

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, Number 6

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

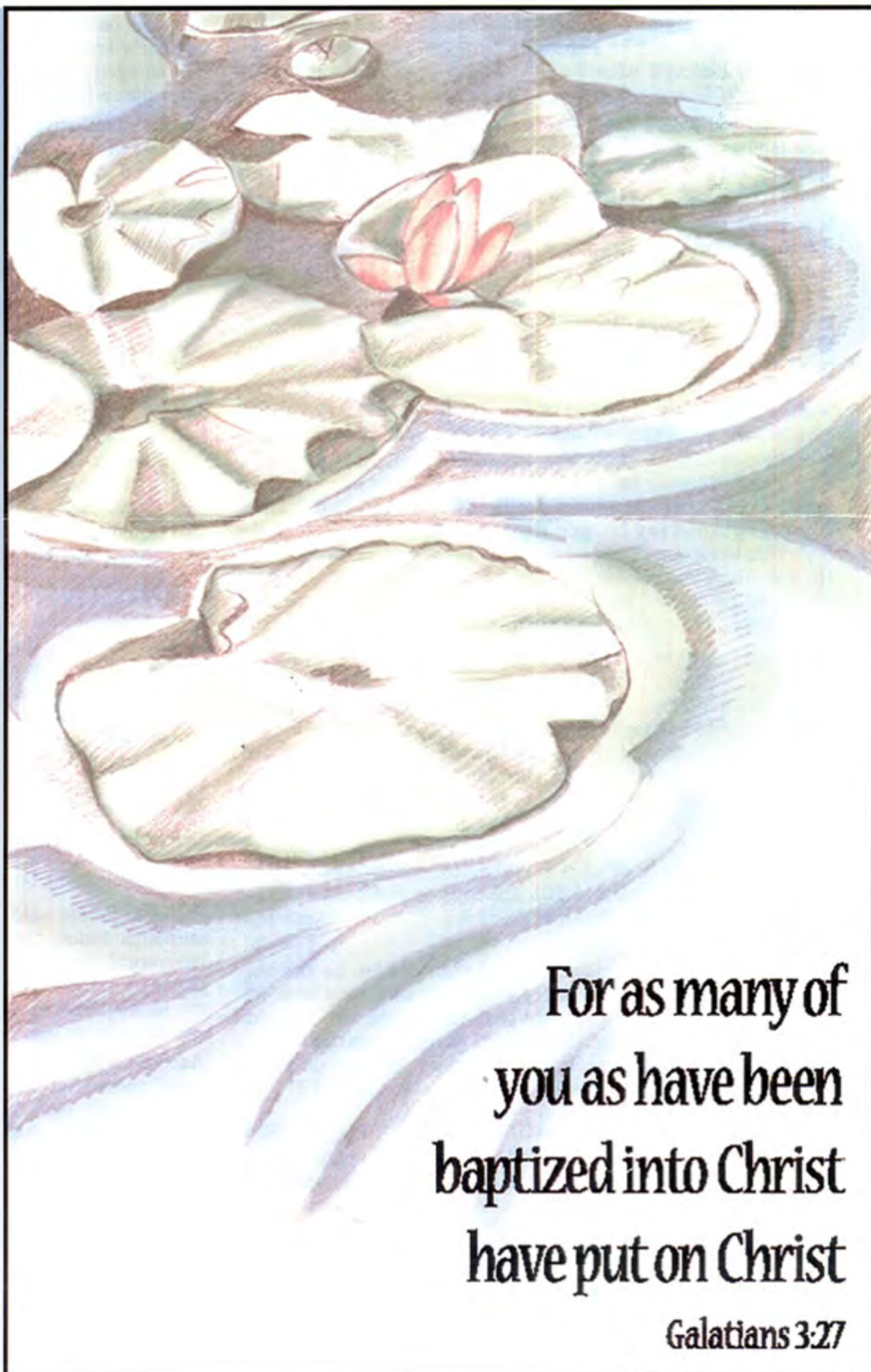
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

If you have questions or comments please contact
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For as many of
you as have been
baptized into Christ
have put on Christ

Galatians 3:27

Finding God's Treasure

Please Read Acts 8:26-40

Allen Webster

Dr. Williamson, a Canadian geologist, had been slipping along a rain-soaked road that led through Tanzania's back country when suddenly his Land Rover sunk to its axles in sticky mire. Pulling out a shovel, he began to dig his four-wheel drive out. After some time he uncovered an interesting-looking, pink stone. Being a geologist and naturally curious about rock formations, he picked it up. The more mud he removed, the more excited he became, but hardly believed what he saw. When the stone was finally clean, Dr. Williamson had found a diamond!¹

Any diamond would have been a surprise, but he had found the now famous giant pink diamond of Tanzania. That muddy stone sparkles today in the royal scepter of Britain, and Williamson is world renowned for his find—accidental though it was.

