

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 892

April 8, 2012

This past Monday the University of Kentucky won the men's 2012 NCAA Basketball tournament. Although the tournament started out with 68 teams, only one could win. By design there had to be 67 teams who lost.

Some lost by large margins, and some lost by as little as one point. I'm sure those who lost by a very small margin, kept thinking, back, "If only..." If only I had made those two foul shots. If only I had not lost it out of bounds that one time. If only there had not been that turn over. If only that three-point shot had gone in.

Even one changed "if only" event could have made them the victors instead of the losers. But, they cannot go back and undo the mistakes.

I hope we don't get to the end of life and have a long list or even one "if only." If only we had been to services more. If only we had taken our children to Bible school. If only I had read the Bible. If only I had taken the 3 to 5 minutes to obey the LORD in Baptism.

Unlike the teams in a basketball tournament, we all can be victorious. Don't let the end of your life here be filled with even one regret of "If only." Obey the LORD today and then you can say, "I did do it" and not, "if only."

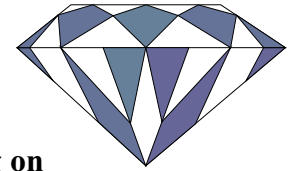
—Marty Edwards ❖

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

A diamond is the most precious gem known to man. The Bible is the most precious book. Consider these similarities between a diamond and the Word of God:



1. Diamonds are not found simply laying on the ground. They are hidden in the earth. A diamond must be mined from among the rocks to obtain its highest value. Though it is valuable while still in the earth, extraction of the diamond from the ground vastly increases its value and usefulness.

So too must the Bible be "mined." We are miners of the Bible when we dedicate ourselves to learning the truths it contains. The truths are still in a Bible that is closed and on a shelf, but they will not help a person until they are extracted and obeyed.

2. A diamond is cut and polished to bring forth its brilliance and vast beauty. It cannot be cut in any fashion one desires. The incorrect cut can ruin the diamond and render it virtually useless.

Many people do not rightly divide the Word. They think they are following the Bible, but actually they are following false teaching. The truth is contained in every copy of the Bible that is true to the original text. Most people have Bibles containing the truth, but many of them will be lost. We "cut and polish" the Word when we rightly divide it and obtain the truths therein. Paul exhorted in II Timothy 2:15 "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Do not trust in what someone else says is the truth. Find out for yourself if what you are following is the teaching found in the pages of the Bible.

3. A diamond is the hardest substance known to man. It is so hard, that it is used as a gauge with which the hardness of other substances is determined.

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News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jimmy Terry, Audrey Terry, Jean Coffey, Michael Pedigo, and Lillian Riffle.**

—**Vicki McDaniel** spent a few days this past week in Hardin Memorial Hospital to try to get rid of an infection. She came home yesterday afternoon.

—Tonight we will begin a study of the book of Revelation.

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The Word of God has always had critics and skeptics and will as long as time remains. Yet it endures and cannot be changed. It is rock-solid. Jesus said in Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33 offer the exact same comments in the King James Version of the Bible.

It is a comforting thought to know there will be no changes in the Bible. The very same words you have in your home will judge you in the last day. Jesus said in John 12:48 *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

4. The hardness of a diamond permits it to be used as a device for cutting other substances.

Likewise, the Bible cuts to the heart and soul of people. We are told in Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

5. Finally, the diamond is put in a setting such as a ring.

One would not purchase such a precious gem and put it in the back of a dresser drawer.

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Sunday, April 1, 2012		
Classes	16	Luke 22:35-60
Preaching	22	What is a fool?
Contribution	\$422.00	
Evening	17	Singing
Wednesday, April 4, 2012		
Classes	15	Deuteronomy 26:1-19

Apr 1 (AM) April Thompson (Hardyville, KY);
 Visitors— Lurline Mires (Rex, KY); Brent Goad
 (Glasgow, KY)

Bible Quiz

The Israelites were to put the firstfruits of Canaan in what?
 Last Week’s Answer— Healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2)

Just as the ring bears the diamond, we must bear the word of God in order that those who are lost might see it. We are the only “Bible” that many people will read. What they see in us will be their view of Church. Are others seeing the teachings of the Bible in the lives we live? Do not obscure the precious jewel of the Word of God. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* A precious stone indeed, the Bible, full of beauty and great value for all who are willing to search for it. —Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)