

House to House
Heart to Heart

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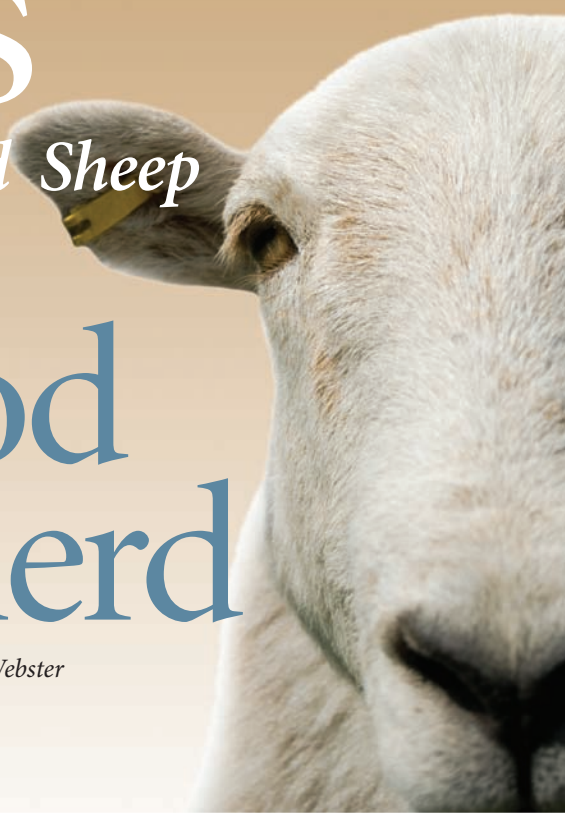
House to House Heart to Heart

Jesus

Never Watched Sheep

But He Is
the **Good**
Shepherd

by Allen Webster



Shepherding is the most honored secular profession of the entire Old Testament era. Sheep and shepherds are referred to in the Bible more than five hundred times. Along with tending gardens and farming, it is one of the world's oldest professions. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and he offered to God of the firstlings of the flock (Genesis 4:2). The Hebrew founding fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—were all shepherds. When Jacob's small family migrated into Egypt, they described their occupation: "Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers" (Genesis 47:3). David, Israel's favorite king, was first a shepherd

of his father's sheep (1 Samuel 16:11). The most beloved chapter of the Bible is the Shepherd's Psalm, which compares the relationship between a man and his God to that of a sheep and his shepherd (Psalm 23). This figure is used often in the Old Testament (Psalm 74:1; 77:20; 78:52; 79:13; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:12–15; Micah 7:14). God even pictured Himself as Israel's Shepherd (Psalm 100:3). Needless to say, no one would have been surprised if the Messiah had come in the guise of a shepherd. But Jesus' hand never held a shepherd's crook, so far as we know. He never counted and recounted sheep as they passed under His rod at sunset.>>

For he is our God

and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand



He never crinkled His nose at the pungent sheep smell on a hot Jerusalem day, nor did He strain His eye to see if that was a wandering sheep far down the hillside. He never chased away a bear nor took a lion by the beard, as David did when his little lambs were threatened (cf. 1 Samuel 17:34–35).

THE SHEPHERD'S TEACHING

Still, Jesus knew about sheep and often talked of them. He made these remarkable statements that are filled with sheepfold rhetoric:

- “I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7).
- “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (10:9).
- “I am the good shepherd” (10:11).
- “The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (10:11).
- “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (10:14).
- “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep” (10:15).
- “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (10:16).
- “When the Son of man shall come in his glory . . . before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left” (Matthew 25:31–33).

THE SHEPHERD'S ACTIONS

The New Testament pictures Christ as the Shepherd over His flock, the church (Matthew 25:32; 26:31; John 10:1–18; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 2:25). Jesus

is identified as “the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11), “the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25), “the chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:4), and the “great shepherd of the sheep” (Hebrews 13:20). Looking at the context of these a bit closer reveals that:

The “Good Shepherd” died for His sheep (John 10:11, 15). David risked his life for his father’s sheep (1 Samuel 17:34), but Jesus did more. He sacrificed His life so that the flock might go to heaven (John 10:15).

