

# HOUSE TO HOUSE

## Heart to Heart



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

Volume 10, Number 5

*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

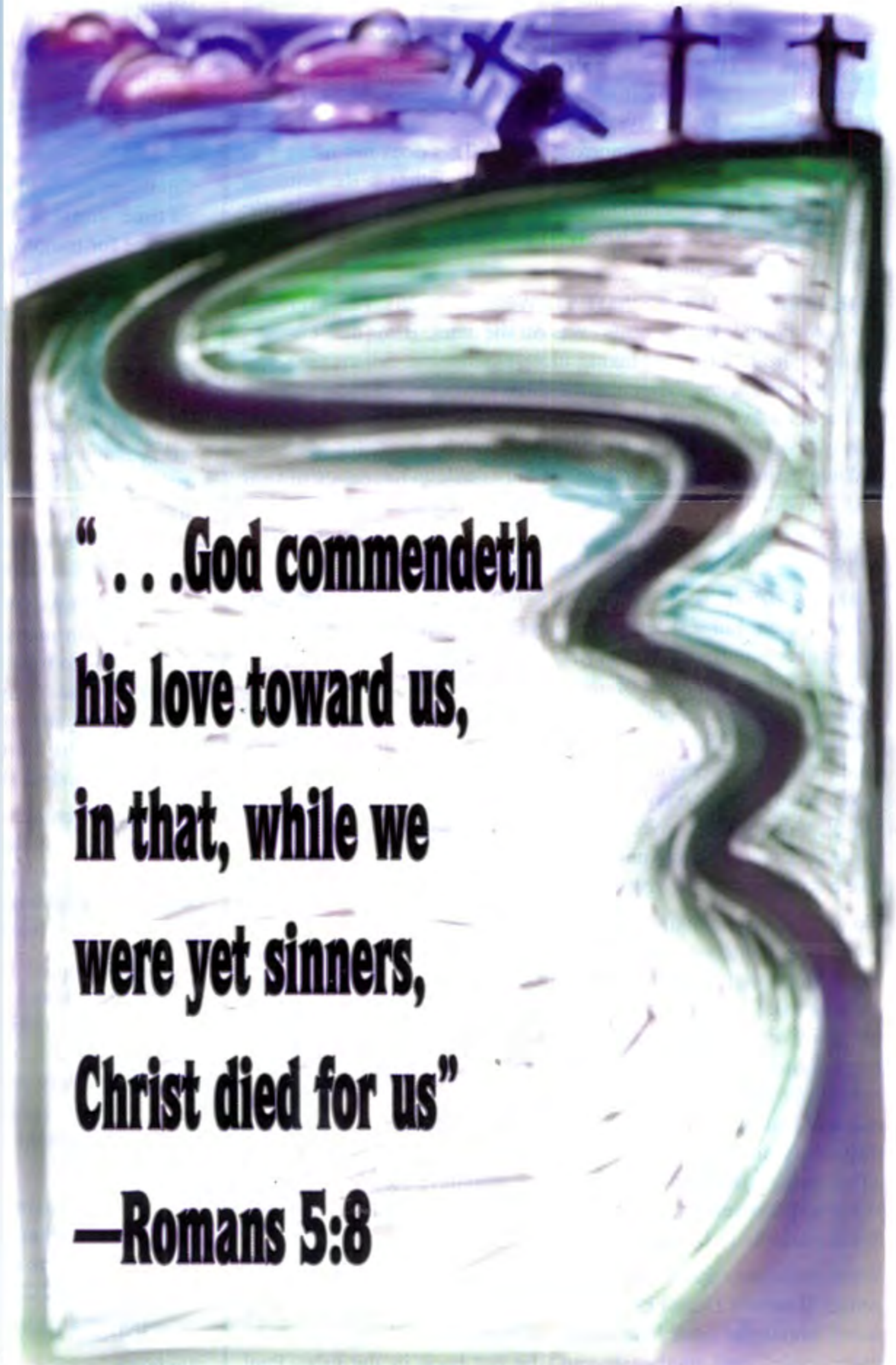
Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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**“...God commendeth  
his love toward us,  
in that, while we  
were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us”  
—Romans 5:8**

# Don't Worry So Much

Matthew 6:25-34 Allen Webster

The most wealthy, healthy, intelligent, highly-advanced, enlightened generation ever to occupy this orbiting sphere is literally worrying to death. It is remarkable and unfortunate that Christians are not immune to this disorder. They have been known to be just as insecure as those whose feet have never stood on the Rock of Ages, whose eyes have not looked to the hills from whence cometh their help, and whose minds are not set on things above. Most saints know they ought not worry, so they worry about worrying.

