

THINK ABOVE THE BOX
Bible Study Guide for
The Survivors
By Elsie Singmaster*



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens



2 Corinthians 4:18 TLB So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.



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THE SURVIVORS

A Memorial Day Story

"Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art ... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival." - C.S. Lewis

*“In **The Survivors** we watch the conflict in the breast of stubborn old Adam Foust and rejoice with tears in our eyes when in the time of his friend’s need, love conquers, and Adam and Henry march arm-in-arm down the village street. The story is told with the realism and beauty that characterize all of this author’s work, much of which describes the everyday happenings of commonplace people with absolute fidelity.”* – Mary A. LaSalle

In the year 1868, when Memorial Day was instituted, Fosterville had thirty-five men in its parade. Fosterville was a border town; in it enthusiasm had run high, and many more men had enlisted than those required by the draft. All the men were on the same side but Adam Foust, who, slipping away, joined himself to the troops of his mother’s Southern State. It could not have been any great trial for Adam to fight against most of his companions in Fosterville, for there was only one of them with whom he did not quarrel. That one was his cousin Henry, from whom he was inseparable, and of whose friendship for any other boys he was intensely jealous. Henry was a frank, open-hearted lad who would have lived on good terms with the whole world if Adam had allowed him to.

Adam did not return to Fosterville until the morning of the first Memorial Day, of whose establishment he was unaware. He had been ill for months, and it was only now that he had earned enough to make his way home. He was slightly lame, and he had lost two fingers of his left hand. He got down from the train at the station, and found himself at once in a great crowd. He knew no one, and no one seemed to know him. Without asking any questions, he started up the street. He meant to go, first of all, to the house of his cousin Henry, and then to set about making arrangements to resume his long-interrupted business, that of a saddler, which he could still follow in spite of his injury.

As he hurried along he heard the sound of band music, and realized that some sort of a procession was advancing. With the throng about him he pressed to the curb. The tune was one which he hated; the colors he hated also; the marchers, all but one, he had never liked. There was Newton Towne, with a sergeant’s stripe on his blue sleeve; there was Edward Green, a captain; there was Peter Allinson, a color-bearer. At their head, taller, handsomer, dearer than ever to Adam’s jealous eyes, walked Henry Foust. In an instant of forgetfulness Adam waved his hand. But Henry did not see; Adam chose to think that he saw and would not answer. The veterans passed, and Adam drew back and was lost in the crowd.

But Adam had a parade of his own. In the evening, when the music and the speeches were over and the half-dozen graves of those of Fosterville’s young men who had been brought home had been heaped with flowers, and Fosterville sat on doorsteps and porches talking about the day, Adam put on a gray uniform and walked from one end of the village to the other. These were people who had known him always; the word flew from step to step. Many people spoke to him, some laughed, and a few jeered. To no one did Adam pay any heed. Past the house of Newton Towne, past the store of Ed Green, past the wide lawn of Henry Foust, walked Adam, his hands clasped behind his back, as though to make more perpendicular than perpendicularity itself that stiff backbone. Henry Foust ran down the steps and out to the gate.

“Oh, Adam!” cried he.

Adam stopped, stock-still. He could see Peter Allinson and Newton Towne, and even Ed Green, on Henry’s porch. They were all having ice-cream and cake together.

“Well, what?” said he, roughly.

“Won’t you shake hands with me?”

“No,” said Adam.

“Won’t you come in?”

“Never.”

Still Henry persisted.

“Someone might do you harm, Adam.”

“Let them!” said Adam.

Then Adam walked on alone. Adam walked alone for forty years.

Not only on Memorial Day did he don his gray uniform and make the rounds of the village. When the Fosterville Grand Army Post met on Friday evenings in the post room, Adam managed to meet most of the members either going or returning. He and his gray suit became gradually so familiar to the village that no one turned his head or glanced up from book or paper to see him go by. He had from time to time a new suit, and he ordered from somewhere in the South a succession of gray, broad-brimmed military hats. The farther the war sank into the past, the straighter grew old Adam’s back, the prouder his head. Sometimes, early in the forty years, the acquaintances of his childhood, especially the women, remonstrated [argued] with him.

