

www.housetohouse.com

# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 4

## Centerville Road CHURCH of CHRIST

1102 East Centerville Road  
Garland, TX 75041  
Phone: (972) 278-3179  
Email: centervilleroad@gmail.com  
Web: www.centervilleroad.org

### 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.



## Did You See What Happened SUNDAY?

Allen Webster

The view from the pulpit is often interesting. People are so used to watching unresponsive TV and computer screens that they forget preachers can see them! After a while, the unexpected becomes commonplace, and preachers can keep composure though “the walls come tumbling down.”

When Christians gather for worship on the Lord's day, something special happens. Their common bond is strengthened as in unity they pour out their hearts' gratitude to their Savior. It is a time of worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), rejoicing (Psalm 118:24), examination (2 Corinthians 13:5) and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47). It is the week's beginning and the week's highlight—nothing else done in the next hundred and fifty hours equals it. We understand why Paul once delayed a journey for seven days so he could worship the Lord on the Lord's day with the Lord's people (Acts 20:4-7).

People of all ages are usually present: babies, children, teens, young adults,

families, singles, empty-nest couples, senior saints, and widows/widowers. Each comes to express a common love for an uncommon God; each feels a universal thirst for eternal truth. While worship is formal and congregational, it is neither cold nor impersonal (in “spirit,” John 4:24). Personalities are involved, and that can make it interesting. This past Lord's day we had an uncommon service. You should have seen what happened.

### A BABY CRIED

Occasionally someone frowns when a child cries during services, but most of us smile. Good mothers (and fathers) recognize the need to take a child out to avoid disturbing others, but we do not want them to feel self-conscious. We are glad it happens! What if no baby had cried Sunday? It would have meant there were no babies there; for all babies cry. No church wants to be that quiet—a tomb is quieter than a nursery, but who wants to worship in a cemetery? A church without children is a church with its best days behind instead of ahead. If no babies had cried





Sunday, it might also have indicated that parents saw no need to train the next generation in the Lord's ways (Ephesians 6:4). Good parents want their children to learn about God from their youngest days on planet Earth (cf. Matthew 18:1–3; 19:13–14). They do not want them to be able to remember the first time they came to worship. We know they will eventually learn to be quiet, but for now we are glad to hear them.

#### **A SISTER LEFT EARLY FOR WORK**

In a perfect world, all businesses would close so that every person could exalt the name of God in worship each Lord's day (Psalm 34:3). We will worship freely in heaven, but it is not that way on earth. Christians are sometimes forced to make decisions.

This sister had to be at work before the service ended. What to do? She could have skipped and told others that she "had to work." She could have slept in, had plenty of time to get ready, left in time to avoid traffic, and got a bite to eat before her shift. Instead she chose to get up early, be in Bible class, sing to God, open her heart to Him in prayer, thank Him for Christ's sacrifice during communion, give Him part of last week's check, and listen to His Word.

She sat near the back so as not to disturb others when she exited a few minutes before the sermon ended. Therefore, not everyone saw her "sermon on priorities" (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1–2), but it did not go unnoticed in heaven.

#### **PAGES RUSTLED**

As the herald preached the word (2 Timothy 4:2), hearers searched the

Scriptures to find out whether these things were so (Acts 17:11). Far from offending him, it was music to his ears. Jesus found "the place where it was written" (Luke 4:17), and so should we. Some may joke that their favorite words in a sermon are "in conclusion," but most Christians are thirsty for the Word (1 Peter 2:2) and hungering for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). They bring their Bibles, read their Bibles, mark their Bibles, memorize their Bibles, and live by their Bibles.

#### **A SISTER NODDED**

No one except the evangelist probably noticed, but a faithful sister nodded in agreement with a sermon point. She would not speak out to say "amen" like her husband (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11), but she encouraged the preacher just as much without saying a word. Nods also help others in the audience to know that the sermon is expressing both the preacher's convictions and those of other Christians.

#### **A CHILD TOOK NOTES**

Any parent knows that "out of the mouths of babes" come profound statements. Often "a little child" has led God's people (cf. Isaiah 11:6). Most churches can point to some young people whose example is worth imitating by those much older (1 Timothy 4:12).

