



House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 5

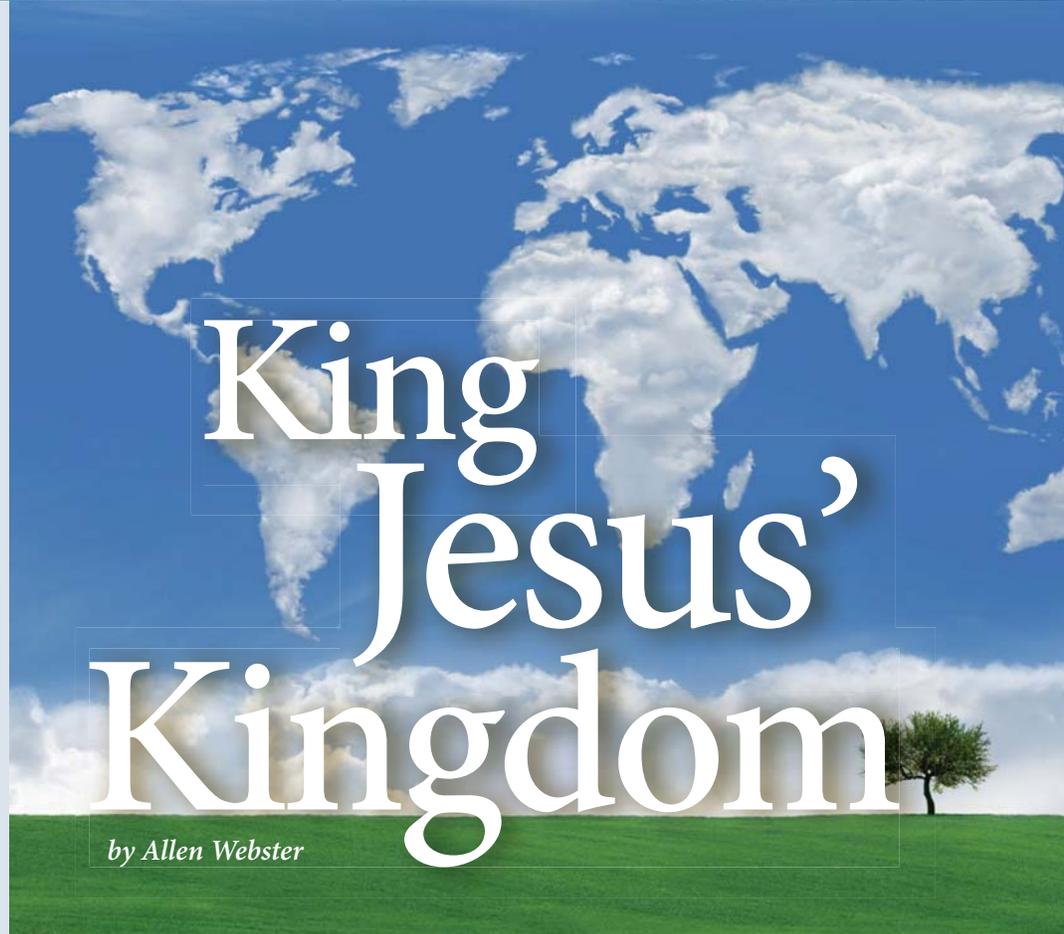
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A publication of the... Churches of Christ

- Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18
- Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5
- Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2
- Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22
- Organization:
 - Christ as head – Eph. 5:23
 - Elders oversee local church – Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5
 - Deacons as servants – Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13
 - Members compose body – Col. 1:2
- Name (group):
 - Church of God – Eph. 3:15
 - Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23
 - Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16
 - Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4
- Name (individuals):
 - Disciples – John 15:8
 - Saints – Rm. 1:7
 - Brethren – Lk. 8:21
 - Children of God – Gal. 4:26
 - Christian – Acts 11:25-26
- Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37
- Rule of Faith & Practice:
 - Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Worship: Jn. 4:24
 - Sing – Eph. 5:19
 - Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
 - Teach – Acts 5:42
 - Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26
 - Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2
- Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16
- Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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King Jesus' Kingdom

by Allen Webster

Kingdom is found in the Bible 342 times (158 in the New Testament; 127 in the Accounts of the Gospel, 31 in Acts through Revelation).