What does the Owner's Manual say to do about this malfunction? Jesus discussed the subject of anxiety in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:25-34). He says, "Take no thought" (*merimnao*) for life (6:25), food (6:31), and tomorrow (6:34). This does not mean it is wrong to plan tomorrow's menu, buy winter clothes in the summer, or purchase home or health insurance (cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 30:25). It means that we are not to "be anxious" for these things.

**THE BIRDS TEACH US NOT TO WORRY (6:26).** Whoever said that "worrying is for the birds" was off the mark. Birds don't worry! Whoever heard of a bird taking ulcer medication, committing suicide, or dying with a heart attack? Birds are not concerned with the future, yet they form no lines at welfare offices. God cares for them. Surely, God could not be charged with watching out for sparrows and neglecting His own children! We are made in the image of God and infused with a soul from the Father (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Hebrews 12:9). Birds are not. Thus, if God cares for them, He cares more for us (Matthew 10:29-31; cf. Romans 8:32).

**THE YARDSTICK TEACHES US NOT TO WORRY (6:27).** Whoever heard of a short man worrying himself into a larger size? Was it ever reported that worrying lengthened someone's life? No! Worry is useless. Stature (*helikia*) in verse 27 indicates a stage of growth whether measured by age or height.<sup>1</sup> Jesus says worry will not make you older (though it may put wrinkles on your face) or taller. "Worry never climbed a hill; worry never paid a bill; worry never dried a tear; worry never calmed a fear; worry never darned a heel; worry never cooked a meal; worry never composed a song to sing; actually, worry never did a worthwhile thing." "Worry is like a rocking chair, it keeps you busy, but gets you nowhere."

No one can lengthen his life by worrying, but there is evidence that worry can shorten it. When it comes to long life, what we are eating is important, but what is eating us is more important. Studies indicate that 70 percent of all illnesses are psychosomatic ("relating to bodily symptoms caused by emotional disturbance"). The old English root from which we get "worry" means "to strangle." Many people are strangling their lives with anxiety. Worry is a leading cause of heart trouble, high blood pressure, stomach disorders, and respiratory ailments. Dr. Charles Mayo said, "I have never known a man to die from hard work, but many who have died from doubt." If for no other reason, we should not worry because it destroys the Spirit's temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Worry falls into three classes. (1) *Things that have already happened.* Reader's Digest observed, "Most worries are reruns." Why worry about the past? The score can't be changed, eggs can't be unscrambled, and toothpaste can't be put back in the tube. Paul

learned to put the past behind him (Philippians 3:13-14). If sin is involved, we should cleanse it in Christ's blood (Acts 22:16; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7), and then *go on*.

(2) *Things which must happen.* All the worry in the world cannot change some things, for they will happen anyway. We are going to die (Hebrews 9:27), so why worry about it? Prepare and let it come (Philippians 1:21).

(3) *Things which will never happen.* One lady said, "I always feel bad, even when I feel good, because I know that it will not be long before I feel bad again." Sad! "It is not the tornadoes that get us, but the termites." It is said that 85 percent of what we worry over never happens. Why waste the time (Ephesians 5:16)? Time should be invested in working instead of worrying. The ant wastes no time worrying about the future. Instead, it constantly works to prepare for tomorrow (Proverbs 6:6-8).

We must learn to concentrate on today instead of yesterday and tomorrow. Philippians 3:13 teaches us to forget the things of the past. Matthew 6:34 teaches us not to worry about tomorrow. That only leaves one day to concern us: today. Yesterday is a canceled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; only today is cash. Spend it wisely! God wants us to walk in the light He gives us and not worry about the darkness ahead. When we get there, His light will make it clear. When we drive at night, the headlights do not shine all the way to our destination. They shine just a few feet in front of the car, but as we move forward, they keep ahead of us. God's light works the same way. He says, "Live one day at a time."

