

HOUSE to HOUSE Heart to Heart



“...from house to house...with gladness and singleness of heart...” (Acts 2:46).

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

If you have questions or comments please contact
us via email at: info@housetohouse.com

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The earth is the LORD'S,
& the fullness thereof; the world,
& they that dwell therein.

P s a l m 2 4 : 1

“...AND SCOURGED HIM...”

ALLEN WEBSTER

“Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him” —John 19:1

Just three words...the mind absorbs them in a second and passes to the next sentence. The Bible gives no further explanation. There is no parenthetical statement or footnote explaining what *scourged* means. Most of us read over it for years without really contemplating that word. It was somehow a part of the crucifixion. Maybe we heard a preacher say it was some sort of a whipping. Oh, but it was so much more.

Governor Pilate knew the Jews delivered Jesus out of envy (Mt. 27:18), and that He had committed no real crime, certainly not one worthy of death (Lk. 23:15). This cagey politician also knew that *something* had to be done. These folks were too worked up to go home without any action, so he decided a scourging might satisfy their lust for vengeance (Jn. 19:1, cf. 19:5).

DEFINITION AND LIMITATIONS. These were not civilized people by modern standards. Today’s Humane Society would not allow a dog to be treated the way our Lord was. Scourging (or “examination by scourging,” Acts 22:24,29) was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution. This brutal flogging was called the “little death” and normally preceded the “big death”—crucifixion. Only women, Roman senators, and soldiers (except deserters) were exempt. A criminal was flogged either by two soldiers (lictors) or by one who alternated positions. Under Hebrew law, punishment was limited to thirty-nine strokes, but the Romans imposed no count limitation. A scourging’s severity depended entirely on the lictor’s disposition. His only limitation was that the man must not die at the scourging stake. He was to expire on the cross. Soldiers became proficient at bringing victims to the verge of collapse, without crossing death’s threshold.

INSTRUMENTS. The scourging post was two feet high. An iron ring was placed close to the top. The usual instrument was a short-handled whip (*flagrum* or *flagellum*) with several single or braided thongs of variable lengths, in which small iron balls or sharp sheep bones were tied at varying intervals. Sometimes several thin, iron chains which ended in small weights were added.

PREPARATION. A prisoner was stripped and stood naked, or at the most with a loincloth. (Is it any wonder the Bible says that Jesus “...endured the cross, *despising the shame*...” Heb. 12:2?) The man’s wrists were firmly shackled to the iron rings, and he was stretched, face down, with his feet pointed away from the post. The tension of awaiting the first blow was cruel. The body was rigid. The muscles knotted in tormenting cramps. Color drained from the cheeks. Lips were drawn tight against the teeth.

SCOURGING. *Then it came...*the whistle of the whip and the dull thud as it made contact with flesh. *Then it came...*the burning sensation and the first trickle of blood. *Then it came...*again and again, more rapidly, blow after blow. *Then it came...*with seemingly unbearable agony the naked back, neck, sometimes face, chest and stomach (as the whip was allowed to encircle the body), buttocks, and legs were repeatedly struck. At first, it caused deep contusions (bruising). Then, as the lictor continued in his gruesome work, the thongs, bones, and weights cut into the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and even muscle. After a while, the victim’s body twitched like a beheaded chicken. The lacerations finally tore into the underlying skeletal muscles and produced quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. As V. P. Black puts it, “They beat Jesus until His shoulder blades looked like two whitecaps on an ocean of blood.” The victim lost all consciousness to anything other than the blinding, burning pain as the cruel whip whistled and cut, whistled and cut. A scourging was the literal equivalent

of being flayed alive. Some men bit their tongues off as the pain grew unbearable. Few men remained conscious till the end.

THE RESULTS. After what seemed like an eternity to the victim and those who loved Him, the limp body was cut from the post. Customarily, wounds were washed but not medicated. The pain and blood loss caused by scourging generally led to circulatory shock. The “bloody sweat” (*hematidrosis*) experienced in the Garden had likely rendered Jesus’ skin very tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, contributed to a generally weakened state. Thus, by modern-day criteria, if at that time Jesus had been admitted to a hospital, He would have been put into intensive or critical care (Mk. 15:15,20). The severity of this condition usually pre-determined that the victim would not survive too long on the cross.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY. In this case, Jesus’ clothes were put back on the massacred back. Imagine how the seamless garment must have soaked up that precious blood. How uncomfortable its rough scratching on His open wounds must have been! The soldiers, amused at this weakened man who claimed to be a king, mocked Him. One quickly fashioned a robe out of purple cloth (perhaps they used the robe Herod had earlier put on Him); another ran out to a thorn bush to gather prickly limbs to make the tight, pointed circle of a crown; another found a stout stick of some kind to use as a scepter.

