

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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GOD
IS
AWESOME

“Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of
the world stand in awe of him” ~ Psalm 33:8

Church? Why Bother?

Allen Webster

Another seven days pass and we get up, have breakfast, get the kids dressed, make our way from our houses to assemble ourselves on the Lord's Day. We greet others, find a seat, get a song book and wait for the service to begin.

WHY? Why do people come to religious services? Some may come because they feel that they have to—because their parents or spouse makes them. Others see it as a tolerable exercise in spiritual attainment—sort of to punch a spiritual clock or get browning points with the Maker. To others it is a time to socialize—see and be seen. To others it is an essential part of the week, a positive force for good in their lives. The late Batsell Barrett Baxter once observed that “worship is the most important yet, at the same time, the most difficult experience in the Christian's life.” Worship is the Christian's highest duty and will be his occupation in eternity. It is to Christian living what the mainspring is to a watch. It is the very core of our response to God. *Why bother to worship?*

GOD DESIRES TO BE WORSHIPPED—HE “SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM” (John 4:23). He has commanded us to worship Him (Psalm 45:11; Revelation 22:9). This is one of the shortest commands in the Bible, yet it entails much. God is not vain, yet He wants to be worshipped. He made us for this purpose (1 Peter 2:9).

MAN DESIRES TO WORSHIP (Psalm 42:1). Worship is the theme of history from Genesis to Revelation. Man feels the upward pull. Men will worship—the variable is what they worship. The ancient Egyptians worshipped the sacred white bulls and lowly scarabs. The Greeks had their marble gods and goddesses. The American red men had totem poles. The people of India worship the sacred cow. Some today worship sports, careers, money, pleasure. Christians worship the God of heaven. To be healthy spiritually, we need to worship (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:30). A tree, although it must have water to live, cannot stay alive by receiving water. It must give away gallons of it every day through its leaves. If in some way a tree should stop giving, it would stop growing and soon die (cf. Psalm 1:3). So it is with a Christian—we have to give back to God.

GOD DESERVES WORSHIP. The English word “worship” originally came from the Anglo-Saxon *weorthscipe*, from *weorth* (worthy, honorable), and *scipe* (ship), developing later into “worship” (attributing worth to a thing or person). Of course, only God is worthy of supreme honor. The primary Old Testament word for worship (*shachah*) means “to bow down; to prostrate one's self; to do obeisance” (cf. Gen. 24:52; Ex. 4:31). The primary New Testament word (*proskuneo*) (61 occurrences; cf. Mt. 2:2; 4:10) means “to kiss the hand toward,” from the pagan custom of showing affection to the “gods.” Taking all the New Testament words for worship, one can get a full grasp of what it is. Worship should have the motivations of making obeisance to One greater (*proskuneo*), of feeling awe in His presence (*sebomai*), of reverently “bowing the knee” before

Him (*gonupeteo*), of humbly offering our lives in sacrificial service to Him (*latreuo*), and of establishing a pattern of life consistent with our worship (*leitourgeo*) (Gilmore).

If we do not praise God in each worship service, then we have failed. The Hebrew word for “praise” is *halal*, which literally means “to shout.” From this word we get *Hallelujah* (“Praise Jehovah”). We praise by singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; cf. Ex. 15:1; 32:18), praying, and, sometimes, studying. At the birth of Jesus, angels praised God saying, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:13). If we had the tongues of angels and the voice of birds, we could not praise Him as He deserves to be praised. If we were born speaking praises and had breath to never cease, we could not adequately praise His name. If every rock could speak, it would praise God. If the stars could sing, their song would be one of praise.

Since Jehovah is the greatest God (the only true and living God), He deserves the very best worship this world can offer Him (cf. Gen. 4:4; 22:16). When he finished high school, Al Kaline walked off the sandlots of Baltimore to begin playing right field for the Detroit Tigers. Without playing a day of minor league or college ball, he played right field for the Tigers like no one before or since. Later, he turned down a \$100,000 contract saying that it was too much. He signed that year for \$90,000. At the age of thirty-four, Kaline batted .379 in the 1968 World Series. Near the end of his career, he was asked how he would like to be remembered. His reply was, “As a man who gave his best every day.” We need the “Kaline attitude” when we come before God in worship.

