

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 9, 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

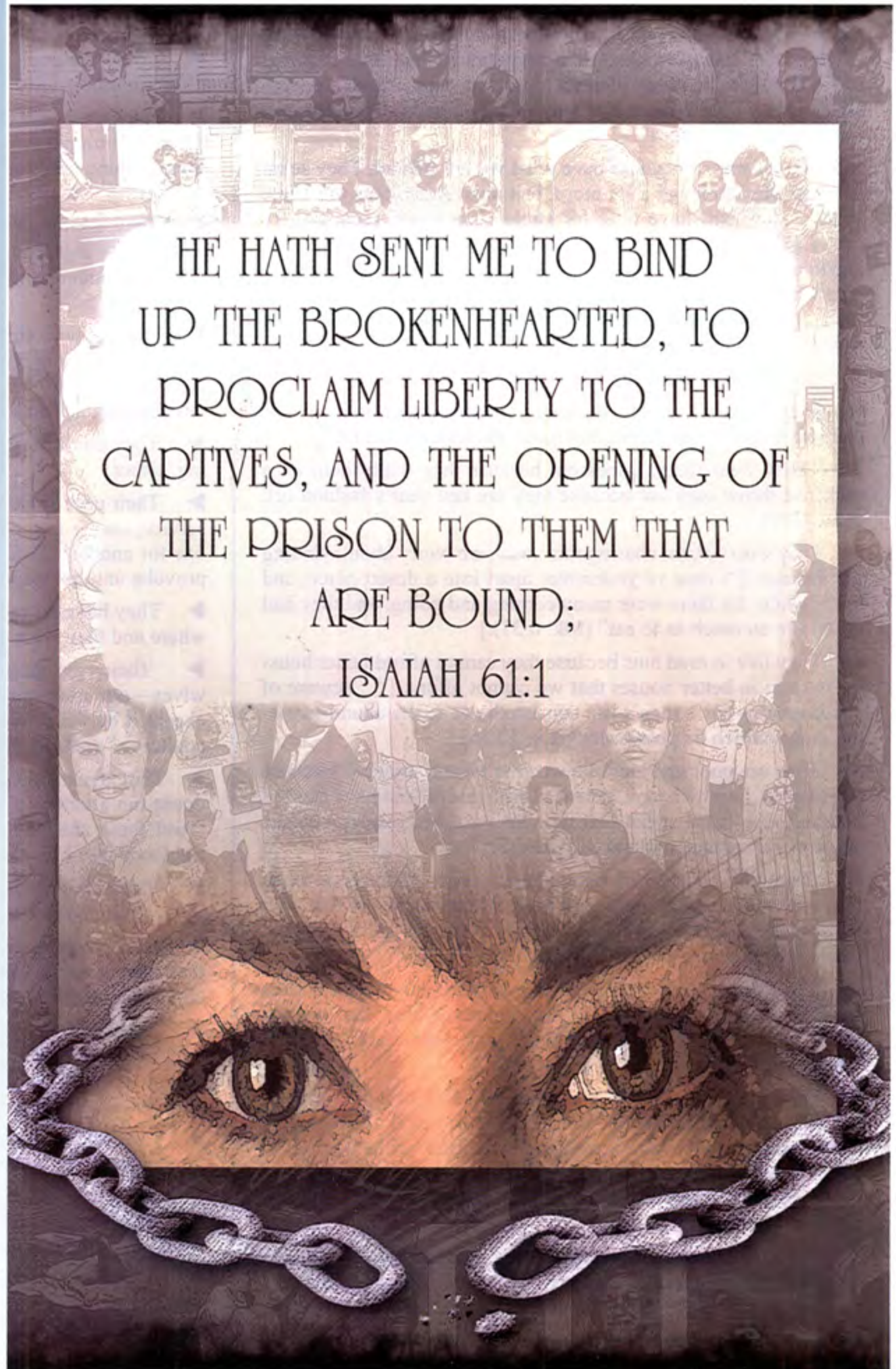
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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Who Has the “Good Life?”

