

House to House



Heart to Heart

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A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

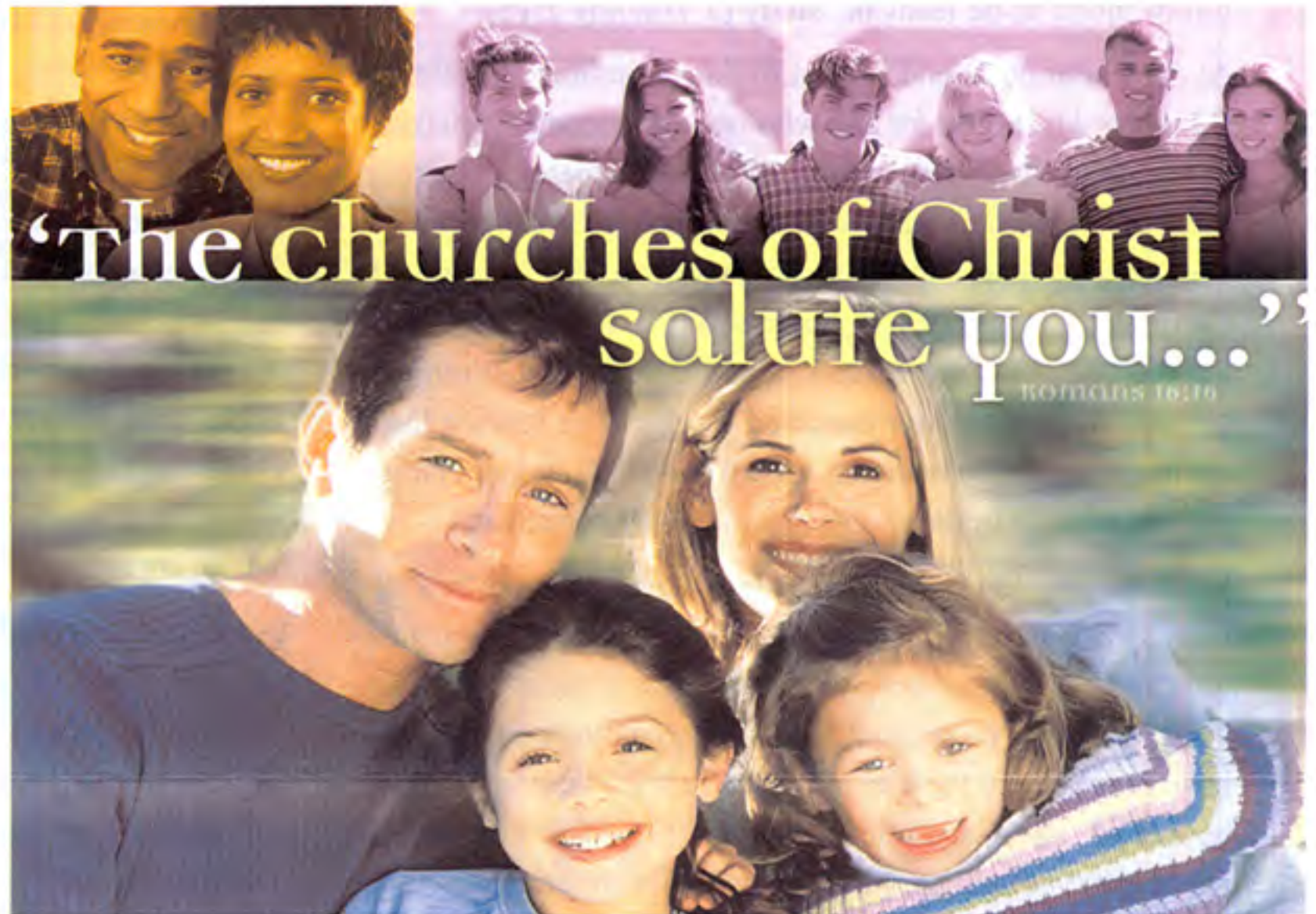
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

If you have questions or comments please contact us via email at: info@housetohouse.com

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Most people are a little apprehensive about visiting a new church. We hope a few words will help set your mind at ease about visiting our congregation.

