



TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 13 Issue 32

August 19, 2018

THE BIG RECEPTION

“And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?’ And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance,” Luke 5:29-32. Jesus saw someone hated and despised sitting at the tax booth, engaging in an activity that would have made all those around him so furious they could spit just thinking about it. Here was a fellow Jew, working for the Romans as the heathen force of power would exert their dominance in the Israelites faces with heavy

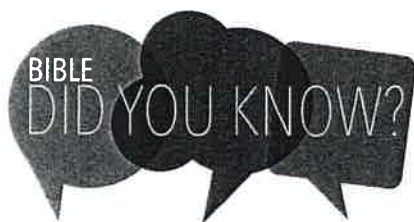
taxation. It was a steady reminder of their shame, as God had brought them under the thumb of a wicked and Godless nation as a result of their own faithlessness, and here was one of their own helping idolatrous Rome collect their taxes. Shockingly and unexpectedly, Jesus calls him to follow the Christ, and Levi leaves everything to be in the presence and service of the Messiah. “After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ And he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him.” Luke 5:27-28. You can get a glimpse into the level of gratitude and newly found hope Levi is filled with in the very next verse. We find Levi has thrown a huge party to showcase His new merciful and gracious friend and teacher and

filled the house with as many sinners and despised outcasts as he could to experience the same change he has just had in his life. It is this unlikely grouping of dinner guests, the Holy Sinless Son of God and his band of devoted followers eating with the most despised and rejected sinners in town, that paints a vivid picture of a great outreach effort we can also imitate in our work as fishers for men. Jesus is more than happy to be in the presence of these lost souls and share a meal with them, as He is convinced it has the potential to bring much needed healing and medicine for the soul of a sick sinner to bring them to repentance. “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?” Romans 2:4. It is a gentle, kind extension of grace, inviting someone lost in sin, in need of the gospel, to share a meal with us. We who know and follow Jesus can introduce that kind Savior into their lives by this simple act of generous hospitality. Jesus trains us to be ready and willing to extend it, as He knows it is a powerful first step in softening the hearts of the rebellious. “And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him,

‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous,” Luke 14:12-14. “He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor,” Proverbs 22:9. “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed,” Proverbs 19:17. This would end up being a popular method of showcasing the gracious mercy and compassion of Christ in the comfortable setting of a meal at home shared with others. “Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume...Then He said to her, ‘Your sins have been forgiven.’ Those who were reclining at the table with Him

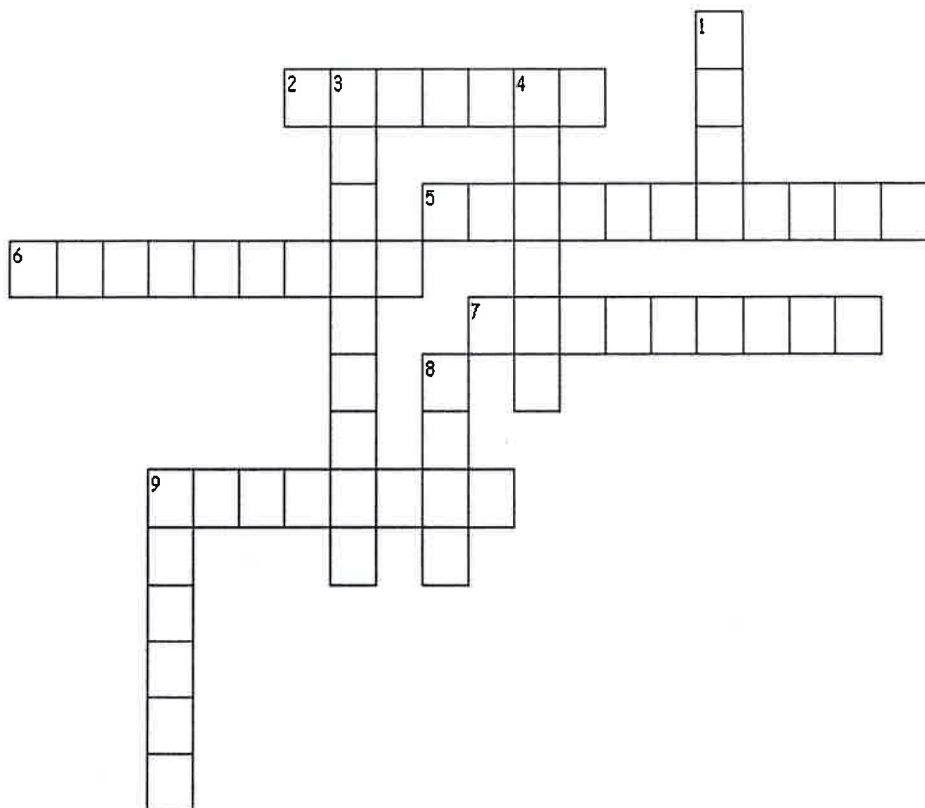
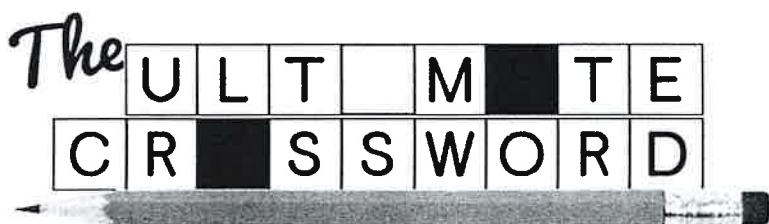
began to say to themselves, 'Who is this man who even forgives sins?' And He said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'" Luke 7:36-37, 48-50. "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word," Luke 10:38-39. "When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.' And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly...And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'" Luke 19:5-6, 9-10. "...and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing...And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of

yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found,'" Luke 15:23-25, 31-32. As we seek to bring the lost to Jesus, let our homes be filled with the joyful sounds of hospitality extended to sinners in need of compassion and grace, sharing meals with them as we bring them to Jesus. May our homes be continually filled with the festive sounds of rejoicing and celebration in meals together at the thanksgiving of lost souls brought to salvation through the gospel. — Daniel Ruegg



Paul couldn't remember the names of everyone he baptized. "I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other."

1 Cor. 1:14-16



ACROSS

2. To repent, soldiers were told to be _____ with their wages. (Lk. 3:14)
5. Many thought Jesus spoke _____ when He said He could forgive. (Lk. 5:21)
6. Levi gave a big _____ for Jesus to meet many sinners. (Lk. 5:29)
7. Jesus came to proclaim the _____ year of the LORD. (Lk. 4:19-21)
9. John the Baptist preached when _____ was tetrarch of Abilene. (Lk. 3:1-2)

DOWN

1. Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is thrown in this. (Lk. 3:9)
3. After tempting Jesus, the devil left until this time. (Lk. 4:13)
4. The only leper Elisha ever cleansed. (Lk. 4:27)
8. Jesus would often slip into the wilderness to do this. (Lk. 5:16)
9. Jesus asked if it were _____ to do good on the Sabbath. (Lk. 6:9)