

HOUSE to HOUSE Heart to Heart



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

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

If you have questions or comments please contact
us via email at: info@housetohouse.com

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EVERLASTING



EVERLASTING



thou art GOD

DEATH HURTS, BUT JESUS HELPS

ALLEN WEBSTER

Death hurts. We see this in Martha's words and Mary's tears (read John 11). When the Visitor welcomed above all others finally arrived at Martha's house, He did not find a party. He found tear-blurred eyes, faces red and swollen with grief, and emotions set on edge. Death had charged a high toll and left poverty in its wake.

Death hurts because of the initial shock. Mary and Martha's grief was doubtless intensified by the fact that Lazarus was cut off in the midst of his life. We never know when death will come.

*The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own, live, love, toil with a will
Place no faith in tomorrow, for the hands may then be still.*

Often death comes unexpectedly—as in an accident or an emergency surgery that failed. Even if it is expected—after several hard months dealing with a terminal illness, for instance—it still leaves a shock in its wake. If you've been to a funeral, then you know that death still hurts. If you've lost a parent, child, spouse, grandparent, friend, or someone else dear to you, then you know about the pain you feel deep down. You've had time to tally the loss that continues long after everyone has gone home.

Death hurts because it leaves us lonely. These sisters missed their brother. When death leaves an empty chair at the table, an empty bedroom in the house, and an empty pew at church services, it can be very lonely—even when others we love are still around. It can make us feel like the little boy pictured in a *Saturday Evening Post* cartoon. It showed him talking on a phone, saying, "Mom is in the hospital; the twins and Roxie and Billie and Sally and the dog and me and Dad are all home alone." Mary and Martha still had each other and their friends, but they felt "all alone" without Lazarus. We enter and leave the world by ourselves, but are sometimes most alone in between. David said, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me; refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul" (Psa. 142:4; cf. 31:11; 69:20; 88:8,18).

But Jesus Helps. Does Jesus know about this? Does He care? O yes He cares! (Read 1 Peter 5:7.) Death hurts, but Jesus helps. How?

Jesus helps us grow through the adversity itself. Biologists recognize "the adversity principle" at work among plants and animals. Strangely, habitual wellbeing is not advantageous to healthy life. Any species—including humans—that goes without challenge soon becomes weak. One survey found that 87% said "a painful event (death, illness, breakup, divorce) caused them to find more positive meaning in life." Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33).

Ironically, adversity can be therapeutic, and trials can be occasions of joy (Jas. 1:2). *Adversity grants patience.* James wrote: "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (1:3,4). *Adversity purges.* Peter said, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). As gold ore is put into a flame to remove dross, so we must be put into a fire of suffering to remove impurities from our characters that we might be better people. One poet put it this way:

*I walked a mile with pleasure, she chatted all the way
Yet she left me none the wiser for all she had to say;
I walked a mile with sorrow, and ne'er a word said she,
But O the things I learned when sorrow walked with me.*

Adversity sobers. Paul was concerned that young women learn to be "sober," young men "sober-minded," and old men "grave" (Tit. 2:2,4,6). One way God helps us gain this desired trait is through adversity. Solomon said, "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart" (Ecc. 7:2). It is not more pleasant to go to a funeral than a party, but it teaches more valuable lessons. It reminds us that (1) We will not live forever (Ecc. 12:7; Jas. 4:14) and (2) this lifetime is a training ground for the next (2 Cor. 5:10). We must prepare by obeying God's Gospel (John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38) and living faithfully (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

Jesus helps people through His people (2 Cor. 1:2-4). The mourners who came to comfort Mary and Martha illustrate this point. This was a common Old Testament practice (Gen. 37:35; 2 Sam. 10:2; 1 Chron. 7:21,22; Job 2:11; 42:11). The Jewish mourning period generally lasted thirty days, and their custom was to weep at the tomb as often as possible during the burial week to "get it out of their system." The weeping was often an almost hysterical wailing and shrieking, for they thought that the more unrestrained the weeping, the more honor it paid the dead. Christians today are to "...weep with them that weep" (Rm. 12:15; Job 30:25; 1 Thes. 4:18; 5:11). Those who have known affliction, doubt, sickness, and temptation are better equipped to console others in similar pain (1 Pet. 3:8). Tender-hearted Christians (Eph. 4:32) have often been known to cry with their friends in funeral homes and hospitals.