Allen Webster

Author’s note: *Entering a foreign culture is cause for reflection and opportunity for comparison. Sitting on the plane returning from a mission trip to Tanzania, Africa, and then waiting for a delayed connecting flight in a busy DFW airport, my thoughts turned in this direction.*

Though Americans and Tanzanians live on the same planet, they live in different worlds. In so many ways we are a hundred years ahead of them—medically, technologically, educationally, and materially. We would not even consider trading places with them. In areas like transportation, food preparation, hygiene, farming, and entertainment, their lifestyle does not even register on the same scale with the American way of life. For these reasons, we feel sympathy for them.

But in other ways, they still have what we left behind. They seem to enjoy life and laugh a lot more than most Americans (cf. Prov. 17:22). They still have time for Bible classes and preaching (1 Cor. 1:18). They have large families with plenty of children playing all around (cf. Psa. 127:3-5). They still enjoy the simple pleasures we gave up long ago. They aren’t rushed and have time to “stop and smell the roses.” For these reasons, we find ourselves a little envious.

So, who has the “good life?” You decide...

- ▶ They worry about getting enough vitamins and protein in their diet; we worry about getting too much cholesterol and fat.
- ▶ They wear their clothes out because they wash them on a rock; we throw ours out because they are last year’s fashion (cf. Prov. 18:9).
- ▶ They worry about chasing rats away; we worry about winning the rat race. [“Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat” (Mk. 6:31).]
- ▶ They live in mud huts because they cannot afford better houses; we live in better houses that we cannot afford. [“... beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Lk. 12:15).]
- ▶ They are poor and humble; we are rich and proud. [“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).]
- ▶ They die at forty with disease and poor medicine; we die at fifty with heart attacks and lung cancer. [“...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit...” (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).]
- ▶ Their women never wear pants in public (only dresses); ours hardly wear anything at all. [“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety...” (1 Tim. 2:9a).]
- ▶ They bathe naked (nearly) in a river for lack of indoor plumbing; we have it and (sun) bathe naked (nearly) on a beach. [“...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mt. 5:28); “...that no (wo)man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his (her) brother’s way” (Rm. 14:13).]
- ▶ They are glad to have any clothes without holes; we won’t wear clothes unless they have the right name on them. [“...not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array” (1 Tim. 2:9b).]
- ▶ Their children are poorly dressed but sit quietly through two

hour services; ours are immaculately clothed but get a drink of water every ten minutes and won’t behave. [“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Eph 6:1).]

- ▶ We’ve wiped out malaria and typhoid; they are not bothered with hypertension and lung cancer.
- ▶ They worry about malnutrition, undernourishment, and starvation; we worry about anorexia, obesity, and bulimia.
- ▶ They are poor and satisfied; we are rich and discontented. [“But godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6).]
- ▶ They have little and want little; we have a lot and want more. [“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Tim 6:7, 8).]
- ▶ They ask for an extra preaching service each night; we complain if the preacher goes over five minutes. [“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Mt. 5:6).]
- ▶ They know nothing of TVs and VCRs; then again, they know nothing of dirty movies and seven wasted hours a day. [“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Mt. 5:8); “Redeeming the time...” (Eph 5:16).]
- ▶ They don’t have telephones; but they don’t have telemarketing, either.
- ▶ Their pace is slow, but they have time to talk after a work service; ours is fast, but we have little time for each other. [“...take ye one for another” (1 Cor. 11:33); “...let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24).]
- ▶ They have no cars so they walk everywhere; we drive everywhere and then walk in the park for exercise.
- ▶ Their men marry seven wives at a time; ours marry seven wives—one after another. [“Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery...” (Mt. 19:9).]
- ▶ They live in misery and long for heaven; we live in luxury and doubt the afterlife. [“Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20b); “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:46).]
- ▶ Their children play with homemade toys for hours; ours tire of electronic games ten minutes after opening them.
- ▶ They are poor, and steal; we are rich, and covetous. [“Let him that stole steal no more...” (Eph. 4:28); “Mortify therefore...covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).]
- ▶ They believe in superstition and witchcraft; we have motels with no thirteenth floors and read our horoscopes each morning. [“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these...idolatry, witchcraft, hatred...” (Gal. 5:19, 20).]
- ▶ They live in mud huts with no doors, but are unafraid; we live in mansions with alarms and fear for our lives.
- ▶ They have no Bibles but beg for them; we have several that we rarely open. [“...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).]

Which has the good life? Neither. Who does? Those who make it to the perfect land of eternal delights (Rev. 21)!

