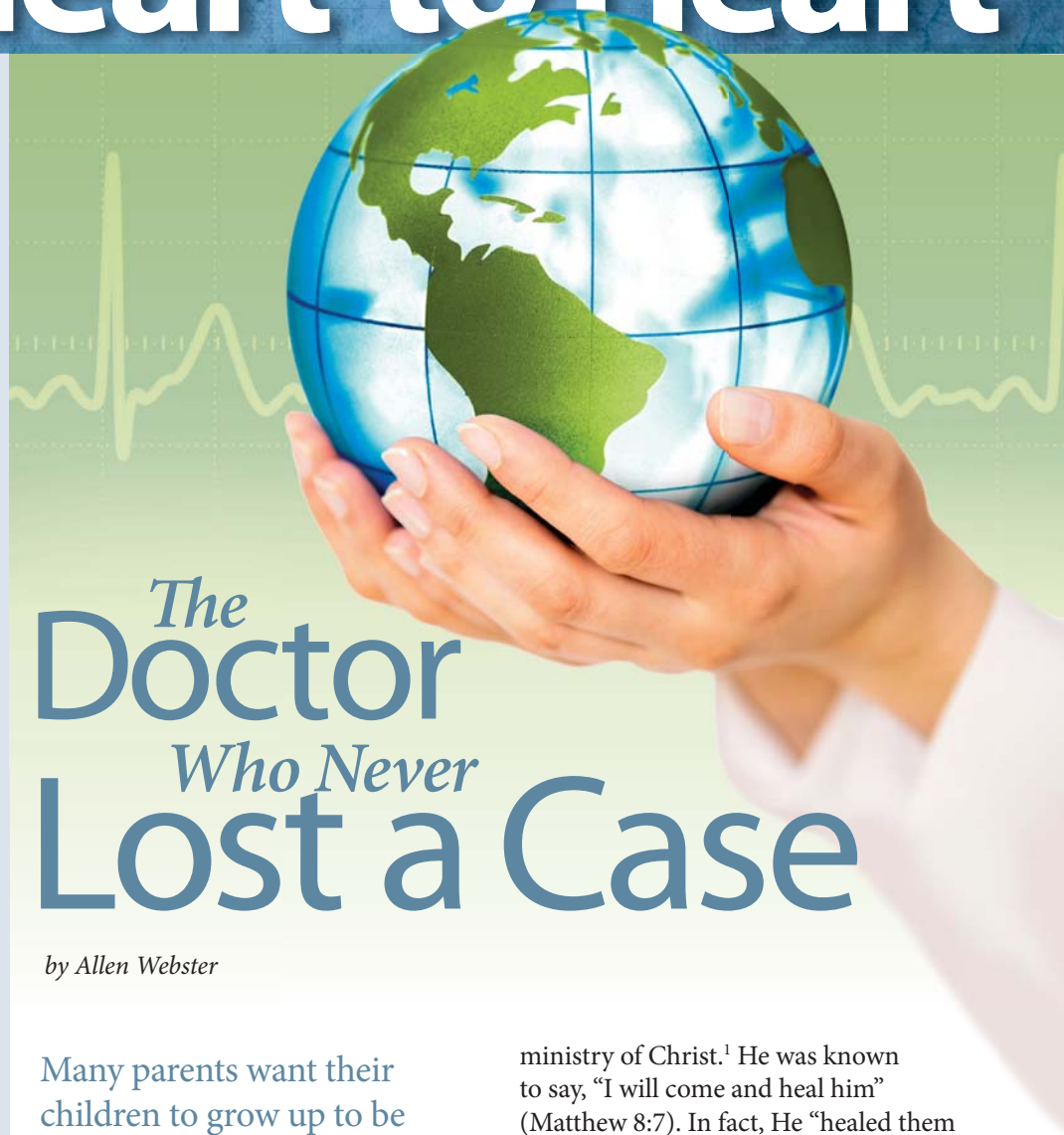


House to House  
Heart to Heart

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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2



## The Doctor Who Never Lost a Case

by Allen Webster

Many parents want their children to grow up to be doctors. It is an honored profession; it is rewarding to help others; it pays well. It is a popular enough field that there are 800,000 licensed physicians in America alone.

