

House to House VOLUME 21 NUMBER 5 www.housetohouse.com

At Jesus' birth, politicians worried about being unseated by one born to be King (Matthew 2:1-16; John 18:37).

As an adult, He was tempted with political power-all the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-6). At the peak of His popularity, adoring people tried to forcibly crown Him king (John 6:15). At the end, Pilate judged Him on charges of seeking political power (Matthew 27:1-2, 11).

In each instance, Jesus showed no interest and explained that He was no threat to rulers, for His "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

It is safe to say that American candidates would have nothing to fear if Jesus were here. He wants no seat in the Oval Office.

But What if?

One's first impression might be, "Jesus would win by a landslide. He is well-known, trusted, loved, and the greatest leader the world has ever seen." Second thoughts would produce, well . . . second thoughts.

If Jesus ran for president, would He win?

THE PRINCE OF PEACE (ISAIAH 9:6): AN ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATE

Jesus had no form, comeliness, or beauty to draw people to Him (Isaiah 53:2), but His personality and lifestyle led common people to hear Him gladly (Mark 12:37).

Thousands-Jews and Gentiles-came to see and hear Jesus (John 12:20-21).

Allen Webster

esus Were Running for

Would He /

Jesus possessed attractive qualities that would make Him a great president. As a friend of publicans and sinners (Matthew 11:18-19), He stood up for the poor and the old (Luke 4:18; 6:20; 7:22; 21:2-3), but He also prized the young, rich, and powerful (Matthew 27:57; Mark 10:21; Luke 7:36-50). He was scrupulously honest; He could not be bought (Matthew 4:1-22). He was sincere, unselfish, fair. He loved widows and children. He championed the underdog. He stood up to bullies. He was an independent thinker. He did not toe the religious party line.

He had no skeletons in His closet, no little black book of off-the-record relationships to be discovered to His shame, no sins to derail His candidacy (Hebrews 4:15).

RABBI JESUS OF NAZARETH (JOHN 1:45): A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE

Everybody, it seems, has an opinion about Jesus; many radically different-even contradictory-groups claim Him as an advocate of their worldview. It is safe to say that preconceived views are often not in line with what Scripture says of Jesus. In the worst cases, He is blasphemously asso-

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ciated with sinful behaviors—His "brand" hijacked and twisted to endorse viewpoints He abhors. In others, He is simply misunderstood as He sometimes was when He walked among men. Inevitably He would be controversial today, as He was then (Luke 5:30; 10:30–37; 15:2; 19:7).

Where might Jesus stand on today's issues? Society in His day faced many of the same issues, so we can construct an informed platform for His campaign from His speeches, conversations, actions, and Bible verses. Would one be elected today who held the beliefs Jesus held?

Government/Society: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). "All thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). "All the nations that forget God" shall be turned aside (Psalm 9:17). Jesus' teachings were designed for individuals, not governments, yet if all citizens—including politicians followed His doctrines, the nation and world would improve overnight.

Racism: Jesus saw all men—Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles—as made in God's image (Genesis 1:26) and as sinners needing redemption (Romans 3:22–23). A seemingly chance meeting with a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4) shows Jesus dealing with the three major barriers among people:

- Racial: Hatred between Jews and Samaritans had existed for centuries. Most Jews avoided traveling through Samaria at all.
- Sexual: Samaritan women were seen as unclean from the cradle (Mishnah Niddah 4:1). Most Jewish men would not talk publicly with any woman (John 4:27), especially not a Samaritan woman.
- Religious: The temple on Mount Gerizim was a point of contention to the Jews from the time of its construction.

Seizing the opportunity to tease a thirsty man, the woman brought up these differences (John 4:19–24). She thought it was sheer need that compelled Him to ask her for water, but Jesus' kind acceptance led her to believe He was the Messiah (4:9, 11, 19, 24). Later, this led many others in Sychar to follow Him (4:39).

Economics: The prevailing view of Jesus as a Socialist is off-target. Jesus was not a Socialist—nor a Democrat, Republican, or any political entity. He is a monarch who did not advocate any form of earthly government. His kingdom is not "of this world" (John 18:36) for He was "not of this world" (John 8:23).

Socialism and Christianity differ in freedom of choice. Socialist governments take and redistribute wealth. Christianity leaves the one with money a choice. The gospel encourages and fosters a giving spirit (2 Corinthians 8:3) but does not coerce it.

