

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, Number 3

A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –
Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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

This file provided by: www.housetohouse.com



“Though your sins
are like **scarlet**,
they shall
be as
white as **snow**;
though they are
red as **crimson**,
they shall be
like **wool**.”

Isaiah 1:18

HOW TO FACE YOUR GOLGOTHA

Please Read Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

Jesus was facing the greatest test of faith in His life. He did not look forward to the events that would culminate in His own funeral (such as it was). He knew exactly what was coming. Betrayal. Shame. Torture. Trauma. Thirst. Loneliness. Death. How could He look at that and not flinch? How do we handle the great challenges to our faith—our “Golgothas?” What happens when...

- ▶ The doctor says, “Three months, tops...”
- ▶ The dean says, “I’m sorry, but you can’t graduate till you take this course over...”
- ▶ The law intern hears, “I’m sorry, since you didn’t pass the bar we can’t use you here...”
- ▶ The trooper reports, “You’ll have to wait till bail is set to get him out...”
- ▶ The funeral home phones, “When could we work out a time for you to view the body...”
- ▶ Your unwed daughter says, “It’s due in seven months...”
- ▶ Your boss says, “I’m sorry, but business has been off, and we have to downsize somewhere...”
- ▶ Your wife says, “I just don’t love you any more?”

Where do we turn when there’s nowhere to turn? Where do we put our feet when the rug has been jerked from under us? Jesus left us an example the night He faced “Golgotha” (cf. 1 Pet. 2:21,22).

JESUS SOUGHT...A PLACE WHERE HE COULD PRIVATELY ADDRESS HIS PROBLEM. Jesus was in great demand. It seemed He could never shake the crowd (“for there were many coming and going,” Mk. 6:31b). On some occasions He could not find “leisure so much as to eat” (Mk. 6:31c). He never complained and always offered a hand to the helpless. Still, on this night, He uncharacteristically made no time for publicans and sinners. The Great Physician’s office was closed. He stepped out of the limelight and addressed the deep concerns in His own heart. He got out of eyesight of the multitudes, out of earshot of His disciples, and got in touch with His Father. He went deep into the bowels of Gethsemane to gather His thoughts, wrestle with God’s purpose for His life, and to summon strength to face the inevitable.

What is the message for sufferers today? Take some time away from doctor’s offices, business meetings, and family gatherings. Find a place to sort things out in your own mind. Spend some time in separation, meditation, and contemplation. Often, things do not look nearly as daunting after a good night’s sleep as they did after a long day’s turmoil. The first thing God told a depressed Elijah to do was to eat a good meal and get some sleep (1 Kgs. 19:5-8). We can usually handle things better if our minds and bodies are well rested. Jesus certainly emphasized rest—both spiritual (mental) and physical. He invited sinners to come to Him and rest (Mt. 11:28), instructed Peter, James, and John to “sleep on now, and take your rest” (Mt. 26:45), and insisted that the harried band, “come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while...” (Mk. 6:31a). Further, one day He has promised that He will come back and grant us eternal rest (2 Thes. 1:7; Heb. 3:11; Rev. 14:13).

Lesson #1: Facing Golgotha? Spend some time in Gethsemane.

...THE COMPANY OF CLOSE FRIENDS. Friends were important to Jesus. It is interesting that twelve of the sixteen times the word “friend” is used in the New Testament, Jesus either said it, or it was used in His presence. He knew about friendship. He is, after all, the “friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Prov.

18:24), and the “friend of publicans and sinners” (Lk. 7:34).

So we are not surprised to find that though Jesus sought solitude this dark night, He did not get too far from His friends. We may not fully understand all that was involved,¹ but He took the Eleven with Him to the Garden. He invited three close friends—Peter, James, John—to go with Him into the Garden. Although He prayed alone, He kept coming back to see them...to be with them. He alternated between His Father and His friends. He wanted them to stay awake and pray with Him (at least at the same time). It is safe to say that even the Son of God wanted friends around when the night was really dark.

God did not create us to be “lone rangers,” either. Solomon instructed us to pay attention to friendships, for one day we will need them. “Thine own friend, and thy father’s friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother’s house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off” (Prov. 27:10). Good friends can make us “sharper” (27:17). It is not a wise man that keeps his problems all bottled up and never turns to anyone for counsel. “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established” (Prov. 15:22). Our friends may be unable to offer the perfect solution or even to come up with suitable words of comfort. Jesus’ friends let Him down that night (they could not even stay awake!).² Still, just speaking our mind is often a relief. “A joy shared is doubled; a burden shared is halved.”

