

# House to House



# Heart to Heart

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Volume 12 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

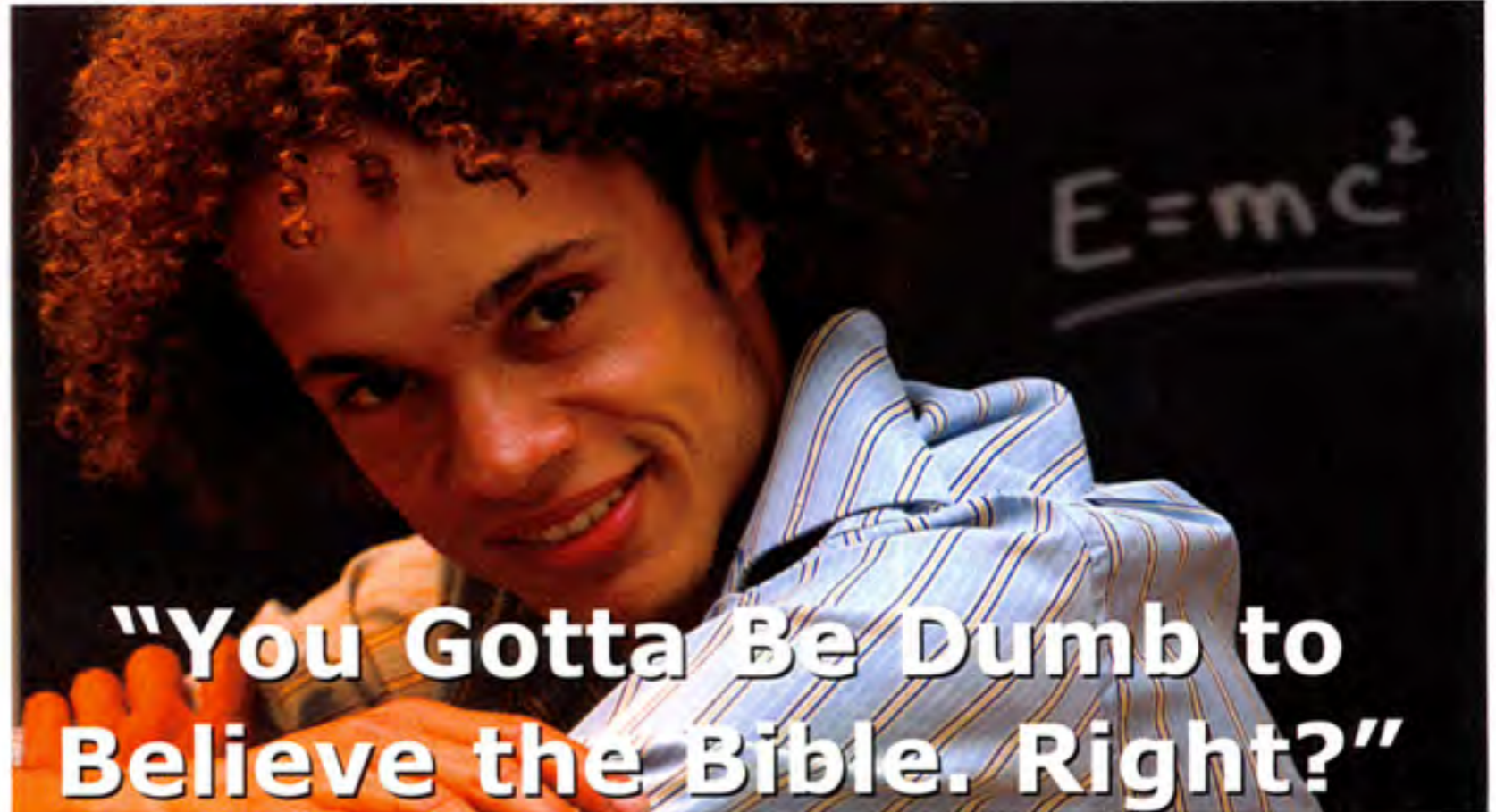
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

