

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 5

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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

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They That Gladly Received His Word Were

BAPTIZED

Allen Webster



Nearly all groups in “Christendom” require some kind of baptism for full membership.¹ There is wide variation among churches regarding various aspects related to this doctrine, but all agree that the Bible includes it in the teaching and practice of the church.

What a blessing it would be to the world if all could “speak the same thing” and have “no divisions among” us on this vital topic! (1 Corinthians 1:10). Such unity is desirable because Jesus said it would help the world believe that God sent Him (John 17:20–21). Such unity is attainable by using a common objective standard. That standard is God’s Word (John 17:17).

Finding salvation is life’s most important quest (Matthew 13:44-46). It is worth whatever struggle or price one has to endure or pay to have it. Paul wrote, “I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (2 Timothy 2:10). God wants “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Divine truth is knowable and liberating (John 8:31–32).

Finding truth on any Bible theme, therefore, is important.

What is the truth about baptism? Since the word *baptism* is not found in the Old Testament, it was not a part of the law given by Moses; it belongs to grace and truth which came by Christ (John 1:17). That is significant because grace saves (Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11–14) and truth frees (John 8:32; Galatians 5:1).

Let’s imagine we’ve never known the word *baptism* before; we’ve never heard a sermon on it; we’ve never read a tract about it; we’ve had no conversation regarding it. For a moment, imagine there are no family histories; no denominational allegiances; no friends, spouses, parents, or preachers to please. Let’s bring an open Bible (2 Timothy 2:15), an open mind (Acts 8:31), some common sense (Isaiah 1:18), and simply knock at God’s door in the Scriptures to ask what He wants us to believe and practice. Let’s pick the Bible up as if for the first time and examine this doctrine (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:17). All who respect the Word can agree that whatever it says is sure to be right (Psalm 33:4; 2 Peter 1:3).

The word *baptism* (various forms) is found 103 times in 75 New Testament verses. It is alluded to in many others (e.g., John 3:3–5; Titus 3:5). On average, it appears in every third chapter in the New Testament. One out of five times when the word is found (22 times), it comes from Jesus Himself. Baptism was the first public act of Jesus’ ministry, and baptism was among the last words He spoke on earth (Matthew 3:17; 28:19). Baptism was preached in the first sermon the church ever heard (“Inauguration Sunday,” the Day of Pentecost) (Acts 2). There are about 3,100 people specifically mentioned as being baptized in the New Testament (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 8:12–13; 9:18; 10:48; 16:14–15, 33; 18:8; 19:5–7; 1 Corinthians 1:14, 16).

WHAT IS BAPTISM? THE MODE OF BAPTISM

Our words “baptism” and “baptize” are borrowed from the Greek language. The Greek verb *baptizo* and noun *baptisma* were transliterated in the King James Version (and subsequent translations) as “baptize” and “baptism.” There is practically no dispute among language experts and Bible scholars of all religions as to the meaning of *baptizo*.² It meant to “dip; plunge; submerge.” The Greeks had words for “sprinkle” (*rantizo*) and “pour” (*cheo*), but the Holy Spirit did not use them on this subject.

One does not need to know Greek, however, to know what baptism means. The most conclusive proof is the Bible itself.

Act of Baptism in the Scriptures

- Water (Acts 8:36)
- Much water (John 3:23)
- Going down into water (Acts 8:38)
- Both baptizer/baptized in water (Acts 8:39)
- Coming up out of water (Acts 8:39)
- Likeness of a birth (John 3:5)
- Likeness of a burial (Romans 6:4)
- Likeness of a planting (Romans 6:5)
- Likeness of a resurrection (Colossians 2:12)
- Washing of the body (Hebrews 10:22).³

What conclusion would one reach using only the Bible to guide him? Which mode—sprinkling, pouring, immersion—best fits? Since “there is one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5), which approach would be safe in preparing for the Judgment?

WHY BE BAPTIZED? THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

A lot has been written and said on this subject, but let’s erase all that we have heard before and see what God’s Word teaches.