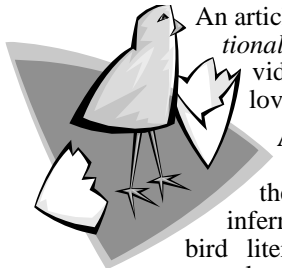
We praise God for of His *greatness*. Such wonder is not born of ignorance, but knowledge. The greater our knowledge of God, the more awesome wonder we feel in His presence. He is Creator of all. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, always present, and infinitely loving. He is eternal. We also praise God for *deliverance* (Ex. 15:11; 2 Sam. 22:50). David said, “We must declare among the people His doing” (Psalm 9:11) and “I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee” (Psalm 22:22; cf. Hebrews 2:12; 13:15). We praise God for *blessings received*. Worship is a time of praise (Psalm 69:30-32; 71:8,14; 86:5,15; 92:1-8; 95:1-7; 100:4; 150:6). Leah rejoiced in the birth of her son and cried, “This time, I will praise the Lord” (Gen. 29:35), and she named her son “Judah,” which means “Praise.” It was from the tribe of Judah that Jesus came, according to the flesh (Gen. 49:10). When Zacharias answered the question, “What shall his name be?” with “His name shall be called John,” his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed. After nine silent months, his first words were of praise to God (Luke 1:64). When we take time to count our blessings (Jas. 1:17), it makes us want to worship God.

We want to avoid making worship man-centered instead of God-centered. Worship too often becomes, “Entertain but don't detain me.” The emphasis is upon getting and receiving (cf. 1

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

I Want to be Loved Like That



An article on the Internet attributed to *National Geographic* several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's love for us...

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live. Jesus came and took the punishment for our sins...He literally died that we might live (Rm. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:15).

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4)

More Letters to the Preacher



My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. Joshua. Age 10, South Pasadena
Dear Preacher,

Who does God pray to? Is there a God for God? Sincerely, Christopher. Age 9, Titusville
Dear Preacher,

My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, Age 11
Dear Preacher,

My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9, Albany

"A merry heart doeth Good like a medicine..." ~ Prov. 17:22

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't

Ignore Sentence

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

~ Matthew 28:18-20

Dennis Loyd proofs what is undoubtedly the most well-proofed bulletin in the brotherhood. It is also proofed by Kathy Jarrell, Tommie Collins, and Anne Marie Robertson. So when you spot my mistakes,

you ought to feel talented. Another way to look at this is that I make so many mistakes it takes four people to catch them all! I'm sure I'm often a blot on the senses of these talented "grammariticians."

Even before my "stuff" ever gets to anyone else, my computer checks it out. It spots words I have "made up" either intentionally or unintentionally. It spots verbs that do not wish to agree with their nouns. And it spots sentences that are too long or incomplete. It also gives me suggestions on how to mend my grammatical sins.

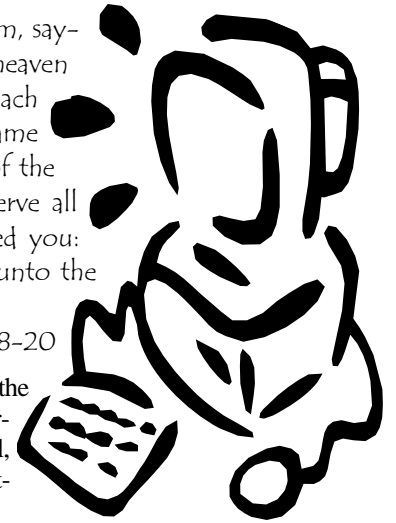
A couple of weeks ago I was working on an article on baptism. Of course, I inserted Matthew 28:18-20 where our Lord not only gives us directive (teach/baptize/teach), but direction (go into all the world). When I told my computer to put those verses in, it complied, but then it put a red line under the sentence telling me something was out of place. The sentence, it told me, was too long. I first thought about telling the computer to take it up with Matthew, or Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It wasn't my sentence anyway. It gave me some options on what to do with this long sentence. One of them caught my eye: **Ignore Sentence.**

Ignore sentence. While there are a lot of options of what to do with Jesus' words, I suppose my computer pointed out the one most often taken—ignore sentence. Many individuals have decided to do that with this verse. Just ignore it.