Jesus' teachings encourage work for wages: "The laborer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7; cf. Proverbs 16:26). A landowner in Jesus' parable had the right to do what he wanted to with his money (Matthew 20:15; cf. Naboth, 1 Kings 21). At the same time, Jesus strongly opposed greed. "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

Poverty/Welfare: Jesus often spoke out for human rights on behalf of oppressed people. Yet He was balanced, speaking both of a society's responsibility to help others and an individual's responsibility to help himself. Under normal circumstances, each is to bear his "own burden" (make his own living) (Galatians 6:5); under emergency or extreme circumstances, others (society, Christians) are to bear "one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

Jesus was pro-charity. He pointed to the needs of the marginalized. He demonstrated (Matthew 10:9–10; John 13:29) and taught love for neighbors (Matthew 22:39),

even those we do not personally know (Luke 10:33–37). "When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee" (Luke 14:13–14). Christians are to work to have something to give to those in need (Ephesians 4:28). Under the gospel, rich people are to "be rich in good works, ready to distribute" (1 Timothy 6:17–19).

Jesus was pro-work. "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith" (1 Timothy 5:8). "If any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Political Correctness/Rights: Jesus did not try to please anyone but His Father (John 8:29). The record of His life shows that He neither tried to stir up nor avoid trouble. On one hand, He did not strive, lift up His voice in the streets, break "a bruised reed," or quench a "smoking flax" (Matthew 12:20; cf. Isaiah 42:1–4). He sometimes moved to another city when controversy was inevitable (Luke 4:28–31).

On the other hand, Jesus never adjusted His message to please people. To Him the right path was the unpopular one: "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" (Matthew 7:13). Do not "follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).

Jesus' motto was, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). He taught to turn the cheek (Matthew 5:39), give the cloak (5:40), walk another mile (5:41). Isn't this better than "every man for himself, demand your rights, agitate, intimidate, and regulate"? Healthy societies focus on responsibilities more than rights.

Religion/Public Prayer: Surprisingly, Jesus was no big fan of public prayer, at least not as practiced by the Pharisees (Matthew 6:5–6). Jesus prayed publicly on occasion (John 11:41–42; 17:1–26), but He might not be religious enough for some who profess to follow Him today. Possibly He would call some the same names hypocrites, fools, blind—that He did their counterparts in the first century (Matthew 23). It is ironic that the holy Son of God was crucified primarily because He was not "holy" enough for religious leaders in His day (Matthew 9:10–11; 11:19).

Freedom of Religion/Freedom of Speech: "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:36–37). "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

In our media-driven, hypersensitive, hide-behind-your-keyboard-and-fireaway culture, the great American virtues of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion are pushed to a back burner. The trait of tolerance is championed—so long as one holds to the party line. If a person dares to exercise his freedom of speech in taking a view differing from the mainstream—especially if it originates in the Bible—then tolerating him no longer seems a virtue. Jesus might say, "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

Women: Jesus never married. Thus He had no wife or mother-in-law. Jesus never fathered children, so He had no daughters or granddaughters. He never had a romantic relationship, so no girlfriends. He had a mother and sisters. He had female friends and followers. Even with this limited personal experience, Jesus knew the fairer sex (John 2:25). Women were never objects to Jesus. They were not property. They were not tools to be used or slaves to be exploited. More than any other individual in history, Jesus raised the status of women.

- He complimented women: "O woman, great is thy faith" (Matthew 15:28).
- He helped women: "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity" (Luke 13:12).
- He comforted women: "Woman, why weepest thou?" (John 20:15).
- He defended women: "Why trouble ye the woman?" (Matthew 26:10, 13).
- He elevated women: "Neither male nor female: for ye are all one" (Galatians 3:28).

Jesus certainly got the women's vote in His day. His most ardent followers were women—they were last at the cross, first at the tomb (Matthew 27:55; 28:5). They liked Him; trusted Him; respected Him; followed Him; cared for Him (Matthew 26:7; 27:61; Mark 15:40–41; Luke 8:3; 11:27; 23:27; Acts 1:14; 5:14).

Abortion: "When Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb" (Luke 1:41; cf. Matthew 19:12). "Before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee" (Jeremiah 1:5). "Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person" (Deuteronomy 27:25). One of the seven things the Lord hates is "hands that shed innocent blood" (Proverbs 6:16–17). Jesus was not anti-women, but He was pro-children. He loved them; He took time for them. He held them and held them up as examples of how all should behave (Matthew 18:3; 19:14).