“The war’s over, Adam,” they would say. “Can’t you forget it?”

“Those G. A. R. fellows don’t forget it,” Adam would answer. “They haven’t changed their principles. Why should I change mine?”

“But you might make up with Henry.”

“That’s nobody’s business but my own.”

“But when you were children you were never separated. Make up, Adam.”

“When Henry needs me, I’ll help him,” said Adam.

“Henry will never need you. Look at all he’s got!”

“Well, then, I don’t need him,” declared Adam, as he walked away. He went back to his saddler shop, where he sat all day stitching. He had ample time to think of Henry and the past.

“Brought up like twins!” he would say. “Sharing like brothers! Now he has a fine business and a fine house and fine children, and I have nothing. But I have my principles. I ain’t never truckled [submitted] to him. Some day he’ll need me, you’ll see!”

As Adam grew older, it became more and more certain that Henry would never need him for anything. Henry tried again and again to make friends, but Adam would have none of him. He talked more and more to himself as he sat at his work.

“Used to help him over the brook and bait his hook for him. Even built corn-cob houses for him to knock down, that much littler he was than me. Stepped out of the race when I found he wanted Annie. He might ask me for *something!*” Adam seemed often to be growing childish.

By the year 1875 fifteen of Fosterville’s thirty-five veterans had died. The men who survived the war were, for the most part, not strong men, and weaknesses established in prisons and on long marches asserted themselves. Fifteen times the Fosterville Post paraded to the cemetery and read its committal service and fired its salute. For these parades Adam did not put on his gray uniform.

During the next twenty years deaths were fewer. Fosterville prospered as never before; it built factories and an electric car line. Of all its enterprises Henry Foust was at the head. He enlarged his house and bought farms and grew more handsome as he grew older. Everybody loved him; all Fosterville, except Adam, sought his company. It seemed sometimes as though Adam would almost die from loneliness and jealousy.

“Henry Foust sittin’ with Ed Green!” said Adam to himself, as though he could never accustom his eyes to this phenomenon. “Henry consortin’ with Newt Towne!”

The Grand Army Post also grew in importance. It paraded each year with more ceremony; it imported fine music and great speakers for Memorial Day.

Presently the sad procession to the cemetery began once more. There was a long, cold winter, with many cases of pneumonia, and three veterans succumbed; there was an intensely hot summer, and twice in one month the post read its committal service and fired its salute. A few years more, and the post numbered but three.

Past them still on post evenings walked Adam, head in air, hands clasped behind his back. There was Edward Green, round, fat, who puffed and panted; there was Newton Towne, who walked, in spite of palsy, as though he had won the battle of Gettysburg; there was, last of all, Henry Foust, who at seventy-five was hale and strong. Usually a tall son walked beside him, or a grandchild clung to his hand. He was almost never alone; it was as though every one who knew him tried to have as much as possible of his company. Past him with a grave nod walked Adam. Adam was two years older than Henry; it required more and more stretching of arms behind his back to keep his shoulders straight.

In April Newton Towne was taken ill and died. Edward Green was terrified, though he considered himself, in spite of his shortness of breath, a strong man.

“Don’t let anything happen to you, Henry,” he would say. “Don’t let anything get you, Henry. I can’t march alone.”

“I’ll be there,” Henry would reassure him. Only one look at Henry, and the most alarmed would have been comforted.

“It would kill me to march alone,” said Edward Green.

As if Fosterville realized that it could not continue long to show its devotion to its veterans, it made this year special preparations for Memorial Day. The Fosterville Band practiced elaborate music, the children were drilled in marching. The children were to precede the veterans to the cemetery and were to scatter flowers over the graves. Houses were gayly decorated, flags and banners floating in the pleasant spring breeze. Early in the morning carriages and wagons began to bring in the country folk.

Adam Foust realized as well as Fosterville that the parades of veterans were drawing to their close.

“This may be the last time I can show my principles,” said he, with a grim setting of his lips. “I will put on my gray coat early in the morning.”

