

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 7, Number 2

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

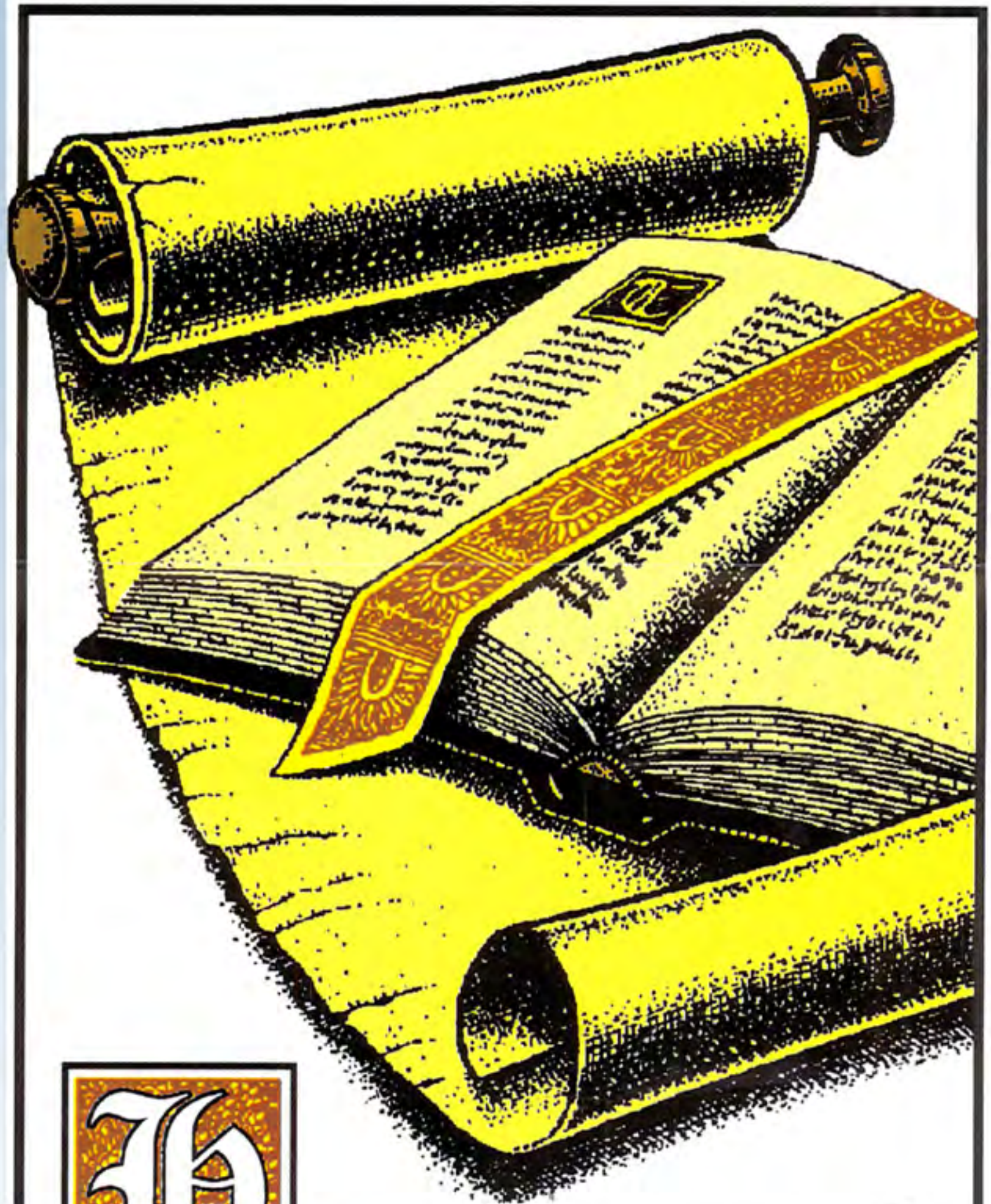
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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ear the word
of the LORD....
Jeremiah 2:4

Forgiven To Forgive

ALLEN WEBSTER

When one lady was asked, "Have you heaped coals of fire on your enemy?" (thinking she would remember Romans 12:20, "...if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head"), she replied, "No, but I've tried scalding water!"

Resentment and vengeance are two ingredients for a miserable life. A happy person is a giver, a forgiver, and a thanksgiver. The Bible teaches that we are "forgiven to forgive."