If you have questions or comments please contact us via email at: [info@housetohouse.com](mailto:info@housetohouse.com)

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Allen Webster

IT STARTS OUT SUBTLY. The religious characters in the TV shows are always a little weird. News reports focus on aberrations in the “Christian community”—people who either live in the past or are strange, simple, offbeat people, or hypocrites who don’t practice what they preach. In college it becomes more blatant. A biology professor or a psychology teacher comes right out and makes fun of anyone who still believes the Bible is anything more than a mistake-filled collection of ancient Jewish sayings.

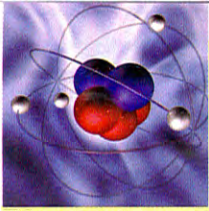
You won’t get through your freshman year without being told that belief in God is for the back-woods, uneducated—though perhaps well-meaning—folks back home. It belongs to those who still use typewriters, think CDs are something you put in a bank, and think IPODs must be some kind of plant or something NASA invented. It is not for a person who is educated and intelligent. Only the uninformed, ignorant, or unbalanced believe the Bible. No one takes anyone seriously who takes the Bible seriously.

So what about that?

Let’s start at the beginning: Do you believe in God? “My parents do, I think. My grandmother does for sure. Everybody at church does, so I guess I do. I mean, everybody believes in God, don’t they?”

No, you will find some who *positively* don’t. And unless you *absolutely* do, then you may end up on their side. ▶▶▶





# You gotta be dumb . . .

Continued from page 1

You must examine the evidence and decide what you believe. You can't get by on your parents' faith or go to heaven on your preacher's coattails. You've got to make up your mind if you really believe in God and His Son Jesus, or if you believe in evolution and its "son" Humanism.

Don't be intimidated by unbelieving philosophers, professors, or scientists. An intelligent, educated person can—and should—believe in God and in the Bible as His Word. Some of the world's greatest men, whose intelligence is indisputable, were believers.

## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANY OF THESE?

**SIR ISAAC NEWTON:** This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called Lord God . . . I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever.<sup>1</sup>

**RALPH WALDO EMERSON:** Jesus is the most perfect of all men that have yet appeared.<sup>2</sup>

**CHARLES DICKENS (in his will):** I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and exhort my dear children humbly to try to guide themselves by the teachings of the New Testament.<sup>3</sup>

**SHAKESPEARE (in his will):** I commend my soul into the hands of God, my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the only merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting.<sup>4</sup>

**GEORGE WASHINGTON:** It is impossible [for a man] to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible . . . The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.<sup>5</sup>

**JOHN ADAMS:** The Bible is the best Book in the world.<sup>6</sup>

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:** Young man, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with and firm belief in the Holy Scriptures, for this is your certain interest. I think Christ's system of morals and religion, as He left them with us, is the best the world ever saw or is likely to see.<sup>7</sup>

**THOMAS JEFFERSON:** I have said and always will say, that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands . . . The Bible makes the best people in the world.<sup>8</sup>

**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS:** My custom, is to read four or five chapters [of the Bible] every morning immediately after rising . . . It . . . seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day . . . It is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue.<sup>9</sup>

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN:** I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book that you can by reason and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.<sup>10</sup>

**WOODROW WILSON:** I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book.<sup>11</sup>

**WILLIAM PENN:** We believe the Scriptures to contain a declaration of the mind and will of God. . . . They ought also to be read, believed, and fulfilled in our day. . . . We accept them as the words of God himself.<sup>12</sup>

**DANIEL WEBSTER:** From the time that, at my mother's feet or on my father's knee, I first learned to lisp verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation.<sup>13</sup>

**DOUGLAS MACARTHUR:** Believe me, Sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed.<sup>14</sup>

**WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE:** I have known ninety-five great men of the world in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were all followers of the Bible.<sup>15</sup>

Pretty impressive company, wouldn't you say?

