

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 8, 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

If you have questions or comments please contact
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1 : 1 7
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R o m a n s

“The just shall
live by faith.”



The Curse of Jericho

Allen Webster

“And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it” —Joshua 6:26

“In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun” —1 Kings 16:34

There they stood in the smoking ruins of what was left of Jericho. The Israelites had marched, shouted, blown, slaughtered, and burned. What does God want them to do now? Actually, it is what He does *not* want them to do that is important. He commands them to never rebuild the city that He had destroyed.¹ Jericho was very pleasantly situated, and its nearness to Jordan was an advantage which would tempt succeeding generations to build on the same spot. Nonetheless, they were warned of what would happen to one who decided to rebuild the city. His oldest son would die when he began the work, and if he persisted, he would attend the funeral of his youngest son when he finished it.²

About five hundred and thirty years later (ca. 850 B.C.), during the reign of King Ahab, a man named Hiel³ of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. Just as God had said, when he laid the foundation, he lost his firstborn son (Abiram); and when he set up the gates, he lost his youngest son (Segub) (1 Kgs. 16:34). What a sacrifice to make for a city!

It is interesting, and instructive, to place ourselves mentally in the position of this man from Bethel. What possibly could have been behind Hiel's tragic mistake?

HIEL TEACHES US...THE DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

Hiel could have been ignorant of this warning. He might have grown up in a family where the Bible was not read. He could have slept during Sabbath classes and misbehaved during temple worship services. He might have been sick the day that Joshua 6:26 was studied. Nobody may have cared enough to warn him when he started building on the old Jericho site. They might have reasoned, “Well, I don't want to get involved. I'm sure he's read Joshua's curse. He's made up his mind. It's none of my business anyway. He can make his own mistakes.”

Spiritual ignorance is dangerous (Hos. 4:1, 6; 6:6; 2 Chron. 15:3; Job 36:12; Prov. 19:2; Isa. 27:11; Mt. 15:14; 2 Cor. 4:3-6). There are threats the Bible makes which apply to people living today, and if we do not learn of them, and avoid breaking God's laws, we, too, will be punished. We can see, therefore, the urgency of studying the Bible and learning what God has commanded (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11). How much Bible study do *you* and *I* do?

...THE UNFAILING TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD'S WORD.

Not one jot or tittle of this curse passed away (Jos. 24:14, 15). Abiram, the firstborn, and Segub, the youngest, both died, the one at the laying of the foundation, the other at the setting up of the gates of the city. “The testimony of the LORD is sure...” (Psa.

19:7b). The One who was called Truth said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mt. 24:35; cf. Jn. 14:6). His Father said, “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips” (Psa. 89:34). We can trust in this fact: “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Num. 23:19). History shows an unbroken fulfillment of the Scriptures.

...THE STRONG INFLUENCE OF UNHOLY GOVERNMENT.

It was in the days of Ahab that Hiel built Jericho (1 Kgs. 16:29-34; cf. Jer. 2:8; Mal. 2:7, 8; Mt. 23:16-26). Ahab was among the worst kings Israel ever had. The Bible says that he “...did more to provoke the God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel before him” (1 Kgs. 16:30). Hiel was also from Bethel. It was in Bethel that Jeroboam set up an idol calf, making the place a center of idolatry (1 Kgs. 12:28-33). This single sentence of history is one of God's many monuments, erected in solemn protest against our association with wicked men. Its inscription reads, “Stand not in the way of sinners...” (Psa. 1:1, 2) and “be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33; cf. Prov. 14:34).

...THE POWER OF UNBELIEF, ONCE IT IS SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINED.

When Hiel attended the funeral of Abiram, the firstborn son, we might have expected that he would have given up, yet he persisted. The curse was seen to be effective, yet he went back to work and lost his youngest child when he set up the gates (the last stage of building a city). Jeremiah knew of the power of disbelief. He said, “...be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken. Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness. But *if ye will not hear it*, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the Lord's flock is carried away captive” (13:15-17). The *other* thief on the cross is also a good example. He knew he was within minutes of death and still railed on the only One who could save him (Lk. 23:39). How foolish are we today if we doubt God's Word! Some will even admit that the “Bible says that,” but they persist in doubting that it applies to *them*. Sadly, they “oppose themselves” (2 Tim. 2:25). Even death and taxes are not as sure as God's Word.

