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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2

## A publication of the... Churches of Christ

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18  
Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5  
Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2  
Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22  
Organization:  
Christ as head – Eph. 5:23  
Elders oversee local church –  
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5  
Deacons as servants –  
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13  
Members compose body –  
Col. 1:2

Name (group):  
Church of God – Eph. 3:15  
Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23  
Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16  
Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):  
Disciples – John 15:8  
Saints – Rm. 1:7  
Brethren – Lk. 8:21  
Children of God – Gal. 4:26  
Christian – Acts 11:25-26

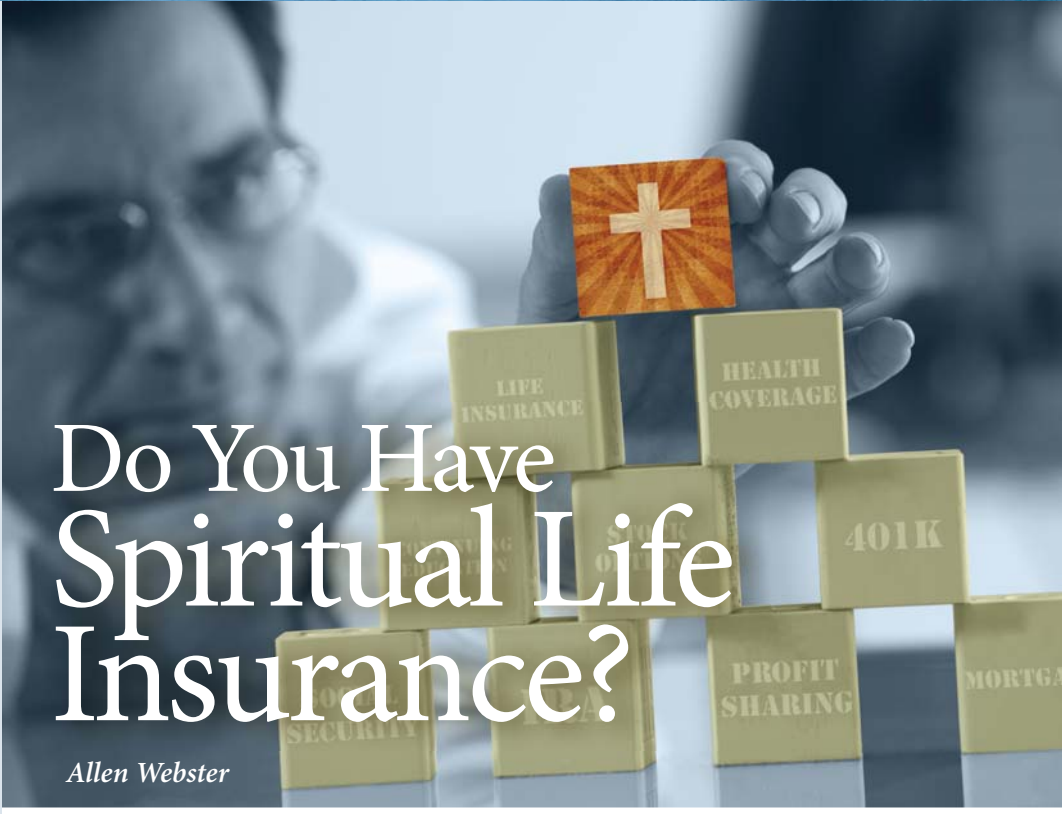
Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37  
Rule of Faith & Practice:  
Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24  
Sing – Eph. 5:19  
Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17  
Teach – Acts 5:42  
Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26  
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16  
Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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## Do You Have Spiritual Life Insurance?

*Allen Webster*

**This generation has** seen its share of natural and unnatural calamities. Terrorists destroy buildings and lives; planes fall from the sky; evil people have given “hate mail” a new meaning. Periodically, hurricanes “huff, and puff, and blow our East Coast houses down” and earthquakes “shake, rattle, and roll” our West Coast structures. A little closer to home, fires often destroy neighborhood houses, storms leave us in the dark, and auto accidents injure those we know.

Usually, upon finding out that no one was injured in such a time, we immediately ask, “Were they covered?” We are interested in whether victims had insurance; we sympathize more with those who did not. It multiplies the sorrow of misfortune if there is no “starting over” check.

Insurance companies provide a valuable service, and most of us have

been wisely counseled by informed agents. They always advise, “Take out ample coverage. You never know when you might need it.” Though we do not like to pay the premiums, most of us realize that the potential benefits are worth the cost of being covered. We often advise our children and grandchildren to take out a policy “just in case.”

