

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4

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A publication of the... Churches of Christ

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18
Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5
Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2
Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22
Organization:
Christ as head – Eph. 5:23
Elders oversee local church –
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5
Deacons as servants –
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13
Members compose body –
Col. 1:2

Name (group):
Church of God – Eph. 3:15
Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23
Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16
Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):
Disciples – John 15:8
Saints – Rm. 1:7
Brethren – Lk. 8:21
Children of God – Gal. 4:26
Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37
Rule of Faith & Practice:
Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24
Sing – Eph. 5:19
Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
Teach – Acts 5:42
Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16
Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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In Pursuit of Faith



by Allen Webster

Faith is the foundation upon which all the virtues are laid. It is the center from which the diameter of the Christian life is measured. It is the buoy from which the depths of life are plumbed. It is the starting block from which the Christian race is launched. It is the dock from which we sail to eternity.

FAITH'S DEFINITION

Faith is the confidence that someone or something is reliable. The Bible word (*pistis*) refers to “assurance, persuasion, conviction” (Strong). By inspired definition, faith is “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the foundation of our hopes (substance, *hupostasis*, “a setting under”) and the evidence (*elegchos*, “proof”) of things we cannot see.

A preacher’s small son was told by his

mother that he should wash his hands because there were germs living in “all that dirt.” He complained: “Germs and Jesus! Germs and Jesus! That’s all I ever hear around this house, and I’ve never seen either one.” To him, “seeing is believing,” but not to a Christian. Jesus promised a blessing on those who believed without visual confirmation (John 20:29; cf. 1 Peter 1:8).

At the same time, just because the eye has nothing to see does not mean that the mind has nothing to examine. Faith’s trust is neither optical nor blind (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Though we do not walk by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), we do not walk in darkness (John 8:12).

FAITH'S SOURCE

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Faith rests in God’s communication to man. >>



Faith

is the missing ingredient in many lives.

FAITH'S NECESSITY

Our whole life is based on faith. Without it banks and post offices would not be possible. Paper money and credit cards (the very word *credit* is from the Latin verb “to believe”) would never be accepted. Until we attain faith, God will not accept us. It is the “Simon says” of Christianity—until we have it nothing we do counts. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe . . .” (Hebrews 11:6). By faith we are freed from condemnation (John 3:18); enlightened (John 12:36–37), sanctified (Acts 15:9), and justified (Romans 5:1). By faith we live (Romans 1:17), walk (Romans 4:12), have access to God (Ephesians 3:12), resist evil (Ephesians 6:16), and overcome the world (1 John 5:4–5). It preserves us in death (Hebrews 11:13).

FAITH'S OBJECT

The writer continues in Hebrews 11:6: “must believe that he is . . .” The Bible does not begin with an apologetic preface defending God’s existence (Genesis 1:1). He is the grand “Given” of the cosmos.

Moses simply tells us He is the Creator of all that we see in the physical world. This world had to start with something. Is it more reasonable to commence with a tiny, lifeless speck or a powerful, self-existent God? The very sky above us screams, “There is a God up here” (Psalm 19:1).

A young skeptic said to an elderly lady, “I once believed in God, but since studying science I am convinced that God is 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,” she said, “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,” he said, “I should have said the egg was first.”

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

He 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.”

We must believe that God is:

Eternal. He is “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:2). There has never been a time when God was not, nor will there ever be a time when He is not.

Omnipresent. Jonah tried to flee from God’s presence (cf. Jonah 1:3), which is a laughable thought to one who understands God, for He is everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:7–11).

Omnipotent. Every power there is to possess, God has. God once asked the question, “Is any thing too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14). Jeremiah answered, “Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee” (Jeremiah 32:17). He is the Almighty God.

