

House to House



Heart to Heart

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

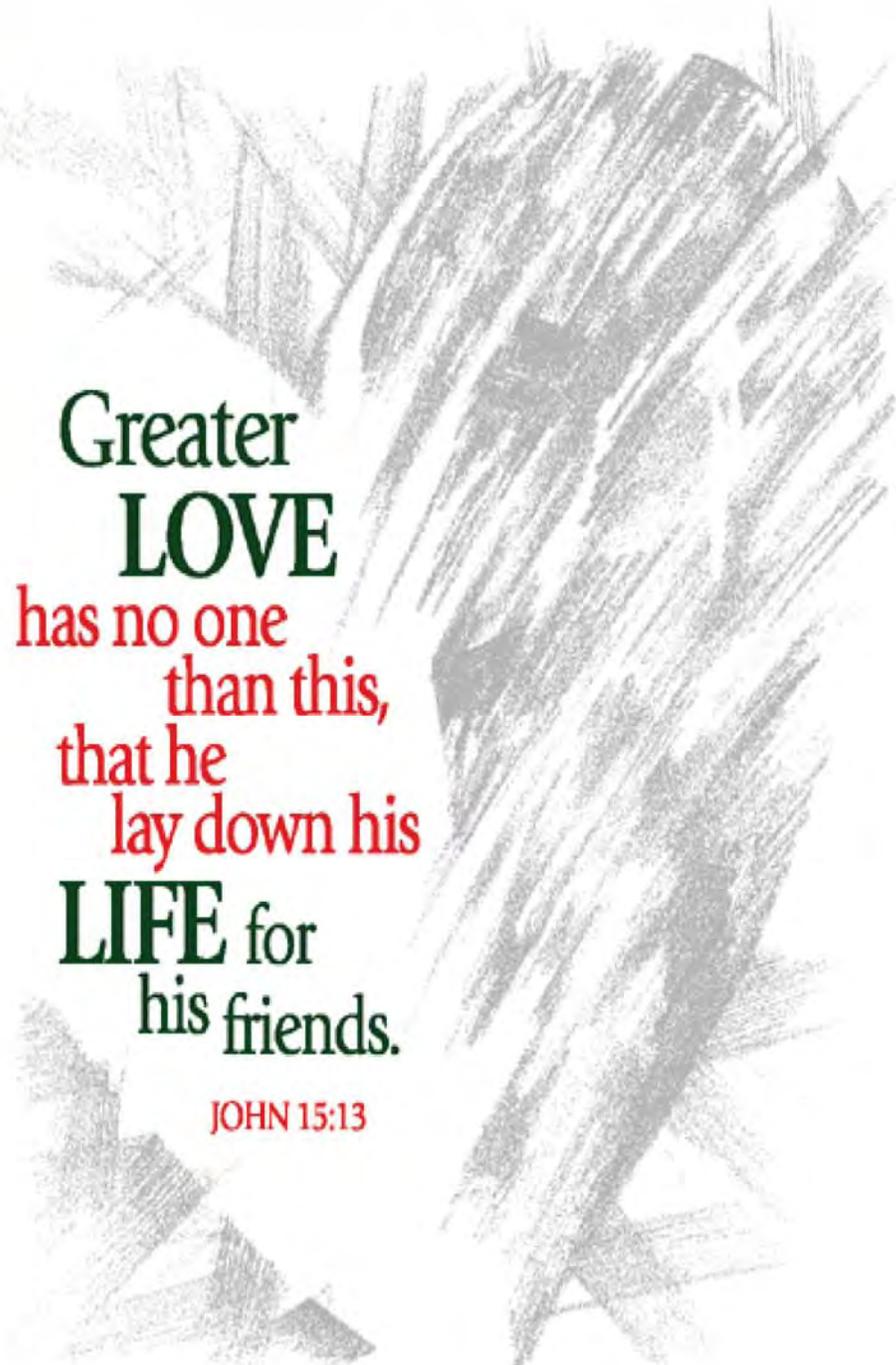
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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Greater
LOVE
has no one
than this,
that he
lay down his
LIFE for
his friends.

JOHN 15:13

“Big Boys Don’t Cry”

Allen Webster

So we tell little boys when they fall. Then they read in their Bibles that Jesus wept. Does that mean He was a “sissie?” No. One has to consider the reason for the tears. Are they tears of weakness or strength? Of fear or compassion? Jesus was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3), and He wept on three occasions. Each time He left us the right example.

JESUS WEPT AT LAZARUS’ TOMB (Jn. 11:35). The shortest verse of the Bible says a lot! It says the Great Physician had good “bedside manners.” Jesus could overturn moneychanger tables when necessary, but He also knew how to show He cared. Mary said the same thing to Jesus her sister had earlier said (11:21,32), but Jesus reacted differently. With practical Martha, He discussed reasonable facts and helped her heart through her head. With emotional Mary (she was crying), He groaned in spirit¹, was troubled, and wept. He helped her through commiseration. As we help people grieve, we should deal with different personalities in different ways. Jesus knew Mary needed somebody to care about her pain. She had lost a brother, and her heart was breaking, so, even though He was about to resurrect Lazarus, He “wept² with those that wept” (Rm. 12:15; Job 30:25). He illustrated the Jewish proverb:

Among those who stand, do not sit;
Among those who sit, do not stand;
Among those who laugh, do not weep;
Among those who weep, do not laugh.