Last Sunday a child was interested enough to take notes (cf. 1 Timothy 3:15). There is nothing so unusual about that—when a visual aid is used (old-time sheet charts or modern slide show presentations), little eyes are always paying attention, and little hands are often copying those words. They may not yet fully comprehend the concepts, but the seed is planted; the foundation is laid; the base color is on the canvas. One day fruit will ripen, the structure will stand, and the painting will be perfected.

These very notes may become fresh classes and sermons for another generation of children. Some in pulpits now still occasionally use notes written with childish letters on yellowing paper. These notes have been "born again" into lessons for those who were not even born

when the notes were first taken. The truth never ages; it only needs recycling.

#### **A CHRISTIAN WORSHIPED FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Baptized on Tuesday, a young man worshiped with the church for the first time Sunday. God cleansed him from sin, set him in the church, and watched with interest as he bowed his soul in adoration (Acts 22:16; John 4:24). If the Lord delays His return, and his days are prolonged, this is probably only one of 10,000 times he will offer public worship to his Creator (Hebrews 10:25). It was a beautiful first step on a long journey and the opening note in a grand symphony.

#### **THOSE FROM "EIGHT TO EIGHTY" COMMITTED TO READ THE BIBLE**

About this time each year, we encourage each member to commit to read the whole Bible in 365 days. On Sunday, more than a hundred agreed to do so. The youngest is just under eight years old and will read the Bible for the first time. Perhaps this is the first of fifty or more times this mind will have the cleansing Water of Life purify its recesses.

The oldest is past eighty and may be reading it for the last time. Of course, we hope that each on the list will live to read it many more times, but for each there will come a last time (Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14). This aging saint may be reading the Bible for the one hundredth time. Its words are familiar; its cover is worn and its pages creased. It has fed, warmed, guided, encouraged, emboldened, and edified through all the rough mountains and valleys of life. Yet the Bread of Life has never grown stale.

#### **TEARS FLOWED**

Christian love often finds itself expressed in both laughter and tears, as it did with Jesus and the early Christians (Luke 19:41; Acts 20:37). God's Word touched good and honest hearts, and souls responded Sunday to the Lord's invitation. Joyful tears flowed over one sinner who has turned from error (cf. James 5:16, 19–20).

That is what happened Sunday! Insignificant? You be the judge.



# Are There Ethical Concerns with Human Cloning?

The word *clone* comes from a Greek word meaning “sprout” or “twig,” and as used today it refers to the reproduction of another creature by scientific procedures apart from normal reproductive processes.

Milestones in animal cloning include the cloning of frogs in 1952 and the sheep “Dolly” in 1997. Human cloning would involve the removal of the nucleus of an unfertilized human egg and replacement of that nucleus with the nucleus of another human being, thus giving the new fertilized egg the DNA of the person contributing the nucleus. The hoped-for result would be a new person who would be an exact genetic copy of the original. In theory, this could then be repeated numerous times, producing unlimited genetic copies.

Human cloning, along with embryonic stem cell harvesting, is offered as a potential lifesaving opportunity. A cloned human being could produce exact genetic “spare parts” for a dying or injured person or could replace a dead loved one. Having a number of genetically identical human beings to use in experiments could also advance medical research.

There are many practical and ethical problems with human cloning. Early testing of the technology will no doubt have many failures, as happened in early animal experiments. There would certainly be many children thus produced who would have significant physical problems and deformities, as well as significant psychological problems.

Many questions about ultimate responsibility for the care, training, and health of cloned humans would arise. Children produced outside the normal family

would face many risks. The creation of clones according to some predetermined plan is much like what Hitler attempted. He sought to produce a “master race” through what his scientists called “eugenics.” Even though a cloned human would be an exact genetic copy, the clone would not be the same person, due to having different environmental factors, training, and life experiences, as well as being much younger than the original.

Genesis 1:26–27 describes the creation of the first humans:

God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The man and woman were created in the image of God and were not the result of animal evolution. Human life must be respected more than animal life.

Cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and similar scientific studies may offer some potential benefit to mankind, but they of necessity involve the sacrifice of human life and experimentation on humans without their consent. It is God who “gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25).

Man, no matter what his motivation, does not have the right to take the life of one person for the benefit of another. Among the things that God hates is “hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:17). —Bob Prichard

## Things about the Church of Christ That Surprise People

The church of Christ has no “creed book.”

