

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, 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

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

This file provided by: www.housetohouse.com



**“...so that
they may be
one...”**

John 17:11

The “Weaknesses” of Almighty God

ALLEN WEBSTER

God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and ever-present (Psa. 139:1-16; 1 Jn. 4:8). He is *Almighty* God—the perfect Being.

Paul’s statement, then, is unusual: “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Cor. 1:25). This, of course, emphasizes man’s weakness and God’s strength. The sense is, “If God had a weakness, it would still be stronger than man. God on His worst day is better than man on his best day.” But let’s run with this thought.

What are God’s “weaknesses?”

THE ALMIGHTY GOD HAS A “WEAK” MEMORY.

God has trouble remembering certain things—He just cannot remember forgiven sins. This was the prayer of the ancients: “Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions...” (Psa. 64:9). Again, “O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us...” (Psa. 79:8). Though both the statesman prophet and the weeping prophet, God promised “forgetfulness.” He told Isaiah, “I, even I, am he that bloteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (43:25). Jeremiah received this joyful message: “...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (31:34). God reiterated the promise in the New Covenant: “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 8:12; 10:17). Forgiven sins are “erased” (Acts 3:19) and “washed away” (Acts 22:16). He forgot the wastefulness of the prodigal (Luke 15:20-24) and the bloody hands of Christ’s crucifiers (Acts 2:23,38,41). He offers this same “forgetfulness” to us!

THE ALMIGHTY GOD HAS “WEAK” HEARING.

There are some prayers that God can’t hear way up in heaven. God does not hear a sinner’s prayer. The Psalmist knew this: “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (66:18).¹ The wisest man knew it, too: “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Prov. 28:9). Peter said, “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Pet. 3:12). This does not mean that God is unaware of their petitions, but that He refuses to answer them. When the sinner looks to heaven, and says, “My Father...,” he looks in the wrong direction (cf. Jn. 8:44). Prayer is the privilege of God’s child.

Sin stops the flow of God’s blessings. Although an estimated 500,000 tons of water rush over Niagara Falls every minute, on March 29, 1948, the falls suddenly stopped! People living within the sound of the falls were awakened by the overwhelming silence. Some believed it was a sign that the world was coming to an end. It was thirty hours before the rush of water resumed. What happened? Heavy winds jammed the ice fields of Lake Erie into the entrance of the Niagara River near Buffalo and stopped the water’s flow.² Sin does that to the Niagara of God’s blessings. On the other hand, James promises us that “...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (5:16).

THE ALMIGHTY GOD HAS “WEAK” SMELLING.

In the Old Testament, Jehovah is sometimes pictured as “smelling” the sacrifices His priests offered Him (cf. Gen. 8:22,21). In the New Testament, Christ’s sacrifice of Himself is said to be a sweet savor to God (Eph. 5:2) and Christians giving of themselves for others “smells” good to God (Phil. 4:18). When Israel offered God unacceptable sacrifices, He suddenly developed “smelling problems.” He warned that if they walked contrary to His Will, “...I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours” (Lev. 26:31). Many years later, it happened: “...I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies” (Amos 5:21). As a boy, Norman Vincent Peale

found a cigar, slipped into an alley, and lit up. It tasted terrible, but it made him feel grown up ... until he saw his father coming. He quickly put the cigar behind his back and, trying to be casual, pointed his father’s attention to a billboard advertising a circus. “Can we go, Dad? Please....” His father’s reply taught a lesson he never forgot. “Son, never make a petition while at the same time trying to hide a smoldering disobedience.”³ God cannot accept worship from hypocrites —He just cannot stand the smell!

THE ALMIGHTY GOD HAS “WEAK” EYESIGHT.

God has trouble seeing certain things. Isaiah said, “...thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back” (38:17)—indicating that they were “out of sight, out of mind.” An unusual “two goat” ceremony under the Old Law illustrates the “invisible quality” of forgiven sins. God told them to sacrifice one goat as symbol of sin’s penalty; the priest was to lay hands on the other’s head—the scapegoat—as a symbol that the people’s sins were being transferred to the animal. Then the goat was sent into the wilderness to show that their sins had been carried away (Lev. 16:8-10, 30-32). This ceremony has messianic overtones. Jesus is now God’s Scapegoat to “take away the sins of the world” (Isa. 53:6-12; Jn. 1:29). God laid on Him all our sins at Calvary. We can now be forgiven! How far does He carry them from us? As far as the east is from the west (Psa. 103:8-17)!