There is a spiritual angle to the “insurance business.”

### **GOD IS IN THE INSURANCE BUSINESS**

There is a sense in which God is in the insurance business. He promised Moses that He would “cover” him as He passed by (Exodus 33:22), and Moses promised the tribe of Benjamin,

“The Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders” (Deuteronomy 33:12). >>



# From His vantage point, God can see an impending disaster *worse than any hurricane or earthquake.*

In a beautiful word picture, the psalmist describes God's protection:

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler (Psalm 91:3–4).

From His vantage point, God can see an impending disaster worse than any hurricane or earthquake. It will not destroy just one town but the whole earth (2 Peter 3:10). It will not involve only a few thousand people, but all the people of the whole earth (2 Corinthians 5:10). God is providing coverage for those willing to “pay the premiums.” Jesus put it this way:

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:28–33).

Having such coverage helps us “rebuild” in a better place (Hebrews 11:10).

## **CHRISTIANS ARE INSURANCE AGENTS**

If God is in the insurance business, then Christians are His agents. We seek to “cover” our friends, relatives, neighbors, coworkers, fellow citizens; actually, all our brothers come down from Adam. Love motivates us. Gratitude sends us.

When Noah was uncovered in his tent, Shem and Japheth took a garment and went backward to cover their father's shame (Genesis 9:23). They did what love always does—cover the shame of sinners. The Bible teaches us to do just that:

- ▶ “Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins” (Proverbs 10:12).
- ▶ “A fool's wrath is presently known; but a prudent man covereth shame” (Proverbs 12:16).
- ▶ “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends” (Proverbs 17:9).
- ▶ “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).

Love does not sweep sin under the rug. In younger days, our older brothers or buddies from school occasionally pressed us to “cover for them” to keep them from the wrath of parents or teachers. It never worked. The truth came out, and then we looked as bad as they did.

Sin is like a rubber tire—it won't stay buried (Numbers 32:23; 1 Timothy 5:24–25). So what does it mean that “love covereth all sins”? We cover sins by assisting sinners in getting rid of them. James wrote, “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).

## **ARE YOU COVERED?**

It does no good to cover one's sins so that others do not know of them. Children may hide things from their parents; husbands and wives may hide things from each other; and workers may hide things from their employers, but no one hides anything from God (Hebrews 4:13). “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

The only way to cover one's sins is to have them erased from the mind of God (Hebrews 8:12). For sinners this is done through faith in His Son (John 3:16), repentance—turning from sinful behavior—(Luke 13:3), confession of faith (Romans 10:9–10), and immersion in water to have sins blotted out (Acts 2:38). For erring Christians, sins are covered by repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22).

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psalm 32:1) ❀

# God Uses Broken Things

If something is broken, we generally discard it. However, God uses broken things to accomplish His purposes.

God used broken pitchers (Judges 7). Gideon conquered the Midianites by putting their lamps within pitchers; at his direction, the soldiers broke their pitchers and revealed the light, which greatly confused the Midianites, and they were defeated. The light of truth is often hidden by error, and it is when the error is broken that the light is revealed.

God used broken tables of stone (Exodus 32). Aaron had erected the golden calf because Moses had been gone and the people thought they had been abandoned. When Moses came down off the mount and saw what was happening, “he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them” (Exodus 32:19). He then took the golden calf, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder. Next, he put it in the water supply and made the people drink it (Exodus 32:20). We must get rid of the world from our lives.

God used a broken alabaster box (Mark 14). “And she brake the box, and poured it on his head” (Mark 14:3). With this, the woman did what she could; we also must do what we can.

God used the broken body of Jesus (Matthew 26). When He instituted the Lord’s Supper, Jesus took bread and blessed it (Matthew 26). Paul later wrote, quoting the Lord, “Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you” (1 Corinthians 11:24). Note from the Scripture that His bones were not broken: “A bone of him shall not be broken” (John 19:36; Psalm 34:20).

God used the broken heart of David (Psalm 51). We must have a broken heart over our sin. David said, “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

Yes, God uses broken things. Perhaps your life has been broken by sin, but unlike Humpty Dumpty and the king’s horses and men, God can put it back together again.

—Larry Acuff, Lithia Springs, Georgia

*“He healeth the broken in heart,  
and bindeth up their wounds”*

PSALM 147:3



## Idols Versus God

Idols are made by men. God made men. Idols must be carried around by men. God goes wherever He wants.