Often someone says, “You mean you follow only the Bible?” or “How do you know what to do without a creed book?” Why is this surprising? They are surprised because most religious people have been under the influence of prayer books, creed books, manuals, disciplines, and articles of faith since youth. However, the Bible states that the Scriptures supply all we need spiritually (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3). Jesus said His Word will judge us in the last day, not man’s (John 12:48). “Come and see” (John 1:39).



## 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





## The Best Sermon

Many years ago, a farmer had an unusually fine crop of grain. Just a few days before it was ready to harvest, a terrible hail and windstorm destroyed it. The farmer and his son went out on the porch after the storm. The little boy looked at what was formerly the beautiful field of wheat, and with tears in his eyes looked up at his dad, expecting to hear words of despair. All at once his father started to sing softly, "Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee." Years after, when the little boy had grown to manhood, he said, "That was the greatest sermon I ever heard." The farmer lost a grain crop but gained a faithful son.

*"You are the light of the world. . . .  
Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven"*

MATTHEW 5:14, 16

## That Is the Spirit!

A little leaguer was playing outfield in the first game of the season. After he had chased a long hit and hustled the ball back into the infield, someone asked him how his team was doing and what the score was. The boy said his team was doing OK, but they were trailing seventeen to zero. The person asked if he was discouraged about being so far behind and if he was ready to admit defeat. He came back immediately with this retort: "We are not beaten. . . . We haven't even been up to bat yet!"

*"This is the victory that has  
overcome the world—our faith"*

1 JOHN 5:4

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).

# First-Century Christianity

Is it possible for people living today simply to be New Testament Christians? Can we be first-century Christians in the twenty-first century? So much is said today about "change"—and much change is evident. Computers, communications, and candidates are constantly changing. Must the gospel be changed to fit a changing world, or is the message of Christ's sacrifice still enough for today (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)?

**Man has not changed.** In what is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible (Job), Job's friend said that man "drinks iniquity like water!" (Job 15:16). That could be a description of people today. People now struggle with the same greed, lust, and bitterness as those of previous generations. Human nature today is as it was yesterday. Man has always been given the choice of good or evil (Deuteronomy 11:26) and has always—to some degree—chosen evil (Romans 3:23).

**Man's problem has not changed.** In Noah's days people were wicked; "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). In our day sin is still our problem. Man is sinful, ungodly. "There is not a just

man on earth who does good and does not sin" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). There is not even one among accountable people who has not sinned (Romans 3:10, 23). Our problem is a common problem—*sin*.

**Man's hope has not changed.** Jesus is our only hope. Paul spoke of "Christ . . . the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Jesus "bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). Without this death man would be without hope. "Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). Man's hope is in the fact that Jesus suffered sin's penalty in man's place.

Man is the same; sin is the same; man's hope is the same. First-century Christianity is possible today. Through a return to New Testament teaching and in loving obedience to the gospel, we can be Christians only (Acts 2:36–47; Romans 6:1–6). God requires learning of Christ (Romans 10:17), belief in Christ (John 3:16), repentance of sin (Acts 2:38), confession of faith (Romans 10:9–10), and baptism (Mark 16:16). Have you obeyed the gospel? If not, now is the time!

—adapted from Charles Box



# Put a Sock in It



A young couple decided to marry. As the big day approached, they grew apprehensive. Each had a problem they had never shared with anyone, not even each other.

The groom-to-be decided to ask his father for advice. "Dad, I am concerned about the success of my marriage."

His father replied, "Don't you love her?"

"Oh yes, very much," he said, "but you see, I have very smelly feet, and I'm afraid that she will be put off by them."

"No problem," said Dad. "All you have to do is wash your feet as often as possible, and always wear socks, even to bed." This seemed a workable solution to him.

The bride-to-be decided to talk with her mother. "Mom," she said, "when I

wake up in the morning my breath is awful."

"Honey," her mother consoled, "everyone has bad breath in the morning."

"No, you don't understand. Mine is so bad that I'm afraid he will not want to sleep in the same room with me."

Her mother said, "Try this. Get straight out of bed, head for the kitchen, and make breakfast. While he is eating, move on to the bathroom and brush your teeth. The key is not to say a word until you've brushed your teeth."

"I shouldn't say 'good morning' or anything?" she asked.

"Not a word," her mother affirmed.

"Well, it's worth a try," she said.

The loving couple married. He with his perpetual socks and she with her morning silence, they managed quite well for about six months.

