

HOUSE TO HOUSE

Heart to Heart



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

Volume 9, Number 4

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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“...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail
against it” —Matthew 16:18

Who is at the Controls?

Allen Webster

If life is a flight through time, who is in the cockpit?
If life is a joy-ride, who is behind the steering wheel?
If life is a voyage, who is at the helm?

Decisions determine direction (Joshua 24:15). Direction determines destiny (Matthew 7:13-14). Will we *ascend* or *descend* at the judgment? It all depends on who makes our decisions.

“ME”

“Invictus” is commonly quoted by valedictorians at high school graduations across America. It sums the philosophy of many youth as they begin their adult lives. It was written by William Ernest Henley,¹ an early humanist who was crippled since his childhood in Gloucester, England. His “master-of-my-fate-captain-of-my-soul” philosophy was only a little ahead of its time.

Out of the night that covers me, black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance my head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years finds and shall find me unafraid.
It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.

Sinatra’s song, “I did it my way,” is often requested at funerals. So, from the beginning of adult life to the end of it, many say, “I make my own choices—nobody tells me what to do.”

Bible examples abound of those who had “me” on life’s throne. Note the personal pronouns of “a certain rich man:” “What shall **I** do, because **I** have no room where to bestow **my** fruits? And he said, This will **I** do: **I** will pull down **my** barns, and build greater . . . there will **I** bestow all **my** fruits and **my** goods. And **I** will say to **my** soul, Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take **thine** ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:17-19). God called him a “fool” (12:20). Another rich man had the “me” philosophy and awoke in torment (Luke 16:23).

Self-will took Nebuchadnezzar from his throne (Daniel 4:30-37) and kept Moses from Canaan (Exodus 20:8-12). Felix trembled at the thought of giving control to Christ (Acts 24:25); Agrippa came close to handing over the reins, but not close enough (Acts 26:28). The prodigal is not the only young man who has let such thinking take him to the far country—and into the pigpen (cf. Luke 15:11-32).

Paul said, “Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth². . . I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own. . .” (1 Corinthians 10:24, 33). He added, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:4). Self-will disqualifies a man from the eldership (Titus 1:7), as it does one from being a true Christian (Philippians 2:3-5). The Jews as a whole were guilty of “going about to establish their own righteousness” because they had not “submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

We will never be able by our own bootstraps to rise out of the mire into which our sins have sunk us. The man who says he is in complete control of his life is mistaken. The devil allows him to think so, but serving self is sacrificing at Satan’s altar. There are no free men in sin’s death camp (Romans 6:17, 23). When we were young, our fathers may have allowed us to “drive” while sitting in their laps. We felt we were in control, but when the car veered from the road, they quickly took over. Many are sitting in Satan’s lap, “steer-

ing” their lives to a lake of fire. “Me” is not a safe guide for life (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23).

“MEN”

Others allow public opinion to make their decisions. How many should make Saul’s confession? “I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: *because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice*” (1 Samuel 15:24). Eve let the reptile influence her, and Adam gave in to Eve; both let forbidden fruit get them into a “jam” (Genesis 3:6). Abraham feared Abimelech enough to tell “a little white lie”³ (Genesis 20:11), and Aaron made a golden calf at public demand (Exodus 32:21-24). Pilate wanted to set Jesus free but was too much of a people-pleasing politician to stand by his decision (Matthew 23:4-24). Many rulers believed on Jesus but would not confess “for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43; cf. 5:44). Even Barnabas once gave in to peer pressure and disassociated himself from Gentiles (Galatians 2:13).

Paul wrote, “For do I now persuade⁴ men, or God? or do I seek to please⁵ men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). Jesus said, “Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).

Christians must strongly resist the pressure to conform to the world’s mold (Romans 12:1-2)—we are a peculiar⁶ people (Titus 2:14). Evil companions are bad for good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33), so we should stay away from them as much as possible (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Pitching tents toward Sodom has left behind the smoking ruins of many families (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:16, 24, 26, 36). Any who love the opinion of father, mother, wife, children, brethren, or sisters more than Christ, cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:16; cf. 18:29, 30). “Men” are not a safe guideline for crossing the chasm that divides earth and eternity (Matthew 7:13, 14).

