



House
to
House



Heart
to
Heart

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

*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 is a Good Candidate?

Allen Webster

Since this is an election year, we are hearing the word “candidate” more than usual. We’re being urged to vote for this man or that woman and this party or that position.

The point of this article has nothing to do with American politics. It’s about another “election.” The New Testament uses the words *elect*, *elected*, and *election* twenty times as synonyms for salvation. Peter was no politician, but he taught us the importance of elections—*our own!* He wrote, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, *give diligence to make your calling and election sure*: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Pet. 1:10).

Jesus said only a few will “get elected” (make it to heaven) (Mt. 7:13,14). More than 70% of Americans believe they will go to heaven, according to one poll, but who is actually on the invitation list to the Lamb’s marriage feast? The disciples once marveled when Jesus explained how hard it is to make it to heaven (Mt. 19:23-26; cf. Lk. 13:24). They asked, “Who then can be saved?”—a good question. He said it would be impossible for any to be saved by man, but with God all things are possible. Let us look at several “elections” in the Bible’s book of conversions (Acts) to find what people made good “candidates.” (The answers may surprise you!)

THOSE DEVOUT IN FALSE RELIGION (ACTS 2:1-47). Those gathered in Jerusalem for the A.D. 33 Feast of Pentecost were devout men from every nation under heaven (2:5). Many had traveled quite a distance and sacrificed a great deal to be there. Would such dedicated religious people need conversion? Peter made it clear they were lost and needed to do something to be saved (2:22,37,38). He convinced three thousand to believe in Jesus, repent, and be baptized (2:37-41). Luke says they were added to the church (2:47). Many devout, religious people today still need conversion. God looks for more than devotion—He looks to see if our religious practices are *right* (conforming to Scripture, Psa. 19:8). We cannot be saved if we are devoted to *false* religion (Gal. 1:6-9; Rm. 9:2,3; 10:1-3).

THOSE DECEIVED BY “MIRACLES” (8:4-12). Simon the sorcerer had for “a long time bewitched” (deceived) many in Samaria into believing he worked great miracles (8:11). But when they saw God’s true power and heard Philip’s true preaching, they were converted to Christ (8:12). They are not unlike many today. Many “Simons” claim to be “some great one” and allege to work miracles, heal the sick, predict the future, and tell God’s secrets. They do not explain that they study how to move audiences and carefully stage their productions. They learn to use psychology and closely screen applicants. Those who have followed their “sorcery” and emotionalism need to switch to the Truth. Miracles have ceased in this age (1 Cor. 13:8-10), but Jesus has not ceased working. He still saves those who come to Him (Mt. 11:28-30). Since the Bible is the standard that will judge us (Jn. 12:48), we need to base our religion on it rather than on simple feelings or emotions.

THOSE WHO ARE SINCERE, BUT IN ERROR (10:1-48). Cornelius was a good man—God-fearing, generous, and religious (10:2). If any man would *not* need converting, Cornelius would appear to be that man. But he was told to send for Peter to learn what to do to be saved (10:5; cf. 11:14). Upon hearing Peter’s sermon, he and his family were converted to Christ (10:48). Many today feel they are acceptable to God simply because they possess good morals, give to good causes, obey the law, and, perhaps, attend some religious ser-

vices. But Cornelius says to them, “Being a good person is not enough. You need to be baptized into Christ and become a member of His church” (cf. Gal. 3:26,27).

THOSE COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF GOD (16:30-34). The jailer charged with keeping Paul and Silas was not a Jew. He was therefore uninformed of what the Old Testament said about a coming Messiah. Paul and Silas taught him that he needed to believe on Christ to be saved (16:31). When he learned what that involved, he and his household were baptized “the same hour of the night.” He was then said to be a believer (16:34). To those who oppose foreign evangelism because those in other lands may not believe in the Bible, the jailer says, “Please do not ignore us. We need the Gospel and will come to believe and obey the Bible.”