Shortly before dawn one morning, the husband woke to find that one of his socks had come off. Fearful of the consequences, he frantically searched the bed. This woke his bride. Without thinking, she asked, "What on earth are you doing?"

"Oh, no," he replied, "you've swallowed my sock!"

*"Let your fountain be blessed, and  
rejoice with the wife of your youth"*

PROVERBS 5:18

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



## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 25:4

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "The Recorded Miracles of Jesus" 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. 25:2** Six Things Missing in Heaven: 1. Marry (Matthew 22:30); 2. Die (Luke 20:36); 3. Every tear (Revelation 7:17); 4. Pain (Revelation 21:4); 5. Curse (Revelation 22:3); 6. Night (Revelation 22:5).

**Eight Things Found in Hell:** 1. Punishment (Matthew 25:46); 2. Destruction (Judges 4:4-9); 3. Gnashing (Matthew 13:42); 4. Fire (Mark 9:43); 5. Furnace (Matthew 13:42); 6. Devil (Matthew 25:41); 7. Chains (2 Peter 2:4); 8. Death (Revelation 20:14).

**V. 25:3** Women in the Bible: 1. Tamar (Genesis 38:12-15); 2. Rebekah (Genesis 24:15-19); 3. Delilah (Judges 16:18); 4. Jochebed (Numbers 26:59); 5. Deborah (Judges 4:4-9); 6. Jael (Judges 4:18-21); 7. Rahab (Joshua 2:1-6); 8. Miriam (Exodus 15:20); 9. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20; 2:18-21); 10. Not named (2 Kings 4:8-17); 11. Michal (2 Samuel 6:20-23); 12. Eve (Genesis 4:1-2); 13. Elizabeth (Luke 1:57-60); 14. Sarah (Genesis 21:3); 15. Rebekah (Genesis 25:21-26); 16. Rachel (Genesis 46:19); 17. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24); 18. Hagar (Genesis 16:15); 19. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20); 20. Naomi (Ruth 1:22); 21. Martha (Luke 10:38-40); 22. Miriam (Numbers 26:59); 23. Not named (Judges 9:50-55); 24. Mary (Matthew 1:16).

### Who Dared Ask God This?

**Directions:** Find answers in the following passages: Exodus 5:22; 1 Kings 17:18-20; Genesis 15:2; Numbers 16:20-22; 1 Kings 3:5-9; Exodus 3:13; 1 Samuel 30:3-8; Judges 21:2-3; Exodus 17:3-4; Joshua 7:7. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. "Why is it You have sent me?" \_\_\_\_\_
2. "O Lord my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless?" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?" \_\_\_\_\_
5. "For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" \_\_\_\_\_
6. "When I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?" \_\_\_\_\_
9. "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" \_\_\_\_\_
10. "Why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?" \_\_\_\_\_

