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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 2

Long Island CHURCH of CHRIST

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SUNDAY

Spanish Services 9:00 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

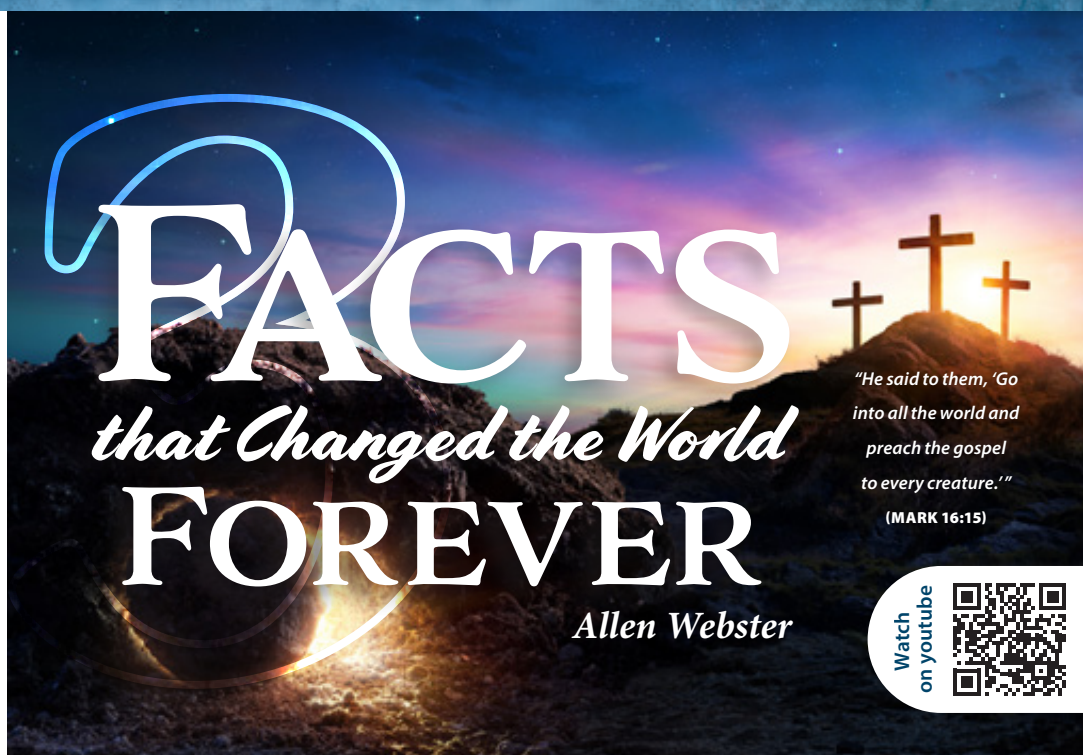
FIRST FRIDAY EACH MONTH

Devotional 8:00 p.m.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Home Bible Studies
- Bible Studies by Mail
- Podcast: anchor.fm/pedro-gelabert

HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to address above. To God be the glory.



Gospel comes from an Old English word meaning “good news,” which carries great importance for man (Romans 1:16). The word *gospel* is found in 97 verses in the Bible; it is used 103 times in those verses. *Gospel* is a New Testament word and is found in every book of the New Testament except John, Titus, James, 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude.

The gospel (*euangelion*) is the “good news” of how to be saved. The history of Christ’s coming into the world to save sinners is, without doubt, the best news that ever came from heaven to earth. No less than an angel said, “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people” (Luke 2:10). The gospel contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be enjoyed (1 Corinthians 15:1–3).

There are three facts of the gospel that are of primary importance: The (1) death, (2) burial, and (3) resurrection of Christ. Let us examine these three facts.

FACT 1: CHRIST’S DEATH FOR MAN’S SIN

While the gospel is good news, it has at its heart a tragedy: the death of Christ for our sins. God was able to use this horrible event to bring the most welcome news we ever received.

The death of Jesus unfolded in a series of events. Jesus was betrayed and arrested (Matthew 26:47–56; John 18:1–13). He was bound by His enemies (John 18:12) and forsaken by His disciples (Matthew 26:56).

Jesus was tried by the Jews (Matthew 26:57–68). He was first taken to Annas, the deposed high priest and the power behind the scenes (John 18:13), and then to Caiaphas, the official high priest (John 18:24).