Purpose of Baptism in the Scriptures

- Saves (Mark 16:16)
- Puts one into the kingdom (John 3:3–5)
- Grants remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Brings gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- Results in rejoicing (Acts 8:38–39; 16:33–34)
- Fulfills a command (Acts 10:48)
- Washes away sins (Acts 22:16)
- Gets one into Christ’s death, thus into His blood (Romans 6:3–4; Revelation 1:5)
- Raises one with Christ to walk in a new life (Colossians 2:12)
- Puts one into Christ/to “put Christ on” (Galatians 3:27)
- Saves (1 Peter 3:21)

What conclusion would one reading these verses reach concerning baptism’s purpose? Certainly the Bible teaches other things are involved in man’s salvation (e.g., God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice, the Holy Spirit’s work, grace, the gospel, Jesus’ blood, faith, mercy, repentance, confession), but these texts show that God designed baptism as an essential part of His plan.

WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED? THE RECIPIENT OF BAPTISM

In Bible times, preaching about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection preceded baptism (Mark 16:15–16; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4), so baptism was limited to those who could understand and learn (Matthew 28:18–20; cf. John 6:44–45). Those who believed, were penitent, and “gladly received the word” were immersed on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37–38, 41; cf. 8:36–40). These could give evidence of their faith by making a confession of Christ (Acts 2:37; cf. 8:37; 9:9–11; 1 Timothy 6:14–15). Since infants are incapable of hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel message, and are incapable of committing sin (James 1:13–16; 1 John 4:3), they do not need baptism. Infants are sinless and safe (cf. Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Matthew 18:3; 19:14) and do not require baptism. Once one becomes accountable, which usually occurs around puberty (cf. Luke 2:40–52), he needs to be baptized.

Since Jesus said, “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46) would it be safe for anyone to omit scriptural baptism? Since Paul wrote, “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17), would it be acceptable for any church not to teach and practice it? (cf. Matthew 15:1–9; Revelation 22:18–19).

Pursuit of truth must be done on a personal level. We are to “work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12; cf. Acts 2:40). You and I will not be judged by what someone told us the Bible meant. We will be judged by what it actually teaches (John 12:48). We can listen to what others say, but we must study the Bible for ourselves and accept only what we find in it. Truth, properly understood, harmonizes with all other truth. The Bible will not contradict itself. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

It is possible to lay aside the commandments of God by keeping the traditions of men (Mark 7:8); it is also possible to lay aside the traditions of men to keep the commandments of God (Jeremiah 6:16). Many in this generation are doing this very thing by returning to the original church and doctrine as found in the Scriptures. Why not join them?

If you have never been baptized in compliance with the New Testament, ask yourself, “What doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36). Do not let any circumstance, any person, or any emotion stand between you and pleasing God.

“Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Endnotes:

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptism>. Except Quakers and Christian Scientists. According to Wikipedia, Quakers believe baptism is only an external symbol that is no longer to be practiced. They do not believe in baptism of water, but only in an inward, ongoing purification of the human spirit in a life of discipline led by the Holy Spirit.

² All standard lexicons (more than 30 consulted) give this meaning.

³ Adapted from J.A. McNutt, *Workbook on the Plan of Redemption*, 1954.

Fooling God?

Alan Smith tells several interesting stories about below average criminals in a recent Thought for the Day:

- When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan, refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police. They still refused, so the robber called the police and was arrested.
- A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record store, waving their revolvers in the air. One yelled “Nobody moves!” His partner moved, so . . . he shot him. “I was a little nervous,” he was quoted as saying.
- In Great Britain in 1997, a young man decided to blackmail a well-known supermarket chain by threatening to contaminate the foods on sale there. He sent a note demanding 30,000 pounds to be paid into his bank account and provided—just to make sure that they got the right amount into the right account—his bank account number. Not surprisingly he was soon caught and convicted.
- Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message “He’s lying” was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn’t telling the truth. Believing the “lie detector” was working, the suspect confessed.

Trying to keep secrets from God is even more foolish than any of these. All things are naked and open to His eyes (Hebrews 4:13). No action we ever take is a secret from God. No thought we ever think is unknown to Him. Then the text says we must give account to Him. No one will be excused from the judgment seat of Christ. We must all appear there (2 Corinthians 5:10). Don’t think you are smart enough to pull the wool over God’s eyes. Don’t believe for one second that you will get away with sin.

