

HOUSE to HOUSE Heart to Heart



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

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

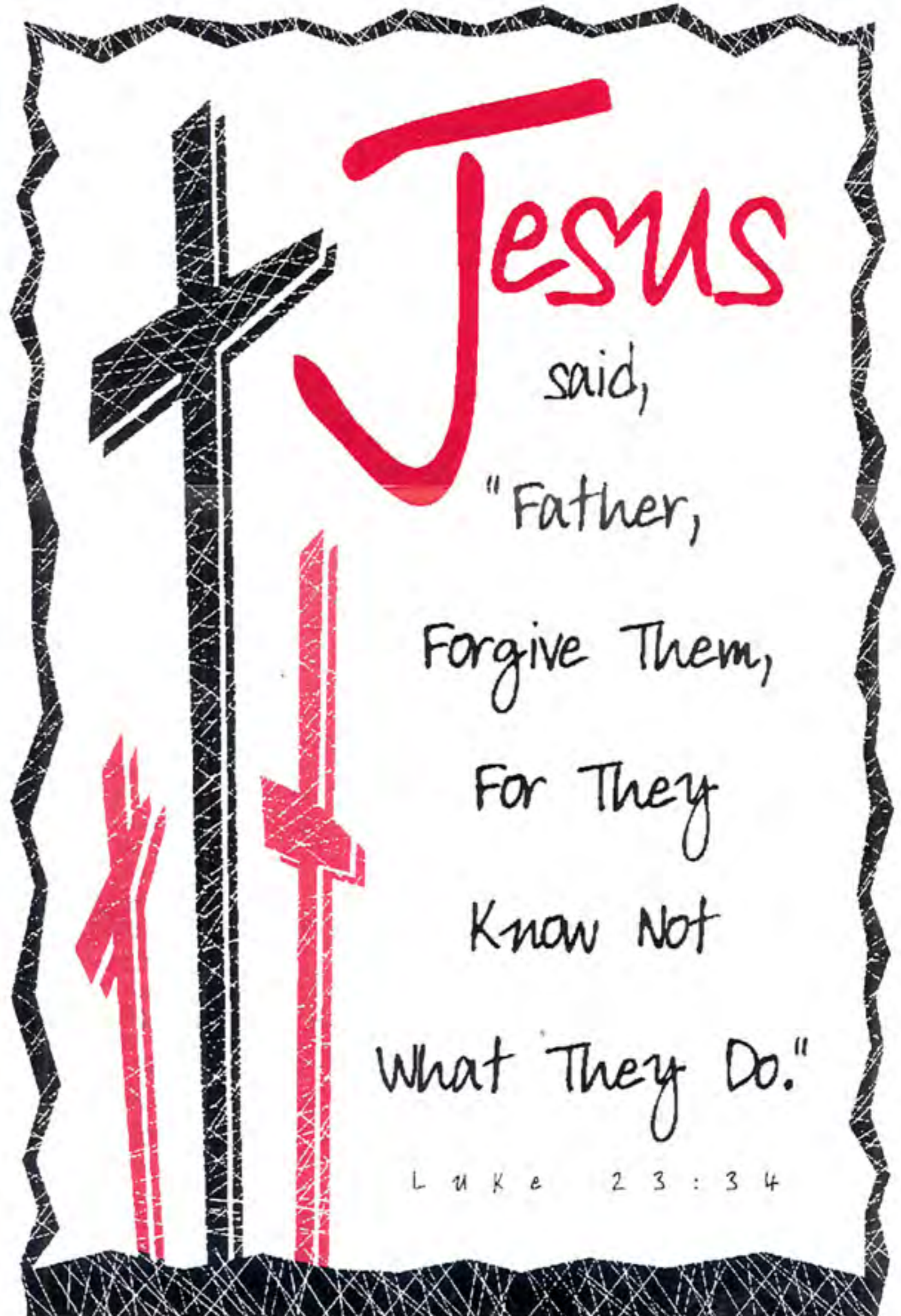
Sing – Eph. 5:19
Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
Teach – Acts 5:42
Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

