

# HOUSE TO HOUSE

## Heart to Heart



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

Volume 8, Number 1

### 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

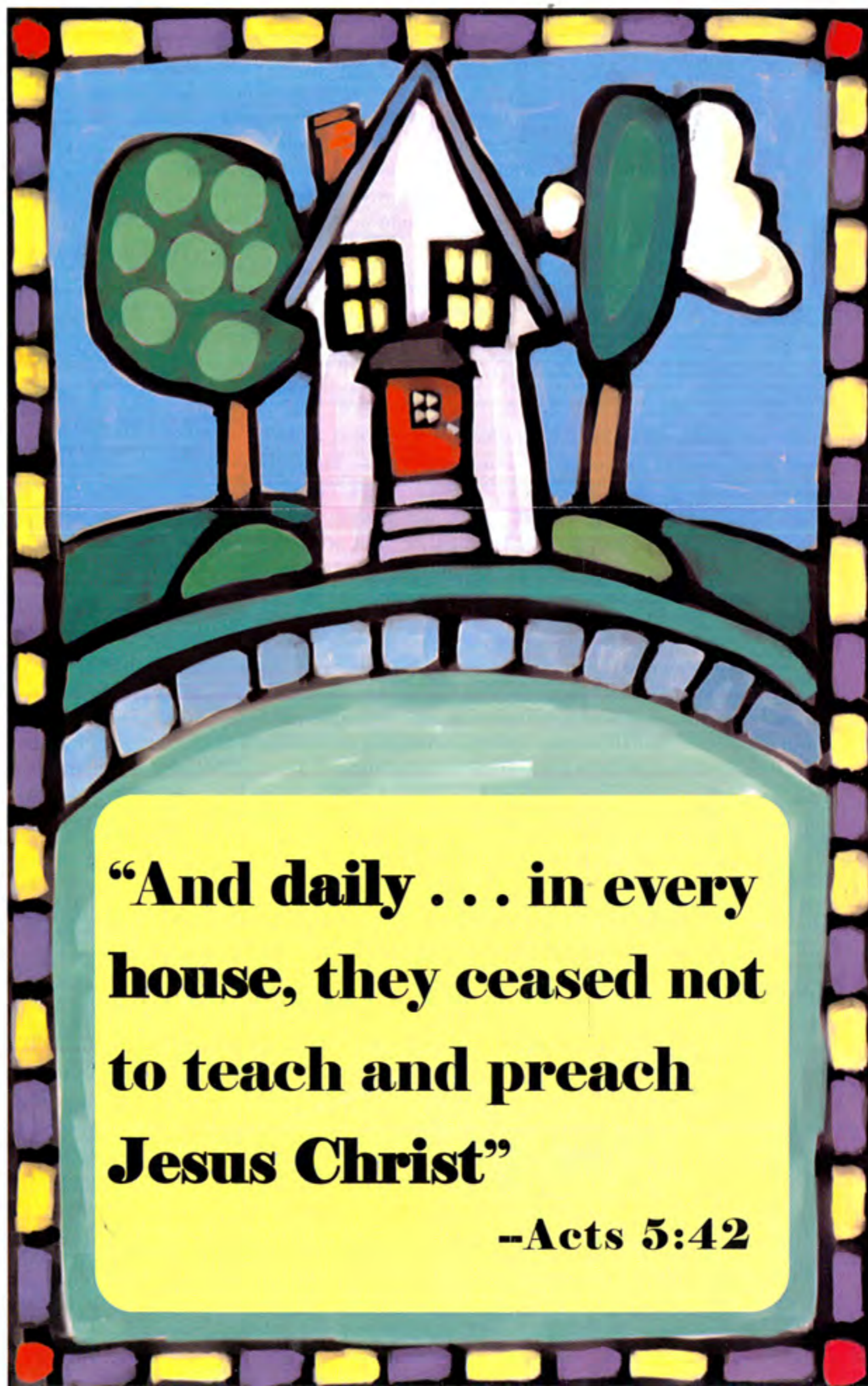
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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# Are You Covered?

ALLEN WEBSTER



In recent months, several natural and unnatural calamities have struck our country and community. Terrorists destroy buildings and lives; planes fall from the sky; evil people have given “hate mail” a new meaning. Periodically, hurricanes “huff, and puff, and blow our East Coast houses down,” and earthquakes “shake, rattle, and roll” our West Coast structures. A little closer to home, fires often destroy neighborhood houses, storms “leave us in the dark,” and auto accidents injure those we know.

