

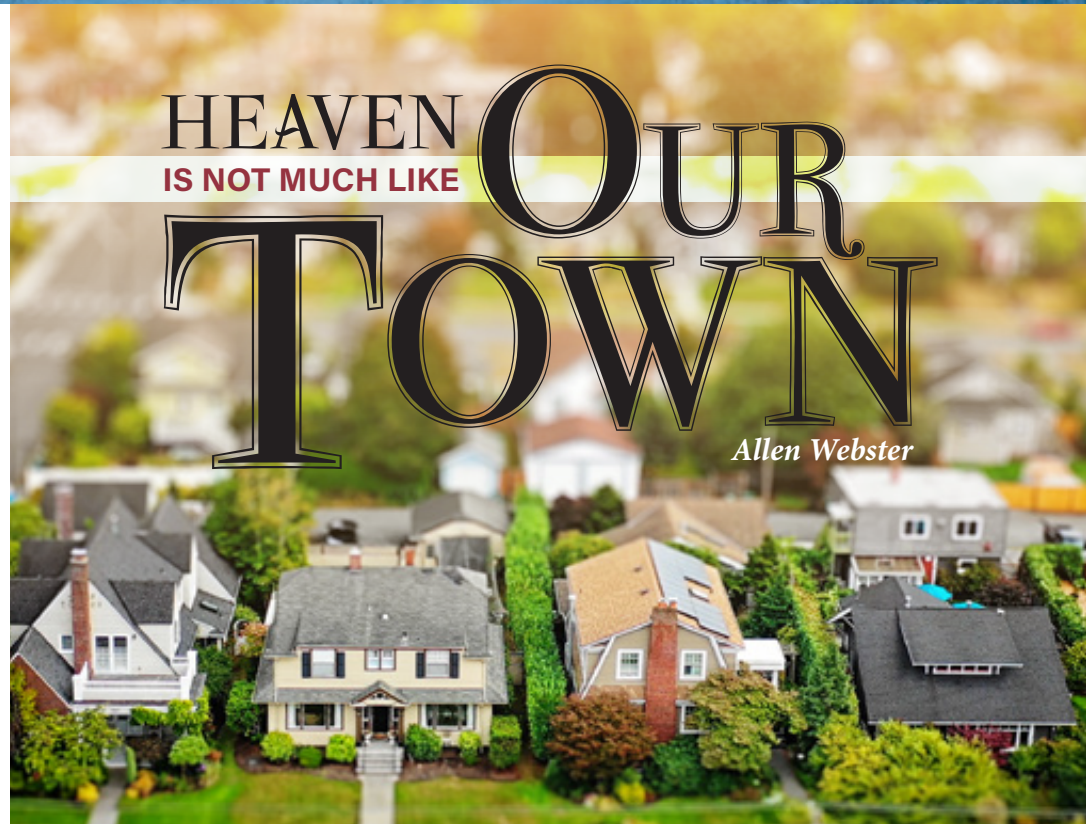


HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

www.housetohouse.com

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2



HEAVEN IS NOT MUCH LIKE OUR TOWN

Allen Webster

We live in a nice section of the country. It is a great place to bring up children. It is a nice place to retire. People are friendly and the streets are safe. The economy is good.

Still, upon reflection, I think we would all agree that it is not much like heaven.

Our Town Has a Cemetery, but Heaven Does Not. There are no hillsides dotted with the markers of loved ones “across Jordan.” You will not find silent cities of the dead in heaven, for no one ever dies there. John wrote, “There shall be no more death” (Revelation 21:4).

Our Town Has a Hospital, but Heaven Does Not. This time of year, hospitals are filled with the sick, but there will be not a single patient in heaven, for there are no sicknesses, diseases, or injuries there. Sickness and death came into the world because of sin, and all those ill effects are

reversed in heaven. John said, “The former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Our Town Has a Jail, but Heaven Does Not. We live in a wicked society. Every night the news tells us about those who were robbed, raped, assaulted, extorted, beaten, or killed the day before. We rush to fasten our windows, bolt our doors, and secure our homes.

Did you know that there will be no bad news in heaven? The doors on those mansions have no dead bolts, the windows have no locks, and there are no burglar alarms. “There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27).

Our Town Has a Nursing Home, but Heaven Does Not. We daily see the aging process in our loved ones and ourselves.

Skin wrinkles, vision dims, strength fails, hearing goes, and energy wanes (Ecclesiastes 12:3–7). But in that land, there are no retirement homes and no nursing facilities. In heaven we will receive new, incorruptible bodies (2 Corinthians 5:1–6).

Our Town Has a Funeral Home, but Heaven Does Not. Hardly a week goes by without some sadness mixed with our blessings.

We face heartaches and sometimes heartbreaks far more frequently than would be our choice. We find ourselves visiting funeral homes to bid farewell to our loved ones.

But the Bible says, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying” (Revelation 21:4).

Our Town Has a Drug Store, but Heaven Does Not. Here we must deal with headaches, arthritis, and a million other pains. There are no drug stores in heaven. John wrote, “There shall be no more pain” (Revelation 21:4).

Our Town Has Security Lights, but Heaven Does Not. Most businesses and homeowners pay additional fees for streetlamps, but in heaven the glory of God illuminates it. “The Lamb is its light” (Revelation 21:23). “There shall be no night there” (Revelation 21:25), so there will be no streetlamps, no night-lights, no candles, no flashlights.

Our Town Has Bars, Adult Stores, Nightclubs, and Casinos, but Heaven Does Not. There are many places of temptation in our community. The devil and his workers have been busy (1 Peter 5:8), and their influence is seen all around. Oh, how we sometimes wish we could lay our armor aside and just rest from the constant battle of faith! (Ephesians 6:13–18).

That day is coming. In the land where we have staked a claim, the devil has no passport. In fact, he will have been cast down into the lake of fire by then (Rev-

elation 20:10). His helpers, too, whom John personifies as the beast and the false prophet, will be cast into that lake (19:20). There are no porn shops, beer stores, or casinos in heaven (cf. Proverbs 20:1; Matthew 5:28).

Don't you want to go to such a place? Have you made your reservations by being washed in Jesus' blood? His requirements for salvation are found in His gospel, including the following: learning about Him (John 6:44–45); believing in Him as God's Son (John 8:24); repenting of all sins for Him (Luke 13:3); confessing faith in His deity (Romans 10:9–10); and being baptized into Him (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). He then requires that we live faithfully unto death (Revelation 2:10).

One day His followers will be ushered into a place that is not really much like our town!





Will They Let Me Play?



People often comment on how mean some children can be, but they rarely say how nice they can be. This story made me cry the first two times I read it.

At a fund-raising dinner for a school for learning-disabled children, the father of a student delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all that attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he asked, "Everything God does is done with perfection. Yet my son Shay cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is God's plan reflected in my son?"

The audience was completely still and silent. He continued: "I believe that when God brings a child like Shay into the world, an opportunity to realize the divine plan presents itself, and it comes in the way people treat that child."

He told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shay's father knew that the boys would not want him on their team.

But the father understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates.

Getting none, he took matters into his own hands. He said, "We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team, and he can bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored, but was still behind by three. At the top of the ninth, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. With two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. Shay was scheduled for the next at-bat. Would the team let Shay bat and give away their chance to win? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat.

Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay did not even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly, so Shay could make contact.

The first pitch came, and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again came forward and tossed the ball softly toward Shay. Shay swung and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out, and that would have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first, run to first." Never in his life had Shay made it to base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, "Run to second!"

By the time Shay rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown to second base for a tag but he understood the pitcher's intentions, so he threw it high and far over the third baseman's head. Shay ran toward second

as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home.

As Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay! Run home!" As he stepped on home plate, he was cheered as the hero for hitting a "grand slam" and winning the game.

"That day," said the father softly with tears rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of the divine plan into this world."

—via the *Lincoln Light*, Huntsville, Alabama

Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?

MATTHEW 18:33

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10



Distinguished Teacher Award

Jesus wins the World's All-Time Most Distinguished Teacher award. It is not a plaque someone presented, but simply recognition by millions who have sat at His feet for nearly 2,000 years.

- He had no classroom, except the one the moment provided. It might be a hillside, boat, or garden.
- He received no salary, and when John's disciples asked for His credentials, He responded, "The poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).
- He had no age limit for students. Children were admitted as well as the aged (Matthew 19:13–14).
- He had no textbook but His Father's Word (John 12:49). He held no college degree, yet He instructed scholars and wise men.

Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God.

JOHN 3:2

ABC Prayers

My 11-year-old son, Josh, and I like to pray using the letters of the alphabet. We start with "A" and pray for someone or something that begins with that letter, and then continue until we reach "Z." Usually we pray for friends and family, but we also pray for other countries, so it becomes a geography lesson! —Anonymous

Pray without ceasing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



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



A Great Way to Live

- Why should I say I can't when the Bible says that I can do all things through Christ? (Philippians 4:13).
- Why should I lack when God supplies all my needs according to His riches? (Philippians 4:19).
- Why should I fear when God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind? (2 Timothy 1:7).
- Why should I be weak when God is the strength of my life? (Psalm 27:1; Daniel 11:32).
- Why should I feel like a failure when I am a conqueror in all things through Christ? (Romans 8:37).
- Why should I allow Satan supremacy when He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world? (1 John 4:4).
- Why should I lack wisdom when God gives wisdom generously when I ask for it? (1 Corinthians 1:30; James 1:5).
- Why should I accept defeat when the Bible says that God always leads me in triumph? (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- Why should I be depressed when I have God's loving kindness, compassion, and faithfulness to give me hope? (Lamentations 3:21–23).
- Why should I worry when I can cast all my care on God who cares for me? (1 Peter 5:7).
- Why should I be in bondage when the truth has set me free? (John 8:32).
- Why should I feel condemned when there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ? (Romans 8:1).
- Why should I feel alone when Jesus is with me always, even to the end of the age? (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).
- Why should I be discontented when I can be content in all circumstances? (Philippians 4:11).
- Why should I feel worthless when Christ values me? (1 Corinthians 4:5).
- Why should I have a persecution complex, when nobody can be against me when God is for me? (Romans 8:31).
- Why should I let the pressures of life bother me when Jesus has overcome the world? (John 16:33).

—Adapted from Herb Patnaude

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

JOHN 10:10

Just for Fun The Fruit of the Spirit



Can you name the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5:22–23?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

CONFIRMED AGAIN



In Psalm 8, David extols the glory of Jehovah, and marvels that God has been so mindful of man as to place the creation under his dominion. The context stresses man's responsibility over the earth.

In discussing some of earth's creatures of which man is in charge, the writer mentions "whatever passes along the paths of the seas" (8:8). This is interesting because the phrase contains a precise fact about the seas that David, whose experience was limited to a tiny country on the Mediterranean coast, could never have known from firsthand information.

It was not until the mid-nineteenth century that the discovery was made re-

garding currents (paths) in the sea. In 1860, a pioneer in oceanography named Matthew Fontaine Maury suggested that the ocean was a circulating system. His book on physical oceanography is still highly regarded on this science.

Consider, for example, the Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream flows from the east coast of North America toward Europe. It is about 50 miles wide and 3,000 feet deep. Its rate of flow, measured in volume per second, is about 1,000 times greater than the Mississippi River. At some places, it moves at almost 140 miles per hour. Many ocean vessels "ride" this current to save shipping time and fuel.

In his book, *Matthew Fontaine Maury: Pathfinder of the Seas* (1927), Charles L. Lewis recorded how this discovery came about. When Maury was ill and confined to bed, his son read Psalm 8 to him. When he heard "paths of the sea," Maury declared, "If God said there are paths in the sea, I will find them."

The rest is history. A monument was erected in Richmond, Virginia, as a tribute to Maury. In part it reads as follows: "Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the seas, the genius who first snatched from the ocean and atmosphere the secret of their laws."

His inspiration was Holy Writ. God's Word is accurate! —Author unknown

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 27:2

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "30 Days 30 Minutes through the New Testament" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 26:12 Starts With the Letter "U": 1. Ungodly (Psalm 1:1); 2. Unbelief (Mark 16:14); 3. Uncircumcised (Acts 11:3); 4. Unclean (Acts 10:28); 5. Undeclared (Hebrews 7:26); 6. Understanding (Philippians 4:7); 7. Unity (Ephesians 4:3); 8. Unjust (Luke 16:10); 9. Unknown (Acts 17:23); 10. Unleavened (Luke 22:1); 11. Unrighteous (1 Corinthians 6:9); 12. Unspeakable (2 Corinthians 9:15 KJV); 13. Upharsin (Daniel 5:25); 14. Upper (Mark 14:14-16); 15. Upright (Job 1:1) 16. Ur (Genesis 15:7); 17. Uriah (2 Samuel 11:1-27); 18. Usurp (1 Timothy 2:2 KJV); 19. Uz (Job 1:1); 20. Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:3-11).

V. 27:1 Starts with the Letter L: 1. Laban (Genesis 29:16); 2. Lamech (Genesis 4:23-24); 3. Lions (Daniel 6:16); 4. Laughed (Genesis 18:12); 5. Lazarus (Luke 16:24); 6. Love (1 Corinthians 13:7); 7. Life (John 14:6); 8. Lamentations (1:1); 9. Living (John 4:10); 10. Live (Ezekiel 37:3); 11. Levi (Genesis 29:34); 12. Lot (Genesis 14:12); 13. Leah (Genesis 29:17); 14. Lilies (Luke 12:27); 15. Lazarus (John 11:39); 16. Luke; 17. Lydia (Acts 16:11-15); 18. Lois (2 Timothy 1:5); 19. Lake (Revelation 21:8); 20. Lice (Exodus 8:17-18); 21. Levites (Numbers 1:47).

Starts with the letter "N"

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 10:6-9; Leviticus 10:1-7; Ruth 1:11-19; 1 Samuel 25:1-11; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; 1 Kings 21:1-3; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 18:4; 25:8-10; Nehemiah 1:1 + 6:15; Proverbs 29:5; Jonah 1:1-2 + 3:5-9; Nahum 1:1; Matthew 19:24; 22:39; Luke 2:39-51; 7:11-17; John 1:47; 3:1-12; 13:34; 20:25; Hebrews 2:3; 13:5; Revelation 22:5 (not in order). Questions are from NKJV.

- Captain in Syrian army, cured of leprosy. _____
- Abigail's first husband, refused to help David. _____
- Had vineyard coveted by Ahab. _____
- Eldest son of Aaron, consumed by fire. _____
- Minor prophet who wrote about Nineveh _____
- Used to fasten Jesus to the cross. _____
- City where Jesus raised a widow's son. _____
- Ruth's mother-in-law. _____
- Prophet rebuked David for adultery. _____
- Jesus' disciple in whom was no deceit. _____
- Jesus' early home. _____
- Babylonian king, conquered Jerusalem. _____
- Easier for a camel to go through the eye of a _____, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
- "How shall we escape if we _____ so great a salvation?"
- _____ led Israel to rebuild Jerusalem's wall in 52 days.
- Brazen serpent was called _____.
- "Love your _____ as yourself."
- "A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a _____ for his feet."
- God promised, "I will _____ leave you, nor forsake you."
- "A _____ commandment I give to you, that you love one another."
- _____ came to Jesus by night, learned of new birth.
- "There shall be no _____" in heaven.
- Ham's grandson, a mighty hunter. _____
- City where Jonah preached, repented. _____



Membership Has Its Privileges

“Don’t leave home without it.”

Your trusty plastic card is indispensable, to hear the company tell it. With it, you can do anything from take your wife to lunch, to vacation in a foreign country. If you lose your card or cash, you can get a new card and a cash advance right away—your vacation will not be interrupted, and you will not be stuck out in the middle of nowhere. Yes, membership has its privileges!

Membership in the Lord’s church has infinitely greater privileges than a credit card company. The church is God’s family, and members have the privilege of calling upon their Father in prayer (Matthew 6:9). They have the privilege

of worshipping Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23–24). Wherever they go in the world, they carry the assurance of salvation with them (Hebrews 10:22). Should they become lost, they can confess their error to God with a penitent heart, confident that He will lovingly forgive them and restore them to His favor (1 John 1:6–10).

Does this sound inviting to you? Here’s how you apply: Read the Word of God until you develop a sincere, confident trust in Jesus Christ as God’s Son; that is faith (Romans 10:17; John 8:24). Then let that faith motivate you to determine to turn from sin; that is repentance (Acts 2:38). Next, state your belief that Jesus is

God’s Son; that is confession (Romans 10:9–10). Finally, be immersed in water in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of sins; that is baptism (Acts 2:38).

Meeting these conditions, you will not be turned down. The Lord will add you to His church (Acts 2:38, 47). No one will run a credit check, and you will not receive a monthly bill. All who apply for membership are hopelessly in debt. That is why they want membership—because Jesus paid the penalty for them when He died on Calvary. Through Him, their debt of sin can be forgiven.

If you are not a member of Jesus’ church, become one today! “Membership has its privileges.”

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



An In-Home Bible Study

Featured Tracts!

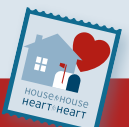
- If People Knew What I’d Done They’d Never Let Me in Church
- God’s Supreme Court
- Enough and to Spare
- Forgiven to Forgive



More subjects:

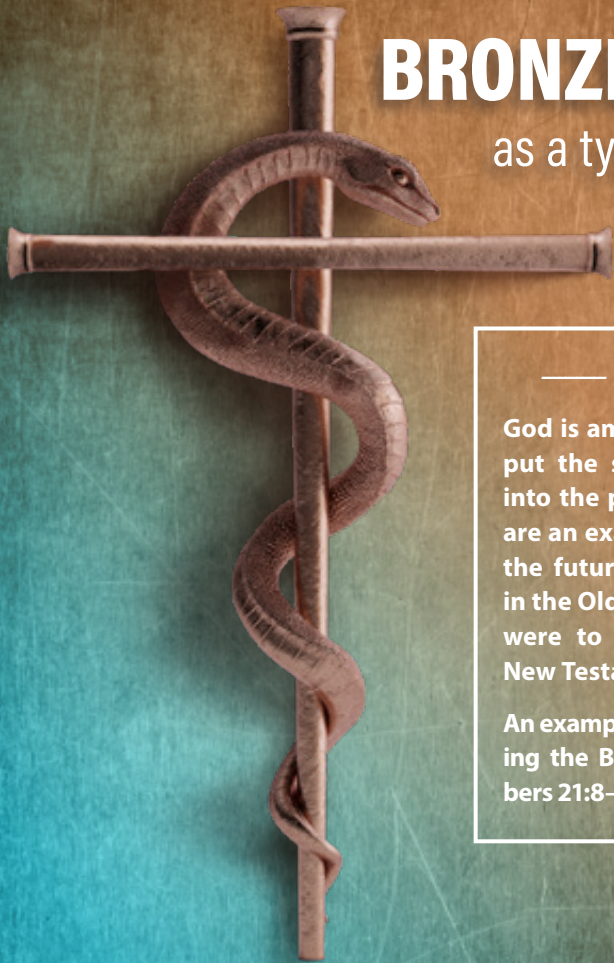
- 4000 Years in 2000 Words
- Satan’s 4 Lies about the Bible
- Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All
- 5 Views of Mark 16:16
- Signs for the Times
- Victory Where There Was Once Defeat
- I Don’t Want You to Join My Church
- A Parable Jesus Never Told
- The First Christian in Europe

Don’t see the topic you need?
 Visit www.housetohouse.com for more subjects.



TYPES & ANTITYPES

BRONZE SERPENT as a type of CHRIST



— Read Numbers 21 —

God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are an example of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadow in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

An example of this is seen in comparing the Bronze Serpent from Numbers 21:8–9 to Christ (John 3:14).



THE SERPENT

TYPE

Their sin had separated them from God (PSALM 106:13).

Punishment for sin was death (NUMBERS 21:6).

Grace was extended (NUMBERS 21:8).

The remedy was raised on a pole (NUMBERS 21:9).

There was only one remedy for their sin (NUMBERS 21:9).

Faith was required to look upon the snake (NUMBERS 21:9).

God extended the invitation (NUMBERS 21:9)

THE CHRIST

ANTITYPE

Sin separates us from God (ISAIAH 59:1–2).

Wages of sin is death (ROMANS 6:23).

Grace is extended to us (JOHN 3:14–16).

Jesus, our remedy, was raised on a cross (JOHN 12:32).

There is now only one remedy for sin—Jesus Christ (ACTS 4:12).

Faith is required to obey the gospel (MARK 16:16; ROMANS 1:5; ROMANS 6:1–6).

God extends the invitation (MATTHEW 11:28–30).

The Old Rugged Cross

It was the most tragic event in history . . . Yet is the most wonderful thing that ever happened.

It was the saddest spectacle mankind ever beheld . . . Yet by it comes the greatest joy.

The old rugged cross was Satan's greatest victory . . . Yet by the cross Satan suffered his most stunning defeat.

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice . . . Yet is the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy.

It was through the cross that God condemned sin . . . Yet by it He forgives sinners.

The cross stands for God's hatred of sin . . . Yet is the greatest proof of His love for the sinner.

The cross was mankind's darkest hour . . . Yet it was the greatest of all lights.

On that day the sun refused to shine at midday . . . But on that day the Son became the light. —George Bailey

God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

GALATIANS 6:14





ARE YOU “ON THE LIST”?

The Social Register contains the names and addresses of 25,000 of America’s most prominent families along with their club memberships, college affiliations, and other facts.

It provides information about art, travel, collecting, philanthropy, and other subjects of interest to the well-heeled. It is published annually in November, updated in May, and costs \$125—and is sold only to the 25,000 families who are members.

Did you receive a subscription invitation to the Social Register this year? No? Not to worry. Truth be told, there is another book that is far more important: the Lamb’s Book of Life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27).

It is fine to be honored on earth for prominence or importance, but the bigger question is whether or not our names are written in God’s book in heaven. Jesus asked, “What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

Entrance into New Jerusalem will be only for those whose names are found in God’s book. John foresaw the scene: “I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things that were written in the books” (Revelation 20:12).

The applause of prominence on earth will one day be drowned out by the applause of heaven: “Then each one’s praise will come from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

—Adapted from Turning Point Daily Devotional



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY the Bible?

Contact us to set up a Bible study,
or find answers to Bible questions
at housetohouse.com/freestudies/