Micah pictures forgiveness as God casting sins into the sea (7:19). Of all the places on earth to lose something—especially to an ancient mind—none is more irretrievable than the bottom of the deep ocean. When God sees a penitent child walking in the light, He sees His Son’s blood, not mistakes, for “...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7).

Jesus never met a man He would not save. Read the Gospel Records and see for yourself. You never find Him saying, “I wish I could help you, but there’s nothing I can do.” You never hear Him say, “Your case is too difficult for me.” He leaves no inkling of unwillingness or inability. He died for “the sins of the world”—all of them. He shed His blood for “the remission of sins”—all sins.⁴

God will forgive *anybody* for *any* sin! It matters not what sins have been committed. Some sinners hesitate to come to Christ because they fear God can never forgive them. Some Christians live in doubt of whether God has forgiven them. It is good to be sensitive to sin, but it is not good to doubt God. He said He would forgive—did He lie (cf. Titus 1:2)?! God’s heart was big enough to forgive those who murdered His own Son (Acts 2:22-41). He mustered enough compassion to forgive Paul, a murderer of Christians (1 Tim. 1:13-15). He somehow managed to forgive the Corinthians who were guilty of all sorts of vile sins (1 Cor. 6:9-11). His grace has appeared to *all* (Tit. 2:11); He wants *all* to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9); and He invites *all* (Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17). Surely God can forgive *you and me!*

It sounds too good to be true, but it is true! Sinners who come with faith in God’s Son (Jn. 3:16; 8:24), repenting of sin (Lk. 13:3; Rm. 10:9,10), confessing Christ (Mt. 10:32), to be baptized in water for forgiveness (Acts 2:36-38; 1 Pet. 3:21), do not leave disappointed. God does not just pretend to forgive, He *really* forgives. “Who is a God like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity...?” (Micah 7:18).

Are you not glad that the Almighty God has some “weaknesses?”

¹According to Psalm 109:7, He may even count their *prayers* as sin.

²Merle Mees in *Fresh Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching* (Baker)

³Kirk Russel, DeForest, Wisconsin. *Leadership*, Vol. 4, no. 4.

⁴Adapted from John Gipson, Little Rock, Arkansas

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

The Common People

I enjoyed reading one time about Queen Elizabeth's first American baseball game in Baltimore. Escorted by the President and Mrs. Bush and the baseball commissioner, the Queen sat in VIP skybox and enjoyed a pre-game buffet of crab cakes and blackened smoked turkey. She stayed for two innings.

Now, I'm not so sure Queen Elizabeth has been to a ball game yet. After all, what's a baseball game without nine innings, hard bleachers, and expensive hot dogs?

This illustrates an important spiritual point. When God sent His only begotten Son Jesus into the world, He could have placed Him in a palace with jewels and crowns and servants. He didn't. Instead, He gave Him the dirt roads of the common man. And Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus was "tempted in all points such as we are." He's a Savior who can understand the hardships of our lives. No wonder the Bible says the "common people heard Him gladly" (Mark 12:37). —Glenn Colley, Collierville, Tennessee

Thinking of Others

As Gandhi stepped aboard a train one day, one of his shoes slipped off and landed on the track. He was unable to retrieve it as the train was moving. To the amazement of his companions, Gandhi calmly took off his other shoe and threw it back along the track to land close to the first. Asked by a fellow passenger why he did so, Gandhi smiled. "The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track" will now have a pair he can use."

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" —Philippians 2:5

Children Know Best

During the Civil Rights era, a first-grade white girl met a black girl on school's first day. Segregation had prevented the white girl from associating with black people. Integration changed that and made both girls scared. When the white girl returned home after that historic day, she told her mother that she sat next to a black girl in school. The mother tensed, anticipating the worst. She asked her little girl what happened. The child said, "We were both so scared that we held hands all day." The problems of our day would move toward resolution if we could learn from these little girls and hold hands rather than making fists.

