

HOUSE
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to



Heart
Heart

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Volume 12 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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Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat . . .

Allen Webster

Zacchaeus may have been a wee little man, but don't sell him short. He is more than a minor New Testament character (Luke 19:1-10). One characteristic that causes him to stand above the crowd is his curiosity. It was no passing interest that caused the little man who collected big taxes to run ahead of the multitude and call attention to his short stature by climbing a tree. This curiosity brought salvation to his house (Luke 19:9).

What about you? Do you have an active mind? Do you find yourself asking why more often than most? Does your curiosity spill over into the religious realm? Have you read much of the Bible? Have you wondered about its claims to be inspired of God, its story of creation, its record of miracles, its portrayal of Jesus' virgin birth and bodily resurrection, its claims about heaven and hell? If so, keep reading . . .

I

Evidently Zacchaeus had heard some amazing things about Jesus: Somebody came through Jericho a while back who said He fed five thousand people up by Lake Galilee . . . another reported seeing Him cast out devils and heal lepers . . . rumor was He raised a dead man up on the mountain . . . walked on the Sea of Galilee, too, some say . . . Just today He had healed two blind men on the other side of town.¹





Curiosity . . .

Continued from page 1

And then there were the *other* things: Jesus didn't toe the party line with those hateful scribes and Pharisees . . . He associated with publicans, ate with publicans, made a publican the hero of a sermon, selected a publican as one of His apostles, was even known as the "friend of publicans and sinners" . . . He preached about doing away with the tradition of the elders and urged people to follow only the will of God² . . . It was enough to make a man a little curious.

II

Jesus was used to being the object of curiosity. As an infant, He aroused the curiosity of the magi (Matthew 2:1-2); angels peered from heavenly windows to see their Master's new form (Luke 2:15; 1 Peter 1:12); and Simeon couldn't wait to hold Him (Luke 2:25-28). As a boy, He excited the interest of doctors in the temple (Luke 2:46-47). As a man, two of John's disciples inquired about where He lived (John 1:38-39). Nicodemus, a busy ruler of the Jews, was curious enough to pay Him an after-hours visit (John 3:1-2). Simon the Pharisee wondered whether Jesus could be a prophet or not, and invited Him to a banquet (Luke 7:36). Certain Greeks asked Philip to arrange for them to meet Jesus. (Their request is ours too: "Sir, we would see Jesus" [John 12:20-21; cf. 1 John 4:1-3].) Interest never waned; even near His death, Herod wanted to see Him of whom he had heard such marvelous things (Luke 23:8).

Most of us first come to Jesus on this level. Even after two thousand years, He is still the most talked about—most controversial—human ever to reside on Planet #3. Sure, we've heard some things . . . not sure if we believe them yet, but we are curious. Things like "born of a virgin." Are you for real? (Yes.) "Put His hands on sick people and they got better." Yea, right. (Exactly right.) Walked on the water? C'mon. (The only thing that got wet was the bottom of His feet.) Called His friend, and Lazarus came out from the grave to see Him? Sounds like a Halloween story . . . (No story. Lazarus is one man who died twice.) Jesus was murdered by His enemies on Friday, but came back on Sunday morning. Are you for real? (Absolutely.)³

And then, like Zacchaeus, there are the other things for us too: Jesus forgave people of anything—like a woman caught in adultery and a murderer named Saul of Tarsus. He even prayed for His executioners! He catered to common folks and tapped ordinary people to be His most relied upon lieutenants. He made it sound like anybody could please Him if he or she wanted to enough, and everybody could make it to heaven . . .⁴ It's still enough to make a person inquisitive.

III

It is good to be curious about spiritual things. A child's favorite word is "why?" Adults should not give up that word too easily. Einstein said, "The important thing is not to stop questioning." Charles Steinmetz said, "No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions." Samuel Johnson said, "Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect." James Thurber said, "It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers."⁵

Paul taught, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21; cf. Romans 12:2). Jesus told the Jews to "Search the scriptures" (John 5:39), and urged His followers to be fruit inspectors (Matthew 7:15-20). He insisted that God gave us eyes, ears, and brains for a reason (Mark 7:18; cf. Matthew 13:16; Luke 8:18). Curiosity is not a thing to be crushed. Doubt is the prelude of knowledge.⁶

IV

Curiosity leads to investigation—and truth is never hurt by investigation. The psalmist invites, "O taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8). Thomas was not criticized for saying, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Instead, at their next meeting Jesus invited him to "behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side." He does not want any "faithless" but all "believing" (John 20:27).

