

HOUSE
HOUSE

to



Heart
Heart

Volume 12, Number 2

*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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**Don't
Play
with Sin**

Allen Webster

Sin is no plaything. First we toy with sin, and then sin toys with us. To begin with, we play master, and it plays slave; then we switch, and it doesn't want to take turns anymore.

The prodigal boy in Jesus' story is an exception (Luke 15). The truth is, most prodigals never come home. Oh, they think they will. They plan to . . . someday. They may even start back toward home . . . several times. But it's a long way back. It's embarrassing to admit you've been wrong. Sin's entanglements are confusing to unravel. Bad habits are hard to break; bad friends are difficult to give up; bad reputations are hard to live down.

What happens to most prodigals? They enjoy the "pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25) and then marry someone from the far country. Somebody they met at a party or a bar. Somebody they "experimented with." Somebody that never knew the Lord and doesn't care much about knowing Him now (cf. 1 Samuel 2:12; cf. 3:7). On Sundays, they prefer the "lake" to the "Lord." When it comes to reading, they prefer the day's news to the Good News. They still drink a little (on the weekends), still smoke (a pack a day now), still use bad language (when they are "with the guys" or in a foul mood), still watch bad movies and . . . well, you get the picture. They're still in the pigpen. It's hard to leave. ▶ ▶ ▶



Don't Play with . . .

Continued from page 1

Ask David.

His sin started as a Peeping Tom watching his next door neighbor take her bath (2 Samuel 11:2). He looked (she was beautiful), lusted (she was naked), sent for (it's hard to say "no" to a king), and slept with her (11:4). That was about as long as he had planned to stay in "the far country" (a one-night excursion). Unfortunately, David found out that when he was through with sin, sin wasn't through with him.

A few weeks later, he received an unwelcome note. It must have been tightly sealed with "King's Eyes Only" scrawled on the envelope. It was probably spotted and smeared with tears. He opened it to read the four words he must have secretly dreaded ever since another man's wife got out of his bed: "I am with child" (2 Samuel 11:5).

He was back on board the sin train—and it was going to keep him much longer than he wanted to stay. You know the downward spiral his life took from there. Deception. Hypocrisy. Conniving. Dishonor. Murder. Coverup. Quickie marriage (2 Samuel 11:6–27).

Ask David.

The next scene is God's prophet paying the former shepherd a visit and telling a parable about a rich man, a poor man, and a pet lamb (2 Samuel 12:1–5). The poor man loved his lamb like it was his own child. He had kept it a long time. It ate at his table. The rich man killed it to feed to a passing guest.

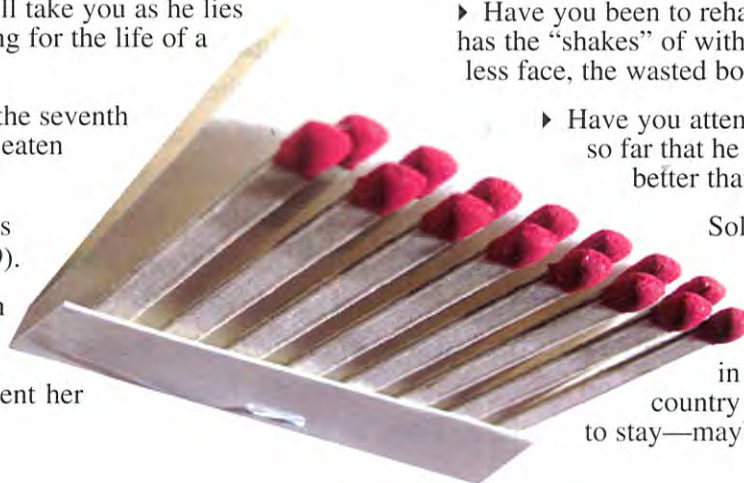
Perhaps David (who thought this was a true story) thought of a pet lamb he had while he was growing up. His face flushed with anger, and he rendered this judicial decision: "He shall pay back fourfold" (12:6). Unwittingly, David had just pronounced his own sentence and rewritten the script for the last two decades of his life. The rest of David's years read like a plot out of daytime television. Sin was about to take him for a long ride.

▶ Ask David how far sin will take you as he lies for a week in the dirt begging for the life of a dying baby.

▶ Ask him at three A.M. on the seventh day when he hasn't slept or eaten (2 Samuel 12:16).

▶ Ask him again as he walks home from the burial (12:19).