Experience brings sympathy. Wandering disguised one night in London, King Harry VIII was arrested by watchmen who did not believe he was the king. They put him in the Poultry Compter without fire, food, or candle. Upon liberation he granted thirty chaldrons of coals and some bread for all night prisoners in that place. Christ, having lost a dear friend to death, can understand our sorrows. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities (Heb. 4:15; Psa. 35:13,14) and is the perfect intercessor for us when we pray to our Father to comfort the bereaved (Heb. 7:25). This world would be better if, instead of putting others in their place, we more often tried putting ourselves in the place of others. Those who have felt affliction, doubt, sickness, and temptation are more apt, and better equipped, to console those in a similar condition (2 Cor. 1:3,4; 1 Pet. 3:8). Christians are tenderhearted (Eph. 4:32) and have been known to cry upon occasion in funeral homes and hospitals. *These are tears of sympathy.*

JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM (Lk. 19:41-45). This was the most glorious public moment of Jesus’ life. He was ushered into the city with a hero’s welcome. Everyone is singing His praises (literally), yet...He breaks down in passionate sobs.³ Like the Psalmist, rivers of waters ran down His eyes because they kept not the law (119:53,136,158; cf. Jer. 13:17). Like Paul, there was great heaviness and continual sorrow in His heart for His kinsmen according to the flesh (Rm. 9:2,3). He had done all He could to get them to believe, yet they persisted in doubt. He had come that they might be enlightened, but they chose darkness (Jn. 1:11). He wanted for them the abundant life, but they wanted eternal death (Jn. 10:10). The city He had just entered was on God’s “hit-list” (Mt. 24:4-34), and Sodom and Gomorra got off easy by comparison (24:21).⁴ These voices now shouting, “Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord” (19:38), would soon scream, “Crucify him, crucify him, His blood be on us and on our children” (Mt. 27:25; Mk. 15:14).

Jesus still weeps for lost cities and souls. He longs for men to mourn over their own sins (Mt. 5:4), so He won’t have to. A Middle Ages legend tells of a girl expelled from heaven but told if she brought back the gift God valued most, she would be readmitted. She tried a blood drop from a dying martyr; she searched out the coins a destitute

widow gave the poor; she brought back a powerful preacher’s Bible; she gathered dust from missionaries’ shoes who served long years in distant lands. Each time she was rejected. Then she watched a man on horseback stop at a fountain. Seeing a small boy playing, he was reminded of his own childhood innocence. Then, seeing his sin-hardened face reflected in the pool, he was overcome and wept penitent tears. She took one of those tears to heaven whereupon the door opened wide (2 Chron. 7:14; Isa. 55:7; Ezek. 18:21; 2 Kgs. 22:19).⁵ The lost die daily, unprepared for what awaits them. Many never give the afterlife an afterthought. We must make them think. Jesus let His tears drive Him to Calvary; ours must drive us to tell of Calvary (Mk. 16:15). *These are tears of sorrow.*

JESUS WEPT IN GETHSEMANE (Heb. 5:5-7). The Bible here reveals a detail about that night in the Garden that neither Matthew, Mark, Luke, nor John gives us. It says, “...when he had offered up prayers and supplications *with strong crying and tears* unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard....” Jesus wept in Gethsemane the night He was arrested. This was not silent, personal grief, but loud, public crying. The disciples—had they been awake—could have heard it at the stone’s-throw distance.⁶ This episode shows Christ’s humanity. He did not want to suffer Calvary’s humiliation, pain, and separation (Heb. 12:2). He prayed that God find some other way to save man, but there was no Plan B (Mk. 14:32-35; Lk. 22:40-44).

Americans take 33,000,000,000 aspirins a year.⁷ Jesus knows every headache. Sixty-to-ninety percent of medical office visits are for stress-related symptoms.⁸ Jesus knows every stressor (Ecc. 8:16; Lk. 10:40; 21:34). Man is the only creature God made that can cry. No other experiences sorrow to the extent we do. Countless pillows are wet each night with heartache’s tears, and sleep flees from dread of the future. Jesus sees every tear and understands every fear. We can cast our cares upon Him, for He cares (1 Pet. 5:7; Psa. 23:4; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; 2:4; 7:2-11). He understands because He has been there. Augustine of Hippo said, “God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.” Everybody has problems; the wise ones let their troubles drive them to the Garden of prayer. *These are tears of struggle.*

At the tomb, He wept for a hurting family. On Olivet, He wept for a lost city. In the Garden, He wept for a cursed world. The tomb tears are a spring, belonging to a household. The Jerusalem tears are a river, belonging to a whole country. The Garden tears are the sea, belonging to the whole world. Big boys sometimes cry—for Christians never outgrow being children (of God). ¢

