

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, Number 1

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

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**Except the Lord builds the
house, they labor in vain that
build it... —Psalm 127:1**



CALVARY IRONY

ALLEN WEBSTER

More has been written about Jesus' life than any man who has ever lived. More has been written about His death than His life, yet the material is not exhausted. Writers can find no more appealing story, and readers never tire of the theme. A fascinating angle to explore is the irony these events portray as we contrast Jesus' moral strength and perfect character with those people and events He encountered on His last day.

CHRIST, JUDGE OF ALL MEN, STOOD IN FRONT OF PILATE, A JUDGE.

He who will judge the world (Rm. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10), knows what it feels like to be judged. The Prosecutor knows what it feels like to be the defendant. Pilate executed justice before he crucified Jesus. Jesus had inherent authority, and Pilate had only delegated authority (Jn. 19:11; Rm. 13:1-6). Jesus thus gave Pilate his authority and then submitted to it. Further, He submitted to abused authority. He who needed only justice did not even plead for mercy.

Jesus, the Judge, promises to be fair and merciful to His followers (2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 2:17), something foreign at His trial. He will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Mt. 25:21), to many imperfect and undeserving defendants. Even on earth, Jesus showed mercy to undeserving people (cf. Jn. 8:1-11). Though perfect and deserving, He heard no such words. He likely only heard, *Illum duci ad crucem placet*. William Barclay comments: "The Roman ritual of condemnation and routine of crucifixion were fixed. They did not alter. The judge said, *Illum duci ad crucem placet*, 'The sentence is that this man should be taken to a cross.' Then he turned to the guard and said, *I, miles, expedi crucem*, 'Go, soldier, and prepare the cross.'"

Jesus knows what it feels like to have a sentence of condemnation passed down. He watched Pilate deliberate and heard him condemn. He will understand the pounding of our hearts and the sweating of our palms. He wants to take the stress out of judgment by preparing us for trial. In fact, He pleads with sinners to repent and take Him as their Advocate before they have to face Him as their Judge (1 Jn. 2:1). How interesting it will be to watch Pilate come before Jesus at the judgment that really counts.

CHRIST, FRIEND OF PUBLICANS AND SINNERS, WALKED FRIENDLESS DOWN THE CALVARY ROAD.

Jesus was accused, condemned, whipped, mocked, crowned with thorns, and rejected all before breakfast! Before 9 a.m., the soldiers put Jesus' clothes back on him and led Him out of town to "The Place of the Skull." In this "parade," the prisoner, usually naked, was set in the middle of a hollow square of four soldiers. The cross was laid upon his shoulders, and he was pushed along the road as he staggered to the place of crucifixion. People lined the streets and jeered the victim. Jesus—weak from loss of blood, sleep/food deprivation, fluid dehydration, and emotional strain—fell beneath the cross as He marched (Jn. 19:17; Lk. 23:26).

At this point in the story, we might expect a hundred volunteers among those He had helped during His ministry to rush to His aid, perhaps arguing over who got the privilege of helping the Master in this small way. But no one stepped forward. Simon of Cyrene, evidently a stranger, had to be compelled (made) to bear the cross after Christ. Jesus, who had always been a friend to the friendless (Lk. 7:34), walked alone to Golgotha. His disciples had fled into the night (Mt. 26:56), and now His acquaintances kept their distance in the morning.

CHRIST, WHOSE YOKE IS EASY, STRUGGLED BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS.

A Roman cross weighed about three hundred pounds, so prisoners were only made to carry the horizontal part (*patibulum*). (The vertical *stipes* was kept on site at Golgotha.) But even this weight of perhaps a hundred pounds was too much for Jesus in His weakened condition. It is interesting that Jesus struggled with that burden. He who made the world (Jn. 1:10) and holds it together by "the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3) struggled to carry a tiny part of it. He whose curse withered a live fig tree (Mt. 21:19), withered beneath Calvary's dead tree. This points to His humanity—He set aside divine strength to die as a man.