WE MUST BE FORGIVERS TO BE LIKE GOD (cf. 1 Pet. 1:15,16). Someone said, "We are most like beasts when we kill; we are most like men when we judge; we are most like God when we forgive" (cf. Eph. 1:7). Alexander Pope said, "To err is human, to forgive divine." There is no higher goal than to be like God, and His Son Jesus—and both are forgivers! An apostle said, "... these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin" (1 Jn. 2:1; 3:5; cf. Isa. 53:5).

WE MUST BE FORGIVERS TO PLEASE GOD. God commanded us to forgive others (Mk. 11:25,26; 1 Cor. 14:20; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13), and there are no non-essential commands in the Bible (Rev. 22:14; Jn. 14:15). When one refuses to forgive, he disobeys God and will be rejected by Him (Mt. 7:24-27; Heb. 5:8,9). Forgiveness is not optional. One might as well not take the Lord's Supper, refuse baptism, or be unfaithful to one's spouse, as to hold a grudge. It is a life and death matter.

WE MUST BE FORGIVERS TO BE FORGIVEN BY GOD. Jesus said, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt. 6:14,15). Since we all need forgiveness, we must all forgive. A hand closed to give forgiveness is also closed to receive forgiveness.

- ♥ Joseph forgave his brothers (Gen. 45:5-15).
- ♥ Moses forgave Miriam and Aaron (Num. 12:1-13).
- ♥ David forgave Saul (1 Sam. 24:9-22).
- ♥ The father forgave the prodigal (Lk. 15:20-24).

The best illustration, perhaps, is the parable found in Matthew 18:23-35. Jesus told of a servant who owed a king ten thousand talents (a tremendous sum of ten million dollars). Josephus, a first century historian, recorded that the annual taxes for the whole region of Palestine was only about 800 talents. The man obviously could not pay the debt, so the king commanded that the servant, his wife, and his children be sold so some payment could be made. The servant fell down and begged the king saying, "Lord have patience with me and I will pay thee all." The lord was moved with compassion and forgave him the entire debt!

The same servant then went out and found a fellow servant which owed him a hundred pence—a small amount of about fifteen dollars (only 1/600,000 of 10,000 talents). He laid his hands on his fellow-servant, took him by the throat and said, "Pay me that thou owest." Then the fellow-servant fell down and pleaded, "Have patience with me and I will pay thee all" (sound familiar?). But the servant would not be merciful. He had the fellow-servant cast into prison until he could pay the debt. When other servants saw this they were very sorry and reported to their lord what had been done.

The lord then said to the servant who had been forgiven of the huge debt, "O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me; shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?" And the king was so angry he delivered him to tormentors, until he paid all the debt. Jesus concludes the parable by making this point: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." The person who says, "I can never forgive you for that..." apparently does not realize the peril in which he places his own soul.

WE MUST FORGIVE TO BE HAPPY. If we hold grudges, harbor bitterness, hatred, and mistrust in our hearts, we will be miserable. Forgiveness brings joy (Psa. 32:1), but it must be full forgiveness. Spurgeon said, "Forgive and forget; when you bury a mad dog, don't leave his tail above the ground." When we forgive, we bury the hatchet—handle and all. When we sweep the floor, we don't leave dirt behind the door. Someone said, "A grudge is one thing that does not get better when it is nursed." To gain peace of mind, we must avoid keeping a filing system to remember offenses (cf. Heb. 8:12; 10:17).

The Civil War left a tragic aftermath of bitterness, hatred, and resentment in America. The wounds inflicted by the war were deep and painful. Though the guns fell silent, the anger continued. Many were unwilling to forget or forgive what had been done. One who refused to participate in this harvest of bitterness was General Robert E. Lee. Though Lee had headed the Confederate armies most of the Civil War, he urged reconciliation between North and South. He opposed the erection of Confederate monuments because they kept wartime passions alive. While visiting in a home in Lexington, Virginia, where he lived after the war, Lee was taken to the back yard where the owner showed him the mangled stump of a once beautiful tree. She explained, bitterly, how Union troops had destroyed her property. Expecting sympathy, she waited for him to share her sense of outrage. Finally, Lee spoke: "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it."