On the other hand, God loves us and wants to forgive us. When He forgives, He forgets (Hebrews 8:12). You can’t hide from God, but you can take advantage of the opportunity to erase your sins from His memory. If you’ve never become a Christian, forgiveness is received by faith and submission to God’s will. That includes believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), repentance—turning away from sinful conduct (Acts 17:30), confession of your faith (Matthew 10:32), and baptism to wash away your sins (Acts 22:16). Such a saved individual must be faithful by walking in the light (1 John 1:7). If you’ve become a Christian in the past, but stepped out of the light, then repent of your sins and confess them, and allow your brothers and sisters in Christ to pray with you for your forgiveness (Acts 8:22, James 5:16).

—Thought for the Day

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

JOHN 8:32



The Power of Pleasant

A lady took her 5-year-old daughter shopping with her. The little girl watched her mother try on one outfit after another, and each time the little girl said, “Mommy, you look beautiful.”

Finally a woman in the next fitting room called out, “May I borrow your daughter for a moment?”

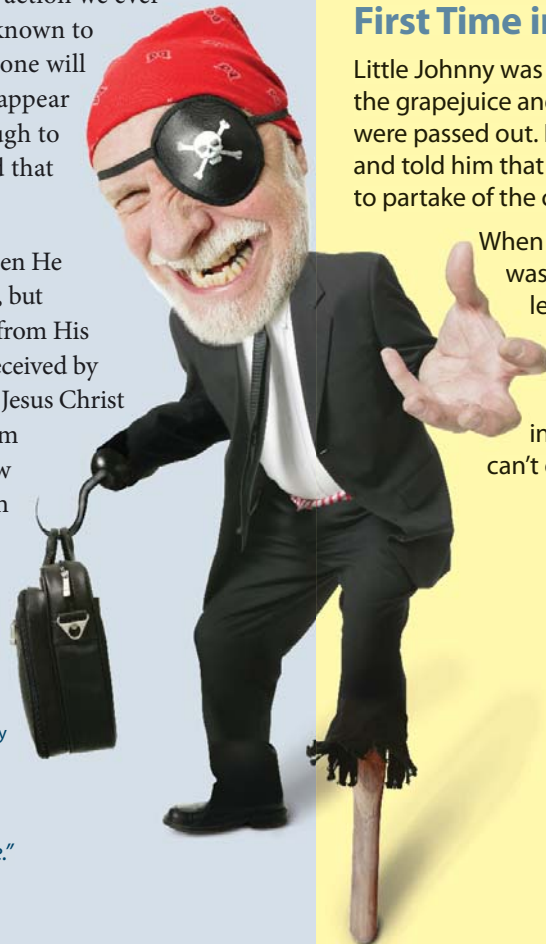
“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.”

PROVERBS 16:24

First Time in Church

Little Johnny was in church service when the grapejuice and unleavened bread were passed out. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake of the communion.

When the collection basket was passed a little later, she leaned over again to tell him to drop his money in, but Little Johnny held his dollar firmly in his hand, stating, “If I can’t eat, I won’t pay!”



Home PAGE



Kids Make Great Parrots

Children make great parrots—especially when you don't want them to repeat what you say. One father learned this the hard way when he invited his boss over for dinner. He was hoping to score a few extra points with his superior but ended up losing it all when his young son asked the boss, "Where are your cards? Dad says you're not playing with a full deck."

—Parade, March 10, 1991, p. 11.



New Cook

Newlywed Wife: "The two things I cook best are meatloaf and apple pie."

Newlywed Husband: "Oh? And which is this?"

Little Johnny's Bike

Little Johnny was one of those holy terrors. His dad was surprised when Johnny's mom suggested that they buy him a bike for his birthday.

"Do you really believe that'll help improve his behavior?" he said.

"Well, no," she admitted, "But it will spread it over a wider area."

"Then was our mouth filled with laughter"

PSALM 126:2

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



What have they seen in thy house?

Hezekiah was not compelled to show his visitors all that was in his house but he volunteered to do so (2 Kings 20; Isaiah 39:1–8).

