

HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 7

The New Testament in Just

12 VERSES

—An Introduction to Christianity

Allen Webster



The New Testament is about a Man named Jesus who lived about two thousand years ago. He was a Jew, born in Israel to poor parents, and He did carpenter work most of His life. Yet He was no ordinary man.

The New Testament has 7957 verses, but the story of its 260 chapters can be summarized in just 258 words (12 verses):

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left (Luke 23:33). He is not here; for He is risen (Matthew 28:6).

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Ha-

des shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Titus 2:12). Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32). I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:3).

1 (John 1:14) Sin is humanity's great nemesis and destroyer. It started with Eve's forbidden bite in the garden (Genesis 3:1–6). It continued with murder (Cain), lying (Abraham), fornication (Samson), adultery (David), idolatry (Solomon), pride (Nebuchadnezzar), and so many more violations of the Creator's will.

Sin separates man from God (Genesis 3:24). Its wages is death (Romans 6:23)—a first death of separation from God now (Isaiah 59:1–2), and a second death in an eternal burning lake (Revelation 21:8). Everyone sins (Romans 3:23), so everyone faces this danger.

God's solution was to send His Son as a man to die for man's sin (Romans 3:24–26; 5:8). Jesus is God's indescribable gift to His sinful creation (Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 9:15). The entire Bible is about Jesus the Messiah:

- Old Testament: Messiah is coming.
- Matthew–John: Messiah is here.
- Acts: Jesus is in heaven ruling.
- Romans–Revelation: Jesus will return.

God long prepared for the Messiah to come. Humans were not privy to the master schedule (Acts 15:18), but much of it can be seen in retrospect. God's plan gradually unfolded (Ephesians 3:11). There was an early hint in Eden (Genesis 3:15); there were promises and covenants made to/with patriarchs (Genesis 12:1–7; 17:1–21). Shadows and types appeared in Moses' law (Hebrews 8:5; 10:1), and prophets made astounding predictions (Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 31:22; Luke 24:27, 44).

The New Testament continued the narrative of the Old Testament. For centuries, the Jews longed for the Messiah to arrive. In the Jewish year 3790 (the Christian year 4000, modern reckoning, 4 bc), the appointed time had come (Matthew 1:21; Galatians 4:4–5; Ephesians 1:10). By linking Jesus' birth to a census decree of Roman Caesar Augustus, Luke provided a historical framework for Christianity (Luke 1:1–4; 2:1–2; 3:1–2). Unlike some religions, Christianity did not happen "once upon a time in a make-believe land far, far away."

The Messiah came disguised as a baby—helpless, hungry, vulnerable, weak,

immobile, and incommunicative—then a boy, a working man, and finally a teacher.

The world's Creator had come to live in His creation (John 1:10–15). A Maker of worlds, He was content to be a carpenter for thirty years. Used to being worshiped, He attended worship services for His Father. Israel's King, He was subject to Herod. The future Judge had come to pay the law's penalty for billions of people who, at the time, did not understand or appreciate it (Luke 19:10; Romans 5:6–9; 1 John 2:1–2).

2 (John 3:16) The New Testament's great requirements are faith and love. These are the foundation of all its commands and the indispensables of acceptance with God. Faith is believing something unseen based on evidence (Hebrews 11:1). Without faith, it is impossible to please God (11:6; John 8:24; Romans 1:17). God is love (1 John 4:8); He delights in mercy (Micah 7:18); He extends grace (Ephesians 2:8). Without a response of love to His love, nothing humans do is acceptable to Him (Matthew 22:37; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3; 1 John 4:19).

3 (Luke 23:33) Jesus lived a good life (Acts 10:38), helping others, healing the sick, and teaching Christianity (Matthew 4:17). He was popular with common people (Mark 12:37), but religious leaders were jealous of His popularity and wanted to destroy Him (Mark 11:18; 15:10–12).

