



HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

www.housetohouse.com

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 10



Allen Webster

God is everywhere. He is in heaven and on earth. He is on His throne (Matthew 5:34) and upon His footstool (Acts 7:49). He is at the North Pole and the South Pole, and all the way around the equator. He is at the top of Everest and the bottom of the Marianas Trench. He roams the Serengeti plains, meanders up the Shenandoah Valley, and traverses the icy crevices of the Himalayas. He walks in Red Square, Tiananmen Square, and Times Square. He is in the Outback and the Sahara and the crowded streets of London and Bangladesh.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Since God is everywhere, “all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). Thus, He is at the hip-hop concert, in the licentious teenager’s backseat, and at the rave party. He is in Vegas, Reno, and Atlantic City. He is in the alley where the drug deal goes down, at the bar where

the alcoholic gets drunk, and on the street corner where the prostitute meets her john. He is in the greedy corporate boardroom, the sleazy strip club, and the hygienic abortion clinic. He attends every session of Congress and every hearing of the Supreme Court. He resides at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He is aboard Air Force One when it takes off and lands. He was in the Twin Towers on 9/11. *But there was one place where God was not.*

EXCEPT ONE TIME (MATTHEW 27:46)

A thousand years before the crucifixion, the psalmist recorded the prayer that Jesus would pitifully cry from Golgotha’s darkened hillside that Passover afternoon: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” Or in English, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus was abandoned even by God, which was a new experience for Him. David continues his prehistory of the Savior’s thoughts: “Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words

of My groaning? . . . Be not far from Me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help” (Psalm 22:1, 11). For the first time in all eternity, the Father and Son were separated. God was not there.

It was prophesied that the sun and the moon would be darkened (Joel 3:15–16), and from noon until three o’clock that afternoon, it happened. It was dark over all the land, a supernatural darkness that could not be explained. It was not an eclipse because Passover was always held at full moon, when there could be no eclipse of the sun. It is reported that Dionysius, at Heliopolis in Egypt, took note of the darkness, and said that “either the God of nature is suffering, or the machine of the world is tumbling into ruin.”¹ God sent three days of darkness to the land of Egypt before the first Passover (Exodus 10:21–22), when the lambs were slain to protect the first-born; God sent three hours of darkness at the last Passover before the Lamb of God died for the sins of the world (cf. John 1:29). Why was the omnipresent God absent?

BUT, WHY?

Matthew Henry calls this darkness “the frown of heaven.” Why would God abandon His Son at His hour of greatest need, especially when Jesus was doing His Father’s will? God still loved Him, but since He bore the world’s sin, God’s holiness was repelled. “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness” (Habakkuk 1:13).²

God’s holiness may be His chief attribute. It is referred to more times in Scripture than any other trait.³ “Holiness is the central nature of the being of God from which such attributes as love, justice, and mercy emanate.”⁴ In both the Old and New Testaments, we read of the inhabitants of heaven praising Him with the words, “Holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8). God’s book reflects God’s holiness. Truly, “Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11). The word *holy* is found 611 times in the Bible and *holiness*, 43 times. *Saint* (100 times, including plural), *sanctify* (132, including past tense), and *sanctification* (5 times) all come from the same root as *holiness*. The darkness manifested God’s holiness as hatred of the sin that Jesus experienced in that dreaded hour.

The justice of God inflicted upon Jesus the penalty that the worst of all sinners would face. Just what was taking place there that afternoon? The soldiers saw a routine execution, the Jewish leaders

saw an enemy disposed of, the Romans saw a problem resolved, the disciples saw their dreams come to an abrupt halt, the women saw their friend killed, and Satan thought he saw God’s plan foiled; but God and the angels saw something else. God’s great dilemma—how He could be both just and Justifier—was resolved.

Paul reasoned that God sent Christ “as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:25–26).

- He who knew no sin was made sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- He whom God loved was made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).
- He who deserved no penalty was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5).
- He who was worthy of worship “was delivered up because of our offenses” (Romans 4:25).
- He who was Life “died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 3:18), and became “the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

Endnotes

¹ Henry Law, *The Gospel in Exodus*. Bottom of the Hill Publishing 2013 (originally published 1862)

² Matthew Henry and David Winter. *Matthew Henry’s New Testament Commentary*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1995. Print.