Some read the clear importance our Lord places on baptism here and ignore the fact that it is *the Son of God* telling one to be baptized. Some have heeded the command to be baptized, read Jesus' words to "go" and "teach" and having heard that commission, choose to *ignore sentence*. Still others choose to "ignore sentence" by ignoring the fact that after a person becomes a Christian, other Christians have an ongoing responsibility to continue to teach them. They evidence their conviction by minimizing programs of work, fellowship, and edification—those things which aid so greatly in sustaining young faith.

If my computer chooses to ignore the words of Christ, at worst it may crash, but if we choose "ignore sentence" we will crash and burn.

~ Dale Jenkins, Nashville, Tennessee





The
HOMIE
PAGE

by Chuck Webster

If I Had My Child Over Again I'd ...

-] Finger paint more and point fingers less.
-] Do less correcting and more connecting.
-] Take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
-] Take more hikes and fly more kites.
-] Stop playing serious and more seriously play.
-] Run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
-] Do more hugging and less tugging.
-] Be firm less often and affirm much more.
-] Build self-esteem first and the house later.
-] Teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

~ adapted from Dianna Loomans

It's Hard to Convince Our Children That...

-] ...church work is really important when we are not taking an active part in the work of the church.
-] ...faithfulness to the church is the most important loyalty in life when we permit them to forsake worship services to engage in other activities.
-] ...the church is the body of Christ when we are indifferent to the welfare of the members of that body.
-] ...they are to respect the church when we constantly criticize the efforts of those who are doing something in it.
-] ...the church is the world's most important institution, when we give so little to finance the church's work.
-] ...they can believe God's Word if we don't love it enough to study it daily.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:6,7).

WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY CHILD:

Helpful Hints for Parents

1. Try to make your home the brightest and most attractive place on the earth. Make it a little bit of heaven.
2. Let your child invite friends to your home and your table so that your child would rather be there than any other place on the face of the earth.
3. Make your child responsible for the performance of certain daily duties. Don't do things for your child that he/she is capable of doing himself/herself.
4. Never punish the child in anger, but do consistently punish the child when he/she does wrong.
5. Don't just go around preaching sermons, but let the Lord be a natural part of who you are and what you do.
6. Do not criticize the child as a person, but rather encourage the child's abilities and help the child in his/her weaknesses and discouragements.
7. Live uprightly before your child at all times. Do not hesitate to confess your weaknesses and ask forgiveness when you fail. It is very hard for a child to confess a mistake if the child never had an example.
8. Let your child hear you say, "I love you"—to both your spouse and also the child.
9. Be careful to impress upon the child's mind that making character is more important than making money and prove it by your example.
10. Pray often that the Lord will help you with your mistakes and that your child will be in heaven when life is over. A contrite and humble heart before God accomplishes much.

"...provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

Does Jesus Live at Your House?

The continued knock brought the mother to the door. A child stood there with a Bible in his hand. Without a word of introduction he asked, "Does Jesus live here?"

The woman, although a member of the church, was so taken aback by the unexpected question that she did not answer. She didn't even remember what he said next, but watched him slowly walk away. All day the question kept going through her mind. That evening when her husband came home, she told him about it.

He laughed and said, "Why didn't you show him the church directory with our name in it? You could have told him that we nearly always send our children to Bible class and go sometimes ourselves. Why didn't you remind him we give occasionally to the church, and look upon ourselves as a respected Christian family?"