Consider this struggle beneath this weight in light of His famous invitation to sinners: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you...and ye shall find rest unto your souls. *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*" (Mt. 11:28-30). When Jesus saw us straining under the "patibulum" of sin, He offered to take it from our shoulders and put it on His own. In fact, He did exactly that as He walked in this shameful parade down "death row." He carried His cross that we might not have to carry ours. He became "...sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). *The burden lifter became the burden bearer* (1 Cor. 5:7).

CHRIST, WHO BROUGHT JOY TO THE WORLD, WAS FOLLOWED BY WEeping WOMEN.

Jesus is pictured as a happy person who generally "rejoiced in spirit" (Lk. 10:21). He took children into His arms (Mk. 9:36), attended weddings and happy Jewish festivals (Jn. 2; Mt. 26:17), and feasted with both poor and rich (Mk. 2:16; Lk. 7). He brightened whatever corner of Palestine He visited. Parents thrilled to have Him hold their babies (Mt. 19:13). Hopeless sinners went away from Him thinking that tomorrow was a new day (Mk. 12:37). The lame walked away from Him (Mt. 11:5), the deaf got to hear His sermons (Mt. 15:30), the blind saw His face (Mk. 10:52), the sick got out of bed to wait on Him (Mt. 8:14,15), and grieving parents had dead children restored to them (Mt. 5:41; Lk. 7:22). An embarrassed woman had her dignity restored (Jn. 8); a short, hated tax-collector had the King stay at his house (Lk. 19); and cast-out lepers no longer needed dermatologists when touched by His hands (Mt. 8:3). Think of all the happiness Jesus brought to earth!

Now contrast these scenes with the one on the Via Dolorosa,¹ the first and worst "trail of tears." Tender-hearted women cried in the cross's wake (Lk. 23:26-31). They were bewildered, heart-broken, drenched in sorrow. They loved Jesus so much that they could not leave Him, although each glance at His mutilated body cut them in the quick of their hearts. Jesus did not tell them to "quit crying" (as many men would have), but, remarkably, told them to weep—only not for Him, but *for themselves!* Why? Because in A.D. 70, Rome would terrorize their nation. His thoughts are more with their pain yet forty years away than with His own in the immediate future! Do not miss the irony in the fact that He who came to planet earth to bring happiness became a "man of sorrows" and left it "acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:6).

—Continued on page 3

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Continued from page 2:

CHRIST, THE GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS, TRAILED BEHIND AN ACCUSING PLACARD.

Jesus' favorite greeting was, "Be of good cheer!" (Mt. 9:2; 14:27; Mk. 6:50; Jn. 16:33). Wherever He went, the Gospel (Good News) spread. He spoke more encouraging words, with more positive results, than any before or since. It is interesting, then, to consider what was *not* said the day He died. Of all the words that could have been used of the Word (Jn. 1:14), no formal, flowery, funeral speech was made; no careful obituary was penned; no long write-up was published and circulated; and no memorable saying was etched into His tomb marker. The only words used—"the King of the Jews" (Mk. 15:21)—were those scratched by some soldier on a rough board and nailed over His head.

CHRIST, THE HOLY SON OF GOD, RUBBED ELBOWS WITH TWO THIEVES.

Crucifying Jesus between two known criminals was deliberately staged to humiliate Jesus. He who was purer than angels (Heb. 1:4) and as holy as God (Jn. 10:30; Mk. 1:24; Acts 2:27) was put between two judged as unfit to live among fellow humans. He who never once sinned (Heb. 4:15) was joined to men who sinned so often, and to such a degree, that their fellow sinners executed them. He who never once said a curse or cross word died with His ears full of the profane curses of one who prostituted his God-given tongue with both (Lk. 23:39). He whose saliva had been used to heal (Mk. 7:33; 8:23), died with the dried spit of His enemies on His face (Mt. 26:67; 27:30). He who gave away everything He ever had died between men who took what did not belong to them (Mk. 15:27). He who was "...holy, harmless, undefiled" had those who were corrupt, dangerous, and tainted as His closest companions in His most passionate moments. He who was "separate from sinners" and who was "made higher than the heavens" died with those who were of the scum of the earth (phrases taken from Hebrews 7:26). What a contradiction that the holy Son of God should die with the corrupt sons of men!

