



HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 4



How many wasted miles, foolish injuries, and senseless deaths could be avoided if only people read signs? God must think the same thing, as He watches men speed down the devil's highway ignoring all His road signs.

to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:3).



STOP! “Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:16–17). “Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge” (Proverbs 19:27). “Because of your own understanding, cease!” (Proverbs 23:4). “Do not cease to give thanks” (Ephesians 1:16).



ENTER! “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13–14). “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).



YIELD! “Submitting to one another in the fear of God” (Ephesians 5:21). “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace



DO NOT ENTER! “Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on” (Proverbs 4:14–15). “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor



sits in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1). “Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul” (Proverbs 22:24–25). “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).



PROCEED WITH CAUTION: “Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.

Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil” (Proverbs 4:26–27). “The way of the unfaithful is hard” (Proverbs 13:15). “The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps. A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident” (Proverbs 14:15–16). “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it”? (Luke 14:28). “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3). “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13). “Plans are established by counsel” (Proverbs 20:18). “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10).



ONE WAY! “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” (John 14:6).

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).



DO NOT PASS: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side” (Luke 10:30–31). “Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard” (Proverbs 21:13). “He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given” (Proverbs 19:17).



WATCH FOR CHILDREN: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them . . . But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:2–6). “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).



WATCH FOR CURVES! “. . . in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15). “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity. Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles” (Proverbs 24:16–17).



NO U TURN! “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God’” (Luke 9:62). “Remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17:32). “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them” (2 Peter 2:20–21).

It pays to watch for signs on the heavenly highway!

Making Sense of the Old Testament

Some books you can take or leave, one way or the other, and it will not make much difference. The Bible is not in that category. If you “leave” it, you have lost the most important body of information in the world—and the key to your access to heaven. If you “take” it (to be the Word of God), you labor under the serious responsibility of understanding as much of it as you possibly can.

For many, understanding the Bible is a task so seemingly daunting that “making sense of it” lies beyond them—at least in their minds. The wonderful fact is, however, if one has a grasp of a few basic concepts of the plan of the Bible, he can, in a relatively brief period, achieve an understanding of the overall design of the sacred volume, and watch the pieces fall delightfully into place. God has not made His Word so difficult to comprehend that it lies beyond the person of average intellect.

OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS: I. THE BOOKS OF LAW

The Hebrew people were accustomed to dividing the Old Testament Scriptures into segments for convenience sake. Jesus referred to “the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44), or “the Law” and “the Prophets” (Matthew 5:17), or “Moses and the prophets” (Luke 16:31). In modern times, for expediency, we categorized the Old Testament as Law, History, Poetry, and Prophecy, with this final segment being viewed as

Major and Minor Prophets (due to their relative lengths). A brief consideration of each of these categories can be helpful to the Bible student.

The Law. The first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy, often called the Pentateuch) constitute the Law section. **Genesis** is the “book of beginnings,” providing the record of the world’s origin, the creation of the human family, man’s fall into sin, and the commencement of the unfolding of Jehovah’s scheme of redemption. It especially focuses on the roles of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in the divine plan. **Exodus** tells of the giving of the Law of Moses to the Israelite people, and how that Law defined moral conduct and the regulations for worshipping Jehovah. **Leviticus** gives special emphasis to the implementation of a sacrificial system and a priesthood, all of which previewed, of course, the atoning work of Christ centuries later. **Numbers** was a general record of Israel’s wilderness wandering (as a result of their disbelief) for some four decades. **Deuteronomy** constituted a rehearsal of the law for the second generation that was to enter the land of Canaan following the death of Moses. These documents are wonderfully foundational to the balance of Hebrew history. —Wayne Jackson

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning”

ROMANS 15:4



One-liner Church Wisdom

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church building.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door again and again.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited . . . until you try to get into their pews.

Some want to serve God, but only as advisers.

When you get to your wit’s end, you will find God lives there.

Quit griping about the church; if it were perfect you would not fit in.

Not only are the sins of the father visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers.

To make a long story short, don’t tell it.

