

# HOUSE TO HOUSE

*Heart to Heart*



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

Volume 11, Number 1

## 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

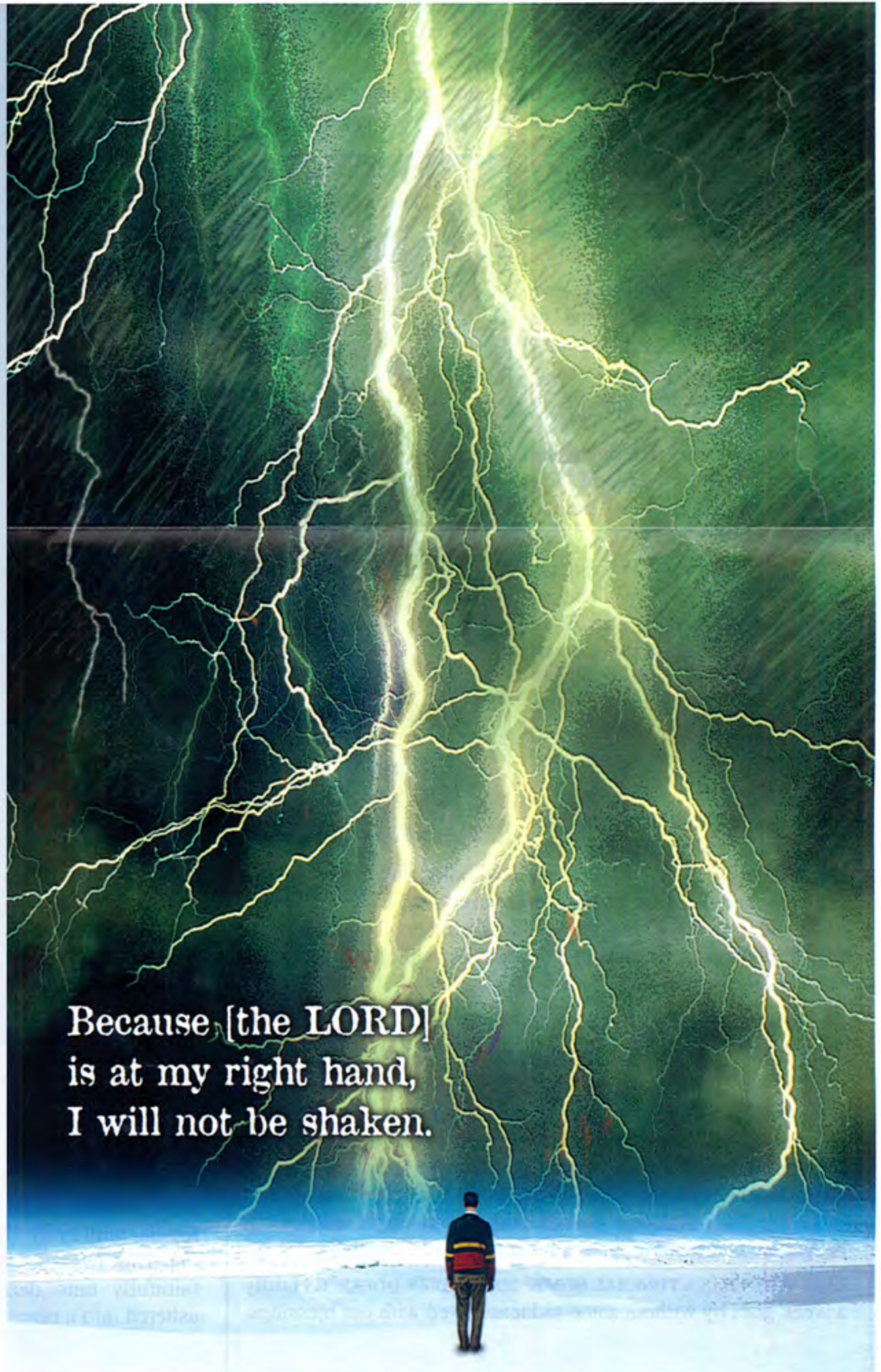
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

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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Because [the LORD]  
is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

# Heaven's Not Much Like Our Town

Allen Webster

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

Still . . . upon reflection, I think we'd all agree that it's not much like heaven. We have several things in our town that you'd never see in heaven.