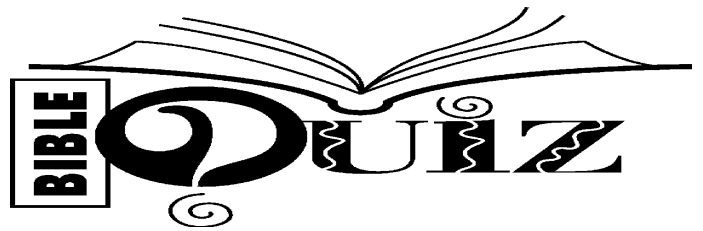
"Yes," she said, "that is all true, and I could have told him all that. But he didn't ask me the things you mentioned. He asked me if Jesus lives here and I have been wondering all day if He does."

"...Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" ~ Galatians 2:20

What I Learned from my Child...

-] There is no such thing as child-proofing your house.
-] Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
-] A six-year-old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies.
-] A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.
-] If you use a waterbed as home plate while wearing baseball shoes it does not leak—it explodes.
-] An exploded waterbed will fill a 2000 sq. ft. house to the level of two inches.
-] VCRs do not eject PB & J sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
-]]
-]]
-] McGyver can teach us many things we don't want to know. Ditto Tarzan.
-] Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a four





Volcano Destroyed Sodom?

Some say the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was natural (not by God's hand). They say there were three active volcanos in the area. Please comment.

Modernists are famously inconsistent in their approach to Bible texts. For example, they **accept** (and are dependent upon) the biblical record that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, but they **deny** the Source of that destruction as revealed in the **same** narrative! Why so? Simply because they are determined to strain the Bible through their personal ideas as to what happened in those ancient days (and that necessarily, for them, involves a rejection of miraculous divine activity!). Serious Bible students recognize, of course, that God has, at various times in history, brought judgments by the employment of His own natural laws (this is called "providence"). So, whatever the immediate cause of Sodom and Gomorrah's devastation, the Bible makes it clear (Gen. 18-19; Lk. 17:28,29; 2 Pet. 2:6; Jude 7) that as to timing and cause, the destruction of those cities was an act of God.

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly" ~ 2 Pet. 2:6

Why the Eighth Day?

It is a colossal understatement to say that the Bible is unique. It is not just unique, it is of divine origin. This is made obvious by the many instances of scientific foreknowledge found upon its pages.

One example of this concerns the medical practice of circumcision—the act which symbolized the covenant between God and Abraham (Gen. 17:10-14). Circumcision was subsequently incorporated into the Mosaic system and prevailed as a religious requirement until the beginning of the Christian Age (Lev. 12:3; 1 Cor. 7:18,19).

Whereas in the Bible circumcision has a religious importance, studies have shown that this practice has definite health benefits as well. Certain cancer risks are almost completely removed by following this biblical rite. This in itself is impressive; but of even greater significance is the day that the Bible designates for circumcision. Moses wrote: "He that is eight days old shall be circumcised..." (Gen. 17:12). Why the **eighth** day?

Circumcision, like any surgery, involves risks; bleeding is a concern. A newborn is susceptible to hemorrhaging because he lacks the proper levels of the clotting agent, prothrombin. His body does not produce vitamin K (necessary to produce prothrombin) until between the fifth and seventh days after birth. However, on the eighth day a child's prothrombin level is higher than at any other time in his life (actually 10% above normal). In other words, the safest possible day to perform circumcision is the eighth (see S.I. McMillen, 1984, *None of These Diseases*, p. 92).

How did Moses know that the eighth day was right for circumcision—hundreds of years before science discovered it? Was it mere coincidence? Hardly! ~ Brad T. Bromling

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word" ~ Psalm 119:16

Sin is serious. Sin is not something preachers have invented to keep them at a steady job. Sin has inter-

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Who Dared to Ask God?