What a trip it was for Jesus from Pilate's courtroom to God's throne room via a gate marked death!

¹"the sorrowful way," the road between Pilate's headquarters and Calvary.

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



A New Leaf



He came to my desk with quivering lip—
The lesson was done.

"Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf," he said,
"I have spoiled this one."

I took the old leaf, stained and blotted,
And gave him a new one, all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes smiled,
"Do better, now, my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul—The old life was done.
"Dear Father, has thou a new leaf for me? I have spoiled this one."
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted, And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled, "Do better, now, my child."

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..." —2 Cor. 5:17

Children's Bible "Facts"

- ▶ Noah's wife was called Joan of the Ark. (We saw a statue of her once on a horse which the tour guide referred to as "Joanie on her pony.")
- ▶ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day but a ball of fire at night.
- ▶ Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.
- ▶ The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is to humor thy father and mother. The seventh is, "Thou shalt not admit adultery."
- ▶ Moses died before he ever reached Canada.
- ▶ The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed.
- ▶ Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- ▶ The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Decibels.
- ▶ One of the opossums was Matthew who was by profession a taxi-man.
- ▶ Christians should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

A serious punch line...Without parents who read the Bible to them, and take them to Bible class, will they ever learn any better?

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..." —Proverbs 17:22

More Light on the Subject

Darwin, when he formulated his theories of the origin of life one hundred years ago, had no knowledge of either the laws of thermodynamics (they were just being worked out by Calusius, Clapeyron, and Kelvin at that time), or the laws of heredity (Mendel's laws were unknown to him, though published in Darwin's lifetime). Darwin in his day could therefore assume with impunity that order did arise spontaneously from chaos, that life did arise spontaneously. Today, in the light of scientific discovery, we can no longer do this.

The Bible still says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day..." (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11).





The
H O M E
PAGE

A Father's Love

Phil Littleford took his son on an Alaskan fishing trip with two other men. In a quest to find some running salmon, they flew their seaplane to a secluded bay. The fishing was everything they had dreamed. When they finished for the day, their plane was on dry ground. The fluctuating tide left their plane twenty-three feet from the water, so they cooked some of their fish for dinner and slept in the plane. When they awoke, the tide had come in and their plane was drifting in the water. They cranked the engine and took off. Unknown to them, one of the pontoons had been punctured and was filled with water. The extra weight caused the seaplane to crash within moments. Everyone survived, but they had no safety equipment on board. They used their waders as floating devices, but the frigid water was a deadly threat. The current was too strong for Dr. Littleford's twelve-year-old son to swim against. The other two men fought their way against the tide and barely made it to shore. The two survivors looked back from shore to see Dr. Littleford and his son Mark being swept out to sea, arm-in-arm. The Coast Guard reported that they probably lasted no more than an hour in the freezing waters. The hypothermia would chill the body functions and put them to sleep. Mark, with a smaller body mass, would fall asleep first and die in his father's arms. Dr. Littleford could have made it to shore, but that would have meant abandoning his son. He chose to die with his boy.

—Patrick Morely, *The Man in the Mirror*

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him"

—Psalm 103:13

Things Learned Along the Way:

- ▶ If you're not compatible when dating, don't expect a transformation when you get married.
- ▶ Erotic love will get you married, but Agape love will get you to your fiftieth wedding anniversary.
- ▶ Some people grow up, and some people just grow old.

