

HOUSE HOUSE

to



Heart Heart

to

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Volume 12 Number 5

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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Finding the Treasure

Please read Acts 8:26-40

Allen Webster

Dr. Williamson, a Canadian geologist, had been slipping along a rain-soaked road that led through Tanzania's back country when, suddenly, his Land Rover sunk to its axles in sticky mire. Pulling out a shovel, he began to dig his four-wheel drive out. After some time, he uncovered an interesting-looking pink stone. Being a geologist and naturally curious about rock formations, he picked it up. The more mud he removed, the more excited he became, but he hardly believed what he saw. When the stone was finally clean, Dr. Williamson had found a diamond! (Eldred Echols, *Discovering the Pearl of Great Price*, Sweet Pub., Ft. Worth, 1992).

Any diamond would have been a surprise, but he had found the now famous giant pink diamond of Tanzania. That muddy stone sparkles today in a brooch worn by the Queen of England on occasions, and Williamson is world renowned for his find—accidental though it was.

It is interesting that the geologist found the diamond. Similarly the Bible tells of a treasurer who found a treasure. Jesus' comparison of a sinner who learns the gospel to one who finds great treasure (Matthew 13:44-46) is illustrated by this Ethiopian treasurer who found the gospel on a lonely road leading back to Africa from Jerusalem (Acts 8:26-40). Why did he—of all people in the world—find the treasure that day?

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING MORE.

This Ethiopian had traveled fifteen hundred miles one way to worship, and was still reading his Bible on the way home! Because he was a eunuch, he had not even been allowed into the temple proper during the ceremonies (cf. Deuteronomy 23:1). You could say he rode three thousand miles to sit in the foyer! He knew something of the Bible but wanted to know more. He was like a man at sunrise tilting his manuscript to catch the first light. As he read Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus, he was catching the first rays of the rising sun of Christianity.

Who will find God's treasure today? Those who are willing to look for it. Growing up, we all played the usual childhood games. We "shot" each other while playing cowboys and Indians or army. We played many games of football, baseball, and basketball. And we played "hide-and-seek."





Finding Treasure . . .

Continued from page 1

While the rules would change from time to time, the basic gist was the same: One person would be “it,” and the rest would hide, hoping to be the last one found. Since no one wanted to be “it,” the role often was not played with much enthusiasm; those who were “it” did not always finish the game. Only those who zealously searched for those in hiding would be victorious.

God’s treasure is available to all, but it requires a careful and diligent Bible student (2 Timothy 2:15). The way to heaven is “hidden” in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said that the Scriptures (Old Testament) testified of Him, but His name is not found there (John 5:39). He taught in parables so that only those sincerely interested would find eternal life (Matthew 13:13–15). He said that the path to eternal life is strait and narrow and will be found by few (Matthew 7:13–14). We do not find the path by a casual pass through the Scriptures, but rather by a diligent search. No single passage teaches all we need, but we must study to put the pieces together to know the truth which will make us free (John 8:31–32). We should all strive to find, understand, and observe God’s will for us—to obey the gospel and become His children.

Several Bible passages mention “seeking”: God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23–24); Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10); God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6); we are to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33); he who seeks, shall find (Matthew 7:7–8).

One may have to dig out from under denominational teachings and human traditions. Many today, like this treasurer, read their Bibles on the way home from church services and wonder why what they have just experienced differs so much from what they read in the Bible. If you are one of these, read on. We should never be satisfied with a religion less than what we find in Scripture. We can do better. Christ’s church does exist today, and we can be a part of it!

God promised that all who fear Him can learn the truth (John 7:17), and He will reward those who truly look (Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8; Psalm 9:10; 14:2; 25:14; 145:18; Proverbs 8:17). Some are too busy seeking worldly things (Matthew 6:32); others are waiting for some supernatural sign (Matthew 12:39; 1 Corinthians 13:8–10); some would rather please men than God (Galatians 1:10). The truly wise person seeks the treasure of the gospel (Matthew 5:6; Proverbs 8). Its value is eternal; its worth inestimable.

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.

When Philip gave the treasurer an opportunity to learn more of God’s Word, he took him up on it. This treasurer was humble enough to admit to a complete stranger that he did not understand what he was studying. (He could have told this aggressive preacher to get lost, but then he would have stayed lost.)

What was the eunuch reading? “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth” (Acts 8:32). The treasurer listened as Philip showed how Jesus’ death on Calvary and His resurrection from the grave fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy (chapter 53 in our Bibles).