Endnotes: ¹*Groaned in the spirit* comes from *embrimasthai* (from a root meaning, “to snort as a horse with anger”) which means, “to have indignation on, to sigh with chagrin...” It is used three other times in the New Testament. In Matthew 9:30 and Mark 1:43, Jesus *sternly charged* the blind men and the leper not to publish the fact that He had healed them. In Mark 14:5, the spectators *reproached* the woman who anointed Jesus’ head with the costly ointment, because they thought that it was wastefully extravagant. Barclay comments, “Deep emotion seized Jesus so that an involuntary groan was wrung from his heart.”²Interestingly, the root of the word Paul uses for *weep* here (*klaio*) means, “to sob, or wail aloud.” It does not just mean to become teary-eyed or weep silently (*dakryo*).³The word is *klaio* again.⁴Sodom and Gomorrah got off easy in the sense that their’s was over in an instant. The siege on Jerusalem stretched out long enough that people starved.⁵Don McCullough, “Jesus the Judge,” *Preaching Today*, Tape No. 129.⁶*Strong, ischuros*, means “forcible; boisterous, mighty” and *crying, krauge*, could be translated “an outcry” (it comes from a root, *krazo*, meaning, “to croak as a raven; scream aloud; shriek, exclaim”).⁷*Reader’s Digest Book of Facts*.⁸Harvard Business Review (11-12/94).

Amber used to be called “the tears of the sea” because those lovely tear-shaped gems were found in the cold waters of the

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

How to Reduce the Risk of Heart Attacks

Would you believe the answer is, “attend church?!” I know what you are saying: “Preachers will do anything to get people to come to church.” Right? Wrong! This information came from the *International*

Journal of Cardiology. The headlines read: “Religious faith wards off heart

attacks. Recent discovery: Non-religious people have a heart attack risk two and a half times higher than that of religious people—regardless of serum cholesterol or blood pressure levels.” How could that be? I am not a doctor, but I have a few ideas.

] *Christians do not have to live with guilt.* As a child of God, I can know that the blood of Jesus continues to keep me pure every day (1 Jn. 1:7). Even though I foul up, I can repent and live with the confidence of knowing I am safe in the arms of my Lord. I am free to enjoy forgiveness.

] *Christians are part of a loving family, the church.* In a day when many families are shattered by divorce, alcoholism, and many other problems, as a Christian, I have something that remains the same. My spiritual family, the church, is there to help me make it through the worst of times. Like a grove of Redwood trees that interlocks roots to survive the storms, the church is there to help through mutual support, shared love, and patient understanding.

] *Christians do not have to fear death.* That fear kept mankind in bondage until Jesus came (Heb. 2:14, 15). We know that we will be resurrected, or bodies changed from physical to spiritual, and that we will live forever with God. David said, “*Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me*” (Psalm 23:4).

Want to avoid a heart attack? See you in church Sunday.

Wrong Weapon

A teacher was telling her class about the Christian’s armor. After speaking of the breastplate of righteousness and the shield of faith (Eph. 6:15-17), she asked, “Now Paul also says that we should carry a weapon, which is the word of God. Do you remember what he called the Word of God?” Receiving no answer, she added, “It’s something that cuts, something that is very sharp.” Then one of the little fellows answered a very



The Bird Cage

“Preacher Thomas” entered the church building one morning with a rusty, old, bent birdcage. He set the birdcage on the pulpit, causing a few raised eyebrows. Then he began to speak; “Yesterday morning

I came across a young boy who had three scared birds in a cage shivering from the cold. I asked him, ‘What you got there?’ ‘Just some dumb old birds!’ ‘What you going to do with them?’ ‘Tease ‘em, play with ‘em, and pull out their feathers!’ ‘Then what you going to do with them?’ ‘Feed ‘em to my cat; he likes birds!’

The preacher went silent for a moment, then asked, ‘How much you want for them?’ ‘Oh, you don’t want these, they’re ugly and they can’t even sing.’ ‘How much?’ came the preacher’s definite reply. The boy thought for a moment and then said, ‘Fifty bucks.’ The preacher reached into his pocket and pulled out fifty dollars. The boy took the money and vanished. The preacher picked up the cage, walked to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a small grassy spot. He opened the door and by gently tapping the bars to the cage, coaxed the birds out into the grass. They were free.”

That explained the birdcage on the pulpit. Then he proceeded to tell this parable....“One day Satan and Jesus were walking, and Satan had just come out of the Garden of Eden, he was gloating and boasting. ‘Yes sir, I caught me a whole world of people. Set a trap they just couldn’t resist. Yep, got ‘em all.’ ‘What are you going to do with them?’ came the reply. ‘Gonna have some fun with them; teach them how to hate, hurt, and kill each other.’ ‘Then what are you going to do?’ ‘Oh, then I’ll destroy them and bring them down into my kingdom.’

