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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 6

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

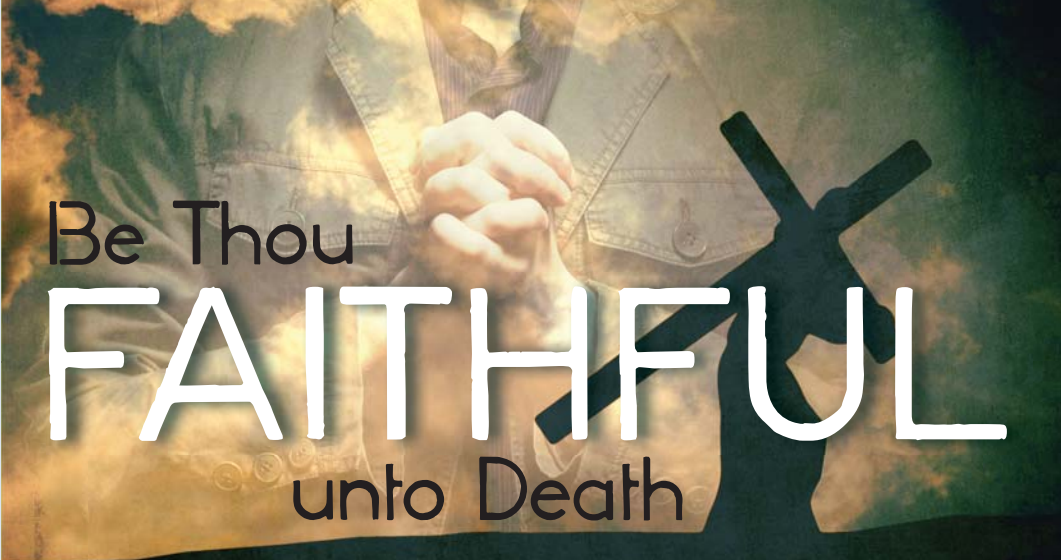
Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37
Rule of Faith & Practice:
Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

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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Allen Webster

Lawrence J. Peter¹ said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else.” Spiritually, it is certainly true that if we don’t make preparations, we will end up somewhere other than heaven.

Salvation has three aspects: past, present, and future. In the past, Christians were saved from sin by obeying the gospel (Titus 3:5; Acts 2:38). In the present, we remain saved by being faithful. Paul wrote that we should work out our “own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). In the future, we have hope of salvation from the destruction of hell. Paul wrote of salvation being “nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11; cf. 1 Peter 1:5, 9). We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but what does it mean to be “faithful”? (Matthew 25:21).

To Be Faithful, One Must Continue Steadfastly

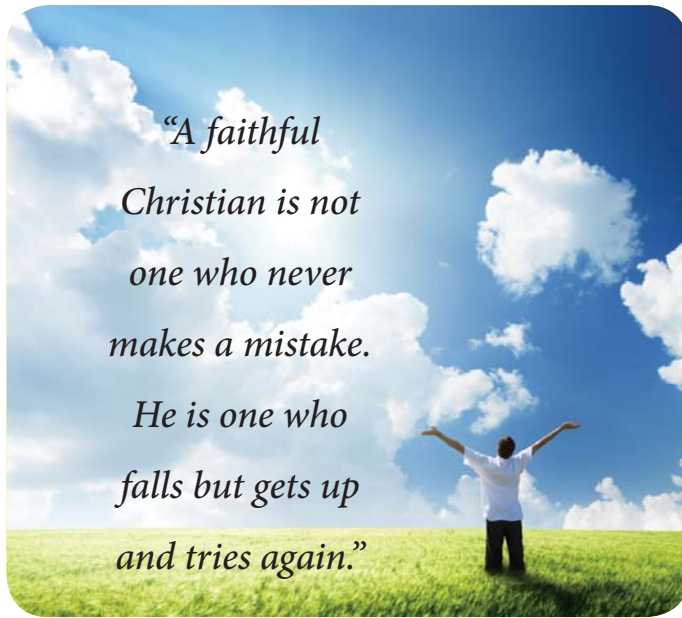
Obedience to Christ does not end at baptism; it starts there. Jesus said, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give

thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). There is more to being a Christian than getting wet. After we are immersed into Christ (Galatians 3:27), we become immersed in Christ’s work (1 Corinthians 15:58). After being handed new life, a new, thrilling way of living unfolds before us (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 10:10). After being added to the kingdom (Acts 2:47), we join the great work of advancing the kingdom (Mark 16:15-16). After being forgiven (Acts 2:38), we help others learn how to be forgiven (Ephesians 1:7).