The Ethiopian was curious enough to invite a stranger to explain Isaiah 53 to him, and he left the encounter rejoicing (Acts 8:30-40). God counted the Berean Gentiles "noble" for their investigation of Paul's sermons (Acts 17:11).

When we are curious enough, we will ask for answers (cf. Matthew 17:10; Acts 8:31; 1 Corinthians 14:35). We'll take our Bibles so we can know for sure (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; John 6:69). Each needs his own faith—not a "this is what-my parents said," or a "most of my friends think this," or a "my preacher teaches this" faith. All Christians need to be able say, "I believe this because the Bible says . . ."

Investigation leads to knowledge, which leads to faith (Romans 10:17). If we give Jesus' claims a closer look, we never come away disappointed. He is not less than we've heard, He is more—much more! He *astonishes* people.⁶ Those who actually saw Him "were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well" (Mark 7:37). His claims are not empty; He is the fullness of God (Colossians 1:19). He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. Impressed? Who wouldn't be?

Faith leads to obedience, which leads to salvation. Faith led Zacchaeus to obey Jesus (Jesus gave him two commands—make haste, come down—and he readily did both), and Jesus told him, "Salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). Zacchaeus gives the impression that whatever Jesus asked him to do, he would do. Jesus asks us to believe in Him (John 3:16; 8:24); to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3); to confess our faith in Him to others (Matthew 10:32-33); and to be immersed in water to have our sins forgiven (Mark 16:16). He asks us to deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts" and live "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

Keep feeding your spiritual curiosity. You might find something better than "nine lives."

Endnotes:

¹ Luke 9:10-17; 8:26-29; 17:11-19; John 11:38-44; 6:15-21; Luke 18:35-43.

² Matthew 23:1-35; 9:10; Luke 18:10-14; Matthew 10:3; Luke 7:34; Matthew 15:6-9.

³ Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; 15:30; 14:25; John 11.

⁴ John 8:1-11; Acts 9:1-17; Luke 23:34; Matthew 10:1-4; Acts 4:13; Matthew 11:28-30.

⁵ Henry Drummond, "Listening to the Giants," *Christianity Today*, Vol. 29, no. 17.

⁶ Scripture lists 41 times that people were "amazed," "astonished" or "marveled" at Him (Matthew 7:28; 8:27; 9:8, 33; 12:23; 13:54; 19:25; 21:20; 22:22, 33; 27:14; Mark 1:22; 27:2; 12:5; 4:2; 6:2, 51; 7:37; 9:15; 10:24, 26, 32; 11:18; 12:17; 15:5; 44; 16:8; Luke 2:33, 47, 48; 4:32, 36; 5:9, 26; 8:56; 9:43; 11:38; 20:26; 24:22; John 4:27; 7:15).



Special Dog

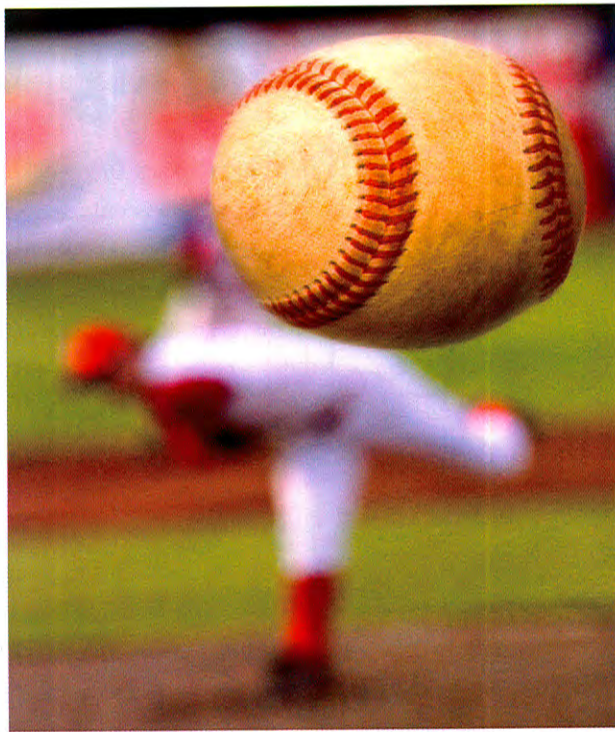
A minister delivered a sermon in ten minutes one Sunday morning, which was about a

third the usual length of his sermons. He explained, "I regret to inform you that my dog, who is very fond of eating paper, ate that portion of my sermon which I was unable to deliver this morning."