Some minds are like concrete—thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

“A merry heart does good, like medicine”

PROVERBS 17:22

God’s Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God’s Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ’s Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit’s Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner’s Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner’s Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner’s Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner’s Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian’s Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian’s Work: James 2:24

Christian’s Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian’s Endurance: Revelation 2:10



The Stork Brought It —and other bits of wisdom

The children of *Family Circus* were in a lively discussion about babies. Two truths were unleashed by the little “experts.” “Storks don’t bring babies. They come UPS.” And, “Babies are connected to their mothers by a biblical cord.” Good insight! —*Houston Chronicle*, May 1 & 3, 1992

When a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or the wife is.

A perfect wife is one who helps the husband with the dishes. (No husband ever got into hot water doing the dishes.)

New mother to friend: “He’s eating solids now—keys, bits of paper, pencils.

A boy asked his father, “I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn’t know his wife until he marries her. Is that true?” Dad: “That happens in most countries, son.”

A man is seldom as smart as his mother thinks, or as dumb as his mother-in-law says. Someone else said, “No man is really successful until his mother-in-law admits it.”

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



Becoming “One”

In describing the marital relationship, Jesus taught that the husband and wife become one, yes, to the point that “they are no longer two but one flesh” (Matthew 19:5–6). Even so, in describing the close relationship among Christians, again, the word *one* was used. There is one New Testament church (Ephesians 1:22–23; 4:4) and her members are to live as one, that is, in harmony, enjoying a relationship of being close to each other (cf. Romans 12:10, 16; Galatians 5:13; 6:2; Ephesians 4:2, 32; 5:19, 21; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:18; Hebrews 10:24; James 4:11; 5:16; 1 Peter 4:9).

TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD CHRISTIANS LIVE IN HARMONY?

According to *Christ’s prayer for the church*, Christians are to be one “just as” Christ and His Father are one (John 17:21–23). A beautiful concord existed between Jesus and His heavenly Father (cf. John 10:38; 14:9–11; 17:2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 22, 24). They were of the same mind (John 6:38). They spoke the same things (John 7:16; 12:48–50). They manifested the same love (John 3:16; Galatians 2:20). In essence, they were coworkers (John 5:36). Even so, this concord is to exist among Christians (cf. Acts 2:47; 4:32). They are to be of the same mind (Romans 12:16; 15:5–6; 2 Corinthians 13:11). They are to speak the same things doctrinally (1 Cor-

inthians 1:10; cf. Romans 15:6). They are also to love one another with the same love (Philippians 2:2; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:25–26). They, too, are to be coworkers (2 Corinthians 6:1).

According to *Christ’s prayer for the church*, Christians are to be one even as Christ and the Christians are one (John 17:23). Note the phrase of Jesus, “I in them.” A togetherness is shared between Christ and the Christians. The Christian dwells in Christ (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17), and Christ, through His Word, dwells in the Christian (1 Corinthians 3:15–16; 1 John 2:24). Christians are made “alive together with Christ” (Ephesians 2:5); they are raised up with Him and sit with Him in the heavenly places (2:6), being created in Him for good works (2:10). Even so, a togetherness is to exist among Christians. They are to be perfected together (1 Corinthians 1:10), workers together (2 Corinthians 6:1), be together in heart (2 Corinthians 7:3), being framed together (Ephesians 4:16), and knit together (Colossians 2:2). Paul’s words could sum up the extent of fellowship which is to exist among Christians and Christ: “Jesus Christ . . . died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–10). —condensed from

Harmony Among the Heirs of Heaven, Dan Winkler

Jesus Surprises People

“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2).

It was expected that the Son of God should make a public entry with pomp and observation. But instead He grew up before God, not before men. He grew as a tender plant, silently and insensibly, and without any show. He rose as a tender plant, which one would have thought might easily have been crushed or frost-bitten. The contempt in which Christ was held by the Jews because of the “averageness” of His appearance is foreshadowed in Isaiah 53.

