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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6

## Centerville Road CHURCH of CHRIST

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### SUNDAY

Bible Class .....9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship .....5:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.

### Visit Us Any Time!

The Centerville Road Church of Christ is a visitor-friendly congregation. You will be made to feel welcome and will not be singled out or embarrassed in any way. Although a collection will be taken on Sundays, visitors are not expected to contribute. Simply sit and listen—or better yet, participate! Right now is a great time to visit. Our goal is to worship and serve God according to the pattern provided in the New Testament.

### SERVICES OFFERED:

- Adult, Elementary, and Teen Education
- Youth Series
- Vacation Bible School
- Ladies Bible Class (Sept - May)
- Family Enrichment Seminar
- Home Bible Studies
- Men's and Women's Retreats
- Monthly Men's Breakfast (Sept-May)

HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select Garland routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to address above. To God be the glory.

## ENOUGH & TO SPARE



The prodigal boy in the pigpen saw things a little differently than he had when wanderlust first pulled him from his father's farm. Hungry, lonely, tired, and ashamed, he now wanted nothing more than to go home. He thought, "I'm hungry, but my father has plenty. Even his servants leave bread on the table when they finish eating." He had good memories of home—and they led him back where he needed to be. (Stop and read Luke 15:11–24.)

What about you? Have you left a Father who loves you? Did the devil's playpen turn out to be more like a pigpen for you, too? You can come home. There is still "bread" enough and to spare. What does today's returning prodigal find at the Father's house?

### STRENGTH ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

Many would return, but they just don't know if they have enough strength to endure. Perhaps you have not completely given up on God but have said, "I just don't know where I'll find the strength

to go on." We sometimes feel like David,<sup>1</sup> our "strength is dried up like a potsherd" (Psalm 22:15)—that is, our reserves are as depleted of energy as kiln-dried pottery is empty of moisture.

Age (Psalm 71:9, 18; 90:10), carrying a sin burden (Psalm 31:10), discouragement (Psalm 39:12–13; 88:3–4), persecution (2 Corinthians 1:8), adversity (Proverbs 24:10), and depression (Psalm 38:9–10) all have the capacity to rob us of spiritual strength. Some will miss heaven, not so much because of a love of sin, but just because they got tired and quit trying hard to follow God. (Hence the frequent admonitions not to "lose heart"—Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13.)

How can we find the strength to go on? We can "go in the strength of the Lord God (Psalm 71:16). Since both the Father and Son are almighty, they have strength enough and to spare (Genesis 17:1; Revelation 1:8). They have promised to share their strength with us (Psalm 68:35). A great Bible paradox is that if we will give





God all our strength, He will make us stronger (Mark 12:30). His strength is made perfect in our weakness (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

Paul also spoke of “the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power . . . Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 1:19; 3:20). God arms His people with strength (Psalm 18:32); He gives strength through wisdom (Proverbs 8:14) and knowledge (Proverbs 24:5). He gives strength for the battle (Psalm 18:39), to conceive seed (Hebrews 11:11), to keep our words and meditations acceptable to Him (Psalm 19:14), and for trouble (Psalm 37:39). He makes us bold “with strength in my soul” (cf. Psalm 138:3). Yes, there is strength enough and to spare with God.

### COMFORT ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

When Mr. and Mrs. Lamach had a son, they named him Noah, for, they reasoned, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands” (Genesis 5:29). Jesus is our “Noah.” He once turned about, looked at a woman and said, “Be of good cheer, daughter” (Matthew 9:22; cf. Mark 10:49). Symbolically, He has done the same to each of us. He comforts us in all the uncomfortable parts of life—uncertainty, loneliness, sickness, poverty, ostracism, grief, embarrassment, rejection, victimization, loss, and death. In the most famous chapter of the Old

Testament, David wrote, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Jehovah was once described as the “God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). He comforts us “on every side” (Psalm 71:21). Paul said he was “filled with comfort” in all tribulation (2 Corinthians 7:4). The Holy Spirit comforted the early disciples (Acts 9:31), and He uses His Word to comfort us today (cf. Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:18). God even uses us to comfort each other: “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God” (Isaiah 40:1; cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3–4; 2:7;<sup>2</sup> Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 6:22). Need heartening? Come to God—He has comfort and to spare.

