

# HOUSE TO HOUSE

## Heart to Heart



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

Volume 10, Number 3

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

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

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

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

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

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

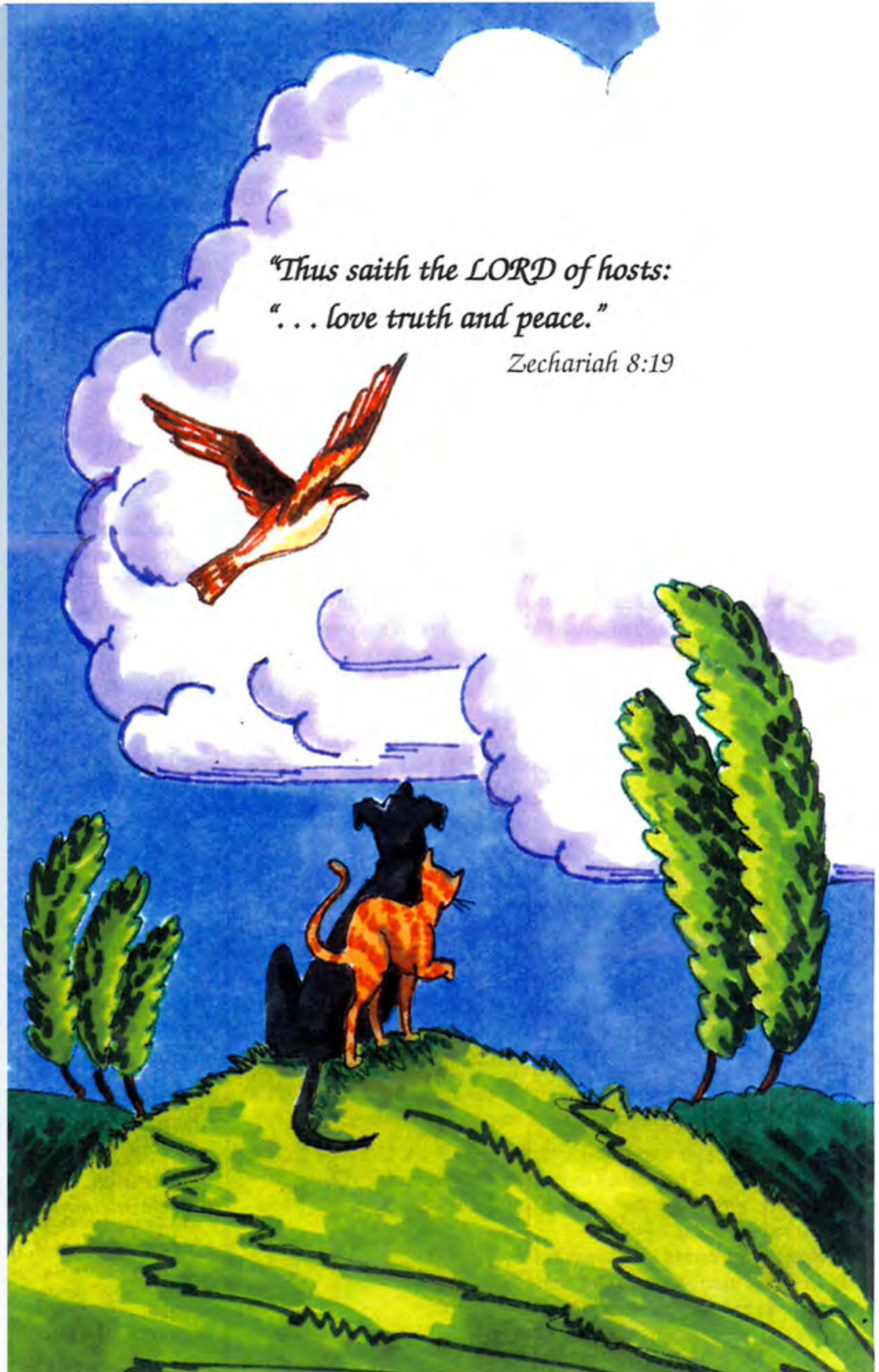
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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“Thus saith the LORD of hosts:

“... love truth and peace.”

