

HOUSE to HOUSE  
HEART to HEART

www.housetohouse.com

# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 4

# WORTHY OF PRAISE

Watch  
on youtube



Allen Webster

The preacher may make us laugh,  
and the songs may make us weep.

The fellowship may warm our souls,  
and the communion may give us chill  
bumps. But if God does not enjoy the  
hour, the service has failed. The goal of  
worship is to make God “high above all  
nations, His glory above the heavens”  
(Psalm 113:4). “Praise the Lord! For it  
is good to sing praises to our God; for  
it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful”  
(Psalm 147:1).

A hymn that was likely composed in the  
Talmudic period expresses our sentiment:

If my lips could sing as many songs as  
there are waves in the sea;  
If my tongue could sing as many hymns  
as there are ocean billows;  
If my mouth filled the whole firmament  
with praise;  
If my face shone like the sun and moon  
together;  
If my hands were to hover in the sky like  
powerful eagles,

And my feet ran across mountains as  
swiftly as the deer;  
All that would not be enough to pay you  
fitting tribute,  
O Lord my God.<sup>1</sup>

If we had the tongues of angels, we  
could not praise God as He deserves to be  
praised. If we were born speaking praises  
and had breath never to cease, we could  
never adequately exalt His name in this  
life. If every rock could speak, it would  
praise God. If the stars could sing, their  
song would be in His honor. If the animals  
could write, their words would form new  
praises for their Creator. The very stones  
would praise Him if the need arose, and a  
thousand legions of angels would leap to  
do His will. “Let heaven and earth praise  
Him, the seas and everything that moves  
in them” (Psalm 69:34).

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAISING GOD?

The word *praise* (in various forms) is  
used 268 times in Scripture. In Old Tes-

tament times, God's people took praising Him seriously. Leah rejoiced at the birth of a son and cried, "Now will I praise the Lord" (Genesis 29:35). So she named the boy "Praise" (Judah).

David organized a whole section of the Levites "to thank, and to praise the Lord God of Israel" (1 Chronicles 16:4). Hezekiah appointed divisions of priests and Levites "to praise in the gates of the camp of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 31:2). So much praise went up, that God was said to "be enthroned in the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).

After nine silent months, when Zacharias' tongue was finally loosed, his first words were praise to God (Luke 1:64). We long for the time when it may literally be said, "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise" (Habakkuk 3:3).

When Jesus was born, both exalted angels and lowly shepherds praised His Father (Luke 2:13, 20). When He died, the very sky above Christ bowed its head in reverent submission. Wherever Jesus went between these events, it seems that men were led to praise God (e.g., Luke 18:43). It seems no accident, therefore, that Jesus came from Judah, the tribe whose very name means "praise" (Genesis 49:10).

Ever since Jesus ascended to the Father, His followers have been "continually in the temple praising and blessing God" (Luke 24:53; cf. Ephesians 3:20–21). The early church praised God and had favor with all the people (Acts 2:47). In a beautiful prophecy, the church is said to have walls called "Salvation," and gates called "Praise" (Isaiah 60:18).

Christians are to meditate on things worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8), since we have been adopted "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (Ephesians 1:5–6; cf. Jeremiah 13:11). Our very purpose in life is to proclaim the praises of God (1 Peter 2:9; cf. Isaiah 43:21). God clothes His people with "the garment of praise" (Isaiah 61:3).

### WHEN SHOULD GOD BE PRAISED?

God deserves to be praised every day (Psalm 145:2). The Levites praised Him twice a day—in the morning and in the evening (1 Chronicles 23:30). Another praised Him seven times a day (Psalm

119:164). A third topped them all: "From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3). But another's ambition was to do better: I "will praise You yet more and more" (Psalm 71:14). Paul and Silas sang praises unto God at midnight (Acts 16:25). More to the point of this study, He deserves to be praised on the Lord's day—Sunday (Acts 20:7)—in public worship: "In the midst of the assembly [church] I will sing praise to You" (Hebrews 2:12). We should not forsake His worship (Hebrews 10:25).

### WHY SHOULD WE PRAISE GOD?

We should praise God for who He is. Young people sing a song that goes, "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies" (2 Samuel 22:4). Those who have learned of Jehovah agree: "The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods" (1 Chronicles 16:25). A wise man wondered, "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11). We praise God for His power (Psalm 21:13). We praise the Lord for the beauty of His holiness (2 Chronicles 20:21) and for His goodness and mercy (Ezra 3:11; Jeremiah 33:11).

The very purpose of life might be summed up as: "Proclaim the praises" of God (1 Peter 2:9).

