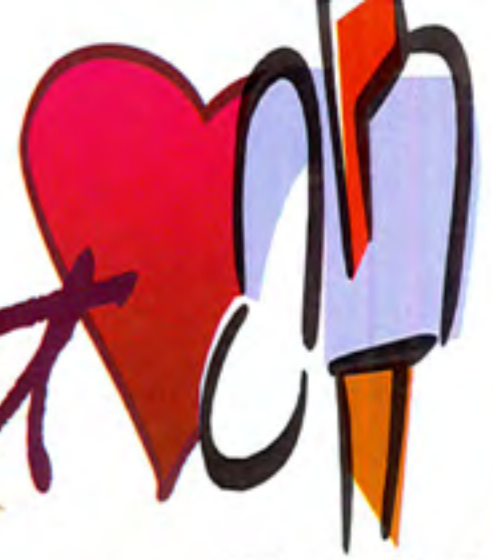


# HOUSE TO HOUSE

## Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, Number 5

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

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

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

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

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

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

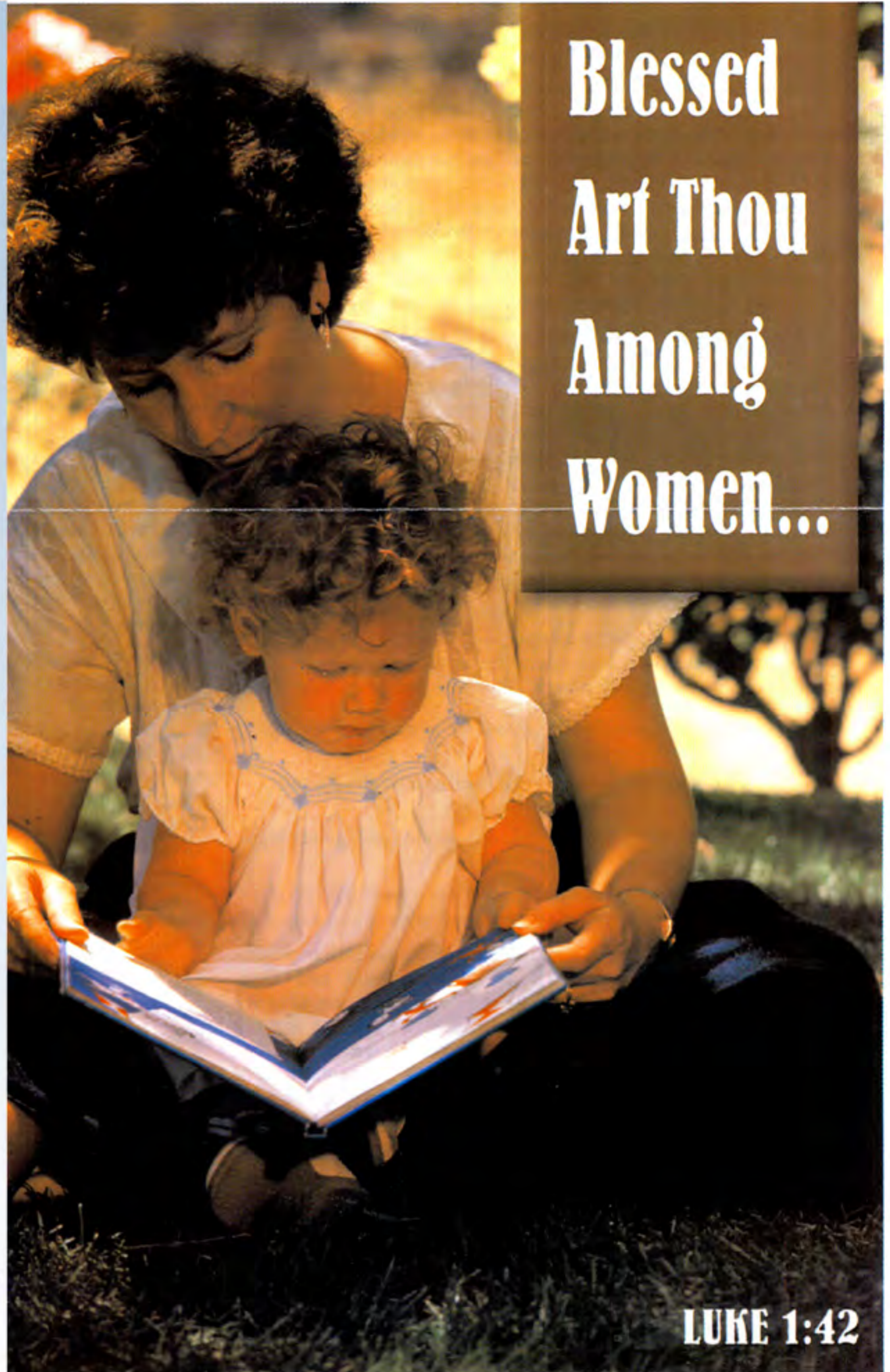
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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**Blessed  
Art Thou  
Among  
Women...**

