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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15



by Allen Webster

Gospel is an old Saxon word meaning “God’s spell,” which refers to its great power over man (Romans 1:16). The word *gospel* is found in ninety-eight verses in the Bible (it is used one hundred four times in those verses). It is not found in the Old Testament, but it is found in every book of the New Testament except John, Titus, 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude.

The gospel is the “good news” (*euangelion*) of how to be saved. The history of Christ’s coming into the world to save sinners is, without doubt, the best news that ever came from heaven to earth. No less than an angel said, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” (Luke 2:10). The gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be enjoyed (1 Corinthians 15:1-3).

There are three facts of the gospel that

are of primary importance: Christ’s (1) death, (2) burial, and (3) resurrection. Let’s examine these three facts.

FACT 1: CHRIST DIED FOR MAN’S SIN.

While the gospel is good news, it has at the heart a tragedy: the death of Christ for our sins. God was able to use this horrible event in the most welcome news we ever received.

The death of Jesus unfolded in a series of events.

Jesus was betrayed and arrested (Matthew 26:47-56; John 18:1-13). He was bound by His enemies (John 18:12) and forsaken by His disciples (Matthew 26:56).

Jesus was tried by the Jews (Matthew 26:57-68). He was first taken to Annas, the deposed high priest and the power behind the scenes (John 18:13), and then to Caiphas, the official high priest (John 18:24). >>

During this trial, Jesus was taunted, spit upon, and buffeted (Matthew 26:67–68). He was slapped (margin: hit with rods) and struck, perhaps in the mouth (John 18:22). Even the servants joined in (Mark 14:65). He was kept up all night (Matthew 27:1), and had no food or drink after the last supper. During this time, Jesus was denied by Peter (Matthew 26:69–75; Luke 22:61). Eventually, although innocent, He was wrongfully convicted of blasphemy, which was punishable by death in the Jewish system.

Jesus was tried by the Romans (Matthew 27:1–25). He was bound and taken from the Jewish Sanhedrin to Pilate’s headquarters (Matthew 27:1–2). The charge was changed from blasphemy to revolt because the Romans would not execute for blasphemy, but they would for revolt (Luke 23:2). Pilate tried to pass the buck by sending Jesus to King Herod (Luke 23:6–12), who only mocked Him and sent Him back to Pilate. Next, Judas tried to stop the proceedings, but was unsuccessful (Matthew 27:3–10). Convinced that Jesus was innocent, Pilate tried to stop the crucifixion by offering to free either Jesus or Barabbas, a notorious criminal he did not think the people would choose. They chose Barabbas and insisted that Jesus be crucified (Matthew 27:16; Mark 15:7; Luke 23:18). Pilate’s wife tried to stop the crucifixion (Matthew 27:19). Pilate tried for the third time (Luke 23:22–23). He then washed his hands and signed off on the greatest travesty of justice ever perpetrated (Matthew 27:26).

Jesus was then scourged (Matthew 27:26; John 19:1). This required that He be stripped of His clothing, although it was cold (John 18:18). He was mercilessly beaten with a whip and then re clothed (Matthew 27:28).