Though the two veterans were to march to the cemetery, carriages were provided to bring them home. Fosterville meant to be as careful as possible of its treasures.

“I don’t need any carriage to ride in, like Ed Green,” said Adam proudly. “I could march out and back. Perhaps Ed Green will have to ride out as well as back.”

But Edward Green neither rode nor walked. The day turned suddenly warm, the heat and excitement accelerated his already rapid breathing, and the doctor forbade his setting foot to the ground.

“But I will!” cried Edward, in whom the spirit of war still lived.

“No,” said the doctor.

“Then I will ride.”

“You will stay in bed,” said the doctor.

So without Edward Green the parade was formed. Before the court-house waited the band, and the long line of school-children, and the burgess [elected official,] and the fire company, and the distinguished stranger who was to make the address, until Henry Foust appeared, in his blue suit, with his flag on his breast and his bouquet in his hand. On each side of him walked a tall, middle-aged son, who seemed to hand him over reluctantly to the marshal, who was to escort him to his place. Smilingly he spoke to the marshal, but he was the only one who smiled or spoke. For an instant men and women broke off in the middle of their sentences, a husky something in their throats; children looked up at him with awe. Even his own grandchildren did not dare to wave or call from their places in the ranks. Then the storm of cheers broke.

Round the next corner Adam Foust waited. He was clad in his gray uniform—those who looked at him closely saw with astonishment that it was a new uniform; his brows met in a frown, his gray moustache seemed to bristle.

“How he hates them!” said one citizen of Fosterville to another. “Just look at poor Adam!”

“Used to bait his hook for him,” Adam was saying. “Used to carry him pick-a-back! Used to go halves with him on everything. Now he walks with Ed Green!”

Adam pressed forward to the curb. The band was playing “Marching Through Georgia,” which he hated; everybody was cheering. The volume of sound was deafening.

“Cheering Ed Green!” said Adam. “Fat! Lazy! Didn’t have a wound. Dare say he hid behind a tree! Dare say——”

The band was in sight now, the back of the drum-major appeared, then all the musicians swung round the corner. After them came the little children with their flowers and their shining faces.

“Him and Ed Green next,” said old Adam.

But Henry walked alone. Adam’s whole body jerked in his astonishment. He heard some one say that Edward Green was sick, that the doctor had forbidden him to march, or even to ride. As he pressed nearer the curb he heard the admiring comments of the crowd.

“Isn’t he magnificent!”

“See his beautiful flowers! His grandchildren always send him his flowers.”

“He’s our first citizen.”

“He’s mine!” Adam wanted to cry out. “He’s mine!”

Never had Adam felt so miserable, so jealous, so heartsick. His eyes were filled with the great figure. Henry was, in truth, magnificent, not only in himself, but in what he represented. He seemed symbolic of a great era of the past, and at the same time of a new age which was advancing. Old Adam understood all his glory.

“He’s mine!” said old Adam again, foolishly.

Then Adam leaned forward with startled, staring eyes. Henry had bowed and smiled in answer to the cheers. Across the street his own house was a mass of color—red, white, and blue over windows and doors, gay dresses on the porch. On each side the pavement was crowded with a shouting multitude. Surely no hero had ever had a more glorious passage through the streets of his birthplace! But old Adam saw that Henry’s face blanched, that there appeared suddenly upon it an expression of intolerable pain. For an instant Henry’s step faltered and grew uncertain.

Then old Adam began to behave like a wild man. He pushed himself through the crowd, he flung himself upon the rope as though to tear it down, he called out, "Wait! Wait!" Frightened women, fearful of some sinister purpose, tried to grasp and hold him. No man was immediately at hand, or Adam would have been seized and taken away. As for the feeble women—Adam shook them off and laughed at them.

"Let me go, you geese!" said he.

A mounted marshal saw him and rode down upon him; men started from under the ropes to pursue him. But Adam eluded them or outdistanced them. He strode across an open space with a surety which gave no hint of the terrible beating of his heart, until he reached the side of Henry. Him he greeted, breathlessly and with terrible eagerness.