Marriage/Adultery: Jesus would run on a pro-family ticket (Matthew 19:4-5). His first miracle was performed at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11). "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). He opposed divorce (Matthew 5:32; 19:4-9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18), but He allowed it for fornication (Matthew 19:9). He encouraged reconciliation (1 Corinthians 7:10–11). "The body is not for fornication, but for the Lord" (1 Corinthians 6:13). On one hand, when a woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, He did not condemn her to die (John 8:1-11). On the other, He told her to go and "sin no more" (8:11).

Homosexuality: "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4–5). "To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (1 Corinthians 7:2). "Even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another" (Romans 1:26–27; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Genesis 19).

Animals/Environment: "How much then is a man better than a sheep?" (Matthew 12:12). God gave man "dominion" over the works of His hands (Psalm 8:6). Jesus used but never abused animals and the environment. He rode a donkey, caught and cooked fish, and ate a lamb (Matthew 17:27; 21:7; 26:18; John 21:9). "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast" (Proverbs 12:10; cf. Deuteronomy 25:4). Jesus cleaned up after Himself and collected "twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes" (Mark 6:43). "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

THE RESURRECTED LORD AND SAVIOR: THE WINNING TICKET

None of these is the most crucial issue. The thing most critical for each voter is not who is president, but who is Lord. It is not how the election affects the pocketbook, but how one's decisions affect his soul. "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

When Jesus comes, He will not be president. He will be King, and every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess (Romans 14:11). How will you mark the ballot for Lord of your life and Savior of your soul? The polls are open.



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



What Have I Done?

Alfred Sutro wrote a little known play called *Maker of Men*. It contains a scene where a bank clerk comes home to his wife, having failed to receive a promotion.

"I see other men getting on; what have I done?" he said to her.

His wife replied, "You have made a woman love you. You have given me respect for you, and admiration, and loyalty, and devotion—everything a man can give his wife, except luxury, and I don't need that."

Solomon wrote, "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:9). —Bob Prichard



Child Custody

If God gave you custody of your children on condition that you would bring them up in the Lord and bring them to church and Bible school, would you be able to retain custody of your own children?

> "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

EPHESIANS 6:4

He did exactly that.

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

So You Want to Be a Good Parent

What are the basics for those who desire to be the kind of parents God wants? Let me suggest four:

Shower them with love. Children are always changing. But an atmosphere of love makes the change easier. Paul wrote, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:21). The more hugs, kisses, and tenderness they receive the better. This is not just the rule for mothers, but for dads, too.

Remember you are their teacher. God commanded Israel to "teach . . . diligently" God's will to children (Deuteronomy 6:7). It is much easier to punish children when they do wrong than to teach them, but your role as a parent is to teach. Do not expect others to teach your children what God expects you to teach.

Don't be afraid to discipline. Discipline is hard work. It's tough to punish your precious little boy or girl. But God said, "He who spares his rod hates

his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24). "Promptly" means that the parent does not procrastinate, but takes the necessary action. Some things should be observed during discipline:

- (1) do not injure the child,
- (2) do it in love, not anger, and
- (3) apply it promptly, fairly, and consistently.

The word *discipline* comes from a Latin root that means "instruction." Solomon said, "Chasten your son while there is hope" (Proverbs 19:18). This means don't wait too long to start. Your children's future depends on your being a good, fair, loving disciplinarian.

Show them the way. Children learn from what they see. Make your life what you want your son's or daughter's to be like. Children imitate parents. Do you want them imitating your lifestyle, service to the Lord, and work habits? They will. Set the proper example for them.





Failure Need Not Be Fatal

History books are filled with biographies of failures who made good. From them we can learn the valuable lesson that failure need not be fatal.

The first President of the United States—the father of our country—lost two-thirds of the battles he fought during the Revolutionary War. But George Washington won the war, founded a nation, and succeeded brilliantly in spite of those failures.

Who failed more than Babe Ruth? In a baseball career that spanned 21 years, the immortal slugger hit 714 home runs, but he struck out 1,330 times. Until he retired in 1935, this famous failure was baseball's biggest attraction.

Just because one fails at some point in life does not necessarily mean he or she is a failure.