Idols are made out of wood that must be cut down and designed. God created wood.

Idols must be covered over with silver and gold by the hand of man. God created silver and gold.

Idols can do nothing to men. God can do anything to men.

Idols are not alive. God is alive.

Idols know nothing. God knows everything.

Idols will be destroyed. God is everlasting.

Idols cannot alter anything in nature. God can make the earth shake.

Idols are false. God is truth.

—Mark McWhorter, Leeds, Alabama

*“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”*

1 JOHN 5:21

# GIVING BLOOD

My brother-in-law, who is a minister, responded to a Red Cross appeal for blood donations. When he didn’t come home by the time his young son expected him, the boy asked his mother, “Is Dad going around visiting all the sick people?”

His mother replied, “He’s giving blood.”

“But we know it’s really grape juice, don’t we Mom?”

—Priscilla Larson, Lexington, Massachusetts

*“A time to weep, and a time to laugh”*

ECCLESIASTES 3:4



## God’s Plan for Saving Man

God’s Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ’s Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit’s Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner’s Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner’s Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner’s Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner’s Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian’s Work	James 2:24
Christian’s Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian’s Endurance	Revelation 2:10



## Clean Toilets

A husband asks his wife, "You never argue when I get mad at you. How do you always control your anger?"

"I clean the toilet," she replies.

"How does that help?" he asks.

"I use your toothbrush."

## It Is Better If You Wait ...



A teacher had twelve students in his class.

He brought into the room a box of thirteen roses. Taking one of them out of the box, he passed it around the class, asking each student to feel its texture and smell its fragrance. Afterwards, he placed it back into the box. When the class period came to a close, he passed the entire box of roses around the room for each student to get one for themselves. With twelve students and thirteen roses, naturally there would be one left.

Which do you suppose it was?

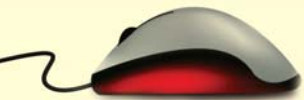
It was the one everybody had touched—the one whose petals were falling off, that did not look very fresh anymore.

The average person has ten sexual partners in life. Why not be different? Why not preserve yourself for the one love of your life? Avoid becoming used and soiled. One day, on your wedding night, you'll be glad you did.

—Allen Webster, *Why Not Be a Prodigal?* (class book)

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication"*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).

# An 8-Cow Wife

On an isolated Pacific island, it was the custom for a young man to announce his intention of marriage to the entire village.

After the announcement, he and the whole community went to the young woman's home. Her father would come outside and then—in front of the community—the father and suitor would barter. Obviously, there was no feminist movement on the island.

The main item of value on the island was the cow. Therefore, a suitor would offer the father a certain number of cows for his daughter. The average bride was worth two cows, perhaps three if she was unusually bright or attractive. The all-time record was four cows.

The most eligible bachelor on the island was Johnny Lingo. He was handsome and wealthy. Imagine all the excitement among the women of the island when Johnny announced one day that he had selected a wife. But then he shocked everyone by announcing that his choice was a girl named Lisa. Lisa was not even in the top ten. She was regarded as plain and frightfully shy. Some of the jokers in the crowd even suggested that Lisa's father might pay Johnny a cow or two.

The community gathered at Lisa's house for the bartering. Then came an even greater shock. Johnny's opening bid for Lisa was eight cows! Her father almost fainted, but he managed to say yes.

That very evening Johnny and Lisa

were married, and they departed for their home on an adjacent island.

For a full year no one saw Johnny and Lisa. Then on their first anniversary they returned to visit their parents. From the moment they arrived at the dock, the news spread. Everybody said, "Come and see Johnny and Lisa! You won't believe it!"

Everybody came, but nobody noticed Johnny. All eyes were on Lisa. She had been transformed! She was a vision of loveliness. She was poised, warm, friendly, and confident.

At the end of the day, as Johnny and Lisa were preparing to return to their home, one of Johnny's longtime friends pulled him aside and said, "I want to know the secret of this amazing transformation in Lisa. How did it happen?"

Johnny said, "I will tell you. From the time Lisa was born, she had been treated as though she was not worth very much. She had begun to believe that about herself. But I announced to the community that she was an 8-cow wife, and I have treated her just that way. She has become that vision of herself that she sees every day in my eyes."

If you want an 8-cow wife or husband, start treating her or him that way. Give it a year and see what happens.

*"Husbands ... giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life ..."*

1 PETER 3:7



# Many Paths?



The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life revealed surprising information about views of religious Americans.

