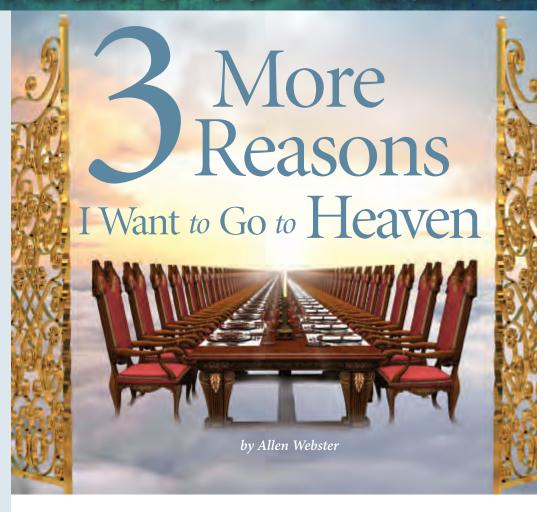


House to House volume 15 NUMBER 3 www.housetohouse.com House to House to House volume 15 NUMBER 3 Www.housetohouse.com



I don't tire of dreaming of heaven. Daydream with me a little more . . . What's so great about heaven?

I want to go to heaven to meet the people of the BIBIe.

I have studied and preached the characters of the Bible so often that I feel that I know them. And you have likely heard sermons about them and read of them so much that you feel the same way.

Have you considered that you may live across the street from Abraham? You may be a next-door neighbor to Matthew, and pass Peter's house on the way to see Paul. You may have Sunday lunch with Job, Joshua, John, and Jeremiah. You may sit next to Sarah, Solomon, Samuel, Stephen, and the Samaritan woman in a worship service.

Jesus said "that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11; cf. Hebrews 11:16). Think of seeing the names from Hebrews 11 on the mailboxes on your street: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Amram, Jochebed, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Think of having conversations with >>



all the New Testament characters such as Matthew, Barnabas, Luke, Silas, Cornelius, Nicodemus, the thief on the cross, and the widow who gave two mites. For years we have read about them, and when we get to heaven we'll finally get to meet them. We'll have time to get to know every one of them on a first name basis. We'll get to:

- Ask Adam what he thought when he first laid eyes on Eve (Genesis 2).
- Ask Noah what it was like living in that floating zoo for a year with all those animals—and what it was like to turn them loose and see them scamper away on the refreshed earth (Genesis 6–9).
- Ask Abraham and Isaac to show us how the knife was poised before God stopped the human sacrifice (Genesis 22).
- Ask David to demonstrate how he slung the rock that killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
- Ask Moses to show us again how he parted the Red Sea. Perhaps we can even get the Israelites who were there to reenact the entire scene.
- Ask Daniel about what the lion's den smelled like, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego what the fiery furnace felt like.
- Request that David lead us in "The Lord Is My Shepherd" and "Rock of Ages," cleft for me.
- Have Jonah lecture to us about what his experience in the fish's belly taught him, and Paul tell us about the stoning at Lystra.

- Ask Mary what it was like to carry the Son of God in her womb for forty weeks, and then what went through her mind as she saw Him hanging on the cross.
- Ask blind Bartimaeus to tell us how Jesus healed him, and what it was like to see Jesus' face as his first sight.
- Ask the Christians from Pentecost to describe the day the church began . . . perhaps Peter will even preach that sermon again!
- Wouldn't it be interesting to hear Paul lecture on faith, law, love, and works from Romans? And, John, could you please go through the symbolism in Revelation for us.

I want to go to heaven so I can Befree of sorrow, sickness, pain, temptation, and stress.

God has given me a wonderful life here—far better than I deserve, and easier than most (especially from the worldwide perspective). Still I know what it feels like to cry, hurt, toss and turn, and be stressed out over deadlines and pressure. I well know the tug of temptation and the guilt that comes from sin. One day these will all be "former things" (Revelation 21:4). That will be a good day.

I want to go to heaven to claim my inher itance.

This may seem shallow, or even selfish, but I'm looking forward to getting the inheritance my Father has promised. This is a scriptural desire, for Jesus said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures

in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20–21).