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMMORAL (18:8). There was no Las Vegas or San Francisco in the Roman Empire, but there was a Corinth. Its citizens were widely known for immorality and ungodliness. Evangelizing here struck fear into the seasoned heart of the veteran Apostle Paul (Acts 18:9,10; 1 Cor. 2:3). “Surely,” he must have thought, “I’m wasting my time here.” But the Lord knew what Paul did not. Though those who eventually composed the membership rolls of Christ’s church in Corinth were more used to being featured in gossip columns or police records (1 Cor. 6:9-11), many obeyed when they heard the Word. The Gospel is powerful enough to reach the “out-and-out sinner” (Rm. 1:16). It can take the bottle from the drunkard, the pornographer from his magazines, the homosexual from his perversion, the cigarettes from the smoker, the thief from his loot, and the needle from the addict. Gospel teachers should never judge another as being unfit for Gospel instruction. Jesus worked among publicans and sinners (Lk. 7:34). He had success at changing them then and His Gospel can change people today. Those involved in such behavior should not judge themselves unworthy of being Christians. People can change. It may not be easy, but with the strength of Christ (Phil. 4:13), it can be done.

THOSE WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY BAPTIZED (SOMETIMES) (ACTS 19:1-6). Paul met some in Ephesus who had been baptized, but whom he determined had been incorrectly baptized. After correcting their misunderstandings, he baptized them again. Some today who have been baptized still need conversion, because they misunderstood what they were doing. They may have been “baptized” as infants and have not understood what was going on (we must be *believers* before baptism, Mk. 16:16). They may have been taught they were saved before baptism (baptism is the act God uses to wash away sins, Acts 22:16; cf. 1 Pet. 3:21). They may have been baptized in an incorrect manner (baptism is immersion, Rm. 6:4). They may not have been taught they had to repent before baptism (Acts 2:38), and thus never changed their lifestyle. In each case, one needs to be baptized again *correctly*.

Who is a good candidate for salvation? We all are. *You are!* One old preacher had little education, but knew about “politics.” He put it this way, “God voted for you; the devil voted against you; now it’s up to you to cast the deciding vote.” The polls are open.

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

~ 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

That's All I Want



In his beautiful book, *I Shall Not Want*, Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday school teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire Twenty-third Psalm. A beautiful four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm. The little girl came to the rostrum, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said: "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want." She bowed again and went and sat down. That may well be the greatest interpretation I've ever heard. ~ Tim Hansel

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" ~ John 10:11

SKIPPING CHURCH

— BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH?

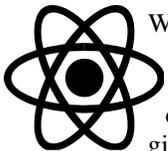


A recent study shows that the quantity of life suffers from skipping church. Researchers at the Universities of Texas and Colorado as well as Florida State University found that those who regularly attend religious services live 10% longer than those who never darken the church doors. For those who attend services once a week, statistics indicate they will live to age 82—and can tack on an additional year of life expectancy if they attend more than once a week. Those who don't go at all live to an average age of 75. ~ *USA Today*, 4/26/99

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... for the Father seeketh such to worship him"

~ Hebrews 10:25; John 4:23

Progress?



We have too many men of science, too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount... Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

~ General Omar N. Bradley in a 1948 Armistice Day address. *Christianity Today*, Vol. 32, no. 4.

"The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace" ~ Isaiah 59:8

The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on opposite ends of a pole he carried across his neck. One pot had a crack in it; the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house. The cracked pot arrived only half full.

For two years the bearer delivered one and a half pots full of water to his master's house daily. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. The cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection, and miserable that it was only able to accomplish half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side allows water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer said nothing to the old cracked pot, except, seeming to change the subject, replied, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." As they went up the hill, the cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the path side, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because, as always, it had leaked out half its load. It again apologized for its failure. The bearer replied, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all "cracked pots." But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table. In God's great economy, nothing goes to waste. So as we seek ways to serve, don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, improve those things that can be helped, and allow God to take advantage of each talent, and flaw, to bring beauty to His pathway. Go out boldly, knowing that in our weakness we find His strength.

"...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong"





The
HOMIE
PAGE
by Chuck Webster

I Loved You Enough...

...to ask where you are going, with whom, and what time you would be home.

...to insist that you save your money and buy a bike for yourself even though we could afford to buy one for you.

...to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend was a creep.

