

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 8, Number 4

A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

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

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

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

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

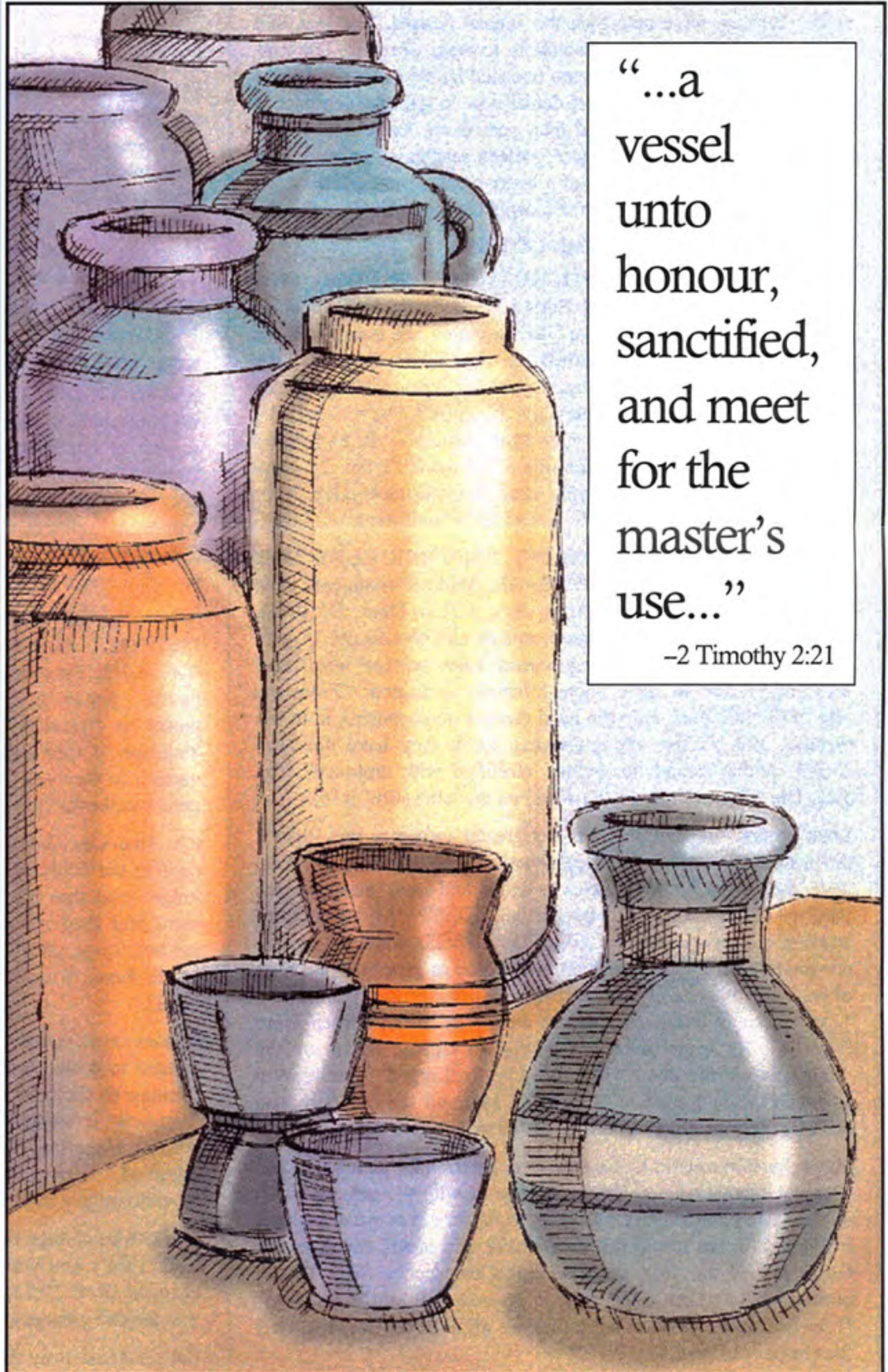
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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

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“...a
vessel
unto
honour,
sanctified,
and meet
for the
master’s
use...”

–2 Timothy 2:21

Has Man Outgrown the Gospel?