The kingdom was a popular topic for sermons among New Testament preachers. John, Jesus' announcer, preached the kingdom (Matthew 3:2). John, Jesus' apostle, preached the kingdom (Revelation 1:9). Jesus preached the kingdom (Matthew 4:17). The twelve apostles preached the kingdom (Matthew 10:7). The seventy preached it (Luke 10:9). Philip preached it (Acts 8:12). Barnabas preached it (Acts 14:20-22). Paul preached it (Acts 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31). James preached it (James 2:5). Peter preached it

(2 Peter 1:11). So at least 90 of the early preachers preached the same subject. It must be an important subject for us to preach today.

I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?

Kingdom (*basileia*) in the New Testament means "reign" or "rule." The term "kingdom of God" is used synonymously by the New Testament writers with "kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:23-24; 4:17; Mark 1:14). In fact, in the Scriptures kingdom refers to the kingdom of God, the kingdom of Christ, and the kingdom of heaven. These phrases do not refer to three different kingdoms, but to the same institution. >>



Jesus is offering citizenship in His kingdom right now

- It is God’s kingdom because He planned and promised it (Daniel 2:44).
- It is the Son’s because the Father gave it to Him (Daniel 7:13–14; John 16:15; Philippians 2:9–11; Ephesians 1:20–22).
- It is the kingdom of heaven because it originated there, Christ now reigns over it from there (Acts 2:30–36), and ultimately all the citizens of the kingdom will be united there (John 14:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:24).

Both “kingdom of God” and “kingdom of heaven” can refer to either the church of Christ on earth or to heaven; the meaning must be determined by the context (Matthew 16:18–19; Hebrews 12:22–28; Luke 22:16–18, 29–30; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:20).

II. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM?

There are two types of kingdoms—physical and spiritual. The kingdom of Christ is spiritual. It is not of this world (John 18:36). It “cometh not with observation” (Luke 17:20). It “is within you” (Luke 17:21); that is, it rules in men’s hearts.

Since Christ’s kingdom is a spiritual one, a birth different from what is normally required for citizenship is necessary to enter it. Nicodemus was informed that he would have to be born “again” to see or enter the new kingdom (John 3:3, 5). The spiritual kingdom has a physical manifestation. That is, we can see the kingdom in the sense that we can see the people who are members of it, although the world may not recognize them.

God sent Christ to establish a new kingdom and a new covenant (Matthew 3:7–9; Jeremiah 31:31–33; Hebrews 8:8–12). There are four essential elements to any kingdom:

- **A King**—We have Jesus (1 Timothy 6:14–15).
- **A Law**—We have the gospel (James 1:25).
- **Territory**—We have the whole world (Mark 16:15–16).
- **Subjects**—We are Christians (Colossians 1:13–14).

III. WHEN WAS THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED?

The kingdom is now in existence upon the earth, and has been since the time of the apostles. Paul wrote, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13–14). John was “in the kingdom” before AD 100. (Revelation 1:6–9).

To help pinpoint the exact date of its beginning, let’s back up to the lifetime of Christ. We know that it was not established during Jesus’ personal ministry, for it was then spoken of as being “at hand” or “nigh” (Matthew 3:12; 4:17; 10:5–7; Luke 10:9).

Four verses pinpoint the exact time of establishment:

- Mark 9:1: Some listening to Jesus would not die until the kingdom came with power.
- Luke 24:49: Jesus’ disciples were to wait in Jerusalem for the power.
- Acts 1:8: They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came.
- Acts 2:1–4: The Holy Spirit came on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection.

Thus the kingdom was established in Jerusalem on Pentecost Day in the year A.D. 33, as recorded in Acts 2.

This chart helps to establish the exact day the kingdom was set up on earth:

BEFORE PENTECOST:

Mark 1:15: Not existing
 Mark 9:1: Not existing
 Luke 22:29: Not existing
 Matthew 16:18: Will build
 Luke 22:30: Table in kingdom
 Luke 22:30: Disciples to eat in
 Daniel 2:44: Stand forever

