



HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 8

CHURCH: *Why Bother?*

Allen Webster



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You go to school to get an education so you can make a living. You go to work to make money to pay the bills. You go to the track for exercise and better health. You go to the mall for clothes and to the grocery store for food. You go to the lake to fish, the ball game to cheer, and the golf course for fun.

But church services? Why go there? Why get up early on one of your few days off? Why go through the hassle of dressing up and getting the children ready? Why go to the trouble of finding a parking space (preferably in the front) and a pew space (preferably in the back)? Why sing, bow in prayer, put hard-earned money in the plate, take communion, and listen to the preacher's sermon?

Why bother with church?

Some look upon church attendance as a bother, an unnecessary burden to be avoided when possible, a perfectly good hour wasted in order to keep a wife or a preacher or a parent off their backs. They go out of a sense of duty; they don't want

to, but they have to. It is seen as a tolerable exercise in spiritual attainment—sort of like punching a spiritual clock or getting brownie points with the Maker. At best it is a time to socialize—to see and be seen.

To someone who understands worship, though, these services every week are different. It is not about me and what I want. It's about God and what He wants.

BOTHER WITH WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD BOTHERED WITH CALVARY

If you had given your child to die for someone, would you expect that person to be appreciative? If you loved someone so much that she never left your thoughts, would you be hurt if she considered it an inconvenience to come around you? (cf. 1 Chronicles 28:9). If you were a judge who would soon handle an admittedly guilty person's case, would you expect him to show you respect in an appeal for leniency? (cf. Revelation 20:12-15).

Now put yourself in God's place. Stand at Calvary's cross and tearfully recall that

dark hillside where God heard a pitiful cry from the bruised, cracked lips of His only Son. Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). As the Father listened to that plaintive cry, one can almost picture the tears blurring His vision, the flush in His cheeks, and the quivering in the Almighty’s chin. Yet, as James Watkins said, the Omnipotent One did not lift a finger; the Omniscient One did not say a word; the Omnipresent God left the scene (Mark 15:34).¹

God endured that heartbreak so my sin-cursed soul could be saved. Is it a *bother*, then, for me to attend a service in His honor? Is it too much to ask that I give praise and adoration to such a wonderful God? How can we but join Paul in exclaiming, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift?” (2 Corinthians 9:15). What a privilege to give to, praise, adore, worship, and prostrate one’s soul before the throne of such all-consuming, sin-destroying, everlasting love. When we look back to Calvary, we are brought to our knees in worship.

BOTHER WITH WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD BOTHERED TO MAKE YOU

Despite evolutionary claims, sensible people still acknowledge to God that “Your hands have made me and fashioned me” (Job 10:8). Unlike the animal creation, God made us in His own image and after His likeness (Genesis 1:26–27), demonstrating His unlimited power (Romans 1:20) and boundless wisdom (Proverbs 3:19).

Consider how He made you. Your skeleton has 206 bones perfectly suited to give strength and structure to your tissues. Your eye is the most perfect camera known to man. Even Charles Darwin said “[the idea that] the eye . . . could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.”² Yes, we are “fearfully and wonder-

fully made” (Psalm 139:14) by a fearful and wonderful God: “Who is like You, O Lord . . . glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11). We agree with Revelation 4:11: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” “O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

BOTHER WITH WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD BOTHERS TO SUSTAIN YOU

Imagine you are rich. After hearing of a starving, destitute family’s need, you decide to give them a house, a weekly supply of food, a constant quantity of clothes, and whatever else they need. Would you expect them to say “thanks”?

God is worthy of our worship because He does this for us—and more. Every bite of food, every drink of water, every breath of air, every ray of sunshine, every drop of rain, every harvested fruit, every medical treatment, every thread of clothing, every square foot of house, every yard of land, every gravitational pull, every smile, laugh, and moment of peace and safety we have ever had—all came from God. We depend upon Him for “life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25). Christ created “all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3). Yes, we work to pay for these things, but who gave us the health and strength to work? Who made the earth inhabitable? Who sends sun and rain for the crops that grow upon it? God, our Sustainer!

