

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-8

*The only creatures that are evolved enough to convey pure love
are dogs and infants. —Johnny Depp*

In a recent piece on CBS Sunday Morning, humorist Dave Barry bemoaned the contents of his mailbox. Whereas he used to receive advertisements for cruises and sporting equipment, now he receives invitations to join AARP or enroll in long-term health insurance programs. He's afraid to pick up his mail.

This reluctance has spilled over into other areas of his life. He discovered he was taking his dog for a walk because he had to, not because he wanted to. This observation caused him to think about his dog. "My dog is 10 years old; so in dog years, we are the same age." Barry noted that when he took the dog's leash off the hook, the dog leaped around with enthusiasm. On the walk, the excited canine stopped every few feet to sniff something, tail a-wagging like crazy.

Barry, on the other hand, never stopped to smell a rose or notice his surroundings.

"I need to be more like my dog," Barry concluded.

Maybe we all need to be more like dogs!

The simple joy of walking outside is something I take for granted, and I shouldn't. Every person I see is an opportunity for a fresh experience of discovery — a chance to offer friendship and kindness.

Jesus said that he came to give us life abundantly (John 10:10). Of course, he meant spiritual life. But I think he meant more than that too! I believe he meant that anyone who followed him would experience life as it was meant to be lived. We would see God's creation, we would touch the face of God when we admired the petals of a rose, we would be swept into the presence of God on the melody of a symphony and we would offer prayers and thanksgiving as we made the bed, ate our daily bread or comforted a friend.

This is living!

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: Wake me up, O God. Stir in me a sense of gratitude for what I can do and give me the enthusiasm to do it. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

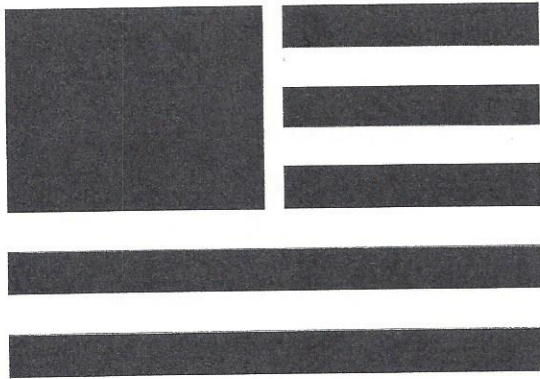
- Sunday:** John 14-17
- Monday:** Hosea 11-14
- Tuesday:** 2 Kings 18-19
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 1-3
- Thursday:** Isaiah 4-6
- Friday:** Isaiah 7-9
- Saturday:** Psalms 64-66

VERSE TO REMEMBER

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. ... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” –John 14:1, 3

TODAY IS FLAG DAY, 2020

Can you correctly answer these “true or false” questions?



1. Most of the flags currently sold at U.S. retailers are not the official size and specifications set forth by the congress of the United States.
2. The American flag has always had 13 stripes.
3. Old Glory is a nickname for the American Flag.
4. The original star spangled banner immortalized by Francis Scott Key once flew over Fort Benning, Georgia?
5. No one knows what became of the original stars and stripes that inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star Spangled Banner.”
6. The flag may be flown every day and in any weather condition.
7. The designer of the current 50-star flag was a high school student.
8. It is illegal to burn the American flag.
9. The flag is usually flown from sunrise to sunset.
10. When the president is not in Washington, D.C., the flag does not fly outside The White House.

ANSWERS: 1. True. The official dimensions feature a 1:1.9 height to width ratio. Most flags sold to the public are in sizes that do not conform to this ratio, such as 2’x3’ 3’x5’ and 4’x6’. 2. False. At one time (from 1795 to 1818), the American flag had 15 stripes. 3. True. Other nicknames are The Star Spangled Banner and The Stars and Stripes. 4. False. It flew over Fort McHenry. 5. False, you can see it today at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. 6. True, as long as it is made of all-weather material. 7. True, the current 50-star design was created by Robert G. Heft, who was a 17-year-old high school student when he designed it. 8. False. Burning the flag in a dignified manner is the preferred method for retiring it. 9. True. 10. True. STATE FLAGS: AL, CO, NY, TX.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE STATE FLAGS? Answers above.

