Just a Thought

**Rev. Tom Mansbarger** 

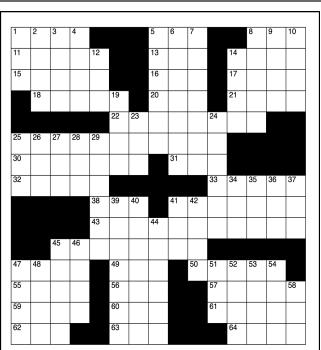
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Church. He offers free counsel-

ing. Reach him at 765. 517. 1187



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Gather a harvest
- 5. Federal Republic of Germany
- 8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 11. "The Little Mermaid" 13. The common gibbon
- 14. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 15. Mother of Perseus 16. Egg cells
- 17. Teams' best pitchers
- 18. Credit associations
- 21. Hair styling products
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. Arriving early
- 30. Called it a career
- 31. \_ Paulo, city
- 32. Avoid with trickery

**CLUES DOWN** 

2. Amounts of time

4. Popular veggies

- 3. Aboriginal people of Japan human in Europe:
  - 39. Do away with

33. Easter egg

38. Veterans battleground

43. Thing that causes disgust

45. Deep, continuing sound

49. You might put it in a fire

57. Plant of the bean family

60. Patti Hearst's captors

61. Places to hang clothes

64. S. Korean statesman

59. One point north of northeast

50. Partner to "oohed"

55. Actor Idris

56. Slippery

62. Midwife

63. Of she

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

41. Lack of success

- 5. Wedding accessory 6. Deep, narrow gorges 40. Lens
- 7. Dry cereal
- 9. Cain and 10. Snake sound
- 12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- 14. Pattern of notes in Indian music 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 19. Satisfy 23. Misfire
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Indicates before 26. Increase motor speed
- 27. When you hope to get there
- 28. Indicates position
- 29. Where rockers perform
- 34. Substitute

- 35. juris: of one's own right
- 36. Earliest form of modern 37. Adult female bird

- 41. Flattened appendage
- 8. Competitions that require speed 42. Post or pillar in Greek temple 44. A medieval citizen of Hungary

  - 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - 47. Sew

  - 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
  - Swiss river
  - 52. Grayish-white
  - 53. A way to illustrate
  - 54. College basketball superpower
  - 58. Midway between south and

# God asks us to live for Him

Life has a way of taking a toll on us. As we grow older our bodies testify to the aging process. It not only comes by wrinkles, getting shorter, the manner in which we walk, and the quickness of our reflexes. We also see all of the

little scars we have accumulated over the years. Each little mark has a story of its own. As the years go by, there are more dings and scratches, and the stories continue to build. Have you ever taken time to just look at your hands and think what they have been through? Now, you noticed I only talked about the hands. Many have scars all over the body, but we are just thinking about the hands. Can you identify every scar with a story? Maybe, maybe

There have been few men who have ever lived that have accomplished more than the Apostle Paul. Paul was a bulldog. There were never thoughts of quitting with him because he realized what Jesus had done for him. When he was trying to encourage the people of Galatia, he

gave them insight to what he had been through. In Galatians 6:14-17 he wrote, "(14) But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me,

and I unto the world. (15) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (16) And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. (17) Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

Paul was a man that had experienced a lot, but he wasn't complaining. Paul knew what it was to have it all, and what it was like to have nothing. He had been persecuted, beaten, stoned and left for dead, but he wasn't complaining. He was

thankful for the opportunity for service to the King of Kings and Lord of The people of Galatia were a legal-

istic people that believed we only re-

ceive from God by doing works. Paul

them, "Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Except for the Lord Jesus himself, we see no one in the Old Testament or New Testament that endured as much as Paul did. Even though he had experienced all of the pain, he was always resilient and bounced back. The Scripture provides us with the details of Paul's experiences in II Corinthians 11:23-28. As I think about my Christian life I cannot identify with what Paul went through. Sure, we have all been

had already explained justification, not

by works but by faith. He had taught

them circumcision and the rituals of

ceremonial law. In verse 17 Paul told

ridiculed, poked fun at, and lied about, but nothing to the level of Paul. We may never go through anything like Paul did, but the question always arises, "Would we?"

The greatest truth I have come to realize about Christian life is this, God isn't necessarily asking us to die for Him, but will we live for Him? There are Christians being martyred daily around the world for their faith, and I am sure they are thankful to lay down their life for Jesus. We may, or may not, experience these things in our country, but here is a question; what will you do? Do you really believe what you say you do? Would you be willing to live or die for Christ? Just a thought!

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"I want to give hope to

## **Grand opening**

spite all the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as opening a business, Scales accomplished her goal.

"God is faithful. He is

faithful," Scales said. "This has been a trying time. Through this process, I've had my highs, my lows, but I stayed the course, I stayed the course. Looking over my life, it hasn't always been roses, but through God, all things are possible. I'm just so excited," Scales said. "I'm excited because this is a dream of mine. Everything has fallen into place. From vendors to just connecting with people and me being who I am, authentic, they are just so willing to take me alongside and teach me, and for that, I am grateful."

A lifelong Marion native, Scales was always fascinated by boutiques, and jewelry. She recalled a time when she went with her grandmother to the Balls department store in downtown Marion when she was young, and after a shop employee asked for her assistance in dressing up a mannequin, she was hooked.

"I was just fascinated with jewelry," Scales said. "I think jewelry can compliment you in jeans and a Tshirt. I always say as long as I've got my earrings on, I'm dressed up."

While the dream of owning her own business was always in the back of her mind over the following years, Scales moved into other endeavors. Along with cutting hair for over 27 years, Scales worked at Chrysler, where she met her husband, Jeffery, and started a family. Later on, Scales went back to school to become a schoolteacher, and

worked for several years at Faulkner Academy before it closed.

Now, Scales serves as a librarian at Frances Slocum Elementary School, but in September of 2020, the plans for A Lovely Boutique began to take shape. Scales started selling her

wares at the flea market, before eventually securing her space on Lincoln Boulevard, and over that time, her inventory has grown significantly. A Lovely Boutique sells a

variety of goods, including jewelry, purses, shoes, coats, dresses, two-piece suits for men and women, perfumes, hats, keychains, scarves, and so much more at fair prices.

However, along with providing a service for the Marion community, Scales plans to use her business as a ministry. As a woman who struggled with addiction issues in her past, before flourishing into a successful woman and business owner, Scales wants to share her hope and her story to others, giving back to the community in more ways than one. She plans to work with women who are transitioning from prison back into the outside world and provide a listening ear and a helping hand to anyone in

need.

the hopeless," Scales said. "It doesn't define who you are. All things are possible, and I am going to use this as a ministry to let not only people of color, or those who are struggling with addiction, or depression, to let them know that they, too, can. I just want to be able to encourage them, but also give them something, whether it's a purse, whether it's earrings, just something that they can identify with that lets them know they are worthy. I want everyone to feel lovely when they come in and when they leave," Scales said. "Whether they purchase something or not."

Additionally, Scales plans to give back to the community that gave so much to her and be a beacon of light for the Marion community in the years to come.

"If we don't share, we don't grow," Scales said. "Everything that was given to me, I give it away. I am going to be serving my community by giving back proceeds and my earnings because so much has been given to me," Scales said. "I'm blessed, and I just want to bless others by sharing my experience, my strength, and my hope, because I definitely know that out of ashes rises beauty."

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