Endnotes:

¹Perhaps God wanted the ruins left as a “sermon written in stone.” They would be permanent proof of God's displeasure with idolatry and His power over idol gods. A new city would erase the memory of God's judgment. The wrecked city would also serve as a reminder that God fights for His people (Deut. 3:22; cf. Rm. 8:31) and that it is foolish to trust in the arm of flesh (2 Chron. 32:8).

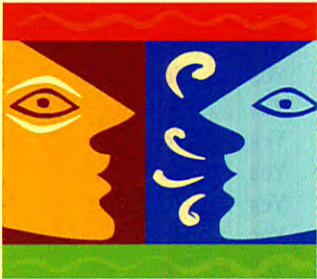
²There was a city of Jericho that appeared during the next seven or at the latest, twenty-five years (cf. Jos. 23:21; Jd. 1:16; 3:13; 2 Sam. 10:4, 5). This city was in the same vicinity but not built upon the same site. Josephus (a Jewish historian) distinguishes between “the old city” which Joshua took first of all the cities of the land,” and an adjacent Jericho. Some say that there have been at least three Jerichos built at different places in this same general area. The new city in Joshua's time could probably have been more easily built on a new site than the old one because of the rubble that would have had to be cleared away. After it was rebuilt, Elijah and Elisha visited a school of the prophets there (2 Kgs. 2:4, 5, 18).

³Interestingly, his name means, “God lives” (pronounced knee-ale).

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

A Good Word



Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment." We all know what he meant by that. It lifts your spirits to have someone say something genuinely nice to you or about you.

Solomon noted this human truth: "Heaviness in

the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad" (Prov. 12:25). Haven't you experienced days when the morning began just right? Someone in your family mentioned something special about you he/she appreciated. Your boss gave you a compliment as you walked through the door. And then, there was a note in the mail or a phone call from someone you love, and words of cheer entered your heart and carried you through the day.

Since we know how good it feels to receive such expressions from people, shouldn't we spread the same joy to others? We ought to take advantage of the many opportunities that are available to us (Eph. 5:15; Col. 4:5, 6; Gal. 6:10).

A good word. You don't have to be rich to give compliments away. You don't have to be well known to effect others. Even complete strangers reap the benefit of receiving a good word from you.

We hear so many bad words in our world. Let's start a campaign to balance what people hear. It all begins with a good word!

Words Well Used...

- More men fail through lack of purpose than lack of talent. —Billy Sunday
- Never let the fear of striking out get in your way. —George Herman (Babe) Ruth
- If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.—Thomas A. Edison
- "Do a little more each day than you think you possibly can." —Lowell Thomas

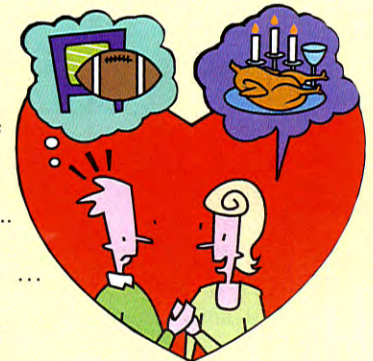
GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

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



Some Unusual Things For Which To Be

Thankful



- Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- Be thankful when you don't know ... it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- Be thankful for the difficult times ... during those times you grow.
- Be thankful for limitations ... they give opportunities for improvement.
- Be thankful for a new challenge ... it will build strength and character.
- Be thankful for your mistakes ... they will teach valuable lessons.
- Be thankful when you're weary ... it means you've made a difference.
- Be thankful for the mess after a party ... it means you have friends.
- Be thankful for the taxes you pay ... it means you are employed.
- Be thankful for clothes that fit a little snug ... it means you have plenty to eat.
- Be thankful for a shadow that watches you work ... it means you are out in the sunshine.
- Be thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing ... it means you have a house.
- Be thankful for the spot you find at the far end of the parking lot ... it means you are capable of walking.
- Be thankful for all the complaining you hear about our government ... it means we have freedom of speech.
- Be thankful for a huge heating bill ... it means you are warm.
- Be thankful for the lady behind you in church service who sings off key ... it means that you can hear.
- Be thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing ... it means your loved ones are nearby.
- Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours... it means that you're alive.
- Be thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day ... it means you have been productive.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" —Ephesians 5:20

Pro-Choice?