BOTHER WITH WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD BOTHERS TO SAVE YOU

If you are saved, it is only because of God’s astounding grace (Ephesians 2:8–10). If you are still in your sins, it is no fault of God’s. His offer—and long-

suffering patience to see it accepted—stands ready (2 Peter 3:8–9). John heard a crowd of ten thousand times ten thousand angels, living creatures, and elders say, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12). Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1–2) and books us a reservation in Satan’s Lakeside Inn (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15). Until Jesus came, we were without hope of anything better than an eternity in hell with a sadistic Satan.

God saw our predicament and, at great cost to Himself, provided a way for us to be snatched from Satan’s grasp and ushered into the Master’s mansions (John 14:1–2). Jesus, His very own Son, took our place at the whipping post, the excruciating cross, and the hopeless grave. He carried the burden of our sins in His body as He hanged upon that cross, where He poured out His blood as the price of our forgiveness (1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 26:28; 2 Corinthians 5:20–21). God did that while we were yet rebels (Romans 5:8–10). He still waits at the window for the prodigal boy’s figure to appear on the distant skyline (Luke 15:20).

See you Sunday!

Endnotes

¹ Unpublished sermon

² Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, 1859 (Bantam Classic edition, 1999), pp. 155–156.





The Ultimate Act of Sportsmanship

It occurred in a college softball game in Ellensburg, Washington.

Western Oregon was facing Central Washington in the second game of a double header. The game was scoreless when Western Oregon's Sara Tucholsky stepped to the plate at the top of the second inning with two runners on base. The first pitch was called a strike. She swung at the second pitch and knocked it over the center field fence!

This was Tucholsky's first-ever home run, and in her jubilation, she missed first base on her home run trot. When she turned back to tag the base, her right knee buckled. Instantly in pain, she managed to crawl back to first base. According to Graham Hays, "Umpires confirmed that the only option available under the rules was to replace Tucholsky at first base with a pinch runner and have the hit recorded as a two-run single instead of a three-run home run. Any assistance from coaches or trainers while she was an active runner would result in an out." So, Western Oregon Coach Knox "prepared to make the substitution, taking both the run and the memory from Tucholsky."

Then Coach Knox was asked, "Excuse me. Would it be okay if we carried her around and she touched each bag?" The one asking the question was a member of the opposing team, Central Washington first baseman Mallory Holtman! The umpires ruled it to be legal, so Holtman and shortstop Liz Wallace lifted Tucholsky off the ground and began to carry her around the bases. They stopped at each of the re-

maining bases and lowered Tucholsky, allowing her to gently tap the base with her left foot. The trio finally reached home plate—and with a standing ovation from the fans—the home run hitter was passed to her own teammates. Western Oregon went on to win the game 4-2, but it is this ultimate act of sportsmanship that will be remembered most.

The selfless actions of Holtman and Wallace picture what Jesus Christ wants to do for each of us: He wants to carry us all the way home to heaven! It's not that we've hit a home run and then injured ourselves along the way. The fact is we have all "struck out" at the plate (Romans 3:23)! Yet God loves us so much that He offers us forgiveness, and, through His Son Jesus, the opportunity to go home. Jesus "carries home" those who believe in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to "carry" those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7). The ultimate act was done when Christ went to the cross to pay the price for our sins (Ephesians 1:7), enabling us—by His grace—to go home to heaven.

Will you allow Him to carry you home through your trusting obedience?

—David A. Sargeant, Mobile, Alabama

Endnote

¹ www.espn.com/college-sports/columns/story?columnist=hays_graham&id=3372631.

What's So Great about Following Jesus?

Jesus gives a life of genuine peace and happiness.

Jesus promised, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Jesus there truly is rest for the weary. Take, for instance, the example of a man from Ethiopia who rejoiced after he was baptized into the Christ (Acts 8:26–39).

