

# HOUSE TO HOUSE

## Heart to Heart



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

Volume 8, Number 3

### 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

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But let judgement run  
down as waters,  
as a mighty  
stream!  
& righteousness  
Amos 5:24



# Enough and to Spare

Allen Webster

The prodigal boy in the pig's pen saw things a little differently than he had when wanderlust first pulled him from his father's farm. Hungry, lonely, tired, and ashamed, he now wanted nothing more than to go home. He thought, "I'm hungry, but my father has plenty. Even his servants leave bread on the table when they finish eating." He had good memories of home—and they led him back where he needed to be. (Stop and read Luke 15:11-24.)

What about you? Have you left a Father who loves you? Did the devil's playpen turn out to be more like a pigpen for you, too? You can come home. There is still "bread" enough and to spare. What does today's returning prodigal find at the Father's house?

**"STRENGTH enough and to spare."** Many would return but they just don't know if they have enough strength to "hold out." Perhaps you haven't completely given up on God, but have said, "I just don't know where I'll find the strength to go on." We sometimes feel like David:<sup>1</sup> our "strength is dried up like a potsherd" (Psa. 22:15)—that is, our reserves are as depleted of energy as kiln-dried pottery is empty of moisture. Age (Psa. 71:9, 18; 90:10), carrying a sin burden (Psa. 31:10), discouragement (Psa. 39:12, 13; 88:3, 4), persecution (2 Cor. 1:8), adversity (Prov. 24:10), and depression (Psa. 38:9, 10) all have the capacity to rob us of spiritual strength. Some will miss heaven, not so much because of a love of sin, but just because they got "tired" and quit trying hard to follow God. (Hence the frequent admonitions to "faint not," Lk. 18:1; 2 Cor. 4:1, 16; Gal. 6:9; Eph. 3:13.)

Where can we find the strength to go on? We can "...go in the strength of the Lord GOD..." (Psa. 71:16). Since both the Father and Son are "Almighty," they have "strength enough and to spare" (Gen. 17:1; Rev. 1:8). They have promised to share their strength with us (Psa. 29:11). A great Bible paradox is: if we will give God all our strength, He will make us stronger (Mk. 12:30). His strength is "made perfect in our weakness" (cf. 2 Cor. 12:9). Paul wrote, "I can do all [not *some*, or even *many* or *most*] things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

Paul also spoke of "...the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power ... Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 1:19; 3:20). God "girds" His people with strength (Psa. 18:32); He gives strength through wisdom (Prov. 8:14) and knowledge (Prov. 24:5). He gives strength for the battle (Psa. 18:39), to conceive seed (Heb. 11:11), to keep our words and meditations acceptable to Him (Psa. 19:14), and for trouble (Psa. 37:39). He "strengthenedst us with strength in the soul" (cf. Psa. 138:3). Yes, there is "strength enough and to spare with God."

**"COMFORT enough and to spare."** When Mr. and Mrs. Lamach had a son they named him, "Noah," for, they reasoned, "This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands..." (Gen. 5:29). Jesus is our "Noah." He once turned about, looked at a woman and said, "Daughter, be of good comfort..." (Mt. 9:22; cf. Mk. 10:49). Symbolically, He has done the same to each of us. He comforts us in all the uncomfortable parts of life—uncertainty, loneliness, sickness, poverty, ostracism, grief, embarrassment, rejection, victimization, loss, death. In the most famous chapter of the Old Testament, David wrote, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

(Psa. 23:4). Jehovah was once described as the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3). He comforts us "on every side" (Psa. 71:21). Paul said he was "filled with comfort" in all tribulation (2 Cor. 7:4). The Holy Spirit comforted the early disciples (Acts 9:31), and uses His Word to comfort us today (cf. Rm. 15:4; Eph. 6:17; 1 Thes. 4:18). God even uses us to comfort each other: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God" (Isa. 40:1; 2 Cor. 1:4; 2:7;<sup>2</sup> Gal. 6:2; Eph. 6:22). Need heartening? Come to God—He has "comfort and to spare."