—John Ortberg, Seeds Tape Ministry

"My brethren, have not...respect of persons" —Jas. 2:1

A Crown for a Cross

The Ammonites' history with Israel was continually tense. The Ammonites were descendants of Ben-Ammi, Lot's youngest daughter (Gen. 19). They refused to aid Israel in their flight from Egypt and had hired Balaam to curse Israel (Deut. 23:3ff.). In Israel's siege against the last Ammonite stronghold, Rabbah (2 Sam. 12:26-31), Joab had captured the city's water supply and was ready to take the city. He requested that the King come to Rabbah for the final battle so David would receive the honor instead of his captain. When the city fell, the crown was removed from the Ammonite king and placed upon King David's.

What is amazing is that this crown weighed almost *seventy-five* pounds! Some commentators have trouble believing that it could have been placed upon David's head. However, in countries where travel is usually by foot and goods are often carried upon the head, seventy-five pounds would not be unusual. I personally have seen young men carrying the rear axles of cars balanced on their heads!

Imagine, what a glorious crown it must have been—pure gold encrusted with precious stones. If we travel though time a thousand years, we read of another King who had a crown placed upon His head. This crown, however, was not gold nor encrusted with jewels. It was a crown of thorns, plaited by Roman soldiers, and forced upon the brow of Jesus of Nazareth (Jn. 19:1-3). He was forced to stand before these mocking soldiers, blood running down His face, as they derisively bowed and shouted, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Jesus was willing to suffer humiliation and even give His life on the cruel cross to save mankind from the wages of sin (Rm. 3:23; 6:23). Because He did, God "...crowned him with glory and honor," and "put all things in subjection under his feet" (Heb. 2:7). Truly, Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

There is still more. Let us travel ahead to another time. It may be tomorrow, next week, next year, or ten thousand years from now. It is the time when Jesus appears in His second coming. The dead in Christ will be resurrected from the grave, and along with the living Christians, will be changed and meet Christ in the air (1 Thes. 4:13-18). Then there will be a great accounting, the Day of Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46). On that day Jesus will hand out crowns to His faithful servants. Paul wrote, "...there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

We can receive a crown, not from a man, but from the King of kings and Lord of lords Himself! Paul referred to this crown elsewhere as an "incorruptible crown" (1 Cor. 9:25). James and John referred to it as the "crown of life" (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10), and Peter called it the "crown of glory" (1 Pet. 5:4). They all represent the wonderful gift of the eternal life with God for His faithful servants.

Will you receive a crown? Can God count you as one of His faithful? Ada Powell penned the following words, "There's a crown for your cross, there is gain for your loss; You'll be given a crown for your cross. There's a beautiful crown when your cross is laid down; You'll be given a beautiful crown."

—Bob Bauer, Orange Beach, Florida

Take Your Calculator...

Begin with 66, the number of books in the Bible. Add 13, the number of books by Paul in the New Testament. Add 7, the number of the "churches of Asia." Multiply by 3, the number of the Godhead. Multiply by 12, the number of tribes in Israel. Multiply by 12, the number of apostles. Add 666, the number of the Beast in Revelation. Turn the calculator around so that you can read the answer upside down. You will see the source for the solution of the world's greatest ills.





HOME PAGE

Mom's Worth A Lot

Sylvia Porter is a noted financial analyst. Mrs. Porter figured an average hourly fee for a nursemaid, housekeeper, cook, dishwasher, laundress, food buyer, chauffeur, gardener, maintenance person, seamstress, dietitian, and practical nurse. She found that the labor performed by a mother each year at home would cost a family \$23,580 in Greensboro, South Carolina, \$26,962 in Los Angeles, and \$28,735 in Chicago. Even at that, the list is not exhaustive. In addition to the roles cited above, most moms also function as coach, teacher, interior decorator, religious educator, mediator, counselor, and child psychologist. Punch up salaries for all of those professions, and mom's worth at least six figures!