The “one Shepherd” unifies His sheep (John 10:16). Jews and Gentiles, all races and nationalities, all economic and educational levels are all found in the same flock.

The “great shepherd” saves and protects the sheep (John 10:9, 12; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:8–9). He promised to never leave (give us up, let us go, relax His hold on us) or forsake us—leave us in the lurch (Hebrews 13:5; cf. 2 Timothy 4:10). A physician can save your life (cf. Job 2:4). A lawyer can save your fortune. A financial advisor can save your business (cf. Matthew 4:8–9; Luke 12:20). A coach can save your athletic career. An image consultant can save your reputation. But only Jesus can save your soul (Matthew 16:26; cf. Job 27:8; Psalm 49:8).

The Shepherd and Bishop (1 Peter 2:25) guides His sheep (Hebrews 13:20–21). He leads in the right way (John 10:4). Cattle are driven, but sheep are led. Jesus does not drive us to heaven, or even simply point the direction to us; He goes before us, showing us the way, step by step (1 Peter 2:21–22).

The “chief shepherd” will reward His sheep (1 Peter 5:4). He cares for His sheep individually (John 10:3). Jesus knows your name, and even the hairs upon your head (Matthew 10:29–30).

THE SHEPHERD'S SHEEP

“We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100:3). “For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand” (Psalm 95:7). It is no accident that God compared man to sheep, because the behavior of sheep and humans is similar in many ways.

- Sheep require, more than any other livestock, endless attention. Christ must show endless care for us (Matthew 28:20; John 10:16, 29; 2 Timothy 4:16–17; Hebrews 13:5–6).
- Both have poor sense of direction and get lost easily (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:25). The Shepherd feeds us and leads us.
- Both are nearsighted (2 Peter 1:9).
- Both must have another to supply their needs (Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 1:3; John 14:6; 15:4).
- Both need protection from danger (Hebrews 13:5–6; John 10:11–18; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13–15). Sheep have no defensive teeth nor claws, cannot quickly flee, and have no other means of protection (like a skunk’s smell or snake’s poison).
- Both are easily frightened (Matthew 1:20; 10:28; 28:5). There is a reason “fear not” is found 63 times in the Bible.
- Both can be stubborn (Hebrews 3:8, 15; 4:7).
- Both need constant guidance, and are likely to follow the wrong leaders.

Thrupp’s old hymn says it best:

Savior, like a shepherd lead us:
Much we need Thy tend’rest care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare.
Are you in His fold? ❀

Never Too Old



Old age is dreaded by many

because it is often associated with loneliness, physical decline, and a retreat to inactivity.

However, history records that many people made some of their greatest contributions to society after age 65:

- The Earl of Halsburg was 90 when he began preparing a 20-volume revision of English law.
- Goethe wrote *Faust* at 82.
- Galileo made his greatest discovery when he was 73.
- At 65, Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister for the first time, and started the epic struggle against Hitler.
- At 72, Golda Meir became Prime Minister of Israel.
- At 80, Grandma Moses, who had started painting in her late 70s, had her first one-woman exhibit.
- At 81, Benjamin Franklin skillfully mediated between disagreeing factions at the U.S. Constitutional Convention.
- At 80, Winston Churchill returned to the House of Commons as a member of parliament and also exhibited 62 of his paintings.
- At 80, Nora Cydrus became a child of God.

You probably won't read about Nora Cydrus in the textbooks of history, but this week she made the greatest decision of all history: she became a Christian, a child of God.

Nora has a dear friend, another octogenarian, named Thelma Clark. Thelma cared so much about Nora that she wanted her to know about Jesus Christ, and how one can be saved from sin through Him (Ephesians 1:7). So Thelma began to study God's Word with Nora, and began bringing her to worship and Bible class. Then, this past Wednesday, a Christian from the Cox Boulevard church of Christ in Sheffield, Alabama, Julia Counts, teamed up with Thelma to teach Nora about how to respond to what Jesus had done for her (and for all of us). They studied about how Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross (Romans 5:8–10).