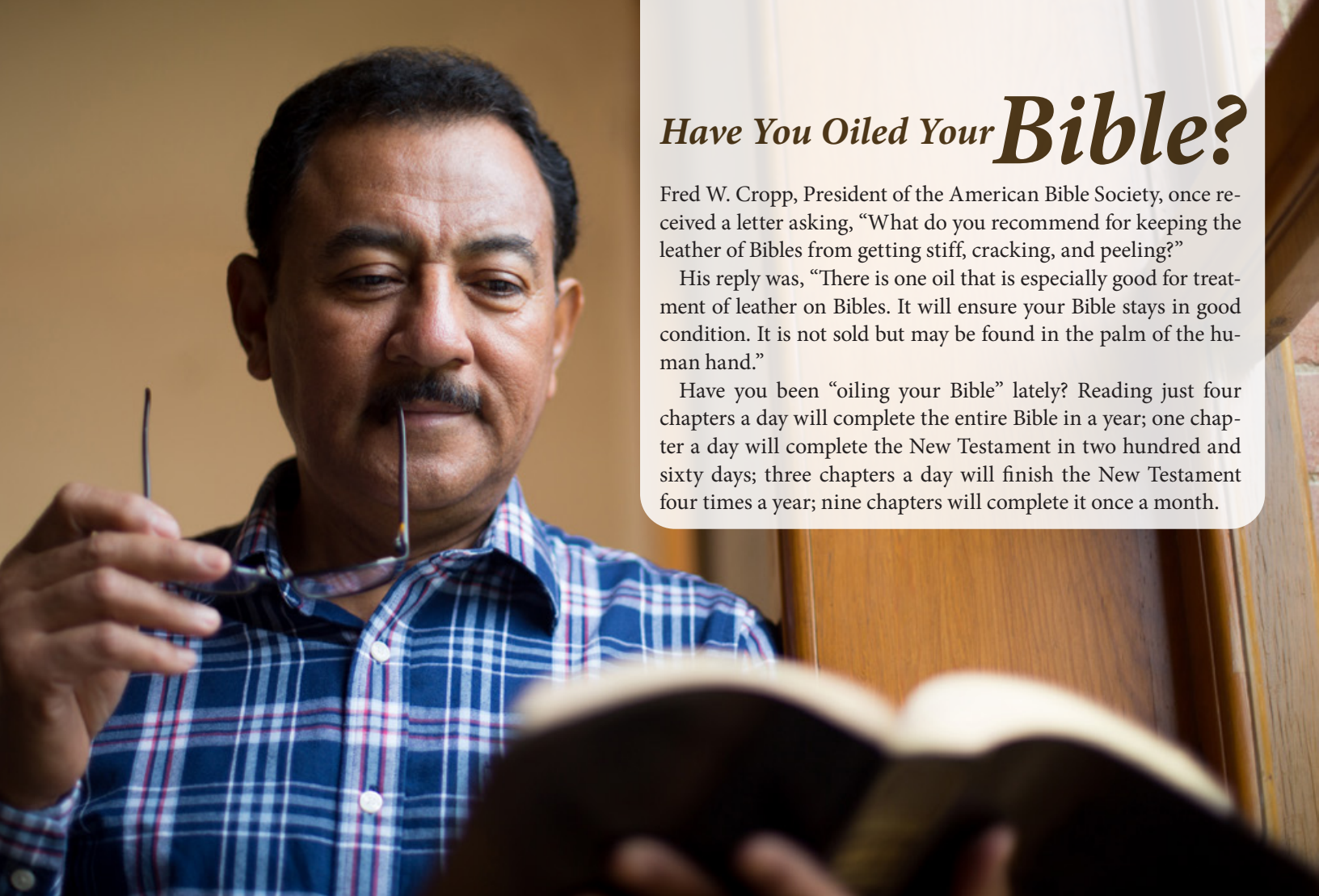
### Seven Habits of Highly Effective Christians

Find answers in 2 Peter 1:5-7 (These are not in order).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ leads the list of diligently pursued virtues.
2. Add to your faith \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Add to brotherly kindness \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Add to knowledge \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Add to godliness \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Add to perseverance \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Add to self-control \_\_\_\_\_.

www.housetohouse.com





## Have You Oiled Your *Bible*?

Fred W. Cropp, President of the American Bible Society, once received a letter asking, “What do you recommend for keeping the leather of Bibles from getting stiff, cracking, and peeling?”

His reply was, “There is one oil that is especially good for treatment of leather on Bibles. It will ensure your Bible stays in good condition. It is not sold but may be found in the palm of the human hand.”

Have you been “oiling your Bible” lately? Reading just four chapters a day will complete the entire Bible in a year; one chapter a day will complete the New Testament in two hundred and sixty days; three chapters a day will finish the New Testament four times a year; nine chapters will complete it once a month.

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!**

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

## Featured Tracts!

- ☐ In the Way He Should Go
- ☐ Investing Time Wisely
- ☐ Closet Christianity
- ☐ How to Stop Worrying



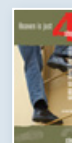
### More subjects:



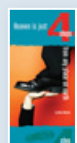
☐ 5 Animals You Won't Meet in Heaven



☐ What To Do With Wandering Sheep



☐ Heaven Is Just 4 Steps Away Part 3



☐ Heaven Is Just 4 Steps Away Part 4



☐ Have You Read The Only Book God Ever Wrote



☐ Are We Rushing Through Worship?



☐ Odd Odds To Bet On



☐ Bet You Didn't Know This About Lotteries

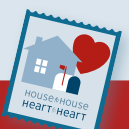


☐ Sermons A Drunk Preacher Preached

Don't see the topic you need?

Visit [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com) for more subjects.