Be a Leader

Some parents adopt a philosophy of letting their children follow their "natural bent." Have you heard, "I am not going to try to influence my child when it comes to religious matters. I am going to let him make his own decision?" One might as well reason: "I am not going to try to prejudice my garden in favor of strawberries. I am going to let the clods decide between cockleburs and strawberries." God surely wants us to influence our children in the way of righteousness (Deut. 6:6-9). Matthew Henry's comment on Proverbs 20:11 ("Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right") is interesting. He wrote, "Parents should observe their children, that they may manage them accordingly." Each parent must observe a child to know him. It is as natural as conceiving, carrying, and giving birth to a little one. Once the observation is made, formulate a plan to lead the child to Christ and His righteousness (Proverbs 22:1; Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 6:4).

The Seven Years of a Married Cold

An article that first appeared in *Saturday Evening Post* years ago reveals a husband's reactions to his wife's colds during seven years of marriage.

1st year cold: The husband said, "Sugar dumpling! I'm really worried about my baby girl! You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all the strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food is lousy there, so I'll be bringing you food from Tosini's. I've already got it all arranged with the floor superintendent."

2nd year cold: "Listen, darling! I don't like the sound of that cough! I've called Dr. Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good little girl just for Poppa."

3rd year cold: "Maybe you better lie down, Honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something. Do you have any canned soup?"

4th year cold: "Now look dear, be sensible! After you've fed the kids, washed the dishes and finished vacuuming, you'd better lie down."

5th year cold: "Why don't you take a couple of aspirin?"

6th year cold: "If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal!"

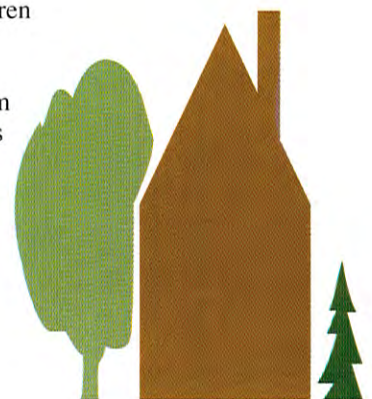
7th year cold: "Would you stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia!?"

Things do change over the years, don't they? May we encourage those who are married to do something special for your spouse today? Write a sweet note or buy a card. Pick up some flowers or a small gift (yes, be prepared for a response like, "What did you do now, wreck the car?"). Let's all make a conscious effort not to take one another for granted.

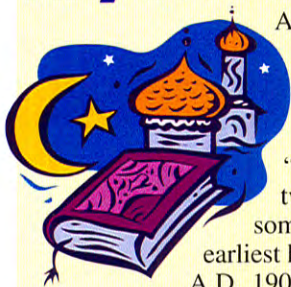
"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...admonish the young women to love their husbands...." (Eph 5:25; Titus 2:4).

Well Said

- ▶ To understand a parent's love, you must raise children yourself. —Chinese Proverb
- ▶ Children Spell "Love"—T-i-m-e.
—Dr. Anthony P. Witham
- ▶ The best security blanket that a child can have is parents who respect each other.
—Jan Blaustone
- ▶ Marriage is when you agree to spend the rest of your life sleeping in a room that is too warm, beside someone who is sleeping in a room that's too cold.
- ▶ We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open. —Harry Edwards



Does the Bible Approve of Any Creeds?



A creed is a brief authoritative statement or formula of religious belief. Men have written a number of creeds over the years, the most famous being the "Apostles' Creed" and the "Nicene Creed." The older of these two, the Apostles' Creed, was written some time in the second century, as the earliest historical reference to it is found in A.D. 190. The Nicene Creed was written by a church council convened by the Emperor Constantine in Nicea in A.D. 325. Since the New Testament was finished no later than about A.D. 96, both of these creeds came after God had completed His revelation to man (Jude 3).

The Apostles' Creed stresses the importance of the trinity, with special emphasis on Christ. It did not actually come from the apostles, however, due to its late date of composition. It has been revised at least sixteen times over the years, which surely would be wrong if it actually did come from the apostles. The Nicene Creed was written to rebuke the teachings of Arius, who claimed that Christ was not equal to the Father or "of the same substance" as the Father. These creeds, and most others that men have written, were written with the intention of simplifying basic Bible teachings for the common man. The problem, however, is that human wisdom is never adequate to speak where God has not spoken in matters of religious authority.