So what do you believe in if you don't believe in God? Yourself—and evolution. To believe that man evolved from lower life forms requires belief in spontaneous generation—that life came from non-life—which was long ago disproved by science. From nothing comes . . . nothing. We have something; therefore, something has always existed. There are but two possibilities: mind or matter. Which is more plausible: that dead, lifeless, inanimate matter brought this complicated world into existence, or that there was an eternal, intelligent, powerful mind behind the creation of the universe? Surely the latter. As Isaac Bashevis Singer said,

A number of materialistic thinkers have ascribed to blind evolution more miracles, more improbable coincidences and wonders, than all the teleologists could ever devise.

For one to say, "There is no God," he must be omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent—all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere at the same time. Otherwise, the power he does not have may be the power of God; the place where he is not may be the place where God is; and the knowledge that he does not have may be the knowledge of God.

Some doubt God's existence since He is not perceptible to our sensory system. According to this reasoning, we would also have to repudiate the human conscience, as well as molecular adhesion and gravity. Just because I have never seen Katmandu doesn't mean it is not at the base of Everest.

Howard Hendricks observed, "There is no such thing as a correspondence course for swimming." If you want to swim you must get into the pool. It is the same in the world of ideas. You cannot remain neutral on the question of the existence of God and the Bible as His Word. Test the water.

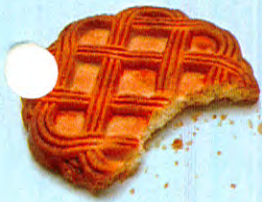
*"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).*

## Endnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/history/virtual/reading/core4-04r06.htm>.
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.xmission.com/~fidelis/volume3/chapter26/tributes.php>.
- <sup>3</sup> <http://www.xmission.com/~fidelis/volume3/chapter26/tributes.php>.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://shakespeare.about.com/library/weekly/aa101000a.htm>.
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.chuckbaldwinlive.com/founding.html#gw>. Washington's letter of August 20, 1778 to Brig. General Thomas Nelson.
- <sup>6</sup> <http://www.eadshome.com/JohnAdams.htm>.
- <sup>7</sup> <http://bostonreview.net/BR30.2/nash.html>.
- <sup>8</sup> [http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=12817](http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=12817).
- <sup>9</sup> [http://quotes.zaadz.com/John\\_Quincy\\_Adams](http://quotes.zaadz.com/John_Quincy_Adams).
- <sup>10</sup> <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/biblequotes.htm>.
- <sup>11</sup> [http://www.errantskeptics.org/Quotes\\_by\\_Presidents.htm](http://www.errantskeptics.org/Quotes_by_Presidents.htm).
- <sup>12</sup> <http://jcsn.org/AmericasFounders/WilliamPenn.htm>.
- <sup>13</sup> [http://preceptaustin.org/2\\_timothy\\_314-15.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/2_timothy_314-15.htm).
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.thescriptures.org/quotes/index.html>.
- <sup>15</sup> <http://www.thescriptures.org/quotes/index.html>.



## Crumbs from the Table



A widely respected man known as “Uncle Johnson” died in Michigan at the incredible age of 120.

Perhaps his advanced years could be credited in part to the cheerful

outlook that characterized his life. One day while at work in his garden, he was singing songs of praise to God. His preacher, who was passing by, looked over the fence and called, “Uncle Johnson, you seem very happy today.”

“Yes, I was just thinking,” said the old man.

“Thinking about what?” questioned his preacher.

“Oh, I was just thinking that if the crumbs of joy that fall from the Master’s table in this world are so good, what will the great loaf in glory be like! I tell you, sir, there will be enough for everyone and some to spare up there.” —The Timothy Report

## Take Them Out!

A preacher friend put sanitary hot-air hand dryers in the church rest rooms, but after two weeks he took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, “For a sample of this week’s sermon, push the button.”