**"BLESSINGS enough and to spare."** God can "open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing" that there is not "room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). Just as He once gave fisherman enough fish to sink their boat (153 by count) (Jn. 21:6, 11), so He can give us more blessings than we have capacity to enjoy. The Almighty can "bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb" (Gen. 49:25).

When, in the general course of life, His children enter upon new paths, His providence goes before them (Rm. 8:28; Phile. 15). That is, He anticipates the blessings we will require and puts them in our path (Psa. 21:3<sup>3</sup>). He knows what things we have need of *before* we ask Him (Mt. 6:8). Expecting parents enjoy fixing up the baby's room during the forty weeks it takes the child to arrive. They know the little fellow will need diapers, so they get some. They know he'll need to eat, so they buy formula and baby food. They know she'll sleep a lot, so they put together a baby bed. God goes before us like that. Think of how God has preceded us with blessings:

Before we came into the world, He made it habitable (Gen. 1).

▶ Before we needed salvation (Rm. 3:23; 6:23), He made it possible (Jn. 3:16; Rm. 5:8-10);

▶ Before we needed instruction and guidance, He wrote the Bible (e.g., 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3).

▶ Before Abraham knew he needed one, God had a ram available to substitute for Isaac (Gen. 12:13). Similarly, when we offer our bodies a living sacrifice (Rm. 12:1, 2), and temptation gets too strong for us, He has a "way of escape" ready for us (1 Cor. 10:13).

▶ Before we have to go through the dark "valley of the shadow of death," He prepares us a way (Psa. 23).

▶ Before we enter into eternity, He opened the gate to heaven (Jn. 14:1-8).<sup>4</sup>

If we look back, we will find goodness and mercy following us (Psa. 23:6), and if we look ahead, we will find God meeting us with His goodness. Further, God's giving is just getting started. John promises, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). We're not sure what "all things" includes, but, like Paul, we can hardly wait to find out (Phil. 1:23)!

Come to the table. There's plenty.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> And Jesus, too, since this is a prophecy of His dying hours on the cross.

<sup>2</sup> *Comfort* is one of the key words of 2 Corinthians. It is found seven times in the book.

<sup>3</sup> *Preventest (qadam)* means "to anticipate, meet for help."

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Samuel Martin (quoted by Charles Spurgeon in *The Treasury of David*).



# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8



### Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to see
2. to taste
3. to touch
4. to hear

She hesitated a little, then added,

5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love."



Those things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are wondrous. Let this serve as a gentle reminder the most precious things in life cannot be bought or made by man; God gave them to us (Jas. 1:17).

### Epitaph Humor

—with a point:



Stranger, stop as you pass by;  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, you soon will be,  
And so prepare to follow me.

Someone reading this sentiment on a tombstone, and evidently seriously considering the matter, wisely added two lines:

*To follow you I'm not content,  
Until I know which way you went!*

"...the way, which leadeth unto life...few there be that find it" —Matthew 7:14

### Moses and His Followers



What Moses did is almost overwhelming when you think about it. Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding two or three million people requires a lot of food.

According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1,500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day would require two freight trains, each at least a mile long?

Remember, too, that they were out in the desert, so they needed firewood to use in cooking this food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

And just think, they were *forty years* in transit.

And oh yes! They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day and a freight train with tank cars, 1,800 miles long, just to bring it!

And then another thing! They had to get across the Red Sea at night. Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea, three miles wide so that they could walk 5,000 abreast to get over in only one night.

But then, there is another problem...each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long ... think of it!

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? Probably not! Moses believed in God and God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

"...casting your care upon him, for he careth for you..." —1 Peter 5:7

### Too Busy to Get Old



My body may age, but my mind will stay young;  
I've much left to do, many songs to be sung.  
Many roads to be traveled, much love to express;  
Many souls that need aid, who are now in distress.  
I will do what I can, to help brighten your day;  
I will spread cheer and love as I pass by your way.  
The world is my oyster, to have, to hold;  
Why, I'm really too busy to ever grow old!