Benjamin Franklin, a nineteenth century preacher, summed up the problem with man-made creeds. He said, "First, any creed containing more than the Bible is objectionable, because it does contain more than the Bible. Second, any creed containing less than the Bible is objectionable, because it does contain less than the Bible. Third, any creed differing from the Bible is objectionable because it does differ from the Bible. Fourth, any creed precisely like the Bible is useless, because we have the Bible. This covers the whole ground...A creed must contain more than the Bible, less than the Bible, differ from it, or be precisely like it. No man defends his creed on the ground that it contains more than the Bible, less than the Bible, or precisely like it. If a creed be not defended on these grounds, on what ground can it be defended? Certainly on no moral ground conceivable to mortal man."

Jesus warned of the hypocrisy of His day, saying, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:8-9). Their worship was vain because they placed the commandments of men, that is, the uninspired teachings of mere men, over the revealed Word of God. Paul told Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible itself is the only creed, the only statement of beliefs that we can follow as authoritative. No man-made creed can ever compare to Scripture.

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Wonderful Women

1. What is the price for a virtuous woman (Prov. 31: 10)? _____
2. The virtuous woman opens her mouth with _____ (31:26)?
3. In the tongue of the worthy woman is _____ (31:26)?
4. Women should profess what (1 Tim. 2: 9,10)? _____
5. Who vowed if thou "wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord..." (1 Sam. 1: 9-11)? _____
6. Why was Eve created (Gen. 2: 18)? _____
7. What woman was found "...righteous before God, walking in all the commandments...blameless" (Lk. 1: 5-6)? _____
8. Who was chosen to become the mother of Jesus (Mt. 1: 16-21)? _____
9. Who was married to Aquilla (Acts 18: 2)? _____
10. What are wives to do to their "...own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5: 22-23)? _____
11. Name three characteristics of a Godly mother (1 Tim. 5: 5; Tit. 2: 3,4). _____
12. What two women acted "by faith" in Hebrews 11 (11:11,31)? _____
13. Who were the two faithful women in Timothy's life (1 Tim. 1:5)? _____
14. What will faithful Christian women receive (Rev. 2: 10)? _____