³ James Montgomery Boice, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” *Moody*, January, 1985, 14.

⁴ George Allen Turner, *Nelson’s Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes*, 374.

That is the Man That Died for Me



Let me tell you a true story about a young fireman. In the midst of a blaze, he stepped forward and volunteered to rescue a baby, even though the chief had said that the flames were too strong and the building too unstable. As the fireman got that little girl out the window into the rescue net, the building collapsed, and he perished in the flames.

Twenty years later, at a graveside with a statue of a fireman, stood a young woman sobbing. A man stopped and asked politely, "Was that your father or brother?"

"No," she replied, "That is the man who died for me."

Christ did something for humanity that no one else could do. While we strug-

gle with the finality of death, we should be more concerned about the finality of eternity. Everyone is going somewhere . . . Christ has provided the way to live eternally with Him.

In Jesus we have the yearning God in pursuit of people. In Christ we find that God is not content to let people live and die beyond His circle of love. Saul of Tarsus was overwhelmed in the Syrian Desert by the Savior whose religion he had set out to destroy. The story may be apocryphal, but when Karl Barth was asked what was the most profound theological truth he knew, he replied, "Jesus loves me, this I know."

—*The Book of Jesus*, Calvin Miller



It keeps going . . . and going . . . and going . . .

In 1977, the United States launched a rocket into space. On board was a small craft called *Voyager 1*, a probe that was jettisoned into space to explore the planets. After *Voyager 1* finished sending back photos and data from the planet Jupiter and its neighbors, it did not stop working. It just kept going.

Today, almost fifty years later, that tiny vehicle is still going—traveling at a speed of over 38,000 miles per hour. And it is nearly 14 billion miles from the sun! Brilliant scientists sent a ship to the edge of our solar system. It is astounding. It is amazing. Mind-boggling!

But it is absolutely puny when compared to what God has done. It would be like hearing someone brag to the architect of the Empire State Building that he had traveled to the second floor. We have barely begun to explore the vastness of God's creation. Every small step by mankind should continue to put us in absolute awe of God's power and creativity. While we have left the realm of one star with a spaceship, the Creator of the stars "calls them all by name" (Isaiah 40:26). After all, He made them. Exploring the universe is amazing. But exploring the God who made it all—that is beyond amazing. —*Dave Branon*

Ever Read These in a History Book?

Benjamin Franklin: "Young man, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with and firm belief in the Holy Scriptures, for this is your certain interest. I think Christ's system of morals and religion, as He left them with us, is the best the world ever saw or is likely to see."

Thomas Jefferson: "I have said and always will say that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands."

Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Jesus is the most perfect of all men that have yet appeared."

Charles Dickens in his will: "I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and exhort my dear children humbly to try to guide themselves by the teachings of the New Testament."

Shakespeare in his will: "I commit my soul into the hands of God, my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the only merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting."



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

Think on Good Things

Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him.

—Booker T. Washington

If a window of opportunity appears, do not pull down the shade. —Tom Peters

If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you. —Muhammed Ali

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. —Anonymous

Truth indeed rather alleviates than hurts, and will always bear up against falsehood, as oil does above water.

—Miguel de Cervantes

Death at Nine

A group of nine-year-olds was asked their opinions about death. Jim said, "When you die, they bury you in the ground and your soul goes to heaven, but your body cannot go to heaven because it is too crowded up there already."

Judy answered, "Only good people go to heaven. The other people go where it is hot all the time, like in Florida."

John replied, "Maybe I will die someday, but I hope I do not die on my birthday because it is no fun to celebrate your birthday if you are dead."

Marsha added, "When you die, you do not have to do homework in heaven, unless your teacher is there too."

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

HEBREWS 9:27



TO WATCH VIDEOS, READ ARTICLES, ANSWER BIBLE QUESTIONS AND MORE GO TO HOUSETOHOUSE.COM

Holding Hands Helps

In the first study of how human touch affects the body's response to stress and threatening situations, Dr. James Coan, a psychologist in the departments of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Virginia, recruited married volunteers, slid them into MRI machines, and warned them to expect an electric shock on their ankles. When spouses reached into the machines to hold their respective partner's hand—a simple yet loving gesture of support—the part of the brain that registers anticipation of pain "turned off." The volunteers also said that they felt less distress.

