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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1

Centerville Road
CHURCH of CHRIST
1102 East Centerville Road
Garland, TX 75041
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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.

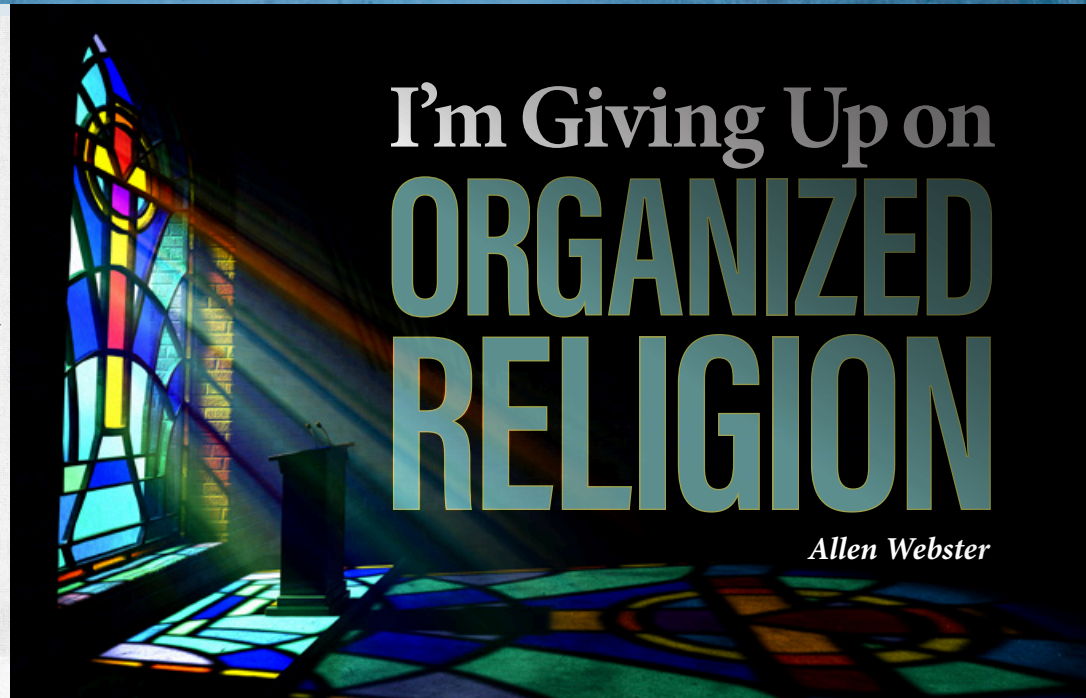
Visit Us Any Time!

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.



I'm Giving Up on **ORGANIZED RELIGION**

Allen Webster

Scandal. Abuse. Confusion. Greed. Lies. Argument. Conflict. Hypocrisy.

We get it. Why would someone want to be affiliated with organized religion? If it is of so little benefit to those who profess it, how could it help me?

Some opt out altogether and give up on faith in God, Scripture, church, and heaven. They find church confusing and damaging, or at best, pointless and outdated.

Fifty-nine percent of 18-to-29-year-olds with a Christian background have dropped out. To them, church is irrelevant; its members are hypocritical, judgmental, and self-righteous; too often, church leaders are moral failures. The church becomes just another organized institution that postmodernists distrust.

Christians are as disgusted with hypocrisy as those who are outside. We make no excuses for the bad behavior of the charlatans or the insincere. False churches that create rules God never required (such as celibacy) set up leaders for moral failure. False members who abandon God's doctrine soon abandon His morals.

Still, the sensational headlines are not representative of the vast majority of religious people. Sincere Christians do not claim perfection or ignore that sin might show up on our doorsteps, but we do sincerely try to live by Scripture. We have no hidden motives in preaching, evangelism, or church activities. We hope for heaven, fear hell, and simply want to help people prepare for judgment.