After the service, a visitor from another church shook hands with the preacher and said, "Preacher, if that dog of yours has any pups, I want to get one to give to my minister."

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

(Serious question: How much hunger for the Word to you bring on Sundays? Read Matthew 5:6)



Don't Give Up

Babe Ruth struck out 1333 times. But we remember him for his 714 home runs. Cy Young won 511 games. But the number he lost is forgotten.

Abraham Lincoln was badly beaten when he ran for the legislature. He failed in business and spent seventeen years paying out of debt. He failed to get an appointment to the U.S. Land Office. He was defeated in his race for the Senate, and in his effort to be vice-president. Again Lincoln was defeated by Douglas. But he eventually became the president of the United States.

Many believe for a while but "in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13). Like Israel we have a tendency to forget God (Jeremiah 2:32). In most communities, there are those who once were more faithful than they are now. They do not attend Bible classes, night services, or other meetings as they once did. They have ceased to participate in church activities. Their light has gone out. They have virtually quit.

Everyday religion is the antidote to failure. Practice these safeguards:

- ▶ **Every day let God say something to you.** Keep the line of communication open between you and God by reading His Word.
- ▶ **Every day say something to God.** Stay in contact with the source of strength by prayer. We cannot walk alone. Prayer avails.
- ▶ **Every day say something for God.** Share the good news. Tell a friend. Speak a kind word.
- ▶ **Every day do something for God.** Look for opportunities to serve.

Opportunities are abundant; only a blind man could not see them. Give a helping hand. Encourage the downtrodden. Exhort the wayward. Comfort the sorrowful. Support the weak.

My dear brethren, let's be doers—not quitters!—Clarence DeLoach

Saved by the Bible



Ten days ago, Pfc. Brendon Schweigart, 22, was on a mission to recover a tank that had broken down in Baghdad, Iraq. Upon reaching the tank, he was struck in the chest by a sniper's bullet. Fortunately for Schweigart, the bullet became embedded in a Bible he carried in his shirt pocket. The Word of God had quite literally saved his life!

Mr. Schweigart's experience reminds me of a passage in the Bible. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

Pfc. Brendon Schweigart learned that keeping a Bible near your heart can literally save your life. But more important than that, by keeping a Bible near your heart you will also be able to stop the attacks of the devil and will save your soul.

—Steve Higginbotham

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The  HOME PAGE

Saying Good-bye to Mom

It is Mother's Day weekend and my mom is dying from pancreatic cancer. She is only sixty-five and I will miss her very much. We are a family who believes in and loves God very much. Faith is the victory that overcomes. Right now faith is what is needed to overcome my grief. I would like to tell you our family good-bye story.



Over the last six months my parents have read their Bible together every day. They started with the Psalms and then moved on to passages concerning heaven. Mom asked Dad to read the Bible to her, even if she were to slip into a coma. As we have all gathered together, our family has drawn strength from the Lord, as much as from one another.

My mom has been under hospice care, and we were told that she would drift into a non-responsive state within twenty-four hours. Mom has not been able to respond much. Dad leaned over, kissed her, and told her he would be okay and that we kids would help take care of him. Mom replied, "I'm tired." Dad told her it was okay. We gave them alone time, and Dad talked to her. He came out to us and cried. He asked us to all go and say good-bye one last time. One by one we all said our good-byes and cried. When the last one was finished we gathered around her. We asked if she would like us to sing "Amazing Grace." Her response was, "Ninety-four verses." We began to sing, and this little woman of ninety pounds began to mouth every word. No voice, but her spirit was singing. As we finished, she cried. In the strongest voice she could muster she said, "I love you." She reached out and hugged Dad, then asked that we carry her to bed.