The handholding also reduced agitation in the hypothalamus, the area of the brain that controls the release of stress hormones, which turn off our immune function. Eventually, a weakened immune system can make us sick.

"We cannot see what our spouses are doing to our brains and emotions until a stressful event arises, but it is going on all the time," says Dr. Coan. "When a wife holds or caresses her husband, she is really reaching into the deepest parts of his brain, calming down the neural-threat response."

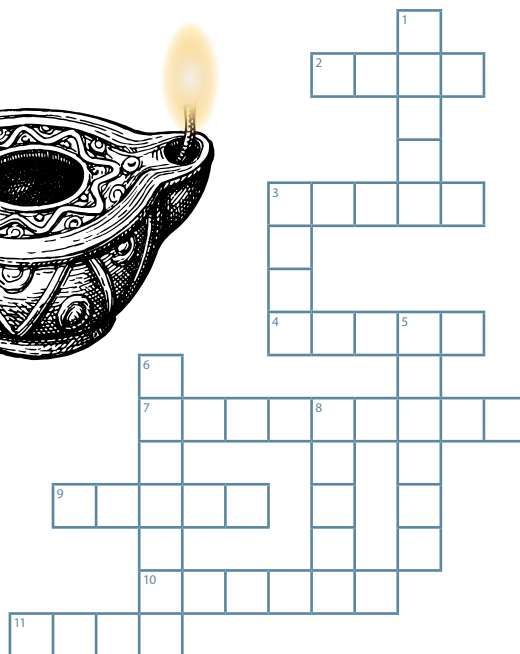
Can it be that easy access to a wifely hug after a fall-out with a neighbor over a pounding on the golf course is as potent as a tranquilizer or a beta-blocker? It starts with the simple act of holding hands and hugging—long and loving embraces, several times a day—according to the latest science.

Marriage is a book of which the first chapter is written in poetry and the remaining chapters in prose.

—Beverly Nichols



Just for Fun Crossword



"You are the **light** of the **world**. A **city** that is set on a **hill** cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a **lamp** and put it under a basket, but on a **lampstand**, and it gives light to all who are in the **house**. Let your light so **shine** before men, that they may see your **good works** and **glorify** your **Father in heaven**."

MATTHEW 5:14-16

DOWN: 1. WORKS; 3. HILL; 5. HEAVEN; 6. GLORIFY; 8. SHINE.
ACROSS: 2. GOOD; 3. HOUSE; 4. LIGHT; 7. LAMPSTAND; 9. WORLD; 10. FATHER; 11. CITY.

What is the “Great Tribulation”?

The word *tribulation* was used by Jesus and the apostles more than twenty times in the New Testament to refer to the distress and trials that Christ’s followers must suffer in this life. For example, Acts 14:22 tells us that Paul and Barnabas taught that we should “continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

The words *great tribulation* found in Matthew 24:21 describe a period of unparalleled suffering. “Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Premillennialism incorrectly teaches that the “great tribulation” is a seven-year period in the future that follows the “rapture” of the church and precedes the Lord’s second coming. (There are variations among premillennialists, but these ideas are generally accepted.)

The disciples asked Jesus privately, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your com-

ing, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3). Notice they asked about two things: “the sign” of Jesus’ coming, and “the end of the age.” The two separate things are the destruction of Jerusalem and the Lord’s second coming at the end of the world. Matthew 24 and 25 give Christ’s description of these two events. Matthew 24:1–35 describes the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred in AD 70, and the remainder of the passage describes the second coming.

The great tribulation, which premillennialists want to project to the end of time, is a description of the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus said, “This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place” (Matthew 24:34). Thus within a generation—thirty to forty years—the events He described would come to pass. The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 fulfilled this prophecy. Daniel had prophesied a coming “abomination of desolation” (Daniel 11:31; 12:11).

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (Matthew 24:15), was seen in the fulfillment of the desecration and destruction of the temple by the Romans as they destroyed Jerusalem.

