

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart

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

Volume 8, Number 2

A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

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

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –
Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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

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Let no man despise thy
youth; but be thou an
example of the
believers...

1 Timothy 4:12

Signs for the Times

ALLEN WEBSTER



How many wasted miles, foolish injuries, and senseless deaths could be avoided if only people read signs? God must think the same thing, as He watches men fly down the devil's highway ignoring all *His* road signs.

STOP! "...cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isa. 1:16-17). "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge" (Prov. 19:27). "...cease from thine own wisdom" (Prov. 23:4). "Cease not to give thanks..." (Eph. 1:16).

YIELD! "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21). "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5). "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

ENTER! "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Mt. 7:13-14). "For as many of you as have been baptized **into** Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

DO NOT ENTER! "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" (Prov. 4:14-15). "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psa. 1:1). "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul" (Prov. 22:24-25). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (14:12).

PROCEED WITH CAUTION! "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil" (Prov. 4:26-27). "...the way of the transgressor is hard" (Prov. 13:15). "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident" (Prov. 14:15-16). "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Lk. 14:28). "A prudent man forseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Prov. 22:3). "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." (Mt. 6:13). "Every purpose is established by counsel..." (Prov. 20:18). "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous run-

neth to into it, and is safe" (Prov. 18:10).

ONE WAY! "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:13).

DO NOT PASS! "...A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side" (Lk. 10:30,31). "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard" (Prov. 21:13). "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" (Prov. 19:17).

WATCH FOR CHILDREN. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them...But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Mt. 18:2, 6). "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

WATCH FOR CURVES! "...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 11:12). "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth" (Prov. 24:16-17).

NO U TURN! "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62). "Remember Lot's wife" (Lk. 17:32). "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Heb. 10:38). "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Pet. 2:20, 21).

It pays to watch for signs on the heavenly highway!

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

The Hottest Spice



The hottest spice is believed to be the Red "Savina" Habanero pepper developed by GNS Spices of Walnut, California. A single grain will produce detectable heat in 1,272 pounds of bland sauce.

Is your good influence detectable in a crowd? Jesus spoke of influence in the Sermon on the Mount: "Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savor...it is good for nothing but to be cast out..." (Mt. 5:13, 14).

We are God's "spice" to influence His world for good. There are two ways that we may influence others: by words and by deeds. People are more affected by what they see than what they hear. What do they see in your life and mine? Do they see devotion to Christ, shown by faithful attendance at Bible study and worship? Do they see someone truly striving to live like Christ, or do they see someone who is indifferent and compromising? Will God say to us on that final day, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" or will He say, "Depart from me, I never knew you" (Mt. 25:12)?

—Adapted from Kenneth Davis

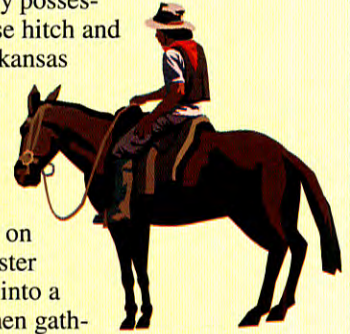
One-liner Church Wisdom

- ▶ People are funny. They want the front of the bus, middle of the road, and the back of the church building.
- ▶ Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door again and again.
- ▶ Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ...until you try to get into their pews.
- ▶ Some want to serve God, but only as advisers.
- ▶ The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly and mosquito come close.
- ▶ When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- ▶ Quit griping about the church; if it was perfect you wouldn't fit in.
- ▶ Not only are the sins of the father visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers.
- ▶ To make a long story short, don't tell it.
- ▶ If your left hand doesn't know what your right one is doing, you should consider running for a job in Washington.
- ▶ Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

"A merry heart doeth good..." —Proverbs 17:22

A Caring Cowboy

A family, all nine of them, loaded all their earthly possessions into a covered wagon pulled by a four-horse hitch and set out to join fourteen other families leaving Arkansas headed for Texas and the promise of a new land. Rolling through rainstorms, hail, blistering hot days, fighting off insects at night, the wagons rolled across the plains of what is today Oklahoma.



One afternoon a cloud of dust appeared on the horizon behind the group, and the wagon master halted the column and drew them close together into a circle. The men reached for rifles while the women gathered the children together into the center of the wagons. In a few minutes it became apparent that the dust was coming from a LONE rider, carrying a parcel across his saddle.

Slowing his horse to walking gait, the man called out that he meant no harm. The horse stopped, the man got down, reached for the bundle and unwrapped a small child no more than two years old.

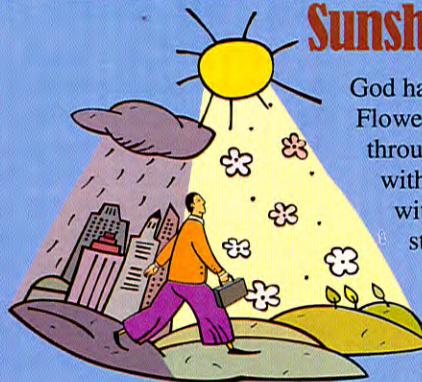
A cry of recognition tore from the throat of the baby's mother when she saw her seventh child standing beside the strange man. The child had not been missed, but he had fallen from the wagon and the cowboy had found him sitting in the dirt and sifting it through his fingers...waiting for someone to come back for him.

How many of us are on life's "wagon train" headed for the promised land, and so intent on our own journey that we do not miss those of God's children who fall off along the way?

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"

—Galatians 6:1

Sunshine and Rain



God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives
through; God hath not promised sun
without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace
without pain. But God that promised
strength for each day, Rest for the
laborer, light on the way; Grace
for the trial, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

"I am with you always..." —Mt. 28:20

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| God's Grace | — Ephesians 2:8 |
| Christ's Blood | — Romans 5:9 |
| The Holy Spirit's Gospel | — Romans 1:16 |
| Sinner's Faith | — Acts 16:31 |
| Sinner's Repentance | — Luke 13:3 |
| Sinner's Confession | — Romans 10:10 |
| Sinner's Baptism | — 1 Peter 3:21 |
| Christian's Work | — James 2:24 |
| Christian's Hope | — Romans 8:24 |
| Christian's Endurance | — Revelation 2:10 |





THE HOME PAGE

Lucky Guy

On her golden wedding anniversary, my grandmother revealed the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to choose ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook," she explained. A guest asked her to name some of the faults. "To tell the truth," she replied, "I never did get around to listing them. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the ten.'"

"love is patient, longsuffering, kind" —1 Cor. 13

The Stork Brought It

—and other bits of wisdom

The children of Family Circus were in a lively discussion about babies. Two truths were unleashed by the little "experts." "Storks don't bring babies. They come UPS." And, "Babies are connected to their mothers by a biblical cord." Good insight!

—Houston Chronicle, May 1 & 3, 1992

- ▶ When a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or the wife is.
- ▶ A perfect wife is one who helps the husband with the dishes. (Remember, no husband has ever been shot while he was doing dishes.)
- ▶ New mother to friend: "He's eating solids now—keys, bits of paper, pencils..."
- ▶ A boy asked his father, "I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her. Is that true?" Dad: "That happens in most countries, son."
- ▶ A man is seldom as smart as his mother thinks, or as dumb as his mother-in-law says. Someone else said, "No man is really successful until his mother-in-law admits it."
- ▶ Another reason for unhappy marriages is that men can't fool their wives like they could their mothers.
- ▶ Love is one long sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock.

Do Children Bother You When You Preach?

On occasion, I am asked the questions, "Can you really see what is going on 'in the pews,'" and "Do babies and little children bother you when you are preaching?" The answers to these two questions are "yes" and "no." "Yes," I can see what is going on, and "No," the kids do not really bother me. I remember what Tom Holland told us young preacher students when we were in "Preparation and Delivery of Sermons" at Freed-Hardeman University, "What would you do if you were two years old, and everyone and everything around you was bigger than you? You would twist around, and crane your neck, and fidget all over the place to see what was going on!"

Besides, to me, babies and little children represent the future of the church. They say to visitors that this congregation has a bright future, at least in potential. As Wimpy Jones said, "I would rather hear babies crying than old men snoring." All of us have been "there" at one time or another, and we can all sympathize with a mother or father when they are doing their best to control a little child in worship, a child that cannot understand why we are doing this or that, or why that fella (namely, me) is speaking longer than a TV cartoon segment (about fifteen minutes).

As parents, we need to have as our goal the development of our children's love for God. We can do this by teaching them why and how to worship God. Following are some excellent suggestions that we can use to involve our children in worship and help them in understanding what it means to worship God. (I am indebted to John Vaughn for the idea of this article, as well as for these following suggestions. I am indebted to my wife for instilling within our boys the behavior they hopefully exhibit in worship. She almost always had this task alone, as I was up preaching!)

PREPARE THE CHILD. Before Sunday, tell them what will be going on in worship, and why we sing, pray, preach, give, and partake of the Lord's Supper.

INVOLVE THE CHILD. When we sing or read the Bible, help him locate the song/passage in the book. Then, point out the words as we sing/read.

SIT CLOSE UP. Some may think that they need to sit in the back so as not to disturb others. There may be times for this (e.g., sickness), but why not sit up at the front so he can see and hear what is going on in the worship?

EXPRESS JOY IN WORSHIPPING GOD. Children will pick up on the attitudes you have in worship, and will imitate them, good or bad. I have observed that worship patterns (frequency of attendance, singing or non-singing, etc.) are readily imitated by children as they grow up.

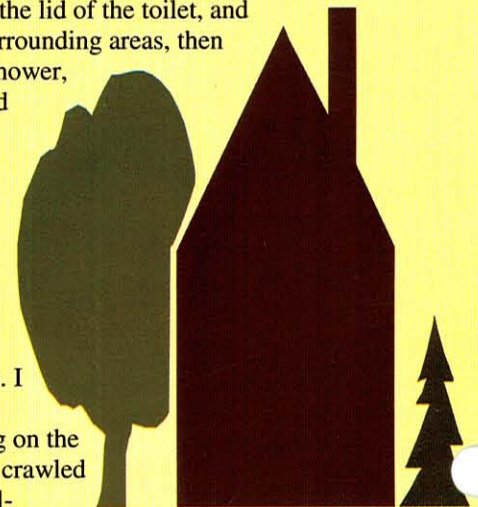
BE PATIENT. A child is not an adult, and should not be expected to act as an adult. Help him worship God on his level of understanding.

—Don Williams, Killen, Alabama

Just Play Dumb (or Dad's Trick #44)

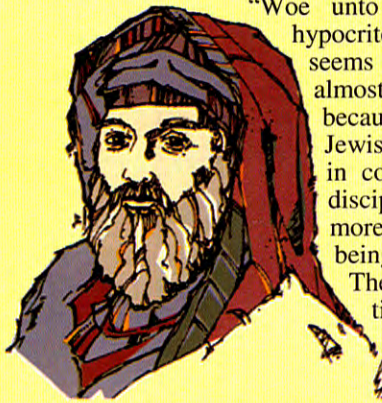
In January 1992, at 1:00 a.m., one very tired mom (me!) heard a cough. I bolted from my sleep to a standing/running position and in one leap made it to the bathroom and flipped on the light to find my 6-year old daughter sitting on the edge of the tub. The stuff from her tummy was all over the floor, the lid of the toilet, and herself. I proceeded to clean the floor and surrounding areas, then prepared to wash Sarah. As I turned on the shower, Sarah said, "Mom," with a wrinkled nose and a hesitant voice, "I threw up on Collett too." Collett is her 9-year-old sister, who happens to share the bed. I closed the curtain and ran to see. I met Collett in the hallway, and she said Sarah had thrown up on her. I turned on the bedroom light and much to my amazement, there was the dreaded sight of Sarah's dinner on five blankets, two pillows, two sheets, a baby blanket, and Collett's pajamas. I bundled it all up into the bottom sheet and placed it at the back door. I put fresh bedding on the bed and placed a bucket beside Sarah, then I crawled back in my own bed. At which time, my well-covered, half-asleep husband inquired, "What's wrong?"

"She looketh well to the ways of her household..." —Proverbs 31:27





Who Were the Pharisees?



“Woe unto you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites!” (Matthew 23:13). It seems that the word *hypocrite* is almost a synonym for *Pharisee*, because the members of this Jewish sect seemed to always be in conflict with Jesus and the disciples. But there was much more to being a Pharisee than being a haughty hypocrite. They emerged from persecution about two hundred years before Christ, emphasizing the importance of keeping the law and

traditions. Their number included Simeon, who held the baby Jesus, Zacharias, Gamaliel, Nicodemus, and Saul of Tarsus.

Pharisees were considered the strictest sect of the Jews because each member had taken a pledge to devote his life to keeping every point of the law. Because of their piety, they were generally well-respected by the people. Jesus acknowledged, “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat” (Mt. 23:2). Many were also scribes (men with official status who had been formally trained in rabbinic law), so the scribes and Pharisees are often mentioned together.

While their devotion to the law and to the traditions about the law made them zealous students of the Torah (books of Moses) and the prophets, many became legalists concerning their traditions. It was in their traditions that they strayed most from God’s will.

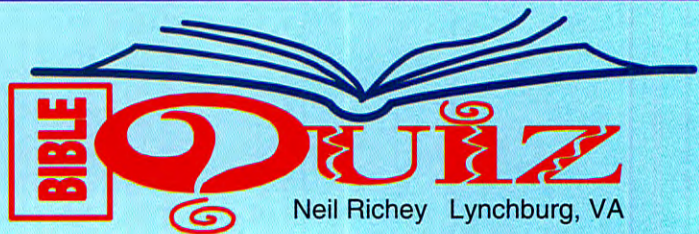
Their greatest conflicts with Christ came in two areas. First, while the Pharisees often ignored the plain meaning of the Scripture when it conflicted with the teaching of the rabbis, Jesus held to a strict interpretation of the Scriptures. For example, the Pharisees allowed many grounds for divorce, but Jesus restricted divorce to the one ground of adultery (Mt. 19:3-9). And Jesus defended His healing on the Sabbath as correct, “the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath” (Mark 2:27), even though this conflicted with the Sabbath prohibitions of the Pharisaic rabbis.

Second, Jesus called for a much higher standard of righteous living that truly came from the heart, applying the Scriptures to real life. The Pharisees were so tied to “keeping the rules” of their traditions that they thought they could attain righteousness by all of their elaborate rituals concerning cleanliness, tithing, and prayer, with little concern for the inner man. For this reason, Jesus told them, “Ye are like unto whitened sepulchres [whitewashed tombs], which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness” (Mt. 23:27). While traditions are important, they cannot replace the authority of Scripture.

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

Reader’s Question:

In a recent issue you said, “The ‘bloody sweat’ (*hematidrosis*) experienced in the Garden had likely rendered Jesus’ skin very tender.” Are we sure Jesus experienced hematidrosis? **Answer:** No, Luke 22:44 says, “...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Many scholars and medical professionals believe that this refers to this rare condition, but the text does not demand that interpretation. It could simply be sweat falling as blood would fall to the ground.



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

I Stand Amazed (Miracles of Christ)

1. What was the Lord’s first recorded miracle (Jn. 2:1-11)? _____
2. Which of the Lord’s miracles is the only one to be found in all four accounts of the Gospel (Jn. 6:1-15; Mt. 14:15-21; Mk. 6:35-44; Lk. 9:12-17)? _____
3. What miracle did Jesus perform at sea in Matthew 14:22-33? _____
4. What miracle did the Lord perform at sea when His disciples said, “Lord, save us: we perish” (Mt. 8:18-27)? _____
5. When the Lord “put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean,” what disease did He heal (Mt. 8:1-4)? _____
6. How was the woman “having an issue of blood twelve years” healed (Lk. 8:43-48)? _____
7. Which of Peter’s family did the Lord heal (Lk. 4:38-39)? _____
8. What blind man did the Lord heal in John 9:1-41? _____
9. The Lord healed what soldier’s ear (Jn. 18:10-11)? _____
10. How did some respond when the Lord cast out a devil (Lk. 11:14-15)? _____
11. Once an unclean devil said to Jesus, “Let us alone; what have we to do with thee...? Art thou come to destroy us?...” What was His response (Lk. 4:33-35)? _____
12. How old was Jairus’ daughter, whom Jesus raised (Mk. 5:21f)? _____
13. What did the Lord say to the widow’s son who was dead, and what did the son do (Lk. 7:11-17)? _____

Why I Believe

1. I believe in God, because to not believe in God is to play the role of a _____ (Psalm 53:1).
2. I believe in God, because “The _____ declare the glory of God; and the _____ shewth his _____” (Psa. 19:1).
3. I believe in heaven, because Jesus said “I go to _____ a _____ for you” (John 14:1-3).
4. I believe in hell, because John wrote, “And whosoever was not found _____ in the book of _____ was cast into the lake of _____” (Rev. 20:15).
5. I believe in the resurrection, because he “_____ himself _____” (Acts 1:3); and he said, “I am he that _____, and was _____; and, behold, I am _____ for _____” (Rev. 1:18).
6. I believe in the new birth, because Jesus said, “Except a man be _____, he cannot see the _____ of God” (Jn. 3:3).
7. I believe in the Holy Spirit, because it is the Spirit of God that reveals the “_____ of God” (1 Cor. 2:11).
8. I believe in the Second Coming, because “Behold, he _____ with clouds; and _____ shall see him...” (Rev. 1:7).
9. I believe in the Second Coming, because Jesus said, “I will _____” (Jn. 14:1-3).
10. The bottom line – I believe because the _____ says so.