It is interesting that the *geologist* found the diamond. Similarly the Bible tells of a *treasurer* who found a *treasure*. Jesus compared a sinner who learns the Gospel to one who finds great treasure (Mt. 13:44-46). This is illustrated by an Ethiopian treasurer who found the Gospel treasure on a lonely road leading back to Africa from Jerusalem (Acts 8:26-40). Why did he—of all the people in the world—find the treasure that day?

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING MORE. This Ethiopian had traveled fifteen hundred miles to worship (one way) and was still reading his Bible on the way home! Because he was a eunuch, he had not even been allowed into the temple proper during the ceremonies (cf. Deut. 23:1). You could say he rode three thousand miles to sit in the foyer! He knew something of the Bible but wanted to know more. He was like a man at sunrise tilting his manuscript to catch the first light. As he read Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus, he was catching the first rays of the rising sun of Christianity.

Who will find God's treasure today? Those who are willing to look. It is available to all, but it requires a careful and diligent Bible student (2 Tim. 2:15). One may have to dig out from under denominational teachings and human traditions. One may have to lay aside pre-conceived ideas and a handed-down family religion. God promised that all who fear Him can learn the truth (Jn. 7:17) and He will reward those who truly look (Heb. 11:6; Jas. 4:8; Psa. 9:10; 14:2; 25:14; 145:18; Prov. 8:17). Some are too busy seeking worldly things (Mt. 6:32); others are waiting for some supernatural sign (Mt. 12:39; 1 Cor. 13:8-10); others would rather please man than God (Gal. 1:10). The truly wise person seeks the treasure of the Gospel (Mt. 5:6; 6:33; 7:7; Prov. 8). Its value is eternal; its worth inestimable.

Many today, like this treasurer, read their Bibles on the way home from church services and wonder why what they have just experienced differs so from what they read in the Bible. If you are one of these, read on...We should never be satisfied with a religion less than what we find in Scripture. We can do better. Christ's church does exist today, and you can be a part of it!

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER VIEWPOINT. When Philip gave the treasurer an opportunity to learn more of God's Word, he was not rebuffed. This treasurer was humble enough to admit to a complete stranger that he did not understand what he was studying. (He could have told this aggressive preacher to *get lost*, but then he would have *stayed lost*.) What was the eunuch reading? "The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his

mouth" (Acts 8:32). The treasurer listened as Philip showed how Jesus' death on Calvary and resurrection from the grave fulfilled Isaiah 53's prophecy. Jesus was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8; cf. Mk. 10:45). A goat, killed in the traditional manner, sends out blood-chilling cries that can be heard a mile away, but a sheep submits to the butcher's knife without a whimper. Jesus meekly submitted to the outrages perpetrated against Him and offered no more resistance than a lamb being sheared or slaughtered.

"In his humiliation...judgment was taken away..." The verdict of Jesus' Roman judge was "innocent," but Pilate gave in to the Jews and changed the sentence to crucifixion (Lk. 23:4; Jn. 18:38; 19:6). "...who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth." How could one describe a generation of people so blind that they did not recognize God's own Son, and then murdered Him?! Jesus' premature death was prophesied more than seven centuries before He was even born.²

This was not what the treasurer had been taught in the worship service he had just left. He learned the Truth because he was willing to consider another viewpoint. What about us? Too many religious discussions end with slammed doors and closed minds... raised voices and lowered respect for a friend... clenched fists and closed Bibles ... Are we willing to calmly investigate another perspective? Do we do our own thinking, or do we simply accept what our preacher, friends, spouse, or parents tell us to believe? Truth never suffers from investigation—if we were right in the beginning, we will simply confirm it with more study. But if we were wrong...we need to know before the Judgment (Mt. 7:21-23)!