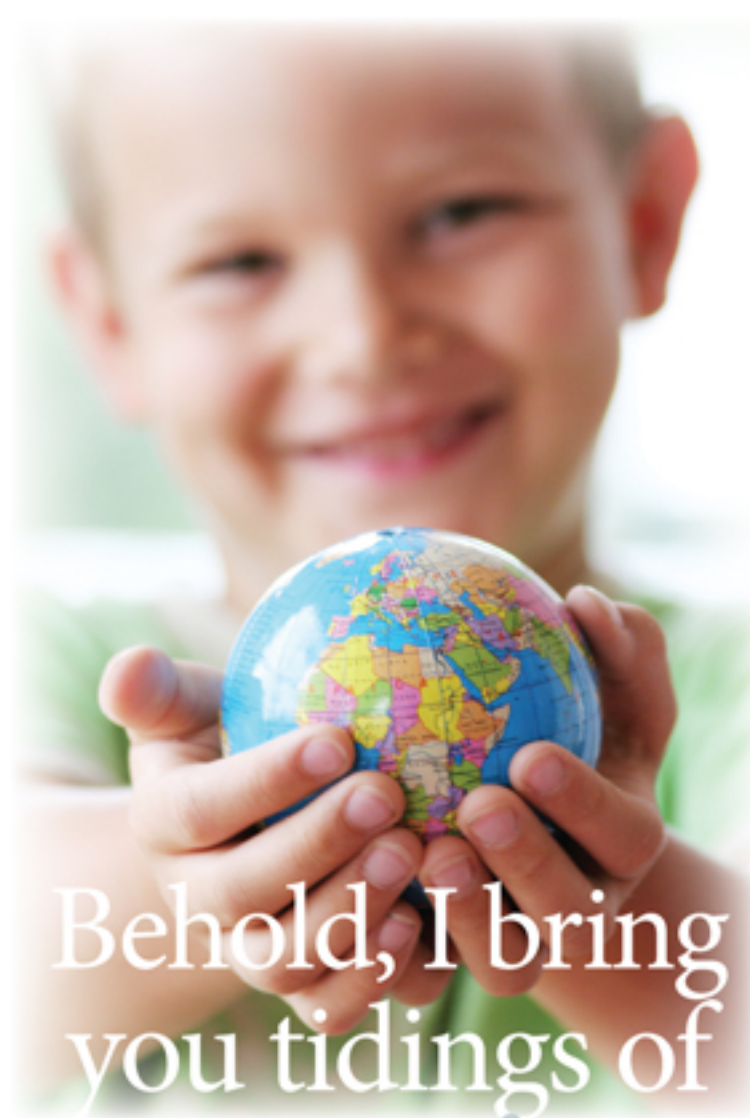
The Roman soldiers at the Praetorium then stripped Him again, clothed Him in a scarlet robe, put a crown of thorns on His head, hit Him with a reed, spit upon Him, and smote Him with their hands (Matthew 27:27–30; John 19:3).

Pilate then presented Him to the people, saying, “Behold the man!” (John 19:5).

After this, Jesus was led to the place of execution (Matthew 27:32–34; Luke 23:26–32). They took the purple robe off,

put His own clothes on Him (Matthew 27:31), and paraded Him down the city streets to Golgotha. At some point, Simon was summoned to bear the cross after Jesus (Luke 23:26). Arriving on site, He refused to drink vinegar and gall (Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23), which was usually given to deaden some of the terrific pain.

Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27:35–50). This started at the third hour, which was 9:00 a.m. (Mark 15:25). It became completely dark at the sixth hour—noon



Behold, I bring
you tidings of
great joy

(Mark 15:33). Jesus died at the ninth hour—3:00 p.m. (Mark 15:34–37). During this time, Jesus prayed for the soldiers (Luke 23:34) who had caused Him such pain (Matthew 27:36). While on the cross Jesus suffered physically (thirst, John 19:28) and emotionally (forsaken by Father, Matthew 27:46). Then Jesus died (Matthew 27:50).

FACT 2: CHRIST’S BURIAL

Isaiah prophesied details about the burial of Jesus seven centuries before it occurred: “And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death” (Isaiah 53:9). Jesus’ dead body was still on the cross when Joseph went to Pilate and requested permission to bury it (Luke 23:50–53). When Pilate granted it, Joseph took the body, and with the

help of Nicodemus, prepared it for burial, using about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes (John 19:39). Then Joseph “wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed” (Matthew 27:57–60).

FACT 3: CHRIST’S RESURRECTION

The underlying proposition to the whole Bible is Acts 13:30: “God raised him from the dead.” If this is not true, then there is no gospel. You could throw the Bible in the garbage, for it would contain no hope for humanity. But thanks be to God, it is true!

How do we know? Jesus promised that He would rise again, and He never told a lie (Matthew 20:19; 27:62–64; 1 Peter 2:21–22). The Bible records it, and it is the world’s most trustworthy source (Matthew 28:1–6; 2 Timothy 3:16–17). Angels attested to it, and they are greater than any man who says otherwise (Luke 24:5–6; 2 Peter 2:11). The early church believed it, and they were in the same generation with the eyewitnesses (Acts 1:3). The rapid change of the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday gives further evidence of it (cf. Luke 4:16; Acts 2:1).

The conversions of two individuals are persuasive that the resurrection was real. First consider the conversion of James, the Lord’s half-brother. He was an unbeliever during Christ’s lifetime (John 7:5), yet after the resurrection, James was a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 1:14; 15:13–21; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19). The only explanation for such a radical change and loyal following is that he believed in the resurrection.

An even more convincing conversion is that of Saul of Tarsus, who went from persecutor (Acts 9:1) to persecuted (Acts 9:22–24) not long afterward! He passed from threatening the disciples to “perils by mine own countrymen” (2 Corinthians 11:24–28) almost overnight. What could have brought about such a change in a man of superior intelligence and ability? Nothing short of the proof of the resurrection of Christ!