Jesus helps by assuring us that there is a better life beyond. Death is a termination of earthly life, but not a termination of life. We are not really on our way to *death*, but on our way to *life*. Edward the Confessor's last words were: "Weep not, I shall not die; and as I leave the land of the dying, I trust to see the blessings of the Lord in the land of the living." The housing of the soul is torn away, the tabernacle taken down (2 Cor. 5:1), but it's not destruction. We should not speak of a Christian in the past tense—as if he does not exist any more. "God is not the God of dead beings but of living beings, for all live unto him." Imagine an artist carving a statue of expensive marble with gold inlay. He purchases expensive tools and spends years bringing the work to completion. Will he then ask his helper to take a hammer and break it in pieces? Imagine a business owner patiently training a worker. He treats him as a son and shows him how to run every part of the business. When he has him fully trained and ready to take over, will he then fire him? Yet this is what happens if God makes us His children, trains our souls, and then refuses to grant us immortality. After all, this life is "but a vapor" (Jas. 4:14), and a thousand years are but one day (2 Peter 3:8).

On the great painter Albrecht Durer's tombstone in his native city, Nuremberg, they put the word *Emigravit*, which means, "He has emigrated." That's death—an immigration path to heaven's fair city. Someone has described life and death in this way. Imagine a flowerless rose vine growing on a garden wall. You notice the vine has pushed through a crack in the wall, so you go around to the other side and see glorious blooms. So when our Christian loved ones die, they pass through the other side of the wall of death, blooming in the radiance of eternal life. They have just changed places of residence.

"O death, where is thy sting?" (1 Cor. 15:55)!

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

FINISH IT!



HOURS BEHIND the runner in front of him, the last marathoner finally entered Olympic stadium. By that time, the drama of the day's events was almost over, and most of the spectators had gone home. This athlete's story, however, was still being played out. Limping into the arena, the Tanzanian runner grimaced with every step, his knee bleeding and bandaged from an earlier fall. His ragged appearance immediately caught the attention of the remaining crowd, who cheered him on to the finish line.

Why did he stay in the race? What made him endure his injuries to the end? When asked these questions later, he replied, "My country did not send me 7,000 miles away to start the race. They sent me 7,000 miles to finish it." Sure, life deals us some blows. There are no successful people who have not had setbacks along the way. But if we want to join heaven's "winner's circle," we have to keep going until we cross the finish line.

"...I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..." — 2 Timothy 4:7

GOING FAST...BUT TO WHERE?

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY was a devoted disciple of Darwin, famous biologist, teacher, and author. He was a staunch defender of the theory of evolution, a bold, self-avowed humanist and traveling lecturer.

Once, having finished a series of public assaults on Christianity, Huxley was in a hurry to catch his train. He took one of Dublin's famous horse-drawn taxis and settled back with his eyes closed to rest a few minutes. He assumed the driver had been told the destination by the doorman, so all he said as he got in was, "Hurry, I'm almost late. *Drive fast!*"

The horses lurched forward and galloped across Dublin at a vigorous pace. Eventually, Huxley glanced out the window and frowned as he realized they were going west, away from the sun, not toward it. He shouted, "Do you know where you are going?" Without looking back, the driver yelled a classic line, not meant to be humorous. "No, your honor! But I am driving *very fast!*"

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction..." — Matthew 7:13

► **IN A MAGAZINE CARTOON:** A thief was wearing one of those "Lone Ranger" masks. His gun was pointed toward his frightened victim as he yelled: "Okay, gimme all your valuables!"

The victim began stuffing into the sack all his *friends*.