How many of us have something we need to "cut down and forget?" Paul wrote, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, *forgetting those things which are behind*, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God..." (Phil. 3:13,14). He added, "Let all bitterness...be put away from you, with all malice" (Eph. 4:31). Moses wrote, "Thou shalt not avenge, *nor bear any grudge* against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself..." (Lev. 19:18). James said, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned..." (5:9). Too many "stumps" can make an ugly "memory lawn."

Thackeray and Dickens, the two English literary giants of the nineteenth century, became rivals. After years of hatred, they met accidentally in London. They coldly faced each other, and then turned to leave. On an impulse, Thackeray turned back and seized Dickens' hand. Dickens was touched by the gesture and they left smiling with the old jealousy ended. Just a few days after this incident, Thackeray died. Little did Dickens know that the next time he saw Thackeray he would be in a casket. A writer, later recalling the story asked, "Is it not always well to seek forgiveness now?"

Is there someone *you* need to offer forgiveness?

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Breathing Holes on the Way to Heaven

A few years ago, the world watched as three gray whales, icebound off Point Barrow, Alaska, floated battered and bloody, gasping for breath at a hole in the ice. Their only hope: somehow to be transported five miles past the ice pack to open sea. Rescuers began cutting a string of breathing holes about twenty yards apart in the six-inch-thick ice.



For eight days they coaxed the whales from one hole to the next, mile after mile. Along the way, one vanished and was presumed dead. But finally, with the help of Russian icebreakers, the whales Putu and Siku swam to freedom.

In a way, worship is a string of breathing holes the Lord provides His people. Battered and bruised in a world frozen with greed, selfishness, and hatred, we rise for air in worship, a place to breathe again, to be loved and encouraged, until that day when the Lord forever shatters the ice cap.

—Craig Brian Larson, *Leadership*, Vol. 11, no. 2

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” —Revelation 22:17

Let Me Do It Now

I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness that I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

—Stephen Grellet (1773-1855)

S-m-i-l-e

In our town’s elementary school at the beginning of the year, the school secretary routinely collects the lunch money from the new kindergartners. This solves the problem of lost money. But for nervous 5-year-olds, it took a few days to understand what was happening.

For two days, the secretary would come into the room and ask in a loud voice, “Does anybody have any lunch money for me?” Her question was met with no response.

On the third day, one little boy came in at the bell, walked hesitantly to the teacher’s desk, held out his hand and whispered, “Here is lunch money from my piggy bank for the poor lady nobody gives money to.”

—June Spivey, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 34

“Be ye kind one to another...” —Ephesians 4:32

The Gerber Boy

In 1975 Raymond Dunn, Jr., was born in New York State. The Associated Press reported that at his birth, a skull fracture and oxygen deprivation caused severe retardation. As Raymond grew, the family discovered further impairments. His twisted body suffered up to twenty seizures per day. He was blind, mute, immobile. He had severe allergies that limited him to only one food: a meat-based formula made by Gerber Foods.



In 1985, Gerber stopped making the formula that Raymond lived on. Carol Dunn scoured the country to buy what stores had in stock, accumulating cases and cases, but in 1990 her supply ran out. In desperation, she appealed to Gerber for help. Without this particular food, Raymond would starve to death. The employees of the company listened.

In an unprecedented action, volunteers donated hundreds of hours to bring out old equipment, set up production lines, obtain special approval from the USDA, and produce the formula—all for one special boy. In January 1995, Raymond Dunn, Jr., known as “the Gerber Boy,” died from his physical problems. But during his brief lifetime, he called forth a wonderful thing called compassion.

—Larry A. Payne, Amarillo, Texas. *Leadership*, Vol. 16, no. 3.

Mark Twain and Science

Though an atheist, Mark Twain had little use for the evolutionary doctrine of uniformitarianism, that “the present is the key to the past.” The Bible teaches catastrophism, that such cataclysms as the Genesis flood have occurred in the past. His observations from *Life On The Mississippi* follow.

Since my own day on the Mississippi, cutoffs have been made at Hurricane Island 100, and at Council Bend. These shortened the river 67 miles. In my time a cutoff was made at American Bend which shortened the river 10 miles. Thus, the Mississippi River between Caro and New Orleans was 1,215 miles long 176 years ago...its length is only 973 miles at present...If I wanted to be one of those ponderous scientific people, and ‘let on’ to prove what had occurred in a given time in the recent past, or what will occur in the far future by what has occurred in late years, what an opportunity is here! Geology never had such exact data to argue from! Glacial epochs are great things but they are vague—vague. Please observe:

In the space of 176 years the Mississippi River had shortened itself 242 miles. That is an average of a trifle over one mile and 1/3 per year. Therefore, any calm person, who is not blind or idiotic, can see that in the Old Oolitic Silurian Period, just a million years ago next November, the Lower Mississippi River was upwards of one million three hundred thousand miles long, and struck out over the Gulf of Mexico like a fishing rod!!