Those who remain loyal under persecution are told that their reward in heaven will be great (Matthew 5:12). The rich young ruler was foolish not to place his interest in eternal treasure instead of earthly riches (Luke 18:18-23). Moses was much wiser, for he "had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:26). Paul declares that our hope is laid up for us in heaven (Colossians 1:5). Poor people can look forward to the time when they become "heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him" (James 2:5). The apostles used future inheritance as an incentive to remain faithful (1 Peter 1:3-4). It is proper, even required, that we "seek the things that are above" (Colossians 3:1-2).

Heaven is a place where God rewards His children. What will the inheritance be? The Bible mentions a crown and a mansion, but much of it is shrouded by mystery. It is like having a wrapped gift awaiting you. You know it is something good, and you can't wait to see what your Father has for you. God loves to give (John 3:16; James 1:17), and He can give gifts that no one else can (Psalm 50:10–12; Philippians 4:19). Heaven will be wonderful because we get a remarkable inheritance (2 Timothy 4:8).

Do you have hope of heaven? Contact us!



a ccommodations: Arrangements for accommodations must be made in advance (John 14:2).

passports: Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).

departure time: The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared to leave on short notice (1 Corinthians 15:52).

tickets: Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed by learning the gospel, believing in Christ, repenting of sins, confessing Jesus, and having sins washed away in baptism (Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:32; Acts 22:16). Keep its promises firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8–9).

I uggage: No luggage whatsoever is needed or allowed (1 Timothy 6:7).

Immigration: All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. There is no maximum quota, so all are invited to come (Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 22:17).

a ir passage: Travelers going directly by air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

vaccinations: Not needed, as there are no diseases there (Revelation 21:4).

currency: Deposits may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Make deposits as large as possible (Matthew 6:20–21).

clothing: A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).

r eservations: Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).

To learn more, please consult the Holy Bible.

—Arthur Pigman, Evans, Georgia

COUNTRY FUNERAL

As a young minister in Kentucky, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a graveside service for a homeless man, who had no family or friends. The

funeral was to be held at a new cemetery back in the country, and this man would be the first to be buried there.

I was not familiar with the backwoods area, and I soon became lost and finally arrived an hour late.

I saw the backhoe and the open grave, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. The digging crew was eating lunch. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and I stepped to the side of the open grave. There I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long, as I told them that this was the proper thing to do.

The workers gathered around the grave and stood silently, as I began to pour out my heart and soul. As I preached, the workers became excited and began to say "Amen." Their fervor truly inspired me. So I preached and preached like I had never preached before, all the way from Genesis to Revelation.

I finally closed the lengthy service with a prayer, thanked the men, and walked to my car. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I heard one of the workers say to another,

"I ain't never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been puttin' in septic tanks for thirty years."





Beating Back Boredom

stork story

Coming through the door after school one day, Little Johnny hollers out, "Okay everyone in the house, please stand advised that I, Little Johnny Elvis Smith,

have on this date made a complete fool of myself in class by repeating stories concerning storks, as told to me by certain parties residing in this house!"



"For ye shall laugh." LUKE 6:21

washington's mother

A French officer once asked George Washington's mother how she managed to rear such a splendid son. She simply replied,"I taught him to obey."

Obedience is something that must be taught. In the perilous times, there will be those who are "disobedient to parents" (2 Timothy 3:2). The whole idea of rebellion against parents and authority is ungodly.

Children are told to honor their father and mother, obeying them in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1–2). We must teach them to obey, or they will have to answer for it.

We should set the example in showing obedience to our Father (Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 5:3).

—T. Doy Moyer, The South End Expounder



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com. Let's consider some ideas to combat boredom and keep our relationships fresh.

- **Date.** Once a week, go out on a date. It doesn't have to be fancy or costly, but try to do new things. Check with your local paper, Web sites, or town hall for events happening in the area. Often these events will be inexpensive, be enjoyable, and make for interesting conversations.
- **Have a family night.** Choose one night of the week to play games, cook
 - a meal together, look at old pictures, or get ice cream. The goal is to make memories to tie the family together. It doesn't matter what you do, as much as who you do it with.
- Hobbies. If the two of you share a mutual hobby, make some time to do it together.

If you don't have one, consider checking with your local high schools, art schools, or colleges. Many offer evening courses for things from

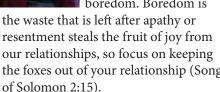
painting, to pottery, to wood carving.