Ultimately, they cooked up charges and ramrodded a case through the courts (Matthew 26). They arrested Jesus late Thursday night, tried Him before dawn, convicted Him early Friday, and, a guilty verdict in hand, had Him on a cross by 9:00 a.m. They mocked Him as soldiers crucified Him (Matthew 27:35–42). Six hours later, He was dead. By 6:00 p.m. Friday, His body was in a tomb donated by Joseph from Arimathea.

When Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30), He marked the completion of a long chain of events that took place by divine guidance. His death in this way, at this time, in this place, for this purpose, was not accidental nor incidental; it happened by God's determination, counsel, and foreknowledge (Acts 2:23).

4 (Matthew 28:6) Jesus' enemies did not have the last laugh, though, for Jesus proved easier to kill than to keep dead.

Early Sunday morning—the third day—His tomb was found deserted. Some women came about daybreak to finish the burial process (Luke 24:1–2). They first thought the body had been moved (John 20:2), but angels confirmed His resurrection (20:11–12; Luke 24:4–7). Later, other disciples came to investigate, confirming the empty grave and noting His discarded grave clothes (24:12; John 20:4–7).

Over the next forty days, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, His disciples, and others a dozen or more times. At least 515 people saw Him (1 Corinthians 15:1–6).

Upon the fact of the resurrection, Christianity stands or falls. Jesus did not appear in a fog or wave from a distance. The witnesses did not just hear His voice in another room. They watched Him eat—proving a bodily resurrection (a spirit cannot eat broiled fish) (Luke 24:41–43). He invited them to examine His wounds (24:39–40). The people who insisted fiercely that Jesus arose were those who knew Him best.

5 (Matthew 16:18) The church was in God's mind even before creation (Ephesians 1:3–6). Daniel predicted a kingdom that would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45; cf. Isaiah 2:2–3; Joel 2:28–29). The church was promised by Jesus (Matthew 16:18; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:46–49), purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28), and is composed of those He saves (Acts 2:47).

6 (Acts 2:38) Jesus had promised His apostles a guide (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13), so ten days after He left, the Holy Spirit came upon them at the annual Jewish Pentecost festival. Led by the Spirit, they preached to the large crowd about Jesus and His kingdom's arrival (Acts 2:1–47).

Peter, using fulfilled prophecies and Jesus' miracles, convinced them that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah (Acts 2:16–22). Feeling bad for having killed Him, these new believers asked what to do to be saved. Peter replied that they

should turn from sin and be immersed in water (2:38). When about three thousand were baptized (2:41), the kingdom was here. The church was established. Christianity had launched!

7 (John 4:24) Jesus' church is essentially a worshiping, teaching society (Acts 2:42). The primary reason Christians assemble is, in a word, God. God blesses Christians all week. Christians bless God on Sundays (Psalm 96:2; 100:4). We honor His name (Psalm 29:2), praise His character and deeds (Psalm 145:5), and express gratitude for salvation by grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Worship involves a combination of right attitudes (spirit) and actions (according to truth). It includes singing, praying, giving, preaching, and remembering (1 Corinthians 11:23–28; 16:1–2). The early church worshiped on Sunday (Revelation 1:10)—every Sunday (Acts 20:7). During the week, Christians spent their free time together and taught others about Jesus and Christianity. The church today should follow all these examples, doctrines, and practices (2 Timothy 1:13).

The church grew rapidly (Acts 4:4; 5:14, 28; 6:1, 7; 9:31). In a single generation, it covered the Roman Empire (Romans 1:14; Colossians 1:23). Since then, it has filled the earth (Isaiah 2:2; Matthew 13:31–32).

8 (Titus 2:12) The New Testament letters (Romans–Jude) give guidelines for living from the time of our spiritual birth (conversion) to our physical death. They instruct Christians to avoid sinful lusts (Galatians 5:19–21; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–4) and to live righteously—showing love to all, including the poor and vulnerable (James 1:27; 1 John 3:11).