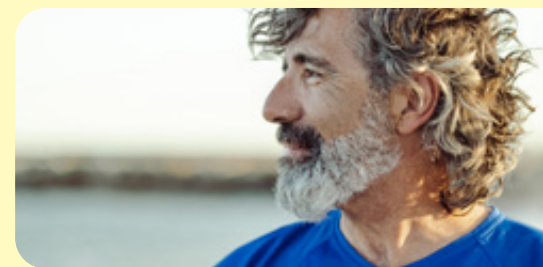
One who serves the Savior has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing the Lord's will, that he is showing reverence for his Creator, and that he is keeping His commands, which is the purpose of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

With peace of mind and joy comes the confidence that the Lord will be with us and bless us. If we remain faithful to Him, then His promises hold true: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5), and, as we walk in the light, "we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

—Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee

"Come and see."

JOHN 1:39



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

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on youtube





Luke 14:26—Hating Family?

Why the Fourth Finger?

There is a beautiful and convincing explanation given by the Chinese as to why wedding rings are worn on the fourth finger. Each finger represents a relationship:

- Thumb: your parents
- Second (index) finger: your siblings
- Third (middle) finger: yourself
- Fourth (ring) finger: your life partner
- Last (little) finger: your children.

First, open your hands (palm to palm), bend the middle fingers, and hold them together back-to-back. Second, open and hold the remaining three fingers and the thumb tip-to-tip.

Now, try to separate your thumbs (representing the parents). They will open because your parents are not destined to live with you lifelong; they have to leave you sooner or later.

Join your thumbs as before and separate your index fingers (representing siblings). They will also open, because your brothers and sisters will have their own families and will lead their own separate lives.

Now join the index fingers and separate your little fingers (representing your children). They will open too, because the children will get married and settle down on their own some day.

Finally, join your little fingers, and try to separate your ring fingers (representing your spouse). You will be surprised to see that you cannot, because husband and wife have to remain together all their lives—through thick and thin!

“For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives.”

ROMANS 7:2

How does one explain Jesus’ injunction for followers to “hate” their families? When Christ observed that great crowds were following Him—some obviously for mundane reasons (cf. John 6:26)—He challenged them thus: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26).

To some this passage is quite difficult, for it appears to contradict other biblical injunctions that require love for family, both physical and spiritual (cf. Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 2:11).

In ancient times, however, the term “hate” was frequently employed idiomatically to denote simply the preference of one thing over another. For example, in Genesis 29:31 it is said that Jacob “hated” his wife Leah, yet the context makes it very clear that he merely loved his other wife Rachel more than Leah (v. 30).

Accordingly, when Jesus demands that we must hate our family members, He is not suggesting that we must literally have ill feelings for them. Rather, the Lord is stressing that we must love Him more than all others, even those dearest

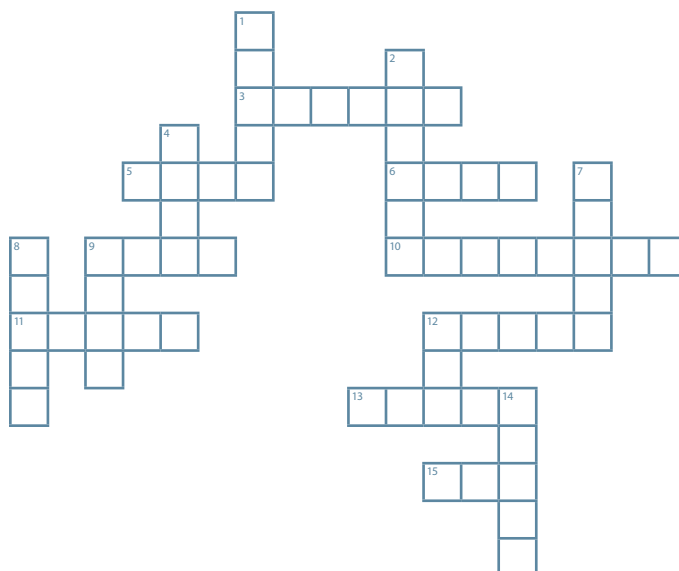
to us. This is borne out by a comparison of Luke 14:26 with a parallel in Matthew 10:37, where Christ declares: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Underline, therefore, the word “hate” in Luke 14:26, and in your margin write, “Literally, love less; see Genesis 29:30–31; Matthew 10:37.”

