

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1

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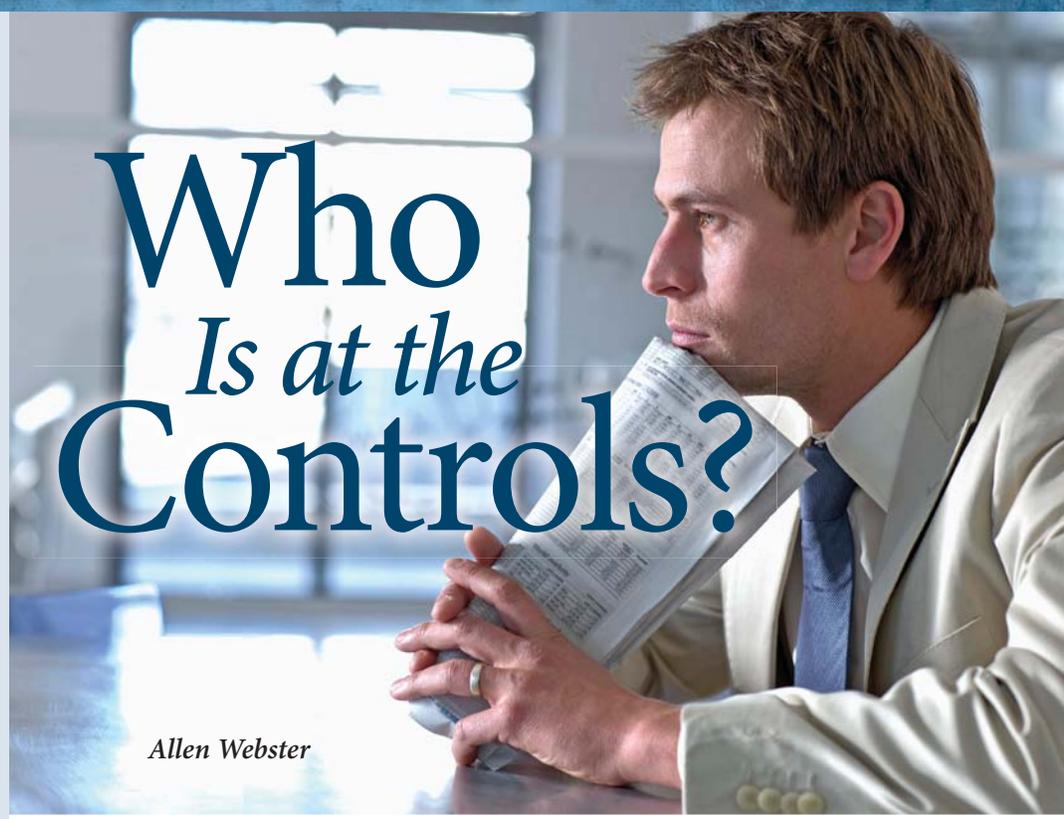
Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18
Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5
Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2
Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22
Organization:
Christ as head – Eph. 5:23
Elders oversee local church –
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5
Deacons as servants –
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13
Members compose body –
Col. 1:2

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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Allen Webster

If life is a flight through time
who is in the cockpit?
If life is a joyride,
who is behind the steering wheel?
If life is a voyage,
who is at the helm?

Decisions determine direction (Joshua 24:15). Direction determines destiny (Matthew 7:13-14). Will we ascend or descend at the judgment? It all depends on who makes our decisions.

“ME”

“Invictus” is commonly quoted by valedictorians at high school graduations across America. It thus sums up the philosophy of many youth as they begin their adult lives. It was written by William Ernest Henley, an early humanist who was crippled since his childhood in Gloucester, England. His master-of-my-fate-captain-of-my-

soul philosophy was only a little ahead of its time.

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed. . . .
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the
scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.

Sinatra’s song, “My Way,” is often requested at funerals. So from the beginning of adult life to the end of it, many say, “I make my own choices—nobody tells me what to do.” >>



We must strongly resist the pressure *to conform to the world's mold.*

Bible examples abound of those who had self on life's throne. Note the personal pronouns of a certain rich man:

What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater . . . there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:17–19).