Jesus was the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8; cf. Mark 10:45). A goat, killed in the traditional manner, sends out blood-chilling cries that can be heard a mile away, but a sheep submits to the butcher’s knife without a whimper. Jesus meekly submitted to the outrages perpetrated against Him, and offered no more resistance than a lamb being slaughtered.

“*In his humiliation his judgment was taken away.*” The verdict of Jesus’ Roman judge was “innocent,” but Pilate gave in to the Jews and changed the sentence to crucifixion (Luke 23:4; John 18:38; 19:6).

“*Who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.*” How could one describe a generation so blind that they did not recognize God’s own Son, and then murdered Him? Jesus’ premature death was prophesied more than seven centuries before He was even born (Isaiah 53).

This was not what the treasurer had been taught in the worship service he had just left. He learned the truth because he was willing to consider another viewpoint. What about us? Too many religious discussions end with slammed doors and closed minds, raised voices and lowered respect for a friend, clenched fists and closed Bibles. Are we willing to calmly investigate another perspective? Do we do our own thinking, or do we simply accept what our preacher or parents tell us to believe? Truth never suffers from investigation—if we were right in the beginning, further study will simply confirm it. But if we were wrong, we need to know before the Judgment! (Matthew 7:21–23).

THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LEAVE HIS PAST.

As treasurer for his country, he was doubtless an intelligent and industrious man. His religion was good. He was comfortable with it. He knew its customs, understood its theology. It taught high morals and had benefited his life. But now the preacher suggested that he give it up for something better. It no longer pleased God and was powerless to grant salvation. What went through his mind? *Change religions? Go against my family? Offend my friends? Start over? Admit I’ve been wrong?*

Nonetheless, he desired to please God more than others (Galatians 1:10), and was willing to change religions. In heaven no one will ever regret giving up false religion (John 12:42) or sinful pleasure (Acts 24:25; Hebrews 11:25).

Philip evidently said something about baptism in their study (although Isaiah 53 does not mention it) because the eunuch interrupted this traveling Bible class to point out that they were passing a suitable place for baptism. (Since that was arid country, he may have thought, “If I don’t ask now, there may not be another river or lake until after he leaves.”)

According to the book of Acts, something is wrong today when someone claims to preach Jesus, but whose hearers never request baptism. How can any man preach the gospel and answer the question, “What must I do to be saved?” and not give the answer Jesus told us to give? (Mark 16:15–16).

This treasurer may have been wealthy in Ethiopia before his journey, but he left this scene a far richer man. In the last view we ever get of him, he is pictured with a “smile on his face.” You will rejoice, too, if you find God’s treasure!

If you are looking for the church you read about in your Bible, investigate the church of Christ in your community. If you desire baptism for the remission of sins, contact us; we’ll be glad to assist.

Plant the Right Seeds

- If you plant **honesty**, you will reap **trust**.
- If you plant **goodness**, you will reap **friends**.
- If you plant **humility**, you will reap **greatness**.
- If you plant **perseverance**, you will reap **contentment**.
- If you plant **consideration**, you will reap **perspective**.
- If you plant **hard work**, you will reap **success**.
- If you plant **forgiveness**, you will reap **reconciliation**.
- If you plant **faith in Christ**, you will reap a **harvest**.

“I have planted . . . God gave the increase.”
—1 Corinthians 3:6

If I Were in the Meadow

By Brittney Kennedy (age 9), Jacksonville, Alabama

If I were in the meadow,
Do you know what I would see?
Hundreds of sunny buttercups smiling back at me.
If I were in the meadow,
Do you know what I would smell?
A skunk, a skunk, oh, no, a skunk!
I have to run, you see!

If I were in the meadow,
Do you know what I would hear?
A wild horse’s cheerful neigh!
Oh, what a perfect day!
If I were in the meadow,
Do you know what I would see?
I would see God’s creation looking back at me.

Should probably come more often . . .

A little child in church for the first time watched as the offering was collected. When they neared his pew, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear, “Don’t pay for me, Daddy; I’m under five.”

“A merry heart doeth good . . .” —Proverbs 17:22
(Serious question: How often are **your** children in worship? See Hebrews 10:25.)

Do you believe in the cook?