Lesson #2: Don’t try to climb Golgotha by yourself.

...COMFORT FROM THE FATHER IN PRAYER. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed as no man had ever prayed. He wrestled with severe mental anguish (Mt. 26:37,38). Mark says He was “sore amazed” (*ekthambeo*, “to astonish utterly; affright”) and “very heavy” (*ademoneo*, “to be in distress of mind”) (14:33). If you had visited that spot at daybreak, you could have found a damp place where His sweat dripped during those prayers. He prayed until His capillaries burst into His sweat glands, and He literally sweated blood³ (Lk. 22:44,45)! If you had found the dampened earth, it would have been tinged red.

Prayer is not an option for non-Christians,⁴ but what a privilege for God’s child! He can lift up his tear-stained face to heaven and say, “Father,” and the God of the universe turns His head and bends His ear to listen. Imagine! What a joy to know that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psa. 46:1). He knows (Gal. 4:9), and He cares (1 Pet. 5:7).

Lesson #3: Don’t try to climb Golgotha on your feet. Use your knees.

Endnotes: ¹No doubt part of His reason was for their benefit, protection, and training. Always the teacher, Jesus used even this struggle with the enemy in the garden that night to teach the disciples and every future believer another lesson in godliness, a lesson about facing temptation and severe trial. The Lord not only was preparing Himself for the cross but, by His example, was preparing His followers for the crosses He calls them to bear in His name (Mt. 16:24).

²Interestingly, Luke says they were “sleeping for sorrow” (22:45), an indication that the emotional strain was getting to them even more than to Him.

³This is a rare medical condition called “bloody sweat” or *hematidrosis*. The blood loss was minimal, but the high stress level is tremendous (Dr. Joseph Clements, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*). Incidentally, as a result of hemorrhage into the sweat glands, the skin became fragile and tender. In the cold night air, it may have produced chills (cf. Jn. 18:18) and would have magnified the suffering of scourging.

⁴They may pray, but God has not promised an open ear (Prov. 1:26; 1 Pet. 3:12).

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

STILL WORTH A LOT

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, who would like this \$20 bill? Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple it up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?," he asked. Still the hands went into the air.



"My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value: dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you.

The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE. You are special—Don't EVER forget it!"

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" —Genesis 1:27

THE SAFEST PLACE

Church is the safest place. Automobiles account for 20% of all fatal accidents, while 17% of fatalities occur at home. Fourteen percent happen to pedestrians on streets and sidewalks. Travel by air, rail, or water causes 16% of the deaths. Yet, of all reported deaths, only .001 percent occur in worship services.



- ▶ It is a terrible thing to be grateful and have no one to thank, to be awed and have no one to worship.
—Phillip Yancey, *Open Windows*, Vol. 5, no. 4.
- ▶ For what its worth, remember: Amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.

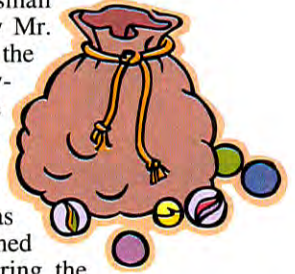
GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

God's Grace	...Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	...Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	...Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	...Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	...Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	...Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	...1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	...James 2:24
Christian's Hope	...Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	...Matthew 24:13



THE RICHEST MAN IN IDAHO

During the waning years of the depression in a small southeastern Idaho community, I used to stop by Mr. Miller's roadside stand for farm-fresh produce as the season made it available. Since food and money were scarce, bartering was used extensively. One day Mr. Miller was bagging some early potatoes for me. I noticed a small boy, delicate, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller and the boy next to me.



"Hello, Barry, how are you today?" "H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admiring' them peas...Sure look good." "They are good, Barry. How's your ma?" "Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time." "Good. Anything I can help you with?" "No, sir. Jus' admiring' them peas." "Would you like to take some home?" "No, sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with." "Well, what have you to trade me for some?" "All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it." "Here 'tis. She's a dandy." "I can see that. Hmm, only thing is this one is blue, and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one at home?" "Not 'zackley...almost." "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home and next trip let me look at that red marble."

"Sure will. Thanks, Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, standing nearby, came over to me. With a smile she said: "There are two other boys like him in our community; all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all, and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one."

I left the stand, smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Utah but never forgot this man, the boys, or their bartering. Several years went by, but just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community. While I was there, I learned that Mr. Miller had died.