Hints (in order): Hab. 1:1-3; Jer. 15:18; 1 Sam. 23:1-2; Gen. 4:9; 20:4; 18:25; Ex. 3:10-11; Ezek. 11:13; Job 40:3-4; Gen. 15:7-8.

1. "Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance?" (Hint: a prophet.) _____
2. "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?" (Hint: a prophet.) _____
3. "Shall I go and smite these Philistines?" (a king.) _____
4. "Am I my brother's keeper?" _____
5. "Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?" _____
6. "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" _____
7. "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" _____
8. "...Lord God, wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?" (Hint: a prophet.) _____
9. "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?" _____
10. "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I inherit it?" _____

Speaking of Churches

Hints (in order): Col. 4:16; Acts 11:30; Tit. 1:5; Rev. 2:13; Acts 8:5,14; 15:34; 17:10-15; Rev. 2:6; 3:20; Acts 2:47; 2:44-45; 11:22

1. What church received from Paul an epistle that has never been found? _____
2. What church took up a large offering for the needy believers in Jerusalem? _____
3. On what Greek island did Titus work with churches? _____
4. What church saw faithful Antipas martyred? _____
5. What was the first church to send missionaries? _____
6. What church was Silas from? _____
7. What love-filled church sent members to accompany Paul all the way to Athens? _____
8. What church hated the Nicolaitan heresy? _____
9. To what church did Jesus say, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock?" _____
10. What church began at Pentecost? _____
11. At what church did believers hold their property in common? _____
12. Who was sent by the Jerusalem church to oversee the church at Antioch? _____

Answers to last month's questions: *Back From the Dead (II)* 1. Elisha (2 Kgs. 13:20-21); 2. Nain (Lk. 7:11-15); 3. The son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kgs. 4:32-35); 4. Many holy people came out of their graves (Mt. 27:52-53); 5. Jairus' (Lk. 8:41-42, 49-55); *What church was it?* 1. Laodicea (Rev. 3:15-16); 2. Philippi (Acts 16:15,40); 3. Thessalonica (Acts 17:6); 4. Philippi (Phil. 4:1-3); 5. Troas (Acts 20:7-12); 6. Ephesus (Acts 19:19); 7. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 8. Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29); 9. Peter (1 Pet. 5:13); 10. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11); 11. Ephraim (Col. 1:7); 12. Philemon; 13. Ephesus (Ephesians from Paul and Rev. 2:1-7 from John); 14. Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:16); 15. Philippi (Acts 16:18); 16. Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7); 17. Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:2); 18. Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17); 19. Galatia (Gal. 1:6-9); 20. Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

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.



Recommended Reading



NO ORANGE JUICE IN FLORIDA? One spring our family was driving from Fort Lauderdale to Tampa, Florida. As far as the eye could see, orange trees were loaded with fruit. When we stopped for breakfast, I ordered orange juice with my eggs. "I'm sorry," the waitress said. "I can't bring you orange juice. Our machine is broken." At first I was dumbfounded. We were surrounded by millions of oranges, and I knew they had oranges in the kitchen—orange slices garnished our plates. What was the problem? No juice? Hardly. We were surrounded by thousands of gallons of juice. The problem was they had become dependent on a machine to get it.

Christians are sometimes like that. They may be surrounded by Bibles in their homes, but if something should happen to the Sunday morning preaching service, they would have no nourishment for their souls. The problem is not a lack of spiritual food—but that many Christians haven't grown enough to know how to get it for themselves. ~ *Leadership*, Vol. 5, no. 3

"...ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God...strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" ~ Hebrews 5:12,14

PROGRESS? The first great communications revolution followed the invention of the printing press. The first thing they printed was the Bible. The second communications revolution was due to the computer, and the first things computed were missile trajectories. You call that progress? You call that "user friendly?" ~ Richard L. McCandless

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" ~ Jeremiah 6:16a



JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT

TIME: A rabbi was asked a question by a pupil, referring to Deuteronomy 6:6: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart." "Why is it said this way?" the pupil asked. "Why are we not told to place them *in* our heart?" The rabbi answered that it is not within man's power to place the divine teachings directly in his heart. "All that we can do is place them on the surface of the heart so that when the heart breaks they will drop in."

