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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3

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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The Most Difficult COMMAND

Allen Webster

Is the most difficult command in Scripture to love your neighbor as yourself? (Luke 10:27). To be pure in heart? (Matthew 5:8). To wait for sex till marriage? (1 Corinthians 6:18). To be baptized for the remission of sins? (Acts 2:38). To love your enemy? (Matthew 5:44).

These can be daunting challenges to many of us, but none is the hardest. The most difficult command is found in Acts 17:30: "God . . . now commandeth all men every where to repent." American Bible scholar J. W. McGarvey said that if God were giving special miraculous gifts today, he would not ask for the gift of healing, prophecy, or tongues. Rather he would ask for the power, above everything else, to cause men to repent. People do not change their minds or lives very easily. Since repentance involves both, it is challenging. Further, repentance implies one is on the wrong path (Luke 13:3), and none of us wants to admit we are wrong.

THREE REQUIREMENTS TO LEARN

Repentance is (1) a change of mind (2) produced by godly sorrow (3) resulting in reformation of life. Since actions are

prompted by thoughts and behavior by decisions (Proverbs 23:7), the process of repenting begins in the heart. An unrighteous man must forsake his thoughts (Isaiah 55:7). The Bible sometimes calls this process "dying to self" (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:5-6).

This change of mind must be motivated by godly sorrow. Paul wrote, "I rejoice . . . that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:9-10). Worldly sorrow results from the negative consequences of sin and may cause one to reform, but there is no salvation in it. An adulterer may break up with his mistress solely to save his marriage; an alcoholic may put down the bottle to save his liver; a politician might clean up his language to be more electable. While these may be beneficial in the short-term, they will not save the soul. But when one ceases adultery, alcohol, and filthy speech in response to learning and obeying the gospel, he can be saved eternally.

Repentance culminates in reformation of life. We cannot turn back the clock and relive a single yesterday, as much as we might want to undo certain sins. We are in control, however, of our today and tomorrows. It can be very demanding to give up lifestyle sins (1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Matthew 19:6–9; cf. Ezra 10:2–3; Matthew 14:1–4) and pleasure sins (Ephesians 2:3), but it is required (Luke 13:3; Romans 6:13). A Bible teacher asked her class what *repentance* meant. One boy said, “It is being sorry for your sins.” A girl corrected him, saying, “It is being sorry enough to quit.”

We can be like one four-year-old boy who hated soap and water, especially when his mother washed his face and ears. She tried reasoning with him, asking: “Don’t you want to be clean?” He thought for a second and replied, “Yes, but can’t you just dust me off sometimes?” True penitents do not desire a superficial dusting but a thorough washing (Psalm 51:2; Acts 22:16).

THREE REASONS TO CONSIDER

In making such a life-changing decision as the one to follow Christ, one should weigh carefully the choices (Luke 14:26–33). Here are three reasons to repent:

One should repent, foremost, to be saved from sin (Acts 2:38). No accountable person has ever been—or will ever be (Luke 13:3, 5)—saved without repenting. It is an all-men-everywhere doctrine (Acts 17:30). It will be a question on God’s final exam (Acts 17:31; 2 Peter 3:9). Eternity in either heaven or hell weighs in the balance of the decision to repent (Matthew 25:31–33).

One should repent to enjoy an abundant life now. Contrary to popular opinion, sinners do not enjoy life more than Christians (cf. 1 Peter 3:10–11; Proverbs 13:15). Jesus promised an abundant life in the here and now (John 10:10) and heaven hereafter (John 14:1–2).

One should repent to restore purpose and usefulness to life. How did the prodigal feel about his purpose in life as he fed the pigs? (Luke 15:11–32). In Michael Faraday’s (1791–1867) laboratory, a workman accidentally dropped a valuable silver cup into a tank of acid. The workmen watched the cup quickly disintegrate. But Faraday rushed to a cabinet, took out a bottle, and poured a chemical into the tank. The silver was precipitated to the bottom and recovered, and he sent the shapeless mass to a silversmith to be refashioned.¹ Repentance does this for us. After sin has damaged God’s likeness in us (Genesis 1:26) and disintegrated our positive influence on others (Matthew 5:15), Christ’s blood can recover our true value and remake us in His image (Colossians 3:10).