The church of Christ is a growing, friendly church. We are a diverse congregation that reflects the fact that God's church is for all people. The crowd often ranges in age from newborn babies (a nursery is usually available) to those who have seen most of a century pass. Professionally, there are those from all walks of life—from blue collar to white collar to students to retirees. We have business owners, plant managers, educators, office workers, plumbers, retail employees, welders, and everything in between. Educationally, we have those with Ph.D.s, as well as those who have not spent much time in school. Most fall into the category of high school graduates to college bachelor's degrees. Churches of Christ are diversified—people of all races and nationalities worship and work together as God's children (Acts 10:34-35).

Every effort is made to allow visitors to feel comfortable. You will not be singled out during the service in any way. You will not be asked to make a "love offering"; in fact, no collections will be taken at all, except during the Sunday morning service when our members make their weekly contribution as an act of worship. Visitors are not expected to participate.



What to expect . . .

Continued from page 1

Our services generally open with a brief welcome from one of the members. The song leader then leads the congregation in two or three songs. An opening prayer is offered, followed by another song, and then the preacher delivers a sermon from the Bible. All are encouraged to bring their Bibles and follow along as he leads the study (2 Timothy 2:15).

At the sermon's end, the Lord's invitation is offered (Matthew 11:28–30) for any who want to become Christians or rededicate their lives to God. There is no coercion. During the Sunday morning service, the communion is observed by partaking of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (1 Corinthians 11:23–29). Members make a financial offering for the poor and the spread of the gospel (1 Corinthians 16:1–2). Guests are not expected to give. The service lasts about an hour and concludes with a song and prayer. Guests may sit silently in the service, or they may participate.

FRIENDLY. The church of Christ strives to be a “visitor friendly” church. Since many of our members were at one time visitors themselves, we know how it feels on a first visit. We make it our goal to be the friendliest church you have ever visited. We aim to treat others the way we want to be treated, like Jesus said (Matthew 7:12). You'll receive a warm greeting and find assistance to locate your class (or your children's) and/or a comfortable seat in the worship service. You will not be singled out, made to stand, encouraged to give any “testimony,” or in any other way made to feel embarrassed. The services are simple, reverent, practical, and meaningful.

BIBLE-BASED, CHRIST-CENTERED, HEAVEN-BOUND. When you visit, you will meet people who, just like you, sincerely want to follow the teachings of the Bible and please God with their lives. You'll find that every sermon and class is based on the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16–17). In fact, members and visitors are urged to bring their own Bibles and follow along. We still strive to do Bible things in Bible ways, and to call Bible things by Bible names—nothing more or nothing less. We seek to exalt Christ in our songs, prayers, sermons, and lives (Colossians 1:18). An air of hope fills the church as we think of the beautiful promise of heaven for God's faithful children (Revelation 21).

LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVED EACH SUNDAY. The church of Christ has communion every week, just as they did in New Testament times (cf. Acts 20:7). It is a highlight of the week to commemorate Christ's death and celebrate His promised return.

BEAUTIFUL SINGING. The whole congregation sings a capella (without mechanical instruments), just as they did in New Testament times (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Visitors may sing along or simply listen. Many first-time visitors comment on how beautiful the singing is. Some say they find it easier to focus on the song's meaning since the words are more easily understood than with musical accompaniment.

FREE MATERIALS. You will find free booklets, pamphlets, tracts, and back issues of publications displayed in the entrance areas. These are free to any member or guest. Often there will be study materials distributed during Bible classes and worship services. A personal home Bible study (open Bible or video) is available for those who want to know more.