Sometimes when I’m faced with an unbeliever, an atheist, I am tempted to invite him to the greatest gourmet dinner that one could ever serve, and when we finished eating that magnificent dinner, to ask him if he believes there’s a cook. —Ronald Reagan

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” —Genesis 1:1

Just for Today



- ▶ **I WILL NOT STRIKE BACK.** If someone is rude, if someone is impatient, if someone is unkind, I will not respond in that way (Romans 12:19).
- ▶ **I WILL ASK GOD TO BLESS MY ENEMY.** If I come across someone who treats me harshly or unfairly, I will quietly ask God to bless that individual (Matthew 5:44). I understand my enemy could be a family member, a neighbor, a co-worker, or a stranger.
- ▶ **I WILL BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I SAY.** I will carefully choose and guard my words, being certain that I do not spread gossip (James 3:1–6).
- ▶ **I WILL GO THE SECOND MILE.** I will find ways to help share the burden of another person (Matthew 5:41).
- ▶ **I WILL FORGIVE.** I will forgive those who hurt me (Luke 23:34).
- ▶ **I WILL SECRETLY DO SOMETHING KIND FOR SOMEONE.** I will reach out anonymously and bless the life of another (Ephesians 4:32).
- ▶ **I WILL TREAT OTHERS THE WAY I WISH TO BE TREATED.** I will practice “the Golden Rule” (Matthew 7:12). I will do unto others as I would have them do to me, with *everyone* I encounter.
- ▶ **I WILL RAISE THE SPIRITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS DISCOURAGED.** My smile, my words, my expressions of concern and support can make a difference to someone facing a challenge (Romans 14:19).
- ▶ **I WILL TAKE CARE OF MY BODY.** I will eat less . . . I will eat healthier . . . I will exercise . . . I will be thankful . . . My body will be a fitting temple for Him who dwells in me (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).
- ▶ **I WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY.** I will spend more time in study, prayer, and meditation. I will retreat from life’s pressures and distractions and seek to learn God’s will (2 Peter 3:18).



Ladder of Achievement

- 100% I Did!
- 90% I Will!
- 80% I Can!
- 70% I Think I Can.
- 60% I Might.
- 50% I Think I Might.
- 40% What Should I Do?
- 30% I Wish I Could!
- 20% I Don’t Know How.
- 10% I Can’t.
- 0% I Won’t.

—Family Ties, Cottondale church of Christ

The



HOME PAGE

Give 'em a Hand

Sure, holding hands with your spouse is romantic. But did you know it could be therapeutic? Neuroscientists at the University of Wisconsin and University of Virginia found that married women under extreme stress who reach out and hold their husbands' hands feel immediate relief. And not just any hand will do—their husband's touch proved significantly more comforting than that of a stranger.

“The effect of this simple gesture of support is that the brain and body don't have to work as hard in response to a threat,” says Dr. James A. Coan, the study's lead author. “It's deeply soothing.”

So the next time you're feeling stressed over deadlines at work, finances, or kids, grab your mate's hand. You'll both feel better.

—*The New York Times* (January 31, 2006)

“Two are better than one.” —Ecclesiastes 4:9

Do you have a grudge?

A woman went to court and told the judge she wanted a divorce. “Do you have any grounds?” the judge asked.

“Just two acres,” she said.

“That's not it, lady. I mean do you have a grudge?”

“No, we park the car in front of the house.”

By now the judge was frustrated: “Does your husband beat you up?”

She replied. “No, I get up before he does.”

“Then why do you want a divorce?” the judge asked.

“Because,” she confessed, “we just don't seem to be able to communicate.”

“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” —James 1:19

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



No Matter What



A fascinating story comes out of the 1989 earthquake, which almost flattened Armenia. This deadly tremor killed over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. In the midst of all the confusion of the earthquake, a father rushed to his son's school. When he arrived there, he discovered the building was flat as a pancake.

Standing there looking at what was left of the school, the father remembered a promise he made to his son: “No matter what, I'll always be there for you!” Tears began to fill his eyes. It looked like a hopeless situation, but he could not take his mind off his promise.

Remembering that his son's classroom was in the back right corner of the building, the father rushed there and started digging through the rubble. As he was digging, other grieving parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying: “My son!” “My daughter!” They tried to pull him off of what was left of the school saying: “It's too late!” “They're dead!” “You can't help!” “Go home!” Even a police officer and a firefighter told him he should go home.

To everyone who tried to stop him he said, “Are you going to help me now?” They did not answer him, and he continued digging for his son, stone by stone.

He needed to know for himself: “Is my boy alive or is he dead?” This man dug for eight hours and then twelve and then twenty-four and then thirty-six.