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LEAVE HIS PAST. As treasurer for his country, he was doubtless an intelligent and industrious man. His religion was good. He was comfortable with it. He knew its customs, understood its theology. It taught high morals and had doubtless benefited his life. But now the preacher suggested that he give it up for something better. It no longer pleased God and was powerless to grant salvation. What went through his mind? *Change religions? Go against my family? Offend my friends? Start over? Admit I've been wrong?* Nonetheless, he desired to please God more than others (Gal. 1:10) and was willing to do what many are unwilling to do—give up false religion (Jn. 12:42) or sinful pleasure (Acts 24:25). In heaven, he will never regret his decision (nor we ours).

Philip evidently said something about baptism in their study (although Isaiah 53 does not mention it) because the eunuch interrupted the traveling Bible class to point out that they were passing a suitable place for baptism. (Since that was arid country, he may have thought, "If I don't ask now, there may not be another river or lake until after he leaves.")

According to this Bible example and others in the Book of Acts, something is wrong today when someone claims to preach Jesus, but whose hearers never request baptism. How can any man preach the Gospel and answer the question, "What to do to be saved?" and not give the answer Jesus told us to give (Mk. 16:15, 16)? (For further study, see "A Baptism in the New Testament" elsewhere in this paper.)

This treasurer may have been wealthy in Egypt before his journey, but he left this scene a far richer man. In the last view we ever get of him, he is pictured with a "smile on his face."

You'd rejoice, too, if you'd just found God's treasure!

Endnotes: 1. Story told by Eldred Echols, *Discovering the Pearl of Great Price*. Sweet Pub., Ft. Worth, 1992. 2. Most scholars date Isaiah at about 750 B.C.

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Everyday Survival Kit



ITEMS NEEDED:

— Toothpick; Rubber-band; Band Aid; Pencil Eraser; Chewing Gum; Mint; Candy Kiss; Tea Bag

HERE'S WHY...

- ▶ Toothpick – to remind you to “pick out” the good qualities in others (Mt. 7:1)
- ▶ Rubber-band – to remind you to be “flexible.” Things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out (Romans 8:28).
- ▶ Band Aid – to remind you to “heal hurt feelings” ...yours or someone else’s (Col. 3:12-14).
- ▶ Pencil – to remind you to “list your blessings” every day (Ephesians 1:3).
- ▶ Eraser – to remind you that “everyone makes mistakes,” and it’s okay (Genesis 50:15-21).
- ▶ Chewing gum – to remind you to “stick with it” and you can accomplish anything (Phil. 4:13).
- ▶ Mint – to remind you that you are “worth a mint” to your heavenly father (John 3:16-17)
- ▶ Candy Kiss – to remind you that “everyone needs love” everyday (1 John 4:7).
- ▶ Tea Bag – to remind you to “relax” daily and to think about God’s blessings (1 Thes. 5:18).

Written in Sand and Stone

Two friends were walking through the desert and got into an argument. One friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: *Today my best friend slapped me in the face.*

They kept on walking until they found an oasis. Thirsty, they stopped for water. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire, fell in, and started drowning. His friend saved him. That evening, he wrote on a stone: *Today my best friend saved my life.*

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone, why?” He replied: “When someone hurts us we should write it in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where it will be long remembered.”

Learn to write your hurts in sand and carve your benefits in stone. Someone observed that it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire lifetime to forget them.

“...contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him...” —2 Corinthians 2:7

Dear Bertha...

This was written by an 83-year-old woman to her friend. The last line says it all.

Dear Bertha,

I’m reading more and dusting less. I’m sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden.

I’m spending more time with my family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I’m trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I’m not “saving” anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I’m not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank. “Some day” and “one of these days” are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it’s worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I’m not sure what others would’ve done had they known they wouldn’t be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted.

I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was. I’m guessing; I’ll never know. It’s those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn’t written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn’t tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I’m trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

Every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God... People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don’t need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there.

“Redeeming the time...” —Ephesians 5:16

Star Performer on the Winter Circuit



Go almost anywhere in the suburbs or the country, and you will see chickadees. A full-grown chickadee seldom weighs more than half an ounce, about the weight of an ordinary letter. Inside that tiny body is a heart that beats close to 500 times a minute, so fast that through a stethoscope its sound is practically a buzz. Its body temperature ranges around 105 degrees, which accounts for that high-tension activity.