**OUR TOWN HAS A CEMETERY, BUT HEAVEN DOESN'T.** There are no hillsides dotted with the markers of loved ones "across Jordan." You won't 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 DOESN'T.** This time of year the hospitals are filled with the sick, but there are no sicknesses, diseases, or injuries in heaven. Sickness is a result of sin, and all those ill effects are reversed in heaven. John said, ". . . the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

**OUR TOWN HAS A JAIL, BUT HEAVEN DOESN'T.** We live in a wicked society. Every night the news tells us about those who were robbed, raped, assaulted, extorted, beaten, or killed the night before. We rush to fasten our windows, bolt our doors, and secure our homes.

But 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. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

The wedding feast is by "invitation only" and nobody crashes that party! Heaven doesn't need a jail, for there will be no criminals there.

**OUR TOWN HAS A NURSING HOME, BUT HEAVEN DOESN'T.** We daily see the aging process in our loved ones and ourselves. Our skin wrinkles, our vision dims, our strength fails, our hearing goes, our energy wanes (cf. Ecclesiastes 12:3-7). But in that land there are no retirement homes and no nursing facilities. In heaven we receive new, incorruptible bodies (2 Corinthians 5:1-6).

**OUR TOWN HAS A FUNERAL HOME, BUT HEAVEN DOESN'T.** 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, "And God shall wipe away all tears 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 DOESN'T.** Here we have to deal with headaches, arthritis, and a million other pains. There are no drug stores in heaven! John wrote, ". . . neither shall there be any more pain . . ." (Revelation 21:4).

**OUR TOWN HAS SECURITY LIGHTS, BUT HEAVEN DOESN'T.** Most businesses and homeowners pay additional fees for street lamps, but in heaven "the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:23). "There shall be no night there" (Revelation 21:25b), so there will be no street lamps, no night-lights, no candles, and no light switches.

**OUR TOWN HAS ADULT VIDEO STORES, NIGHTCLUBS, AND PLACES TO GAMBLE, 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 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 are staking our claim, the devil has no passport. In fact, he will have been cast down into the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10). His helpers, too, who are personified as the beast and the false prophet by John, will be cast into that lake (19:20). There are no porn shops, beer stores, or casinos in heaven (cf. Proverbs 20:1; Ephesians 6:18).

Don't you want to go to such a place? Have you made your reservations by trusting in Jesus, submitting to His will, contacting His blood, and reaching His grace? His requirements for salvation are found in His Gospel. These include: 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 asks that we live faithfully unto death (Revelation 2:10). Then we will be ushered into a place that is not really much like our town!



# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8

### Forget & Remember

**Forget** each kindness that you do

As soon as you have done it;

**Forget** the praise that falls on you

The moment you have won it;

**Forget** the slander that you hear

Before you can repeat it;

**Forget** each slight, each spite, each sneer

Wherever you may meet it.

**Remember** every kindness done

To you, what'er its measure;

**Remember** praise by others won,

And pass it on with pleasure.

**Remember** every promise made

And keep it to the letter;

**Remember** those who lend you aid,

And be a grateful debtor.



### From the Children

**Dear God,** I keep waiting for spring, but it never came yet. Don't forget. —Mark

**Dear God,** You don't have to worry about me, I look both ways. —Dean

**Dear God,** I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions. —Ruth M.

**Dear God,** I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying. —Elliott

**Dear God,** I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. —Nan

**Dear God,** If you watch in church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes. —Mickey D.

**Dear God,** I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the bible. Love, Chris

**Dear God,** We read Thomas Edison made light but in Sunday School they said you did it. I bet he stole your idea. Sincerely, Donna

**Dear God,** If you let the dinosaurs not be extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing. —Jonathan

**Dear God,** I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well, I just want you to know but I am not just saying that because you are God.

"... have ye never read, **Out of the mouth of babes ... thou hast perfected praise?**" —Matthew 21:16

### A Great Way to Live



► Why should I say "I can't" when the Bible says I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)?

► Why should I lack when God supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (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 the Lord 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 over my life 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 to me 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 Christ 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 them which are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1)?