### BLESSINGS ENOUGH AND TO SPARE

God can open “the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing” so that there is not “room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10). Just as He once gave fisherman enough fish to fill their boat (153 by count) (John 21:6, 11), so He can give us more blessings than we have capacity to enjoy. The Almighty can “bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb” (Genesis 49:25).

When, in the general course of life, His children enter upon new paths, His providence goes before them (Romans 8:28; Philemon 1:15). That is, He anticipates the blessings we will require and puts them in our path (Psalm 21:3<sup>3</sup>). He

knows what we need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). Expecting parents enjoy fixing up the baby’s room during the forty weeks it takes the child to arrive. They know the little fellow will need diapers, so they get some. They know he’ll need to eat, so they buy formula and baby food. They know she’ll sleep a lot, so they put together a baby bed. God goes before us like that. Think of how God has preceded us with blessings:

- Before we came into the world, He made it habitable (Genesis 1; cf. Isaiah 45:18).
- Before we needed salvation (Romans 3:23; 6:23), He made it possible (John 3:16; Romans 5:8–10).
- Before we needed instruction and guidance, He wrote the Bible (e.g., 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3).
- Before Abraham knew he needed one, God had a ram available to substitute for Isaac (Genesis 22:13). Similarly, when we offer our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1–2), and temptation gets too strong for us, He has “the way of escape” ready for us (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- Before we have to go through the dark “valley of the shadow of death,” He prepares us a way (Psalm 23).
- Before we enter into eternity, He opened the gate to heaven (John 14:1–8).<sup>4</sup>

If we look back, we will find goodness and mercy following us (Psalm 23:6), and if we look ahead, we will find God meeting us with His goodness. Further, God’s giving is just beginning. John writes, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7). We’re not sure what “all things” includes, but, like Paul, we can hardly wait to find out! (Philippians 1:23).

Come to the table. There is plenty and to spare.

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> And Jesus, too, since this is a prophecy of His dying hours on the cross.

<sup>2</sup> *Comfort* is one of the key words of 2 Corinthians. It is found seven times in the book.

<sup>3</sup> “Preventest” or “meet” (*qadam*) means “to anticipate, meet for help.”

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Samuel Martin (quoted by Charles Spurgeon in *The Treasury of David*).

# Is Church Attendance Important?

Isn't what's in a person's heart more important?

The idea that church attendance is not important would have seemed strange to the first century Christians. From the church's beginning, they met together to worship God. Luke described the early church in Acts 2, saying that they "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers . . . So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:42–47). Paul wrote, "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm . . . Let all things be done for edification" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Obviously, they loved to and expected to "come together."

Some argue, however, that just going to church does not make one a Christian, and going to church doesn't have that much to do with the kind of person one really is. There is no doubt that simply "going to church" does not make one a Christian. It is also true that being a certain kind of person is very important yet not entirely dependent upon going to church. But these arguments are irrelevant, because God has commanded that those who would be pleasing to Him must meet together to worship Him. Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). There is a "must" about worship to Almighty God.

If one does not do what God has commanded, he sins. Jesus also said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Failure to worship with the church shows a lack of love for the Lord. The Hebrews writer said, "Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24–25). How can a Christian "stir up love and good works" when forsaking the assembling of God's people?

Every member of the body is needed for the worship services. "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . . For in fact the body is not one member but many" (1 Corinthians 12:12–14). The absentee misses the opportunity to join with other Christians in singing praises to God, offering corporate prayer to God, and in giving to God as he has been prospered. He misses opportunity to learn from and profit from exhortations from God's Word. Can anyone really say that he is better off by not participating in the worship of the church? The willful absentee sins against the God of heaven, denies himself the blessings of God, and hurts the church, the bride of Christ. Think about it! —Bob Prichard

## Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are

1. to see
2. to taste
3. to touch
4. to hear

She hesitated a little, then added,

5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love."