They were having his viewing that evening, and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. At the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform, and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits, and white shirts...very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing smiling and composed, by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her, and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary, awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. Eyes glistening she led me to the casket. "Those three young men that just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size ...they came to pay their debt. "We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided "but, right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho."

With loving gentleness she lifted her husband's lifeless fingers. Resting underneath were three, magnificently shiny, red marbles. If true wealth is measured, not by what you made, but by what you left behind, then he could have been the richest man in Idaho.

"...distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven..." —Luke 18:22





The
HOME
PAGE

Parental Guidance

Peter Pan came back to the silver screen through the imaginative perspective of Steven Spielberg's *Hook*. When Peter Pan originally opened as a play in London, author Sir J. M. Barrie found himself on the hot seat with parents.

The script called for Peter to tell the Darling children they could fly if they believed strongly enough. Some children believed it and hurt themselves by leaping from high places in their attempts to fly. Barrie placed a cautionary line in the scene and Peter's new discussion with the children included the now-famous element that they could fly after they had been sprinkled with pixie dust.

Today's children are no less confused about reality than those who tried to fly. Let's give them plenty of parental guidance—and some black and white moral guidelines. —*Today in the Word*, Nov. 1991

Twenty-one Per Hour

Researchers in San Diego monitored ninety-five hours of weekday afternoon and Saturday morning television targeted at children. The two-month study revealed that children are exposed to twenty-one commercials an hour. Advertisers have secularized the concept of persistent and repetitive instruction as given in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. They are teaching our children to *buy* "when they sit in the house and when they walk by the way and when they lie down and when they rise up...and bind them as a sign on their hands and on their foreheads...and write them on the doorposts of their houses and gates." Are we being as diligent and persistent with spiritual truth? Children don't need twenty-one sermons an hour, but they could stand a few more commercials about God from their parents. —*Houston Chronicle*, June 22, 1995

"...thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 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. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house..." —Deuteronomy 6:5-9

What Do You Expect Out of Your Children?

School children were used for an experiment in education. The children in three groups were equally average students. Controllers of the study made a significant change, though. They placed the three groups with three different teachers and told each teacher the status of the students. One teacher was told her group consisted of "exceptional" students. Another teacher was given "average" students and the third acquired "slow" children. All of the students were equal but classified differently.

Throughout the school year each of the three teachers subconsciously treated their students just like they had been classified. At the end of the year the students were tested, and the results were startling. Although they began the school year as equals, at the end of the year each group scored exactly as they had been classified and treated. The exceptional students tested above average, the average scored in the middle, and the slow students ended up with below-average grades.

In essence, each student lived up to the expectations and treatment of the teachers. What we receive from others and from life will generally be no more than what we expect or give.

—Robert Logan, *Seeking, Finding, and Developing Leaders*

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" —Psalm 127:4, 5

Don't Fence Me In?

Child psychologists discovered an interesting truth. Contemporary thought assumed that fences on playgrounds made the children feel restricted in their recreation. A consensus was reached to remove the fences so children wouldn't feel confined. The opposite effect occurred. Researchers found that the children became more inhibited with their activities. They tended to huddle toward the middle of the playground and exhibited signs of insecurity. When the fences were replaced, the children played with greater enthusiasm and freedom. We all need boundaries—something to define the limits of safety and security (Hank Tate).

The poet Coleridge was visited by a man who had a theory about raising children. He stated, "I believe children should be given a free rein to think and act and thus learn at an early age to make their own decisions. This is the only way they can grow into their full potential." Coleridge made no comment but simply led the man to his garden. "Come see my flower garden," he said. The opinionated visitor took one look at the overgrown garden and remarked, "Why, that's nothing but a yard full of weeds." The wise poet declared, "It used to be filled with roses, but this year I thought I'd let the garden grow as it willed without tending to it. This is the result."

Children, like gardens, will not automatically flourish. They need daily attention and care.

—*Crossroads*, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. 23

"Withhold not correction from the child..." —Proverbs 23:13

Love Those Dogs

The parents of an eight-year-old were having a tough time with their son going off to summer camp. They had never been away from each other for a whole week. After they hadn't heard from him in several days, they called the camp to see if he was all right. The parents were disappointed to learn that he had not missed them. Prying for some more reassuring information, his mom and dad asked, "Have any of the other children gotten homesick?" The boy said, "Only the ones who have dogs." —*Leadership*, Vol. B No. 1, p. 23-24

Do It Together

A Florida church holding monthly events for the entire family had trouble with parents dropping their kids off and not staying for the various events. They remedied the problem with this announcement: "The Magic of Lassie, a film for the whole family, will be shown Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Free puppies will be given to all children not accompanied by their parents."