"...her price is far above rubies" —Prov. 31:10

9 out of 10:

Understandably, some families must utilize the services of a day care center, but many Americans use such centers merely to increase their buying power by putting both parents in the workforce. A comprehensive study of American families discovered that "even among dual-wage earning couples, nine out of every ten believe that children are better off being raised with a mother at home rather than in a day care setting."

—Family Research Council, Feb. 7, 1994, p. 4

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home..." —Titus 2:4,5

Smile...

▶ Married life can be frustrating. In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak and the neighbors listen.

1 Corinthians 13 for the Home

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper not a homemaker.

If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness but not godliness.

Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys.

Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood.

Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother, I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child.

As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..." —1 Corinthians 13:4-8

No Charge

Our little boy came up to his mother and handed her a piece of paper. After his mom dried her hands on an apron, she read:

For cutting the grass.....	\$5.00
For cleaning up my room this week.....	1.00
For going to the store for you.....	.50
Baby-sitting my kid brother.....	.25
Taking out the garbage.....	1.00
For getting a good report card.....	5.00
For cleaning up and raking yard.....	2.00
Total owed:.....	\$14.75

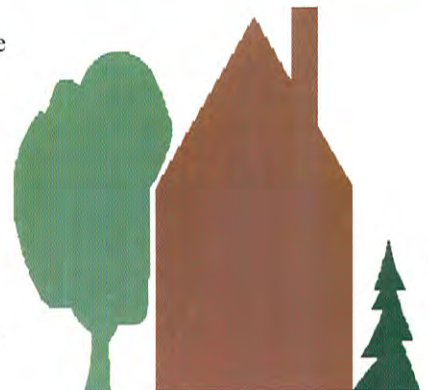
His mother looked at him standing there, expectantly. She picked up the pen, turned the paper over, and wrote:

Nine months I carried you while you were inside me.....	No Charge
The times I've sat with you, doctored, and prayed for you.....	No Charge
For all the tears that you caused through the years.....	No Charge
For all the nights filled with dread, and the worries I knew were ahead.....	No Charge
For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose.....	No Charge
And when you add it all up, the full cost of love is.....	No Charge

When the son finished reading what his mother had written, there were great tears in his eyes. He looked straight at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you." And then he took the pen, and in great big letters he wrote: "PAID IN FULL."

Well Said:

- ▶ There are only two things that a child will share willingly: communicable diseases and his mother's age.
- ▶ Kids go anywhere there is excitement. They stay anywhere there is love. —Zig Ziglar
- ▶ Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs in my field since the payment is pure love. —Mildred B. Vermont
- ▶ Parents need to fill a child's self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes in it to drain it dry. —Alvin Price



Where Did Cain Get His Wife?



Cain has the distinction of being the first murderer in the Bible. When he saw that “the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect,” he “was very wroth, and his countenance fell” (Gen. 4:4-5).

This led Cain to rise up against his brother Abel and kill him. When God asked Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?” he evaded the question by saying, “I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen. 4:8-9). The Lord recognized his sin, however, and told him that he would be a fugitive and a vagabond (4:10-12). The Lord then set a protective mark on him and sent him out.

Thus “Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch” (4:16-17). Some have thought that since Cain was dwelling in “the land of Nod,” that his wife must have been from some unknown race of people dwelling in Nod. The text does not say that Cain found his wife in Nod, however, but simply that he was dwelling in Nod and that when he “knew” his wife sexually, she bore his son Enoch.

Cain’s wife must have been a sister, niece, or other relative. Since Adam and Eve were the first human beings, then all people descended from them, including Cain and his wife. There was no separate creation of some unknown people in the land of Nod. If Cain did meet and marry his wife in Nod, she still would have had to be a relative. While the text mentions no other children of Adam and Eve before it says that Cain knew his wife, that does not mean that there were no other descendants of Adam and Eve at that time. Moses was simply listing the descendants of Cain before he listed the preferred line through Seth, the son appointed in the place of Abel (4:25). “Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20). “And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters” (Gen. 5:4). Since Eve was “the mother of all living,” and Adam “begat sons and daughters,” Cain’s wife must have descended from Adam and Eve.