Usually, upon finding out that no one was injured, we immediately ask, “Were they covered?” We are interested in whether victims had insurance and sympathize the more with those who did not. It multiplies the sorrow of misfortune if there is no “starting over” check.

Insurance companies provide a valuable service and most of us have been wisely counseled by informed agents. They always advise people to “take out some coverage—you never know when you might need it.” Though we do not like to pay the premiums, most of us realize that the potential benefits are worth the price to be “covered.” We often advise our children to take out a policy “just in case.”

There is a spiritual angle to the “insurance business.”

## GOD IS IN THE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

There is a sense in which God is in the insurance business. He promised Moses that He would “cover” him as He passed by (Ex. 33:22), and Moses promised the tribe of Benjamin, “...the Lord shall *cover* him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders” (Deut. 33:12). In a beautiful word picture, the Psalmist describes God’s protection: “Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. *He shall cover thee* with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psa. 91:3, 4).

From His vantage point, God can see an impending disaster worse than any hurricane or earthquake. It will not destroy just one house, or even town—but the whole earth (2 Pet. 3:10). It will not involve only a few hundred or thousand people, but all the people of the whole earth (2 Cor. 5:10). God is providing coverage for those willing to “pay the premiums.” Jesus put it this way:

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thou-

sand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Lk. 14:28-33).

## CHRISTIANS ARE INSURANCE AGENTS.

If God is in the insurance business, then we are His agents. We seek to “cover” our friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, fellow citizens, and, actually, all our “brothers come down from Adam.” Love motivates us. Gratitude sends us. When Noah was uncovered in his tent, Shem and Japheth took a garment and went backwards to cover their father’s shame (Gen. 9:23). They did what love always does—cover the shame of sinners. The Bible teaches us to do just that:

- ▶ “Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins” (Prov. 10:12).
- ▶ “A fool’s wrath is presently known; but a prudent man covered shame” (Prov. 12:16).
- ▶ “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends” (Prov. 17:9).
- ▶ “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins” (1 Pet. 4:8).

Love does not “sweep sin under the rug.” In younger days, our older brothers or buddies from school occasionally pressed us to “cover for them” to keep them from the wrath of parents or teachers. It never worked. The truth came out and then we looked as bad as they did. Sin is like a rubber tire—it won’t stay buried (Num. 32:23; 1 Tim. 5:24, 25). So, then, what does the Bible mean when it says that “love covereth all sins?” We cover sins by assisting sinners in getting rid of them. James wrote: “Let him know, that he which *converteth the sinner from the error of his way* shall save a soul from death, and *shall hide a multitude of sins*” (5:20).

## ARE YOU COVERED?

It does no good to cover one’s sins so that others do not know of them. Children may hide things from their parents, husbands and wives may hide things from each other, and workers may hide things from their employers, but no one hides anything from God (Heb. 4:13). “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Prov. 28:13).

The only way to cover one’s sins is to have them erased from the mind of God (Heb. 8:12). For sinners this is done through faith in His Son (Jn. 3:16), repentance (turning from sinful behavior) (Lk. 13:3), confession of faith (Rm. 10:9, 10), and immersion in water to have sins blotted out (Acts 2:38). For erring Christians, sins are covered by repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22).

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psa. 32:1).

# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8



### Ten Commandments of Human Relations

**1. Thou Shalt Love People, Not Just Use Them (Mt. 22:39).** The greatest thing in the world is a person. The greatest thing about a person is his motives, and the greatest motive is love.

**2. Thou Shalt Develop Thy Understanding (Mt. 7:12; 1 Pet. 3:6).** "If every man's care were written on his brow, how many would our pity share, who bear our envy now?"

**3. Thou Shalt Compliment More Than Criticize (1 Pet. 3:10; Rm. 14:19).** We should cover our neighbor's fault with a cloak of charity; we may need a circus tent to cover our own.

**4. Thou Shalt Not Often Get Angry (Eph. 4:26).** If we are right, we don't need to. If we are wrong, we can't afford to.

**5. Thou Shalt Not Argue (Eph. 4:32).** It's no use to win the argument and lose the relationship. Beware of the attitude which says: "In matters controversial, my attitude is fine. I always see two points of view—the one that's wrong and mine."