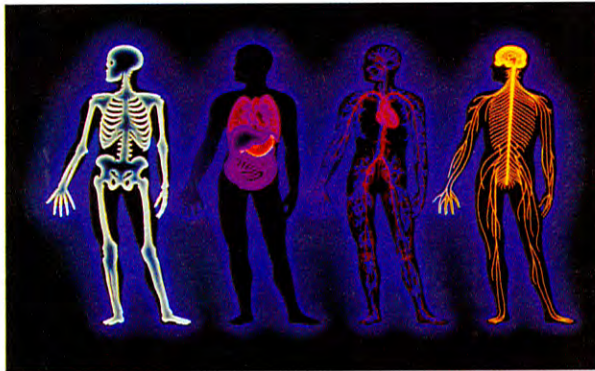
“A merry heart doeth good . . .” —Proverbs 17:22



## 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
Man’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

## Design Demands a Designer



We are not the product of evolutionary chance . . . we are the handiwork of a skillful Weaver.

“Your body is made up of microscopic cells so small that the letter *O* on this page would contain

between thirty to forty thousand of them. Each cell is a world in itself, containing as estimated two hundred trillion tiny molecules of atoms . . . Each cell has its own specialized function, and each works on an intricate timetable which tells it when to grow, when to divide, when to make hormones, and when to die. Every minute of every day, some three billion cells in the body die, and the same number are created to take their place. During any given moment in the life of any one of these cells, thousands of events are taking place, each one being precisely coordinated at the molecular level by countless triggers. The human body has more than a million million of them—a million in each square inch of skin, thirty billion in the brain, billions of red blood cells in the veins.” —John Phillips

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” —Psalm 139:14

## Always Remember God Gives Enough . . .

- ▶ Enough happiness to keep you sweet
- ▶ Enough trials to keep you strong
- ▶ Enough sorrows to keep you human
- ▶ Enough hope to keep you happy
- ▶ Enough failure to keep you humble
- ▶ Enough success to keep you eager
- ▶ Enough friends to give you comfort
- ▶ Enough wealth to meet your needs
- ▶ Enough faith to banish depression
- ▶ Enough enthusiasm to make you look forward
- ▶ Enough determination to make each day a better day than the last.

“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

—Proverbs 16:3



## Where to Look

Look around you and be distressed,  
Look within you and be depressed.  
Look to Jesus and be at rest.

“In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me.” —Psalm 120:1



The  HOME  PAGE

## Sanity Check

Forget the popular image of the married couple driving each other nuts. “Studies show that getting married improves mental health and decreases depression,” says Linda Waite, a sociologist at the University of Chicago. In fact, one study found that people who never walked down the aisle are more likely to be admitted to a psychiatric facility. The intimacy found in marriage bolsters your self-worth and a sense of purpose, which actually enhances mental stability.

**“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.”** —Proverbs 18:22

## The Marriage Altar?

Someone once said that when the wedding march begins, a bride sees three things—the aisle, the altar, and him—and from that time on her motto is: “I’ll alter him.” And when it does not work that way, there is disillusionment and difficulty. —Bob Russell, *Take Comfort: Encouraging Words from Second Corinthians*, pp. 91–92.

**“Let us not therefore judge one another any more . . .”** —Romans 14:13

## End of Argument

The other day, Nancy and I got into some petty argument. (I say it was petty. She would have said it was the “end of the world”.) As is our nature, neither of us would admit the possibility that we might be in error. To her credit, Nancy finally said, “Look. I’ll tell you what. I’ll admit I’m wrong if you admit I was right.”

“Fine.” I said.

She took a deep breath, looked me in the eye and said, “I’m wrong.”

I grinned and replied, “You’re right.”



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).