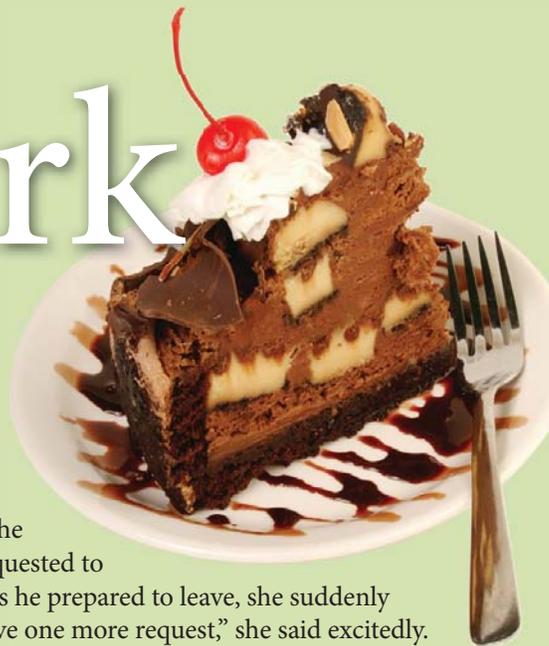
AFTER PENTECOST:

Colossians 1:13: Existed
 Hebrews 12:28: Existed
 Revelation 1:9: Existed
 Acts 2:47: Added to
 1 Corinthians 10:21: Table
 1 Corinthians 11:20: Ate
 Hebrews 12:28–29: Cannot be moved

Christ invites you to become a member of the greatest institution on earth, His kingdom (Matthew 11:28–30). As Jesus told Nicodemus, you must be born again, of water and the Spirit (John 3:1–5). This refers to being baptized in water according to the Spirit’s teachings in the New Testament (2 Timothy 3:16–17). The Spirit says one is qualified for baptism when he is a penitent believer who is willing to confess Christ’s deity (Acts 8:40–45; cf. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Jesus is offering citizenship in His kingdom right now. Won’t you take Him up on it? ❀

Keep Your Fork



A woman was diagnosed with terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her preacher to come by her house to discuss her funeral.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures to read, and what dress she wanted to be buried in. She also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible. As he prepared to leave, she suddenly remembered one more thing. “I have one more request,” she said excitedly.

“What’s that?” the preacher replied.

“This is very important,” she continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.”

The preacher looked at her, not knowing quite what to say.

“That surprises you?” she asked.

“To be honest, I am puzzled,” he replied.

The woman explained, “In all my years of attending church fellowships and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, ‘Keep your fork.’ It was my favorite part, because I knew that meant something better was coming . . . like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful! So I want people to see me in that casket with a fork in my hand. When they ask you, ‘What’s with the fork?’ Then I want you to tell them, ‘She believed the best is yet to come.’”

“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

MATTHEW 25:34

Still Going ...

In 1977, the United States launched a rocket into space.

On board was a small craft called Voyager I, a probe that was jettisoned into space to explore the planets. After Voyager finished sending back photos and data from the planet Jupiter and its neighbors, it didn’t stop working. It just kept going.

Today, over thirty years later, that tiny vehicle is still going—traveling at a speed of over 38,000 miles per hour. And it’s nearly nine billion miles from the sun. That’s mind-boggling! Brilliant scientists have sent a ship to the edge of our solar system. It’s astounding. It’s amazing.

But it’s absolutely puny when compared to what God has done. It would be like hearing someone brag to the architect of the Empire State Building that he had traveled to the second floor. We have barely begun to explore the vastness of God’s creation. But every small step by mankind should continue to put us in absolute awe of God’s power and creativity.

Think of this: While we have left the realm of one star with a spaceship, the Creator of the stars calls “them all by name” (Isaiah 40:26). After all, He made them. Exploring the universe is amazing. But exploring the God who made it all—that’s beyond amazing.

—Dave Branon

“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.”

PSALM 102:25

Do I Have to Go to Church?

Through the years, I have often had people ask me the question, “Do I have to go to all of the services of the church? I mean, what if I don’t go on Sunday night?” Well, allow me to answer that question with a few questions of my own.

- Do you have to hug and kiss your little children?
- Do you have to remember your wife’s birthday?
- Do you have to call home when you’re late coming home from work?
- Do you have to buy Christmas presents for your family?
- Do you have to attend ball games and band functions in which your children are involved?
- Do you have to attend the funeral of a close friend or loved one?
- Do you have to say, “I love you” when you love someone?

I think you see the point. Sometimes we are guilty of asking the wrong questions. There are some things in life that we don’t “have” to do, but we “get” to do. In fact, even asking the question, “Do I have to?” is terribly inappropriate.



When my relationship with God is based on what I have to do and what I don’t have to do, then I had better take a long hard look at that relationship.