...to make you take a Milky Way back (with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk, "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."

...to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me fifteen minutes.

...to let you see anger, disappointment, and tears in my eyes. Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.

...to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh they almost broke my heart.

...to say "NO" when I knew you would resent me for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all. I'm glad I won them, because in the end you won, too.

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him...The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Prov. 22:15; 29:15).

Please Do It Better

In her autobiography, Linda Ellerbee, then co-anchor of NBC News Overnight, once received a letter from a little girl that said, "Dear Miss Ellerbee, when I grow up I want to do exactly what you do. Please do it better." What a thought for parents! Little eyes are watching us, little feet are following us, little minds are scrutinizing us. One day, to a great extent, our steps will be their steps, our thoughts will be their thoughts, our words will be their words. The little girl's admonition ought to ring true with all of us: please do it better.

"And he walked in all the ways of...his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD..." (1 Kings 22:43).

Do You Know This Little Boy?

DEAR GOD:

I'm a little boy, just eight years old. I've been doing a lot of thinking lately, and I'm worried. Maybe you can help me with some of these things I don't understand. Of course you know that I have been going to Bible study for a long time, and I've learned to love you and the Bible, and I love my teacher for all she has taught me about you and about Jesus.

It's about Mom and Dad that I have been wondering. I love them both with all my heart, and they love me, I know. And more than any thing, I want to know that they are going to heaven when they die. They want me to go, for they've told me so. They send me to Bible Study every Sunday morning and then they come later to church. But why don't Mom and Dad go to Bible Study, too? And Sunday night, when Johnny and Mary and their Mom and Dad go to church, my mom and dad either stay at home, go to movies, or visit friends. Is this all right, God?

Another thing, in Bible School I have learned how important it is to pray and thank you for our food and everything, but you know I've never heard my dad pray...is this all right, God? And my teacher says that it is important to study and worship you, and when I do get to go to church on Sunday night or Wednesday night I don't see her. Is this all right, God?

I guess I'm just kinda mixed up 'cause I think Mom and Dad and my teacher are the best in the world. I want to be just like them when I grow up, and I just want to be sure they are doing the right things so we can live with you some day.

In Jesus' name, Your friend, Billy.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" ~ 1 Corinthians 11:1

Got Kids?

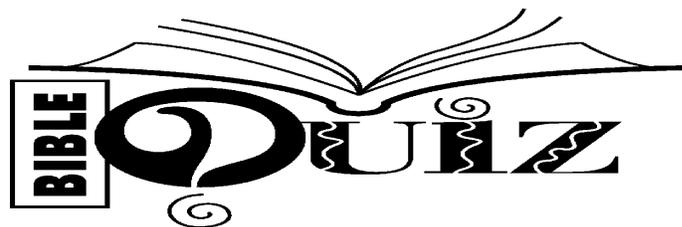
- ö When you give a small child his first hammer, the whole world becomes a nail (T. Smothers).
- ö Have you ever wondered why the sound of the words chocolate pudding carry farther through the air than the words pick up your toys? (S. Redifer).
- ö And then there's the woman who says her children are miniatures, because the miniature back is turned they're in trouble (F. Slater).
- ö Two youngsters were walking home from church after listening to an impassioned sermon against the devil. "What do you think about all that devil stuff?" one asked. The other shrugged. "Well," he said, "you know how Santa Claus turned out—it's probably just your dad."
- ö Things parents would love to hear: "Who cares if the TV is broken?...Pass the broccoli, please...No, thanks. It's too expensive... I've already made my bed...That's okay. None of my friends are allowed to do it either."
- ö After the service was over, a four-year-old boy asked the preacher, "Were you on Noah's ark?" The preacher replied with a laughing, yet emphatic, "No!" But the boy quickly responded with another question, "Well, how did you survive the flood?"
- ö A small boy who had been naughty was told by his mother that he must have a spanking. He fled upstairs and hid under his bed. When his father came home, she told him what had happened. He went upstairs and proceeded to crawl under the bed toward his son. Excitedly, the boy whispered, "Hey, Dad. Is she after you too?"