**A CHILD TEACHES US NOT TO WORRY (6:32).** Children can lead adults in many ways (Isaiah 11:6). One way we should imitate them is to trust our Father as they trust their parents. Worry is sinful because it says, "I do not trust my Father to care for me." Worry is praying to the wrong god; it insults Jehovah (cf. Psalm 37:1; Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:6-7). Our coins say, "In God We Trust," and so should our hearts (Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 9:10).

Problems become smaller when they are seen in God's shadow. Martha was troubled about many things while Mary was sitting content at Jesus' feet (Luke 10:38-42). Guess which one was happy? "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

God is unlimited in what He can do (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 4:19), so my big problems are not large to Him. It is much like a child who becomes frustrated with a knotted shoestring. To him, it is a major problem and an unsolvable dilemma. He may even cry about it. Dad smiles to himself and quickly unties it. The difference is a matter of perspective. Our major difficulties are only "knotted shoestrings" to Almighty God. Why get so upset?

A minute of prayer is better than an hour of worrying (Philippians 4:6). We read that Jesus spent an entire night in prayer but never that He spent one minute in worry. His example is worthy of imitation (1 Peter 2:21-22).

Worried? Let God handle it.

Endnote: <sup>1</sup> Abbott-Smith

# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8

### A Skunk in my Basement



A little old lady called the police station begging for help. "I've got a skunk in my basement!" As a solution, the policeman told her to crumble up some bread and make a trail of the crumbs up the stairs, through the house, and out the door. The policeman then instructed her to leave the house for an hour.

An hour later the lady called the police again. "I need help!" The same policeman asked her, "Maam, did you crumble up some bread, make a trail up the stairs, through the house, and out the door?"

"Yes," she replied. The policeman asked, "Then, what is the problem?" The lady cried out, "I now have TWO skunks in my house!"

Problems are inevitable. But as sure as we may experience problems, and as sure as they might multiply, there is a God who will inevitably see us through. He is our Rock and Deliverer (2 Samuel 22:2). We can know assuredly that when we face problems—or the multiplication of problems—God will take care of us. Be patient, be positive, and have faith in Almighty God!

**"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"** —Romans 8:28

### My Stomach Hurts

A little girl went up to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mommy, my stomach hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty. You have to put something into it!" She then prepared a bowl of soup. Later that day the preacher and his wife came over for dinner. The preacher began to feel bad. Holding his head he said, "I have such a terrible headache!" The little girl looked up at him, giving him a sweet smile, and said, "That's because it's empty. You have to put something into it!" —CleanLaugh List

### 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 |



### Called From, To, How, and What

#### FROM/TO:

- I. Called from **labor** to **rest** (Matthew 11:28)
- II. Called out of **darkness** into **light** (1 Peter 2:9)
- III. Called from **bondage** to **liberty** (Galatians 5:13)
- IV. Called from **death** to **life** (1 John 3:14)
- V. Called from **bondage** to **peace** (1 Corinthians 7:15).
- VI. Called from **alienation** to **fellowship** (1 Corinthians 1:9)

#### How:

"Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

#### WHAT:

- I. We are made **sons** of God (John 1:12)
- II. We are made the **children** of God (Galatians 3:26)
- III. We are made the **servants** of God (Matthew 25:21)
- IV. We are made God's **saints** (Colossians 1:1)
- V. We are made **workers** together with God (2 Corinthians 6:1)
- VI. We are called to a **high calling** (Philippians 3:14)
- VII. We are called to a **holy calling** (2 Timothy 1:9)
- VIII. We are called to a **heavenly calling** (Hebrews 3:1)

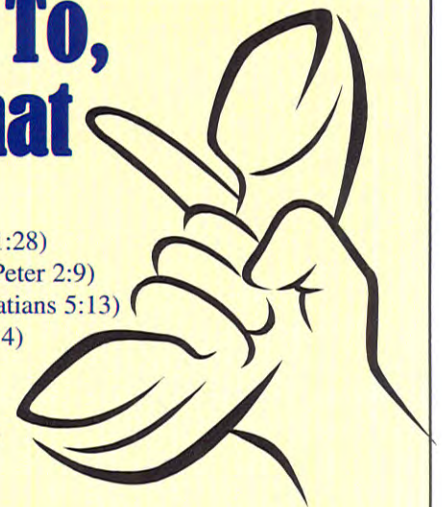
—adapted from *Pulpit Helps*, August, 1992, p. 11