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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MAKE A NEW FRIEND OUT OF AN OLD ENEMY

ALLEN WEBSTER

*Health Magazine*¹ reported that fifty people have paid \$120,000² each to be frozen, in hopes that someday they can be brought back to life. Fear of death affects people in various ways—but it affects most people. We don't like to talk about it; we don't even like to *think* about it. We prefer to stay away from places that remind us of it—hospitals, funeral homes, cemeteries. We go to expensive extremes to postpone it—even for a few months. The Bible calls death “the last enemy” (1 Cor. 15:26), and most people see death as just that—the enemy.³ Jesus came so we can make a new friend out of this old enemy (Heb. 2:15).

Jesus told Martha that “...whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...,” then asked if she believed it (Jn. 11:11-15). He did not mean believers never die *physically*. A Christian's body dies just like an atheist's. Jesus was inviting her to see death as a friend that opened the door for *the spirit* to live forever. Paul looked forward to dying because he knew he would then be with God (Phil. 1:22). Jesus wants us to learn to look at death from God's perspective.

God sees death as just going to sleep (Jn. 11:11).

In the Scriptures, *sleep* is often used as a beautiful synonym for death (Deut. 31:16; Acts 7:60). To Jesus, buried Lazarus had “gone to sleep” (Jn. 11:11). Since Lazarus was just “sleeping,” the disciples thought it was needless to go and expose themselves to the danger of Christ's enemies. They were slow to catch His meaning, and He finally had to spell out that Lazarus was “dead” (cf. Jn. 10:24; 16:25,29). Sleep is precious—if you don't believe it, ask an insomniac or parents of a newborn! “Sleep” is an appropriate term because death is not final. Parents do not fear their children going to sleep; rather, they plan for it. They work family schedules so there will be plenty of hours for naps and sleeping.

Jesus saw raising a dead man as no more difficult than for us to wake someone from sleep (cf. Mt. 9:24). There will be an “great awakening” at the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:18,51). On resurrection morning, Jesus will wake all those in the grave with the angel's “alarm clock” that will be loud enough (literally) to “wake the dead” (1 Thes. 4:13-18; 5:10). He will say, “Come on, time to go home” (Jn. 5:25-29), or in the case of non-Christians, sadly He'll say, “Time to go to the lake” (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:15).

God sees death as just taking a trip (2 Tim. 4:6).

Paul said, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). He expected his soul to go to paradise, while his body rested in a grave to await a happy rising. Imagine standing on a dock watching a ship moving out of a harbor. You say, “It's going.” Finally, it sinks below the horizon, and someone says, “It's gone.” But on another shore someone watches for the ship. Soon they see its hull and say, “It's coming.” As it pulls into port, they say, “It's here.” We say at a loved one's deathbed, “She's going,” and as she takes her last breath, “She's gone.” But watchers on another shore say, “She's coming. She's home at last.”

God sees death as just a change of residence (Jn. 14:1-3).

Imagine knocking at an old house. A neighbor notices and says, “Are you looking for Mrs. Johnson?” “Yes,” you reply. He says, “She doesn't live there anymore. She moved to a new house on the rich side of town.” When you arrive there, she welcomes you

and proudly shows you around her new place. We have Christian friends whose frail bodies no longer serve their purpose. They'll soon have to move out of the tenement of clay, but they are really only changing residences. We are journeying, not to the sunset, but to the sunrise; death is a gate on the skyline to heaven. Should we consider it a loss to be taken away from a decaying shack to live in a palace?

God sees death as His child gaining an inheritance (Phil. 1:21).