“MESSIAH”

A third choice is to allow Christ to rule our lives. He stands today knocking at the door of every heart (Revelation 3:20), but He will never force His way in (cf. Luke 24:28, 29). He has no draft for His army, no subpoenas for His mediatorship (Matthew 22:37; 2 Corinthians 5:14). One who comes to Jesus must renounce all (cf. Revelation 12:11), take up his cross, and follow as closely as he can in the Master’s steps (Luke 14:26, 27; 1 Peter 2:21-22).

The choice is difficult, but it is never regretted (2 Corinthians 7:10). Joshua gave God his life (24:15) and was never disappointed. Paul gave Christ his heart and never looked back (Acts 9; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; cf. Luke 9:62). His truth sets us free (John 8:32); His life is “abundant” (John 10:10); His rule is not grievous (1 John 5:3).

The truth is, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, or love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other” (Luke 16:13). Who is at *your* controls?

Endnotes:

¹ Born in 1849

² Welfare

³ From his perspective. From God’s it was “a big black lie.”

⁴ *peitho*, “pacify or conciliate; make friend, obey, yield.”

⁵ *aresko*, “to be agreeable.”

⁶ *periousios*, “being beyond usual, that is, special (one’s own).”

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

The Holy Alphabet



Although things are not perfect
 Because of trial or pain
 Continue in thanksgiving
 Do not begin to blame
 Even when the times are hard

Fierce winds are bound to blow

God is forever able

Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love

Joy would cease to be

Keep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee

Move out of "Camp Complaining"

No weapon that is known

On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone

Quit looking at the future

Redeem the time at hand

Start every day with worship

To "thank" is a command

Until we see Him coming

Victorious in the sky



We'll run the race with gratitude
 Xalting God most high
 Yes, there'll be good times and some will
 be bad, but...
 ion waits in glory...where none are ever
 sad!

"...I am Alpha and Omega..." —Revelation 1:11

KIDS' VIEW OF LOVE:

♥ "I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful." —Manuel, age 8

♥ On what falling in love is like: "Like an avalanche where you have to run for your life." —John, age 9

♥ "If you want to be loved by somebody who isn't already in your family, it doesn't hurt to be beautiful." —Anita, age 8

♥ "It isn't always just how you look. Look at me. I'm handsome like anything and I haven't got anybody to marry me yet." —Brian, age 7

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

God's Grace	— Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	— Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	— Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	— Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	— Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	— Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	— 1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	— James 2:24
Christian's Hope	— Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	— Revelation 2:10



God Always has an Answer



It is easy to get discouraged when things go wrong, but we must not lose heart. God is at work in our world, even in the midst of pain and trial. The next time your little hut is burning to the ground, remember that it just may be a smoke signal to summon the grace of God. For any negative thing we say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it:

- ▶ We say: "It's impossible." God says: "All things are possible" (Luke 18:27).
- ▶ We say: "I'm too tired." God says: "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
- ▶ We say: "I can't do it." God says: "You can do all things" (Philippians 4:13).
- ▶ We say: "I'm not able." God says: "I am able" (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- ▶ We say: "It's not worth it." God says: "It will be worth it" (Romans 8:28).
- ▶ We say: "Nobody really loves me."
 God says: "I really love you" (John 3:16; 3:34).
- ▶ We say: "I can't go on."
 God says: "My grace is sufficient" (2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 91:15).
- ▶ We say: "I can't figure things out."
 God says: "I will direct your steps" (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- ▶ We say: "I can't forgive myself."
 God says: "I forgive you" (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1).
- ▶ We say: "I can't manage."
 God says: "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).
- ▶ We say: "I'm afraid."
 God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear" (2 Timothy 1:7).
- ▶ We say: "I'm always worried and frustrated."
 God says: "Cast all your cares on ME" (1 Peter 5:7).
- ▶ We say: "I don't have enough faith."
 God says: "My Word will give you faith" (Romans 10:17).
- ▶ We say: "I'm not smart enough."
 God says: "I will give you wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:30; James 1:1-5).
- ▶ We say: "I feel all alone."
 God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

A.S.A.P.

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? It brings to mind hurry and stress— "Get this done *as soon as possible*." Let's give it a new meaning to better deal with those rough days along the way.

- ▶ There's work to do, deadlines to meet. You've got no time to spare, but as you hurry and scurry—A.S.A.P. (Always Say A Prayer).
- ▶ In the midst of family chaos, "quality time" is rare. Do your best; let God do the rest—A.S.A.P. (Always Say A Prayer).
- ▶ It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather—A.S.A.P. (Always Say A Prayer).
- ▶ God knows how stressful life is; He wants to ease our care. He'll respond to all our needs—A.S.A.P. (Always Say A Prayer).