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE. Christ's church is made up of all kinds of people (1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 3:27–28). You will find members of all races, educational backgrounds, and economic levels feel comfortable in our services. We mean it when we say, “Everybody is welcome.”

EMPHASIS ON FAMILY AND BIBLE SCHOOL.

The church of Christ places a great emphasis on Bible school. We feel that children are important, and that our God-given responsibility is to assist parents in teaching them about their origin, purpose, and destiny. They should come to know their Creator, Redeemer, Lord, and Savior early in life (Ecclesiastes 12:1; Matthew 19:14). They have been born into a mixed-up world, so we try to ground them in the simple truth so they will know right from wrong.

So bring your Bible and come for that visit you've been thinking about. We'll save you a seat. —Allen Webster

**A GREAT TIME TO
COME FOR THAT
VISIT YOU'VE BEEN
THINKING ABOUT!**



Don't Stay Away from Church . . .



- ▶ **Because you are poor.** There is no admission charge.
- ▶ **Because you are rich.** Money is not everything.
- ▶ **Because it rains.** You go to work and school in the rain.
- ▶ **Because it is cold.** It is warm and friendly inside.
- ▶ **Because it is hot.** So are fishing, attending ball games, and golfing.
- ▶ **Because no one invited you.** People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. (Consider this your invitation!)
- ▶ **Because of hypocrites.** We associate with them in the world every day.
- ▶ **Because of company.** Bring them along; they will admire you.
- ▶ **Because you have little children.** Jesus says, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" (Matthew 19:14).
- ▶ **Because your clothes are not nice enough.** God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).
- ▶ **Because the church always wants money.** That is not true here.
- ▶ **Because you have plenty of time in the future.** Are you sure? (James 4:13-17).

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." —Psalm 122:1



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

You Expect Me to Believe That?



- ▶ In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. You expect me to believe that?
- ▶ At some point, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. You expect me to believe that?
- ▶ Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new "humans" gave birth to the human race. You expect me to believe that?
- ▶ One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. You expect me to believe that?

I'm sorry. I don't have that much blind faith. It's all just too farfetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I can't believe intelligent people claim it is "science" (cf. 1 Timothy 6:20).

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. That I can believe! —Phil Gear

It's All a Racket



The youth director had been trying for months to get the little boy down the street to come to church services and his third grade Sunday school class.

Finally after talking to the boy and his mother for what seemed to be the hundredth time, the boy finally agreed to go the next Sunday, which he did. He seemed to enjoy all of the proceedings except at the end of

the worship someone responded to be baptized. He watched, and then ran out the back door and ran all the way home. His mother asked him why did he run home instead of riding with the youth minister.

The little boy answered, "Its all a racket! They get you there and let you make all those nice things and tell you great stories just to get you relaxed so they can drown you at the end of one of the services."

"A merry heart doeth good . . ." —Proverbs 17:22

The



HOME PAGE

Husband Humor

My wife has not spoken to me in three days. I think it has something to do with what happened on Sunday night when she thought she heard a noise downstairs.

She nudged me and whispered, "Wake up, wake up!"

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"There are burglars in the kitchen. I think they're eating the tuna casserole I made to-night."

"That'll teach them!" I replied.

Wife Humor

A wife went to the police station with her next-door neighbor to report that her husband was missing. The policeman asked for a description.

She said, "He's 35 years old, 6 foot 4, has dark eyes, dark wavy hair, an athletic build, weighs 185 pounds, is soft-spoken, and is good to the children."

The next-door neighbor protested, "Your husband is 5 foot 4, chubby, bald, has a big mouth, and is mean to your children."

The wife replied, "Yes, but who wants HIM back?"

"He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast." —Proverbs 15:15

Short but Sweet

If you had only five minutes to talk to your mate, what would you say? Too often we take each other for granted and assume our spouse will always be there. We go through our busy days leaving much unsaid.