Allen Webster

Times change. Today's "new" is tomorrow's "old," this morning's breakthrough is this afternoon's castaway, this year's popular is lost in next year's "latest." The up-to-date is soon out-of-date.

Truth doesn't change. It reads the same today as yesterday and as it will tomorrow. It is "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Some feel they have outgrown the ancient Gospel. The idea that there is a standard which is absolute is, to them, obsolete. The concepts of sin and spiritual death are replaced by the exaltation of self and sensuality. The idea of self-denial now to gain heaven later is given a passing thought—and then passed on. Bible concepts—power in the blood, a virgin-born, sinless, sacrificial, miraculously raised Savior—are but myths of a bygone era. Post-moderns have "grown-up." They don't need the Gospel anymore. Or have they?

HAS MAN OUTGROWN THE GOSPEL?

NOT UNLESS HE HAS FOUND ANOTHER FOOD FOR THE SOUL. Vegetables and fruits have been on kitchen tables since Eve prepared meals in the Garden, but no one is calling them outdated. Noah must have grilled the first T-bone just after the Flood, but, though several thousand years have passed, steakhouses still do pretty well. What nourishes the spirit? The Gospel fills those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Mt. 5:6). Baby Christians first take the "sincere milk of the word" (1 Pet. 2:2), and progress until they can eat "strong meat" at God's table (Heb. 5:12-14). No one has found a substitute for God's "soul food."

NOT UNLESS HE HAS FOUND ANOTHER CURE FOR MAN'S MOST SERIOUS DISEASE. Medical treatments have been around at least since Moses (Lev. 12:1-4; Deut. 23:10-14), but nobody's in a hurry to close hospitals and pharmacies. A cure for sin (forgiveness) is still man's most basic spiritual need (Rm. 3:23; 6:23). We all have ancient Israel's contagion: "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isa. 1:6). The only antidote has "Gospel" on the label (Rm. 1:16).

Look around—if anything, sin has greater influence now than it did with ancient man. Violence, greed, lust, selfishness, drunkenness, drugs...no society—yea, no individual—has mastered sin. Paul would say today what he said in A.D. 57: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rm. 3:23). Mankind has not conquered carnal desires. We are still prone to give in to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:15 - 17). We cannot overcome without the power of the written Word (Heb. 4:12). Jesus used its power to defeat Satan in the "showdown in the desert" (Mt. 4:1-11); Paul urged Timothy by it to "make a good warfare" (1 Tim. 1:18); and we can only beat our adversary with the same time-tested weapon (Eph. 6:17).

Since the eternal God is the One who determines what sin is, sin does not change from culture to culture or with the passing winds of time. Men may change what they consider sin or what they call it (Isa. 5:20), but it will not alter reality. Sin is still transgressing God's law (1 Jn. 2:4), violating one's conscience (Rm. 14:23), omitting a duty (Jas. 4:17), and, in general, "all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 5:17). We've all done it; thus we all need the cure that only the Gospel can give.

NOT UNLESS HE HAS UNEARTHED ANOTHER MAP TO HEAVEN. This world is not all there is. It is but the prelude to the main performance, the foreword to a great book, the entrance foyer to a grand hall, the gestation period of an endless life. Jesus used another figure. It is a short trip to an everlasting home. He plainly mapped out the road that leads to life (Mt. 7:14). He stated the conditions by which man can reach salvation. He must believe in Christ (Mk. 16:16), change his sinful life (repent, Lk. 13:5), confess Christ's name (Rm. 10:9, 10) and be immersed for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Rm. 6:4). Some have tried to invent their own ways to heaven, but their maps will only get a person lost. If we follow the "Faith Only Lane" or "Works Avenue," or "Direct Spirit Leading Way," or the popular path, "Once Saved Always Saved," we are traveling the various lanes of the interstate Jesus called a "broad way that leads to destruction" (Mt. 7:13). Jesus is the "way, truth, and life"—and His way is only found in His Book (Jn. 14:6).