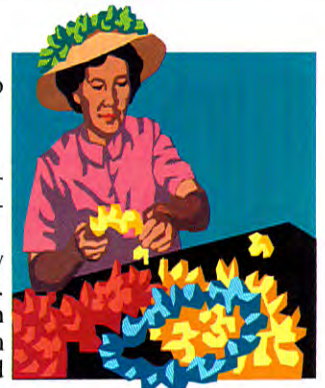
On a cold day a chickadee needs its own weight in food to keep the inner fires burning. Its feathers, which make it appear the size of a sparrow when they fluff out, help hold warmth, while the dark back and head gather additional heat from the winter sun.

This bird is a lively personality! It can be a ham actor, a bully, a wheeler, or an acrobat. It loves a human audience and comes to the dooryard feeder as much for companionship as for a snack. As an entertainer, the feathered song-and-dance performer gets, and deserves, top billing on the winter circuit of the dooryard feeders.

—Reader’s Digest

“And God created ...every winged fowl after his kind; and God saw that it was good”

—Genesis 1:21





THE
HOMIE
PAGE

Not as Bad as You May Have Heard...

From the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, come new numbers to fuel the debate on sexual unfaithfulness—surprising numbers that offer more hope for domestic stability. In five studies from 1988 to the present, researchers at the Center found only about 15 percent of Americans have ever cheated on a spouse. They further discovered that, in a given year, only 3 to 4 percent of husbands and wives are unfaithful.

—Reported by Marilyn Gardner in *The Christian Science Monitor*

“Thou shalt not commit adultery”

—Ex. 20:14; cf. Rev. 21:8

There is Still Work to Do...

- ▶ Percentage of American men who say they have solicited prostitutes: 17

—*U.S. News & World Report*, 11/22/93

“For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread; and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life”

—Prov. 6:26, cf. 23:27

- ▶ In the U.S., number of new magazines introduced in 1992: 679
- Number devoted to lifestyle/service: 60
- Number devoted to sports: 40
- Number devoted to crafts/hobbies: 35
- Number devoted to celebrities: 33
- Number devoted to sex: 97

—*Chicago Tribune*, 3/11/93

- ▶ Percentage of “churched youth” claiming a personal commitment to Christ: 86
- ▶ Percentage of “churched youth” who admitted watching an X-rated movie within the past 3 months: 16

—Barna Research Group study of 3,795 teens (7/21/94)

“...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart...I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” —Matthew 5:28; Psalm 101:3

Sex, Youth, and God

Few places are more beautiful than Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies. Tourists journey from all over the world to sightsee, ski, hike, and camp. The vistas are breathtaking, the air is clean, and the water pure. Or so everyone thought. Early in the 1980s tourists and townspeople began to get very sick. Researchers were amazed to discover that the problem was in the water. It was clear and cold, coming from high up in the mountains, free of human pollution. But a parasite, carried by beavers, had contaminated the water and what became known as “beaver fever” made people extremely ill. It took eleven million dollars and a new water system to solve the problem. Today the water in Banff is safe.

—Gary Inrig, “Celebrate the Sexual,” *Whole Marriages In A Broken World*, 183-184

This episode reminds us that even the purest and most precious things on earth can become contaminated and dangerous. The sexual relationship is a case in point. Far from being against sexual relations, God invented it! It is not “dirty” or disrespectful. God made us sexual beings, and He wants us to enjoy His gift. But He maintains the right to regulate *where* we enjoy it. His Word says, “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4; see also Prov. 5:15-23). God made sex for husbands and wives. Premarital and extramarital relationships are forbidden. The devil has prostituted God’s gift and brought a load of sorrow upon a generation of teens and young adults.

Cal Thomas, in *Christian Reader* (Vol. 31), makes a good point, “Sexual preference” may be the least judgmental words ever created. ‘Sexually active’ are two others. One might inquire of a sexually active person, ‘What’s the difference between being ‘sexually active’ and what my mother used to call a ‘fornicator?’ Fornication is defined as ‘human sexual intercourse other than between a man and his wife, or sexual intercourse between a spouse and an unmarried person.’ Isn’t this what we mean by ‘sexually active?’ Then why not say so.” Isaiah said, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil...” (5:20).

Consider these facts and quotations:

- ▶ Percentage of high school seniors who have had sexual intercourse: 72
- ▶ Percentage who have had at least 4 partners: 19

—Centers for Disease Control

God says,

- ▶ “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 Cor. 6:18).
- ▶ “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence [desire, passion], even as the Gentiles which know not God” (1 Thes. 4:3-5).
- ▶ “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22; read also Genesis 39).
- ▶ “We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God” (Jer. 3:25; cf. Job 20:11; Psa. 25:7; Lam. 3:27).

