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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 10

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.



Old Age: TAKING CARE OR TAKING ADVANTAGE?

Allen Webster

There is an interesting story in a past *Sports Illustrated*.¹ It seems a con artist posed as "Dr. James Hartman" and went around to aging athletes who had Alzheimer's. He claimed to be purchasing memorabilia for a museum. He took their trophies, game balls, jerseys . . . and left them with a rubber check.

Such abuse of the elderly gets our ire up; we want somebody to do something.

We might do by neglect what others do by fraud. At age twenty-six, Pat Moore performed a remarkable experiment. An industrial designer, Moore wanted a better understanding of senior adults, so for three years she used a professional makeup artist to disguise her as an 85-year-old woman. In her elderly persona, she visited 116 cities in fourteen states and two Canadian provinces.

From her experience, Moore estimated that one in 25 seniors is abused, with most victims being over 75. She was im-

pressed with the compassion and care she received from senior adults when she was in character, but she received harsher treatment from younger generations.²

How do we apply the Golden Rule ("Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them," Matthew 7:12) to the older members of our families, communities, and churches? Perhaps the first question is, "How will we want to be treated in our later years?"

WE WILL WANT OTHERS TO TAKE TIME FOR OUR LONELINESS.

Imagine being surrounded by the same four walls for 24 hours a day every day. Think about saying goodbye to your life-long associates. Ann Landers ran this thought-provoking submission:

Dear Ann Landers: In the last decade I have witnessed an alarming disrespect for the elderly. In many cultures, old

folks are venerated and valued, but not in America. I find this sad and frightening. A few years ago, you printed a column about grandfather's birthday. I showed it to my grandchildren. They were visibly moved, and, I might add, have been a lot more attentive to their grandparents since then. Will you please run it again?

—St. Petersburg

Dear St. Pete: With pleasure. Here it is.

It was grandfather's birthday. He was 79. He got up early, showered, combed his hair and put on his Sunday best so he would look nice when they came.

He skipped his daily walk to the town cafe where he had coffee with his cronies. He wanted to be home when they came.

He put his porch chair on the sidewalk so he could get a better view of the street when they drove up to help celebrate his birthday.

At noon he got tired but decided to forgo his nap so he could be there when they came. Most of the rest of the afternoon he spent near the telephone so he could answer it when they called.

He has five married children, 13 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. One son and daughter live within ten miles of his place. They hadn't visited him for a long time. But today was his birthday and they were sure to come.

At supper he sat on the porch waiting.

At 8:30 he went to his room to prepare for bed. Before retiring he left a note on the door: "Be sure to wake me up when they come."

It was grandfather's birthday. He was 79.³

In our hustle-and-bustle world, it is hard to find time to sit with aged relatives and fellow Christians. If we are not careful, we will neglect this duty—and corrupt our religion. James said, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). *Visit* here means "to see after the needs."

Certainly, one of these needs is conversation. John added, "Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little chil-

dren, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17–18). Let us use days wisely (Ephesians 5:16) and take one occasionally to show an elderly person love.

WE WILL WANT OTHERS TO HAVE PATIENCE WITH OUR INFIRMITIES.

Moses was an exception to the rule of human aging. At his death, his "eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished" (Deuteronomy 34:7).

Most of us will wear glasses; we will be unable to bench press at 70 what we could at 20. Solomon described the aging process with which many can identify: "In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down; when the grinders [teeth] cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows [eyes] grow dim; when the doors [ears] are shut in the streets, and the sound of grinding is low; when one rises up at the sound of a bird [cannot sleep]. . . also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; when the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails" (Ecclesiastes 12:3–5).

In an award-winning article entitled *A View From 80*, Malcolm Cowley described what it was like to be old:

"When it becomes an achievement to do thoughtfully, step by step, what one once did instinctively—when he can't stand on one leg and has trouble pulling on his pants—when he spends more time looking for things than he spends using them after he has found them—when he listens hard to jokes and catches everything but the snapper."⁴

Patience is a virtue. Though the old man is going only fifty miles per hour down the interstate, or grandma takes

forever to get to the car, or granddad must be told everything three times, let us add "to temperance patience" (2 Peter 1:6).

To make sure an old person hears you, touch his arm and have the person look at you as you speak. Speak clearly, hold up objects to which you refer, and give clues to establish a context without sounding impatient or upset.

As for vision, keep in mind that older people need better lighting and have trouble adapting to the dark. Night lights should be included in each room.