- Work out. Many of us need to be more physically fit, and our partners can help us. Take walks, go to the gym, go jogging, or use a workout video series at home. You will feel better and have time to talk.
- **Sports.** Learn more about your spouse's favorite sport. If possible, play with them. If not, watch it on television or go together in person.
- **Give up some of yourself.** If you have a hobby that takes up a lot of time

and energy, scale back. Remember that you are married to your mate, not the TV, the lake, the garage, the lawn, or the scrapbooks.

No relationship should be all fun all the time. but we should all make it a priority to tackle boredom. Boredom is

resentment steals the fruit of joy from our relationships, so focus on keeping the foxes out of your relationship (Song of Solomon 2:15).



"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth." PROVERBS 5:18

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it.

For fifty years Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important. Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash.

He took the box to her and asked about the contents.

"My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained. "She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in fifty years she'd only been mad at him twice. "What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"Oh, that's the money I made selling the rest of the doilies."

"A merry heart doeth good."

PROVERBS 17:22



caution: In Case of Rapture

A popular bumper sticker says, "Caution: In case of rapture this car will be unmanned . . . "

This is a popular doctrine taught by many religious groups. But would you be surprised to learn that neither the word *rapture* nor the commonly taught doctrine of the rapture even occurs in the Bible?

It is said that this event will be a "secret rapture," when the Lord will appear and take away his faithful saints secretly, leaving the rest of the world searching for an explanation of what has happened. The Bible, however, says that the second coming of the Lord will not be a secret, but rather that "every eye shall see him" (Revelation 1:7). Paul describes Christ's coming this way: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Friends, the second coming of the Lord will be anything but a secret!

—Don Blackwell

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

REVELATION 1:7

w hat n ot to say

It is not always easy to say the right thing on the spur of the moment. We can sympathize with the man who



met an old friend after many years.

"How is your wife?"

"She is in heaven," replied the friend.
"Oh, I'm sorry," stammered the man.
Then he realized this was not the thing to say.

"I mean," he stammered, "I'm glad." That seemed even worse so he blurted, "Well, what I really mean is, I'm surprised."

good a dvice

"Instead of waiting for someone to take you under his or her wing, go out and find a good wing to climb under."

—Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy's

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to www.HouseToHouse.com.

Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a *Quick Scriptures for Teens* bookmark.



Name:	
Address:	
Phono:	

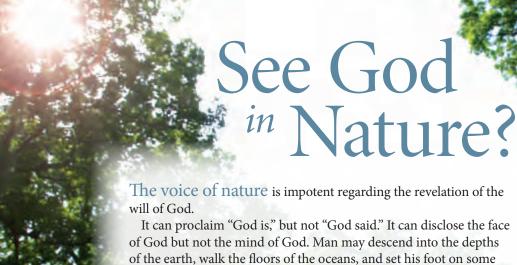
Questions Taken from the King James Version

a nswers to l ast Issue: New Testament Word Find: 1. Titus; 2. Romans 3. Timothy; 4. Corinthians; 5. Revelation; 6. Thessalonians; 7. Galatians 8. Colossians; 9. Philippians; 10. Ephesians; Which Case of Conversion Shows ...? 1. Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40); 2. 3000 on Pentecost (Acts 2); 3. Eunuch (Acts 8); 4. Jailor (Acts 16:33); Important questions: 1. Yes (Mark 16:16); 2. Yes (Acts 8:35–40); 3. Personal answer

Bible Book Word Find

directions: Thirty (30) books are found in this paragraph. (Actually, 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet's name.) Circle those you can find.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless.



It can proclaim "God is," but not "God said." It can disclose the face of God but not the mind of God. Man may descend into the depths of the earth, walk the floors of the oceans, and set his foot on some distant planet, but the revelations of his journeys will not contain one word of God's will for his life. The world of nature has no knowledge of sin, Christ, Calvary, or redemption. Man may search the world of nature, but only the Holy Spirit can search the mind of God. That search has been made, and its results have been recorded in the Bible.

—Frank Chesser, Montgomery, Alabama

"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand ..."