"Praying always with all prayer...with all perseverance..."—Ephesians 6:18

The



HOME PAGE

Consider the Children

Children are precious. They were brought into this world through no desire of their own. Many are abused, used as pawns, neglected, denied, and betrayed. Such is not fair. Dr. R. F. Hertz, a British author and psychologist, engaged in a research project of wide interest. He has asked almost 100,000 children between 8 and 14 and from all walks of life in twenty-four countries to make a list of ten rules of BEHAVIOR OF PARENTS. Here is the list:

- ▶ Do not quarrel in front of your children.
- ▶ Treat all your children with equal affection.
- ▶ Never lie to a child.
- ▶ Develop mutual tolerance between parents.
- ▶ Maintain comradeship between parents and children.
- ▶ Treat your children's friends as welcome visitors in the house.
- ▶ Always answer children's questions.
- ▶ Don't blame or punish your children in the presence of children from next door.
- ▶ Concentrate on your child's good points. Do not overemphasize his failings.
- ▶ Be constant in your affection and your mood.

This list should cause parents to stop, look, and listen. Read over it carefully, thoughtfully, and with self-inspection and evaluation of your home. How are children treated in YOUR home? They deserve the best. God gives this advice, "...provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).—Carroll Sites, Higden, Arkansas

HE KNOWS. A little boy was asked to say the prayer before dinner. He thanked God for each of his friends, naming them one by one. He then thanked God for each family member, from his parents to his brothers and sisters, his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Then he gave thanks for the ham, the mashed potatoes, the corn, the green beans, the salad, the bread, the butter, the pickles, and even the salt and the pepper. Then came a long pause, and everyone waited and waited. Finally, the little fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?" (Read 1 John 3:20.)

The Plain Truth about Money

Tiny children are often fascinated with money because it is shiny and small enough to go into their mouths. Then, kids reach the point when they understand that money has the power to buy things. That is a new reason for them to like money. Later, in their teenage years their thinking can be dominated by a desire to possess money in order to impress others or to buy things that dad and mom won't buy for them. As adults, well, a lot of adults are still fond of money.

Money in and of itself possesses no moral qualities. Money is neither righteous nor unrighteous. Money is an inanimate object, a means or tool to help humans obtain something else. It is one's attitude toward money or riches that counts. In order to help us keep a handle on our attitude, we offer the following six truthful statements about money. May they serve as a reminder and warning to all of us.

(1) Money cannot buy love. Way back in the 1960s the Beatles were singing, "I don't care too much for money, 'cause money can't buy me love." It was true then, and it is still true now. Money may impress folks and attract them to a money-possessing person, but money cannot buy genuine love. Young people, are you listening?

(2) Money doesn't grow on trees. How many times did we hear our parents tell us that when we wanted something that we could not afford? Because it is true that money does not grow on trees and we cannot have it at the snap of our fingers, then we need to be good stewards with the funds that God has placed in our hands (1 Corinthians 4:2). Our Lord says, "Owe no man anything" (Romans 13:8). Christians ought not to use credit cards to the extent that they get themselves into debt that they cannot pay off.

(3) Money is not the root of all evil, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). The love of money is covetousness, and covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Such a love affair with material riches has ruined friendships, marriages, and even congregations. How sad.

(4) Money never has and never will save a soul. Money can be used to help support the preaching of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:8, 9). It is also an instrument that assists us in edifying the faithful, but still, money cannot save souls.

(5) Money will not accompany us when we leave this world. Regardless of how much money one has, the money stays behind—you can't take it with you. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Timothy 6:7).

(6) Money is not success, and success is not possessing money. Oh, if we could only help folks, including ourselves at times, see this point! Some rich people will go to hell. Some poor folks will go to heaven. One's eternal destiny is not determined by his/her financial status. You want success, you say? Then listen carefully to what the Lord once told Joshua: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8). THAT is true success.

Let each of us resolve to accept the truth about money, and in the process beware of "the deceitfulness of riches" (Mark 4:19).

—Roger D. Campbell

A Merry Heart Doeth Good...

A husband, trying to prove to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a study which indicated that men use about 15,000 words a day, whereas women use 30,000 words a day. She thought about this, and then she told him that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say. Stunned at this, he said, "What?"