We should praise God for what He has done. "Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness" (Psalm 150:2).

*He has made us:* "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).

*He has delivered us* (Exodus 15:1–11; 2 Samuel 22:49–50; Jeremiah 20:13). When Israel's children learned that God had heard their cry and had sent a deliverer (Moses), they "bowed their heads and worshiped" (Exodus 4:31). When Moses learned that God kept "mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin," he "made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and

worshiped" (Exodus 34:7–8). Worship, distilled, is thanksgiving for salvation (Psalm 69:30–32; 86:5, 15; 92:1–8; 95:1–7; 100:4).

*He has blessed us.* When we take time to count our blessings (James 1:17), it makes us worshipful. It is an unthankful heart that shuns worship. When the eldest servant of Abraham's house played matchmaker for young Isaac, he devised a plan to determine which girl the Lord approved. When the sign was given, with thankful heart he "bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord" (Genesis 24:26, 48, 52).

*He has given us His truth* (Psalm 138:2). "In God I will praise His word" (Psalm 56:4). "I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth" (Isaiah 25:1).

*He has answered our prayers* (Psalm 118:21). So, "praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples" (Romans 15:11). "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). "Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God" (Hebrews 13:15).

Join us Sunday as we exalt the name of the Lord!

### Endnote

<sup>1</sup> <https://soulstream.org/a-jewish-prayer/>







# A Model for the Church

In the basement of America's largest home, the Biltmore House in Asheville, North Carolina, you can see a model of the structure. The model was completed first, as a guide to build the home. In Barcelona, Spain, you can visit the still unfinished Sagrada Familia Church. They have been working on it for fifty years. They will show you a model of what the building will look like when it is finished.

We all need patterns, and we must follow the right pattern. The Bible gives us a model for building Christ's church. The New Testament is the right pattern. Members of the church of Christ refuse to accept any human creed in religion. We seek to plant New Testament churches throughout the world, after the New Testament pattern. We refuse any uninspired

man's statement, or system of statements, as our rule in religion. Articles of Religion, Confessions of Faith, Disciplines, Church Manuals, and Creeds formulated by men are rejected. The Word of God alone is our standard.

This is the only safe path because "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Peter says that God gave us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3); therefore, when we speak, we are to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

If we want to be pleasing to God, we need to follow His model. —Adapted from Garland Elkins



## "I'm Sorry"

Want the key to a lasting marriage? Try apologizing to your spouse. A study of 7,950 Americans conducted by pollsters for ThePearlOutlet.com found that having a willingness to apologize strengthens a couple's bond.

"The secret of a lasting marriage is being prepared to accept that the other person has an equally valid viewpoint and being willing to apologize because you love him/her and want him/her to be happy," says Andrea Marshall, a marital therapist and author.

Married folks are far more likely than singles to apologize first when they feel they are just partly to blame for an argument. Why? People who are dating often believe if a relationship is not perfect, you should just move on, but those in a marriage have realized the perfect relationship does not happen overnight. —Marriage Partnership

*"Go and humble yourself;  
plead with your friend."*

PROVERBS 6:3

## God's Plan for Saving Man

**Divine Love:** John 3:16

**God's Grace:** Ephesians 2:8

**Christ's Blood:** Romans 5:9

**Holy Spirit's Word:** 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

**Sinner's Faith:** Acts 16:31

**Sinner's Repentance:** Luke 13:3

**Sinner's Confession:** Romans 10:10

**Sinner's Baptism:** Acts 22:16

**Christian's Love:** Matthew 22:37

**Christian's Work:** James 2:24

**Christian's Hope:** Romans 8:24

**Christian's Endurance:** Revelation 2:10

Watch  
on youtube





## Preacher on the Loose

The preacher was wired for sound with a hand-held mic, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mic cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

—David L. Roper, "Kids of the Kingdom"

*"A merry heart does good."*

PROVERBS 17:22



## Communication Is Key

A woman went to court and told the judge she wanted a divorce. "Do you have any grounds?" the judge asked.

"Just two acres," she said.

"That's not it, lady. I mean do you have a grudge!"

"No, we park the car in front of the house."

The judge was frustrated: "Does your husband beat you up?"

She replied. "No, I get up before he does."

"Then why do you want a divorce?" the judge asked.

"Because," she confessed, "we just don't seem to be able to communicate."

While this is humorous it leads to an important point. God hates divorce (Malachi 3:10), and only allows it in the case of one spouse cheating on the other (Matthew 19:9). Read carefully Matthew 19 and Mark 10.