They read in God's Word that in order to receive the blessings of Jesus' death, we must: believe in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9–10), and be immersed in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Then, Nora Cydrus confessed her faith and was baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26–27) to have her sins washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16). She became a Christian, praising God for her salvation!

Are you a Christian? You are never too old and it is still not too late!

Won't you trust and obey Him today?
—David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

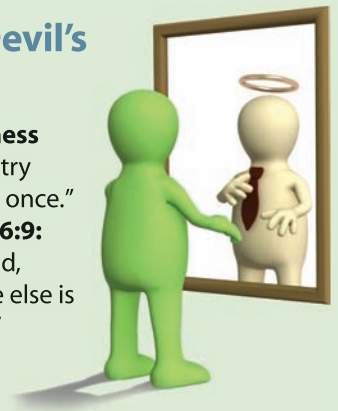
The Devil's Bible

Foolishness

19:7: "I'll try anything once."

Popular 6:9:

"Go ahead, everyone else is doing it."



Cowardly 1:10: "The best thing to do when Christ and His church are criticized is to keep silent. Critics might get angry if you speak up."

Indifference 3:4: "I'm tired after working all day and cannot attend church services."

Deceit 8:15: "It makes no difference what one believes as long as he is sincere."

Pride 31:3: "If I become a Christian, my friends will think I've become a religious fanatic. I don't like to be laughed at."

Foolishness 6:6: "One drink will do no harm."

Excuses 1:1: "I'm afraid to discuss the Bible with others. Anyway, they won't listen."

Apostasy 2:5: "What difference does it make whether we follow the New Testament or not?"

Heartache 7:2: "I've never cheated on my spouse before, but everybody does. No one will ever find out about this one time."

Hypocrisy 6:5: "When we go home from college on weekends, we go to church so the home folk will think we are faithful at school."

2 Opinions 2:4: "One church is as good as another; therefore, attend the church of your choice."

—The Green Plain Proclaimer

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

Nor Too Young

A child in church services for the first time watched as the offering plates came around. When they neared his pew, he piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me, Daddy; I'm under five."

"Rejoice in the Lord always."

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



Heard in Bible Class

- A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"



Get Married First

About ten million people live with an unmarried partner, about 8 percent of U.S. couples, most of whom are in the 25 to 34 age group. Women view cohabitation as a commitment taken before marriage to that partner, while men see it as a step before an actual commitment. Living together is illegal in Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Virginia, and West Virginia.

God's Word says that commitment comes before marriage and marriage before sleeping together. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Think about it.

"From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

MARK 10:6-8

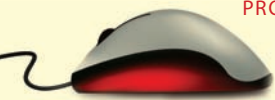
Respect for Mom

While the soldiers stood at attention during a parade, a private waved to someone in the audience. "Jones, never do that again!" the drill instructor whispered. But a few minutes later, the soldier waved a second time. Back in the barracks after the parade, the DI stormed in and barked for Jones to come front and center. "Son, you knew I was going to see you," he screamed. "You knew it was wrong. Aren't you afraid of me?"

"Yes, sir!" replied Jones. "But you don't know my mother!"

"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.

A Few More Principles on Discipline

Do not constantly warn or threaten. If every other sentence is a warning, then it tends to lose its punch or desired effect. I may choose to warn a child in a particular situation, but if I have already "laid down the law" about it, and if I have kept my word in the past about breaking rules, then the child will know that I mean what I say, without another warning.

Remember, children will remember how you deal with them.

They will share such information with others. In later years they will remind you of how you treated them. Perhaps keeping this in mind can help us avoid inappropriate responses.

Remember that God wrote the book on child-rearing and disciplining children. His words should be the sole

guidebook for Christian parents (2 Peter 1:3). No parent is smarter than God in any matter, especially in child-rearing. Parents might bypass His Word and "get lucky" and have well-behaved children, but how will God look at parents who disregard what He says?

Try to avoid administering discipline when you are extremely angry. When we are all worked up, we often say rash words and take rash action. It is not a good practice to rush into discipline when our engine is overheated.

Take it seriously. How you rear and discipline your children will have a big influence on how they will rear and discipline their own children. You could be setting the pace for many generations to come.

