

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 8, Number 6

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

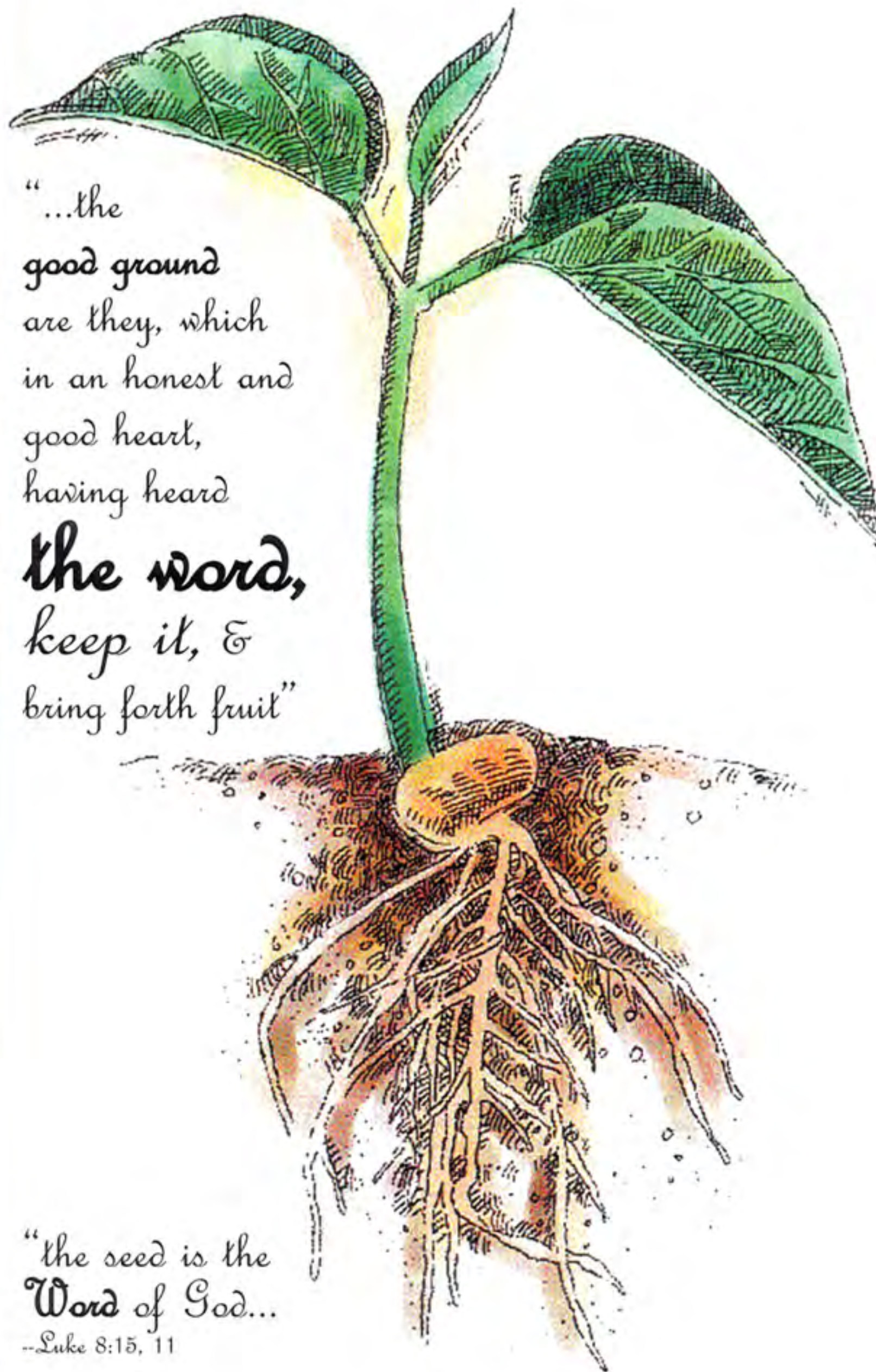
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

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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“...the
good ground
are they, which
in an honest and
good heart,
having heard
the word,
keep it, &
bring forth fruit”

“the seed is the
Word of God...
--Luke 8:15, 11

Victory Where There Was Once Defeat

Read Joshua 7-8

Allen Webster

As one year closes and another opens to us, it is a good time to pause to take spiritual inventory and consider some personal improvements. Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..." (2 Cor. 13:5).