—Steve Higginbotham

“If ye love me, keep my commandments”

JOHN 14:15

God’s Plan for Saving Man

God’s Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ’s Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit’s Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner’s Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner’s Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner’s Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner’s Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian’s Work	James 2:24
Christian’s Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian’s Endurance	Revelation 2:10



Religion Is Good for Children

Children with religious parents are better behaved and appear happier than children reared by parents without the influence of religious faith, a new study has shown.



The first study to examine the impact of religion on the development of young children was authored by John Bartkowski, a sociologist with Mississippi State University. Bartkowski's team questioned the parents and teachers of more than 16,000 children, asking the adults to rate the children—most of them age six—on self-control, frequency of poor or unhappy behavior, and their ability to respect and work with peers. The results were compared to the parents' rate of attendance at church services, how frequently they talked about faith with their child, and whether or not there was arguing over religion in the home.

The children of parents who regularly attended church services and talked with their child about religion were rated by both parents and teachers as showing better behavior, self-control skills, and social skills than children from non-religious families. Children whose parents both attended church regularly were rated as having the best behavior and being the most well-adjusted.

—<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2006/apr/06040508.html>

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"

MARK 10:14



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

Job Description: Parent

Position: Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma / Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop

Job Description: Long-term team players needed for challenging, permanent work in an often-chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24-hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

Responsibilities: Must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets, and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars, and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs five dollars. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute and embarrassed the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys and battery operated devices.

Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

Possibility for Advancement and Promotion: None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

Term of Service: The rest of your life.

Previous Experience: None required. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

Wages and Compensation: Get this—you pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn eighteen, because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could do more.

Benefits: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays, and no stock options are offered, this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life, if you play your cards right.

*"Happy is the man that
hath his quiver full of them."*

PSALM 127:5



Are There Degrees of Sin?



There are different types of sin, and sins have varying earthly consequences, but there are no degrees of sin. We sometimes think of “little white lies,” which we think are not as bad as other “big lies,” but the Bible simply says “all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). The eternal consequences for sin are the same for all sins, even if they are sins we think of as only “minor sins.”

John wrote that “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). To transgress the law of the land is to commit a crime. To transgress the law of God is to commit sin. The literal meaning of the word sin is “to miss the mark.” When we sin, we have missed the mark of following God’s will.

While there are no degrees of sin,

sins may still be classified in certain ways. Some sins are moral sins, such as adultery and drunkenness, specifically condemned by the Bible. Other moral sins, such as gambling, are condemned in principle by the Bible. John sums up these works of the flesh, saying, “All unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17).

Sins of commission are sins of disobedience to God’s will. When Lot and his family escaped from the wicked city of Sodom, God warned that they were not to look back. When Lot’s wife looked back, she became a pillar of salt. Her sin was not a moral sin, but it was disobedience to God’s command (Genesis 19:26).

Another type of sin is that of not doing right—sins of omission. It is not good enough just to refrain from doing those things God has condemned. We must also do what God has commanded. James wrote, “To him that knoweth to

do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

The Bible warns, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23); and “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The foremost problem in the world today is a sin problem. Man is a sinner, and the consequences for sin must be paid. The wonderful news, however, is that even though man sins against the infinite God, He has provided a means of escape. Paul wrote, “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). By obeying the commands of the gospel of Christ, we can have that eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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

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Bible QUIZ

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the New Testament Survey bookmark as a way of saying “thanks” for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Questions Taken from the King James Version

