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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 2

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Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18
 Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5
 Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2
 Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22
 Organization:
 Christ as head – Eph. 5:23
 Elders oversee local church –
 Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5
 Deacons as servants –
 Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13
 Members compose body –
 Col. 1:2

Name (group):
 Church of God – Eph. 3:15
 Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23
 Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16
 Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):
 Disciples – John 15:8
 Saints – Rm. 1:7
 Brethren – Lk. 8:21
 Children of God – Gal. 4:26
 Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37
 Rule of Faith & Practice:
 Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24
 Sing – Eph. 5:19
 Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
 Teach – Acts 5:42
 Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26
 Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16
 Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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Indispensables of Saving Faith

Allen Webster



Faith is the great essential of Scrip- ture. Both Old and New

Testaments are built around the theme: “The just shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17). The most famous verse of the world’s best-loved book reads: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). None less than the King of heaven taught, “If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).

Simply put, saving faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord, and trusting Him enough to do what He requires. Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon defines faith (*pistis*) as

- Conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- Trusting Him as Lord, conjoining with him.
- Obedience to His commands. Looked at another way, “believe” (*pisteuo*) consists of three basic components:
 - acceptance of facts,
 - trusting those facts, and
 - acting on those facts.

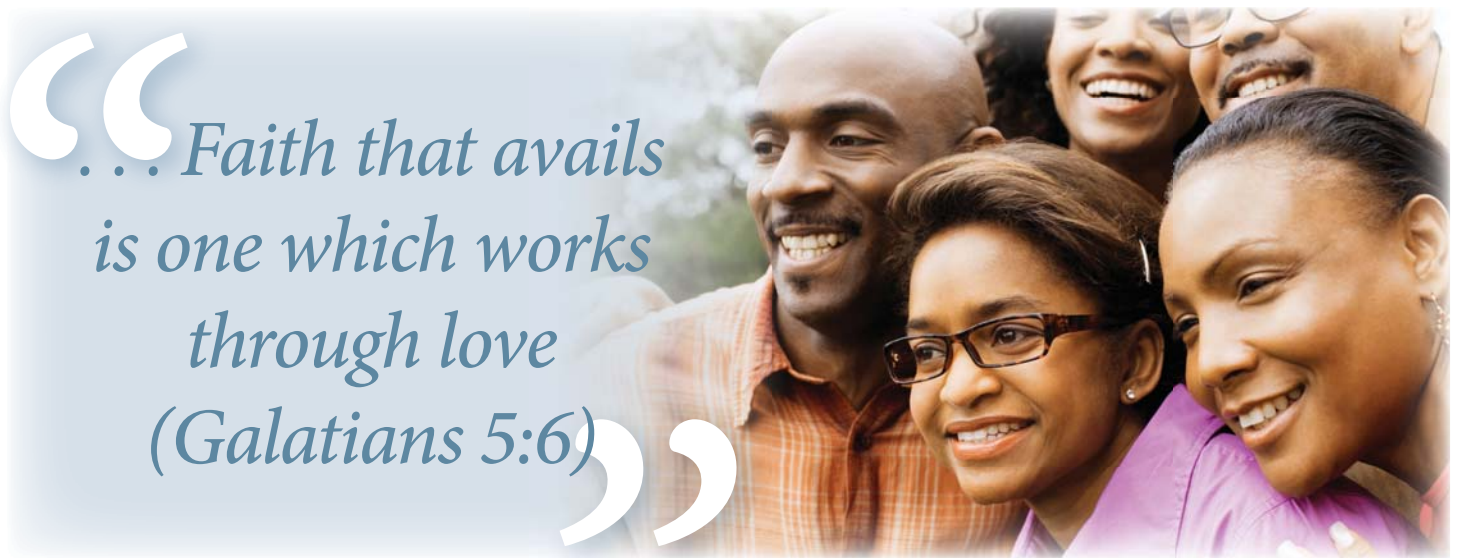
Faith involves the whole of man. The three elements of personality are involved in coming to possess biblical faith and becoming a Christian. They are the intellect, the emotions, and the will.

SAVING FAITH BEGINS WITH A CONVICTION THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD (INTELLECT).

Faith involves coming in possession of some basic facts about the eternal God and Jesus of Nazareth, a man who lived almost two thousand years ago. These truths are not complicated; neither do they require an extended course of study.