# The ABC's of Parenthood

- Always trust your children to God’s care (Matthew 19:14).
- Bring them to worship and Bible School (Hebrews 10:25).
- Challenge them to high goals in life (Ecclesiastes 9:10).
- Delight in their achievements (Romans 12:15).
- Exalt the Lord in their presence at every opportunity (Psalm 34:3).
- Frown on evil (Proverbs 25:23).
- Give them love (Titus 2:3–5).
- Hear their problems (James 1:19).
- Ignore not their childish fears (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Joyfully accept their apologies (Romans 15:7).
- Keep their confidences (Proverbs 25:11).
- Live a good example before them at all times (Matthew 5:14–16).
- Make them your best friends (Genesis 44:10).
- Never ignore their endless questions (1 Peter 3:15).
- Open your home to their friends (Hebrews 13:1–2).
- Pray for them by name daily (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Quicken your interest in their spirituality (Matthew 5:13).
- Remember their needs (Philippians 2:4).
- Show them the way of salvation (Acts 16:17).
- Teach them to work and be responsible (1 Timothy 5:8).
- Understand they still need you, even when they are older (Psalm 71:18).
- Verify your statements (Romans 12:17).
- Wean them from bad company (Proverbs 1:10).
- Xpect them to obey (Ephesians 6:1–3).
- Yearn for God’s best for them (Numbers 6:24).
- Zealously guide them in biblical truths (Proverbs 22:6).

## Budget Allotments

(After God’s Percentage)

HOUSING .....	20-30%	
FOOD .....	15%	
AUTO .....	15%	
INSURANCE .....	5%	
CLOTHING .....	2-4%	
RECREATION .....	7%	
MEDICAL .....	5-7%	
RETIREMENT .....	5%	
SAVINGS (at least) .....	5%	
EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN .....	5%	
DEBT (never to exceed) .....	7%	—Source: Unknown

## Grandparent Humor

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, “62.” He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, “Did you start at 1?”





## Worship or Entertainment?



There is no doubt that the man we know as Neil Postman described serious problems in modern culture in his insightful 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. His thesis was that public discourse has been reshaped to such an extent by television and entertainment that thoughtful discourse is missing. "Show business" hype has affected advertising, politics, and religion. Postman's conclusion is that none of these changes have made for improvement.

In our entertainment-oriented culture, many churches find themselves trying to "out do" themselves with more and more elaborate additions to worship. What began as special music by a choir becomes a full orchestra with professional soloists. A dramatic reading necessitates a full Broadway stage production. And as long as those who come to worship enjoy what is offered, anything goes. The expectation is that sermons will be shorter, wittier, and more uplifting. Anything in worship that cannot be "jazzed up" must be abandoned as boring—and there is nothing worse than being boring, we are led to believe.

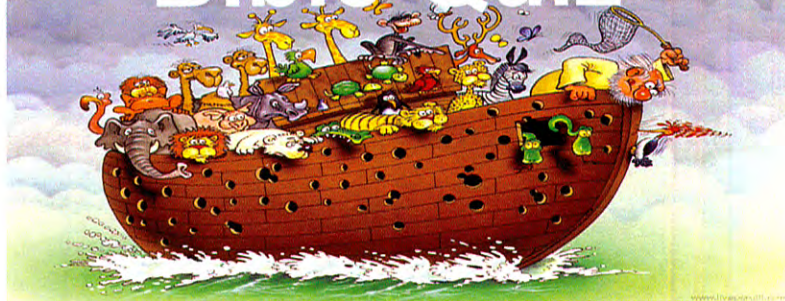
The problem with this entertainment orientation is that the very object of worship is forgotten. God is the "audience" in worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that ignorant worship was unacceptable to God, even though it may have been sincere or enjoyable. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). To worship God in spirit and truth means that worship must be from the heart, not just outward acts, and that it must be done in exact obedience to God's commands. The worship must be directed to Him, not to the whims of the worshippers.

God's regulations for worship as set out in the New Testament are neither boring nor out of date. They are God-centered, while entertainment is man-centered.