"...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" ~ Isa 66:2

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK)

- YES!** I want to learn more about 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: _____

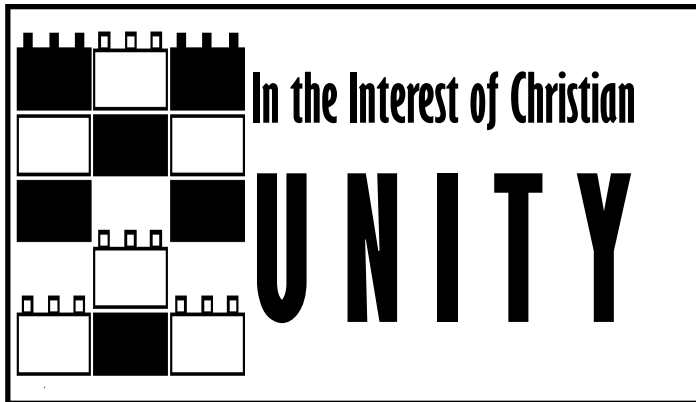
All materials/services are FREE of charge.

Featured Tracts:

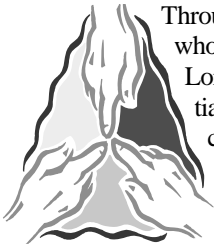
- Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):*
- Bible Dot to Dot Puzzles for Children yWhat About Angels?
 - How to Read the Difficult Names in the Bible
 - The One True Church (Bible class/home poster)
 - Daily Bible Reading Bookmark yWhen Your Feelings Are Hurt
 - What is the church of Christ? yHow We Got the Bible
 - Eternal Life Insurance yFalling From Grace
 - The Case for the Existence of God yChoosing a Mate
 - Gambling: National Pastime or Sure Bet for Poverty
 - How to Stay on Top of the World yQue es la Iglesia de Cristo
 - "The Sword" (Selected Scriptures on Bible Subjects)
 - Reincarnation and the Bible yWhat About...Dinosaurs?
 - Where Would Jesus Worship? yWhy Should You Believe in Jesus?
 - Is Weekly Communion a Scriptural Requirement
 - Have You Ever Had Someone Close to You Die? (youth)
 - Come And See (More About Christ's Church)
 - Does the Bible Contradict Itself? yOther: _____
 - This month's packet (booklets plus all above)
 - Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

Please send me the NEW HTH Booklets: Full color, readable, interesting, and FREE!

- Wait Till the Honeymoon** (Every parent/grandparent of a dating youth needs to read and share this material!)
- A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross** (Simply check the appropriate boxes)



Udenominational Christianity



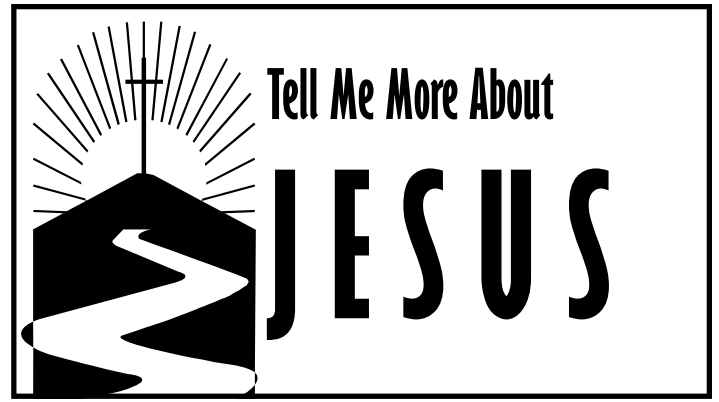
Throughout the world are congregations of Christians who have obeyed the commands which our Blessed Lord said for sinners to obey to be saved. These Christians meet for worship and are organized into local congregations. They belong to no denomination. They have no central government or earthly headquarters. Each congregation is independent, taking the New Testament as its sole and only authority in religion. The members insist that if we believe the same things the early Christians did, and do the same things they did, it will make us the same thing. Paul was a member of no denomination, yet he was a Christian and a member of the Lord's Church.