The prophet later asked, "What have they seen in thy house?" Hezekiah was foolish to show his treasures for it later led to the Babylonians returning to take them away.

Still it is a good question. What is there to be seen in our homes? If there is evil in our homes, we cannot always conceal it from our guests. If there is good, it likewise cannot be hidden. The all-seeing eye of heaven is aware of everything that happens in our homes (Hebrews 4:13).

Friend, let us ask ourselves, "What have they seen in our houses?"

- Love or hatred, concern or indifference, gratitude or ingratitude, unselfishness or selfishness in the home relationships? Does each member think others exist only to meet his every whim and fancy? (cf. Philippians 2:1–5).
- What type of reading material is allowed in our home? Is it material built upon worldly things or erected upon the excellencies of the Bible? Are there true confessions in the home or the confessions of truth as found in the Bible and sound reading material? (Philippians 4:8).
- What about the television programs we watch? Certain movies are R-rated. Instead of such fare, families need to restrict those shows designed to appeal to our lower and baser elements. Many shows not rated so extreme are also unfit for consumption—especially young, impressionable minds (Psalm 101:3; Ephesians 4:22–24).
- Would they witness the long face of pouting, the quick flare of a temper tantrum, or uncontrollable bursts of anger when something fails to please you? (Colossians 3:8).
- What type of spiritual atmosphere have they seen in our homes? Can they leave and say we are a spiritually minded and Bible-centered family? Paul wrote, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).
- Would they have observed us giving thanks for every meal? (1 Timothy 4:3–4). Would it be so common and frequent a habit that our children would automatically wait for an expression of thanks before they passed the first dish of food to the guests?
- How long would a guest have to remain in our home before he saw the family head read the Bible and heard him pray with the family gathered around him? (Matthew 5:6).
- What do guests see the family do if it is Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday night? Do they witness every member making preparation to attend the services of the church? Are they invited to attend? If they refuse, do the guests see the family set aside their plans to go and remain home to entertain the current visitors (Hebrews 10:25)? Or do they hear the family say, "If you will not go with us, just make yourselves comfortable. We will be back as soon as worship is concluded" (Matthew 6:33).
- Ancient Hebrews believed if they failed to teach their children a trade, they taught them to steal. Have they seen children who are required to earn their allowance and perform their part of the household and yard duties? (Proverbs 22:6).
- Have they seen the home as a workshop for winning the lost to Christ? (Mark 16:15–16).

—From *Christ in the Home*, Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

Was Judas Really a Traitor?



In conjunction with “Easter season,” the National Geographic Society released an ancient document dubbed the “Gospel of Judas.”

In their news releases, National Geographic indicated the information in this third century papyrus codex threatened the “official” doctrine of the church by offering an alternative view of the gospel story as revealed by biblical writers.

In this “Gospel of Judas,” Judas was given special insight into the plans of Christ, and as His most favored disciple, it was his task to “betray” Jesus so that His plans could be carried out. The text does not include any mention of the crucifixion or resurrection.

It is interesting that the “Gospel of Judas” is supposed to be a secret conversation

between Jesus and Judas, although it is written in the third person, and could not have been written either by Jesus or Judas. Since neither Jesus nor Judas could have written it, how did this unknown writer know about this secret conversation?

The document is a papyrus codex discovered near El Minya, Egypt, in the 1970s. It is no doubt a copy of an earlier Greek text that was condemned by Irenaeus, an early church father, about 180 A.D. It was probably produced by a second century member of a Gnostic sect. The Gnostics [from the Greek word for knowledge] believed that they had special knowledge not known to others, and taught many things contrary to the Bible.

The “Gospel of Judas,” like many other ancient documents (Gospel of Thomas, Shepherd of Hermas, and Ecclesiasticus),

is interesting, but provides little real insight into the scriptures. Just because it is an old document, it is not necessarily true or valuable.

“And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him” (Mark 14:10–11). Judas remains a tragic man caught up in his own greed. He is a warning to us.