Zechariah 8:19



# The First Murder Trial

Allen Webster

There always seems to be a high profile murder case in the news: O.J. Simpson, Scott Peterson, Robert Blake. The news media fan the flames, believing in the old axiom, "If it bleeds, it leads."

Family murder adds to the intrigue. The BJS Special Report, a survey of murder cases in the courts of large urban U.S. counties, found that 16 percent of murder victims were members of the defendant's family: 6.5 percent were killed by their spouses, 3.5 percent by their parents, 1.9 percent by their own children, 1.5 percent by their siblings, and 2.6 percent by other relatives.

Family murder is nothing new. In fact, the very first murder case involved two brothers: Cain and Abel. Let's visit the scene.

Cain wilted under God's intense cross-examination (Genesis 4:9). He was charged with murder and no time had been wasted in getting the accused into court (cf. Ecclesiastes 8:11). The defense decided to plead innocence on the grounds of ignorance. When questioned as to the whereabouts of the victim, he answered, "I know not."

God was not a newcomer to the courtroom. He had already brought Adam and Eve to trial for violation of divine law (cf. 3:8-13).<sup>1</sup> God did not ask, "Where is Abel thy brother?" for information, but for amplification. He knew—He only asked to remind Cain of where Abel was.

**EVASION AND PERJURY.** Adam and Eve were evasive but humble. Cain was hardened and cynical. He boldly lied to God. To the question about Abel's whereabouts, he replied, "I know not." He did know for he had just killed him. He then hurled a rhetorical question at God: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (4:9). This question literally implies, "Am I supposed to watch him all the time?"

Cain sought to dodge responsibility, but God held him accountable. Cain's action was a renunciation of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. This account was later used for an example of a lack of natural brotherly love (1 John 3:11-12). Note that "brother" is used seven times in this passage. It is bad enough to kill a complete stranger but far worse to kill one's own brother.

We are our brothers' keepers, too (cf. John 3:16; 1 John 3:16), and God holds us responsible for how we treat them (cf. Luke 10:29-37). Sin always finds us out, even though we, like Cain, may try to hide it (Numbers 23:32). We cannot injure another without God noticing. Jesus asked Saul of Tarsus, "Why persecutest thou me?" when Saul had never even met Jesus—he had persecuted Jesus by hurting the Lord's followers. Paul said, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Inasmuch as God is the Father of us all, it naturally follows that we are all brothers (Isaiah 64:8; Malachi 2:10; Acts 17:26; Ephesians 4:6).

When one comes to understand and believe that he is a part of the brotherhood of man, he is obligated to certain activities:

- ▶ Love his neighbor as himself (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39).
- ▶ Treat others as he wishes to be treated (Matthew 7:12).
- ▶ Rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep (Romans 12:15).
- ▶ Restore the erring (Galatians 6:1).
- ▶ Do good unto all men (Galatians 6:10).
- ▶ Give to him that needeth (Ephesians 4:28).

**MOTIVE.** Evidently, Cain's actions were motivated by envy, which is a "rotteness of the bones" (Proverbs 14:30). You could say, then, that Cain had a "bone disease!" Envy is rooted in selfishness. A loving person cannot be a selfish person (1 Corinthians 10:24; 13:4; Philippians 2:4; cf. Matthew 16:24; Galatians 2:20). "As frost to the bud, and blight to the blossom, even is self-interest to friendship; for confidence cannot dwell where selfishness is porter at the gate."<sup>2</sup> Christians are warned not to allow the bone disease to invade their spiritual body because it soon develops into a heart problem (Galatians 5:21, 26; Romans 13:13; 1 Peter 2:1<sup>3</sup>). "Envy" is defined as "an evil affection of the heart which makes men grieve and fret at the good and prosperity of others."<sup>4</sup> It comes from a word that means "to look against, to eye with evil intent."<sup>5</sup> Envy is worse than wrath and anger (Proverbs 27:4); it is unnatural and inhuman (James 3:14-15).

**MODUS OPERANDI.** How does one go from man to murderer? What steps lead one down that path? Envy is the mother of many sins, especially hatred and murder. Its tools are whisperings, backbitings, and lies (cf. 1 Peter 2:1; 2 Corinthians 12:20; 1 Timothy 6:4-5). It leads to family strife (Genesis 30:1), land disputes (Genesis 26:14), mistreating others (Genesis 37:11; Acts 7:9), national rebellion (Numbers 16:1-3; Psalm 106:16), and persecution of Christians (Acts 5:17<sup>6</sup>).