"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: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" ~ Psalm 127:3-5

Helpful Hints For Parents

1. Make your home the brightest and most attrac-





Demon Possession

How does one respond to the charge that the New Testament endorses superstition by its references to demon possession?

Demon possession was a real, historical phenomenon of the first century. Spirit entities, known as demons [KJV “devils”] did inhabit and afflict human bodies during that age.

Scripture does not spell out the question of demon origin, though Bible scholars have proposed several theories. Some may be readily dismissed, including the theory that demons were the disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race of men who lived in an alleged “gap period” between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. No evidence of any such gap exists and Adam is called the “first man” (1 Cor. 15:45). Others speculate that demons resulted from the cohabitation of angels with antediluvian women (based upon a misunderstanding of Gen. 6:1-4), but Christ taught that angels are sexless beings, incapable of such unions (cf.: Mt. 22:30).

Two more plausible views surmise that: (a) demons were the spirits of wicked dead men whom God permitted to leave the Hadean realm to indwell some people;¹ or, (b) demons were fallen angels who were allowed to escape their confinement (Jude 6) for a similar purpose. Regardless of **origin**, the New Testament recognizes the fact of first-century demoniacs.

As to nature, demons were **spirits** (Mt. 8:16)—not physical (Lk. 24:39). As to character, they were spiritually unclean, evil, and under Satan’s immediate control (Mt. 12:24,43, 45). Demons were intelligent (Mk. 1:24), and could exercise both volition and locomotion whenever permitted (Mt. 12:44,45). Demon possession frequently brought about physical and/or mental illness (**distinguished** from the demon itself, cf.: Mt. 4:24). Dumbness (Mt. 9:32), blindness (Mt. 12:32), convulsions (Mk. 9:18), epilepsy (Mt. 9:32), and supernatural strength (Mk. 5:4, Acts 19:16) were characteristic of demoniacs. No reason is given as to **why** demons entered **particular** individuals; they inhabited men (Mt. 9:32), women (Lk. 8:2), and children (Mk. 7:30).

Apparently demon possession was temporarily permitted by God in order that the supreme authority of Christ might be shown. As the Lord revealed His control over nature (Mk. 4:30), disease (Mk. 1:12), material things (Jn. 2:9), and even death (Jn. 11:44), even so, He also demonstrated His power over the spirit realm (Lk. 11:20). Jesus’ authority over evil spirits amazed His contemporaries. They exclaimed: “...what **new** doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him” (Mk. 1:27). His disciples, by His authority, could also expel demons (Lk. 10:17), except on one occasion when hindered by their weak faith (Mk. 9:28, Mt. 17:20).

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Who Dared to Ask God?

Hints (in order): Hab. 1:1-3; Jer. 15:18; 1 Sam. 23:1-2; Gen. 4:9; 20:4; 18:25; Ex. 3:10-11; Ezek. 11:13; Job 40:3-4; Abram Gen. 15:7-8.

1. “Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance?” (Hint: a prophet.) _____
2. “Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?” (Hint: a prophet.) _____
3. “Shall I go and smite these Philistines?” (a king.) _____
4. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” _____
5. “Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?” _____
6. “Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” _____
7. “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?” _____
8. “All, Lord God, wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?” (Hint: a prophet.) _____
9. “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?” _____
10. “Lord God, whereby shall I know that I inherit it?” _____

Speaking of Churches

Hints (in order): Col. 4:16; Acts 11:30; Tit. 1:5; Rev. 2:13

1. What church received from Paul an epistle that has never been found? _____
2. What church took up a large love offering for the needy believers in Jerusalem? _____
3. On what Greek island did Titus work the churches? _____
4. What church saw faithful Antipas martyred? _____

List the Three...