**6. Thou Shalt Be Kind (1 Cor. 13:4).** Be kind to people you meet on the way up; they are the ones you meet on the way down. It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

**7. Thou Shalt Have a Sense of Humor (Prov. 17:22).** A sense of humor is to a man what springs are to a wagon. It saves him lots of jolts.

**8. Thou Shalt Smile (cf. Ecc. 3:4).** No man is ever fully dressed until he has a smile on his face.

Powder your face with sunshine,  
Put on a great big smile.  
Make up your eyes with laughter,  
Folks will be laughing with you in a little while.  
Whistle a tune of gladness,  
Gloom never was worthwhile.  
The future's brighter when hearts are lighter,  
So, smile, smile, smile.

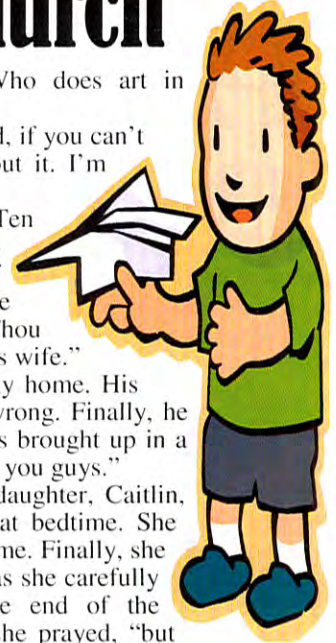
**9. Thou Shalt Practice What Thou Preachest (Rm. 2:21).** One example is worth one thousand arguments.

**10. Thou shalt go to school under the Headmaster of the Universe (Jn. 14:6).** He is the Master of Men, the Secretary of Human Relations—namely, Jesus Christ. He is the greatest leader the world has ever known.

- ▶ I am too blessed to be stressed!
- ▶ It is better to appreciate things you do not have, than to have things that you do not appreciate.
- ▶ One who kneels to God can stand up to anything.
- ▶ We all live under the same sky, but we do not all have the same horizon. —Konrad Adenauer

### Children in Church

- ▶ Three-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is his name. Amen."
- ▶ A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."
- ▶ A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shalt not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."
- ▶ Jason sobbed in the back seat all the way home. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, he replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."
- ▶ I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat the lines of the prayer after me. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some email. Amen."
- ▶ One four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."
- ▶ A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- ▶ Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together. Joel giggled, sang, and talked. Finally, big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."
- ▶ A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. They began to argue over who got the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you play the part of Jesus!"
- ▶ A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the boy asked. "He died and went to Heaven," replied the Dad. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"



### Of the People



Most of us have heard the famous phrase used by Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address: "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people." Many think that Lincoln invented this expression, but he did not. The phrase has been around for hundreds of years. In John Wycliffe's introduction to his translation of the Bible in 1382, these words are found, "This Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People." Civil governments can only do so much. Civil authorities are ordained of God to assist in the governing of the secular and legal affairs of men. But, the best government is self-government guided by God. Each of us must use the Bible as the standard that governs our conduct. This is the finest government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

—Darrell E. Beard, Tulepo, Mississippi



THE  
HOME  
PAGE

## God Needs to be There

A braid appears to contain only two strands of hair. But it is impossible to create a braid with only two strands. If the two could be put together at all, they would quickly unravel. Herein lies the mystery: What looks like two strands require a third. The third strand, though not immediately evident, keeps the strands tightly woven. In a Christian marriage, God's presence, like the third strand in a braid, holds husband and wife together.

"...lo, I am with you always..." —Mt. 28:20

## Empty Nest

- ▶ You know you are suffering from "Empty Nest Syndrome" if...you have thrown out the better part of the last several one-gallon jugs of milk but still can't bring yourself to buy the one-quart cartons.
- ▶ You called the power company and asked them to check your meter because the hot-water bill has been way too low.
- ▶ You suddenly realize that you no longer need to include video late fees as part of the monthly budget.
- ▶ You are shocked when you notice you can push the buttons on the car radio and KNOW what station you will get.
- ▶ They've been gone three years, and you still cook enough for your husband and have seconds and thirds...and fourths.