After I spoke at a public high school on the pro-life position, the pro-choice instructor took me to the faculty lounge for lunch. He pointed to a table where four teachers were smoking and said, "Fortunately, this is the last week smoking will be allowed in here. We've finally gotten the district to make the teachers' lounge non-smoking." Good-naturedly I said, "I see you're not really pro-choice." With a surprised look, he explained, "But cigarette smoke hurts other people." Many who are pro-choice on abortion support laws requiring seatbelts. They are "anti-choice" about seatbelts because seatbelts "save lives." When lives are at stake, "freedom to choose" can and is legitimately restricted by society.

—Barry Sanford

"...thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works..." —Psa. 139:13, 14



The
HOME
PAGE

Exasperated Children

Paul wrote, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). What are some ways we can exasperate (provoke) our children?

- ◆ "Over-parenting" (smothering).
- ◆ Showing favoritism: "Why can't you be more like your brother (sister)?" Jacob made this mistake (cf. Gen. 37).
- ◆ Forcing our unfulfilled dreams on them.
- ◆ Overly-criticizing and/or withholding approval. We can focus so much on what they aren't doing, that we don't see what they are doing. One said, "A father needs to be on his child's team—not on his back" (cf. Rm. 14:19).
- ◆ Making them feel unimportant. Some parents send this message to their children: "I need career fulfillment now. Sometimes I have to choose between my kids and my work. The children just have to understand" (cf. Tit. 2:4, 5). Spending time with our children is the best way to show our love (Eph. 5:16). Spending time says more and means more than spending money. Money can buy a toy, but without a mamma or daddy to play with, toys are no fun.

Thou Shalt Not...

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without hesitating, one boy (the oldest in his family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

- ◆ What the mother says to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin.
- ◆ The most important thing that a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
—Theodore M. Hesburgh
- ◆ The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Take This Communication Test!

Take this little test with your mate. Insert your spouse's name in the blank and answer the questions as you think your spouse sees you. (Copy this sheet if possible or keep your answers on a separate sheet.)

Does _____ think you:

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. are considerate of others' feelings? | Yes | No |
| 2. allow money or things to spoil human relationships? | Yes | No |
| 3. share how much you need him/her? | Yes | No |
| 4. read enough on the subject of husband/wife relations? | Yes | No |
| 5. spend too much time on the computer? | Yes | No |
| 6. talk excessively? | Yes | No |
| 7. do not share enough of your inner feelings? | Yes | No |
| 8. use words/phrases that are too easily misunderstood? | Yes | No |
| 9. have an overly critical attitude? | Yes | No |
| 10. have too much tendency to speak for other person? | Yes | No |
| 11. have a tendency to interrupt another person? | Yes | No |
| 12. use too many words that belittle others? | Yes | No |
| 13. change the subject when it gets too uncomfortable for you? Or that you won't even bring it up? | Yes | No |
| 14. nag too often? | Yes | No |
| 15. have trouble looking others in the eye? | Yes | No |
| 16. choose "peace" over sharing honest feelings? | Yes | No |
| 17. make too many excuses? | Yes | No |
| 18. clam up too often? | Yes | No |
| 19. watch too much TV? | Yes | No |
| 20. read too much when home? | Yes | No |
| 21. are "off somewhere" (daydreaming) when he/she is talking to you? | Yes | No |
| 22. are sensitive when he/she is discouraged, troubled, hurt? | Yes | No |
| 23. are complimentary often enough? | Yes | No |
| 24. criticize him/her too often? | Yes | No |
| 25. are sarcastic too often? | Yes | No |
| 26. honestly try to see another person's point of view? | Yes | No |
| 27. honestly enjoy listening to another's point of view? | Yes | No |

—From *What Every Family Needs*, Carl Brecheen and Paul Faulkner

"...dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour...as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" —1 Peter 3:7

Two Builders

The builder built a temple, he wrought it with grace and skill
Pillars, walls, and arches—fashioned to his will.
Men said as they saw its beauty, it will never know decay.
Great is thy skill—O, builder, thy fame shall live for aye.

The parent built a temple with loving and tender care,
Planning each arch with patience, laying each stone with a prayer.
Few noticed the preparation, none knew of the wondrous plan.
The temple you built, dear teacher, was unseen by the eyes of man.