Others offended by modern religion take a middle-of-the-road approach. They want to be spiritual but not religious. Of the 22 million Americans who quit church over struggles with faith or relationships, many still see themselves as Christians. They pray, read Scripture, watch religious programming, and give to good causes. But they are not a part of a church. They abandoned organized religion to do their own thing.

Leaving a church under bad circumstances does not mean one has to leave the church completely. Many who dropped out are giving true New Testament Christianity a second look. It is possible to find



**CHURCH IS NECESSARY TO GIVE
JESUS THE GLORY HE DESERVES
(EPHESIANS 1:6; 3:21).**

Church is not just something Christians attend; it is who they are.

In Bible terms, one can no more be a Christian without the church than one can be a soldier without an army or a citizen without a country. A Christian can no more disassociate from church than a human can disassociate from humanity.

It is impossible to be a faithful Christian without being part of God's church because God places every Christian in the church when He saves him (Acts 2:47). At that point, a church member is a Christian; a Christian is a church member. In Scripture, salvation and church are inseparable.

God's wisdom is that gathering with the church is essential to spiritual growth and to a relationship with Him (Hebrews 10:24–25; Ephesians 4:12). The Greek word for *church* includes assembling in its very meaning. The early church gathered—daily, in fact (Acts 2:46). The New Testament emphasizes that Christians “come together” (Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 11:17–20, 33; 14:23, 26). It was a priority to them. History says they often assembled before dawn or after dark because Sunday was a workday in the Roman Empire. They lost jobs, homes, and families; some even gave their lives to follow Jesus. To be more authentic, we should take church more seriously—more church, not less.

More important, the church is who Jesus is. The organized church is His bride and His body. He bought the body with His blood and gave the bride His name (Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16). When we exit the church, we distance ourselves from Jesus.

**CHURCH IS WHERE WE GET WHAT
WE CANNOT FIND IN THE WORLD.**

The church is the storehouse of God's blessings.

In church, we encounter the power of gospel preaching (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12). Church is where Christ's life-changing message is experienced in its optimal environment.

a good church. Sincere Christianity is as different from the scandalous headlines as an unqualified doctor prescribing opioids to addicts is from a skilled surgeon who saves lives.

Here are three reasons we should not give up on biblical Christianity:

**CHURCH IS WHERE WE CONNECT
WITH GOD ON HIS TERMS.**

Humans were made to be companions for deity (Genesis 1:26; 3:8). When man sinned in Eden, that connection was broken (Genesis 3:6–7, 24; Isaiah 59:1–2). God is holy, and holiness demands separation from sin. God is just, and justice demands punishment. God is also merciful and wants to forgive man. Thus the divine dilemma.

The only way the righteous God could receive man back was for a sufficient price to be paid. The price was named; Christ paid it. God gave His Son so He could adopt us as sons and daughters (John 3:16; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21; 8:9).

What does God ask in return? Love. Worship. Gratitude. Commitment. Righteousness.

Church enables participation in the worship God longs for in the way He wants it (John 4:24). Worship is man's outlet for thanksgiving and praise for the indescribable gift of Jesus (2 Corinthians 9:15). Honoring Jesus and pleasing the Father are what church is about (John 4:24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9).

God does not approve of do-it-yourself religion. Worship must be given as God wants it, since it is for Him. Listening to a favorite preacher's podcast at the gym

or worship songs around the house does not replace giving God His Sunday a capella concert, heartfelt prayer, and sincere gratitude around His Son's table.

While Christianity is a personal, heartfelt religion (Matthew 15:8; Romans 6:17), it is not meant to be practiced alone. A part is done in secret (Matthew 6:6), but discipleship is not meant to be secret (John 12:42; 19:38–39). Shouting the gospel “on the housetops” (Matthew 10:27) is better done in a public assembly than in a private residence.