9 (Matthew 28:19) Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection gave the world the best news it ever had. His departing words sent His disciples traveling the globe with His offer of salvation for every person (Mark 16:15–16; Romans 1:16). In every generation until He returns, His followers seek to share the gospel with every person in every place. This calls for every-member evangelism, utilizing every communication tool and coordinated planning.

10 (Revelation 2:10) The final New Testament book gives Christians assurance. In it, Jesus essentially says, "If you overcome, you can come over to live with Me." Christians are often persecuted (Matthew 5:10–12; Luke 9:23). If necessary, they will die for their faith (*unto* death). It does not usually come to that, so they are faithful *until* death (Hebrews 9:27). They guard against letting faith slip and returning to sin (Hebrews 2:1–3; 2 Peter 2:20–22).

11 (Matthew 25:32) As His disciples watched Jesus ascend, angels appeared to explain that Jesus had returned to heaven but would one day return (Acts 1:9–11).

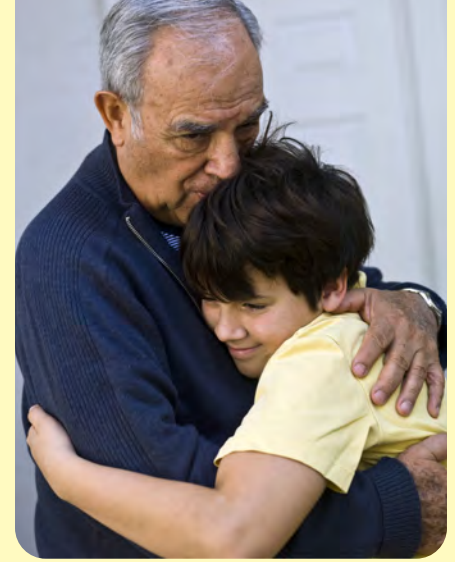
That return visit is what Christians long for. He gave no date or signs to precede His coming. Instead, He instructed Christians to be ready always, for He will come unexpectedly (Matthew 24:44; 25:13). At that time, Jesus will take His kingdom to heaven (1 Corinthians 15:24) and burn up the earth (2 Peter 3:7).

Judgment Day will follow the second coming. All who have ever lived—believers and unbelievers, sheep and goats—have a personal appointment set with Jesus at that time (Matthew 25:1–12; John 5:22; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

12 (John 14:3) Jesus will then welcome His followers into heaven. They will have immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42–44), have every need met, face no sorrow, have no pain, and live forever with their heavenly Father, their Savior, the Holy Spirit, angels, and all the saved from all ages (Revelation 21:1–4).

This offer is open to every person, any person—you! If you want to go to heaven, and avoid hell, simply become a Christian, live the Christian life, and trust God's promises.

Interested? Let's talk, or simply drop in for a visit Sunday.



Be Careful with Words

A businessman stepped up to a shoeshine boy's chair for a quick cleaning.

He was in a hurry but the boy took an unusually long time. Finally he finished.

When the man looked at his shoes, they were smeared and smudged. They looked worse than when he started.

He spoke angrily to the boy while the little fellow looked at the ground. Finally, the man said, "What do you have to say for yourself?"

The boy looked up with tears running down his cheeks. He stammered, "Mister, I'm sorry . . . about your . . . shoes. You see, my . . . mother died this . . . morning and I am . . . trying to get enough money . . . to put flowers . . . on her casket. I guess my mind . . . was not on my work."

Oh how the man wanted to take back his words! —Anonymous

"Be kind."

EPHESIANS 4:32

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Scalding Water

The Bible teaches not to seek opportunities for revenge, but to “kill them with kindness.” Paul wrote, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head” (Romans 12:20).

One lady was asked, “Have you heaped coals of fire on your enemy?” (thinking she knew this verse). She replied, “No, but I’ve tried scalding water!”