**LUKE 1:42**



# Salvation is Free, But it is Not Cheap

ALLEN WEBSTER

Jesus never said grace! Believe it or not, the Bible doesn't record where Jesus ever used that word. It was used *of* Him (Lk. 2:40; Jn. 1:14, 16, 17) but never *by* Him. But don't misunderstand, He *taught* it; He *lived* it; He just never *said* it. Then again, He said a lot *about* grace. We call a whole category of His stories the "grace parables." Classifications vary, but most lists include at least eight grace parables, including some of His most famous.<sup>1</sup>

The shortest is Luke 7:41, 42: "There was a certain creditor which had two debtors; the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?" This is a Jesus' concise picture of God's voluminous grace. He sums in a few syllables what all words combined could never express. "He frankly<sup>2</sup> forgave them both." That's grace. Let's ascend the slope of the mountain peak doctrine of grace. The Mount Everest passage is Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." What does the Bible say about salvation by grace?

**SALVATION IS FREE.** Paul states it simply: "*For by grace are ye saved...*" The two debtors did not earn their freedom. Their canceled obligation was "a purely gratuitous act" on the creditor's part, on the ground only of their bankruptcy. Forgiveness is a river that flows out of the spring of grace: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, *the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace*" (Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18,19). Donald Barnhouse said, "Love that goes upward is worship; love that goes outward is affection; love that stoops is grace." That God can love us in spite of our sins is hardly believable. How He can forgive lifelong rebels is unfathomable. It is *graceful*.

"...not of yourselves..." Forgiveness is not something we may purchase or earn. We are bankrupt—we have nothing with which to pay. To show grace is to extend favor to one who doesn't deserve it and can never pay it back. Someone put it this way:

- When we work a forty-hour day and receive a fair week's pay for our time, that is a *wage*.
- When we compete in athletics and receive a trophy for our performance, that is a *prize*.
- When we receive recognition for long service or high achievements in business, that is an *award*.
- When we are incapable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserve no award—yet receive a gift anyway—it is *grace*.

"...it is the gift of God..." We cannot make salvation works-centered and man-centered. It is grace-centered and God-centered. The emphasis is on what God does for us, not what we do for God. The little wheels run by man's faith and the big wheels by God's grace.<sup>3</sup> When David Lipscomb was an old man on campus a student asked, "Upon what do you base your hope of salvation?" Without hesitation he said, "Upon the grace and the mercy of God." That's the only hope any of us have. Grace is getting what we need (heaven) instead of what we deserve (hell).

Gore Vidal's book, *Lincoln*, tells of the president and his advisors discussing life after the war. It was evident the North would win, so they asked how he planned to deal with the South. Lincoln said, "I will treat them as if they never left." That's grace. It is exactly what the f(F)ather did for a skinny, humbled prodigal boy coming home from a long summer trip (Lk. 15:20-24). "As if he never left," he regained his place in the family (ring), his dignity (robe), his freedom (shoes), and his support (fatted calf).

**SALVATION IS COSTLY.** The creditor in the parable took a loss. He paid the debtors' tabs. Salvation is a "gift of God"—a gift that cost Him dearly. It cost Jesus His life on the cross; He purchased it "with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). No one in that banquet hall (when Jesus told the parable) knew how much it cost Jesus to say to that woman, "Thy sins are forgiven." Picture Him on the cross with bloody thorns lacerating His scalp, with darkening bruises on His face, with inflamed whip stripes on His back, and with nails protruding from disfigured hands and feet. Hear Him call for water and listen to His agonized plea: "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?" Why is He going through with Golgotha? Because He told that prostitute she could be forgiven (and because He promised us, too). Salvation is free to us, but it was not cheap to Him.

**SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL.** Some dangerous heresies are circulating about grace. They are so ugly they probably make the angels blush. A boy asked one preacher, "Sir, what can I do to be saved?" The preacher replied, "Son, you're too late." "What!" exclaimed the boy, "I'm too late to be saved?" "No, you're too late to do anything. Jesus already did it all two thousand years ago." It's strange that Peter didn't know that. When he was asked on Pentecost, "What shall we *do*?" (Acts 2:37), he did not say, "You're too late. Jesus did it all fifty days ago on the cross. There is nothing for you to do." Instead, the Holy Spirit instructed him to say, "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" (2:38). There *was* something for these believers to do to be saved. The historian continues, "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (2:40). "Save themselves?" In what sense? Certainly not in earning salvation but in simply meeting God's terms.

Paul wrote more books of the New Testament than any other writer; predictably, he also said the most about grace. He used the word 99 of the 131 times it occurs.<sup>4</sup> In all those references Paul never once said salvation was unconditional or by grace only. How did Paul understand salvation by grace through faith when *he* was saved? He asked on that Damascus road, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to *do*?" (Acts 9:6)? Surely Paul misunderstood. He should have known that grace only through faith alone is all that's necessary, and that "doing" something would mean he was trying to save himself. Surely Jesus corrected him. The Lord answered, "Arise, and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou *must do*" (Acts 9:6). Maybe Saul misunderstood, but unquestionably the inspired preacher would clarify things. Ananias brought Saul this command: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Paul had been a believer for three days, yet still had sins to be washed away. He did not argue that baptism was unessential to his salvation; instead, he "arose, and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).

Did Paul later disavow what he did, admitting shamefully that he tried to merit salvation by doing good works? No, he continued talking of the "obedience of faith" (Rm. 1:5; 6:17, 18; 16:26) and of "faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). He linked grace and obedience together (Tit. 2:11, 12) and urged Christians to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). He discussed the necessity of obeying the truth (Rm. 2:8; Gal. 3:1), obeying the Gospel (Rm. 10:16), and obeying Christ (Heb. 5:8, 9). These were all a part of Paul's certified Gospel (Gal. 1:6-10). >>>



# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8

### Free, Not Cheap (con):

What, then, does “not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:9) mean? Did Paul contradict his other statements? Did the Holy Spirit tell Paul one thing and James another (“...by works a man is justified, and not by faith only,” 2:24)? No, two different kinds of works are considered. Works of *merit* differ from works of *obedience*. It is one thing to try to get to heaven by doing good works; it is another to humbly submit to God’s commands. We avail ourselves to God’s grace by meeting the conditions *He* attached to it. Do we earn it? No. Do we deserve it? No. He gives it away. But He only gives it to those who respect His will enough to do what He asks of them. He is “the author of eternal salvation unto all them *that obey him*” (Heb. 5:9).

God’s forgiveness is not automatic; we can reject grace. In 1830, George Wilson was arrested for mail theft and sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson eventually gave him a pardon—but *he refused to accept it*. The authorities were puzzled: should Wilson be freed or hanged? They consulted Chief Justice John Marshall, who handed down this decision: “A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.”<sup>6</sup>

You and I must accept God’s pardon. And we must accept it on His terms. Jesus taught that one should hear His Word (Jn. 6:44, 45; Rm. 10:17), believe in His deity (Jn. 3:16; 8:24), repent of sins (Lk. 13:3, 5), confess faith in Him (Mt. 10:32,33), and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Mk. 16:16). If you have never believed, trusted, and obeyed Christ, don’t procrastinate. Accept His invitation to grace.

Jesus says a lot about grace (for someone who never said it).

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Labors in the Vineyard (Mt. 20); Two Debtors (Lk. 7); Great Supper (Lk. 14); Lost Coin, Lost Sheep, Lost Son, Lost Elder Son (Lk. 15); Unprofitable Servants (Lk. 17) <sup>2</sup>The same word is translated “freely give” (Rm. 8:32) and “freely given” (1 Cor. 2:12). <sup>3</sup>Charles Hodge <sup>4</sup>Another of the “grace parables” <sup>5</sup>If he wrote Hebrews; if not, he used it 91 times. <sup>6</sup>Story told by Warren W. Weirsbe

### Well Said:

- Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered with defeat, than to take rank with those poor spirits that neither enjoy much, nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat. —Theodore Roosevelt
- No farmer ever plowed a field by turning it over in his mind. —George E. Woodbury
- One worthwhile task carried to a successful conclusion is worth half-a-hundred unfinished tasks. —B.C. Forbes
- You cannot sink someone else’s end of the boat and still keep your own afloat. —Charles Brower

### God Made Life Interesting

Seeds may be dropped into the ground upside down or sideways, yet the plants come up to the surface. One grain of corn will produce a stalk on which there may be two ears, with perhaps 742 grains on each ear. A light crop of wheat will produce approximately thirty grains on each stalk; a good crop of wheat will produce approximately sixty grains on each stalk. There will always be an even number of grains.