Jesus could have been a doctor. One of His followers, Luke, was (Colossians 4:14). But Jesus never carried a medical bag or opened an office on Main Street, Nazareth.

Still, Jesus was a healer. Various forms of the word *heal* are used fifty-five times in His four biographies. The New Testament contains more than seventy-five references to the healing work and

ministry of Christ.<sup>1</sup> He was known to say, "I will come and heal him" (Matthew 8:7). In fact, He "healed them that had need of healing" (Luke 9:11). Jesus thought of Himself as a physician, and He seems to have been seen in this light by others. He said to those in His hometown, "Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself" (Luke 4:23).

### JESUS HEALED BODIES

Lots of bodies. All parts of bodies. You could say that He had a general family practice (Matthew 8:16; 12:15), but also specialized in

- pediatrics (healed Jairus' little daughter, Mark 5:23), >>



# God alone can put broken hearts back together

- hematology (woman's issue of blood, Luke 8:43),
- ophthalmology (caused the blind to see, Luke 18:35–43),
- orthopedics (made "bowed" to be straight, Luke 13:11–13),
- otolaryngology/ear-nose-throat (made the deaf to hear, Mark 7:32–35),
- neurology (cured "palsy,"<sup>2</sup> a condition Jesus seems to have faced often—at least three references are found in the New Testament, Matthew 4:24; 8:6; Mark 2:1–12; Luke 5:18–25),
- rheumatology (caused the lame/maimed to walk and be whole, Matthew 15:30),
- internal medicine (dropsy,<sup>3</sup> Luke 14:2–4), and
- infectious diseases (cured those with plagues, Mark 3:10, and leprosy, Luke 5:12–13).

Jesus never made a referral ("healing every sickness and every disease among the people," Matthew 9:35). Jesus never found a case too hard. In fact, He seems to have specialized in impossible cases. Consider these:

- The woman who had an issue of blood "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse" (Mark 5:25–26). She had been sick for twelve years.

- There was a woman who had "a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself" (Luke 13:11); Jesus healed her.

- "A certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years" (John 5:5–8); Jesus brought him back to health.

- The man who had been blind from his birth (John 9:1, 20, 32); Jesus gave him sight.
- Jesus met "a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs" (Luke 8:27); Jesus returned him to a normal life.

## JESUS HEALED MINDS (PSYCHIATRY)

"They brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them" (Matthew 4:24; cf. 17:15).

Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah: "He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). Luke recorded the fulfillment when Jesus started His work in His hometown of Nazareth (Luke 4:18). The image is of a doctor tenderly rolling a bruised or diseased arm in a bandage or placing a broken one carefully in a sling (cf. Luke 10:34). Broken bones and bleeding wounds are bound up, that they may knit and close again.

Jesus binds up hearts with the bandage of His love. Inner lives crushed by sin and feelings rubbed raw with conflict find lasting peace in His presence (Matthew 11:28–30; Philippians 4:6–7). God alone can put broken hearts back together (Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 57:15). Matthew Henry makes an interesting point:

In a sense, we are all broken earthenware—cracked, mutilated jars that have been picked up from the waste heap and been mended and made serviceable for the King. No other religion ever even entertains the idea of making a broken vessel new.

## JESUS HEALED SPIRITS

The Pharisees asked, "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?"

When Jesus replied, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Matthew 9:11–12), He was not talking about physical symptoms. He often used a medical metaphor for sin. For instance: "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Matthew 13:15). Sin is pictured as a disease (Isaiah 1:6); thus salvation is the cure (Malachi 4:2).

Jesus specialized in impossible cases. While on earth, He cured the thief on the cross (Luke 23:40–43), the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1–11), and the publican Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10). Later, He cured Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9), the immoral Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:9–11), and the very ones who had screamed for His blood to be shed (Acts 2:37–41). Another example is Mary, of Magdala, a little village on the northwest of the Sea of Galilee. She was afflicted with seven demons, and Jesus had set her free. She had been a prostitute, and Jesus offered her forgiveness, giving her self-respect once more. The result? She became a new person, full of love and loyalty to Jesus, who had transformed her life (Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1).