Revenge and marriage should not be used in the same sentence.

Grandparents

Grandparents have a lovely way of bringing joy to every day.

By finding thoughtful things to do, to show the love they have for you.

They always seem to understand, they always lend a helping hand.

They are someone special—someone dear, who are loved more with each passing year.

Grandparents are so many things, it is hard to describe the joy they bring.

They are a wonderful blessing from above, for most of all, grandparents are love.



Rich, Anyway

A young husband and wife were discussing finances and their struggle to pay the bills.

He said, “One of these days we will be rich and have more than enough money to pay the bills.”

She replied, “Yes, one day we will have enough money to pay bills, but we are already rich. We have a loving, Christian home.”

*“You who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.”*

ISAIAH 55:1

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.



Teaching Children to Love the Right Things

Teach your children not to love the world (1 John 2:15), but to love God and the things He loves (Matthew 22:36–40). Teach them to love

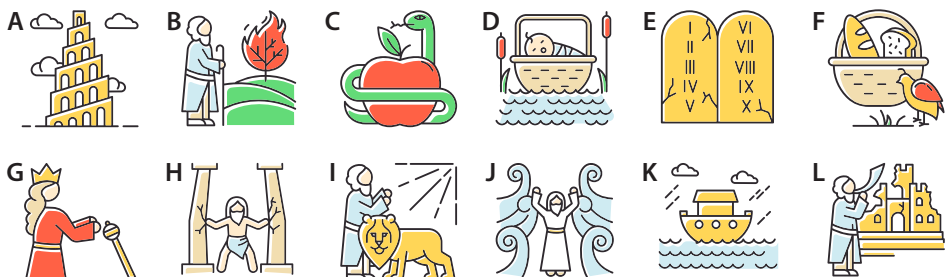
- **Life.** Love to live and see good days (1 Peter 3:8–11; Psalm 1:1–6).
 - **God.** Loving God also means to love Christ, the Bible, and the church (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 5:3–5; John 14:21). We cannot love sin if we love God (Amos 5:15; Romans 12:8–9).
 - **The brethren** (1 Peter 1:22; 2:17).
 - **Others.** Love neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36–40). Since we would not lie, steal, slander, take vengeance on, or persecute ourselves, we should not do these things to others.
- Learning what to love pays dividends throughout life. —Gus Nichols

*“Bring them up in the training
and admonition of the Lord.”*

EPHESIANS 6:4

Just for Fun Matching Game

Match the pictures with the Bible events



___ Noah and the Flood
(Genesis 6–9)

___ 10 Commandments
(Exodus 20)

___ Burning Bush
(Exodus 3)

___ Esther’s Request
(Esther 5:2)

___ Tower of Babel
(Genesis 11:1–9)

___ Manna and Quail
(Exodus 16)

___ Death of Samson
(Judges 16:23–31)

___ Birth of Moses
(Exodus 2)

___ Fall of Jericho
(Joshua 6)

___ Crossing the Red Sea
(Exodus 14:21–22)

___ Garden of Eden
(Genesis 3)

___ Daniel and the Lions
(Daniel 6:16–23)

A Comparison of the



Several have shown differences between the covenants (a compilation of sources):

- The Old Testament commences; the New Testament completes.
- The Old gathers around Sinai; the New around Calvary.
- The Old is associated with Moses; the New with Christ (John 1:17).
- The Old begins with God (Genesis 1:1); the New with Christ (Matthew 1:1).
- The Old was given to Israel (1 Kings 8:9; Deuteronomy 5:1–3); the New to all nations (Matthew 28:19–20).
- The Old was given through Moses (Exodus 34:27–28); the New through Christ (Hebrews 9:15).
- The Old was dedicated by animal blood (Hebrews 9:18–19); the New by Christ’s blood (Hebrews 9:12).