But if Cain married a sister or niece, or other near relative, wasn’t that incest? Where else would the children of Adam and Eve find mates, however, other than among their own brothers and sisters? There were no other people created by God. God did not introduce laws forbidding incest until later (Lev. 18) when the breakdown of the human genetic pool became a problem. Those who lived before the Genesis flood were apparently much healthier than those who came along after the flood. Life spans of hundreds of years were not unusual before the flood, but life spans were much shorter after the flood. Adam lived 930 years, while Seth lived 912 years, and the longest lived man was Methuselah, who lived 969 years (Gen. 5:5, 8, 25). These long life spans were possible only because they were stronger genetically. Current laws forbid intermarriage with close relatives because diseases and genetic problems result.

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

[Note: Questions based on the King James Version.]

Wisdom Speaks

- Who is called the “wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24)? _____
- Paul “came not with excellency of speech or of _____, declaring unto you the testimony of God” (1 Cor. 2:1).
- God made foolish the wisdom of _____ (1 Cor. 1:20).
- Jews required a sign, but _____ sought after wisdom (1 Cor. 1:22).
- From where does true wisdom come (1 Cor. 1:30)? _____
- If a Christian lacks wisdom, he should _____ (Jas. 1:5)?
- Paul did not rely on the wisdom of “_____” (1 Cor. 2:6).
- God said, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my _____ than your _____” (Isa. 55:9).
- When enticed to join sinners, a wise person will not _____ (Prov. 1:10).
- A wise young man, when tempted by an immoral woman, will “_____ [his] way far from her...” (Prov. 5:8).
- “A _____ son heareth his _____ instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke” (Prov. 13:1).
- A wise man will not engage in _____ (Prov. 10:23).
- A wise man will turn “the other _____” (Mt. 5:39).
- A wise man will not proclaim _____ (Prov. 12:23).
- A wise man focuses his mind on six things (Phil. 4:8): “... whatsoever things are _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ of _____ report...”
- Wisdom helps in delivering one from the _____ (Prov. 2:12-15).
- Wisdom will help one prosper in “_____ of days, and long _____, and _____” (Prov. 3:2).
- Wisdom is “health to thy _____, and _____ to thy bones” (Prov. 3:8).
- A wise person keeps his/her heart “...with all diligence; for out of it are the _____” (Prov. 4:23).
- A wise person puts away a “froward _____” and “perverse _____” (Prov. 4:24).
- A wise person looks “right on,” and lets the “eyelids _____ before thee” (Prov. 4:25).
- A wise person ponders the path of the _____, and lets all his/her “_____ be established” (Prov. 4:26).
- A wise person “shall _____ in time to come” (Prov. 31:21-27).
- The wise woman was called _____ by her children, and her husband _____ her (Prov. 31:28-31).

The Very Devil

- What possessed man ran around naked (Lk. 8:27)? _____
- What affliction did the woman have who had endured an evil spirit for eighteen years (Lk. 13:11-16)? _____
- Jesus cast seven demons out of _____ (Lk. 8:2).
- When an evil spirit returned, how many companions did it bring with it (Mt. 12:45)? _____
- What does Satan masquerade as in the present world (2 Cor. 11:14)? _____

Answers to last issue: *The God I Know:* 1. 1. true, living, everlasting; 2. Creator; 3. liar; 4. man; 5. Rock, perfect, iniquity; 6. respecter, persons; 7. wise; knowing; 8. everlasting, everlasting; 9. needs; 10. prayers, righteous; 11. caring; 12. all men to be saved; *The Value of that Great Book:* 1. sword, Word; 2. gold, honey, honeycomb; 3. God; 4. glorify God; 5. done good, done evil; 6. spirit, truth; 7. all things, life, godliness; 8. doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness; 9. power; 10. quick, powerful, sharper than a two edged sword; 11. What must I do to be saved?; 12. Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins

Send your answers in! We’ll grade and return all entries and randomly select one entrant to receive a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.



