



December 2021

Greetings,

Luke 2:8-14 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Matthew 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

Once again, we approach the season when we are invited to give worshipful thought and consideration to what God has done in sending his One and Only Son, Jesus Christ: Immanuel – “God with us”! To God be the Glory for this most undeserved gift and the endless blessings to those who believe:

Because He is with us, **we are never alone!**

Because He is with us, **we have his provisions!**

Because He is with us, **we are protected!**

Because He is with us, **we are secure!**

Because He is with us, **we are loved!**

Because He is with us, **we now can truly love!**

Because He is with us, **we are redeemed!**

Because He is with us, **we are adopted as sons and daughters!**

Because He is with us, **we are completely forgiven!**

Because He is with us, **we can now forgive!**

Because He is with us, **we are saved... eternal!**

Because He is with us, **we are alive in Christ!**

Because He is with us, **we can rest in his divine presence!**

Because He is with us, **everything has changed!**

Thanks be to God for Immanuel! – God is with us!

Psalm 86:5 (NIV) ⁵ You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psalm 145:17-20 (NIV) ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him.

Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV) ¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV) ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

On behalf of my family and the staff here at FBCG, may you have a blessed and Merry Christmas!



Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I hope everyone is ready for Christmas! I know we at Fusion Youth Ministry are super excited for our Fusion Youth Christmas Party coming up on Dec 19th! We will have a White Elephant gift exchange, food, and games for the 6th-12th grade students. Feel free to wear your most festive Christmas apparel and you just might win a prize! We have Fusion bowling night and a Fusion prayer retreat coming up in January so please make sure you sign up for those events too! We love you all and are so blessed to be able to be involved in your lives! Have a very blessed and merry Christmas!

Christ is born! What a time to rejoice! As you will read below, believers never have a reason to lose all hope, because the hope of Jesus quite literally lives inside our hearts! If you are feeling hopeless this season, or are struggling to find joy, read the story of Abraham below and take hope in the fact that Jesus came just as the Bible said He would. He died just as the Bible said He would, and He also rose from the dead and is seated at the Father's right hand JUST as the Bible said He would. He loves you and died for you to remove your sins and my sins so we can spend forever with Him in the most perfect, untarnished, glorious place where God himself dwells forever and ever, amen!

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.

Romans 4:18-20 NLT

The Power of Hope

In our ministry, we want to help more people every year, and we believe God wants us to grow. But we also realize that if God has a different plan, and if we end our year with no growth, we cannot let that situation control our joy.

We believe for many things, but beyond them all, we believe in Someone. That Someone is Jesus. We don’t always know what is going to happen. We just know it will always work out for our good!

It is reported that Abraham, after sizing up his situation (he didn’t ignore the facts), considered the utter impotence of his own body and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. Although all human reason for hope was gone, he hoped in faith. Abraham was very positive about a very negative situation!

Hebrews 6:19 tells us that hope is the anchor of the soul. Hope is the force that keeps us steady in a time of trial. Don’t ever stop hoping. Don’t be afraid to hope. No one can promise that you’ll never be disappointed. But you can always have hope and be positive.

Have hopeful expectation every day of your life.

For information about Fusion events please find us on Facebook at Fusion Youth Ministry, email us at fusionfbcg@gmail.com, or you can call or text Faith or myself.

God Bless, Pastor Matt & Faith :)



WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16

Pray before, during and after our Sunday services!

BE A *Prayer* WARRIOR

Luke 21:36

Join the FBC Prayer Intercessors. Pray for our leaders, our service and our church body. See Kathy or Arla McBeth to be placed on the 2021-22 calendar. This is a vital ministry and you do not need to be present to pray.



CHECK IT OUT!!!



6-7:30 PM
DINNER @ 5:00-5:50

Private Music Lessons



Jim Sitter gives private music lessons either by video or in person. If you are interested in taking lessons for guitar, bass, mandolin, ukulele, piano and of course drums,...please give Jim a call @ 541-499-7330

Staff

CHRISTMAS GIFT



🎄 During the month of December, the Staff Relations Board will be collecting monetary gifts for our staff. Cash donations may be given to JR Crushong, Van Weber, Marty Tuckey, or Laura Meals. **If you prefer to write a check, due to IRS regulations, the "pay to the order of" must name the FBCG person to whom the gift is being given.**

So sorry, but checks may not be written to First Baptist Church. 🎄



20th Anniversary Celebration

Join us on Sunday, January 23rd following the second service in Lewis Hall for a potluck luncheon to honor Pastor Carl on his 20th anniversary at FBCG.