"Henry," said he, gasping, "Henry, do you want me to walk along?"

Henry saw the alarmed crowds, he saw the marshal's hand stretched to seize Adam, he saw most clearly of all the tearful eyes under the beetling [bushy overhanging] brows. Henry's voice shook, but he made himself clear.

"It's all right," said he to the marshal. "Let him be."

"I saw you were alone," said Adam. "I said, 'Henry needs me.' I know what it is to be alone. I——"

But Adam did not finish his sentence. He found a hand on his, a blue arm linked tightly in his gray arm, he felt himself moved along amid thunderous roars of sound.

"Of course I need you!" said Henry. "I've needed you all along."

Then, old but young, their lives almost ended, but themselves immortal, united, to be divided no more, amid an ever-thickening sound of cheers, the two marched down the street.

The End

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Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

1. This story begins by setting the scene of a small border town right after the U.S. Civil War, with all but one military-aged man fighting for the North. The sole Confederate veteran is Adam Foust, who cared little for anyone of the townspeople except for one man.

"It could not have been any great trial for Adam to fight against most of his companions in Fosterville, for there was only one of them with whom he did not quarrel. That one was his cousin Henry, from whom he was inseparable, and of whose friendship for any other boys he was intensely jealous. Henry was a frank, open-hearted lad who would have lived on good terms with the whole world if Adam had allowed him to."

Adam and Henry had grown up together and held a special bond between them, but the war seemed to have changed that for Adam. By fighting on the opposite side, Adam consciously decided to secede not only from the town and the Northern forces, but from his beloved cousin. The Bible also tells us about a very special friendship, that between David and Jonathan, that could have ended up broken, but didn't:

1 Samuel 18:1-3 GW David finished talking to Saul. After that, Jonathan became David's closest friend. He loved David as much as [he loved] himself. (From that day on Saul kept David [as his servant] and didn't let him go back to his family.) So Jonathan made a pledge of mutual loyalty with David because he loved him as much as [he loved] himself.

"As we see by the example David and Jonathan have set for us, being loyal means being supportive, being ready to assist, and to encourage - even when things are complicated and sticky. That's why commitment, loyalty, and selflessness are so essential in any friendship. David and Jonathan's friendship was characterized by these qualities even in the midst of adversity. They loved and encouraged each other in the Lord. They stood together through tough times like a set of identical stone bookends. They met as young men and warriors, and our last glimpse of their faithful friendship is of David mourning Jonathan's death. Theirs was a to-the-end-no-matter-what friendship."

- Elizabeth George

What We can Learn from David and Jonathan

"...talking about friendship, look at the story of Jonathan and David / they served and loved and cared for each other and honored God / keeping the promises they made / David and Jonathan... God's example of how to be friends / walking in love and caring for each other cuz God's kind of friendship never ends."

- **Kids Ministry - Church On The Move**



David and Jonathan | Song Story

BONUS TRACK: *"The friendship between David and Jonathan stands as one of the Bible's most powerful examples of loyalty, sacrifice, and selfless love. In the 2025 animated biblical musical DAVID from Angel, their bond shines through as David rises from shepherd to hero, facing giants and kings while finding true brotherhood in Jonathan, Saul's son... This official compilation highlights the ultimate friendship that defies jealousy, danger, and power—showing courage, faithfulness, and trust in God amid trials."*

- [Angel Clips](#)

David & Jonathan: The Ultimate Friendship | DAVID (2025) | Official Compilation



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: Compare and contrast the two friendships above - that between Adam and Henry and that between David and Jonathan. How were they similar and how were they different?

2. Sadly, Adam seemed to enjoy holding a grudge against everyone, including his beloved cousin, who had done him no wrong.

Leviticus 19:18 AMP You shall not take revenge nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor (acquaintance, associate, companion) as yourself; I am the LORD.

