**Devotional**

Read Genesis 3:1-6

Is it wrong to want to be like God? The serpent told Eve that if she ate the fruit which God told her not to eat, she would not die but would be like Him knowing good and evil. This, of course, appealed to Eve. Who wouldn’t like to be our heavenly Father? When she looked at the fruit on the tree, she didn’t see something that would harm her. She saw something that was good for food, pleasant to look at and would make her wise. She didn’t stop to think that she was disobeying the Word of God. She didn’t know that she was deceived. She took the fruit and ate it and gave some to Adam.

“‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding’” (Job 28:28).

Fear or reverence for God is what prevents us from setting aside His commands to follow our own desires. By not listening to the serpent and giving into temptation, Eve would have shown great wisdom. Wisdom is not about knowing everything; in this case, it is knowing good and evil. Wisdom is hearing the Word of God and obeying it. Wisdom is not letting ourselves be influenced by others or our feelings. Be wise. Don’t let anyone talk you into doing something that is contrary to the Word of God, no matter how reasonable it sounds. Whatever you need from God, ask Him for it and if it is His will, He will give it to you. Solomon asked for wisdom to govern His people. That pleased God and He blessed him with more wisdom than he could ever have dreamed of.

**In the Spotlight**

Imagine getting burned at the stake for kindness. Well, this was what happened to Elizabeth Gaunt. Those who looked upon the old woman knew her as a kind Christian who helped the poor and exiles. However, this was at a time in England and all over the world when those who held independent religious views were met with cruel deaths.
Two years earlier, several members of the Whig party plotted to assassinate King Charles II as he passed by the Rye House. Although the plot was later abandoned, the government found out about it from a person or persons who betrayed them. One of the men, James Burton, begged Elizabeth to hide him from his pursuers for his family’s sake. Believing that this was what God wanted her to do, Elizabeth helped him to escape, giving him her savings.

When the government issued a proclamation granting immunity to anyone who gave evidence against those involved in the plot, James Burton saw an opportunity to save himself. He offered to testify against Elizabeth, the woman who had saved his life in exchange for immunity. The government agreed and Burton “received a pardon as a recompense for his treachery and she was burnt alive for her charity,” wrote philosopher David Hume.

Elizabeth died on October 23, 1685 because of her act of kindness. She was the last woman to be burned alive in England for treason.

Source: Christianity.com

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**Bible Study**

The Bible is still the number one bestseller today. It has been translated in many languages and is available in several versions. There was a time when the common people could not read the Bible. In fact, the Scriptures were in Latin and anyone caught reading them in any other language were threatened with death. Thankfully, this changed when men like Wycliffe, Luther, Tyndale and others decided to translate the Word of God in the different languages so that everyone could read it.

How do we know that it is God’s plan for everyone to understand His Word? Read Acts 2:5-12; John 16:13; John 14:26

How does reading the Bible benefit us? Read 2 Timothy 3:15; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

How do we should study the Word of God? Read 2 Timothy 2:15; Isaiah 28:9, 10

Why is it important that we read the Bible instead of relying on the teachings of men? Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17; Luke 24:27, 32; Matthew 15:9