

# Courage and Patience

When Paul wrote his second letter to the church at Corinth (II Corinthians), he wanted the church to know what his mission was, and to whom he was dedicated. The entire letter was to show the authority of Paul to carry out his ministry. His driving force was the words and works of Jesus, and to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentile world.

In II Corinthians 4, Paul begins by talking about the incredible treasure that had been given to all believers (verse 7). He wanted the people to know that he had a Divine call, and they did also. All believers are called to promote the Gospel because it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. What an incredible treasure. He also gave them a warning, “But if our Gospel be hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost” (II Corinthians 4:3). The message had never changed since the days Jesus walked this earth and preached a message of hope and grace to the people. Paul warned of the danger of not



## JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor of Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765. 517. 1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

preaching the Gospel. The Gospel was never intended to be self-serving, but rather to “whosoever will, let him come.”

Paul knew what he was asking of the people, and he also realized it would take courage and patience. In the passage (II Corinthians 4:8-18), he elaborates on his experiences and what he had already endured. Paul understood sufferings and

trials because he had experienced many. He wanted the church to understand that suffering was a part of service. Paul had suffered greatly, just as all of the other Apostles.

In verses 8-12 he shows how their sufferings and patience are declared. He shares in verse eight that he was pressed on every side by troubles. Everywhere Paul turned there was trouble, and it could have seemed that there was no end in sight. He went on to say he was perplexed, but he wouldn’t give up (verse 8b). He felt as though he was being hunted down, but never abandoned (verse 9a). He remembered the words of Jesus that “He would always be with us, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). There were also times that Paul felt like he was knocked down, but always able to keep going (verse 9b). There is nothing that the devil wants more than the saints of God to lose focus and quit. Quitting was never in Paul’s vocabulary.

Have you ever wondered what kept those early Christians from giving up and quitting? Paul gives the answer to that question in verses 13-18. First of all, it was faith that kept them from fainting (verse 13). They had a good, practical understanding of what Christ had already done for them, and He had never failed them. Has the Lord ever let you down? Now, please understand, the work that was being done was not being mustered by the power of the flesh. It was God who was energizing them. It was God’s

grace that was the antidote for not fainting in troubled times that saw them through. Aren’t you thankful for the grace of God that does for us what we can’t do for ourselves, and gets us to where we need to be?

The second thing that kept them from sinking was the hope of the resurrection (verse 14). They knew that Christ had been raised from the dead, and this was a promise and an assurance to them. They were grounded enough to understand that what Jesus had experienced in resurrection power would

also be bestowed on them. God had given them a promise, and they believed God. He had never failed them in the past, and He never would.

It takes courage to serve the Lord, and as Paul tried to energize the people and get them going in the right direction, he gave them a picture of what to expect. There is a price to pay if you are going to serve the Lord. The road you travel might be filled with potholes, but you must be patient. God is still on the throne, and He is still in control.

## Goshen College announces Dean’s List for Spring Semester, 2021

Goshen College recently recognized 173 undergraduate students for excellence in academics on the spring 2021 Dean’s List.

The Dean’s List includes students earning at least a 3.75 GPA, while completing at least 12 hours of coursework for

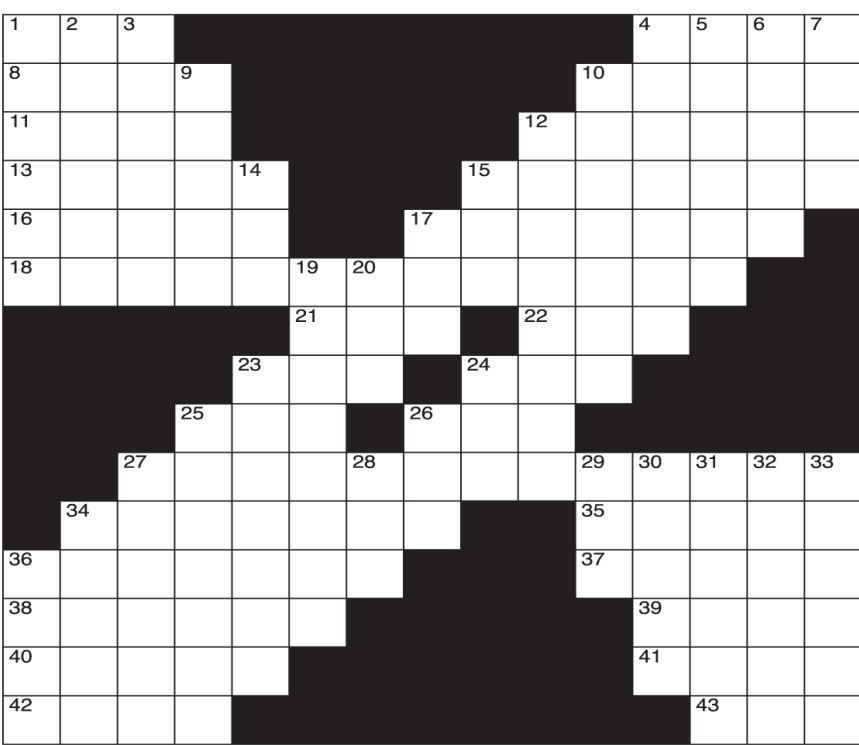
a letter grade. Only grades from the designated semester are included in the Dean’s List selection process.

Initiated in the fall of 1999, the Dean’s List celebrates the achievement of Goshen College students who have met high academic standards and

can motivate students preparing for graduate studies.

Former Eastbrook Panther Ryan Mansbarger was one of those 173 students, finishing up a successful third year of study in the business department at Goshen College.

Answers to puzzle on Page 12



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive  
4. A hearty laugh  
8. Restrain  
10. Dried coconut kernels  
11. Nefarious  
12. Elderly  
13. Central part of a church building  
15. Throw into confusion  
16. Intestinal  
17. Qualities of being religious  
18. Live up to a standard  
21. Seize  
22. Go quickly  
23. Automated teller machine
24. Bowling necessity  
25. One point east of due south  
26. Japanese honorific  
27. A way to induce sleep  
34. Makes cash register rolls  
35. A city in S Louisiana  
36. Make more cheerful  
37. Manicurist  
38. Consents  
39. Network of nerves  
40. Mocking smile  
41. It covers the body  
42. Partner to pans  
43. Perform in a play

### CLUES DOWN

1. Beautiful  
2. Polynesian island country  
3. Shrub of the olive family  
4. Self-governing Netherlands territory  
5. Shared one’s view  
6. Tailless amphibians  
7. Charge passengers must pay  
9. Sound sheep make  
10. Known for sure  
12. Filled with unexpressed anger  
14. Student (abbr.)  
15. Criticize  
17. Gathering place  
19. Informal alliances
20. One’s mother (British)  
23. Landholder  
24. Peter’s last name  
25. Parties  
26. Title of respect  
27. Red wine  
28. Pearl Jam’s debut  
29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)  
30. Frosts  
31. Cry of joy  
32. Induces vomiting  
33. Mother or father  
34. Dal \_\_: Musical navigation marker  
36. Door fastener part

## SUDOKU

8				6				
3		5		2			4	
9						7	8	5
	9				3			
					6	5		3
		2				6		
			7		9	1	5	
							3	
2				4				

Level: Intermediate

**Here’s How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Answers to puzzles on Page 12