God called him a “fool” (Luke 12:20). Another rich man had the “me” philosophy and awoke in torments (Luke 16:23).

Self-will took Nebuchadnezzar from his throne (Daniel 4:30–37) and kept Moses from Canaan (Numbers 20:8–12). Felix trembled at the thought of giving control to Christ (Acts 24:25); Agrippa came close to handing over the reins, but not close enough (Acts 26:28). The prodigal is not the only young man who has let such thinking take him to the far country and into the pigpen of sin (cf. Luke 15).

We will never be able by our own bootstraps to rise out of the mire into which our sins have sunk us. The man who says he is in control of his life is mistaken. The devil allows him to think so, but serving self is sacrificing at Satan's altar. There are no free men in sin's death camp (Romans 6:17, 23).

When we were young, our fathers may have allowed us to “drive” while sitting in their laps. We felt we were in control, but when the car veered from the road, Dad quickly took over. Many are sitting in Satan's lap, “steering” their lives to a lake of fire. “Me” is not a safe guide for life (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23).

“MEN”

Others allow public opinion to make their decisions. How many should make Saul's confession? “I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice” (1 Samuel 15:24). Adam gave in to Eve and let forbidden fruit get him into a jam (Genesis 3:6); Abraham feared Abimelech enough to tell “a little white lie” (Genesis 20:11); and Aaron made a golden calf at public demand (Exodus 32:21–24).

In the New Testament, Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but he was too much of a people-pleasing politician to stand by his decision (Matthew 27:2–26). Many rulers believed on Jesus but would not confess Him, “for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43; cf. 5:44). Even Barnabas once gave in to peer pressure and disassociated himself from Gentiles (Galatians 2:13).

We must strongly resist the pressure to conform to the world's mold (Romans 12:1–2). Evil companions are bad for good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33), so we should stay away from them as much as possible (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Pitching tents toward Sodom has left behind the smoking ruins of many families (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:16, 24, 26, 31–36). Any who love the opinions of father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters more than Christ, cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26; cf. 18:29–30). Men are not a safe guideline for crossing the chasm that divides earth and eternity (Matthew 7:13–14).

“MESSIAH”

A third choice is to allow Christ to rule our lives. He stands today knocking at the door of every heart (Revelation 3:20), but He will never force His way in (cf. Luke 24:28–29). He has no draft for His army, no subpoenas for His mediatorship (Matthew 22:37; 2 Corinthians 5:14). One who comes to Jesus must renounce all (cf. Revelation 12:11), take up his cross, and follow as closely as he can in the Master's steps (Luke 14:26–27; 1 Peter 2:21–22).

The choice is difficult, but it is never regretted (2 Corinthians 7:10). His truth sets us free (John 8:32); His life is abundant (John 10:10); His rule is not grievous (1 John 5:3). Joshua gave God his life (Joshua 24:15) and was never disappointed. Paul gave Christ his heart and never looked back (Acts 9; 2 Timothy 4:6–8; cf. Luke 9:62).

The truth is, “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other” (Luke 16:13).

Who is at your controls? ❖

The Fifth Sparrow

A young Spanish boy in Vigo who became a devout Christian was asked by an Englishman what had been the influence under which he acted. “It was all because of the odd sparrow,” the boy replied.

“I do not understand,” said the Englishman in surprise. “What odd sparrow?”

“Well, Señor, it is this way,” the boy said, “A gentleman gave me a Testament, and I read in one Gospel that two sparrows were sold for a farthing. And again in Luke, I saw, ‘Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings ...?’ And I said to myself that Nuestro Señor Jesus Christ knew well our custom of selling birds. As you know, sir, we trap birds, and get one chico for two but for two chicos we throw in an extra sparrow. That extra sparrow is only a make-weight, and of no account at all.