*"To hold a grudge is to allow ourselves to dwell on **anger**, **bitterness**, resentment, or other negative feelings for a prolonged time after someone has hurt us or after we've perceived wrongdoing. When we've been hurt very deeply, it's a common response to want to withhold forgiveness from that person. We want to hurt the one who hurt us. Grudges might be held against bullies, friends, family members, or strangers."*

- Vivian Bricker

[What does the Bible say about grudges? | 412teens.org](#)



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: Letting go of his hurt, pain, jealousy, and pride was a tall order for dear Adam. What's a guy to do?

"Our human nature is to hold on to things that engage our emotions. Let someone upset us, and we don't forget it. Let someone mistreat you, chances are you won't forget it. It can even be anxiety, worry, or burdens in life that we just simply want to hold on to. We struggle to let go... And if we are honest, sometimes holding on feels easier than releasing... There is something in us that believes if we carry it long enough, we will eventually figure it out. If we rehearse the offense

enough times, we will find peace with it. If we stay close to the worry, we will somehow stay ahead of it. But that is not how God designed us to live.”
- Jared Dyson

Just Give It To God - Another Well Ministries

BONUS LINK: “Many people live with what I would call a ‘mind of conflict.’ Even when no argument is happening, the battle continues internally. Conversations are replayed. Motives are questioned. Future confrontations are imagined. But Scripture describes something entirely different for the believer — a sound mind.”
- Tim Burt

The Mind of Conflict vs. the Sound Mind

3. Even though Adam fiercely loved his cousin Henry, he could not seem to control his jealousy: of Henry himself and of anyone who came into contact with him.

“At their head, taller, handsomer, dearer than ever to Adam’s jealous eyes, walked Henry Foust. In an instant of forgetfulness Adam waved his hand. But Henry did not see; Adam chose to think that he saw and would not answer. The veterans passed, and Adam drew back and was lost in the crowd.” (emphasis added)

“Of all its enterprises Henry Foust was at the head. He enlarged his house and bought farms and grew more handsome as he grew older. Everybody loved him; all Foster ville, except Adam, sought his company. It seemed sometimes as though Adam would almost die from loneliness and jealousy.” (emphasis added)

Proverbs 27:4 GW Anger is cruel, and fury is overwhelming, but who can survive jealousy?

Over the years (four decades, to be exact!) Adam let his grudge and resentment grow.

“Adam walked alone for forty years.”

Job 5:2 ERV A fool’s anger will kill him. His jealousy will destroy him.

1 Corinthians 13:4 AMPC Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

There seems to be a young lady involved also:

“‘Used to help him over the brook and bait his hook for him. Even built corn-cob houses for him to knock down, that much littler he was than me. Stepped out of the race when I found he wanted Annie. He might ask me for something!’ Adam seemed often to be growing childish.” (emphasis added)

James 3:14-16 NIV But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

“Not everyone is jealous about the same things or for the same reasons. Sometimes these desires stem from fear, insecurity, or deep disappointment. These pains of the heart may lead one to envy others. These pains of the heart are not a sin. They

are side effects of living in a human body with a beating heart that breaks and bleeds...God deeply cares about our hearts, fears, insecurities, and disappointments (Psalm 34:18-19). However, envy that grows into jealousy which grows into idolatry, can become a great hindrance in our spiritual lives."

- Stephanie McGraw

What God Says About Jealousy

Poor Henry wasted many years of his life feeling jealous of his cousin and his life when all he had to do was love and accept him as his friend. Many people make this same mistake, living their lives in anger when there is one Companion who will always be there for them.

"The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me / In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity / You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing / You say I am strong when I think I am weak / And You say I am held when I am falling short / When I don't belong, oh You say that I am Yours."

- Lauren Daigle

 **Lauren Daigle - You Say (Lyric Video)**

4. Adam seems so unreasonable, but put yourself in his place. Every man in town fought for the North against your side, the South. Due to the war, he had been very ill, became lame and was now missing two fingers. To make matters worse, the Union side won! The first human reaction most of us would have would be to be just like him: prideful, resentful and angry.

"The farther the war sank into the past, the straighter grew old Adam's back, the prouder his head. ...'This may be the last time I can show my principles,' said he, with a grim setting of his lips. 'I will put on my gray coat early in the morning.'"