There was His low condition to which He submitted in becoming man (Philippians 2:5–8). He abased and emptied Himself. The entry He made into the world and the character He wore in it were in no way agreeable to the ideas which the Jews had formed of the Messiah; they were quite the reverse. It was

expected that His extraction should be great and noble. He was to be the son of David, of a family that had a “name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth” (2 Samuel 7:9). But Jesus sprang out of this illustrious family when it was reduced. Joseph, who was His supposed father, was but a poor carpenter, perhaps a shop-carpenter, and most of His friends were fishermen. This is what is meant in Isaiah by “a root out of dry ground.” He was born of a despicable family in Galilee; of a family which, like a dry and desert ground, nothing green (great) was expected; in a city of such small repute that it was thought no good thing could come out of it (John 1:46).

It was expected that He should have some uncommon beauty in His face and person, which should charm the eye, attract the heart, and raise the expectations of all who saw Him. When Moses was born, he was beautiful (Exodus 2:2); David was good-looking (1 Samuel 16:12); but our Lord Jesus had nothing of that

to recommend Him. It is not that He was deformed or misshapen, but His appearance was nothing extraordinary, which one might have expected to find in an incarnate deity.

It was expected that He should live a pleasant life and have full enjoyment of all the delights of the sons of men. To the contrary, He was “a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3). It was not only His last scene that was tragic, but His whole life was in large measure miserable—He was unsettled and had nowhere to lay His head (Matthew 8:20), lived on alms, was opposed and menaced, and “endured such hostility from sinners against Himself” (Hebrews 12:3). We never read that He laughed out loud, but we know that He wept (e.g., John 11:35). Grief was His intimate acquaintance, for He acquainted Himself with others’ grievances and sympathized with them. In His transfiguration He talked about His own decease, and in His triumph He wept over Jerusalem. —Author Unknown

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 24:4

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Bible Weights and Measures" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 24:2 *Kings of Chaos*: 1. Solomon (1 Kings 9:15–28); 2. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:1–19); 3. Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:20; 14:1–20); 4. Asa (2 Chronicles 16:12); 5. Elah, son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8–10); 6. Ahab (1 Kings 16:30–31); 7. Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51–52); 8. Jehoram (2 Kings 3:1–3); 9. Mesha, King of Moab (2 Kings 3:4, 21–27); 10. Joash (2 Chronicles 24:1, 22); 11. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1–2); 12. Amaziah (2 Chronicles 25:1–4); 13. Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:19–23); 14. Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:1–3); 15. Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8–10); 16. Menahem (2 Kings 15:14–22)

V. 24:3 *How Much Do You Know about King David?* 1. Keeper of the sheep (1 Samuel 16:11); 2. Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13); 3. Armorbearer and musician (1 Samuel 16:21–23); 4. Saul (1 Samuel 18:11, 19:1–2); 5. Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4, 50); 6. 33 years (2 Samuel 5:5); 7. The Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:6); 8. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2–3); 9. Put Uriah in the front of the hottest battle and retreat, so he would be killed (2 Samuel 11:15); 10. Hebron (2 Samuel 5:3); 11. 30 years old (2 Samuel 5:4); 12. Saul's daughter Michal (1 Samuel 18:27); 13. Absalom (2 Samuel 15:10); 14. Nabal (1 Samuel 25:5–38); 15. Saul (1 Samuel 19:1, 10, 11); 16. Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1–7); 17. The child born to him and Bathsheba died (2 Samuel 12:9–18); 18. Amasa (2 Samuel 17:25); 19. He was hanged when his hair got caught in a tree and Joab thrust three spears through his heart and his armorbearers struck and killed him (2 Samuel 18:9–15); 20. Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6–7)

I Stand Amazed (Miracles of Christ)

Directions: Find your answers in Matthew 8:1–4, 23–27; 14:15–33; Mark 5:22–24, 35–42; 6:35–44; Luke 4:33–35, 38–39; Luke 7:11–17; 8:43–44; 9:12–17; 11:14–15; John 2:1–11; 6:1–14; 9:1–41; 18:10–11. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. What was the Lord's first recorded miracle? _____
2. Which of the Lord's miracles is the only one to be found in all four accounts of the gospel? _____
3. What miracle did Jesus perform at sea in Matthew 14:22–33? _____
4. What miracle did the Lord perform at sea when His disciples said, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"? _____
5. When the Lord "put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." what disease did He heal? _____
6. How was the woman "having a flow of blood for twelve years" healed? _____
7. Which of Peter's family did the Lord heal? _____
8. What blind man did the Lord heal in John 9:1–41? _____
9. The Lord healed what servant's ear (John 18:10–11)? _____
10. How did some respond when the Lord cast out a devil? _____
11. Once an unclean devil said to Jesus, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You . . . Did You come to destroy us?" What was His response? _____
12. How old was Jairus' daughter, whom Jesus raised? _____
13. What did the Lord say to the widow's son who was dead, and what did the son do? _____