- The Old had temporary sacrifices (Hebrews 10:3); the New has a permanent one-time sacrifice (Hebrews 10:12).
- The Old was unable to purge the conscience (Hebrews 9:9); the New purges the conscience (Hebrews 9:14).
- The Old was could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:11); the New took away sin (Hebrews 10:12).
- The Old was done away (2 Corinthians 3:11, 14; Colossians 2:14); the New remains (2 Corinthians 3:11).
- The Old was abolished (2 Corinthians 3:13; Ephesians 2:14–15); the New is everlasting (Hebrews 13:20).

Many things changed under the New Covenant, including the following:

- A new name was given—Christian (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 4:12; 11:26).

- A new institution was established—the church (Daniel 2:44; Acts 2:47).
- A new doctrine was taught—the gospel (Isaiah 2:3; Luke 24:47).
- A new commandment became prominent—love as Christ loved (John 13:34).
- A new priesthood of all believers was established (Hebrews 7:24–28).
- A new feast in which to participate—the Lord’s supper (Matthew 26:26–29).
- A new day on which to worship—the Lord’s day, the first day of the week (Revelation 1:10). Thayer comments on *kupiakos*: “the day devoted to the Lord, sacred to the memory of Christ’s resurrection.” The Gospel accounts record the resurrection was on Sunday. —Anonymous

“All things have become new.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 26:7

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “The Whole Armor of God” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the King James Version and the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 26:5 Famous Old Testament Quotations: 1. Season (Ecclesiastes 3:1); 2. Beautiful (Ecclesiastes 3:11); 3. A little child (Isaiah 11:6); 4. Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14); 5. Make his face to shine upon thee (Numbers 6:24–26). 6. Return (Ecclesiastes 12:7); 7. God created (Genesis 1:1); 8. Man, wife, flesh (Genesis 2:24); 9. No other gods (Exodus 20:3); 10. Any graven image (20:4); 11. In vain (20:7); 12. Father, mother (20:12); 13. Kill (20:13); 14. Commit adultery (20:15); 15. Steal (20:16); 16. False witness (20:17); 17. Covet (20:18); 18. One (Deuteronomy 6:4); 19. Love, heart, might (6:5); 20 Diligently, children (6:7).

V. 26:6 Starts with the Letter “G”: 1. Gabbatha (John 19:13); 2. Gabriel (Luke 1:26–38); 3. Gaius (3 John 1–5); 4. Galatia (1 Peter 1:1); 5. Galatians (Galatians 1:6–9); 6. Galilee (John 6:1); 7. Gallio (Acts 18:12–17); 8. Gallows (Esther 7:9–10); 9. Gamaliel (Acts 22:3); 10. Garden (Genesis 2:15); 11. Gardener (John 20:15–16); 12. Garlic (Numbers 11:5); 13. Gate (Matthew 7:13–14); 14. Gath (1 Samuel 17:4); 15. Gaza (Judges 16:1–3); 16. Gehazi (2 Kings 5:25); 17. Genesis (Genesis 1:26; 3:1–6); 18. Gentiles (Galatians 3:14); 19. Gentle (2 Timothy 2:24); 20. Gerah (Exodus 30:13); 21. Gershon (Exodus 6:16); 22. Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–56); 23. Gideon (Judges 8:35); 24. Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:1–7); 25. Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:15)

Places in Acts

Directions: Find your answers in Acts 2:5, 47; 4:36; 8:40; 9:1–3, 6–8, 17–18; 10:1; 11:26; 16:9, 12–34; 17:10–11, 15–16; 18:1–3; 19:1, 23–29; 20:17–35; 21:39; 23:31; Acts 27:10–11; 28:16, 20–21. Questions are taken from the King James Version.

