

HOUSE  
to  
HOUSE



Heart  
to  
Heart

Volume 11, Number 6

*A publication  
of the...*  
**churches of  
CHRIST**

**Founder:** Christ – Mt. 16:18

**Place:** Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

**Time:** A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

**Head:** Christ – Eph. 1:22

**Organization:**

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –  
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –  
Col. 1:2

**Name (group):**

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

**Name (individuals):**

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

**Creed:** Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

**Rule of Faith & Practice:**

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

**Worship:** Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

**Mission:** Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

**Warning:** Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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## God's Refining Shop

Allen Webster

“Why me, Lord?” We have all asked it. Why does it always have to rain on my parade? Why did this have to happen to me? Why my child? Why my marriage? Why my job? Why? Why? Why?

The answer may be found in an obscure Old Testament passage where God is pictured as sitting over a refiner's fire making silver of His people. Malachi wrote: “And he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness” (Malachi 3:3).

A woman read this verse in Bible class and was curious enough to seek out a silversmith to see what it meant. She found him sitting before a crucible, gazing intently into a boiling pot. She asked, “Do you have to sit here all the time or just come back when it's finished?” He replied, “I have to keep my eye on the crucible. If it gets too hot, the silver is injured. I know the process of purifying is completed when I see my own image reflected in the silver.”

The answer to “why me?” is found in the silversmith's shop.



# God's Refining Shop . . .

Continued from page 1

## THE REFINER'S POT

God values us far more than a prospector does his "mother load," a miser does his coins, an addict does his fix, or a mother does her newborn (Psalm 116:15; Isaiah 43:4). He wants the best for us and demands the best of us. Just as the refiner's job is to increase the value of his product by removing impurities, God sees His job as removing the impurities—sin—from us.

Lehman Strauss knew the heartache of<sup>1</sup> suffering. In the midst of dealing with his wife's stroke, he wrote a book entitled, *In God's Waiting Room: Learning through Suffering*. As he attempted to better understand the events that moved into his life, he likened his experience to childhood memories of his mother making a cake. Dr. Strauss recalled the various ingredients—flour, baking powder, shortening, raw eggs—that went into a cake. By themselves they weren't very enjoyable snacks, but when properly mixed together and baked for the correct length of time, they collectively produced a delicious dessert. In our lives we experience ingredients that seem unpalatable, and our temptation is to tell God He's ruining everything. At those times we will find greater strength and peace when we acknowledge that God knows what He is doing.

What kind of furnace does the Refiner use? He uses the furnace of affliction, physical injury, disease, prolonged sickness (2 Corinthians 12:7–8), difficulty in rearing our children, problems with parents, financial reverses, or other overwhelming cares of life. Such suffering is an effective teacher in the great school of life. Some important lessons are only learned at her feet. Robert Browning Hamilton wrote:

I walked a mile with Pleasure, she chattered all the way;  
But left me none the wiser, for all she had to say.  
I walked a mile with Sorrow and ne'er a word said she;  
But, oh, the things I learned from her when Sorrow walked with me!<sup>2</sup>

At the same time, God watches to see that the fire never gets so hot that it injures us. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). These things hurt us but they do not permanently injure us—unless we turn from the Refiner.

## THE REFINER'S PURPOSE

Amy Carmichael wrote, "A wise master never wastes his servant's time." No matter what set of circumstances we receive, God is not wasting our time. He is educating us; He is improving us; He is molding us. A young woman was suffering greatly and confided to an older Christian friend: "If God loves me as you say He does, why did He make me so?" The older woman replied, "He is making you now." God's purpose is to prepare us for heaven.

*The Refiner wants to make heaven attractive to us* (2 Corinthians 4:16–5:1; Philippians 1:21–23; Hebrews 11:10; Colossians 3:1–2). One philosopher observed: "It is through our tears that we see the farthest into heaven." Hard times can build good character (James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:7).

*The Refiner wants to test our faith* (Genesis 22:1; 1 Corinthians 3:12–15). The worthiness of the ship is not determined while it rides at ease in the harbor, but when it rides the waves of a storm. Our faith is worthless if it cannot get us through life's storms.

*The Refiner wants to teach us to appreciate our blessings* (Luke 17:17; Colossians 3:15). Domesticated bullfinches are placed in a dark room for several weeks before they learn to sing. When brought into sunlight, the bullfinch's song is sweeter and more beautiful than it would otherwise be. God often takes us into a dark room of suffering so that when we come back into life's sunshine, our song of praise will be sweeter than ever before.