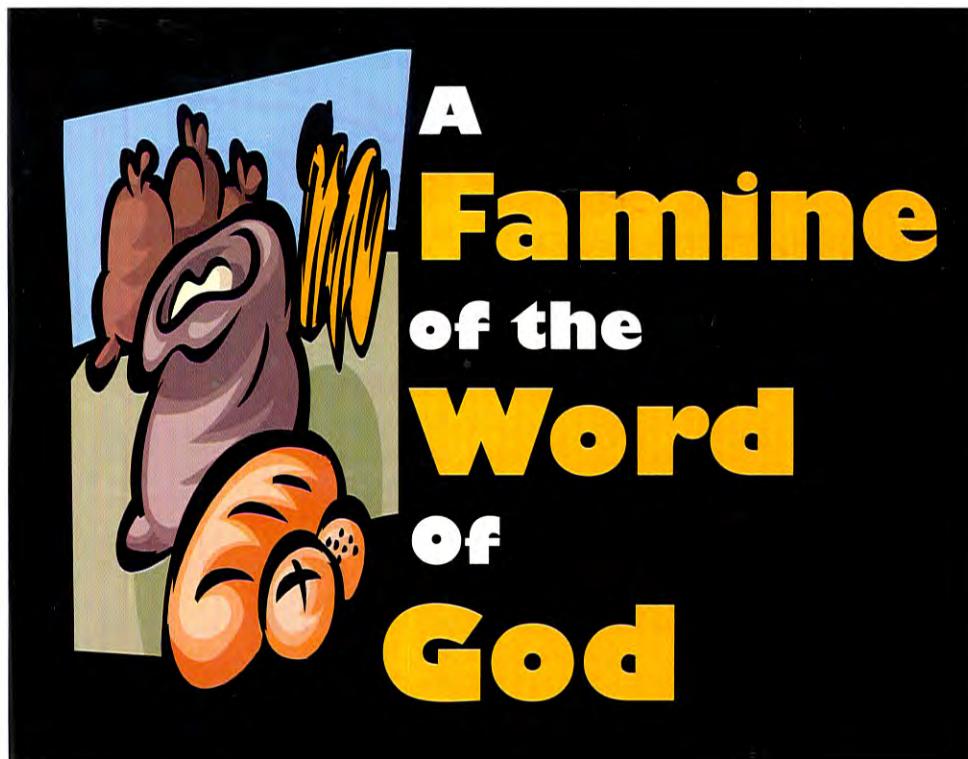
Marvelous Men

1. Who was called "...a preacher of righteousness..." (2 Pet. 2: 5)? _____
2. Who was "...a man after God's own heart..." (Acts 13: 22)? _____
3. Who was the apostle "whom Jesus loved" (Jn. 13:23; 20:2; 21:7,20)? _____
4. Who was the "beloved Son" in whom God was "well pleased..." (Mt. 17: 5)? _____
5. What man denied the Lord three times, then later preached on how to become a Christian (Jn. 18: 15-27; Acts 2:14-40)? _____
6. He was stoned because for his sermon (Acts 7: 51-60). _____
7. Who said, "...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be -baptized" (Acts 8: 26-39)? _____
8. "For the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the _____ of the church..." (Eph. 5: 23). _____
9. How must husbands treat their wives (Eph. 5:25-30)? _____
10. What are fathers not to do to their children (Eph. 6:4)? _____
11. What must fathers do for their children (Eph. 6:4)? _____
12. Who referred to himself as "...a prisoner of Jesus" (Phile. 9)? _____
13. Name four men said to have acted "by faith" (in Heb. 11). _____
14. What will faithful Christian men receive (Rev. 2:10)? _____

Answers to last issue: A Hairy Deal: 1. Esau (Gen. 25:25); 2. David (2 Sam. 14:26); 3. Covering (1 Cor. 11:15); 4. Nazarite (Num. 6:5); 5. Gray (1 Sam. 12:2); 6. Numbered (Mt. 10:30); 7. Absalom (2 Sam. 18:9). **Curses, Curses:** 1. They tried to remain under the Law of Moses after the New Testament came into effect (Galatians 3:10); 2. Paul (Galatians 1:8); 3. Christ (Galatians 3:13); 4. The blind and the deaf (Leviticus 19:14); 5. Job (2:9); 6. Malachi (4:6); 7. James (3:10); 8. Paul (Acts 23:12); 9. Satan (Job 1:11; 2:5); 10. A "little bird" (Ecclesiastes 10:20); **Who asked God?** 1. Habakkuk (1:1-3); 2. Jeremiah (15:18); 3. David (1 Samuel 23:1-2); 4. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 5. Abimelech (Genesis 20:4); 6. Abraham (Genesis 18:25); 7. Moses (Exodus 3:10-11); 8. Ezekiel (11:13).



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.



The ancient prophet Amos cried, "There is a famine in the land, not of bread, but of the hearing the word of God" (8:11). How true in our land. We are an affluent and educated people in all things except the Word of God.

George Gallop has been conducting surveys on various topics for years. One revealed just how uninformed our citizenry is of the Bible. Consider:

- ▶ Less than 50% of adults knew that Genesis was the first book of the Bible.
- ▶ On an average, teenagers can name only about three or four of the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament.
- ▶ Over 75% of the adults were unable to name a single prophet of the Old Testament.
- ▶ Only 34% among adults knew who preached "the Sermon on the Mount."
- ▶ Only 35% knew that the Roman Empire ruled Palestine during the time of Jesus.
- ▶ Only three adults out of ten could name the four accounts of the life of Christ.