Take a few minutes and write down what you would say to your mate if you had only five minutes. Put your list in the form of a letter or poem and place it under a pillow, or mail it to your mate. Or keep your list and give your mate one honest compliment each day for the next few weeks. —*Marriage Partnership* (Winter 2006)

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due . . ." —Proverbs 3:27



Are Children Really to Blame?

We read in the paper, we hear on the air,
Of killing and stealing and crime everywhere;
We sigh and we say, as we notice the trend:
"This young generation . . . where will it end?"
But can we be sure it's their fault, alone?

Too much money to spend; too much idle time;
Too many movies of passion and crime;
Too many books not fit to be read;
Too much evil in what they hear said;
Too many kids encouraged to roam;
Too many parents who don't stay at home.

Youth don't make the movies;
They don't write the books
That paint the pictures of gangsters and crooks.
They don't make the liquor, they don't run the bars,
And they don't make the cars.
They don't make the drugs that addle the brain:
It's all done by older folks, greedy for gain.
In how many cases we find that it's true . . .
The label, "Delinquency," fits older folks, too. —Mrs. E. B. Grant

What Is a Grandparent?

(taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

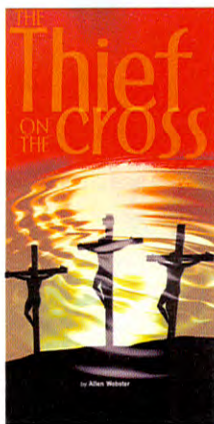
- ▶ Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of her own. They like other people's.
- ▶ Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run.
- ▶ When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They don't say, "Hurry up."
- ▶ Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.
- ▶ They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.
- ▶ Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.
- ▶ They know we should have snack-time before bedtime and they say prayers with us every time and kiss us even when we've acted bad.
- ▶ A 6-year-old was asked where his grandmother lived. "Oh," he said, "She lives at the airport and when we want her we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport." —From the Internet



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



What about the Thief on the Cross?



There is no doubt that the man we know as the thief on the cross was saved by Jesus. Jesus told him, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). The question is whether or not he provides an example that we may follow to be saved.

What is often overlooked in this discussion is that the thief lived at a time when God's conditions for salvation were completely different from what they are for us now. The penitent thief lived during the earthly ministry of Jesus, before the new covenant, the will of Christ, came into effect. For a will to come into effect, the

testator—person making the will—must die. The Bible says, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Hebrews 9:16–17). Christ saved the thief before He died, and before His will went into effect.

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He forgave many of their sins, under whatever conditions He prescribed. Before He healed the palsied man of his physical disease, Jesus said to him, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee" (Matthew 9:2). After a sinful woman showed her love for Him by washing His feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair, Jesus told her, "Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). These cases are similar to the thief, because Jesus saved them without baptism. But the key is, they were also saved before His death—before the new covenant came into effect.

Consider it this way. Suppose you were to write to the Internal Revenue Service that you were not going to file your income taxes any more because you know that Abraham Lincoln never filed income taxes, and he was considered a loyal citizen. Would they accept this? No, because Lincoln lived long before our laws for filing income tax came into effect. He was not bound by them.

It is very clear that baptism is part of the new covenant or will of Christ. After His death and before His ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature, saying, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Every single account of conversion in the book of Acts, which describes events under the new covenant after the death of Christ, mentions baptism. When Peter told the multitude at Jerusalem, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), he was following the command of Christ. If we would follow Christ today, we also should repent and be baptized for the remission of our sins. —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 Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Starts with the Letter "B"

Find answers in Genesis 1:1; 11:1–4; 35:16–20+43:29–34; 40:16–20; Deuteronomy 23:4–5; 2 Samuel 11:1–4; 1 Kings 15:16; 16:30–32; 2 Kings 1:2; Proverbs 25:23; Daniel 4:30; Matthew 7:3–5; 12:24; 16:17–18; 27:21; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 16:20–22; John 3:16; 11:1; Acts 3:1–10; 4:36; 9:24–25; 17:18; Galatians 6:2; 1 Peter 3:21 (not in order).