### Love from a Kid's Point of View

- ▶ "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."
- ▶ "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."
- ▶ "Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad, but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."
- ▶ "Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."
- ▶ "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."
- ▶ "Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."
- ▶ "Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."
- ▶ "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."
- ▶ "You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

—LightSinger

**"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."** —1 Corinthians 13:13



The

# HOME PAGE

## The Kind of Love I Want

It was approximately 8:30 a.m. on a busy morning at the doctor's office when an elderly gentleman in his 80s arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry to make an appointment at 9:00 a.m.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it might be an hour before he would be seen. Seeing him look at his watch, I decided since I was not busy with another patient I would evaluate his wound. On exam, I saw it was well healed, so I talked to the doctor and got the supplies to remove his sutures.

While redressing his wound, we engaged in conversation. I asked him if he was in a hurry to meet another doctor's appointment. He said no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He said that she was a long-time victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was; in fact, she had not recognized him in five years. I was surprised and asked, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled, patted my hand, and said, "She doesn't know who I am, but I still know who she is."

I had to hold back tears as he left. Goose bumps covered my arm as I thought, "That is the kind of love I want in my life!"

True love is neither physical nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

**"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church . . ."**

—Ephesians 5:25

## Wonderful Mother

God made a wonderful mother;  
A mother who never grows old;  
He made her smile of the sunshine  
And molded her heart of pure gold;  
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,  
In her cheeks, fair roses you see;  
God made a wonderful mother,  
And He gave that dear mother to me.

## My Mean Parents

I had the meanest parents in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When other kids had Cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich.

My parents insisted on knowing where I was all the time. I felt like I was on chain gang. They had to know who my friends were and what I was doing. They insisted that if I would be gone for an hour, that I was gone for an hour or less.

I'm ashamed to admit it, but they actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. They made me work. I had to help them do chores in the house and outside in the yard. You know, things like make my bed and rake the leaves—all sorts of odd things. I think they'd actually lay awake nights thinking of mean things to do to me.

And when I became a teenager, it got worse. They'd make me bring my friends and dates to the door so they could meet them. How humiliating!

My friends were lucky. They got to date at the mature age of 12 or 13, but my old fashioned parents refused to let me date until I was 16.

My mom and dad were complete failures as parents. I was never arrested, never got into fights, never talked back to a teacher, never got kicked out of school. I got along with everybody. And who do I have to thank for this terrible way I turned out? My mean parents. They made me grow into a God-fearing, educated, honest adult.

[Thank you, Lord, for giving me the "meanest" parents on earth. They saved me much heartache and pain. They saved my life.]

—Author Unknown

## A Monopoly Life is an Empty Life

Does the name Charles Darrow ring a bell with you? Probably not, but you are familiar with what he did. During the great depression of the early 30s, Mr. Darrow of Germantown, Pennsylvania was an unemployed heating engineer. With plenty of spare time on his hands, he began concocting a new board game which he made and reproduced by hand.

In 1935, Parker Brothers purchased the game called "Monopoly." Since that time, more than 90 million Monopoly games have been sold. The object of the game is strictly capitalistic. The more financial gain you achieve, the better your chances of winning. This is very much the foundation on which many homes are built today. Everything done is tied to making that next dollar. Often the more lasting, valuable things are pushed aside. The problem with this kind of living is that when you come to the end, you realize you have lost. Paul said, "For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Timothy 6:7). Let's remember today the really important things and keep our lives in perspective.

## Will Your Children Go to Heaven?

Church leaders all over the nation are concerned about the drop-out rate of young people. And well they should be. It is a tragic thing to see these precious boys and girls, who are so thrilled with Bible Study as little people, grow cold and uninterested in the Lord's work as they grow older.

Lately, several congregations have made in-depth studies of the factors leading to youth leaving the church, with an eye to learning what might be done to help solve this problem. What do we need? More youth programs? More rallies? Special teachers?

A great central truth has begun to emerge from these studies. Their faithfulness to Jesus doesn't have anything to do with special programs or teachers. It is not dependent on whether they are members of a large congregation or a small one. The single most important factor is their own immediate family.