It's little wonder that crime mounts! Confusion abounds! Values are mixed up! People call evil good and good evil because they don't know and don't seem to care!

Children reap the havoc of uninformed and uncaring parents. In one typical day in this country, 2,556 babies are born to teenagers out of wedlock. Forty children die from guns. Six teenagers commit suicide! 135,000 children bring guns to school. 3,288 children run away from home! 211 are arrested for drug abuse. 437 are arrested for drinking while driving. 7,742 teenagers become sexually active. 1,106 have abortions. 2,795 become pregnant.

Oh, the difference that could have been made if parents had known and teach God's Word! Parents, children—all of us—need to be awakened to a renewed study and appropriation of the Word in our hearts and lives (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

—Clarence DeLoach, Jr.

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 TRACTS:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send this month's packet (booklet/tract plus all below)
- HTH Booklet: The Day the Preacher Sat Next to the Atheist
- HTH Booklet: A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross
- HTH Tract: The Advantage of Disadvantage
- Guideposts for Young People (Bible Bookmark)
- Who Could Believe Such a Story? Restoration Plea
- What Did I Do to Deserve This? Astrology
- Hope in Christianity Is There a Perfect Church?
- Is the Lottery Gambling? The Truth About Lying
- A Search for Moral Values Amazing Grace
- Coping with Loneliness Homosexuality
- Pocket Bible Reference Booklet The Rapture?
- From Heaven or From Men? Accepting Bereavement
- What Must I Do to be Saved? Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Other topic: _____
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

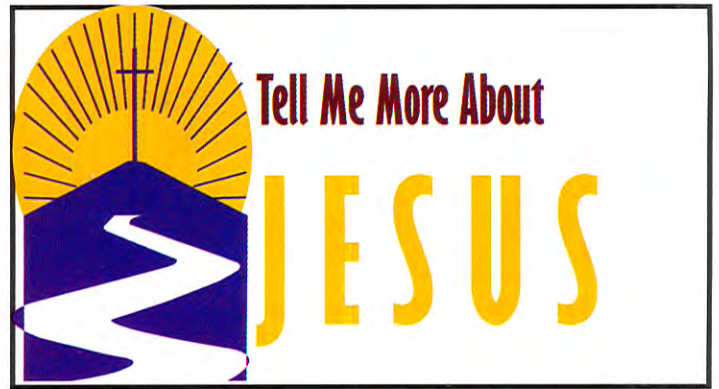
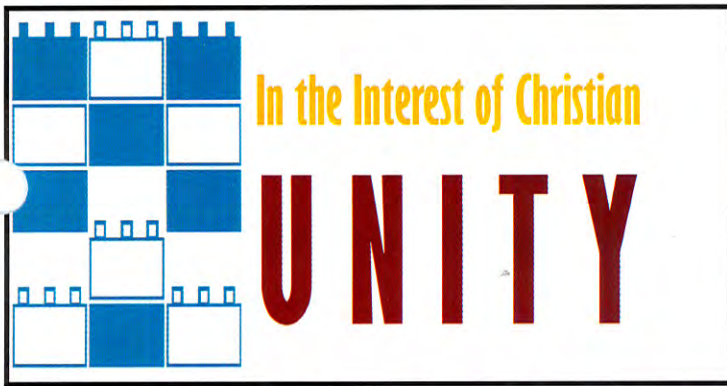
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How to Get a Good Night's Sleep

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What is the church of Christ?



Different Meanings: *Church* has come to mean different things to different people, depending on their association with, or knowledge of, a particular denomination. With more than three hundred different kinds of churches, it has become necessary for each to be identified by some word other than just “the church.”

This was not always so. During New Testament times, and for several centuries, there were no religious divisions since the church of Christ existed in its purity.