During this trial, Jesus was taunted, spit on, and slapped (Matthew 26:67–68), perhaps in the mouth (cf. John 18:22). Even the servants joined in (Mark 14:65). He was kept up all night (Matthew 27:1) and had no food or drink after the last sup-



per. During this time, Jesus was denied by Peter (Matthew 26:69–75; Luke 22:54–62). Eventually, although innocent, He was wrongfully convicted of blasphemy, which was punishable by death in the Jewish system.

Jesus was tried by the Romans (Matthew 27:1–25). He was bound and taken from the Jewish Sanhedrin to Pilate’s headquarters (Matthew 27:1–2). The charge was changed from blasphemy to revolt because the Romans would not execute for blasphemy, but they would for revolt (Luke 23:2). Pilate attempted to pass the buck by sending Jesus to King Herod (Luke 23:6–12), who only mocked Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate. Next, Judas tried to stop the proceedings, but he was unsuccessful (Matthew 27:3–10). Convinced that Jesus was innocent, Pilate offered to stop the crucifixion by offering to free either Jesus or Barabbas, a notorious criminal he did not think the people would choose. They chose Barabbas and insisted that Jesus be crucified (Matthew 27:15–22; Mark 15:6–13; Luke 23:16–21). Pilate’s wife asked to stop the crucifixion (Matthew 27:19). Pilate tried for the third time (Luke 23:22–23). He then washed his hands and signed off on the greatest travesty of justice ever perpetrated (Matthew 27:26).

Jesus was then scourged (Matthew 27:26; John 19:1). This required that He be stripped of His clothing, although it was cold (John 18:18). He was mercilessly beaten with a whip and then reclothed.

The Roman soldiers at the Praetorium then stripped Him again, clothed Him in a scarlet robe, put a crown of thorns on

His head, hit Him with a reed, spat on Him, and smote Him with their hands (Matthew 27:27–31; John 19:2–3).

Pilate then presented Him to the people, saying, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:5).

After this, Jesus was led to the place of execution. They took the purple robe off, put His own clothes on Him (Matthew 27:31), and paraded Him down the city streets to Golgotha (John 19:17). At some point, a man named Simon was summoned to bear the cross after Jesus (Luke 23:26). Arriving on site, Jesus refused to drink vinegar and gall (Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23), which was usually given to deaden some of the terrific pain.

Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27:35–50). This started at the third hour, which was 9:00 am (Mark 15:25). It became completely dark at the sixth hour, which was noon (Mark 15:33). Jesus died at the ninth hour, which was 3:00 pm (Mark 15:34–37). During this time, Jesus prayed for the soldiers (Luke 23:34) who had caused Him such pain. While on the cross, Jesus suffered physically (from thirst, John 19:28) and emotionally (being forsaken by Father, Matthew 27:46). Then Jesus died (Matthew 27:50).

FACT 2: CHRIST’S BURIAL

Isaiah prophesied details about the burial of Jesus seven centuries before it occurred: “They made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death” (Isaiah 53:9). Jesus’ dead body was still on the cross when Joseph went to Pilate and requested permission to bury it (Luke 23:50–53). When Pilate granted it, Joseph took the body, and, with the help of Nico-

demus, prepared it for burial, using about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes (John 19:39). Then Joseph “wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed” (Matthew 27:59–60).

FACT 3: CHRIST’S RESURRECTION

The underlying proposition to the whole Bible is Acts 13:30: “God raised Him from the dead.” If this were not true, then there would be no gospel. You could throw the Bible away, for it would contain no hope for humanity. But thanks be to God, it is true!

How do we know? Jesus promised that He would rise again, and He never told a lie (Matthew 20:19; 27:62–64; 1 Peter 3:21–22). The Bible records it, and the Bible is the world’s most trustworthy source (Matthew 28:1–6; 2 Timothy 3:16–17). Angels attested to it, and they are greater than any man who says otherwise (Luke 24:5–6; 2 Peter 2:11). The early church believed it, and they were in the same generation with the eyewitnesses (Acts 1:3). The rapid change of the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday, the day of the resurrection, gives further evidence of it (cf. Luke 4:16; Acts 2:1).

The conversions of two individuals provide further persuasion that the resurrection was real. First, consider the conversion of James, the Lord’s half-brother. He was an unbeliever during Christ’s lifetime (John 7:5), yet after the resurrection, he became a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 1:14; 15:13–21; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19). The only explanation for such a radical change and loyal following is that he believed in the resurrection.