One congregation found that when both parents were faithful to the Lord, and that includes active interest in the local congregation's programs, 93 percent of the children remained faithful. On the other hand, if only one parent was faithful, the figure dropped to 73 percent. Where both parents were only marginally active, it fell to 53 percent. Now comes the shocker—when both parents attended infrequently, 6 percent of their children remained faithful to the Lord.

Do you want your children to go to heaven? Then make certain you are leading them. The likelihood is they'll go no other way! —Tid-Bits by Ron Readhimer

► For more interesting material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).





## Will We Know Each Other in Heaven?



Anyone who has lost a loved one to death is interested in knowing the answer to this question. Every person will one day face death and needs assurance of heaven. All of us hope to be reunited with loved ones who have gone on before, but if we will not know each other in heaven, then the bonds made on earth are forever severed in death.

The idea that we will know each other in heaven is sometimes called the doctrine of "future recognition." It is both reasonable and scriptural. We will surely know that we are in heaven. We

must know ourselves, unless we lose all personal identity and recognition in death. Surely we will know Christ, and that He has redeemed us from our sins, thus allowing us to enjoy the rewards of heaven. If we will know we are in heaven, know who we are, know Christ, and know that He rewards us for our faithfulness, surely we will know one another.

Revelation 6:9-10 describes a scene under the altar of God. The souls of the martyrs, "slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held," cried out for vengeance. These martyrs retained their personalities in the death state, were conscious of where they were, and why they were there. They knew that they had been murdered and were conscious that their murderers had not been punished. Surely they knew each other.

David, stricken with grief over the death of his son, said, "Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). It is significant that David said he would "go to" his son. If he would not recognize or know his son, he would feel no comfort.

The story we know as the "rich man and Lazarus" is told in Luke 16:19-31. Whether this is a parable or not, it still indicates much about the state of the dead. The characters were all conscious and aware of their surroundings, and all possessed a memory of the world they had left. Abraham told the rich man to "remember." He could remember because he was conscious of who he was, where he was, and who the others were. We also have the example of Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration. The apostles recognized them, so they had not lost their identity in death.

There will be no giving and taking in marriage in heaven as there is on earth (Luke 20:35-36), and many other things will be changed in heaven. But we will know one another, and heaven will be much better than we can imagine. The key is to be prepared to go to heaven by obeying the will of God because heaven is a prepared place for prepared people (John 14:1-3).

—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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Starts with the Letter "A"

Find answers in Genesis 1:26/2:19; 4:8; 22:1-19; Exodus 6:18-20; 7:1, 7; Deuteronomy 2:11/ Joshua 11:21; Joshua 7:2-5; 1 Samuel 25:14-42; 2 Samuel 13:1-18; 14:24-15:12; 15:12, 31; 21:16-17; 1 Kings 1:1-4; 16:29-31; 2 Kings 5:12; Esther 2:16; Psalm 7:11; Proverbs 6:6-8; Matthew 4:11; 26:7; Mark 14:36; John 6:8-9; 10:10; 18:12-24; Acts of Apostles 1:1ff; 11:26; 18:24-25; Galatians 5:19/Matthew 19:9; 1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 2:11; 5:8; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 1:8; 9:11 (not in order).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses' older brother
2. \_\_\_\_\_ King of the bottomless pit (means "Destruction")
3. \_\_\_\_\_ River Naaman thought was better than Jordan
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Term Jesus called His Father in Gethsemane
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Killed by his brother, Cain
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Nabal's wife who later married King David
7. \_\_\_\_\_ David's female companion in his last days
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Saved David by killing a giant
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Saul's captain, killed by Joab
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Father who was willing to slay son for God
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Handsome, rebellious son of David
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Preacher mighty in Scriptures
13. \_\_\_\_\_ High Priest Jesus appeared before
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Book of Conversions in the New Testament
15. \_\_\_\_\_ First man
16. \_\_\_\_\_ A work of the flesh, justifies divorce
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Insect sluggards told to "go to"
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Wicked king, married to Jezebel
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Persian king, married to Esther
20. \_\_\_\_\_ David's counselor, betrayed him to Absalom
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua defeated at this small town
22. \_\_\_\_\_ A precious container broken to anoint Jesus
23. \_\_\_\_\_ City where disciples first called "Christians"
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Son of David, raped half sister
25. \_\_\_\_\_ Father of Moses
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Race of giants, defeated by Joshua
27. \_\_\_\_\_ Disciple found lad with loaves/fishes
28. \_\_\_\_\_ Attended Jesus after His temptation
29. "\_\_\_\_\_ . . . from fleshly lusts"
30. Christ promises the \_\_\_\_\_ life to believers
31. Your \_\_\_\_\_ walketh about, seeking whom he may devour
32. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and Omega
33. God is \_\_\_\_\_ with the wicked every day
34. Women are to adorn themselves in \_\_\_\_\_ apparel.