Envy led Cain, Saul, and the Jews to murder. Remember Saul could not bear the maidens' praise of David (1 Samuel 18:7-8). His jealousy festered into an open sore, and the king chased the boy around in a ridiculous attempt to kill his own servant. Later, at Saul's death, a discerning person realizes it was not the Philistines who got the king. It really was not even his own sword that thrust him through (though that was the instrument). *Envy* killed Saul. Remember Calvary! Dark against the sky stood that cruel cross. Above the sin and strife rang out an anguished, lonely cry. Jesus, too, died a victim of envy and jealousy (Matthew 27:18). Annas and Caiaphas, the Pharisees and Scribes, begrudging His success, murdered Him out of envy.

**VERDICT AND SENTENCING.** God, the Prosecutor, summed up His air-tight case, and God, the Judge, passed sentence. *Guilty!* The fruits of envy are always misery and woe, death and destruction (Esther 5:10-14; 7:10; Daniel 6:1-24). The citizens of Thasos once erected a statue to Theagenes, a renowned athlete in the Greek games. One of his rivals became so envious that he went every night and with repeated blows tried to break the statue down. He finally succeeded, only to be crushed by the statue as it fell from its pedestal. So envy does to all who harbor it in their bosom. Pull up the weeds of envy from your soul. The harvest is bitter.

The first murder trial didn't last as long as O.J. Simpson's, Scott Peterson's, or Robert Blake's, but we're still talking about it six thousand years later.

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup>The first two human questions in the Bible had to do with sin. The first came after man's struggle with Satan, the second after man's struggle with man.

<sup>2</sup>Tupper "Lay aside" here literally means "to discard clothing." <sup>3</sup>Cruden

<sup>4</sup>Cf. 1 Samuel 18:8-9, "eyed," *avan*, "to watch with jealousy;" cf. Mark 7:21-22, "an evil eye," *ophthalmos*, figuratively "envy from the jealous side-glance" (Strong).

<sup>6</sup>"indignation" means "envy, jealousy;" cf. 13:45; 17:5.



# THINK ON GOOD THINGS

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8

### The Inevitable and the Immovable

There are times in life when we find things in our way that we cannot move. Even after persistent, fervent prayer, the cup of suffering is brought to quivering lips and we must drink of it—right down to the bitter dregs. Abraham Lincoln said, “Some troubles are like the stump an old farmer had in his field—too hard to uproot, too knotty to split, and too wet and soggy to burn.” When asked what to do in a spot like that, he replied, “Well, I’d just plow around it.” Some situations are like that stump. They are there and cannot be changed and must be accepted. May God give us grace and strength to accept the inevitable and plow around the immovable.

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . longsuffering . . .”**  
—Galatians 5:22

### Syntax—and Other Wisdom

Some grade school teachers keep journals of amusing things their students write in papers. A few examples:

- ▶ Syntax is the money collected at church from sinners.
- ▶ The future of “I give” is “I take.”  
The parts of speech are lungs and air.
- ▶ The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.
- ▶ Define H2O and CO2. H2O is hot water and CO2 is cold water.
- ▶ The general direction of the Alps is straight up.
- ▶ A city purifies its water supply by filtering the water then forcing it through an aviator.
- ▶ The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve opossums.
- ▶ The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top and you sit on the bottom.
- ▶ The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard, and vinegar.
- ▶ The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- ▶ A person should take a bath once in the summer, not so often in the winter.

**“Jesus rejoiced . . .” —Luke 10:21**

### 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



### Who I am Makes a Difference



A teacher in New York decided to honor all of her high school seniors by telling them the difference they had made. She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time, and told each how he or she had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each with a blue ribbon, imprinted with gold letters, which read, “Who I Am Makes a Difference.”

She later decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave students three blue ribbons each and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. They were to report back in three weeks on who was honored and what the results were.

One boy went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honored him for helping him with career planning. He pinned the blue ribbon on his shirt and gave him the other two ribbons. He explained, “We’re doing a class project on recognition, and we’d like you to find somebody to honor.

Present him a blue ribbon and then give the extra one so he can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Report back to me what happened.”