Cultural relevance is important—thus many churches are implementing modern technology such as projection systems to enhance sermons. And there is nothing wrong with the worshiper enjoying worship. God intended worship to bless His children. But when worship is merely window dressing for an entertainment performance, it cannot please God. The apostle warned, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 9). Paul condemned things that "have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship" (Colossians 2:23). "Will worship" is that worship fashioned after man's desires. —Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to [www.HouseToHouse.com](http://www.HouseToHouse.com).

# Bible Quiz



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

## Jesus, the Church, and Salvation

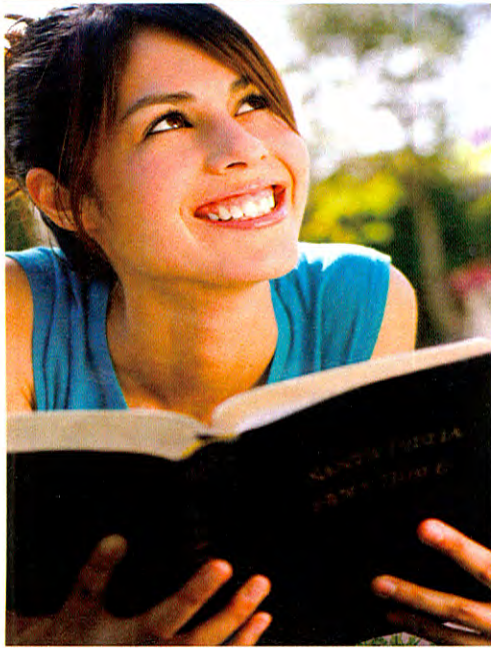
Find answers in Matthew 16:18; John 3:16-17; 4:24; 14:6; Acts 2:5, 47; 11:26; 20:28; Romans 1:16; 10:10, 17; 16:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 6:17; 1 Peter 3:21 (not in order).

- The church belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 16:18).
- The foundation of the church is \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- The Head of the church is \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:23).
- "For God so loved the \_\_\_\_\_, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life."
- The church was purchased with \_\_\_\_\_.
- The gates of \_\_\_\_\_ would not prevail against the church.
- "The churches of \_\_\_\_\_ salute you."
- Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the truth, and the life."
- "No man cometh unto the Father, but by \_\_\_\_\_."
- Faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.
- "For by \_\_\_\_\_ are ye saved through faith."
- "Not of \_\_\_\_\_, lest any man should boast."
- "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in \_\_\_\_\_."
- "The power of God unto salvation" is \_\_\_\_\_.
- "With the mouth \_\_\_\_\_ is made unto salvation."
- The sword of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Body" is another name for the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- Since there is one body (Ephesians 4:4), how many God-approved churches are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- "\_\_\_\_\_ doth also now save us."
- Is it possible for a Christian to fall from grace according to Galatians 5:4 and 2 Peter 2:20-22? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who added to the church those who were saved? \_\_\_\_\_
- "For God sent not his Son into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ the world; but that the world through him might be \_\_\_\_\_."
- Disciples were first called Christians in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Are all Christians "called to be saints"? (1 Corinthians 1:2). \_\_\_\_\_
- City where the church was first established was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers to Last Issue:** Starts with the Letter "B": 1. Baal (1 Kings 16:31); 2. Baalzebub (2 Kings 1:2); 3. Baasha (1 Kings 15:16); 4. Babbler (Acts 17:18); 5. Babel (Genesis 11:1-4); 6. Babylon (Daniel 4:30); 7. Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-20; 43:29-34); 8. Baker (Genesis 40:16-20); 9. Balaam (Deuteronomy 23:4-5); 10. Baptism (1 Peter 3:21); 11. Barabbas (Matthew 27:21); 12. Barjona (Matthew 16:17); 13. Barnabas (Acts 4:36); 14. Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46ff); 15. Basket (Acts 9:24-25); 16. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-4); 17. Beam (Matthew 7:3-5); 18. Bear (Galatians 6:2); 19. Beautiful (Acts 3:1-10); 20. Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24); 21. Beggar (Luke 16:20-22); 22. Bethany (John 11:1); 23. Begotten (John 3:16); 24. Backbiting (Proverbs 25:23); 25. Beginning (Genesis 1:1).