These three simple facts changed the world forever. ❀

Bees Outsmart Scientists

Scientists have long recognized that bees are intelligent creatures. Many believe that this intelligence is the product of millions of years of natural selection. But the extremely fast learning ability of the bee puts in doubt the millions of years and instead shows the hand of the Creator.

Researchers at Princeton University decided to find out whether bees were smart enough to find their food source if it was moved. The researchers moved the prime food source fifty meters farther from the hive. It took the bees less than one minute to locate the moved food source. The men then moved the food source another fifty meters away. The bees still took less than a minute to find the food source. Two more moves, each a precise fifty meters, produced the same results.

However, the bees had also been studying the researchers. Before the researchers could move the food another fifty meters, they found the bees had discovered the pattern and were already waiting at the new location!

God is our Creator and has clearly left evidence of His handiwork—His fingerprints—in the creation itself. For those who have eyes to see, this fills us with wonder, and yes, with love for the Creator God who first loved us.



"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the ... creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."

GENESIS 1:24



The Optimistic Frog

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl,
One was an optimistic soul;
But the other took the gloomy view,
"We shall drown," he cried, without more ado.
So with a last despairing cry,
He flung up his legs and he said, "Good-bye."

Quoth the other frog with a merry grin,
"I can't get out, but I won't give in.
I'll just swim 'round till my strength is spent,
Then will I die the more content."

Bravely he swam till it would seem
His struggles began to churn the cream;
On the top of the butter at last he stopped,
And out of the bowl he gaily hopped.
What of the moral? 'Tis easily found:
If you can't hop out, keep swimming 'round.

*"With men it is impossible, but not with God:
for with God all things are possible"*

MARK 10:27

Rib Splitter

Johnny learned the story of creation in Bible class, and how God made Eve from Adam's rib. That afternoon, while playing outside, Johnny got a terrible side ache and went in to lie down. After he'd rested, his mother asked if he was feeling better. "No," said Johnny. "I think I'm getting a wife."

"A merry heart doeth good..."

PROVERBS 17:22



Please, Daddy Can't We Go?

A little girl with shining eyes,
Her little face aglow,
Said: "Daddy, it is almost time
For Sunday school. Come on, let's go!
They teach us there of Jesus' love,
Of how He died for all,
And saves those who on Him call."

"Oh, no!" said Daddy, "not today.
I've worked hard all week;
I'm going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine they say.
So run along; don't bother me.
We'll go to church someday."

Months and years have passed away,
But Daddy hears that plea no more—
"Let's go to Sunday school."
Those childish days are o'er.

And now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through;
He finds time to go to church—
But what does Daughter do?

She says, "O Daddy, not today—
I stayed up almost all night;
I've just got to get some sleep.
Besides, I look a fright."

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears,
As again he heard the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.

He sees a small girl's shining face
Upturned with eyes aglow,
She says, "It's time for Sunday School—
Please, Daddy, won't you go?"

*"Fathers ... bring them up in the
nurture and admonition of the Lord"*

EPHESIANS 6:4

Home PAGE



Wise Dad

During the frontier days, the driver of a covered wagon stopped his horses on the street of a young town and called to a passing man, "Hey, any saloons in this place?"

"Sure, we have four!" the man replied boastfully.

"Giddap," the driver shouted, urging his horses on.

"Stop," called the man.

"I can't stop here," replied the stranger, "I've got four boys in this wagon."

"Why?" again called the man, "What's your business?"

"My business is to raise these boys for God, and I can't do that in a town with four saloons." And he hurried his horses on, soon turning the bend in the road.

"Is the young man ... safe?"

2 SAMUEL 18:29

Be Kind to Your Mate

Winston Churchill was once accosted by a woman. "Mr. Churchill," she shouted, "If you were my husband, I would poison your soup!"

Churchill didn't miss a beat. "Madam," he replied, "If you were my wife, I would drink the soup!"

If we can't "turn the other cheek" to our beloved husband or wife, who can we turn the other cheek to? (Matthew 5:39). We can be kind and tender hearted to our marriage partner, and we can forgive a mate as the Lord forgave us (Ephesians 4:32).

—Stan Mitchell, Henderson, Tennessee

"A merry heart doeth good."