Later that day, the junior executive went in to see his boss, who had been kind of a grouch lately. He told his boss that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. He then asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon, and would he give him permission to put it on him. He said, “Well, sure.” The junior executive placed it right on his boss’s jacket, above his heart. He gave him the last ribbon, saying, “Take this and pass it on by honoring someone else. The boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school, and he wants to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people.”

That night the boss sat his fourteen-year-old son down and said, “The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office, and a junior executive came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine! He thinks I’m a creative genius! Then he put this ribbon that says, “Who I Am Makes a Difference,” on my jacket. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honor. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about who I would honor, and I thought of you. I want to honor you. My days are hectic and when I come home, I don’t pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess. But tonight I just want, well, to let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You’re a great kid, and I love you!”

The startled boy started to sob. He couldn’t stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked at his father and said through his tears, “Dad, I’ve been sitting in my room writing a letter to you and Mom, explaining why I had killed myself, and I asked you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just didn’t think that you cared at all.” His father walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain.

The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch but constantly let his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped other young people with career planning, and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life . . . one being the boss’ son. And the young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson, “Who you are DOES make a difference.”

**“They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheneth with the hammer him that smote the anvil . . .” —Isaiah 41:6-7**



The

# HOME PAGE

## Cleaning up Bad Language



John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious, and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words and playing soft music

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. In desperation, John threw up his hands, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd seriously injured the parrot, John quickly opened the door, and the parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched finger. He said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

**"But now ye also put off . . . blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth . . ."**

—Colossians 3:8

## Some Good Family News

▶Nine out of ten children ages 9-11 describe themselves as happy (92%) and friendly (91%), and 80% believe they are smart.

▶51% of teenagers say they get along with their parents "very well" and 46% say "fairly well."

▶Parental love perceives children not as problems but as possibilities.

**"Think on good things . . ."** —Philippians 4:8

# And Worth Every Penny

Children are worth their weight in gold—that is, when you add up all the costs. Use this calculator to figure out Junior's bottom line.

- ▶ Child care: (0-11) \$4,300
- ▶ Groceries: (0-18) \$1,525
- ▶ Clothing: (0-18) \$606
- ▶ Gift giving: (0-18) \$330
- ▶ Bigger home: (0-18) \$2,900
- ▶ Bigger car: (5-18) \$1,250
- ▶ Education: (5-18) \$600
- ▶ Recreation: (0-18) \$330
- ▶ Additional insurance: (0-18) \$300
- ▶ Health care: (0-18) \$300
- ▶ Miscellaneous: (0-18) \$330

Total amount needed to raise a child: 0-4: \$13,891/yr; 5-11: \$12,771/yr; and 12-18: \$8,471/yr. Total for 18 years \$190,528

**"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate"** —Psalm 127:3-5

## What Mothers Do

She carried me under her heart, loved me before I was born.

She took God's hand and walked through the "valley of the shadows" that I might live.

She bathed me when I was helpless, clothed me when I was naked, fed me when I was hungry, rocked me to sleep when I was weary, and sang to me as the voice of an angel.

She held my hand till I learned to walk, suffered with my sorrow, laughed with my joy,

Glowed with my triumph, and while I knelt at her side, she taught my lips to pray.

She was a loyal friend when all others failed.

Through all the days of my youth, she gave me strength for my weaknesses, courage for

my despair, and hope for my hopeless heart.

She prayed for me whether life was flooded with sunshine or saddened by shadows.

I can never repay the debt I owe to my mother.

**"Honour thy father and mother . . ."** —Ephesians 6:2

## Mother is Still Watching

She always leaned to watch for us, anxious if we were late,

In winter by the window, in summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly, who had such foolish care,

The long way home was always more safe because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us, she never could forget!

And so I think that where she is, she must be waiting yet.

Waiting until we come home to her, anxious if we are late.

Watching from Heaven's window, leaning on Heaven's gate.

—Margaret Widdomer

## Guard Their Minds

Children see one to two thousand television ads for alcohol each year. It costs about \$600,000 for one 30-second beer ad. Are they effective? A survey reported in *Harper's Magazine* noted that 10-year-olds could name more brands of beer than names of American presidents. During prime-time television, two-thirds of programs contain portrayals of drinking or verbal references to it. Young people will see over a million drinking scenes by age 18—scenes in which the negative effects of drinking are rarely shown. Teens in one large-scale survey overwhelmingly responded that while they were aware that advertising makes drinking look better than it is, it still influenced them to drink more.