If we live for Christ, we get rich when we die! “*To die is gain.*”⁴ We gain access to all we have invested in the place where thieves cannot steal and rust cannot corrupt (Mt. 6:19-21). We gain victory over sin, Satan, doubt, and fear (Rev. 20:10). We gain freedom from aches, disease, pains, tears, and death (Rev. 21:4). We gain fellowship with God, Jesus, and the Spirit (Phil. 1:23), and association with loved ones and the saints of all the ages (Mt. 8:11). Would we consider it a loss to be stripped of rags and clothed in silk? A Christian doesn't lose when he dies; he inherits unimaginable riches!

Jesus made it possible for all to say, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *I will fear no evil*, for Thou art with me” (Psa. 23:4). Yet, many should yet fear death for they are not prepared to meet their Maker. The Bible says, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of *his saints*” (Psa. 116:15; Rev. 14:13). *Saint* is short for a “*sanctified* person,” or put more simply, a “Christian.” One becomes a Christian (follower of Christ) by following Christ's commands: hear the Gospel (Jn. 6:44); believe that He is God's Son (Jn. 3:16); repent of sins (Lk. 13:3); confess faith in Him (Mt. 10:32,33); and be baptized into His body for forgiveness of sins (Gal. 3:26,27; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). One remains a Christian, by faithful Christian living (Rev. 2:10). If I do am not prepared to die the death of the righteous (Num. 23:10), then these concepts hold no comfort for me—yet.

A gentleman once visited a poor family and saw a thousand franc note (a *lot* of money at the time) framed on the wall. He said, “Where did you get this?” They told him they had taken in an injured French soldier during the war. They did what they could but were unable to save him. Just before he died, he gave them this “little picture as something to remember him by.” They thought it was a “pretty souvenir,” so they framed it. They were surprised to learn that it was worth a sum greater than their whole house! They were richer than they thought.

Christians who still fear death are not using the blessing Jesus left them. Death “is the supreme festival on the road to freedom.”⁵ It is a friend who gives us a ride home. It's a graduation exercise from Earth's High School to Heaven's College. It's a promotion to higher ground.

Endnotes:

¹ 1-2/93.

² Price includes storage! By the way, the price for freezing and storing just the head of the client was only \$41,000.

³ The Bible says much of death. The word (in various forms) is found 813 times and is in 49 of the 66 books.

⁴ *Kerdos*, “gain, lucre.”

⁵ D. Bonhoeffer, quoted in *The Martyred Christian*, by Joan Winmill Brown.

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

JUST LOOKING

In his book *Good Morning Merry Sunshine*, Chicago Tribune columnist Bob Greene chronicles his infant daughter's first year of life. When little Amanda began crawling, he records: "This is something I'm having trouble getting used to. I will be in bed reading a book or watching TV. And I will look down at the foot of the bed and there will be Amanda's head staring back at me.

"Apparently I've become one of the objects that fascinate her. ...It's so strange. After months of having to go to her, now she is choosing to come to me. I don't know quite how to react. All I can figure is that she likes the idea of coming in and looking at me. She doesn't expect anything in return. I'll return her gaze and in a few minutes she'll decide she wants to be back in the living room and off she'll crawl again." The simple pleasure of looking at the one you love—what Bob and his daughter enjoyed—is what we enjoy each time we worship God and bask in His presence.

—Greg Asimakoupoulos, Concord, California. *Leadership*, Vol. 15, no. 1.
 "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple." —Psalm 27:4

THE REAL GOD IS BETTER

The pagans make their gods; their gods do not make them. They carry their gods; their gods do not carry them. They protect their gods; their gods do not protect them. They sacrifice to their gods; their gods do not sacrifice to them. Christians believe they are God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10). Underneath them are the everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27). They believe their God is "an ever-present help in trouble" (Psa. 46:1). They are convinced that "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

A SONG...

Which hymns do Americans most enjoy singing? Gallup reported the top five:

- ▶ Amazing Grace
- ▶ How Great Thou Art
- ▶ Rock of Ages
- ▶ Battle Hymn of the Republic
- ▶ The Old Rugged Cross



"Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..." —Ephesians 5:19

AND A SMILE

Ruby Moore gave little Marsha, her visiting granddaughter, some money for the offering. The bright four-year old contemplated the situation a minute and said, "I'll just go to my church instead. They don't charge you to get in."