Those things we overlook as simple and ordinary are wondrous. Let this serve as a gentle reminder the most precious things in life cannot be bought or made by man: God gave them to us (James 1:17).

## God's Plan for Saving Man

**Divine Love:** John 3:16

**God's Grace:** Ephesians 2:8

**Christ's Blood:** Romans 5:9

**Holy Spirit's Word:** Romans 1:16

**Sinner's Faith:** Acts 16:31

**Sinner's Repentance:** Luke 13:3

**Sinner's Confession:** Romans 10:10

**Sinner's Baptism:** Acts 22:16

**Christian's Love:** Matthew 22:37

**Christian's Work:** James 2:24

**Christian's Hope:** Romans 8:24

**Christian's Endurance:** Revelation 2:10







## Property Laws of a Toddler

If I like it, it's mine.  
 If it's in my hand, it's mine.  
 If I can take it from you, it's mine.  
 If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.  
 If it looks just like mine, it's mine.  
 If I saw it first, it's mine.  
 If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.  
 If I'm doing/building something, all the pieces are mine.  
 If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.  
 If it's broken, it's yours.

## Too Busy to Get Old

My body may age, but my mind will stay young;  
 I've much left to do, many songs to be sung.  
 Many roads to be traveled, much love to express;  
 Many souls that need aid, who are now in distress.  
 I will do what I can, to help brighten your day;  
 I will spread cheer and love as I pass by your way . . .  
 The world is my oyster, to have, to hold;  
 Why, I'm really too busy to ever grow old!

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).

# Moses and His Followers

What Moses did is overwhelming when you think about it. Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding two to three million people requires a lot of food.

According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have needed 1,500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day would require two freight trains, each at least a mile long?

Remember, too, that they were out in the desert, so they needed firewood to use in cooking this food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

And just think, they were forty years in transit.

And, oh yes! They would have needed water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day and a freight

train with tank cars, 1,800 miles long, just to bring it!

And then another thing! They had to cross the Red Sea at night. Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea, three miles wide so that they could walk 5,000 abreast to get over in only one night.

But then, there is another problem. Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long; think of it!

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? Probably not! Moses believed in God, and God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

*"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."*

1 PETER 5:7



# Jesus Cares

The book of Revelation is a whole book dedicated to offering comfort to persecuted believers. It explains that Jesus and His Father see our tears (7:17; 21:4), hear our prayers (8:3-4), value our sacrifices (14:13; 20:4), avenge our wrongs (6:9; 8:3), and assure our victory (15:2).

A key word in the book of Revelation is *overcome* (*nikao*). Of the twenty-eight times it is used in the New Testament,

John used it twenty-four times—once in his gospel account, six times in his epistles, and seventeen times in Revelation (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 17:14; 21:7). An excellent one-line summary of Revelation is, "If you will overcome, then you may come over and live with God." He has shown that He cares for you; have you shown that you care for Him? (cf. John 14:15).



# Making Sense of the Old Testament (Part 2 of 5)

At the beginning, one must understand the Bible claims to be more than an ordinary book. It professes to be from God! More than 3,800 times in the Old Testament, spokesmen asserted their messages originated from heaven (cf. Exodus 4:12; 2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 1:9). Christ endorsed the Old Testament as the Word of God, referring to it as “the Scriptures” (John 5:39) and “Law” (Matthew 5:17–18), and the New Testament writings were treated with equal reverence (cf. 2 Peter 3:2, 16). If these claims are true—and they are, being buttressed by a vast range of evidence—then one must give due attention the Bible.

## The Books of Jewish History

The next dozen books are primarily historical in thrust. Joshua is the record of Israel’s conquest of Canaan, while the book of Judges covers the administration of fifteen rulers

who governed the Hebrews over a span of some three and one-half centuries.

Ruth contains the delightful story of an ancestress of Christ. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel chronicle the legacies of Samuel, the last judge, and the reigns of Saul and David, the first two kings of Israel’s united monarchy. The books called 1 and 2 Kings survey the reign of Solomon and the division of the nation (into Israel and Judah) following Solomon’s death.