"...Father...seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life" —Genesis 44:30





DOES SAYING "THE SINNER'S PRAYER" SAVE?

Preachers sometimes invite listeners to pray something such as, "God, I am sorry I have sinned. Please forgive me and let Jesus come into my heart. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen." The preacher then says, "Since you have asked Christ into your life, you are now His child, and your sins are forgiven." The problem, however, is that the promise of forgiveness is from a man, not God. God has never promised to respond to "the sinner's prayer."

Prayer is a privilege for God's people. James said, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (5:16b). Peter quoted Psalm 34:15-16, saying, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). Solomon warned, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). The psalmist spoke of the dilemma of the sinner: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18).

But what about the prayers of the publican and the Pharisee? While the Pharisee prayed "with himself," the publican, "standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus concluded, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:11, 13-14). This does not set the pattern for sinners coming to Christ, however, because both the Pharisee and the publican were already in a covenant relationship with God as part of His chosen people, the Jews. Both, despite their sins, had the right to pray to God.

What about Joel's prophecy? He said, "It shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:32). To "call upon the name of the Lord" means to make an appeal through obedience. Saul of Tarsus spent three days in prayer and fasting, but did not receive salvation from the Lord until he called upon the Lord through obedience. Ananias told him, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). In his baptism, he called on the name of the Lord, and his sins were washed away. He would not have been saved if he had merely prayed "the sinner's prayer" and had refused to obey the Lord's command.

Jesus said, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14). This is not a blanket promise to any person, but to those who follow Him and have the right to ask things in His name, by His authority. This promise is to the children of God. In the very next verse, He puts it simply, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The multitudes cried out at Pentecost, "What shall we do?" Peter did not respond, "Pray the sinner's prayer," but "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37-38). We will be saved if we do what the believers of Pentecost did. —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

NOAH AND THE FLOOD

Read Genesis 6:1-9:29

1. God became angry with sinful men and gave them _____ years to live.
2. Noah found _____ in the eyes of the Lord (6:8).
3. Noah's three sons were: _____
4. God told Noah to build the ark out of _____ wood.
5. God told Noah to put _____ on the inside and outside of the ark.
6. The size of the ark (in cubits): _____ long, _____ wide; _____ high (a cubit is about 18 inches)
7. How many windows were in the ark? _____
8. How many stories were in the ark? _____
9. How many of each kind of animal did Noah take into the ark? _____ unclean animals; _____ clean animals
10. How many days and nights did God cause it to rain? _____
11. How old was Noah when he entered the ark? _____
12. How many men and women were in the ark? _____
13. Who shut the door to the ark? _____
14. The ark landed on which mountain? _____
15. What did the dove bring back to Noah? _____
16. How long were Noah and his family in the ark? _____
17. God said something to Noah and his family that He had also commanded Adam and Eve. What? _____
18. What did Noah do immediately after leaving the ark (8:20)? _____
19. What sign did God give to Noah as a covenant that He would never again destroy the world by a flood? _____
20. Who was the first man to get drunk in the Bible? _____

Bob Phillips, *Bible Brainteasers*, p. 54-55

THE BEATITUDES

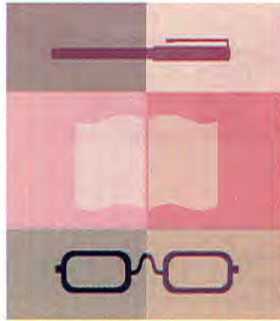
Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. Blessed are the _____ in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be _____.
5. Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain _____.
6. Blessed are the _____ in heart: for they shall see _____.
7. Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the _____ of God.
8. Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of _____.



Answers to last issue: Wisdom Speaks: 1. Jesus; 2. knowledge; 3. men; 4. Greeks; 5. God; 6. pray; 7. this world; 8. thoughts; thoughts; 9. consent; 10. remove; 11. wise; father's; 12. mischief; 13. cheek; 14. foolishness; 15. true; honest; just; pure; lovely; good report (virtue; praise); 16. evil man; 17. length; life; peace; 18. navel; health; 19. issues of life; 20. mouth; lips; 21. look straight; 22. feet; ways; 23. rejoice (Prov. 21:25); 24. blessed; praiseth. *The Very Devil:* 1. The Gerasene demoniac; 2. She was bent and could not straighten up; 3. Mary Magdalene; 4. Seven; 5. An angel of light.

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.



How Do You Read the Bible?