YOU CAN'T JUST SIT THERE



Several years ago, I heard the story of Larry Walters, a 33-year-old man who decided he wanted to see his neighborhood from a new perspective. He went down to the local army surplus store one morning and bought forty-five used weather balloons. That afternoon he strapped himself into a lawn chair, to which several of his friends tied the now helium-filled balloons. He took along a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich and a BB gun, figuring he could shoot the balloons one at a time when he was ready to land.

Walters, who assumed the balloons would lift him about 100 feet, was caught off guard when the chair soared more than 11,000 feet—smack into the middle of the air traffic pattern at Los Angeles International Airport. Too frightened to shoot any of the balloons, he stayed airborne for more than two hours, forcing the airport to shut down its runways for much of the afternoon, causing long delays in flights from across the country. Soon after he was safely grounded and cited by the police, reporters asked him three questions:

"Were you scared?" "Yes."

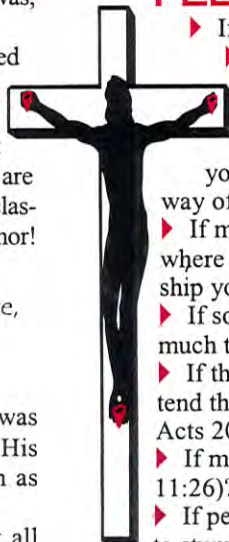
"Would you do it again?" "No."

"Why did you do it?" "Because you can't just sit there."

He's right. In life, we "can't just sit there." God gave us talents to serve our fellow man, glorify Him, and build up the church. He gives us days to use for good purposes and Sundays to worship Him. Fruitless branches will get "pruned" by the Vinedresser, and who wants that (Jn. 15:1-5)? Lukewarm souls get "spued" from His mouth (Rev. 3:15-17), and who needs that? As sheep under the care of the Good Shepherd, we can't just say, "Let us alone..." (Mk. 1:24), and the demons did. We must say, "Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8), as Isaiah did, or "Speak Lord, thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:9,10) as Samuel did.

IF YOU HAD DIED FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL...

- If men took your name in vain (Ex. 20:7)?
- If people damaged their bodies dabbling in sin instead of glorifying you as the Savior in their bodies (1 Cor. 6:19,20)?
- If they fussed among themselves in the church which you had established, and thus turned people away from the way of salvation (Gal. 5:15)?
- If men chose to go fishing, or golfing, or shopping, or somewhere else on the day which you had set aside for men to worship you (Jn. 4:24)?
- If some refused to obey what you said because it was too much trouble (Lk. 6:46)?
- If the majority didn't appreciate your sacrifice enough to attend the supper you had left as a memorial of it (Lk. 22:16-20; Acts 20:7)?
- If men didn't respect you enough to wear your name (Acts 11:26)?
- If people didn't care whether their conduct caused anyone else to stumble (Mt. 18:6)?



Do we ever stop to think?



The
HOME
PAGE
Compiled by Wade Webster

No New Thing Under the Sun

Generational tension is not a phenomenon which erupted in the 60s, 70s, or 90s of our century. It is as old as the trouble Adam and Eve had with their two boys. 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 (4000 years old).

"Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers." —Socrates

"...there is no new thing under the sun" —Ecclesiastes 1:9

Thinking of Getting Married?

- ▶ Pray one hour before going to war, Two hours before going to sea, Three hours before getting married.
- ▶ By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you will become very happy. If you get a bad one, you will become a philosopher. —Socrates
- ▶ Love is blind, but marriage restores its sight. —Georg Christoph Lichtenberg
- ▶ Choose neither a wife nor linen by candlelight. —Spanish Proverb
- ▶ Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.
- ▶ It is easier for a father to have children, than for children to have a father.
- ▶ It is not marriage that fails, it is people that fail.—Harry Emerson Fosdick

"My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." —Song of Solomon 2:10

1 Corinthians 13 for the Home

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper—not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness—not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love.

