

HOUSE to HOUSE



Heart to Heart

Volume 12, Number 1

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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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Where to Turn When There Is Nowhere to Turn

Allen Webster

Abe Lincoln said, "I have often been driven to my knees by the sincere conviction that there was no where else to go."

The nobleman from Capernaum whose son was about to die had just about given up hope (John 4:46-54). The baby he had first held shortly after birth, the boy he had wrestled with on the floor of their living room, the son he hoped would care for him in his old age, was about to precede him through death's door.

Perhaps friends came by and told him about a miracle they had seen at a relative's wedding at Cana some weeks before. News about Jesus often spread fast to those who had needs (Mark 2:1-3; 6:55-56; 10:47). This man Jesus could do some amazing things. Maybe He could help the boy.

At first, he likely dismissed it as wishful thinking, but then he came to see it as his last ray of hope. What could it hurt anyway? He could ask. All Jesus could do is say, "No," or try and fail. Either way, it couldn't hurt. The boy was dying anyway. Besides, just maybe . . . So "when he heard that Jesus was come . . . into Galilee, he went unto him" (John 4:47).

YOU'LL GET THERE . . .

If you haven't yet been to the place where you didn't know where to turn, you'll get there. You will be in a hospital waiting room or a funeral home or a police station or at the scene of an accident or a doctor's office or bank or courtroom, and know (perhaps for the first time) that you don't have all the answers.

Man is born to trouble (Job 5:7; Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 2:17, 23; John 14:1-2; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13). "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Like this nobleman, it may involve your son or daughter. While Jesus was on earth He was often approached by parents who were desperate for help with their children (Matthew 9:18; 15:22; 17:14-15; Luke 7:2). Some of the most heart-gripping requests in Scripture come from parents who had sick children (Luke 8:41-42; Mark 5:23, 35-36).





The natural question at such a time is, “Why? *Why?*” The word *why* is found 282 times in the Bible. Job asked, “Why did I not from the womb?” (Job 3:11–12; cf. 3:16, 20, 23). Gideon asked it (Judges 6:13). The psalmist asked it (Psalm 42:9; cf. 27:9; 71:11). Jeremiah asked, “Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever?” (Lamentations 5:20; cf. 1:12). Jesus asked it: “Why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). It is still asked by a thousand passionate voices.

- ▶ From the sick room—“Why this illness?”
- ▶ From the cemetery—“Why this death?”
- ▶ From blood-soaked battlefields—“Why this loss?”
- ▶ From the lips of the oppressed—“Why this suffering?”
- ▶ From the burdened—“Why this weight?”



But remember, *why* is an easy question to ask and a hard question to answer. God’s people live on promises, not on explanations. Nowhere in his book does Job deny the Lord, curse Him, or question His holiness or His power. In fact, God’s justice was Job’s real problem: how could such a holy God permit such awful calamity?

Riches, power, influence, station, and education do not exempt us from such trouble

(Job 1:3; Deuteronomy 8:5–20; Proverbs 23:5). The father of the sick boy in Capernaum was a nobleman, yet his son still got sick. Think of Abraham, David, and Solomon, who all had both riches and troubles.

AND GOD WILL ALREADY BE THERE . . .

One day you may find yourself in a similar situation and you will think, “I’m in deep trouble. What am I going to do? Who can help me now?” There may be a parent to ask or a friend to call or an elder to counsel, but sometimes they are just as helpless as we are. Jeremiah said, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).

God is everywhere; therefore, He is near everyone (Psalm 139:7–12). But there is a special sense in which God is with His children (1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 23:3–4; Isaiah 43:2, 4). Was God not present in Daniel’s den of lions? (Daniel 6). Was God not present in Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego’s fiery furnace? (Daniel 3). Was God not present in Paul’s Philippian jail? (Acts 16).

It is at times like these that the Lord invites, “Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15; cf. 78:34). God is there for His people in trouble.