The fact that this great tribulation was the destruction of Jerusalem, and not a coming period of misery, is demonstrated by Jesus’ instructions to His followers to watch for the signs, and “flee to the mountains” to escape, saying that they should pray that it “may not be in the winter,” when the weather would be bad, nor that their flight be “on the Sabbath” when the city gates would be closed (Matthew 24:16, 20).

History shows that Christians heeded this warning and were able to escape the destruction of Jerusalem by fleeing to the mountains. All who follow Christ will suffer tribulation, but the period of great tribulation has already passed. —Bob Prichard

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 27:10

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Quick Scriptures on Salvation” 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. 27:8 Starts with the letter “R”: 1. Rabbi (Matthew 23:7); 2. Raca (Matthew 5:22); 3. Rachel (Genesis 29:9–30); 4. Rahab (Joshua 2:1); 5. Ram (Genesis 22:13); 6. Raamses (Exodus 1:11); 7. Raven (Genesis 8:7); 8. Razor (Numbers 6:2–5); 9. Rebekah (Genesis 25:20); 10. Rebellion (1 Samuel 15:23); 11. Red Sea (Exodus 15:4); 12. Reed (Mark 15:19); 13. Rehoboam (1 Kings 11:43); 14. Repent (Acts 17:30); 15. Rose from the dead (Luke 24:46); 16. Reuben (Genesis 29:32); 17. Revelation (1:1); 18. Reverence (Hebrews 12:28); 19. Riches (Proverbs 22:1); 20. Riddle (Judges 14:12); 21. Righteous (James 5:16); 22. Ring (Luke 15:22); 23. Ruth (Ruth 1:4).

V. 27:9 Starts with the letter “T”: 1. Tobijah, Tobadonijah (2 Chronicles 17:8); 2. Tabernacle (Exodus 25:9); 3. Thomas (John 11:16); 4. Talent (Matthew 18:24); 5. Theophilus (Luke 1:1–3; Acts 1:1); 6. Tarshish (Jonah 1:3); 7. Tabitha (Acts 9:36); 8. Tarsus (Acts 9:11); 9. Timothy (2 Timothy 1:2–7); 10. Titus (Titus 1:4); 11. Taste (Psalm 34:8); 12. Tryphena, Tryphosa (Romans 16:12); 13. Teeth (Matthew 8:12); 14. Tekel (Daniel 5:25); 15. Tertius (Romans 16:22); 16. Tekoa (Amos 1:1); 17. Temptation (Matthew 6:13); 18. Tamar (Genesis 38:11–26); 19. Tentmaker (Acts 18:3); 20. Troas (Acts 16:8–9); 21. Troas (Acts 20:6–10); 22. Tishbite (1 Kings 17:1); 23. Thyatira (Revelation 1:11); 24. Thorns (Matthew 27:29); 25. Thanks (Psalm 107:21).

Starts with the Letter “P”

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 6:14; 19:26; Exodus 1:11; Numbers 13:17–23; 1 Samuel 17:4; Psalm 9:2; 25:11; Proverbs 16:18; Amos 4:12; Matthew 5:3; 16:6; 23:5; 27:24; Mark 8:36; Acts 16:14; 18:1–3; Romans 1:30; 16:1–2; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 2 Timothy 3:12; 4:2; 2 Peter 1:6 (not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. “For Your name’s sake, O Lord, _____ my iniquity.”
2. A sin of the Gentiles that Paul listed was disobedience to _____.
3. Add to knowledge self-control, to self-control _____.
4. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, _____, longsuffering . . .
5. All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer _____.
6. Beware of the leaven of the _____ and the Sadducees.
7. Goliath was a champion of the _____.
8. Female servant at Cenchrea: _____.
9. Jesus condemned those who made these “broad” to be seen of men: _____.
10. Luke was called “the beloved _____.”
11. Governor who washed his hands at Jesus’ trial: _____.
12. Lot’s wife was turned to a _____ of salt when she looked back.
13. The Ark was covered with this substance: _____.
14. Egyptian city built by Hebrew slaves: _____.
15. Small tree with apple-like fruit grown in Canaan: _____.
16. “Blessed are the _____ in spirit.”
17. “I will sing _____ to Your name, O Most High.”
18. “_____ without ceasing.
19. “_____ the word! Be ready in season, out of season.”
20. “_____ to meet your God, O Israel.”
21. “_____ goes before destruction.”
22. Home of Aquila: _____.
23. Wife of Aquila: _____.
24. “For what will it _____ a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”
25. Lydia was a seller of _____.