*The Refiner wants us to learn to comfort others* (2 Corinthians 1:3–7). It is difficult to really feel compassion for someone if we don't know what he is going through. But when we have "walked a mile in his moccasins," we can feel sorry for the one with blisters.

Suffering can help us help others. One remarked, "I asked for health that I might achieve, I was made weak that I might do better things."

The divine Refiner wants us to learn to trust Him (Luke 14:11; Proverbs 16:18; James 4:10; Jeremiah 10:23; 2 Corinthians 12:9). Abraham Lincoln said, "I have often been driven to my knees by the sincere conviction that there was nowhere else to go."

## THE REFINER'S PRODUCT

As the refiner told the Bible class student, silver is ready when he sees his image in its reflection. God also looks to see His image in our lives. Paul wrote, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18; cf. Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10).

A silversmith may make many pieces over the course of his days, but only a few of them are deemed worthy of display in his own house. God is fashioning of us what He wants to display in His own house. Ralph Waldo Emerson was once approached by a concerned and inquiring person who said, "Mr. Emerson, they tell me that the world is coming to an end." Emerson calmly replied, "Never mind, we can get along without it." When God finishes refining us, we all will be very happy "doing without" this world and its suffering.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> *In God's Waiting Room: Learning through Suffering*, Lehman Strauss, 1984, p. 75–76.

<sup>2</sup> *Along the Road*, <http://www.giga-usa.com/gigaweb1/quotes2/quotoppleasurex001.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> *Hope for the Sick and Hurting*, Linda Raney Wright, 1990, p. 156.

<sup>4</sup> *Christ and Human Suffering*, E. Stanley Jones, 1933, p. 198.

God is fashioning us to display in His own house.



# A Cup of Coffee



A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned to complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor came in with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups—porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite—telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup in hand, the professor said: “If you noticed, all the nice-looking expensive cups were taken, leaving the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee in most cases. It is just more expensive; in some cases it even hides what we drink.

“What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups . . . and then began eyeing each others’ cups.

“Consider this: Life is the coffee. The jobs, money, and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.”

God brews the coffee, not the cups . . . enjoy your coffee.

**“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”** —Philippians 4:11

## 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

# God’s Tattoo



There are some cultures that encourage tattoos. These tattoos may have tribal significance. Other cultures may accept tattoos as simply pretty. And some cultures frown upon tattoos that are openly visible for all to see.

What is interesting is that God says He had a “tattoo.” In Isaiah 49:14, the people of Israel say that God has forgotten them. But God says He has not forgotten them. In verse 16 we read, “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.” God does not have physical hands. He uses this symbolism to make the point that He does not forget His people.

God has His people’s names written on His palms. Most tattoos are on the side of a person’s arms, on the back, or on the legs. If a tattoo is in these places, clothing will usually cover it up. But clothing rarely covers the hands. One’s palms are constantly visible. Whatever is on the palms is a constant reminder.

Is your name written on God’s palms? Do you study your Bible? Do you obey the Bible? If you do not, your name is not written on God’s palms. Make sure God writes your name on His palms. —Mark McWhorter, *Wisdom’s Corner*

**“Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”** —Luke 10:20

## Good News for Bad Times

**“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”** —Jeremiah 33:3

Jeremiah was locked up in jail when God spoke to him. Where did he get pen and ink to write from prison? How could he concentrate on listening to God and write words of encouragement when bad things were happening around him? How was he able to protect his writings until he could get them to a safe place? I don’t know.

I know this. In spite of his surroundings, God had good news for him and for the people! In the previous chapter, the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, saying, “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:26–27).

My friend, I have no idea where you will be when you read these words. It may be at work; it may be at home. It may be at a time when you are “locked in” by your circumstances. Maybe this week has been one of the worst weeks of the year for you. No matter. When you are tied up doing things you didn’t create or want, God has good news for you. The answer to “is there anything that God can’t do?” is No! Take God at His word. —Adapted from Tom Barnard

## Seven Deadly Social Sins



- WEALTH without WORK
- PLEASURE without CONSCIENCE
- EDUCATION without CHARACTER
- COMMERCE without MORALITY
- SCIENCE without HUMANITY
- WORSHIP without SACRIFICE
- POLITICS without PRINCIPLE

—Author Unknown

**“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.”** —Psalm 15:1–2

The  HOME  PAGE

## Wedding Daze



A grandmother overheard 5-year-old Christy “playing wedding.” The wedding vows went like this: “You have the right to remain silent, anything you say may be held against you, you have the right to have an attorney present. You may kiss the bride.”