LAYING LIFE ON THE LINE

As a New York skyscraper went up, hundreds paused daily to glance up at it. One day they watched a ponderous metal beam go up to take its place in the steel skeleton. As the girder came near, a workman leaned out from the sixteenth floor to seize it. The spectators gasped as he lost his balance and fell. Desperately, he clutched the girder's end with arms and legs. The ground crew stopped the hoisting engine, but the man's weight at one end began to tilt the beam to a vertical position, which would eventually cause him to lose his grasp and fall to his death. With swift decision, another worker on the same floor, seeing his friend's predicament, leaped through space and landed on the other end, where his weight leveled the beam. Amid the applause of the crowd, both men were safely lowered to the street.



Every day people around us lose their balance on moral questions—they consider having an affair with a coworker, taking company funds, lying to close a deal, toying with drugs and alcohol. Wrong decisions may hurt them and their families for years and cost their souls in eternity. They need friends interested in helping them keep their balance, by exemplary lives, by sacrificial living, by speaking a word for Christ. Here no one applauds, but it will be worth it all when we receive the approval of the Master (1 Cor. 4:5). —adapted from W.W. Clay

"...speaking the truth in love..." —Ephesians 4:15

WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU?

An old man living on a gentleman's estate in Glamorgan-shire used to go to the chapel along the gentleman's private walk because it saved considerable distance. An unkind neighbor told the gentleman, who was a magistrate, about it. One day, as the poor old man went to worship, the magistrate met him on the private walk:

"What right have you on this path?" he asked.

"No right at all, sir," he answered, "but I thought you wouldn't mind an old man who has lived on your estate so many years going this way to worship God, especially as it's so far the other way."

"Give me your stick!" said he sternly. The trembling old saint gave him his stick, not knowing what to expect. To his surprise, the gentleman gave him his own walking-stick, mounted with gold and bearing his family crest. With a kind smile and a gentle tone, he said: "My good man, when anyone asks you again what right you have to walk this way, show them this, and tell them I gave it to you!"



That was what the father did to his returned prodigal son. He put a ring on his finger. It was a sign of sonship, which he could show to anyone who might tell him he had no right there.

"...the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found..." —Luke 15:22-24



The
HOMIE
PAGE

Compiled by Wade Webster

Funny...But Serious, Too

- ▶ Marriage isn't a word—it's a sentence!
- ▶ Marriage is a gamble. You start with a pair. He shows a diamond. She shows a heart. Her father has a spade. There's usually a joker around somewhere, but after a while he becomes a king, and she becomes a queen. Then they end up with a full house.
- ▶ One woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other replied, "Yes, I married the wrong man."
- ▶ Man is incomplete until he is married. Then he is really finished.
- ▶ Marriage is an institution in which a man loses his bachelor's degree, and the woman gets her master's.
- ▶ One man said, "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married; and then it was too late."

The jokes are endless. They usually come from one who has learned to laugh at his mistakes, but they also can reveal a lot of pain. The failures will continue *until* God fills our marriages...the two really become one...the one fulfills the other...love is given fully and freely... giving is more important than getting... one considers the other more important than self, and selfishness retreats in defeat...each keeps his/her promises, and vows are not just words repeated after the preacher but are lifelong commitments...kindness rules the days, and helpfulness fills the moments... sex is love...and being together is love...and being apart is love...and arguments are loving...and monotony is love...and routine is love... 'til there is not "you and me," but only "US."

"...shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" —Genesis 2:24

The Three "Ts" of Marriage

Now tell me, what is it that women really want? Surely the president of the United States should know. In 1905, President Grover Cleveland was quoted in the *Ladies' Home Journal* as saying, "Sensible women do not want to vote." Oh, well, maybe he meant, "boat." We've all heard of the "3 Rs," but if you want to get to the heart of a woman, try the "3 Ts." Women want **Time, Talk, and Touch**.