Almost 80 percent of 36,000 people surveyed said that they believed in “absolute standards of right and wrong,” but only about a third said they turned to religious teachings to set their standards. The survey included Hindu, Jew, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Muslim, Mormon, and Jehovah’s Witness respondents.

Sizable numbers in every group answered yes to the question, “Can many religions lead to eternal life?” from 89 percent of Hindus, to 66 percent of Protestants and 16 percent of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Even 56 percent of Muslims said yes, despite the exclusive claims of the Qur’an. Overall, 70 percent said yes. Many would hail this study as

wonderful news about religious tolerance in America. It is good that America is open to the free practice of religion, with no state religion prescribed, but one has to wonder, does anyone stand for anything any more? Can’t we allow others the freedom to practice their religion as they see fit without approving of that practice?

Our religious world wants to dictate the principle that everyone is right, and the only thing that is wrong is to say that someone else is wrong. Does this make sense?

When Peter confessed his faith in Him, Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves

and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:7–10).

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

It is not true that there are many paths to eternal life. Obedience to Jesus and membership in His church is the only way (Acts 4:12).

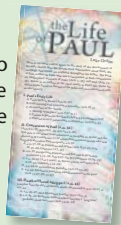
Think about it.

—Bob Prichard, Oxford, Alabama

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## Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Chronology of the Life of Paul bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

**Answers to Last Issue:** *People and Things:* 1. E; 2. G; 3. M; 4. A; 5. H; 6. B; 7. J; 8. L; 9. C. 10. D; 11. K. 12. I; 13. F; 14. T; 15. S; 16. R; 17. O; 18. Q; 19. P; 20. N; *General Bible Facts:* 1. 66; 2. Psalms; 3. Luke (Acts 1: 1); 4. Romans 3:23; 5. Eight (1 Peter 3:20); 6. Noah; Paul; 7. Tower of Babel (Genesis 11); Church (Acts 2); 8. Adam, Eve (Genesis 2); 9. David; 10. No.

## Water, Water Everywhere

**Directions:** Find answers in these verses: Exodus 2:3, 10; 7:17; Joshua 3:13–16; 1 Kings 17:3–4; 2 Kings 5:14; Psalm 1:3; 42:1; Proverbs 25:25; Jeremiah 13:4; Amos 5:24; Matthew 14:29; Mark 1:9; 5:13; Acts 2:38; 8:38; 28:3; 2 Corinthians 11:25; Revelation 22:17

- Jesus was baptized in this body of water: \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter said the purpose of water baptism is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Elijah drank from this brook during a drought: \_\_\_\_\_
- The water of this river stood in a heap: \_\_\_\_\_
- Jeremiah was commanded to hide his girdle beside this river: \_\_\_\_\_
- When Pharaoh would not let God’s people go, the river water was turned to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The only disciple recorded as having walked on water: \_\_\_\_\_
- How many times did Naaman wash himself in the river Jordan? \_\_\_\_\_
- Demons caused a herd of swine to rush into the: \_\_\_\_\_
- Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ freely.
- How many times was Paul shipwrecked? \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul survived a shipwreck, only to be bitten by: \_\_\_\_\_
- This man’s mother laid her son in the river: \_\_\_\_\_
- They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- This prophet said: “Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.” \_\_\_\_\_
- As the \_\_\_\_\_ panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
- The blessed man of Psalm 1 “shall be like a \_\_\_\_\_ planted by the rivers of water.”
- As \_\_\_\_\_ waters to a thirsty soul, so is \_\_\_\_\_ news from a far country.

# Study. *But How?*

“Did you behave in worship?” asked a mother. “Yes ma’am,” answered her boy, “I even heard the lady behind me say, ‘I’ve never seen a child behave like that in all my life!’”

We need to be careful how we interpret the word of another. Such is especially true with the Word of God. It is to be rightly divided, literally, “cut straight,” or handled properly (2 Timothy 2:15). Hopefully, the following suggestions will help us in this wonderful challenge.

First, **CATEGORIZE** what is read. Try to capture the purpose of the book. Is it history, poetry, biography, or prophecy?

Second, **ORGANIZE** what is read. Pay careful attention to the context. Give notice to any “pivot terms” (i.e., therefore, for, in like manner).

Third, **EVANGELIZE** when reading. The Bible is a book of redemption, penned for our salvation (2 Timothy 3:15–17; James 1:25). Study with eternity in mind.

Finally, **MEMORIZE** key verses. The more we run a passage across our hearts, the more we will glean from the passage.