Come out for an afternoon of fun on Saturday, December 4th from 11am-1pm. Archery and Fire Building are on the agenda! Bring a lunch and meet under the FBC Pavilion.

End of Year Giving

If you're planning an end of the year gift, that's GREAT! It would be so helpful if you had it in by [Sunday, Dec. 26 for Monday's deposit](#). A gift made later that week will probably not clear in 2021, which means giving records won't match bank records for the year. Thank you so much for your help in this. Please note the shorter hours for [Dec 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st](#).





**A CHILD
HAS BEEN
BORN FOR US,
A SON IS GIVEN
TO US;
AUTHORITY RESTS
UPON HIM
HE IS NAMED
JESUS**

December 23rd - close @ 12:30

December 30th - close @12:30

December 24th - CLOSED

December 31st - CLOSED



**CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED**



Be a part of our new church directory. We have contracted with **Universal Church Directories** for a new color pictorial directory. We want as many families as possible to be included. Pictures will be taken on Dec 6 (Monday), Dec 7 (Tuesday), and Dec 8 (Wednesday). Sign up online: Go to www.ucdir.com, click on 'Photography appointment scheduling login', enter the church code: 'pa912' and enter the church password: 'photos'. Follow the remaining prompts.

Don't forget
to order your beautiful
Christmas Poinsettia
from **Musselman's Nursery**.
Order forms will be in the bulletin soon!
Last day to order: Dec 6



elder's corner

I (Mark Punchard) have been asked by the Elder Board to write this month on how I am dealing with Linda's passing away in July of this year. Please understand that what I am about to share is working for me, but for someone else who has lost a spouse, it may be totally different experiences that help them. The following is what has helped and is helping me.

Linda passed away on a Saturday. The next day Steph and I were in church as usual. I even taught Bible Fellowship Class (or those people who are my age – Sunday School). Why did Steph and I come the very next day? Because we needed our church family. Everybody loved on us. That brought us a such comfort along with all the kind sympathy cards we received. Most of those cards had notes written in them which made them special to us and told us how much people cared.

I received around 350 Gideon Bibles donated in memory of Linda. That is enough Bibles to reach over 800,000 people in the Bible's 6 year lifespan and how many salvations come from those Bibles.

I have really appreciated people asking how I am doing, especially the W-2 group we have in church. Although I like all the women and men in the group, that was one group I wasn't planning on joining anytime soon. It is odd how you can wake up in the morning knowing you have been married for 48 years and before the day is over, become a member of the W-2 group. So much for hitting our golden wedding anniversary.

Most of my strength comes from being in the Word all of these years. There were some things I definitely learned from studying Scripture. Like knowing that God is sovereign. He has a plan for each of our lives. Being human, we don't always see the big picture that God sees. I have learned to trust His leading as He brings people and different events / experiences to us.

The Scriptures tell us He is the God of all comfort. Over the years, I have prayed for the families of friends of mine or customers that had passed away, that God would give them His peace that passes all understanding. Now our family needs His peace.

At the pharmacy I would encourage the families to not set a time limit on grieving. Everyone grieves at their own pace. Now I get to practice what I preached for so many years.

Speaking of grieving, for years Linda and I drove by the cemetery where her 18 year old brother was buried in 1975 and where her mom and dad are buried and never visited. I don't usually visit my parent's graves either, and I have been to Linda's grave maybe twice since she passed away. Why am I like that? I feel that since nobody is home why go there? They are with Jesus, as the Apostle Paul said, to live is Christ but to die is gain. Yet, my grandchildren who live barely a mile away go there several times a month. It gives them great peace and comfort. So we all grieve in different ways.

