

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

*What we spend, we lose. What we keep will be left for others.
What we give away will be ours forever. —David McGee*

The featured article in the November 2021 issue of *National Geographic* is about “100 Wonders of the World.” A fold-out section reveals a 12-column chart describing the discovery of artifacts from every corner of the globe. These amazing treasures might be thousands of years old, or more recent, such as the discovery of the 15th-century royal retreat of Machu Picchu high in the Andean Mountains — hidden from the world until 1911.

Some of the treasures of the world have been uncovered by shepherds, explorers, villagers or farmers. Often, such discoveries are completely accidental — the Dead Sea Scrolls, for example. The size of these wonders also varies considerably, ranging from the colossal Pyramids of Giza in Egypt or the enormous city of Angkor Wat in present-day Cambodia (800-1400s) to smaller monoliths, obelisks and columns and even ceramic bowls or obsidian tablets.

When I read this article, I began to think about the things that we treasure. These might be items which have no intrinsic value, but have considerable “sentimental” value. We value some objects because of the memories they evoke. I treasure things the children made, my grandfather’s gold watch, old photo albums, and so on.

What memories and treasures bring joy to you? Is it a painting or a string of pearls? Perhaps it’s a bust of a famous composer or writer. Do you have a shelf of knickknacks or souvenirs? Perhaps you have an entire room or wall devoted to such memories.

This is good. It helps us count our blessings; to remember that the Lord has been good to us. This is not living in the past; it is enjoying the past in the present!

The Bible cautions us, however, against putting too much confidence in *earthly* treasures, especially if we ignore our heavenly or spiritual holdings: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but store up ... treasures in heaven ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). We want to be sure we are not like “those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God” (Luke 12:21).

To be rich toward God is to abide in God’s word and in God alone. This is true treasure — one that will never disappoint.

Prayer: O God, thank you for the innumerable blessings in my life and for the constant reminders of your daily presence. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings**Sunday:** Acts 3-5**Monday:** Isaiah 40-42**Tuesday:** Isaiah 43-45**Wednesday:** Isaiah 46-48**Thursday:** Isaiah 49-51**Friday:** Isaiah 52-54**Saturday:** Psalms 73-75**Verse to Remember**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned ... for I am the LORD, your God. —Isaiah 43:2-3a

BRAIN STUMPERS

DIRECTIONS: We get requests from time to time for harder puzzles. Your prayers have been answered. Here are a couple of stumpers for which some basic knowledge of mathematics is required. In each puzzle, you are given a number that you must construct out of several other numbers. You do this by taking the numbers and performing **addition, subtraction, multiplication, and/or division** operations on them. Each number must be used in the calculations **exactly once**, and **only the four operations** listed may be used. You may parenthesize your expression however you wish. For example, 5 may be obtained from 1, 2 and 3, with the expression $(3 + 2) \times 1$.

PROBLEM ONE: Make 12 out of 1, 4, 7 and 7.

PROBLEM TWO: Make 32 out of 4, 7, 7 and 9.

(Solutions below)

WORD MAZE: In the Isaiah readings above, we find Isaiah 53:6: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Now, to reinforce this message, find the same verse in the maze below by following the words forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters in the maze will be used, and some words may be split. Start at the A in "All" and end at the period. *You do not need to lift your pencil off the page.*

Allwelikesbelieveraywecommandsofdtherigtheousnessofs
gospeltooshrevealstarthtestimonysnisLORDartheiniquity
rightasisepraisedswilafotownwayapodsahutmcornersffo
heavenoureisagoneadogvsickruootangerlaidoireasonssus
returncanhavetrustededeallturnedresponsesnhtruths.lla

Solution: Problem One: $((7 \times 7) - 1) \div 4$; Problem Two: $4 \times (9 - (7 \div 7))$