One soldier grabbed His head and forced the thorns down over His scalp. The sharp thorns pierced His skin in dozens of places and tore gashes as the crown was forced down his brow. Someone hit Him over the head with the rod, driving the thorns in more deeply. How He must have bled! (So much blood goes to the brain that a small cut that it bleeds profusely.) Just about the time the blood began to clot, and His clothing became stiff with blood, a soldier ripped off His clothes and placed on Him the robe—thus opening the wounds again. Imagine how that must have hurt! Even a small area covered by a bandage hurts terribly if it adheres itself to the strip.

The soldiers finally had all the fun they wanted and took Him back to Pilate, who presented Him to the people. Picture Pilate leading this purple-clad Man, with scepter in hand, and bloody crown on His head, out for these sick people to view. Pilate said simply, “Behold the man!” (Jn. 19:5). He must have thought that surely this would satisfy their hatred. But he underestimated them. They were no more satisfied than a shark that first gets the scent of blood. They wanted more. They wanted murder.

Why did Jesus go through this? He didn’t have to. He could have gone back to heaven in a chariot of fire. He could have snapped His fingers for angels to rush to His defense. Why? Because He wanted us to be saved (Lk. 19:10). Are you? Have you responded to His sacrifice? If not, in a sense, He went through it for nothing. He still invites, “Come unto me...” (Mt. 11:28). Why not accept his proffered gift in penitent faith and be baptized to reenact His death, burial, and resurrection (Rm. 6:3,4; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:4-5).

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

GOD'S CRAZY ABOUT YOU

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
He could live anywhere in the universe, He chose your heart.

What about the gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary!

"...be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" —1 Timothy 6:17

WHAT IF...?

- ▶ What if GOD didn't take time to bless us today because we didn't take time to thank Him yesterday?
- ▶ What if GOD decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?
- ▶ What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when GOD sent the rain?
- ▶ What if GOD didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?
- ▶ What if GOD took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?
- ▶ What if GOD took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?
- ▶ What if GOD didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?
- ▶ What if the door of GOD'S kingdom was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?
- ▶ What if GOD stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?
- ▶ What if GOD would not hear our prayer because we would not listen to His Word?
- ▶ What if GOD answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?
- ▶ What if GOD met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

Think about it.

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	...Matthew 24:13



THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM



The Lord is my Shepherd—that's **relationship!**

I shall not want—that's **supply!**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures—that's **rest!**

He leadeth me beside still waters—that's **refreshment!**

He restoreth my soul—that's **healing!**

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness—that's **guidance!**

For His name sake—that's **purpose!**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—

that's **growth** through testing!

I will fear no evil—that's **protection!**

For Thou art with me—that's **faithfulness!**

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me—that's **discipline!**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies—that's **hope!**

Thou anointest my head with oil—that's **consecration!**

My cup runneth over—that's **abundance!**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life—that's **blessing!**

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord—that's **security!**

Forever—that's **eternity!**

- ▶ Now, what was that problem that was bringing me down?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DRINKING

How well do I remember

It was the last of last December.

When my mind began to flutter:

—I fell into the gutter!

And a *hog* came and lay down by my side.

While we lay there, in a puddle,

My mind began to muddle;

A lady passing by was heard to say,

"You can tell a man who boozes

By the company he chooses!"

—And the HOG got up and walked away!



PRAISE HIM!

In the fifth and sixth centuries there was an order of monks in Eastern Europe called "the sleepless ones." They sang the Divine Office in relays, thus assuring a continuous, nonstop service of praise to God. While we might not agree with their doctrine, we can appreciate how they reflected in a small way what happens in Heaven. The Book of Revelation pictures twenty-four elders and four heavenly creatures singing night and day without stopping, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." They don't do it in relays. They never have to rest. Their song never ceases. Someday "we'll join the everlasting song!"

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" —Psalm 95:6



The
HOMIE
PAGE
Compiled by Wade Webster

Strong Families

Professor Nick Stinnett headed a research project to “discover what makes families strong.” His team observed and interviewed three thousand strong families in South America, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, South Africa, and the United States. From this research they concluded that strong families have six main qualities:

- ▶ Family members are committed to the family (Mt. 19:6).
- ▶ They spend time together (Eph. 5:23-33).
- ▶ They have good family communication (1 Pet. 3:7).
- ▶ They express appreciation to each other (Prov. 31:30).
- ▶ They have a spiritual commitment (Mt. 6:33; Lk. 1:6).
- ▶ They are able to solve problems in a crisis (Phil. 4:13).