“Now, I think to myself that I am so insignificant, so poor, and so small that no one would think of counting me. I’m like the fifth sparrow. And yet, oh marvelous, Nuestro Señor says, ‘Not one of them is forgotten before God.’ I have never heard anything like it, sir. No one but He could ever have thought of not forgetting me.”

Everybody matters to God. The psalmist said concerning himself, “I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top” (Psalm 102:7). When a sparrow has lost its mate—an everyday occurrence—he will sit on the housetop alone, and lament over his bereavement. In addition, these

birds are also snared and caught in great numbers, but since they are small and not much use for food, five sparrows may still be sold for two farthings (Luke 12:6), which was a better deal than two sparrows for one farthing (Matthew 10:29). And when you see their countless numbers, and how eager people are to destroy them as worthless nuisances, we can better appreciate Jesus’ statement.

Surely, God will take care of us even if we are the fifth sparrow.

—Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee



The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible—Psalm 23.

She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verses.

Little Rick was excited about the task—but he just couldn’t remember the psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rickey was so nervous that when it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said, “The Lord is my Shepherd, and that’s all I need to know.”



“Scripture”

REVELATION 1:3

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

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

One night a teenage girl brought her new boyfriend home to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tattoos, and a pierced nose.

Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and confessed their concern.

“Dear,” said the mother diplomatically, “he doesn’t seem very nice.”

“Oh please, Mom,” replied the daughter, “if he wasn’t nice, why would he be doing 500 hours of community service?”

“Evil communications corrupt good morals”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33



Home PAGE



Only a Nail

A man wanted to sell his house in Haiti for \$2000. Another man wanted to buy it but because he was poor, he could not afford the full price.

After some bargaining the seller agreed to sell the house for half the asking price, with one simple stipulation. He would retain ownership of one small nail protruding from just over the door.

Several years passed; the original owner wanted to repurchase the house, but the new owner did not want to sell. The first owner went out, found the carcass of a dead dog, and hung it on the



single nail he still owned. Not long afterwards the house became available and the family was forced to sell the house to the owner of the nail.

Sin is real, and it can destroy our marriages and families. If we do not fight it daily and confess it when we fail, the devil will come and hang his decaying refuse on the exposed nail of our hearts. Therefore, let us resolve to confess our sins and enjoy God's forgiveness.

—Mike Winkler, Huntsville, Alabama

*"Avoid it, pass not by it,
turn from it, and pass away."*

PROVERBS 4:15



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

Love Your Children



Parents are like sculptors creating a masterpiece. They carve and chisel little hearts into some type of adults. Young mothers are to be taught, among other things, to love their children (Titus 2:4–5). Fathers share the responsibility of loving their boys and girls.

Parenting is a wonderful privilege but an awesome responsibility. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them" (Psalm 127:3–5).

Love children enough to be good examples before them. Parental behavior ought always to be worthy of imitation. Many parents fall into the category of "do as I say and not as I do" which Jesus strongly denounced (Matthew 23:3). Abraham commanded his children after him (Genesis 18:19). Joshua lived for the Lord and led his family in that direction (Joshua 24:15). God chose a godly couple as earthly parents of Jesus (Matthew 1; Luke 2).

Love children enough to teach them. Deuteronomy 6:7 speaks of

teaching the Lord's words diligently to children in the course of everyday events. Ephesians 6:4 commands that children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Don't hope someone else will teach them. Teach them yourself about the Lord, His church, moral purity, marriage, salvation, and heaven.

Love children enough to discipline them. "He that spareth the rod hateth his son" (Proverbs 13:24). He who loves will chasten (Revelation 3:19). Discipline brings about the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11). Parents should strive to be united and consistent in discipline.

Love children enough to allow them to leave the nest when it is time. The Bible often speaks of leaving father and mother and cleaving to mates (Genesis 2; Matthew 19; Ephesians 5).

To fail to allow children to form that loyalty to a new family is to cause many problems. Children must always honor parents but more allegiance must be given to mates than to parents.

Love your children. Time rushes by.

—Vance Hutton, Double Springs, Alabama

A Senior Moment

Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques: visualization, association, focus, and repeat. It was great."