Make your appointment with the Great Physician. His office is taking new patients. ☒

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> *Jesus, M.D. A Doctor Examines the Great Physician*, Introduction, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> paralytic. Whenever Luke mentions this disease, he uses the verb and not the adjective paralytic (as Matthew 4:24; 8:6; his usage in this respect being in strict accord with that of medical writers (*Vincent's Word Studies*).

<sup>3</sup> *hudropikos*. *Robertson's Word Pictures* says, "Late and medical word from *hudor* (water), one who has internal water (*hudrops*). Here only in the N.T. and only example of the disease healed by Jesus and recorded."



## Just Think...

Of stepping on shore  
And finding it Heaven!  
Of taking hold of a hand  
And finding it God's Hand!  
Of breathing a new air  
And finding it celestial air!  
Of feeling invigorated  
And finding it immortality!  
Of passing from storm and tempest  
To an unbroken calm;  
Of waking up and finding  
Yourself home!

—Robert E. Selle

## God's Plan for Saving Man

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



## KidsInstructions for Life

- Never trust a dog to watch your food. —Patrick, age 10
- When you want something expensive, ask your grandma. —Matt, 12
- Never smart off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching. —Andrew, 9
- Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning. —Jen, 8
- Never try to hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. —Rosemary, 7
- Don't flush the toilet when your dad's in the shower. —Lamar, 10
- Never ask for anything that costs more than five dollars when your parents are doing taxes. —Carol, 9
- Never bug a pregnant mom. —Nicholas, 11
- Don't ever be too full for dessert. —Kelly, 10
- Whenever your dad is mad and asks, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him. —Heather, 16
- Never tell your mom her diet isn't working. —Michael, 14
- Don't pick on your sister when she is holding a baseball bat. —Joe, 12
- Never dare your little brother to paint the family car. —Phillip, 13
- Listen to your brain. It has lots of information. —Chelsey, 7
- Remember you're never too old to hold your father's hand. —Molly, 11

### Changing One's Perspective

# Valuable Oranges



*"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."*

1 PETER 1:4

### One of the most tragic accidents that has ever happened

came about in the mid-Atlantic, April 14, 1912.

The *Titanic*, one of the largest vessels of that time, hit an iceberg and sank within a few hours. Many stories of heroism and courage have been written about this incident. Many women chose to go down with their husbands. The band played "Nearer My God to Thee."

One woman who was allotted space on one of the rescue boats asked permission to return to her stateroom. She was given three minutes. In that stateroom money and jewels were scattered all over the floor, but she took no heed of them. Rather, she snatched three oranges and hurried back to the boat.

It seems almost incredible that the woman preferred oranges to diamonds. But, you see, death had boarded the *Titanic*, and with one blast of his awful breath, transformed all values—precious things became worthless and worthless things became precious.

Death has a funny way of changing things. All of the things we work for and worry about seem reasonable until they are viewed in the light of our own death. The pursuit of pleasurable things seems most reasonable until one thinks about death. Striving for fame would also seem reasonable until one ponders the grave. Death just has a way of changing one's perspective.

The thing that happened on the *Titanic* actually happens every day—but remember: values transformed at death are values transformed too late. Will you transform your values now?

—Norman Mortin

*"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

*"Rejoice in the Lord always."*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



## Appreciate Each Other

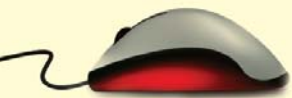
**The divorce rate in America** is too high. "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" (Matthew 19:3). "Not so," said the Lord. What happens that changes those moments of starry-eyed splendor into unconcern and apathetic feelings? Consider:

- He married her because, among other things, her hair looked so beautiful. He divorced her because she spent too much time fixing her hair.
- He married her because she was such an adept conversationalist. He divorced her because she talked all the time.
- She married him because he enjoyed her home cooking. She divorced him because he never took her out to eat.
- She married him because he was a "real sport." She divorced him because he refused to give up his "sport."
- He married her because their families shared a common background. He divorced her because her family interfered in their affairs.
- She married him because he was so attentive to little things. She divorced him because he was oblivious to important things.

An ideal marriage is not one in which people marry to be happy, but to make the other one happy. This means to give as well as take, to forget as well as to remember, and to love as well as to be loved. —*The Beacon*, Pensacola, FL

*"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*

—MATTHEW 19:6



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).