## Used to Being In Trouble

At the end of a day, I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" He asked. "It sure is." Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

"A merry heart doeth good..." —Prov. 17:22

## To My Child

- ▶ Just for this morning, I am going to smile when I see your face and laugh when I feel like crying.
- ▶ Just for this morning, I will let you choose what you want to wear and smile and say how perfect it is.
- ▶ Just for this morning, I am going to step over the laundry and pick you up and take you to the park to play.
- ▶ Just for this morning, I will leave the dishes in the sink and let you teach me how to put that puzzle of yours together.
- ▶ Just for this afternoon, I will unplug the telephone and keep the computer off and sit with you in the backyard and blow bubbles.
- ▶ Just for this afternoon, I will not yell once, not even a tiny grumble when you scream and whine for the ice cream truck, and I will buy you one if he comes by.
- ▶ Just for this afternoon, I won't worry about what you are going to be when you grow up, or second guess every decision I have made where you are concerned.
- ▶ Just for this afternoon, I will let you help me bake cookies, and I won't stand over you trying to fix them.
- ▶ Just for this afternoon, I will take us to McDonald's and buy us both a Happy Meal so you can have both toys.
- ▶ Just for this evening, I will hold you in my arms and tell you a story about how you were born and how much I love you.
- ▶ Just for this evening, I will let you splash in the tub and not get angry.
- ▶ Just for this evening, I will let you stay up late while we sit on the porch and count all the stars.
- ▶ Just for this evening, I will snuggle beside you and miss my favorite TV shows.
- ▶ Just for this evening, when I run my finger through your hair as you pray, I will simply be grateful that God has given me such a great gift. I will think about the mothers and fathers who are searching for their missing children, the mothers and fathers who are visiting their children's graves instead of their bedrooms, and mothers and fathers who are in hospital rooms watching their children suffer, and screaming inside that they can't handle it anymore.
- ▶ And when I kiss you good night, I will hold you a little tighter, a little longer. It is then that I will thank God for you, and ask Him for nothing, except one more day.

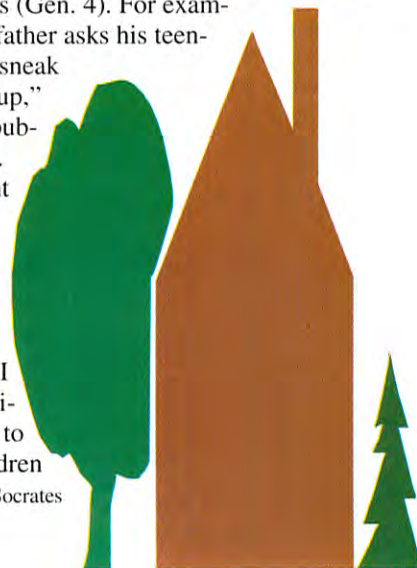
"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" —Psalm 127:3-5

## Nothing New Under the Sun...

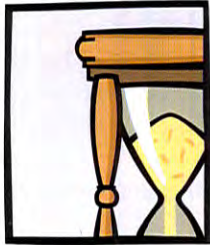
Generational tension is not a phenomenon which erupted in our century. It is as old as the trouble Adam and Eve had with their two boys (Gen. 4). For example, when did this conversation occur? An angry father asks his teenage son, "Where did you go?" The boy, trying to sneak home late at night, answers, "Nowhere." "Grow up," the father chides him. "Stop hanging around the public squares and wandering up and down the street. Go to school. Night and day you torture me. Night and day you waste your time having fun." Was that sharp rebuke administered last night by an irate dad to a defiant juvenile? No, it comes from Sumerian clay tablets 4,000 year old. —Dr. Vernon Grounds, *Homemade*

"Could I climb to the highest places in Athens, I would lift up my voice and proclaim: Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of the children to whom you must someday relinquish it all?" —Socrates

"Train up a child..." —Proverbs 22:6



## Are We Living in the Last Days?



Yes, we are living in the "last days." It should not be a cause for alarm, however, because we have been living in the last days for almost two thousand years! The "last days" refer to the last great period of history, the Christian Age. There have been three great dispensations or ages of God dealing with mankind. The first was the Patriarchal Age, when God dealt directly with the heads

of families (from Adam to Moses). This period ended with the beginning of the Mosaic Age, when God gave the Law of Moses to Israel. The Mosaic Age (the age under which Jesus lived) ended with the advent of the Christian Age, ushered in by the preaching of the Gospel and the establishment of the first century church.

On the Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ, Peter rose up with the rest of the apostles to speak and said, concerning the things that were happening, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass *in the last days*, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:16-17). Peter said that the events of that day were the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy concerning what would happen "in these last days."