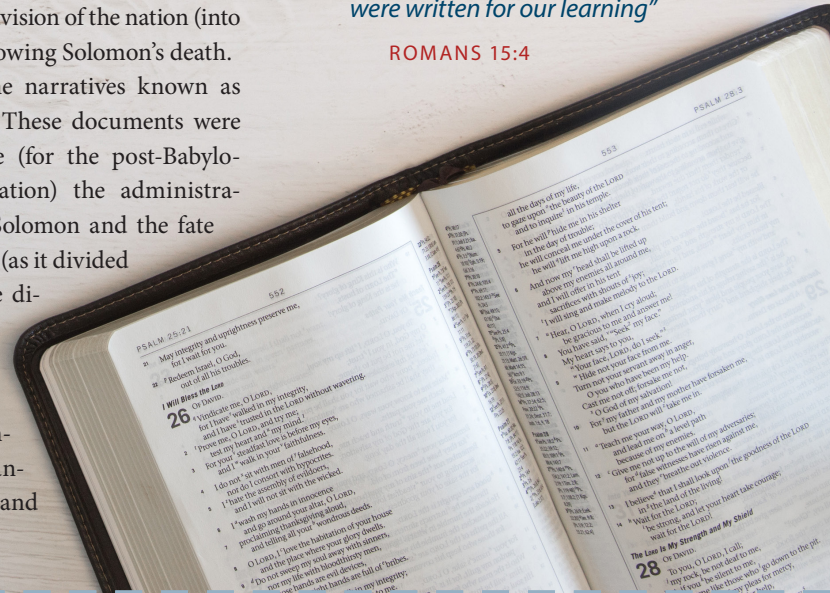
Then there are the narratives known as 1 and 2 Chronicles. These documents were intended to rehearse (for the post-Babylonian-captivity generation) the administrations of David and Solomon and the fate of the Hebrew nation (as it divided and drifted from the divine standard into a state of apostasy).

As a judgment from God, Israel (the northern kingdom) was vanquished by Assyria, and

Judah was conquered by the Babylonians. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah record the three returns of Judah from the seventy years of Babylonian captivity, while Esther details the providential preservation of the Persian Jews during a time of great danger. —Wayne Jackson

*“Whatever things were written before were written for our learning”*

ROMANS 15:4



Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 24:6

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "The Books of the Bible" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

### Answers to Previous Quizzes

**V. 24:4 I Stand Amazed (Miracles of Christ):** 1. Water made into wine (John 2:1–11); 2. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1–14; Matthew 14:15–21; Mark 6:35–44; Luke 9:12–17); 3. Walked on water (Matthew 14:22–33); 4. He calmed the storm (Matthew 8:23–27); 5. Leprosy (Matthew 8:1–4); 6. She touched the border of Jesus' garment (Luke 8:43–44); 7. His mother-in-law (Luke 4:38–39); 8. A man who was blind from birth (John 9:1–41); 9. Malchus (John 18:10–11); 10. They said he casts out devils by Beelzebub (Luke 11:14–15); 11. He said, "Be quiet and come out of him!" (Luke 4:33–35); 12. 12 years old (Mark 5:22–24, 35–42); 13. "He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise.' So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother" (Luke 7:11–17).

**V. 24:5 Revelation: God's Final Words:** 1. John (Revelation 1:1) 2. Patmos (Revelation 1:9) 3. Seven stars (Revelation 1:16) 4. Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7–11) 5. Ephesus (Revelation 2:1–4) 6. 24 (Revelation 4:4) 7. 4 (Revelation 4:6) 8. The 4 creatures with 6 wings and eyes all around (Revelation 4:8) 9. 7 (Revelation 5:1) 10. Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (Revelation 5:5) 11. 4 (Revelation 6:1–8) 12. Pale (Revelation 6:8) 13. Wormwood (Revelation 8:11) 14. He ate it (Revelation 10:10) 15. A garland of 12 stars (Revelation 12:1) 16. 1,000 years (Revelation 20:2) 17. Into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15)

## Bible Curses

**Directions:** Find answers in the following passages: Leviticus 19:14; Job 2:4–5, 9; Ecclesiastes 10:20; Malachi 4:6; Acts 23:12; Galatians 1:8; 3:10; 3:13; James 3:10. Questions taken from the New King James Version.