# Some Principles for Disciplining

Christians that lived in the first century were well aware of the practice of disciplining children. They had experienced such discipline firsthand: "we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence" (Hebrews 12:9). A number of references in Proverbs serve as a background to this New Testament instruction (Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14). Proverbs 29:15 points out the value of both verbal and corporal discipline: "The rod and reproof [rebuke] give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

I make no claim to be an expert in child discipline. I am a son, son-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, father, father-in-law, and a grandfather. Along life's way I have learned a number of things about disciplining kids. Many lessons I learned from my own poor choices as a father. Others I observed in the practice of other parents. I have also heard a number of true stories about how parents deal with their kids. Some of those accounts are delightful, while others are real horror stories. For what it is worth, I recently jotted down a list of principles for parents to consider when it becomes necessary to discipline their kids. The order in which I have listed them is irrelevant. Here goes.

**1. Give oodles of positive reinforcement for things well done.** Verbal pats on the back can help a child develop positive self-esteem. Things

like: "good for you," "way to go," "great job," "we're proud of you," "we love you," or "you're such a good \_\_\_\_." It seems that the only things that some kids hear from their parents are negative, things like "No," and "Quit it." Those words definitely have a place, but kids need to hear positive things, too.

## 2. Make the punishment equal to/fair for the misbehavior.

A teenage boy purposely hitting his little sister in the face with his fist is a more serious offence than him arriving home one minute after curfew, don't you think? If so, should not such action receive a more severe punishment?

## 3. Watch your tone of voice.

Excessively raising our voice or using stinging sarcasm

can cause our kids to resent us.

**4. Express disappointment when a child has misbehaved, but never refer to him/her using such terms as stupid, dumb, moron, or idiot.**

**5. Set your rules/boundaries of behavior, and keep 'em!** As soon as you do not enforce a rule that you have set, you immediately have the reputation of being a non-enforcer. Your words no longer carry the weight that they should, and that spells big trouble.

**6. Pray with your kids. Pray for them.** Pray for them in their presence—if you are willing to tell God how much you care about them and their lives, then that lets them know that you really do care for them. That's important.

—Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee (More "Principles" to come in future issues)



# Old Testament Food Laws Today?



God intended for Israel to be different from other nations. To this end, He gave them the Ten Commandments and hundreds of other laws to follow. Many of these laws prohibited the eating of certain foods.

Certain foods were “un-clean” to Israel. Leviticus 11 mentions several, including the hare, swine, fish without fins and scales, and birds such as eagles and ravens (11:6-15). Among the clean foods were locusts, beetles, and grasshoppers (11:22). God explained that for them to be holy they had to

“make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten” (Leviticus 11:45-47).

Two primary reasons for God’s dietary restrictions were to keep them separate from surrounding nations and to protect their health. Leviticus contains numerous laws that deal with health issues. Many were in conflict with Egyptian customs, where Moses had been trained. We now know, for instance, that pork was very unhealthy then because it carried diseases that only modern science has been able to detect and control.

Following this diet would not be wrong or unhealthy today, but these laws are no longer bound on Christians. Jesus freed us from the Old Law, including food restrictions (Colossians 2:14). Paul said, “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of

the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16-17).

Peter received a vision of a vessel filled with “unclean” beasts and a voice saying, “Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.” Peter said, “Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.” He was then told, “What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:13-15). Peter thus understood the gospel included Gentiles, and that Gentiles would not have to keep Jewish food laws. The only restrictions placed on Christians were “that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well” (Acts 15:29).

—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 audios, or Bible Dictionary.

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

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

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

**Directions:** Sit down with your child 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 Child or Grandchild

1. “The \_\_\_\_\_ is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).
2. “And, ye \_\_\_\_\_, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the \_\_\_\_\_ and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).
3. “The \_\_\_\_\_ hath said in his heart, There is no \_\_\_\_\_” (Psalm 14:1).
4. “Children, \_\_\_\_\_ your parents in the Lord: for this is \_\_\_\_\_” (Ephesians 6:1).
5. “\_\_\_\_\_ without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
6. “Let brotherly \_\_\_\_\_ continue” (Hebrews 13:1).
7. “And he answered and said, I believe that \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God” (Acts 8:37).
8. “\_\_\_\_\_ suffereth long, and is \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Corinthians 13:4).
9. “The seed is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God” (Luke 8:11).
10. “The churches of \_\_\_\_\_ salute you” (Romans 16:16).
11. “For I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ: for it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16).
12. “\_\_\_\_\_ not one to another” (Colossians 3:9).