How About the Grownups? "Daddy, I want to ask you a question," said little Bobby after his first day in Sunday school. "Yes, Bobby, what is it?" "The teacher was reading the Bible to us, all about the children of Israel building the temple, the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel making sacrifices. Didn't the grown-ups do anything?"





Are Illnesses Such as Alzheimer's Disease from God?

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:1-2). The disciples expressed a common belief of that day, that illness is often, if not always, punishment for sin. The disciples even considered that the man may have caused his own blindness by his sin in the womb! Jesus made it clear that the man's illness had nothing to do with sin, or punishment from God, as He said, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:3). Jesus then went on to give the man his sight, and he ultimately worshiped Jesus as the Son of God.

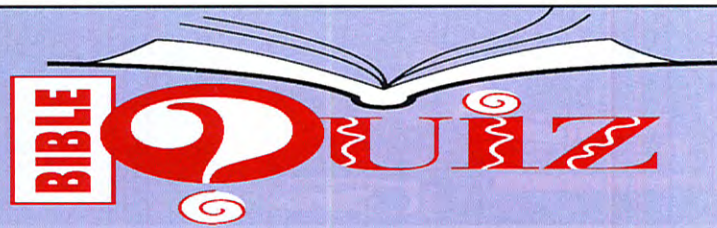
Where does illness come from? We all realize that many times our lifestyle has an effect on health. Smoking, promiscuous sex, poor dietary choices, a sedentary lifestyle—these and many other things have an effect on our health. As time goes by, and we learn more about how we can protect our health, many of us are making choices that we hope will help us avoid illness. We will never know how much a healthy lifestyle has already protected us from many of the diseases that plague mankind.

However, there are many illnesses that medical science has good explanation as to what the causes are. Certainly smoking will increase one's chances of getting lung cancer, but non-smokers get lung cancer, also. Other illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease are still being studied. Our doctors may at some point have some suggestions as to what may lower our risk of succumbing to this disease, but there does not seem to be any good scientific explanation yet of what we may do to avoid the disease.

When the patriarch Job lost his possessions, his family, and his health (Job 1-2), his three "friends" all assumed that God was punishing Job for his great sins. Eliphaz told Job, "Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed" (Job 4:7-9). His "friend" Zophar thought Job was such a sinner, that he even went so far as to say, "Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth" (Job 11:6). While it is true that there are consequences for sin, in actuality, Job was suffering precisely because he was a righteous man. "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:8).

We live in a world that is under the curse of sin (Genesis 3), and illness is one of the consequences of Adam's choice, a choice we also make (Romans 3:23). Nothing indicates, however, that God punishes anyone with a particular disease today. Job wanted to know why he was suffering, but even when God spoke to him out of the whirlwind, He never told Job why he was suffering. God is a God of love. Who will help us cope with the difficulties of disease and suffering if we will turn to Him. Illness is not an indication of God's punishment, and good fortune is not necessarily an indication of God's approval. Those who suffer and those who care for them deserve our prayers and support.

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



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

Name: _____

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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Starts with the Letter "R"

Find answers in Genesis 8:7; 9:13, 14 [word not used but implied]; 22:13; 24:67; 29:5, 6; Exodus 13:18+14:21, 22; 1 Kings 14:21; John 3:2; Romans 1:4; Colossians 3:24 (not in order).

1. The title of a Jewish teacher. _____
2. The younger daughter of Laban. _____
3. The token of God's covenant with Noah. _____
4. What Abraham offered up instead of Issac. _____
5. A bird sent out from the ark. _____
6. The wife of Isaac. _____
7. A sea crossed by the Israelites. _____
8. The first King of Judah. _____
9. What the righteous will receive. _____
10. By this Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power. _____

Rulers in the Bible

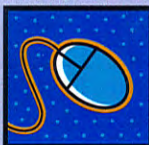
Find answers in 1 Samuel 31:4; 1 Kings 2:1, 2; 11:42; 2 Kings 20:5, 6; 22:1; 23:30; 2 Chronicles 22:2, 3; Esther 2:16; Matthew 2:1-12; Acts 12:21-23.

