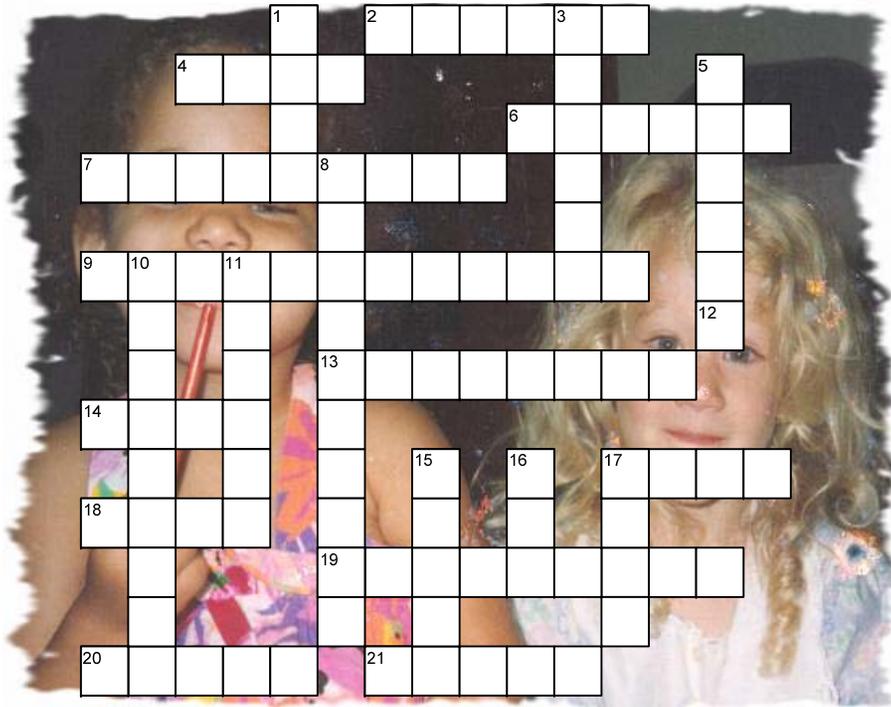


Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

2. In order to _____ what we begin we must have a stable character.
4. An example of instability in nature is a _____.
6. The Lord Jesus was able to fully carry out the work that His _____ had prepared.
7. He steadfastly set His face to go to _____.
9. A steady person moves straight ahead regardless of _____.
13. A _____ is an example of things that are stable and unmovable.
14. The Lord Jesus carried out the _____ that His Father had prepared for Him.
17. This apostle was stable.
18. He steadfastly set His _____ to go to Jerusalem.
19. He _____ set His face to go to Jerusalem.
20. He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.
21. Lord Jesus and in the Apostle Paul encourage us to "_____ on".

1. They persecuted Paul.
3. This week's character trait.
5. We should finish what we _____.
8. We will develop stability in our character if _____ we _____ what we start.
10. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, _____...
11. An opposite of stable.
12. "Press _____!"
15. A steady person makes _____ decisions.
16. We need a clear sense that we are doing _____ what _____ desires and wills.
17. When we _____ to the Lord and ask



2-6

Character

- Lesson Eight -

Stable — (Steady, Not Easily Moved or Changed)

I. Overview.

In order to finish what we begin we must have a stable character. We must begin things based on a clear understanding, a proper decision, and a sure sense that we are doing what we should be doing — what God desires and wills. Then we will have the inner strength not



These rocks are steady. Even though the sea is always pounding on them, they are immovable and remain largely unchanged for hundreds of years.

to be moved or changed by difficulties. Sometimes things are difficult, sometimes people oppose us; we can feel discouraged. But we will develop stability in our character if we continuing on, to accomplish what we started.

We have examples of stability in the Lord Jesus and in the Apostle Paul. These examples encourage us to "press on" toward the goal and finish what we have begun.

Also when we pray to the Lord and ask for His strengthening, He will help us and encourage us from within to finish the task.

II. Memory Verse.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

(1 Cor. 15:58)

III. Lesson.

We Should Not Be Fickle or Panicky

A person who lightly makes decisions, then quickly changes their mind is *fickle* (2 Cor 1:17). A person who suddenly becomes very upset and emotionally excited over unexpected trouble is panicky. A person is *stable* if they make their decisions only after adequate consideration and with a sure sense of God's will.

Because a stable person makes clear decisions, they are not easily moved or changed. They move straight ahead in their actions regardless of difficulties, adversities or changes in the environment. Their action is determined by a clear understanding and a firm decision.



An example of instability in nature is a reed. In whatever direction the winds blow, the reed bends. It is constantly changing its position. It has no inward fiber or strength of its own; in fact it is hollow. The mountains, or the Rock of Gibraltar, are examples of things that are stable and unmovable.

The Lord Jesus Was Stable

The Lord Jesus was absolutely stable, so He was able to fully carry out the work that His Father had prepared for Him. He never wasted His time or got off course. The Bible says that when the time came for the Lord Jesus to go up to Jerusalem (where He would be crucified), "He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"; He was strong and stable.

The Apostle Paul Was Also Very Stable

The Apostle Paul was also very stable and immovable. Although the Jews persecuted him severely, trying to kill him, beating him with rods and stoning him, yet he would not be stopped from announcing the good news of Jesus Christ. He also would not be stopped by hunger, lack of clothing, shipwrecks, or various dangers or hardships. He said "I am set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil 1:16).

We need to be stable persons. In all important matters in life, beginning when we are young, we can develop this quality. We have many opportunities in things like our chores, our learning, and other things we are asked to do, to develop a stable character. Thus we will be more useful to the Lord.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What does it mean to be stable?

2. What are some opposites of being stable?

3. In what ways was the Lord Jesus stable?

4. In what ways was the Apostle Paul stable?

5. In what kind of things can we develop stability?