Jesus paused, “How much do you want for them?” “Oh, you don’t want them. They’ll just hate you, spit on you, mock you, and kill you. They don’t want you.” Jesus paused and looked straight into Satan’s soul, ‘How much?’ Satan looked at Christ and sneered, ‘All your tears, all your blood, all your footsteps, all your strengths...all your life.’ Jesus paid the price, picked up the cage, and opened the door.”

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” —Romans 5:6

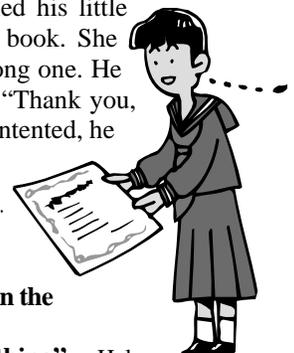
Love Recognizes the Effort

A minister was busy in his study preparing a sermon. He remembered that he had left a book he needed downstairs. He called his little daughter and explained where she could find the book. She went gladly, but returned in a moment with the wrong one. He hardly looked at the book but kissed her and said, “Thank you, darling.” When she had gone, feeling happy and contented, he went quietly for the book he needed.

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind...” (1 Cor. 13:4).

] **Keep going strong, most great games are won on the last play.**

] **“Life is either a daring adventure, or it is nothing”** —Helen Keller





The
HOMIE
PAGE
by Chuck Webster

Want Some Good News?

A Gallup poll showed that nine out of ten married people were faithful to their spouses. Four out of five would marry the same person again. The report pictured most Americans as faithful, romantic, and happily married!

Five Steps to a Better Marriage:

] Accept Each Other: When I walk on the beach to watch the sunset I do not call out, “A little more orange over to the right, please,” or “Would you mind giving us less purple in the back?” No, I enjoy the always-different sunsets as they are. We do well to do the same with people we love (Carl Rogers). “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit” (Ecc. 7:8).

] Watch for Beetles: A mighty tree stood high upon the mountain. It survived the hail, the heavy snows, the storms, the bitter cold of many years. Then finally it was felled by an attack of little beetles. And so it is with marriage. Solomon warned us to avoid the little foxes that “spoil the vines” (Song 2:15).

] Act, Don’t React: A marriage is like a long trip in a tiny rowboat: if one passenger starts to rock the boat, the other has to steady it; otherwise, they will go to the bottom together (David Robert Reuben). The Bible says, “consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24).

] Work at It: “And they lived happily ever after” is one of the most tragic sentences in literature. It tells a falsehood about life and has led countless generations of people to expect something from human existence that is not possible on this fragile, failing, imperfect earth (Joshua Loth Liebman). “...comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do” (1 Thes. 5:11).

] Take Time for Each Other: Guard against over-commitment. Even worthwhile and enjoyable activities become damaging when they consume the last ounce of energy or the remaining free moments in the day (James Dobson). “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth” (Prov. 5:18).

When I was around thirteen and my brother was ten, Father promised to take

Communication...

—Redbook magazine reported that money and in-laws are no longer major causes of divorce, as they once were. The study showed lack of communication, changing goals, and sexual problems as the major causes of marital difficulties.

Peter Drucker, often called the “father of American management,” claims that 60 percent of all management problems are a result of faulty communications. A leading marriage counselor says that at least half of all divorces result from faulty communication between spouses. And criminologists tell us that upwards of 90 percent of all criminals have difficulty communicating with other people. —Nido Qubein

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself” —Ephesians 5:25-28

And Sweet Pickles...

A happy couple had always raised cucumbers and made sweet pickles together. The husband just loved to watch things grow. Thus he spent his winters studying the seed catalogues to get the best possible cucumbers. The whole family enjoyed preparing the soil, planting and caring for the plants. He would often go out and just enjoy the way they grew. His wife loved to make sweet pickles. She studied the best recipes and the best methods of preparing and preserving them. They were such a happy family, and all their visitors went home with a jar of their famous pickles. The church always had a good supply of their pickles as well. People marveled at this family that had found a project to do together.

Finally, the man died. The next spring all the children returned home. They said to their mother, “We know how much you love making pickles, so we are going to prepare the garden and plant them for you.” The mother smiled and said, “Thanks, but you don’t have to do any planting, for I really don’t enjoy pickle making. I only did that because your father loved to grow cucumbers so much.” The children were all amazed, but the youngest son was upset, because the father had pulled him aside not too long before and shared with him that he really didn’t like growing cucumbers, but only did it to please the mother!

Is this a happy or a sad story? In many ways it is happy. They were happy doing for each other. People enjoyed being with them. But why is it also sad? Primarily, because they were not able to share their changing needs and joys with each other. Instead of growing, they stagnated in the performance of what they thought were their duties to each other.