Evidence for Inspiration

A cynical scientist long ago sneered at the Bible as "a collection of rude imaginings of Syria," as "the worn-out old bottle of Judaism into which the generous new wine of science is being poured." The cynical savant is now dead, but the Bible is still alive, for as the Book of Books, it is alive (Heb. 4:15). The old wines of science grow sour in their cellars, and its new vintages have their day,

but the Bible shows no signs of senility. Its youth is eternal. When contemporary men of science and their theories are forgotten, the Bible will remain what it has been for mankind for two thousand years, the one

universal book of wisdom, of truth, of sublimity, and of consolation."

—James Douglass

There are many lines of evidence used to prove the inspiration of the Bible. A very convincing one is the scientific foreknowledge the writers of the Bible show. These men knew things about science that were not discovered until hundreds—sometimes thousands—of years later. Consider a few:

- ▶▶ Long ago the Bible said that the Earth is round: "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth" (Isaiah 40:22).
- ▶▶ Long ago the Bible said that the Earth is suspended upon nothing: "He stretched out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." (Job 26:7) *Men once thought the earth was supported on gigantic elephants, turtles, or some such things.*
- ▶▶ Long ago the Bible said that light can be divided: "By what way is the light parted?" (Job 38:24). *We divide light into different colors by a prism.*
- ▶▶ Long ago the Bible said that the seas are all in one bed: "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered unto one place...and God called... the gathering together of the waters ...seas" (Gen. 1:9-10). *All earth's great oceans are connected together, and are actually one great sea. The Bible indicated this before men discovered it by sailing around the earth.*

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God" —2 Timothy 3:16

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever..." —1 Pet 1:24,25

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

YES! I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible study course.

I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.

I am interested in seeing the "Visualized Bible Study" Video Series.

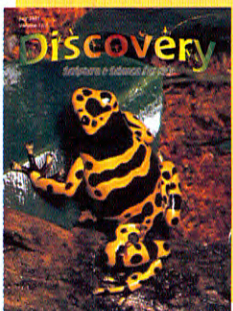
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.

Children's Discovery Magazine.



Free Issue! HTH has made special arrangement for its readers to receive a free issue of *Discovery*, a colorful, beautifully illustrated, eight-page monthly magazine written especially for children. Each issue contains faith-building lessons on science and the Bible, as well as fun activities to reinforce the truths present in each article. Children from eight to twelve years old will benefit most from *Discovery*, but children and teens (even adults) of all ages can enjoy the Bible topics, creatures, puzzles, and interesting facts. To receive your free copy at no obligation, simply contact:

1-800-234-8558 OR mail@ApologeticsPress.org



Featured Tracts:

Check the free Bible subjects you want to study further:

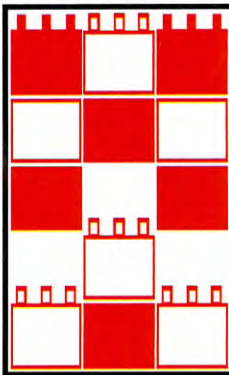
- Send me this month's packet (all featured materials)
- Why I Quit Going to the Beach.**
First time Available! A Christian man explains how he came to the conclusion that public swimming is immodest and should be avoided by God's people (16 page booklet, with appropriate Scriptures for study).
- Lonely?**
New pamphlet! Are you or someone you know suffering from loneliness? This material covers how to overcome loneliness—and how to help others.
- HTH Booklet: Church. Why Bother?
- HTH Booklet: Shall We Gather at the River?
- HTH Pamphlet: Salvation: Who Needs It?
- Heaven, Glimpses of Glory
- Coping with Loneliness
- The Truth about Lying
- The Rapture?
- How I Studied the Bible
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- Practicing Safe Sin
- Profanity
- Is Christianity a Cult?
- The Holy Spirit
- The Pillars of Calvinism
- Dance (youth)
- Are There Too Many Churches?
- The Lord's Supper
- The Work of Women in the Church
- Amazing Grace
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



Featured Website:

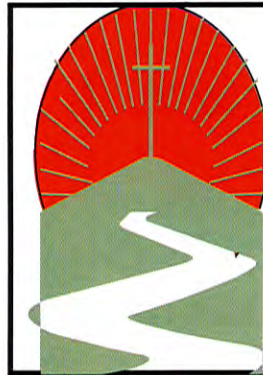
www.thebible.net

Listen to the Bible online, join a Bible discussion group, ask Bible questions, get a Bible reading schedule, access a wealth of free Bible study materials, hear sermons...