Omniscient. There is nothing that God does not know. He is never caught off guard or unprepared. No problem ever presented itself that caused God to scratch His head and say, “Umm, now what are we going to do?” No angel ever phrased a question and received a reply, “Let me get back to you on that.” God on a bad day (if He ever had one) is better than man on his best day. Paul explained, “The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Omnibenevolent. *God* is a four-letter word spelled l-o-v-e (1 John 4:8). He is an overflowing fountain of love. It pours on us from its ocean reservoir in constant torrents. God’s love has never been diluted, although it now spreads to cover seven billion people at the same time. He loves each of us as much as He did Adam and Eve when they were the only earthly recipients.

Pick up your Bible and begin the grand journey of faith (Romans 10:17). It leads to the grandest Being in the most marvelous place for the longest period. ❀

What Will the Marker Say?

Everyone wants to be remembered. But how do we want to be remembered? What would you want your epitaph to say? Consider some possible epitaphs that could be said of the following Bible characters:

Jesus – “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Dorcas – “full of good works and charitable deeds” (Acts 9:36).

Abraham – “the friend of God” (James 2:23).

Enoch – “and Enoch walked with God” (Genesis 5:24).

David – “a man after [God’s] own heart” (Acts 13:22).

Paul – “for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

But consider the following evil people and how their epitaphs might read:

Judas Iscariot – “Judas, which betrayed Him” (Matthew 26:25).

Rich fool – “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee” (Luke 12:20).

Rich man – “Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented” (Luke 16:25).

Demas – “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world” (2 Timothy 4:10).

Alexander the coppersmith – “did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works” (2 Timothy 4:14).

How we live will long out-live how long we lived. Like Abel, we being dead will yet speak. Our epitaphs will be determined by what we do or do not do. What will your epitaph say?

—Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee

“He being dead yet speaketh”

HEBREWS 11:4



The Road To Success

The road to success is not straight. there is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies. You will have flats called jobs. But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, and a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success.

—Author Unknown

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Belief Makes Sense

Christians believe in the God of the Bible because

- ▶ The universe exhibits marks of intelligent causation.
- ▶ Intelligent causation and design is always associated with personality. God must, therefore, be a Personality, a divine Being.
- ▶ The moral government of the world implies a moral governor. (Evolution cannot explain man’s conscience.)
- ▶ The majority of scientific men and philosophers in all ages have believed in God.
- ▶ It is more reasonable to believe that the eternal existence is God (mind)—not matter.

—“Why We Believe The Bible” George W. Dehoff, Dehoff Publications, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1974, pages 16-26.

GPS {God’s Plan of Salvation}



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

Home PAGE



True Conversion Shows at Home

Before her conversion to Christ, a man's wife endlessly nagged, picked on, and berated her husband. When she became a Christian, nothing changed. She kept nagging. Finally he told her, "I don't mind that you were born again. I just wish you hadn't been born again as yourself."



—Author Unknown

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Take the Risk

A life with love will have some thorns, but a life without love will have no roses.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another"

1 JOHN 4:11

One Phone Call

Two teenagers were arrested for disorderly conduct. The police sergeant told them they were entitled to a phone call. Some time later a man entered the station and asked for them by name.

The sergeant said, "I suppose you're the lawyer?"

"Nope," the chap replied. "I'm just here to deliver their pizza."

"A time to laugh"

ECCLESIASTES 3:4



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

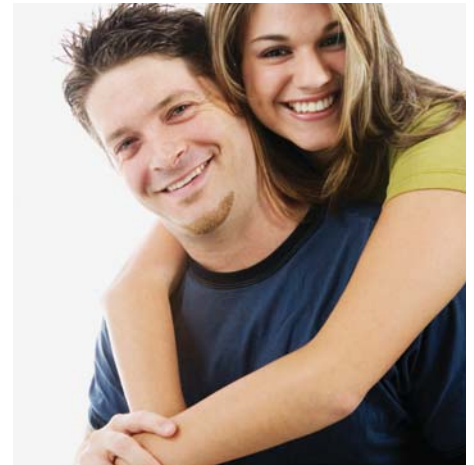
I Love You Anyway

The fear of rejection is one of the most basic fears of the human experience.

