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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 5

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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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It all comes down to this: **GOD'S SUPREME COURT** THE AUTHORITY OF GOD OVER GOD'S WORLD

Allen Webster

I have but this to say, the Bible is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it. —Abraham Lincoln¹

The Supreme Court of the United States is its highest judicial body. It consists of the Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices, who are nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. It meets in Washington, D.C. in the Supreme Court Building.² The Supreme Court has authority over all the nation. Even the President is subject to its decisions.

God's Supreme Court today is the New Testament. What the 'Chief Justice' (Holy Spirit) and eight judges (writers) wrote in that book are the laws and precedents for the human family (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3, 20-21). Its two-hundred sixty chapters

comprise the totality of God's revealed will for the Christian Age (John 16:13).

It is absolute and final and will stand till the Day of Judgment. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

Does the Bible have authority over all men, or only those who believe it?

The average person looks at religion like a university, sports team, club, or military service. If a man enlists in the army, then he has boot camp and four years of "yes, sir/no, sir." If she enrolls in a university, then there are fees, papers, tests, and classes to attend. If he joins a team or club, then he will need to attend practices/meetings, obey the coach/leader, abide by rules/bylaws, and show up for games/events. But if a person chooses not to sign up, enroll, or join, then he or she has no obligations, responsibilities, or consequences.



Is church membership like that?

Religion is different. One cannot opt out of Christianity without eventual consequences. God exists whether or not man believes in Him (Romans 1:22-23, 28; Psalm 14:1). Denying Scripture does not change the Bible's validity or free one from living by God's standards. Jesus will not ignore us just because we ignore Him. Rejecting the Spirit's Word does not alter the reality of a coming judgment. Felix was an unbeliever, but Paul reasoned with him about judgment to come (Acts 24:25).

Upon what basis can God expect all mankind to serve Him?

God owns man's patent. God has authority over the world because He made it (Acts 17:24). He has the right to govern man because He "created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). "The head of every man is Christ...and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). "Hath not the potter power over the clay?" (Romans 9:21). The potter can display the pot he made in his house, sell it, give it as a gift, or break it. It is his. God made vessels from dust and breathed life into them (Genesis 2:7; 3:19). He designed the procreative process that produced everyone now living. He thus owns our copyright (Romans 9:11-24). God desires more than an authoritarian relationship, though; He wants a family relationship built on love (cf. Matthew 22:36-40). His love for us prompts Him to want the best for us (1 John 4:8); so He wants us to serve Him for our benefit, not His.

Man owes his Landlord. If one lives in America, then he cannot opt out of obeying American laws and paying

American taxes. Since the "earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1), we are living on God's land, breathing God's air, drinking from God's springs, and eating from God's bounty. Every good thing in our lives comes from that source (James 1:17; Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17). Truly, "In him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). As His tenants, we are subject to His laws. "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord" (Jeremiah 22:29).

Jesus was given authority over all earth's inhabitants. When Christ ascended after conquering sin, death, Satan, and hell, God crowned Him King of earth. The psalmist pre-pictured this event as God putting His King upon the holy hill of Zion (Psalm 2:6; Acts 13:33). It was customary for kings to give to favored ones whatever they asked (cf. 1 Samuel 27:6; Esther 5:6; Matthew 14:7). God promised His Son "the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (Psalm 2:6-8). After the resurrection, Jesus affirmed that He had been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). The universality of this supremacy means that all are subject to Him, whether they submit or not (Hebrews 2:8). Even Pharaoh—who once asked, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?" (Exodus 5:2)—learned that he was subject to God (Exodus 7-11).

Man owes a debt he can never pay. Jesus pictured sins as debts (Matthew 6:12). All men sin (Romans 3:23), so all have a running tally that God keeps of fines associated with our spiritual misdemeanors. Jesus pictured a lifetime of sins as a "ten thousand talent" debt (Matthew 18:23-35). Since ten thousand was the largest Roman number and a talent their largest denomination of money, this pictured the maximum number—an unpayable debt. To deny the reality of sin does not cancel one's debt any more than denying a college loan causes a bank to drop it from its records. If sins go unpaid, their wages will be due at the end. The good news is that Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary can cover

each person's debt (Romans 3:23-26). He offers forgiveness of debt ("remission" of sins) to penitent believers who are baptized (Acts 2:38).