And by the same token any person can see that in 742 years from now the Lower Mississippi will be only a mile and 3/4 long, and Cairo and New Orleans will have joined their streets together, and be plodding comfortably along under a single mayor and mutual board of aldermen.

There is something fascinating about science, one gets such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such trifling investments of fact. Evolution has its basis in so-called Historical Geology, the geologic timetable. Twain has shown its absurdity.

Truly, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 53:1).

—Curtis A. Cates, *The Yokefellow*, Memphis, Tennessee





The
HOME
PAGE

Ten Things for Which a Parent Will Never Be Sorry

1. For doing your level best even when discouraged.
2. For hearing before judging in family quarrels.
3. For thinking before speaking when emotionally upset.
4. For not harboring unkind thoughts of a talebearer.
5. For being generous to an enemy, perhaps the next door neighbor.
6. For stopping your ears to gossip over the fence.
7. For standing by your principles in dealing with your teenagers.
8. For asking pardon, when in error, even of your child.
9. For being square in business dealings with the newsboy.
10. For accepting the stewardship of "another" child.

—*Encounter*, the National Research Bureau

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain"

—Matthew 5:41

Happy Families

What do people consider the greatest source of pleasure in their lives? According to a study conducted for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Corporation, the overwhelming answer is "family," selected by 63 percent of respondents.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD"

—Proverbs 18:22

God's, Of Course

My neighbor's son, Robert, seemed young to usher at a wedding, but he was quickly coached in wedding protocol. A veteran usher instructed Robert to ask the person he was escorting, "Are you a guest of the bride or groom?" to know where to seat them.

Imagine our surprise when we heard Robert ask, as he graciously offered his arm to the first arrival, "Madam, whose side are you on?"

The "Funniest" Dad

A family in the East was planning a month's vacation to the West Coast. At the last minute, the father's work responsibilities prevented him from going, but Mom insisted that she was capable of driving and that she and the kids would go ahead. Dad got out the maps and planned the route and where the family should stop each night.

A couple of weeks later, the father completed his extra work responsibilities. He decided to surprise the family, so he flew to a West Coast city without calling them. Then he took a taxi out into the country on a highway that, according to his travel plan, the family should be driving on later that day. The taxi driver dropped him off on the side of the road.

Dad waited there until he saw the family car coming, then stuck out his thumb as a hitchhiker. As Mom and the kids drove past, they did a double take. One of the kids said, "Hey, wasn't that Dad?" Mom screeched to a stop, backed up to the hitchhiker, and the family had a joyful reunion.

Later, when a newspaper reporter asked the man why he would do such a crazy thing, he responded, "After I die, I want my kids to be able to say, 'Dad sure was fun, wasn't he?'"

—James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited*

The "Meanest" Mom

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different than other kids had too. Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You would think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lay awake at night thinking of more things for us to do. She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds, and life was really tough.

She wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property, or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did.

Sundays were reserved for church services, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays.

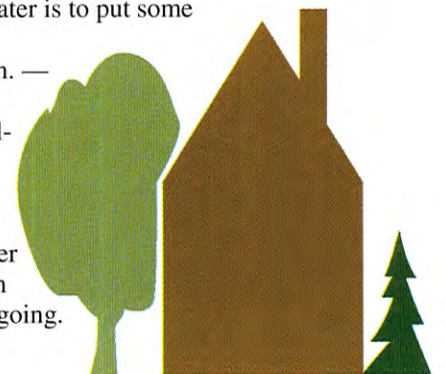
Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like our mom was.

The world just does not have enough mean moms anymore.

—*Wit & Wisdom*, July 30, 1998

Well Said:

- ▶ The best way to keep your kids out of hot water is to put some dishes in it.
- ▶ It is easier to build a boy than to mend a man. — Charles C. Gavin
- ▶ We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk
- ▶ and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and be quiet.
- ▶ You know that your children are getting older when they quit asking where they came from and don't want you to know where they are going.