### 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 |





The  **HOME**  
  
**PAGE**

## A Wife's Encouragement

One wintry day Nathanael Hawthorne, the American author, went home with a heavy heart, having lost his government appointment. He cast himself down, as men generally do under such circumstances, and assumed the very attitude of despondency. His wife soon discovered the cause of his distress. But instead of indulging in irrational hysterics, she kindled a fire, brought pen, ink and paper, and then, lovingly laying her hand on his shoulder, exclaimed, as she gazed cheerfully in his face, "Now you can write your book!" The words worked like a magic spell. He set to work, forgot his loss, wrote his book, made his reputation, and amassed a fortune.

—Heartwarming Bible Illustrations, 235

"Let us therefore follow after... things where-with one may edify another" —Romans 14:19

## Funny Things Dads Say

- ▶ Proud father to mother as they watch small boy lying on floor studying by light from TV screen: "Reminds you of Abe Lincoln, doesn't it."
- ▶ Father calling daughter, as date waits: "Dreamboat! Your barnacle is here."
- ▶ Father greeting daughter's date: "You must be the one who defies description."
- ▶ Father to daughter's beau: "I'm glad to meet you, Johnny, but I somehow pictured you with a telephone attached to your head."

## Paying Respects...

Two men are fishing in a boat under a bridge. One looks up and sees a funeral procession starting across the bridge. He stands up takes off his cap, and bows his head. The procession crosses the bridge and the man puts on his cap, picks up his rod and reel, and continues fishing. The other guy says, "That was touching. I didn't know you had it in you." The first guy responds, "Well, I guess it was the thing to do, after all I was married to her for 40 years."

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"

—Ephesians 5:25

# Ten Commandments for Children Online

1. I will talk with my parents and we will set up rules for when I go online. We will decide the times of the day that are right for me to use the computer, how long I can use the Internet, and the kinds of places I can visit and the places I will always avoid.
2. No matter who asks while I'm online, I will never give out my home address or phone number, the name of my school principal or teachers, where my parents work or their telephone numbers at work without getting my parents' direct permission.
3. If anyone online does anything strange or writes anything that makes me feel confused or uncomfortable, I will tell my parents right away.
4. I will never send anyone anything, especially a picture of me or my family, without getting my parents' direct permission.
5. I will *never meet* anyone I've talked to online without talking with my parents.
6. I will *never* give out my online passwords to anyone—not even to my friends. No matter how "official" it looks, I understand that this is just a way to trick me into giving out the password.
7. If I want to download any games or programs, I will show them to my parents first and ask permission.
8. If I receive any messages or pictures that are mean or dirty, I realize that this is not my fault. I agree to tell my parents right away so they can notify our Internet service provider and stop it.
9. I will never use bad language or send mean messages online.
10. I understand my parents have the right to look on my computer whenever they want to see where I have gone on the Internet, the e-mail I have sent and received, or what I do in a chat room.



The Internet can be a blessing or a curse. Parents, keep an eye on your children. Guide them in the proper use of this modem marvel just as you do in any other areas.

—From the Internet

"I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil" —John 17:15

## Property Laws of a Toddler

- If I like it, it's mine.
- If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- If I can take it from you, it's mine.
- If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
- If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
- If I saw it first, it's mine.
- If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
- If I'm doing/building something, all the pieces are mine.
- If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
- If it's broken, it's yours.

## Flattered

Concerned that his students were not really learning the material, an algebra teacher sent a note home to parents, asking them not to do any of the homework assigned to their children. The next day, one student turned in a reply from his parents: "Dear Mr. Wood, we are flattered that you think we could."

"...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children"

—Titus 2:4







## Is Church Attendance Important? Isn't what's in a person's heart more important?



The idea that church attendance is not important would have seemed strange to the first century Christians. From the church's beginning, they met together to worship God. Luke described the early church in Acts 2, saying that they "continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,

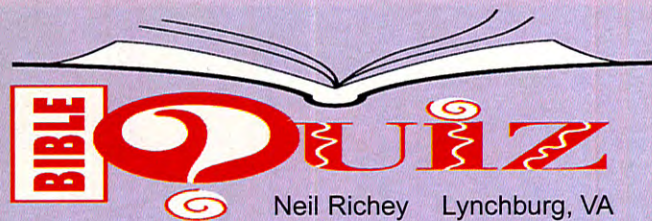
and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.... And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:42, 46-47). Paul wrote, "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm...Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Obviously, they loved to and expected to "come together."