Beans grow up a pole from left to right, while the morning glory grows up a pole from right to left. If turned upside down, “twining” plants will uncoil and re-circle their support. Guide a twiner in the “wrong” direction, and the plant will rewind itself. The higher a twiner grows, the more tightly it claps its support.<sup>1</sup>



The dandelion will grow above its surroundings whether the grass be two, ten, or twenty inches,<sup>2</sup> for it must get up into the sunlight. An ordinary watermelon will have ten stripes on it. Larger ones may have twelve to sixteen stripes, but always an even number.

Every form of life in the vegetable and animal kingdom has a predetermined set of characteristics, a master plan perfect in every detail...God’s plan. God has a perfect plan for my life and yours which supplies all our needs—HIS WORD (2 Pet. 1:3). By His grace we receive strength to rise above all our circumstances (Rm. 8:31).

How wonderful to witness His majesty in the changing seasons!

<sup>1</sup>Brooklyn Botanical Garden

<sup>2</sup>After 24 inches, the weight of the flower causes the stalk to bend.

“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” —Genesis 1:31; cf. 1:11,12,21,24,25; Isa. 40:28; Psa 104:24; Eph. 3:10

### No One Made It

Sir Isaac Newton was in his office one day when he received a knock at his door. He opened it to find a good friend of the scientific community who happened to be on the opposite side of the beginning of the universe controversy.

As he entered the room his eyes were drawn to a large table on which sat a scale model of the universe. It was exquisitely detailed—painted even down to the circles on Saturn. It was mechanical—an handle caused the planets to rotate around the sun. This moving replica was an amazing sight.

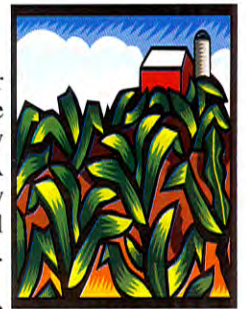
“My what a wonderful thing this is!” he exclaimed. “This is the most extraordinary thing that I have seen! What genius put this together? I should really like to shake his hand.” Sir Newton replied, “No one made it.” His friend retorted, “You must think that I am a fool...Some very wise and talented person made this.”

Newton’s reply is still a wise answer to the current controversy. “This thing is but a puny imitation of a much greater system whose laws you and I know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and a maker. Yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker. Now tell me, by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusions?”

—Mike Johnson

For documentation see, *The Truth: God or Evolution*, Marshall/Sandra Hall, Baker Book House

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” —Gen 1:1







The  
**HOME**  
PAGE

## Family

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. Yet, we may pour ourselves more into work than into our own family—an unwise investment indeed, don't you think? Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY=(F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER  
(I) (L)OVE (Y)OU

## A Television Word

Bill Keane continues to deliver poignant truths from his comic strip *Family Circus*. Little Billy got caught saying something he shouldn't have. His sister quickly called his hand and told Mommy, "Billy said a television word." Why do we discipline our children to not use profanity but permit the viewing of shows which flipperily use unwholesome language? Turn it over; better yet, turn it off and read a book or play a game (read Psa. 101:3; Phil. 4:8).

—Houston Chronicle, March 4, 1993, p. 8E

## Help Children Want to Go to Heaven

A Sunday School teacher asked the children in her class, "How many of you would like to go to heaven?" All the children raised a hand except little Derrick. The teacher diplomatically inquired why he didn't want to go to heaven. Derrick replied, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Spellman, but my mommy told me to come right home after Sunday School." —*Reminisce*, May/June 1995, p. 61

"A wise man will hear..." —Proverbs 1:5

## Good Advice

He has counseled millions on raising children, but perhaps Dr. Benjamin Spock's greatest advice came from his 1992 assessment of America's parental woe: "A lot of our problems are because of a death of spiritual values." —*Houston Post*, July 26, 1992

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother" —Proverbs 1:8, 9

## All This for a "Dollar an Hour"

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle income family. Talk about sticker shock! That doesn't even touch college tuition. But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into \$8,896.66 a year, \$741.38 a month, or \$171.08 week. That's a mere \$24.24 a day! Just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice says don't have children if you want to be "rich." It is just the opposite. What do you get for your \$160,140?

