

Here's your wallet

I'll never forget my days in Bible College preparing for the ministry. I have many many memories of a 600 square foot living apartment for a family of four, an old car that needed a lot of prayer, part-time work and part-time pay, my wife who carried the family financially, and multiple challenges as we separated ourselves for our life's preparation.

They were good days and the kids didn't even know we struggled.

I worked a job at a bakery that supplied bread for the whole of the sunny state of Florida. Two nights a week was all that I could work being a full-time student and trudging my way through theological challenges from book to book and class to class.

Sometimes I thought I would never make it through. Between the academic pressures, night work, a camping lifestyle, and financial challenges, our family seemed to be in the school of hard knocks!

One night while I was at work, I took a restroom break and when I entered the Men's Room I found a wallet. It was stuffed full of green crisp cash that pertruded from the edge.

WOW! Could I use that? And the cool thing was there was

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



PASTOR WALLACE PHILLIPS

no one in the restroom except me. I quickly thought, "No one will ever know!" Then another thought entered my mind - "I guess God is just trying to bless me!"

Quickly, I adjusted my thinking and realized there was only one right choice in this matter. I took the wallet to the supervisor's office and turned it in.

This day was pay day and the owner of the wallet had taken his lunch time to run to the bank. They identified who he was and summoned him by the loud speaker to join us in the office.

Upon his quick arrival, the supervisor gave him his wallet. He was shocked! He didn't even know it was missing. He said, "Man, I'm so stressed! I'm working all I can. I'm trying to pay the bills. My wife is sick with cancer. I guess I just wasn't paying attention."

He proceeded to get emotional and expressed thanks to me. He

too inquired as to why I would return it.

He said, "This is amazing. Many would have simply taken the cash and trashed the wallet!" "I'm a Christian," I said to him. I then told him how I could not keep it, understanding that I needed to do unto others as I wanted done to me.

I was able to pray with him and we were blessed to be able to remain connected while I worked at the bakery.

I'll never forget that instance and it reminds me of the words that Paul shared with the Corinthian church in I Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. God helped me that day. He will help you also...in any temptation. And if you ever find a wallet, locate the owner and tell 'em...."Here's your wallet!"

Dr. Wallace Phillips is the Sr. Pastor at Carpenter's Shop International Church located at 903 South Catherine Creek Road in Ahoskie. Join them for worship in person at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, or online at www.csicministries.com.

Take a Lesson

It never ceases to amaze me how simply and yet how powerfully the Bible presents practical truths to live by.

One such illustration is the example of the ant that is profiled in the book of Proverbs chapter 6. In verse 6 we are told to "take a lesson from the ants and become wise."

Of all the things God could have chosen to teach us from, here he uses an ant! Most of the time our encounters with ants are in a negative sense. They may have invaded our homes or crashed our picnic in an attempt to heist our food! I can't think of a single time when I considered an ant encounter as a positive event.

However, God in His wisdom chose to give us some practical instruction using this otherwise overlooked insect. Let's examine five of these points so we can "take a lesson and become wise."

Ants are not lazy and neither should we be. The principle of "you reap what you sow" applies to every aspect of our lives. No sowing, no reaping. While it is true that we depend on God for everything, he has given us the

"Be still and know that I am God."

- PSALM 46:10



PASTOR JAY RIVENBARK

physical and intellectual ability to work and provide for our practical needs.

We should learn a lesson from others. Although it is good to learn from our own mistakes, how much better to learn from the life of others. Everyone and everything presents an opportunity from which to learn something, even an ant.

Just do what needs to be done! In verse 7 we are told the ant has no prince, governor or ruler to make them work.

They go about their day simply doing what needs to be done. Procrastination is a dangerous trait to practice. Nike has a slogan, "Just Do It." How much more productive we would be if we adopted that attitude.

Plan Ahead. Verse 8 says, they labor hard all summer gathering food for the winter.

Responsibility requires us to think and to plan beyond the moment. What we do today affects tomorrow.

There are consequences for Irresponsibility. Verse 8 asks the question, "How long will you sleep?" Sleep is essential for our bodies and minds, but in excess sleep becomes an enemy to our lives.

Any good and necessary thing can become a hindrance, a detriment, or a stumbling block if done in excess and causes our priorities to be out of order. Verse 11 warns that poverty and scarcity will attack you like an armed robber. The consequences for irresponsibility are sudden, severe and sure. Whether in the areas of our health, our relationships, our finances or our spiritual walk with God, we can suffer great loss if we don't learn these simple lessons from the ant.