Think back to the old Bible story of Joshua. Under this great commander, God's army suffered only one defeat in conquering all of Canaan. This battle was in a small place called Ai. It was not a stronghold, but Israel "self-destructed" because they had sin in the camp. Achan's covetousness caused thirty-six good men to die (Jos. 7:1-26). God would not fight for Israel until they corrected the problem. The offender was stoned and they went back to the battlefield. As the soldiers waited in the hills around Ai for the signal to attack, they must have wondered, "Can there be victory where there was once defeat?" The answer was "yes"—they won the battle in decisive fashion the second day.

Remembering four things can bring us a victory at our "Ai."

YESTERDAY'S LOSS DOESN'T DOOM TODAY. Christianity has suffered its apparent losses. Jesus was killed; the apostles were beaten; the church was scattered. But God always won in the end! Jesus was resurrected (Mk. 16:6); the apostles carried the Gospel to the whole world (Col. 1:23); the church multiplied in number (Acts 6:1,7; 9:31).

Christians have setbacks, too. You may have made mistakes, gone back to a bad habit, disappointed your family, failed at your job, even backslidden from the Lord. We all make mistakes. One church bulletin reported that "everyone enjoyed the *sining*." (I hope the letter left out was a *g* and not an *n*!). The *Firm Foundation* once listed the Golf Course Road church of Christ in Midland, Texas, as "God's Course Road." (God's road can be difficult at times.) Around the first of the year, a sign advertising a local barber shop seemed to have lost a Y; it read, *Happy New Ear*. (Hopefully the barber had not made that serious of a mistake!) Someone wished:

I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning-Again
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all our poor selfish grief
Might be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door,
And never put on again.

There is such a place. That place is here. There is such a time. That time is now (2 Cor. 6:2). Victory can follow defeat!

We all need to start over at times. Remember the throne set in heaven and the voice which cries, "Behold, I make all things *new*" (Rev. 21:5)? The Bible speaks of the *new* covenant. The Old Covenant was a sentence of death (Gal. 3:10), so Christ gave us a new one (Mt. 26:28). Under it, He forgets our sins (Heb. 8:12). The Bible speaks of the *new* man. Life can be made over again (Gal. 6:15; Phil. 1:6). Jesus is the "Alpha and Omega, the *beginning* and the *ending*..." (Rev. 1:8). The Bible speaks of a *new* way (Heb. 10:19, 20) that leads to a *new* Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12). Share in Paul's optimism: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, *he is a new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, *all things are become new*" (2 Cor 5:17).

DON'T STUMBLE OVER THE SAME STONE TWICE. Joshua and Israel made sure that they had corrected the "Achan problem" before they returned to Ai. All of us make mistakes, but it is foolish to keep making the *same* mistakes. The Greeks used to say that stumbling is a human flaw, but "it is disgraceful to stumble against the same stone twice."

David Lusk tells the story of two hunters who flew deep into remote Canada in search of elk. When they started home, their pilot saw their four elk and told them the plane could carry only two. They protested: "The plane last year was exactly like this one and we had *six* elk then." The pilot reluctantly agreed to try. They loaded up and took off. Unfortunately the plane did not have sufficient power to climb out of the valley with all that weight, so

they crashed. As they stumbled from the wreckage, one hunter asked the other if he knew where they were. "Well, I'm not sure," he said, "but I think we are about two miles from where we crashed last year!"

We should learn from "last year's mistakes" and not make them "this year's mistakes." We should put away childish things (1 Cor. 13:11) and remove the besetting sin (Heb. 12:1, 2). Life is a struggle, but crashing in the same forest is inexcusable. We may need to get a new set of friends (1 Cor. 15:33), or put some good influences in the place of old habits (1 Pet. 2:11). Are we willing to change our lives for the good of our souls? Or will we just go on sinning and watching ourselves crash and burn every year? For most of us it is not a new road we need, but a new determination with which to travel the way that lies before us.

CHAMPIONS GET UP ONE MORE TIME THAN THEY FALL (Jos. 8:19-21). Championship seasons are rarely *undefeated* seasons. The NFL has had one undefeated season.² The NBA and Major League Baseball have had none. Tiger Woods is considered by many as the greatest golfer of all-time, and he doesn't always win. He was 53rd at Pebble Beach and 56th at Bay Hill in 99. He was 60th in his first tournament, the Greater Milwaukee Open in 96, and then won the Las Vegas International and the Walt Disney World Classic that year, and has enjoyed thirty six PGA tour victories since then.