Man has an unavoidable appointment with Judgment Day. Tennyson referred to "that one far-off divine event to which the whole creation moves."³ Jesus gave this preview: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:31-33).

On that day, all the world will be judged (Acts 17:30-31); each individual will stand before the judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10). Although the prevailing philosophy is, "I'll live my life as I please," man can only avoid answering to God for so long. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). It is incapable: "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11; cf. Isaiah 45:23).

Daniel Webster, the great New England statesman, served our nation with distinguished service the first half of the nineteenth century. Possibly the greatest orator America ever produced, he was described as "one who walked like a man, but spoke as a god." He was once asked what he considered the most important thought that had ever occupied his mind. He replied, "My gravest thought has been that I shall someday stand before God in judgment and give an account of how I have lived."⁴

Yes, your case is now on the docket of God's final court. Read His book; prepare well. He wants to judge in your favor.

Endnotes:

¹ Abraham Lincoln's Speeches, p. 346

² <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-supreme-court/>.

³ Alfred Lord Tennyson: A Memoir By His Son, Baron Hallam Tennyson. The Macmillan Company, 1897. Page 327.

⁴ Edsel Burleson, "All Paths Led to the Judgment," West End News, p. 1.

Which Came First?

A young skeptic said to an elderly lady, "I once believed in God, but since studying science I am convinced that God is but an empty word."

The lady replied, "Well, I have not studied science, but since you have, maybe you can tell me from whence came this egg."

"Why, of course, from the hen," was the reply.

"And where did the hen come from?"

"Why, the egg."

"And perhaps," said the lady, "you can tell me which existed first."

"The hen, of course," rejoined the young man.

"You mean that a hen existed without having come from an egg?"

"Oh, no," said the young man, "I should have said the egg was first."

"Then you mean that an egg existed without having come from a hen?"

The young man exclaimed, "You've got me all mixed up."

She drove home her point: "Young man, since you cannot explain the existence of even a hen or an egg without God, you cannot expect me to believe that you can explain the existence of the whole world without him."

—Leroy Brownlow, *Greatest Questions in the Old Testament*

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

JOHN 8:32



The Tomato Garden

An old gentleman lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here, my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son:

Dear Papa,

Don't dig up that garden; that's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4:00 A.M. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies.

They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son:

Dear Papa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you, Vinnie

"A merry heart doeth good."

PROVERBS 17:22



Home PAGE



Christmas Cheer

Ninety-five-year-old Mary found that shopping for Christmas had become too difficult, so she decided to send checks to everyone instead.

On each card she wrote, "Buy your own present," and she mailed them early.

Only after Christmas did she get around to clearing off her cluttered desk. Under a stack of papers, she was horrified to find all the gift checks, which she had forgotten to enclose.

A Considerate Husband

Mary Brunson was driving the new family car and inadvertently made a wrong turn and sideswiped another automobile. In tears, she began fumbling through the glove compartment in an effort to locate the appropriate insurance papers. When she finally found the documents, she also discovered a small note attached in her husband's handwriting. It read simply,

*"Dear Mary,
When you read these papers, remember
that it's you I love and not the car."*

The Bible says that husbands are to dwell with their wives "according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

What Do You Want Your Children to Become?

You announce what you want your children to be by the example you set.

It's amazing how some parents put ball games, camping trips, golf games, and fishing trips above attending worship, and then they wonder why their children leave the church. Someone wrote, "What you are thunders so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."

You announce what you want your child to be by the plans you make for them.

Your children know if something is really important to you. Have you been saying from the time they started to school, "Now make good grades so that someday you can go to college"? They know you want them to get a college education. But what about your spiritual dreams for them? Have you encouraged them to be preachers, missionaries, Bible school teachers, elders, or deacons? By your plans, you have told them what you think is important.