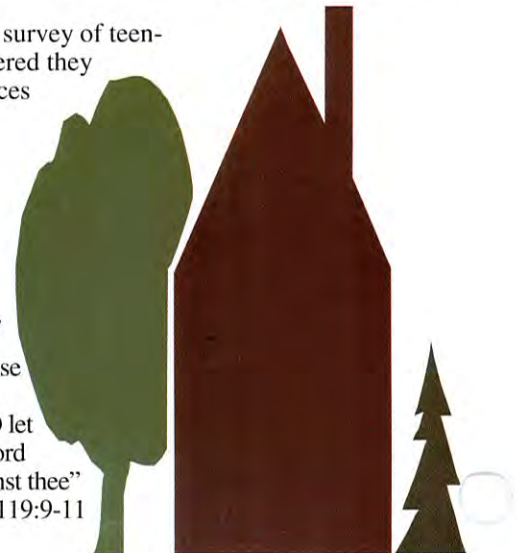
Speaker Josh McDowell conducted a survey of teenagers from “evangelical churches” and discovered they had learned about sex from the following sources (respondents could select more than one):

- ▶ Friends (28 percent)
- ▶ Movies (26 percent)
- ▶ Classes at school (23 percent)
- ▶ Parents (23 percent)
- ▶ Television (22 percent)
- ▶ Church (7 percent)

—From *Group*, cited in *Teens & Trends*

God says, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”

—Psalm 119:9-11



A Baptism in the New Testament



It is interesting to go back in time to see the church in its primitive state...when the Spirit was still directly instructing Christians on how God wanted religion practiced.

One of the most detailed cases of conversion is the Ethiopian whom Philip taught while traveling down a lonely back road (Acts 8:26-40). This treasurer requested baptism, and Philip conducted his baptism in the way God approves.

Note carefully how baptism was done in the New Testament.

- ▶ The treasurer made a confession of faith before baptism. He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (8:37). No one can be scripturally baptized unless he has faith in Jesus (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16) and is willing to make it known (Rm. 10:9, 10). Note that he did not confess that God had for Jesus' sake already forgiven his sin, since his baptism was for the purpose of forgiving sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- ▶ The treasurer was immediately baptized. He did not hesitate nor procrastinate. He was not told he would have to be voted on (unheard of in the New Testament) or that he would be on probation for some time. He did not have to go through weeks of classes or have to wait for several others who also wanted to be baptized. Someone has noted that no sinner in the Book of Acts ate, drank, or slept before being baptized once they learned that they were lost.
- ▶ Both the candidate and the administrator got in the water. They "both went down into the water" and came up out of the water (8:38, 39). Some have said that the eunuch was holding up a water jug when he said, "See here is water..." (One older lady heard that and said, "My Bible says they both went down into the water. Are you telling me they both went down into a jug?!" Insert "jug" for water in the text and see the silliness of it.) Baptism in the New Testament was always a burial—never sprinkling or pouring (Mk. 1:10; Jn. 3:23; Rm. 6:4, 5; Col. 2:12).
- ▶ Baptism began a joyful journey with God. Acts 8:40 says this new Christian "went on his way rejoicing." Why? Because his sins were washed away and he had been added to God's family, the church (Acts 2:47). Each of God's steps to salvation is important:

- **Faith** changes man's thinking (Hebrews 11:6);
- **Repentance** changes his lifestyle (Acts 3:19);
- **Confession** of faith forces him to "come out in the open" (Matthew 10:32, 33);
- **Baptism** changes his guilty state (from "outside" to "inside" Christ's body, Galatians 3:26, 27).

Study the other cases of conversion in the Book of Acts and note carefully the original pattern. Let's do what they did.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Twenty Questions... From Mark