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Still Learning



Below is a compilation of actual student bloopers collected by teachers from eighth grade through college.

▶ Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

▶ The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked, "Am I my brother's son?"

▶ Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.

▶ Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.

▶ There was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

"A merry heart doeth good..." --Proverbs 17:22

It's What You Do—Not When You Do It



▶ Ted Williams, at age 42, slammed a home run in his last official time at bat. Mickey Mantle, age 20, hit 23 home runs his first full year in the major leagues.

▶ Golda Meir was 71 when she became Prime Minister of Israel. William Pitt, II, was 24 when he became Prime Minister of Great Britain.

▶ George Bernard Shaw was 94 when one of his plays was first produced. Mozart was just seven when his first composition was published.

▶ Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper columnist at 16, and a framer of The United States Constitution when he was 81.

You are never too young or too old to serve God. Jesus just said, "Come and follow me" (Mt. 19:21).

"I have been young, and now am old..." --Psalm 37:25

John's Seven Signs

The Book of John focuses on seven of Jesus' miracles, and a careful study of each can provide us with principles of encouragement.

▶ **Disappointments?** Remember when Jesus addressed an embarrassing moment, turning the water into wine (Jn. 2:1-11)? He is still the One we can turn to when life turns on us. With Paul we say, "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me" (2 Tim. 4:16, 17)!

▶ **Doubts?** Remember when He healed a boy and told his daddy to return home, only for the father to go without question (Jn. 4:46-54)? He is still the one in whom we place our faith and our dreams, "Christ... the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27)!

▶ **Disabilities?** Remember when He healed a thirty-eight year old invalid (Jn. 5:2-9)? Via His loving providence, we can still "be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might" (Eph. 6:10; cf. Phil. 4:13)!

▶ **Desires?** Remember when He fed five thousand with a sack lunch (Jn. 6:1-14)? He still meets the desires of those who cry, "For me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21)!

▶ **Despair?** Remember when He reached out for Peter (Jn. 6:16-21)? Aren't we thankful that His hand extends to us with the promise: "I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee" (cf. Heb. 13:5, 6)?!

▶ **Darkness?** Remember when He gave sight to a blind man (Jn. 9:1-11)? But wait! To man stumbling in the wretched darkness of Satan, He is still "the light of the world" (John 8:12)!

▶ **Death?** Remember when He stood outside the tomb of a friend, cried and said, "Lazarus, come forth" (Jn. 11:1-44)? Better still, there will come a day "in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth" (Jn. 5:28, 29)!

He is "Jesus" [literally, "he who saves"], a man of miracles. But, even more, as one who touches our own lives in so many marvelous ways, we are blessed to call Him, "My Lord and My God" (John 20:28)!
—Dan Winkler, Nashville, TN

A Week of Good Thoughts

Suppose we start this very day
To live our lives in a different way;
Suppose we vowed and constantly tried
To help those in trouble on life's wayside;
If we showed by our deeds a hint of His love
Wouldn't earth be a bit more like heaven above?



ON MONDAY: Look for a smile today and return it with one of your own. Give someone faith and hope, it's such a beautiful loan.

ON TUESDAY: Gather a thought that's kind, one that's sincere and deep. Be sure to pass it along for such are too precious to keep.

ON WEDNESDAY: Forget yesterday's sorrows, mistakes, sadness, and pain. Lift your heart with hope as flowers to sun and rain.

ON THURSDAY: Offer a word of comfort and prayer to help someone in need. A little thoughtful gift, some flowers, or a smile makes us all rich indeed.

ON FRIDAY: You shall not pass this way again, so do any good you can do. Don't put it off till tomorrow or the chance may be lost for you.

ON SATURDAY: Today will soon be a memory so don't let it come to an end, without a smile, without a song, or just a word from a friend.

ON SUNDAY: Don't let worry and care depress you, or brush your joy away. But arise and give thanks to God above, for His love and another "Blest Day."

"...let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil 2:3, 4).

The

HOME PAGE

It's Important to Start Young

Harold Chugani, a neurologist at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, has done research that reveals the great capacity of growing human brains to absorb information. He discovered that, by age 2, an infant's cortex is operating at adult levels. At age 4, that child's brain is twice as active as the adult brain and continues at that rate until age 10, when it begins to slow down. By age 16, it has slacked off to the pace at which it will continue through adulthood.