WE WILL WANT OTHERS TO OFFER PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE.

We hope to provide for ourselves all our lives, but we may need physical help at some point. One comedian quipped, "Money can't buy health. And it's getting so it can't support sickness either."⁵

With increasing costs of medication and hospitalization, we may find this a reality. Paul taught that such costs are to be provided by the family, as they are able: "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows" (1 Timothy 5:16; cf. 1 John 3:17–18; Matthew 15:1–9). This may include finances, seeing after work they cannot do, or providing health care.

Solomon said, "Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old" (Proverbs 23:22).

Endnotes:

¹ "Late Hit from a Con Artist," Rick Reilly, March 8, 2004, p. 86.

² *Disguised*, Pat Moore, 1985, p. 165–167.

³ www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1998-09-12-9809120005-story.

⁴ *Life*, 1979.

⁵ www.newspapers.com/newspage/481324083/.





“Do Not Provoke Your Children to Wrath”

In two closely related New Testament verses, fathers are given these instructions: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4); “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Colossians 3:21).

Much is said about parents properly training children; much less is taught about fathers refraining from provoking children. Please consider these practical observations.

“Provoke not your children to wrath” does not mean the following:

Never do anything that makes your child(ren) angry. From time to time, children will get angry at parents when they put their foot down. A three-year-old who picks up a sharp knife may pitch a fit when his mom takes it away, but children do not need to play with knives. If we never do anything to upset a child, then we will turn a spoiled (and dangerous) brat loose on the world.

Never correct children. Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten” (Revelation 3:19). Proper discipline is not the provoking God forbids.

Never tell children that something is off limits or wrong. Those who practice the works of the flesh will not enter into the kingdom (Galatians 5:19–21). When we restrict children from such things, they may become upset, but this is what parents are supposed to do.

Never make a child do what he does not want to do. Many children detest chores, and may get bent out of shape when asked to do them, but having a child clean his room is good parenting.

Never tell a child “No, you cannot do that,” even when the matter is not sinful. Children may throw a tantrum when refused a toy from Walmart or a pair of shoes from the mall, but they have not been unduly provoked. God gives parents that authority. Children are to obey parents, not vice versa (Ephesians 6:1).

Parents do provoke their children to wrath when they do the following:

Show partiality/favoritism. Favoring or giving special treatment to one child over another can cause anger toward both the parents and the pampered child. This happened in Jacob’s family when Jacob favored Joseph over his other sons (Genesis 37).

Ask children for their opinion, but consistently disregard it. Parents need to be honest. If they have no intention of seriously considering what the child has to say, they should not ask for suggestions.

Compare children with each other or with children in other families. This can take the form of a question: “Why can’t you be more like your sister?” This understandably makes children angry. Children want to be treated like individuals. Exhort them to do the right things and give their best effort based on Bible principles and reaching their own potential.

Belittle them in front of peers or adults. This is insensitive, regardless of whether done to a five-year-old or an adult.

Use insulting names. People say hurtful things in anger they do not mean and later regret. Insulting children, even in jest, is unwise.

Make all decisions for them. When children are small, parents naturally make most of their decisions. A time comes, though, when parents should let children with their distinct personalities and interests make some decisions. Some provoke teens by dictating to them where they go to college, what occupation to pursue, or what color clothes to wear.

Take no interest in their interests. Children feel hurt when parents do not get excited about their hobbies, sports, and school activities. They feel neglected when they do not attend their activities.

There are likely other ways parents unduly provoke children. Perhaps these illustrations will help parents avoid pitfalls in leading children in the path to heaven. —Roger Campbell

Kids’ View of Love

Concerning why lovers often hold hands: “They want to make sure their rings don’t fall off because they paid good money for them.” —Gavin, age 8

“I’m in favor of love as long as it doesn’t happen when ‘Dinosaurs’ is on television.” —Jill, age 6

“Love is foolish, but I still might try it sometime.” —Floyd, age 9

“Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I’ve been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me.” —Dave, age 8



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

My Drug Problem

I had a drug problem when I was young.

I was drug to church on Sunday mornings; I was drug back on Sunday nights. I was even drug to Bible classes.

I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions, no matter the weather. I was drug out of bed to go to school every weekday.

I was drug “by my ears” when disrespectful to adults and teachers. I was drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those drugs are still in my veins; they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin, and break no laws in administration or consumption.

—Anonymous

“Train up a child in the way he should go.”