Hints (in order): Gen. 4:1,2,25; 5:32; Deut. 1:8; 2 Sam. 2:4+1 Kgs. 1:43; Dan. 3:13; Mt. 17:1,2

1. Adam’s first 3 children: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
2. Noah’s 3 sons: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
3. Best known patriarchs: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. Kings of Israel’s United Kingdom. 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____
5. Men thrown into the fiery furnace. 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____
6. Apostles at Jesus’ transfiguration. 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____

Answers to last month’s questions: *Back From the Dead (II)* 1. Elisha (2 Kgs. 13:20-21); 2. Nain (Lk. 7:11-15); 3. The son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kgs. 4:32-35); 4. Many holy people came out of their graves (Mt. 27:52-53); 5. Jairus’ (Luke 8:41-42, 49-55); *What church was it?* 1. Laodicea (Rev. 3:15-16); 2. Philippi (Acts 16:15, 40); 3. Thessalonica (Acts 17:6); 4. Philippi (Phil. 4:1-3); 5. Troas (Acts 20:7-12); 6. Ephesus (Acts 19:19); 7. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 8. Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29); 9. Peter (1 Pet. 5:13); 10. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11); 11. Epaphras (Col. 1:7); 12. Philemon; 13. Ephesus (Ephesian Letter from Paul and Rev. 2:1-7 from John); 14. Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:16); 15. Philippi (Acts 16:18); 16. Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7); 17. Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:2); 18. Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17); 19. Galatia (Gal. 1:6-9); 20. Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

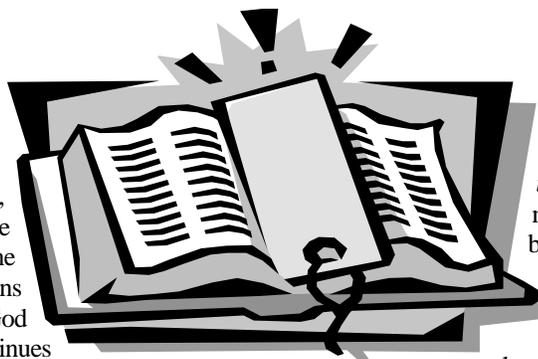
Send your answers in for an opportunity to win a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Don't Hinder Me!

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Thy word is truth" (John 8:32; 17:17).

The point of this inspired language is that, for an accountable person to be saved, he must intelligently understand and obey the Gospel of Christ (cf. Rm. 1:16). This means that the Gospel can be understood, since God does not require the impossible. Yet, it continues to be misunderstood by many people. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies. Paul told Timothy to be gentle with those who "opposed themselves" (2 Tim. 2:22). At others times those we may have come to trust may do us a disservice. Paul wrote to the Galatians that teachers were "hindering" them from obeying the Truth (5:7). Consider some ways we may hinder our understanding of God's Will (and thus our salvation).

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word simply by not studying it. The truth is revealed now via the written Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), not by dreams and visions (Gal. 1:6-9). Since it is in a Book, there is simply no way to understand it without individual diligence and effort (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11). The expression, "Nobody can understand the Bible" does not convey any idea found in the Bible. Such an attitude usually suggests that one has not put forth consistent effort in trying to understand it. We must be willing to exercise effort and self-discipline to come to understand God's Word.



We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by approaching it with preconceived ideas about what we think it teaches. Some say that "it doesn't make any difference what a person believes, anyway" but this does not harmonize with what the Master said (cf. Mt. 7:21-23). We will have difficulty understanding such important topics as the deity of Jesus, the resurrection of the

body, baptism, the one church, worship, the organization of the church, the purpose of life, and how to become a Christian if we have decide what we believe before we ever pick up the Bible. We have to let God tell us what to believe.

We can hinder our understanding of God's Word by allowing the god of this world to blind our minds (2 Cor. 4:3-4). This life's cares, riches and pleasures choke the Word of God to death in the hearts of many people (Lk. 8:14). If we're too busy making a living for this life to think about the next, we're hindering our salvation. Some are also blinded by prejudice (Rm. 10:1-3) and others by popularity. These would rather be popular with man than enjoy the fellowship with God (John 12:42-43).

What a fearful thing it is to fail to know, understand, and obey the Truth (2 Thes. 2:10-12). "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).
~ adapted from Charles L. Morton

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK)

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in the "Survey of the Bible" Study Course.
- 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.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I would like to learn more about your programs for: children/teens/college/singles/young couples/adults/seniors (circle one/more).
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.