In fact, most significant relationships involve these three essential ingredients. **Time** is the first priority. Without it, the other two aren't possible. **Talk** is the preeminent intercourse that makes the other kind even more glorious. And genuine, non-sexual **Touch** is a critical component that has been lost in a sea of immorality and selfish pursuits. The Creator of both sexes, who also designed their desires, inspired these words: "...husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7).

When we unselfishly become considerate and respectful of women, the "3 Ts" will be natural. Then our "favorite girl" will fall in love with us all over again. Remember: Smart men practice the "3 Ts" with sensible women (Eph. 5:23-33).

"Let thy fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love" —Proverbs 5:18,19

Children Think Marriages Are Worth Saving

Every year, an additional million American children are involved in divorce. As parents create new lives in separate homes, children often find their voices going unheard, muffled by rigid courts and overburdened service agencies. A growing number of family and legal experts are calling for changes to help children. "Few adults anticipate accurately what lies ahead when they decide to divorce," wrote Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee in their landmark book, *Second Chances* (1989).

"Life is almost always more arduous and more complicated than they expect. It is often more depleting and more lonely for at least one partner in the marriage. At the time of divorce, people are intent on getting rid of their unhappiness, and they find it difficult to conjure up understanding for something they have never experienced. It is hard for them to imagine the multiple changes that divorce will bring."

Research shows that except in extreme cases of abuse, children want their parents together. Children often have no say in the decision that profoundly affects them for the rest of their lives. When parents decide to end their marriage, it means the death of the child's family.

- ▶ One study found that eighteen months after a divorce, children have serious psychological problems comparable to "victims of natural disaster."
- ▶ Sixty-five percent of children could not concentrate in school, eat or sleep properly, make friends, and are depressed, withdrawn, or hostile.
- ▶ Even ten years after divorce, over 40% of these young people still had no set goals, a limited education, and a sense of hopelessness.

While the Bible does give authority for divorce in some cases (cf. Mt. 19:9), its admonition to, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4) surely needs considering.

A Refreshing Change

Madison Avenue has killed the Yuppies and resurrected fathers. "We're redefining success," said Mal MacDougall, chairman of The MacDougall Company, a New York advertising agency. "The ultimate hero...will be the best dad. The Yuppie, the macho man are both dead." Instead, agencies are creating ads like his agency did for Quorum cologne. In a pin-striped suit a man was shown carrying a baby instead of a briefcase with the caption reading, "Success is knowing which appointments to keep."





WAS THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM?

The story of the Philippian jailer is found in Acts 16. The jailer was in charge of Paul and Silas, who had been arrested on false charges by the owners of a slave girl. They had cast a demon out of the girl, depriving her owners of the money they made by exploiting her (16:20-21). Because of this, Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and put into the innermost prison, with their feet in the stocks. The jailer was to keep them safely until the officials could deal with them.

Beaten and bleeding and locked in the inner prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God even though it was midnight (16:25). Suddenly an earthquake shook the prison. Awakening from sleep, the jailer was ready to kill himself rather than face his superiors because he was sure that the prisoners had escaped. When Paul calmed him, assuring him that the prisoners were still there, "He called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (16:29-30). Paul and Silas answered very simply: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (16:31). Since the jailer was not told to be baptized, does this mean that he was saved before baptism? Consider the rest of his story.

Paul and Silas had told the jailer that salvation would come from believing on Christ, but what did this jailer know about Jesus? It is unlikely that he had heard any of the sermons that Paul and Silas had preached in Philippi. He evidently knew nothing about Jesus, other than what he had learned from hearing their songs and prayers. They had to teach him. "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house" (16:32). Did speaking the "word of the Lord" include the necessity of baptism?