1. Mark does not mention the story of Jesus' birth. True / False
2. What is the first miracle of Jesus in Mark (1:23f)? _____
3. What did the Pharisees say the disciples did that was unlawful (2:23f)? _____
4. What does "Boanerges" mean (3:17)? _____
5. What three things does Mark mention can "choke out" the Word from someone's life (4:19)? _____
6. About how many swine drowned when Jesus allowed demons to enter them (5:13)? _____
7. When the disciples were sent out, they were forbidden to take any bread or money (6:8). True / False
8. Who/What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw Him walking on the water (6:49)? _____
9. Whom did men say Jesus was (three answers) (8:28)? _____
10. Whom did the disciples confess Jesus to be (8:29)? _____
11. Which disciples accompanied Jesus to the mountain where the transfiguration took place (9:2)? _____
12. What did Jesus curse for having no fruit (11:13f)? _____
13. When the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus about paying taxes, what object did He request (12:15)? _____
14. What did Jesus allow to happen at Simon's house that some criticized (14:3-9)? _____
15. What did Jesus and the disciples do in the interval between the Last Supper and the Mount of Olives (14:26)? _____
16. Who first confronted Peter about his affiliation with Jesus (prompting his first denial) (14:66)? _____
17. What was Pilate's reaction when Jesus refused to answer his questions (15:5)? _____
18. After Jesus died on the cross, who went to Pilate to ask permission to bury His body (15:43)? _____
19. Where did Jesus tell the disciples to take the Gospel (16:15)? _____
20. What two things did Jesus tell them to teach men to do to be saved (16:16)? _____

The Shepherd's Psalm

Try to fill in these blanks from memory. If you cannot, read Psalm 23, close your Bible, and then fill in the blanks.

"The LORD is my _____; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green _____; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my _____; he leadeth me in the paths of _____ for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the _____ of death, I will fear no _____; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they _____ me. Thou preparest a _____ before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with _____; my _____ runneth over. Surely goodness and _____ shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the _____ of the LORD for ever."

Answers to last issue: **HUSBANDS AND WIVES:** 1. alone; 2. wife; 3. prudent; 4. leave, cleave; 5. fornication; 6. rejoice; 7. body, body; 8. bodies; 9. home; 10. honor; 11. love, children; 12. innocent; 13. continual; 14. liveth, liberty; 15. heirs; **And Baby Makes...** 1. fruitful, multiply; 2. heritage, reward; 3. happy; 4. chasten; 5. wise, glad; 6. foolish, heaviness; 7. arrows, olive; 8. diligently; 9. spareth; spoileth; 10. train; old; 11. hope; 12. house, Lord.

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.



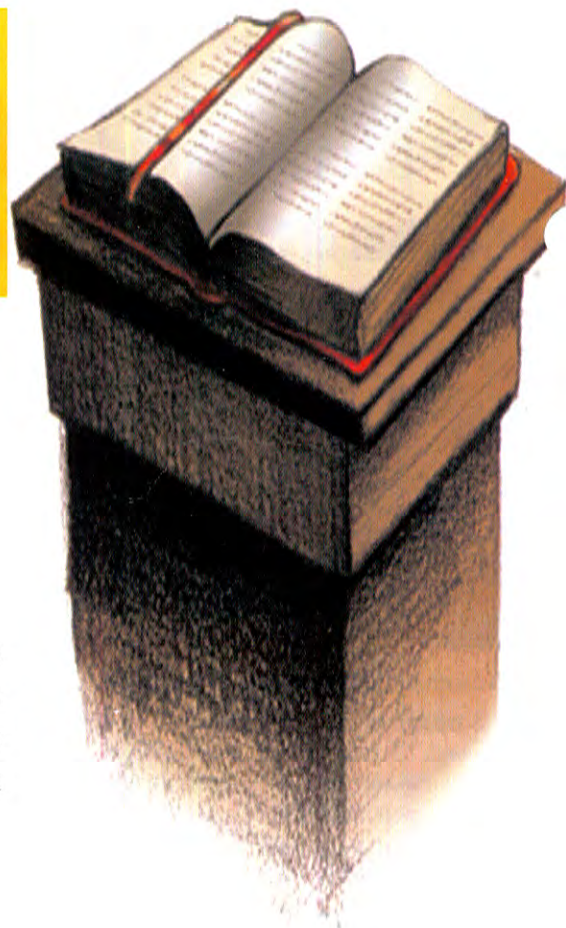
—Bible Curiosities—
The Center of the Bible

“Study to show thyself approved unto God...” —2 Timothy 2:15

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 117
 What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 119
 Which chapter is in the center of the Bible? Psalm 118
 Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118
 Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118
 Add these numbers up and you get 1188
 What is the center verse in the Bible? Psalm 118:8

Does this verse say something significant about God’s perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God’s perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” —Psalm 118:8



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE, EMAIL, OR POSTAL MAIL)

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- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school, programs, and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation.
- Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone: _____