Every Christian makes mistakes. Peter made some serious blunders (cf. Lk. 22:45-61) but he bounced back (cf. Acts 2). So can we! If you have forsaken the Lord, do not give up hope. You can return and live the Christian life. It is possible. If you have lost your fervor for Christ, you can get it back. If the devil has led you down sin's road, you can return—just as the prodigal did (Lk. 15). If you are defeated and despondent, remember Ai shows there can be victory where there was once defeat.

There can be victory where there was once defeat in breaking bad habits. Many Christians have finally conquered smoking, bad language, procrastination, gossip, and alcohol addiction by saying, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13; cf. 2 Cor. 3:4, 5). Jesus promised, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

There can be victory where there was defeat also in soul winning. Keep on inviting that family member or friend to church services. The next invitation may be the one he accepts. The next sermon may be the one that reaches her. The next Bible study may convert him. Their souls are too valuable to give up (Mt. 16:26). Love keeps on keeping on. "Persistence breaks down resistance."

BE SURE TO PICK THE RIGHT TEAM (Jos. 8:7, 18). Abraham Lincoln was asked during the Civil War, "Are you sure God is on your side?" He thoughtful reply was, "I am not so concerned if God is on our side, but whether we are on God's side." Christians need not worry over who will win. **God** will win. We need to concern ourselves with being "on His side."

As we contemplate important changes in our spiritual lives, let's think on these powerful verses: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rm. 8:31b). "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:57). "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rm. 8:37). "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16). "Now thanks be un God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..." (2 Cor 2:14).

Enjoy a "victory in Jesus" on an old battleground this year!

¹John Gipson, *Keynotes*

²1972 Dolphins in the Super Bowl era (The Bears went undefeated in the 1934 regular season but lost the championship game.)

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8



Truth at 55 M.P.H.

These statements were seen on church signs:

- ◆ The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- ◆ Under same management for over 2000 years.
- ◆ Soul food served here.
- ◆ Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- ◆ Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.
- ◆ Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What's yours?
- ◆ Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.
- ◆ Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.
- ◆ Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.
- ◆ It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees.
- ◆ What part of 'Thou Shalt Not' don't you understand?
- ◆ A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.
- ◆ The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.
- ◆ Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
- ◆ Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.
- ◆ Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- ◆ Christians, keep the faith—but not from others!
- ◆ Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.
- ◆ If you don't want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.
- ◆ To belittle is to be little.

"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul" —Proverbs 2:10

The Power of a Compliment

Helen Mroska writes: In an earlier grade, I'd taped Mark's mouth shut for talking too much in class. Now he was one of my students in junior high math.

His class had worked hard all week. By Friday the students were getting cranky. So, for a break, I asked them to write the nicest thing they could about every student and hand it in. I compiled the results for each student and gave out the lists.

Several years later, Mark was killed in Vietnam. After the funeral, most of his former classmates gathered with Mark's parents and me for lunch. Mark's father took a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed," he said. He carefully removed a folded, refolded, and taped paper—the one on which I'd listed the good things Mark's classmates had said about him.

Charlie smiled sheepishly and said, "I keep my list in my desk drawer." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck put his in our wedding album." "I have mine, too," Marilyn said, "in my diary." Vicky reached into her pocketbook and brought out her frazzled list.

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary" —Isaiah 50:4

What Do They Have in Common?

The following people all have something in common. Do you know what it is?

Princess Margaret, Jim Wakefield, Stephen J. Gould, Wilbur Bailey, Ann Landers, Rosemary Clooney, Johnny Unitas, and Lorayne Harper

All of these people had at least one thing in common; they all died last year.

It is important that we not trivialize death, nor make a joke about dying. But death is one thing all of us have in common, whether we are just common folks or national figures. Last fall, the threat of death flew in the face of men and women all over our country with the Washington, D. C. area snipers. Before that, the threat of death was felt at the hand of international terrorists; we were all touched by that threat.

This week a young lady (well, she was my age, and I still feel young) who had been in my class in college died. She was vivacious and so alive. None of us were ready for her passing despite the fact that she had been battling cancer for years, and two weeks ago had been given just two weeks to live. Suddenly death seems nearer and more personal. This Christian sister leaves behind two daughters, both recent college graduates, a husband, and at least one sister. She also leaves behind lots of Christian friends who deeply admired her spirit.