Two appropriate questions are, "When were the jailer and his family baptized?" Luke records, "He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway" (16:33). When was "the same hour of the night?" Remember the prisoners were worshipping at midnight (16:25). Then the earthquake came and they had spent time teaching him the "word of the Lord." Without question it was in the wee hours of the morning when the jailer responded. Why didn't they at least wait until morning light before they were baptized, if baptism was not essential?

A second appropriate question is, "When did they rejoice?" That would give an indication into when the burden of sin was lifted. Was it before or after baptism? "...And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (16:34). It was *after* their baptism. They rejoiced, knowing that their sins were forgiven, and they had truly obeyed the Lord. The jailer had a saving faith, a faith that responded to the sacrifice of Christ by obeying Him. His obedience in baptism demonstrated his faith, and his faith was demonstrated in his baptism. The jailer was like all other Christians we read of in the New Testament. He was saved after baptism.

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



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

Hints: Ex. 16:13; 2 Kings 9:36; Gen. 22:13; 2 Kgs. 2:11; Psa. 42:1; Isa. 11:6; Prov. 30:28; Ex. 8:2-14; Prov. 30:30,31; Gen. 3:1; Mt. 3:16

1. What bird served as food in the wilderness? _____
2. What animals ate the carcass of Jezebel? _____
3. What did God provide as a substitute sacrifice for Isaac? _____
4. What miraculous animals parted Elijah and Elisha as Elijah was taken by a whirlwind into heaven? _____
5. What animal panting for water illustrated one man's desire for God? _____
6. The peaceable nature of God's kingdom (church), was prophesied figuratively as being a time when a lamb and a _____ would dwell together.
7. What builds it home even in kings palaces? _____
8. This animal was a plague God sent upon Egypt. _____
9. This animal is "strongest among beasts." _____
10. This type of dog is one of the four "comely things." _____
11. The tempter took the form of a _____ to tempt Eve.
12. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus "like a _____."

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Hints: 1 Sam. 5:2-4; 1 Kgs. 6; 16:32; 1 Sam. 31:10; 2 Kgs. 5:18; Ezra 6:1-12; Mt. 4:5; 2 Kgs. 10:18-27; 16:10-17; 1 Kgs. 7:13-14; Phile. 1:1,2; Mt. 24:1,2

1. What holy object was taken by the Philistines into the temple of Dagon, causing Dagon's image to fall down? _____
2. Who built the first temple in Jerusalem? _____
3. Who built a temple for Baal in Samaria? _____
4. Where did the Philistines carry Saul's armor? _____
5. Who asked Elisha's forgiveness for worshipping in the temple of the god Rimmon? _____
6. What king allowed Jews to rebuild the Jerusalem temple? _____
7. Who was taken to the highest point of the Jerusalem temple? _____
8. What king tricked the followers of Baal by gathering them in Baal's temple and then slaughtering them? _____
9. Who had an Assyrian-style altar made for the Jerusalem temple? _____
10. Who did Solomon hire to take charge of building the temple? _____
11. A church met in this man's house. _____
12. Jesus said this house of worship would be destroyed and not two stones left together. _____


Answers to last month's questions: *Who Asked God the Question?* 1. Moses (Ex. 5:22); 2. Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:20); 3. Abraham (Gen. 15:2); 4. Moses/Aaron (Num. 16:22); 5. Solomon (1 Kgs. 3:5-9); 6. Moses (Ex. 3:13); 7. David (1 Sam. 30:3-8); 8. The Israelites (Jd. 21:2-3); 9. Moses (Ex. 17:3-4); 10. Joshua (7:7); *Whom Did God Ask?* 1. Moses (Num. 14:11); 2. Isaiah (6:8); 3. Ezekiel (18:23); 4. Jonah (4:9); 5. Adam (Gen. 3:11); 6. Cain (Gen. 4:6-7); 7. Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1); 8. Jeremiah (32:26-27); 9. Ezekiel (37:3); 10. Job (38:2).