**"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"** —2 Corinthians 2:11







## How does one become a priest according to the New Testament?

Priests performed very important tasks under the Old Covenant, with their primary purpose being representatives of man to God. The mediation that the priest offered was mainly through offering sacrifices and intercession to God. Priests, including the high priest, could only come from the tribe of Levi and were separate from the people.

Under the New Covenant, things are very different, however. The high priest under whom all other priests must serve is Jesus Christ, who did not bring an animal sacrifice to God, but instead offered Himself as the sacrifice. He was not from the tribe of Levi, but from Judah, and He is a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec (Hebrews 6:20).

Peter recognized that all Christians should perform the priestly functions in the church, not just a special group of men. By virtue of this, all Christians are priests in God's sight. Peter said, speaking of all Christians, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Paul exhorted the Roman Christians, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). Only priests could offer sacrifices under the Old Covenant, so since Paul begged Christians to offer themselves as living sacrifices, he agrees with Peter that Christians are "an holy priesthood."

Since all Christians are priests, no Christian has to rely on a mere man as mediator between him and God. The Christian needs only go through the great high priest, Jesus Christ. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Under the old covenant, men from the tribe of Levi became priests in elaborate rituals. They were clothed with ceremonial garments and ritually cleansed of their sins. Of prime importance in their appointment were ceremonial washing in water and sprinkling of the sacrificial blood on them. Christians today put on the ceremonial priestly garments, wash in water, and are sprinkled with the blood of Christ's sacrifice when they obey the Lord in baptism. Paul wrote, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). As the Christian obeys Christ in baptism, he qualifies to come before the Heavenly Father because God symbolically clothes him in the priestly garments. The penitent believer, immersed in water, makes contact with the cleansing blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Paul reminded the Romans what they had done: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3). Baptism is into the death of Christ, where He shed His blood and made possible the forgiveness of sin. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203



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Send us your answers (address on front). We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one to receive a Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Starts with the Letter "G"

Find answers in Genesis 1:26; 2:11-12, 15; 3:1-6; 6:14; 19:23-29; Exodus 6:16; 30:13; Numbers 11:5; Judges 8:35; 16:1-3; 1 Samuel 11:15; 17:4, 50; 31:1-7; 1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 5:25; Esther 7:9-10; Matthew 7:13-14; 11:19; 26:36-56; 27:33-35; Luke 1:26-38; John 6:1; 19:13; 20:15-16; Acts 18:12-17; 22:3; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:6-12; 3:14; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2:24; 1 Peter 1:1; 3 John 1-5; (not in order).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Pilate's court (means "Pavement")
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Angel that announced Christ's birth
3. John addressed his third epistle to the well-beloved \_\_\_\_\_
4. Peter wrote his first epistle to strangers in \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Epistle to the \_\_\_\_\_ warned about leaving the true Gospel.
6. The Sea of \_\_\_\_\_ is also called the Sea of Tiberias.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy of Achaia who dismissed charges against Paul
8. Haman was hanged on the \_\_\_\_\_ he made for Mordecai.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was trained by this famous Jewish teacher.
10. Adam and Eve lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden
11. Christ was once mistaken by Mary to be a \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ A favorite Egyptian food
13. Christ urged us to enter in at the strait \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Home of Goliath
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson carried this city's gates away.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Elisha's servant
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Book that records man's creation and fall
18. The blessing of Abraham came on the \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus
19. The servant of the Lord must be \_\_\_\_\_ unto all men.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Twentieth part of a shekel
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Eldest son of Levi
22. \_\_\_\_\_ Scene of Christ's agony and betrayal
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Judge who was also called Jerubbaal
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Where King Saul died
25. \_\_\_\_\_ Where Saul was made king
26. \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah's birthplace
27. Christ was accused of being a \_\_\_\_\_ and a winebibber.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ The land of Havilah was known for this precious metal
29. \_\_\_\_\_ Where Jesus died
30. \_\_\_\_\_ Giant David killed with slingshot
31. \_\_\_\_\_ City God destroyed by fire
32. \_\_\_\_\_ Type of wood Noah used for ark
33. \_\_\_\_\_ The power of God unto salvation
34. \_\_\_\_\_ God's unmerited favor that saves us
35. Lois was Timothy's \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to Last Issue: Starts with the Letter "F":** 1. Faith (Hebrews 11:1); 2. False (Matthew 7:15); 3. Farthing (Matthew 10:29); 4. Fasted (Matthew 4:2); 5. Fall (Proverbs 16:18); 6. Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11); 7. Fathers (Ephesians 6:4); 8. Fault (Galatians 6:1); 9. Fear (Proverbs 9:10); 10. Feet (John 13:5); 11. Felix (Acts 24:25); 12. Fellowship (1 John 1:7); 13. Figs (Isaiah 38:21); 14. Frankincense (Matthew 2:11); 15. Firmament (Genesis 1:6); 16. First (Matthew 7:5); 17. Fishers (Matthew 4:18-21); 18. Flattereth (Proverbs 2:16); 19. Flesh (Galatians 6:8); 20. Flock (1 Peter 5:2); 21. Flood (Genesis 7:6); 22. Flower (James 1:10); 23. Follow (Matthew 16:24); 24. Food (1 Timothy 6:8); 25. Foolish (Matthew 25:1-13); 26. Footstool (Matthew 5:35); 27. Frost (Job 38:29); 28. Forgiveness (Colossians 1:14); 29. Fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18); 30. Forty (Exodus 24:18); 31. Fire (Revelation 20:14-15); 32. Furnace (Matthew 13:42); 33. Free (John 8:36); 34. Friend (James 2:23); 35. Fruit (Matthew 3:8).





