

"MANY" by Larry R. Ping II

The word "many" is used to indicate there is much of something. Ponder these "manys."

1) MANY WILL ENETR WIDE GATE. Jesus said, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat*" (Matt. 7:13). This is an irreversible Bible truth.

2) MANY THINGS TAUGHT BY PARABLES. It is written, "*And he taught them many things by parables*" (Mk. 4:2). Jesus used these earthly stories to teach heavenly lessons. Jesus offered more than 30 of them, and we should be glad He did.

3) MANY SINS FORGIVEN. The Lord once said, "*Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven*" (Lk. 7:47). Peter offered to forgive his brother seven times, but Jesus taught we are to forgive "*seventy times seven*" (Matt. 18:22). There is no way we can enumerate the amount of sins God has forgiven. The word many does not, in any way, begin to cover it.

4) MANY MANSIONS. Speaking about heaven Jesus said, "*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you*" (Jn. 14:2). These divine words tell of the Lord's plan to make an eternal home for all the faithful folks of all time.

5) MANY UNPROFITABLE BOOKS BURNED. This was witnessed in Ephesus when Paul taught against idolatry. The text says, "*Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men*" (Acts 19:19). Behold the power of God's Word (Rom. 1:16)!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ♦ Vincennes, Indiana
Meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Vincennes, Indiana
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THE VINCENNES VOICE

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

"SARDIS LESSONS" by Larry R. Ping II

Our Lord addressed the Christians at Sardis in Revelation 3:1-6. Consider some of these lessons we can learn from this passage.

1) I KNOW THY WORKS. This is something Jesus said to each of the seven churches in Revelation. The Lord knows, both the bad and the good we do as congregations. What does He know about us?

2) THOU LIVEST...AND ART DEAD. This is said of the folks in Sardis in Revelation 3:1. They painted a picture of life to others, but in reality were spiritually dead. We must have an accurate and real picture of ourselves in order to succeed (II Cor. 13:5). Do we know the truth about ourselves?

3) WATCH AND STRENGTHEN YOURSELVES. This is the remedy to spiritual indifference and apathy. Wake up, sit up and get stronger! We should pray the same as the Lord, that our "*faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren*" (Lk. 22:32).

4) REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD. We must be reading, studying, meditating upon and remembering the things we have studied (II Tim. 2:15; Psa. 119:11). The old cliché rings true here, "If you do not use it, you will lose it."

5) WORTHY DISCIPLES. They are in every congregation, even in ones which seemingly have gone away from the Lord. This was a reminder Elijah needed (I Kgs. 19:18). May we recall as well. Be joyful there are others who put God and His church first (Matt. 6:33)!

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BIBLE READING QUESTIONS

The Bible reading for January 22-28 spans John 13:1-John 18:40.
Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) What did Jesus do to prove one was not greater than another (Jn. 13:14)? _____

- 2) “Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____, the _____, and the _____: no man cometh unto the Father, but by _____” (Jn. 14:6).
- 3) What can we do without Christ (Jn. 15:5)? _____
- 4) What would not happen if Jesus did not go away (Jn. 16:7)?

- 5) “I have given them thy _____; and the world hath _____ them, because they are not _____ the world, even as I am not of the _____” (Jn. 17:14).
- 6) For whom did Jesus pray, and why (Jn. 17:20-21)?

- 7) “Then cried they _____ again, saying, _____ this man, but _____ . Now Barabbas was a _____” (Jn. 18:40).

READING SCHEDULE AND MEMORY VERSES FOR THE DAYS OF JANUARY 22-28, 2023.

January 22, 2023: John 13:1-John 13:30

January 23, 2023: John 13:31-John 14:14

January 24, 2023: John 14:15-John 15:17

January 25, 2023: John 15:18-John 16:16

January 26, 2023: John 16:17-John 17:19

January 27, 2023: John 17:20-John 18:14

January 28, 2023: John 18:15-John 18:40

*“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.
Amen” (John 21:25).*

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm

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