1. _____ One false god Ahab worshipped
2. _____ The god of Ekron
3. _____ Had a war with Asa, king of Israel
4. _____ Philosophers on Mars' Hill called Paul
5. _____ Tower began by man; stopped by God
6. _____ Nebuchadnezzar was king of this country
7. _____ Jacob's youngest son; favored by Joseph
8. _____ Sad when Joseph interpreted his dream
9. _____ His curse of Israel turned into a blessing
10. "_____ doth also now save us."
11. _____ released instead of Jesus
12. _____ Peter's surname
13. _____ Son of consolation; traveled with Paul
14. _____ Blind beggar healed by Jesus
15. _____ Paul used this to escape over a wall
16. _____ David committed adultery with her
17. _____ Don't judge others with this in your eye
18. "_____ ye one another's burdens."
19. _____ Lame man healed by this gate
20. _____ Prince of the demons
21. _____ Lazarus was this before angels carried away
22. _____ Home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha
23. Jesus is the only _____ Son of God.
24. An angry countenance drives away a _____ tongue.
25. "In the _____ God created the heaven and the earth."



Answers to Last Issue:

Starts with the Letter "M": 1. Mary (Matthew 1:16); 2. Matthew (10:3); 3. Matthias (Acts 1:26); 4. Myrrh (Matthew 2:11); 5. Moses (Exodus 24:12); 6. Mordecai (Esther 2:20; 3:5); 7. Mahershalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:3); 8. Mahlon (Ruth 1:2); 9. Malchishua (1 Samuel 14:49); 10. Malchus (John 18:10); 11. Manasseh (Genesis 41:51); 12. Manna (Exodus 16:35); 13. Manoaah (Judges 13:2, 20); 14. Mara (Ruth 1:20); 15. Marah (Exodus 15:23); 16. Mark (Acts 15:37–38); 17. Marriage (Hebrews 13:4); 18. Melchisedec (Hebrews 7:1, 14); 19. Machpelah (Genesis 23:19); 20. Mahalaleel (Genesis 5:12); 21. Manger (Luke 2:7); 22. Mammon (Matthew 6:24); 23. Mamre (Genesis 18:1); 24. Man (Genesis 1:26); 25. Mars' (Acts 17:22–23); 26. Maranatha (1 Corinthians 16:22); 27. Magdalene (Mark 16:9); 28. Martha (Luke 10:38).

Learn More! For More Info!

The Indestructible Word

Many have tried to destroy the Bible. In A.D. 303, the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. Over a burned Bible, he built a monument on which he wrote these words, *Extincto momene Christianorum* (the name Christian is extinguished). Twenty years later, Diocletian was dead and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

In 1776 Voltaire, the French philosopher, announced, "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by some antique seeker." One hundred years later, Voltaire was dead and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. One hundred years from the day of Voltaire's prediction, the first edition of his works sold for eleven cents in Paris, but the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

God's Word shall stand forever. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).



Free Audio Downloads!

- ▶ Gospel Singing —Recorded at the Annual Singing in Diana, Tennessee
- ▶ Families At War: How to Stop Fighting and Start Loving —Jason Jackson
- ▶ I Have Chosen the Way of Truth —B. J. Clarke
- ▶ How to Use the Tongue (James 3) —Glenn Colley
- ▶ What Happens after This Life? —Allen Webster

To listen to these, and more than 100 others, go to:

www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio

Free Marriage Enrichment

Are you needing 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 Jason Jackson of Stockton, California, and Keith Mosher of Memphis, Tennessee. Their seven sessions will make you laugh, give insight into the marriage God wants you to have, and give motivation to keep on. Listen at

www.housetohouse.com/hth/Audio/marriage.htm



Featured Web site:

FOR KIDS! Get a sample issue of *Discovery Magazine*, downloadable artwork and exercises, instructional materials for teachers, "hands-on" activities that teach children about both God's Word and God's world, and responses to questions sent to "Digger Doug."