Man may think he can worship on his terms in his own house, but God is not obligated to honor man's whims. Man is obligated to follow God's wisdom (James 4:7). In the days of the judges, every man did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6; 21:25), which produced the dark ages of Israel. Moses forbade Jews doing “whatever is right in his own eyes” (Deuteronomy 12:8). Paul later noted: “Being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, [they] have not submitted to the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3).

The church is not a human invention; it was God's idea (Ephesians 3:10–11). He spent four thousand years planning, organizing, establishing, and building it (Galatians 4:4–5; Acts 2). Although men have spent the last two thousand years trying to change it, God's original church is still here. We should not abandon it. The church (kingdom) is the only thing God will salvage from this cursed world (1 Corinthians 15:24). We must be in it when that happens (Matthew 25:1–13).

As live-streaming services has become common, some churches find online “attendance” surpassing in-person attendance. No longer does one have to leave home on Sunday. A living room becomes the auditorium; an easy chair, the pew; Facebook Live, the pulpit; a computer replaces congregational singing and fellowship. Church attendance becomes just another app that allows one to “worship” in comfort and isolation.

Live-streaming is important for the homebound, for those looking for a new church, and as a study tool during the week, but it is not worship replacement. Watching a livestream feed in our pajamas or a TV church service while eating a bowl of cereal is not the same as being there. Internet church is not really church. It does not offer the benefits of being with fellow worshipers in the presence of God. There are no interactions, no warm greetings and conversations, no voices blending in praise. Being together—with God and each other—is the whole point (Psalm 116:14). Christians are not to forsake the assembling of the church (Hebrews 10:25). Jesus said that “where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). This requires close fellowship with real people (Acts 2:42). Watching as a spectator is no substitute for participation as a worshiper.

Preaching is where God’s power intersects with human hearts (Romans 1:16). Personal study is needed, but public teaching, encouragement, correction, and challenge are essential (2 Timothy 4:2). Worship nourishes the soul (Acts 20:32). One churchgoer wrote the following comment to a newspaper editor: “I’ve gone to church for 30 years. In that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. For the life of me, I can’t remember a single one. I’m wasting my time and preachers are wasting theirs.” A weeks’ long controversy followed, but one final letter to the editor ended it: “I’ve been married for 30 years. In that time my wife has cooked 32,000 meals. For the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu of a single one. I know this: Those meals nourished me and gave me the strength needed for my work. If she had not cooked, I would be physi-

cally dead. Likewise, if I had not gone to church, I would be spiritually dead.”

In church, strong marriages and families are forged. Church completes the marital triangle of God, husband, and wife (Matthew 19:6). It reinforces the higher philosophy and purpose behind marriage (Genesis 2:18–24). It allows for deeper connection through shared beliefs (1 Peter 3:1–7) and gives constant motivation to be faithful and work on self-improvement (1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 13:4; Philippians 3:12). Church is where children learn to love God, their purpose, and healthy morality (Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:13–14).

In church, we discover, develop, and use our talents (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:4–8) *and find opportunities to give back to others* (Romans 1:14; Galatians 6:2). There are always people to help, teach, encourage, and cherish (Galatians 6:10). “The church really does not need me” is as untrue as “I don’t really need the church” (Luke 10:2). They have programs that make it easy to get involved in helping others. It feels good to help people (Proverbs 22:9). Jesus promised a blessing for selfless service (Matthew 10:42).

In church, we connect socially with good people (cf. Romans 16:1–23). Humans are social creatures. All hunger for community and a sense of family. All need friendship and fellowship, godly mentors and good examples (Titus 2).

Four-of-ten people experience intense loneliness, yet many have not considered finding connection in church. About sixty-five percent of Americans identify as Christian, but only forty-seven percent of those attend regularly.

Like grains of wheat coming together in life-giving bread, believers contribute to a healthy congregation. The ground is level at the foot of the cross; there are no tiers or castes among those following the humble Nazarene.

In church, we find hope for this life and beyond. Everyone looks for a reason for hope and a sense of purpose. Jesus went to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).

What the church offers cannot be found anywhere else. Writing off the church is not the answer, so find a good local church.