A New Attitude

Give people more than they expect—cheerfully (Philemon 1:21).

Do not believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.

Smile when answering the phone. Callers can hear it in your voice.

Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

When you say, “I am sorry,” look the person in the eye.

Be engaged at least six months before you get married.

Believe in love at first sight.

Spend time alone (Matthew 14:23).

When you say, “I love you,” mean it. (1 Peter 1:22).

Never laugh at a dream. People without dreams do not have much.

Do not let a little dispute injure a great friendship (Proverbs 27:10).

Talk slowly but think quickly (James 1:19).

Do not judge people by their relatives (Matthew 7:1).

Marry a man/woman you love to talk to (1 Peter 3:7).

Do an anonymous kindness each day (Ephesians 4:32).

When you lose, do not lose the lesson (James 1:1–3).

When you make a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling, no threats, and no bringing up ancient history.

Remember the three R's: Respect for self, Respect for others, and Responsibility for all your actions.

When someone asks you a question you do not want to answer, smile and ask, “Why do you want to know?”

Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt, but it is the only way to live life completely.

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

Recommended Resource



What does it mean to be an authentic Christian? Join Aaron, Scott, and Tucker as they sit down together to discuss the everyday struggles of trying to be an authentic Christian, culturally relevant topics, and the biblical principles that should guide their response. Season 3 newly released! TheAuthenticChristian.com

I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

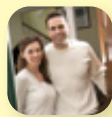
I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



An In-Home Bible Study

Featured Tracts!

- How Did We Get So Many Churches?
- Why Doesn't God Do Something?
- Is One as Good as Another?
- Look. There's God!



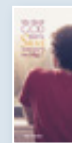
More subjects:



How to Handle Criticism



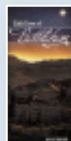
Can We Trust the Bible?



Why Would God Want to Save Someone like Me?



How to Prepare for the End of the World



Little Town of Bethlehem



Why Do People Hate Christians?



5 Fellowships a Week



What Does "for the Remission of Sins" Mean?

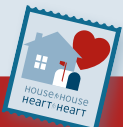


5 Links in God's Chain of Fellowship



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

VOLUME 27:10



Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.
The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in
From this time forth, and even forevermore.



Sixteen Ways to Help Your Family by Reducing Your Stress

1. Simplify and unclutter your life. Less is more.
2. Go to bed on time and get up on time so you can start the day fresh and unrushed.
3. Tell your spouse you love him or her every day, at different times.
4. Say “no” to projects that will not fit into your time schedule. Seriously.
5. Slow down. Read a book, color a page, or play a game with a child.
6. Delegate tasks to capable others.
7. Laugh.
8. Laugh some more! A whole lot.
9. Take one day at a time. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it does not happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.
10. Allow extra time to get places.
11. Develop a forgiving attitude—most people are doing the best they can.
12. Be kind to unkind people—they probably need it the most.
13. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
14. Live within your budget; do not use credit cards for unbudgeted purchases.
15. Take your work seriously—not yourself.
16. Every night before bed, think of one thing you are grateful for that you have never been grateful for before.

“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

MARK 6:31



At Day's End

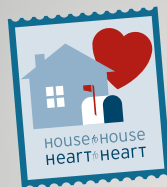
Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
 Does anybody remember that you spoke to them today?
 The day is almost over and its toiling time is through:
 Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?
 Can you say tonight in parting with the sun that is dipping fast,
 That you helped a single person of the many that you passed?
 Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
 Does the person whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?
 Did you waste the day or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?
 Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
 As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
 "You have gained one more tomorrow by the work you did today"? —Anonymous

"We finish our years like a sigh . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

PSALM 90:9-12



Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.
 Most Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



READ. WATCH. ASK.

**Read thousands of articles.
 Watch Bible lessons,
 sermons, and commentary.
 Ask a Bible question.**

HOUSETOHOUSE.COM