The early church continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42). This included abiding in

- Christ (1 John 2:24);
- The word (John 8:31-32; James 1:25);
- Faith (Acts 14:22);
- The faith (Colossians 1:23);
- Grace of God (Acts 13:43);
- Love (John 15:9; Hebrews 13:1; Jude 1:21);
- Worship (Acts 2:42).

We must continue in fellowship (Acts 2:42). Dr. Flavil Yeakley, Jr., studied fifty faithful and fifty unfaithful church



members. He found that after six months, the faithful had made seven or more new friends in the church. Of those who had made fewer than three new friends, none were faithful after six months.²

We must continue to avoid falling back into sin. Sinful habits may be hard to resist, but we must fight the temptation to return to what we left (1 Peter 2:1; Colossians 3:5–9; 2 Peter 2:20–22). God has given assurance that He will not allow us to be tempted above our ability to overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13).

We must continue bearing fruit (John 15:1–7; Galatians 5:22–23).

We must continue growing in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). Everyday religion is the key. Practice these healthy habits:

- Let God say something to you every day by studying His word (Acts 17:11; Revelation 1:3). Read at least a chapter a day. Four chapters a day completes the Bible each year.
- Say something to God every day in prayer. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Say something for God every day (2 Timothy 4:2). Tell a friend the good news. Speak a kind word (Ephesians 4:32).
- Do something for God every day. Look for opportunities to serve and encourage (Hebrews 12:12).

To Be Faithful, One Must Be Dependable (Matthew 25:21)

“It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2; cf. 1 Timothy 6:20–21).

God depends on us to be in worship services (John 4:24). Do not miss a single service of the church you can possibly attend. It is a sin to do otherwise (Hebrews 10:25; James 4:17).

God depends on us to be at our post of service (Ephesians 6:7). Those buried alive when a volcano destroyed Pompeii were found preserved. Some were in the streets, attempting to escape. Some were in deep vaults, seeking security. Others were in lofty chambers, hoping to stay above the lava. Where was the Roman sentinel? He was standing at the city gate where his captain had put him, with his hand on his weapon. There he stood, while the heaven above threatened him; there he stood, while the earth shook beneath him; there he stood, while ash and pumice buried him. There at his post he was found faithful almost two-

thousand years later. We each have a post of service where our Captain has placed us. When the end comes, will we be found there?

God depends on us to get His message out (Matthew 28:18–20).

God depends on us to do our part of the work (Romans 12:4–8).

Discouraged with their unimportant role in the historic conflict, coal miners came to Winston Churchill during World War II, volunteering to fight on the front lines. Churchill asked to meet with all four thousand miners the next morning. At that time, Churchill gave his nation these stirring words:

“We shall not fail, and then some day, when children ask, ‘What did you do to win this inheritance for us, and to make our name so respected among men?’ one will say: ‘I was a fighter pilot’; another will say: ‘I was in the Submarine Service’; another: ‘I marched with the Eighth Army’; a fourth will say: ‘None of you could have lived without the convoys and the Merchant Seamen’; and you in your turn will say, with equal pride and with equal right: ‘We cut the coal.’”

When the final chapter is written of the “World War” now being waged between Christ and Satan, what will it say about our part? Did we join the battle, or were we on the sidelines? Were we faithful and engaged or absent and frolicking with the enemy?

To Be Faithful, One Must Overcome Failure

Faithfulness is not perfection. A faithful Christian is not one who never makes a mistake. He is one who falls but gets up and tries again. Peter attempted to walk on water (Matthew 14:28–33), rebuked Jesus (Matthew 16:21–23), denied Him three times (Matthew 26:35, 69–75), and played the hypocrite (Galatians 2:11–14). But Peter was not a failure because he kept trying.