One man told a heartwarming story of a man who finally decided to ask his boss for a raise in salary. It was Friday. He told his wife that morning what he was about to do. All day the man felt nervous and apprehensive. Late in the afternoon he summoned the courage to approach his employer. To his delight, the boss agreed to a raise.

The man arrived home to a beautiful table set with their best china. Candles were lighted. His wife had prepared a festive meal. Immediately he figured that someone from the office had tipped her off! Finding his wife in the kitchen, he told her the good news. They embraced and kissed, then sat down to a wonderful meal. Next to his plate the man found a beautifully lettered note. It read, "Congratulations, darling! I knew you'd get the raise! These things will tell you how much I love you."

While on his way to the kitchen to get dessert, he noticed that a second card had fallen from her pocket. Picking it off the floor, he read: "Don't worry about not getting the raise! You deserve it anyway! These things will tell you how much I love you."



Total acceptance! Total love. Her love for him was not contingent upon his success at work. In fact, just the opposite. If he were to fail there, if he were to be rejected by his boss, he'd be all the more accepted at home. She stood behind him no matter what; softening the blows, healing the wounds, believing in him, loving him. We can bear rejection from almost anyone if we're loved by one.

That's the way families can be with each other. And I like to think that's the way God is with us, too! "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you"

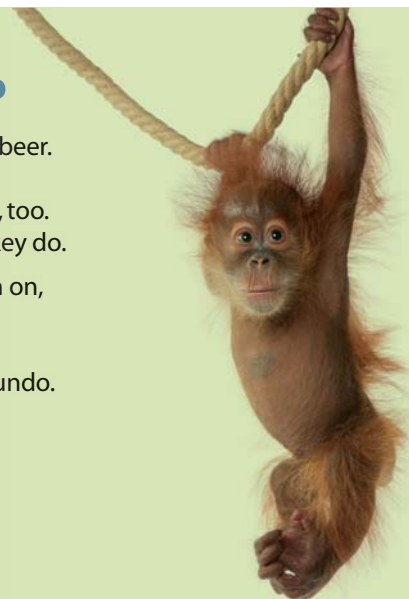
JOHN 13:34

Monkey See, Monkey Do

Daddy's on the porch with an ice cold beer. It sure gets hot this time of year. Junior wants a drink 'cause he's thirsty, too. Daddy, be careful—monkey see, monkey do.

Momma's in the kitchen, got her apron on, Spreading gossip on the telephone. Those little eyes are watching you, So don't do something that you can't undo. Monkey see, monkey do.

You might not think it matters, but it's still just as true. Little eyes are watching you.



Readers' Questions



How did God come to be?

—Submitted to HousetoHouse.com

In Psalm 90:2, Moses is recorded as writing “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” “From everlasting” means God had no beginning; “to everlasting” means God has no end (cf. Revelation 1:4; Hebrews 13:8; John 8:58).

An eternal God is the only logical explanation for the existence of the universe. The universe cannot be eternal, neither could it create itself out of nothing. Even the ridiculous “Big Bang” theory requires the existence of matter and a force to make it happen. Therefore, the only rational, logical explanation for existence is God.

Please tell me what is wrong with confessing the Apostles' Creed! —Steve

The primary problem with creeds is that they are the works and words of men. If God had wanted us to confess any creed, he would have given us one.

In the New Testament, I can see where men confessed their sins (Matthew 3:6; 1 John 1:9), confessed that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh (1 John 4:2-3), and confessed Jesus as the Son of God (1 John 4:13), but I cannot find where any believer confessed any creed of any kind.

Colossians 3:17 commands us to do all things by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Where then is the authority to confess the Apostles' Creed?