The next time you see an ant, "take a lesson and become wise."

Pastor Jay Rivenbark is Pastor of Open Door Church - Bertie Campus. He can be reached via email at jay@visitopendoor.com.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

Matt. 6: 28,29

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lamentations in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 11:38, what friend of Jesus was buried in a cave? *Elijah, Lazarus, Jonah, Matthew*
3. From Daniel 6, what king called to David in a lamentable voice? *Pilate, Darius, Herod, Solomon*
4. What's a binding agreement made between God and a person or group? *Daric, Crown, Covenant, Commandment*
5. From 2 Samuel 12, who said, "Thou art the man"? *Boaz, Samson, Isaac, Nathan*
6. Who said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"? *Ruth, Sarah, Miriam, Mary*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Lazarus; 3) Darius; 4) Covenant; 5) Nathan; 6) Mary
Comments? More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Special events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twwhite@ncweeklies.com.

May 6-7

Empowerment Weekend

WINDSOR - 2017 Women's Empowerment Weekend is planned for May 6-7 at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

The theme is "Just One Touch."

On Saturday, May 6 there will be a Mothers and Daughters Banquet at 4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The meet-and-greet begins at 3 p.m.

Pastor Alma O. Lucas of Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$10.

On Sunday, May 7 there will be a Women's Day Worship Service.

Pastor Margaret Barber of St. Elmo Missionary Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

All women are asked to wear white.

The church is located at 146 Cedar Landing Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, Shelton R. Barnes, and congregation invite the public to attend.

May 7

Women's Day

WINDSOR - Women's Day will be observed at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at St. Francis Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Laticia Hill-Godette, Pastor of York Memorial AME Zion Church in Greenville. Victory Temple Church of Christ will render the music.

The theme is "Sister...Let Me Fix Your Crown." The colors are black and white.

The church is located at 342 St. Francis Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dennis M. Cherry Sr., and congregation invite the public to attend.

Youth Day

WINDSOR - Annual Youth Day Services will be observed at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 7 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

The guest speaker will be 16-year-old recording artist Minister Michael Boone of Kinston.

The Pastor, Kennedy L. Barber, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Women's Day

LEWISTON WOODVILLE - The annual Women's Day Service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 7 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

Evangelist Veronica Brown of Christian Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. will be the guest speaker. She is a native of Jamaica, but moved to New York as a child. She is currently employed with the New York City Police Department as a School Safety Officer.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Anniversary

MERRY HILL - The Deacon, Deaconess and Trustee anniversary will be observed at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at Peter-son Chapel Church.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Taurean Walston of New Oxley Hill. The New Oxley Hill choir and congregation will accompany him.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

May 7-10

Revival Services

WINDSOR - Revival Services will be held May 7-10 at The Potter's House Baptist Church.

Services begin nightly at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Evangelist Phil Terry. Special music will be provided each night.

The Pastor, the Rev. Robert Barmer, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Ongoing

Battleground for Successful

WINTON - Pastor Keith Urquhart will host a Facebook broadcast from 7-7:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

The educational presentation "Battleground for Success" will be for school-aged students, parents and business-minded people.

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPERTY REZONING**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Windsor Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 9:00 AM, in the Town Hall Commissioners' Chambers, 128 South King Street, Windsor, NC. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the rezoning of parcel numbers 6802-32-5307 and 6802-23-8314, located on US 17 Bypass in Windsor, NC. The property is currently zoned RA-20 and the proposed zoning amendment requests that the parcel be classified C-2. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting. For additional information, please contact the Town of Windsor at (252) 794-3121.

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON AMENDMENT OF THE TOWN'S UNIFIED
DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

Notice is hereby given that the Windsor Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the Windsor Municipal Building, 128 S. King Street, Windsor, NC, to receive public comment and discuss amendments to Articles 7 and 8, and Appendix A of the Town's Unified Development Ordinance to add Food Truck provisions. Following the public hearing, the Board of Commissioners will consider adoption of the amendments. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Copies of the amendments are available for public review at the Town Administrator's Office, Windsor Municipal Building, 128 S. King Street, Windsor, NC. The public is encouraged to review the draft amendment.

For additional information, please contact the Town of Windsor at 252/794-3121.

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