1. Smote by the angel of the Lord and eaten of worms. _____
2. Reigned for 31 years after becoming king at age 8. _____
3. King who married Esther. _____
4. Killing himself by falling on his sword. _____
5. Prayer was heard—15 years added to his days. _____
6. King who told his son, "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man." _____
7. King whose death prompted the angel of the Lord to appear in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. _____
8. Reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. _____
9. King whose mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. _____
10. King who was killed at Megiddo and taken in a chariot to Jerusalem where he was buried. _____

—John Gaines, Pensacola, Florida

Answers to Last Issue: The Death and Resurrection of Jesus:

1. Forty days (Acts 1:3); 2. Right ear (Luke 22:50); 3. Peter (Matthew 26:40); 4. Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 15:43); 5. Three: mother, Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene (John 19:25); 6. 500 (1 Corinthians 15:5); 7. One of the thieves being crucified (Luke 23:39-41); 8. Into the Father's hands (Luke 23:46); 9. Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved (John 20:2); 10. Willing to content the people (Mark 15:15).
- Marriages and Weddings:**
1. Rebekah (Genesis 24:64-65); 2. He turned water into wine (John 2:1-10); 3. He sent his armies to destroy them and burn their city (Matthew 22:7); 4. Daughters (Exodus 21:9); 5. Hosea (Hosea 1:2); 6. She had children while Hannah had no children (1 Samuel 1:2); 7. Give your daughter (Dinah) to my son (Shechem) as a wife and make marriages with us (Genesis 34:8-9); 8. He married an Ethiopian woman (Numbers 12:1); 9. No (Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25); 10. World, please (1 Corinthians 7:33).



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Every Man's Book

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." —2 Timothy 2:15

The Bible is every man's book. To know the Bible and to handle it aright is the greatest accomplishment within the reach of any person. One may know English, astronomy, literature, music, sociology, and philosophy; but if one does not know the Bible, one has failed in the only subject that brings all things into their proper relationship and that enables one to know life at its best.

It is not intended for some special group. But not only is the Bible every man's book, it is written for the average person. Scholars may study it, but it is not written necessarily with scholars in mind. No one ever outgrows the Scriptures. The more one studies them, the wider and deeper they become. The Bible is a book which enables one to look into eternity. The best evidence of the inspiration of the Bible is to be found between its covers.

No one will ever be a useful Christian unless one is a student of the Bible. Matthew Henry said, "The Scriptures were not written to make us astronomers, but to make us saints." It is no wonder that Paul urged Timothy to study the Scripture, "rightly dividing" (handling aright) the word of truth, that he might be an approved workman before God (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Bible acknowledges man's faults; it is patient with man's weaknesses; and it is honest with his virtues and his hopes.

To own the Bible is to be rich. To study, to know, and to trust the Bible is to find life. To study the Bible is to be wise; to obey it, to be strong. —Franklin Camp

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- NEW! A Proud Look.** This 12-page booklet is the newest in a series examining "Seven Things a Loving Hates" from Proverbs 6:16-19. Pride is the canal through which many sins flow; the snowball that starts an avalanche of iniquity; the tremor that ends up on God's Richter scale.
- NEW! A Thief Who Has Robbed us All.**

At some point in our lives, statistics tell us that most of us will be the victims of a thief (169.7 of every 1,000 people in any given year). There is one thief that has visited every person... Who?

- When Jesus was a Boy.** Everybody knows Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Miracle-worker, Jesus the Crucified Savior... but who knows much of the boyhood of Jesus? How would Jesus live in today's world as a young person?
- Can God Really Forgive Me?** Many feel heavy guilt for past mistakes. They wonder if God's grace is for them. If you fit in this category, then this encouraging pamphlet is for you.
- You Can't Get to Heaven Alone** An interesting look at God's multi-dimensional plan of salvation.
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day** Ever feel you need another hour a day to finish your tasks? Here it is!
- Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak** Most of us have problems with our tongues...this study can help.
- Married for Life.** How Five Couples Reached Fifty Years
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo** **Church. Why Bother?**
- God's Lamb in the Devil's Zoo** **Lonely?**
- Why I Quit Going to the Beach**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*



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In the Interest of Christian

UNITY

Let's Pull Together



At a county fair, the townspeople held a horse-pulling contest. The first-place horse ended up moving a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The second-place finisher pulled 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses decided to see what these horses could pull together. They hitched them up and found that the team could move 12,000 pounds!