Strong family ties don’t just happen—they take work!

Twice As Many?

A parent’s responsibility is not to his child’s happiness, it’s to his character. My father would not have been particularly interested in a book about fathering, although he did like to read. One day when he was reading in the living room, my brother and I decided that we could play basketball without breaking anything. When I took a shot that redesigned the glass table, my mother came in with a stick and said, “So help me, I’ll bust you in half.” Without lifting his head from his book, my father said, “Why would you want twice as many?”

—Bill Cosby

- ▶ Kids today learn a lot about getting to the moon, but very little about getting to heaven. —David Jeremiah

They’re All Different

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” —Proverbs 22:6

Children come from the womb with a prescribed set of genetic characteristics. Their environment—siblings, order in the family, financial level of family, culture—further *bend* them in certain ways. Solomon is saying we should train each child in the way *he* (note that *he* is used thrice in the verse) should go, recognizing that each is an individual and will react to training in different ways. Some children are strong-willed and determined—and require more stern and persistent discipline. Some are weak-willed and easily influenced by others—a simple disapproving look or correcting word may bring them to tears. Some are aggressive; others are cooperative. Some are tight-lipped and serious by nature; others are naturally humorous and happy-go-lucky. Parents learn to match their training and discipline to the child for best results.

- ▶ Cain and Abel came from the same womb, had the same upbringing, but they turned out quite different (Gen. 4). Cain was a farmer; Abel was a shepherd. Abel’s heart was sensitive to obey God’s will; Cain was self-willed and determined to go his own way.
- ▶ Esau and Jacob came from the same womb at the same time (they were twins), yet two boys could not have been more different. Esau turned to be a “man’s man”—a rugged, hairy hunter. He was his dad’s favorite. Jacob was a “momma’s boy.” He liked to stay inside and cook. Esau was an uncomplicated, here-it-is-in-black-and-white-what-you-see-is-what-you-get fellow. Jacob was more cunning and crafty. He came out of the womb gripping his brother’s heel—as if to trip him up. And throughout life, you had to watch yourself around him.
- ▶ How about your family of origin? Did you and your brothers and sisters all have the same interests, abilities, goals, and personality types? Did you all make the same grades or excel equally well in sports or musical pursuits? Most parents with more than one child will agree that their children can be as different as “daylight and dark.”

Unthinking, unwise, busy parents—dads especially—tend to compare their children with each other. (Especially if this was the way they were reared.) If the oldest son is a good athlete, for instance, but the younger one is more academically-oriented, dad might push him to sign up for sports. When he doesn’t practice hard or do well in games, the exasperated father may say, “*Why can’t you be like your brother?*”

Matthew Henry’s comment on Proverbs 20:11 (“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right”) is interesting. He wrote, “Parents should observe their children, that they may manage them accordingly.” Each parent must observe a child to know him. It is not as natural as conceiving, carrying, and giving birth to a little one.

Solomon is not saying they could never fall away if given good training. As a general rule, this is true, but there are exceptions. This verse is not just referring to the goal of bringing a child into a right relationship with God. It is speaking of helping a child have a well-rounded life in general. It refers to the makeup of a child—his unique characteristics and mannerisms, which Scripture calls “his way.” This word (*dereck*) is used in Psalm 11 for the “bending” of a bow and is found four times in Proverbs 30:18-19. An eagle, for example, does not fly as a duck or chicken. It is more coordinated and beautiful. The eagle has unique mannerisms. A snake does not get around as a lizard. Its slithery, silent movements along a rock are beautiful to watch—from a distance! A ship riding out the waves of a storm is wonderful to see. But it doesn’t move along the water as a piece of driftwood. The way a young man wins a woman’s heart is unique. What works with one, would not work with another.

“Old” in Proverbs 22:6 actually means “old enough to have facial hair.” In other words, when they reach adulthood, not when they reach middle-age or toward the end of life.

- ▶ A man with four teenage daughters and a bossy wife admitted, “I no longer drive, I just sit behind the steering wheel.” —Bill Thorn



DOES IT REALLY MATTER TO GOD WHAT I DO SEXUALLY?



In an age when many pride themselves on "liberation," the idea that God should have any say in the matter seems outdated. True standards of morality, however, are not derived from man and his ideas, but from God. He has the final word on these matters, and if we reject what He says, we reject Him.