- ▶ Naming rights. First, middle, and last!
- ▶ Glimpses of God every day.
- ▶ Giggles under the covers every night.
- ▶ More love than your heart can hold. Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- ▶ Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- ▶ A hand to hold, usually covered with jam. A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sandcastles, and skipping down the sidewalk in the pouring rain.
- ▶ Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day. For \$160,140, you never have to grow up.
- ▶ You get to finger-paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, catch lightning bugs, and never stop believing in Santa Claus. You have an excuse to keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh, watching Saturday morning cartoons, going to Disney movies, and wishing on stars.
- ▶ You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For \$160,140, there is no better value out there! You get to be a hero just for retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off a bike, removing a splinter, filling a wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first date, and first time behind the wheel. You get to be immortal.

You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're blessed, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with the angels. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost.

*Enjoy your children and grandchildren!*

—Author Unknown

"Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them...." —Psalm 127:5

## No Crisis, No Joke, Either

Golda Meir said, "It's no crisis to be seventy, but it's no joke, either." To the generation that is sandwiched between the needs of their parents and the concerns of their children, life is no joke. "It is estimated that parents spend approximately seventeen years caring for their children and eighteen years caring for their own parents," says Ruth Bathauer in *Parent Care*. Strength for such a journey can only be found in Jesus Christ (see Phil. 4:13). —*Standard*, Sept. 16, 1992, p. 7-15

"...despise not thy mother when she is old"

—Proverbs 23:22

- ▶ The joy of motherhood is what a woman experiences when all the children have gone to bed.

—*Mule Eggs and Topknots*, King Duncan, 1987, p. 155

- ▶ The best way to keep your kids out of hot water is to put some dishes in it.
- ▶ There are only two lasting bequests that we can hope to give to our children. One is roots; the other wings. —Hooding Carter
- ▶ It is easier to build a boy than to mend a man.

—Charles C. Gavin





## How Can One Overcome Addiction to Gambling?

Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevski wrote *The Gambler* in 1866. In this autobiographical novel, he offered a personal understanding of the psychology and physiology of the compulsive, addicted gambler. He documented characteristics such as the need for stimulation, feelings of social inferiority, and low self-esteem. He wrote to finance his own self-destructive gambling habit, but perhaps opened the eyes of others to the dangers of compulsive gambling.

Many today are only casual or occasional gamblers, but an alarming number of people, including many young people, are addicted to gambling. The millions of compulsive gamblers in the U.S. affect an average of ten to twelve others (family, employers, fellow workers), who are also victims of the addiction. Compulsive gambling is often associated with other addictions such as drugs and alcohol, and compulsive gamblers are prone to suicide and are often tempted to crime to support their addiction.

Is there hope for the person addicted to gambling? We must condemn the sin of gambling, but we can also offer hope. God can forgive the one addicted and provide hope for a better life. Paul told the Christians of Corinth, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Note the phrase: "and such *were* some of you." The Corinthians had been involved in terrible sins, but God forgave them, because they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus.

A gambling addict receives the same forgiveness that the Corinthians received when he is washed in Christ's blood through obedience to the Gospel and baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). In obeying the Gospel, the compulsive gambler has the blessing of God's care and support as he attempts to give up the addiction. Ending the compulsive behavior is difficult, but can be done with God's help (Phil. 4:13).

The addicted gambler must realize that gambling must be abandoned forever. It cannot be done moderately, because the addict is always "just one win away" from being seduced back into the compulsive lifestyle. Since covetousness and getting something for nothing is at the heart of gambling, associating with God's people will help the gambler learn that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). Since "bad company corrupts good morals" (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33), the compulsive gambler must get away from old gambling buddies. The compulsive gambler must be encouraged to seek help! Organizations such as Gamblers Anonymous have helped many deal with this addiction. The odds of beating this addiction without God are low, "but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Husbands and Wives