But is that really the best position? Pride cometh before a fall, or as the Bible says,

Proverbs 16:18 GNT Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall.

"Round the next corner Adam Foust waited. He was clad in his gray uniform—those who looked at him closely saw with astonishment that it was a new uniform; his brows met in a frown, his gray moustache seemed to bristle...'How he hates them!' said one citizen of Fosterville to another. 'Just look at poor Adam!'...Adam pressed forward to the curb. The band was playing "Marching Through Georgia," which he hated; everybody was cheering. The volume of sound was deafening...'Cheering Ed Green!' said Adam. 'Fat! Lazy! Didn't have a wound. Dare say he hid behind a tree! Dare say'——"

Sometimes, one of the hardest things in life is to swallow your pride and make amends. This would have blessed Adam with forty years of belonging and saved forty years of gut-wrenching anguish. But how can one overcome their pride? Here are some of God's thoughts on the subject:

James 4:6 NIV But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Philippians 2:3 AMPC Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit *and* empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than *and* superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves.]

"How to Let Go of Pride: The simple and challenging answer is to abide in Christ. Yup. The more we abide in Jesus, the less we will put ourselves first. More Jesus + less me, me, me = less pride." - [adventure and the girl](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Letting Go of Pride?

"I was faced with passing time but I knew the choice was mine / To finally come to You and give You all control / I've wandered miles to find my way / And then You revealed this simple faith / I know that You can see the secrets of my soul...Lay down my pride, my desires, my demise / I'm ready now to see it Your way / 'Cause I'm done, I'm through, ignoring You now it's true / I'm kneeling at the cross of Your Grace." - Jeremy Camp and Jean Luc Lajoie



▶ **Lay Down My Pride By Jeremy Camp**

EXTRA CREDIT: Why do you think that Adam wore his Confederate uniform and paraded through the town like he did?

"Not only on Memorial Day did he don his gray uniform and make the rounds of the village. When the Fosterville Grand Army Post met on Friday evenings in the post room, Adam managed to meet most of the members either going or returning. He and his gray suit became gradually so familiar to the village that no one turned his head or glanced up from book or paper to see him go by."



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: Here is a list of "Sneaky Ways Pride Can Manifest in Our Lives" from the post above. Make two columns (one for Adam and yes, one for you!) and check the items that apply:

- People-pleasing to seek the approval of anyone other than God.
- Complaining to vent, with no intent to resolve the complaint.
- Bitterness toward someone who hurt you because you can't let it go.
- Not forgiving someone.
- Comparing yourself to someone else to make yourself look better.
- Justifying your own bad behavior by comparison to someone else.
- Thinking you are above consequences or punishment.
- Disrespecting someone else with your actions or words.
- Needing to be right. Thinking your way is best.
- Trying to control other people, situations, or plans by thinking your way is best.
- Not admitting you're wrong OR not asking forgiveness.
- Thinking you're too good to interact with someone else.

- Believing that any task is beneath you.
- Bragging to make yourself look better.
- Fixating on your accomplishments.
- Taking the credit for something God did.
- Taking credit for someone else's achievement.
- Throwing the blame on someone else to avoid consequences.
- Not considering other people's feelings.
- Getting defensive.
- Acting in a passive aggressive way.
- Any form of selfishness."

- [adventure and the girl](#)

EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome the items you checked! But *how*?

"I used to think the Holy Spirit was something kind of scary, but the Holy Spirit isn't scary. He is simply and profoundly God available 24/7." (emphasis added)

- Andy Lee

7 Scriptures on the Holy Spirit and How He Helps Us – Andy Lee

5. Henry experienced a transformation during that last Memorial Day parade. It was as if a light had been lit deep within his soul. Could the Holy Spirit have been prompting him?

"Never had Adam felt so miserable, so jealous, so heartsick. His eyes were filled with the great figure. Henry was, in truth, magnificent, not only in himself, but in what he represented. He seemed symbolic of a great era of the past, and at the same time of a new age which was advancing. Old Adam understood all his glory. 'He's mine!' said old Adam again, foolishly...Then old Adam began to behave like a wild man. He pushed himself through the crowd, he flung himself upon the rope as though to tear it down, he called out, 'Wait! Wait!'"