The psalmist said, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). God is a Helper—a present Helper; a Helper that can be found; a willing Helper; and a Helper that is always near. We could not even invent a better Helper: He knows everything, has every power, is everywhere, and loves everybody!

Jesus turned to the Father in prayer in life’s hard spots. While on the cross our Lord addressed God three times—first, fourth, and final statements. His first, middle, and last thoughts were on His Father. It does not surprise us that the first word that Jesus uttered on His cross was a prayer, for prayer had been His habit from youth. We expect to hear Him pray under these frightening circumstances. Even those who refuse to pray when the sea is smooth, generally pray when their sea is whipped by a storm.

Jesus is a Physician who never disappoints (Job 13:4; cf. Isaiah 1:5–6; Jeremiah 8:22; Matthew 9:11–12; Luke 8:43–48). When dismayed or distressed with the fear of wrath, the force of temptation, or the weight of affliction, we should apply to the Physician of our souls, who never rejects any, never prescribes amiss, and never leaves any case uncured. To Him we may speak at all times (Matthew Henry, Comment on Job 13).

We should not give up hope, even when life gets dark. If we feel God is not paying us any attention, we should read the passages that say He remembers us (Genesis 8:1; cf. Psalm 106:4; Luke 23:42). There are times when God seems to hide Himself, but we may rest assured that He is there (Job 23:3; Psalm 10:1; 13:1–3; 89:46; Isaiah 8:17; 45:15; 1 Timothy 6:16).

For Job, God seemed to stand at a distance and frown at him. Job thought he wanted to argue with God, but when he got the chance, he declined (Job 40:1–5; cf. Psalm 43:1). Where can we find God? (Job 23:3; Isaiah 55:6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:19–20; Hebrews 4:16) “Blessed be God, we may know where to find Him. He is in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself; and upon a mercy-seat, waiting to be gracious” (Matthew Henry, Comment on Job 23).

BUT BEFORE YOU GO . . .

We need to develop faith in God before tragedy comes. Since trouble can come to any life at any time, now is the time to act. We must prepare for the storm while the weather is still calm (Job 3:26; Psalm 143:11; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5). Sometimes trouble comes when least expected (Job 30:26; 3:25–26; 29:18; Jeremiah 8:15; 14:19; 15:18; Micah 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:3).

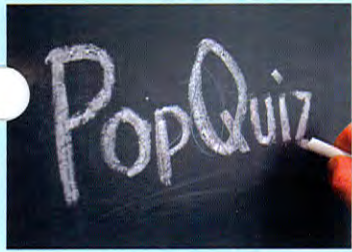
If we refuse to listen to God’s Word in good times, He may refuse to hear us in bad times. One preacher began a popular talk by saying, “This sounds strange, but I don’t want to hear God laugh. Why? Because it’s always sad when God laughs.” The text was:

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity (Proverbs 1:24–26).

This is not to say that we cannot turn to God when trouble comes. In fact, some Bible characters did turn to God because of trials (1 Kings 21:27–29; Luke 15), and were accepted. It does mean that if we only turn to God for aid, but without true repentance, that we cannot expect God’s blessings.

So, get to know God now—whether you are standing in sunshine or the rain. He wants you in His family (Ephesians 2:19), to enjoy His blessings (John 10:10), and live with Him forever (John 14:1–2). You do have somewhere to turn!

The Last Question



During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the ques-

tions until I read the last one:

“What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?” Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired, and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving that question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

“Absolutely,” said the professor. “In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say ‘hello.’”

I’ve never forgotten that lesson. (Her name was Dorothy.)

“For I say . . . not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.”—Romans 12:3



HBO

To most people, the above letters mean something entirely different from what is meant by them here.

H— means **Hear** the word of the Lord. This is the beginning of obedience (Romans 10:17).

B— means **Believe** the word of the Lord. This is essential if we intend to be pleasing to our Creator (Hebrews 11:6).

O— means **Obey** the word of the Lord. There is no substitute for obedience (1 Samuel 15:22; John 14:15).