A failure by parents to deal with children's inappropriate behavior is just that—a failure! Never forget the mistake of Eli (1 Samuel 2:29; 3:12-13).

Explain. As children grow and are able to understand, take time to explain why something is required, why it is right, or why it is wrong.

Avoid saying irresponsible things ("I'll knock you into next week").

Be consistent. That is easy to say, but difficult to practice. Try to be consistent in matters of discipline from child to child and from case to case.

Evaluate yourself as a disciplinarian. How are you doing? Do you need to make any changes? What mistakes have you made, and what have you learned from them? Would it be helpful in some cases for you to admit those mistakes to

the children, if they are old enough to remember and understand them?

—Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee
(More to Come in future issues)

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

PROVERBS 19:18

Who's Your Daddy?

While the family was sitting around the dinner table, Jennifer, 5, turned to her brother Andy, 3, and pointed to her dad. "That's not your real father," she said, startling the whole family.

"Yes, he is!" Andy replied.

"No, he's not," Jennifer insisted. "God is your heavenly father."

Then pointing at her dad, she said, "That's your homely father!"



Anger is a destructive emotion that has led to every kind of sin, including murder, as when Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4:4–8). The elder brother of the prodigal son “was angry, and would not go in” (Luke 15:28). Paul wrote, “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath” (Ephesians 4:26). It is possible to be angry without sinning, but very difficult.

When Jesus saw the moneychangers cheating people in the temple, He made a scourge and drove them out of the temple, saying, “Make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise” (John 2:16). Jesus acted out of righteous

Is Anger Always Wrong?

indignation. Undoubtedly He was angry, but He did not sin because He was zealous for God’s glory. The child of God ought to be angry when the glory of God is challenged, and it is a tragedy for Christians to be so tolerant that nothing makes them angry.

James gives a simple prescription for dealing with anger: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:19–20).

To be “swift to hear” means to be a ready listener. Often we are angered because we do not have enough information. When we listen carefully, sometimes even “reading between the lines,” we may find that concern replaces anger. Anger is often simply an emotional reaction.

To be “slow to speak” means to control the tongue, which is a difficult task. James said, “The tongue can no man

tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). Solomon said, “Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him” (Proverbs 29:20). Hasty words spoken in anger will almost always be regretted.

To be “slow to wrath” is also difficult. We can slow the anger process by counting to ten. Prayer is also helpful, as is the realization that we can control our reaction to a problem.

The “new man” in Christ lays aside worldly anger. “Put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man” (Colossians 3:8–11).

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

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to www.HouseToHouse.com.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Directions: Sit down with your teen and a Bible and look up these Scriptures together. Fill in the blanks. Explain what the verse means. Finally, memorize a verse together each day. Depending on the age of the child, you may want to focus on learning one verse a week.