Her body is with us, but her eyes are closed and she no longer grabs my hand. We watch now as she anxiously waits to be with the Lord she loves. Her faith preaches sermons beyond any that I preach from the pulpit. She is dying with dignity, but even greater, she is dying with the Lord. As David so beautifully said, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." While that verse has never been easy for me to understand, I think I glimpsed some of the preciousness that God sees, in the death of my mother. I will miss her. My mother taught me how to live, but now she has taught me how to die.

Are you ready to die? Are you confident that in your death you will be with the Lord? If you struggle knowing, I hope you will contact me. I would like to share with you the greatest story ever told. Then, together with the Lord, we will not say "good-bye," but "hello" to Christ our Lord. —Jeffrey Dillinger, Whitehall, Tennessee

"I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother." —Proverbs 4:3



What Money Can't Buy

- Money can buy a house but not a home.
- Money can buy a bed but not sleep.
- Money can buy a clock but not time.
- Money can buy position but not respect.
- Money can buy a book but not knowledge.
- Money can buy blood but not life.
- Money will buy companions but not friends.
- Money can buy medicine but not health.
- Money can buy insurance but not safety.

"Wherefore do ye . . . labour for that which satisfieth not?" —Isaiah 55:2



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

The Family Meal

In her book *The Surprising Power of Family Meals* (Steer Forth Press, 2005), Miriam Weinstein explains that eating ordinary, average, everyday supper with your family is strongly linked to lower incidents of bad outcomes such as teenage drug and alcohol use, and to good qualities like emotional stability. It correlates with kindergartners being better prepared to learn to read. (It even trumps getting read to.) Regular family supper helps keep kids out of hospitals. It discourages both obesity and eating disorders. It supports your staying motivated to your extended family, your ethnic heritage, your community of faith.

The 2003 survey indicated that children and teens who share dinner with their families five or more nights a week were 32% likelier never to have tried cigarettes, 45% likelier to have never tried alcohol, and 24% likelier never to have smoked marijuana. "Those who eat lots of family dinners are almost twice as likely to get A's in school as their classmates who rarely eat as a family," Weinstein adds.

"My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste." —Proverbs 24:13



What is Calvinism?



Calvinism is a system of doctrine based on the teachings of John Calvin (1509–1564), a French theologian influential in the Protestant Reformation. Calvin's best known writing is the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. His system has five major points defined by an acrostic of the word *TULIP*. These points are in conflict with the clear teaching of Scripture.

1. Total Depravity. Calvinism says that because of the fall of Adam, every child is born into the world completely sinful, corrupt, and blind to spiritual things. Only the direct operation of the Spirit can bring sinful man to Christ. Jesus, however, taught that sinful man may learn the truth and obey God. "Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:45).

2. Unconditional Predestination. Calvinism says that God in His sovereignty chooses or predestines some to be saved (the elect), and others to be lost. The sinner has no ability or free will to choose or reject God. The Bible teaches, however, that man makes the choice whether to follow Christ. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

3. Limited Atonement. Calvinism says that the atoning work of Christ was only for the "elect," not for all men who through free will might respond to Christ's love. Jesus, however, invited all to come to Him. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He came to seek and save all men who would respond to the conditions of the gospel. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1–2).

4. Irresistible Grace. Calvinism says that there is a special call by the Holy Spirit, separate and apart from the revealed Word of God, which comes irresistibly to the sinner who is among the elect. The written Word thus has no power until the Holy Spirit makes the sinner respond. Scripture teaches instead that anyone who responds to the message of the gospel revealed in the Bible receives salvation. Jesus 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).

5. Perseverance of the Saints. Calvinism says that the elect (those chosen by God), cannot fall from grace or turn their backs on God. Paul taught, however, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4). Christians must be faithful to the end, or they will fall. —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203



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Bible Quiz



Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

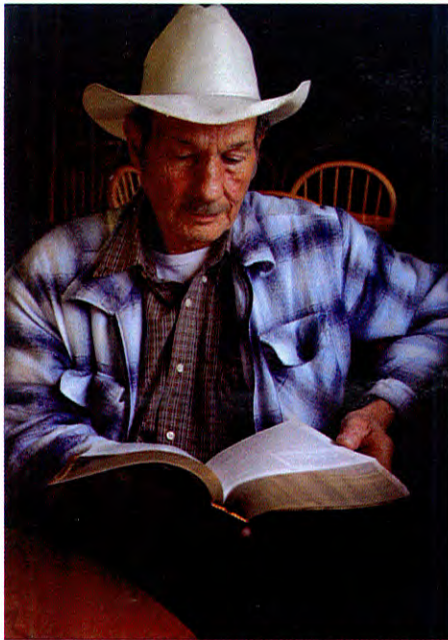
Starts with the Letter "C"