"That's great! And what was the name of the clinic?"

Fred went blank. He thought and thought, but he couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's it!"

He turned to his wife: "Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"

*"Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with singing: then said
they among the heathen, The Lord hath
done great things for them."*

PSALM 126:2



What Is Man?



An astronomer once remarked to Fulton J. Sheen, “To an astronomer, man is nothing but an infinitesimal dot in an infinite universe.”

“An interesting point of view,” Sheen responded, “but you seem to forget that your infinitesimal dot of a man is still the astronomer.”

David reminds us of what man the astronomer sees when he looks into the skies. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” (Psalm 19:1–4).

In view of God’s majesty, David marveled that the Creator of the universe would have so much concern

for man. “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:3–6).

Isn’t it mind-boggling to realize that God has not only entrusted man with a world to care for, but also sacrificed His Son for the sins of mankind? “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ

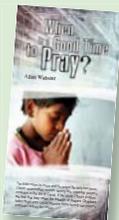
died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Romans 5:6–10).

—Bob Prichard, Oxford, Alabama

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to www.HouseToHouse.com.

Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We’ll grade and return your questions and enclose the “When Is a Good Time to Pray” bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: *The Sermon on the Mount:* 1. see (Matthew 5:8); 2. righteousness (5:6); 3. heaven (5:12); 4. footstool (5:35); 5. eye (6:22); 6. Solomon (6:29); 7. pearls (7:6); 8. narrow (7:14); 9. good (7:17); 10. mote (7:3); 11. hid (5:14); 12. adultery (5:28); 13. adultery (5:32); 14. Jerusalem (5:35); 15. Love (5:44); 16. kingdom, righteousness (6:33); 17. prophets (7:15); 18. doeth (7:21); 19. rock (7:24); 20. authority (7:29); 21. closet (6:6); 22. earth, heaven (6:10); 23. masters (6:24); 24. heavenly Father (6:26); 25. turn to him the other (5:39).

People and Things

Directions: Match the names in the left column to the things associated with their lives in the right column by placing their letter next to the number it matches. Use each letter only once! If you have trouble, use these Scriptures: Genesis 3:1–5, 20; 6:13–15; 26:18; 32:24–25; 37:3; Exodus 4:2–4; Joshua 2:1–15; Judges 4:17–21; 6:37–40; 16:15–17; 1 Samuel 17:49–50; 20:35–36; 1 Kings 17:1–6; Matthew 27:31–32; Mark 12:42; Luke 15:11–16; John 18:10–11; Acts 7:59–60; Acts 12:19–23; 16:14.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ 1. Samson | A. Fleece |
| _____ 2. Rahab | B. Sling |
| _____ 3. Peter | C. Rod |
| _____ 4. Gideon | D. Mites |
| _____ 5. Lydia | E. Razor |
| _____ 6. David | F. Cross |
| _____ 7. Stephen | G. Cord |
| _____ 8. Joseph | H. Purple |
| _____ 9. Moses | I. Bow/arrows |
| _____ 10. Widow | J. Stones |
| _____ 11. Sisera | K. Nail |
| _____ 12. Jonathan | L. Colored coat |
| _____ 13. Jesus | M. Sword |
| _____ 14. Elijah | N. Ark |
| _____ 15. Prodigal son | O. Wells |
| _____ 16. Eve | P. Worms |
| _____ 17. Isaac | Q. Wrestling |
| _____ 18. Jacob | R. Serpent |
| _____ 19. Herod | S. Swine (pigs) |
| _____ 20. Noah | T. Ravens |

General Bible Knowledge

- How many books are in the Bible?
- What is the longest book in the Bible?
- Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?
- Which book says, “The wages of sin is death”?
- How many people were on Noah’s ark?
- Who lived first? Last? Daniel, Noah, Paul, Moses, or David.
- What came first? Last? Temple, Church, Tower of Babel, Tabernacle.
- Who were the first two people?
- Who wrote Psalm 23?
- Is Santa Claus in the Bible?