Are the various denominations branches of the true vine?



As Jesus prepared His apostles for His departure, He told them the parable of the vine and the branches. He had just instituted the Lord's Supper with the elements of the bread and the fruit of the vine, so the picture of the vine and the branches would have been very clear to the disciples.

Jesus immediately identified Himself as the vine: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman" (Jn. 15:1). He next identified the work of the branches as that of bearing fruit, warning that the husbandman takes away unfruitful branches. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (15:2).

Some suggest that this parable is a picture of the contemporary church, with all the various denominations and sects coming together to form the Lord's church. It is sometimes shown in the form of a tree, with various branches depicting the way in which different religious groups have grown out of one another. The text reveals, however, that the branches are not the different religious sects of "Christendom," but instead are individual Christians.



Jesus was speaking in John 15 to the apostles as individuals, not religious groups. Notice the emphasis on what the individual disciple must do. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (15:5-8). Jesus told the disciples, "ye are the branches," and "if a man abide not in me." The branches are people, not churches!

The branches must bear fruit for the husbandman. The fruitfulness that the Lord wants, which is the product of a Christian life, comes only from abiding in Christ. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, "for without me ye can do nothing" (15:4-5). What we can do in Christ, however, is unlimited. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). The key is to be in Christ, abiding in Him. Paul said, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).



Christ did not want His followers to be divided among the various religious groups and denominations. As He prepared for the cross, He prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone [the apostles], but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). He wanted all who believe the testimony of the apostles to be united.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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

The God I Know

Paul said, "...I know whom I have believed..." (2 Tim. 1:12). It is possible to know God, but not without knowing about God.

1. I know Him to be the _____ God, the _____ God and an _____ king (Jeremiah 10:10).
2. I know Him to be the _____ (Genesis 1:1).
3. I know Him not to be a _____ (Hebrews 6:18).
4. I know Him not to be a _____ (Numbers 23:19).
5. I know Him to be the _____, His work _____, without _____ (Deuteronomy 32:4).
6. I know Him not to be a _____ of _____ (Acts 10:34-35).
7. I know Him to be all-_____ and all-_____ (Rm. 11:33).
8. I know Him to be from _____ to _____ (Psa. 90:2).
9. I know Him to be a provider of my _____ (Mt. 6:8).
10. I know Him to be a hearer of the _____ of the _____ (Proverbs 15:29).
11. I know Him to be _____ (1 Peter 5:7).
12. I know Him to be the one who wants _____ (1 Timothy 2:4).

The Value of that Great Book

1. The Bible can be called the "_____ of the Spirit," or the "_____ of God" (Ephesians 6:17).
2. The Bible contains the laws of God. The psalmist described those laws as being desired more than _____ and sweeter than _____ and the _____ (Psalm 19:10).
3. The Bible answers some thought provoking questions. It tells me that I am created in the image of _____ (Gen. 1:26-27).
4. The Bible tells me that I am here for what purpose (1 Cor. 10:31)? _____
5. The Bible tells me that I have an eternal destination (heaven or hell). It will be heaven if I have _____, and hell if I have _____ (John 5:28-29).
6. The Bible tells me how to worship. How does God instruct me to worship? "In _____ and in _____" (John 4:24).
7. The Bible supplies my every need. Peter said, "According to his divine power hath given unto us _____ that pertain unto _____ and _____" (2 Peter 1:3).
8. The Bible is profitable for what four things (2 Tim. 3:16). (1) _____; (2) _____; (3) _____; (4) _____
9. The Bible [gospel] is the _____ of God (Romans 1:16).
10. Hebrews 4:12 says what three things about the Bible? _____
11. The Book of Acts records life's greatest question three times (2:37; 16:30; 9:6). What is it? _____
12. The Bible answers that question. What were those told to do when they asked, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:38). _____



Answers to last issue: *Wonderful Women:* 1. Her price is far above rubies; 2. Wisdom; 3. The law of kindness; 4. Godliness; 5. Hannah; 6. To be a "help meet" (suitable) for Adam; 7. Elisabeth; 8. Mary; 9. Priscilla; 10. Submit; 11. Trust in God; Holiness; Love their children; 12. Sarah, Rahab; 13. Lois, Eunice; 14. A crown of life; *Marvelous Men:* 1. Noah; 2. David; 3. John; 4. Jesus; 5. Peter; 6. Stephen; 7. A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch; 8. Head; 9. With Love; 10. Provoke not children to wrath; 11. Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; 12. Paul; 13. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses; 14. A crown of life

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.