We happen to know one we would like to recommend.



Dealing with the Devil

An elderly Christian was asked, “Does Satan trouble you about your past sins?” She answered, “Yes.” “What do you do?” She replied, “I tell him to go east.” “What if he comes back?” “I tell him to go west.” “If he returns?” She said, “I keep him going from east to west, for Psalms says, ‘As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us’” (103:12). —Albert Memmi

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

“Daddy, Can I Come Home?”

Several years ago, I met a lifelong friend walking down the road. We stopped for a couple moments and exchanged greetings. I asked her how she and her husband were doing (they had married three months earlier). Her response startled me. She said, “Steve, we’re not together anymore. I wasn’t happy, so I called my dad and asked him if I could come home. That’s where I’m living now.”

Compare this account with the following account of a young woman who had only been married for a few short months. Sobbing, this newlywed phoned her father and said, “Daddy, I’m not happy. Can I come home?” to which her wise father responded, “Honey, you know I love you, but you are home.”

The father in the second scenario wisely understood what many people do not understand today: In marriage, there is a “leaving” of father and mother and a “cleaving” to one’s own spouse (Matthew 19:5).

True love does not aid and abet people in escaping responsibility, but rather stands beside them and supports them in facing and overcoming difficulties.

Lord, give us more fathers with such wisdom, and may the rest of us heed their wise counsel! —Steve Higginbotham



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



OUR FINEST HOUR

On June 18, 1940, Winston Churchill stood before the crowded benches of the House of Commons.

It was a desperate moment in British history. English armies had been flung back on the continent. Vast quantities of arms and ammunitions had been lost. Enemy bombers were overhead.

In this desperate moment, Churchill was called to take his place as a leader of his nation. Standing before those benches, he finished his memorable utterance with these words: “Let us brace ourselves to our duties

and so dedicate ourselves that if the British Empire and Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say this was their finest hour.”

Perhaps this was their finest hour. Many believe the British were never better than they were at that moment in history.

What will history record of the church in this generation? Did we stand for God? Did we take the gospel to the world? Did we love and lead? Were we people of character and conviction?

This, too, can be our finest hour.

—Author Unknown

“Do it with your might”

ECCLESIASTES 9:10

Do Try This at Home

A national survey of strong families conducted by the Human Development and Family Department at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln provided the following profile of a strong family:

Appreciation. “Family members gave one another compliments and sincere demonstrations of approval. They tried to make the others feel appreciated.”

Dealing with Crises. “They were willing to take a bad situation, see something positive in it, and focus on that.”

Time. “In all areas of their lives—meals, work, recreation—they structured schedules to spend time together.”

High Degree of Commitment. “Families promoted each person’s happiness and welfare, invested energy in each other, and made family the first priority.”

Good Communication Patterns. “These families spent time talking with each other. They also listened well, which shows respect.”

High Degree of Religious Orientation. “They considered themselves to be highly religious.”

*“Hear, my son, and be wise;
and guide your heart in the way.”*

PROVERBS 23:19

New Testament Christianity



The New Testament claims to be the source of authority for all we do that is of eternal importance, no matter when or where we live (Colossians 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3, 20–21; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The New Testament will not share authority with any other book or “revelation” (Galatians 1:6–9; Jude 1:3).

The New Testament reveals how a person becomes a Christian (Acts 2:37–47; Ephesians 4:4–6).

The New Testament teaches us that the Lord adds Christians to His church (Acts 2:47).

The New Testament shows us how that church is organized and led (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1–12; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1–4).

The New Testament gives us the day that Christians met to worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2).

The New Testament clarifies for us the various roles and responsibilities God has given to each gender of Christians in the work and worship of His church (1 Timothy 2:8–15).

The New Testament teaches the Christian how God wants to be worshipped (John 4:24).

The New Testament outlines the Christian’s purpose and work (Ephesians 4:11–16).