In New Testament times, sinners heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel. As this was pleasing to God then, it is now also (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16). Hear, believe, and obey is God’s simple plan for saving men.

—Bill Dillon, Hickory Ridge, AR



Why is it that our children can’t read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?



Her Favorite Song

Some years back, I read in *The Commission* magazine an incident I will never forget. A church group from New Bern, North Carolina, had traveled to the Caribbean on a mission trip. Their host took them to visit a leper colony on the island of Tobago. While visiting with these sad patients, they held a worship service in the campus chapel. The lepers filed in and took their seats on the pews, and the Carolinians led them in hymns. The minister of the group—his name is Jack; wish I had the last name—noticed that one patient was sitting on the back row, facing the opposite direction. How unusual.

Jack said, “We have time for one more hymn. Does anyone have a favorite?” Now for the first time, the leprous woman on the back row turned around to face the front. Jack said, “I found myself staring into the most hideous face I had ever seen. She had no nose and no lips. Just the bare teeth, like a skull.” As she turned, she raised her hand in the air. Except it wasn’t a hand. It was the bony end of her arm, just a nub. As poor Jack was trying to take this in, she spoke. “Could we sing ‘Count Your Many Blessings?’”

The preacher lost it. He stumbled out of the pulpit and through the door into the yard, with tears in his eyes. Another stepped up and led the hymn, and a friend walked outside and put his arm around Jack. “You’ll never be able to sing that song again, will you, Jack?” “Oh, yeah, I’ll sing it,” Jack said, “but not in the same way.”

Serving the Lord, rejoicing in Him, obeying, giving, loving, praying. Regardless. —Adapted from Joe McKeever

“Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.”

—Psalm 115:15

What Howard Learned in Heartbreak



Howard Rutledge, a United States Air Force pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam during the early stages of the war.

He spent several miserable years in the hands of his captors before being released at the war’s conclusion. In his book *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*, he reflects upon the resources from which he drew in those arduous days when life seemed so intolerable:

“During those longer periods of enforced reflection, it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on

Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis [his wife] had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded—she just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things. Now the sights and sounds and smells of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for a steak. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in Heartbreak [the name POWs gave their prison camp] solitary confinement, there was no preacher, no Sunday-School teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God.”

It took the presence of a POW camp to show Rutledge that there was a center to his private world that he had been neglecting all of his life.

—Gordon MacDonald

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”—Ecclesiastes 12:13

The  HOME PAGE

What Happened to the Flea? —and other questions parents answer

- ▶ STEVEN (3) hugged and kissed his Mom goodnight, saying, “I love you so much that when you die, I’m going to bury you outside my bedroom window.”
- ▶ BRITTANY (4) had an earache and wanted a painkiller. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she’d have to open it for her. Shocked, the little girl asked, “How does it know it’s me?”
- ▶ SUSAN (4) got the hiccups while drinking juice. “Please don’t give me this juice again,” she said. “It makes my teeth cough.”
- ▶ DIANA (4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked, “So, how much do I cost?”
- ▶ MARC (4) observed a young couple hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad, “Why is he whispering in her mouth?”
- ▶ JAMES (4) was listening to a Bible story. After his dad read, “Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt,” James asked, “What happened to the flea?”
- ▶ TAMMY (4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, “Why doesn’t your skin fit your face?”

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

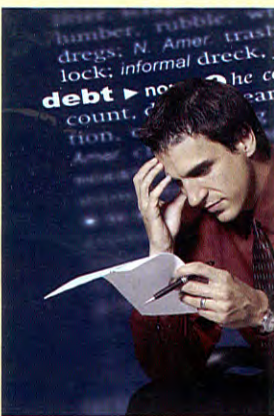
Love, Pooh Style

“If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you.” —Winnie the Pooh (A. A. Milne)



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

Dealing with Credit Card Debt



1. Americans are loaded with credit card debt. The average American household with at least one credit card has nearly \$9,200 in card debt, according to CardWeb.com. The average interest rate runs in the mid-to-high teens at any given time.