▶ Ask him again later when he learns that his daughter has just been raped—while on an errand on which he sent her (2 Samuel 13:12–14).



▶ Ask him again when he finds out that one of his sons is the rapist. Put yourself in this father's place "when king David heard of all these things" (2 Samuel 13:21).

▶ Ask him again when the message comes that his son had just been murdered—because David had sent him into harm's way.

▶ Ask him again when he finds out that another son is the murderer (2 Samuel 13:30–34).

▶ Ask him again when he doesn't see his own son's face for five years.

▶ Ask him again as he flees his palace one night, barefoot and weeping, because that son is trying to kill him and take his kingdom (2 Samuel 15:30).

▶ Ask him again as he ducks flying rocks and flinches from cursing insults (2 Samuel 16:13).

▶ Ask him again when he—along with all Israel—hears that his son has slept with ten of David's wives in a tent on top of the king's palace (2 Samuel 16:22).

▶ Ask him again when his close friend betrays him and wants an opportunity to murder him (2 Samuel 17:1–2).

▶ Ask again between his sobs as he grieves that his beloved

son is swinging from an oak by his hair with three darts through his heart (2 Samuel 18:14, 33).

Sin took David farther than he ever wanted to go.

How far is sin taking teens?

▶ Have you witnessed the anger, sadness, depression, hatefulness, and hopelessness of a life Satan gives back after an extended stay in the far country?

▶ Have you looked into the vacant eyes of a young person who has been living a worldly lifestyle for several months?

▶ Have you been around the miserable pessimist who has lost faith in God and the Bible?

▶ Have you seen a youth robbed of innocence and purity?

▶ Have you sat with a teen who cries until she/he runs out of tears because the consequences of sin have become personal instead of theoretical?

▶ Have you been to rehab with a young person whose body has the "shakes" of withdrawal, the hollow eyes, the bloodless face, the wasted body?

▶ Have you attended a teen's funeral whom sin took so far that he decided death by bullet or pills was better than life?

Solomon said, "Remember now that while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). The far country will keep you longer than you want to stay—maybe even for eternity.

Insights from student test papers . . .



- ▶ Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.
- ▶ Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.
- ▶ Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg.
- ▶ Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and

he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands.

- ▶ Question: What is one horsepower? Answer: One horsepower is the amount of energy it takes to drag a horse 500 feet in one second.
- ▶ We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.
- ▶ To most people solutions mean finding the answers. But to chemists, solutions are things that are still all mixed up.
- ▶ You can listen to thunder after lightning and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.
- ▶ Some people can tell what time it is by looking at the sun. But I have never been able to make out the numbers.

"For I say . . . not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." —Romans 12:3



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

They are all numbered



A person 20–30 years of age has about 615 hair follicles per square centimeter. A person 50 years of age has around 485 hair follicles per square centimeter. People aged 80–90 years have approximately 435 hair follicles per square centimeter.

This shows an average of about five percent hair loss per year. The average hair loss for an individual is 50–100 hairs per day.¹

If you are a Bible student, then you already know where this is going. Jesus said: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29–31). When I got older and started losing my hair, I knew that God must have to change His count at least hourly in the case of some of us.

People two thousand years ago had the same types of problems that we have today. Jesus warned, "Therefore take no thought saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" (Matthew 6:31). What was His response to those whose worldly concerns had overridden spiritual necessities? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Jesus closes His discourse on worldly cares by saying, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). In other words, there are enough problems in one day to deal with, without compounding them by concerning ourselves with things that are out of our control.

Physical food fills our bodies temporarily, but in time we will hunger again. Jesus fills another kind of hunger. He said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51). We should take comfort in the fact that we serve a God who knows us personally. He even knows things about us that we don't know about ourselves—like the number of hairs on our heads.

¹From the AAD Web site: www.aad.org/public/Publications/pamphlets/Hairloss.htm. People with certain sicknesses and genetic hair loss conditions lose more than these averages.

Anyway

- ▶ People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway!
- ▶ If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway!
- ▶ If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Do good anyway!
- ▶ Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway!
- ▶ The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest minds. Think big anyway!
- ▶ People really need help, but they may attack you if you help them. Help people anyway!
- ▶ Give the world your best, and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the best you've got anyway!

"Let all your things be done with charity." —1 Corinthians 16:14

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Love Taps

During an attack of laryngitis, I lost my voice completely for two days. To help me communicate with him, my husband devised a system of taps. One tap meant, “Give me a kiss,” two taps meant “No,” three taps meant “Yes,” and 95 taps meant “Take out the garbage.”