God's wisdom is seen in His stressing the importance of instilling in children the truths of His Word at an early age (Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:4-7). By exposing them to a large quantity of Bible teachings in their early years, we can be instrumental in programming their "mental computers" so that they know the mind of God and think as He does.

As they reach adulthood, they can then choose to have good, honest hearts that will make them faithful followers of the Lord (Lk. 8:15).

—Mike Mays

A Hundred Dollars Only Buys So Much These Days....

During a wedding rehearsal, the groom approached the preacher with an unusual offer. "Look, I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to me and the part where I promise to 'love and honor' and 'forsaking all others, be faithful to her forever,' I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that part out." He passed the minister a \$100 bill and walked away satisfied.

On the wedding day, the bride and groom got to the part of the ceremony where vows are exchanged. When it came time for the groom's vows, the preacher looked the young man in the eye and said: "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and promise eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will not ever even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"

The groom gulped, looked around, and said in a tiny voice, "Yes." He then leaned forward and hissed, "I thought we had a deal." The preacher put the \$100 bill into his hand and whispered back, "She made me a much better offer."



If a man has enough "horse sense" to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never be an old nag.

Happily Married Women

Health, happiness, and money are common benefits of marriage, a University of Chicago researcher found. Findings by Linda Waite, a professor of sociology, contradicted conventional wisdom that marriage is bad for women but good for men. Marriage brings benefits to both women and men by lengthening life, boosting physical and emotional health, and raising income over that enjoyed by people who are single, divorced, or living together, Waite said. She presented her findings at an annual Smart Marriages Conference in Washington. She said, "...The idea that marriage damages women's emotional well-being derives from the 1972 publication of *The Future of Marriage* (Yale) by sociologist Jessie Bernard, *The New York Times* reported. She reported that married men are better off than single men on four measures of psychological distress, but that married women score higher on these negative traits than single women. Bernard's findings were never replicated and were disputed, but entered the culture at large and helped spread the idea that "marriage is an oppressive institution for women," said William Doherty, a professor of psychology at the University Of Minnesota.

—Religion Today, email news service

Serious About Those Vows

What are some "do's" and "don'ts" about avoiding sexual temptations?

► **Do** keep visual reminders of your marriage contract. Always wear your wedding ring when in public. Keep pictures of your spouse in your wallet, as a desktop screensaver, or in your workspace. Frame your marriage certificate and keep on a prominent wall. Remember the contract you made with God, your parents, friends, church, and nation to be faithful to your partner. When you placed that ring on your mate's finger, you promised your heart, affections, loyalty, and faithfulness "until death do you part."

► **Don't** be overconfident (1 Cor. 10:12). Recognize your weak points. One study showed that one is vulnerable after a major let-down, or a major success. Those who are depressed or are having marital trouble can easily fall into illicit relationships.

► **Do** avoid flirty people. If a flirtatious woman is in the break room, go outside to drink your coffee. If a man tries to flirt with you at a ballgame, find another seat. A wise person sees evil coming, and avoids it (Prov. 22:3).

► **Don't** send mixed messages to those around you. Avoid prolonged stares, lingering touches, and any joking that might be construed as flirting.

► **Do** be on guard when out of your normal routine (1 Peter 5:8). Business trips, vacations, a new job, new membership at a gym or sports team, and similar changes are times of vulnerability. When away overnight, call home and talk to your spouse and children at least every night—and if you feel tempted, call home immediately. Take their pictures and put them in your motel room. Don't hang out in the lobby or bar. Block out the TV sex channels—or just leave it off altogether (there are sexual images on most channels).

► **Don't** let friendships cross the line. Never do anything when your mate is absent that you would not do in his/her presence. Most affairs begin by "just being friends." One study shows that "friends" are those most likely to be adulterous companions (followed by "co-workers"). If things are heading toward adultery, it is important to put some emotional distance between you and this person...right now! Whatever you do, don't express your feelings to him/her. It is also important to keep the right kind of friends. Those who tell you dirty stories or flirt with you are not really your friends. Avoid them! This is not because you are too good for them but because you are not good enough for them.