# Learn More! For More Info!



## Keynotes of the Gospel Accounts

Reviewing key words, verses, phrases, and messages from the gospel accounts refreshes our memory (2 Peter 1:12) and helps us to find key ideas as we read.

### Book - Matthew

Key Word - Kingdom  
Key Verses - Matthew 1:21-23  
Message - Jesus, the King of the Jews

### Book - Mark

Key Word - Straightway  
Key Verses - Mark 10:43-45  
Message - Jesus, the Perfect Servant

### Book - Luke

Key Phrase - Son of Man  
Key Verse - Luke 19:10  
Message - Jesus, the ideal Man

### Book - John

Key Word - Believe  
Key Verses - John 20:30-31  
Message - Jesus, the Only Begotten Son of God

Source - Frank J. Dunn, *Know Your Bible* (Frank and Yvonne Dunn Publications - 1997), 430-648

## Free Audio Downloads!

- ▶ Does the Bible Permit Drinking Beverage Alcohol? —Barry Grider
- ▶ Are You in the House of God? —B. J. Clarke
- ▶ Respect of Persons (James 2) —Glenn Colley
- ▶ The Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ —Allen Webster

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According to one survey, *The Spiritual Sword* is the second most widely read publication among churches of Christ. Published by the Getwell congregation in Memphis, Tennessee, and edited by Alan E. Highers, this 48-page journal literally goes around the world. *The Spiritual Sword* deals with themes of current interest and need with a threefold emphasis: balanced, conservative, and biblical. To receive a free copy, go to

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Or call the number on the front



## Featured Web site:

[www.theBible.net](http://www.theBible.net)

An amazing site! Read, listen, study, and discuss the Bible. Take Bible courses over the Internet. Thousands of Bible articles. Radio programs. Bible reading schedules. Much more!

## More!

- I want to better understand the church of Christ.
- I want to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- Quiero recibir *Casa a Casa* en Español.
- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a Bible question: \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in knowing more about what God requires for salvation.

Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Send me this month's packet (all materials).

### BIBLE STUDY HELPS:

- Enroll me in a Free Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free . . . work on your own at home.*
- I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study Video Series*. These popular DVDs have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

### TRACTS:

- NEW! Next Week's Best Seller**
- NEW! How to Get Ahead by Not Getting Even**
- Five Animals You Won't Meet in Heaven**
- Why Not Be a Prodigal? Part 1 (Teens/young adult)**
- Abortion Wrongs.** Arguments for abortion considered (woman's right, rape, incest, child abuse).
- Was Joan of Arc Really Noah's Wife?**
- A Proud Look.** Part of series on Proverbs 6:16-19.
- A Thief Who Has Robbed Us All**
- When Jesus Was a Boy**
- Can God Really Forgive Me?**
- You Can't Get to Heaven Alone**
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day**
- Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak**
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**
- 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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# What Jesus Borrowed



They borrowed a bed to lay His head when Christ the Lord came down;  
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass for Him to ride to town;  
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore  
Were His own—the cross was His own!

He borrowed the bread when the crowd He fed on the grassy mountainside;  
He borrowed the dish of broken fish with which He was satisfied;  
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore  
Were His own—the cross was His own!

He borrowed the ship in which to sit to teach the multitude;  
He borrowed a nest in which to rest; He had never a home so rude;  
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore were His own—the cross was His own!