The greatest thing you can do for your children is to plant the seeds of faith in their hearts. College is not the most important thing in the world. Let your children know that more than anything else, you want them to be faithful Christians.

—From *Christ in the Home*, Robert R. Taylor, Jr.



God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

The Holy Spirit's Gospel: Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: 1 Peter 3:21

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10



I Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8**



II Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 10:14**



III Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. **Matthew 6:9; Matthew 15:8-9; 1 Timothy 6:1**



IV Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Not repeated in the New Testament since the day of worship was changed from Saturday to Sunday in honor of Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Sunday.) **Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**



V Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. **Matthew 15:4; Matthew 19:19; Romans 1:29-32**



VI Thou shalt not kill. **Matthew 5:21-22; 1 Peter 4:15**



VII Thou shalt not commit adultery. **Matthew 5:27-28; Mark 10:11-12**



VIII Thou shalt not steal. **Mark 10:19; Ephesians 4:28**



IX Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. **Matthew 15:19-20; Ephesians 4:25**



X Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. **Luke 12:15; Romans 13:9; Ephesians 5:3**

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

and where they are repeated in the NEW TESTAMENT

EXODUS 20:3-17

Bible QUIZ

VOLUME 19:5

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Patriarch Timeline bookmark as a way of saying "thanks" for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: *The Book of Philemon:* 1. Philemon, Apphia, Archippus; 2. Love, faith; 3. No ("aged") 4. Onesimus; 5. Perhaps, season (1:15); 6. His own life; 7. Timothy; 8. Philemon's love and the way the saints have been refreshed by him; 9. Changed him from "unprofitable" (as a runaway slave) to "profitable"; 10. No longer as a slave, but as a beloved brother (1:16); 11. He "appeals" to Philemon; 12. Grace (1:25); 13-18. All true.

Money and Treasure in the Bible

Find answers in Genesis 37:28; 43:23; Judges 16:5; 1 Samuel 8:1-3; Proverbs 15:6,16; Matthew 6:21; 10:29; 17:24-27; 18:28; 27:3; Mark 10:21; 12:41-42; Luke 6:45; 12:6; Acts 8:27; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:10.

- What was the value of two sparrows in Jesus' day? _____
- Who did Joseph's steward tell his brothers had given treasure into their sacks? _____
- For how much was Joseph sold to the Ishmaelites? _____
- Who offered Delilah silver to find out the secret of Samson's strength? _____
- "In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is _____."
- "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and _____ therewith."
- "For where your treasure is, there will your _____ be also."
- "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is _____."
- Where did Jesus tell the rich young ruler his treasure would be if he sold all _____ and gave to the poor? _____
- "But we have this treasure in earthen _____, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
- Phillip converted an Ethiopian who had charge of all of the treasure of Queen _____.
- A man whose 10,000 talent debt was written off failed to forgive a debt of _____.
- How much was Judas Iscariot given to betray Jesus? _____
- "The love of money is the root of _____."
- Who did Jesus send fishing to get money for taxes? _____
- According to Luke, the price of five sparrows was _____.
- As Jesus watched, how much money did a poor widow give? _____
- What prophet's sons were greedy and took bribes? _____



Interesting Facts ABOUT THE BIBLE

The system of chapters was introduced in A.D. 1238 by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro, while the verse notations were added in 1551 by Robertus Stephanus, after the advent of printing.

A Bible in the University of Gottingen is written on 2,470 palm leaves.

According to statistics from Wycliffe International, the Society of Gideons, and the International Bible Society, the number of new Bibles that are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States is about 168,000 per day.

The Bible can be read aloud in about 70 hours.

There are 8,674 different Hebrew words in the Bible, 5,624 different Greek words, and 12,143 different English words in the King James Version.

A number of verses in the Bible (κρυ) contain all but one letter of the alphabet:

- Ezra 7:21 contains all but the letter "J";
- Joshua 7:24; 1 Kings 1:9; 1 Chronicles 12:40; 2 Chronicles 36:10; Ezekiel 28:13; Daniel 4:37; and Haggai 1:1 contain all but "Q";
- 2 Kings 16:15 and 1 Chronicles 4:10 contain all but "X"; and
- Galatians 1:14 contains all but "K."