He couldn't get to Henry fast enough, evading "geese," otherwise known as women, a mounted marshall and various men in the crowd.

"'I saw you were alone,' said Adam. 'I said, 'Henry needs me.' I know what it is to be alone. I——' But Adam did not finish his sentence. He found a hand on his, a blue arm linked tightly in his gray arm, he felt himself moved along amid thunderous roars of sound. 'Of course I need you!' said Henry. 'I've needed you all along.' Then, old but young, their lives almost ended, but themselves immortal, united, to be divided no more, amid an ever-thickening sound of cheers, the two marched down the street."

Romans 15:7 GW Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you. He did this to bring glory to God.

Ephesians 4:31-32 AMP Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and slander be put away from you, along with every kind of malice [all spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence]. Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you.

Matthew 5:22-36 TLB But I have added to that rule and tell you that if you are only angry, even in your own home, you are in danger of judgment! If you call your friend an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse him, you are in danger of the fires of hell. "So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God. Come to terms quickly with your enemy before it is too late and he drags you into court and you are thrown into a debtor's cell, for you will stay there until you have paid the last penny.

How The Holy Spirit Helps Bring Reconciliation

The following song could have been played by the parade band that day!

*"I'm a sinner grace is still healing / I'm a story time is revealing / I'm all of these things / But mostly I'm thankful / I'm a fighter caught in a struggle / **A survivor rising above it** / I'm all of these things / But mostly I'm thankful / Cause You gave me one more day / To say I love You / You have brought me all this way / To testify of grace / What more can I say / But Hallelujah / Thank You Jesus"* (emphasis added)

- Steven Furtick, Leeland Mooring, Jonathan Smith, Chris Davenport, Chandler Moore



▶ **One More Day | Sons Of Sunday**

People often put off "getting right with God" in regards to their salvation until later, assuming that they have plenty of time for those "religious things." But no one knows how much time we have on this earth until our last breath. You can put off Jesus until you can't. The following song hits home for all of us wasting time instead of taking a chance. As in Think Above the Box's logo:



"If you got a chance, take it / Take it while you got a chance / If you got a dream, chase it / 'Cause a dream won't chase you back / If you're gonna love somebody / Hold them as long and as strong / And as close as you can / 'Til you can't 'Til you can't ... You know I awoke, all alone / One Sunday morning / With this song stuck in my head / And in that moment / Something or someone spoke to me / They said, there was still a verse / That needed to be written for this song And to get up and write it down / There's a book that's sitting in your house somewhere / That could use some dusting off / There's a man who died for all our sins / Hanging from the cross / You can give your life to Jesus / And he'll give you a second chance / 'Til you can't / 'Til you can't "

- Kid Rock



▶ **Kid Rock - Til You Can't (PhotoVideo)**



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: In the above song, “Something or someone spoke to me...” Do you think it was the Holy Spirit that prompted Kid Rock to write that final verse? Has something like that ever happened to you? How did you sense that it was God whispering to you? The following posts lists seven ways He speaks to us: Scripture, prayer, your conscience, a still small voice, dreams and visions and other people in our life:

How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

BONUS Think Above the Box: How do you think the situation between Adam and Henry would have been if the Confederacy had won the Civil War, based on the two cousins’ personalities?

BRAGGING RIGHTS: *“Those G. A. R. fellows don’t forget it,” Adam would answer. “They haven’t changed their principles. Why should I change mine?”*

But what’s the G. A. R.? Check this out!

A Brief History of The Grand Army of the Republic | Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

REAL LIFE: Never doubt that you, as just one person, can have a dramatic impact on the Kingdom of God! Learn how one man, a hopeless alcoholic, dramatically turned his life around for himself and Christ’s Kingdom.