1. It is not good that the man should be \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 2:18).
2. "Whoso findeth a \_\_\_\_\_ findeth a good thing" (Prov. 18:22).
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ wife is from the LORD (Prov. 19:14).
4. A man is to \_\_\_\_\_ his father and his mother, and \_\_\_\_\_ unto his wife (Gen. 2:24).
5. To avoid \_\_\_\_\_ let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband (1 Cor. 7:2).
6. A husband is to \_\_\_\_\_ with his wife (Prov. 5:18).
7. The wife hath not power of her own \_\_\_\_\_, but the husband; and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own \_\_\_\_\_, but the wife (1 Cor. 7:4).
8. Men should love their wives as their own \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:28).
9. When wives have religious questions they are to ask their husbands at \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 14:35).
10. A husband should give \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife, as unto the weaker vessel (1 Pet. 3:7).
11. Older women are to teach younger women to \_\_\_\_\_ their husbands and to love their \_\_\_\_\_ (Tit. 2:4).
12. A man that goes in to his neighbor's wife "shall not be \_\_\_\_\_" (Prov. 6:29).
13. A mate's nagging can be like a \_\_\_\_\_ dropping (Prov. 19:13).
14. The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband \_\_\_\_\_; but if her husband be dead, she is at \_\_\_\_\_ to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord (1 Cor. 7:39).
15. Husbands and wives are \_\_\_\_\_ together of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7).

## And Baby Makes Three

1. God's first command (Gen. 1:28) was to be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Children are an \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD; and the fruit of the womb is his \_\_\_\_\_ (Psa. 127:3).
3. A "quiver full" of children makes a man \_\_\_\_\_ (Psa. 127:5).
4. Fathers who delight in their sons \_\_\_\_\_ them (Prov. 3:12).
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ son maketh a \_\_\_\_\_ father (Prov. 10:1).
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ son is the \_\_\_\_\_ of his mother (10:1).
7. Children are compared to \_\_\_\_\_ in the hand of a mighty man (Psa. 127:4) and \_\_\_\_\_ plants round about the table (128:3).
8. Parents must teach God's laws \_\_\_\_\_ to children (Deut. 6:7).
9. He that \_\_\_\_\_ his rod \_\_\_\_\_ his son (Prov. 13:24).
10. "\_\_\_\_\_ up a child in the way he should go: and when he is \_\_\_\_\_, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).
11. Chasten thy son while there is \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 19:18).
12. As for me and my \_\_\_\_\_, we will serve the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jos. 24:15).



Answers to last issue: **NOAH AND THE FLOOD:** 1. 120; 2. grace; 3. Shem, Ham, Japheth; 4. gopher; 5. pitch; 6. 300, 50, 30; 7. 1; 8. 3; 9. 2; 7; 10. forty; 11. 600; 12. eight; 13. God; 14. Ararat; 15. An olive leaf; 16. 1 year and 10 days; 17. Be fruitful and multiply; 18. Built an altar and offered sacrifices; 19. rainbow; 20. Noah. **THE BEATITUDES:** 1. Poor, spirit; 2. mourn; 3. meek; 4. righteousness, filled; 5. merciful; mercy; 6. pure, God; 7. Peacemakers, children; 8. Persecuted, heaven. **CORRECTION:** Answer to Question 2 in the May/June issue should have been "wisdom" instead of "knowledge" (1 Cor 2:1).

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.





# Don't Have Time for Bible Study?

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." —2 Timothy 2:15

He continued, "This is what I want you to do. Distract them from Bible study, prayer, and meditation." "How do we do that?" asked an angel. "Keep them busy with nonessentials. Invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade wives to go to work for long hours and husbands to work six or seven days a week, ten hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them away from their children as much as possible. As the family becomes fragmented, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work."

Satan added, "Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot concentrate on the Word for more than just a few minutes. Entice them to play the radio or CD wherever they go, to keep their TV, VCR, CDs, and PCs going constantly in their homes. Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with news



24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards, talk radio, and Top 40. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotional pamphlet offering free products, 'essential' services, and false hopes. In their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return angry, exhausted, and disquieted. Don't let them stop to see nature and reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and suggestive movies.

"And when they do meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in socializing, gossip, and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions. Let them be involved in good causes, but crowd their lives with so many 'good causes' that they do not have time for church activities. Soon they will be sacrificing their health and their family for the good of the cause."

It was quite a convention in the end. The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments. Christians everywhere got busy, busy, busy and rushed here and there.