► Why should I feel alone when Jesus is with me always, even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)?

► Why should I be discontented when I can be content in all my circumstances (Philippians 4:11)?

► Why should I feel worthless when Christ values me (1 Corinthians 4:5)?

► Why should I have a persecution complex, knowing that 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 and its tribulations (John 16:33)? —adapted from Herb Patnaude

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" —John 10:10



The  
**HOME**  
**PAGE**

## 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!

—Mary W., Plainville, Kansas

**“Pray without ceasing . . .”** —1 Thessalonians 5:17

## \$50 is \$50

Morris and his wife went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, “Esther, I’d like to ride in that helicopter.” Esther always replied, “I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars.”

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, “Esther, I’m 85 years old. If I don’t ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance.” Esther replied, “Morris, that helicopter is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars.”

The pilot overheard the couple and, thinking there could well be some fun in this for him, said to them, “Folks, I’ll make you a deal. I’ll take you both up! If you can stay quiet for the whole ride, not say a word, I won’t charge you a dime. If you do say a word, the charge is 50 dollars for you both.”

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy moves. Not a word was heard. He did his dare devil tricks over and over, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, “I did everything I could to make you yell out, but you didn’t and I’m impressed!”

Morris replied, “Well, I was going to say something when Esther fell out, but 50 dollars is 50 dollars!”

**“Rejoice evermore”** —1 Thessalonians 5:16

► 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).

# Will They Let Me Play?

People always say how mean kids can be, and never how nice they can be. This story made me cry the first *two* times I read it. It surely helps put life into perspective!

At a fund raising dinner for a school for learning-disabled children, the father of one of the school’s students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all that attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question. “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 stilled by the query. The father continued. “I believe,” the father answered, “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.”

Then, 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 and said, “We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we’ll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning.” In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay’s team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. At the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay’s team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. Shay was scheduled to be the next at-bat. Would the team actually let Shay bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat.

Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn’t 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 at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and 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 took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, “Shay, run to first, run to first.” Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, “Run to second, run to second!” By the time Shay was rounding first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for a tag. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher’s intentions had been, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman’s head. Shay ran toward second base 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!” Shay ran home, stepped on home plate, and was cheered as the hero for hitting a “grand slam” and winning the game for his team.

“That day,” said the father softly with tears now 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

**“Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?”** —Matthew 18:33





## Can We Prove the Bible is True?



The question of the truth of the Bible does not depend on the faith of those who believe it. Since it is a document rooted in history, its claims, its predictions, and its very words may

be examined for accuracy and truth, even by those who do not want to believe it or live by its principles.

The Bible claims its own trustworthiness. Paul told Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Thus God Himself is the very source of Scripture (the Bible). Jesus indicated that even the smallest letters must be true: "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18).

The Bible does not **contain** the Word of God. It **is** the Word of God. For that reason it is inerrant, or wholly true and without mistake—and not just in "religious matters," but as it applies to history, science, and other realms of life. If it is only partly true, how can we know what is truth and what is fiction?

Two major areas to judge the Bible's truthfulness are the internal evidence (what it says about itself and how its parts harmonize) and the external evidence (what history, archaeology, science, and other fields tell us about its truthfulness).

The internal evidence clearly proves that although many different inspired human writers produced the sixty-six books of the Bible over a long period of time, God is the true author. Skeptics have vainly sought to prove internal errors and contradictions in the Bible. For example, the wording of each of the four gospel writers about the superscription over Jesus on the cross is all slightly different (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:28; John 19:19). Very likely, the superscription was very lengthy, and as John notes (John 19:20), it was written in three different languages.

The slightly different wording may indicate different sections of the superscription, or the wording in the three different languages. Thus the differences are easily harmonized. Other similar apparent contradictions are always resolved when logic, proper rules of evidence, and understanding of the text and the culture are applied.