PROVERBS 17:22



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



Loving God Supremely and Loving Others Unselfishly

A Higher Priority

At the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924, the U.S. team was favored in the four-man canoe race. One member of that team was a young man by the name of Bill Havens. As the time for the Olympics neared, it became clear that Bill's wife would give birth to her first child about the time that Bill was scheduled to compete.

So Bill found himself in a dilemma. Should he go to Paris and risk not being at his wife's side when their first child was born? Or should he withdraw from the team and remain behind?

Bill's wife insisted that he go to Paris. After all, he had been working toward this goal for many years; it would be the culmination of a lifelong dream. After much soul searching, Bill decided to withdraw from the competition and remain behind with his wife so that he could be with her when their first child arrived. Bill considered being at her side a higher priority than going to Paris to try to win an Olympic Gold medal.

The United States four-man canoe team won the gold medal at the Paris Olympics. But Bill had no regrets. His family was more important to him than the Olympics. Bill was present when his wife gave birth to their baby boy, whom they named Frank.

Twenty-eight years later, in 1952, Bill received a cablegram from Frank. It was sent from Helsinki, Finland, where the

1952 Olympics were being held. The cablegram read:

*Dear Dad,
Thanks for waiting around for me to be born in 1924. I'm coming home with the gold medal you should have won.*

*Your loving son,
Frank*

Frank Havens was bringing home the Olympic gold medal for the 10,000-meter canoeing event. Now he wanted to share his medal with the one who set aside his own personal dreams for a higher priority: his son.

Establishing proper priorities ultimately brings the greatest rewards—like no regrets and deeper joys.

What are those "higher priorities" that need to be established in our lives? Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:37–39).

Loving God supremely and loving others unselfishly—beginning with your family. These are the top priorities! And living by these priorities brings the greater blessings.

—David Sargent (adapted from Steve Goodier)

What Can Christians Do About Racial Prejudice?

One of the truly tragic problems in our society is racial prejudice. Jesus was born into a very prejudiced society, and He worked to break down the barriers. To the first-century Jew, there was nothing worse than a Gentile, except a Samaritan. Jesus, however, showed the brotherhood of all mankind with His Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which a hated Samaritan showed himself to be the good neighbor to the Jew who had been beaten and robbed on the road to Jericho (Luke 10).

Racial prejudice has no place in the heart of any Christian. James wrote, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself . . . if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin" (James 2:8-9). We must treat people of other races as we wish to be treated, which is Christ's Golden Rule: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

"There is no respect of persons with

God" (Romans 2:11). God does not show favoritism for one person or one race over another. All are equal in His sight. Jesus died for all people, and came to unite the world in Himself (1 John 2:2).

Conquest of prejudice begins in the home. Parents must bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This includes teaching children the brotherhood of man, the necessity of respecting all people, and the creation of all men in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27).

Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Paul was not saying that there are no differences between Jews and Gentiles, the free man and the slave, or males and females. He was saying that all are equal in God's sight, and all deserve respect.

We must foster the spirit of brotherly

love among races. As the children's song reminds us, "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight." "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1 John 4:20).

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

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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 audios, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Directions: Without opening your Bible, fill in all the missing words and verse references you can. When you do all you can from memory, use these Scriptures to complete the exercise: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 23:1; Matthew 16:18; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:16; 10:10; 14:6; 20:31; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 11:1 (not in order). Finally, memorize the verses.

Questions Taken from the King James Version

One Dozen Scriptures Everyone Should Know

1. "For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only begotten _____, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting _____" (John 3:16).
2. "In the beginning God _____ the heaven and the earth" (_____).
3. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____, the truth, and the life: _____ man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (_____).
4. "The _____ is my shepherd; I shall not want" (_____).
5. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this _____ I will build my _____; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (_____).
6. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the _____, and preach the gospel to every creature" (_____).
7. "He that believeth and is _____ shall be _____; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (_____).
8. "Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (_____).
9. "So then faith cometh by _____, and hearing by the word of God" (_____).
10. "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the _____ of _____; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (_____).
11. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more _____" (_____).
12. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is _____" (_____).