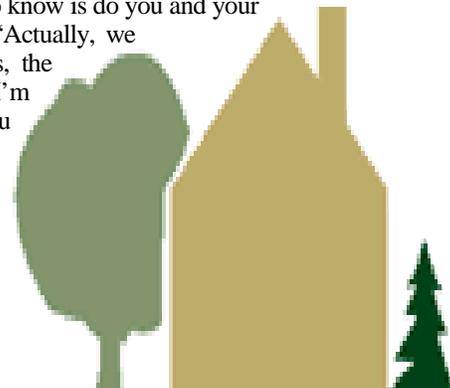
And A Wedding Ring...

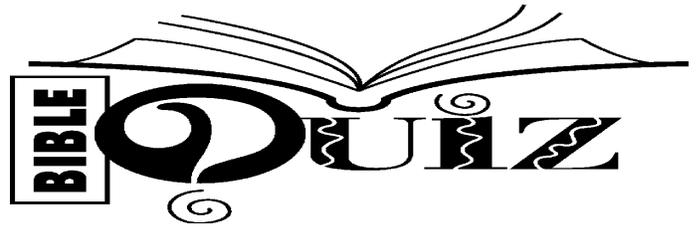
In Thornton Wilder’s play *The Skin of Our Teeth*, the character Mrs. Antrobus says to her husband, “I didn’t marry you because you were perfect. I married you because you gave me a promise.” She takes off her ring and looks at it. “That promise made up for your faults and the promise I gave you made up for mine. Two imperfect people got married, and it was the promise that made the marriage.”

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them” —Colossians 3:18-19

And A Smile...

A mature-looking lady had an appointment with a marriage counselor and told him flat out: “I would like to divorce my husband.” To this, the counselor replied, “Well, do you have any grounds?” She answered, “Why yes. We have almost an acre.” The puzzled counselor asked her, “You don’t understand. What I want to know is do you and your husband have a grudge?” The lady answered, “Actually, we don’t, but we do have a nice carport.” At this, the counselor shook his head and said, “Ma’am, I’m sorry, but I just don’t see any reason why you should divorce your husband.” The lady looked at the counselor and said, “It’s just that the man can’t carry on an intelligent conversation.”





Satan in Heaven?

A reader inquired, "Something stated in a previous issue made me think you believe Satan is still in heaven. Please comment."

In discussing the destiny of Satan, we commented: "Evidently, Satan still has access to heaven (Job 1-2; Zec. 3) but one day will be thrown out (Rev. 12:7-12)." This statement was meant to communicate that Satan is sometimes called by God to appear in heaven and that he would ultimately be thrown into the lake of fire but was, admittedly, not very well-worded.

At some time in the past, Satan was cast from heaven. Jesus said, "...I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Lk. 10:18; cf. Rev. 9:1; 12:7-9; 20:2). He is called the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4). Still, he "...is subject to the government of God, and dependent on his commands" (*Barnes Notes*, p. 101), and if called to appear before God, would be required to go and obey. We mention this because Job 1:6 and 2:1 picture Satan as summoned to appear "before the Lord" with the "sons of God."

In Scripture, this phrase "sons of God" can refer to either angels or godly people (Rm. 8:14,19; Phil. 2:15). Job uses the phrase three times (1:6; 2:1; 38:7) and seems to mean angels. For instance, the clearest passage (38:7) says the "sons of God" shouted for joy at the world's creation (no men were around).

Some understand "sons of God" in Job 1 to mean the family of Job, or other godly people. This may be the case, but makes less sense because Job was not present (why would his sons be there but not him?) and did not know anything about Satan being behind his suffering (he erroneously blames God, 1:21). It is also possible that the angels and Satan appeared "before God" at some place other than heaven, since God is omnipresent (Psa. 139), but God's throne is in heaven (Psa. 11:4), and Satan says he had just come from "going up and down in the earth."

A parallel passage may help us interpret Job 1. Machaiiah saw "...the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so" (1 Kgs. 22:19-22; cf. 2 Chron. 18:18). In this passage, God is in heaven (where His throne is, Psa. 11:4), the "host of heaven" is the same as the "sons of God," and "the lying spirit" the same as Satan.

In summary, this is not a question that will affect our eternal destinies. We can all agree that Satan goes only where God allows and is "bound with a chain" in this age (Rev. 20:1,2). He will ultimately be cast down to the lake of fire. The important thing is that we avoid going there with him. John warned, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Some Amazing Animals

Hints (in order): Ex. 8, 10; Acts 28:3-6; Jn. 6:9-12; Mk. 5:13; Mt. 17:27; Jonah 4:7; 2 Kgs. 2:24; 1 Kgs. 2:11; 1 Sam. 6:7-12; Num. 22:28.