The church of Christ was established on Pentecost day, A.D. 33, as we read in Acts 2. Every saved person was added to the church (Acts 2:47), thus the church is composed of all Christians on earth, and every saved person is in it. The members of the church were called "Christians" (Acts 11:26), a name which the Lord gave (Isa. 62:2). All names of human origin are condemned (1 Cor. 1:12-13; Acts 4:12).

"The Word of God is the seed of the Kingdom" (Lk. 8:11). This seed produced Christians when first planted. If we plant the same seed today, we will reap the same product. The life is in the seed. If there were not a Christian on earth today, you might become one by believing, repenting, confessing your faith in Christ, and being baptized. If there were not a church of Christ on earth, we might start one by obeying the Gospel the apostles preached. Paul went to Corinth and preached the Gospel and "many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). Paul later addressed them as the "church of God" and "the body of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:2, 12:27).

Nineteen centuries have passed since the beginning of the church, but we still have the same truth. We have today the same church unchanged in name, doctrine, organization, faith, and practice. We dare not use any creed except the New Testament (2 John 9). We must not add to our worship any doctrine or commandment of man (Mt. 15:9). Our plea is for unity—not simply union in diversity—but for all time on the platform given in God's Word (Eph. 4:4-6). We plead no merit of our own—only the merit of Christ's shed blood and of His holy Word. The New Testament is the inspired Word of God and is superior to any human confession of faith (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Will you not join with us in standing on the solid rock of God's Word? ~ George W. DeHoff

"The churches of Christ salute you" ~ Romans 16:16b



An Uncommon Common Man

I enjoyed reading one time about Queen Elizabeth's first American baseball game in Baltimore. Escorted by the President and Mrs. Bush and the baseball commissioner, the Queen sat in a VIP skybox and enjoyed a pre-game buffet of crab cakes and blackened smoked turkey. She stayed for two innings.

Now, I'm not so sure Elizabeth has been to a ball game yet. After all, what's a baseball game without nine innings, hard bleachers, and expensive hot dogs?

This illustrates an important spiritual point. When God sent His only begotten Son Jesus into the world, He could have placed Him in a palace with jewels and crowns and servants. He didn't. Instead, He gave Him the dirt roads of the common man. And He was "tempted in all points such as we are" (Heb. 4:15). He's a Savior who can understand the hardships of our lives. No wonder the Bible says the "common people heard Him gladly" (Mk. 12:37).

~ Glenn Colley

The Historicity of Jesus



It is becoming increasingly popular to deny the historical existence of Jesus. Perhaps dismissing the Messiah as a myth seems easier than dealing with the proofs of His deity. This approach, however, is much more problematic than it might appear.

Records of Jesus' life come to modern man with impressive force. Not only are there Christian writings (whose manuscripts number in the thousands), there are also Jewish and Roman sources which give testimony to the Lord's historicity. The latter may be termed "hostile" witnesses since they have virtually nothing positive to say of the Christ.

One of the more interesting Roman references comes from the historian Cornelius Tacitus (c. A.D. 55-120). He had this to say regarding Nero's attempts to avoid personal blame for the burning of Rome: "Therefore, to scotch the rumour, Nero substituted as culprits, and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men, loathed for their vices, whom the crowd styled Christians. Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate..." (Annals XV; quoted in McDowell and Wilson, 1988, p. 49). Later in this same passage, Tacitus went on to mention the horrid forms of mockery and execution suffered by Christians for their faith. Significantly, this persecution occurred only about 31 years after the death of Christ. These pious people obviously believed that Jesus was much more than a mythical Messiah.

History is clear; His existence was recorded by both friend and foe. Jesus Christ is an incontestable figure of history.

~ Brad T. Bromling

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"

~ John 1:14