An even more convincing conversion is that of Saul of Tarsus, who went from persecutor (Acts 9:1) to persecuted (Acts 9:22–24)! He passed from threatening the disciples to “perils of my own countrymen” (2 Corinthians 11:24–28) almost overnight. What could have brought about such a change in a man of superior intelligence and ability? Nothing short of the proof of the resurrection of Christ!

These three simple facts changed the world forever.

The Optimistic Frog

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl;
One was an optimistic soul,
But the other took the gloomy view:
“We shall drown,” he cried, without
more ado.
So with a last despairing cry,
He flung up his legs, and he said,
“Goodbye.”

Quoth the other frog with a merry grin,
“I can’t get out, but I won’t give in.
I’ll just swim ’round till my strength is
spent.
Then will I die the
more content.”

Bravely he swam till it would seem
His struggles began to churn the cream;
On the top of the butter at last he stopped,
And out of the bowl he gaily hopped.
What of the moral? ’Tis easily found:
If you can’t hop out, keep swimming
’round.

— Lord Robert Stephen Smyth Baden-Powell

*“With men it is impossible, but not with
God; for with God all things are possible.”*

MARK 10:27



Evidence of His Handiwork: Bees Outsmart Scientists

Scientists have long recognized that bees are intelligent creatures. Many believe that this intelligence is the product of millions of years of natural selection. But the extremely fast learning ability of the bee puts in doubt the millions of years and instead shows the hand of the Creator.

Researchers at Princeton University decided to find out whether bees were smart enough to find their food source if it was moved. The researchers moved the prime food source fifty meters farther from the hive. It took the bees less than one minute to locate the moved food source. The men then moved the food source another fifty meters away. The bees still took less than a minute to find the food source. Two more moves, each a precise fifty meters, produced the same results.

However, the bees had also been studying the researchers. Before the researchers could move the food another fifty meters, they found the bees

had discovered the pattern and were already waiting at the new location!

God is our Creator and has clearly left evidence of His handiwork—His fingerprints—in the creation itself. For those who have eyes to see, this fills us with wonder, and yes, with love for the Creator God who first loved us. —Anonymous

“God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind’; and it was so.”

GENESIS 1:24



Emergency MESSAGE

Years ago, soldiers at Fort Dix were fighting a forest fire.

They were out in the forest with the flames all around them when a plane flew over unexpectedly. The unidentified pilot flew very low over the firefighters and began to drop notes with weights tied to them. Three times he did this. This is what the notes said: “You are surrounded by flames and you are going to perish unless you take action immediately. There is one narrow corridor left open, and that is your only escape; before long it will be cut off.” The firefighters read the note, obeyed it, and their lives were saved.

A message came from above and told them something they could not know in the midst of the smoke, heat, and furor. Thankfully the firefighters did not question the authenticity or reliability of the note. They acted on it by faith; they acted on it in time; they were saved.

What a picture of society today. We are in a firestorm of trouble; we are in an inferno of problems. We face a rising tide of violence, disease, racism, hatred, and other social ills. God has given us His message from above, and there is a way to escape. That message is the Bible. —Stan Coffee

*“But others save with fear, pulling
them out of the fire, hating even the
garment defiled by the flesh.”*

JUDE 1:23

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: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

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

Watch
on youtube



Wise Dad

During the frontier days in the United States, the driver of a covered wagon stopped his horses on the street of a young town and called to a passing man, "Hey, any saloons in this place?"

"Sure, we have four!" the man replied boastfully.

"Giddap," the driver shouted, urging his horses on.

"Stop," called the man.

"I cannot stop here," replied the stranger. "I have got four boys in this wagon."

"Why?" again called the man. "What is your business?"

"My business is to raise these boys for God, and I cannot do that in a town with four saloons." And he hurried his horses on, soon turning the bend in the road.



Be Kind to Your Mate

Winston Churchill was once accosted by a woman. "Mr. Churchill," she shouted, "if you were my husband, I would poison your soup!"

Churchill did not miss a beat. "Madam," he replied, "if you were my wife, I would drink the soup!"

If we cannot "turn the other cheek" to our beloved spouse, who can we turn the other cheek to? (Matthew 5:39). We can be kind and tenderhearted to our marriage partner, and we can forgive a mate as the Lord forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). —Stan Mitchell

"A merry heart does good."

PROVERBS 17:22



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Please, Daddy, Can't We Go?

A little girl with shining eyes,
Her little face aglow,
Said: "Daddy, it is almost time
For Sunday school. Come on, let's go!
They teach us there of Jesus' love,
Of how He died for all
And saves those who on Him call."

"Oh, no!" said Daddy, "Not today.
I've worked hard all week;
I'm going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine they say.
So run along; don't bother me.
We'll go to church someday."

Months and years have passed away,
But Daddy hears that plea no more—
"Let's go to Sunday school."
Those childish days are o'er.
And now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through,

He finds time to go to church—
But what does Daughter do?

She says, "O Daddy, not today—
I stayed up almost all night;
I've just got to get some sleep.
Besides, I look a fright."

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears,
As again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.

He sees a small girl's shining face,
Upturned with eyes aglow,
She says, "It's time for Sunday school—
Please, Daddy, won't you go?"

—Anonymous

"Fathers . . . bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

EPHESIANS 6:4

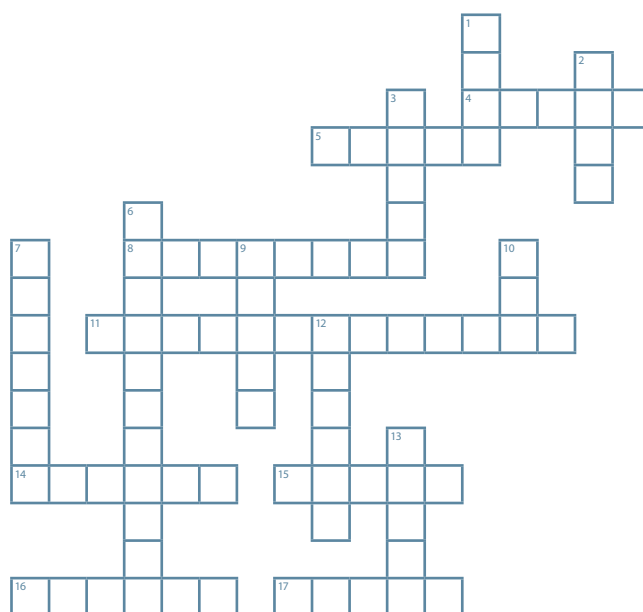
Just for Fun Crossword, Proverbs 3:1–6

Use the words in blue to complete the puzzle.

"My **son**, do not forget my law, but let your **heart** keep my **commands**; for length of days and long **life** and **peace** they will add to you.

"Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the **tablet** of your heart, and so find **favor** and high **esteem** in the **sight** of God and man.

"Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart, and lean not on your own **understanding**; in all your ways **acknowledge** Him, and He shall **direct** your **paths**."



1. LIFE; 2. LORD; 3. PATHS; 4. FAVOR; 5. PEACE; 6. ACKNOWLEDGE; 7. FORSAKE; 8. COMMANDS; 9. MERCY; 10. SON; 11. UNDERSTANDING; 12. TABLET; 13. TRUTH; 14. ESTEEM; 15. HEART; 16. DIRECT; 17. SIGHT.

Loving God Supremely and Loving Others Unselfishly —A Higher Priority



At the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924, the U.S. team was favored in the four-man canoe race. One member of that team was a young man named Bill Havens. As the time for the Olympics neared, it became clear that Bill's wife would give birth to her second child about the time that Bill was scheduled to compete.

So Bill found himself in a dilemma. Should he go to Paris and risk not being at his wife's side when their child was born? Or should he withdraw from the team and remain behind?

Bill's wife insisted that he go to Paris. After all, he had been working toward this goal for many years; it would be the culmination of a lifelong dream. After much soul-searching, Bill decided to withdraw from the competition and remain behind with his wife so that he could be with her when their child arrived. Bill considered being at her side a higher priority than

going to Paris to try to win an Olympic gold medal.

The United States four-man canoe team won the gold medal at the Paris Olympics. But Bill had no regrets. His family was more important to him than the Olympics. Bill was present when his wife gave birth to their baby boy, whom they named Frank.

Twenty-eight years later, in 1952, Bill received a cablegram from Frank. It was sent from Helsinki, Finland, where the 1952 Olympics were being held. The cablegram read as follows:

Dear Dad,

Thanks for waiting around for me to be born in 1924. I am coming home with the gold medal you should have won.

*Your loving son,
Frank*

Frank Havens was bringing home the Olympic gold medal for the 10,000-meter canoeing event. Now he wanted to share his medal with the one who set aside his own personal dreams for a higher priority: his son.

Establishing proper priorities ultimately brings the greatest rewards—like no regrets and deeper joys.

What are those "higher priorities" that need to be established in our lives? Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37–39).