1. What four creatures did God send as plagues upon the Egyptians? _____
2. What venomous creature bit Paul on the hand but did not harm him? _____
3. What did Jesus use to feed the five thousand? _____
4. Where did Jesus send the legion of unclean spirits He had cast out of a man? _____
5. What did Peter find with a coin in its mouth? _____
6. What did God send to destroy the vine that shaded the sulking prophet Jonah? _____
7. When children laughed at Elisha for his baldness, what appeared that mauled the children? _____
8. What croaking birds fed Elijah in his solitude by the brook Cherith? _____
9. What two animals owned by the Philistines carried the ark of the covenant back to Israel? _____
10. What foreign prophet had a talking donkey to ride on? _____

Bible Baptisms

Hints (in order): Acts 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 10:1-2; Acts 16:14-15; 2:41; 9:18; 10:23-48; Mt. 3:11; Acts 8:38; 16:26-33; 2:38

1. What magician came to be baptized by Philip? _____
2. Who was "baptized" in the Red Sea? _____
3. What tradeswoman did Paul and Silas baptize? _____
4. How many were baptized on the day of Pentecost? _____
5. Who baptized Paul? _____
6. What Roman official did Peter baptize? _____
7. What kinds of baptism did John promise the Christ would administer? _____
8. What foreign dignitary did Philip baptize? _____
9. What man of Philippi took Paul and Silas home and was baptized by them? _____
10. What did Peter say had to precede baptism? _____

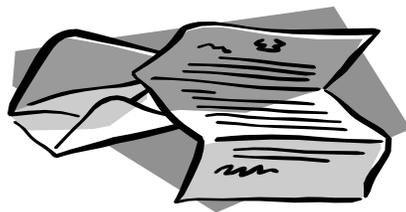
Answers to last month's questions: *Children in the Bible:* 1. Gideon (Jd. 8:30);

2. Cain (Gen. 4:1); 3. Ham (Gen. 9:18-24); 4. David (1 Sam. 17:12-14); 5. Ephraim (Gen. 41:51-52); 6. Seth (Gen. 4:25); 7. Jacob/Esau (Gen. 25:23-26); 8. Thomas (Jn. 11:16); 9. Rachel (Gen. 35:16-18); 10. Younger (Lk. 15:11-32); 11. Ahab (2 Kgs. 10:1); 12. David (1 Chron. 3:1-9); 13. Aaron (Ex. 7:7); 14. Benjamin (Gen. 35:16-18); 15. Esau (Gen. 25:25-26); 16. Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:21); 17. Heman (1 Chron. 25:5); 18. Isaiah (11:6); 19. Job (1:5); 20. Ephesians (6:1); 21. Elijah (Mal. 4:6); 22. Jair (Jd. 10:3-4); 23. Timothy (1 Tim. 3:4); 24. Jesus (Mk. 13:12); *Which Church?* 1. Philippi (Phil. 2:25); 2. Corinth (Acts 18:8); 3. Antioch (Acts 13:2); 4. Troas (Acts 16:9).



Send your answers in for an opportunity to win a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary. We'll grade and return all entries.

Answers



Reading Someone Else's Mail

Twenty-one of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are letters originally sent to an individual Christian, single church, or group of congregations in the same geographic region. As we read the New Testament, it helps to notice to whom a book (letter or epistle) was written, by whom, and for what purpose (the theme of the book). As with the other books of the New Testament, each book centers on Jesus Christ.

LETTERS ON LIVING FOR CHRIST (21)

- Romans—Righteousness in Christ (Key verses: 1:16,17; 3:21-25/16 chapters/433 verses)
- 1 Corinthians—Handling Problems in Christ's Church (1:10-13; 6:19,20; 10:12,13/16 chapters/437 verses)
- 2 Corinthians—Examine Yourselves in Christ (13:5/13 chapters/257 verses)
- Galatians—Freedom in Christ (2:20,21; 5:1/6 chapters/149 verses)
- Ephesians—Unity in the Body of Christ (2:15; 4:1-3/6 chapters/155 verses)
- Philippians—Rejoice in Christ (4:4,12/4 chapters/104 verses)
- Colossians—Submit to Christ, the Head of the Church (1:18; 2:9,10; 3:1,2/4 ch./95 verses)
- 1 Thessalonians—Christ is Coming Back (3:12,13; 4:16-18/6 chapters/89 verses)
- 2 Thessalonians—Be Patient as You Follow Christ (2:2,3; 3:4,5/3 chapters/47 verses)
- 1 Timothy—Fight the Good Fight of Christ (3:15,16; 6:11,12/6 chapters/113 verses)
- 2 Timothy—Preach the Word of Christ (3:14-17; 4:2/4 chapters/83 verses)
- Titus—Maintain Good Works for Christ (3:1,8/3 chapters/46 verses)
- Philemon—Accept One Another in Christ (1:16,17/1 chapter/25 verses)
- Hebrews—Christ is Better (4:14-16; 12:1,2/13 chapters/303 verses)
- James—Practical Living for Christ (1:19-22; 2:14-17/5 chapters/108 verses)
- 1 Peter—Persecuted for Christ (1:10-12; 4:12,13/5 chapters/105 verses)
- 2 Peter—Add to Your Faith as a Follower of Christ (1:5-8; 3 chapters/61 verses)
- 1 John—Love Your Brother in Christ (4:19/4 chapters/105 verses)
- 2 John—Abide in the Doctrine of Christ (1:9,10/1 ch./shortest book of the NT/13 verses)
- 3 John—Be a Fellow Helper with Christ (1:8/1 chapter/14 verses)
- Jude—Contend for the Faith of Christ (1:3/1 chapter/25 verses)



If you would like the Survey of the Bible study guide to aid your understanding, we'll send it for free.