Nothing can be more exciting! Nothing is more needed! Hopefully, the Lord can describe you and me by saying, “His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

—Dan Winkler, Huntingdon, Tennessee



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- ▶ How We Got the Bible —Denny Petrillo (4 parts)
- ▶ How to Live a Guilt-Free Life —Melvin Sapp
- ▶ The Myth of Peaceful Islam —Michael Shepherd
- ▶ The Six Dumbest Things You Can Do Before Age Twenty —Clark Sims
- ▶ Don't Let the Thief on the Cross Rob You of Salvation—Allen Webster

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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- NEW!** In Pursuit of Faith
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- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- The Devil Loves to Fish in Troubled Waters
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- How to Be the Best Giver in Your Congregation
- A Baptism in New Testament Times
- God's Law Versus Man's Law
- A Lying Tongue
- In Pursuit of Enthusiasm
- Odd Odds to Bet On
- Friends *Youth/Young Adult*
- Simon Says
- A Decent Devil?
- A Christian TV Guide
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

# Jesus Master of All

In **chemistry**, He turned water to wine (John 2:1–11).

In **biology**, He was born without the normal conception (Matthew 1:18–25).

In **physics**, He overcame the law of gravity when He walked on water and when He ascended into heaven (Matthew 14:29; Acts 1:9–11).

In **economics**, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding five thousand men with two fish and five loaves of bread (John 6:10–11).

In **medicine**, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs (Matthew 15:30; John 11:37).

In **history**, He is the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:11).

In **government**, He is King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15).

In **religion**, no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

## All Colors Are Alike in the Dark

We live in an age that is allowing different forms of faith and worship to be united even though they are contradictory. All ideas regarding God and what He has commanded are meshed together under one umbrella that accepts the idea that it really doesn't make any difference what you believe, if you believe it with all your heart.

Obviously, all doctrines are not equally important. The fact that Jesus lived 33 years on earth may not be too consequential, but that He is the Son of God makes all the difference in the world! Romans 14 and 15 are great chapters to study regarding ideas, beliefs, and practices where tolerance may be applied, but there are also many things that cannot be compromised.

The Scriptures do not teach that we can believe anything we want regarding Bible teachings and be acceptable to God. In order to be saved from sin, we must understand correctly God's plan of salvation (Acts 8:30–40). In order for God to accept our worship, it must be as He wants it (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7). In order to glorify God and be acceptable to Him, we must live a certain lifestyle that is free from sin (Titus 2:11–14). It does make a difference how one is baptized or for what reason, whether our worship is scriptural or cultural, and whether we substitute men's creeds and decrees in the place of Scripture.

God warned through Isaiah that His thoughts and ways are

not like man's thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8). Jesus stated that only the truth can make us free (John 8:32).

We cannot tell a sheep from a wolf without some standard (Matthew 7:15). Error is not as good as truth (2 Peter 3:17). There are doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1). What God wants us to know, He has revealed (1 Corinthians 2:10–16; Ephesians 3:5–9). What He wants us to do, He has commanded. If we are not controlled in religion and life by the authority of God (Colossians 3:17), we will be controlled by our own rules, moods, and feelings, the consequence of which is disastrous (Proverbs 14:12).

It is always good for us to distinguish between culture and commands, truth and tradition. We must inform ourselves by studying the Bible whether certain things are true or not (2 Timothy 2:15). Become a Berean and search the Scriptures to see if your practices and beliefs are consistent with what the Bible says (see Acts 17:11). It is not as hard to determine as some make it out to be, or as it seems at first.

It really does make a difference what you believe. It does make a difference what religion you practice and what church you are a member of.

Isaiah challenged his generation, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

—Richard L. Jones

# Thoughts from the HEART

## The Safest Place

Have you heard the news? If you want to greatly increase your chance for a long life, you will be interested in the following statistics:



1. Do not ride in an automobile or get in the way of one. They cause 20 percent of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay at home. Seventeen percent of all accidents happen in the home.
3. Do not walk around on the street. Fourteen percent of all accidents happen to pedestrians.
4. Do not travel by air, rail, or water. Six percent of all accidents are the result of this type of traveling.
5. Only .0001 percent of all deaths occur at worship, and these are related to previous physical disorders, such as heart attacks.

So, obviously, the safest place in this world is at worship! Be on the safe side; be at church services every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday evening. It might save your life, to say nothing about your soul!

—Author Unknown

*"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*

PSALM 29:2



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