To watch videos, read articles, answer Bible questions, and more, go to [housetohouse.com](http://housetohouse.com).

# The Best Gift



A man came home from work, tired and irritated, to find his five-year-old son waiting for him at the door. "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

"Yeah, sure. What is it?" replied the father.

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"

"What makes you ask such a thing?" the father said.

"I just wanted to know. Please tell me. How much do you make an hour?" pleaded the little boy.

"I make \$20 an hour."

Looking up, the boy said, "Daddy, may I borrow \$9, please?"

The father was upset. "If that was the reason you wanted to know how much money I make, then march to your room and think about being selfish. I work long hours every day and do not have time for childish games."

The boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The father sat down and thought about his son's question. After awhile, he calmed down and thought he had been too hard on his son. Maybe he

really needed to buy something with that \$9. He did not ask for money often.

The father went to his son's room and opened the door. "Are you asleep, son?" he asked.

"No, Daddy, I'm awake," replied the boy. "I've been thinking. Maybe I was too hard on you," said the father. "It has been a long day, and I took my aggravations out on you. Here is the \$9 you asked for."

The boy sat up, beaming. "Thank you, Daddy!" he said. Reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some crumpled bills. He counted the money and then looked up at his father.

"Why did you want more money if you already had some?" the father asked.

"Because I did not have enough, but now I do," the boy replied. "Daddy, I have \$20! Can I buy an hour of your time?"

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The only gift is a portion of thyself." —Anonymous

*"Redeeming the time."*

EPHESIANS 5:16

## Just for Fun Word Search (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

J P G O T E E F D T F F D K A  
 Y R I B R H L N U H K N O W L  
 N A E U O H O P E I U A P I D  
 E Y T C I J X U T N H K S J W  
 H U F V A T P R G K M T L J R  
 F K P E T L A Q W H E Z Z W G  
 T G W V F E L N M N T S E E K  
 L O R D H I J P T G R S V W H  
 I I Q L W C N O E E V F G L C  
 N V U X K S W D S A T K I T R  
 J J R P N A U F M U C U V Y A  
 A Q J E R E M I A H T E E M E  
 L W R D A E P Y C M T F V H S

Find the words in blue. Words can go in any direction.

For I **know** the **thoughts** that I **think toward** you, says the **Lord**, thoughts of **peace** and not of evil, to **give** you a **future** and a **hope**. Then you will **call** upon Me and go and **pray** to Me, and I will **listen** to you. And you will **seek** Me and **find** Me, when you **search** for Me with all your **heart**.

—JEREMIAH 29:11-13



# What Is in a Name?

Our names are important to us. Some have names that have special family meaning or were important to our parents for us to have. Some of our names changed when we got married. We are quick to forgive someone if they accidentally call us by the wrong name, but we do not appreciate it when someone calls us by the wrong name on purpose. Names are one of the ways we identify ourselves, so they are important.

In the same way, it is important which name we wear religiously. That name means something, and it was given to us by Someone who loves us.

The early believers were called Christians (Acts 11:26) and were told not to be ashamed to suffer as Christians (1 Peter 4:16). We wear the name of Jesus because there is no salvation in any other name, “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). When someone becomes a Christian, the Lord adds that person to the body of Christ

(Romans 7:4), the church (Acts 2:47). We call ourselves the church of Christ because we are “of Christ,” and that is one of the names the early church used (Romans 16:16).

The name on our building is important because it honors the One who is brought to mind each time it is used or seen, and it shows our focus and allegiance. If we wear the name of a man or a practice, the honor does not go to the One who died for us nor the One who gave His Son for us.

Imagine a husband’s reaction if his wife was called by another man’s last name. As the bridegroom of the church (Ephesians 5:22–32), how does Jesus feel when the church is called by a name other than His? If the name on our passport, mailbox, and paycheck matters, then would not the more important name, what we are called religiously, matter more?

Does the church you attend identify its members by the name of Jesus? If not,



would they be willing to change? Why can we not all just be called Christians?

We long for a world where we can wear just the name of Jesus. Come visit us at the church of Christ. —Matt Wallin

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 29:4

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Quick Scriptures on Salvation” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

### Answers to Previous Quizzes

**V. 29:2** Starts with the Letter “I”: 1. Ichabod (1 Samuel 4:21–22); 2. Inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16); 3. Idle (Matthew 12:36); 4. Idolatry (Colossians 3:5); 5. Ignorance (Acts 17:30); 6. Image (Genesis 1:26); 7. Intent (Genesis 6:5); 8. Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14); 9. Impossible (Luke 1:37); 10. Increase (1 Corinthians 3:6); 11. Inheritance (1 Peter 1:4); 12. Iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19); 13. Inn (Luke 2:7); 14. Isaac (Acts 7:38); 15. Isaiah (2 Kings 20:11).