NOT UNLESS HE HAS FOUND ANOTHER WEAPON SATAN FEARS. The old lion isn't dead; he is still "roaring... walking about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). The serpent is not hibernating; he still lurks to entice, entrap, and engulf the simple (Gen. 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 11:3). Man is still in danger; therefore he needs the one weapon which makes Satan cringe. A lion does not fear a rock in the hand of a child; Satan does not fear man's strength in man's hand. He does fear God power in man's hand ("it is written," Mt. 4:1-11; Jas. 4:7).

NOT UNLESS HE CAN MAKE HIS LIFE MEANINGFUL WITHOUT IT. The Bible is able to make us "complete" (2 Tim. 3:17). Its message fills the void found in every heart. It has the power to convert (change) a person. The Gospel has power to "translate" us from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col. 1:13). In every case of conversion in the New Testament (see the Book of Acts), someone preached the Word, which produced a change in the hearers.

An American skeptic visiting the jungle came across a native reading the Bible. He told him that "over in America people no longer read that old Book." The native said nothing for a moment and then responded in broken dialect, "This Book teach me not to eat you!" Would the writings of Hume, Voltaire, Ingersoll, Paine, Russell, or O'Hare have had such effect on a cannibal?

A stewardess came down an aisle asking what each passenger wanted to drink. Several in a row said, "Make mine a martini." Coming to the next seat, she noted a man with an open Bible. Somehow it seemed inappropriate to ask a Bible-reader if he desired a martini, so she said, "Tomato juice, Sir?" He later observed, "Now what other book could I have been reading that would change a martini into tomato juice?"

Those who change the Gospel put themselves under God's curse (Gal. 1:6-9), and will find that it will meet them in judgment unchanged (Rev. 20:12). Those who choose to ignore it will find it was the one great essential of their earthly pilgrimage (2 Thes. 1:9).

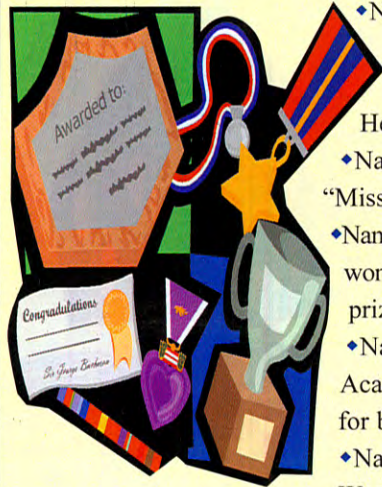
Let's not cast away the only Book God ever wrote!

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Important People

Take this quiz:



- ◆Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- ◆Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
- ◆Name the last five "Miss Americas."
- ◆Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
- ◆Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
- ◆Name the last decade's World Series winners.

How did you do? Remember these are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners. Only remember yesterday's headliners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

- ◆List three teachers who aided your journey through school.
- ◆Name five friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- ◆Name two people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- ◆Think of ten people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- ◆Think of ten people with whom you enjoy spending time.
- ◆Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? Those who make a difference in our lives are not those with the most credentials, money, or awards. They are the ones who care the most.

"...when he saw him, he had compassion on him..."
—Luke 10:33

Woodrow Wilson's Bible

"The opinion of the Bible bred in me not only by the teaching of my home when I was a boy, but also by every turn and experience of my life, is that it is the supreme source of revelation, the revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the spiritual nature and needs of man. It is the only guide of life which leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation."

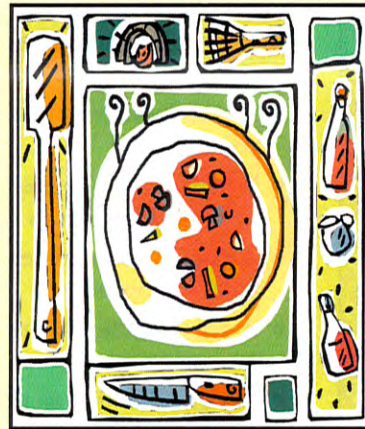
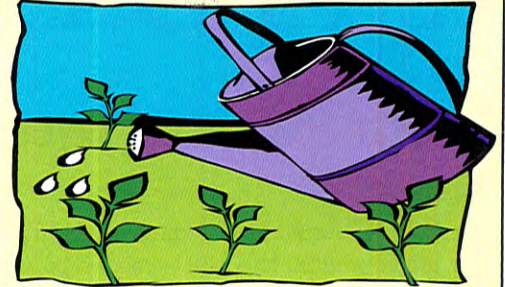
—Woodrow Wilson

- ◆Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible!