Some argue, however, that just "going to church" does not make one a Christian, and "going to church" doesn't have that much to do with the kind of person one really is. There is no doubt that simply "going to church" does not make one a Christian, and it is also true that the kind of person one really is, is very important. But these arguments are really irrelevant, because God has commanded that they who would be pleasing to Him must meet together to worship Him. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). There is a "must" about worship to Almighty God.

If one does not do what God has commanded, he sins. Jesus also said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Failure to worship with the church shows a lack of love for the Lord. The Hebrews writer said, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (10:24, 25). How can a Christian "provoke unto love and to good works," or be provoked unto love and to good works, when forsaking the assembling of God's people?

Every member of the body is needed for the worship services. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...For the body is not one member, but many" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). The absentee misses the opportunity to join with other Christians in singing praises to God, offering corporate prayer to God, and in giving to God as he has been prospered. He misses the opportunity to learn from and profit from exhortations from God's Word. Can anyone really say that he is better off by not participating in the worship of the church? The willful absentee sins against the God of heaven, denies himself the blessings of God, and hurts the church, the bride of Christ. Think about it...

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815



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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

### Still At War:

- Timothy was to endure hardness as a good \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 2:3).
- Christians are at war with \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:11).
- Name two things Christians wrestle against (6:12): \_\_\_\_\_
- What protection is provided (6:13)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the seven parts of the Christian armor (6:14-18)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Name three characteristics of the sword of Spirit (Heb. 4:12): \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the Word able to do to the heart (4:12)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What "wars against the soul" (1 Pet. 2:11,12)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Name some fleshly lusts (Gal. 5:19-21): \_\_\_\_\_
- I should be a good soldier in the Lord's army so that I can.... (2 Tim. 2:4) \_\_\_\_\_
- In the war against Satan, some will be "\_\_\_\_\_." (2 Tim. 2:26).
- At war's end, the faithful will receive "\_\_\_\_\_ life" (1 Tim. 6:12).

### Questions from Jesus' Life

- What did Jesus tell one to do who was concerned about the mote in his brother's eye (Mt. 7:3-5)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What city did Jesus say would be brought down to hell (Mt. 11:23)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What question did "two men in shining garments" ask the women who went to Jesus' tomb early on the first day of the week (Luke 24:5)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did Jesus do after He said "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" to those accusing the woman taken in adultery (Jn. 8:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who mistook Jesus for a gardener (Jn. 20:14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the father of Judas Iscariot (Jn. 13:26)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What question did the Herodians and Pharisees ask Jesus just before He asked them for a coin (Mt. 22:17)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did John say he wrote the Gospel of John (20:31)? \_\_\_\_\_
- To whom did Jesus say, "What thou doest, do quickly" (Jn. 13:27)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations and \_\_\_\_\_ those they taught in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19,20).



*I Stand Amazed:* 1. Turning the water into wine; 2. Feeding of the five thousand; 3. He walked on the water; 4. He rebuked the wind and the sea; and there was a great calm; 5. Leprosy; 6. She touched the border of the Lord's garment; 7. His wife's mother; 8. Bartimaeus; 9. Malchus; 10. "He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils." 11. "Hold thy peace, and come out of him;" 12. Twelve; 13. "Arise;" he sat up, and began to speak; *Why I Believe:* 1. Fool; 2. Heavens; firmament; handiwork; 3. prepare/ place; 4. written/ life/ fire; 5. shewed/ alive/ liveth/ dead/ alive/ evermore; 6. born again/ kingdom; 7. things; 8. cometh/ every eye; 9. come again; 10. Bible.

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.