What has been hard for me is the last picture Linda and I had together on Father's Day this year. Steph had given us a framed Civil War cross stitch on that day. She took a picture on the front porch of us posing with it. You can see how much Linda was wasting away in that photo. It is hard to realize we celebrated our 48th anniversary on June 23rd and on July 23rd we held her funeral. I think I got a glimpse of what Job experienced although his suffering was much greater.

I know from studying Scripture that we should do all things for God's honor and glory. So, as we planned her funeral service with Pastor Carl, we wanted the message of salvation to be proclaimed loud and clear. In the funeral bulletin we included a testimony and the words to a gospel song by John Peterson called, "Make Me a Winner of Souls", along with 4 gospel hymns that glorified our Lord. Of course Pastor Carl gave a salvation message and closed with an invitation to receive Jesus.

Keeping busy for me has been a blessing. There is always much joy received in serving others and telling people about Jesus. I help with our church's relief team. In the last 6 months, we have put roofs on 3 sheds, remodeled a kitchen, and got a house ready for selling. That included moving furniture, packing things up, and cleaning the house. I also help with AWANA, the Elder Board, attend 2 Bible studies on Thursday, have Gideon prayer breakfast every Saturday and study throughout the week for the Bible Fellowship class I teach on Sunday. I have been more active with the Gideons in the last 4 months. I spoke for them at Huntsdale Church of the Brethren in Carlisle. I also shared in our own church, and this month I will share at Genesis Church in York-New Salem. I also helped with Bible distributions in Pittsburgh, Carlisle, Gettysburg and Biglerville.

My son has been good to me, having me over to his house about once a week for a home cooked meal. I take some of my grandchildren out for lunch or dinner to not only bond with them, but to help build into them.

Steph zooms with me twice a week and texts me a lot during the Penn State Football games. She is always there if I need a woman's opinion. She is more than glad to help her old dad.

As I write this I am also helping as a driver for Gettysburg CARES. I also try to make sure I am out with people several times a week.

Being a widower has also given me another platform for witnessing. People are more inclined to listen to you when you say, "yeah, I am walking this path and this is what is helping me". This past Sunday I spoke with a lady after Sunday School where I had spoken for the Gideons. She shared she had lost her husband last year to dementia, but she was trusting God's promise that we will see our spouses some day in heaven where we will spend eternity. I affirmed her and said that is what helps to keep me going. God's promise to believers is that there are better days ahead.

I will close with the message of salvation we included in the funeral bulletin and funeral home pamphlet.

Linda came to Christ at the age of 16 during a revival service in a tent in a corn field on the edge of her small town. Since that time, until her going home to be with the Lord at the age of 72, she used the opportunities God gave her to tell people about Jesus. Here is what she knew:

1. God loved her – John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. We are all sinners – Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