Finally in the thirty-eighth hour, as he pulled back a boulder, he heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, “ARMAND!” and a voice answered him, “Dad? It's me, Dad!”

Then the boy added these priceless words, “I told the other kids not to worry. I told 'em that if you were alive, you'd save me, and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised that, Dad. ‘No matter what,’ you said, ‘I'll always be there for you!’ And here you are, Dad. You kept your promise!” —Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

Chicken Soup for the Soul

“I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.” —Proverbs 4:3

A Clean Face, a Clean Heart

For a parent to require a child to wash his face and keep his body clean and not require him to learn and obey the Bible, is to teach him that the body is worth more than the soul and that a clean body is worth more than a pure heart and clean spirit. For a parent to require a child to learn spelling and reading and not require him to study the Bible is to teach him that it is much more important to be qualified to live in this world than to be fitted to live in heaven. There is no evading this simple truth.

—David Lipscomb, deceased, *The Key Word*, Volume 40, Number 13

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” —Colossians 3:2

“I Play for the Minnesota Twins!”

A group of expectant fathers were in a waiting room while their wives were in the process of delivering babies. A nurse came in and announced to one man that his wife had just given birth to twins.

“That's quite a coincidence,” he responded, “I play for the Minnesota Twins.” A few minutes later a nurse announced to another that he was the father of triplets.

“That's amazing,” he exclaimed, “I work for the 3M company.” At that point, a third man slipped off his chair. Somebody asked him if he was feeling ill.

“No,” he responded, “I happen to work for the 7UP company.”

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . A time to weep, and a time to laugh.” —Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

The Sad Sadducees



When we study the enemies of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, our focus is normally on the scribes and Pharisees. We know the ways of the haughty Pharisees so well that “Pharisee” and “hypocrite” are almost synonymous. The Sadducees, on the other hand, are in the background, not really confronting Jesus often. The Sadducees were more a political party than a religious sect, although they were members of the aristocratic priestly families. Their name meant “to be righteous.”

Only mentioned directly about a dozen times in the New Testament, they would be included in the oft mentioned “chief priests.” Historically, they favored the adoption of Greek ways after Alexander the Great conquered the area, and they had opposed the revolt of the Maccabees against Antiochus Epiphanes. The Pharisees were more respected by the people.

Their views differed significantly from the Pharisees. They accepted only the written law, while the Pharisees counted as authoritative the oral traditions of the scribes. They rejected the resurrection and the existence of angels and spirits. Their hope was only in this life. Paul said that “if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Luke describes a theoretical question the Sadducees put to Jesus concerning seven brothers who died in succession, each married to the same woman according to Levirate law, but producing no descendants. “Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she?” they asked (Luke 20:33).

Answering their trick question, Jesus appealed to scripture to show the error of their doctrines.

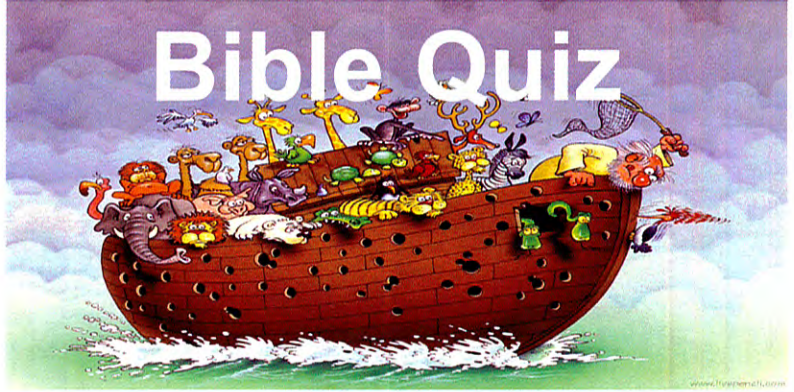
The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him (Luke 20:34–38).