The Hottest Spice

Currently, the hottest pepper is officially the Carolina Reaper, cultivated by “Smokin” Ed Currie in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The official 2017 Guinness World Record heat level was 1,641,183 Scoville Heat Units (SHU).

Is your good influence detectable in a crowd? Jesus spoke of influence in the Sermon on the Mount: “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor . . . It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out” (Matthew 5:13–14).

We are God’s “spice” to influence His world for good. There are two ways that

we may influence others: by words and by deeds. People are more affected by what they see than what they hear. What do they see in your life and mine? Do they see devotion to Christ shown by our being at Bible study and worship? Do they see someone truly striving to live like Christ, or do they see someone who is indifferent and compromising? Will God say to us on that final day, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” or will He say, “Depart from Me”? (Matthew 25:21, 41).

—Adapted from Kenneth Davis

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

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This Is going to Sting a Little



First Sweethearts



A Man Who Took Walks with God



The Gospel Is for All

Don't see the topic you need? Visit www.housetohouse.com for more subjects.





Do Children BOTHER YOU When You Preach?

On occasion, I am asked the questions, “Can you really see what is going on in the pews?” And, “Do babies and little children bother you when you are preaching?” The answers to these two questions are yes and no. Yes, I can see what is going on. No, the children do not bother me. I remember what Tom Holland told us young preacher students when we were in Preparation and Delivery of Sermons at Freed-Hardeman University: “What would you do if you were two years old, and everyone and everything around you was bigger than you? You would twist around, and crane your neck, and fidget all over the place to see what was going on!”

To me, babies and little children represent the future of the church. They say to visitors that this congregation has a bright future, at least in potential. As Wimpy Jones said, “I would rather hear babies crying than old men snoring.” All of us have been there at one time or another, and we can all sympathize with mothers or fathers who are doing their best to control little children in worship, children who cannot understand why we are doing this or that, or why that fella (namely, me) is speaking longer than a TV cartoon segment (about fifteen minutes).

As parents, we need to have as our goal the development of our children’s love for God. We can do this by teaching them why and how to worship God. Following are some excellent suggestions

that we can use to involve our children in worship and help them in understanding what it means to worship God. (I am indebted to John Vaughn for the idea of this article, as well as for these following suggestions. I am indebted to my wife for instilling within our boys the behavior they hopefully exhibit in worship. She almost always had this task alone, as I was preaching!)

Prepare children. Before Sunday, tell them what will be going on in worship, and why we sing, pray, preach, give, and partake of the Lord’s supper.

Involve children. When we sing or read the Bible, help them locate the song/passage in the book. Then, point out the words as we sing/read.

Sit close up. Some may think that they need to sit in the back so as not to disturb others. There may be times for this (e.g., sickness), but why not sit up at the front so children can see and hear what is going on in the worship?

Express joy in worshipping God. Children will pick up on the attitudes you have in worship and will imitate them, good or bad. I’ve observed that worship patterns (frequency of attendance, singing or not singing, and such) are readily imitated by children as they grow up.

Be patient. Children are not adults and should not be expected to act as adults. Help them to worship God on their level of understanding. —Don Williams

Just Play Dumb (or Dad’s Trick #44)

In January 1992, at 1:00 A.M., one very tired mom (me!) heard a cough. I bolted from my sleep to a standing/running position, and in one leap made it to the bathroom and flipped on the light to find my six-year-old daughter sitting on the edge of the tub. The stuff from her tummy was all over the floor, the lid of the toilet, and herself. I proceeded to clean the floor and surrounding areas, then prepared to wash Sarah. As I turned on the shower, Sarah said, “Mom,” with a wrinkled nose and a hesitant voice, “I threw up on Collett, too.” Collett is her nine-year-old sister, who happens to share the bed. I closed the curtain and ran to see. I met Collett in the hallway, and she said Sarah had thrown up on her. I turned on the bedroom light and much to my amazement, there was the dreaded sight of Sarah’s dinner on five blankets, two pillows, two sheets, a baby blanket, and Collett’s pajamas. I bundled it all up into the bottom sheet and placed it at the back door. I put fresh bedding on the bed and placed a bucket beside Sarah, then I crawled back in my own bed. At which time, my well-covered, half-asleep husband inquired, “What’s wrong?”