Paul said that the commandments he shared were not from him, but from the Lord. "For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" (1 Thes. 4:2-3). The problem many have with this is that they want to have their own way and make their own desires the standard. Just as the Roman world, they "changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator" (Rm. 1:25). The desire to worship the creature more than the Creator led to the vilest of sins (Rm. 1:26-32).

God's Word is the standard we must follow (Jn. 12:48). When Paul said it was God's will that "ye should abstain from fornication," he used a word that has a broad meaning, including premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, prostitution, rape, and even lust. Sex is so powerful that it must be controlled. In its proper place in marriage, it is a wonderful thing. Outside of marriage, however, it creates havoc. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

Paul adds, "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour, Not in the lust of concupiscence [lustful passions], even as the Gentiles which know not God" (1 Thes. 4:4-5). "Possess his vessel" is a polite way of saying that a man must maintain self-control, so that he does not follow the example of the pagan world around him. The world's standards are almost always much lower than God's standards. The world uses sex to sell just about every product imaginable. We cannot live like the world and know God, however.

What we do with our bodies sexually has deep implications. Paul writes, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid....Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:15-20).

Maintaining sexual purity is a matter of the heart. Solomon said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28). Yes, it matters what we do sexually.

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

JESUS CHRIST

Hints: Isa. 7:14; Lk. 3:23; Gal. 4:4; Lk. 3:38; Mt. 2:1; 2:23; Mk. 6:3; Heb. 4:15; Jn. 1:36; Rev. 21:6; Heb. 12:2; Mk. 6:3; Mt. 1:23; Lk. 7:34; Heb. 4:14

1. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born of a _____.
2. Who was Jesus supposed father? _____
3. Since He had no earthly father, He was of the seed of _____.
4. Emphasizing His humanity, Jesus often called Himself the son of _____.
5. In what city was Jesus born? _____
6. In what city did Jesus grow up? _____
7. Jesus had how many half-brothers? _____
8. How many times did Jesus sin in 33 years? _____
9. John introduced Jesus by calling Him the _____ of God.
10. Jesus is known as the Alpha and the _____.
11. Jesus is not only the Author, but the _____ of our faith.
12. Before becoming a preacher, Jesus served as a _____.
13. _____ means, "God with us."
14. Unlike other religious leaders, Jesus was a friend of publicans and _____.
15. What kind of Priest is Jesus? _____

COLORS IN THE BIBLE

Hints: Rev. 12:3; Gen. 1:30; Rev. 21:21; Gen. 37:3; Acts 16:14; Song 5:11; Zech. 6:1-3; Isa. 1:18; Rev. 6:12; 17:4,5; Ex. 1-40; Jd. 5:10; Mt. 16:2; Lk. 16:19

1. What color was the hideous seven-headed dragon in Revelation? _____
2. What is the first color mentioned in the Bible? _____
3. What is the last color mentioned in the Bible? _____
4. What doting father gave his favorite son a coat of many colors? _____
5. What New Testament woman was a seller of purple? _____
6. What handsome man's hair was black like a raven? _____
7. What prophet's vision had four chariots pulled by colored horses? _____
8. According to Isaiah, what color are sins? _____
9. What color was the sun when it became like sackcloth? _____
10. What evil woman was dressed in purple and scarlet with jewels? _____
11. Which Old Testament book contains the most references to the color blue? _____ Bonus: How many? _____
12. According to Psalm 51:7, what color is the sinner after being washed by God? _____
13. Who sang a victory song that mentions white donkeys? _____
14. What color sky did Jesus mention as a weather omen? _____
15. What color did the rich man wear when ended up in torment? _____

Answers to last issue: *Animals in the Bible*: 1. Quail (Ex. 16:13); 2. Dogs (2 Kgs. 9:36); 3. A ram (Gen. 22:13); 4. Horses of fire (2 Kings 2:11); 5. Hart (deer) (Psa. 42:1); 6. Wolf (Isa. 11:6); 7. Spider (Prov. 30:28); 8. Frogs (Ex. 8:2-14); 9. Lion (Prov. 30:30); 10. Greyhound (Prov. 30:31). *Houses of Worship*: 1. The ark of the covenant (1 Sam. 5:2-4); 2. Solomon (1 Kgs. 6); 3. Ahab (1 Kgs. 16:32); 4. The temple of Ashtoreth (1 Sam. 31:10); 5. Naaman the Syrian (2 Kgs. 5:18); 6. Darius (Ezra 6:1-12); 7. Jesus (Mt. 4:5); 8. Jehu of Israel (2 Kgs. 10:18-27); 9. King Ahaz (2 Kgs. 16:10-17); 10. Hiram of Tyre (1 Kgs. 7:13-14); 11. Philemon (Phile. 1:1,2); 12. Temple in Jerusalem (Mt. 24:1,2).