Send your answers in! We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one entrant to receive a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

- A** A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger. —Proverbs 15:1
- B** Be ye kind one to another. —Ephesians 4:32
- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. —Psalms 51:10
- D** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. —James 4:8
- E** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father. —James 1:17
- F** Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. —Ecclesiastes 12:13
- G** Give us this day our daily bread. —Matthew 6:11
- H** Honor thy father and thy mother which is the first commandment with promise. —Ephesians 6:2
- I** If ye love me keep my commandments. —John 14:15
- J** Judge not that ye be not judged. —Matthew 7:1
- K** Keep my tongue from evil and my lips from speaking guile. —Psalm 34:13
- L** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. —1 John 2:15
- M** My son forget not my law. —Proverbs 3:1
- N** No man can serve two masters... —Matthew 6:24
- O** O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good. —Psalm 107:1
- P** Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God —Psalm 147:1
- Q** Quit you like men, be strong... —1 Corinthians 16:13
- R** Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people —Proverbs 14:34
- S** Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. —Matthew 6:33
- T** Thou God seest me... —Genesis 16:13
- U** Unto thee O God, do we give thanks. —Psalm 75:1
- V** Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. —John 3:5
- W** What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. —Psalm 56:3
- X** Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. —Luke 13:3
- Y** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. —John 15:14
- Z** That he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. —Titus 2:14

THE ABCS OF SCRIPTURE



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a survey of the Bible study course.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I am interested in seeing the "Visualized Bible Study" Video Series.
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.

PLEASE SEND ME THE NEW HTH BOOKLET: FULL COLOR, READABLE, INTERESTING, AND FREE.

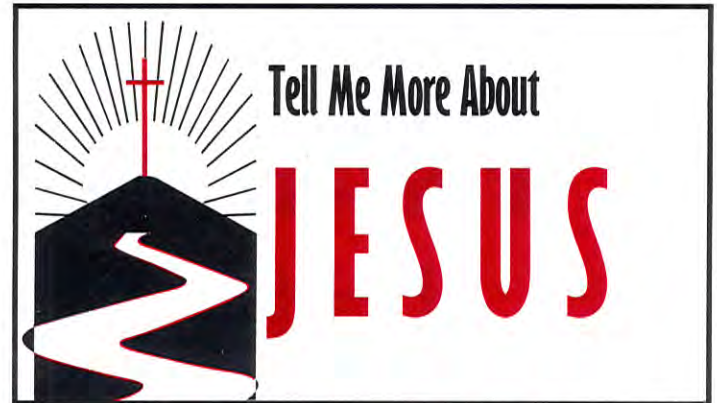
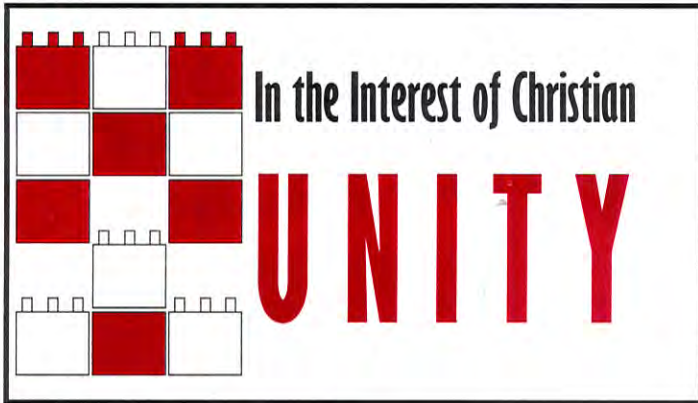
LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR

FEATURED TRACTS:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send me this month's packet (booklet plus all below)
- HTH Booklet: Excellence (How to have a Successful Life)
- Fellowship of Love What Did I Do to Deserve This?
- The Godhead: One or Three? Special Scriptures
- A Great Return to the Bible Family Living
- The Indwelling of the Spirit Repentance
- The Great High Priest Why Believe in Jesus?
- Hope in Christianity Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Instrumental Music Can God Really Forgive Me?
- Have You Been Reading the Apostles Mail?
- God's Way of Salvation What Color are Christians?
- Restoring the Spirit of Christianity
- But the Bible Doesn't Say Its Wrong
- What is the church of Christ? How We Got the Bible
- Is Christianity a Cult? Other: _____
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

SALVATION. WHO NEEDS IT?