3. God has a remedy for sin – Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

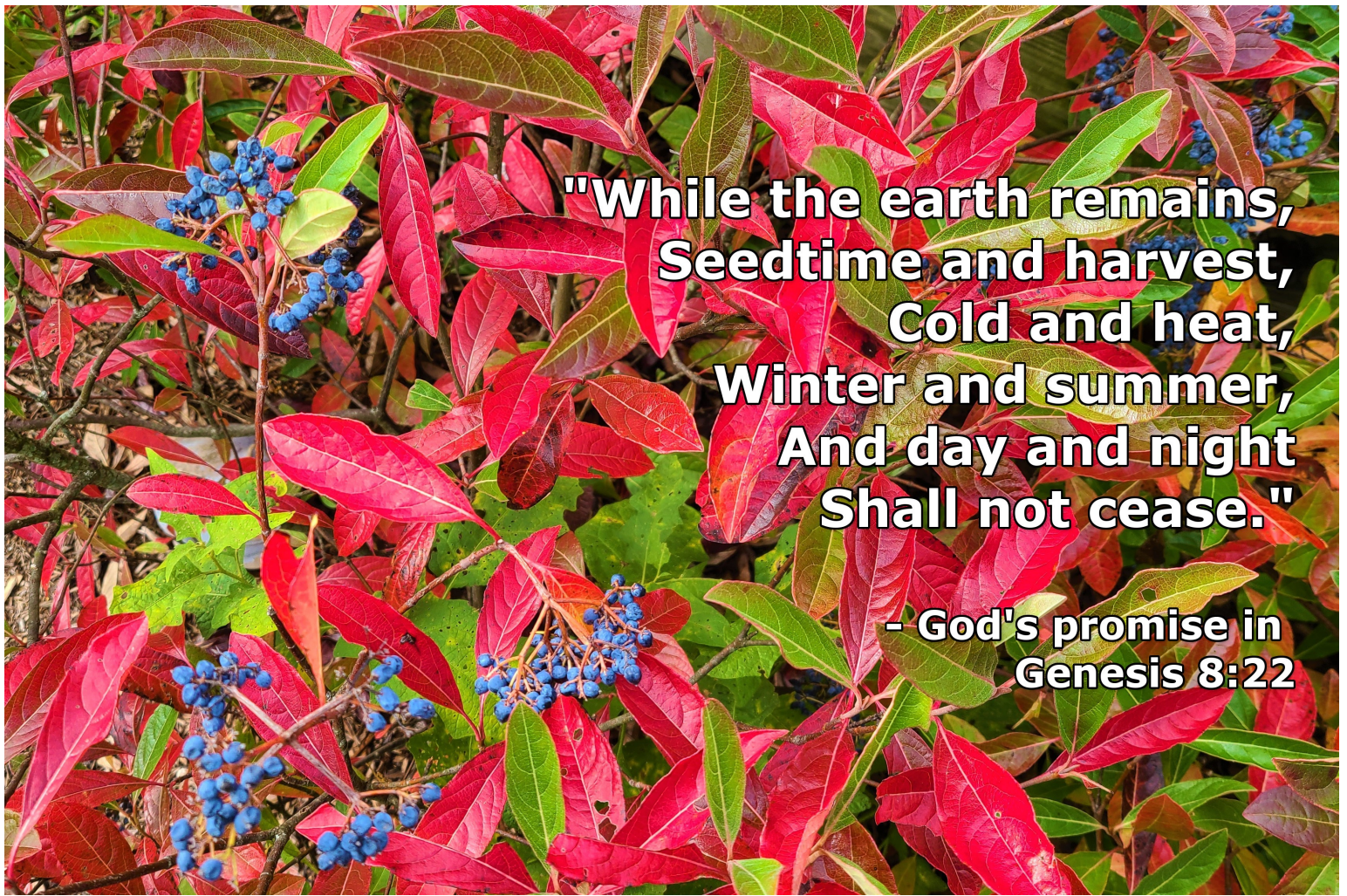
4. The only way to be assured of heaven is by believing in Jesus – John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

5. You can be assured of spending eternity in heaven by asking Jesus into your heart – Romans 10:13 – Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

May this article be a blessing to whoever reads it.

Keep Looking Up!!!

Mark Punchard Sr. for the Elder Board



**"While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease."**

**- God's promise in
Genesis 8:22**

For unto us
a  child
is born,
To us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6

Join a Life Group or Bible Fellowship Class today!

SUNDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CLASSES

GALATIANS (Pileggi) 9:00am Lewis Hall

DANIEL (Punchard) 10:30am Lewis Hall

SOUL DETOX/FIGHT (Blair) 9:00am Kitchen

MIDDLE/HIGHSCHOOL CLASS 9:00am Youth Room

KID'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP (ages 4-5th grade) 10:30am Lewis Hall

LIFE GROUPS

TUESDAY

GOSPEL OF LUKE (J. Harris) ZOOM 6:30-7:45pm

2nd/4th Tuesday - Ladies Only!

THURSDAY

GOSPEL OF JOHN (P. Carl) @ FBC 5:30am Men Only!

GOSPEL OF LUKE (P. Carl) @ FBC 9:30am All Welcome!

GENTLE AND LOWLY (P. Carl) ZOOM 7:00-8:00pm

1st/3rd Thursday -

HARMONIZING THE GOSPEL (Weber home) 6:30pm

DEEPER STILL (Gallimore) @ FBC 1:00pm Every other week

↪ THE CHOSEN (Gallimore home) 6:15pm light meal served
cancelled until further notice

FRIDAY

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (Pastor Sean's home) 7:30pm Men Only!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH, 7PM

Bring bells to ring!