Death is one thing that all men face, good or bad, famous or not, rich or poor, educated or uneducated. A familiar passage says: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

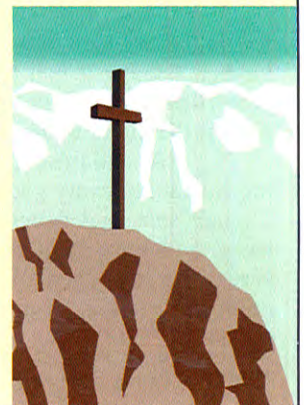
To some, death is not as fearful as it is to others. To a Christian, death is something expected but not feared.

The words of Paul should be ours as well: "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Phil. 1:20-24). Even later in his life expecting certain death Paul would say: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

May his hope be ours. —Michael Moss

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

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





The
H O M E
P A G E

A Child's Changing Eyes

A child's eyes see his Mom and Dad differently as they age:

Age 4: "My parents can do anything."

Age 8: "There might be a few things they don't know."

Age 12: "Naturally, they don't get it."

Age 14: "I never realized how hopelessly old-fashioned they are!"

Age 21: "You would expect them to feel that way. They're out-of-date."

Age 25: "They get an idea now and then."

Age 30: "I wonder what Mom and Dad think?"

Age 40: "Let's wait until we discuss it with our parents."

Age 50: "What would Mom or Dad have thought about it?"

Age 60: "I wish I could talk it over with them one more time."

"...honor thy father and mother..." —Eph. 6:2

Are All the Children In?

A devout mother with a large and busy family, composed mostly of boys, lived in the country. In most seasons that meant the children were constantly out of doors, coming and going with work or play—checking in at mealtimes, but soon off again at full speed.

As twilight drew its curtains across the end of each day, she would count her brood—concerned when not all could be found at home. "Are all the children in?" she would ask her oldest son. And as the darkness grew, so did her anxiety if any were missing. "Not all in? Go! Ring the bell again!" she would exclaim. She could not rest easy until she was assured that all were safe within.

I told that story at my mother's funeral, years ago—for she was just such a mother. I knew it had been her concern for years that all her children be gathered safe against the night, within the Savior's bosom.

"Are all the children in?" is the abiding concern of every godly mother and father. Though sons and daughters grow up, move away, and have families of their own: still across the years, and spreading to grandchildren and even great-grandchildren, the call continues: "Are all the children in?"—Ted Kyle

"Is the young man...safe?" —2 Sam. 18:29

Three "R's" of Parenting

The Book of Proverbs is filled with passages on the subject of parenting. Proverbs 29:15 says, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." This passage shows the effects of both good and bad parenting. God did not create man to train himself by his own wisdom. Paul wrote, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, an he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God..." (1 Cor. 3:18-20). Parents need God's wisdom in the inspired Word. Look at some aspects of parenting which are found in the Scriptures for instruction.

Role Models. A critical aspect of parenting is being the proper example to a child. Many children are brought into this world by some male and female only to be abandoned for someone else to take responsibility for rearing them. There are even children who live in the same house with their biological parents, yet spend very little time with them due to busy business schedules or various personal interests that exclude the kids. Children "left to themselves" find other people or things to fill up the void in place of their parents. Those "surrogates" in many cases do not hold the moral and spiritual values needed for the proper development of a child. Some professional athletes clearly proclaim "I am not a role model" to keep young people from following their lives in spite of their great popularity. Youth, especially adolescents, are looking to build their own identity. They see people who look successful in the media and emulate their character. Children should look to their parents for identity. Consider what Solomon said to his son: "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck" (Prov. 1:8-9). Again, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Prov. 23:26). If parents abandon, abuse, or neglect their responsibility to lead, their children will look elsewhere.

Reproof. Another critical aspect of parenting is guidance and correction. Rearing an immature human being from birth to adulthood is a great challenge to all parents. Solomon said of this immature state, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15; cf. 25:15). One must not take this verse by itself to be God's total instruction for correction. Words are needed with correction. If a child does not understand why he/she received punishment for a certain act, then a perverted understanding will come of discipline. Scripture also teaches that words without penalties are incomplete guidance. "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:13-14). Solomon is not saying a child should be abused or physically injured; the word "beat" could be translated "clap" or "to strike lightly." Again, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18). All children need to know that freedom to choose either right or wrong does not free one from the consequences of doing wrong. The loving discipline of godly parents is far better than the cruel treatment of the far country.