After Edison had experimented 10,000 times with his storage bat-

tery and still could not get it to work, a friend tried to comfort him. "Why I have not failed," Edison replied. "I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Nearly deaf and with only three months of formal schooling, Thomas A. Edison patented more than 1,000 inventions. During his 60 years of reaching toward the unknown, Edison failed more than he succeeded. But who would call Edison a failure?

Is it a sin to fail? The answer is both yes and no. It is a sin when failure is due to moral or spiritual laxness or to laziness. But it is not a sin to fail when one has done his best, within the will of God, and the results were not what he wanted.

One must not be so afraid of life that one refuses to try. We don't have to succeed, but we do have to give life a run for its money. A faithful old preacher felt he had failed miserably when he reported to his congregation that only one new member—and just a boy at that—had been added to the church during the year. But that boy went on to become a missionary in Africa who brought the gospel to tribes that previously had never heard the name of Jesus.

Take heart! If life has put you on the canvas and pummeled the breath out of you, it is still too early to quit. If you feel you must quit, then do it the day after tomorrow. You may have lost the battle today, but you could win the war tomorrow.

As Grantland Rice, America's first great sports writer, put it, "When Jesus comes to judge us, He will not be so concerned about whether we won or lost, but how we played the game!"

The world will measure you by your success, but God will measure you by your faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2).



Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "The Fruit of the Spirit" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited). A RUTER CONT

VOLUME 21:5

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

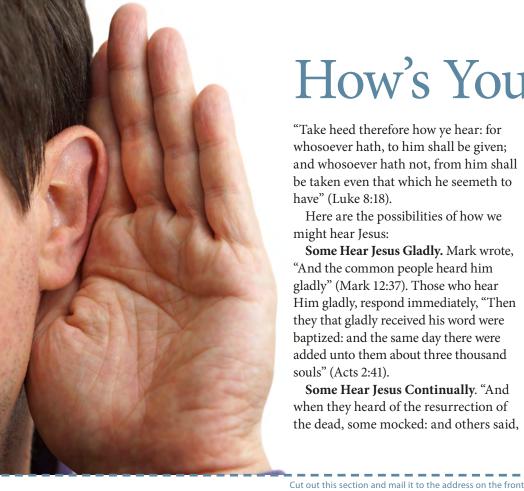
Answers to Last Issue: Jesus' Story about Dirt: 1. In a boat on the water (Matthew 13:1–20); 2. On the ground (Matthew 13:2); 3. Rocky (Matthew 13:5); 4. Word, God (Luke 8:11); 5. Trodden on, eaten by birds (Luke 8:5); 6. The devil (Luke 8:12); 7. Scorched by sun, withered (Matthew 13:6); 8. Moisture (Luke 8:6); 9. Choke (Matthew 13:6); 10. Thirtyfold, sixtyfold, hundredfold (Matthew 13:8); 11. Honest, good (Luke 8:15); 12. Satan (Mark 4:15); 13. Tribulation, affliction, persecution (Matthew 13:21; Mark 4:17); 14. Cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, lusts of other things (Mark 4:19); 15. Hears, understands, bears (Matthew 13:23); 16. Lest they believe and be saved (Luke 8:12); 17. What (Mark 4:24); 18. How (Luke 8:18); 19. Eyes, ears (Matthew 13:16).



Directions: Find your answers in Matthew 27:62–67; 28:1–20; Mark 16:1–20; John 20:24–28

- 1. Pilate set a watch over the tomb at the request of ______
- 2. Why did Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James come to the tomb when the Sabbath was past? ______
- 3. Who moved the stone?
- 4. Who came with Zebedee's wife and the mother of James and John to the tomb?
- 5. Who told Mary that Jesus was not in the tomb, but He had risen?
- "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is _____; he is _____; here: behold the place where they laid him."
- With what two emotions did the women leave the empty tomb (Matthew 28:8)?
- 8. To whom did Jesus first appear after His resurrection (Mark 16:9)? _____
- As the women went to tell Jesus' disciples that Jesus had risen, who did they meet on the way? ______

- 10. What was the disciples' response when they were told Jesus had risen (Mark 16:11)?
- 11. Why did the guards report the disciples had stolen the body? _____
- 12. Jesus had promised to meet His disciples where?
- 13. Which disciple would not believe unless he could see the nail marks?
- Who did Jesus reprimand (upbraid) for not believing in the resurrection after others had seen Him?
- 15. Jesus said, "____ power is given unto me in heaven and in _____."
- 16. "Go ye into _____ the world, and preach the ______ to every creature."
- 17. "Go ye therefore, and ______ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
- 18. "Teaching them to observe _____ things whatsoever I have commanded you."
- 19. At the end of Mark, where is Jesus sitting?