We must be convicted about three things:

- God—To believe in the Son “of God,” one must first believe in God. Scripture says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). We must believe in God’s existence, and in God’s benevolent character (His love rewards those that seek Him).
- Jesus—One needs to know enough of the details of Jesus’ life (birth, teachings, >>



“... Faith that avails
is one which works
through love
(Galatians 5:6)”

miracles, character, death, resurrection) to be fully convinced of who He is. This knowledge is gained only by studying the Bible, especially Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (Romans 10:17). John records Jesus’ words: “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18; cf. 3:16; 8:24).

- The Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)—On the eve of returning to heaven, the Master said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15–16). All one needs to know is found in one book, the Bible.

SAVING FAITH MOVES ONE TO TRUST JESUS FOR SALVATION (EMOTION).

Elton Trueblood wrote, “Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation.” The Holy Spirit defined faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). The American Standard Version uses “assurance” and “conviction” instead of “substance” and “evidence.” Put all of these together and we see that faith involves assurance based upon evidence and substance, producing conviction. Faith is confidence (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Intellectual faith alone does not save. Some mentally assent that Jesus of Nazareth lived and even allow that He is God’s Son, but they have never trusted in Him or His words. Satan believes in God (James 2:19), but we will not find him in heaven. I believe in George Washington, but I am not a Washingtonian. I believe in Jesus Christ, and I am a Christian. What is the difference? I never trusted Washington or made a commitment to follow the father of our country. I do trust Jesus for salvation and follow Him.

SAVING FAITH CONCLUDES IN OBEDIENCE (WILL).

Faith must be mixed before it can set. Scripture says, “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” (Hebrews 4:2). A. W. Tozer wrote, “The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the same coin.”

Saving faith is faith that surrenders (2 Corinthians 1:7–10). When Lee’s troops surrendered to Grant’s army, they ceased to fight. They submitted to the will of their opponent. King Agrippa believed, but he did not surrender, so he was not a Christian (Acts 26:27–28). Some rulers believed on the Lord, but they denied Him, so they were not saved (John 12:42–43; Matthew 10:33). Paul said that the faith that avails is one which works through love (Galatians 5:6). James said simply, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). Wayne Jackson pointed out (in commenting on Isaiah 53:6: “All we like sheep have gone astray”): “God does not require us to fix our mess. He requires us to finally give up, and give in to His way.”

“Faith” is not validated as faith, until it responds in doing what God requires. James said, “Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works” (James 2:18). Two different views are sometimes expressed on faith, and it is important to subscribe to the accurate one:

- One: “A person can only be saved by faith/believing.”
- Two: “A person is saved by faith only.”

These are very different ideas. The first accurately teaches what Scripture says (one is justified “by faith” [Romans 5:1]); the second does not (one is saved, “not by faith only” [James 2:24]).

Saving faith thus involves the intellect, emotions, and will. It is like getting married. Boy meets girl. Boy likes girl. Girl likes boy. Each thinks, “I could spend the rest of my life with him/ her.” There is a spark; they are emotionally connected, but intellectually they wonder, “Are we compatible?” So they agree to a date, and then another, and eventually decide to see only each other. The more they are together, the closer they become. The intellect and the emotions both now conclude, “This is the one.”

Are they married? No, for the final vote—the will—remains to be cast. Each entertains the idea of being married to this person, but wonders: “Am I really ready to settle down? What if someone else comes along? Can I be a good spouse?” Ultimately the will decides, “I am ready for a commitment. I cannot live without this very special person.” A proposal is offered and accepted; a date is set; a document is signed; a wedding is conducted. They are married!

Faith is the great indispensable. In all thy getting, don’t miss it.

Gotta Have It . . .



The necessity of faith in Christ is seen throughout the New Testament.

- We must believe to be saved; if we believe not, we shall be damned (Mark 16:15–16).
- We must believe to have everlasting life; if we believe not, we shall perish (John 3:16–18).
- We must believe to have everlasting life; if we believe not, we shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on us (John 3:36; 20:30–31).
- If we believe not, we will die in our sins; and, dying in our sins, we cannot go where Christ has gone (John 8:21–24).
- We must believe to have remission of sins (Acts 10:43).
- We must believe to be saved (Acts 16:30–31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8–10; Luke 8:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13).
- We must believe to be justified (Romans 1:15–17; 5:1; Galatians 2:16; 3:24–25).
- Faith is necessary to becoming a child of God (Galatians 3:26–27; 1 John 5:1).
- Faith avails (Galatians 5:6).
- Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- Without faith we will be lost (Revelation 21:8).