More!

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

I want to learn more about the Bible!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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

BIBLE STUDY HELPS:

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

TRACTS:

- NEW! When Jesus Healed a Boy He Never Saw**
- NEW! You Gotta Be Dumb to Believe the Bible. Right?**
- In the Way He Should Go. Eight million Americans will become parents this year. See what Solomon said about parenting.
- Sweat the Small Stuff. Little things sometimes matter—a lot.
- God's View of Abortion.
- 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
- Grandparenting. A positive look at a happy time.
- 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
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

—All materials/services are absolutely **FREE** of charge. We even pay postage!—

Who Is Jesus?



To the **artist**, He is Altogether Lovely. To the **astronomer**, He is the Sun of Righteousness and the Bright and Morning Star.

To the **baker**, He is the Living Bread. To the **biologist**, He is the Life. To the **builder**, He is the Sure Foundation.

To the **carpenter**, He is the Door.

To the **doctor**, He is the great Physician.

To the **editor**, He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy. To the **educator**, He is the Great Teacher. To the **engineer**, He is the New and Living Way.

To the **farmer**, He is the Sower, the True Vine, and the Lord of Harvest. To the **florist**, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.

To the **geologist**, He is the Rock of Ages.

To the **hopeless**, He is our Hope.

To the **juror**, He is the Faithful and True Witness. To the **jeweler**, He is the Pearl of Great Price.

To the **lawyer**, He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Righteous Judge, and the Advocate.

To the **philosopher**, He is the Wisdom of God. To the **proud**, He is the Rebuker.

To the **sculptor**, He is the Living Stone. To the **straying sheep**, He is the Good Shepherd.

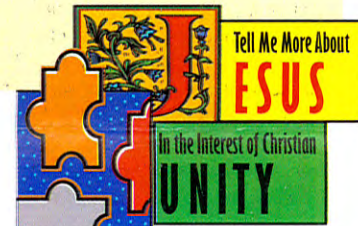
To **those who suffer**, He is the Comforter.

To the **thirsty pilgrim**, He is the Water of Life. To the **troubled soul**, He is the Pacifier.

To the **sinner**, He is the Savior.

To the **Christian**, He is the All in All. —Author Unknown

“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” —Matthew 16:13



A Brief Introduction to the Church of Christ



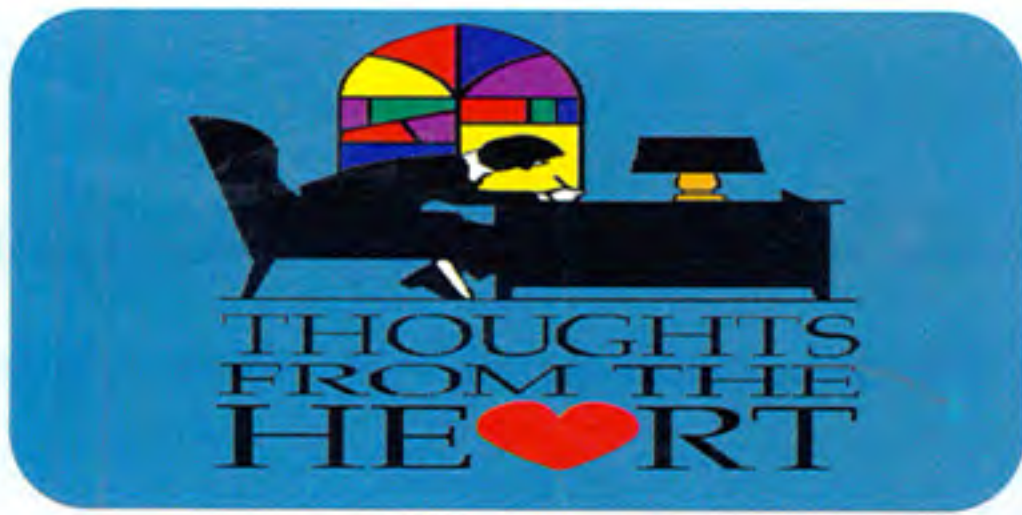
The church of Christ dates back to the days of the New Testament (Romans 16:16). It was founded by Christ on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 33 (Acts 2), not long after His ascension back to heaven. In the years that followed, it rapidly grew to fill Jerusalem, then Judea, Samaria, and finally the whole Roman Empire (Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:23). In America, the first churches of Christ were planted in the late 1700s as the result of a movement to go back to the Bible and do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names (cf. 1 Peter 4:11).