The New Testament is dedicated to showing how one, as a faithful Christian, has eternal life and the hope of heaven (Titus 1:2; Revelation 2:10; chapters 21–22).

The New Testament helps us understand how God wants marriage and family to function, to build Christian homes (Matthew 19:1–12; Ephesians 5:22–6:4; 1 Peter 3:1–7).

The New Testament urges Christian growth and thoroughly teaches how that is accomplished (2 Peter 3:18; Titus 2:11–14; John 15:1–5).

The New Testament constantly speaks of how the Christian needs and benefits from developing an intimate relationship with the Godhead (1 Thessalonians 5:17; John 15:14; Matthew 22:36–40).

The New Testament teaches that Christians prove to others their discipleship

to Christ by loving one another (John 13:34–35).

The New Testament reveals that Christians are tasked with multiplying themselves by teaching the gospel to those outside of Christ (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 8:4; Colossians 1:23).

The New Testament asserts itself as the unfailing, universal guide regarding anything that will ultimately matter (2 Peter 1:3; John 14:26; 16:13).

If what we are after is divine guidance for what makes a Christian and how God wants one to live, where else would we turn but to the New Testament? A God who engineered us for eternity and tells us we have but two eternal dwelling options would be cruel and unloving if He did not give us clear, thorough answers to any matter that is important to Him. How loving and faithful for God to give us such an unambiguous guide! —Neal Pollard

“Come and see.”

JOHN 1:39

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 25:1

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Chapter to Chapter – Revelation" 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. 24:11 Snakes and Fiery Serpents: 1. The serpent deceived her (Genesis 3:13) 2. Fish (Luke 11:11) 3. Horses (Revelation 9:17–19) 4. Wine (Proverbs 23:31–32) 5. Devil and Satan (Revelation 12:9) 6. Paul (Acts 28:1–6) 7. Moses (Exodus 4:1–5) 8. The people spoke against Moses and God (Numbers 21:5–9) 9. Asked Moses to pray to God that He would take the serpents away (Numbers 21:7) 10. He prayed (Numbers 21:7) 11. Bronze (Numbers 21:9) 12. Nehushtan (2 Kings 18:1–4) 13. By looking upon the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:9) 14. Christ (1 Corinthians 10:1–9) 15. Broke it in pieces (2 Kings 18:1–4)

V. 24:12 Suffering Saints: 1. Live godly, Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:12) 2. Jesus (John 15:20) 3. Ashamed (1 Peter 4:16) 4. As a roaring lion, devil (1 Peter 5:8) 5. Job (James 5:11) 6. Various (1 Peter 1:6) 7. Trials that test our faith and produce patience (James 1:2–4) 8. Glorify God (1 Peter 4:16) 9. Gold (1 Peter 1:7) 10. A little while (1 Peter 1:6) 11. Patience (James 1:3) 12. Eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17) 13. God (2 Corinthians 1:3–5)