Find answers in Genesis 4:1, 8; Leviticus 25:38; Numbers 13:30; Psalm 37:8; 92:12; Ezekiel 1:1; Matthew 16:16; 26:3; Mark 6:3; 10:25; Luke 2:1; 18:17; 23:33; John 1:42; 2:1–10; 16:33; Acts 8:27; 10:1–48; 11:26; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 10:8; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Timothy 6:7; Hebrew 12:5; 1 Peter 5:7; Revelation 22:14 (not in order).

- _____ High Priest who presided at Jesus' trial.
- _____ Son of Adam and Eve; murdered his brother
- _____ Son of Jephunneh; faithful spy (with Joshua)
- _____ Where Jesus turned water to wine
- _____ Place of Israel's inheritance after Egypt
- _____ Ethiopian queen's treasurer; became a Christian
- _____ Occupation of Jesus' step father Joseph
- _____ River by which Ezekiel sat
- _____ Famous trees from Lebanon
- _____ First Gentile convert; centurion in Ceasarea
- _____ Another name for Simon, son of Jona (Peter)
- _____ "_____ from anger, and forsake wrath."
- _____ "And the disciples were called _____ first in Antioch."
- _____ "Blessed are they that do his _____, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter . . . into the city."
- _____ "Neither let us _____ fornication."
- _____ "God loveth a _____ giver."
- _____ "Despise not thou the _____ of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him."
- _____ "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can _____ nothing out."
- _____ "Casting all your _____ upon him; for he careth for you."
- _____ Jesus was born during the reign of _____ Augustus.
- _____ "It is easier for a _____ to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."
- _____ "Be of good _____; I have overcome the world."
- _____ "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little _____ shall in no wise enter therein."
- _____ "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the _____, the Son of the living God."
- _____ "The _____ of Christ salute you."

Answers to Last Issue: *Starts with the Letter J:* 1. Jesus (Matthew 1:21); 2. Jair (Judges 10:3–4); 3. Jairus (Mark 5:22); 4. James (Acts 12:1–2); 5. James (2:26); 6. Japheth (Genesis 5:32); 7. Jealousy (Proverbs 6:34); 8. Jehovah (Isaiah 12:2); 9. Jehu (2 Kings 9:20); 10. Jeremiah (9:1); 11. Jericho (Hebrews 11:30); 12. Jerusalem (1 Kings 14:21); 13. Jesse (Ruth 4:17); 14. Jacob (Genesis 35:22); 15. Jethro (Exodus 3:1); 16. Jew (Galatians 3:28); 17. Jewel (Proverbs 11:22); 18. Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1–2); 19. Job (1:8–2:7); 20. Jochabed (Exodus 6:20); 21. Jonah; 22. Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1); 23. Joseph (Genesis 39:7).

Learn More! For More Info!



Keynotes of Galatians – Colossians

Reviewing key words, verses, phrases, and messages from the New Testament books refreshes our memory (2 Peter 1:12) and helps us to find key ideas as we read.

Book – Galatians

- Key Word – Liberty
- Key Verse – Galatians 5:1
- Message – Christ is the deliverer

Book – Ephesians

- Key Words – The church
- Key Verses – Ephesians 1:22–23
- Message – The church is the body of Christ

Source - Frank J. Dunn, *Know Your Bible* (Frank and Yvonne Dunn Publications, 1997), 430–648

Book – Philippians

- Key Words – Joy; Love
- Key Verse – Philippians 1:21
- Message – To live is Christ

Book – Colossians

- Key Word – Fullness
- Key Verses – Colossians 2:9–10
- Message – Christ is all and in all

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- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