2. Some debt is good. Borrowing for a home or college usually makes sense. Just make sure you don’t borrow more than you can pay back, and shop around for the best rates.

3. Some debt is bad. Don’t use a credit card to pay for things you consume quickly, such as meals and vacations, if you can’t afford to pay off the bill in full in a month or two.

There’s no faster way to fall into debt. Instead, put aside some cash each month for items so you can pay in full. If there’s something you really want but it’s expensive, save for it over a period of time before charging it, so that you can pay the balance when it’s due and avoid interest charges.

4. Get a handle on your spending. Most people spend thousands of dollars without much thought to what they are buying. Write down everything you spend for a month, cut back on things you don’t need, and start saving the money left over, or use it to reduce your debt more quickly (cf. Ecclesiastes 4:8).

5. Pay off your highest-rate debts first. The key to getting out of debt efficiently is to first pay down the balances of loans or credit cards that charge the most interest, while paying at least the minimum due on all your other debt. Once the high-interest debt is paid down, tackle the next highest, and so on (1 Corinthians 4:2).

6. Don’t fall into the minimum trap. If you just pay the minimum due on credit card bills, you’ll barely cover the interest you owe, to say nothing of the principal. It will take years to pay off your balance, and potentially you’ll end up spending thousands of dollars more than the original amount you charged (cf. Proverbs 6:6–8).

7. Watch where you borrow. It may be convenient to borrow against your home or your 401(k) to pay off debt, but it can be dangerous. You could lose your home or fall short of your investing goals at retirement (cf. Nehemiah 5:4; Matthew 18:25).

8. Expect the unexpected. Build a cash cushion worth about three to six months of living expenses in case of an emergency. Without an emergency fund, a broken furnace or damaged car can be a serious setback (cf. 2 Kings 4:1; Proverbs 11:18).

9. Don’t be so quick to pay down your mortgage. Don’t pour all your cash into paying off a mortgage if you have other debt. Mortgages tend to have lower interest rates than other debt, and you can deduct the interest you pay on the first \$1 million of a mortgage loan. (If your mortgage has a high interest rate and you want to lower your monthly payments, consider refinancing.)

10. Get help as soon as you need it. If you have more debt than you can manage, get help before your debt breaks your back. There are reputable debt counseling agencies that may be able to consolidate your debt and assist you in better managing your finances. But there are also a lot of disreputable agencies out there. —Author Unknown

“The borrower is servant to the lender.” —Proverbs 22:7

The Church Connection

According to *The Data Almanac 2006* (Qstat USA), regular church attendance has a positive impact on marriage health. The recent National Survey of Family Growth revealed that the divorce rate of church attendees is almost half (56 percent) the rate of non-attendees. Of the 7,643 women taking part in the survey, 32.9 percent who never attended religious services were divorced, compared to 18.5 percent of those who attend more than once a week. Surprising? Not to the *Almanac’s* editor, Dr. Philip Truscott: “The women in the survey include only those aged 15–44. If we were able to include women in all age groups, the differences between the various groups would be far larger.”

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.” —Psalm 33:18

Was the jailer saved before baptism?



The story of the Philippian jailer is found in Acts 16. The jailer was in charge of Paul and Silas, who had been arrested on false charges by the owners of a slave girl. They had cast a demon out of the girl, depriving her owners of the money they

made by exploiting her (Acts 16:19–21). So Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and put into the innermost prison, with their feet in the stocks. The jailer was to keep them safely.

Beaten and bleeding, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, even at midnight (Acts 16:25). Suddenly an earthquake shook the prison. Awakening from sleep, the jailer was ready to kill himself because he was sure that the prisoners had escaped. When Paul calmed him by assuring him that the prisoners were still there, he “came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:29–30). They answered him simply: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31). Since the jailer was not told to be baptized, does this mean that he was saved before baptism? Consider the rest of his story.