# Part 2: Making Sense of the Old Testament

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...” —Romans 15:4



At the beginning one must understand the Bible claims to be more than an ordinary book. It professes to be from *God!* More than 3,800 times in the Old Testament spokesmen asserted their messages originated from heaven (cf. Ex. 4:12; 2 Sam. 23:2; Jer. 1:9). Christ endorsed the Old Testament as the Word of God, referring to it as “the scriptures” (Jn. 5:39) and “law” (Mt. 5:17-18), and the New Testament writings were treated with equal reverence (cf. 2 Pet. 3:2, 16). If these claims are true—and they are, being buttressed by a vast range of evidence—then one must give due attention the Bible.

## THE BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY

The next dozen books are primarily historical in thrust. **Joshua** is the record of Israel’s conquest of Canaan, while the book of **Judges** covers the administration of fifteen rulers who governed the Hebrews over a span of some three and one-half centuries. Ruth contains the delightful story of an ancestress of Christ during this era. The books of **1 and 2 Samuel** chronicle the legacies of Samuel, the last “judge,” and the reigns of Saul and David, the first two kings of Israel’s “united” monarchy. The books called **1 and 2 Kings** survey the reign of Solomon, and the division of the nation (into Israel and Judah) following Solomon’s death. Then there are the narratives known as **1 and 2 Chronicles**. These documents were intended to rehearse (for the post-Babylonian-captivity generation) the administrations of David and Solomon, and the fate of the Hebrew nation (as it divided and drifted from the divine standard into a state of apostasy). As a judgment from God, Israel (the northern kingdom) was vanquished by Assyria, and Judah was conquered by the Babylonians. The books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** record the three returns of Judah from the seventy-years era of Babylonian captivity, while **Esther** details the providential preservation of the Persian Jews during a time of great danger.

—Wayne Jackson, Stockton, CA



## HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

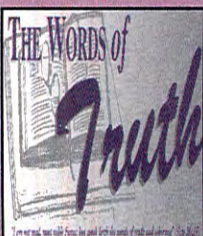
(PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE LISTED ON THE FRONT)

- YES!** I want to start learning more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free...work on your own at home.*
- Explorer Series: Journey #1 (Christian Evidences for Kids)** Bible Curriculum for children 6-12... Thirteen well-written and beautifully illustrated lessons...can be completed one at a time at the child’s own pace...Great for home devotionals, home schoolers, and Bible classes.
- 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, programs, and activities.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

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

—All materials/services are FREE of charge—

## Featured Paper: WORDS OF TRUTH



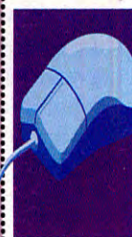
HTH would like to recommend an excellent Gospel paper entitled *Words of Truth*. A proven sound, effective tool, it has been in circulation for more than a quarter of a century. The subscription is free; there is no cost or obligation. Simply contact:  
**sixthavenue@tds.net / 1-205-384-6446**  
(for all other materials call church listed on front).



## Featured Tracts:

Check the ones you want to study further and mail in (free):

- Send me this month’s packet (all materials)
- NEW! Who’s Your Friend?** Written for youth and their parents, this 16 page booklet looks at Jonadab and Jonathan—and shows the importance of choosing the right kind of friends.
- NEW! The Scourging of Jesus.** Not for the faint-hearted, pamphlet offers a forthright analysis of what Jesus endured for us when the Romans stripped and whipped Him.
- HTH Booklet:** Does Heaven Have a Smoking Section?
- HTH Booklet:** Let Everyone Be Swift to Hear. The importance of learning how to listen to your mate, to your friends, to God.
- HTH Booklet:** Excellence. How to have a Successful Life.
- HTH Pamphlet:** Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat...
- HTH Pamphlet:** God’s Hospital. A Unique Look at the Church
- Godhead:** One or Three?  What is the church of Christ?
- The Indwelling of the Spirit**  Is Christianity a Cult?
- Instrumental Music**  Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
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## Why Harmony?

Christians should live in harmony so “that the world may believe” that God sent Jesus (John 17:21). In John 17, a clear distinction is made between the world and the church. The world are those who potentially “believe” and the church are those who “believe on” Jesus. In the Book of John, when “believe” is accompanied by a preposition such as “believe *in*” or “believing *on*,” reference is usually to an accepting, trusting, and obeying faith. When “believe” without a preposition is placed in contrast to “believe in” or “believe on,” reference is to a mere acceptance of facts. Christ prayed that those who “believe on” Him [those with obedient faith, the church, Christians] might be one so that the world might come to “believe” (accept the fact) that God did send Jesus as deity incarnate to die for man.