Bible Definition of “The Church:” *Church* is first used in the Bible in Matthew 16:18 when Christ said, “Upon this rock I will build my *church*...” It occurs again in Acts 2, and from there is used often to the close of the New Testament. It literally means “the called out body.” This body consists of people who have been “called out” of the darkness of sin and into God’s marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). The primary plea of the churches of Christ is for religious unity of all the “called out.” In a divided religious world, the Bible is the only possible common basis upon which people who love God can unite.

How People Are “Called Out:” Paul states that God “...called you through our gospel...” (2 Thes. 2:4). When the apostles preached the Gospel or “good news” of Christ, they “called” for people to believe and obey God’s Word. When a person did so, he was added to the Lord’s church, which was composed of the body of believers and followers of Christ. He became thereby a member of the body of Christ, which is the church of Christ. The Bible nowhere teaches that a person was saved and then later joined the church of his choice. When one obeyed the Gospel, he was saved from past sins and became a member of that group of people who belonged to the Lord.

Salvation and membership in the Lord’s church were obtained by the same action—obedience to the terms of Christ as stated in His Gospel. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mark 16:16). This is God’s calling us through the Gospel. Each apostle preached the same Gospel. One did not teach one thing and another something different. Therefore, when people heard the Gospel, all obeyed identical commands in order to become Christians and were added to the same church, for there was only one body, one church—not a multiplicity of religious divisions.

What Is the Church? The church is the body of believers in Christ who have been immersed into Christ. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:26,27). The church is composed of those who wear only the name of Christ. “And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). The church consists of those who believe and teach only the doctrine of Christ. God said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Mt. 17:5). The church is that body of believers who obey only the commands of Christ, their Savior. “And being made perfect, he (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9). —William Kughn

The Autobiography of Jesus



The closest Jesus came to writing a book while on earth was when He stooped in the presence of the sinful woman’s accusers and scratched something in the dirt (Jn. 8:6,8). He was many things while on earth, but a writer was not one of them. But that changed when Jesus returned to heaven. According to Revelation 1:1, Jesus sent a “revelation” back to earth from heaven. *Revelation (apokalupsis)* means “an uncovering,” so you could say He is a “mystery writer.”

The Book of Revelation is not only a revelation *from* Christ, but also a revelation *about* Christ. He is both the Revealer and the Revealed One. In that sense, the last book of the Bible is Christ’s autobiography. In it He is the Priest-King (ch. 1), the Judge of churches (2-3), the Creator (4), the Redeemer (5), the Conqueror (6-20), and the Bridegroom (21-22). It begins with a vision of His glory, wisdom, and power (1) and ends with a prayer for Him to “come quickly” (22:7,12,20). It also reveals that He will rule forever over the heavenly city in the presence of all who know Him (21:22).

One of the more thought-provoking questions of the New Testament is, “What think ye of Christ? whose son is He?” (Mt. 22:41). Perhaps no greater block of material is found in answering the question than His “autobiography.” Revelation has much to say about all three persons of the Godhead, but it is especially clear in its presentation of the exalted resurrected Christ who has received all authority to judge the earth. The Book tells us much about the offices Christ holds and the attributes He possesses. He is called Jesus Christ (1:1), the first begotten of the dead, the prince of the kings of the earth (1:5), the first and the last (1:17), he that liveth (1:18), the Son of God (2:18), holy and true (3:7), the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God (3:14), the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (5:5), a Lamb (5:6), Faithful and True (19:11), the Word of God (19:13), KINGS OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (19:16), Alpha and Omega (22:13), the bright and morning star (22:16), and the Lord Jesus Christ (22:21).

A blessing awaits those who study the Book (1:3), so why not delve into this week? It points a finger at Jesus and focuses attention on Him (Jn. 1:37). —Allen Webster

What He Did for Us:



Christ uncrowned Himself to crown us, and put off His robes to put on our rags, and came down from heaven to keep us out of hell. He fasted forty days that He might feast us to all eternity; He came from heaven to earth that He might send us from earth to heaven. —Dyer