1. According to Galatians, what people remain under a curse? \_\_\_\_\_ strike the land with a curse? \_\_\_\_\_
2. People who teach a false \_\_\_\_\_ would be cursed.
3. Who was made a curse for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What sort of handicapped people should we not curse? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Whose wife told him to curse God and die? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What prophet ended his book with God's threat to come and \_\_\_\_\_
7. What book says that blessing and cursing should not come out of the same mouth? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who had enemies that bound themselves under a curse because they were so determined to kill him? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who told God that Job would curse him to his face? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What book says that kings should not be cursed, for little birds will tell on the cursing person? \_\_\_\_\_



# 10 COMMANDMENTS

## for Children Online

1. I will talk with my parents, and we will set up rules for when I go online. We will decide the times of the day that are right for me to use the tablet, how long I can use the Internet, and the kinds of places I can visit and the places I will always avoid.

2. No matter who asks while I'm online, I will never give out my home address or phone number, the name of my school principal or teachers, where my parents work, or their telephone numbers at work without getting my parents' direct permission.

3. If anyone online does anything strange or writes anything that makes me feel confused or uncomfortable, I will tell my parents right away.

4. I will never send anyone anything, especially a picture of me or my family, without getting my parents' direct permission.

5. I will never meet anyone I've talked to online without talking with my parents.

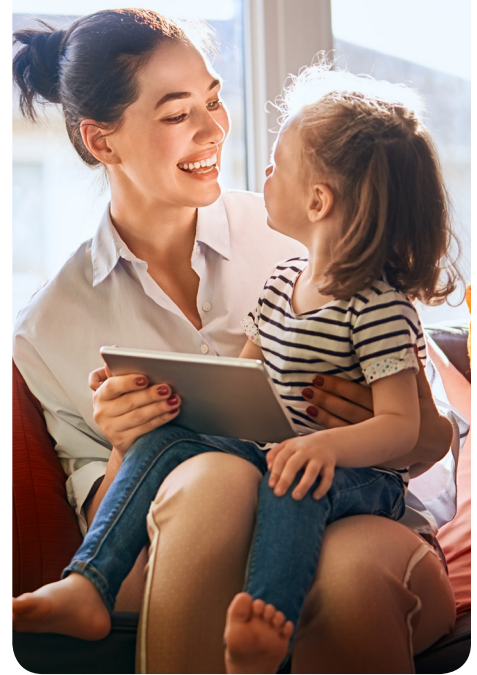
6. I will never give out my online passwords to anyone—not even to my friends. No matter how “official” the request looks, I understand that this is just a way to trick me into giving out the password.

7. If I want to download any games or programs, I will show them to my parents first and ask permission.

8. If I receive any messages or pictures that are mean or dirty, I realize that this is not my fault. I agree to tell my parents right away, so they can notify our Internet service provider and stop it.

9. I will never use bad language or send mean messages online.

10. I understand my parents have the right to look on my computer whenever they want to see where I have gone on the Internet, the e-mail I have sent and received, or what I do in an app.



The Internet can be a blessing or a curse. Parents, keep an eye on your children. Guide them in the proper use of this modern marvel just as you do in any other areas. —Author Unknown

*"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."*

JOHN 17:15

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

## Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial-free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at [gbntv.org](http://gbntv.org).

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prayer requests or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like:



☐ A Bible Correspondence Course



☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

## Featured Tracts!

- ☐ A War of World Views Evolution vs. Christianity
- ☐ Be Baptized (5 steps of Salvation)
- ☐ Is the End Near?
- ☐ Why doesn't God do something?



### More subjects:



☐ When Things Don't Make Sense



☐ Do you think you are the only ones going to heaven?



☐ In pursuit of Focus?



☐ The Council of Nicaea



☐ Gambling, The love of Money



☐ Distracted Driving on the Straight & Narrow Way



☐ What does the church have to offer me?