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

JOHN 8:32

Always Something Positive

During the last Sunday service that the visiting preacher was to spend at the church he had served for some months, his hat was passed around for a going away gift. When it returned to the preacher, it was empty. He didn't flinch. He raised the hat to heaven and said, “I thank You, Lord, that at least I got my hat back.”

“He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.”

PROVERBS 15:15



Which One Is Confused?

A preacher said to a farmer, “Do you belong to the Christian family?”

“No,” said he, “They live two farms down.”

“I mean are you lost?”

“No, I've been here thirty years.”

“I mean are you ready for the judgment day?”

“When is it?”

“It could be tomorrow, or even today.”

“Well, when you find out for sure when it is, let me know. My wife will probably want to go.” — <http://webby.com/humor/blog>

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

Home PAGE



Chief Wisdom

"When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself." —Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief

"Therefore I will give thanks unto thee."

2 SAMUEL 22:50

Frozen Labels



Jane had a system for labeling homemade freezer meals.

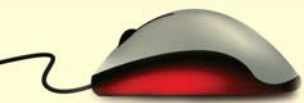
She would carefully note in large clear letters, "Meatloaf" or "Pot Roast" or "Steak and Vegetables" or "Chicken and Dumplings" or "Beef Pot Pie."

Every day when she asked her husband what he wanted for dinner, he never asked for any of those meals. She decided to stock the freezer with his various requests. What he really likes.

In Jane's freezer now you'll see a whole new set of labels. You'll find dinners with neat little tags that say, "Whatever," "Anything," "I Don't Know," "I Don't Care," "Something Good," or "Food."

No more frustration for Jane because no matter what her husband replies when she asks him what he wants for dinner, it's there waiting.

—The Cybersalt Digest



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

Kids, on Relationships

1. How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. —Alan, age 10

2. How can a stranger tell if two people are married? You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. —Derrick, 8

3. What do most people do on a date? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. —Lynnette, 8

4. What do you think Mom and Dad have in common? Both don't want any more kids. —Lori, 8

5. Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. —Anita, 9

6. When is it okay to kiss someone? When they're rich. —Pam, 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. —Curt, 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. —Howard, 8

7. How would you make a marriage work? Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. —Ricky, 10.

"A merry heart doeth good."

PROVERBS 17:22

Maybe We Are Different

In adults:

She'll have 11% more neurons in her brain centers for language and hearing than a man.

She'll use on average 20,000 words a day. He'll use 7,000.

Her space devoted to the sex drive will be 2 ½ times smaller than his. She'll think about sex once a day. He'll think about it every 58 seconds.

Her brain will be 9% smaller than his but will have the same number of brain cells, just more tightly packed.

Her principle hub for emotion and memory formation, the hippocampus, will be larger. His processor at the core of the primitive area of the brain that registers fear and triggers aggression, the amygdala, will be larger.

— "The Female Brain," Elizabeth Weise, USA Today, August 22, 2006.

"Male and female created he them."

GENESIS 1:27

Where Should I Place My Faith?



Building on the rock: Safe and solid . . . **Believe in God (Hebrews 11:6).** We are to believe that “he is” (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 14:1). We are to believe that “he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Matthew 7:7–8; Isaiah 55:6–7; Acts 15:16–17). We should believe in God as (a) the pardoner of our sins as David did (Psalm 51:1, 2, 7, 9), (b) the bearer of our burdens as Nehemiah did (Nehemiah 1:4–11), (c) the source of our strength as Paul did (Philippians 4:13), (d) the place of our safety as David did (Psalm 46:1), (e) the spring of our hope as John did (1 John 3:1–3), and (f) the crowner of our lives as Paul did (2 Timothy 4:6–8).

Believe in Christ as the Son of God (Acts 16:30–31; John 8:21, 24; 20:30–31). We should believe in Christ as: (a) our Saviour (John 4:42), (b) the King and Lord of our lives (Revelation 17:14),

(c) our Mediator and High Priest (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 3:1), and (d) our coming Judge (Matthew 25:31–46). Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the basis of our confession unto salvation (Acts 8:36–38; Romans 10:8–10; Matthew 16:16).

Believe in the Bible as the truth of God (2 Timothy 3:16–17). We are saved through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:13). The truth is the word of God (John 17:17).

Building on the sand: Unsafe and sure to fall . . . **The doctrines and commandments of men.** The Pharisees worshipped in vain because they taught for doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:9). We are not to give heed to the commandments of men that turn from the truth (Titus 1:14).