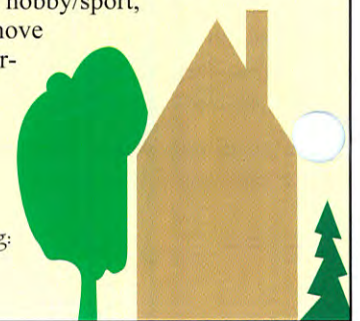
► **Do** be aware of the power immodest dress has on you and others. Don't pick up the magazine; don't click on the web link; sit with your back toward an indecently dressed female in a restaurant or at the office. Don't wear a garment that sends a message you don't want received.

► **Don't** let a person of the opposite sex confide in you about marriage problems.

► **Do** take drastic action if a line has been crossed: quit a hobby/sport, change jobs, break a friendship, change congregations, move to a new city (completely avoid the place you see this person).

When you reach your silver and then golden anniversaries, you'll be glad you kept your vows.

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? ...whoso committeth adultery... lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul" —Prov 6:27, 33





What Must I Do to be Saved?



We can ask no more important question than "What must I do to be saved?" Each of us will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and we are responsible for obeying the Lord. Salvation has two parts: God's part, and man's part. God, because of His great love for mankind, has done His part in sending Christ to die for the sins of men. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Paul calls this "grace" the gift of God. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that

not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Paul reminds us that we cannot save ourselves and must rely on God "through faith." "Through faith" means that man must also do his part, because no one benefits from a gift until he receives it.

To find what man's part in the plan of salvation involves, one must go to the right place. The book of Acts explains God's plan of salvation through several examples of conversion. There are nine specific accounts of conversion in Acts: The conversion of the Jews at Pentecost, chapter 2; the Samaritans, chapter 8; the Ethiopian eunuch, chapter 8; Saul of Tarsus, chapters 9 and 22; Cornelius, chapter 10; Lydia, chapter 16; the Philippian jailer, chapter 16; the Corinthians, chapter 18; the Ephesians, chapter 19. In each example, certain common actions, or steps of obedience, were taken by those who became Christians.

Upon hearing the pure Gospel message, each believed in Jesus as the Son of God. Though the text does not explicitly mention belief each time, it is implied. The Jews at Pentecost, having heard the message, "were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their question, "What shall we do?" showed that they believed, but realized that they needed to do more than have simple belief to obtain salvation. James wrote, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (2:24).

Following their confession of faith in Christ, Peter told the Jews at Pentecost, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). Thus we understand that repentance must accompany faith in Christ.

One must also confess faith in Christ, as the Ethiopian did (Acts 8), because Christ will not confess us unless we are willing to confess Him. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

Baptism is the only step toward salvation explicitly mentioned in every conversion account. Each of the accounts of conversion in Acts shows that baptism is necessary for obedience to Christ. Hearing the Gospel message, believing in Christ, repenting of past sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized into Christ makes one a Christian, and brings salvation. Then one must serve the Lord faithfully (Rev. 2:10).

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL



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

Six Things Missing in Heaven:

1. Those in heaven do not get _____ (Mt. 22:30).
2. "Neither can they _____ any more" (Luke 20:36).
3. "God shall wipe away all _____ from their eyes" (Rev. 7:17).
4. "...neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more _____: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).
5. "And there shall be no more _____" (Rev. 22:3).
6. "And there shall be no _____ there..." (Rev. 22:5).

Bible Curses:

Find answers in: Leviticus 19:14; Job 1:11; 2:5, 9; Ecclesiastes 10:20; Malachi 4:6; Acts 23:12; Galatians 1:8; 3:10, 13, James 3:10

1. According to Galatians, what people remain under a curse? _____
2. People who teach a false _____ would be cursed.
3. Who was made a curse for our sins? _____
4. What sort of handicapped people should we not curse? _____
5. Whose wife told him to curse God and die? _____
6. What prophet ended his book with God's threat to come and strike the land with a curse? _____
7. What book says that blessing and cursing should not come out of the same mouth? _____
8. Who had enemies that bound themselves under a curse because they were so determined to kill him? _____
9. Who told God that Job would curse him to his face? _____
10. What book says that kings should not be cursed, for little birds will tell on the cursing person? _____

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

The Adulteress and the Naughty Person

Find answers in Proverbs 5:4, 21; 6:12-14, 18, 26, 29, 34; 7:11, 21, 26.