Moreover, the name “the apostles' creed” is a misnomer, as the apostles did

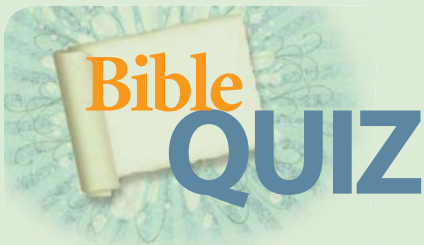
not recite this creed or any other. This creed did not originate until more than five hundred years after the close of the inspired New Testament writings.

What formula do you recite when you baptize? —A HTH Reader

There is no baptismal formula to be recited at baptism. We baptize in the name of Jesus, that is to say, by His authority. The baptism authorized by Jesus is an immersion in water into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) and is done in order to obtain remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

—Todd Clippard, Hamilton, Alabama

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

Name: _____

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: *Famous Firsts of the Bible* 1. Ruth; 2. Joshua; 3. Othniel (Judges 3:9-10); 4. Stephen (Acts 7:59); 5. Priest (Luke 10:30-31); 6. Pentecost (Acts 2:41, 47); 7. Hearing (Romans 10:17); 8. Saul (Judges 21:25; 1 Samuel 11:15); 9. Cornelius (Acts 11:26); 10. Aaron (Exodus 28:1-3); 11. Lot (Genesis 19:30); 12. Cain (Genesis 4:8); 13. Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45); 14. Love (Galatians 5:22); 15. Truth (Ephesians 6:13-14); 16. Shepherds (Luke 2:8-15); 17. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 18. Water to wine (John 2:1-11); 19. Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18); 20. First (Acts 20:7); 21. Kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

Location, Location, Location

Directions: Find answers in these verses: Genesis 2:8; 28:10-12; Exodus 3:8 (+ Joshua 5:6-12); 31:18; Joshua 6:1-20 (+ Hebrews 11:30); 7:1-12; 1 Kings 10:1-2; 18:19-40; 2 Kings 2:11, 23; 18:11-12; 25:21; Daniel 6:8-16; Micah 5:2 (+Matthew 2:1); Luke 10:30; 16:22-23; 23:39-43; John 2:1-11; 12:12-14; Acts 8:27; 9:1-9

1. It was predicted that Jesus would be born in what city? _____
2. Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be with me in _____.”
3. In the story about the rich man and Lazarus where did the rich man go when he died? _____
4. When Saul was blinded he was on the road to _____.
5. Whose dream had a ladder from heaven to earth? _____
6. Who was taken to heaven in a whirlwind? _____
7. From where was the rich queen that visited Solomon? _____
8. Children mocked Elisha's bald head as he went to what city? _____
9. What country took the Northern Kingdom into captivity? _____
10. What country took the Southern Kingdom/Judah into captivity? _____
11. Joshua marched the Israelites around this city, causing its walls to fall. _____
12. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of _____.
13. Where did God give Moses the Ten Commandments? _____
14. The Israelites failed to conquer this city because of Achan's sin. _____
15. Elijah battled Baal's prophets here _____
16. Jesus performed His first miracle here _____
17. Jesus rode a donkey into this city as its inhabitants paved the way with palm leaves. _____
18. Location described as land that flows with milk and honey _____
19. The eunuch (treasurer) in Acts 8 was from _____
20. The story of the good Samaritan tells of a journey from Jerusalem to _____.
21. Where was Daniel cast when he wouldn't stop worshipping God? _____

Rob Us of the Sun?

The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons,
a laboratory of infallible medicines,
a mine of exhaustless wealth.

It is a guidebook for every road,
a chart for every sea,
a medicine for every malady,
and a balm for every wound.

Rob us of our Bible
and our sky has lost its sun.

—Thomas Guthrie

"From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised."

PSALM 113:3

Free Audio Downloads!