Don't Be Like the Frog

Place a frog in boiling water, and it will quickly jump out, fully aware of the dangerous environment. Place a frog in a kettle of tap water and slowly increase the temperature to the boiling point. The frog will stay in the water until it boils to death.

America was founded on the principles of the Bible. Our early leaders and citizens read, believed, loved, and revered God's Word! Today, less than half of Americans read the Bible once a week. Of those who do, less than ten minutes a day is spent in study. Is it any wonder that Bible knowledge is lacking?

Our environment (culture) affects us more than we might think. We are in a lukewarm kettle that may boil us to death! Our time is too little occupied with Matthew, Mark, Peter, and Paul and too often occupied with TV, cartoons, Oprah, and ball. How can we keep from becoming like the frog?

We must recognize the value of a good working knowledge of the Bible. The Bible is the only book which can tell our past, present, and future. We were created in the image of a loving God (Gen. 1:27); our purpose in life is to praise Him (1 Pet. 2:9); and our future can be heaven with Him (Jn. 14:1,2). The only way to become a child of God is to learn the Bible's teachings (Jn. 6:44,45). No other book contains the way of salvation (Jn. 14:6), hope in death (1 Pet. 1:3), or the road to heaven (Mt. 7:13,14). Studying is the only way to become what God wants us to be. Christians become strong by study (Acts 20:32) and, conversely, weak without it (Rm. 10:17). Those with weak faith make easy prey for the devil (Eph. 6:16).

We must not be satisfied with the status quo. We must be diligent to learn all we can (2 Tim. 2:15). We might say, "Well, I know as much as the average person." We should not soothe ourselves by comparing ourselves with others—but with what God wants us to be. Paul wrote, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves by themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12). Let's be like the sponge that is always thirsty, and unlike the camel who may go days without a drink.

We must count the cost and be willing to pay the price. One remarked of his desire to know the Bible like a certain Gospel preacher: "I would give my life to know the Bible like he does." To which was replied, "That is exactly the price he paid." We must do more than wish, we must work. We must do more than desire; we must dig. We must do more than meddle; we must meditate and master. We must do more than read, we must remember. The Bereans were commended because they searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and David delighted in the word day and night (Psa. 1:2). If one expects to grow, he must feed on the "sincere milk of the word" (1 Pet. 2:2). Just as a man with no appetite is physically unhealthy, so the man with no hunger for sacred knowledge is spiritually sick (Mt. 5:6). We become concerned if a loved one loses his appetite; just so, we should exercise even greater care if the spiritual man never hungers.

Why not make a resolution to make reading God's Word a daily part of your life? Don't be like the frog!

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a Survey of the Bible study course.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I am interested in seeing the "Visualized Bible Study" Video Series.
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

All materials/services are FREE of charge.



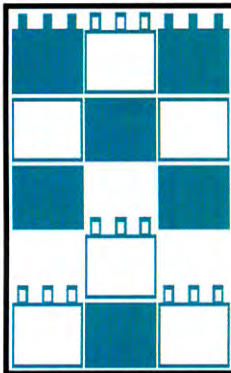
Featured Website:

For more free in depth Bible study material, please visit: www.christiancourier.com
While there, visit the "Just for Kids" section
This popular site has nearly 1 million "hits" per year.

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Check the free Bible subjects you want to study further:

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- A Christian TV Guide.** New pamphlet!
- HTH Booklet: Wait Till the Honeymoon?
- HTH Booklet: The Man with a "Wait" Problem
- HTH Pamphlet: The Advantage of Disadvantage
- HTH Pamphlet: A Decent Devil?
- Falling From Grace What About Angels?
- How to Read the Difficult Names in the Bible
- The One True Church (Bible class/home poster)
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- "The Sword" (Selected Scriptures on Bible Subjects)
- Reincarnation and the Bible What About...Dinosaurs?
- Where Would Jesus Worship? Why Believe in Jesus?
- Is Weekly Communion a Scriptural Requirement
- Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage Gambling
- Help for Troubled Marriages
- What Must I Do to be Saved?
- Other subject: _____
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



In the Interest of Christian

UNITY

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?