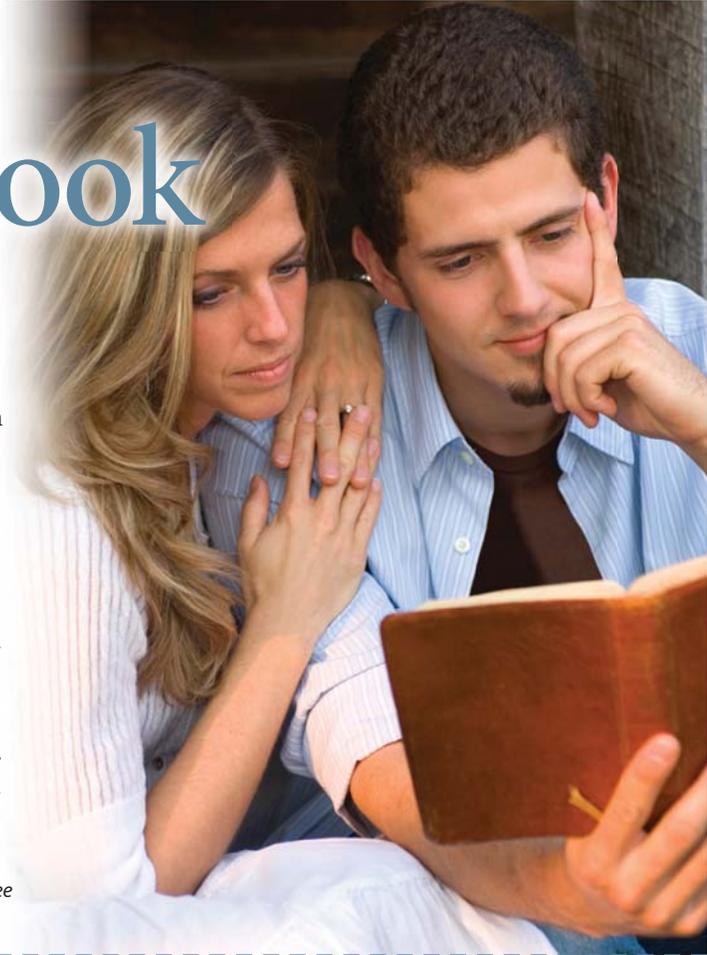
Answers to Last Issue: Old Testament Bible Characters:
 1. Elijah (1 Kings 17:5–6); 2. Noah (Genesis 6:13–14); 3. Moses (Exodus 2:5–10); 4. Leah (Genesis 29:30); 5. Eve (Genesis 3:20–22); 6. Solomon (1 Kings 3:10–13); 7. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:1–17); 8. Job (Job 1:8–9); 9. Moses (Numbers 20:8–11); 10. Abel (Genesis 4:8); 11. Enoch (Genesis 5:24); 12. Abraham (Genesis 22:1–13); 13. Samson (Judges 15:4–5); 14. Gideon (Judges 7:5–7); 15. Ruth (Ruth 1:20–22); 16. Samuel (1 Samuel 16:7–13); 17. Saul (1 Samuel 9:2); 18. Elisha (2 Kings 6:1–7); 19. Jonah (Jonah 1:17); 20. Jereboam (1 Kings 11:40); 21. David (2 Samuel 11:1–17); 22. David (1 Samuel 16:23); 23. David (1 Samuel 17:5–6); 24. David (Psalm 23:1); 25. Daniel (Daniel 6:20–21).

New Testament Bible Characters

Directions: Find your answers in these verses (not in order): Matthew 1:18; 2:16; 14:6–10; 27:2, 3–5, 21, 57–58; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 1:3 (Acts 1:1); 10:38–42; 16:20; John 1:40–42; 3:1–5; 18:10–11; Acts 2:1, 14; 4:36; 8:35; 13:6–11; 16:14–15; 18:24–26; 22:3; 24:1–9; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:20; 3 John 1:9

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ Released instead of Jesus | 14. _____ Cumbered with much serving; Mary's sister |
| 2. _____ Son of consolation; Paul's missionary companion | 15. _____ Governor who tried Jesus before crucifixion |
| 3. _____ Medical doctor who wrote biography of Jesus | 16. _____ Had babies killed in Bethlehem |
| 4. _____ Taught Lord's way more perfectly by Aquila/Priscilla | 17. _____ Preached to the Eunuch (Ethiopian treasurer) |
| 5. _____ Struck blind by Paul for hindering the gospel | 18. _____ Requested Jesus' body after crucifixion |
| 6. _____ Came to Jesus by night; taught about the new birth | 19. _____ Brought His brother Peter to Jesus |
| 7. _____ Preached the Pentecost sermon recorded in Acts 2 | 20. _____ Beheaded by Herod |
| 8. _____ Blind man healed by Jesus | 21. _____ Loved to have the preeminence |
| 9. _____ Female convert in Philippi; seller of purple | 22. _____ Argued against Paul in the presence of Felix |
| 10. _____ Poor beggar in Jesus' story about two men who died | 23. _____ Left by Paul at Miletus sick |
| 11. _____ Mother of Jesus | 24. _____ High Priest's servant whose ear Peter cut off |
| 12. _____ Saul's (later Paul) teacher in Tarsus as a boy | 25. _____ Person to whom Luke and Acts is addressed |
| 13. _____ Betrayed Jesus; hanged himself | |

World's Best Book



The prophecies of the Bible are amazing. Eight hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). And then Caesar sent out a decree, as recorded in Luke 2:1, that all the world should be registered. So Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem and gave birth to Jesus, because her husband Joseph, a descendant of David, had to return to his birthplace for the census. Pretty amazing!