—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 cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

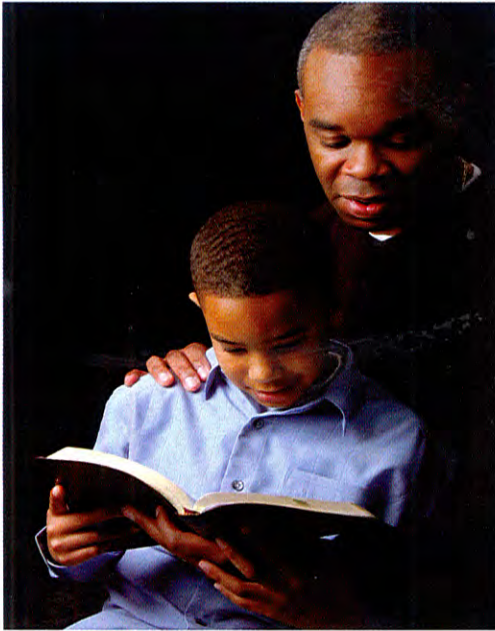
Starts with the Letter “J”

Find answers in Genesis 5:32; 35:22; 39:7; Exodus 3:1; 6:20; Judges 10:3–4; Ruth 4:17; 1 Samuel 18:1; 1 Kings 19:1–2; 14:21; 2 Kings 9:20; 11:36; Job 1:8–2:7; Proverbs 6:34; 11:22; Isaiah 12:2; Jeremiah 9:1; Jonah 1:17; Matthew 1:21; Mark 5:22, 42–43; Acts 12:1–2; Galatians 3:28; Hebrews 11:30; James 2:26; 5:11 (not in order).

1. “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name _____: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
2. _____ Judge in Israel 22 years; had 30 sons
3. _____ Ruler of synagogues; Jesus raised his daughter
4. _____ King Herod killed this man with a sword
5. _____ Book that says, “Faith without works is dead.”
6. _____ One of the sons of Noah
7. “For _____ is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.”
8. “The LORD _____ is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.”
9. “_____ the son of Nimshi . . . driveth furiously.”
10. _____ Weeping prophet; book has 52 chapters
11. “By faith the walls of _____ fell down.”
12. _____ The city where God chose to put His name in the time of David.
13. _____ The father of David
14. _____ Father of twelve tribes of Israel
15. _____ Moses’ father-in-law
16. “There is neither _____ nor Greek . . . for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”
17. “As a _____ of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”
18. _____ King Ahab’s wife; threatened to kill Elijah
19. _____ Renowned for patience; lost children and possessions; stricken with boils
20. _____ Moses’ mother
21. _____ Swallowed by a great fish
22. _____ David’s friend
23. _____ Tempted by Potiphar’s wife

Answers to Last Issue: *Jesus, the Church, and Salvation:* 1. Christ (Matthew 16:18); 2. Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11); 3. Christ (Ephesians 5:23); 4. World (John 3:16); 5. Christ’s blood (Acts 20:28); 6. Hell (Matthew 16:18); 7. Christ (Romans 16:16); 8. Way (John 14:6); 9. Me (Christ) (John 14:6); 10. Hearing (Romans 10:17); 11. Grace (Ephesians 2:8); 12. Works (Ephesians 2:8); 13. Truth (John 4:24); 14. The gospel (Romans 1:16); 15. Confession (Romans 10:10); 16. The word of God (Ephesians 6:17); 17. Church (Ephesians 1:22–23); 18. One (Ephesians 4:4); 19. Baptism (1 Peter 3:21); 20. Yes; 21. The Lord (Acts 2:47); 22. Condemn, Saved (John 3:17); 23. Antioch (Acts 11:26); 24. Yes (1 Corinthians 1:2); 25. Jerusalem (Zion) (Acts 2:5, 47).

Learn More! For More Info! Lea



Keynotes of Acts - 2 Corinthians

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

Book - Acts

Key Words - Beginning
Key Verses - Acts 1:8; 2:38, 41, 47
Message - The apostles' witness of Christ, beginning at Jerusalem

Book - Romans

Key Word - Righteousness
Key Verses - Romans 1:16-17
Message - Justification is by obedient faith in Christ

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

Book - 1 Corinthians

Key Words - Our Lord
Key Verses - 1 Corinthians 1:2, 10
Message - The Lordship of Jesus

Book - 2 Corinthians

Key Words - Comfort; ministry
Key Verses - 2 Corinthians 4:5-6
Message - Christians are ministers of comfort and of the new covenant