VOLUME 25:4





# On a Hill Far Away...

Few songs have words of such intensity as these written by George Bennard: "On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame." As our mind's eye catches a glimpse of Calvary, we see the great cost at which our salvation came.

Here is a story that brought tears to my eyes. The author is Tim Miller from Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania (related in *Leadership* magazine).

"My nine-year-old daughter Jennifer was looking forward to our family's mini-vacation. But when our vacation arrived, she became ill, and a long-anticipated day at Sea World was replaced by an all-night series of CAT scans, X-rays, and blood work at a hospital.

As morning approached, the doctors told my exhausted little girl that she needed to have one more test, a spinal tap. The procedure would be painful, they said. The doctor then asked me if I planned to stay in the room. I nodded my head, knowing I could not leave Jennifer alone during the ordeal.

The doctors gently asked Jennifer to remove all her clothing. She looked at me with childlike modesty as if to ask if that were all right. Then they had her curl into a tiny ball. I moved my face as close to hers as I could and hugged her.

When the needle went in, Jennifer cried. As the searing pain increased, she sobbed and cried repeatedly, "Dad-

dy, Daddy, Daddy," her voice becoming more earnest with each word. It was as if she was saying, "Oh, Daddy, this hurts soooo bad. Please, can't you do something?"

My tears mingled with hers. My heart was broken. I felt nauseated. Because I loved her, I was allowing her to go through the most agonizing experience of her life, and I could hardly stand it. (We later learned that Jennifer's illness was not serious.)

In the middle of the spinal tap, my thoughts went to the cross of Christ. What unspeakable pain both the Son and the Father went through at the cross for our sakes (2 Corinthians 9:15)."

We owe a debt that can never be fully paid—the best we can do is give ourselves as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1–2).

—Garvis Semore



## Seven Ages of Man

R. M. Cornelius identifies "Seven Ages of Man":

- 6 weeks—all systems go
- 6 years—all systems "No!"
- 16 years—all systems know
- 26 years—all systems glow
- 36 years—all systems owe
- 56 years—all systems status quo
- 76 years—all systems slow

I do not know about you, but it shocks me to see that I am already firmly entrenched in the fifth age—all systems owe. Where has the time gone? Surely Job knew what he was talking about when he said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6).

The most precious commodity we have is not silver or gold, but time. John Randolph reminds us that "time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all possessions." When we squander it on things that do not matter, we are foolish. Paul warns, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15–17). The days we are living in are evil with sin rampant in our world. Still, Ralph Waldo Emerson said that "this time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." What we need to help us use our time wisely is a heavenly perspective: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1–3).

What will you do with time? I find Henry Thoreau's observation thoughtful: "As if you could kill time without injuring eternity." Will we "injure eternity"? We are each given twenty-four precious hours daily. Whatever age we find ourselves in, whether 6 or 76, we must serve faithfully. —Bob Prichard

*"Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not disdain it"*

PROVERBS 8:33

www.housetohouse.com



## How to Live a HAPPY LIFE

1. Serve others (Galatians 5:13).
2. Throw out nonessential numbers. These include age, weight, and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.
3. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
4. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, or whatever interests you. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop."
5. Enjoy the simple things. When the children are young, that is all you can afford. When they are in college, that is all you can afford. When you are on retirement, that is all you can afford!
6. Laugh often, long, and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Laugh so much that you can be tracked in a store by the noise.
7. Tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with you your entire life is you. Be alive while you are alive—do not put out a mailbox on the highway of death and just wait in residence for your mail.
8. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, or hobbies. Your home is your refuge.
9. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
10. Do not take guilt trips. Go to the mall, the next county, or a foreign country, but do not go to a "guilt country."
11. At every opportunity, tell the people you love that you do love them.
12. Worship God faithfully (John 4:24).

*"These things I have spoken to you,  
that My joy may remain in you,  
and that your joy may be full."*

JOHN 15:11



Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.

Most Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## What Do You Look for in a Church?

Are you looking for a church home? With a church building on every corner, how do we decide where to attend?

Some pick a church based on how close by it is, the programs it has for families, or where their friends go. Is there a better way—a more biblical way? Can we find a church that looks like the one in the New Testament?

Do you want help choosing a church? Do you have questions about what is taught and practiced where you attend?

Here is a test you can give a church before placing membership:  
**[housetohouse.com/church](http://housetohouse.com/church)**