You can turn to Psalm 22, which was written hundreds of years before the crucifixion of Christ, and find there thirty detailed descriptions of death by crucifixion. This was written before crucifixion was ever even known as a form of execution in Palestine. The Jews did not crucify; they stoned. Yet in Psalm 22 you read these words, "They pierced my hands and my feet" (22:16). It was prophesied that the soldiers would cast lots for His garment, hundreds of years before the actual event (Psalm 22:18). The Bible even prophesied in Zechariah 12:10, "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced." Amazing isn't it? The Old Testament is written as though a man were standing at the foot of the cross!

—Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee

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- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

Tracts:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW! Mary's Little Lamb No More | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon's Eleven Reasons to Avoid Loose Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW! Was God Praised in the Church Service Today? | <input type="checkbox"/> Where the Omnipresent God Isn't |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW! I Need the Prayers of Those Who Love Me | <input type="checkbox"/> Irony of Calvary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW! Who Should Win Back the Erring? | <input type="checkbox"/> Did He Not Also Die for These? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What to Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> Looking for Love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Doctor Who Never Lost a Case | <input type="checkbox"/> Seven Things God Hates (Lies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What Does God Do with His Trash? | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Bet on It! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give Your Tobacco to a Billy Goat (teen smoking) | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvation Is Free, but Not Cheap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Tears from a Savior's Eye | <input type="checkbox"/> What Teens Want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How to Change Your Personality | <input type="checkbox"/> Watered-down Baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death Hurts, but Jesus Helps | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Was Not a Farmer, but . . . |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> How to Stop Worrying |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Happiness Guaranteed! |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> When Jesus Went on a Picnic |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Back issues of <i>House to House/Heart to Heart</i> |

Christianity uncluttered



My wife and I were looking for a tool the other day. We knew (or we thought we knew) exactly where it was. As we climbed over the clutter in our storage shed, we both came to the same conclusion—we've got to get rid of this clutter!

Although we never found what we were looking for, my mind started to dwell on how Christianity through the centuries had become cluttered with men's doctrines. We need to remove the man-made clutter from churches so that men can follow the simple teaching of the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

The Bible gives the answer to, "From whence came the clutter?" Paul warned the elders of the church in Ephesus: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves, shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-30).

The Bible teaches that man has no right to add to the Word. Paul wondered why many had swerved from the Gospel: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accused" (Galatians 1:6-8).

The Bible teaches that the Word is complete. No further additions are needed since "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Our Lord rebukes those that would add to his Word. Shall we heed Jesus' wishes? "Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For, laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men" (Mark 7:7-8)

To tamper with the Word of God is a fearful thing (Revelation 22:18-19). Why would anyone desire to add to or subtract from the perfect will of God? If it is your desire to study and obey the Word of God, uncluttered, pay us a visit. We have much in common.

—Donald Fox

Basic Facts The Church of Christ

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

Foundation – Christ [Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:18].

Founder – Christ [Matthew 16:16-18].

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

Organization [Ephesians 1:22-23; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-12].

Worship – Spirit & Truth [John 4:24; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2].

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

Creed – Christ [1 Corinthians 2:2].

Church Name/Description [Romans 16:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:15]

Thoughts from the HEART

The Bible— Short and Sweet

The Bible is divided into two main parts. The Old Testament was God's will primarily to the Jewish nation. Its requirements were binding until the covenant of Christ became effective (Colossians 2:14).



The New Testament is God's will through Christ to all men living today.

The Old and the New Testament were written by men who were inspired by the Spirit of God (2 Timothy 3:16). The New Testament was given through Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2).

We need knowledge of the Old Testament to understand many things in the New Testament, but it is to the New Testament that we must go to learn the way of salvation and the duty of the Christian (Galatians 3:24).

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the first four books of the New Testament, are designed to present the evidences, "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31).

Acts of Apostles, the fifth book, tells one who believes in Jesus how to become a Christian. It answers the question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:31).

Romans to Jude are letters telling Christians how to live the Christian life and to conduct the church's work and worship.

Revelation, the last book in the Bible, tells the faithful Christian about his future home in a "new heaven and a new earth."

In order to get to heaven, we must do what God says for us to do (Hebrews 5:8-9). The Bible is our "map," showing the way to heaven. Let's follow it closely, speaking where the Bible speaks, and being silent where the Bible is silent (1 Peter 4:11).

—Unknown



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