Refuge. Another critical aspect of parenting is providing a safe and secure place called home. A home is not just a place where one is fed, clothed, and sheltered. Physical necessities are only a small part of the needs of children. There is the emotional, mental, and especially spiritual development that is needed by children in those critical "growing up" years. The dwelling place of the family should be a place where peace is found. It is natural for adolescents to spend more and more time away from their parents to develop relationships with others outside their own immediate family. However, some children leave because they do not consider their homes as great a refuge as they do the places where their peers reside. The turmoil lived out in so many families makes the home more a place of war than of peace. Solomon wrote, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith" (Prov. 15:17). Home is a place where children should want to live, not just have to live.

—Jimmy Clark

God's Child

Her neck stretches to see. Is he listening? Is he behaving himself? It was such a short time ago when she would complain "I did not hear a word the preacher spoke," but now her thoughts are distracted for another reason. Now her children are not beside her—they are "too big." Her arms ache for a child squirming in her arms all through church. She stands to sing, and her body sways as if rocking a child. Where did the years go? Was it worth all those frustrating Sunday mornings? Sunday nights? Wednesday nights? Oh, there he is, Look at him...he's singing. His eyes are attentive. She feels so much joy. Look! There's my child. No. He's God's child!





ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Can You "Prove Anything by the Bible?"



To many people, the Bible seems to say so much about so many things, that surely you can make it "prove" just about anything you want. And when sincere people disagree on what the Bible teaches, it may seem like there is just no answer. To show how easy it is to "prove something by the Bible," consider the "advice" of the following verses:

- ▶ "Judas...went and hanged himself" (Mt. 27:3, 5).
- ▶ "Do likewise" (Lk. 3:11).
- ▶ "That thou doest, do quickly" (Jn. 13:27).

These three Scripture selections contain advice that none of us would want to follow. But is this really Bible teaching? We doubt that anyone with the slightest knowledge of the nature of the Bible would really think it advises hanging oneself.

There is no doubt that the Bible teaches about many different subjects. In fact, it deals in principle with every problem that faces humanity. It shares the wisdom of the ages. It tells of man's fall from fellowship with God and the way to restore that fellowship. Despite its wide range of teaching, its message is neither contradictory nor unclear. It certainly may be misinterpreted, misread, and misrepresented, but because it is the written Word of God, it is without error. When something seems to be contradictory, it just means that more study is needed to understand it completely. These "apparent contradictions" fall away when properly understood in context.

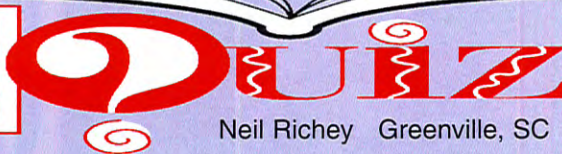
The context of a passage is made up of those verses around the passage that throw light on its meaning, and help it to be understood. The context correctly understood gives the proper setting to best understand a passage. Looking at the context would show that the three passages cited in my example above (Matthew 27, Luke 3, and John 13), all deal with specific situations, and were not meant to be strung together to make a series of commands to be followed.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2 Tim. 3:15-16). Here Paul sets down a principle for understanding the Scriptures: they must be "rightly divided." This means that every passage must be considered in its immediate context, as well as the overall context of the Bible. This means that consideration will be given to who is speaking, who is addressed, and the purpose of what is written. The Bible accurately records the words of non-inspired men as well as inspired men, so care must be taken with each passage so that it will not be interpreted in such a way as to contradict clear Bible teaching. One who based his theology on the words of Job's friends would be sadly confused, because much of what Job's friends said was wrong.

Yes, you can prove anything by the Bible, if you are willing to twist its words to make it say something it does not really teach. The Bible warns against adding to or taking away from Scripture (Deuteronomy 4:2; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18-19). Those who would twist the Scriptures for their own purposes risk the wrath of God.

