply.

Gilbert Booher

The hidden title for the puzzle is spelled out by the uncircled letters in the solved puzzle.

Puzzle 25

 Hidden Title: _____
 Scripture: Judges 13:24-25

WOMAN	BARE	CALLED
NAME	SAMSON	CHILD
GREW	LORD	BLESSED
SPIRIT	BEGAN	MOVE
TIMES	CAMP	DAN

D	S	N	A	G	E	B	P
R	E	W	O	M	A	N	M
O	M	S	S	S	O	A	A
L	I	P	S	M	M	V	C
S	T	I	E	E	D	A	E
O	N	R	G	N	L	A	S
I	A	I	R	L	I	B	N
B	M	T	E	S	H	B	O
R	E	D	W	N	C	D	O

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