—Wayne Jackson www.christiancourier.com



Just for Fun Crossword (Isaiah 40:29–31)



He gives **power** to the **weak**,
 And to those who have no **might** He increases strength.
 Even the youths shall **faint** and be weary,
 And the young **men** shall utterly **fall**,
 But those who **wait** on the **Lord**
 Shall **renew** their **strength**;
 They shall **mount** up with **wings** like **eagles**,
 They shall **run** and not be **weary**,
 They shall **walk** and not faint.

—ISAIAH 40:29–31



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“I Love Jesus, but Not His Church”?

Jesus is easy to love. He created us (John 1:3), came to earth to save us (Luke 19:10), lived a perfect life of service (1 Peter 2:21–22), and died for us (Mark 10:45). Jesus’ work started before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:20) and continues to this moment (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1). We love Jesus because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Jesus is easy to love, but what about the church? Can we choose to love Jesus, but reject the church?

As Jesus prepared to ascend into heaven, His disciples had questions (Acts 1:6) and gazed up after Him (Acts 1:10). In addition to their question about the kingdom (Acts 1:6), did they wonder what to do without Jesus? What was next?

Jesus’ answer came in Acts 2 with the birth of the church. If the church was man’s idea, we could take it or leave it. Since the church was God’s idea (Isaiah

2; Daniel 2; Joel 2; Acts 2), we must take it. Jesus loved us as individuals so much that He gave His life for us (John 3:16), but He also gave His life for the larger group, His body, the church (Ephesians 5:25).

The concept of church should not surprise us. The Old Testament is full of divine teachings on the idea of practicing our faith with others.

“It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18). “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment” (Proverbs 18:1). “God sets the solitary in families” (Psalm 68:6). “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). “But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock” (Psalm 78:52). The Israelites were called a “congregation in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38).

In the New Testament, Christians are members of God’s household. God’s house, the church, stands on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus is the chief cornerstone. Church members are joined together (Ephesians 2:19–22). Union with Jesus includes union with the apostles and prophets of the past and fellow Christians in the present.

Jesus is the head of the church, which is His body (Colossians 1:18). Jesus, the head, saves the body (Ephesians 5:23). A Christian cannot accept the head and reject the body. The church is so important that Jesus adds us to it when we are saved (Acts 2:47). God’s eternal plan was for Christians to be joined to Jesus and to each other. There is no relationship with Jesus without a relationship with His church. To love Jesus, we must also love His church. —Matt Wallin

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Bible Quiz

VOLUME 29:8

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “30 Days, 30 Minutes Through the New Testament” 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. 29:6 Starts with the Letter “Y”: 1. Years (2 Peter 3:8); 2. Yoke (Matthew 11:29); 3. Yes, yes (Matthew 5:37). Starts with the Letter “E”: 1. Eden (Genesis 2:8); 2. Edom (Psalm 108:9); 3. Eglah (2 Samuel 3:5); 4. Egypt (Exodus 1:8–11); 5. Elders (1 Peter 5:1–2); 6. Eli (1 Samuel 4:15–18); 7. Eliab (1 Samuel 17:13–14); 8. Elizabeth (Luke 1:13); 9. Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 11); 10. Elisha (2 Kings 6:1–7); 11. Elymas (Acts 13:7–11); 12. Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5); 13. Eagle (Proverbs 30:18–19); 14. Earth (Psalm 24:1).