### Answers to Last Issue:

*Starts with the Letter "V":* 1. vagabond (Genesis 4:12); 2. vain (Mark 7:7); 3. valley (Nehemiah 2:13); 4. vanity (Proverbs 22:8); 5. Vashti (Esther 1:9-22); 6. veil (Matthew 27:51); 7. vengeance (2 Thessalonians 1:8); 8. venison (Genesis 27:1-33); 9. vessel (Acts 9:15); 10. vexed (2 Peter 2:8); 11. victory (1 John 5:4); 12. vile (Romans 1:26); 13. vine (John 15:1); 14. vinegar (Matthew 27:34); 15. viper (Acts 28:3-5); 16. virgin (Luke 1:27); 17. virtuous (Proverbs 31:10); 18. vocation (Ephesians 4:1); 19. vow (Ecclesiastes 5:5); 20. vulture (Leviticus 11:13-14). *Bible Rulers:* 1. Herod (Acts 12:20-23); 2. Josiah (2 Kings 22:1); 3. Ahasuerus (Esther 2:16-17); 4. Saul (1 Samuel 31:4); 5. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:5-6); 6. David (1 Kings 2:2); 7. Solomon (1 Kings 11:42).



# Learn More! For More Info!



## What Others Say About the Bible

- ▶ "It is impossible to righteously govern the world without God and the Bible."  
—George Washington
- ▶ "The New Testament is the very best book that was or ever will be known in the world."  
—Charles Dickens
- ▶ "Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them."  
—Author unknown
- ▶ "The Bible is a window in this prison-world through which we may look into eternity."  
—Timothy Dwight
- ▶ "Within the covers of one single book, the Bible, are all the answers to all the problems that face us today—if only we would read and believe."  
—Ronald Reagan
- ▶ "I was never out of my Bible."  
—John Bunyan
- ▶ "I am a man of one Book."  
—John Wesley
- ▶ "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives."  
—U. S. Grant

—Source Unknown

**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" —2 Timothy 2:15**

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Help For Those Who Grieve, Tom Miller  
The Gospel of the Second Chance, Allen Webster  
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- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a Bible question: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation.  
Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

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

- Send me this month's packet (all materials)

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- Enroll me in a free Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free ... work on your own at home.*
- I want to see the free *Visualized Bible Study Video Series*. These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

### TRACTS:

- NEW! God's Battlement of God.** God has encircled the earth with His love as a barrier to falling off into the Lake of Fire.
- NEW! My Preacher Says.** Just because a preacher says it, doesn't make it so! Some popular statements are contrasted with God's Word.
- Seven Things God Hates (a False Witness).** Examines the rules by which Jewish courts operated . . . makes practical application for Christians living in a world in which basic honesty is not so commonplace.
- Happiness Guaranteed!** In a land with an "unalienable right" of "pursuit of happiness," one would think everybody would be happy, but many are not.
- For Men Only. Solomon's Eleven Reasons to Avoid Loose Women.** Important study for men of all ages.
- What to Expect When You Visit the church of Christ.** Takes the apprehension out of visiting a new congregation.
- When Jesus went on a Picnic.**
- The Irony of Calvary.** A look at some of the astounding contrasts noted in the record of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus.
- Don't Bet on It!** Is a lottery such a good deal?
- What Teens Want**
- Watered-Down Baptism**
- Salvation is Free, But it is not Cheap**
- Death Hurts, But Jesus Helps**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*  
—All materials/services are absolutely **FREE** of charge. We even pay postage!—

In the Interest of Christian

# UNITY

## Identifying Marks of the Lord's Church: What Standard of Authority?

The New Testament is the only standard of the Lord's church in faith and practice. In the first century church, there were no human creeds. The apostles were guided by the Spirit "into all truth" (John 16:13). They left us the fully revealed, written Word of God (Ephesians 3:3, 5; Jude 3). The early church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42).