PROPHECY (1)

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK)

- YES!** I want to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. Please enroll me in the "Survey of the Bible" Study Course.
- 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 a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I would like to learn more about your programs for: children/teens/college/singles/young couples/adults/seniors (circle one/more).
- 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: _____

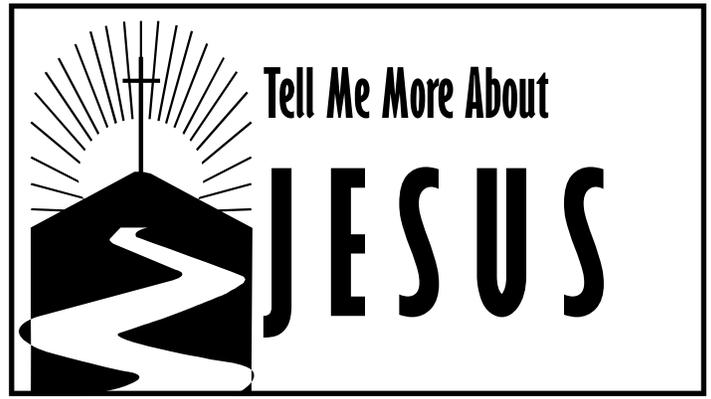
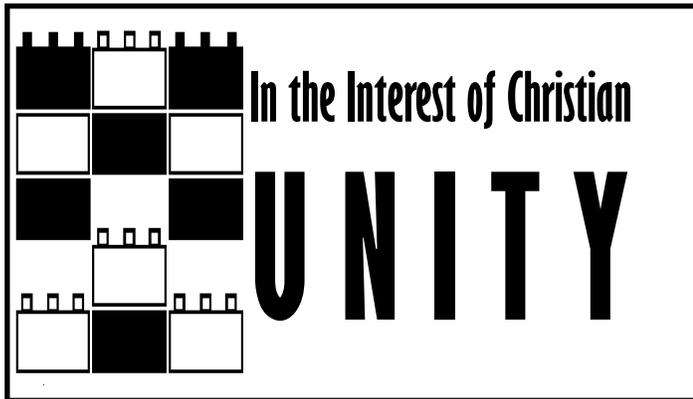
Featured Materials:

- Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):*
- This month's packet (new booklet plus all below)
 - HTH Booklet: Shall We Gather at the River?
 - HTH Booklet: Excellence (Pursuit of a Successful Life)
 - Jesus' Message to Today's World
 - Rules of Bible Study yAccepting Bereavement
 - yFalling From Grace yChoosing a Mate (youth)
 - Are Babies Born in Sin? yHow We Got the Bible
 - Time Chart of Bible Times yArmageddon
 - Is the Bible Really God's Word? yPremillennialism
 - What Must I Do to be Saved? yDivorce
 - What is the Church of Christ? yUnity
 - 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 yOther: _____
 - Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

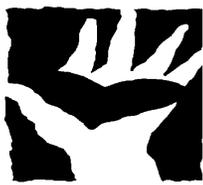
Please send me the NEWEST HTH Booklet: Full color, readable, interesting, and FREE!

How to Get More Time Out of Your Day (and what to do with it)

~ As always, all materials / services are provided absolutely FREE as a ministry of the church! ~



Christianity without Denominationalism?



Can you have a church without it being a denomination? Yes! By following the Gospel pattern Jesus and His apostles taught, we can duplicate today the dynamic church found in the Book of Acts. The world had never heard of a denomination at that time.

A little investigation into the New Testament shows that the First Century churches were nothing like today's monstrous man-originated denominations. When Jesus promised, "...I will build my church..." (Mt. 16:13-18), He did not have in mind a group divided into small parts, teaching different doctrines and opposing each other. We know this because He prayed that all His followers would be "one" (Jn. 17:20,21) and added all those saved to one church (Acts 2:47). He sent the Holy Spirit to further instruct that there would be "one body" (Eph. 4:4), and reprimanded those who introduced divisive doctrines and practices (1 Cor. 1:10).

Jesus proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." (Jn. 14:6). When we follow Jesus by imitating His love and obeying His commandments, there is no need for membership in any religious group founded and directed by mere men. What is the Lord's way? Jesus taught lost sinners to:

-] Hear and believe His Gospel (Jn. 6:44-45; Rm. 10:17).
-] Repent from all sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30).
-] Confess Him before others (Mt. 10:32; Rm. 10:10).
-] Be baptized in water for forgiveness of sins (Mt. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 10:48; 1 Pet. 3:21; Jn. 3:5; Tit. 3:5).

Those who became disciples were simply called "Christians" (Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26). They were neither "ites," "ics," nor "ists," nor "Brand A, B, and C" Christians. They were added to the Lord's body, His church (Acts 2:40-47), and no one "voted on their membership." Such practices are foreign to the New Testament.