What is the Church?

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto..." —Matthew 22:2

- ◆A fellowship against loneliness.
- ◆A hospital for healing souls.
- ◆A time-out corner.
- ◆A resting place.
- ◆A bath for washing guilt away.
- ◆A reflecting pool.
- ◆A kneeling bench.
- ◆A classroom of truth.
- ◆A laboratory of life.
- ◆A hospitable door.
- ◆A school instructing those who would fear God.
- ◆A track for walkers in the Way of Christ.
- ◆A practice field for patience and compassion.
- ◆An internship for minister-members.
- ◆A herald of Good News, joyful news, hopeful news, helpful news.
- ◆A cafeteria where God feeds us.
- ◆A garden where God comes looking for us.
- ◆A rescue mission where God finds us.



Why Go to Church?

Is it a waste of time? A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for thirty years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for thirty years now. In that time my wife has cooked 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not cooked these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" —Acts 20:32

Wrong Song

A preacher was winding up his temperance sermon with great fervor, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." And the congregation cried, "Amen!"

"And if I had all the whiskey and demon rum in the world, I'd take it all and throw it in the river." And the congregation cried, "Hallelujah!"

The preacher sat down. The song leader stood up and announced, "For our closing song, let us sing hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River?'"



The



HOME PAGE

A Grandparent's Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all...but Thou knowest, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details...give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter. I dare not ask for improved memory, but a growing humility when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a holier-than-thou saint ...but a sour old person is one of the crowning works for the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Thoughts on Discipline

The child who says, "I will not" to his parents shows disrespect, dishonor, and discourtesy. He also rebels against the Heavenly Father who commands obedience to parents (Lk. 2:51; Col. 3:20). Parents must teach respect for authority while children are young. If they do not, society will later, and often in a much severer way. A prominent officer said: "Crime prevention should begin in the high chair" (cf. Prov. 3:12, 23). At the same time, discipline should not be administered in anger or revenge (Eph. 6:4). Harsh or unfair punishment is not intelligent (it produces resentment) nor is it Christian (it is not imitating our Father's discipline of us, Heb. 12:6-10; 1 Pet. 1:16).

What is a Grandmother?

There never seems to be a generation gap when it comes to grandmothers. How has Grandma's image survived intact through the ages? Is she still all-wise ... the only one who truly relates to youth? Does she still offer an ample lap and apple pie, or has she modernized? For clear-eyed opinions on what a grandmother really is, here is a selection of views from a new book of opinions handed down by adored (and adoring) grandchildren.

- ◆ There is nothing like a grandmother: she lets you put your vegetables back in the pot when your mother isn't looking.
- ◆ What is a grandmother? When I send her a letter she doesn't just send back another letter. She puts something like a dollar bill or a handkerchief in it.
- ◆ A grandmother is a lady with past experience.
- ◆ Grandmothers play with you whether they are busy or not. That's why a grandmother is really my kind of person.
- ◆ A grandmother is always nice. You bring them a bouquet of flowers and they cry.
- ◆ My grandmother is a groovy person. She rides a Honda. She is married to my grandfather.
- ◆ I think a grandmother is someone who has to be loved every minute of the time you go there.
- ◆ A grandmother is the one who stuffs food down your throat when you are not hungry.
- ◆ A grandmother will rush you to the hospital if you scratch your finger because she thinks you will die. They also are seriously disturbed about germs.
- ◆ A grandmother is that one who gives you a present your mother didn't want you to have.
- ◆ Whenever I go to see my grandmother and tell her not to fuss over lunch, she goes ahead and does it. Well that's my grandmother for you.
- ◆ A grandmother comes to football games and cheers when she doesn't know what's happening.
- ◆ A grandmother is someone who tells mother and father they're raising me wrong.
- ◆ My grandmother is a very old lady. Long, long ago she was something like me.
- ◆ My grandmother gives me candy or money. My other grandmother is just the same only she gives me meatballs or ice cream.
- ◆ A grandma is made to spoil you and save you from your parents.
- ◆ A grandmother is someone who tells you the bad things your mother did when she was a little girl.
- ◆ A grandma says she has a very good memory but can't remember her age.

"Children's children are the crown of old men..." —Proverbs 17:6

Be Careful What You Say

One day a little girl watching her mother do the dishes noticed several strands of white hair on her mother's brunette head. She asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" She replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"





What About "Death Bed" Salvation?



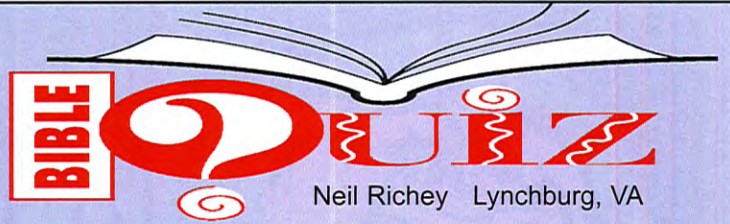
The emphasis of the Bible concerning salvation is always "today." Quoting Isaiah, Paul said, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). When Jesus saw the interest of Zacchaeus, who had climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, He told him, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house" (Lk. 19:5). As Jesus forgave the sins of the "thief on the cross," He said, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43). It is never wise to put off responding to God's love. Some, however, seem to be counting on waiting until they are near death to make things right with God.

The Book of Acts lays out God's law of pardon for our time, the Christian Age. The first offer of pardon under the Christian Age was made by Peter and the apostles at Pentecost. As the multitude understood they had crucified the Son of God, they realized they needed to respond to God's love. "They were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:37-38). Other conversions in the Book of Acts follow this pattern. The Samaritans (Acts 8), the Ethiopian (Acts 8), Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9, 22), Lydia (Acts 16), the jailer (Acts 16), and the Corinthians (Acts 18) realized their need for conversion to Christ, and their faith in Christ moved them to repent of their sins, confess their faith, and be baptized. Not every conversion mentions each of these steps to salvation by faith, repentance, and confession, but every conversion account does mention baptism.

Does God change His law of pardon for the person on his death bed? There are no New Testament examples of such conversions, so there is no evidence to suggest that God has a different plan for those near death. The "thief on the cross" is not an example we may follow to know "how to be saved" because he lived under Jewish law, and was not subject to the new covenant of Christ (which came into effect after Jesus' death, Hebrews 9:15-17). He received the forgiveness of sin in the same way that others did under the public ministry of Christ. He was not subject to the commands of Pentecost, because he lived before the establishment of the church on that day.

None of us are in the position of deciding the eternal fate of others. We are all in the hands of a just and loving God. By the gracious sacrifice of Christ, God set in motion the means of our salvation. It is up to us to respond to His love in obedience. He has warned that the day is coming "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thes. 1:7-8). Now is the time to obey Christ and live for him. As long as there is life, there is hope to obey God, but many who plan to repent on their death beds will never have the opportunity.

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



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

God's Champions:

1. This champion was the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:54-60). _____
2. This champion was at one time a harlot (Heb. 11:31). _____
3. This champion led God's people out of Egypt (Heb. 11:24-29). _____
4. This champion had a raiment of camel's hair, a leather girdle about his loins, and ate locusts and wild honey (Mt. 3:4). _____
5. God's champions should keep their eyes on the _____ (Phil. 3:14).

Be Careful Little Mouth What You Say

1. James warns to be _____ to speak (1:19).
2. James also says that the tongue is a _____ and a _____ of _____ (3:6).
3. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Prov. 17:4).
4. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Job 2:9).
5. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Rm. 3:27).
6. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Prov. 11:13).
7. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Num. 14:26-27).
8. We should not use our tongue for _____ (Psa. 31:13).
9. We should not use our tongue for _____ (1 Tim. 1:19-20).
10. We will be judged for every _____ (Mt. 12:36-37).

Questions from Acts

1. What rank did Cornelius hold in the Roman army (10:1)? _____
2. Who said, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (16:16,17)? _____
3. What orator assisted the high priest and elders as they gave evidence to the governor against Paul (24:1)? _____
4. What Old Testament book was the Ethiopian reading when Philip met him (8:30)? _____
5. What gospel teacher had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch (13:1)? _____
6. How long did the shipboard travelers go without food during the storm until Paul encouraged them to eat (27:33-36)? _____
7. What synagogue ruler was beaten by the Greeks (18:17)? _____



Answers to Last Issue: Still At War: 1. the wiles of the devil; principalities, against powers, against the rulers; of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places; 3. Take on the whole armor of God; 4. Truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, the word, and prayer; 5. It is quick (living), powerful (mighty), and sharper than any two-edged sword (efficient); 6. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart; 7. a good soldier for Jesus Christ; 8. fleshly lusts; 9. adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings; 10. Fight/ fight/ faith; 11. please God; 12. Taken captive; 13. Eternal; *Questions from Jesus' Life:* 1. First remove the beam from his own eye; 2. Capernaum; 3. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Lk. 24:5); 4. He stooped down and wrote on the ground; 5. Mary Magdalene; 6. Simon Iscariot; 7. Is it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar?; 8. "...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name;" 9. Judas; 10. Baptize



Send your answers in to the church listed on the front. We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Part 3: Making Sense of the Old Testament

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

The thrust of the Old Testament is to demonstrate the development of God’s plan of redemption, as such was worked out through the Jewish people and their interaction with other nations. Old Testament history is, therefore, highly selective. The value of the Old Testament is seen in: its prophetic preparation for the coming of Christ (Gal. 3:24), its great moral lessons that are timeless (Rm. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11), and its cultivation of an awareness of the heinous nature of sin (Rm. 7:7, 13). The Old Covenant, as a binding legal system, was restricted to the nation of Israel (Deut. 5:1-5), and was abrogated with the death of Christ on the cross (Gal. 3:25; Eph. 2:11ff; Col. 2:14ff).

Poetical Books

There are five books in the poetry section of the Old Testament. This is not surprising in that by means of poetry man exposes the depth of his emotions. The poetic books of the Old Testament reveal much about God, and how intense human devotion for the Creator can become. The book

of **Job**, largely poetical, has to do with a noble man of the patriarchal era who demonstrated that, in spite of the anguish of human suffering, the Lord is worthy of man’s devotion. **Psalms** is a collection of 150 songs (73 of which are attributed to David) that emphasize great truths about Jehovah, His redemptive interest in humanity, and the various authors’ relationship with the Lord.

Proverbs represents a collection of wise sayings (about 800 of which were authored by Solomon). They focus on the application of divine wisdom to various life experiences in a world tarnished by sin. The Book of **Ecclesiastes**, most likely written by Solomon, argues the case that earthly goals (e.g., the accumulation of human wisdom, wealth, position, power, accomplishment) lead only to frustrating dead ends. Real happiness is achieved in serving God. The **Song of Solomon** celebrates the joy of wedded love; it illustrates the value of marriage in cementing male/female relationships.

—adapted from 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.

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- 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—

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HTH would like to recommend an excellent monthly paper entitled *Gospel Gleaner*. It is a sort of “best of the best” publication that collects good religious articles from a variety of sources. The subscription is free; there is no cost or obligation. Simply e-mail/call:

mabelval@cei.net; 1/501-455-2548.
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Check the ones you want to study further and mail in (free):

- Send me this month’s packet (all materials)
- NEW! When Jesus was a Boy.** Everybody knows Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Miracle-worker, Jesus the Crucified Savior... but who knows much of the boyhood of Jesus? This 16-page booklet examines Jesus’ young years and applies principles as to how Jesus would live in today’s world as a young person.
- NEW! Can God Really Forgive Me?** Many feel heavy guilt for past mistakes. They wonder if God’s grace is for them. If you fit in this category, then this encouraging pamphlet is for you.
- HTH Booklet:** Why I Quit Going to the Beach.
- HTH Booklet:** Church. Why Bother?
- HTH Pamphlet:** Lonely?
- The Holy Spirit
- Profanity The Rapture Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



Featured Website for KIDS!

www.DiscoveryMagazine.com.