THREE OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME

The devil is not indifferent to whether we swap sides. He will place as many barriers as he can in our path to Christ (1 Peter 5:8).

Some do not repent because they are unaware that they are sinners. They look around at their associates and think they are as good as the next person. They may even know a Christian and figure they compare favorably with him. In such comparisons, they miss the point. The question is not, “Am I as good as others?” but, “Am I a sinner?” Since the answer to that question is, yes (Romans 3:23), the follow-up question is, “Have I been forgiven of my sins?”

At this point, one must realize that simply being religious is insufficient. Religious people have often opposed the very purposes of God (John 16:2; Acts 23:9). We must make sure that the religion we follow is genuine New Testament Christianity. Jesus said there is no salvation in any other (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Further, we must make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10) by comparing what we are taught with Scripture (Acts 17:11). Many religious leaders teach the doctrines and commandments of men, which cannot save (Matthew 15:9). To begin, make sure the plan of salvation one follows matches God’s holy word. God’s plan includes five steps: learning the gospel (Romans 10:17), believing in Jesus as God’s Son (John 3:16), repenting of sin (Acts 2:38), confessing faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Matthew 10:32–33), and immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:15–16; Romans 6:3–4).

Some do not repent because they are proud and stubborn (Luke 18:9–14). “Pride goeth before destruction” (Proverbs 16:18), so make sure that it does not keep you out of heaven. Be less concerned with what others think of you than what God thinks of you.

Some do not repent because they love a certain sin too much. The gate to heaven is small enough to require unloading every sin in order to fit (Luke 13:23–24). Some would be Christians except they love gambling too much to give it up; others would obey but they cannot part with an adulterous relationship; others can’t give up alcohol or drugs. The rich young ruler loved money and things too much. When offered a seat in the kingdom, he turned it down, and “went away sorrowful” (Matthew 19:16–22). Remember, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

One little girl saw a pearl necklace that she desperately wanted. Her mother, noting that it cost almost two dollars, said, “No.” Seeing how deeply the little girl desired it, though, she relented and said she could purchase the necklace with the money from her piggybank. Her daughter was delighted.

She did not have enough to cover the cost, so she did extra chores and used the dollar her grandmother gave her for her birthday to purchase the necklace within a couple weeks.

She wore it everywhere. She never took it off, except to shower and swim (because her mom told her it would turn green if it got wet).

One night her dad came in to read her a bedtime story, which was their nightly ritual. When he finished, and they had prayed together, he surprised her by asking, “Can I have your pearl necklace?” She was stunned.

“No, daddy, not my necklace, but you can have my favorite white pony with the pink mane.”

“That’s okay,” he replied, and kissed her goodnight.

A few days later he surprised her a second time by asking if he could have her pearls. Again, she said no, but told him that he could have the new baby doll she got for her birthday. Again, he graciously refused and kissed her goodnight.

The next night she was sitting on the edge of her bed weeping when he came in. “What’s wrong, honey?” he asked.

She raised her hand out to him and said, “Here, Daddy, I want you to have this.” He looked down to see her pearl necklace.

He reached out with one hand to take it and with the other he reached into his pocket and took out a velvet case. He opened it and pulled out a genuine pearl necklace and presented it to her.

He said, “I was wanting you to give me the dime store necklace so I could present you with a real set of pearls.”

God has His hand in His pocket. Are you willing to trade?

¹ Macartney.

The Bridge Builder

Two brothers lived on adjoining farms and fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in forty years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

The long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference. Finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on the older brother's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with?"

"Yes, I do have a job for you," said the older brother, looking across the creek at his brother's farm. "That's my neighbor. In fact, he's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us, and he took his bulldozer to the river levee, so now there is a creek between us. He did this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence—an 8-foot-high fence—so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger, and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then left. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, and nailing. About sunset the following day the farmer returned, just as the carpenter was finishing the job. The farmer's eyes opened wide and his jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge! A fine piece of work, sturdy with handrails. Just then his younger brother was coming across the field. The two brothers stood momentarily at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. "You're quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

"Blessed are the peacemakers."