PROVERBS 22:6

His Hands

A baby’s hands in Bethlehem were small and softly curled,

But held within their dimpled grasp the hope of all the world.

A carpenter’s hands in Nazareth were skilled with tools and wood;

They laid the beams of simple homes and found their labor good.

A healer’s hands in Galilee were stretched to all who came

For Him to cleanse their hidden wounds or cure the blind and lame.

Long, long ago the hands of Christ were nailed upon a tree,

But still their holy touch redeems the hearts of you and me! —Anonymous



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

We Go Everywhere Together

Bill Snell was a successful businessman. He owned and operated a large furniture store. Bill was president of a civic club and a member of the school board.

He was a devoted husband and father. Bill was especially close to his son, Jerry. They were constant companions. Sometimes Jerry “worked” with his dad at the store. The boy was called “Mr. Jerry” by many customers. Someone said, “Jerry’s smile sold more furniture than all his dad’s good words.”

There was one place Bill and Jerry never went together. Bill never accompanied his wife and son to worship. Jerry often asked his dad to go, but Bill was always “too busy.”

Jerry loved Bible school. He liked his teacher and was one of her most attentive students. One Lord’s day, the teacher asked, “When you get to heaven, what are you going to do first?” Without hesitation, Jerry replied, “I’m not going to heaven! I’m going with my dad. We go everywhere together.”

Not long after, Jerry’s teacher told Mr. Snell about his son’s remark. Bill said, “That’s just like him. He always wants to be with me . . . to go where I go.”

She gently asked, “Where are you going, Mr. Snell? Where are you taking

Jerry?” Bill never answered. Nevertheless, the question kept ringing in his ears. Happily, Bill soon responded to the Lord and put on Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:27). He became a faithful and dedicated Christian.

He and Jerry could now go everywhere together. What about you and me? Where are we taking our children?

—Phil Sanders

*“The father shall make known
Your truth to the children.”*

ISAIAH 38:19



What Is It?

Perspective makes all the difference. The way we view what surrounds us often depends on what we have learned and experienced. The following imaginary episode illustrates this principle.

Imagine God standing in front of a classroom of men and women. He draws on the blackboard a vertical line over a horizontal line. “What do you see?” He asks.

“The intersection of two streets?” answered an engineer.

“No! It’s a geometrical figure made up of four right angles,” argued a mathematician.

“Of course not!” said a historian. “It’s a cross, ancient Rome’s apparatus of torture.”

At this, a Christian said, “That’s a cross—Christ’s instrument of love!” For

the Christian, what really matters is the love of God in Christ Jesus.

*“And that he might reconcile both
unto God in one body by the cross.”*

EPHESIANS 2:16



THE ORGANIZATION OF THE *New Testament Church*



Universally, the church has no earthly hierarchy. According to Scripture, the church has no earthly head, no pope, no presiding bishop, no ecclesiastical synod, council, or convention to formulate and legislate for it.

Christ, in heaven, is the sole head of the church. He is all and in all (Colossians 3:11). He is Lord of lords and King of kings, with all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:36; 17:7; Ephesians 1:22–23; 4:5; Philippians 2:5–11; 1 Peter 3:22).

Locally, the Lord has organized His church. Such consists of *elders* (Acts 15:4; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9; Hebrews 13:7), *deacons* (1 Timothy 3:8–13), *evangelists* (2 Timothy 4:5; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 10:13–17), and *members* (Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:13–27).

Philippians 1:1 presents this simple but beautiful organization: “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ (*evangelists*) to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi [*members*], with the bishops [*elders*] and deacons [*special servants*].”

With this organization, and each fulfilling his responsibilities, the (a) elders lead and rule (Acts 20:28–30; 1 Peter 5:1–2; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17). The entire work of the local congregation is under their direct supervision (Acts 11:27–30). The (b) members are in subjection to them (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17), working and supplying (Romans 12:4–8; Ephesians 4:15–16) (c) deacons, special servants in the local congregation who serve (Acts 6:1–8), and (d) evangelists, who preach (2 Timothy 4:1–8).

The Lord’s plan of organization is adequate. This simple organization was adequate to take care of every responsibility and challenge the early church had: local benevolence (Acts 6:1–6), away-from-home benevolence (Acts 11:27–30), evangelism (1 Timothy 3:15; Colossians 1:23; Acts 8:4), doctrinal questions (Acts 15:1–35), and edification (Ephesians 4:15–16).