—Bob Prichard, Oxford, Alabama

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**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 “Questions People Ask: Homosexuality” bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: Roots, Fruits, Leaves, Flowers: 1. Grapes, pomegranates, figs (Numbers 13:23); 2. Love of money (1 Timothy 6:10); 3. Bulrushes (Exodus 2:3); 4. Branches (Romans 11:16); 5. Tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17); 6. Word of God (Isaiah 40:8); 7. Noah (Genesis 9:20-21); 8. Figs (Isaiah 38:21); 9. No depth of earth (Matthew 13:5-6); 10. Olive (Genesis 8:11); 11. He drank it with them in the kingdom (Matthew 26:29); 12. Lily (Matthew 6:28-29); 13. Bramble bush (Judges 9:10-15); 14. Fig (Genesis 3:7); 15. Healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2); 16. Cut (hewn) down (Matthew 3:10); 17. Apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 25:11); 18. Vine (John 15:1)

Unusual Deaths

Find answers here: Numbers 16:31–32; 1 Samuel 4:14–18; 31:5–6; 2 Samuel 11:15, 24; 18:9–14; 1 Kings 22:20, 24; Kings 9:30–37; Esther 7:10; Acts 5:1-5; 12:1–2

- _____ thrown from a window and struck the ground.
- _____ Apostle killed with a sword
- _____ fell on his sword after seeing that King Saul had killed himself
- _____ lied to Spirit and fell dead
- When Eli heard that the ark had been captured by the Philistines, he _____
- How did Haman die after King Ahasuerus was told of his plot to kill Queen Esther's people? _____
- _____ challenged Moses' spiritual authority and was swallowed by the earth
- _____ hand-delivered a letter, which led to his own death
- _____ King who died in battle when struck by a random arrow between the plates of his armour
- _____ got his hair caught in a tree as he fled on his horse, and Joab shot him in the heart with three darts.

Famous Children

Find answers here: Genesis 22:1–12; 37:28; Exodus 2:5–10; 1 Samuel 1:20, 28; 2:19; Luke 2:36–38;

- _____ Widow who met the baby Jesus at temple.
- _____ Jewish child adopted by Pharaoh's daughter
- _____ His mother, Hannah, dedicated him to the Lord, and he became the last judge of Israel.
- _____ By commandment of God, this boy was prepared as a burnt offering, but spared just in time.
- _____ Sold into slavery by his brothers
- _____ His mother brought him a new coat every year when he worked in the temple.

—adapted from quiz.christiansunite.com

A Message from the

KING

The key word in Matthew 11:28–30 is “rest.” “Rest” means “relief from crushing burdens, such as crippling anxiety, frustration, futility, and the misery of a sin-laden conscience.” Therefore, Jesus gives three commands that precede this wonderful rest:

1. **Come.** The weight of sin is a heavy burden. Jesus relieves the heaviness of sin through forgiveness.
2. **Take.** It was the custom of students to attach themselves to their teacher. It was called “yoked.”
3. **Learn.** We must never cease studying and searching the Bible to learn about Jesus. —Mark N. Posey

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

MATTHEW 11:28–30

Want to learn more about baptism?

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 - ▶ The Where and Why of Baptism —Stephen R. Bradd
 - ▶ The What and How of Baptism —Stephen R. Bradd
 - ▶ Is Baptism Essential to Salvation? —Michael Shepherd
 - ▶ Why Do You Think about Baptism? —James Watkins
 - ▶ The Truth about Baptism —Sam Jones
 - ▶ Tell Me the Story of Jesus’ Baptism —Wendell Winkler
 - ▶ Six New Testament Baptisms —Glenn Colley
 - ▶ Scriptural Baptism —Wendell Winkler
 - ▶ What Hinders Me from Being Baptized? —Allen Webster
- To listen to these go to www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio

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- NEW!** Has Paternity Been Determined in the Bethlehem Case?
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- What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- Jesus Made a Blood Donation for You
- How to Follow Jesus
- Launch Out with Jesus
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- Doctor Who Never Lost a Case
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- Death Hurts, but Jesus Helps
- Where Omnipresent God Isn’t
- Did He Not Also Die for These?
- Looking for Love
- What Teens Want
- Jesus Was Not a Farmer But . . .
- How to Stop Worrying
- Happiness Guaranteed!
- When Jesus Went on a Picnic
- The Disciples on a Field Trip
- Mary’s Little Lamb No More
- Was God Praised?
- What to Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ
- What God Does with His Trash
- Give Your Tobacco to a Billy Goat (teen smoking)
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

A Little

Math Test

Below is a list of numbers. Cover all the numbers with a card or your hand. Slip the cover down until only the first number shows. Say it out loud. Move the card down to reveal the second number. Add it to your previous number and then say the new total out loud. Continue to the end, each time exposing one number and adding it to the previous total. Be sure to say each new total out loud.