Succeeding verses describe dramatic events: "...wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood and fire and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come" (2:19-20). This "apocalyptic" language describes cataclysmic events that man could hardly imagine. Some have suggested that these events refer to the crucifixion of Christ or the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies.

The Spirit was poured out on "all flesh," as the Gospel message was to go from Jerusalem to all the nations of the world, a message of salvation: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). To the Jews it was almost unbelievable that the Gospel could be for the whole world, including Gentiles, but Peter promised such: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (2:39). He called all present to respond: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (2:38).

Later Peter wrote that Christ "was manifest in these last times" (1 Peter 1:20). Time may be drawing to an end. Today may be the last day. Or, the Lord may delay His coming for a thousand years so more can "come to repentance" (1 Pet. 3:9). Look for no special "last days" signs in present events. Do not listen to false teachers who set dates for the second coming or the end of the world. Do not be lulled into thinking you have plenty of time to make your life right with God, either. We should prepare to meet Christ—the angel may be getting his trumpet ready (1 Thes. 4:13-18). *Now* is the time to obey Christ (2 Cor. 6:2).

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Questions Taken from the King James Version

## God's Doings' Through Elisha

Through Elisha...

1. ...God parted the waters of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Kgs. 2:13-15).
2. ...God provided oil for a \_\_\_\_\_ to pay her debt (2 Kgs. 4:1-7).
3. ...God raised a \_\_\_\_\_ woman's son (2 Kgs 4:8-37).
4. ...God healed \_\_\_\_\_ of leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:1-19).
5. ...God smote \_\_\_\_\_ with leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:20-27).
6. ...God caused \_\_\_\_\_ to swim (2 Kgs. 6:1-7).

## Kings of Chaos

1. Started out with his focus on God but became preoccupied with the material world (1 Kgs. 9:15-28) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Refused to follow the demands of the people, and so ten tribes revolted (1 Kings 12:1-19) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was called from Egypt to reign over the ten tribes, continued in sin, punished by God (1 Kgs. 12:20; 14:1-20) \_\_\_\_\_
4. King, who when he became diseased, "sought not the Lord, but to physicians" (2 Chron. 16:12) \_\_\_\_\_
5. While being found drunk in the house of Ezra, this king was killed by Zimri, his captain (1 Kgs. 16:8-10) \_\_\_\_\_
6. King who married Jezebel (1 Kgs. 16:30-31) \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Did evil in the sight of the LORD, walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother" (1 Kgs. 22:52) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Though not like his father and mother (he put away the image of Baal), he still wrought evil in the sight of the Lord by cleaving to the sins of Jeroboam (2 Kgs. 3:1-3) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Offered his own son as a "burnt offering upon the wall" (2 Kgs. 3:4, 21-27) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Began to reign at age seven, later slew his own son (2 Chron. 24:1, 22) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Followed sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat (2 Kgs. 13:2) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Did right in the Lord's sight but not with a perfect heart (2 Chron. 25:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Punished with leprosy by God (2 Chron. 26:19-23) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Made his son to pass through the fire and made molten images for Baalim (2 Chron. 28:1-3) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Slain by Shallum, son of Jabesh (2 Kgs. 15:8-10) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Took throne from Shallum, continued in sins of Jeroboam (2 Kgs. 15:14-22) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Built high places, raised altars, observed times, used enchantments, dealt with familiar spirits/wizards. Later turned to God of heaven (2 Kgs. 21:2-16; 2 Chron. 33:1-20) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Became servant of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon for three years (2 Kgs. 24:1) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Began reign at age eighteen, only reigned three months (2 Kgs. 24:8-17) \_\_\_\_\_
20. Rebelled against the king of Babylon (2 Kgs. 24:20) \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to last issue:** *Twenty-Questions...From Mark:* 1. true; 2. casting out an unclean spirit; 3. plucked ears of corn (grain); 4. sons of thunder; 5. cares of this world; deceitfulness of riches; lusts of other things; 6. two thousand; 7. true; 8. a ghost; 9. John the Baptist; Elias; One of the prophets; 10. the Son of God; 11. Peter, James, John; 12. fig tree; 13. a penny; 14. His head to be anointed; 15. sang an hymn; 16. a maid of the high priest; 17. he marveled; 18. Joseph of Arimathea; 19. Into all the world; 20. Believe, be baptized; *The Shepherd's Psalm...* Shepherd; pastures; soul; righteousness; shadow; evil; comfort; table; oil; cup; mercy; house.