In the Interest of Christian

UNITY



Tell Me More About

JESUS

A Man from Mars

Suppose we were to give a Bible to a man from Mars and tell him to follow the New Testament explicitly. If he did, having never heard of religion, what would be the results?

He would learn that the Bible is all-sufficient. Our visitor would learn that he needs no other book, for God's Word is complete (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3). He would learn that Christ through the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into "all truth" (John 16:13), and that "...whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God" (2 Jn. 9). He could reason, then, that any other book that claims divine origin is fraudulent, and that he cannot accept any other book, even though its author may claim to be God's prophet (Gal. 1:8, 9).

He would learn that Christ is an all-sufficient Savior. Our interplanetary traveler would soon understand that the Lord Jesus Christ is the sum, substance, and summary of salvation from statements like: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29); and, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). The man from Mars could readily see the doctrine that all good religious people will be saved is not so. Those who reject Christ may be good, moral people, but they cannot be saved for there is no hope if one refuses Christ as God's Son, the Savior of the world (Lk. 10:16).

He would learn that all followers of Christ are called Christians (Acts 11:26). Our imaginary friend, by reading the Bible, would not decide to wear the denominational names that are so common today. Going strictly by the Bible one could never wear the name, Hafley, nor the name of any other man. He could reference Peter's statement: "But if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name" (1 Pet. 4:16). In what name? *Christian!*

He would learn what he must do in order to be saved. The man from Mars would see from such passages as Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 6:23 that he could not save himself. However, he would discover that there are some definite acts of obedience with which he must comply (Heb. 5:8-9).

After believing that Christ is God's Son (Jn. 3:16), repenting of his sins (Acts 2:38), and confessing faith (Rm. 10:9,10), the Martian would want to be baptized in Jesus' name for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). He would never think that all he had to do was bow his head and say, "Jesus, I receive you as my personal Savior," because that statement is not found in the Bible.

What would be the result if all who claim to follow Christ were to agree to go totally—and only—by the Bible? Could we not all be agreed on the things that the man from Mars would believe if he took God's Word alone? Let's try it!

— adapted from Larry Ray Hafley

God, or Man, or Both



"And the Word was made 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

▶ Jesus Christ is God in the form of man; as completely God as if he were not man; as completely man as if he were not God.

—A. J. F. Behrends

- ▶ Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity. —Phillips Brooks
- ▶ It pleases the Father that *all* fulness should be in Christ; therefore, there is nothing but emptiness anywhere else. —W. Gadsby
- ▶ In Christ Jesus heaven meets earth, and earth ascends to heaven. —Henry Law
- ▶ A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd be either a lunatic—on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg—or else he'd be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse... —C.S. Lewis
- ▶ Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was He a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man. —Charles H. Spurgeon
- ▶ Christ was not half a God and half a man; he was perfectly God and perfectly man. —James Stalker
- ▶ Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. He will appear before us as a Jew, lowly born, humbly bred, without the manners of the court or the capital, without the learning of the school, or the culture of the college; a mere peasant, as it were, just like the unlettered workmen of Nazareth. He becomes a preacher, just as Amos the herdsman of Tekoah and multitudes more of His people had done, but He is flouted by the Pharisees, contradicted by the scribes, hated and persecuted by the priests. In a word, He is despised and rejected of the official guardians of religion, and heard gladly by the common people alone. The men He gathers round Him are, like Himself, without the delicate thought or the fastidious speech. All God's great works are silent. Light as it travels makes no noise, utters no sound to the ear. Creation is a silent process; nature rose under the Almighty hand without clang or clamor, or noises that distract and disturb. So, when Jesus came, being of God, His coming was lowly. —John R. W. Stott



"The trouble with turning over a new leaf is that once you've done it twice, you're right back where you started." There's a big difference between turning over a new leaf and turning over your life to Jesus Christ. —*Words in Season*, Penelope Stokes