

## CROSSWORDS

I have a curious fascination with crossword puzzles. From the first time I saw one a network of words within a square or rectangle, it has been able to hold my interest. I used to be a worker of crosswords but for one reason or another I don't do it much anymore.

Crosswords are so interesting because of the way they are put together. They are a perfect package of words, made up of letters, perfectly intertwined to make sense both vertically and horizontally. Not only do the puzzles themselves hold my curiosity, but also do those who write them and those who solve them.

It must be a fellow who is next to genius, who has the *Webster's Intercollegiate, Dictionary* memorized, and has a computer—like brain that is able to challenge other minds with the perpendicular construction of words. Those who solve the puzzles must, have the same type of brain wavelength, understand 2- and 3-word clues, and know how to spell! I have an uncle who is great at working crosswords. The Sunday morning edition is always the most challenging but he manages breakfast, coffee, getting dressed, (not despite a couple of "good-morning yawns") while he polishes off another attempt to foil him in the "war of the words!" I have personally seen him sit in the campground while on vacation and solve crosswords that, would scare all the animals away.

But crossword puzzles are somewhat, like the Scriptures themselves. As we see that a neat, perfectly assembled crossword is a challenge to the brain, so is the Bible a story written and produced by God with the greatest of "actors" and a plot unmatched by the greatest, of our playwrights. As I have a fascination with crosswords, I hold a greater fascination with the Bible's perfect plan, plot, and Person of Propitiation. Crosswords are a challenge to understand but can be conquered. So is the Bible. It has more than a wealth of information packed in its pages, and it is understandable that we might be saved.

My plea is that as many of us use our brain power, logic, and common sense to solve crossword puzzles, that we will use those same energies in attempting to unravel the precious promises in God's word. To do this with the Scriptures is even more fascinating because a crossword is to be worked and then thrown away, but there will always be something to look at, figure out and reason through when we study the Bible. It is a never ending "puzzle" to us, because it is the mind of God in human language.

Crosswords will improve our mind and use of the English language. But here again is where the Bible is even more useful. The Bible will improve our life and relationships with other people. I would much rather know how to treat my neighbor than how to treat 6-down or 3-across.