*Send your answers in! We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one entrant to receive a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.*



# Whenever it breaks...

“Study to show thyself approved unto God...” —2 Timothy 2:15



There is a monastery in Greece perched high on a cliff, several hundred feet in the air. The only way to reach the monastery is to be suspended in a basket which is pulled to the top by several monks who tug with all their strength. Obviously, the ride up the steep cliff in that basket is terrifying.

One tourist got exceptionally nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed. With a trembling voice, he asked a monk riding with him how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered serenely, “Whenever it breaks....”

Some things should never be put off. When I recognize the need for change and correction, I need to do it NOW...before it's too late...before the rope breaks.

Would you believe me if I told you I had discovered a new diet where we could eat only fattening foods and yet lose weight? The diet would consist of banana splits, pizza, coconut cream pies, doughnuts, fudge—you name it. What if I told you that I had found a new alcohol recovery program where we were advised to drink a quart of Scotch every hour? Or what if I told you about a new way to get in shape by sitting in front of the television set, clicking away on your remote control? What if I told you that I had found a new way to get ahead in school by goofing off and playing video games?

We know none of these ridiculous suggestions will work. Why? Because we reap what we sow...

—adapted from Alan Smith, *Thought from the Day* and Greg Laurie, *Life. Any Questions?* 140

Isn't it time to start reading the Bible... before the rope breaks?

“And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for his time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” —Acts 24:25

Editor's Note: In some editions of the last HTH, the middle verse of the Bible was listed in separate articles as both Psalm 118:8 and Psalm 97:8. There is some discrepancy on this depending on which Bible one uses, but (according to Bibleinfo.com) in the KJV it is Psalm 118:8.



## HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE LISTED ON THE FRONT)

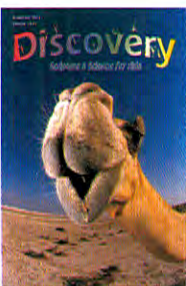
**YES!** I want to start learning more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free...work at your own pace.*

**NEW!** *Explorer Series: Journey #1 (Christian Evidences for Kids)* Bible Curriculum for children 6-12... Thirteen well-written and beautifully illustrated lessons...can be completed one at a time at the child's own pace...Great for home devotionals, home schoolers, and Bible classes.

- 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, programs, and activities.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation.
- Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

—All materials/services are FREE of charge—



## Featured Paper:

HTH has again made arrangement for readers to receive a free issue of *Discovery*, a colorful, beautifully illustrated, eight-page monthly magazine written especially for children. Each issue contains faith-building lessons on science and the Bible, as well as fun activities. To receive your free copy simply contact (for all other materials call church listed on front):

**1-800-234-8558 / ApologeticsPress.org**



## Featured Tracts:

Check the ones you want to study further and mail in (free):

- Send me this month's packet (all materials)
- Scruples. NEW!** A 16-page study of what Romans 14 says about tolerating differing opinions among believers.
- Can We Let Our Conscience Be Our Guide in Religion? NEW!** Is God's religion based upon feelings, or revelation? For what purpose did God give each person a conscience? For that matter does every person have a functioning conscience?
- Finding God's Treasure. NEW!** A study about finding salvation by a careful study of the Bible. Based on conversion of the Ethiopian Treasurer in Acts 8.
- HTH Booklet: How to Get a Good Night's Sleep
- HTH Booklet: The Day the Preacher Sat Next to the Atheist
- HTH Booklet: A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross
- HTH Pamphlet: Married for Life
- Daily Bible Reading Bookmark
- Guideposts for Young People (Bible Bookmark)
- Pocket Bible Reference Booklet  The Rapture?
- What Must I Do to be Saved?  Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



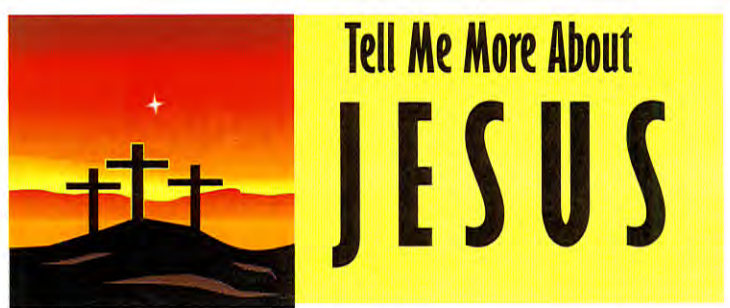
## Featured Website:

For free in depth Bible study material, we recommend:

**www.christiancourier.com**

While there, visit the “Just for Kids” section.