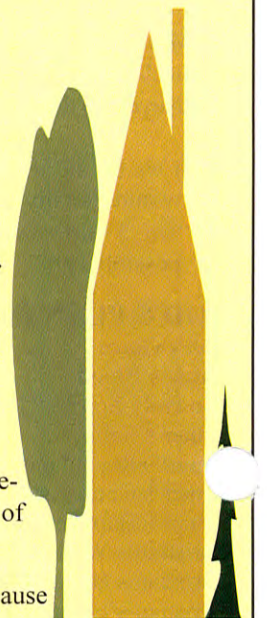
However, the builder's temple is gone, it has crumbled into dust.
Low lies its stately pillars, food for consuming rust
But the temple built by the parent will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful, unseen temple is a child's immortal soul.

—adapted from Hattie Ross Hall

◆ When I was a child, love to me was what the sea is to a fish: something you swim in while you are going about the important affairs of life.

—P.L. Travers, *New York Times Magazine*

◆ It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult. —Seneca





Does the Bible Offer Hope for Depression?

Depression is perhaps the most common emotional problem that we face today. Experts suggest as many as one out of five Americans experience severe depression some time during their lives, and depression may be the most common health problem for women. Symptoms of depression include apathy, insomnia, difficulty in concentrating, and a general loss of interest in life. Severely depressed people may become suicidal, violent, or completely withdrawn. Depression has always been a problem for mankind. Bible characters such as King Saul, Elijah the prophet, Job, and others experienced depression.

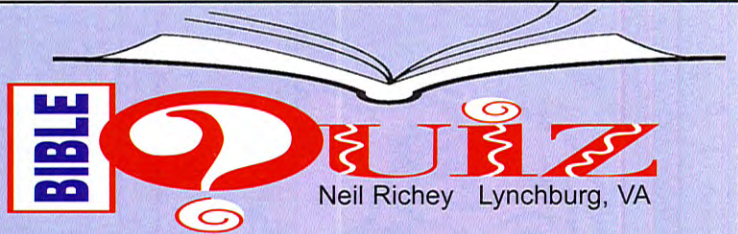
Sources of depression may be physical, psychological, or spiritual. Fatigue, chemical imbalances, and other physical problems may cause it. After his defeat of the prophets of Baal and Asherah on Mount Carmel, Elijah was physically exhausted. When Jezebel threatened his life, he fled into the wilderness and was ready to die. The angel of the Lord comforted him and strengthened him with food, telling him, "Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee" (1 Kgs. 19:7). He still felt overwhelmed and alone, however. He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (1 Kgs. 19:10). He repeated, "I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (1 Kgs. 19:14). The Lord encouraged him by letting him know that there were still seven thousand faithful, and by sending Elisha to help him.

Loss is a common psychological cause of depression. Job lost his possessions, family, health, and even his reputation. He cried, "...the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came" (3:25-26). Later he learned that God continued to control the universe: "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee" (42:2). Unfulfilled hopes and dreams, and feelings of worthlessness or helplessness brought on by stress also cause depression. These feelings often come because one has lost proper perspective. Disappointments may be opportunities in disguise—times to rearrange priorities, making them in line with God's will. We can overcome feelings of helplessness and worthlessness by understanding that God is still in control. He demonstrated His love for us in the cross (Rm. 5:8).

Sin has spiritual consequences, which often include depression. Obeying God is the key. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..." (Jn. 15:10). God does not intend for us to be depressed, and is eager to forgive and comfort.

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

Correction: Last issue the sentence, "They...are surprised to learn that the New Testament does not even use the word 'tithing'" (page 7), should have said, "...the New Testament does not even use the word 'tithing' in relation to giving in the church." Tithing was a part of the Old Law and is mentioned in the New Testament when it refers to the practice of the Pharisees (Mt. 23:23; Lk. 11:42; 18:12), and Levitical worship (Heb. 7:5-9). When the Old Testament was nailed to the cross, the practice of tithing was done away (Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:15; Heb. 8:6, 7).



Send your answers in to the church listed on the front. We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____
Address: _____
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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Multiple Marriages

Hints: Gen. 16:3; 23:19; 25:1; Ex. 18:2/Num. 12:1; Jd. 14:20; 2 Sam. 12:8; 2 Chron. 11:21; Est. 1:10-2:17

1. What Persian king had wives named Vashti and Esther? _____
2. What son of Solomon had 18 wives and 60 concubines? _____
3. Whose wives included Abigail, Maacah, Haggith, and Eglah? _____
4. What patriarch took Keturah as his third wife? _____
5. Who had two wives, one of them named Zipporah? _____
6. What judge of Israel lost his Philistine wife to his friend? _____

Do You Know This Fellow?

Hints: Acts 18:2; 19:29; Rm. 16:1, 7, 23; 1 Cor. 16:15; Eph. 6:21; Phil. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:20; 1 Pet. 5:12

1. _____ —only man in the Bible described as a "faithful brother."
2. _____ and _____ —Paul's kinsmen and fellow prisoners.
3. _____ —"beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord."
4. _____ —left sick at Miletum.
5. _____ —chamberlain [treasurer] of the city.
6. _____ and _____ —"men of Macedonia and Paul's companions in travel."
7. _____ —the man Paul trusted in the Lord Jesus to send shortly to Philippi.
8. _____ —servant of the church at Cenchrea.
9. _____ —Paul's coworker and fellow tradesman who was born in Pontus.
10. _____ —"the first fruits of Achaia unto Christ."

Fill-in-the-Blanks

Hints: Acts 17:30; 22:16; 2 Cor. 7:10; 2 Tim. 2:10; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 2:10

1. _____ is "in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."
2. "Without _____, it is impossible to please" God.
3. Those who do not believe that Jesus is "he" will _____ in their _____.
4. God now commands "all men every where to _____."
5. _____ "worketh repentance"
6. "Arise, and be _____, and _____ away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
7. Those who are _____ unto _____ are promised a crown of life.

Answers to Last Issue: God's Champions: 1. Stephen; 2. Rahab; 3. Moses; 4. John the Baptist; 5. Prize; Be Careful Little Mouths What You Say: 1. Slow; 2. Fire, world, iniquity; 3. Lying; 4. Cursing; 5. Boasting; 6. Talebearing or gossiping; 7. Murmuring or complaining; 8. Slandering; 9. Blaspheming; 10. Idle word; Questions from Acts: 1. Centurion (Acts 10:1); 2. The slave girl in Philippi who was possessed with a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16-17); 3. Tertullus (Acts 24:1); 4. Isaiah (Acts 8:30); 5. Manaen (Acts 13:1); 6. 14 days (Acts 27:33-36); 7. Sosthenes (Acts 18:17).



Part 4: Making Sense of the Old Testament

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

One of the truly astounding features of the Bible is the fact that these sixty-six documents, written over a span of some 1,600 years (from at least 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100), all fit together in such a stunningly coordinated pattern. Every book has its place and its unique contribution to make to the body of sacred literature. Each narrative, either directly or indirectly, is Christological in its thrust. This magnificent chorus of three-score and six masterpieces, collectively provide evidence of our great Creator and his redemptive love for humanity.

Books of Prophecy (Major)

“Prophecy” is the forth-telling of a message from Jehovah. It may entail the recording of ancient events unknown by personal human experience (e.g., the creation of the Universe). Prophecy may take the form of a survey of current events (with a view to correction), or it may be predictive in thrust, i.e., it may reveal future things that only deity could know. The first five prophetic books are longer.

The book of **Isaiah** foretells judgments to be visited upon Israel due to the nation’s transgression of the law of God. Happily, however, it also previews the great spiritual deliverance to be effected ultimately by the work of the Messiah. **Jeremiah** depicts the tender invitation from the Lord to the people of Judah who had dredged themselves deeply into sin. It foretells the coming Babylonian captivity, but also offers hope in view of the eventual era of the new covenant. **Lamentations** is really a sequel to Jeremiah, expressing poetical anguish over the fall of Jerusalem in connection with the Babylonian assault.

The book of **Ezekiel** was written in Babylon during the days of the captivity. It rebuts the testimony of false prophets who argued that Judah’s confinement would not last the full 70 years, as Jeremiah had predicted. It also is highlighted with Messianic hope. **Daniel**, likewise written in the days of the captivity, affirms the sovereignty of the Almighty over the world’s super-powers. In spite of the Hebrews’ affliction, the kingdom of God will come and triumph over its foes.

—adapted from Wayne Jackson, Stockton, CA (for more Bible study with Wayne Jackson, visit www.christiancourier.com)



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- New! What to Expect When You Visit the church of Christ.** Most are a little apprehensive about visiting a new congregation. This pamphlet gives interesting background and a “visitor’s eye view” of worship services and Bible classes.
- God’s Lamb in the Devil’s Zoo** (16-pg booklet)
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day** (16-pg booklet)
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In the Interest of Christian

UNITY

The Difference Between Union & Unity



◆Unity means to dwell together without differences. Union seeks a dwelling together despite differences.