Paul and Silas had told the jailer that salvation would come from believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, but what did this jailer know about Jesus? It is unlikely that he had heard any of Paul’s sermons. He probably knew nothing of Jesus, other than what he had learned from hearing the songs and prayers of Paul and Silas. So “they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house” (Acts 16:32). Did speaking the “word of the Lord” include baptism as necessary?

Luke records that the jailer “took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house” (Acts 16:33–34). When were the jailer and his household baptized? It was “the same hour of the night.” If baptism were not essential, why didn’t they at least wait until morning light before they were baptized? When did he rejoice—before or after baptism? They rejoiced after baptism, knowing they had truly obeyed the Lord, and their sins were forgiven. The jailer had a saving faith, a faith that responded to the sacrifice of Christ by obeying Him. His obedience in baptism demonstrated his faith, and his faith was demonstrated in his baptism. The jailer was like all other Christians we read of in the New Testament (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:27; cf. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). He was saved after baptism.

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

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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: _____
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Questions Taken from the King James Version

Starts with the Letter “U”

Find answers in Genesis 11:31; Exodus 28:30; 2 Samuel 11:3; 2 Kings 16:10–16; Daniel 5:25; 1 Timothy 2:12 (not in order).

1. _____ One of the words written by the mysterious hand in Belshazzar’s palace.
2. Abram (Abraham) left _____ of the Chaldees, to go into Canaan.
3. _____ Husband of Bathsheba, murdered by David.
4. _____ High priest who advised Ahaz to construct an idolatrous altar.
5. Woman forbidden “to _____ authority over the man.”
6. The breastplate of the high priest had in it the _____ and Thummim.

Starts with the Letter “V”

Find answers in Genesis 4:14; 25:28; Esther 1:9–22; Psalm 23:4; Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 5:12; Matthew 1:23; Luke 3:14; 23:45; John 15:1; 19:29; Acts 28:3; Romans 12:19; James 1:26–27; 4:14; 2 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:4 (not in order).

1. _____ Wife of King Ahasuerus, refused to show herself.
2. The _____ of the temple was torn when Jesus died.
3. A man who bridles not his tongue has a religion that is _____.
4. “_____ is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”
5. “This is the _____ that overcometh the world, even our faith.”
6. Jesus is the true _____ and His Father is the husbandman.
7. Jesus was offered _____ to drink while on the cross.
8. _____ Type of snake that bit Paul in Melita.
9. Jesus was born of the _____ Mary.
10. “Add to your faith _____.”
11. “Where there is no _____, the people perish.”
12. Cain became a fugitive and a _____ in the earth.
13. “Yea, though I walk through the _____ of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.”
14. Life is a “_____”, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
15. _____ Meat that Isaac loved for Esau to cook.
16. “Do _____ to no man, neither accuse any falsely.”
17. Pure religion . . . is this: To _____ the fatherless and widows.
18. _____ Type of musical instrument in the Old Testament.

Answers to Last Issue:



Starts with the Letter “W”: 1. Wages (Romans 6:23); 2. Weasel (Leviticus 11:29); 3. Wait (Isaiah 40:31); 4. Walk (1 John 1:7); 5. Want (Psalm 23:1); 6. War (1 Peter 2:11); 7. Wash (Acts 22:16); 8. Washpot (Psalm 60:8); 9. Watch (Mark 14:38); 10. Water (Revelation 22:17); 11. Way (John 14:6); 12. Weak (Romans 15:1); 13. Wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18); 14. Weary (Galatians 6:9); 15. Week (Matthew 28:1); 16. Weeping (Psalm 30:5); 17. Wheel (Ezekiel 1:15–28); 18. Whelp (Genesis 49:9); 19. Whisperer (Proverbs 16:28); 20. White (Revelation 20:11); 21. Wicked (Proverbs 15:29); 22. Widows (James 1:27); 23. Wife (Ecclesiastes 9:9); 24. Willow (Psalm 137:2); 25. Worship (John 4:24).

Learn More! For More Info!