False teachers. We are to beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15; Colossians 2:8). False prophets bring damnable heresies (2 Peter 2:1). False teachers are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17).

Lies. Every tear that has bedewed our cheek and dimmed our eye, every wrinkle that has furrowed our brow, every tribulation that has assailed us, every adversity that has laid us low, and every open grave by which we have stood are but a few of the results obtained from Eve hearing, believing, and obeying a lie (Genesis 3). If we believe a lie, we shall be damned (2 Thessalonians 2:10–12).

—Wendell Winkler (adapted)

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Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Major Parables of Jesus bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name: _____
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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: 1. Clouds (Nahum 1:3); 2. Eutyclus (Acts 20:9); 3. 70 (Judges 8:30); 4. Elijah (2 Kings 2:8); 5. 2 Samuel (19:18); 6. David (2 Samuel 23:1); 7. Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10); 8. Locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4); 9. James and John (Mark 3:17); 10. Paul and Silas (Acts 17:4–6); 11. Moses (Exodus 33:17–23); 12. Lot's wife (Genesis 19:18, 26); 13. Word fitly spoken (Proverbs 25:11); 14. David (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22); 15. Enoch, Noah (Genesis 5:22; 6:9); 16. Herod (Acts 12:21–23); 17. Elijah, Enoch (2 Kings 2:1, 11; Genesis 5:24); 18. Joshua (Joshua 10:12).

Quirky Characters

Directions: Genesis 25:25; 29:17; Numbers 12:3; 22:29; Judges 3:17, 21; 16:5–6; 1 Samuel 17:4; 2 Samuel 14:25–26; 1 Kings 3:15–28; 2 Kings 1:8; 2:22–23; 9:20; Esther 2:7; Daniel 4:33; Matthew 10:4; Luke 19:2–3; John 20:24–25; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 10:10; James 5:11

- Who is known for being hairy? _____
- Who is known for being a doubter? _____
- Who is known as a reckless driver? _____
- Who is known for being wise? _____
- Who is known for being tall? _____
- Who is known for being bald? _____
- Who is best known for being beautiful? _____
- What man's physical presence was weak? _____
- Who was known for his long hair? _____
- Who is known for being patient? _____
- Who is known for wearing a leather girdle? _____
- Who is known as a traitor? _____
- This woman is known for having weak eyes. _____
- Who was known for his exceptional strength? _____
- Who is known for conversing with his donkey? _____
- What man is known for being meek (humble)? _____
- What man is known for being short? _____
- This man is known for being fat. _____
- Who ate grass? _____
- Who was known for being left-handed? _____

—adapted from Biblequizzes.com

Treasure Trove

On November 16, 1992, Eric Hawes, a metal-detecting enthusiast, was asked to help a local farmer find his hammer, which had been lost in a field. Using his metal detector, Hawes found something else instead: coins and other gold and silver objects. The collection is now in the British Museum. The find consisted of “15,000 gold and silver coins, gold jewelry, and numerous small items of silver tableware, including pepper pots, ladles, and spoons” (www.britishmuseum.org).

This Roman treasure, better known as the Hoxne (pronounced ‘Hoxon’) Hoard, was likely buried around AD 407–408 as Roman rule in Britain was deteriorating. The hoard had been buried in a wooden box that had long since rotted away.

It was thus declared “treasure trove,” that is, objects of gold or silver that had been hidden with the intention of recovery but for which the original owner could not be found. Such discovery is to be

reported to the police and subject to a coroner’s inquest. If the find is declared treasure trove, it reverts to the British Crown and can be acquired by a museum on payment of a sum equal to its full market value. This amount then is passed on to the finder as a reward.

The British Museum purchased the treasure and a reward was paid to Hawes. Hawes gave the hammerless farmer, Peter Whatling, half of the 1.75 million British pounds paid to him.

The Hoxne Hoard Treasure, however, is not the greatest treasure! Listen to the words of Jesus: “The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” (Matthew 13:44). Are you a treasure seeker? Open the Bible to learn more.

—David Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

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A Reflection upon

3 Crosses

Wayne Jackson of Stockton, California, writes,

“Crucifixion was probably the most horrible form of capital punishment ever devised by man. The ancient Persians practiced it (ca. 522 BC); for example, when Darius, a Persian ruler, conquered Babylon (the second conquest), he had three thousand leading citizens crucified (Herodotus, *The Histories* 3.159).