God intended for this church to stand as long as the earth stands (Ephesians 3:21; Hebrews 12:28; Daniel 2:44). The apostles taught that the truth of the first century would continue throughout the centuries (2 Timothy 2:2) and warned against departing from it (1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; Acts 20:28–32).

We conclude that this organization is adequate for the church in this century.

—Wendell Winkler

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 25:10

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Bible Facts" 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. 25:8 Rulers in the Bible: 1. Herod (Acts 12:21–23); 2. Josiah (2 Kings 22:1); 3. Ahasuerus (Esther 2:16–18); 4. Saul (1 Samuel 31:4); 5. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:5–6); 6. David (1 Kings 2:1–2); 7. Herod (Matthew 2:19–20); 8. Solomon (1 Kings 11:42); 9. Ahaziah (2 Chronicles 22:1–3); 10. Josiah (2 Kings 23:29–30).

Starts with the Letter "R": 1. Rabbi (John 3:2); 2. Rachel (Genesis 29:5–6, 16); 3. Rainbow (Genesis 9:13–14); 4. Ram (Genesis 22:13); 5. Raven (Genesis 8:7); 6. Rebekah (Genesis 24:67); 7. Red Sea (Exodus 13:18; 14:21–22).

V. 25:9 A Mixed Bag of Questions: 1. He cut off a stick and threw it in the water (2 Kings 6:6); 2. Jesus, Peter (Matthew 14:25, 29); 3. Elijah (1 Kings 17:1; 18:42, 45); 4. Belshazzar (Daniel 1:7); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:23); 6. Disputed about the body of Moses (Jude 1:9); 7. Rachel (Genesis 31:34); 8. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:12–13); 9. 2 (John 1:1); 10. His hand withered, so that he could not pull it back (1 Kings 13:4); 11. Belshazzar (Daniel 5:1–6); 12. Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:8–11); 13. Thyatira (Revelation 2:18–20); 14. Vashti (Esther 1:10–12); 15. Upper room, guestchamber, Jerusalem (Mark 14:15); 16. So they could be heard when they went into the holy place and so they did not die (Exodus 28:35); 17. 850 (450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah) (1 Kings 18:19); 18. Lystra (Acts 14:8, 19).

Starts with the Letter "Z"

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 19:29; Numbers 1:9; 27:1–11; Deuteronomy 2:20; 29:23; Joshua 3:16; 2 Samuel 5:7; 8:17; 19:24–30; 1 Kings 17:9; 22:10–11; Ezra 3:2–8; 5:1; Esther 5:10–14; Matthew 4:21–22; Luke 1:13; 6:15; 19:2–4; John 2:17. Questions are from the New King James Version.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus _____ | 11. One of the twelve tribes of Israel _____ |
| 2. The father of John the Baptizer _____ | 12. A prophet in the days of Ezra who wrote a book of the Bible _____ |
| 3. A high priest in the time of David _____ | 13. A false prophet who advised Ahab to attack Syria _____ |
| 4. Ammonite name for giants Jews called Rephaim _____ | 14. Had five daughters who asked to inherit his property _____ |
| 5. Place where Elijah lodged with a widow _____ | 15. The wife of Haman who suggested building gallows _____ |
| 6. Place where Jordan rose up as "a heap" _____ | 16. Main builder of Israel's second temple _____ |
| 7. Disciples thought of this when Jesus cleansed the temple _____ | 17. The city of David _____ |
| 8. Simon the _____ was one of Jesus' disciples. | 18. Servant of Mephibosheth, returned to David during Absalom's revolt _____ |
| 9. The father of James and John _____ | |
| 10. A city destroyed at the same time as Sodom and Gomorrah _____ | |

Visual Aids

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day.
I'd rather one would walk with me than merely show the way.
The eye's the better pupil, more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing, but example is always clear.

The best of all the preachers are the men who live their creed.
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
If you let me watch you do it, I can see just how it's done.
I can see your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.

And the sermons you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson from observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live. —Edgar A. Guest

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:14-16

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?

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

I would like:



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☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

Featured Tracts!

- ☐ Asleep in a Storm
- ☐ In Pursuit of Godliness
- ☐ The Restoration Plea
- ☐ What Will We Leave Behind?



More subjects:



☐ A Brief Introduction to the Bible



☐ Give Your Tobacco to a Billy Goat



☐ Your House Is on Fire!



☐ Is the Church Jesus Built on the Earth Today?



☐ Learning to Listen May Save Your Marriage



☐ Glorifying God as Men Young and Old



☐ God's Insurance Plan



☐ Should Christians Celebrate Christmas as a Holy Day?