◆Unity comes by individuals accepting the Word of God. Union may be had by “mass agreement” to “get along” in religion.

◆Unity prohibits division. Union admits division and thus encourages it.

◆Unity can only be had by the removal or destruction of error. Union opens the floodgate for all manner of errors.

◆Union makes conscience and sincerity the standard of authority instead of the Word of God; thus union makes void the Word of God. Unity fulfills the Word of God.

◆Union may be had by compromising convictions and disregarding differences. Unity may be had by doing the will of God, thus eliminating differences.

Union is a puny effort to patch up the damage caused by error without removing the cause. Union would tolerate every fad and fancy that opinion is capable of producing. Unity eliminates error.

◆The foundation of religious union is liberty of opinion. The foundation of Christian unity is liberty of God’s Word.

Let us be alert to the difference between union as it presents itself in modern movements and the unity taught in God’s Word. Let us settle for nothing less than the oneness for which our Lord prayed in the shadow of the Cross (Jn. 17). —Joe Gilmore

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”

—1 Corinthians 1:10



Things About the Church of Christ that Surprise People (2)

PEOPLE CANNOT “JOIN” THE CHURCH. “Joining” the church is one of the most common expressions in religious conversation. It is so much a part of most people’s religious vocabulary that no one really thinks much about it. Becoming a part of the church is not like joining a social order or civic club. The Bible teaches that when people are obedient to their Lord He “adds” them His church (Acts 2:42, 47; 5:14; 11:24). Could you imagine someone saying, “I’m going to join the football Hall of Fame?” or “I think I’ll join the president’s cabinet and be Secretary of State?” There is, of course, a sense in which we join ourselves together with other Christians after having been added to the body by the Lord (Acts 5:13; 9:26; 1 Cor. 1:10; 6:17; Eph. 4:16).



Tell Me More About

ESUS

Jesus is Greater



Mankind has accomplished some amazing things—constructing the pyramids in ancient Egypt, inventing the telephone, walking on the moon, DNA analysis. On and on the list could go of mind-boggling achievements of the human race. Often these successes are labeled “great.”

There is One, though, who stands head and shoulders above everybody and everything the human race has known. Name any person, place, or thing, and Jesus the Messiah is greater. The Bible says so. Look at some ways Jesus is greater.

Jesus is greater than the temple. The Jews considered the temple as the holiest place of the holiest city (Jerusalem) in the holiest land (Canaan). Yet our Lord said about Himself, “But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple” (Mt. 12:6).

Jesus is greater than Jonah, the prophet of God whose preaching resulted in the whole city of Nineveh turning to Jehovah. “The men of Nineveh...repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold a greater than Jonas is here” (Mt. 12:41).

Jesus is greater than Solomon. Highly esteemed for his wisdom, riches, and temple construction, Solomon simply cannot compare to the Christ (see Ecclesiastes). Again, Jesus said of Himself: “...behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Mt. 12:42).

Jesus is greater than Jacob. A woman of Samaria asked Jesus, “Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself...?” (Jn. 4:12). Jesus’ response was, “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst...” (4:13, 14). Jacob could only draw the water out of the earth that the Lord put there. Jesus created all things, including the water in the earth, and He can also give “living water” (4:10). He is greater than Jacob, the father of the Israelite nation.

Jesus is greater than Abraham. Unbelieving Jews asked the Christ, “Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead?” (Jn. 8:53). In His answer, Jesus told them, “Before Abraham was, I am” (8:58). Jesus is eternal God (Jn. 1:1). Of course He’s greater than the father of the faithful.

What about the **angels of heaven**? Jesus is greater (Heb. 1:4-14). And the **priests under the Old Testament system**? Jesus is greater (Heb. 7:25-27). And what about the **role models** of our time? Jesus, and only Jesus, lived on the earth without sin (1 Pet. 2:21, 22), and thus He is the greatest, only perfect role model to follow. Jesus is greater, hands down.

We talk about great places, great people, great ideas, great accomplishments. Whatever it is or whoever it is—Jesus is greater. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing” (Rev. 5:12).

—Roger Campbell, 4889 Bates Pike S.E., Cleveland, TN 37323