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Recommended Viewing

We recommend *Getting to Know Your Bible* with Billy Lambert, well-respected gospel preacher. The program can be seen on DirecTV Channel 367 WHT Sunday, 6:30 p.m. / 8:30 p.m., and on Channel 377 TCT Monday–Friday, 9:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. Open your Bible and tune in each week. To learn more go to: www.gettingtoknowyourbible.com



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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

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More Important, Greatest

What Is Man's Greatest Achievement?

CNN producers armed with television cameras recently stopped passersby in Berlin, Madrid, Rome, Bangkok, Tokyo, New Delhi, and Paris. To each participant, CNN posed the question: "What is man's greatest achievement?"

Since July 20 was the anniversary of NASA's Apollo 11 mission, it was supposed that many would nominate the moon landing as one of man's greatest feats. Answers given, however, were quite diverse.

One woman in Germany suggested the computer. "It has opened up my world. I can stay in my house and travel all over the world," she said. The internet was specifically stated by more than one participant to be man's greatest invention.

Another suggested the airplane. "It's the easiest way to get from one country to the other. Imagine if you would be able to only take the ship. It would take you ages to go somewhere, so it makes humanity more flexible."

Fire was also proposed. "Everything started there, right?" said one man in Spain. There was agreement in Italy: "I think the most important is that man discovered fire because it's bringing a lot of life."

The written word was also nominated in Italy, as were architecture and sanitation.

In New Delhi, video games got one man's vote. "It allows you to be whomever you want, in whichever world you want, and lets you live an alternate fantasy life," he said.

Despite all of the tremendous achievements of mankind since the beginning of time, there is one thing that man could never achieve on his own. Man has been able to navigate the 240,000 miles to the moon, but there is still one expanse that he has not been able to negotiate independently: the distance between GOD and MAN.

Our sin separates us from the holy God (Isaiah 59:1-2). All of mankind's advancements in technology are powerless to traverse the great gulf between God and sinful man. But God loved us so much that He crossed that great divide and "stepped into our world" (see John 1:14). God became Man in

John Wooden, the famous UCLA basketball coach, always kept a cross in his pocket. I don't know if he is a New Testament Christian or not, but I like what he said about it. He said he kept it there to remind himself that there was something more important in life than basketball.

The cross (Philippians 2:8) ought to remind us that there is something more important in life than anything else.

It's more important than politics.

It's more important than business.

It's more important than romance.

It's more important than education.

It's more important than your career.

It's more important than your health.

It's more important than your safety.

It's more important than your very life!

"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14).

—KneEmail, Mike Benson, editor

the person of Jesus Christ. Then Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins (Ephesians 1:7). Through Jesus, man can be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

We are reconciled to God when we by faith in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31) turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27). The blood of Christ continues to cleanse us from our sins as we continue to walk in the light of His word (1 John 1:7).

Man has accomplished great things, but the greatest accomplishment is reconciliation with God. God accomplished this for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Now, we must accept His offer on His terms!

Won't YOU?

—David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

Space Junk

Orbiting our planet at speeds more than 4.5 miles per second is a growing collection of space junk.

Nuts, bolts, and other discarded debris from space flights are presenting a real hazard to future spacecraft. Their sheer speed makes the tiniest object strike with the impact of a bullet. During one of the shuttle missions, a speck of paint created a pit a quarter-inch wide in a window of the craft.



One study revealed that there are 110,000 objects larger than 1 centimeter in orbit. Their combined weight is 4 million pounds! To avoid a space junk disaster, the U.S. Space Command monitors orbiting debris for NASA.

Sinful choices create their own kind of junk—unintended consequences. When Achan stole and hid forbidden booty, it cost him his life (Joshua 7). After King David committed adultery and murder, family discord followed (2 Samuel 15–18).

Do you have any “junk” in your life? Sin’s consequences have a way of accumulating. Why not let Jesus clean up your life and give you a fresh start?

—Dennis Fisher

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”

GALATIANS 6:7

—KneEmail, Mike Benson, Editor



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