No person is to add to the Word nor subtract from it (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; 1 Peter 4:11). The omniscient God does not need man's input. His Word needs no revision (Matthew 24:35).

The Holy Scriptures are all-sufficient for man's salvation. "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). God's Word contains "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). Thus, there is no continuing revelation or direct operation of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of sinners or Christians today. The faith "was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). The Spirit operates today only through the Word, His sword (Ephesians 6:17). The Gospel "is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

We can understand the Bible, and we can understand it alike. Otherwise Jesus would not have said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Some say, "You see it one way, and I will see it another." However, this has the Bible teaching opposite positions. Truth never contradicts. The Lord does not require some things of one person and entirely contradictory things of another. "For God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Paul said that we should "... all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). If we cannot understand the Scriptures alike, it would be impossible to obey this verse.

While abroad, a man from China purchased a powerful microscope. Returning, he looked at contaminated rice through the microscope and saw tiny living creatures crawling all over it. He did not like what the microscope revealed; rice was his favorite meal. What did he do? He smashed the microscope to pieces!

Johoiakim did not like what was revealed in God's Word. What did he do? "He cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire" (Jeremiah 36:23). Yet, the Word remained (36:28, 32). It remains today; "The word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Peter 1:25). We will be judged according to the Word (John 12:48).

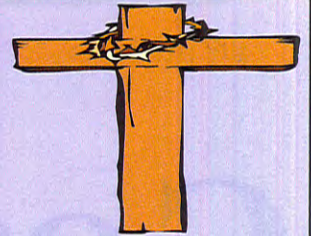
If a religious organization holds some other book as its standard in faith and practice or perverts the Truth, it is not the church of our Lord (Galatians 1:6-9; Colossians 2:8). —Andy Cates



Tell Me More About

# JESUS

## How Do You Spell C-R-O-S-S?



### "See"

—Look at Calvary. Don't turn away. I know it's not easy. What is done to Him is shameful. I know. But look closely! Past the spittle. Beyond the blood. There. In His eyes. Friend, that is love. It is love for you! See the nails in His hands and feet, fastening Him to a tree He created for man's use. Look at the love He has for you!

### "Are"

—Are you able to see that He bled and died for you? Are you willing to admit that you are lost without Him? Are you ready to submit to His will, to obey Him, and to live for Him? Are you prepared for eternity? Are you convinced?

### "Oh"

—Hear His cries of pain and agony. The death of a thousand deaths. Bitter moans of His disciples. The gasp of heaven's angels. The sorrow of a Father for His only begotten Son! The gasps and exclamations of a hateful mob.

### "SS"

—That's the hiss of the beguiling serpent. The one who is bruising the heel of the perfect One (Genesis 3:15), putting God the Son in the tomb. This is the moment of his triumph. Though resurrection will soon bring the ultimate victory for Christ and hope for man, at the cross of Calvary the devil must be enjoying his front row seat. Doesn't he anger you? Disgust you? Motivate you? Live for Jesus. Don't live for the snake!

Friends, the cross spells the difference between heaven and hell, hope and helplessness, joy and sorrow, day and night! The cross spells life!

**"And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross . . ."**  
—Ephesians 2:16

## Divinely human; Humanly divine

We see interesting contrasts between Jesus' Deity and His humanity:

- ▶ He was hungry (Luke 4:2), but with five loaves fed five thousand (John 6:10-11).
- ▶ He was thirsty (John 4:7), but turned water into wine (John 2:9).
- ▶ He was carried in a ship (Mark 4:38), but walked on the sea (Matthew 14:25).
- ▶ He died (Luke 23:46), but left His own tomb (Matthew 28:6).
- ▶ He was set before Pilate (Matthew 7:2), but sits with His Father in heaven (Hebrews 1:3).
- ▶ He was worshipped by angels (Luke 2:13), but was hated by the Jews (John 18:12; 19:7).

**" . . . they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."** —Matthew 1:23