“THIS AIN’T YO MOMMA’S CHURCH”



I guess I should have expected it, but I just was not ready for the commercial I heard recently. My family and I were driving out of town and listening to a popular radio station. Suddenly, an attention-grabbing voice asked the audience (assumed to be mostly younger people) if they were tired of the same old church experience.

He asked if they were tired of the atmosphere, then described a flashier, more feeling-oriented “church” service. He capped off his description by proudly proclaiming, “This ain’t yo mamma’s church!” The commercial continued, describing several things that might appeal to young people: loud, modern music; lights (apparently, flashing and pulsing) to go with the music; and a modern, “feel good” message to tie it all together. Each description was followed by the same, attention-grabbing proclamation—“This ain’t yo mamma’s church!”

No, I had to concede it certainly did not sound like the church my “momma” attended. The congregation my mother attended was concerned more about what God said about worship and expects from worship than what I or anyone else may like (Jn. 4:24). The congregation my mother attended and the one in which I “grew up” was more concerned with the kind of music the Bible specified (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) than the kind the world wanted to hear (Gal. 1:10). The congregation my mother and father attended was more concerned about sound doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3; Tit. 2:1) than some message that would grab audience attention but not completely teach God’s Word (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

Consumerism threatens to consume our culture. Everybody claims to be able to give us what we want and to fulfill every need we feel. But what about when we have needs that we don’t feel? And what about our children’s children—what will it take for people to appeal to them to be different from their “momma’s church?” How far will it go?

The problem lies in the assumption made in the premise of the commercial—that the church should be made to fit us instead of us fitting the church. Jesus built one church (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4). Men have built many to fit their desires. We should be more concerned about what Christ wants than what we (or our mothers) want. —adapted, Lance Cordle

YOUR FATHER CALLS



A military officer told the story of “Hartmann,” an old man whose son enlisted in the army. When news came of a dreadful battle, this old father started to the scene of conflict to learn something concerning his boy.

The officer of the day told him he had not answered roll call and had been given up for dead. This did not satisfy the father, of course, so he started across the battlefield, looking for the one who was dearer to him than life. He stooped and turned over the face of this one and that one, without success. Night came, and with it a gale, but he continued searching with a lantern, seemingly to no purpose.

Suddenly the wind extinguished his lantern and he stood in the darkness hardly knowing what to do. With deep feeling he cried out his son’s name. He kept shouting, “John Hartmann, your father calls you.” All about him he heard groans. Someone cried: “Oh, if you were only my father.” He continued with more pathos and power until at last in the distance he heard his boy’s voice cry weakly, “Here, father.” The old man ran across the field shouting, “Thank God! Thank God!” Taking him in his arms, he carried him to headquarters and nursed him back to health. He went on to live a long life.

Over the battlefield of the slain this day walks Jesus Christ crying out to all who are wrecked by sin’s awful power, “Thy Father calleth thee.” He listens for the faintest response. Will you not come while He calls today?

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” —Matthew 11:28-30

A DOCTOR’S QUESTIONS:



What is your name, son?

On my mother’s side, I’m called Jesus.

On my Father’s side, I’m Emmanuel.

How old are you, son?

On my mother’s side, I’m twelve years old.

On my Father’s side, I’ve always been.

Where is your home, son?

On my mother’s side, it’s Bethlehem.

On my Father’s side, it’s Jerusalem.

What is your plan, son?

On my mother’s side, I’ll be crucified.

On my Father’s side, I’ll rise in three days to set on His right hand.

“...after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished...” —Luke 2:46,47

“...This is my beloved Son: hear him” —Mark 9:7