Christian, think of your position:

- You made a good bargain; don’t sell now. “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23).
- You planted an important crop; don’t forsake it. “The good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit” (Luke 8:15).
- You are in line for blessings; don’t step away. “Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it” (Luke 11:28).
- You started a journey to a wonderful place; don’t stop. “That I might finish my course with joy” (Acts 20:24).

Faithfulness matters. Grantland Rice, America’s first great sports writer, put it this way: “For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes—not that you won or lost—but how you played the Game.”³ The world will measure us by our success, but God will measure us by our faithfulness.

Endnotes:

¹ 1919–1990. An educator and management theorist best known for having formulated the Peter Principle (“In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence.”)

² *Why Churches Grow*.

³ from the poem “Alumnus Football” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grantland_Rice.

Slow Down Therapy

1. **Slow down;** God is still in heaven. You are not responsible for doing it all yourself, right now.
2. Remember a happy, peaceful time in your past. Rest there.
3. Set your own pace. When people push you, it's okay to tell them.
4. Don't take simple things for granted: watch water flow, corn grow, leaves blow, and your neighbor mow.
5. Taste your food. God gives it to delight as well as to nourish.
6. Notice the sun and the moon as they rise and set. They are remarkable for their steady pattern of movement, not their speed.
7. Talk and play with children. It will bring out the unhurried little person inside you.
8. Create a place in your home . . . at your work . . . in your heart . . . where you can go for quiet and recollection.
9. Allow yourself time to be unproductive. Rest is a necessity, too.
10. Talk slower. Talk less. Don't talk. Communication isn't necessarily measured by words.
11. Give yourself permission to be late sometimes. Life is for living, not scheduling.
12. Listen to the song of a bird—the complete song.
13. Learn to stand back and let others take their turn as leaders. There will always be new opportunities for you to step out in front again.
14. Divide big jobs into little jobs. God took six days to create the universe.
15. When you find yourself being anxious, stop and ask "Why?" The best musician is one who plays with expression and meaning, not the one who finishes first.
16. Take time to read the Bible. Thoughtful reading is enriching reading.
17. Take a day off alone; make a retreat.
18. Pet a furry friend. You will give and get the gift of now.
19. Once in a while, turn down the lights, the volume, the throttle, the invitations. Sit in the dark. It will teach you to see and hear, taste and smell.
20. Take a walk—but don't go anywhere. Journey is often better than destination.
21. Count your friends. If you have one true friend, you are unusual. If you have more, you are blessed. Bless them in return.

"Be still, and know that I am God."

PSALM 46:10

A Cow with No Horns

"Mister, why doesn't this cow have any horns?" asked the young lady from a nearby city on a field trip to the country.

The farmer cocked his head for a moment, then began in a patient tone, "Well, ma'am, cattle can do a powerful lot of damage with horns. Sometimes we keep 'em trimmed down with a hacksaw. Other times we can fix up the young'uns by puttin' a couple drops of acid where their horns would grow in, and that stops 'em cold. Still, there are some breeds of cattle that never grow horns.

"But the reason this cow don't have no horns, ma'am, is 'cause it's a horse."



I Will Go with You

One of the many Abraham Lincoln stories that have been told as true relates a day Lincoln went down to the slave block in Washington D.C. during the war.

He saw a girl being sold. He took money out of his pocket and bought her. Then he said to her, "Young lady, you are free."

She said, "Please, sir, what does that mean?"

Lincoln said, "It means you are free."

She asked, "Does that mean that I can say whatever I want to say?"

He answered, "Yes. You can say whatever you want to say."

She asked, "Does that mean I can be whatever I want to be?"

He replied, "Yes, it means you can be whatever you want to be."

She asked, "Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?"

He said, "Yes, you can go wherever you want to go."

And the girl with tears streaming down her face, said, "Then I will go with you."

"Follow me."

LUKE 9:23

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



Mother: Queen of the World

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last

hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought, the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven."

Strickland Gillilan penned: "You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be—I had a mother who read to me."