MATTHEW 5:9



Quoting the Bible, and Didn't Know It

Words and Phrases with Biblical Origins

- A drop in the bucket (Isaiah 40:15).
- A thorn in the side (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- Forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:17).
- Eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:19).
- The powers that be (Romans 13:1).
- The handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5).
- Holier than thou (Isaiah 65:5).
- Woe is me! (Isaiah 6:5).
- Like a lamb to slaughter (Isaiah 53:7).
- Do not throw pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6).
- Fire and brimstone (Genesis 19:24; Revelation 21:8).
- Can a leopard change its spots? (Jeremiah 13:23).
- The skin of our teeth (Job 19:20).
- A land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8).
- Feet of clay (Daniel 2:33–34).
- Fly in the ointment (Ecclesiastes 10:1).
- Salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).
- Taking a sabbatical (Leviticus 25:1–7).
- Spare the rod, spoil the child (Proverbs 13:24).
- By the sweat of your brow (Genesis 3:19).
- Better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).
- Let he who is without sin cast the first stone (John 8:7).
- Nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

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 |

Home PAGE



Two Requests

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests.

First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart.

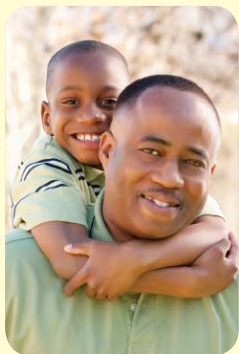
“Wal-Mart!” the preacher exclaimed. “Why Wal-Mart?”

The woman replied, “Then I’ll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week.”

“Live joyfully.”

ECCLESIASTES 9:9

My Dad’s Better



Three boys were debating whose father was the best. The first started the debate by claiming his father knew the mayor. He was soon topped by the second boy who said, “That’s nothing. My dad

knows the governor.” The stakes were getting pretty high, and the eavesdropping father wondered what his young son would say about him. The little boy shot back, “So what! My dad knows God!” Could your son say that? May our children always be able to say, “My dad knows God!”



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



A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper and handed her a piece of paper. After she dried her hands she read:

Cutting the grass: \$5.00
Cleaning up my room this week: \$1.00
Going to the store for you: \$.50
Babysitting my kid brother while you went shopping: \$.25
Taking out the garbage: \$1.00
Getting a good report card: \$5.00
Cleaning up and raking the yard: \$2.00
Total owed: \$14.75

His mother looked at him, and the boy could see memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper, and wrote,

For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: No Charge.

For all the nights that I’ve sat up with you, doctored, and prayed for you:

No Charge.

For all the trying times and all the tears you’ve caused through the years:

No Charge.

For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge.

For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No Charge.

Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is: No Charge.

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at her and said, “Mom, I sure do love you.” Then he took the pen and in great big letters wrote: “PAID IN FULL.”

—Author Unknown

“I can do all things through Christ.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Beloved Pet

The children begged for a hamster, and after the usual fervent vows that they alone would care for it, they got one.

They named it Danny. Two months later, when Mom found herself responsible for cleaning and feeding the creature, she located a prospective new home for it.

The children took the news of Danny’s imminent departure quite well, though one of them remarked, “He’s been around here a long time. We’ll miss him.”

“Yes,” Mom replied, “But he’s too much work for one person, and since I’m that one person, I say he goes.”

Another child offered, “Well, maybe if he wouldn’t eat so much and wouldn’t be so messy, we could keep him.”

But Mom was firm. “It’s time to take Danny to his new home now,” she insisted. “Go and get his cage.”

With one voice and in tearful outrage the children shouted, “Danny? We thought you said Daddy!”



Can You Trust Your Bible?

The evidence that the Bible is the word of God is overwhelming. Consider:

1. Claims Inspiration – Any claim of inspiration must be tested. However, an inspired book would acknowledge its source (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

2. Unity – The Bible contains 66 separate books written in three languages by approximately 40 authors from different locations and diverse backgrounds over a period of 1,500 years, yet there are no contradictions. The theme is consistent resulting in a rich harmony lacking in works by mortal man.

3. Scientific Understanding – While atheists attempt to pit science against religion, true science is the Christian's friend. The Bible demonstrates inspiration both by what it omits and what it includes. The Bible avoids errors about astrology, false medical cures, divination, omens, the Earth's shape and position, which contemporary literature and culture contain. Yet it includes scientific information unknown at that time such as ocean currents, logical dietary laws, the water cycle, seabed topography, and quarantine.