How successful has Satan's scheme been? Look at your life, and the lives of your family and friends, and be the judge. Someone gave this anagram of *busy*: **B**—Burdened **U**—Under **S**—Satan's **Y**—Yoke.

God wants us to enjoy life, but He wants to be first (Mt. 6:33). He must *be life* to us (Col. 3:1-4).

# The Devil's Convention

Have you read the legend of Satan's worldwide convention? In the opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep Bibles away from Christians. We can't keep them from going to worship. We can't tempt most of them to become hateful, mean, and immoral. But we can keep them from forming a close, abiding relationship with Christ. We can keep them in 'first grade' in their Bible knowledge for a lifetime. So let them go to church services, let them lead good, moral lives, but steal their time, so they never grow to maturity."



## HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE, EMAIL, OR POSTAL MAIL)

**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 at your own pace.*

**NEW! 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.

- 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, 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—

## Featured Paper: Gospel Gleaner



HTH would like to recommend another excellent monthly paper entitled *Gospel Gleaner*. It is a sort of "best of the best" publication that collects good articles from a variety of sources. The subscription is free; there is no cost or obligation. Simply email, [mabelval@cei.net](mailto:mabelval@cei.net); call, 1/501-455-2548; or write, Mabelvale church of Christ, P. O. Box 345, Mabelvale, AR 72103.



## Featured Tracts:

Check the ones you want to study further and mail in (free):

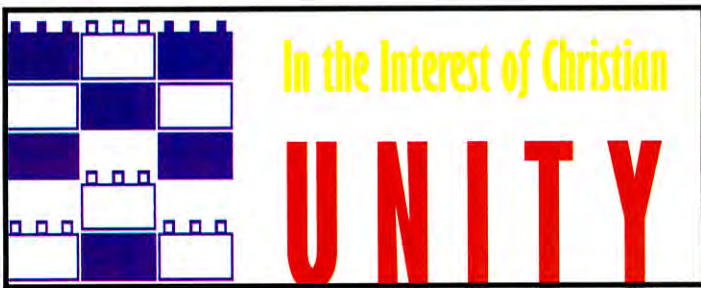
- Send me this month's packet (all materials)
- God's Lamb in the Devil's Zoo.** A 16-page examination of a thousand-year old prophecy about Jesus and His crucifixion.
- You Can't Get to Heaven Alone...** *New pamphlet!* An interesting look at God's multi-dimensional plan of salvation.
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day** (16-pg booklet). Ever feel you need another hour a day to finish your tasks? Here it is!
- Let Everyone be Slow to Anger** (16-pg. booklet). Many of us have problems with anger...this study can help.
- Did Jesus Make Intoxicating Wine?**
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Rules of Bible Study
- Accepting Bereavement
- Falling From Grace
- Choosing a Mate (youth)
- Are Babies Born in Sin?
- How We Got the Bible
- Is the Bible Really God's Word?
- Premillennialism
- What Must I Do to be Saved?
- Divorce
- What is the Church of Christ?
- Unity
- What About...the 1,000 Reign?
- Thief on the Cross?
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



## Featured Website for KIDS!

[www.DiscoveryMagazine.com](http://www.DiscoveryMagazine.com). Devoted exclusively to children, this site contains a sample issue of the magazine *Discovery*, downloadable artwork and exercises, instructional materials for classroom and home school teachers, "hand on" activities that teach children the truth about both God's Word and God's World, and responses to questions sent to "Digger Doug."





## Genericided-Christianity



By becoming too well-known a product can lose its distinctiveness. The Trademark Association calls this problem “genericide.” Marlin Connelly gives some examples:

- ▶ All facial tissue is called “Kleenex;”
- ▶ Any gelatin dessert is “jello;”
- ▶ Any clear, sticky tape is “scotch tape;”
- ▶ Any carbonated drink is a “coke;”
- ▶ Any adhesive bandage is a “band-aid.”

This has happened to the words “Christian” and “Christianity.” Once a brand name for a definite product, it is now used by the world for any kind of vague religiosity connected loosely with the historical Christ. Doctrines that in Bible times were black and white, are now gray and faded. Practices that were then commanded are now optional. The rigid New Testament ethical code is now fluid and accommodating.