### And A Half Dozen More

1. “God is \_\_\_\_\_” (1 John 4:8).
2. “Jesus \_\_\_\_\_” (John 11:35).
3. “Casting all your care upon him; for he \_\_\_\_\_ for you” (1 Peter 5:7).
4. “For by \_\_\_\_\_ are ye saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).
5. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was \_\_\_\_\_” (John 1:1).
6. “The Word was made \_\_\_\_\_, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

**Answers to Last Issue:** *One Dozen Scriptures Everyone Should Know:* 1. Loved, Son, life (John 3:16); 2. Created (Genesis 1:1); 3. Way, no (John 14:6); 4. Lord (Psalm 23:1); 5. Rock, church (Matthew 16:18); 6. World (Mark 16:15); 7. Baptized, saved (Mark 16:16); 8. Faith (Hebrews 11:1); 9. hearing (Romans 10:17); 10. Son, God (John 20:31); 11. Abundantly (John 10:10); 12. Charity (love) (1 Corinthians 13:13).



# Did Adam Have a Belly Button?

A belly button is a scar that proves that you were once attached to your mother through an umbilical cord. You required nourishment before you were born, of course, and this was God's way to provide it before you were developed to the point you could be nourished in other ways. After you were born, the cord was cut leaving behind proof that you once were dependent on your mother. In other words, it is proof that you were born.

Adam and Even were not born of mothers. They were created directly by God, Adam, from the dust, and Eve from Adam. Since they were not born in the traditional sense, and instead were created as adults, neither of them would have had a belly button.

Our belly button should remind us that we are descended from Adam, and that just as he was the first man to rebel against God, we are still rebelling today (Romans 3:23). We are all in need of salvation. Praise be to God for providing us a Savior so we can have the hope of living with Him for eternity.



*"Study to show thyself approved..."*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

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- ▶ Seeing Jesus Through Matthew's Eyes —V.P. Black
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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

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- Simon Says
- A Decent Devil?
- A Christian TV Guide
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

# Christ in the New Testament

In **Matthew** He is the King of the Jews. In **Mark** He is the Servant of God. In **Luke** He is the perfect Son of man. In **John** He is the Son of God. In **Acts** He is the ascended Lord. In **Romans** He is our righteousness. In **I Corinthians** He is the first fruits from the dead. In **II Corinthians** He is made sin for us. In **Galatians** He is the end of the law. In **Ephesians** He is our armor. In **Philippians** He is the supplier of every need. In **Colossians** He is the preeminent one. In **I Thessalonians** He is the returning Lord. In **II Thessalonians** He is the world's merciful judge. In **I Timothy** He is our mediator. In **II Timothy** He is the bestower of the crown. In **Titus** He is our great God and Savior. In **Philemon** He is the Father's partner. In **Hebrews** He is the rest of faith and fulfiller of types. In **James** He is the

Lord of the Sabbath. In **I Peter** He is the theme of the Old Testament prophecy. In **II Peter** He is the longsuffering Savior. In **I John** He is the Word of life. In **II John** He is the target of the anti-christ. In **III John** He is the personification of truth. In **Jude** He is the believer's hope. In **Revelation** He is the victorious lamb.

*"Search the scriptures...they...testify of me."*

JOHN 5:39

Take the time to read the New Testament this month and find Jesus in each of these books.

## Don't Join Any!

*"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

ACTS 2:47

All up and down this troubled land confusion reigns today;  
As honest folks on every hand in doubt are heard to say;  
"I cannot tell which church to join, there are so very many."  
To whom we offer this advice--you never should join any!

You cannot join the church of Christ, no man can vote you in.  
The Lord Himself will add you, when He saves you from your sin.  
Then take no chances, neighbor; this race but once you'll run.  
A church you'd join would be of man, and not the proper one.