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

Charles Dickens once addressed a letter to his son Henry while he was at college, advising him to keep out of debt and confide all his perplexities to his father. The letter concluded as follows: “I most strongly and affectionately impress upon you the priceless value of the New Testament, and the study of that book as the one unfailing guide in life. Deeply respecting it, ar bowing down before the character of our Savior, you cannot go very wrong, and will always preserve at heart a true spirit of veneration and humility. Similarly, I impress upon you the habit of saying a Christian prayer every night and morning. These things have stood by me all through my life, and remember that I tried to render the New Testament intelligible to you and lovable by you when a mere baby. And so God bless you!”

‘Tis one thing to read the Bible through; another thing to read to learn to do.
‘Tis another thing, too, to read with delight, and quite another thing to read it right.
Some read it with design to learn to read, but the subject pay but little head;
Some read it as their duty, once a week, but no instruction from the Bible seek.

Some read to bring themselves into repute, by showing others how they can dispute,
While some read because their neighbors do, to see how long ‘twill take to read it through.
Some read the blessed Book they know not why—it sometimes happens in the way to lie;
While others read it with uncommon care, but just to find some contradiction there.



One reads with his father’s specs upon his head, and sees the things just as his father said;
One reads through others who are not inspired, and thinks it seems precisely what they desired.
Some read to prove some pre-admitted creed, thus understanding but very little what they read.
And every passage in the Book they bend to make it prove that all-encompassing end.

Some people read as I have thought, to teach the book instead of being taught,
Yet many others read with highest purpose given, to learn the way to make it to Heaven.



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

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

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.



Featured Paper: WORDS OF TRUTH

HTH would like to recommend an excellent monthly Gospel paper entitled *Words of Truth*. A proven sound, effective tool, it has been in circulation for more than a quarter of a century. The subscription is free; there is no cost or obligation. Simply email sixthavenue@tds.net; call 1/205-384-6446; or write Sixth Ave. church of Christ, 1501 6th Ave. W, Jasper, AL 35501. Do it now—before it slips your mind!



Featured Tracts:

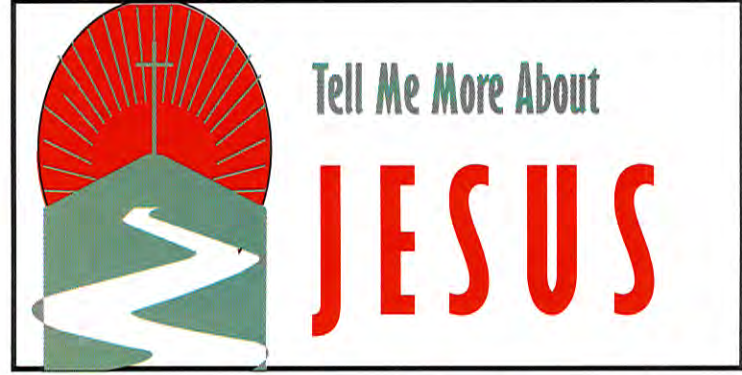
Check the ones you want to study further (free) and mail in:

- Send me this month’s packet (booklet plus all below)
- Does Heaven Have a Smoking Section?** *First time available!* An examination of tobacco use from a Scriptural standpoint.
- Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat...** *New pamphlet!* A look at the Bible’s wee little man and how his exceptional curiosity led to his salvation.
- HTH Booklet: Let Everyone Be Swift to Hear. The importance of learning to listen to your mate, to your friends, to God.
- HTH Booklet: Excellence. How to have a Successful Life.
- HTH Pamphlet: God’s Hospital. A Unique Look at the Church.
- What Did I Do to Deserve This? Why Believe in Jesus?
- The Godhead: One or Three? What is the church of Christ?
- The Indwelling of the Spirit Repentance
- Hope in Christianity Is Christianity a Cult?
- Instrumental Music Can God Really Forgive Me?
- God’s Way of Salvation The Case for the Existence of God
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



Featured Website:

www.apologeticspress.org. Free samples of magazines and scholarly documents. Scores of interesting articles on the Bible and Science from a Christian perspective. For instance, *Bible Contradictions. Are they real?, animals have a soul?, Did Moses make a mistake?* Additionally, **FREE E-BOOKS** are available to download and read (which normally sell for \$6-10).



UNITY— CAN IT BE HAD IN THE MODERN RELIGIOUS WORLD?