Send your answers in! We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one entrant to receive a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

THE SKEPTIC'S ANVIL



Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
 And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
 Then looking, I saw upon the floor,
 Old hammers worn with beating years of time.
 "How many anvils have you had," said I,
 "To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
 "Just one," said he and then with twinkling eye,
 "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
 "And so," I thought, "The anvil of God's Word,
 For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
 Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
 The anvil is unchanged, the hammers gone."

—Reuben Saillens

In spite of persecution, perversion, criticism, abuse, and time, the Bible has survived intact. It is an anvil that has worn out many skeptic hammers. Portions have been translated in over one thousand seven hundred languages, and it has been copied and circulated more extensively than any other literature (cf. 1 Pet. 1:23). Many have attempted to destroy the Bible. Robert Ingersoll, an American agnostic, for instance, once held up a copy of the Bible and arrogantly asserted, "In fifteen years I will have this book in the morgue." Ingersoll was correct in affirming that something would be in the morgue in fifteen years, but it wasn't the Bible. It was Robert Ingersoll. Furthermore, after his death, a man by the name of Robert Garry sat and wrote Bible lessons at the very desk at which Mr. Ingersoll had worked to try to discredit the Bible.

Mock on, mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau;
 Mock on, mock on; 'tis all in vain!
 You through the dust against the wind,
 And the wind blows it back again.

"...the word of God which liveth and abideth forever" —1 Peter 1:23

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a survey of the Bible study course.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I am interested in seeing the "Visualized Bible Study" Video Series.
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone: _____

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Let Every Man Be Swift to Hear

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God's Hospital

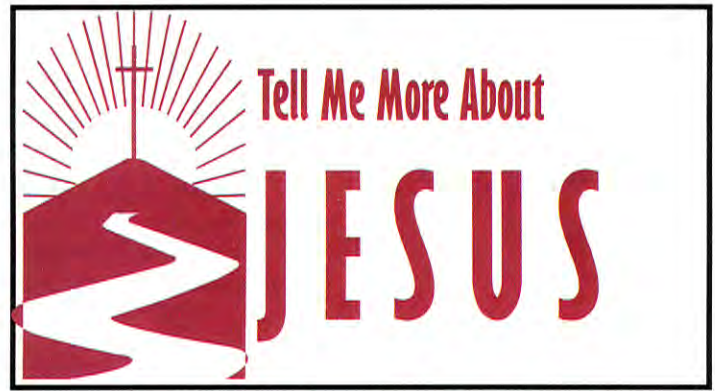
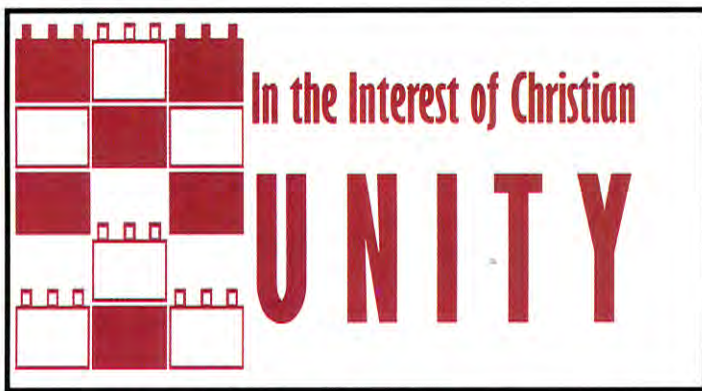
For the sin-sick soul

FEATURED TRACTS:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send me this month's packet (booklet plus all below)
- HTH Booklet: How to Get More Time Out of Your Day
- Jesus' Message to Today's World
- Rules of Bible Study Accepting Bereavement
- Falling From Grace Choosing a Mate (youth)
- Are Babies Born in Sin? How We Got the Bible
- Time Chart of Bible Times Armageddon
- Is the Bible Really God's Word? Premillennialism
- What Must I Do to be Saved? Divorce
- What is the Church of Christ? Unity
- What About the Thousand Year Reign?
- What About the Thief on the Cross?
- Can a Good God Send One to Hell?
- Does Every Person Have Right to Own Belief?
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo y Other: _____

Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



JUST TURN UP THE RADIO



A comic strip depicted a conversation between two small boys. One tells about his dad hearing a strange grinding noise in the car's engine. When asked if he stopped to fix it, he replies, "No, he just turned the radio up louder so he couldn't hear it!" It struck me that this is how we "fix" a lot of our problems.