—Author Unknown

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" —1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Consider the Children

Children are precious. The Psalmist wrote, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (127:3). Children are brought into this world through no decision of their own. Yet many are abused, used as pawns, neglected, denied, and betrayed. Dr. R. F. Hertz, a British author and psychologist, engaged in a research project of wide interest. He asked almost 100,000 children, between 8 and 14 and from all walks of life in 24 countries, to make a list of ten rules of **BEHAVIOR OF PARENTS**. Here is the list the majority of children voted for:

1. Do not quarrel in front of your children.
2. Treat all your children with equal affection.
3. Never lie to a child.
4. There must be mutual tolerance between parents.
5. There should be comradeship between parents and children.
6. Treat your children's friends as welcome visitors in the house.
7. Always answer children's questions.
8. Don't blame or punish your children in the presence of children from next door.
9. Concentrate on your child's good points. Do not overemphasize his failings.
10. Be constant in your affection and your mood.

This list should cause parents to stop, look, and listen. Read it carefully, thoughtfully, and with self-inspection of your home. How are the children being treated in YOUR home? They are precious. They deserve the best. God gave this advice, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). —Carroll Sites, Higden, AR

Threes...

There are three ways to get things done.

- ▶ Do it yourself.
- ▶ Hire someone else to do it.
- ▶ Forbid your kids to do it.

A mother to her baby... —Maureen Hawkins

- ▶ Before you were conceived I wanted you.
- ▶ Before you were born I loved you.
- ▶ Before you were here an hour I would die for you...





WHO IS MORE POWERFUL, THE DEVIL OR GOD?

While it seems perfectly obvious that God is more powerful than Satan, in practice it may seem otherwise because the devil wields so much power today. Since our world is filled with pain and violence, he seems to have far more followers working for him. If Satan is not *more* powerful, he frequently seems as powerful as God, and definitely more *popular*.

The Scriptures warn us to be on guard against Satan. In a warning about false teachers, Paul said that "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). The devil is so deceptive that he may appear to be as beautiful as an angel. Peter warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Satan, whose very name means "Accuser," seduced Eve in the Garden, tormented Job, and tried to get Jesus to worship him. John called the devil "that old serpent...which deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). The devil is powerful, hurtful to God's children, but his power comes only as God has allowed him to have power.

Satan is not deity or a god. He is not omnipotent. When he tested Job, God limited what he could do. First, he could not touch Job's body: "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand" (Job 1:12). Second, he could not take Job's life: "Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life" (Job 2:6). When he is finally cast into hell, he will be powerless to resist. "The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:10). Our Lord created the world and all things that are in it. "For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16). Satan, God's creation, rebelled against God. "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev. 12:9).

James commands: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). This should encourage us to resist the devil and help us to realize that Satan's power is limited. John gives encouragement to Christians concerning this battle: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he [the Lord] that is in you, than he [the devil] that is in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4). Our Lord is much more powerful than the devil, and when we rely on Him, we can stand against Satan. We must be ever watchful, however, because our adversary is on the prowl, hoping to devour us. Although he can make good appear evil, and evil appear good, he will flee from us when we resist him and stand in the Lord.

—Bob Prichard, Morristown, Tennessee



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

NAUGHTY LADIES

Hints: Judges 11:1; Jas. 2:25/Heb. 11:31; 1 Kgs. 3:16; Rev. 17:5; Lk. 15:30; Mt. 21:32; Ezek. 23:1-21; Jos. 2:1-6; Gen. 38:24; Gen. chaps. 1-3; 34:25-31; Jd. 16:1-3; 1 Cor. 6:15-16; Amos 7:17.

1. What judge of Israel was a prostitute's son? _____
2. Two epistles speak of this prostitute's righteousness _____
3. Judged between prostitutes fighting over a child: _____
4. Who had a vision of a prostitute with a city's name engraved on her head? _____
5. What parable character wasted money on prostitutes? _____
6. According to Jesus, what prophet had prostitutes and tax collectors as followers? _____
7. What prophet did the Lord tell about two prostitutes named Oholah and Oholibah? _____
8. Where did the prostitute Rahab live? _____
9. Who ordered his daughter-in-law Tamar burned because she had acted like a prostitute? _____
10. Who married a faithless woman named Gomer? _____
11. Who went on a killing spree when their sister Dinah was treated like a prostitute? _____
12. Who tricked the people of Gaza by leaving a prostitute's house earlier than they expected? _____
13. Apostle who warns against patronizing prostitutes: _____
14. What prophet warned the priest Amaziah that his wife would become a prostitute? _____

MIRACULOUS PREGNANCIES

Hints: Gen. 21:1-5; 30:22-24; 35:18; Lk. 1:7-9, 13, 18; 2 Kgs. 4:13-17; Gen. 20:17-18; 25:21-26; 1 Sam. 1:1-19; Lk. 1:26-38; Jd. 13:3,5; Gen. 25:1-6.