Exclusively for children and their teachers, this site contains a sample issue of *Discovery Magazine*, downloadable artwork and exercises, instructional materials for teachers, “hands-on” activities that teach children about both God’s Word and God’s World, and responses to questions sent to “Digger Doug.”

In the Interest of Christian UNITY

The Same Seed, the Same Plant



The seed is the Word of God (Lk. 8:11). It makes no difference how long that seed may have been stored. If it came from a crop of a thousand years ago and has been preserved, wherever and whenever it may chance to be planted, regardless of who does the sowing, it will produce the original fruit. God made it a law of nature that the earth would bring forth the "herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind" (Gen. 1:11). The principle is true in the spiritual realm as well. If there had not been a church of God upon the earth after the New Testament order for the last nineteen hundred years, but God's Word still survived then when people today read, understood, and obeyed it, it would make of them exactly what it made on that memorable Pentecost. It would replicate the original—the same church as in the beginning. This is what the church of Christ is seeking to do in the present age.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." —Jeremiah 6:16a

The Power of the Written Word



Sometimes we are told that, of course, while Jesus Christ was upon earth there was power in what He had to say, but "all we have now is the written Word." Does the mere fact that God's Word has been written rather than forevermore spoken reduce its force or influence? Do we regard our oral words more sacred and binding than we do our written documents? Are our deeds, mortgages, government bonds, and securities rendered valueless because they have been written? Should we shut down the county court clerk's office, the recorder's office and do business by word of mouth to give force thereto? The Savior understood full well that there is power in the Word of God. It ought to be considered as having enough power and force for the accomplishment of that which God intended—namely, the salvation of the souls of men.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." —Romans 1:16



Things About the Church of Christ that Surprise People (1)

Due to a strict emphasis on following only the Bible (rather than a mixture of Scripture and tradition), the church of Christ differs from other religious groups. Often people are pleasantly surprised—even refreshed—to learn these differences. In this and coming issues, we'll highlight a few.

The church of Christ does not "tithe." Who could count the times someone has exclaimed, "You mean the church of Christ does tithe?!" They have always been taught that tithing was a part of every church's doctrine and are surprised to learn that the New Testament does not even use the word "tithe." It does not command a certain percentage, but teaches we are to give as we are prospered, as we purpose, and with a cheerful attitude (1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:6, 7).



Tell Me More About JESUS

Facts Every Person Needs to Know about Jesus



A great number of people who consider themselves to be Christians, to be honest, are not really sure just what they believe or why they want to serve Jesus. To follow Jesus is a serious undertaking. To make a decision to be His disciple requires that one know some things about Him (Jn. 6:44, 45). Every person needs to know at least four things about Jesus.

Jesus made us—He is Creator. John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (Jn. 1:1-3). John 1:14 identifies "the Word" as Jesus, the only begotten of the Father. Colossians 1:16,17 declares, "For by him [Jesus] were all things created...all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist." No amount of evolutionary teaching can change the truth that God's Son created all things.

Jesus died and rose again for us—He is Savior. Jesus did not come just to make the world a better place or to simply raise the standard of mankind's moral concepts. He came to save people from sin and the horrible punishment of hell! "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Jn. 4:14). Thanks be to God "that Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3), and "...we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7). Just as Jesus predicted, after He was buried "...he arose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:4). What does His resurrection have to do with us? He "...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rm. 4:25). Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Mk. 16:19).

He has authority over us—He is King. After the resurrection, Jesus told His apostles, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." (Mt. 28:18, 20). Jesus has all authority. He is the head of His church (Eph. 1:22, 23), so in all things the church is to be in subjection to Him (Eph. 5:24). To put it another way, Jesus is now King over His kingdom, which is simply another designation for His church (Col. 1:13).

He will determine our destiny—He is judge. Jesus said, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (Jn. 5:22). Paul added, "...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:10) because He "was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick [living] and dead" (Acts 10:42). What a thought: the One that created us, died for us, rose from the dead for us, and rules over us, will one day judge us!

A wise man wrote in a book, "...with all thy getting get understanding" (Prov. 4:7). To which we might add, "with all thy understanding, understand Jesus." —Roger D. Campbell, Cleveland, TN