Beware a church you cannot find within the sacred pages;  
Be safe, dear sinner, rest your soul upon the Rock of Ages.

Be added to His blood-bought church, and drink salvation's cup.  
For every plant God planted not, it shall be rooted up.

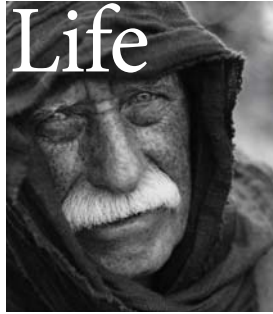
No mourner's bench on Pentecost, the inspired Peter fitted,  
But said, "Repent and be baptized, that your sins may be remitted."  
The Lord, who saved and added those who did, that day, His will;  
Will do the same for you, dear friend, for He is adding still.

Let not false teachers lead you wrong, nor close your eyes in slumber;  
When Jesus said He'd build His church, 'Twas not in plural number!  
No choice of churches, neighbor mine, is found beneath the sun,  
Though men may have ten thousand, our Savior had but one.

## Thoughts from the HEART

# Wasting Life

There was something different about Morris Siegel, a street person in Los Angeles, California. On the surface he seemed like your average Los Angeles street person—roaming about in dark alleys, sleeping out-of-doors, carrying everything he owned in an old shopping cart.



And he died the way one expects a street person to die; he was found in an alley, dead of natural causes, heart trouble perhaps.

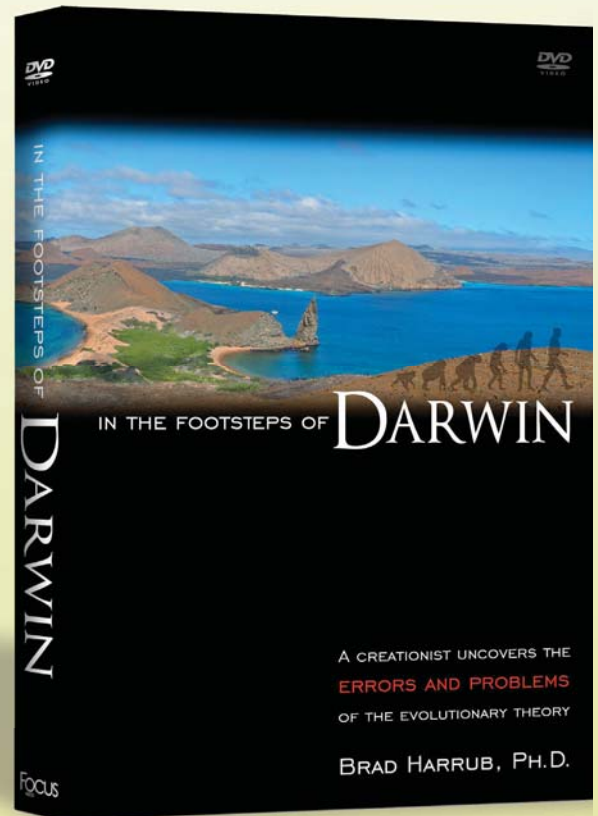
Something about him was different, though. Maybe it was his three bank accounts containing a total of \$207,421.

In 1979, Morris' father died and left him the money. When Morris did not claim it, the Division of Unclaimed Property tracked him down, and his family forced him to accept it. He did not show up at the ceremony when the cash was awarded. He took enough of the money to buy an old car, where he slept in bad weather. Relatives rented him an apartment; he never went there. He died December 14, 1989, with three dollars in his pocket and an untouched fortune in the bank.

Sound Crazy? Well, figure this one out.

A couple of thousand years ago, our heavenly Father ratified His will and left all of His children eternal wealth—life, peace, victory. To this day, many have not claimed the windfall, and some have refused to spend any of it. Lost people shuffle down blind alleys of an empty existence, facing hell for eternity, and ignore the salvation promised in Christ. Many Christians are content to live isolated, unproductive lives on this earth, when they have the riches of heaven at their disposal (2 Corinthians 8:9). Trading eternal life for a perishing earth sounds as crazy as Morris (Matthew 16:26).

—Leland Reed as found on [www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)



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