☐ Helping Children Make Good Entertainment Choices



☐ Don't Pay the Tuition and Fail to get Diploma (Suffering)

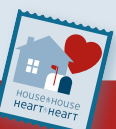


☐ Is One as Good as Another?

Don't see the topic you need? Visit [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com) for more subjects.

VOLUME 24:6

All materials are completely FREE of charge (including shipping in the U.S. or Canada).







# WHY HARMONY?

Christians should live in harmony so “that the world may believe” that God sent Jesus (John 17:21). In John 17, a clear distinction is made between the world and the church. The world refers to those who potentially “believe,” and the church are those who “believe on” Jesus. In the book of John, when “believe” is accompanied by a preposition such as “believe in” or “believing on,” reference is usually to an accepting, trusting, and obeying faith. When “believe” without a preposition is placed in contrast to “believe in” or “believe on,” reference is to mere acceptance of facts. Christ prayed that those who “believe on” Him (those with obedient faith, the church, Christians) might be one so that the world might come to “believe” (accept the fact) that God did send Jesus as deity incarnate to die for man.

Often the steps for initial salvation are cited: believe (John 8:24), repent (Acts 3:19), confess faith in Jesus’ deity (Romans 10:10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). To be as successful as possible in getting the world to take even the first step, Christians need to live in harmony! When a spirit of sweet harmony prevails among God’s family, the world will be more encouraged to investigate the abundant life (John 10:10). When love flows from one Christian’s heart to another’s, the world will be all the more attracted to “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

Christians should also live in harmony so “that the world may know” that God sent Jesus out of love for them (John 17:23). Jesus wants the world to under-

stand the purpose of His mission—to be man’s Savior (cf. 1 John 4:9–10, 14) by God’s grace (Hebrews 2:9). In St. Paul’s Cathedral of London, a life-size marble statue depicts Jesus writhing in anguish on the cross. Its subscription reads, “This is how God loved the world!”

In keeping with God’s scheme of redemption (cf. Ephesians 3:9–11), Jesus hurdled the chasm from celestial to terrestrial, and, being conceived of the Holy Spirit, nestled within the womb of a virgin. In the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4), He was born of woman as Immanuel, “God with us,” and began a thirty-three-year learning process. He attended the University of Hard Knocks and majored in humanity. In doing so, He learned the pain of a smite and the bitterness of a tear. He learned the pangs of temptation and the satisfaction of victory over it. He learned the bliss of acceptance and the torture of rejection. Then, as one cursed and hanging on a tree, with His life pulsating from open wounds, His face dried with the mockery of human spittle, and His shoulders burdened with the aggregate sins of mankind, He learned the cold agony of death.

The story may be summarized in one verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). How wonderful is the story of Jesus! How humbling! For this story to be as appealing as possible to those of the world, Christians must be found “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). —condensed from

*Harmony Among the Heirs of Heaven*, Dan Winkler



## A Wife’s Encouragement

One wintry day Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American author, went home with a heavy heart, having lost his government appointment. He cast himself down, as men generally do under such circumstances, and assumed the very attitude of despondency. His wife soon discovered the cause of his distress. But instead of indulging in irrational hysterics, she kindled a fire, brought pen, ink, and paper, and then, lovingly laying her hand on his shoulder, exclaimed, as she gazed cheerfully into his face, “Now you can write your book!” The words worked like a magic spell. He set to work, forgot his loss, wrote his book, made his reputation, and amassed a fortune.

*“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”*

ROMANS 14:19



## THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

Many heard Him preach and could not but approve of what they heard, yet they would not give it any regard because it came from one who cut so small a figure and had no external advantages to recommend Him. Many today feel that He has no right to “tell them what to do.” Consider that the God

who made the worlds,

who rules the armies of heaven,

who hurled angels down to hell for disobedience,

whose voice shook the earth,

who holds the destinies of all the nations in His hand,

who “weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance . . . [and,] lifts up the isles as a very little thing,”

said, “Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5).

Give Him audience, regard Him, bow to Him, follow Him, be guided by Him, honor and obey Him. —adapted from Ben Franklin



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