**V. 29:3** David and Goliath: 1. Gath (17:4); 2. Philistines (17:4); 3. Six cubits and a span (17:4); 4. Five thousand shekels of bronze (17:5); 5. Six hundred shekels (17:7); 6. Forty (17:16); 7. Twice (17:16); 8. A fight between himself and a man of Israel, with the people of the loser becoming slaves to the people of the winner (17:8–10); 9. He was “dismayed and greatly afraid” (17:11); 10. He offered to fight him (17:32); 11. Eliab (17:13); 12. David (17:14); 13. Grain and loaves (17:17); 14. Cheese (17:18); 15. Riches, his daughter, and exemption from taxes (17:25); 16. Eliab, Saul, and Goliath (17:28, 33, 42); 17. Killing lions and bears (17:34–36); 18. Sword, spear, and javelin (17:45); 19. Name, Lord of hosts, defied (17:45); 20. “There is a God in Israel” (17:46).

## Starts with the Letter “D”

**Find answers in** Genesis 8:11; 30:21; 37:5, 17; Exodus 10:21; Deuteronomy 1:1–5; Judges 4:4; 16:13–18, 23; Psalm 84:10; Proverbs 20:1; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Daniel 6:16; Matthew 4:1; John 10:7; Acts 13:22; 19:24–26, 35–38; 22:5–8; 24:24; Romans 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:10; 2 Timothy 4:10; 1 Peter 5:8; 3 John 1:9; Revelation 12:3 (not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A god of the Philistines
- \_\_\_\_\_ City near where Saul of Tarsus saw the Lord
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prophet thrown into the lions’ den
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ninth of the ten plagues on the Egyptians
- \_\_\_\_\_ King of Israel; man after God’s own heart
- \_\_\_\_\_ A church office under the elders
- \_\_\_\_\_ Female judge of Israel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Woman who tempted Samson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forsook Paul because he loved the world
- \_\_\_\_\_ Silversmith who led a persecution against Paul
- \_\_\_\_\_ Last book of Moses; means “second law”
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adversary of man; tempted Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Goddess worshipped by Ephesians
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob’s daughter by Leah
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loved to have preeminence; opposed John
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bird that brought back an olive leaf to Noah
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph had these, which angered his brothers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Felix’s wife; heard Paul concerning the faith
- \_\_\_\_\_ Place where Joseph found his brethren
- Jesus said, “I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep.”
- “I would rather be a \_\_\_\_\_ in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”
- John saw “a great, fiery red \_\_\_\_\_, having seven heads.”
- “Then the \_\_\_\_\_ will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”
- “Wine is a mocker, strong \_\_\_\_\_ is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”
- “I am a \_\_\_\_\_ both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.”

# THE CROSS FROM SEVEN VIEWPOINTS

**From the viewpoint of Judas, it was about silver.** Judas was a thief and a traitor (John 12:4–6; 13:21–29). He made a deal with the Jewish leaders to sell Jesus for the “princely price” of thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13; Matthew 26:15).

**From the viewpoint of the Pharisees, it was about silence.** The Jewish leaders knew that the world was going after Jesus (John 12:19), and they were afraid that the whole world would believe in Him (John 11:48). When they could not stump Him or snare Him with their questions (Matthew 22:15–17, 35), they decided to silence Him by slaying Him (Matthew 26:3–4). Even this did not work. He rose three days later, and His apostles boldly preached His resurrection (Acts 2; 4:18–30, 33; 5:17–29, 40–42; 17:6).

**From the viewpoint of Pilate, it was about self-preservation.** Although Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent (Luke 23:4; Matthew 27:24), he caved in to Jewish pressure to crucify Jesus (John 19:12–13; Mark 15:15). He sacrificed Jesus in an effort to save himself (cf. John 12:25).

**From the viewpoint of the Roman soldiers, it was about sport.** The Roman soldiers brought Jesus into the common hall and mocked Him (Matthew 27:27–31; Luke 23:11; John 19:2–3). At the foot of His cross, they cast lots for His wardrobe as they watched Him struggle in pain (Matthew 27:34–35).

**From the viewpoint of the Father, it was about substitution.** In His grace, God sent Jesus to taste death for us by taking our place on the cross (Hebrews 2:9; Ro-

mans 5:8–10; Isaiah 53:5, 11; 1 Peter 2:21; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9–10).

