

# The Encourager

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## DOES GOD KNOW ABOUT THIS?

There's a couple in Arkansas who gave their six-year-old son strict instructions to come home from playing every afternoon no later than 5 p.m. He is allowed to play with his friends, but his parents are quite serious about his curfew. If he's not home by 5 p.m., they begin to worry and call around the neighborhood to find out where he is. The boy knows this, though, and is careful to arrive every day on time.

One April Monday, however, the day after Daylight Saving Time went into effect, the boy was late coming home. When he finally arrived, a few minutes before 6 p.m., his mother scolded him for being late. "You know you are to be home by five," she said, "and here it is nearly six."

Puzzled, the little boy pointed out the window. "But the light," he protested, "the light; it's the light that tells me when to come home." Realizing what had happened, his mother smiled and gently explained that the day before the time had been changed, that everyone had reset their clocks and, now, the daylight lasted longer.

The boy's eyes nar-

rowed. "Does God know about this?" he asked suspiciously.

It's easy to see why a young boy would ask such a question, but no matter what the circumstance prompting the question, the answer to "Does God know about this?" is always, "Yes, He knows." David reflected on this quality of God in Psalm 139:

"Lord, you have examined me and know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know thoroughly everything I do. Lord, even before I say a word, you already know it. You are all around me -- in front and in back -- and have put your hand on me. Your knowledge is amazing to me; it is more than I can understand." (Psalm 139:1-6)

At times, it is a bit frightening to realize that God knows so much about me, but ultimately it is a comforting thought -- that someone knows so much about me, yet still loves me. Because God knows me so well, He knows my deepest needs. May you take comfort this day in the realization that God knows everything about you there is to know, and that He loves you dearly.

Have a great day!

Alan Smith



## GOD'S CHANGELSS WORD

Feelings come and feelings go,  
And feelings are deceiving;  
My warrant is the Word of God —  
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned  
For want of some sweet token,  
There is One greater than my heart  
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word  
Till soul and body sever,  
For though all things shall pass away,  
His Word shall stand forever!

**Martin Luther**

A small girl had been promised the privilege of climbing to a nearby hilltop where her brother enjoyed playing. But when she came within sight of the steep, rough path, she drew back in dismay. "Why, there isn't a smooth spot anywhere. It's all bumpy and stony!" she exclaimed.

"Yes," said her more experienced older brother, "but how else would we ever climb to the top if it wasn't? The stones and bumps are what we step on to get there."

Source Unknown.

# Quotes

Today is the second chance which God gives us to right the wrongs, correct the mistakes, and readjust the differences that marred our yesterday. Today is another opportunity to cancel, to expiate, to raise, to adorn.

Unknown

CHRISTIANITY IS BREAD FOR DAILY USE, NOT CAKE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Unknown

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Life is short, so live it. Love is rare, so grab it. Fear controls you, so face it. Memories are precious, so cherish them. We only get one life, so live it!

Unknown

ANGER IS A WEED: HATE IS THE TREE.

Augustine

## Children learn what they observe.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn and be judgmental.

If children live with hostility, they learn to be angry and fight.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy and withdrawn.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship, they learn to find love in the world.

Dorothy Nolte

## The Feste Burg

"A Mighty Fortress," the hymn written by Protestant reformer Martin Luther in 1529, is powerful in English but even better in its original German. Historian Michael Streich notes that Luther compares God not only to a fortress but to a completely secure stronghold, or Feste Burg.

"A burg was a fortified town," Streich says. "When invaders approached, the surrounding populace fled to the safety of the walls" — sometimes to layers of walls within walls. Luther's hymn compares God to the most powerful of all burgs, with eternally unbreakable walls.

When we need a place of refuge, God offers his Mighty Fortress, his Feste Burg. Within this refuge, with our value based on our relationship to God rather than on earthly achievements, we'll never be put to shame. Inside this fortified town, the God who desires an eternal relationship with us delivers, rescues and saves us.

—Homiletics

A man was asked to address a group about despondency. He tacked up a big sheet of white paper. Then he made a black spot on the paper with his pencil and asked a man in the front row what he saw. The man replied promptly, "A black spot." The speaker asked every person in the audience the same question, and each replied, "A black spot." With calm and deliberate emphasis the speaker said, "Yes, there is a little black spot, but none of you saw the big sheet of white paper. That's the point of my speech."

Unknown

## Some Things Must Be Shared

A Mercedes-Benz TV commercial shows one of their cars colliding with a concrete wall during a safety test. Someone then asks a Mercedes engineer why their company does not enforce their patent on their car's energy-absorbing car body. The Mercedes' design has been copied by almost every other car maker in the world in spite of the fact that they have an exclusive patent.