4. Fulfilled Prophecy – The Bible contains verifiable prophecies about nations (Daniel 2:37–45) as well as 300 prophecies regarding the Messiah, including predictions about His birth, death, and resurrection, which were fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. One man could not have accidentally fulfilled all these prophecies (Luke 18:31–34).

5. Historical Reliability – The Bible's historical accuracy has been proven. In Acts, Luke mentions 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 Mediterranean islands. He also names 95 people.¹ These citations contain no mistakes. Sir William Ramsey was a skeptic, but after an on-site study of Luke's accounts, he concluded that Luke was "the very greatest of historians." A book may be historically accurate without being inspired, but an inspired book must be historically accurate.

Despite the evidence, critics will claim, "Yes, but the Bible has been mishandled and corrupted through the years. Today's Bible is not anything like the ancient writing." Centuries of accumulated evidence dispute this claim. The Bible is the best-preserved book in history, with compelling manuscript

evidence. Besides the Bible, the best preserved ancient work is Homer's *The Iliad*. Written around 900 B.C., only 643 known ancient copies exist. The earliest is from approximately 400 B.C., a full 500 years after it was written.

Compare this example to the Bible. More than 5,000 manuscripts of the New Testament exist. The earliest fragments are from a mere 35 years after the books were written.

In addition, many early Christians wrote defenses, sermons, and commentaries that contain more than 86,000 direct quotations from the scriptures. In fact, 99.86 percent of the New Testament could be reconstructed from these quotations alone.

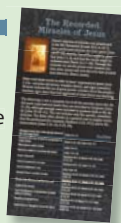
This conclusive evidence proves that the Bible is trustworthy. New finds and continuing research show that our Bible is identical to the text of the earliest days of Christianity. —Luke Griffin

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

¹ Metzger, Bruce, *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, Content*.

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 Recorded Miracles of Jesus" bookmark as a way of saying "thanks" for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name: _____

Address: _____

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: Quirky Characters 1. Esau (Genesis 25:25); 2. Thomas (John 20:24–25); 3. Jehu (2 Kings 9:20); 4. Solomon (1 Kings 3:15–28); 5. Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4); 6. Elisha (2 Kings 2:22–23); 7. Esther (Esther 2:7); 8. Paul (2 Corinthians 1:1; 10:10); 9. Absalom (2 Samuel 14:25–26); 10. Job (James 5:11); 11. Elijah (2 Kings 1:8); 12. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:4); 13. Leah (Genesis 29:17); 14. Samson (Judges 16:5–6); 15. Balaam (Numbers 22:29); 16. Moses (Numbers 12:3); 17. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2–3); 18. Eglon (Judges 3:17); 19. Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:33); 20. Ehud (Judges 3:21).

The Most Unique Bible Characters

Directions: Genesis 2:7, 19; 5:27; 29:18–20; Numbers 12:3; Judges 3:17; 11:30–31; 14:5–6; 15:4–5; 1 Samuel 17:4; 2 Samuel 2:18; 1 Kings 3:10–12; 10:14, 23; 2 Chronicles 33:1–13; Esther 2:7; Job 1–2; Jeremiah 9:1; Lamentations 1:12; Daniel 4; 5:2–6; Matthew 11:11; 27:3–5; Luke 19:2–4; Acts 13:4, 15:36; 18:23

1. Earliest: _____, first human being
2. Oldest: Methuselah, _____ years old
3. Strongest: _____, carnal Nazirite God used to defeat Philistines
4. Wisest: _____, son of David
5. Richest: _____, who received 666 talents of gold in one year
6. Tallest: _____, who was over nine feet tall, killed in battle by David
7. Shortest: _____, who once climbed a sycamore tree just to catch a glimpse of Jesus
8. Fattest: _____, Moabite king who was killed by the Israelite judge Ehud
9. Meekest: _____, author of the first five books of the Bible
10. Cruellest: _____, who shed blood from one end of Judea to the other, later repented
11. Fastest: _____, as "light of foot as a wild roe"
12. Greatest of the Prophets: _____ the Baptist, the predecessor of Jesus
13. Guiltiest: _____, who willingly betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
14. Proudest: _____, the Babylonian king who destroyed Jerusalem, but was later humbled
15. Most Beautiful: _____, a Jewish queen who saved her people, the Jews
16. Most Traveled: _____, the tireless missionary
17. Most Sorrowful: _____, who saw his beloved Jerusalem destroyed
18. Most Persecuted: _____, who was attacked by Satan
19. Most Love-struck: _____ who worked for Rachel's father seven years for the hand of Rachel in marriage
20. The Most Frightened: _____, whose knees trembled when the handwriting on the wall appeared
21. The Most Rash: _____, vowed to offer first thing to meet him