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

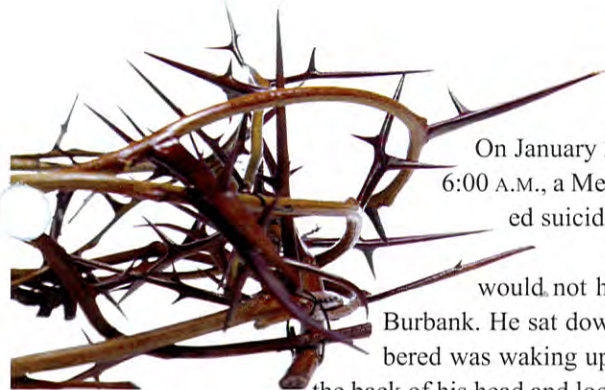
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- Happiness Guaranteed!**
- When Jesus Went on a Picnic.**
- The Irony of Calvary.** Some astounding contrasts
- Looking for Love.** **God Hates False Witness.**
- Don't Bet on It!** **Salvation Is Free, But Not Ch**
- What Teens Want** **Watered-down Baptism**
- Death Hurts, but Jesus Helps**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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Written in Blood

On January 26, 2005, a California train derailed, killing 11 people and injuring over 200. About 6:00 A.M., a Metrolink commuter train struck a sport-utility vehicle parked on the tracks in an aborted suicide attempt in Glendale. The train derailed and struck another Metrolink train.

One of the 200 injured was a 44-year-old named John Phipps. Phipps normally would not have taken the train, but he had been called to work early at an aerospace plant in Burbank. He sat down upstairs in the double-decked car and went to sleep. The next thing he remembered was waking up, feeling mist falling on his face, and seeing smashed bits of the train. He touched the back of his head and looked at his hands, which were covered in blood. He called for help but got no immediate answer. Trapped under debris, he waited for rescuers.

At one point, Phipps reached out and touched an upended train seat that sat right above him. Believing he was dying, he found himself leaving a message to his wife and children with his own blood. He wrote:

“I ♥ my kids. I ♥ Leslie.”

Rescuers came on the scene later and saw the message. Fire Captain Robert Rosario said, “I’ve seen some gruesome things on this job, but that moved me. My only thought was, I have to get that seat to his wife and kids.” His wife said about the message, “Hallmark is never going to top that. It’s moving, it’s thoughtful, and it’s chilling all at the same time.”

The story of John Phipps and his message written in his own blood is a moving one, but there is another more moving love story written in blood: The love of **JESUS CHRIST** for a lost world.

Due to our sin, you and I were “pinned” under the condemnation of sin with no hope. But Jesus came to our rescue. To save us from our sins, Jesus had to shed His blood as payment for them. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7). The blood of Jesus redeems those who accept His offer of salvation by believing in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turning from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confessing Him before men (Romans 10:9–10), and being baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). The blood of Jesus will continue to cleanse those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

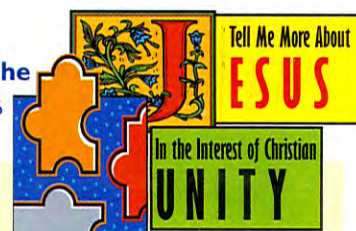
With His own blood, Jesus demonstrated His great love for you and for me. The message is moving, thoughtful, and chilling all at the same time, and it is the means of our salvation *if* we will accept His gift on His terms.

Won’t *you* respond to His great love through your loving obedience? —David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

Earth’s Most Sacred Spot

Some time ago I bought a fine little devotional book on the death of Christ. One of the chapters was on “Earth’s Most Sacred Spot.” The author was referring to Golgotha, “the place which is called Calvary.” Because our Savior suffered and died there, the author considered it the most sacred of all places. But I want to assure you that earth’s most sacred spot is not some hill on the other side of the world. The most sacred place on this earth is right here at His table, when we commune with Jesus and with one another in breaking bread and drinking the cup of the Lord. —David Pharr

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” —1 Corinthians 10:16



Nipper’s Master’s Voice

During the mid-twentieth century, one of the most recognizable brand icons in America was a dog sitting in front of an old-time gramophone, head cocked, listening to the sound. That iconic image, owned by the RCA Victor record company, was taken from a painting by English artist Francis Barraud. The dog, Nipper, had been owned by Barraud’s brother who had recorded his voice on early phonograph records. After the brother died, Barraud inherited Nipper and the gramophone and records. Whenever the records with Nipper’s master’s voice were played, the dog would sit in front of the gramophone listening to his master’s voice.

That’s a beautiful image of the relationship between Jesus Christ and us. He has gone away from earth, so we can no longer hear His physical voice. But we sit in front of His Word and listen to our Master’s teachings.

Listening for the Master’s voice is a sign of loyalty and longing—an indication that we are eager to hear and obey. —adapted from Turning Point devotional

“We ought to obey God.” —Acts 5:29