EPHESIANS 3:4





- ▶ Tell Me the Story of Jesus —Winfred Claiborne
- ▶ Christ the Bearer of Our Iniquities —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ Biblical Christianity —Mack Lyon
- ▶ From Water to Wine —Wade Webster
- ▶ Roman Catholicism —John Shannon
- ▶ Who Should I Marry? —Allen Webster

To listen to these and more than 6,000 others, go to

www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio



Free Marriage Enrichment

Do you need a little encouragement in your marriage? Just starting out? Going through a rocky time? Each year the churches of Christ host the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat in Sevierville, Tennessee. This year's instructors were Philip Hines of Hartselle, Alabama, and David Shannon of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Their seven sessions provide laughter, insights, and motivation for building the marriage God wants you to have. Listen at

www.housetohouse.com/hth/Audio/marriage.htm



Featured Web sites:

For free in-depth Bible study material, we recommend:

www.housetohouse.com

www.discovermagazine.com (for children)



More!

- ☐ I want to better understand the church of Christ.
- \square I want to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- \square Quiero Recibir *Casa a Casa* en Español.
- ☐ I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- ☐ I have a prayer request:_
- ☐ I have a Bible question:
- ☐ I want to know more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

Address: ______

Bible Study Helps:

- ☐ Enroll me in a Free Survey of the Bible Home Study Course.

 Pressure-free...work on your own at home.
- □ I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study* series (an in-home personal study). These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.
- ☐ I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

Tracts:

- □ **NEW!** Worship Fads or Timeless
- □ **NEW!** I Want to Look Upon His
- ☐ **NEW!** The Discipline of Children
- □ **NEW!** History's Most Famous Anonymous Wedding
- ☐ Jesus Made a Blood Donation for
- ☐ Why Caleb Lived on a Mountain
- ☐ Six Sermons a Drunk Preacher Preached (Noah)
- ☐ Love Thy Neighbor. The Story of the Good Samaritan
- Heaven Is Four Steps from Any Place on Earth (Step 4)
- ☐ In the Way He Should Go (parenting)
- ☐ Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat
- ☐ Old Age: Taking Care or Taking Advantage?

- ☐ A Heart That Devises Wicked Imaginations
- ☐ Wait till the Honeymoon? *Many are. Here's why* ...
- ☐ A Man with a "Wait" Problem
- ☐ Does Heaven Have a Smoking Section?
- ☐ Be Swift to Hear. Learning to listen to mates, friends, and God.
- ☐ Sweat the Small Stuff
- ☐ Under a Bushel of Bushels
- ☐ Pornography's Pain
- ☐ The Scourging of Jesus☐ In Pursuit of Excellence
- in Pursuit of Excellence
- ☐ God's Hospital
- ☐ God's View of Abortion
- ☐ Grandparenting
- ☐ Back issues of House to House/ Heart to Heart

Current Info on the hurch of Christ

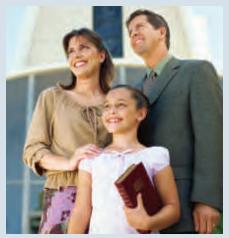
- Churches of Christ rank first in the nation in weekly attendance among their membership.
- ▶ Churches of Christ rank first in the nation in distribution of congregations.
- Churches of Christ rank fourth in the nation in number of counties in which there is a congregation.
- ▶ Churches of Christ are the sixth fastest growing church in
- Churches of Christ constitute the twelfth largest religious group in America.
- ▶ Churches of Christ are regarded as having a "remarkable degree of unity" by other religious groups because "they have experienced far less fragmentation."
- Only 4.2 percent of young people in the Churches of Christ who graduated from high school in the past ten years have divorced, which is half of the rate of their peers (8.1 percent).

—Dr. Flavil Yeakley, The Christian Higher Education Foundation Report

We do not relate this information to boast, but simply to invite you to investigate for yourself what others are finding so compelling. The churches of Christ have a unique plea in the current religious world. We plead for (a) no creed but Christ (Acts 8:36–38), (b) no book but the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3; John 16:13; Jude 3), (c) no church but Christ's (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22–23; Romans 16:16, (d) no name but Christ's (Acts 4:12; 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16), and (e) no worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7), organization

(Philippians 1:1), or doctrine (Titus 2:1), but that authorized by the word of God.

As the restorers expressed it, "Let us call Bible things by Bible names, and let us do Bible things in Bible ways. Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent." We plead



for "Christ's church in the twenty-first century as it was in the first century." Many are finding this plea is reasonable, logical, sensible, and compelling.