"Honour thy ... mother."

EXODUS 20:12

\$150 a Week to Talk about Mom

Three ladies were bragging on their grown sons. The first lady told of the extravagant birthday parties her son provided her. "Why he even hired a full band for my last birthday."

The second lady bragged about how her son gave such lavish vacations. "Just last month he sent me to Hawaii for the fourth time."

The third woman was not to be outdone and she piped up, "That's nothing. My son has been paying a psychiatrist \$150 a week for the last three years just so he can talk about me."

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

Don't Just Hope— Decide!

A few years ago a man was waiting for a friend at the airport in Portland, Oregon.

Among the passengers leaving the plane, he noticed a man coming toward him carrying two light bags. He watched as the man stopped to greet his family.

First he motioned to his youngest son (maybe six years old) as he lay down his bags. They gave each other a long, loving hug. As they separated enough to look in each other's face, the father said, "It's so good to see you, son. I missed you so much!"

His son smiled somewhat shyly, averted his eyes and replied softly, "Me, too, Dad!"

Then the man stood up, gazed into the eyes of his oldest son (maybe nine or ten) and while cupping his son's face in his hands said, "You're already quite the young man. I love you very much, Zach!" They too hugged a most loving, tender hug.

While this was happening, a baby girl (perhaps one year old) was squirming excitedly in her mother's arms, never once taking her little eyes off the wonderful sight of her returning father. The man said, "Hi, baby girl!" as he gently took the child from her mother. He quickly kissed her face all over and then held her close to his chest while rocking her from side to side. The little girl instantly relaxed and simply laid her head on his shoulder, motionless in pure contentment.

After several moments, he handed his daughter to his oldest son and declared, "I've saved the best for last," and proceeded to give his wife a long,

passionate kiss. He gazed into her eyes for several seconds and then silently mouthed, "I love you so much!" They stared at each other's eyes, beaming at one another, holding both hands.

The bystander then realized how totally engrossed he was in the wonderful display of genuine love beside him. He suddenly felt uncomfortable, as if he were invading something sacred, but was amazed to hear his own voice nervously ask, "Wow! How long have you two been married?"

"Been married twelve years," the man replied, without breaking his gaze from his lovely wife's face.

"Well, then, how long have you been away?" the bystander asked.

"Two whole days!"

The bystander was stunned. By the intensity of the greeting, he assumed the man had been gone for at least several weeks, if not months. Almost offhandedly, hoping to end his intrusion with some semblance of grace, he said, "I hope my marriage is still that passionate after twelve years!"

The man suddenly stopped smiling. He looked him in the eye, and with forcefulness that burned right into his soul he said something that left the bystander a different person.

He said, "Don't hope, friend . . . decide!"

"I can do all things through Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



Is the Devil Omniscient?

The devil is not, nor can he be, omniscient. If he were omniscient, he would be God. A passage pertinent to this discussion is 1 Corinthians 2:6–8, which says, “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

There can be no doubt the devil was the driving force behind those who hated Christ and had Him killed. Paul’s statement here notes that if the truth had been known, Jesus would not have been killed. Think about this for a moment—the only way all men could be saved would be for Jesus to die in their place. If the devil had known this, he would have done everything in his power to stop it!

Consider also Hebrews 2:14–15: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, destroyed the power of the devil. If the devil were omniscient, he would have known this ahead of time and never allowed Jesus to be crucified.

In like fashion, if the devil were omniscient, he would know exactly how to tempt us at all times in order to get us away from God. I believe the devil only uses what has worked in the past, and when we learn to conquer that particular temptation, he tries something else.