Questions Taken from the King James Version

One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Teen

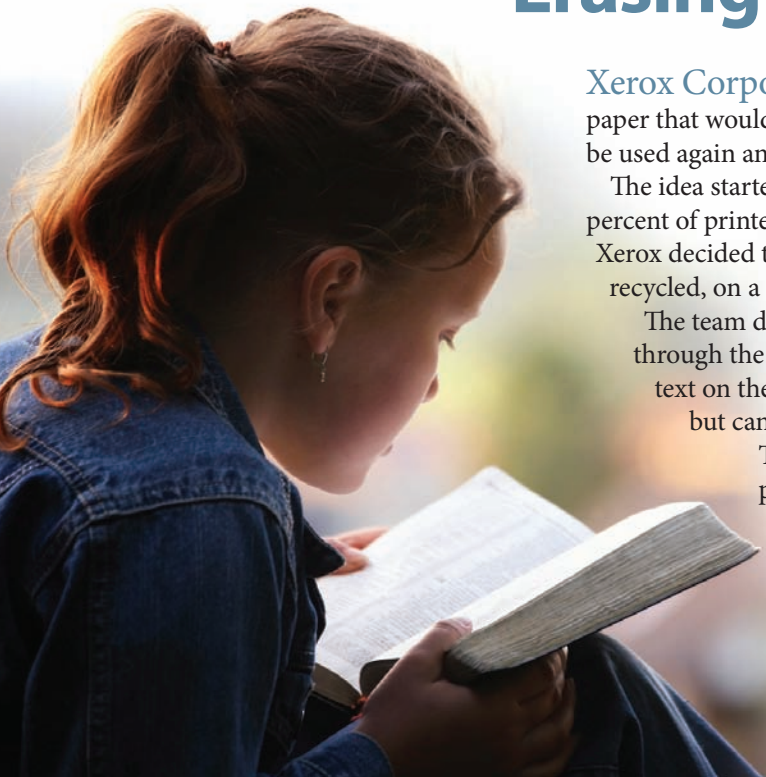
1. “Remember now thy _____ in the days of thy _____, while the evil days come not” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
2. “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an _____ of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in _____, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).
3. “My son, if sinners _____ thee, consent thou not” (Proverbs 1:10).
4. “_____ thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)” (Ephesians 6:2).
5. “Flee also youthful _____: but follow righteousness” (2 Timothy 2:22).
6. “They that wait upon the Lord shall _____ their strength; they shall mount up with wings as _____; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).
7. “Watch and _____, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).
8. “Young men likewise exhort to be _____ minded” (Titus 2:6).
9. “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in _____ apparel” (1 Timothy 2:9).
10. “_____ yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6).
11. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the _____, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
12. “Wine is a _____, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not _____” (Proverbs 20:1).

Plus Three Bonus

13. “The way of transgressors is _____” (Proverbs 13:15).
14. “For _____ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
15. “Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

Answers to Last Issue: *One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Child*: 1. Lord; 2. Fathers; 3. Fool, God; 4. Obey, right; 5. Pray; 6. Love; 7. Jesus, Son; 8. Charity (love), kind; 9. Word; 10. Christ; 11. Gospel, power; 12. Lie; *And a Half Dozen More*: 1. Love; 2. Wept; 3. Careth; 4. Grace; 5. God; 6. Flesh.

Erasing or Enduring?



Xerox Corporation said it has found a way to create temporary images on paper that would self-erase in 24 hours or less. The special pages could theoretically be used again and again—as many as 50 times.

The idea started three or four years ago when its researchers discovered that 40 percent of printed pages are used for the day, then thrown away. With that in mind, Xerox decided there was clear demand for paper that could be reused, but not recycled, on a daily basis.

The team designed paper covered with special chemicals. Once the paper goes through the printer, the chemicals are exposed to a light source that causes the text on the paper to gradually fade. It disappears completely in 16 to 24 hours, but can be quickly erased by running it through the printer again.

Though documents are not yet printed on this paper, in reality, all printed material is temporary. However, Christians have a more sure Word. The Word of God has been settled in heaven forever (Psalm 119:89).

—SermonNews.com newsletter

“We have also a more sure word . . .”

2 PETER 1:19

Free Audio Downloads!



- ▶ If Jesus Had Come Yesterday —Billy Lambert
- ▶ Salvation —Tom Holland
- ▶ Is There Only One Church? —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ The Home —Johnny Ramsey
- ▶ It's Great to Be a Christian —Neal Pollard
- ▶ Five Exercises for Worriers —Allen Webster

To listen to these and more than 200 others, go to www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio

Free Marriage Enrichment



Do you need a little encouragement in your marriage? Just starting out? Going through a rocky time? Each year the churches of Christ host the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat in Sevierville, Tennessee. This year's instructors were Brad Harrub of Nashville, Tennessee, and James Watkins of Lewisburg, Tennessee. Their seven sessions will provide laughter, insights, and motivation for building the marriage God wants you to have. Listen at www.housetohouse.com/hth/Audio/marriage.htm

Featured Web Sites:



For free in-depth Bible study material, we recommend: www.housetohouse.com www.thebible.net

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 want to know 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: _____

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* series (an in-home personal study). *These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.*
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

Tracts:

- NEW! Jesus Made a Blood Donation for You
- NEW! Under a Bushel of Bushels
- Why Caleb Lived on a Mountain
- Six Sermons a Drunk Preacher Preached (Noah)
- Love Thy Neighbor. The Story of the Good Samaritan
- Heaven is Four Steps from Any Place on Earth (Step 4)
- In the Way He Should Go. *What Solomon said about parenting.*
- Sweat the Small Stuff. *Little things sometimes matter—a lot.*
- Old Age: Taking Care or Taking Advantage?
- Pornography's Pain. *One of our most popular tracts.*
- The Scourging of Jesus. *Not for the faint-hearted . . .*
- A Heart That Devises Wicked Imaginations
- Wait Till the Honeymoon? Many are. Here's why . . .
- A Man with a "Wait" Problem. *For those who procrastinate.*
- Does Heaven Have a Smoking Section?
- Be Swift to Hear. Learning to listen to mates, friends, and God.
- In Pursuit of Excellence. How to have a Successful Life.
- Curiosity May Have Killed the Cat . . .
- God's Hospital. A Unique Look at the Church.
- God's View of Abortion
- Grandparenting
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

Helping the World See Jesus

The Bible presents Jesus as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He characterized his mission by saying: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The world greatly needs to see Jesus, and to be obedient to His teachings. This is not optional but essential to one's enjoying life on this earth and having eternal life in heaven.

The Greeks desired to see Jesus (John 12:20–21). Nicodemus came to Jesus by night (John 3:1–2). Zacchaeus even climbed up into a tree in order to see Jesus (Luke 19:2–4). The world urgently needs to see Jesus. But how? Here are three ways.

First, we can see Jesus through the written word. John concluded his gospel by saying that those things were written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30–31). Christ not only is the mediator of the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15), but all Scripture also is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). The gospel is the

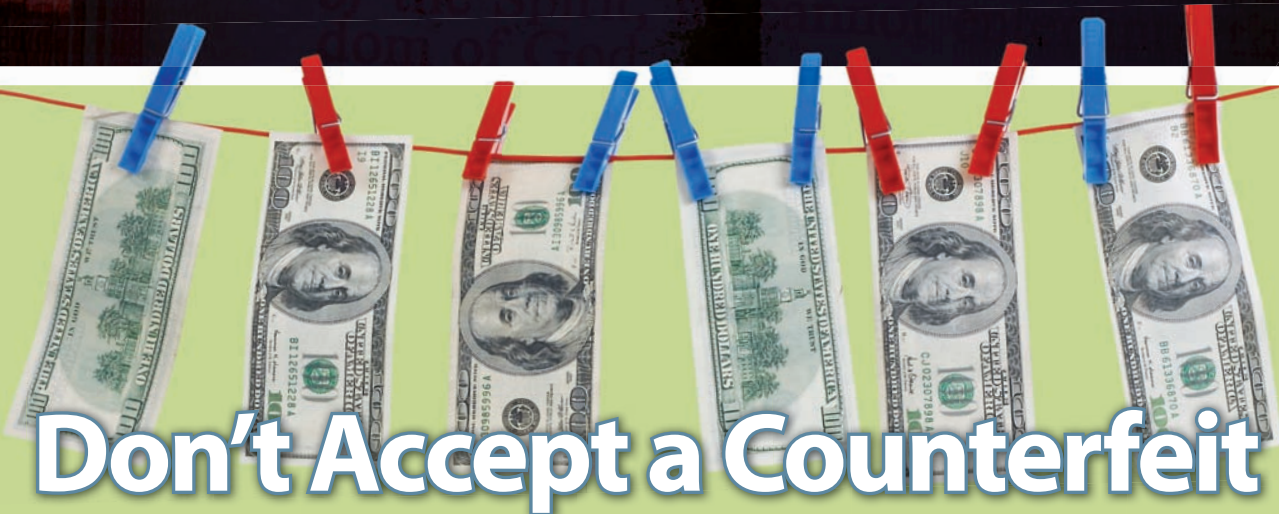
power of God to save, and it is that by which we will one day be judged (Romans 1:16; John 12:48).

Second, the world can see Jesus through the spoken word. The preaching of the truth is the means by which God has chosen to save men (1 Corinthians 1:21). The gospel was preached at Corinth, and preachers today are charged with the responsibility to "preach the word" (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; 2 Timothy 4:1–2).