1. In what city does the book of Acts begin, and in what city does it end?

2. In what city did the church of Christ begin?

3. In what city was Saul converted?

4. In which city did Demetrius the silversmith oppose Paul so that the whole city was in uproar?

5. In which city were the people devoted both to idols and to discussing new ideas?

6. To which city did Philip first go after he baptized the man from Ethiopia?

7. Lydia’s original home.

8. The island from which Barnabas came.

9. The city in Achaia where Paul made tents with Aquila and Priscilla.

10. Cornelius’s home.

11. To what city did Paul receive a vision of a man saying, “Come over and help us”?

12. Paul’s hometown:

13. In which city were the disciples first called Christians?

14. Where did Paul exhort and say farewell to the elders from the church at Ephesus?

15. Where did Paul and Silas convert their jailor?

16. People from here were more noble than those from Thessalonica:

17. Place Paul was taken by soldiers to Felix the governor.

Need Some Good Advice?

The Bible is a book of wisdom.

Paul said the Scriptures made Timothy “wise for salvation” (2 Timothy 3:15).

The Psalms contain an enormous amount of God’s wisdom.

- Do you need help in finding words to pray to God? (Psalm 86).
- Do you struggle to find comfort in times of grief? (Psalm 23).
- Do you wrestle with the evil men trying to hurt you? (Psalm 10).
- Do you look for words to use to praise God? (Psalm 100).
- Do you seek to find ways to confess sin to God? (Psalm 51).
- Do you want to know more about the character of God’s Word? (Psalm 119).

What the psalms are to our relationship with God, the proverbs are to our relationship with man. They provide

- Wisdom for the young (1:1–7).

- Advice on avoiding fleshly sins such as fornication (Proverbs 7), partying (1:10–17), and drunkenness (23:29–35).
- Good advice on having and rearing children (22:6, 15).
- Verses on how to get along with neighbors and friends (25:17–19) and how to avoid foolishness (26:1–12).
- Advice on how to use one’s tongue (15:1–4).
- Advice on how to view wealth and poverty (13:7).

The Bible gives wisdom about sin.

- God hates sin (Proverbs 8:13).
- Sin separates from God (Isaiah 59:2).
- Sin is against God (Genesis 39:9; Psalm 51:4).
- God will punish those who sin (Ezekiel 18:4).

We need God’s wisdom to guide us through life to heaven. —Anonymous

“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.”

PROVERBS 3:13

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Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



An In-Home Bible Study

New Tracts!

- Racism's Flimsy Excuses and Weak Defenses
- What God Needs from the Next Generation
- What the Heavens Declare
- All the Scholars Say



More subjects:



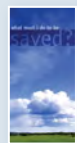
How To Increase Your Spiritual Passion



Lessons from the book of Ruth



What to Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ



What Must I Do to Be Saved



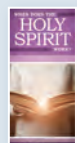
8 Things you will Never Do in Heaven



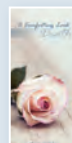
Wealthy People Who Pay No Taxes



The King of Kings



When Does the Holy Spirit Work?

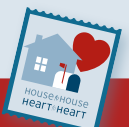


A Comforting Look at Death

Don't see the topic you need?

Visit www.housetohouse.com for more subjects.

VOLUME 26:7





HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

While there are inequalities in everyone's lives, there is one great equalizer. We all have the same amount of time each day.

We lead busy lives. It is important to set priorities so that we get the most important things done in our day, and in our lives. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

JUST HOW DO WE SPEND OUR TIME?