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

BIBLE



Neil Richey Greenville, SC



Send your answers in to the church listed on the front. We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Suffering Saints:

Find answers in: *Psa. 119:67; Jn. 15:20; 16:19-22; 2 Cor. 4:17; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jas. 1:2, 4; 5:11; 1 Pet. 1:6, 7; 4:16; 5:8.*

1. "Yea, and all that will _____ in _____ shall suffer persecution."
2. Who said, "...If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...?"
3. If I suffer as a Christian, I should not be _____.
4. "...Your _____ the _____..." causes suffering.
5. Name an Old Testament character known for his suffering. _____
6. Some are in heaviness because of "_____ temptations."
7. What type of temptations should we rejoice about? _____
8. When I suffer as a Christian, instead of being ashamed, what should I do? _____
9. The trying of my faith is much more precious than _____.
10. Life's trials are for how long? _____.
11. The trial of faith works what? _____.
12. Suffering affliction will help us do what? _____.
13. When I suffer as a Christian, I must remember that _____ cares.

Who Asked God the Question?

Genesis 4:9; 15:7-8; 18:25; 20:4; Exodus 3:10-11; 1 Samuel 23:1-2; Job 40:3-4; Jeremiah 15:18; Ezekiel 11:13; Habakkuk 1:1-3

1. "Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance?" _____
2. "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?" _____
3. "Shall I go and smite these Philistines?" _____
4. "Am I my brother's keeper?" _____
5. "Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?" _____
6. "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" _____
7. "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" _____
8. "Lord God, wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?" _____
9. "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?" _____
10. "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I inherit it?" _____

—J. Stephen Lang, *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1988).

Saved or Lost?

Acts 1:25; 5:1-11; 8:27-40; 10:1-48; 13:6; 16:14, 15; 22:1-16; 24:25; 26:28

1. Agrippa _____
2. Saul of Tarsus _____
3. Felix _____
4. Judas _____
5. Sapphira _____
6. Lydia _____
7. Treasurer _____
8. Cornelius _____
9. Barjesus _____



Answers to Last Issue: Multiple Arraiges: 1. Ahasuerus (Esther 1:10-12; 2:1-17); 2. Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 11:21); 3. David (2 Samuel 12:8); 4. Abraham (Genesis 16:3; 23:19; 25:1); 5. Moses (Exodus 18:2; Numbers 12:1); 6. Samson (Judges 14:20); *Do You Know This Fellow?* 1. Sylvanus (Silas) (1 Pet. 5:12); 2. Andronicus and Junia (Rm. 16:7); 3. Tychicus (Eph. 6:21); 4. Trophimus (2 Tim. 4:20); 5. Erastus (Rm. 16:23); 6. Gaius and Aristarchus (Acts 19:29); 7. Timothy (Timothy) (Phil. 2:19); 8. Phebe (Rm. 16:1); 9. Aquila (Acts 18:2); 10. the house of Stephanas (1 Cor. 16:15). *Fill-In-The-Blanks:* 1. Salvation (2 Tim. 2:10); 2. Faith (Heb. 11:6); 3. Die; sins (Jn. 8:24); 4. Repent (Acts 17:30); 5. Godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:10); 6. Baptized; wash (Acts 22:16); 7. faithful; death (Rev. 2:10).



Part 5: Making Sense of the Old Testament

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...” —Romans 15:4

Poetical Books (Minor)

The concluding twelve books of the Old Testament are called the “Minor Prophets.” Some of them address conditions in the northern kingdom of Israel; others are directed principally to Judah. Some are more generic in direction. The book of **Hosea** is a document of great pathos. Jehovah with deep love for His people, pleads with northern Israel to return to Him from the nation’s gross wickedness. Hosea’s unfaithful wife is used as the background for the narrative. **Joel**, in a general vein, speaks of the coming “day of the Lord”—under the figure of a locust plague. A happier time will come when the Spirit of God is poured in the Messianic age. **Amos** addresses the kingdom