- ▶ **It can be if we respect the wishes of Christ.** He prayed for unity: “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:20,21).
- ▶ **It can be if we believe there is one God.** The Ephesians were told to keep unity on the basis of this truth (4:3-6).
- ▶ **It can be if we realize the dangers of division.** Paul taught against religious division: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment...there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Cor. 1:10-13).
- ▶ **It can be if we are willing to yield human opinions to the authority of God’s Word.** Jeremiah urged that man’s wisdom is not a safe guide: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (10:23).

Obviously, unity does not now exist. The modern religious world is divided into several hundred denominations who differ over names, creeds, practices, organization, worship, and ritual. But unity could exist if creeds were discarded in favor of all people accepting the Holy Scriptures as the sole authority in religion. The Bible only makes Christians only! If all are just Christians, nothing more and nothing less, all will be united.

You are always welcome at the church of Christ.

A LESSON FROM THE HORSES



At a county fair, the townspeople held a horse-pulling contest. The first-place horse ended up moving a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The second-place finisher pulled 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses decided to see what these horses could pull together. They hitched them up and found that the team could move 12,000 pounds.

By working separately, the two horses were good for only 8,500 pounds. When coupled together, their synergism produced an added 3,500 pounds. It’s a hard lesson for us, but unity consistently produces greater results than individual endeavors. “Teamwork divides the effort and multiplies the effect.” —*Our Daily Bread*, Special Edition, Day 15

“...are labourers together with God...” —1 Corinthians 3:9

WHO IS THIS JESUS?



This question of who He was has been with us from the very beginning. Jesus once asked His disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?” (Mt. 16:13). They replied that there were various ideas about Him, and Peter concluded it by acknowledging that He was the Son of God (16:16).

Christ is the world’s preeminent character. We date our letters, and everything else, from the year of His birth. The greatest event in human history was the coming of Christ into this world. The greatest words ever spoken were His words. The greatest deeds ever done were accomplished by His hands. The greatest gift ever offered was His blood at Calvary. Whatever progress the human race has made has been due to His influence. All history is mystery until it has been understood as “His-Story.”

Who is Jesus? If we took a poll, we might get a hundred answers. Most Christians find their best definition rising from their need. To the architect, He is the chief cornerstone. To the baker, He is the bread of life. To the doctor, He is the great physician. To the undertaker, He is the resurrection and the life. To the florist, He is the rose of Sharon. “Jesus loves me this I know” is the way little children think of Him. Preachers see Him as a preacher, teachers as a teacher. Carpenters like remembering He was one of them. To the hurting, He is the great Physician. To the confused, He is the Light. To the thirsty, He is the Water of Life. To the broken, He is the Balm in Gilead. To the intellectual, He is the wisdom of God. The guilty may see Him as a judge, coming to scourge the nation.

These diverse definitions of Christ are sometimes reminiscent of the story of the six blind men who touched an elephant and then were asked to describe him. One, falling against His side, said the elephant was rather like a wall. Another, who wrapped his arms around the elephant’s gigantic leg, replied that the elephant was rather like a tree. A third, grasping its tail, said the elephant was more like a rope. The one who touched the elephant’s ear described him as a fan. Each of us defines Jesus from his or her own perspective.

—author unknown

Jesus is all we imagine Him to be—and more. If we give Jesus’ claims a closer look, we will never come away disappointed. He’s not less than we’ve heard, He’s *more*—much more! He *astonishes* people.¹ People who actually saw Him “...were beyond measure² astonished, saying, He hath done all things well...” (Mk. 7:37). He is the “Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending” (Rev. 1:8). As we look into that “light that shineth in a dark place,” the day of faith will dawn, and the “day star will arise in our hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19). His claims are not empty; He is the “fullness of God” (Col. 1:19). He is limitless in the extent of His power and wisdom, and in the sweep of His duration. He is without beginning of years or end of days. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all the Divine attributes. Impressed? Who wouldn’t be?

Endnotes: ¹ The Gospel Accounts list forty-one specific times that people were “amazed,” “astonished” or “marveled” at Him (Mt. 7:28; 8:27; 9:8, 33; 12:23; 13:54; 19:25; 21:20; 22:22, 33; 27:14; Mk. 1:22, 27; 2:12; 5:42; 6:2, 51; 7:37; 9:15; 10:24, 26, 32; 11:18; 12:17; 14:33; 15:5, 44; 16:8; Luke 2:33, 47, 48; 4:32, 36; 5:9, 26; 8:56; 9:43; 20:26; 24:22; Jn. 4:27; 7:15).

² *hyperperissos*, “superabundantly, exceedingly.”