The New Testament church has no organization on earth larger than local congregations. Each was led by elders, served by deacons, preachers, and teachers. There was no governing body to hand down doctrine or to take dues. Jesus is "...the head of his body, the church..." (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18). The headquarters of the Lord's church are in Heaven, where He resides at God's right hand (1 Pet. 3:22), not in Rome, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Salt Lake City, Nashville, Memphis, nor Cleveland, Tennessee.

The churches of Christ have no creed but Christ, and no guidebook but the Bible. We plead for unity based on conformity to identical teaching. This unity is not simply an agreement to disagree, but a genuine willingness to "...speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Pet. 4:11). We seek to "speak where the Bible speaks, to be silent where it is silent; to do Bible things in the Bible way, and to call Bible things by Bible names."

It will never work, you say? Come and see. The church of Christ welcomes your visits and investigation.❖

"Religion is giving God what he wants." Peter Lord's definition

Jesus Took After His Father—and His Mother



We may say of a baby, "He looks like his mother." As he gets a little older and develops a personality, we may say, "He took after his father." Jesus was God's Son (divine) (Jn. 3:16), yet He was Mary's Son (human) (Mt. 1:18-25). So, which was it—human or divine? Did Jesus take after His Father or His mother?

Both! A baby is completely his father's son and completely his mother's son. We can see traits of both in any child. And we see some of both His Father and mother in Jesus. Jesus often showed His "human side" of compassion, physical weakness, and spiritual struggle (Lk. 4:1-11). Jesus also showed His "divine side" of miraculous power, remarkable wisdom, and insight into the secrets of men's hearts (cf. Jn. 2:25). Consider a few examples:

-] It was the mother's son who was so tired that He slept in the back of a boat during a storm (Mt. 8:24), but it was the Father's Son who awoke to say, "Peace be still," and the wind hushed at the sound of His voice (8:26).
-] It was the mother's son who sat wearied on a well in Sychar (Jn. 4:6), but it was the Father's Son who offered the Samaritan woman the water of life (4:14) and knew all her personal history (4:17).
-] It was the mother's son who wept for Lazarus' grieving sisters (Jn. 11:35), but it was the Father's Son who said, "Roll away the stone..." and cried, "Lazarus come forth" (11:39,43). As Man, He sympathizes with us in our sorrows and separations, and as God, He sends them away.
-] It was the mother's son who cried in the garden, "Let this cup of suffering pass from me" (Mt. 26:39a), but it was the Father's Son who said, "Not my will but thine be done..." (26:39b).
-] It was the mother's son who cried out, "I thirst" from the cross (Jn. 19:28), but it was the Father's Son who said, "Father, forgive them they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).
-] It was the mother's son who lifeless body was buried in a tomb on Friday (Mt. 27:60), but it was the Father's Son who rose from the grave on Sunday morning (Mt. 28:6).
-] It is the mother's son who, because He lived among us, knows our human weaknesses (Heb. 4:15), but is the Father's Son who stands at God's Throne interceding for us (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus was God—He *knows* our needs. Jesus was man—He *understands* our feelings.

—Allen Webster

CHRIST:



Vol. 6, No. 5

Should One Believe the Bible?

That ours is a confused culture is conceded by almost all respected observers. Why? Largely due to a lack of respect morally and ethically for any accepted standard of authority. Still the Bible claims to be God's Book or the authoritative Word of the One who made us (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Why don't more of us respect and honor its teachings? Clearly a lot of people don't believe it is reliable. What are the facts?

The Bible's trustworthiness is proven in a variety of ways. For example, long before science discovered many of the things the Bible affirms, it was scientifically accurate. Case in point? How Psalm 8:4 alludes to the "paths of the sea." In actuality, sailors did not know about these paths until after the Civil War when they were studied and mapped by Admiral William Fontain Murray. How did the writer of the Psalms know about them 3,000 years earlier?

Critics have long tried to disprove the Bible's historical accuracy. Archaeological discoveries have invariably proven the Bible correct and its critics incorrect. One instance of this is the Hittites referred to in the Old Testament (Gen. 15:20). Detractors argued for a time that no such people ever existed until 1906 when 10,000 tablets were discovered written in the Hittite language and detailing much of their history.

Fulfilled prophecy proved that the Bible is inspired. No man can reliably predict what will take place in fifty years, much less a hundred, or a thousand years from now. Yet the Bible contains prophecies about the coming Savior and the future of the Jews that have clearly been fulfilled; prophecies made hundreds or thousands of years before their fulfillment (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 53:1-12; Mic. 5:2).

The point is that just as it is accurate regarding science, history and other matters, it is also reliable when it comes to the return of Christ, the judgment to come, and eternal reward or punishment. Wise people not only believe the Bible, they also obey it!

Seven Abominations

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him..."

A proud look



Hands that shed innocent blood



A lying tongue



He that soweth discord among brethren



A false witness that speaketh lies



Feet that are swift in running to mischief



A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations