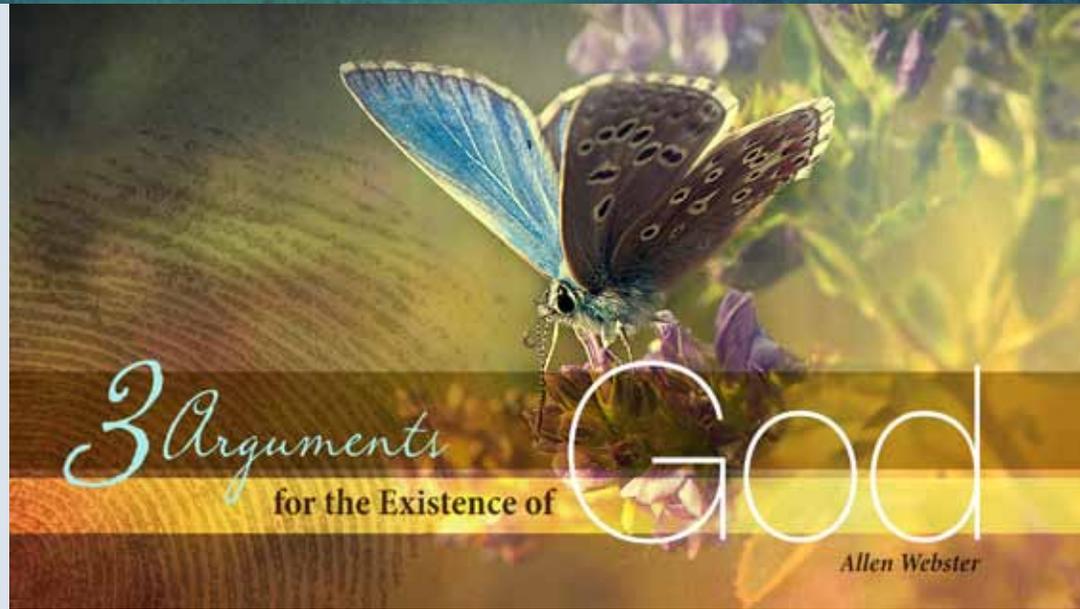




www.housetohouse.com

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1



Evolution has fashioned gods of its own design and named them Mother Nature and Father Time.

James Hewitt tells of a family of mice who lived in a large piano.

In their piano-world came the music of the instrument, filling all the dark spaces with sound and harmony.

At first the mice were impressed by it. They drew comfort from the thought that there was Someone who made the music—though invisible to them—above, yet close. They loved to think of the Great Player whom they could not see.

Then one day a daring mouse climbed far up the piano and returned very thoughtful. He had found how music was made. Wires were the secret; tightly stretched wires of graduated lengths which trembled and vibrated. They must revise all their old beliefs: none but the most conservative could believe in the Unseen Player.

Later, another explorer carried the explanation further. Hammers were now the secret, numbers of hammers dancing and leaping on the wires. This was a more complicated theory, but it showed that they lived in a purely mechanical and

mathematical world. The Unseen Player came to be thought of as a myth.

But the Pianist continued to play.¹

The Bible is not a polemic defense of the existence of a Supreme Being. It simply assumes men will know God is (cf. Psalm 14:1). Its opening sentence, from Hebrew, reads: “God, in the beginning, created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The first word is “God,” for He is the foundation of everything that follows.

God left abundant evidence in His world and in His Word for a fair-minded person to come to a confident conclusion (Hebrews 11:6). He has not left “himself without witness” (Acts 14:17; Romans 1:20). Consider three arguments for God’s existence:

COSMOLOGICAL: CAUSE & EFFECT

This argument is simple: The universe exists. Therefore, God exists.

How is this conclusion reached? Every effect must have an adequate cause. There are only three possibilities as to cause of the universe: it made itself; it is eternal; it was created by someone other than itself.

Self-creation is illogical. A material thing cannot be and not be at the same time.

Evolutionists often cite The Big Bang as the likely First Cause, but this dodges the larger question, for it assumes matter existed to be distributed by the Bang.

The question thus comes down to whether one believes it is more reasonable to believe that matter or mind is eternal. Christians believe it makes more sense to believe that Mind—the powerful, self-existent God—created matter than to believe that matter created mind (human intelligence). Or, stated another way, Christians think it is foolish to believe that nothing times nobody equals everything.

God is the only cause adequate for such a vast universe. The size of heavenly bodies is mind-boggling. The earth, for instance, is a 13,170,000,000,000,000,000,000-pound ball sitting in space. The sun has a diameter of 864,000 miles—one hundred times that of earth’s—and could hold 1.3 million earths inside it. The star Betelgeuse has a diameter of 100 million miles, which is larger than the earth’s orbit from the sun.

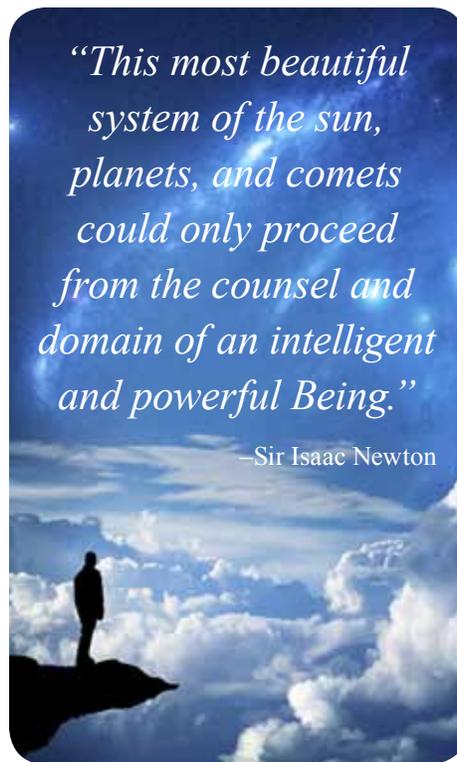
TELEOLOGICAL: INTELLIGENT DESIGN

“The law of teleology” contends that when an object reflects a purpose, goal, or design, it must have had a designer.²

God’s fingerprints are seen in the world above us. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (Psalm 19:1; cf. 8:3). The universe’s precision and functionality show it could not have happened by accident. Life on earth would be impossible if

- The axial tilt of the earth were greater or less than 23.4 degrees;
- The distance to the sun were more or less than 92,960,000 miles;
- The moon’s gravitational interaction on an object on earth were greater or less than about 1/2000th of a pound.
- The earth’s surface gravity were greater or less than an average of about 32.1740 feet/second;
- A day were longer or shorter than about 86,400 seconds.³

Yet each of these is exactly what it must be to work in concert with the others to sustain life. Nature is so mathematically exact that scientists can predict eclipses years in advance or launch a spacecraft to land on the moon with pinpoint precision.



The universe is not static. The earth moves in an almost 600-million-mile-long orbit around the sun at a speed of 1000 miles per minute. Its track is elliptical. At times it is closer to the sun than at others. When closer, it moves faster; when farther, slower.⁴ As it moves in this gigantic orbit, it digresses from a straight line one-ninth of an inch every eighteen miles. If the turn were only one-tenth of an inch, our planet would freeze; if it were one-eighth, it would burn up.

Rather than being fixed in space, as once thought, the sun has its own orbit (cf. Psalm 19:4–6). It moves through space at 600,000 miles per hour, in an orbit so large it would take approximately 220,000,000 years to complete once.⁵ Certainly God “stretched” out the heavens (Isaiah 42:5).

Sir Isaac Newton concluded, “This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and domain of an intelligent and powerful Being.”⁶

God’s fingerprints are seen in the world around us. Nature is obviously interconnected. The soil supplies nutrients and stability for the tree. The tree provides habitat and food for the animal. The animal provides food and service for man. Man lives for the glory of God (Matthew 5:16). The plant dies for the animal to live. The animal dies for man to live. Jesus died that man might live. Man dies so the spirit may return to God⁷ (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

God’s creation is advanced. Consider that before humans

- Harnessed electricity, eels generated up to 700 volts at will.
- Invented electric lights, fireflies flashed signals to each other.
- Had jets, octopuses used jet propulsion to move about.
- Designed suspension bridges, spiders built them.
- Air-conditioned our homes, bees air-conditioned theirs.
- Built dams on rivers, beavers dammed up streams.
- Made paper, wasps manufactured it for their nests.
- Became proficient engineers, birds’ nests displayed masonry, weaving, tunneling, and structural strength.
- Navigated the seas, birds traveled from the Arctic to the Antarctic to the same nesting sites year after year.
- Developed radar and sonar, bats used pinpoint supersonic sound pulses to navigate in the darkness of caves.⁸

God’s fingerprints are seen in the world within us. Wayne Jackson points out some interesting facts about the human body:⁹

- There are 206 bones that protect organs, function as levers, supply attachments for muscles, and produce useful chemicals.
- The circulatory system contains 100,000 miles of pipeline (arteries, veins, capillaries), which course through the body, providing cells with food and oxygen and removing wastes.
- The nervous system (brain, spinal cord, nerves) is more complicated than a major city’s phone system. It transmits information by nerve impulses at the speed of 300 miles per hour.
- The brain is a library equivalent of twenty million books.
- The hand has tendons aligned in sheaths, like self-lubricating pulleys, allowing it to work in a tireless, noiseless, almost effortless fashion.
- The human body is a highly organized machine consisting of thirty-seven trillion cells, each a tiny factory that must work in harmony, precision, and skill. In cells are rods (chromosomes); in rods are genes; in genes are DNA. The DNA information from one cell would fill a 600,000 page book.

Truly, we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14).

ANTHROPOLOGICAL: MORAL CAPACITY

This is the argument from man (*anthropos*). Man is not just an intelligent animal. He is the offspring of God, made in His image (Genesis 1:26–27; Acts 17:29). Animals are fascinating creatures, but they don't know God. They cannot worship; they cannot pray. They lack introspection. No dog lies awake at night thinking, *I shouldn't have been so mean to that cat today. Tomorrow I'm going to do better.*

A human being has the aptitude to live on a higher level. He can deny self, live outside of self, even give self in service to his country or for another person.

Man also has the ability to recognize that some things are wrong, while others are right. Love is right; hate is wrong. Helping others is good; hurting others is bad. Defending the helpless is honorable; taking advantage of the helpless is despicable.

Man is equipped with a personal moral thermostat—a conscience. Every normal person has a sense of ethical “oughtness”—“thou shalt/not”; “I ought/ought not” guidelines—and feels guilty when these are violated. People may disagree on what is right and wrong, but they agree that there are rights and wrongs.

How can the presence of moral sensitivity be explained? There are only two possibilities: it was implanted by a Creator or it evolved as a means of survival. In an evolutionary worldview, why would morality evolve? What purpose would it serve? As secular philosopher Jean Paul Sartre put it, “Everything is indeed permitted if God

does not exist.”¹⁰ Each is his own god.

Yet unbelievers have consciences; they are disgusted by heinous crimes; they feel guilt after certain behaviors. The presence of such a moral thermostat is inexplicable from an evolutionary model, but it fits the creation one. As C. S. Lewis wrote, “Conscience reveals to us a moral law whose source cannot be found in the natural world, thus pointing to a supernatural Lawgiver.”¹¹ The Bible clearly shows that man possesses a conscience as a tool to aid in his service to Almighty God (John 8:9; Acts 23:1; 24:16; Romans 2:15; 9:1; 13:5).

In summary, the moral argument can be framed in this way: If God does not exist; objective moral values and duties do not exist, but objective moral values do exist. Therefore, God exists.

Scientists gather evidence for theories by conducting experiments to find what works and what doesn't. Does evolution or Christianity work best as a worldview? Which results in better psychological and sociological health and happiness? Which tends toward high moral values? Sanctity of life? Human dignity? Strong homes and family units? Law and order?

An evolutionary worldview leads humanity in the wrong direction. Philosopher Ravi Zacharias put it like this: “There is nothing in history to match the dire ends to which humanity can be led by following a political and social philosophy that consciously and absolutely excludes God.” Darwin's survival-of-the-fittest and Karl Marx's materialist evolutionary conjectures provided the foundation for both

Hitler's Holocaust and Stalin's genocide. If all we are is “dust in the wind,” what reason for hope and optimism do we have?

Accepting divine creation tends toward human dignity and happiness. If we are formed in a loving God's image, and if we are heirs of eternal life through His Son, then we possess dignity and worth. Scripture's sound moral principles lead to health and happiness as well as good social relationships in this life, and its promises produce a hopeful and joyful outlook in anticipation of eternal life.

Which option seems most sensible to you?

Endnotes:

¹ *Illustrations Unlimited*. Tyndale Publishers (Page 187). Also included in Craig Brian Larson's *750 Engaging Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers and Writers; International Bible Lesson Commentary*, David C. Cook, and on <http://classic.net.bible.org> (quoted form *London Observer*).

² Wayne Jackson. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1360>.

³ <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/teleological-argument-for-gods-existence/#ixzz37Dl4O23F>.

⁴ Jackson. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1360>.

⁵ <http://preachrr.wordpress.com/page/13/>.

⁶ Quoted by J. P. Moreland. *Creation Hypothesis*. Intervarsity Press. 1994. Page 292.

⁷ Leroy Brownlow. *The Greatest Questions of the Old Testament*. Brownlow Publications

⁸ Gerald R. Bergman. “The Wonders of the Natural World: God's Design.” Quoted in Morgan, R. J. 2000. *Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes*. Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville.

⁹ Adapted from Jackson. Op. cit.

¹⁰ http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Jean-Paul_Sartre.

¹¹ From *Mere Christianity*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argument_from_morality.



Faith Is the Victory

1 John 5:4–5

- **Over Doubt** (Psalm 14:1; 1 Corinthians 15:19).
- **Over Materialism** (Matthew 16:26; Luke 12:15).
- **Over Fear** (1 John 4:18).
- **Over Immorality** (1 John 2:15–17).
- **Over The grave** (1 Corinthians 15:42–55; John 11:25).

Who Is on That Cross?

The One who created every seed, every shrub, every tree, every limb, was placed on a tree, on a cross.

The One who scooped out a place for the seas, the One who created every lake, every pond, every brook, every spring—He was the One who said, “I thirst.”

The One who flung out the sun and ignited the sun with a word was the One who suffered under that noonday, Middle Eastern sun.

The One who was Life (John 14:6), died.

“And the Word was made flesh”

JOHN 1:14



Wisdom Bytes

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” —Henry Ford

“In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.” —Ann Landers



“What a child does not receive, he can seldom later give.” —P. D. James

“Teach your child to hold his tongue; he’ll learn fast enough to speak.” —Benjamin Franklin

“The work will wait while you show your child the rainbow, but the rainbow won’t wait while you do the work.” —Patricia Clafford

“Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.” —Peter De Vries, *The Tunnel of Love*

“With all thy getting get understanding”

PROVERBS 4:7

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



Are We Bringing Our Children *Up* or *Down*?

Rules for Bringing Up a Child:

1. Make home the brightest and most attractive place we can.
2. Make him responsible for helping in some daily duties at home.
3. Never punish in anger nor to relieve our own feelings, but only in love and for disobedience.
4. Do not ridicule his ideas; talk frankly on matters in which he is interested.
5. Encourage him to invite friends to our home and table.
6. Impress on his mind the fact that service and honesty are more important than making money.
7. Live Christ before him so you will be able to talk of Christ to him.
8. Let him see your enjoyment and profit from Bible reading and prayer.
9. Set an example in faithful church attendance and interest in the work.
10. Be much in prayer for his salvation and spiritual growth.

Rules for Bringing Down a Child:

1. Let him have plenty of money to spend as he likes.
2. Permit him to choose his companions without restraint or guidance.
3. Let him spend Sunday hours on the street or with companions with low ideals as to the Lord’s day.
4. Allow him to go out at night as he pleases and return when he gets ready.
5. Make no inquiry as to where and with whom he spends his leisure time.
6. Teach him to expect pay for all help at home and for all service to others.
7. Allow him to think that good manners are a good substitute for good morals.
8. Do not trouble to interest him in the Bible or to win him to Christ.
9. Let him see that you think church attendance is not important.
10. Never let him hear you pray, especially for his salvation.

“Bring them UP in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”

EPHESIANS 6:4

Through the Ears of a Child

While listing all the biblical names of God during her Sunday school lesson, a teacher was surprised when her first-grade student piped up.

“What about Howard?”

“Howard? Who’s Howard?”

“God is. His name is Howard.”

Incredulous, the teacher said, “Well, I’ve never heard that.”

The first-grader replied, “Sure you have. ‘Our Father who art in heaven, Howard be thy name!’” —submitted by Nick Boone



The Church of Christ

The church of Christ is not an exclusive or proud church. You will find it very simple. Its aim is not to amuse or entertain those who attend its services. It exists in our community as a simple body of Christians, pointing all who look its way to Jesus Christ as God's Son, the Hope of the World. Its doors are open to those who from the quiet depths of their hearts reach out to God in simple worship and obedient living.

You may be surprised to find that there is not much ready-made for you in this church. There is no ready-made creed. You take the Word of God as you read it and come to a true understanding of it. There are no ready-made prayers. Every believer voices his own earnest longing for the presence of God and for his sustenance and guidance. There is no ready-made order of wor-

ship. Each church of our Lord arranges its own order in harmony with the items described in the New Testament. There is no ready-made music. Everyone makes his own music by the fruit of his lips as the early Christians did, and it is sweet in the ears of God in proportion to the worshippers' sincerity and humble obedience to God.

You may be surprised to find that this church is a free church under Christ as its only head. It has no organic connection with any other congregation, but is bound by a unity of faith with all those who follow God's word without addition or subtraction.

In this church every Christian is a priest. There is no distinction between "clergy" and "laity." We believe that all Christians are "called to be saints." Their gifts and functions may differ,

but their status before the Lord is the same. Jesus is our High Priest, and all members are priests with no need of further human mediators.

This church is the outward manifestation of the deep conviction in many hearts that simple apostolic Christianity can be produced today by the same living Word which produced it in the first century. We do not claim perfection as human beings. We are all sinners who were saved by the grace of God upon our trusting obedience to the gospel. We seek to serve Jesus humbly and to urge all others to do so. Our aim is to glorify God by exalting Christ in our lives and in our teaching. Truly, to be a free New Testament Christian, without being encumbered by any human name or creed, is a glorious privilege. —M. Norvel Young

Bible QUIZ

VOLUME 20:1

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Jesus' Appearances after His Resurrection 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: Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy:

1. Tarsus (Acts 21:39); 2. Rome (Acts 16:37-38); 3. Stephen (Acts 7:58-59); 4. The Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-5); 5. He was completely blind (Acts 9:8-9); 6. The Gentiles (Acts 13:46); 7. Jupiter and Mercurius (Acts 14:11-12); 8. For casting out an evil spirit (Acts 16:16-23); 9. Athens (Acts 17:16,19); 10. Eutyclus (Acts 20:9); 11. Malta (Acts 28:1); 12. Levi (Acts 4:36-37); 13. Cyprus (Acts 4:36-37); 14. Son of consolation (Acts 4:36); 15. Good, faith (Acts 11:24); 16. John Mark (Acts 15:37-38); 17. Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5); 18. A Greek (Acts 16:1); 19. Circumcised him (Acts 16:3); 20. Wine (1 Timothy 5:23); 21. Zero



Mary and Other Mothers

Directions: Find your answers in Genesis 16:1-4, 11; 35:26; Exodus 2:7-10; 1 Samuel 2:18-21; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 31:1; Matthew 1:3, 24-25; 13:55; 20:20-23; 23:1, 37; Luke 1:26-27, 38-42, 56-60; 2:1-5, 41.

1. What was the occupation of Mary's husband Joseph? _____
2. Which tribe of Israel did Joseph belong to? _____
3. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary? _____
4. Joseph married Mary, but he did not have a sexual relationship with her until _____.
5. Who did Mary visit right after the angel appeared to her? _____
6. How long did Mary stay with Elisabeth? _____
7. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? _____
8. What was the feast that Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for each year? _____
9. Whose mother was paid to be his nurse? _____
10. _____ was the mother of Ishmael and handmaiden of Sarah, Abram's wife.
11. Children are an _____ from the Lord.
12. Who was the mother of John the Baptist? _____
13. Whose mother said to Mary, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb"? _____
14. What mother brought her son a coat every year? _____
15. Which king was taught sayings by his mother as related in Proverbs? _____
16. Whose mother asked Jesus to grant her sons places at his right and left? _____
17. Who spoke of his desire to gather Jerusalem's children as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings? _____
18. The mother of Gad and Asher was _____.

To What Lengths Would You Go?

An obscure family early in the Reformation lived under the rein of Queen Mary, who forbade any to own or even read the Bible. Nonetheless, this family had obtained an English Bible and treasured reading it above all else.

“To conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-great-grandfather read it to the family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes.

“One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon his feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before.”

—From the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/franklin/a_b_benf.pdf

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front of *House to House / Heart to Heart*.

Recommended Resource



The Light Network is a network of podcasts (online radio shows) dedicated to encouraging, enlightening, and empowering you in your service to God. With programming for men, women, new Christians, and much more, there's sure to be something you will enjoy! New content is added daily! To check it out, go to www.thelightnetwork.tv.

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Prayer requests or comments: _____

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Was Joan of Arc Noah's Wife?



God's Battlement of Love



My Preacher Says



Looking for Love (God's love)



God's Refining Shop

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



The End Times

Biblical View

Premillennialism Not found in the Bible

Kingdom Established

Jesus promised to establish His kingdom (the church)
Matthew 16:18–19
Jesus established His kingdom (the church) Acts 2:38–42
Temple destroyed, AD 70

Jesus' death

Kingdom Delayed

Church of Christ

The world's last day will be quite eventful. All these things will occur:

- The Lord's return (Revelation 1:7)
- The dead raised (John 5:28–29)
- The living changed (1 Corinthians 15:51)
- The earth burned up (2 Peter 3:10–13)
- Humanity judged (Matthew 25:31–46)
- Kingdom given to God (1 Corinthians 15:24)
- Wicked separated (Matthew 25:41)
- Saved go home (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17)

Tribulations or believers raptured and rewarded

Jesus returns and establishes a one-thousand year earthly kingdom

Tribulation

One-thousand Year Earthly Kingdom

Jesus returns, the world is destroyed by fire
2 Peter 3:10

All people are judged

Those in Christ
(John 14:6)

Those not in Christ
(Matthew 7:23)

Eternity

Heaven

Hell



He Is My Everything

Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

—from church fathers; "I bind unto myself the name."

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

Life-Giving *Blood*

The World Health Organization reports that Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

Caregivers working in West Africa contracted the virus. One case of an American aid worker catching the virus is Dr. Rick Sacra. Sacra, fifty-one, treated patients on and off in Liberia for fifteen years. Last August, he returned to the capital, Monrovia, to deliver babies. Somehow he contracted the Ebola virus. Sacra was flown to Omaha, Nebraska, and given blood plasma from another American aid worker, Dr. Kent Brantly, who had recovered from Ebola.

Michaeleen Doucleff reports, “Brantly was treated for Ebola at a hospital in Atlanta back in August. Doctors gave him and his coworker, Nancy Writebol, the experimental drug ZMapp. Both of them recovered from Ebola. But it still isn’t known [for certain] whether ZMapp helped them . . . The idea is that Brantly’s blood contains Ebola antibodies, which could help Sacra’s immune system fight off the virus.”

Isn’t it wonderful? A physician gave some of his blood to help save the life of another physician.

Consider that sin is deadly (Romans 6:23), and unless a remedy is supplied, it leads to eternal death (Matthew 7:13–14). A remedy is available to all who will accept it. Another physician—the Great Physician, Jesus—gave His blood to save us from sin (Ephesians 1:7). Have you been treated? —*David A. Sargent*



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