*“She watches over the ways
of her household.”*

PROVERBS 31:27





Caring Cowboy

A family, all nine of them, loaded all their earthly possessions into a covered wagon pulled by a four-horse hitch and set out to join fourteen other families leaving Arkansas headed for Texas and the promise of a new land. Rolling through rainstorms, hail, and blistering hot days and fighting off insects at night, their wagons rolled across the plains of what is today Oklahoma.

One afternoon a cloud of dust appeared on the horizon behind the group, and the wagon master halted the column and drew them close together in a circle. The men reached for rifles while the women gathered the children together into the center of the circle. In a few minutes, it became apparent that the dust was coming from a lone rider, carrying a parcel across his saddle.

Slowing his horse to walking gait, the man called out that he meant no harm. The horse stopped; the man got down and reached for the bundle. He unwrapped a small child no more than two years old.

A cry of recognition tore from the throat of the baby's mother when she saw her seventh child standing beside the strange man. The child had fallen from the wagon but was thought to be asleep in the back. The cowboy found him waiting for someone to come back for him.

How many of us on life's "wagon train" headed for the Promised Land are so intent on our own journey that we miss those who need us to pick them up along the way?

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

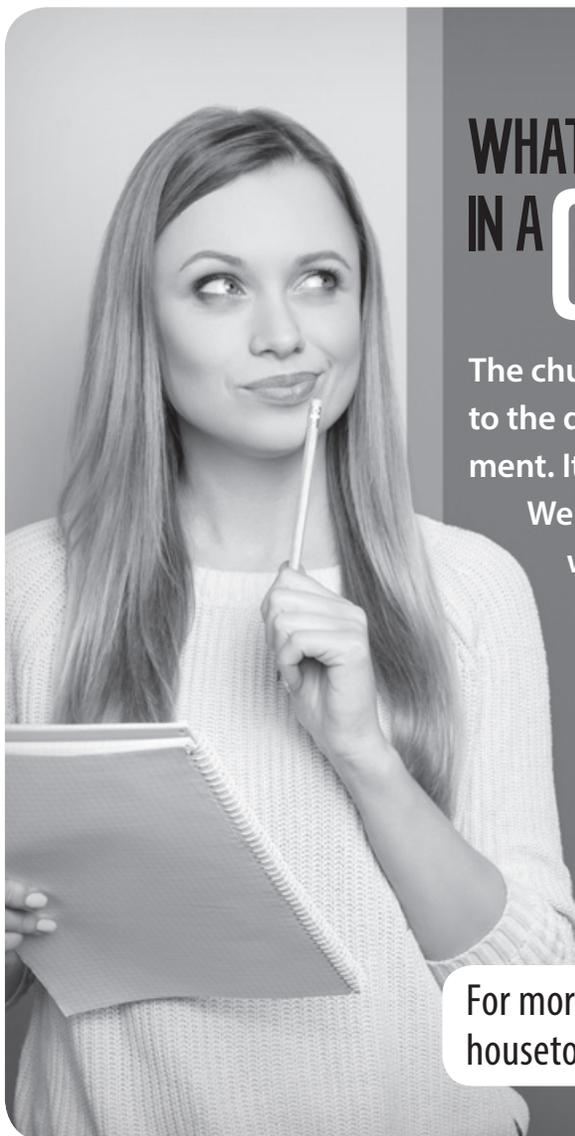
GALATIANS 6:1



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WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A CHURCH?

The church of Christ dates back to the days of the New Testament. It is the original church.

We teach and practice only what is found in the New Testament—without addition or subtraction. We invite you to bring your Bible and worship with us on Sunday. "Come and see" (John 1:46).

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