Later crucifixion became a mode of Greek execution. Following the destruction of Tyre, Alexander the Great crucified two thousand men of military age (Rollin 1857, 526).

On occasion, the Jews resorted to crucifixion. In the inter-biblical period, Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 BC) crucified eight hundred Pharisees who had been involved in a revolt.

The Romans, however, were most noted for the practice. In 71 BC, following a slave revolt in Rome, six thousand recaptured slaves were crucified on the Appian Way leading to the city (Vos 1999, 439).

The verb ‘crucify’ (forty-six times in the New Testament) was used by the inspired writers of the New Testament to depict the mode of Jesus’ death. But not His only—two other men were crucified at the same time as Christ.

All four Gospel writers are emphatic that two criminals were crucified—one on either side of the Savior (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32; John 19:18). These two additional victims are identified as ‘robbers’ or ‘malefactors’ (*kakourgos*—an ‘evil worker,’ cf. 2 Timothy 2:9)” (www.christiancourier.com).

Jesus, though innocent of any crime, died the worst possible death, the kind of execution reserved for the worst offenders, and a death that was especially reviled by the Jews (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13). Jesus’ crucifixion is historical, but in the context of history, it is also unique. He died for sins not His own, and He is the only one among thousands crucified to be resurrected from a sealed tomb.

J. Edgar Hoover and the Church of Christ

In a recent gospel meeting, this writer was privileged to meet a dentist and his wife who informed him of an inquiry they had made of the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation several decades ago. This couple was very active in a mainline denominational church when they began to notice the increasingly pronounced move toward socialism, especially in the directives and guidelines sent down from the church’s headquarters.

Having become disenchanted by the modernistic, anti-American, pro-socialistic thrusts of their denomination and by the National Council of Churches, of which their church was a member and major supporter, they wrote Director J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I., Washington, D.C., asking, “Which church in America, if any, is likely to be the least infiltrated and permeated by such unpatriotic influences?”

Mr. Hoover promptly responded by letter, saying that since the churches of Christ are completely autonomous—possessing no organization larger than the local church,

thus no hierarchy to send directives down to the local congregation—there would be little likelihood of more than one or a few congregations ever coming under such influence.

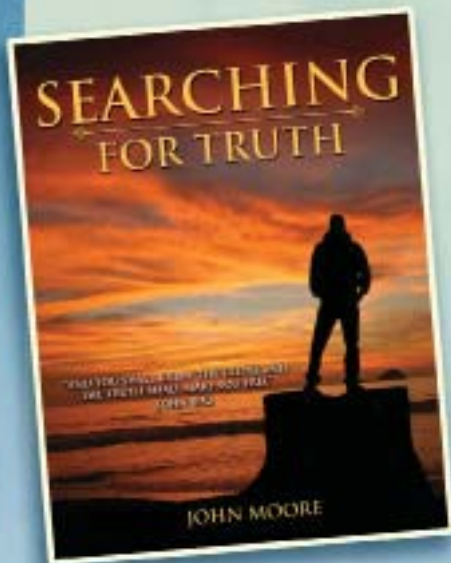
The dentist and his wife investigated the undenominational church of Christ, against which they had earlier been quite prejudiced. They came to appreciate the restoration principle (i.e., the return to the pure teaching of the New Testament and thereby restoring the primitive church, which Christ built nearly two thousand years ago) and obeyed the gospel plan of salvation, as set forth in the Acts of Apostles.

Director Hoover’s insight into the organization of the church of Christ will always be appreciated by these fine Christians and by their children. —Curtis Cates, Memphis, Tennessee

“To the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God.”

EPHESIANS 3:10

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Thoughts
from the **HEART**

The Gospel Is for All

The gospel of Christ is

Free – even the poor can obtain it: “The poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:5).

Plain – even the uneducated can understand it: “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge” (Ephesians 3:1–6; cf. 2 Timothy 2:7).

Equalizing – the humble are raised by it and the proud are humbled by it (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10).

Powerful – the weak are strengthened by it: “It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16).

Encouraging – the depressed are encouraged by it: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5–6).

Comforting – the sorrowful are consoled by it: “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

Compensating – obedient believers are rewarded by it for their works of faith and labors of love (Mark 10:28–30).

Are you following the true gospel of Christ?

—Author Unknown

“And the common people heard him gladly”

MARK 12:37