The 8 New Testament Writers

- The Gospel of Matthew was written by the Apostle Matthew about (circa) A.D. 55–62.
- The Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark c. A.D. 55–62.
- The Gospel of Luke was written by the physician Luke c. A.D. 55–62.
- The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John c. A.D. 85.
- The book of Acts was written by Luke c. A.D. 62.
- The books of Romans through Philemon were written by the Apostle Paul from c. A.D. 50 to 68 (but not in the order in which they appear in the Bible).
- The Letter to the Hebrews is of uncertain authorship (possibly Paul) and was written around A.D. 67.
- The Letter of James was written by James, the Lord's brother, c. A.D. 48.
- Peter's two letters were written by the Apostle Peter c. A.D. 66.
- John's first, second, and third letters were written by John by about A.D. 90.
- The letter to Jude was written by Jude, the Lord's brother, c. A.D. 67.
- The book of Revelation was written by John around A.D. 90-95. (Some date it A.D. 69 or A.D. 85.)

"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" 2 PETER 1:21

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- ▶ I've Been There. What I Learned about Faith and God When Facing a Brain Tumor —Ricky Phillips
- ▶ Have You Counted the Cost if Your Soul Should Be Lost? —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ A Look at Demon Possession in the New Testament—Allen Webster

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Free Marriage Enrichment

Do you need a little encouragement in your marriage? Just starting out? Going through a rocky time? Each year the churches of Christ host the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This year's instructors were B.J. Clarke of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mike Vestal of Midland, Texas. Their seven sessions will provide laughter, insights, and motivation for building the marriage God wants you to have. Listen at www.housetohouse.com/hth/Audio/marriage.htm



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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

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- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Made a Blood Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> God's View of Abortion |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sermons of a Drunk Preacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Back issues of <i>House to House/Heart to Heart</i> |

OBITUARY

Jesus Christ, A.D. 33

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas Iscariot, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the supposed son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth and Mary, His devoted mother. (He often substantiated His claim that His true Father was God.) Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful apostles, and numerous disciples.

Jesus was self-educated and spent the last three years of this life working as a teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a medical doctor, and it is reported that He healed many patients. Until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a last supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need. —Author Unknown

P. S.: A remarkable follow up report to this obituary: On the third day after the crucifixion, His followers discovered that the tomb was empty! Jesus had told them He would rise from the dead, and true to His Word, He still lives. Read Luke 24 for the amazing account of what happened on the third day.

Ask for the Old Paths

Christianity is not some newfangled way gotten up in modern times by men more zealous than well-informed. The whole of Christianity is in the New Testament. Anything in religion which is not as old as the New Testament is no part of Christianity. The "Old Paths" for us are the ways traveled by the apostles and early Christians who were guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 6:16; John 16:13). The New Testament gives us a history of the church of Christ for nearly three-quarters of a century. You should choose that church today, and make your life as a member of it conform to the New Testament doctrine.

—Gus Nichols



Is It Later than We Think?

Someone prepared an interesting timetable that shows a mathematical parallel of a life span with a 24-hour day.

See what you have accomplished or left unaccomplished. Have we made adequate preparation to live with God forever?

How many hours have passed?

If you are 15 it's 8:51 A.M.

If you are 20 it's 11:08 A.M.

If you are 25 it's 12:25 P.M.

If you are 30 it's 1:25 P.M.

If you are 35 it's 2:59 P.M.

If you are 40 it's 4:16 P.M.

If you are 45 it's 5:43 P.M.

If you are 50 it's 6:50 P.M.

If you are 55 it's 8:08 P.M.

If you are 60 it's 10:11 P.M.

If you are 70 it's approaching midnight.



When the bell tolls for you at the midnight hour of death, on which side of God's judgment seat will you stand?

—Author Unknown

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

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