# Learn More! For More Info!

## A Traveler's Guide to Heaven



**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Arrangements for accommodation must be made in advance (John 14:2).  
**PASSPORTS:** Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names already registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).  
**DEPARTURE TIME:** The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice (1 Corinthians 15:52).  
**TICKETS:** Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed and its promises kept firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8-9).  
**LUGGAGE:** No luggage whatsoever can be taken (1 Timothy 6:7).  
**IMMIGRATION:** All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. The quota is unlimited (Hebrews 11:16).  
**AIR PASSAGE:** Travelers going directly by air are advised to watch daily for indications of imminent departure (1 Thes. 4:17).

**VACCINATION / INOCULATIONS:** Injections are not needed, as there are no illnesses or diseases there (Revelation 21:4).  
**CURRENCY:** Supplies of currency may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Make deposits as large as possible (Matthew 6:20).  
**CLOTHING:** A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).  
**RESERVATIONS:** Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).

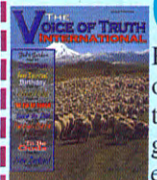
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### Featured Websites:

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### More!

- I want to better understand the church of Christ.
  - I want to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
  - I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
  - I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
  - I have a Bible question: \_\_\_\_\_
  - I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation.
- Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

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

- Send me this month's packet (all materials)
- BIBLE STUDY HELPS:**
- Enroll me in a Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free ... work on your own at home.*
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- Let Everyone Be Swift to Hear.** Listen to your mate, friends, God.
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- Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat . . .**
- God's Hospital.** A Unique Look at the Church
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart***

—All materials/services are absolutely **FREE** of charge. We even pay postage!—



In the Interest of Christian

# UNITY



Tell Me More About

# JESUS

## Who Christians Are and What They Do

### Who They Are:

Disciples	Acts 11:26
Children	Galatians 3:26-27
Priests	1 Peter 2:5
Saints	1 Corinthians 1:1-2
Branches	John 15:1-8
Soldiers	Ephesians 6:10-18
Stewards	Matthew 25:14-30
Pilgrims	1 Peter 2:11

### What They Do:

Study
Grow
Sacrifice
Live Holy Lives
Bear Fruit
Fight
Use Talents
Long for Home

## Sincerity Plus Truth



**Conductor:** "I'm sorry, but you are on the wrong train. You want to go to Memphis, but this train does not go there . . . it goes to St. Louis." **Passenger:** "What difference does that make? I sincerely thought this train was going to Memphis . . . does it really matter?"