1. The "end" of dealing with an adulteress is as "bitter as _____."
2. The ways of man are before the eyes of the _____.
3. A wicked man soweth _____.
4. Among the things the Lord hates are _____ that are swift in running to mischief.
5. By means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of _____.
6. Whoever touches his neighbor's wife will not be _____.
7. _____ is the rage of a man.
8. An adulteress is pictured as "_____ and stubborn."
9. With "the _____ of her lips she forced him."
10. Many _____ men have been slain by her.

Answers to Last Issue: Suffering Saints: 1. Live godly; Christ Jesus; 2. Jesus; 3. ashamed; 4. adversary/devil; 5. Job; 6. manifold; 7. divers; 8. glorify God; 9. gold; 10. but for a moment; 11. patience or steadfastness; 12. keep the word; 13. Jesus; **Who Asked God?** 1. Habakkuk (1:1-3); 2. Jeremiah (15:18); 3. David (1 Sam. 23:1-2); 4. Cain (Gen. 4:9); 5. Abimelech (Gen. 20:4); 6. Abraham (Gen. 18:25); 7. Moses (Ex. 3:10-11); 8. Ezekiel (11:13); 9. Job (40:3-4); 10. Abram (Gen. 15:7-8); **Saved or Lost?** 1. Lost (Acts 26:28); 2. Saved (Acts 22:1-16); 3. Lost (Acts 24:25); 4. Lost (Acts 1:25); 5. Lost (Acts 5:1-11); 6. Saved (Acts 16:14, 15); 7. Saved (Acts 8:27-40); 8. Saved (Acts 10:1-48); 9. Lost (Acts 13:6).



Plenty of Proof

“So then they are without excuse...” —Romans 1:20

“All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me” —Jesus, Luke 24:44.

There were more than three hundred predictive prophecies in the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Jesus that were recorded centuries before He was ever born. Each was accurately fulfilled. Unlike the Dixon-style predictions, NOT ONE of the predictions concerning Jesus missed the mark. Have you ever seriously analyzed the implications of those signs?

Peter Stoner, a renowned mathematician, calculated the odds of just EIGHT of the three hundred predictive prophecies concerning Jesus having been fulfilled ACCIDENTALLY in the life of one man. The odds are one in ten to the seventeenth power (a one with seventeen zeros following it)!

I used my computer to do a few calculations in order to make that huge number sink in a little more sensibly. A dollar bill is six inches long. It would take

10,560 dollar bills laid end-to-end to extend one mile. The moon is about 239,000 miles from the earth. Thus, it would take 2,523,840,000 dollar bills laid end to end to extend from the earth to the moon. That's a little over two and a half BILLION. But as incredibly large a number as a billion may appear to be, the number that Peter Stoner calculated (ten to the seventeenth power) is simply mind boggling. If one possessed that many dollar bills, he could lay them end to end and stretch them from the earth to the moon nearly forty million times (39,622,163). Looking at it a little differently, those bills could add up to about twenty million ROUND TRIPS to the moon! And that is only 8 of 300 predictive prophecies!

We have very little excuse to disbelieve the claims of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ.

—Garell Forehand



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE LISTED ON THE FRONT)



- YES!** I want to start learning more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free...work on your own at home.*
- 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, programs, and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

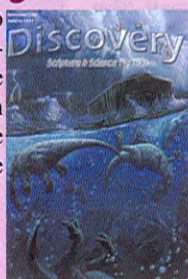
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

—All materials/services are FREE of charge—

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Check the booklets/pamphlets you want to study further and mail in (all free):

- Send me this month's packet (all materials)
- NEW! A Lying Tongue.** This 16-page booklet is a first in a series examining “Seven Things a Loving God Hates” from Proverbs 6:16-19. Since lying is a temptation each of us faces, we can all benefit from studying what God says about it.
- NEW! What Must I Do to Be Saved?** This pamphlet looks at the most important question ever pondered by man. Have you given serious thought to the question?
- Scruples.** A study of what Romans 14 says about tolerating differing opinions among believers.
- Can We Let Our Conscience Be Our Guide in Religion?**
- Finding God's Treasure.** A study of finding salvation by careful study of the Bible (based on Acts 8).
- How to Get a Good Night's Sleep**
- The Day the Preacher Sat Next to the Atheist**
- A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross**
- Married for Life.** How five couples reached their 50th ...
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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In the Interest of Christian

UNITY



Tell Me More About

ESUS

By What Standard of Authority?