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30–31), that the Bible is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16–17), and that Christ will return to take His kingdom home to God (1 Corinthians 15:24). We emphasize sincere worship (John 4:24), every-member evangelism (Acts 8:4), godly living (Titus 2:11–12), love for each other (John 13:34–35), and helping those in need (James 1:27). We believe the Bible teaches that sinners are saved by learning

of Jesus, faith in Jesus, repentance of sin because of Jesus, confession of Jesus, and baptism into Jesus (John 6:44–45; 3:16; Mark 16:15–16; Romans 10:9–10; Acts 2:38). The church of Christ is organized with elders, deacons, preachers, and other members, as in New Testament times (Philippians 1:1). It has no governing body on earth higher than the local congregation.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to unite all Christians into one body (1 Corinthians 1:10). We believe that the New Testament is the only rule for faith and practice in religious matters (2 Timothy 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3), and that God's Word must authorize all that is done in Christian worship (Colossians 3:17; Revelation 22:18–19). Thus we try to strictly follow the New Testament. We believe that it is possible to have religious unity in a day of division by simply following the New Testament pattern and putting aside human traditions.

To put it simply, the church of Christ is seeking to be the same church one reads about in the New Testament. We aim to restore its doctrine, its practice, its lifestyle, and its zeal. —Allen Webster



Then the End



Solomon said that the end of a thing is better than the beginning (Ecclesiastes 7:8). We rejoice at births and weep at deaths, but even that end can be better than the beginning. Paul said for him to die was gain (Philippians 1:21).

There is an end coming to the world just as surely as there was a beginning. Paul spoke of the end to come (1 Corinthians 15:24), as did Jesus (Matthew 10:22). Have you pondered what the end will be like? No one knows when it will be (Matthew 25:13), but we are told what will happen when it comes.

JESUS WILL RETURN (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11). Every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7) as He comes in glory to sit on His judgment throne (Matthew 25:31-33; cf. 2 Peter 3:10). His return will be with a great shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 5:1-3).

THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). An hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear the Lord's voice and be raised (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:12-15).

THE LIVING WILL BE CHANGED (1 Corinthians 15:51). Those alive at the return of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) must have bodies transformed into incorruptible nature (cf. Philippians 3:21).

THE EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED (Matthew 24:35). The earth will be removed (Revelation 21:1), an event Peter connects to the Lord's return (2 Peter 3:10). The heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements will melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the works therein burned up.

THE JUDGMENT WILL TAKE PLACE (Matthew 25:31-33). All will appear before Christ's judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10), small and great (Revelation 20:12). Every person will give account to Him (Romans 14:11-12).

THE KINGDOM WILL BE DELIVERED UP TO THE FATHER. Christ presently reigns over His kingdom, the church (Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:34-36). When the end comes Christ will usher the faithful of His kingdom into the very presence of God and heaven itself (1 Corinthians 15:24). Think of it!

THE WICKED WILL BE SEPARATED (Matthew 25:41, 46). This place of everlasting shame, contempt, smoke, pain, and torment will be forever. My friend, what will be your fate when the end comes?

—Vance Hutton, Double Springs, Alabama