How's Your Hearing

"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have" (Luke 8:18).

Here are the possibilities of how we might hear Jesus:

Some Hear Jesus Gladly. Mark wrote, "And the common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37). Those who hear Him gladly, respond immediately, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Some Hear Jesus Continually. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter" (Acts 17:32). There are today those who hear Jesus, but instead of obeying Him, they simply want to hear Him over and over again. They are never fully convinced or they simply allow other things to distract them.

Some Hear Jesus Argumentatively. The scribes and the Pharisees listened to Jesus because they were "seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him" (Luke 11:54). Some hear Jesus with preconceptions and misconceptions. They argue, refuse to accept, and hold to traditions.

How do we hear Jesus? Do we argue with Scripture when it is preached?

Let's be people who hear Jesus gladly! -Chance Hicks, Jacksonville, Alabama

Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

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Tract: 5 Fellowships a Week

□ What

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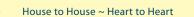


3 FACTS

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THE NAMES OF

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HEBREW

YHWH: Yahweh, I Am Who I Am ABBA: Father

ADONAI: Master or Lord

JEHOVAH: I Am Who I Am, Yahweh

EL: God mighty, strong, prominent

EL ROI: God of Seeing

EL-OLAM: Everlasting God

EL-BERITH: God of the Covenant

EL-GIBHOR: Mighty God, God the Warrior

EL-SHADDAI: God Almighty

EL ELYON: Most High

ELOHIM: Creator, Preserver

JEHOVAH-JIREH: The God who Provides

JEHOVAH-SHALOM: The God of peace

JEHOVAH-ROPHE: The God who heals

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU: The Lord Our Righteousness

JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH: The God who sanctifies

> JEHOVAH-NISSI: God our banner

JEHOVAH-ROHI: The Lord Our Shepherd

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: The Lord is There

JEHOVAH-SABAOTH: The Lord of Hosts

ABHIR: Mighty One

SHAPHAT: Judge

KANNA: Jealous PALET: Deliverer

YESHA: Savior

GAOL: Redeemer

MAGEN: Shield TSADDIO: Righteous One

ZUR: God our Rock

MELEKH: King

GREEK

KURIOS: Lord DESPOTES: Lord THEOS: God I AM THEOTES: Godhead HUPSISTOS: Highest SOTER: Savior

Thoughts from the **HEART**

We Persuade Men

Believing in the reality of the coming judgment, the apostle Paul wrote, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Corinthians 5:11). If the great men of the Bible had been informed of such judgment, how would they have reacted?

- Enoch would have believed.
- Noah would never have doubted.
- Abraham would immediately have begun preparing.
- Moses would have called the people together to relate the message.
- Isaiah and Jeremiah would have pled with the people.
- Daniel would have proclaimed it aloud.
- Elijah and Elisha would have shouted it from the rooftop.
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James, and Jude would place in our hands the record itself and say, "Here is the way it is going to be—Judgment Day is coming!"

If your name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, I plead with you to come believing, repenting, confessing, and be baptized into the body of Christ (Galatians 3:26–27, Acts 2:38; 8:35–40).

If your name is written in the Lamb's book of life, I pray that you may live and conduct yourself in such a way that your name may never be blotted out of the Book of Life (Revelation 2:10).





Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.

OPINION POLL

Which issues do you think are the most important facing our country, and why?

- Abortion
- __Alcohol/Drugs
- _ Corruption
- ___ Death Penalty
- ______ __Environment/Energy/ Earth Care
- __Foreign Affairs
- Gender Identity Issues
- __Global Warming
- Gun Control
- Healthcare
- Homosexual Marriage

- _Immigration
- _Marijuana/Drugs
- **Minority Rights**
- ___Morality
- Supreme Court Appointees
- Muslims/Sharia Law
- __ Personal Freedom/ Government "Big Brother" Surveillance
- _Racism
- _Religious Freedom
- **Traditional Marriage**

Let us know at housetohouse.com/opinion

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