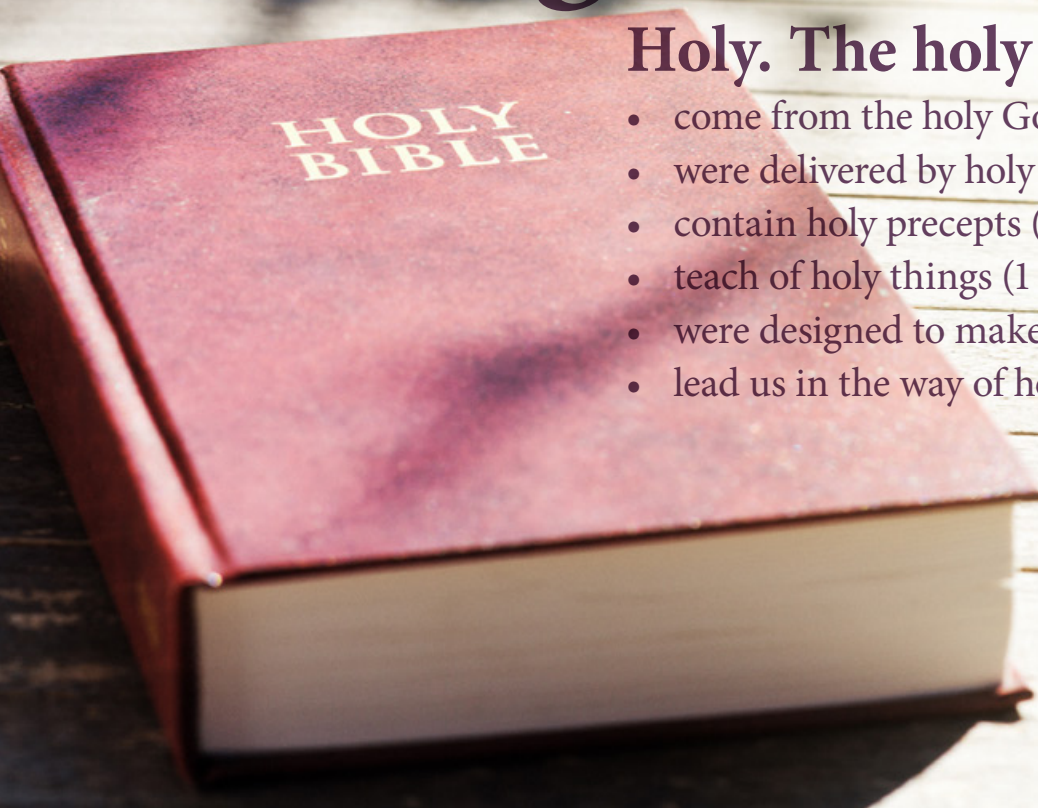
The Book of Joshua

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Joshua 1:1–2, 9; 2:6, 21; 3:13; 4:9; 5:11–12; 6:3–4, 25; 7:24–26; 9:3–4; 10:6–11, 13; 11:21 (+Deuteronomy 9:2); 14:6–7, 13; 20:7–9; 24:15, 29, 32. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. Who was Joshua the son of? _____
2. When these people's feet touched the waters of the Jordan, the waters were cut off: _____
3. What did Joshua do after the Israelites crossed over the Jordan? _____
4. What was Rahab's occupation prior to joining with Joshua and the children of Israel? _____
5. Where had Rahab hidden the spies? _____
6. What did Rahab do to signal where her house was? _____
7. How many times (total) did the army circle the city of Jericho before the walls fell? _____
8. Where was Achan put to death? _____
9. The manna ceased shortly after this feast: _____
10. Why were the Anakites (Anakim) feared? _____
11. How did God kill the Amorites for Joshua and the people of Israel? _____
12. How long did the sun stand still for Joshua? _____
13. Which nation deceived Joshua? _____
14. How many cities of refuge did God have Joshua designate? _____
15. After the death of Moses, Joshua was commanded to: _____
16. Where were Joseph's bones buried? _____
17. "As for me and my _____, we will _____ the Lord." _____
18. How old was Caleb when Moses sent him and Joshua to spy out the land? _____
19. What city did Caleb and his family inherit? _____
20. How old was Joshua when he died? _____

—<http://www.biblequizzes.com>

It Says It *Right on the Cover*



Holy. The holy Scriptures

- come from the holy God (1 Peter 1:16),
- were delivered by holy men (2 Peter 1:20–21),
- contain holy precepts (Romans 7:12),
- teach of holy things (1 Corinthians 2:13),
- were designed to make us holy (Leviticus 11:44), and
- lead us in the way of holiness (Isaiah 35:8).

—Author Unknown

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

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.

I want to learn more **about the Bible!**

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



☐ A Bible Correspondence Course



☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

New Tracts!