“He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.” —Proverbs 15:15

Overcoming Snoring

The marriage bed is a powerful symbol of wedded bliss. But according to a National Sleep Foundation (NSF) poll, 12 percent of married adults are sleeping in separate beds—in most cases just to get a good night’s rest. Check out the following results from a survey that show how your bedmate’s snoring, restlessness, and mattress hogging can negatively impact your sleep.

- ▶ Men who snore a few nights a week: 40%
- ▶ Women who snore a few nights a week: 31%
- ▶ Men who sleep less because of bedmate: 17%
- ▶ Women who sleep less because of bedmate: 30%

So what’s the solution?

- ▶ **Push twin beds together to make your spouse’s movements less disruptive.**
- ▶ **Sleep together every other night.** “We can all handle one night of poor sleep, but after two or three, we’re in trouble,” says Sheila Goss, a marriage and family therapist.
- ▶ **Begin the night in the same bed, then separate and reunite for a morning cuddle.** “There is no wrong sleeping arrangement as long as a couple maintains intimacy, even if it has to be scheduled,” says Goss. “A ‘you come to my bed Tuesday and Thursday, and I come to yours Monday and Wednesday’ system can heighten expectations—and fun.”

—Ladies’ Home Journal (October 2004)



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

A Different Kind of Family Debt



What parents do not owe their children:

- ▶ **The latest fashion** (Acts 10:34–35; 1 Timothy 2:9–10; James 2:1–10). We need to teach our children to earn admiration and respect through character and not clothing.
- ▶ **The hottest toys and games** (Ecclesiastes 1:4, 8). Look through your house at all the “gotta have it” toys that haven’t been touched in months. I wrapped all these one year and gave them as anonymous gifts to needy families. Not once did anyone ask “what happened to my . . . ?” or “where is my . . . ?”
- ▶ **A car and money to burn** (1 Timothy 6:10–11). There’s nothing inherently wrong with buying your children a car, but most 16-year-olds think they are

OWED a car at 16. Take a group to the mall or on a youth trip and see who has the most spending money—it’s not the adults!

- ▶ **A life free from pain or embarrassment.** The Bible says that all who would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Peter said, “If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but rather glorify God” (1 Peter 4:16).

What parents do owe their children:

- ▶ **A godly example** (Psalm 85:13; cf. 1 Peter 2:21–22). Jesus gave His disciples an example (John 13:15), as Paul did his (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- ▶ **A good name** (Proverbs 22:1).
- ▶ **A peaceful home** (Proverbs 21:9; cf. 25:24).
- ▶ **Objectivity** (Proverbs 19:18). Everyone (including teachers, the police, etc.) is not “out to get” your child.
- ▶ **Structure and discipline** (1 Samuel 3:13). Children need discernable boundaries. Children need to understand the consequences of violating the boundaries.

What children owe their parents:

- ▶ **Love** (1 John 4:19).
- ▶ **Respect** (Ephesians 6:1–3) — For the name they wear, especially when their parents aren’t around.
- ▶ **Obedience** The word *obey* in Ephesians 6:1 is from the Greek compound *hupakouo* (*hupo* = under + *akouo* = hear or give the ear to). Literally it means “to listen with the intent to obey” (cf. 1 Samuel 3:9–10).
- ▶ **Submission** (1 Peter 5:5).
- ▶ **Proper care when they become aged** (Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:4). The word *despise* in the phrase “despise not thy mother when she is old” means to hold in contempt or as insignificant (it is an antonym of reverence). Your parents helped you with your first steps; help them with their last. Your parents made sure your home was clean and your food was hot—don’t let them live in squalor. If you can’t take care of your parents, find someone who can. First Timothy 5:8 says that a failure to properly care for your parents disrespects them, disgraces the church, denies the faith, and damns your soul.

Be sure to pay all your family debts! —Todd Clippard, Hamilton, Alabama

Scary Grandmother

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, “Who was THAT?”



What is the significance of "Jehovah" as God's name?



Names are important. It is difficult for us to conceive of things apart from their names. The many different names for God in the Bible describe and demonstrate His character. "Jehovah" (usually rendered "LORD" in the King

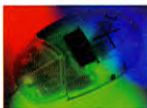
James Version) appears often in the Scriptures. *Jehovah* means "the Eternal One, the Unchangeable One, the One Who was, and is, and is to come." When Moses met God in the burning bush, he asked His name. "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14). God spoke as Jehovah, the self-existent God.