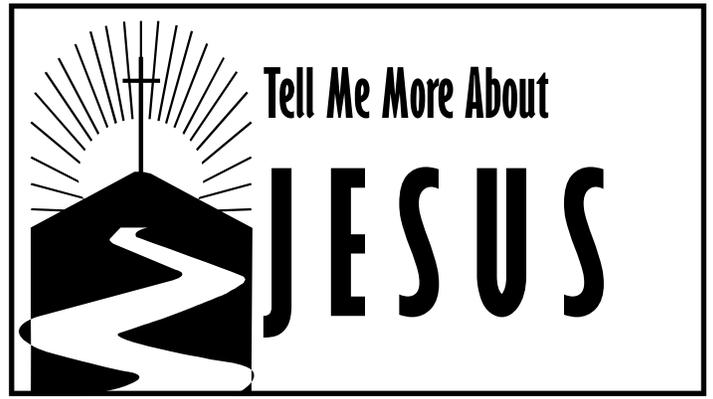
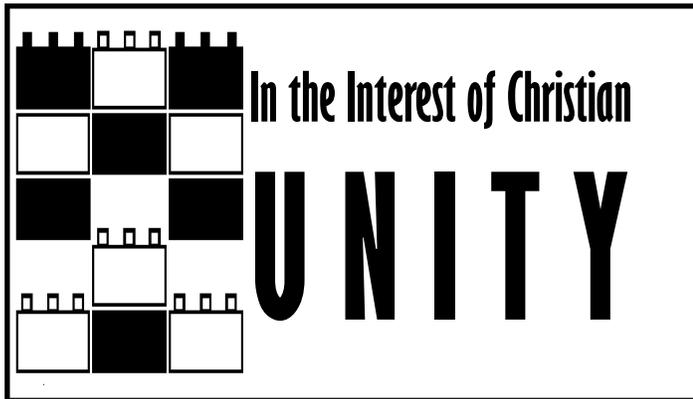
Featured Tracts:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Who Could Believe Such a Story? yThe Restoration Plea
- What Did I Do to Deserve This? yAstrology
- Daily Bible Reading Bookmark yWhat Smoking Did for Me
- Is There a Perfect Church? yIs the Lottery Gambling
- A Search for Moral Values yOn Growing Old
- What Color Are Christians? yWhat About Cave Men?
- Coping with Loneliness yHomosexuality
- Pocket Bible Reference Booklet yThe Rapture?
- From Heaven or From Men? yAccepting Bereavement
- Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage yHelp for Troubled Marriages
- What Must I Do to Be Saved? yQue es la Iglesia de Cristo
- What About the Thief on the Cross? yHope in Christianity
- Do Men Perform Real Miracles Today? yHoly Spirit Baptism
- What to Expect When You Visit the church of Christ
- What Will You Bring to the Marriage Altar? (youth)
- This month's packet (booklet plus all above)
- Other: _____
- Back issues of House to House/Heart to Heart

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Grasshopper Religion



Back at the turn of the last century, a plague of locusts hit the Plains of the United States. In a matter of a few days that swarm of locusts swept over Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas. In less than a week, they did over five hundred million dollars' worth of damage (in that currency). Locusts do not have a king to get them organized (Prov. 30:27). They don't have a draft board to call them into ranks. By instinct a locust knows it has to be in community with other locusts. When that occurs, they can topple kingdoms. The wisdom of the locust is the wisdom that tells us we must have community. ~ "The Wisdom of Small Creatures," Preaching Today, Tape No. 93.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" ~ Romans 12:5; cf. Gal. 3:28

BEING RIGHT



We demand that pharmacists, architects, airline pilots, and other professionals understand the value of being right. In religion, however, many have a different view. They feel that if one is honest and sincere, then it does not make much difference whether he is right or wrong about beliefs or practices.

Jesus does not see it that way. He said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 7:21). God's Will, revealed in the Bible, is right and true (John 17:17). Consequently, to be saved one must be right about religious matters—including the Bible's inspiration, Christ's deity, the plan of salvation, Christ's church, morality, worship. We do not have the right to be wrong about these matters.