—Todd Clippard, Hamilton, Alabama

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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 “Quick Scriptures – Basic Bible Topics” bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



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Address: _____

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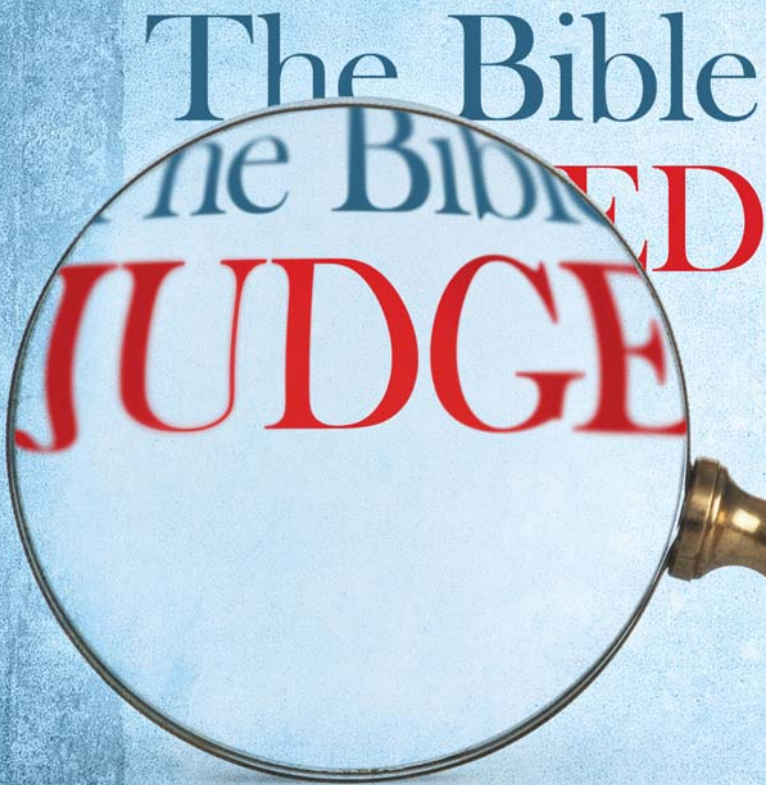
Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: *Unusual Deaths* 1. Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30–37); 2. James (Acts 12:1–2); 3. Saul’s armourbearer (1 Samuel 31:5–6); 4. Ananias (Acts 5:1–5); 5. Fell from his seat, broke his neck (1 Samuel 4:14–18); 6. Hanged (Esther 7:10); 7. Korah (Numbers 16:31–32); 8. Uriaah (2 Samuel 11:10–24); 9. Ahab (1 Kings 22:20, 34); 10. Absalom (2 Samuel 18:9–14). *Famous Children* 1. Anna (Luke 2:36–38); 2. Moses (Exodus 2:5–10); 3. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20, 28); 4. Isaac (Genesis 22:1–12); 5. Joseph (Genesis 37:28); 6. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20; 2:19).

Who Said That?

Find answers here: Psalm 37:25; Matthew 3:11; 4:3, 19; 14:28; 23:37; Mark 15:39; 16:16; Luke 1:18; 18:18; 23:39–40; John 1:29; 4:15; 7:46; Acts 26:28

- _____ “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”
- _____ “I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.”
- _____ “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear.”
- _____ “If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”
- _____ “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- _____ “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
- _____ “Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?”
- _____ “Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”
- _____ “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.”
- _____ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
- _____ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together.”
- _____ “Truly this man was the Son of God.”
- _____ “Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”
- _____ “Never man spake like this man.”
- _____ “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”



The Bible Judged

Salmon Chase, the sixth Chief Justice of the United States and U.S. Treasury Secretary under Lincoln (1808–1873), said, “There came a time in my life when I doubted the divinity of the Scriptures, and I resolved as a lawyer and a judge I would try the book as I would try anything in the courtroom, taking evidence for and against. It was a long, serious, and profound study; and using the same principles of evidence in this religious matter as I always do in secular matters, I have come to the decision that the Bible is a supernatural book, that it has come from God, and that the only safety for the human race is to follow its teachings.”

Why not begin a serious study of the Bible and decide for yourself whether it is from God or man?

Free Audio Downloads!