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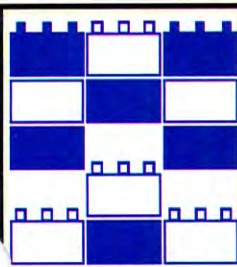
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- The Indwelling of the Spirit Repentance
- Daily Bible Reading Bookmark Falling From Grace
- What is the church of Christ? How We Got the Bible
- Eternal Life Insurance Choosing a Mate
- The Case for the Existence of God Where Would Jesus Worship?
- Reincarnation and the Bible
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



Featured Website:

We recommend a review of *U.S. News & World Report’s* recent Cover Story on Evolution found at this address:
<http://www.apologeticspress.org/docsdis/2002/dc-02-usnews.htm>



In the Interest of Christian

UNITY

How to Settle It



When people disagree about how many ounces or pounds something weighs, they can settle the matter by using SCALES ...the standard of authority. When people disagree about the length of a piece of lumber, they can resolve the disagreement by using a MEASURING TAPE...the standard of authority. When people disagree about what is right and wrong in religious matters, they should settle the matter by using the BIBLE. . .the standard of authority.

—David Sain, *Heart To Heart*

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” —Jn. 17:17

Back to Basics

“I fear that some are drifting away from the old landmarks that so clearly characterized the...earlier days. Some of the old themes that used to be handled with telling effect by the pioneers are now seldom preached from some pulpits. It is, however, a noticeable fact that when first principles are shunned, evangelistic results are correspondingly meager. The men who are eminently successful in bringing souls to Christ are the men who preach a full gospel. Its facts, commands, and promises are all declared... Show me the man who eliminates first principles from his preaching, and I will show you...a man who is in doubt as to whether the disciples... have any distinctive message for the world...”

—N. B. Hardeman, preface to *Tabernacle Sermons*, Vol. 1, 1922

Thought: Do you hear the fundamentals where you attend worship...?

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” —Acts 20:27

Recipe For a Revival

If all the sleeping folk will wake up, and all the lukewarm folk will fire up, and all the dishonest folk will confess up, and all the disgruntled folk will sweeten up, and all the discouraged folk will cheer up, and all the depressed folk will look up, and all the estranged folk will make up, and all the gossipers will shut up, and all the dry bones will shake up, and all the true soldiers will stand up.....then we will have a revival!

“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”

—Psalms 85:6

Many waters cannot quench love, rivers cannot wash it away.



Tell Me More About

JESUS



What It Means to be a CHRISTIAN

- ▶ As members of the body one carries out the will of Christ the HEAD (Col. 1:18).
- ▶ As lights in the world one shines forth for Christ the LIGHT of the world (John 8:12).
- ▶ As a good soldier one endures hardness for Christ the CAPTAIN of our Salvation (Heb. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:3).
- ▶ As sheep one follows Christ the SHEPHERD (John 10).
- ▶ As a citizen one obeys Christ the KING (Col. 1:13).
- ▶ As a branch one bears fruit for Christ the VINE (John 15:1-6).

Jesus is Our Mediator

Man is separated from God because of sins (Isa. 59:1, 2; Jas. 4:4). Because of sin, we all have an alienation problem. The only way to be reconciled back to God is through a mediator. The only Mediator between deity and humanity is Christ. The Bible says, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). A mediator must meet two qualifications:

- ▶ He must not be party to the offense. The offense in our case was sin. Jesus meets this qualification because He was sinless (Heb. 4:15).
- ▶ He must have knowledge of both parties involved. In this case, God and man are the parties who are separated, so Christ must completely know both sides. Here the virgin birth of Christ comes into play. He understood God’s point of view because He was in heaven as God from all eternity (Jn. 1:1-4). But He, from that vantage point, did not understand what it was like to be a man. But when He became flesh through the virgin birth, He looked at the world through man’s eyes. From Mary He inherited humanity; from the Holy Spirit He inherited Deity (Mt. 1:23; Jn. 1:14). He was both man and God at the same time. Charles Spurgeon noted, “Christ was not a deified man, neither was He a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man.” In the field of genetics “Mendel’s Law” says, “All that is in the parent is in the offspring and all that is in the offspring is in the parent.” Thus Jesus was both human and divine. He has knowledge of both parties involved. He was able to reach down and take the sin-cursed hand of man and reach up and take the holy hand of God and bring them together. As Paul put it, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