Answers to Last Issue: Starts with the Letter "T": 1. Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42); 2. Talitha cumi (Mark 5:41); 3. Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-32); 4. Tarsus (Acts 21:39); 5. Tekoa (Amos 1:1); 6. Temple (Matthew 4:5); 7. Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:2); 8. Tent (Joshua 7:20-21); 9. Tetrarch (Luke 3:1); 10. Thaddeus (Matthew 10:3); 11. Taxed (Luke 2:1); 12. Tarshish (Jonah 1:3); 13. Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1); 14. Thessalonica (Acts 17:11); 15. Thieves (Matthew 27:38); 16. Thomas (John 11:16); 17. Thorns (John 19:5); 18. Throne (Psalm 45:6); 19. Thyratira (Acts 16:14); 20. Timothy (1 Timothy 1:1-5); 21. Tongues (1 Corinthians 13:8); 22. Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20); 23. Troop (Psalm 18:29); 24. Terah (Genesis 11:31); 25. Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

Finding a Treasure

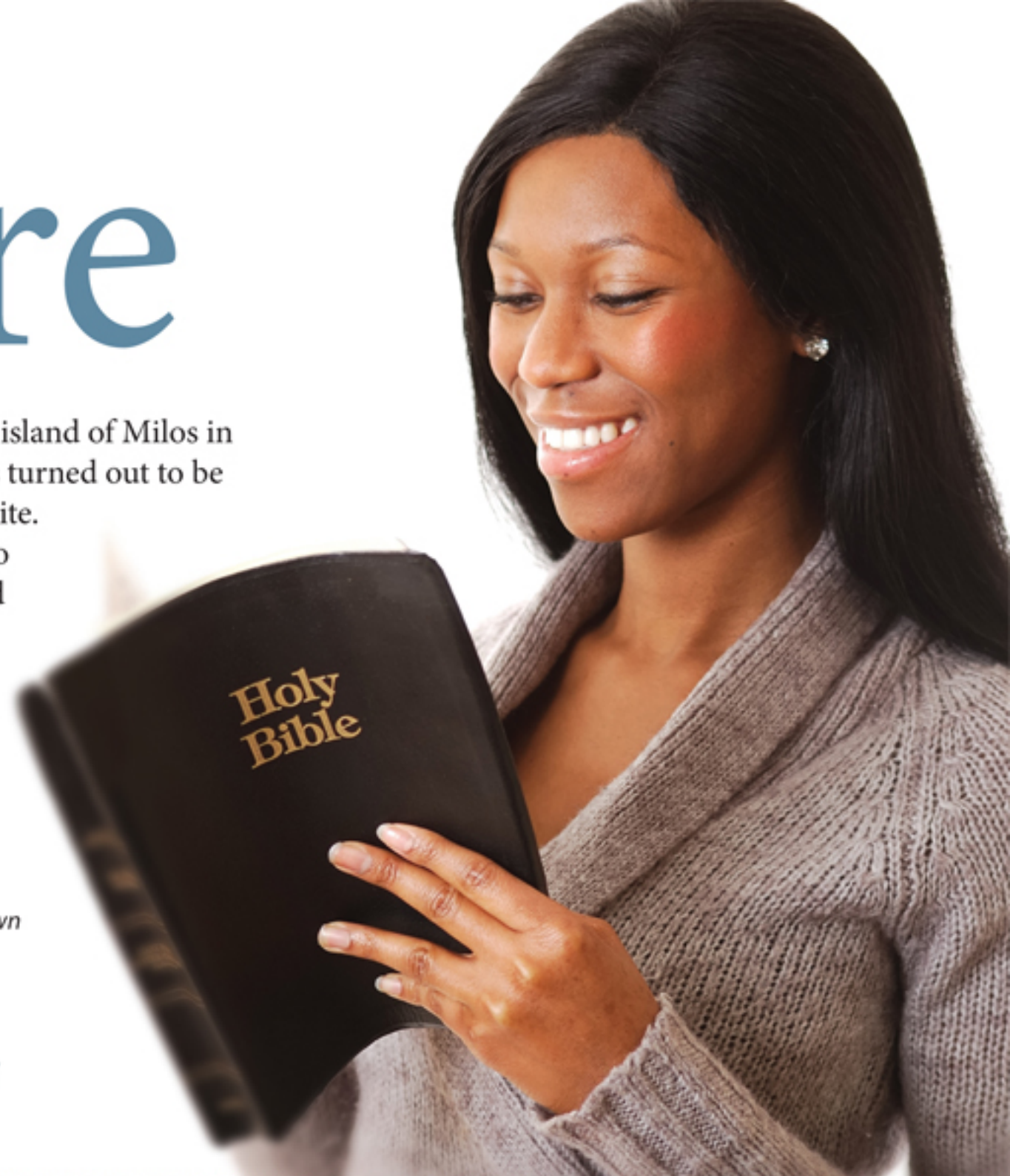
In 1820, a man named Yorgos was digging in his field on the island of Milos in Greece. As he was digging, he hit upon some stones. The stones turned out to be four statues, three of the Greek god Hermes and one of Aphrodite. An archeological expedition purchased the Aphrodite, took it to France, where the king named it "Venus de Milo." It was housed in the Louvre Museum and became one of the most famous works of art in history. All this forgotten in a field.