1. Who gave birth to a son when she was 90 years old? _____
2. Jacob's wife, gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin? _____
3. What elderly couple produced a child, as an angel said? _____
4. Who prophesied to the Shunammite woman that, though her husband was too old, she would bear a child? _____
5. Why did God cause barrenness in Abimelech's household? _____
6. What woman, long barren, gave birth to twins? _____
7. Who was taunted by her husband's other wife for being childless, though she later bore a son? _____
8. Whose astounded mother called herself the "handmaiden of the Lord" when told she would bear a child? _____

Answers to last month's questions: *Houses of Worship:* 1. Saul's head (1 Chron. 10:10); 2. Diana (or Artemis) (Acts 19:27-28); 3. God and the Lamb are the temple (Rev. 21:22); 4. The temple of the god Berith (Jd. 9:46-49); 5. Ezekiel (40-42); 6. All believers (1 Cor. 6:19); 7. Sennacherib (2 Kgs. 19:37); 8. John (Rev. 11:1-2); 9. Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chron. 36:7); 10. His body (Jn. 2:19-21); *Who Said It?* 1. Abraham (Gen. 13:7); 2. Cain (Gen. 4:9); 3. Jesus (Mt. 22:21); 4. Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:29); 5. Paul (Phil. 1:21); 6. Thomas (Jn. 20:25); 7. Esther (4:13); 8. Ruth (1:16); 9. Peter (Acts 2:38); 10. Jesus (Jn. 3:16)



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.

ONLY LOSERS READ THE BIBLE?

In some circles of "higher learning," it is considered a mark of inferiority to read the Bible. Yet some of the most able leaders and most brilliant minds of all ages have been Bible readers. Consider what these great men have said of the Sacred Book:

▶ **GEORGE WASHINGTON:** It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible... He is worse than an infidel who does not read his Bible and acknowledge his obligation to God.

▶ **JOHN ADAMS:** The Bible is the best book in the world.

▶ **THOMAS JEFFERSON:** I have always said and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, better husbands... The Bible makes the best people in the world.

▶ **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS:** My custom is to read four or five chapters of the Bible every morning immediately after rising...It seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day...

▶ **ABRAHAM LINCOLN:** I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance of faith, and you will live and die a better man.

▶ **WOODROW WILSON:** I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book.

▶ **DANIEL WEBSTER:** From the time that, at my mother's feet or on my father's knee, I first learned to lisp the verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation.

▶ **WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE:** I have known ninety-five great men of the world in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were all followers of the Bible.

The Bible is a valuable book. The highest price ever paid for a Bible was \$5.39 million. It was a 1455 edition of the Old Testament by Gutenberg. Recently, a poor Chinese farmer stole a Bible from a book fair in Asia. The fine was \$200, 20 times the value of the Bible. A businessman heard of the plight of the farmer and paid the fine because the man would have spent most of the remaining years of his life in prison. We might should ask ourselves, What value do we place on the Bible?

"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver...I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil" —Psalm 119:72,162

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a survey of the Bible study course.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- 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.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.

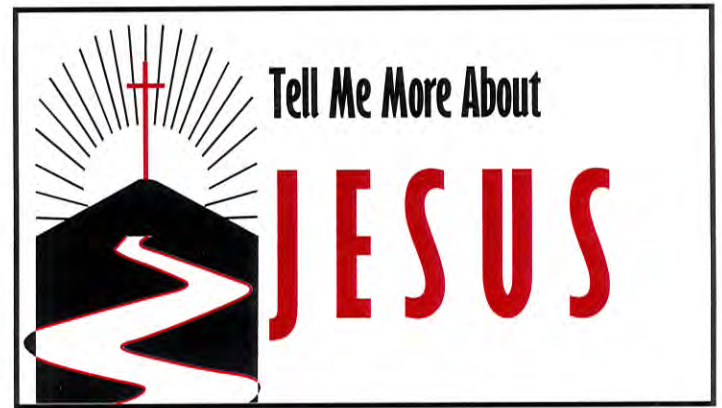
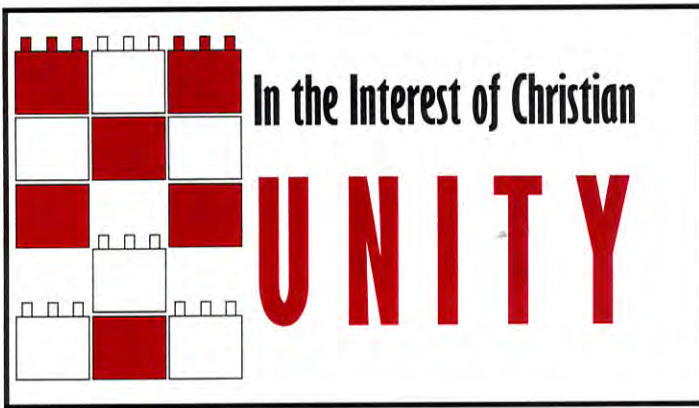
PLEASE SEND ME THE NEW HTH BOOKLET: FULL COLOR, READABLE, INTERESTING, AND FREE!

THE MAN WITH A "WAIT" PROBLEM (OVERCOMING PROCRASTINATION)

FEATURED TRACTS:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send me this month's packet (booklet plus all below)
- HTH Tract: The Advantage of Disadvantage (NEW!)
- HTH Tract: A Decent Devil? (NEW!)
- HTH Booklet: Wait Till the Honeymoon?
- Falling From Grace What About Angels?
- How to Read the Difficult Names in the Bible
- The One True Church (Bible class/home poster)
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- "The Sword" (Selected Scriptures on Bible Subjects)
- Reincarnation and the Bible What About...Dinosaurs?
- Where Would Jesus Worship? Why Believe in Jesus?
- Is Weekly Communion a Scriptural Requirement
- Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage Gambling
- Help for Troubled Marriages
- Other subject: _____
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



A "ONE ANOTHER" PEOPLE



We do not read far in Acts before discovering that our early brothers and sisters took "fellowship" seriously. Luke tells us that all the believers were together ... they continued to meet together ... they ate together in their homes (Acts 2:42-46).

This 'togetherness' had a profound affect on the church and the world. *Gladness* is the word used to describe their hearts! Later, Luke tells us that more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number (Acts 5:14). They simply could not resist the message!

The earliest disciples really bought into the idea of family, body, and church! They were a "one another" people! Listen to how they related to their "family" members!

- ▶ "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love... preferring one another" (Rm. 12:10).
- ▶ "Let us not therefore judge one another any more" (Rm. 14:13).
- ▶ "By love serve one another..." (Gal 5:13).
- ▶ "...Follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rm. 14:19).
- ▶ "...Forgiving one other..." (Eph. 4:32).
- ▶ "Exhort one another daily..." (Heb. 3:13).
- ▶ "Use hospitality one to another..." (1 Pet. 4:9).
- ▶ "Speak not evil one of another..." (Jas. 4:11).
- ▶ "...Consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24).
- ▶ "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another..." (Jas. 5:16).

ACCEPT NO UNTESTED DOCTRINE

Depend on God's Book. The Bible welcomes microscopic, rigorous examination. It boundlessly breathes, pulsates, and exudes its living message (Heb. 4:12). And, the more exacting the inquiry and the more penetrating the microscopic lens, the more dazzling becomes its beauty, the more pleasing its harmony, the more clear its unity, the more evident its sacredness.

On the other hand, risk not your soul on the doctrines of men. Bring not irreparable destruction and fatality upon yourself by failing to try the spirits {preachers, teachers} (1 Jn. 4:1) and by failing to examine what you are taught (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Jn. 9-11). Ask for a "Thus saith the Lord" and a "What saith the Scriptures." No person is true to Christ who rejects any part of the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 4:8). The noble Bereans' faith was founded not on man's doctrine, but on the Word of God (Acts 17:11).

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE

Joseph Scriven was engaged to be married following graduation from the University of Dublin, Ireland, in 1842. The night before the wedding, his fiancée tragically drowned. Heart-broken, he crossed the Atlantic to Lake Rice, Canada where he lived as a tutor for many years. He fell in love a second time in 1860 and became engaged to Eliza Roche. But before they could marry, she died of tuberculosis. He spent the remainder of his life serving the poor. As an old man, racked with illness, he stayed with a friend who discovered a poem Scriven had written years earlier, perhaps to comfort his grieving mother. Its words are now world famous:

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear;
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.*

JESUS IS "A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN A BROTHER" (Prov. 18:24b). You may have been disappointed by friends who promised to be somewhere or do something and failed to show or do. A "friend" may have sold you out when the chips were down. But there is one friend who has never disappointed you. His name is Jesus: "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper..." (Heb. 13:5,6). He is there with the "balm of Gilead" when life's wounds are deep (Jer. 8:22; Jn. 14:1). He is there in the fiery furnace when we are "cast into persecution's fire" (Dan. 3:23; 2 Tim. 3:12). He is always there for us to "cast our care upon him" (1 Pet. 5:7).

JESUS IS A FRIEND WHO DARED "LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS" (Jn. 15:13). This is the single greatest act of friendship ever shown. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He "tasted death for every man" (Heb. 2:9)—and did it when we were at odds with Him! "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rm. 5:7,8). Who can forget the forgiving words His swollen tongue and parched lips mouthed to His enemies at the end (Lk. 23:34)?

JESUS IS A FRIEND WHO MADE KNOWN ALL THINGS THAT HE HEARD FROM HIS FATHER (Jn. 15:15). Jesus was privy to information that we needed. No one else could tell us. Like a good friend, He let us "in on the secret." We needed to know the way to heaven, and He had come from there to show us the way (Jn. 14:1-3; Rev. 4:4). He claimed to be the way, the truth and the life (Jn. 14:6). He even blazed the trail for us (Heb. 2:10), so that all we need to do is walk in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21). He, as our Friend, left the plan of salvation for us—faith (Jn. 3:16); repentance (Lk. 13:3); confession (Mt. 10:32); baptism (Mk. 16:16); and godly living (Lk. 9:23).

Listen to Him speak and think of your life: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (Jn. 15:14). Are you the Lord's friend?
—Allen Webster



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Is It Only A Matter of Interpretation?

Oftentimes people will say, "It doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you are honest and sincere." They say, "We all believe in the same God and the same Lord." Or "It doesn't matter what church one may belong to." Some one might say, "It's just that we interpret the scriptures differently, and we are all headed for the same destination, we are just taking different roads."

This would be wonderful if the Scripture supported these views. But the fact is the divinely inspired Word of God tells us something entirely different. In 2 Peter 1:19-21, we are told that we would do well to heed the confirmed word and that "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The great apostle Paul says that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In Matthew 7, Jesus said that many will travel the broad way that leads to destruction, and few will put forth the effort to travel the narrow road that leads to life eternal. Later in the same chapter He said many will call on Him as Lord and tell Him all the good things they have done and He will announce that He doesn't know them and even calls them the "workers of iniquity." Why did He not recognize them? Because they had not put forth the effort to know His Will and then to follow it.

Who do you suppose these people are? Obviously, religious people who thought they were doing great things for the Lord, but were not letting His Will be their guide in what they were doing. In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked the question, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Friends, it is simply not a matter of what suits my fancy, or what I would like for it to say. Jesus, as head of His church, has given instructions we must follow, if we ever expect to be pleasing to Him. We're told in Galatians 1 that we dare not accept some different teachings as the Gospel of Christ, even if it should come from an angel from Heaven. Read Galatians chapter 1.