1000
10
1000
20
1000
30
1000
40

What total did you get? Unless you are very unusual, you came up with 5000. The correct answer is 4100, but for some reason, when you get 4060 and add 40 to it, it comes out 5000.

This just shows how easy it is to miscalculate. We sometimes add just as poorly in religious matters. For instance, some think that their

good works will **add up** to an eternal home. One cannot be saved by his own goodness; he must be saved by the grace of God (Ephesians 2; Titus 2:11–14).

Others take John 3:16, Acts 16:31, and other references that mention faith and then they **add** them together to **equal** “salvation” as a total. But the Bible just doesn’t **add** up that way. Jesus said that man must live by “every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The Book says that in **addition** to having faith, we must have penitence, confession, and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:26–27).

As far as this world is concerned, we might get by without being great mathematicians, but our eternal destiny depends on whether we learn to accept all of God’s revelation.

Let’s not **add** to that word, or **subtract** from it in any way (Revelation 22:18–19). Let us not **divide** our allegiance between God and the world. Let us instead manifest a **simple interest** in doing what God says do in the way He said to do it (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9).

Think about it . . .

Ephesians 4:3–6 lists seven “ones.” They are: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. If we can readily accept that there is just one God, and one Lord, and one Spirit, why cannot we just as readily accept the fact that there is just one faith? To say that there are faiths (plural) and that a person can take the faith of his choice, also allows a person to say that there are many gods and that each person can have the god of his choice. Think about it.

What Can I Give Him?

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part—
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti, “In the Bleak Midwinter,” *The Book of Jesus*



Opinion Poll

The Moral State of America

Go to www.housetohouse.com/poll.aspx to give us your opinion on these moral issues facing our nation. As a thank you for taking the time to participate, we will give you a free copy of Dr. Brad Harrub's DVD, "One Nation Under... Who?"

1. Abortion: _____

- a. I see it as a woman's right to choose.
- b. I see it as a life which should not be destroyed.
- c. I haven't made up my mind.

2. Alcohol: _____

- a. I am a teetotaler. I do not believe in drinking alcohol in any amount.
- b. I drink socially. I believe alcohol use is acceptable in moderation.
- c. I party and drink heavily at times. I see it as nobody's business but mine.

3. Religious Freedom: _____

- a. I believe that America's religious freedoms are in danger of being taken away.
- b. I believe that religious freedom should not be allowed to extend to views with which the majority disagree.
- c. I believe in freedom from religion, and want to remove every hint of it from the public arena.

4. Racism: _____

- a. I see racism as getting better in the country and it cannot come quick enough for me.
- b. I see racism everywhere and do not see it improving much.
- c. I see racism used as an excuse to push a political agenda.

5. Homosexuality: _____

- a. I see homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle and believe it should be protected under law.
- b. I see homosexuality as a threat to the traditional family and believe our laws should reflect traditional family structure.
- c. I see homosexuality as a sin and perversion.

To see extended survey or for more information on these topics, and to receive your free DVD, go to www.housetohouse.com/poll.aspx

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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 have claimed that this was 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?"



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

Similarly, at age 82, near death, almost blind, and with fading memory, John Newton, author of the timeless song, "Amazing Grace," spoke these words: "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: I'm a great sinner and Christ is a great savior."

The book of Romans makes clear these significant truths that Simpson and Newton articulated.

The *problem* is sin (Romans 3:10, 23).

The *penalty* for sin is death (6:23).

The *power* of God unto salvation is the "Gospel" (1:16).

The *provision* for sin is Christ's death (5:8).

The *price* paid for sin is His blood (5:9).

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 that YOU can make is your Savior, too! —Allan Eldridge / David A.

Sargent