Third, the world can see Jesus through the lives of Christians. Paul mentioned the fact that Christians are living epistles—letters—and that they are "known and read of all men" (2 Corinthians 3:2). Christ lives in the life of every faithful Christian (Galatians 2:20). By living a godly life, Jesus is magnified and God is glorified (Matthew 5:16; Galatians 1:24).

One of our most solemn tasks is to help the world see Jesus!

—Kelby Smith



Don't Accept a Counterfeit

Those who work around money have to be careful not to accept a counterfeit. They have to know the difference between a counterfeit and an original at a moment's notice. If they do not know what the original looks like, they are likely to accept a counterfeit and lose some money.

Spiritually speaking, each of us must be able to tell a counterfeit from an original when we see it. We must not let the devil trick us into accepting a counterfeit (2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:14). If we let him trick us, we will lose more than money. We will lose our souls (Matthew 16:26). Let's consider one of the devil's counterfeits that we must be careful not to accept.

Don't accept a counterfeit church. In fulfillment of prophecies and promises, Christ established His church on the first Pentecost following His resurrection (Isaiah 2:2–3; Daniel 2:44; Joel 2:28–32; Matthew 16:18; Mark 9:1; Acts 2:47). Although Christ established only one church (Ephesians 4:4; cf. 1:22–23), the devil has filled the world with counterfeits.

As is always the case with counterfeits, the counterfeits bear enough of the marks of the original to deceive those who are not careful to notice every detail. Because the devil has many counterfeits, we must make sure that what we have found is the original. We must make sure that the church of which we are a member can trace its origin back to the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:47). We must make sure that the church of which we are a member teaches the plan of salvation taught in the Scriptures (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:17). We must make sure that the church of which we are a member worships on the proper day and in the proper way (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2; John 4:24). After all, none of us wants to face judgment in a counterfeit church. Counterfeit churches will be rooted up (Matthew 15:13). You can be sure that Christ can tell His church from the counterfeits made by the devil.

—Wade Webster, Southaven, Mississippi

Thoughts from the HEART

Three Things You Will NOT Hear on the Day of Judgment

The concept of a coming Day of Judgment is not a fantasy or fable. It is a fact. Paul told the people in ancient Athens that God “hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). All people that have ever lived on the earth will be brought before the throne of God, and His glorious Son will judge each one of them (Matthew 25:31–33). Some things will be missing on that great day, so do not expect to see or hear them.

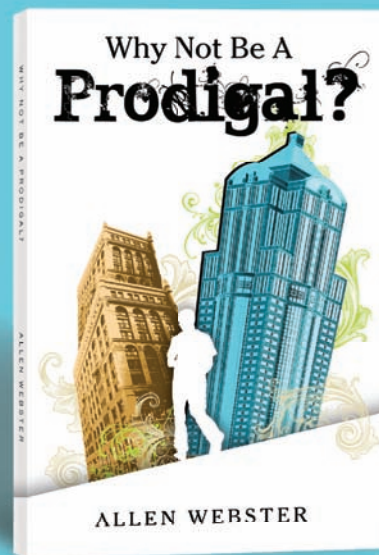
(1) On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “There is no God.” According to the Bible, that is what fools say while living in this world (Psalm 14:1). However, on judgment day this truth will be clear to all: “He is” (Hebrews 11:6). “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).

(2) On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “One religion is as good as another.” On that day all will know without a doubt that only through Jesus can people come to the Father (John 14:6). All will see that only those washed in the blood of the Lamb are redeemed from sins (Revelation 5:9), and the only way for His blood to keep on cleansing a person is for that person to continue to walk in the light of His word (1 John 1:7).

(3) On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “I regret that I did my best to follow Jesus faithfully.” Friends, the crown of life is for the faithful—period! (Revelation 2:10). It is the good and faithful servant who will hear on that day, “Well done . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:23). Regret such a reward? Never! Every service attended, every prayer offered, every minute spent in Bible study, every visit made, every mile walked for the Cause—all of this and more will make us think, as the hymn says, “Heaven will surely be worth it all.”

May we all give diligence to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10–11).

—Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee



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