The external evidence for the truth of the Bible is very strong. Many times in the past critics have denied certain Bible characters existed, only to be proven wrong by archaeological and historical discoveries. The historical accuracy of the Bible has been vindicated again and again, because the Bible lists numerous details that can be checked. It is not written in a "once upon a time" style. The Bible also agrees with proven science fact, although it may not always agree with theories that come and go. Because the claims of the Bible can be tested, we can know that it is true. —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203



Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

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

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

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

Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Starts with the Letter "N"

Find answers in Genesis 4:16-17; 6:1-8:17; 10:6-9; Leviticus 10:1-7 (cf. Exodus 6:23); Ruth 1:14-19; 1 Samuel 25:1-12; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; 1 Kings 21:1-4; 2 Kings 5:1-11; 18:4; 24:11-13 (Daniel 1:1-3); Nehemiah 1:1+6:15; Proverbs 29:5; 30:33; Jonah 1:1-2+3:5-9; Nahum 1:1; Matthew 19:19, 24; 27:46; Luke 2:39-51; 7:11-17; John 1:47; 3:1-12; 13:34; 20:25; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 2:3; 13:5 (not in order).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Captain in Syrian army, cured of leprosy
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Abigail's first husband, refused David help
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Had vineyard coveted by Ahab
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Eldest son of Aaron, consumed by fire
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Minor prophet, wrote of Nineveh
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Used to fasten Jesus to the cross
7. \_\_\_\_\_ City where Jesus raised a widow's son
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth's mother-in-law
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Prophet, rebuked David for adultery
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' disciple in whom was no guile
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' early home
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Babylonian king, conquered Jerusalem
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Easier for a camel to go through the eye of this, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
14. "How shall we escape, if we \_\_\_\_\_ so great salvation?"
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Led Israel to rebuild wall in 52 days
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Brazen serpent was called
17. "Thou shalt love thy \_\_\_\_\_ as thyself."
18. "A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a \_\_\_\_\_ for his feet"
19. God promised, "I will \_\_\_\_\_ leave thee, nor forsake thee."
20. "A \_\_\_\_\_ commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another . . ."
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Came to Jesus by night, learned of new birth
22. "And there shall be no \_\_\_\_\_ there" (in heaven)
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Ham's grandson, a mighty hunter
24. \_\_\_\_\_ City Jonah preached to, repented
25. \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Christ's death
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Built the ark, survived the Genesis flood
27. \_\_\_\_\_ East of Eden, where Cain wandered
28. "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the \_\_\_\_\_ bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife."
29. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me \_\_\_\_\_."
30. "Behold, \_\_\_\_\_ is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

**Answers to Last Issue: 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); 13. Upharsin (Daniel 5:25); 14. Upper (Mark 14:14-16); 15. Upright (Job 1:1); 16. Ur (Genesis 15:7); 17. Uriaah (2 Samuel 11:1-27); 18. Usurp (1 Timothy 2:2); 19. Uz (Job 1:1); 20. Uzza (2 Samuel 6:3-11). **Starts with the Letter "Y":** 1. Years (2 Peter 3:8); 2. Yield (Romans 6:13); 3. Yoke (Matthew 11:29-30); 4. Youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1); 5. Young (Titus 2:4).



To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to [www.HouseToHouse.com](http://www.HouseToHouse.com).

# Learn More! For More Info!



## Confirmed Again

In Psalm 8, David extols the glory of Jehovah, and he 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, "whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas" (Psalm 8:8). This expression 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 regarding currents (literally "paths") in the sea. In 1860, a pioneer in oceanography, Matthew Fontaine Maury, was the first to suggest that the ocean was a circulating system. His book on physical oceanography is still a highly regarded source of information 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 in order to save valuable shipping time.

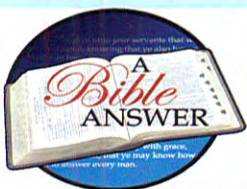
According to Charles L. Lewis, in his book, *Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas* (1927), once when Maury was ill and confined to bed, his son was reading to him the Scriptures—Psalm 8. When mention was made of the "paths of the sea," Maury declared: "If God said there are paths in the sea, I will find them . . ." The rest is history. There is a monument in Richmond, Virginia, erected as a tribute to Matthew Maury. In part it reads: "Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the seas, the genius who first snatched from the ocean and atmosphere the secret of their laws . . . His inspiration Holy Writ . . ." God's Word is accurate!