What People Think of the Bible ...

Patrick Henry: The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.

Lord Tennyson: Bible reading is an education in itself.

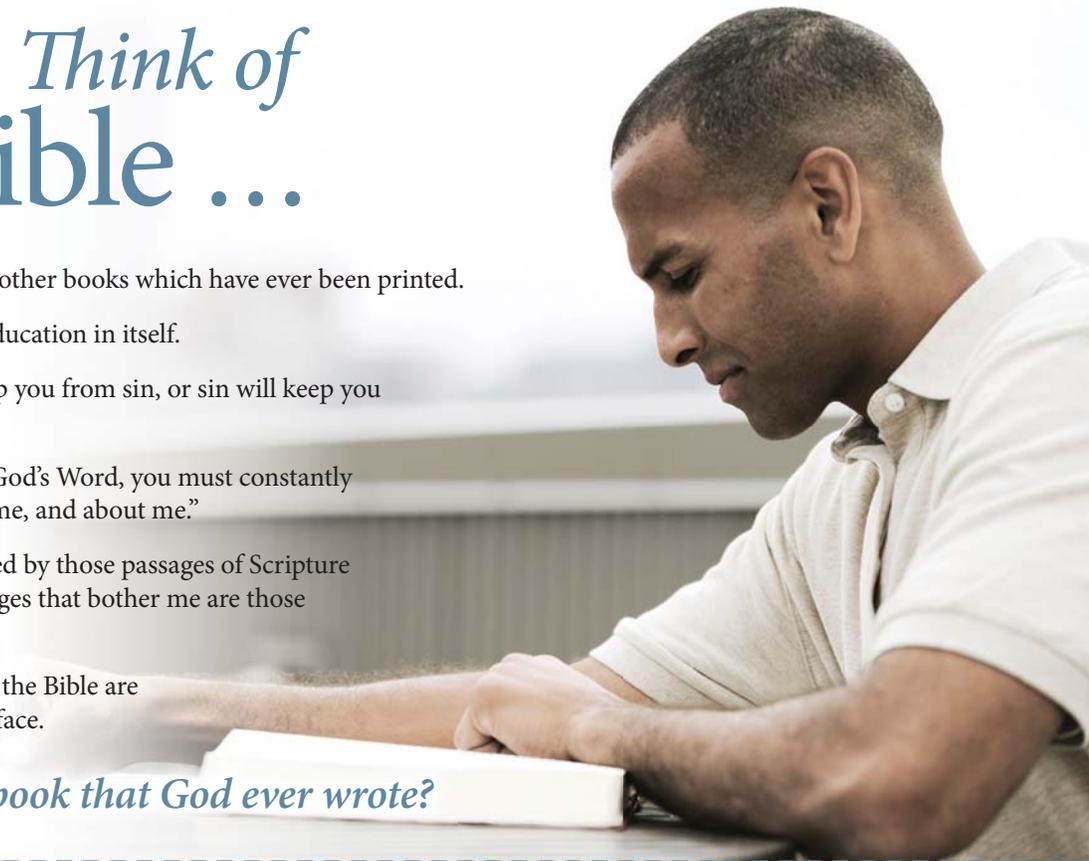
Dwight L. Moody: The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.

Soren Kierkegaard: When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me."

Mark Twain: Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.

Ronald Reagan: Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.

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- ▶ What about Global Warming? —Brad Harrub
- ▶ Jesus Loves Me This I Know —Tom Holland
- ▶ What about Guardian Angels? —Eric Lyons
- ▶ The Roman Road to Salvation —B. J. Clarke
- ▶ Mary's First Communion —Wayne Jackson
- ▶ How to Be Saved Like the Thief on the Cross —Allen Webster

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More!