He borrowed a room on His way to the tomb the Passover Lamb to eat;  
They borrowed a cave for Him a grave; they borrowed a winding sheet;  
But the crown that He wore and the cross that He bore  
Were His own—the cross was His own!—Author Unknown

**“And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull . . .”** —John 19:17

**Is Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah of the Old Testament?** Jesus fulfilled more than three hundred Old Testament prophecies. Peter Stoner, in *Science Speaks* (Moody Press, 1963), calculates the odds of fulfilling only eight prophecies as 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or 100,000,000,000,000,000. He suggested that if one covered the state of Texas with that many silver dollars, the entire state would be covered in coins two feet deep. Mark one of the coins, mix thoroughly, then blindfold a man and tell him to pick up the marked coin on the first try. That would be the same probability of just eight of the messianic prophecies coming true by coincidence.



## Forgive Me for Keeping Your Bible

**T**HE TRAIN BLEW ITS WHISTLE AND WOVE ITS WAY ALONG THE WINDING RAILS of the hometown of a brother in Hungary. A communist customs agent came through checking all the baggage. The sack of Bibles sat at our brother's feet. By his side lay his own personal Bible with notes and sermon outlines. The customs agent looked at the sack first. He opened it and thumbed through the pages of the Bible and began to sail them out the window of the speeding train.

As if for spite, the agent looked down at the open, used (obviously personal) Bible of our brother, grabbed it, and sailed it out the window to parts unknown. For three years our brother bemoaned the fact that his good Bible with so many notes and sermons was no longer his constant companion. “I believe Romans 8:28, but, Lord, how can this work out for god?” he wondered.

One day he received his personal Bible through the mail. A letter enclosed read, “Dear Brother in Christ: Thank you, thank you, for the use of your Bible. I found it by the railroad three years ago. I have kept it, read it, and studied it often. My family and I have written many Scriptures down on paper and many more in our hearts. We cannot thank you enough, for now maybe we can go to heaven . . . But brother, please forgive me for keeping your Bible so long. I thought that if I did not read it now, I might never again find a Bible to read.

“Oh, Great God and Father of us all, forgive me for my doubting,” wept our Hungarian brother.

Would not it be wonderful if all could come to the Bible as if we found it for the first time? We could be simply “Christians” with a deep desire to go to heaven, to be with the saints of all the ages. Pick up your New Testament and read it again for the “first time”. That is, read it as if you had never read it before. Follow what it says—not what some man says it says. Do what it commands—not what some other book requires (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

**“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”** —Romans 8:28





## WHAT IF JESUS HAD NEVER COME?



I cannot imagine trying to make it through life without having “the good shepherd” (John 10:11), who is the “one mediator between God and men” (1 Timothy 2:5) and the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16) in my corner. But what if? What if Jesus had never come into this world “to give his life a ransom?” (Mark 10:45).

**A LIFE WITHOUT TRUE MEANING.** Jesus came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Paul said we “can do all things” through Him (Philippians 4:13). The whole of man is to fear the Lord and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

**A LIFE WITHOUT A TOTALLY RELIABLE MODEL TO IMITATE.** There are many fine people in this world. Some are worthy of imitation because they demonstrate selfless behavior, pure speech, and a respectful attitude. Yet no mere human is a good example in every way all of the time. Each person makes mistakes. “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23). But not Jesus. He “did no sin,” and that is why He alone is worthy of complete imitation (1 Peter 2:21–22).

**A LIFE WITHOUT DIRECTION.** Where am I going in my life? Jesus said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

**LIFE WITHOUT SALVATION.** The wages of sin is death because sin separates a person from God (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1–2). Thank God that He loved us so much that He sent Jesus “into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15; Ephesians 1:7). Because Jesus is the only Savior, the only “name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12), without Him we could never enjoy the forgiveness of sins.

**A LIFE WITHOUT HOPE.** People that live without hope are miserable indeed. Jesus is the hope of the world (1 Timothy 1:1). Through Jesus we can live “in hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).

The choice is ours: we can either live life with Him or without Him. Let us choose wisely, for this choice will determine our eternal destiny. To live with Him, of course, means to live according to His will. Are you doing that?

—Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee