

Religion

To die to self is to become unselfish

The Bible is a precious book. The Old Testament, written before Jesus was born, is a foreshadow of the New Testament and all that Jesus taught.

An example of this foreshadowing is the law of "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (1). For every crime committed, the law of retribution had to be enforced on the criminal. Although Jesus seemingly reversed this law by teaching to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (2), the Old Testament law of eye for eye and tooth for tooth holds a great lesson for us!

Under the Old Testament law, it was life for life, death for death. Under the New Testament, or New Covenant, is it not the same? Because Jesus died for us, we must die for Him. Such a death is death to selfish ambitions and

motives, not necessarily the death of a martyr. It is still life for life - Jesus' life for our eternal life. It is also death for death - our death to self for His death for us!

As in the Old Covenant, or Testament, sin still has a price-tag. Jesus died for our sin, but the price we must pay is to die to sinful self-exaltation and love of the world. It is an extremely painful death!

When a Pharisee, an expert in the Jewish law, asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest, Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it, Love your neighbour as yourself, all the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments" (3). Our neighbour might be our enemy, yet we

Hope for Tomorrow



must love him as ourself. We must unselfishly love him; we must die to self.

Dying to self has often been misunderstood to mean the loss of all self-respect and self-worth. Quite the contrary is true. When we follow Christ's Spirit rather than the spirit of the world, we become "kings and priests unto God" (4). We are important because God loves us. Our sense of worth does not depend upon the opinions of others, but upon God's declaration of love. "We are not trying to please men, but God" (5).

To truly die to things of this world means that spiritual growth becomes more important than having the latest car model or owning the largest house. It means that the life in Christ takes precedence over all earthly pleasure. It means that the life in Christ takes precedence over all earthly pleasure. It means we will want to feed the hungry overseas rather than lavish it on our new wardrobe. It will mean the money we would spend on ourselves will be given to those who are proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. It will mean we will take time to visit the sick and dying, those in jail, and others who have physical,

emotional, or spiritual needs.

If we love our Lord, we will be happy to give both our time and our money to His work. We will love others as well as ourselves. We will even love our enemies!

There are many who call themselves Christian who are unwilling to give ALL to Him. They want all the Christian fringe-benefits but, in addition, they want to pursue worldly ways. It can't be

done!

Either we belong to Jesus, or we don't belong to Jesus. There is no fence-sitting. We belong, not on the fence, but on Jesus' cross. Our life belongs to Him who gave His life for us!

KJV - Ex 21:23-24; Mt 5:44; 23:37-40; REv 1:6 NIV - I Thess 2:4

(Doreen Palmer is a freelance writer and member of Halton Hills Outreach Faith Ministry.)

Apples of Gold

By PENNY WILLIAMS

Thought for the day: "Things are not always as they seem"

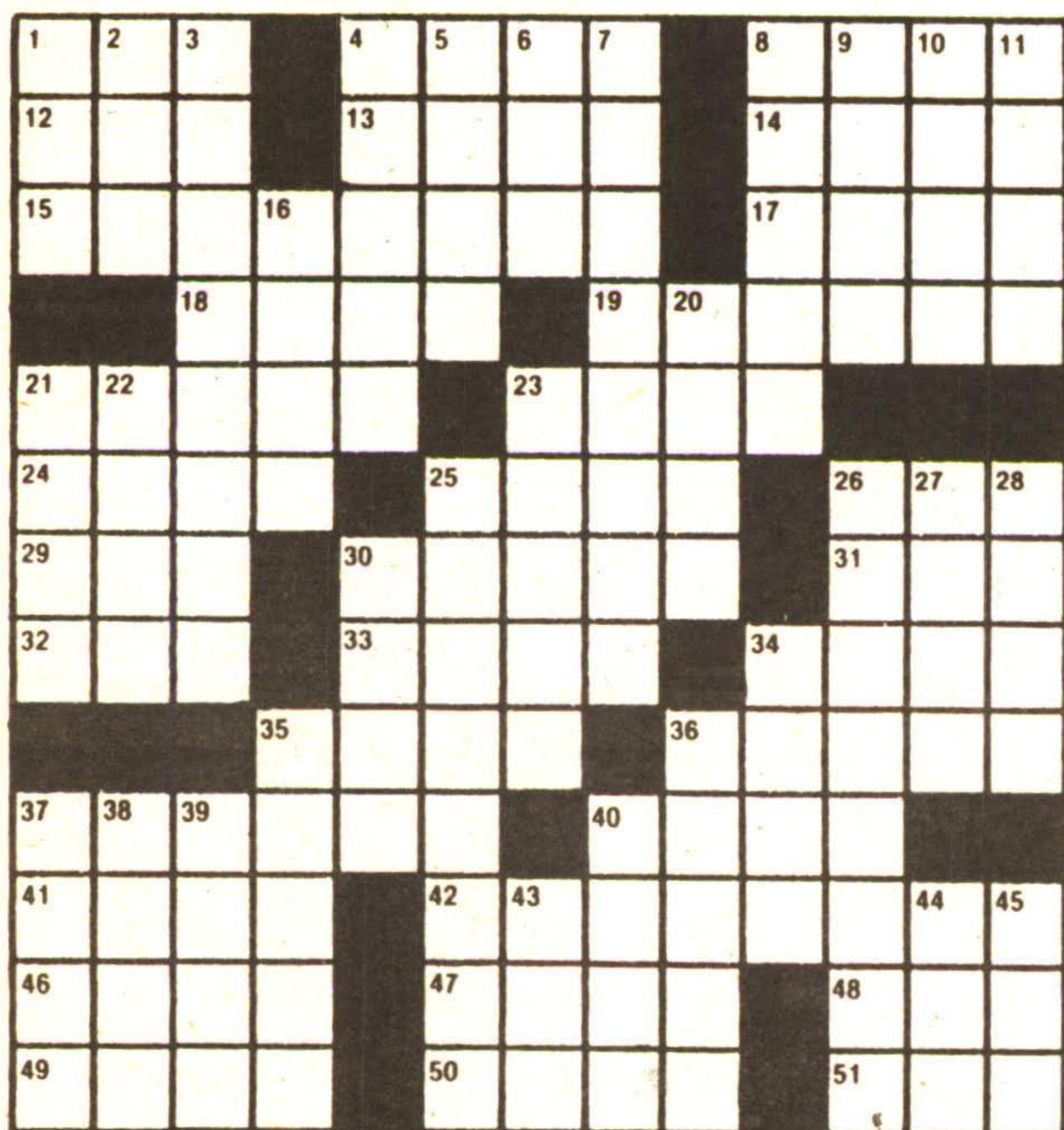
That's so true, especially when you buy a car that turns out to be a lemon. The house falls apart, and that wonderful person you married isn't like your courting days, your friend isn't really your friend at all, and the cheesecake you bought wasn't that great. You hope you will see your pets in heaven, but not quite sure about it. That big deal you had cooking seemed so right... but turned out all wrong. And of course, you've heard disdainful remarks about another only by a glance.

I know of a story about a preacher, who was preaching about women wearing short hair and the evilness about it. As he was preaching he was looking intently at a young woman sitting in the front pew, who had very short hair. He carried on and on and finally pointed her out as an example. How do you suppose he felt when he found out she had had brain surgery?

Things are not always as they seem.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end there of are the ways of death" Prov. 14:12.

There will always be disappointments as we find things are not as they seemed. But if we can lend a kindness instead of judgement, it will not only go better but be written down better the day we face our Lord.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Some
 - 4 Pickled bread
 - 8 Hit
 - 12 Two three
 - 13 Metals
 - 14 Hopping stick
 - 15 DC team
 - 17 Brawl
 - 18 Acts
 - 19 J.R. and Bobby
 - 21 Monk
 - 23 La forecast
 - 24 Skating place
 - 25 Tramp
 - 26 Lanka
 - 29 School sub
 - 30 Labors
 - 31 Sawyer
 - 32 Auner and Sullivan
 - 33 Part
 - 34 Envelop
 - 35 Circulate
 - 36 Necklace
 - 37 Deli meat
 - 40 Ireland
 - 41 Gen Bradley
- DOWN**
- 1 Pro
 - 2 Comp Pt
 - 3 June events
 - 4 The Outcasts of Flat
 - 5 Bulb plant
 - 6 Little Indians
 - 7 Congregate
 - 8 Plant shoot
 - 9 Meat cut
 - 10 Eager
 - 11 Plant containers
 - 16 Drench
 - 20 Courts
 - 21 No charge
 - 22 Fruit skin
 - 23 Diries
 - 24 Indiana natives
 - 26 Odder
 - 27 The to Rio
 - 28 Sprites
 - 30 British streetcar
 - 34 Dam
 - 35 Pieces
 - 36 Spoiled children
 - 37 Alone
 - 38 Among
 - 39 Path
 - 40 Besides
 - 43 Born
 - 44 A Gabor
 - 45 Lar

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