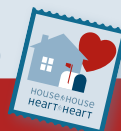
☐ Babel's Rebel

Don't see the topic you need?

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VOLUME 25:10

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



How Do We Know That **Jesus Christ** Is the **Son of God**?

While there is ample historical evidence that there was a man named Jesus of Nazareth who lived in the first century, some question if we can believe His claims to be the Christ, the Son of God.

The best record of His life, the Bible, gives more than enough evidence: fulfilled prophecies, the record of His miracles, and the testimony of His followers.

The fulfilled prophecies of the Old Testament, accomplished in the life and ministry of Jesus, are a major reason to believe His claims.

The prophet Micah predicted, “Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2). Although Mary and Joseph were residents of Nazareth, through God’s providence they went to Bethlehem before Jesus was born.

Jesus’ birth to the virgin Mary also fulfilled Isaiah’s words: “The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Jesus fulfilled many prophecies in His death. Psalm 22:16–18 predicts of the Messiah, “The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”

John 19:23–24 describes the parting of His garments and the casting of lots at the crucifixion, “that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” Even the price of His betrayal, thirty pieces of silver, was prophesied over five hundred years before. “I said to them, ‘If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.’ So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver” (Zechariah 11:12).

The signs and miracles that Jesus performed show that He is the Son of God. Jesus showed power over nature by turning water to wine and calming the sea. He showed power over sickness by healing lepers, giving sight to the blind, and making the lame walk. He showed power over death by raising Lazarus and others. His own resurrection from the dead proved conclusively His authority over death.

Peter told Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). When threatened by the opponents of Christ, Peter and John replied, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19–20).

The apostles at first had trouble believing Christ’s resurrection, but after seeing Jesus alive were willing to risk their lives for their faith. Peter said, “We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). —**Bob Prichard**



Jesus the Great

The world has called several men “great,” such as Alexander the Great and Herod the Great. They were great in power, courage, and military or political skill, but were not great in a spiritual sense.

Jesus is by far the greatest man who ever lived. None less than an angel from heaven announced, “He will be great” in foretelling His birth (Luke 1:32). The Bible also refers to John the Baptizer as “great” (Luke 1:15), and he felt unworthy to even unlatch Jesus’ sandal (Luke 3:16).

Of Jesus it was said, “Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). He truly is “wonderful.”

- His birth was the greatest of any man (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–23; Hebrews 1:6).
- His life was the greatest ever lived (Hebrews 4:15; 5:8; 1 Peter 2:22; Philippians 2:8).
- His teaching was the greatest of any (Matthew 7:28–29; John 7:46; Colossians 2:3).
- His death was the greatest of any (John 15:13; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:25–27). It caused a thief to repent (Luke 23:42) and a hardened pagan soldier to marvel (Mark 15:39).

The question remains, “What do you think of Christ?” Who is Jesus to you? What roles does He fulfill for you? Does His Word rule your heart?

Do your actions reflect your love for Him? Do you sacrifice for His cause? The Lamb of God now invites; the Lion of Judah will one day return. —**Allen Webster**



Tonight, This Book Saved Me

"May God bless the man who placed this book here. I am a young lady twenty-one years old, fatherless and motherless. Tonight, this book saved me from taking a wrong step. May the next reader find in it the comfort that I did."

These words were found on the flyleaf of a Bible in a motel in Birmingham, Alabama. The Bible is the one book that can save many a heartache. There is no greater accomplishment in life than to be able to rightly divide the word of truth. It is worth all the necessary sacrifice.

One can never be truly great who does not know the Word, love it, live it, delight in it, and teach it without perversion or misrepresentation. The one who studies and knows how to handle it is in a position to render the greatest service to the world.

No wonder Paul told Timothy (1) to study, (2) to be a worker, and (3) to seek to be approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15). There is no higher ambition on earth.

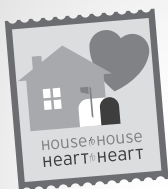
The one who seeks to know the Bible will endeavor to study its contents book by book, meet its characters as they unfold through its pages, and study its types, doctrine, topics, paragraphs, sentences, and words. This is a lifetime work.

The Bible is a mirror that enables us to see ourselves. It is food that supplies the strength we need, a lamp to guide our way, a hammer to break and to build, a sword to fight and to defend, the seed to plant and grow, and the goal to own and to become our reward. —Franklin Camp



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