The Hebrew people came to consider one particular name of God His personal name. Scholars call this name, derived from four Hebrew letters, the "tetragrammaton" (from "tetra," four, and "gram," letter). The Jews were so concerned about using this name in vain that they would not even pronounce it when reading the Bible aloud. (They substituted "Adonai," meaning Lord.) As a result, the proper pronunciation of the original Hebrew is unknown. Most scholars say "Yahweh" or "Yahveh" is likely the proper pronunciation, although Jehovah has been used since the sixteenth century.

The Bible stresses the importance of respect for God by emphasizing the importance of the name of God. Solomon said, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10). The psalmist said, "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name" (Psalm 111:9). (By the way, "reverend" refers only to God in the Bible, and never to man.) Isaiah spoke of "the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15). Jesus told His disciples, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9).

The third commandment warns, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). Although this commandment is part of the old covenant, the need for respect for the Lord's names continues. Paul wrote, "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed" (1 Timothy 6:1). —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box

3071, Oxford, AL 36203



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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.

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Starts with the Letter "M"

Find answers in Genesis 1:26; 5:12; 18:1; 23:19; 41:51; Exodus 15:23; 16:35; 24:12; Judges 13:2, 24; 1 Samuel 14:49; Ruth 1:2, 20; Esther 2:20; 3:5; Isaiah 8:3; Matthew 1:16; 2:11; 6:24; 10:3; Mark 16:9; Luke 2:7; 8:2; 10:38; John 18:10; Acts 1:26; 15:37-38; 17:22-23; 1 Corinthians 16:22; Hebrews 7:1, 15; 13:4 (not in order).

1. _____ Jesus' mother
2. _____ Publican who became a disciple and apostle
3. _____ Elected to fill the place of the traitor Judas
4. _____ Gift of wise men to the infant Jesus
5. _____ Received the law from God at Sinai
6. _____ Brought up Esther, hated by Haman
7. _____ A son of Isaiah (longest word in the Bible)
8. _____ The first husband of Ruth
9. _____ One of the sons of King Saul
10. _____ Servant whose right ear Peter cut off
11. _____ The eldest son of Joseph
12. _____ Food the children of Israel ate forty years
13. _____ The father of Samson
14. _____ Name Naomi adopted in her grief
15. _____ Place of bitter waters made sweet
16. _____ Barnabas wanted to take him, Paul did not
17. "_____ is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
18. _____ King of Salem, priest of the most high God, met Abraham, type of Christ
19. Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of _____
20. The fourth in descent from Adam _____
21. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a _____ because there was no room in the inn.
22. "Ye cannot serve God and _____."
23. The LORD appeared to Abraham in the plains of _____.
24. "And God said, Let us make _____ in our image . . ."
25. Paul preached a sermon on The Unknown God on _____ hill in Athens.
26. "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema _____."
27. Seven demons went out of Mary _____.
28. _____ Mary's sister who was "cumbered with much serving."

Answers to Last Issue:

Starts with the Letter "U": 1. Upharsin (Daniel 5:25); 2. Ur (Genesis 11:31); 3. Uriah (2 Samuel 11:3); 4. Urijah (2 Kings 16:10); 5. Usurp (1 Timothy 2:12); 6. Urim (Exodus 28:30). *Starts with the Letter "V":* 1. Vashti (Esther 1:9-22); 2. Veil (Luke 23:45); 3. Vain (James 1:26-27); 4. Vengeance (Romans 12:19); 5. Victory (1 John 5:4); 6. Vine (John 15:1); 7. Vinegar (John 19:29); 8. Viper (Acts 28:3); 9. Virgin (Matthew 1:23); 10. Virtue (2 Peter 1:5); 11. Vision (Proverbs 29:18); 12. Vagabond (Genesis 4:14); 13. Valley (Psalm 23:4); 14. Vapor (James 4:14); 15. Venison (Genesis 25:28); 16. Violence (Luke 3:14); 17. Visit (James 1:27); 18. Viol (Isaiah 5:12).



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Top Ten Indications You Are Not Reading the Bible Enough

10. The preacher announces that the sermon is from Genesis and you check the table of contents.
9. You think Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had a few hits in the '60s but never really amounted to much.
8. You turn to Psalms and a WWII savings bond falls out.
7. When someone asks your favorite Old Testament character, you say Hercules.
6. Your favorite Bible verse is, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
5. You get mad because you can't find Charlton Heston in the concordance nor in the table of contents.
4. Catching the kids reading the Song of Solomon, you demand: "Who gave you this?"
3. You think the minor prophets worked in the quarries.
2. You fall for it when the preacher tells you to turn to 2 Hezekiah.
1. You think that Job rhymes with Bob.