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Jesus made it clear what He expects of those who want to follow Him.
- Step 1: Heaven is Four Steps from Any Place on Earth**
- If I Don't Preach on Hell.** A neglected topic. A convincing study.
- Feet Swift in Running to Mischief.**
- When Did the Church of Christ Begin?** Did Alexander Campbell start the church of Christ? Or did Jesus found the church of Christ in the days of the New Testament? Why does it matter?
- In Pursuit of Patience.** A problem area? Let God's Word help.
- Shall We Gather at the River?**
A fresh approach to the scriptural teaching on baptism.
- Who's Your Friend?** Youth. It can make all the difference.
- Did Jesus Make Intoxicating Wine?** (It may surprise you!)
- Salvation. Who Needs It?** A study of the conversions in Acts.
- Slow to Anger**
- The Advantage of Disadvantage**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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Jesus Is . . .

The One who often wept (John 11:35), yet He dries our tears (Revelation 7:17; 21:4).

The One who was sold for the price of a common slave (Exodus 21:32; Matthew 26:15), yet He redeemed man from his sins (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The One who was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Acts 8:32), yet He is our Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

The One who gave His life (Galatians 2:20), and by His dying made it possible for us to be saved (Mark 16:16). —V.P. Black

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.” —Revelation 5:12

A Most Handsome Man



Abraham Lincoln was admired by many, but he had critics. But even persistent critics, like Pennsylvania's Thaddeus Stevens, sometimes praised the President's benevolence.

House Speaker Schuyler Colfax recalled that Stevens “used to tell, with great gusto, this story of his own personal experience. Mr. Stevens had gone with an elderly lady from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (his district) to the White House, to ask the pardon of her son, condemned to die for sleeping on his post. The President suddenly turned upon his cynical Pennsylvania friend, whom he knew had often assailed him for excessive lenity, and said, ‘Now, Thad, what would you do in this case if you happened to be President?’”

“Mr. Stevens knew how many hundreds of his constituents were waiting breathlessly to hear the result of that elderly woman's pilgrimage to Washington. Of course, Congressmen who desired to be re-elected liked to carry out the desires of their constituents. Stevens did not relish the President's home-thrust, but replied that, as he knew of the extenuating circumstances, he would certainly pardon him.”

“Well, then,” said Mr. Lincoln, after a moment's writing in silence, ‘here, madam, is your son's pardon.’”

“Her gratitude filled her heart to overflowing, as her son had been snatched from the gateway of the grave. She could only thank the President with her tears as she left, but when she and Mr. Stevens had reached the outer door of the White House she burst out, excitedly, ‘I KNEW it was a lie! I KNEW it was a lie!’”

“What do you mean?” asked her astonished companion.

“Why, when I left my country home in old Lancaster yesterday, the neighbors told me that I would find that Mr. Lincoln was an UGLY man, when in fact . . . he is really the most handsome man I have ever seen in my life!”

And certainly, when sympathy and mercy lightened up those rugged features, many a wife and mother pleading for his intervention had reason to think him handsome indeed.

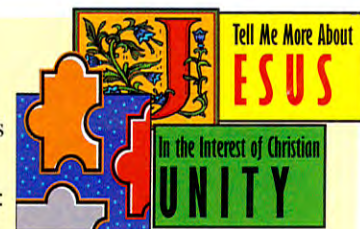
Interestingly, the Scriptures do not contain an exact description of the physical appearance of Jesus Christ. Perhaps it is a prophecy given some seven hundred years before His birth that provides the closest thing to a portrait: “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2).

Yet many would describe Jesus as the most handsome Man that has ever lived. Why? Because Jesus died so that we might live! (1 Thessalonians 5:10). —David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

Man's Questions/God's Answers

1. **Am I accountable to God?** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).
2. **Does God know all about me?** “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13).
3. **Will God punish sin?** “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7–9).
4. **Will I perish if I don't obey God?** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).
5. **How can I escape?** “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).
6. **Is He willing to save me?** “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of who I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15). —Saks church of Christ, Anniston, Alabama

“We ought to obey God.” —Acts 5:29





We're So Blessed!



- ▶ If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of all the world does not have access to even one.
- ▶ If you woke up this morning with more health than illness,

you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

- ▶ If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- ▶ If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- ▶ If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.
- ▶ If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top eight percent of the world's wealthy.
- ▶ If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than seventy-five percent of this world.

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings . . ." —Proverbs 28:20