

What can they say?

It seems as though we have become a people who live in a paper world. You may be wondering about that statement. What does that mean? Do you have a letter of recommendation? Do you have references? Do you have a re-sume'? Do you remember the days when you actually went to a place of employment and talked to a real person who would ask you about your qualifications? My, how things have changed! Do you have a degree? College education? Trade school? I can honestly say I don't have a re-sume', and hope I never need one. Have things changed since the days you were looking for a job?

Sometimes we find unusual, surprising truths while studying God's Word. In the Apostle Paul's day people would carry letters of commendation, testifying to identity and character. As we process this truth, why would they do that? The answer is simple. There were many false prophets in that time who were wanting to lead people astray by presenting



JUST A THOUGHT
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their message, instead of God's. Not much has changed since those days. We still have a lot of false teachers. We see in Romans 16 that Paul did the same thing for Phoebe before she travelled to Corinth. These letters were a kind of a 'stamp of approval.' In II Corinthians 2, Paul referred to 'peddlers' of the Gospel for their own profit. They also carried letters.

Paul was known far and wide, and he knew that the last place on earth he would need a letter would be at Corinth. The people there were his letter because he knew them and they

knew him. He was a visible expression of God's work, and his testimony spoke for itself. This was a powerful principle that Paul wanted to instill in the lives of the believers at the church in Corinth. This is how Paul explained it in II Corinthians 3:1-3, "(1) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? (2) Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men; (3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone but in fleshy tables of the heart." We have become living letters which express the mind of Christ.

The Scripture tells us we are written by Christ. What does that mean? We don't have to carry a letter, we are the letter. Paul's work was evident, and ours should be also. The believers at Corinth were letters written by Christ.

Christ alone was the Author of their salvation. Each believer is a letter of Christ. People read Jesus through our lives. You could be the only Jesus that some people will ever see.

We are also a letter written by the Holy Spirit. When we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, it is the Holy Spirit who draws us to Christ (Romans 5:5). It is

also the Holy Spirit who assists us in prayer (Romans 8:26). We are letters written from within. God said, "I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). We no longer have an external set of regulations, God has given us a new covenant.

The question is, "Will you let the world read your letter?" Our lives are the

message that we send out to others by our daily walk. What are you speaking to others? Do they see Jesus through you? What an opportunity for each of us to let our light shine in such a way that they can see the Savior's love by our very presence. We really do have an amazing story to tell. Make sure you are sending out the right message.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7				8	9	10	11	12
13										14				
15							16	17	18				19	
20						21						22		
23						24					25			
26			27	28	29					30				
			31						32					
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35	36	37					38							
39						40						41	42	43
44						45						46		
47					48							49		
50			51						52	53	54			
55		56						57						
58								59						

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Most courageous

8. Insurance giant

13. Small trace left behind

14. In a way, signals

15. The same letter or sound at the beginning

19. The Great Lakes State

20. Engage in a contest

21. Drinks served to celebrate a birth (Spanish)

22. Manpower

23. Undivided

24. Strong, magnetic metal

25. People of Tanzania

26. Sorts

30. Cop car accessory

31. Trade

32. Sullen and ill-tempered

33. Distinctive practices

34. Motor vehicles

35. Electrodes

38. Polish river

39. Human feet

40. Make very hot

44. Toppin and Kenobi are two

45. Blackbird

46. One point west of due south

47. Large beer

48. Third stomachs

49. Rare Korean family name

50. Hectoliter

51. Aquatic invertebrate

55. Where we live

57. Poked holes in

58. Partner to ways

59. __ Ann
- CLUES DOWN
1. Expressions of approval

2. Replace the interior of

3. Not awake

4. Roman numeral 7

5. Sun up in New York

6. Institute legal proceedings against

7. Bugs homeowners don't want

8. Maltese-Italian composer

9. Very long period of time

10. Touchdown

11. Agents of downfall

12. Complacently or inanely foolish

16. Argentina capital Buenos __

17. County in New Mexico

18. An electrically charged atom

22. New Zealand conifer

25. Type of brandy

27. Comments to the audience

28. Tears down

29. Gifts for the poor

30. More painful

32. Good friend

34. Lying in the same plane

35. Line in a polygon

36. Clouds of gas and dust

37. Norse god

38. Health care pro

40. Close tightly

41. One's holdings

42. Became less intense

43. Wilco frontman

45. Woman (French)

48. Expresses delight

51. TV channel (abbr.)

52. Beverage

53. Unit of work or energy

54. Cleaning accessory

56. Dorm worker

Answers to puzzle on Page 12

SUDOKU

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

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