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Recommended Resource



If you are looking for audio Bible studies, we recommend Audio Evangelism. With hundreds of study topics professionally presented, you can request CDs to enjoy in your vehicle, or download files to listen to on your computer. Check them out at www.audioevangelism.com.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

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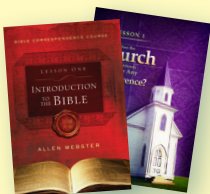
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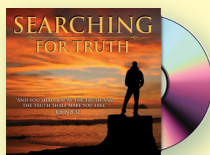
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☐ 7 Things God Hates: He That Soweth Discord Among Brethren



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☐ Shall We Gather at the River?



☐ Simon Says



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VOLUME 19:5



Wonder of Wonders

The Seven Wonders of the World is a list the ancients compiled of man-made wonders built between 3000 B.C. and A.D. 476. These include the following:

- The Great Pyramid of Giza — a 13-acre, 481-foot-high royal tomb.
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon — “hanging” because they were elevated, perhaps built upon a ziggurat-type tower.
- The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus — a massive marble temple dedicated to the goddess of fertility, which housed her statue, said to have fallen from heaven.
- The Statue of Zeus at Olympia — 40 feet high; Zeus’ body was made of ivory and his robe and ornaments of gold.
- The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus — a huge, white marble tomb for a provincial ruler named Mausolus, so famous that all large tombs are now called mausoleums.
- The Colossus of Rhodes — a huge, bronze statue to the sun god Helios, about 120 feet high (as high as the Statue of Liberty).
- The Lighthouse of Alexandria — stood over 400 feet high with a fire burning at the top to give light.

Interestingly, of the Seven Wonders, only one remains: The Great Pyramid of Giza.

There was another man-made structure that was built early in the first century A.D. Those who built it did not know that it would become the Wonder of Wonders.

The structure was the Cross of Christ.

What made this particular cross so significant was not the rough wood from which it was made, but the one who was hanged upon it! It was not the wood but the one who was nailed to it that made it the Wonder of Wonders! This one was the Son of God. He was nailed to the cross, not for His own sins, but for the sins of the world—our sins!

The cross upon which Jesus died is the Wonder of Wonders because it reveals the great love of God. “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). We are the ones who deserved to die for our sins, but Jesus took our place. Through His atoning sacrifice, we are saved from sin.

Jesus’ offer of salvation can be accepted by those who place their faith and trust in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

The actual cross upon which Jesus was crucified no longer exists, but the one who died for us is very much alive! He rose from the dead, victorious over sin and death, and now offers to us the opportunity to share in His victory and life eternal. Won’t you accept His offer on His terms? —David A. Sargent, Minister, Mobile, Alabama

Think about it . .

• “If I do not know that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead, then I know nothing in the history of mankind. If the evidence, when fully examined with a calm willingness to be convinced, does not in this case warrant a practical certainty, then there is no adequate evidence of any historical event.”

—John Broadus, *Jesus of Nazareth*, p. 84



The Other Cheek

A big sergeant from a Highland regiment, serving many years ago in Egypt, was asked about the circumstances of his conversion: “What was it that turned you to Christ?”

He told of a private in his company years before when he was serving in Malta. The private was frequently harassed by other soldiers for his religious faith. One night the private came into his barracks quite late. It was a very rainy night. Before getting into his bunk, he knelt, as was his custom, to pray.

The sergeant picked up one of his boots, which was heavy with wet mud, threw it across the room, and hit the private on the side of the head. The private said nothing. He wiped the mud from his face and crawled into bed. The next morning, however, when the sergeant woke up, he found his muddy boots cleaned and polished by his bedside. He said, “It broke my heart.”

Turning the other cheek is not easy. The first inclination is to strike back, to get even, or to seek revenge. The route Jesus urges upon us—and practiced Himself—is the behavior which is more likely to influence another person for good.

“I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

MATTHEW 5:39



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