V. 29:7 Soaking Up Living Water: 1. Jesus (John 4:1); 2. Jacob (John 4:5–6); 3. Give; drink (John 4:6–7); 4. Jews; Samaritans (John 4:9); 5. Living (John 4:10); 6. Greater than (John 4:12); 7. Everlasting (John 4:13–14); 8. Draw (John 4:15); 9. Five (John 4:18); 10. Prophet (John 4:19); 11. Place (John 4:20); 12. The Father (John 4:21); 13. True (John 4:23); 14. Spirit (John 4:24); 15. Spirit; truth (John 4:24); 16. Christ (John 4:25); 17. Am He (John 4:26); 18. Waterpot (John 4:28); 19. Many; word (John 4:39–41); 20. Christ; Savior (John 4:42).

Starts with the Letter “S”

Find answers in Genesis 4:25; 5:32; 17:15, 19; 19:24, 26; Exodus 16:23, 26; Numbers 21:21; Judges 3:31; 16:9; 1 Samuel 1:20; 15:1; 1 Kings 1:17; Psalm 23:1; 100:3; Proverbs 30:28; Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 4:10; 16:6; 27:46; Acts 5:1; 7:58–60; 15:40; Ephesians 6:16; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 3:4 (not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. “The Lord is my _____; I shall not want.” | 11. _____ ion after disagreement with Barnabas: _____ |
| 2. Day of rest in the Old Testament: _____ | 12. _____ is lawlessness. |
| 3. Strong man of the Bible: _____ | 13. Wicked city destroyed with fire and brimstone: _____ |
| 4. Son of Elkanah and Hannah; priest and judge: _____ | 14. David’s wise son who ruled after him: _____ |
| 5. Wife of Ananias; lied about giving: _____ | 15. First Christian martyr: _____ |
| 6. Abraham’s wife; Isaac’s mother: _____ | 16. “Above all, taking the _____ of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” |
| 7. Enemy of mankind; tempted Jesus in wilderness: _____ | 17. “We are His people and the _____ of His pasture.” |
| 8. First king of Israel: _____ | 18. Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of _____. |
| 9. The third son of Adam; father of Enosh: _____ | 19. “Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and of the _____.” |
| 10. Judge who killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad: _____ | 20. “All _____ is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable.” |
| 11. One of the sons of Noah: _____ | 21. “The _____ skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings’ palaces.” |
| 12. Part of Christ’s fourth cry on the cross: _____ | 22. “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as _____.’” |
| 13. King of the Amorites when Israel arrived on the borders of the Promised Land: _____ | |
| 14. Paul chose him as traveling companion | |

Do We Love the Lord **More?**

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’” (John 21:15).

Do We Love the Lord More Than Our Kinsmen? If we do, we will not let them keep us from obeying the gospel. We will be willing to leave the religion they have accepted if it is proven wrong. We will not let them keep us from attending the services of the Lord’s church. Remember, Jesus said, “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And

he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).

Do We Love the Lord More Than Money? If we do, we will not make the heaping of riches the chief object of our living. We will give liberally of our means to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1–5). Remember, the Lord said, “For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).

Do We Love the Lord More Than Pleasure? If we do, we will not engage in that which is forbidden or that which will hurt our influence for Christ. Remember, the Lord, in speaking of perilous times,

said men shall be “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1–4).

Do We Love the Lord More Than the Praise of Men? If we do, we will be willing to stand for the Lord and the right, though we must stand alone (2 Timothy 4:16–17). The chief rulers “did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43).

The Lord should be the supreme object of our affection (Matthew 22:37). May we learn to sing, and mean it, “More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!”

—Wendell Winkler

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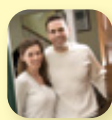
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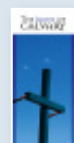
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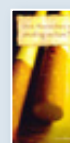
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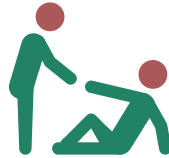
VOLUME 29:8



5 MODERN RIGHTS THE OLD TESTAMENT GAVE THE POOR

1. EQUAL VALUE

Poverty was considered a misfortune that could befall anyone—even the diligent. Lending to the poor was lending to God Himself, and refusing to help the poor was a sin God would not overlook when He heard their cry of suffering (Proverbs 22:2; 19:17; 29:7; Leviticus 25:35; Deuteronomy 15:7–11; 24:15; Exodus 22:26–27).