Churches of Christ are calling all those who claim the name of Christ back to the Bible. Let’s be of “one mind,” “one judgment,” and have “no divisions” among us (1 Cor. 1:10). Let’s all preach one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all (Eph. 4:4-6). Let’s unite upon the solid truth of Scripture (1 Cor. 3:10, 11). Let’s put away the doctrines and commandments of men (Mk. 7:7-9). Let’s teach God’s plan of salvation, offer worship heavenward that reflects God’s desires rather than man’s entertainment preferences, and have lifestyles that reflect God’s holiness (e.g., Acts 8:35-40; Jn. 4:24; 1 Pet. 1:16). In short, let’s all be “one” (Jn. 17:21).

Don’t lose your trademark.

“But ye are a **chosen** generation, a **royal** priesthood, an **holy** nation, a **peculiar** people...” (1 Pet. 2:9).

## Anger is Counterproductive

Jim Taylor tells a story about his friend, Ralph Milton. One morning Ralph woke up at five o’clock to a noise that sounded like someone repairing boilers on his roof. Still in his pajamas, he went into the back yard to investigate. He found a woodpecker on the TV antenna, “pounding its little brains out on the metal pole.” Angry at the little creature who ruined his sleep, Ralph picked up a rock and threw it. The rock sailed over the house, and he heard a distant crash as it hit his car. In utter disgust, Ralph took a vicious kick at a clod of dirt, only to remember—too late—that he was still in his bare feet. Uncontrolled anger, as Ralph learned, can sometimes be its own reward. —*Currents*

“An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression” —Proverbs 29:22



## Aijeleth Shahar—God’s Deer



Animals in prophecy is an unlikely theme for a Bible study, but it proves fascinating. If the words *Aijeleth Shahar* in the title to Psalm 22 mean “the morning hart”<sup>1</sup> (as most scholars believe), and if Jesus is the one discussed in this psalm (almost all scholars believe), then Jesus must be God’s “deer.”

Animals played a role in the life of Jesus. He sent Peter to catch a fish with a coin in its mouth to use to pay the taxman (Mt. 17:27). He let some exorcised demons enter into a herd of swine, which then ran down a steep incline and drowned in the sea (Mt. 8:32). In His “victory parade,” He came into Jerusalem riding upon a colt, the foal of an ass. He sent His disciples to kill a Passover lamb for Him and them (Lk. 22:7, 8). He predicted that Peter would deny him three times before a rooster crowed twice (Mt. 26:34).<sup>2</sup>

To help us better understand the many facets of Jesus’ personality, He is sometimes compared to animals. He is the “firstborn of every creature” (Col. 1:15). In the Old Testament, He was prefigured in the scapegoat that carried the people’s sins into the wilderness (Lk. 16), and the brazen serpent upon which the people looked to be free (Num. 21:8,9). As to His meekness and sacrifice, He is called the “lamb of God” (Jn. 1:29, 36). As to His strength and authority, He is called the “lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev. 5:5). As a conqueror, He comes riding upon a white horse (Rev. 6:2).

The church had long seen the Messiah “like a roe, or a young hart, upon the mountains” (Song 2:17) that “heard the voice of her Beloved,” and cried out, “Behold, he cometh, leaping upon the mountains skipping upon the hills” (2:8).

The figure of Jesus as a deer is intriguing. Picture Jesus’ life in terms of a sleek, meek, and beautiful deer. He was startled by the huntsmen at the dawn of the day. Herod began hunting Jesus while He was just a small fawn (Mt. 2:16). Satan next attacked Him in the wilderness of temptation (Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4). After His first sermon in His hometown, huntsmen gathered about Him ready for the kill, but He was too fleet of foot, and escaped (Lk. 4:29). Along the way, many hateful men joined in pursuit. Herod took another shot at Him (Lk. 13:31). “The people” tried to bring Him down (Jn. 7:20). The Jews “sought the more to kill him” when Jesus healed a crippled man on a Sabbath day (Jn. 8:15). As hunters have noticed deer doing during hunting season, God’s “deer” at times avoided areas where He knew the hunters were (Jn. 7:1). As they encircled their quarry at the end, the chief priests, scribes, and elders gathered at the high priest’s palace to plan their strategy (Mt. 26:3, 4). They finally caught Him in a night hunt in somebody else’s garden.

The hunter’s success was short-lived. God’s deer leaped from the grave three days later to live forevermore! —Allen Webster

### Endnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Deer    <sup>2</sup> Someone said the reason preachers eat so much chicken is to get that rooster back for telling on Peter!