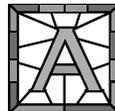
Being right may put one in the minority, and sometimes produces ridicule, as it did with great people like Noah, Daniel, Paul and, and of course, Jesus. We should not allow consequences to stand in the way of consecration (2 Tim. 3:12; Mt. 5:10-12).

What is the divine plan for being right? First, submit to God's authority (1 Pet. 5:6). Second, diligently search for the truth (Mt. 7:7). Third, having found the truth, faithfully obey the revealed plan of God (Mt. 7:21). ♥

Not Much Help

Two riders on a two-man bicycle came to a steep hill. After a great struggle, they finally topped what proved to be a very stiff climb. The front man, breathing hard, turned to say, "Boy, that sure was a hard climb." The other replied, "Yes, and if I hadn't kept the brakes on we would certainly have rolled back down." Cooperation is the key—"...be ye all of one mind..." (1 Pet. 3:8)!

He is Everything to Me

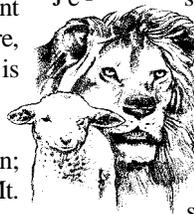


In His life, Christ is an example. In His death, He is a sacrifice. In His resurrection, He is a conqueror. In His ascension, He is a king. In His intercession, He is a high priest. Christ is full and sufficient for all His people. He is bread, wine, milk, living waters, to feed them; He is a garment of righteousness to cover and adorn them; a Physician to heal them; a Counselor to advise them; a Captain to defend them; a Prince to rule them; a Prophet to teach them; a Priest to make atonement for them; a Husband to protect them; a Father to provide; a Brother to relieve; a Foundation to support; a Root to quicken; a Head to guide; a Treasure to enrich; a Sun to enlighten; and a Fountain to cleanse. ~ John Spencer (1630-1693)



"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord..." ~ Revelation 1:8

A Lion and A Lamb



Jesus Christ exhibited a divine paradox of the lion and the lamb. He was the Lion in majesty, rebuking the winds and demons. He was the Lamb in meekness, "who when he was reviled, reviled not again" (1 Pet. 2:23). He was the Lion in power, raising the dead. He was the Lamb in patience who was "brought...to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7). He was the Lion in authority, "Ye have heard that it hath been said ... but I say unto you" (Mt. 5:18,20,22). He was the Lamb in gentleness, "Suffer the little children to come unto me" (Mt. 19:14). ~ Oswald Chambers

What They Said About JESUS

-] The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in.
-] There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three.
-] In most trials, people are tried for what they have done, but this was not true of Christ's. Jesus was tried for who He was. ~ Josh McDowell
-] In Jesus we have ... the holiest man who ever lived, and yet it was the prostitutes and lepers and thieves who adored Him, and the religious who hated His guts. ~ Rebecca Manley Pippert

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." ~ John 21:25

I enjoyed reading one time about Queen Elizabeth's



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Mark records an unusual story relating to the life of Christ. Jesus entered Capernaum and as soon as the news of His arrival spread, a great crowd assembled “insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them” (Mk. 2:2).

A man with palsy, who was unable to help himself, had the good fortune of having four friends to assist him in reaching Christ so he could be healed. The motivation and interest of these friends was such that when it seemed impossible to reach Jesus because of the crowd in and around the house, they carried the man on top of the house, tore open a place in the roof, and lowered him into the room below!

They refused to give up. Their love for their friend found a way to overcome all obstacles in order to reach Jesus.

There is a lesson for us in this story. In the Christian life:

- ▶ Love finds a way to serve!
- ▶ Love finds a way to save!
- ▶ Love finds a way to give!
- ▶ Love finds a way to worship!
- ▶ Love finds a way to overcome!

When we take hold to and use this powerful force—Biblical love—we will discover resources that we did not know existed. It will enable us to accomplish those goals that are before us in living the Christian life. No wonder Paul said, “Love never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8).

Remember, love finds a way; indifference finds an excuse. Do that good deed now; serve God now; overcome Satan now! We never know how soon it will be too late (Jas. 4:14)!

We in the church of Christ love God and His Word—and we are sure you do as well. Please come visit with us Sunday and study God’s Word with us. We also encourage you to take advantage of the FREE study materials offered inside.