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.”  
—Proverbs 18:22

## A Father Who Won't Affirm

Garrison Keillor writes: The town ball club was the Lake Wobegon Schroeders, so named because the starting nine were brothers, sons of E. J. Schroeder. E. J. was not pleased if a boy hit a bad pitch. He'd spit and curse and rail at him. And if a son hit a home run, E. J. would say, “Blind man coulda hit that one. Your grandma coulda put the wood on that one. If a guy couldn't hit that one out, there'd be something wrong with him, I'd say. Wind practically took that one out of here, didn't even need to hit it much”—and lean over and spit.

So his sons could never please him, and if they did, he forgot about it. Once, against Freeport, his oldest boy, Edwin Jim, Jr., ran to the center field fence for a long, long, long fly ball. He threw his glove forty feet in the air to snag the ball and caught the ball and glove.

When he turned toward the dugout to see if his dad had seen it, E. J. was on his feet clapping, but when he saw the boy look to him, he immediately pretended he was swatting mosquitoes. The batter was called out, the third out.

Jim ran back to the bench and stood by his dad. E. J. sat chewing in silence and finally said, “I saw a man in Superior, Wisconsin, do that a long time ago. But he did it at night, and the ball was hit a lot harder.”

—Garrison Keillor, *We Are Still Married* (Penguin, 1990)

“Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” —1 Thessalonians 5:11



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

# Improving Your Credit Score

A spiritual person pays attention to material concerns (Proverbs 10:4).

Do you and your spouse need to borrow money for home improvements? Do you need a credit card with a low APR? A good FICO (credit score) is imperative to secure loans, a low interest rate, and in some cases even reasonable car insurance premiums. Here are a few basic tips to improve your FICO score:

**Pay on time.** Pay the minimum required as soon as you get the bill, or set up an automatic payment through your bank.

**Pay more.** Even if you send only \$5 more than your minimum payment, you're still technically paying down your debt—which will be reflected on your credit history.

**Lower your debt ratio.** The total amount of debt on credit cards and revolving accounts divided by the total amount of credit available to you results in a fraction of less than one—your debt ratio. The lower the fraction the better. For instance, owing \$5,000 on a \$15,000 account puts you in better shape than to owe the same amount on a \$10,000 account.

**Take time.** The longer you've had a card, the higher your credit limit (which helps your debt ratio). That provides a solid credit history. So if you need to cancel a credit card, hang onto the one you've had the longest with the highest limit.

**Limit inquiries.** Each time a potential lender inquires into your credit history, your FICO score takes a hit. To creditors it may indicate financial difficulties or that you're taking on more debt than you can pay back. —Author Unknown

“He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.” —Proverbs 10:4

## Four Ways to Rekindle Intimacy



**Don't just tell your mate you love her.** Tell her why you love her. She knows you love her; she craves to know why. Adding “because” at the end of “I love you” increases intimacy in your marriage. “I love you because you're so unselfish.”

**Reintroduce the element of surprise.** Identify patterns and break routines. Become unpredictable. Celebrate anything and everything. Buy the unexpected present. Take an unplanned trip.

**Strive to out-please each other.** Out-pleasing each other means putting the other's happiness first—especially in the mundane moments of life. When he washes the dishes, respond by keeping the kids out of his hair while he watches the game. But . . .

**Don't keep score.** Marriage breaks down when you constantly compare your sacrifices to your mate's. Concentrate on your giving and you will become one. —Jim Magruder

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind . . . doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.” —1 Corinthians 13:4–5

## How Adam had it easy

1. He is the only man who has never been compared to the man she could have married.
2. He had no in-laws to drop in.
3. There were no Jones for him to keep up with.
4. There were no credit cards or shopping centers.
5. He never had his dinner interrupted by window salesmen.
6. He got away with wearing a simple wardrobe.
7. He never had to shovel snow!
8. If he had gone bald, who would have known that wasn't normal?
9. There was no “standard weight and height” tables—and the word *fat* meant good.

“A merry heart doeth good.” —Proverbs 17:22

► A life with love will have some thorns, but a life without love will have no roses.



