

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
us via email at: info@housetohouse.com
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I PRAISE YOU



BECAUSE I AM FEARFULLY

&

WONDERFULLY MADE.

Psalm 139:14

SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

ALLEN WEBSTER

Some religious people feel that as long as one has a sincere heart, the "little" details do not make much difference. Yet we don't think this way about other matters which are not of eternal consequence. Consider:

If 99.9 percent is good enough, then....

- ▶ Two million documents will be lost by the IRS this year.
- ▶ 811,000 faulty rolls of 35 mm film will be sold this year.
- ▶ 22,000 checks will be deducted from the wrong bank accounts in the next 60 minutes.
- ▶ 1,314 phone calls will be misplaced by telecommunication services every minute.
- ▶ 12 babies will be given to the wrong parents each day.
- ▶ 268,500 defective tires and 14,208 defective personal computers will be shipped this year.
- ▶ 403,260 tax returns will be returned incorrectly this year.
- ▶ 2,488,200 books will go out every 12 months with the wrong cover.
- ▶ 5,517,200 cases of soft drinks produced in the next 12 months will be flatter than a bad tire.
- ▶ Two plane landings daily at O'Hare Airport will be unsafe.
- ▶ 3,056 copies of tomorrow's *Wall Street Journal* will be missing one of the three sections.
- ▶ 18,322 pieces of mail will be mishandled next hour.
- ▶ 291 pacemaker operations will be botched this year.
- ▶ 880,000 credit cards in circulation will turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips.
- ▶ \$9,690 will be spent today, next Thursday, and every day in the future on defective, often unsafe sporting equipment.
- ▶ 55 malfunctioning automatic teller machines will be installed in the next 12 months.
- ▶ 20,000 incorrect prescriptions will be written this year.
- ▶ 114,500 mismatched shoes will be shipped this year.
- ▶ \$761,900 will be spent in the next 12 months on tapes and compact discs that won't play.
- ▶ 107 incorrect medical procedures will be performed today.
- ▶ 315 entries in Webster's Dictionary will turn out to be misspelled (*Insight*, Synchrude Canada, Ltd.)

A LITTLE FAITH IS INSUFFICIENT. Jesus noticed the "small stuff." He commented on the fall of a sparrow (Mt. 10:29-31), a vine and branches (Jn. 15:1-5), a lily (Mt. 6:28), the cry of need in a noisy crowd (Mt. 5:25-34), a cup of cold water (Mt. 10:42), and a widow's mite (Mk. 12:42). He records and rewards the "little" things (Mt. 25:31-46; 16:26; Rev. 20:11-15). One small thing that brought His comment on four separate occasions was "little faith." Worry (Mt. 6:30), fear (Mt. 8:26), doubt (Mt. 14:31), and an unwillingness to trust the Lord to take care of them (Mt. 16:8), all led the Lord to reprove them for having too little faith. Have we outgrown worry—or do we still lose sleep over things the Lord will handle? Have we conquered fear—or do we sometimes feel ourselves sinking back into it as Peter sank into the Sea of Galilee? Have we overcome doubt—or do we sometimes wonder if God will keep His promises? Do we completely trust the Lord to take care of us—or do we find ourselves stubbornly unwilling to let Him handle His part?

A LITTLE FAULT MAY RUIN A CHARACTER. A person may be very talented, but have one fault, and be a failure. Did you ever hear someone say, "I like that fellow, except he is always talking about himself?" Or, "She is a good person, but she is lazy." Or, "He will give you the shirt off his back, but he's bad

to hit the bottle." A little pride (Prov. 16:18; 29:23), envy (Jas. 3:16; Rm. 1:29; 1 Cor. 3:3), greed (Acts 5; cf. Judas), lust (Mt. 5:27-29), or malice (Eph. 4:31; 1 Pet. 2:1; 1 Cor. 14:20; 1 Jn. 3:20) can lead to big problems. A little social drinking (Prov. 20:1) or being a little "critical" (Mt. 7:1,2) can bring on great consequences. The tongue is a little member, but it can kindle great strife (Jas. 3:5).