"...By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?" (Mt. 21:23).

By what authority do you and I practice the things we do in religion? Let us observe the following questions:

Is **the majority** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. Through time the majority has been wrong. Where was the majority in the flood? What about Sodom and Gomorrah? Jesus said many travel the broad way that leads to destruction (Mt. 7:13, 14).

Are **kinsmen** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. If they were, then every religion, even those that deny the divinity of Christ and reject the Bible as the infallible guide in matters of religion, would be all right if such was accepted by kinsmen.

Are **the creeds of men** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. They are contradictory to the inspired and infallible Word of God. They contain the doctrines and commandments of men, concerning which Jesus said, "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (Mt. 15:9).

Is **"I think"** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. Jeremiah wrote, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (10:23). Also observe: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

Christ and His testament is the correct standard of authority. All authority in heaven and in earth has been given unto Christ (Mt. 28:18). His testament is complete, final, and all-sufficient (Jn. 16:13; Jude 3). Religious practices are to be based on His Word. Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). In view of this, can you give book, chapter, and verse for what you practice in religion?

—Wendell Winkler



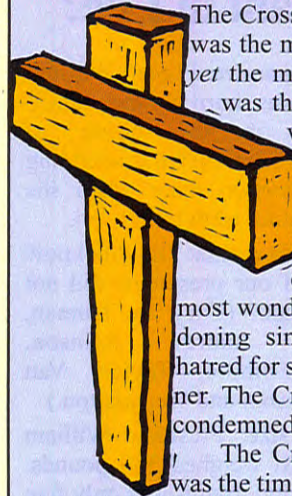
Things About the Church of Christ that Surprise People

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST HAS NO EARTHLY HEADQUARTERS.

On a number of occasions people ask, "Where are the headquarters of the church of Christ?" They mean by that in what city are your central offices, etc. They are surprised when we say, "We have no headquarters. Each congregation makes its own decisions based on

Bible." Since the head of the church is Christ, and since Christ is in heaven, then heaven must be the location of the headquarters (Col. 1:18, 24; 1 Pet. 3:22; Phil. 3:20). No board hands down controversial decisions; no dues have to be sent in each month; no one decides (or has to approve) preacher relocations.

The Paradox of the Cross



The Cross of Christ is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most tragic event in the history of the world, *yet* the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld, *yet* it was the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won. He won by losing. He conquered by surrendering.

The Cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, *yet* the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, *yet* His supreme proof of love for the sinner. The Cross was the means by which God's justice condemned sin, and His mercy forgave it.

The Cross was the darkest hour in history, *yet* it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine and God hid His face from Christ, the Cross was the means by which Christ really became "the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12). In the Cross we see man's hatred for Christ, *yet* we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as they cry for His blood, *yet* we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prays, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34).

The Cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength. It demonstrates man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for him. The Cross, from the human standpoint, it foolishness; *yet* it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God.

—Eugene Britnell, Little Rock, Arkansas

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" —1 Corinthians 1:18

Who Crucified Jesus?



One of Rembrandt's more famous paintings is entitled *The Three Crosses*. When one looks at the painting, he is immediately drawn to the center cross on which Jesus died. As one looks further at the crowd gathered around the foot of the cross, he is impressed by the facial expressions that depict so clearly the attitudes of the people involved in the awful crime of crucifying the Son of God. It would be easy to miss the character who can be seen in the lower edge of the painting. That figure is almost hidden in the shadows. According to many art critics, that figure is Rembrandt's representation of himself. He recognized that by his sins he helped to nail Jesus to the Cross.

It is easy to blame Pilate or the Roman soldiers or the crowd who cried out, "Crucify him" (Mk. 15:13), or the religious leaders. One author put it this way, "It is a simple thing to say that Christ died for the sins of the world. It is quite another thing to say that Christ died for *my* sins. It may make us feel better to point the finger at those who put Jesus on the cross, but it is a shocking thought that we can be as indifferent as Pilate, as scheming as Caiaphas, as calloused as the soldiers, as ruthless as the mob, or as cowardly as the disciples. It isn't just what they did—it was I who nailed Him to the tree. I crucified the Christ of God. I joined the mockery."