## What is Grace?



Grace, "God's Riches at Christ's Expense," is His unmerited gift of salvation, and it is central to the gospel of Christ.

Justice calls for the punishment of all men because "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). But God,

because of His love for mankind, chooses to be gracious and offer salvation to those who obey Him. Paul says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Thus, salvation is by grace through faith.

The Greek word that New Testament writers chose to describe God's unmerited favor is *charis*, which had as its root meaning that which is beautiful, lovely, attractive, and charming. It implies the idea of favor or special kindness shown to another. Graciousness is part of the inner beauty that should mark every Christian's life. Paul said, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6), and "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

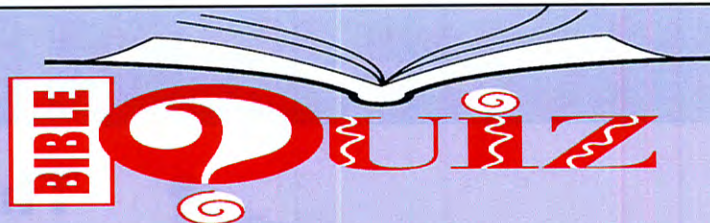
Paul had a deepened sense of grace because he had changed from being a persecutor of the church to becoming a preacher of the gospel. "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). As he faced imprisonment for his faith, he told the elders of the church at Ephesus, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Paul preached God's grace because he understood that man was unable to earn God's forgiveness by his own merit, since all men are sinners (Romans 3:23). Because of His gracious love, however, God acted and sent Christ to sacrifice Himself for mankind. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The cross of Christ, the world's greatest display of love and grace, appeals to the heart of the penitent sinner. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

—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 "W"

Find answers in Genesis 49:9; Leviticus 11:29; Deuteronomy 8:18; Psalm 23:1; 30:5; 60:6-8; 137:2; Proverbs 15:29; 16:28; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Ezekiel 1:15-28; Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 28:1; Mark 14:38; John 4:24; 14:6; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:23; 15:1; Galatians 6:9; James 1:27; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 20:11; 22:17 (not in order).

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ An unclean animal that "creeps upon the earth."
- "But they that \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."
- "But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the light . . . the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not \_\_\_\_\_."
- "Abstain from fleshly lusts, which \_\_\_\_\_ against the soul."
- "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and \_\_\_\_\_ away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- Moab is described as God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- "\_\_\_\_\_ ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."
- "And whosoever will, let him take the \_\_\_\_\_ of life freely."
- "Jesus saith unto him, I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the truth, and the life."
- We that are strong "ought to bear the infirmities of the \_\_\_\_\_."
- Remember God for He "giveth thee power to get \_\_\_\_\_."
- "And let us not be \_\_\_\_\_ in well doing."
- Jesus rose on the first day of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- "\_\_\_\_\_ may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."
- Ezekiel saw a vision of a \_\_\_\_\_ within a wheel.
- Judah is a lion's \_\_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ separates chief friends.
- God sits upon a great \_\_\_\_\_ throne.
- "The Lord is far from the \_\_\_\_\_: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."
- "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and \_\_\_\_\_ in their affliction."
- "Live joyfully with the \_\_\_\_\_ whom thou lovest."
- The captives in Bablyon hanged their harps on \_\_\_\_\_ trees.
- "God is a Spirit: and they that \_\_\_\_\_ him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

**Answers to Last Issue: Starts with the Letter "P":** 1. Pardon (Psalm 25:11); 2. Parents (Romans 1:30); 3. Patience (2 Peter 1:6); 4. Peace (Galatians 5:22); 5. Persecution (2 Timothy 3:12); 6. Pharisees (Matthew 16:6); 7. Philistines (1 Samuel 17:4); 8. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2); 9. Phylacteries (Matthew 23:5); 10. Physician (Colossians 4:14); 11. Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:24); 12. Pillar (Genesis 19:26); 13. Pillows (Genesis 28:11); 14. Pitch (Genesis 6:14); 15. Pithom (Exodus 1:11); 16. Plagues (Exodus 11:1); 17. Pomegranate (Numbers 13:23); 18. Priest (Hebrews 13:11); 19. Poor (Matthew 5:3); 20. Potiphar (Genesis 39:1-20); 21. Pottage (Genesis 25:29-33); 22. Praise (Psalm 9:2); 23. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17); 24. Preach (2 Timothy 4:2); 25. Prepare (Amos 4:12); 26. Pride (Proverbs 16:18); 27. Pontus (Acts 18:2); 28. Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3); 29. Profit (Mark 8:36); 30. Purple (Acts 16:14).