Loving God supremely and loving others unselfishly begins with your family. These are the top priorities! And living by these priorities brings the greater blessings. —David Sargent (adapted from Steve Goodier)

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:2

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Jesus' Appearances after the Resurrection" 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. 29:12 Starts with the Letter "T": 1. Tabitha (Acts 9:36–42); 2. Talitha, cumi (Mark 5:41); 3. Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1–32); 4. Tarsus (Acts 21:39); 5. Tekoa (Amos 1:1); 6. Temple (Matthew 4:5); 7. Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:2); 8. Tent (Joshua 7:20–21); 9. Tetrarch (Luke 3:1); 10. Thaddaeus (Matthew 10:3); 11. Tarshish (Jonah 1:3); 12. Theophilus (Acts 1:1); 13. Thessalonica (Acts 17:11); 14. Thomas (John 11:16); 15. Thorns (John 19:5); 16. Throne (Psalm 45:6); 17. Thyatira (Acts 16:14); 18. Timothy (1 Timothy 1:1–2); 19. Tongues (1 Corinthians 13:8); 20. Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20); 21. Troop (Psalm 18:29); 22. Terah (Genesis 11:31); 23. Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

V. 30:1 Facts about the Judgment Day: 1. Jesus (John 12:48; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10–11); 2. Every (2 Corinthians 5:10); 3. Repent (Acts 3:19; 17:30); 4. Knee, tongue (Philippians 2:10–11); 5. Words (John 12:48); 6. Last (John 12:48); 7. Punishment, life (Matthew 25:46); 8. Old (Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 9:15–17); 9. New (Hebrews 9:15–17); 10. Revealed (Luke 12:2–3); 11. Blood (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:12); 12. Names (Revelation 21:27); 13. Done (Revelation 20:12); 14. Sea, Hades (Revelation 20:13); 15. Judgment (Hebrews 9:27); 16. Thief (2 Peter 3:10); 17. Enter (Matthew 25:21); 18. Depart (Matthew 7:23).

One Dozen Scriptures Everyone Should Know

Directions: Without opening your Bible, fill in all the missing words and verse references you can. When you have done all you can from memory, use these Scriptures to complete the exercise: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 23:1; Matthew 16:18; Mark 16:15–16; John 3:16; 10:10; 14:6; 20:31; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 11:1 (not in order). Finally, memorize the verses. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. "For God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten _____, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting _____."
2. "In the beginning God _____ the heavens and the earth."
3. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the _____, the truth, and the life. _____ one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
4. "The _____ is my shepherd; I shall not want."
5. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this _____ I will build My _____, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."
6. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the _____ and preach the gospel to every creature.'"
7. "He who believes and is _____ will be _____; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
8. "Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
9. "So then faith comes by _____ and hearing by the word of God."
10. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the _____ of _____, and that believing you may have life in His name."
11. "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more _____."
12. "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is _____."



What Can Christians Do About Racial Prejudice?

One of the truly tragic problems in our society is racial prejudice. Jesus was born into a very prejudiced society, and He worked to break down the barriers.

To the first-century Jew, there was nothing worse than a Gentile, except a Samaritan. Jesus, however, showed the brotherhood of all mankind with His parable of the good Samaritan, in which a hated Samaritan showed himself to be the good neighbor to the Jew who had been beaten and robbed on the road to Jericho (Luke 10).

Racial prejudice has no place in the heart of any Christian. James wrote, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself, . . . but if you show partiality, you commit sin" (James 2:8-9). We must treat people

of other races as we wish to be treated, which is Christ's Golden Rule: "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

"There is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:11). God does not show favoritism for one person or one race over another. All are equal in His sight. Jesus died for all people and came to unite the world in Himself (1 John 2:2). Conquest of prejudice begins in the home. Parents must bring up their children "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This includes teaching children the brotherhood of man, the necessity of respecting all people, and the creation of all men in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27).

Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Paul was not saying that there are no differences between Jews and Gentiles, the free man and the slave, or males and females. He was saying that all are equal in God's sight, and all deserve respect. We must foster the spirit of brotherly love among races. As the children's song reminds us, "Every color, shape, and size—they are precious in His eyes." "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20). —Bob Prichard

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Recommended Resource



The WVBS Online Bible School provides students with free, comprehensive, in-depth Bible studies. The lessons are non-denominational teaching based simply on the Bible. These classes are for anyone who wants a focused, organized, and thorough study of the Bible. school.wvbs.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: _____

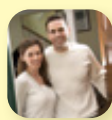
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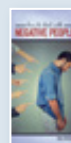
- ☐ What Paul Had at the End
- ☐ Paul's Friend Tychicus
- ☐ Magnetic Christianity
- ☐ In Appreciation of Bible Teachers



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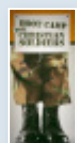
☐ Walking in Confidence



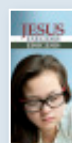
☐ How to Deal with Negative People



☐ Who Was Jesus' Grandfather?