The average life expectancy is 79 years. We spend

26 years sleeping

10.4 years on TV and entertainment

10.3 years working

9.5 years fixing hair, deciding what to wear, and shopping

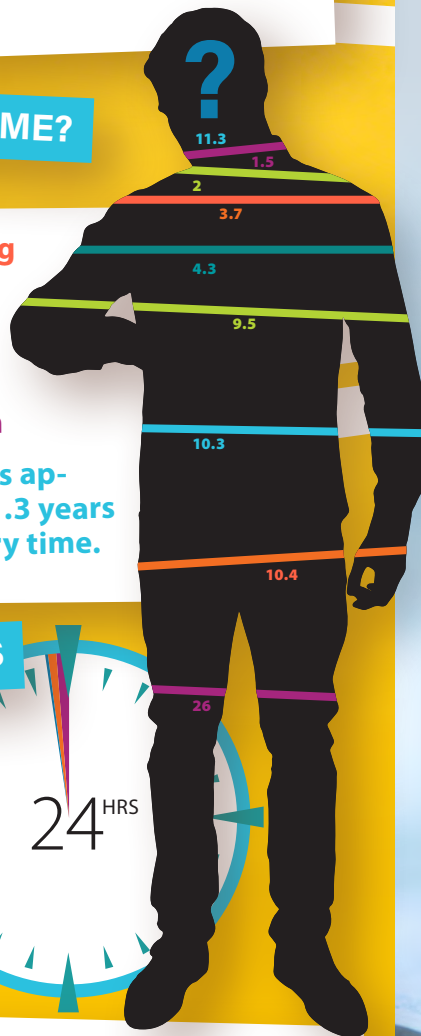
4.3 years driving

3.7 years eating

2 years on commercials

1.5 years in the restroom

That still leaves approximately 11.3 years of discretionary time.

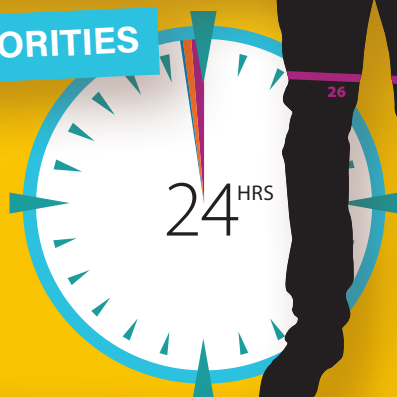


NOW CONSIDER OUR PRIORITIES

To read the **whole Bible** in a year would take 12–15 minutes a day.

To read the **Old Testament** in a year would take 9–10 minutes a day.

To read the **New Testament** in a year would take only 3–5 minutes a day.



If we set aside just a small portion of our time each day for Bible reading, it will impact the rest of our time for the better. After reading Scripture is a good time to pray, and much good comes from prayer. Our attitude and interaction with people will improve, providing opportunities for evangelism and helping others.

A new habit starts to take hold after just 18 days and becomes automatic behavior after two months. We should make a commitment today to read our Bibles more and see the impact on our lives.

Jesus Is Everything to Me

Both the Lamb and the Shepherd

(John 1:29, 36; Revelation 7:17; Isaiah 53:7)

Both the Builder and the Buyer

(Matthew 16:18)

(Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23, 25)

Both the Servant and the Master

(Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27)

(Matthew 23:8, 10; Mark 4:38; John 13:13; Colossians 4:1)

Both the Sacrifice and the High Priest

(Ephesians 5:2; Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:26)

(Hebrews 4:15)

Both the Advocate and the Judge

(1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25)

(2 Timothy 4:1, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

—Author Unknown

"Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you."

ACTS 3:22





Greater Love

Jack Kelley, a reporter working for *USA Today*, was in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, to cover a terrible famine.

He came across a boy on a back road. The boy was malnourished; his stomach was protruding. His hair was reddish, and his skin was wrinkled as if he were 100 years old.

The photographer gave him a grapefruit. The boy was so weak he could not hold it, so Kelley cut it in half. The boy took half, looked up as if to say “thank you,” and began to walk toward his village. He did not realize the photographer and reporter followed at a distance.

In the village he came to his younger brother, who looked to be dead. His eyes were glazed over. The older boy knelt, bit off and chewed a piece of grapefruit, opened his brother’s mouth, put the fruit in, and worked his jaw up and down. (The reporter later learned that the older brother had been doing this for two weeks.)

A couple days later the older brother died, but the younger one lived.

Is this what Jesus meant when He said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”? (John 15:13).

Love changes everything. It changes our hearts and causes us to do things for others that we would never have done before.

—Anonymous



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