Often the steps for initial salvation are cited: believe (John 8:24), repent (Acts 3:19), confess faith in Jesus’ deity (Rm. 10:10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). To be as successful as possible in getting the world to take even the first step, Christians need to live in harmony! When a spirit of sweet harmony prevails among God’s family, the world will be more encouraged to investigate the abundant life (Jn. 10:10). When love flows from one Christian’s heart to another’s, the world will be all the more attracted to “the peace that passeth understanding” (Phil. 4:7).

Christians should also live in harmony so “that the world may know” that God sent Jesus out of love for them (Jn. 17:23). Jesus wants the world to understand the purpose of His mission—to be man’s Savior (cf. 1 John 4:9, 10, 14) by God’s grace (Heb. 2:9). In St. Paul’s Cathedral of London, a life-size marble statue depicts Jesus writhing in anguish on the cross. Its subscription reads: “This is how God loved the world!”

In keeping with God’s scheme of redemption (cf. Eph. 3:9-11), Jesus hurdled the chasm from celestial to terrestrial and, being conceived of the Holy Spirit, nestled within the womb of a virgin. In the fullness of time (Gal. 4:4) He was born of woman as Immanuel, “God with us,” and began a thirty-three year learning process. He attended the university of hard knocks and majored in humanity. In doing so, He learned the ecstasy of a smile and the bitterness of a tear. He learned the pangs of temptation and the satisfaction of victory over it. He learned the bliss of acceptance and the torture of rejection. Then, as one cursed and hanging on a tree, with His life pulsating from open wounds, His face dried with the mockery of human spittle and His shoulders burdened with the aggregate sins of mankind, He learned the cruel agony of death.

The story may be summarized in one verse: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). How wonderful is the story of Jesus! How humbling! For this story to be as appealing as possible to those of the world, Christians must be found “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3)!

—condensed from *Harmony Among the Heirs of Heaven*, Dan Winkler

## Jesus Cares

The Book of Revelation is a whole book dedicated to offering comfort to persecuted believers. It explains that Jesus and His Father see our tears (7:17; 21:4), hear our prayers (8:3, 4), value our sacrifices (14:13; 20:4), avenge our wrongs (6:9; 8:3), and assure our victory (15:2). A key word in the Book of Revelation is *overcome* (*nikao*). Of the twenty-eight times it is used in the New Testament, John used it twenty-four times—once in his Gospel account, six times in his epistles, and 17 times in Revelation (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 17:14; 21:7). An excellent one-line summary of Revelation is, “If you will overcome, then you may come over and live with God.” He has shown that He cares for you; have you shown that you care for Him (cf. Jn. 14:15)?



## The Authority of Christ

Many heard Him preach and could not but approve of what they heard, yet would not give it any regard because it came from one who cut so small a figure and had no external advantages to recommend Him. Many today feel that He has no right to “tell them what to do.” Consider that the God

- who made the worlds
- who rules among the armies of heaven
- who hurled angels down to hell for disobedience
- whose voice shook the earth
- who holds the destinies of all the nations in His hand
- who “weighs the hills in a balance, and handles the isles as a very little thing”

said, “hear Him” (Mt. 17:5). Give Him audience, regard Him, bow to Him, follow Him, be guided by Him, honor and obey Him.

—adapted from Ben Franklin

## My Lord is Everything

He is my water and my bread; He is my life, for I was dead;  
He is my shepherd of lost sheep; He is my guardian while I sleep;  
He is the truth, the living way; He is my light through every day;  
He is my fortress and my rock; He is the door at which I knock;  
He is my refuge for the storm; He is the love that keeps me warm;  
He is the Word, revealing sin; He is the Saviour to all men;  
He is the vine to which I cling; to me my Lord is everything!

—Matilda Cloer

► Knowing what we do about Christ, it is more amazing that He died than that He rose again. —Mel Dahlstrom