**From the viewpoint of the Son, it was about submission.** Although it meant shame and suffering, Jesus submitted to the Father’s will and went to the cross (Matthew 26:39, 53; Hebrews 5:7–9; 12:2; Philippians 2:8–9).

**From the viewpoint of the saints, it was about salvation.** The early Christians saw the cross, and the blood shed there, as the means of their salvation (Matthew 26:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 5:9–10; 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 1:18–24; 6:19–20; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18–20; Revelation 1:5; 7:14). —Wade Webster

*“God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

GALATIANS 6:14

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

## Recommended Resource



In a world of increasing unbelief, **ApologeticsPress.org** is a free resource that could be a great blessing to your life. With thousands of articles and hundreds of videos on everything from the existence of God to alleged Bible contradictions, AP’s website can assist you in your search for and defense of God’s truth.

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer requests or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

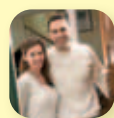
### I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



An In-Home Bible Study

## Featured Tracts!

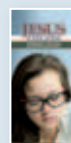
- The Gospel Is for All
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- What Teens Want
- The Day the Atheist Sat Next to the Preacher



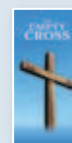
### More subjects:



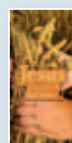
Finding God’s Treasure



Jesus Exegesis



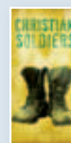
An Empty Cross



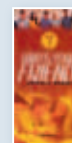
Jesus Was Not a Farmer



Of Hidden Treasures and Found Pearls



Christian Soldiers



Who’s Your Friend? Jonathan or Jonadab?



Can the Bible Say a Word in Its Defense?



The Best Giver in the New Testament



Don’t see the topic you need? Visit **www.housetohouse.com** for more subjects.

VOLUME 29:4





# PART 1 Quick Guide to Biblical History



## Creation and the Fall: Genesis 1-5

*Creation; Adam and Eve; Fall of Man; God's Promise; Generations of Adam*

God created a perfect world for man and promised salvation after man brought sin into that world.



## The Flood: Genesis 6-10

*Flood; God's Covenant with Noah*

The worldwide flood cleansed the earth and preserved Noah's family to help fulfill God's plan.



## The Scattering: Genesis 11

*Tower of Babel*

Confusing the languages dispersed humanity across the world.



## The Patriarchs: Genesis 12-50

*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God's Three Fold Promise; 12 Sons of Jacob*

Abraham's family was set apart as God's people to fulfill His promises.



## Exodus/Wilderness Wandering: Exodus—Deuteronomy

*Ten Plagues; First Promise of a Great Nation Fulfilled; Mosaic Law Established; Tabernacle Constructed*

The Israelites left the bondage of Egypt and headed toward the Promised Land. When they rebelled, God issued punishment.



## The Conquest: Joshua

*Second Promise of the Land Fulfilled*

God's people moved to Canaan, land promised to Abraham.



## The Judges: Judges and Ruth; 1 Samuel 1-7

*Cycle of Sin, Servitude, Supplication, Salvation, and Silence*

From Othniel to Samuel, God provided leadership for His people.



## United Kingdom: 1 Samuel 8—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 10—2 Chronicles 9; Psalms—Song of Solomon

*Saul; David; and Solomon*

God's people asked for an earthly king, and He chose leaders.



## What's So Great about Following Jesus?

The word *Christian* means "a follower of the Christ" (Acts 11:26).

Some view the Christian life as one that is unduly restricted, without any real freedom, and with no joy or pleasure. Agrippa, for instance, admitted that he was almost persuaded to become a Christian but declined (Acts 26:28). Such a notion is wrong because it clashes with the teaching of the New Testament. The truth is, Jesus gives life real meaning and purpose!

Many employers attract potential employees by listing the benefits package their workers receive. What about serving Jesus? Does it have a built-in benefits package? It does, indeed.

Those who faithfully follow Jesus have the best and most meaningful life in the world.

The life of a child of God is better than one built on material wealth (Isaiah 55:2). Spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) beat unstable material riches any day. And the Christian's life of walking in the light is far better than a life of darkness (1 John 1:6-7).

Christians enjoy the abundant life in the Christ, who is our Good Shepherd (John 10:10-11). Following Jesus is not just a good way to live. Neither is the Christian life simply one of the best lives. Being a Christ-following person is the absolute best life in every way! You cannot be a better person than Jesus makes you through His gospel (2 Timothy 3:17).

—Roger Campbell

*"Come and see."*

JOHN 1:39



# House to House Heart to Heart

4/24



Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.

Most Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.