Just Take It Straight

Do not read anything into the Good Book, if you wish to get anything out of it—just take it straight.

Instead of trying to alter your Bible to fit you, change yourself to fit it; otherwise you will have religion's conformity in reverse. What you think of the Bible does not affect it—just you. If it appears too deep, you surely need the exercise it affords to think deeper. If it looks too exacting, you definitely require its influence to keep from straying. And if it seems dry, it might be that you have allowed too much dust to accumulate on it.

“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you” (Deuteronomy 4:2).

—Leroy Brownlow



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- ▶ Apostasy and the Man of Sin —William Woodson
- ▶ Trouble in the Family: Jesus and James —Glenn Colley
- ▶ I Want To Be Great! Show Me to the Servant's Quarters —Tom Hodge
- ▶ Why I Am an Optimist —Allen Webster

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- Married for Life.** How five couples reached their 50th ...
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- Finding God's Treasure** **Jesus' Mother**
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

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Born in the House of Bread



Christ was born in Bethlehem. The literal meaning for the name Bethlehem is “The House of Bread.” Jesus was not born in the house of royalty, or the house of riches, or the house of celebrity. Jesus was not born in Jerusalem, or in Rome, or in Athens or Alexandria. Jesus was not born in any political, commercial, cultural, educational, or socially significant city of the day. When Micah, the Old Testament prophet, foretold the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, he emphasized its lack of significance to the world.

“But thou, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2)

Bread is one of life’s most common things, and without it man would not survive. God wanted his Son to be “common” in the sense that He is available to all. Without Him, there is no life. —Brian Atwood

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” —John 6:35

The Infinite came down to earth in the form of an infant; He who spans the heavens and holds the ocean in the hollow of his hand, condescended to hang upon a woman’s breast; the King eternal became a little child. Let Bethlehem tell that He had compassion. There was no way of saving us but by stooping to us. To bring earth up to heaven, He must bring heaven down to earth. Therefore, in the incarnation, He had compassion, bringing heaven down to earth, for He took upon himself our infirmities, and was made like unto ourselves.

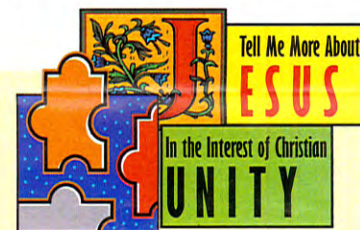
“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” —John 1:14

Why Christians are one in Christ



We have the same Lord (Romans 10:12; Ephesians 4:5).
We were redeemed by the same blood (Ephesians 1:7).
We obeyed the same gospel (Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:6-9).
We were added to the same church (Acts 2:41, 47).
We are heirs of the same promises (Acts 2:39).
We are united to the same head (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22).
We worship the same God (John 4:24).
We all have the same Father (Ephesians 4:6; Romans 8:16-18).
We hope for the same heavenly home (John 14:1-6). —Via The Green Plain Proclaimer

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: For ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).



Facts about the Church of Christ

Establishment (Isaiah 2:2-3; Daniel 2:44; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4; Note: Mark 9:1).

Foundation – Christ (Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:18).

Founder – Christ (Matthew 16:16-18).

Names of Members (Acts 9:1-2, 13-14; 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).

Organization (Ephesians 1:22-23; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-12).

Worship – Spirit and Truth (John 4:24; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Law of Pardon (Faith + Obedience = Salvation; Mark 16:16; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Creed – Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Church Name/Description (Romans 16:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:15)

“That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church . . .” —Matthew 16:18



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 in the rain.
- ▶ Because it is cold. It is warm and friendly inside.
- ▶ Because it is hot. So are fishing and golfing.
- ▶ Because no one invited you. People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. *This paper is 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 the 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.
- ▶ Because you do not like the preacher. He is human, as we all are.
- ▶ Because the church always wants money. That is not true here.
- ▶ Because you have plenty of time in the future. Are you sure?

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." —Psalm 95:6

—Author Unknown