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Advocate, Intercessor, Mediator



It comforts Christians to know that Jesus is ready to make intercession for us when we sin. First John 1:9 reads, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” For the Christian, Jesus is the “Voice” for the good of mankind. He serves in three roles to Christians: He is 1) an advocate; 2) an intercessor; and 3) a mediator.

Imagine a general practitioner—maybe your family doctor. He has educated himself in the general practice of medicine. However, he is not in a position to perform major surgical procedures or to diagnose some major illnesses without a specialist’s guidance. For example, if you have a severe heart problem, he would refer you to a cardiologist. He would speak on your behalf to the specialist, pleading the symptoms of your problems, and serve as an impartial “go between” to see that your heart-care is fully provided. Therefore, he would act as an advocate of your problem, an intercessor for your symptoms, and a mediator for your care.

Jesus serves in exactly the same ways.

First, He is our advocate. He advocates to our Father our sinful condition and chooses to help us commit our change before God. First John 2:1 reads, “And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Second, He is our intercessor. He intercedes on our behalf, to plead our cause to God whom we have offended. Our symptoms are laid on the table before God, and mercy is pleaded on the condition of repentance. Romans 8:34 says, “It is Christ Jesus that died, yea rather, that was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Hebrews 7:25 reads: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Third, Jesus is our mediator. He is actually our only mediator. He is the “go between” that attempts to bring reconciliation to the relationship between God and men. First Timothy 2:5 says, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

If you will let Him, He will be your advocate, intercessor, and mediator. He wants you to come out of your sins and be with Him forever. —Jason Hart



A Plea for New Testament Christianity



There are two rival conceptions of the church held by many today. One holds that the church is a conglomerate of sorts, being composed of all Christ-believing individuals, regardless of the “church” to which they belong. The other view maintains that while the church is composed of every saved individual on earth, only those who have done just what the Bible requires are in fact saved. Which view is correct?

It cannot be denied that Christ desired unity among His followers. In the shadow of the cross, the Savior prayed that His disciples might be “one,” so “that the world may believe” that He was sent from the Father (cf. John 17:20–21). The early church was a model of this prayer for unity. “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32).

Sadly, the religious world today is anything but united. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of competing religious bodies, each vying for our attention and subsequent allegiance. Most, if not all, teach conflicting doctrines and practice varying rituals. From a rational vantage point, it seems the only unity that can rightly be claimed for all such endeavors is superficial at best.

In stark contrast to the present state of affairs, there is a beautiful simplicity to Christianity. When the apostle Paul delineated the heart of the gospel, he did so in this fashion: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. When the same apostle wrote to the Romans, he indicated that we submit to a “form” of this teaching (cf. Romans 6:17) when we die to the unrestrained practice of sin, are buried with Christ in baptism, and then raised to walk in “newness of life” (cf. Romans 6:2–4; Colossians 2:12). All who have done so are members of the body of Christ, the church (cf. Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18, 24). The name God would have them wear is “Christian”—nothing more, nothing less.

—Brandon Renfroe



Mrs. Jones, Do You Know Me?



A small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness to the stand in a trial—a grandmotherly, elderly woman. He approached her and asked, “Mrs. Jones, do you know me?”

She responded, “Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I’ve known you since you were a young boy. And frankly, you’ve been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you’re a rising big shot when you haven’t the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.”

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, “Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?”

She again replied, “Why, yes, I do. I’ve known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to babysit him for his parents. And he, too, has been a real disappointment to me. He’s lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. The man can’t build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him.”

At this point, the judge rapped for silence and called both counselors to the bench. In a quiet voice, he said with menace, “If either of you asks her if she knows me, you’ll be in jail for contempt within five minutes!”

It is frightening to think of someone knowing (and sharing) everything there is to know about us! In the book of Revelation, seven letters are sent from Jesus Christ to seven churches in Asia Minor. Each of the letters begins with the same words: “I know thy works” (Revelation 2:2).

It is a sobering thought to know that as we stand before the great Judge, there is one who knows all about us. May that knowledge serve to motivate us to live righteous lives.—author unknown

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” —Ecclesiastes 12:14