- I want to better understand the church of Christ.
- I want to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- Quiero Recibir *Casa a Casa* en Español.
- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I have a Bible question: _____
- I want to know more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

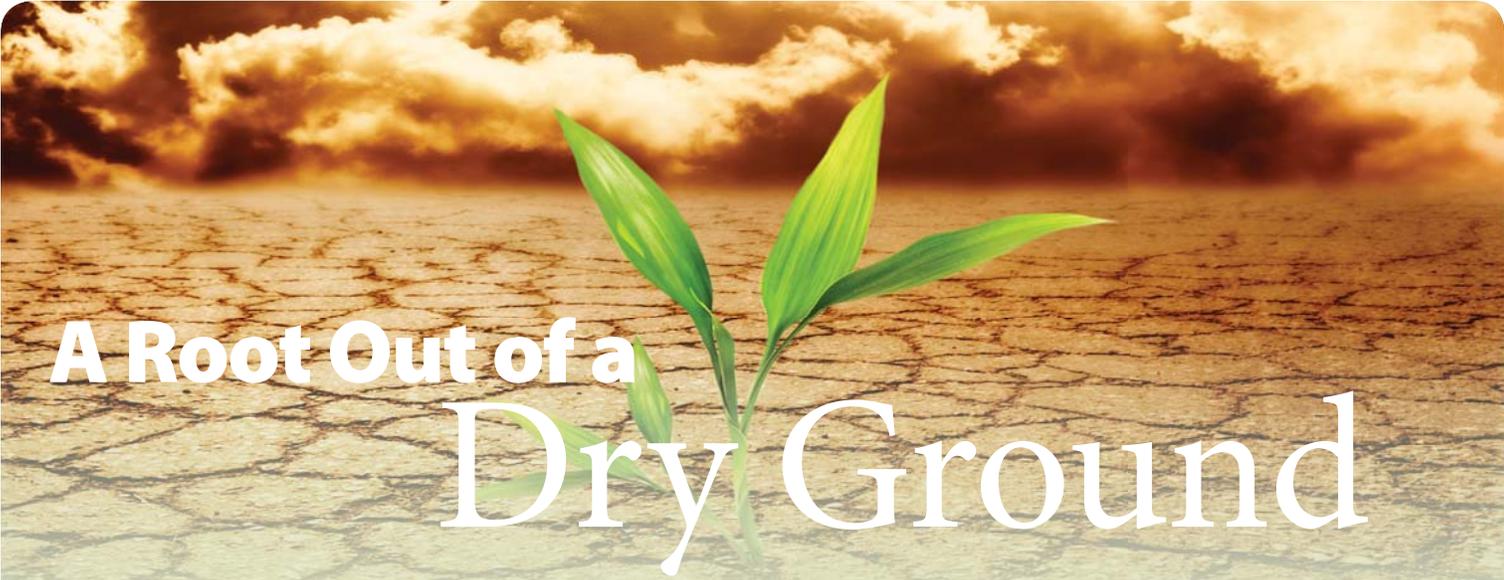
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Bible Study Helps:

- Enroll me in a Free Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free . . . work on your own at home.*
- I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study* series (an in-home personal study). *These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.*
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

Tracts:

- NEW!** How to Be Saved Like the Thief on the Cross
- NEW!** Cleanliness is Next to Godliness
- NEW!** In Pursuit of Knowledge
- NEW!** God Believes in You, Too
- Eight Reasons I Want to Go to Heaven
- God's City of Refuge, Part 2
- A True Worshipper
- Jefferson's Bible Is a Page Short
- Should Christians Follow the Jewish Calendar?
- Anger, Violence, Murder *Make sense of our violent world*
- Heaven Is Four Steps from Any Place on Earth, Step 2
- Practical Suggestions for Learning the Bible
- Seven Things God Hates #7: Sowers of Discord
- Can a Christian Fall from Grace?
- Can We Let Our Conscience Be Our Guide?
- 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 . . .*
- Scruples. Tolerating differing opinions among believers.
- The Amazing History of Instrumental Music in Worship (Part 1). *Early history of music in Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Church of Scotland, and Church of England.*
- Reboot Your Cranium
- Watch Out for Bad Apples
- What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- A Lying Tongue
- Finding God's Treasure
- Can I Change?
- Jesus' Mother
- Back issues of *House to House*



A Root Out of a Dry Ground

Seven centuries before Jesus ever began to crawl as a tiny baby upon this earth, the Messianic Prophet foretold of Him as a “tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground” (Isaiah 53:2). A tender plant is not welcomed and accepted into harsh environments. A root is not supposed to survive in a dry ground.