Jesus told two stories similar to this when He talked about a man who found a treasure in a field and another who found a pearl of great price. There are treasures to be discovered between the covers of your Bible. Have you been reading it lately?

—Author Unknown

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

MATTHEW 13:45-46



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- What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- A Lying Tongue
- Scared of the Dark
- Finding God's Treasure
- Jesus' Mother
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

Christ's Birth and Death

A study of the birth and death of Jesus reveals some interesting parallels. Consider the following:

- At both, He was rejected of men (Luke 2:7; Mark 15:15).
- At both, He was cast "outside" (Luke 2:7; Hebrews 13:12).
- At both, Mary was there (Luke 2:7; John 19:26).
- At both, myrrh was present for use upon Him (Matthew 2:11; John 19:39).
- At both, there was darkness (Matthew 2:10, 14; 27:45).
- At both, His body was wrapped in cloth (Luke 2:7, 12; Mark 15:46).
- At both, a Herod becomes curiously involved (Matthew 2:7–8; Luke 23:7–12).
- At both, wise men recognized His deity (Matthew 2:1–2; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:41).
- At both, Jew and Gentile were there.
- At both, there was worship—the first genuine, the second mocking (Matthew 2:11; Luke 2:13–14; Mark 15:19).
- At both, He was hailed as King—one in earnest, the other in jest (Matthew 2:2; Mark 15:26, 32).
- At both, there was an honorable man named Joseph (Matthew 1:19; Luke 2:16; Mark 15:43).
- At both, the chief priests and scribes were involved (Matthew 2:4–6; 27:41; Luke 23:10).

And both have changed the world and altered the impact of eternity.

—Neal Pollard, Denver, Colorado

Ask "Talula Does The Hula

From Hawaii." That was the name given to a little girl in New Zealand by her parents. The now 9-year-old girl has been so embarrassed at the name that she kept it from even her closest friends. She asked to be called "K" instead.

But she won't have to wear that name anymore.

A family court judge in New Zealand, Judge Rob Murfitt, made the 9-year-old girl a ward of the court so that her name could be changed. In his ruling the judge stated, "The court is profoundly concerned about the very poor judgment which this child's parents have shown in choosing this name. It makes a fool of the child and sets her up with a social disability and handicap, unnecessarily."

Sin causes each of us to have a bad name. Unlike "K," we have no one to blame but ourselves. It is because of our wrong choices that we incur the names "sinner," "transgressor," "offender," and "condemned." Sin ruins our reputations, disgraces us, separates us from God, and condemns us (Proverbs 14:34; Isaiah 59:1–2; Romans 6:23).

God wants to give us a new name.

This new name, "Christian," does not mean that we are sinless, but it does indicate that we are forgiven. When we are given the name "Christian," it reveals that our sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that we might have the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7).

We are given this new name when we believe in Jesus (Acts 16:30–31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38).

The name "Christian" is a name which is to be worn honorably (1 Peter 4:16), for wearing the name brings the responsibility to live a life that reflects Christ.

Instead of "sinner," we can be called "saved" because of Christ! He will change your name if you will submit your life to Him.

Won't you?

—David A. Sargent,
Mobile, Alabama



Is There
Anything
in a
Name?

Thoughts
from the **HEART**

Christianity, *the Better Way*

In life, you can choose to serve Satan as a sinner or serve Christ as a Christian. You can live either way, but Christianity is the better way.

Christianity is the better way because it means salvation. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

Christianity is the better way because it rids us of our old sinful life. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Christianity is the better way because God can work through the life of a Christian. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Christianity is the better way because Christians enjoy the peace of God. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

You will not be sorry for becoming a Christian or for living the Christian life. It is better for now and for eternity. A Christian is a believer in Christ who has repented and been baptized for the remission of sins. "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). You must obey the gospel to be saved (Mark 16:15-16). The Lord adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). The saved person must remain faithful till death (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:6-8). Obey the gospel and live for Christ now, so that you may live eternally with Him.

—Charles Box Greenville, Alabama

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