A LITTLE SIN CAN CONDEMN US. God watches the "small stuff." Jesus said, "...Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful *in a very little*, have thou authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17; cf. Mt. 25:21). James said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (2:10). Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, suffered inglorious defeat upon the battlefield and dogs licked his blood (1 Kgs. 16-18). It is interesting to note the beginning of his downfall: "...Ahab worshipped Baal *a little*" (2 Kgs. 10:18; cf. 1 Kgs. 16:31; Ezek. 16:47; Ecc. 10:1).

A LITTLE FALSE DOCTRINE CAN POISON THE SOUL. God has always been a stickler for doctrine. The word *doctrine(s)* is found 49 times in the New Testament. It is the key word of three books in the New Testament—First Timothy, Second Timothy, and Titus (1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 1:7, 13; 4:3; Tit. 1:9, 13; 2:1,2,8). He expects us to "test our teachers" on doctrine (1 Jn. 4:1). Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Luke 16:10). On the last page of the Bible, God wrote: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18,19; cf. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6).

"Small Stuff" can lead to big trouble. What about a decimal point out of place? One dollar lost in nation-wide sales can bankrupt a company overnight. What about a spark in the wrong place? What about a ball bearing or gas filter not functioning properly? What about a little hole in your tire? Like little acorns make the mighty oaks, little departures from the truth make big digressions (cf. 2 Jn. 9-11).

Solomon said, "Little foxes destroy the vines" (Song. 2:15), which relates to the Jewish agricultural economy. Grapes were a staple item, so watchmen protected vineyards from thieving animals. Sometimes a watchman guarded against bears, while foxes entered undetected and ruined the crop. So it is in many churches. We guard against what we call "big" departures from the faith, but dismiss small ones thinking they make little difference. A combination of foxes may do as much damage as a bear. The poet phrased it:

A pebble in the steamlet scant
hath changed the course of many a river.
A droplet on a tiny plant
hath warped the giant oak forever.

No man has made the right approach to God until he understands the importance of small things. "Sweat the small stuff"—it matters.

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

This list has made the rounds on the Internet and in some church bulletins.

Dear GOD,

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. —Larry

Dear GOD,

If you watch me in Church Sunday, I'll show You my new shoes. — Mickey

Dear GOD,

I bet it is very hard for You to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. —Nan

Dear GOD,

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay?—Neal

Dear GOD,

Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. —Joyce

Dear GOD,

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. That was cool. —Eugene

Dear GOD,

I think about You sometimes even when I'm not praying. —Elliott

Dear GOD,

We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So I bet he stole your idea. — Sincerely, Donna

Dear GOD,

The bad people laughed at Noah—"You made an ark on dry land." But he was smart, he stuck with You. That's what I would do. — Eddie

What strikes me every time I see it is the sincere honesty and innocence of the children. I am reminded of our need to have "child-like" faith (Mt. 18:1-5). Like the child named Eddie, I am going to stick with God. Will you? —Scott McCown

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	...Matthew 24:13



GUARD YOUR OAK TREE

My grandma has always meant a lot to me. She could always find something for us kids to do when we went down to her house. She made great chicken-fried steak and mashed potatoes. She always had a smile and a piece of Dentyne for us at church, and if we ever needed some paper to write on, we knew she had it somewhere in that purse.

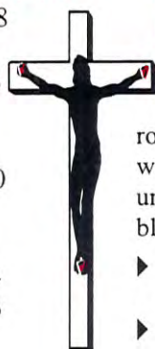
Of course, now I love my grandparents for the people they are, their love, and the example they have handed down to us youngsters. One lesson I still remember came while Grandma was telling me about the time her house burned down when she was a small child. Her parents and older siblings were desperately trying to carry things out while the house was burning. Fearful that she would get hurt, someone wisely charged grandma, "Child, you go guard our oak tree; stand by it and don't let go of it for anything!" Grandma told me with a chuckle, "Wild horses couldn't have moved me away from that oak tree! I really felt important, and I guarded it with my life."

Everybody needs an oak tree to guard! We all need to feel like our lives matter and our efforts count for something. Without a sense of purpose, life is meaningless. That is why the Bible assures us and encourages us in the work we are trying to do for the Lord and His cause. Consider these passages:

- ▶ "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).
- ▶ "And let us not grow weary in well doing, for IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP IF WE FAINT NOT. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially they of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:9-10).

Whatever tasks and opportunities God has given you, meet them with enthusiasm and commitment. May our ceaseless prayer be, "God give me an oak tree, and help me stand my post!" There is no higher purpose in life than doing what you can for God, and there is no work that will be more richly rewarded. Guard your oak tree. —Clyde H. Slimp

HE'S THERE



The Roman general Pompey noticed how the Jews fought to defend their temple. He was anxious to see what was in their most sacred room, the Holy of Holies. He was surprised to see that it was empty. He wondered why they fought so hard to defend an empty room! He didn't understand the Bible's description of God as "eternal, immortal, invisible" (1 Tim. 1:17).

- ▶ Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream of things that never were and say, why not? —George Bernard Shaw
- ▶ Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work. —Daniel H. Burnham



The
HOMIE
PAGE

Compiled by Wade Webster

Three Pictures

Tim Kimmel is a well known author. He does much of his work at a large roll-top desk in his office. On the top of this desk are a unique set of pictures. To the far left is a photo of the place where he was born—Jamison Memorial Hospital. At the far right is a picture of the place where he will most likely be buried—Graceland Cemetery. Between those two pictures is a photograph of his wife and children. It's a daily reminder of where life began, where it will end, and what really matters during the in-between time. Life is short, so seize the moments with your family.

"...life...is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" — Jas. 4:14

Parents Understand Each Other

While camping in a national park, Bill struck up a conversation with Ray, who was shaving in the campground restroom. Bill asked Ray what he did for a living. Ray replied, "I'm a juvenile rehabilitation counselor." After a little pause, Bill said, "Yep, I'm a parent too."

—Reader's Digest, Nov. 1992, p. 64

Kids make great parrots—especially when you don't want them to repeat what you say. One father learned the hard way when he invited his boss over for dinner. He was hoping to score a few extra points with his superior but ended up losing it all when his young son asked the boss, "Where are your cards? Dad says you're not playing with a full deck." —Parade, March 10, 1991, p. 11

- ▶ It is easier for a father to have children, than for children to have a father.
- ▶ A little girl looked her dad in the face and said, "You're better than just a father. You're a DADDY!"
- ▶ The trouble is that we think that we have time.
- ▶ Soft is the heart of a child, do not harden it.
- ▶ Children are a poor man's riches.

Endangered Species

Forget the spotted owl and the snail darter; responsible fathers are a far more important endangered species:

- ▶ About 36 percent of American children live apart from their biological father.
- ▶ About 70 percent of juveniles and young adults in long-term correctional facilities did not live with both parents while growing up.
- ▶ Fatherlessness is judged a contributing factor in as many as 3 out of 4 teen suicides and 4 of 5 teen psychiatric admissions.
- ▶ More than 30 percent of births today are to unmarried women; most of these children will always live in mother-only homes.
- ▶ About half of all children in the United States will experience parental divorce.

The research of Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner showed the dichotomy of how much time fathers think they spend with their children and how much time they actually share. Fathers were asked to estimate how much time they spent playing and interacting with their small children. Estimates averaged from fifteen to twenty minutes per day. Microphones were then attached to the fathers, and the results were astounding: "The average dad-child time was thirty-seven seconds a day." This reminds us a little of the Genesis record of one father: "And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money" (31:14,15). One cartoonist drew the characterization of a young boy standing next to his father's recliner. The father was engrossed in the sports page, while the impatient boy pounded the leather of his baseball glove. Finally the energetic little guy said, "Play with me or trade me!"

Fathers can make a difference! The Bible gives them a lot of credit by assuming they can bring their children "up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). First-graders were asked to draw a picture of God in their Sunday School class. Their finished products contained some interesting theology. One child depicted God in the form of a brightly colored rainbow. Another presented Him as an old man coming out of the clouds. An intense little boy drew God with a remarkable resemblance to Superman. The best snapshot came from a little girl. She said, "I didn't know what God looked like, so I just drew a picture of my daddy."

A group of young boys were debating whose father was the best. This discussion highlighted who their fathers knew. The first boy started the debate by claiming his father knew the mayor. He was soon topped by the second boy who said, "That's nothing. My dad knows the governor." The stakes were getting pretty high, and the eavesdropping father wondered what his young son would say about him. The little boy shot back, "So what! My dad knows God!" Would your son say the same thing? May our children always be able to say, "My dad knows God!" Someone said, "Children are not likely to see much of a Father in God, unless they see something of God in their father" (cf. Lk. 1:6).

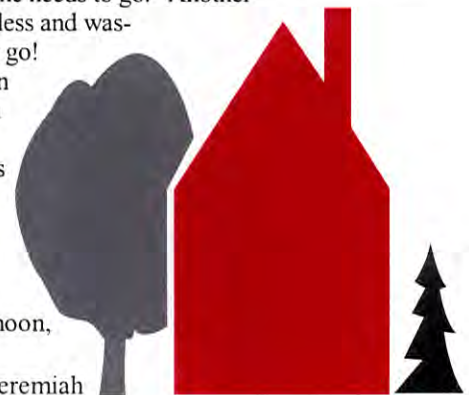
Get Rid of Him?

Some kids talked their mother into getting a hamster. Everybody agreed to the acquisition as long as the children took care of their new pet. They named him Danny. Within two months the little rat would have died had the mom not assumed full responsibility for his care. She decided it was time to give Danny to a new owner and called the children in to break the news. One child commented, "I'll miss him; he's been around a long time." She agreed, "Yes, but he's too much work for me, so he needs to go." Another child suggested he might be able to stay if he ate less and wasn't so messy. But Mom was firm and said, "Let's go! It's time to take Danny to his new home." Then in unison the kids wailed, "Danny? We thought you said *Daddy!*"

This story is humorous, but it has a serious punch line. Divorce is doing to many children exactly what these feared. Read carefully what God thinks of this in Malachi 2:14-16 and Matthew 19:4-9.

- ▶ Kids today learn a lot about getting to the moon, but very little about getting to heaven.

—David Jeremiah





ARE THERE "LOST" BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

We have long understood that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament make up God's complete revelation to man. The Bible does mention other ancient books, however. Joshua 10:13 says, *"The sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher?"* Among the other books mentioned are the acts of Solomon (1 Kgs. 14:11), the books of Nathan the prophet and Gad the seer (1 Chron. 29:29), and the books of Shemaiah the prophet and Iddo the seer (2 Chron. 12:15). Even more interestingly, Paul mentions a previous epistle: *"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators"* (1 Cor. 5:9). Was the epistle telling them not to company with fornicators the original 1 Corinthians? Paul also wrote to the Christians of Colossae, *"And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea"* (Col. 4:16). What is the "epistle from Laodicea?"

The sixty-six books that make up the canon¹ of Scripture are those books that have met the test of time, and have apostolic authority. For example, Peter warned that some of Paul's writings are hard to understand, and thus were sometimes twisted by false teachers, as *"also the other scriptures"* (2 Pet. 3:16). Thus he considered Paul's writings to be scripture [inspired writings]. The books accepted in the canon claim inspiration for themselves, and the early Christians verified that inspiration by examining their content. These books also received virtual universal acceptance in the early church. Many other ancient books were also considered but rejected from the canon. We rely on the wisdom of the Jews of the first century to help in deciding which books belonged in the Old Testament canon, and the judgments of numerous early Christians help us in seeing what was accepted and rejected among the writings of the New Testament era.

Among the books circulated by the early Christians, but rejected from the canon were the fourteen books of the Apocrypha. Philo of Alexandria ordered these books to be translated with the Septuagint, the first Greek language translation of the Old Testament, but the Jews never considered them to be Scripture.

Most of the books mentioned above, like the book of Jasher, are lost, but simply being mentioned in Scripture does not mean that they were inspired. Paul's early epistle to the Corinthians apparently contained nothing that God has not repeated elsewhere in Scripture. There are virtually no Bible doctrines that rely on just one mention in Scripture. Peter tells us that God has *"given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* (2 Pet. 1:3). Thus we have all the Scripture God intended us to have in the sixty-six books of today's Bible. We need no other new revelations or other ancient books to give us what we need to please God. —Bob Prichard

¹ Meaning those "measured." We would say they "measured up" to the standards of inspiration.



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

WHO ASKED GOD?

Hints: Ex. 5:22; 1 Kgs. 17:20; Gen. 15:2; Num. 16:22; 1 Kgs. 3:5-9; Ex. 3:13; 1 Sam. 30:3-8; Jd. 21:2-3; Ex. 17:3-4; Jos. 7:7; Job 40:3-4; Gen. 15:7-8

1. "Why is it that thou hast sent me?" _____
2. "Hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" _____
3. "What wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless?" _____
4. "Shall one man sin and wilt thou be wroth with all...?" _____
5. "Who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" _____
6. "When I come unto the children of Israel...and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say to them?" _____
7. "Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?" _____
8. "Why is this come to pass, that there should today be one tribe lacking in Israel?" _____
9. "What shall I do unto this people? They are almost ready to stone me." _____
10. "Wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites...?" _____
11. "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?" _____
12. "Lord God, whereby shall I know that I inherit it?" _____

WHOM DID GOD ASK?

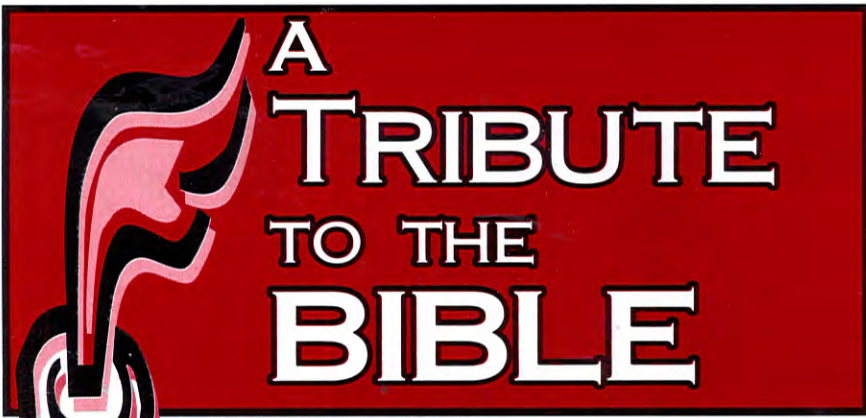
Hints: Num. 14:11; Isa. 6:8; Ezek. 18:23; Jonah 4:9; Gen. 3:11; 4:6-7; 1 Sam. 16:1; Jer. 32:26-27; Ezek. 37:3; Job 38:2; Gen. 18:15; 1 Kgs. 21:19

1. "How long will this people provoke me?" _____
2. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" _____
3. "Have I any pleasure...that the wicked should die?" _____
4. "Doest thou well to be angry?" _____
5. "Who told thee that thou wast naked?" _____
6. "Why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" _____
7. "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?" _____
8. "I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?" _____
9. "Son of man, can these bones live?" _____
10. "Who...darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" _____
11. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" _____
12. "Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?" _____



Answers to last month's questions: *Naughty Ladies:* 1. Jephthah (Jd. 11:1); 2. James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31 (Rahab); 3. Solomon (1 Kgs. 3:16); 4. John (Rev. 17:5); 5. The prodigal son (Lk. 15:30); 6. John the Baptist (Mt. 21:32); 7. Ezekiel (23:1-21); 8. Jericho (Jos. 2:1-6); 9. Judah (Gen. 38:24); 10. Hosea (ch. 1-3); 11. Levi; Simeon (Gen. 34:25-31); 12. Samson (Jd. 16:1-3); 13. Paul (1 Cor. 6:15-16); 14. Amos (7:17); *Miraculous Pregnancies:* 1. Sarah (Gen. 21:1-5); 2. Rachel (Gen. 30:22-24; 35:18); 3. Elisabeth and Zacharias (Lk. 1:7-9,13,18); 4. Elisha (2 Kgs. 4:13-17); 5. Abimelech had taken Sarah for himself (Gen. 20:17-18); 6. Rebekah (Gen. 25:21-26); 7. Hannah, Samuel's mother (1 Sam. 1:1-19); 8. Jesus' (Lk. 1:26-38).

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 TRIBUTE TO THE BIBLE

inspiration is found between its covers. No one will ever be a useful Christian unless he knows the Bible. Matthew Henry said, "The Scriptures were not written to make us astronomers, but to make us saints." It is no wonder that Paul urged Timothy to study the Scripture, "rightly dividing," or handling aright, the word of truth, that he might be an approved workman before God (2 Tim. 2:15). There is no higher ambition on earth. The Bible acknowledges man's faults; it is patient with man's weaknesses; it is severe with man's sins; and it is honest with his virtues and his hopes.

To own a Bible is to be rich. To study, to know, and to trust the Bible is to find life. To study the Bible is to be wise; to obey it, to be strong. To know the Bible and to handle it aright is the greatest accomplishment within the reach of any person. One may know English, astronomy, literature, music, sociology, and philosophy; but if one does not know the Bible, one has failed in the only subject that brings all things into their proper relationship and that enables one to know life at its best. One seeking to know the Bible will endeavor to study its contents book by book, meet its characters as they unfold through its pages, study its types, its doctrine, its topics, paragraphs, sentences, and words. This is the work of a lifetime.

The Bible can save many a heartache. The following was found on the fly-leaf of a Bible placed by the Gideons in a motel in Birmingham, Alabama: "May God bless the man who placed this book here. I am a young lady twenty-one years old, fatherless and motherless. Tonight this book saved me from taking a wrong step. May the next reader find in it the comfort that I did."

There is no greater accomplishment in life than to be able to rightly divide the word of truth. It is worth all the sacrifice necessary. One can never be truly great who does not know the Word, love it, live it, delight in it, and teach it without perversion and without misrepresentation. The one who knows how to handle it is in a position to render the greatest service to the world.

The Bible is a mirror that enables us to see ourselves as we really are. It is food which supplies the strength we need, a lamp to guide our way, a hammer to break and to build, a sword to fight and to defend, a seed to plant and to grow, and a goal to own and to attain. There are no experiences in life for which the Bible does not furnish a passage. May these thoughts lend encouragement to all who become diligent students that we may know the way of life and find the life that is life indeed. —Franklin Camp

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

- 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.

FEATURED TRACTS:

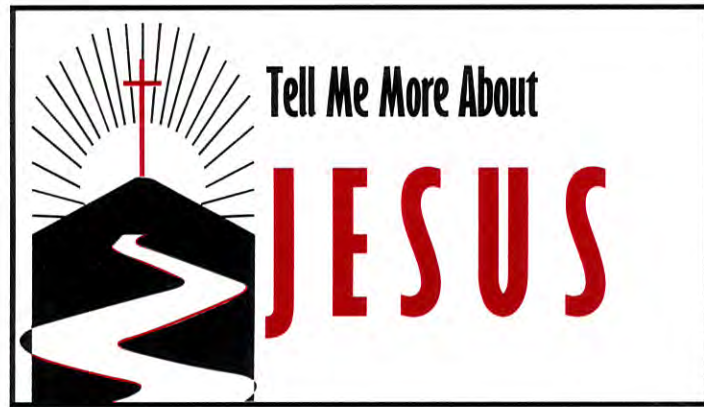
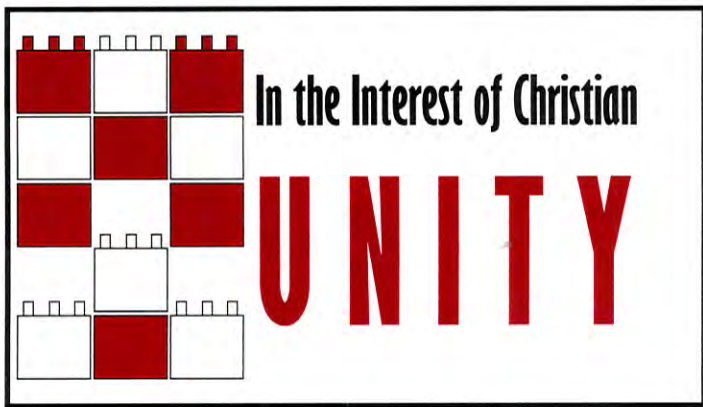
Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send me this month's packet (booklet/tract + all below)
- HTH Booklet: Shall We Gather at the River?
- Heaven, Glimpses of Glory Coping with Loneliness
- The Truth about Lying The Rapture?
- Special Scriptures for Special Needs The Savior's Way
- How I Studied the Bible Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Practicing Safe Sin Profanity
- Is Christianity a Cult? The Holy Spirit
- The Pillars of Calvinism Dance (youth)
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FOOLISH QUESTIONS



Down through the centuries, folks have debated lots of foolish questions. I ran across a list of some questions debated since the Middle Ages:

- ▶ What shape are Gabriel's wings?
- ▶ Are there any angels with baritone voices?
- ▶ Did Pilate use soap when he washed his hands?
- ▶ Could Christ have changed Himself into a devil or pumpkin?
- ▶ How much wine did guests drink at the wedding in Cana?
- ▶ Could an egg laid on Passover be eaten?

It is hard to believe that people spent time debating such trivial matters. After all, they really don't make much difference in what I believe and no difference in how I ought to live. We, however, sometimes get caught up in things that really are not essential. Such speculations seldom edify and often create ill will, pride, controversy, and strife.

We must learn to refocus our lives and our discussions on helping those around us to learn about Christ, living the Christ-like life, and glorifying God.

"...avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable..." —Titus 3:9

"BUT I LIKE IT"



Have you seen the commercial that begins with a man falling into the snow and saying proudly that "the outdoors for me is church." He goes on to say that he's always saving money for his future because, in his words, "You're the best investment you've got!" Then he explains his philosophy by saying that somehow, at a deep level, we're responsible for what happens to us. He concludes: "I don't know if that's good or bad, but I like it." The message is summarized in a final sentence appearing on screen: "BE YOUR OWN ROCK."

I don't want to pick on that guy, or the company he represents, but there are some serious flaws with that kind of reasoning, especially when it's applied to other areas of life. Millions today adopt the devilish philosophy of, "I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOOD OR BAD, BUT I LIKE IT."

- ▶ When choosing what to believe (disbelieve) about religion (Mk. 7:7; Col. 3:17).
- ▶ When choosing whether to be pre-maritally or extra-maritally sexually active (2 Tim. 2:22; Heb. 13:5).
- ▶ When forming attitudes about homosexuality, abortion, gambling, and other "current" issues (Prov. 6:16-19; 14:34; Rm. 1:18-32; 12:17).

"I LIKE IT" is not the way to determine truth. RIGHT and WRONG do exist, the Bible is the standard to determine it, and the difference is important enough to affect one's eternal destiny! Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

WHO IS THIS?

"...they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" —Matthew 1:23

In an art gallery in Dusseldorf hangs a painting of Christ on the cross with the inscription, "I did this for thee. What hast thou done for me?" When the artist had finished his first sketch of the face of the Redeemer, he called in his landlady's little daughter and asked her who she thought it was. The girl looked at it and said, "It is a good man." The painter knew that he had failed. He destroyed the sketch and, after praying for greater skill, finished a second. Again he called the little girl in and asked her to tell him whom she thought the face represented. This time the girl said that she thought it looked like a great sufferer. Again he knew he had failed, and again he destroyed the sketch.

After meditation and prayer, he made a third sketch. When it was finished, he called the girl and asked her who it was. Looking at the portrait, the girl exclaimed, "It is the Lord!" That alone makes the coming of Christ meaningful to the world—not that a good man came, not that a wise teacher came, not that a great sufferer came, but that *God* came—Immanuel, God with us.

JESUS CHRIST:

Came to the world	so	We can go to heaven
1 Tim. 1:15		Jn. 14:1-3
Born in the flesh	so	We can be born again
Jn. 1:14		Jn. 3:3-5
Became poor	so	We can be rich
2 Cor. 8:9a		2 Cor. 8:9b
Rejected by men	so	We can be accepted by God
Jn. 1:11-12		Eph. 1:6
Put to death	so	We are made alive
1 Cor. 15:13		Col. 2:13

A MAN MAY GO TO HEAVEN

Without Health
 Without Wealth
 Without Fame
 Without a Great Name
 Without Learning
 Without Big Earning
 Without Beauty
 Without Friends
 Without Ten Thousand Other Things
 But he can never go to heaven
Without Christ!
 "Jesus saith...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" —John 14:6