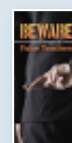
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☐ Jesus Exegesis Eisegesis



☐ What Does God Expect from Me Anyway?



☐ Beware the Dangers of False Teachers

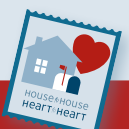


☐ Don't Lose Your Bible in Church



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VOLUME 30:2



5 MODERN RIGHTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT GAVE

FOREIGNERS

1. EQUAL VALUE

Because all people were created by the same God and descended from the same family, all nations were kin, and human value was universal (Malachi 2:10; Genesis 5: 10–11; Leviticus 19:33–34; Psalm 146:9; Jonah 4:10–11).



2. EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW AND COURT

One law governed natives and foreigners alike, giving them equal protections and rights (Numbers 15:15–16, 29–30; Leviticus 24:22; Deuteronomy 1:16).

3. NATURALIZATION

Anyone could join the Israelite nation and adopt its customs, and many did. These people were the social and spiritual equals of native-born Jews (Exodus 12:48; Numbers 15:14–15; Joshua 6:25; 8:35; Ruth 1:16–17; Esther 8:17; Isaiah 56:3–7).



4. INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE

A person of any race or nationality could marry an Israelite if he/she shared the same faith. Many biblical heroes and kings were in or had descended from such marriages (Genesis 41:45; Numbers 12:1; Ruth 1:1–4; 4:13, 21–22; Joshua 6:25; Matthew 1:1, 5–11).

5. REST

The Sabbath was for everyone. Even strangers and servants were entitled to the day off. No one was to work without rest like the Israelites had done in Egyptian slavery (Exodus 20:9–10; Deuteronomy 5:13–15).



“THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF THE PEOPLES WHO WILL HEAR ALL THESE STATUTES, AND SAY, ‘SURELY THIS GREAT NATION IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.’”

—DEUTERONOMY 4:6

KASTIN CARROLL



Christ's Birth and Death

A study of the beginning and end of Jesus' life reveals some interesting parallels. Consider the following:

- At both, He was rejected of men (Luke 2:7; Mark 15:15).
- At both, He was cast “outside” (Luke 2:7; Hebrews 13:12).
- At both, Mary was there (Luke 2:7; John 19:26).
- At both, myrrh was present for use upon Him (Matthew 2:11; John 19:39).
- At both, there was darkness (Matthew 2:10, 14; 27:45).
- At both, His body was wrapped in cloth (Luke 2:7, 12; Mark 15:46).
- At both, a Herod became curiously involved (Matthew 2:7–8; Luke 23:7–12).
- At both, wise men recognized His deity (Matthew 2:1–2; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:41).
- At both, Jews and Gentiles were there (Matthew 2:1; 27:54–56; Luke 2:4).
- At both, there was worship—the first genuine, the second mocking (Luke 2:13–14; Mark 15:19).
- At both, He was hailed as King—one in earnest, the other in jest (Mark 15:26–32).
- At both, there was an honorable man named Joseph (Matthew 1:19; Luke 2:16; Mark 15:43).
- At both, the chief priest and scribes were involved (Matthew 2:4–6; 27:41; Luke 23:10).

And both have changed the world and altered the impact of eternity.

—Neal Pollard



In life, we can choose to serve Satan as a sinner or serve Christ as a Christian. We can live either way, but Christianity is the better way.

Christianity is the better way because it means salvation. Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved” (John 10:9).

Christianity is the better way because it rids us of our old, sinful life. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Christianity is the better way because God can work through the life of a Christian. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

Christianity is the better way because Christians enjoy the peace of God. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

No one will not be sorry for becoming a Christian or for living the Christian life. It is better for now and for eternity. A Christian is a believer in Christ who has repented and been baptized for the remission of sins.

The Bible says, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). You must obey the gospel to be saved (Mark 16:15–16). The Lord adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). The saved person must remain faithful until death (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:6–8).

Obey the gospel and live for Christ now, so that you may live eternally with Him.

—Charles Box



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