“Mel Trotter Ministries exists to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ toward anyone experiencing hunger and homelessness. Through the power of Christ, working to bring an end to homelessness one life at a time. We are at the forefront of battling homelessness through community partnerships and innovative solutions. Our mission is to be the answer when someone asks “What do I do if I’m homeless?”

- [Mel Trotter Ministries](#)

[▶ Melvin Trotter's Impact](#)

EXTRA CREDIT: Learn how his legacy has touched others by checking out the video testimonies here:

Celebrating our 125th Anniversary - Mel Trotter Ministries

APOLO-GET-ITS: *“What famous lawyer said this? ‘I humbly add — I have spent more than 42 years as a defense trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I say unequivocally that the **evidence** for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so **overwhelming** that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.’ **Who is this lawyer?**”*

- William T. Pelletier, Ph.D.

Famous Thinkers: Who Is This Lawyer?

EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: *“Belief in a Creator is common sense. Belief in a Creator is inescapable based on examining what has been created. This was the conviction and argument of leading thinkers throughout history”*

- William T. Pelletier, Ph.D.

Peruse the list of famous thinkers at the end of the above post, including the following: **Paul the Apostle (Romans 1:18-23), President Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Sir Isaac Newton!**

LOVE TO LINK!

The depth of content offered in the Think Above the Box Study Guides would not have been possible without the many talents and Spirit-inspired links that are included for each book. Isn't it great that while you use the study guides you can click on a link and go to these great sites without searching for them?

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all the Bible publishers, pastors, bloggers, filmmakers, musicians and Christian media websites for the vast amount of information they provide online. Your efforts are truly a blessing to all who access your sites!

TAB highly encourages students to explore each of the links at their leisure as it is like going down a Holy rabbit hole!

[Project Gutenberg](#)

[Edward Penfield](#)

[Rawpixel](#)

[Elizabeth George](#)

[Church On The Move](#)

[Angel Clips - YouTube](#)

[412Teens.org](#)

[Another Well Ministries](#)

[Timothy Burt](#)

[Woodside Bible Church](#)

[Lauren Daigle](#)

[adventure and the girl](#)

[Jeremy Camp](#)

[Andy Lee](#)

[Sermon Central](#)

[Sons Of Sunday](#)

Kid Rock

Bible Study Headquarters

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Mel Trotter Ministries

Bible-Science Guy

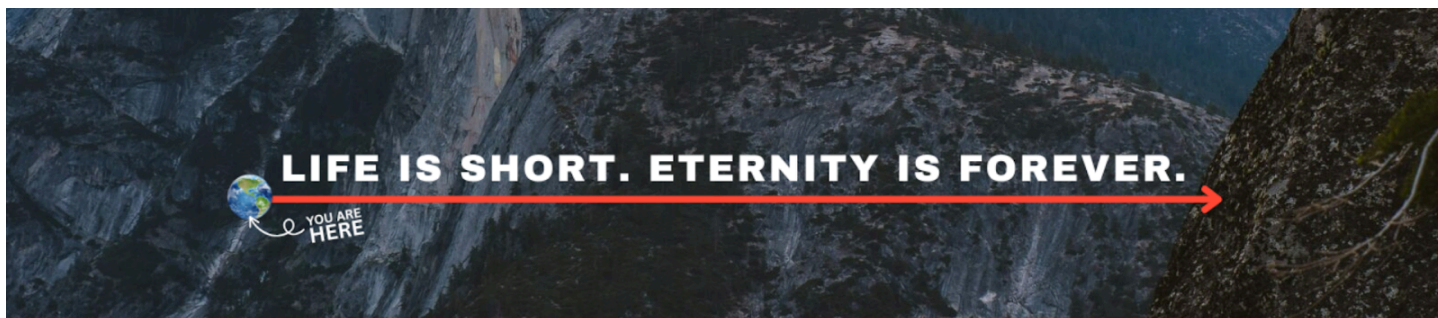
Afterword

Please check out [Think above the Box](#) for more study guides, blogs, and links to thought-provoking material.

*And please leave us a note on our site about your experience!
We would love to hear your comments!*



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens



2 Corinthians 4:18 TLB So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