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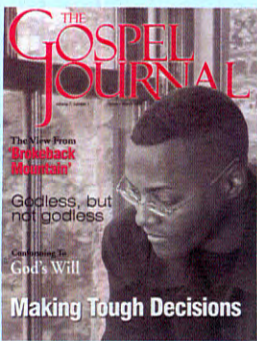


## The Bible in 50 Words!

God made. Adam bit.  
 Noah arked. Abraham split.  
 Joseph ruled. Jacob fooled.  
 Bush talked. Moses balked.  
 Pharaoh plagued. People walked.  
 Sea divided. Tablets guided.  
 Promise landed. Saul freaked. David peeked.  
 Prophets warned. Jesus born. God walked. Love talked.  
 Anger crucified. Hope died.  
 Love rose. Spirit flamed. Word spread.  
 God remained. —Author unknown

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- Slow to Anger**
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- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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# He was wounded for our transgressions

There are six varieties of wounds a person can suffer.

**Abrasive wound:** the skin is scraped off. This can result from stumbling, by carrying a rough object, or by a glancing blow. "And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull . . ." (John 19:17).

**Confused wound:** caused by a heavy blow. "And they smote him on the head with a reed . . ." (Mark 15:19).

**Incised wound:** produced by a knife, spear, or other sharp instrument. "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him" (John 19:1).

**Lacerated wound:** the flesh is torn open, leaving jagged edges. "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Isaiah 50:6).

**Penetrating wound:** the flesh is pierced through. "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails . . ." (John 20:25).

**Punctured wound:** made by a pointed or spiked instrument. "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side . . ." (John 19:34).

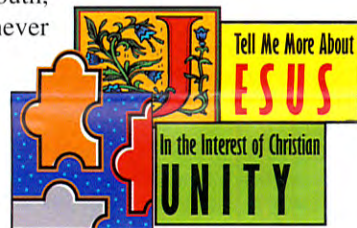
Jesus suffered all these wounds. Yes, Jesus suffered real physical pain, but what Jesus suffered physically by itself does not give the power to the cross. Jesus also endured spiritual pain in "becoming sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."** —Isaiah 53:5

President Harry Truman was famous for taking long walks. Those were simpler days when a president could take a walk like anyone else. One evening while walking on the Memorial Bridge on the Potomac, Truman grew curious about the mechanism that raised the middle span of the bridge. Making his way across the catwalks and through the bridge's inner workings, he suddenly came upon the bridge tender, eating his supper out of a tin bucket. The man showed no surprise when he looked up and saw the most powerful man in the world. He just swallowed his food, wiped his mouth, smiled, and said, "You know, Mr. President, I was just thinking of you." It was a greeting Truman never forgot (story found in *Truman*, David McCullough, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992, p. 623).

If the Lord Jesus showed up at our workplace today, could we say, "You know, Lord, I was just thinking about You"? Where are our minds today? Every temptation comes through our thoughts (James 1:13-15). Satan wants to clutter our minds with trash. Keep your mind focused on Jesus.

**"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"** —Philippians 2:5



## You can still find the church of the Bible . . .



In 1942 when I was in Kansas City, someone stole my car. I had a new 1942 model NASH automobile. My car was gone! I did not know which way to turn. So I called the police. When they came, they began to ask questions. They asked, "What kind of car is it? What is the name of the car?"

Suppose I said, "It doesn't make any difference about a name. Just go find me a car." They asked, "What model is it? When was it made?" Suppose I said, "It doesn't make any difference when it was made. Just get me a car. The model is immaterial." Suppose they had come back with an old 1914 model. I would have decided it made a difference, would I not? I suspect that if I had talked to those policemen like that, they would have said, "He is drunk; we had better lock him up."

Yet I can talk to the world about the church and say, "It does not make any difference about the name, makes no difference when it started, no difference what it does," and the world says I'm a scholar. If I talked that way to the police, they would say I am a drunk!

Yes, they have destroyed every identification mark of the church. But let me tell you, you can find the church that Jesus built, if you will go out and look for it in as sensible a manner as those police looked for my car.

— G. K. Wallace

**"That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church . . ."** —Matthew 16:18