Answers to last issue: Answers to last issue: GOD’S DOINS’ THROUGH ELISHA:

1. Jordan; 2. Widow; 3. Shunammite; 4. Naaman; 5. Gehazi; 6. iron; **KINGS OF CHAOS:** 1. Solomon; 2. Rehoboam; 3. Jeroboam; 4. Asa; 5. Elah; 6. Ahab; 7. Ahaziah; 8. Jehoram; 9. Meshah; 10. Joash; 11. Jehoahaz; 12. Amaziah; 13. Uzziah; 14. Ahaz; 15. Zechariah; 16. Menzhem; 17. Manasseh; 18. Jehoiakim; 19. Jehoiah-chin; 20. Zedekiah.



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.

Making Sense of the Old Testament

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



SOME BOOKS YOU CAN TAKE OR LEAVE—one way or the other, and it won't make much difference. The Bible is not in that category. If you “leave” it, you've lost the most important body of information in the world—and the key to your access to heaven. If you “take” it (to be the Word of God), you labor under the serious responsibility of understanding as much of it as you possibly can.

For many, though, understanding the Bible is a task so seemingly daunting that “making sense of it” lies beyond them—at least *in their minds*. The wonderful fact is, however, if one has a grasp of a few basic concepts of the *plan* of the Bible, he can, in a relatively brief time-period, achieve an understanding of the overall design of the sacred volume, and watch the pieces fall delightfully into place. God has not made His Word so difficult to comprehend that it lies beyond the person of average intellect.

OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS: I. THE BOOKS OF LAW

The Hebrew people were accustomed to dividing the Old Testament Scriptures into segments for convenience sake. Jesus referred to “the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms” (Lk. 24:44), or “the law” and “the prophets” (Mt. 5:17), or “Moses and the prophets” (Lk. 16:31). In modern times, for expediency sake, we categorized the Old Testament as: Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, with this final segment being viewed as Major and Minor Prophets (due to their relative lengths). A brief consideration of each of these categories can be helpful to the Bible student.

The Law. The first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy, often called the Pentateuch) constitute the Law section. **Genesis** is the “book of beginnings,” providing the record of the world's origin, the creation of the human family, man's fall into sin, and the commencement of the unfolding of Jehovah's scheme of redemption. It especially focuses on the roles of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in the divine plan. **Exodus** tells of the giving of the law of Moses to the Israelite people, and how that law defined moral conduct, the regulations for worshipping Jehovah, etc. **Leviticus** gives special emphasis to the implementation of a sacrificial system and a priesthood, all of which previewed, of course, the atoning work of Christ centuries later. **Numbers** was a general record of Israel's wilderness wandering (as a result of their disbelief) for some four decades. And **Deuteronomy** constituted a rehearsal of the law for the second generation that was to enter the land of Canaan following the death of Moses. These documents are wonderfully foundational to the balance of Hebrew history.

—Wayne Jackson, Stockton, CA



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

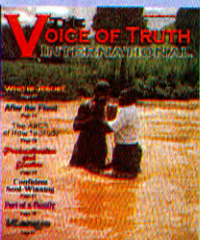
(PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE LISTED ON THE FRONT)

- YES!** I want to start learning more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free...work on your own at home.*
- Explorer Series: Journey #1 (Christian Evidences for Kids)** Bible Curriculum for children 6-12... Thirteen well-written and beautifully illustrated lessons...can be completed one at a time at the child's own pace...Great for home devotionals, home schoolers, and Bible classes.
- 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—

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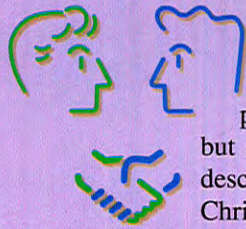


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Becoming "One"



In describing the marital relationship, Jesus taught that the husband and wife become one, yea, to the point that "they are no more twain, but one flesh" (Mt. 19:5, 6). Even so, in describing the close relationship among Christians, again, the word "one" was used. There is one New Testament church (Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4) and her members are to live as one, that is, in harmony enjoying a relationship of being close to each other (cf. Rm. 12:10,16; Gal. 5:13; 6:2; Eph. 4:2,32; 5:19,21; 1 Thes. 3:12; 4:18; Heb. 10:24; Jas. 4:11; 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:9).

TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD CHRISTIANS LIVE IN HARMONY? *According to "Christ's prayer for the church," Christians are to be one "even as" Christ and his Father are one (John 17:21-23).* A beautiful concord existed between Jesus and his heavenly Father (cf. Jn. 10:38; 14:9-11; 17:2,4,6,7,8,9,11,12,22,24). They were of the same mind (Jn. 6:38). They spoke the same things (Jn. 7:16; 12:48-9). They manifested the same love (Jn. 3:16; Gal. 2:20). In essence, they were co-workers (Jn. 5:36). Even so, this concord is to exist among Christians (cf. Acts 2:47; 4:32). They are to be of the same mind (Rm. 12:16; 15:5,6; 2 Cor. 13:11). They are to speak the same things doctrinally (1 Cor. 1:10; cf. Rm. 15:6). They are also to love one another with the same love (Phil. 2:2; cf. 1 Cor. 12:25, 26). They, too, are to be co-workers (2 Cor. 6:1).

According to "Christ's prayer for the church," Christians are to be one even as Christ and the Christian are one (John 17:23). Note the phrase of Jesus, "I in them." A togetherness is shared between Christ and the Christian. The Christian dwells in Christ (Rm. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), and Christ, through His Word, dwells in the Christian (Cor. 3:15, 16; 1 Jn. 2:24). Christians are "made alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:5); they are raised up with Him and sit with Him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), being created in Him for good works (Eph. 2:10). Even so, a togetherness is to exist among Christians. They are to be perfected together (1 Cor. 1:10), workers together (2 Cor. 6:1), be together in heart (2 Cor. 7:3), being framed together (Eph. 2:21), builded together (Eph. 2:22), fitly joined together (Eph. 4:16), and knit together (Col. 2:2). Paul's words could sum up the extent of fellowship which is to exist among Christians and Christ: "Jesus Christ...died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thes. 5:10).

—condensed from
Harmony Among the Heirs of Heaven
Dan Winkler, Nashville, Tennessee



Tell Me More About JESUS

Jesus Surprises People

"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" —Isaiah 53:2

It was expected that the Son of God should make a public entry with pomp and observation. But instead He grew up before God, not before men. He grew as a tender plant, silently and insensibly, and without any show (cf. Mk. 4:27). He rose as a tender plant, which one would have thought might easily have been crushed or frost-bitten. The contempt in which Christ was held by the Jews because of the "averageness" of His appearance was foreshadowed in Isaiah 53.



There was His low condition to which He submitted in becoming man (Phil. 2:1-5). He abased and emptied Himself. The entry He made into the world and the character He wore in it were in no way agreeable to the ideas which the Jews had formed of the Messiah, but quite the reverse. It was expected that His extraction should be great and noble. He was to be the son of David, of a family that had a "name like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth" (2 Sam. 7:9). But Jesus sprang out of this illustrious family when it was reduced. Joseph, who was His supposed father, was but a poor carpenter, perhaps a shop-carpenter, for most of His friends were fishermen. This is what is meant in Isaiah by "a root out of a dry ground." He was born of a despicable family in the north in Galilee; of a family which, like a dry and desert ground, nothing green (great) was expected; in a country of such small repute that it was thought no good thing could come out of it (Jn. 1:46).

It was expected that He should have some uncommon beauty in His face and person, which should charm the eye, attract the heart, and raise the expectations of all who saw Him. When Moses was born, he was exceeding fair (Ex. 2:2); David was of beautiful countenance and goodly to look to (1 Sam. 16:12); but our Lord Jesus had nothing of that to recommend Him. Not that He was deformed or misshapen, but He had "no form or comeliness," nothing extraordinary, which one might have thought to meet with in the countenance of an incarnate Deity.

It was expected that He should live a pleasant life and have full enjoyment of all the delights of the sons of men. But, to the contrary, He was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). It was not only His last scene that was tragic, but His whole life was in large measure miserable—He was unsettled and "had not where to lay His head," lived upon alms, was opposed and menaced, and "endured the contradiction of sinners against himself" (Heb. 12:3). We never read that He laughed out loud but often that He wept (e.g., Jn. 11:35). Grief was His intimate acquaintance. For He acquainted Himself with others' grievances and sympathized with them. In His transfiguration He talked about His own decease, and in His triumph wept over Jerusalem.

—Author Unknown