Take a sinner who knows what to do to become a Christian or a backsliding, worldly Christian whose lifestyle needs changing to again entertain hope of salvation (Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16). Each realizes that major spiritual repairs are in order, yet lacking courage to make them, he "turns up the radio."

- ▶ He may turn up the radio by criticizing the hypocrites in the church or by poking fun at some Bible teaching.
- ▶ He may divert attention from the truth with a side-issue such as untaught natives on some far away island (cf. 2 Thes. 1:7-9) or the "thief on the cross." Is the "What about *them*?" more cover than concern? "What about *me*?" is a better question.
- ▶ He may attack the messenger in order to ignore the message. With violent prejudice some tried to muffle Jesus by calling Him "a gluttonous man and a wine-bibber" (Mt. 11:19). Some on Pentecost "turned up their radios" by accusing the Spirit-filled apostles of being drunk with new wine (Acts 2:13). Festus averted the issue by discrediting the teacher. In a loud voice, he said, "...Paul, thou art mad; much learning is turning thee mad" (Acts 26:24).
- ▶ He may "turn up the radio" by procrastinating. Felix tuned out the "uncomfortable" message of spiritual subjects, like righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, by appealing to a more convenient season (Acts 24:25). So far as we know, it never came.
- ▶ He may replace the teacher with one who will say what he wants to hear. Paul prophesied that some would "heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts" (2 Tim. 4:3).

As you can see, "turning up the radio" has been going on since before radios were invented. Why suppress the truth? It does not change it to ignore it. Perhaps it *is* discomfiting to see something in our lives that needs fixing—and especially if it happens to be something we don't want fixed! That was the problem with some about whom John wrote. They "loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light..." (Jn. 3:19-20). Satan has the remedy: fix the "noise," not the ailing soul.

Others know soul "fixing" means admitting wrong and making changes. Pride says, "Turn up the radio!" Courage and character say, "Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:9). Wise people want *all* the truth (Acts 20:27).

—adapted, Dan S. Shipley, Burnett, Texas

JESUS DOESN'T EXPECT PERFECTION



When Jesus makes our souls alive, the one thing we have to do is try to be like Jesus. A little girl went to a writing school. When she saw the copy set before her, she said: "I can never write like that."

Nonetheless, she took up her pen and put it timidly on the paper. "But I can try," she said. "I'll do the best I can." She wrote half a page. The letters were crooked. She feared to have the teacher look at her book. But when the teacher came, he looked and smiled. "I see you are trying, my little girl," he said kindly, "and that is all I expect."

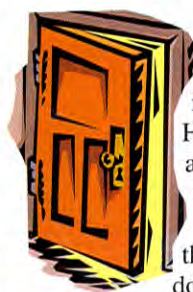
She took courage. Again and again she studied the beautiful copy. She wrote very carefully, but the letters straggled here, were crowded there, and some of them seemed to look every way. She trembled when she heard the step of the teacher. "I'm afraid you'll find fault with me," she said.

"I do not find fault with you," said the teacher, "because you are only a beginner. Keep on trying. In this way, you will do better every day, and soon get to be a very good writer."

This is the way we are to try to be like Jesus. When we read about Jesus, and learn how holy, and good, and perfect He was, we must not be discouraged if we do not become like Him at once. But, if we keep on trying, and ask God to help us, we shall "learn of Him to be meek and lowly in heart" (see Mt. 11:29), and we shall become daily more and more like Him.

"...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" —1 John 3:2

WHO AT MY DOOR IS STANDING?



In Holman Hunt's great picture, "The Light of the World," we see One with a patient, gentle face, standing at a door which is ivy-covered, as if long closed. He wears the priestly breastplate. He bears in His hand the lamp of truth. He stands and knocks. There is no answer, and He still stands and knocks. His eye tells of love; His face beams with yearning. You look closely, and you perceive that there is no knob or latch on the outside of the door. It can be opened only from within.

Christ, through His Gospel, knocks at our heart's door. He stands there while storms gather and break upon His unsheltered head, while the sun declines, and night comes on with its chills and its heavy dews. He waits and knocks, but we must open the door ourselves. The only latch is inside. —J. R. Miller

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" —Revelation 3:20