W2 Group

This group of Widows and Widowers meet on the last Sunday of each month after 2nd service to support and love each other. All are welcome!

There will be no meeting in December

Jan meeting will be a question and answer time with Dr. McBeth

Can You Guess The Hymn?

**Hail the heaven-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and Life
to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth**



15 Questions



Things on Wheels

1. What prophet's exit is associated with chariots of fire?
2. Who sent back the ark of the covenant on a cart pulled by two cows?
3. What king had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses?
4. What foreign official was in his chariot when Phillip came to him?
5. Who had a vision of four chariots driven by angels?
6. What King burned the idolatrous chariots of the sun?
7. Who took off in his chariot when his tax collector was stoned by the people?
8. Who got to ride in Pharaoh's second chariot?
9. What tribe was given six covered wagons in which to haul the tabernacle and its furnishings?
10. What mighty nation had its chariots ruined in the red sea?
11. What king rode into battle in a chariot but was fatally wounded by an Assyrian arrow?
12. Who sent wagons to Canaan to carry his father and his in-laws to Egypt?
13. What Syrian leper rode up to Elijah's house in a chariot?
14. What king of Israel was noted as a fast and furious chariot driver?
15. What king, fatally wounded while fighting the Egyptians, was brought back to Jerusalem in a chariot?



Mark Punchard - 1
 Michelle Zink - 5
 Ethan Holsopple - 6
 Maribeth Double - 8
 William McGlaughlin - 9
 Brian Happel - 12

Addison Gipe - 14
 Stephanie Punchard - 14
 Barry Ruhlman - 19
 Lori Miley - 19
 Adrienne Fitzgerald - 21
 Ann Caulum - 23
 Stacey Cooper - 28

HAPPY December ANNIVERSARY



Phil and Stephanie Gigous - 21
 Luther and Sally Guise- 21
 Josh and Jess Blair- 22
 Scott and Roxie Breighner - 27

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor

Rev. Carl G. Harris
pastorcarl@fbcgettysburg.net **717-253-3968**

Associate Pastor

Sean Fitzgerald
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Youth Pastor

Pastor Matt Rice
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Traditional Worship Leader

Whitney Myers
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Contemporary Worship Leader

Jim Sitter
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jimsitter00001@gmail.com

Secretary

Kathy Negro
kathy_negro@fbcgettysburg.net

SonShine Christian Preschool

director: Natalie Potter
sonshine@fbcgettysburg.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Fridays 8:30 -12:30

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CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

www.fbcgettysburg.net

Answers for November

1. What hyperactive person broke all the chains that had been used to bind him? **THE GADARENE DEMONIAK (MARK 5:3-4)**
2. Who dropped a scarlet cord from her window to aid the Israelite spies? **RAHAB THE HARLOT (JOSHUA 2:15-19)**
3. Who made chains strung with pomegranates to decorate the temple? **SOLOMON (2 CHRONICLES 3:16)**
4. Who put a chain of gold around Daniel's neck? **BELSHAZZAR (DANIEL 5:29)**
5. What people had chains of gold around their camels' necks? **MIDIANITES (JUDGES 8:26)**
6. What apostle had his chains removed by an angel? **PETER (ACTS 12: 6-7)**
7. Who bound King Zedekiah in chains and blinded him? **NEBUCHADNEZZAR (JEREMIAH 39:7)**
8. Who gave birth to twins, one of which had a scarlet thread tied around it by the midwives? **TAMAR (GENESIS 38:28)**
9. Who put a golden chain around Joseph's neck? **PHARAOH (GENESIS 41:42)**
10. What judge was bound up in cords by the Philistines? **SAMSON (JUDGES 16: 6-9)**
11. What prophet was bound up in chains, along with the others who were carried away as captives? **JEREMIAH (40:1)**
12. What figure in the New Testament is bound up for a thousand years by a chain? **SATAN (REVELATION 20:1-2)**
13. Who arrived in Rome bound by a chain? **PAUL (ACTS 28:20)**
14. Who wore an ephod with gold chains on it? **AARON (EXODUS 28:20)**
15. What apostle was on a ship where the ropes holding the lifeboat were deliberately cut? **PAUL (ACTS 27:30-32)**