## Free Downloads!

- ▶ The Cross from Seven Viewpoints, Wade Webster
- ▶ When Jesus Prayed, B. J. Clarke
- ▶ How Important is it to Know God? George Bailey
- ▶ What Does John 3:16 Really Mean? Wendell Winkler

To listen to these (and more) go to

[www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio](http://www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio)



## Get a free DVD!

A Bible Answer Television Program has agreed to give HTH readers across the country a DVD containing four programs and covering about 25 interesting Bible questions. To receive your free copy, go to

[www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/freeDVD](http://www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/freeDVD)

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**NEW! Scared of the Dark?**

**Seven Things God Hates #7: Sowers of Discord.**

**Can a Christian Fall from Grace?**

**A Lying Tongue**

**Scruples.** A study of what Romans 14 says about tolerating differing opinions among believers.

**Can We Let Our Conscience Be Our Guide?**

**Finding God's Treasure.**

A guide to locating salvation by careful study of the Bible (based on Acts 8).

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**The Day the Preacher Sat Next to the Atheist**

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**A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross**

The story that never grows old! (One of our most popular tracts)

**Married for Life.** How five couples reached their 50th . . .

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Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

*—All materials/services are absolutely FREE of charge. We even pay postage!—*

CHRISTIAN  
COURIER

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For free in-depth Bible study material, we recommend:

[www.christiancourier.com](http://www.christiancourier.com)

This popular site has nearly a million visitors a year, with over 200,000 page views a month. They offer commentary on current events, defend the Bible against critics, and offer scholarly Bible research.

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- Quiero recibir Casa a Casa en Español.
- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a Bible question: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

# In the Interest of Christian UNITY

## Membership Has Its Privileges



“Don’t leave home without it!” Your trusty plastic charge card is indispensable, to hear the company tell it. You can do anything from taking your wife to lunch to vacationing in a foreign country. If you lose your card and/or cash, you can get a new card and a

cash advance right away—your vacation won’t be interrupted, and you won’t be stuck out in the middle of nowhere. Yes, membership has its privileges!

Membership in the Lord’s church has infinitely greater privileges than those offered by the credit card company. The church is God’s family, and members have the privilege of calling upon Him in prayer as their Father (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). And should they become lost, they can confess their error to God with a repentant 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: Learn the Bible, which is the Word of God, until you develop a sincere, confident trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God; that’s faith (Romans 10:17; John 8:24). Then let that faith motivate you to determine in your heart to turn away from sin; that’s repentance (Acts 3:19). Next, state your belief that Jesus is the Son of God; that’s confession (Romans 10:9-10). Finally, be immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; that’s baptism (Acts 2:38). If you meet these conditions, you will not be turned down! The Lord will add you to His church (Acts 2:47).

By the way, no one will run a credit check on you, and you will not receive a monthly bill. All who apply for membership are hopelessly in debt. That’s 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 aren’t a member of Jesus’ church, become one today! “Membership has its privileges!” —Joe Slater



## Tell Me More About JESUS

### The Old Rugged Cross

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

It was the saddest spectacle mankind ever beheld . . . Yet by it came 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 it was the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy.

It was through the cross that God condemned sin . . . Yet by it He forgave the sinner.

The cross stands for God’s hatred of sin . . . Yet it was 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, the S-U-N, refused to shine at midday . . . But on that day the Son, the S-O-N, became the light of the world.

—George Bailey

**“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” —Galatians 6:14**



### Distinguished Teacher Award

Jesus wins the World’s All-Time Most Distinguished Teacher award. It is not a plaque someone presented to Him but simply recognition by millions who have sat at His feet for nearly 2000 years.

- ▶ He had no classroom, except the one the moment provided. It might be a hillside, a boat, or a 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 set no age limit for His students. Little 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 thou art a teacher come from God” —John 3:2**





## 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 it's sold only to the 25,000 families who are members.

Didn't receive your subscription invitation to the Social Register this year? Not to worry. Truth be told, there's another book that is far more important: the Lamb's Book of Life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27).

It's fine to be honored on earth for prominence or importance, but the bigger question is whether our names are written in God's book in heaven. Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Entrance into the New Jerusalem will be only for those whose names are found in God's book. John foresaw the scene: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12).

The applause for prominence on earth will one day be drowned out by the applause of heaven: ". . . then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Corinthians 4:5).

—adapted from *Turning Point Daily Devotional*, 7-26-05