

Weekly Newsletter

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Is The Pope Catholic?

By Steve Higginbotham

Sometimes questions are best answered with questions. Questions with obvious answers are sometimes answered with the rhetorical question, "Is the Pope Catholic?" Maybe it's time we give that answer a second thought.

The headlines read, "**Pope Hailed for Praying Toward Mecca Like Muslims.**" Pope Benedict XVI visited an Islamic Mosque in Turkey this week, and when an Islamic cleric turned to pray toward Mecca, the Pope, in what has been called a "conciliatory gesture," turned toward Mecca and assumed the attitude of Muslim prayer.

When I first read of these happenings, my mind immediately went to Daniel (Daniel 6). When told that he could only pray to King Darius, Daniel didn't change his custom of facing Jerusalem and praying to God three times a day. He might have chosen to close his window so no one would see him. He might have prayed silently so that one might think he was praying to the king when in reality he was praying to the God of Heaven. But not Daniel! Daniel was a man of principle. He didn't want to leave the impression that he could have been praying to a false God rather than the God of Heaven! He would rather be eaten alive by lions than to leave that impression.

Were the Pope only so courageous! Turning toward Mecca to pray, in a Muslim mosque and then refusing to tell what he prayed about, is at best a cowardly and confusing compromise, and at worst idolatry!

Friends, the God of Islam (Allah) is not the God of the Bible (Jehovah), the religion of Islam is not the religion of Jesus Christ, and there can never be true unity between Islam and true Christianity.

Is the Pope Catholic? Well, give me some time before I answer that one.

CHRIST IN Youth



Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for several of our young people for their recent accomplishments. Here are a few that I know about...

- **Catherine & Campbell Beals**, along with their Barren County Cross Country Teammates qualified and ran in the State Championship meet! They both placed very well! How well did they do? Well, let's just say they're both running 3.2 miles about as fast as I can drive it.
- **Charli Fant** was recently named to the All-State Soccer Team. That's a great honor and we're proud of her. By the way, last week, she scored 27 points for the Lady Scotties basketball team.
- **Jessie Fant, Adam Fife, and Michael Higginbotham** are all to be congratulated for earning a spot on the All-District Band.

Upcoming Events

- **Bible Bowl - Sunday, December 10**
Written Test - 9:30 a.m.
Quick Recall - 2:00 p.m.
- **Caroling to Shut-ins, Saturday, December 16**
7th grade and up.
Meet at building at 3:00 p.m.
Devo at youth center following caroling.
- **Caroling to Nursing Homes, Sunday, December 17**
6th grade and below.
Meet at building at 2:00 p.m.

The Biggest Word In Our English Vocabulary

By Steve Higginbotham

Well, do you have any guesses? Any “wordsmiths” out there? Let’s see, do you remember from Mary Poppins, there was Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (34 letters), but this wasn’t a real word. When I was in grade school, we were taught that the biggest word in the English language contained 28 letters and was the word “antidisestablishmentarianism” (meaning opposition to the belief that there should be no state church). Oh, I know there are probably other big words you may be able to uncover, but let me get to the point of this article. One of the biggest words in our English vocabulary is the word, “**if.**” That’s right, “**if.**”

Think about it. What word has a bigger impact on our life than the word “**if?**” What word is more consequential than the word “**if?**” Think how this little/big word impacts your life and your eternity.

Do you want your sins forgiven?

“But (**if**) we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Do you want God’s goodness and favor?

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, (**if**) you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off” (Romans 11:22).

Do you want to be known by God?

“And (**if**) anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Corinthians 8:2).

Do you want to be a new creation?

“Therefore, (**if**) anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

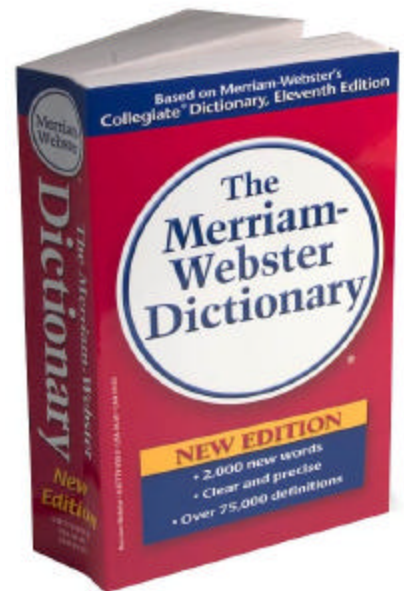
Do you want to avoid being destroyed by God?

“**(If)** anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:17).

Do you want to go to Heaven?

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For (**if**) these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...sure, for (**if**) you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-11).

Though just a two letter word, “**if**” will determine the success or failure of our lives here on earth, as well as throughout eternity. And that makes “**if**” a pretty big word!



Family Matters

Sick List

- Caroline Watkins was hospitalized last week with pneumonia. She is now recovering at home.
- John Bull is at home after being hospitalized last week. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.
- Ruth Stephens has the shingles and is recovering at home.
- Evelyn Alls has shown some improvement. Please continue to remember this family in your prayers.
- Mary Stephens, sister-in-law of Ruth Stephens, is in the Southern Kentucky Rehab Center undergoing tests.
- Ruel Houchens is in the Jewish Hospital. Prayers are requested on his behalf.
- Jesse Abney was able to be at services Sunday.
- Continue to remember: Mary Anderson, Ellen Bale, Wendell & Lena Britt, Shawn Bryant, Linda Cable, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Pauline Cole, Marie Denton, Jamison Dugard, Jim Dunaway, Ruth Elliott, Lucy Byrd Every, Eddie Gerald, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Amanda Hinton, Caden Hodges, Carl Hutchinson, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, George McKinley, Frankie Pace, Linda Pedigo, J.C. Polson, Cindy Proffitt, Robert & Nina Richardson, Julie Riley, Todd Rodgers, Shelley South, Dixie Strode, Sherry Tabor, Ronnie Walker, Tommy White, James Williams and James Wooten.

Holiday Potluck

Sunday morning, December 17, we will have a potluck meal following the morning worship service in the church basement. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy this period of fellowship

Family Bible Bowl

Our Family Bible Bowl will be held Sunday, December 10. The written exam will be given during the Bible Class period. The exam will be given in the basement of the church building and will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be an adult class in the auditorium for the adults who are not participating in the Bible Bowl. At 2:00 in the afternoon teams will be participating in Quick Recall. If you are not participating in Quick Recall you are invited to come and offer support to the participants.

Thank You

I just wanted to offer sincere thanks to all of you on behalf of the Marney Nunnally family. It was such a pleasure to have a place to gather and fill ourselves with such delicious comfort food after my father's funeral. Your kindness allowed us time to visit and share memories of him. I cannot begin to tell you how much your generosity meant to our family. My dad was a wonderful man and his passing leaves behind an enormous void in our hearts. My grandmother is truly lucky to have such a wonderful group of friends to offer her support in a time of such great sadness in our family.

With Sincere Thanks,
Alicia Nunnally Longust

Fifth Sunday

The Elders have challenged the congregation to give above and beyond our normal weekly contribution on Sunday, December 31, in an effort to retire the debt on our church building. Please pray about your response to this challenge. Allow this to be a time when you exercise your faith and strengthen your commitment.