- ☐ 4000 Years in 2000 Words
- ☐ I Don't Want You to Join My Church
- ☐ A Parable Jesus Never Told
- ☐ The Half Has Never Yet Been Told



More subjects:



☐ The Battlement of God's Love



☐ Abortion Wrongs



☐ My Preacher Says



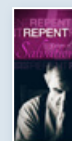
☐ Looking for Love (God's Love)



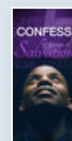
☐ Hear (5 Steps of Salvation)



☐ Believe (5 Steps of Salvation)



☐ Repent (5 Steps of Salvation)



☐ Confess (5 Steps of Salvation)



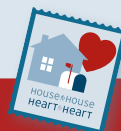
☐ Be Baptized (5 Steps of Salvation)



☐ Be Faithful

Don't see the topic you need?
Visit www.housetohouse.com
for more subjects.

VOLUME 25:1



WORSHIP

in Spirit & Truth

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Yet this week, many will enter church buildings and worship God in many different ways. How can these all be "in spirit and truth"?

Since God's word is truth (John 17:17), make sure your worship is in truth by studying what the New Testament teaches about worship.

FALSE WORSHIP



VAIN WORSHIP

"In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

—MATTHEW 15:9



MOCK WORSHIP

"Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him."

—MARK 15:19–20



WILL WORSHIP

"Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

—COLOSSIANS 2:23, KJV



IGNORANT WORSHIP

"As I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you." —ACTS 17:23

TRUE WORSHIP



PREACHING & THE LORD'S SUPPER

"On the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." —ACTS 20:7



SINGING

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." —EPHESIANS 5:19

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." —COLOSSIANS 3:16



GIVING

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also." —1 CORINTHIANS 16:1



PRAYER

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." —ACTS 2:42

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men . . . I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." —1 TIMOTHY 2:1–8

Jesus' Greatness

Men who stood nearest to Jesus were swayed by His personality. He was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He had a charm about Him which wooed and fascinated.

Children liked Him; publicans hung upon Him. He had the heart of a child, the tenderness of a woman, the strength of a man.

The three dimensions (body, mind, soul) of His life were complete. He had eyes that looked along extended lines running into eternity; He had sympathies wide enough to cover humanity to its outermost edge; He had a purpose that included all lands and ages. His kingdom is to be universal, and it shall have no end.

He was at every point complete. His virtues are all fully matured; His graces are all in full bloom. You can no more add anything to Him than you can add something to the sky.

He pushed every good trait of human character to its utmost limit. His forgiveness was unbounded; His generosity was untiring; His patience was inexhaustible; His mercy was immeasurable; His courage was illimitable; His wisdom was unfathomable; His kindness was interminable; His faith removed mountains; His hope had no shadow in it; His love was infinite.

And so, it is impossible to go beyond Him. We can never outgrow Him. He will be always ahead of us. We shall always hear Him saying, "Follow Me!" He is the ideal of the heart. He is the goal of humanity. It is this completeness of His character which accounts not only for His beauty but also for His perennial power. He is the lily of the valley, the fairest of ten thousand, and one altogether lovely. —Dr. Charles Jefferson, *The Character of Jesus*, P. 350–352

"He will be great"

LUKE 1:32



There Is Coming **A DAY**

Believing in the reality of the judgment is motivation: “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Corinthians 5:11). If informed of a coming judgment, how would the great men of the Bible have reacted?

Enoch would have believed.

Noah would have immediately begun preparing.

Abraham would have set out in faith.

Moses would have called the people together to relate the message.

Isaiah and Jeremiah would have pled with the people.

Daniel would have proclaimed it aloud.

Elijah and Elisha would have shouted it from the rooftop.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James, and Jude would have placed in our hands the record and said, “Here is the way it is going to be—Judgment Day is coming!”

If your name is not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, we plead with you to believe, repent, confess, and be baptized into the body of Christ (Galatians 3:26–27).

If your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, we pray that you may live and conduct yourself in such a way that your name may never be blotted out (Revelation 3:5). —Author Unknown

“All the nations will be gathered before Him”

MATTHEW 25:32



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