**Doctor:** "Madam, I'm sorry. Your husband took pills containing poison and he'll be in the hospital at least a week." **Woman:** "He can't be hurt. He sincerely believed those were sleeping pills."

**Surgeon:** "Sir, you have a malignancy, which if not removed will cause your death." **Patient:** "Don't be silly Doc, I feel fine."

**Preacher:** "You are traveling on the road that leads to destruction. You must repent or perish" (Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:3). **Sinner:** "Don't be so narrow. My folks traveled this road, and if it was good enough for them, it is good enough for me. What difference does it make as long as one sincerely believes he is right? One way is just as good as another. I feel all right, and that's all that matters. I'm satisfied." **Jesus:** "Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father . . ." (Matthew 7:21). "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

## Get Rid of the Silver Cup

LEONARDO DA VINCI was famous for many paintings; however, his most significant work was the "The Last Supper" painted in a church building in Milan. This monumental fresco took four years to complete. An interesting story is told as to why it took so long to finish. When da Vinci was almost finished, a friend commented on how incredibly moving the painting was—especially the silver cup on the table. "It was brilliant, beautiful!" he said. "My eyes were immediately drawn to it." Da Vinci got so angry that he immediately painted over the cup, blotting it out. The focus of the painting was to be Jesus, not the cup. All attention had to be drawn to Him; anything that detracted from Him had to be removed.

What is the focus of our lives? We must remove anything that comes before Christ or hinders us from serving Him. Each day we're faced with many distractions. Literally hundreds of things vie for our attention. Is your life centered on Christ? Is He your focus?

**"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain"** —Philippians 1:21

## Thoreau's Frog and My Lord

Henry David Thoreau once spent a whole day in Walden Pond up to his neck in the water. He wanted to experience the world as a frog sees it. He shared the experience, but not the reality. Thoreau did not become a frog! Jesus did not swoop down and survey the human situation from a safe distance. He emptied Himself. He laid aside His celestial robes to put on the simple clothes of a man. Divinity clothed Himself with humanity. The Word became flesh. "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross . . ." (Philippians 2:7-8a; cf. John 1:14).

## Jesus Borrowed . . .

a place for His birth . . . a house to sleep in . . . a boat to preach from . . . an animal to ride on . . . a room to meet privately with His friends . . . and a tomb to be buried in. He who owned it all had nothing for His own! "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

## Jesus Left . . .

His purse to Judas . . . His clothes to the soldiers . . . His body to Joseph of Arimathea . . . His mother to John . . . His peace to the disciples . . . His supper to His followers . . . His Gospel to the world . . . His presence with God's children . . . His crown for me.

**"... for me a crown of righteousness"**

—2 Timothy 4:8







## THE GREAT I AM!



He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is Creator of all and the keeper of Creation. He is the architect of the universe and the manager of all times. He always was, He always is, and He always will be...unmoved, unchanged, undefeated, but never undone.

He was bruised but brought healing. He was pierced but eases pain. He was bound but brought freedom. He was dead but brought life. He was buried but raises us. He reigns and brings peace.

The world can't understand Him, armies can't defeat Him, schools can't fully explain Him, and leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill him, the Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, and the people couldn't hold Him. Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him, the New Age can't replace Him, and talk show pundits can't explain Him away.

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord. He is goodness, kindness, gentleness, and God. He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure. His ways are right; His word is eternal; His will is unchanging; and His mind is on me.

He is my Redeemer. He is my Savior. He is my guide. He is my peace. He is my joy. He is my comfort. He is my Lord. I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful, the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, and the sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

If that seems impressive to you, think of this. His goal is a relationship with ME! He will never leave me, never forsake me, never mislead me, never forget me, never overlook me, and never cancel my appointment.

When I fall, He lifts me up. When I fail, He forgives. When I am weak, He is strong. When I am lost, He is the way. When I am afraid, He is my courage. When I stumble, He steadies me. When I am hurt, He heals me. When I am broken, He mends me. When I am blind, He leads me. When I am hungry, He feeds me. When I face trials, He is with me. When I face persecution, He shields me. When I face problems, He comforts me. When I face loss, He provides for me. When I face death, He carries me home.

He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God. He is faithful. I am His, and He is Mine! —Author Unknown

"Fear not . . . I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" —Genesis 15:1b