This popular site is constantly updated and has nearly 100,000 “documents viewed” per month.



## Answer the Prayer of Jesus



A little fellow wished to pray but had never been taught how. He, thus, began to recite his ABCs as he knelt. A man passing by overheard the lad and inquired, "Son, what's going on?" "I'm saying my prayers," replied the boy. "But why the ABCs?" the man asked. "Sir," came the answer, "I don't know how to go about praying so I thought if I said my ABCs God would take what he needed and spell out the words to match my wants."

With childlike innocence, this little fellow believed in prayer.

Jesus also believed in prayer. In fact, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John compositely recorded several occasions where Jesus went apart to pray. For example, all of John 17 projects a prayer of Jesus which may be divided into four segments: (1) For Himself (17:1-5); (2) For the apostles (17:6-19); (3) For the church (17:20-23); and again, (4) For the apostles (17:24-26).

Let's focus on "Christ's prayer for the church" (17:20-23). "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." This pulsates with a plea for harmony.

According to "Christ's prayer for the church," *harmony is a challenging possibility*. He prayed that all who believe on him through the apostles' word might "be one...be one in us...be one...be made perfect in one." In each of these petitions, the subjunctive mood of the Greek language was used, indicating an objective reality! Harmony among Christians is more than an illusive dream or noble sentiment. Encouragingly, it is a very real possibility. A case in point to prove such would be the first century church of Jerusalem (Acts 2:42, 44-46). They were united in their support of fearless Gospel preaching (4:24-29). They were united in their benevolent spirit and sacrificial care (4:32). They were also united in their support of church discipline (5:1-12). By example, they established the possibility of harmony existing in the church.

Therefore, the subject of harmony among Christians should be approached with a positive attitude. When it comes to unity in the church, negative slurs ["Well, that sounds good," or "It would be nice," or "That is just youthful idealism"] should be CANNED. After all, success comes in CANS not CAN'TS! If Jesus' prayer for the church implied the possibility of harmony in the church, it is a possibility yea, it is a possibility that

## Jesus is Our Access

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6). He is the way, without Him we are lost. He is the truth, without Him we are in error. He is the life, without Him we are dead. Christ once lived in the world in a physical body. He was confined to wherever that body happened to be. When He was in Jerusalem, He was not in Galilee. However, in His glorified state at God's right hand, He is not confined geographically. He can be with His people wherever they are (Mt. 28:20). He can be our access to the Father from wherever we are (Rm. 5:2). How comforting to know that Christ is *present* and that He has the *power* to help us.

## On Being Like Jesus

- ▶ We want to be like Him as He walks on the water, but don't want to walk the dirty floor of a poor man's hovel.
- ▶ We would raise the dead, but will not hold the hand of the sick.
- ▶ We would turn water into wine, but will not turn our money into food, clothing, and shelter for the needy.
- ▶ We would still a storm on Galilee, but will not calm the troubled heart of a neighbor.
- ▶ We would restore the deaf man's hearing, but will not share with him what he needs most to hear.
- ▶ We want to be like Jesus but prefer to walk with Him in triumph over palm branches, not under the weight of the cross. We want the crown, but not the cross.
- ▶ We would like a scepter, but not a shepherd's staff. We prefer the royal garment to the service towel.
- ▶ We want to be like Jesus as King, but not as servant.

"...we should follow in his steps..." —1 Peter 2:21



## No Other Name

No other Name has ever won such diverse allegiance—Paul and Tolstoi, Roosevelt and St. Francis, Grenfell and Schweitzer. No other voice speaks to every man "in his own tongue." Well might that little Chinese girl confess: "I have known Him all my life, and one day I learned His name." If other nations refuse Him at our hands, it is not because He lacks authority but because our hands have not been clean. Yet, even despite our unclean hands, His purity shines through, and His Gospel now is read in over three hundred different tongues.

"Gospel" means "good news" and refers to the salvation offered through Christ's death. "Gospel" is an old English contraction of two words "the *God spell*." It refers to those who have been called by the Gospel (2 Thes. 2:14), have come under the power of the Gospel (Rm. 1:16), and who pattern their lives after the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1; Phil. 1:27). Each should ask, "How much am I under "God's spell?"

Jesus. Truly, a name I love to hear!

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"

—Acts 4:12