of Israel with stern rebuke. The nation is morally flawed and religiously corrupt. Punishment is coming—upon Israel and other nations but so is redemption—in the days of the Messiah. The little book of **Obadiah** warns the complacent descendants of Esau (Edom), so unbrotherly to Judah, that Jehovah will bring these arrogant rebels down from their lofty hideouts. **Jonah** was the Lord’s missionary to the people of Nineveh. The book reveals Heaven’s interest in the Gentiles, as well as the Hebrews. Jonah’s stubborn resistance was typical of the Israelite people. **Micah**, a contemporary of Isaiah, prophesied against corruption and injustice in Judah. **Nahum** is a sequel to Jonah. The latter prophet had warned of Nineveh’s impending doom. But the Assyrians had repented, hence had been spared—temporarily. Nahum, a century and a half later, announces the nation’s overthrow. The book of **Habakkuk** explores a problem: how can a just God use an evil nation (like Babylon) to punish His people? The answer is to be found in the mysterious ways of providence. Babylon will be used as a divine rod of punishment, but the day of Chaldean destruction is coming as well. **Zephaniah**’s ministry was just before king Josiah’s great reformation in Judah. The prophet warned of punishment to come—upon the people of the Lord and their heathen neighbors. Only in the coming Messiah would true deliverance be effected. **Haggai** preached in the post-captivity period, encouraging the Jews to rebuild their temple. **Zechariah** accompanied Haggai, only his message urged Judah to rebuild their shattered lives by adhering to God’s law. **Malachi**, in the final era of Old Testament history, attempted to stir the Jews from a state of spiritual laziness.

—Wayne Jackson, Stockton, CA

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In the Interest of Christian UNITY



Tell Me More About JESUS

Things About the Church of Christ that Surprise People (3)



COMMUNION IS A PART OF WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY. More than once those who are unfamiliar with the church of Christ, after a few visits with a local congregation, have been heard to say, "You know, the one thing I really notice about the church of Christ is that they have communion every Sunday!" This is surprising because most religious groups partake of it quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Early church historians speak often of the Lord's supper involving a weekly participation. They verify what the Bible teaches regarding its frequency—that the disciples partook of the communion when they assembled (1 Cor. 11), and that they assembled on the first day of every week (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

Facts about the New Testament Church

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	1 Cor. 1:2
	Churches of Christ	Eph. 1:22-23
	Bride of Christ	Rm. 16:16
		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		
	Sing	Jn. 4:24
	Pray	Eph. 5:19
	Teach	Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
	Communion	Acts 5:42
	Contribute	1 Cor. 11:23-26
		1 Cor. 16:1-2
Mission	Save Souls	1 Tim. 4:16
Warning	Be Faithful	2 John 9

Do We Understand?



While President Harry S. Truman was in office, there was an attempt made to assassinate him. Endeavoring to protect the President, one of the guards was slain. With deep solemnity and sadness, the President commented, "You can't understand how a man feels when somebody else dies for him."

I would think, after such an experience, that the remainder of life would become very special. After all, without the self-sacrifice of that guard, the President would not have had those remaining years. Each day would seem very precious, its having

been purchased for him by the shedding of another man's blood.

Thinking of the cross we may all too casually utter the words, "He died for me." Do we see the suffering Saviour dying for each sacrifice for "the world," for the whole human race, much more than we see it as being for any one of us, in particular?

In the old spiritual, "Were You There?," some meaningful questions are raised. This song is asking if we saw Him crucified, nailed to the cross. Did we see the earth plunged into darkness when the sun refused to shine? Did we see Him laid in the tomb? Such contemplation of soul "causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble," so the song goes.

Once we are gripped by this sight of Him who "there on the cross was wounded for me," the remainder of life takes on a new and different meaning.

—Hershel L. Dyer

"He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again"

—2 Corinthians 5:15



What Did They See?

"And when they came unto the place which is called The skull, there they crucified him...the people stood beholding" (Lk. 23:33-35).

Look at those last few words one more time: "the people stood beholding" [*theoreo*, "theorizing"]. They stood by the cross of Jesus, trying to "put things together." And, what did they see?

They saw the "obvious." They saw how cruel man could be to others. Death by crucifixion was horrible. Victims frequently died stark raving mad from days of exposure and thirst—a thought that underscores the agony behind Jesus' words: "I thirst" (Jn. 19:28).

They saw something "mysterious." They experienced an eerie darkness "over the whole land." The sun refused to shine as if it were paying tribute to the death of our Savior (Luke 23:44-45).

They saw something "vicarious." They witnessed the death of God in the flesh, an agonizing death that made possible our "abundant life" (John 10:10; cf. 1 Cor. 15:3).

They saw something "marvelous." They saw the same things you and I are blessed to see when we partake of the Lord's Supper...the love of God (1 Cor. 11:23-26; cf. 1 Jn. 4:9-10).

—Dan Winkler