The engineer replies in a clipped German accent, "Because in life, some things are just too important not to share."

Wow! What a great statement. Some things are just too important not to share. As Christians we believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is one of those things that is too important not to share. No, that is an understatement. We believe that Jesus Christ MUST be shared with our friends, our neighbors, the world. The work of sharing the news of Jesus Christ we call evangelism. The Christian faith has been advanced through the ages by people who were willing to take upon themselves the responsibility of being evangelists - those who spread the good news of Christ.

King Duncan

The hills ahead look steep and high,  
And often we behold them with a sigh;  
But as we near them level grows the road,  
We find on every slope, with every load,  
The climb is not so steep, the top so far.  
The hills ahead look harder than they are.

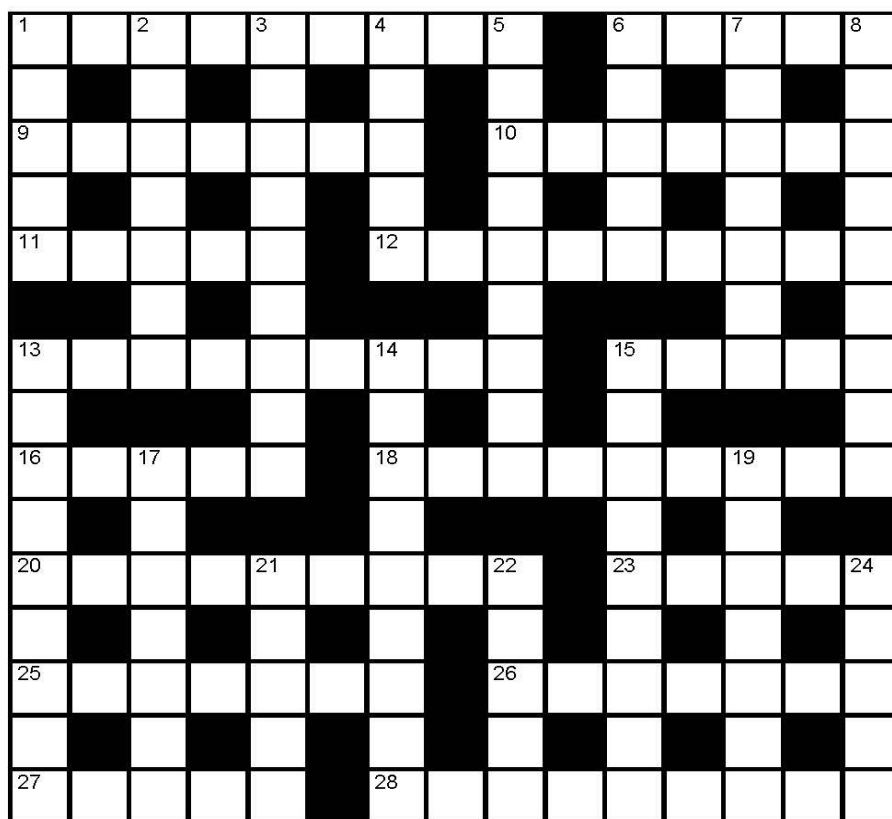
Douglas Malloch.



# BIBLE CROSSWORD XV

## Across

- 1 Word of God (9)  
 6 Korah, Dathan and Abiram fell into one (5)  
 9 Prophetess and judge (7)  
 10 Rescue (7)  
 11 Judas wore one around his neck (5)  
 12 In a fervent manner (9)  
 13 Age when Jehoram became king (6-3)  
 15 Long range of hills or mountains (5)  
 16 Like the tomb on Resurrection Morning (5)  
 18 Samson, maybe? (9)  
 20 Pharisaical tomb covering (9)  
 23 The beginning of a sequence (5)  
 25 Time when not working (7)  
 26 Alternative name for Feast of Tabernacles (7)  
 27 Region of Israeli enslavement (5)  
 28 One of 13 down (9)



by Philologus

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## Down

- 1 City near to Tyre (5)  
 2 Honourable title for a teacher (7)  
 3 In an ideal way (9)  
 4 Region famous for its gold (5)  
 5 Strive (9)  
 6 A city of Nimrod (5)  
 7 Counselling (7)  
 8 Golden covering of the ark (5,4)

- 13 Apostles, collectively (3,6)  
 14 New and old parts of the Bible (9)  
 15 Plundered (9)  
 17 Secretly (7)  
 19 Instruction for the twelve spies (7)  
 21 Jubilate (5)  
 22 Minor prophet (5)  
 24 Often put on the head during mourning (5)