- ▶ He Shall Come in Like Manner —Alan Highers
- ▶ I Have Chosen the Way of Truth —B.J. Clarke
- ▶ The Truth about Gambling —Don Blackwell
- ▶ Salvation by Faith —James Watkins
- ▶ What Is Authorized in Worship? —Jim Dearman
- ▶ Making Our Homes an Early Heaven (Wives) —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ He Shall Be Called Great —Allen Webster

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Recommended Resource

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- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
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- I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study* series (an in-home personal study). *These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.*
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

Tracts:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW! Does It Make Any Difference Which Church I Attend? | <input type="checkbox"/> How to Love Your Spouse |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> God's Insurance Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Did Jesus Make Intoxicating Wine? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Babel's Rebels | <input type="checkbox"/> If I Don't Preach on Hell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saving the Church | <input type="checkbox"/> In Pursuit of Patience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Kingdom of Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> Swift in Running to Mischief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingdom the Same as Church? | <input type="checkbox"/> The Advantage of Disadvantage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Fall | <input type="checkbox"/> Christ's Busiest Week |
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"I Crucify You"

At one point early in Julius Caesar's political career, feelings ran so high against him that he thought it best to leave Rome.

He sailed for the Aegean island of Rhodes, but en route the ship was attacked by pirates and Caesar was captured. The pirates demanded a ransom of 12,000 gold pieces, and Caesar's staff was sent away to arrange the payment.

Caesar spent almost 40 days with his captors, jokingly telling the pirates on several occasions that he would someday capture and crucify them. The kidnappers were greatly amused, but when the ransom was paid and Caesar was freed, the first thing he did was gather a fleet and pursue the pirates. They were captured and crucified!

Such was the Romans' attitude toward crucifixion. It was to be reserved for the worst of criminals, a means of showing extreme contempt for the condemned. The suffering and humiliation of a Roman crucifixion were unequaled.

"Jesus ... for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame."

HEBREWS 12:2

The God Who Became a Baby

*Maker of the sun,
He is made under the sun.
In the Father he remains,
From his mother he goes forth.
Creator of heaven and earth,
He was born on earth under heaven.
Unspeakably wise,
He is wisely speechless.
Filling the world,
He lies in a manger.
Ruler of the stars,
He nurses at his mother's bosom.
He is both great in the nature of God,
And small in the form of a servant.*

(p. 134) —Augustine of Hippo, *The Book of Jesus*

*"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
(and we beheld his glory . . .)"*

JOHN 1:14

We Are Saved by ...

Things to Which Salvation Is Ascribed

1. Christ's words (John 6:63).
2. The Holy Spirit (John 16:8; Titus 3:5).
3. Faith (Romans 10:10).
4. Repentance (Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9).
5. Baptism (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5).
6. God (John 3:16; Titus 2:11).
7. Christ's works (John 20:30–31).
8. Calling on His name (Acts 2:21).
9. Christ's name (Acts 4:12).
10. Christ's resurrection (Romans 4:25).
11. Christ's death (Romans 5:6).
12. Hope (Romans 8:24).
13. Confession of faith (Romans 10:10).
14. Hearing (Romans 10:15–17).
15. Preaching (1 Corinthians 1:18).
16. Fire (1 Corinthians 3:15).
17. The gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1–2).
18. Love (Galatians 5:6).
19. Grace (Ephesians 2:8).
20. Ourselves (Philippians 2:12).
21. The love of the truth
(2 Thessalonians 2:10).
22. Christ (1 Timothy 1:15).
23. Heeding and continuing in the
doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16).
24. God's mercy (Titus 3:5).
25. Obedience (Hebrews 5:9).
26. Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:14).
27. Works of faith (James 2:24).

The question is not, which one of these will save; all combined insure us of salvation. —Gragg Avenue Church of Christ, Memphis, Tennessee

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect
so great salvation?"*

HEBREWS 2:3



WARNING

9:00 A.M., 1:42 P.M., 1:45 P.M., 7:30 P.M., 9:40 P.M., and 11:00 P.M. During the course of April 14, 1912, the *R.M.S. Titanic* received six warnings concerning icebergs. She received the last warning only 40 minutes before her collision.

Six warnings! All of which were ignored! As a result, 1500 passengers and crew lost their lives in the waters of the cold North Atlantic.

The Bible says, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

We’ve heard the warning; now what will we do? (Acts 24:25; 26:27–28; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Acts 22:16).

—Mike Benson, Hattiesburg, Mississippi



“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

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