By working separately, the two horses were good for only 8,500 pounds. When coupled together, their synergism produced an added 3,500 pounds. It's a hard lesson for us, but unity consistently produces greater results than individual endeavors. "Teamwork divides the effort and multiplies the effect." —*Our Daily Bread*, Special Edition, Day 15

A Worthy Cause Unifies

One morning a father entered his home study to find the world map had fallen off the wall. In the process it had become torn. His two-year-old daughter, Anna, assisted in the repair. Her mother noticed her daughter's unusual quietness so she called from another room, "Honey, what are you doing?" Quickly and matter of factly, Anna replied, "We're fixin' the world, Mommy." If we will stay busy "fixin' the world" by taking the whole Gospel to the whole world in every generation (Mark 16:15, 16), we'll pull together.

—*Commission*, September 1993, p. 4

Ten Facts about the Church of Christ



- ▶ We read of it in the New Testament (Romans 16:16)
- ▶ It exalts Christ as the only head of the church (Ephesians 1:22).
- ▶ It has no creed but Christ and binds no name on its members but the divine name, Christian (Acts 11:26).
- ▶ It speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent (1 Peter 4:11)
- ▶ It pleads for the unity of all believers in Christ (John 17:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 1:10).

▶ It is not a denomination, nor a group of denominations, but simply the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

- ▶ Its founder is Christ Himself (Matthew 16:18).
- ▶ Its aim is to save souls by Gospel preaching (Romans 1:16).
- ▶ Its worship is patterned after the New Testament (John 4:24).
- ▶ It teaches that scriptural unity can be attained on all disputed doctrinal questions (1 Corinthians 1:10).



Tell Me More About

JESUS

The Crucifixion from A to Z

- A** reminds us of His **arrest** like a common criminal and the legions of **angels** who could have been summoned by Jesus.
- B** is for the **betrayal** by a "friend," the murderer **Barabbas**, the **blood** that Jesus shed, or the **beating** that He endured.
- C** makes us think of the **cross** on **Calvary**, the Jewish high priest, **Caiph**as, before whom Jesus was tried, and the shameful **crown** of thorns, the Roman **centurion** who concluded that "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"
- D** is for the **desertion** by His **disciples**, the **darkness** which enveloped the whole earth for three hours just before His **death**.
- E** reminds us of the **enmity** of the religious leaders, Christ's **excruciating** pain, or the **eeriness** of the darkness.
- F** makes us think of the **Father's** agony in heaven that day and the **forgiveness** that Jesus desired even for His killers.
- G** stands for the **Garden** of **Gethsemane**, the place of betrayal, and **Golgotha**, the site of the crucifixion.
- H** is for **Herod** and the **hypocrisy** of those who condemned Him.
- I** calls to mind the **innocence** of our Lord and His name **Immanuel**, meaning "God with us."
- J** is for **Judas**, the trusted friend who turned betrayer, and **John** to whom was committed the care of His mother.
- K** reminds us of the **kiss** of infamy placed upon the **King** of kings.
- L** brings to mind the **lies** that they told, the matchless **love** that caused the **Lord** of lords to give His life "a ransom for many."
- M** is for **me** (He died for me!), the **mocking**, the howling **mob**, and for His **mother, Mary**.
- N** helps us to think of the **nails** that were driven through His hands and His feet, as well as the **ninth** hour, the hour He died.
- O** calls to mind His **opponents** who appeared victorious.
- P** has to remind us of **Pontius Pilate** who released the guilty and killed the innocent, and the **purple** robe placed upon the Lord in an act of derision.
- Q** is for the **quaking** the earth did as the shameful deed was done.
- R** has to do with the **rejection** of Jesus by His own disciples and the **release** of the infamous Barabbas.
- S** stands for **spitting** in the face of the very **Son** of God, the terrible **scourging**, the **spear** that was thrust into His **side**, and the elite **Sanhedrin** who **sanctioned** such an unbelievable crime.
- T** is for the **tomb** in which His body was placed, the **thorns**, His **thirst**, the false **testimony**, and the **traitor**.
- U** reminds us of the **unjust** trials and the **unspeakable** shame.
- V** helps us to remember the **vicious vengeance** of His enemies, the **veil** of the temple that was rent at His death, and the great **victory** over death that Jesus would very soon display.
- W** stands for the **water** Pilate used to try to **wash** the guilt from his hands, and the fact that Jesus died for the **whole world's** sins.
- X** stands for **examining** ourselves, which we do as we remember His death during the Lord's Supper.
- Y** reminds me of the **yells** of the riotous mob as they cried out, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!"
- Z** is for the **zeal** of His executioners.

—Byron Nichols, *The Voice of Truth International*

"This do in remembrance of me" —1 Corinthians 11:24