As a newborn, the Tender Plant was laid down into a dirty feed trough just outside of an inn because all of the rooms were full (Luke 2:7)—and He lived. The Root out of a dry ground later found Himself in the arms of His parents, who were fleeing to Egypt to avoid His being killed by Herod (Matthew 2:13–15)—and He lived. As He traveled down a dusty road one day, He turned to someone and mentioned that He had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58)—and He lived. His own brothers rejected Him and did not believe in Him (John 7:5)—and He lived. After returning to His hometown of Nazareth, the people that He grew up with led Him to the brow of a hill to throw Him down over the cliff (Luke 4:28–30)—and the Root out of a dry ground lived. Many of His disciples, after murmuring at His teachings, went back and walked with Him no more (John 6:60–66)—and He lived. A harsh environment of Jews took up stones to kill the Tender Plant (John 10:31)—and He lived.

Day after day and night after night the rejections, assaults, and conflicts continued. While He opened the ears of those who could not hear, many continued to close their ears to His teachings—and He lived. After the Root out of a dry ground opened the eyes of those who could not see, many continued to close their eyes to see His truth—and He lived.

Jesus was not the king that they had envisioned and desired. He did not meet their standards and did not fit the appearance of a king in their minds. We are reminded that He had “no form nor comeliness” and when the people saw Him, there was “no beauty” that they “should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2)—and He lived.

He approached the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives with the remaining eleven apostles standing next to Him; but after His arrest, all the disciples forsook Him and fled (Matthew 26:56)—and He lived.

The Tender Plant was accused of speaking blasphemy and told that He was deserving of death. His enemies spit in His face, beat Him, and struck Him with the palms of their hands (Matthew 26:65–67)—and He lived. “The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him” (Matthew 27:27–31).

Jesus was “despised and rejected of men” (Isaiah 53:3). “He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11). After thirty-three years, the Tender Plant died in that harsh environment. The Root out of a dry ground was “cut off out of the land of the living” (Isaiah 53:8). But after three days and three nights in the tomb, we can all say with gratitude in our hearts that He was raised from the dead and He lives.

- He suffered for us, and we need to praise Him.
- He endured the thorns on His head, and we need to be thankful for Him.
- He overcame the nails in His hands and the nail through His feet, and we need to honor Him.
- They beat Him and spit in His face, but we need to reverence Him.
- They struck Him on the head and mocked Him, but we need to respect Him.

Our sins have been washed away by His blood! “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

We need to love the Tender Plant, and cherish the Root out of a dry ground with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

—Ronnie McAbee, Seymour, Tennessee

Thoughts from the HEART

The Most Valuable Discovery

In 1847, Sir James Simpson of Edinburgh discovered the use of chloroform as an anesthetic in surgery. Some claim this to be the most significant discovery of modern medicine.

In his later years, Sir James was lecturing at Edinburgh University and a student asked, "What do you consider to be the most valuable discovery of your lifetime?"

He answered quickly, "My most valuable discovery was when I discovered myself a sinner and that Jesus Christ was my Savior."

The book of Romans makes clear these two significant truths that Simpson articulated. The problem is sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). And the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Paul declares that the power of God unto salvation is the gospel of Jesus (Romans 1:16). In Christ we have the divine provision: "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The price that was paid? "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9).

Now what's the process by which we contact that blood? By placing our faith and trust in Jesus (Romans 5:1), confessing Christ (Romans 10:9-10), turning from our sins in repentance (Romans 2:4), and being buried with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:1-4). Then we are to dedicate the rest of our lives in service to Him (Romans 6:12-18; 12:1).

The most valuable discovery you and I can make is that we are sinners and that Christ desires to be our Savior.

—Allan Eldridge / David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama



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