2. EQUALITY BEFORE THE COURT

Partiality and bribes were strictly forbidden, and there was no fee for bringing a dispute to court. No ransom was available for serious crimes, so wealth was not an escape from justice (Numbers 15:15–16, 29–30; Leviticus 24:22; Deuteronomy 1:16).



3. DAILY WAGE LAWS

Every hired worker had to be paid by nightfall, guaranteeing daily necessities for the poor and accountability for the rich. Failure to pay workers honestly was considered theft and sin (Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:14–15; Jeremiah 22:13).



4. USURY LAWS

Exploiting poverty in any way was strictly forbidden. Israelites could not charge poor brethren interest, choose pledges of repayment, or keep necessities overnight (Leviticus 25:35–38; Exodus 22:25–27; Deuteronomy 24:10–13).



5. BANKRUPTCY

No debtor could become hopelessly indebted, be imprisoned, be sold into foreign slavery, or pass debt to their children. Instead, they could declare bankruptcy and serve another Israelite for a maximum of six years, after which all debts were cleared (Leviticus 25:39–43; Deuteronomy 15:1–6, 12–18; Exodus 21:1–6).



“THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF THE PEOPLES WHO WILL HEAR ALL THESE STATUTES, AND SAY, ‘SURELY THIS GREAT NATION IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.’”

—DEUTERONOMY 4:6

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The U in Jesus

Before U were thought of
or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray in His
name, you’ll see it’s true:
You can’t spell JesUs and not include U.

U are a pretty big part of
His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that’s
why He came.
And His great love for U is
the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

The stones split away, the
gold trumpet blew;
this word resUrrection is
spelled with a U.

When Jesus left earth at
His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing
He just had to mention.

“Go into the world and tell ev-
ery creatUre it’s true that I love
them all just like I love U.”

He sent the Holy Spirit on Pente-
cost Day; He started the chUrch
to show men the way.

So many great words are spelled with
a U; don’t forget jUdgment is, too.

Will we be ready? It all depends
on what U will do; He’d like all to
know, but it all starts with U!

—Laketa

*“The Son of God . . . loved me
and gave Himself for me.”*

GALATIANS 2:20





“Oh, What God Has Done!”

On May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse, who invented the telegraph system and Morse Code, sent the first telegraph from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland. This message consisted of a brief quotation from Numbers 23:23 (KJV): “What hath God wrought!”

Samuel Morse boldly noted what everyone should understand: Design demands a designer. Morse’s code and the telegraph system were the immediate effects of a designer: Samuel Morse. But, the Grand Designer is God, who created Samuel Morse and every material thing he used to invent his telegraph system. Morse recognized this self-evident truth. Should we not recognize it as well, especially in view of the amazing creatures that inhabit earth?

Nature testifies loudly to what “God has worked!” An electric eel can send signals from its brain, through perfectly positioned nerves, to its battery-like muscles and produce up to 600 volts of electricity. Woodpeckers can repeatedly strike their beaks against trees—without knocking themselves out—with a force more than 250 times that which astronauts are subjected to during a launch into outer space. A one pound shorebird (known as a godwit) can fly over 7,000 miles (from Alaska to New Zealand) without stopping for food or rest. What’s more, the godwit’s roundtrip journey always ends exactly where it began several months earlier—without a map or GPS.

May God help us to open our eyes and acknowledge what He has done! Truly, “the whole earth is full of His glory” (Isaiah 6:3). —Eric Lyons



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You're Invited to
**BACK-TO-CHURCH
SUNDAY**

We are excited to invite our community to our special Back-to-Church Sunday service on September 15! Location and contact info can be found on the front.

We'd love to get to know you!