Why should a person become a member of the church of Christ? I wish to offer some good reasons for your consideration. The Scriptures are found at the end of each reason so one can look up the references carefully.

- ♥ Because it was founded by the Scriptural builder—Christ (Matthew 16:18).
- ♥ Because it was founded on the Scriptural foundation—the teachings of Christ (Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20).
- ♥ Because it was founded at the Scriptural place—Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3; Lk. 24:46-49; Acts 2).
- ♥ Because it was founded at the Scriptural time—the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2, “church” used in the present tense for the first time).
- ♥ Because it is Scriptural in name (Mt. 16:18; Rm. 16:16).
- ♥ Because it is Scriptural in organization (Phil. 1:1).
- ♥ Because it has the Bible as its only creed (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3).
- ♥ Because it is undenominational (John 17:20-21).
- ♥ Because it teaches and administers Scriptural baptism—immersion (Mt. 28:18-19; Acts 8:36,38; Jn. 3:23; Rm. 6:4).
- ♥ Because it gives Scriptural answers to the question, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16).
- ♥ Because of its Scriptural teaching and observance of the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Acts 20:7; 2:42).
- ♥ Because it has Scriptural music in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- ♥ Because salvation is in Christ’s church (Acts 20:28; 2:47; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18).

Friend, why not obey the simple Gospel of Christ today? Sin condemns one’s soul eternally—but God has given His Son, making it possible for sin to be removed through obedience to the Son’s will. But, all is in vain unless one obeys!

There are so many “religions”—it is confusing until one can objectively view the Bible. Upon looking to the Old Testament and seeing the Kingdom (church) in prophecy; the Messiah would come, and details given that men could identify Him; and then in the life of Christ, the Son actually stating some were hearing His voice that would not taste of death until the Kingdom (church) came with power (Mark 9:1). Then Acts 2 records for us some of the events that took place on the day of Pentecost, the time when the Lord’s church began.

We can become a member of that same church today—the one that Christ said He would build (Mt. 16:18); the one that is found within the pages of the inspired Bible. By doing what they did then—we can become what they became then—just Christians! If we can assist you in your obedience to Christ, please allow us to do so.



Tell Me More About

JESUS

How Can We Not Follow Him?



When Mary first held that beautiful infant, she did not have to wrestle with what He would be called. His Father (not His stepfather) had decided to call Him, “Jesus.” He sent a messenger to the perplexed Joseph with these words, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Mt. 1:21).

Jesus... what a name! It is now the world’s most recognizable appellation, but at that time was just a common Jewish word for “savior.” It is the New Testament form of the Old Testament name “Joshua.” Joshua saved God’s people by bringing them into Canaan; Jesus saved God’s people by opening heaven. The New Testament uses the word “Jesus” nine hundred eighty-three times. You don’t have to know Hebrew or Greek to see that He is the principal character of the world’s best-selling Book.

Why was Jesus so fitted to be our Savior? Why is He the only one who has ever been qualified to save the world? *Because He was the only one who could pay the price for our sin.* Paul wrote, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7). His blood was the only substance that could ever “redeem” (“buy back”). A story out of American history illustrates this point: One day Abraham Lincoln went down to the slave block and saw a girl being sold. He took money out of his pocket and bought her.

Then he said to her, “Young lady, you are free.” She said, “Please, sir, what does that mean?” Lincoln said, “It means you are free.” She asked, “Does that mean that I can say whatever I want to say?” He answered, “Yes. You can say whatever you want to say.” She asked, “Does that mean I can be whatever I want to be?” He replied, “Yes, it means you can be whatever you want to be.” She asked, “Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?” He said, “Yes, you can go wherever you want to go.” And the girl with tears streaming down her face, said, “Then I will go with you.”

When sin put us on Satan’s auction block, Jesus bought us back with His own blood. Paul wrote, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rm. 5:8). While we were still sinners...we will never fully understand that kind of love. Walk through the Gospel Accounts once again and see God’s amazing grace as Jesus deals with people like us who are imperfect, flawed, and frail:

- ♥ Zacchaeus the tax collector (Lk. 19),
- ♥ The woman caught in adultery (Jn. 8),
- ♥ The Samaritan woman at the well (Jn. 4),
- ♥ The thief crucified next to Him (Lk. 23).

When we comprehend the riches of His grace extended to us, we, too, say, “Then I will go with you.” How can we not follow a Savior like that?

—Allen Webster, Jacksonville, Alabama