A growing church is a gospel church (Mark 16:15), a going church (Acts 8:4), a giving church (1 Corinthians 16:2), a good church (Galatians 6:10), a gracious church (Colossians 4:6), a greeting church (3 John 1:14), a gifted church (Matthew 25:14–30), a godly church (Titus 2:11–12), a glad church (Acts 2:46-47), a gathering church (Hebrews 10:25), a glorious church (Ephesians 5:27), and a great church (Hebrews 9:11). That's what the church of Christ is striving to be.

—Wendell Winkler, The Church Everybody Is Talking About (adapted)

"Come and see."

JOHN 1:46

napoleon Bonaparte

To whittle away the hours of almost twenty years of imprisonment (except for an aborted attempt at regaining his empire), Napoleon made an in-depth study of the life and person of Jesus Christ. His conclusion will interest you:

I know men; and I tell you that Jesus is not a man. Everything in Him amazes me. Comparison is impossible between Him and any other being in the world. His ideas and His sentiments; the truth that He announces; His manner of convincing; are all beyond humanity and the natural order of things. I defy you to cite another life like that of Christ.

The Infinite came down to earth in the form of an infant; He who spans the heavens and holds the ocean in the hollow of His hand condescended to hang upon a woman's breast—the King eternal became a little child. Let Bethlehem tell that He had compassion. There was no way of saving us but by stooping to us. To bring earth up to heaven, He must bring heaven down to earth. Therefore, in the incarnation, He had compassion, for He took upon Himself our infirmities, and was made like unto ourselves. Matchless pity, indeed!

"Truly this man was the Son of God."

MARK 15:39



Opinion Poll: The Moral State of America

Go to www.housetohouse.com/poll.aspx to give us your opinion on these moral issues facing our nation. As a thank you for taking the time to participate, we will give you a free copy of Dr. Brad Harrub's DVD, "One Nation Under... Who?"

1. Abortion:

- a. I see it as a woman's right to choose.
- b. I see it as a life which should not be destroyed.
- c. I haven't made up my mind.

2. Alcohol:

- a. I am a teetotaler. I do not believe in drinking alcohol in any amount.
- b. I drink socially. I believe alcohol use is acceptable in moderation.
- c. I party and drink heavily at times. I see it as nobody's business but mine.

3. Gambling: ____

- a. I gamble in Vegas and other hotspots.
 I see it as harmless entertainment.
- b. I bet on a game once in a while, and buy raffle tickets. I bet only for fun or a good cause
- I don't gamble, and think it is a dangerous practice.

4. Homosexuality:

- a. I see homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle and believe it is should be protected under law.
- b. I see homosexuality as a threat to the traditional family and believe our laws should reflect traditional family structure.
- c. I see homosexuality as a sin and perversion.

5. Racism:

- a. I see racism as getting better in the country and it cannot come quick enough for me.
- b. I see racism everywhere and do not see it improving much.
- c. I see racism used as an excuse to push a political agenda.

6. Premarital Sex:

- a. I think teens/young adults should be allowed to experiment and adults should not interfere.
- b. I think young people should wait until they are in a committed relationship and use protection.
- I think sex belongs in marriage and young people avoid many problems if they wait till marriage.

7. Adultery: ___

- a. I have never cheated on my spouse and believe strongly in remaining monogamous.
- b. I have strayed in weakness but remain committed to the one flesh goal.
- c. I believe in an open marriage where both spouses have liberty in the area of sex.

8. Drugs/Smoking: __

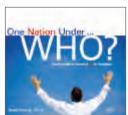
- a. I do not smoke or use drugs and never have.
- b. I experimented with smoking or drugs in my youth but never became addicted.
- c. I have a problem with smoking or drugs and have not yet been able to beat it (them).

9. Poverty:

- a. I believe that it is primarily the government's job to take care of the poor.
- b. I believe that churches and individuals should make it a priority to assist the poor.
- c. I believe strongly in helping the poor, provided they are willing to help themselves when able.

10. Religious Freedom: _

- a. I believe that America's religious freedoms are in danger of being taken away.
- b. I believe that religious freedom should not be allowed to extend to views with which the majority disagree.
- c. I believe in freedom from religion, and want to remove every hint of it from the public arena.



For more information on these topics, and to receive your free DVD, go to www.housetohouse.com/poll.aspx (supplies are limited)



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

