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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 6

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Jesus but He Is the *Good Shepherd*

— Allen Webster

Shepherding is the most honored secular profession of the entire Old Testament era. Sheep and shepherds are referred to in the Bible more than five hundred times.

Along with tending gardens and farming, it is one of the world's oldest professions. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and he offered to God of the firstlings of the flock (Genesis 4:2–4). The Hebrew founding fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—were all shepherds. When Jacob's small family migrated to Egypt, they described their occupation: "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers" (Genesis 47:3). David, Israel's favorite king, was first a shepherd of his father's sheep (1 Samuel 16:11).

The most beloved chapter of the Bible is the Shepherd's Psalm, which compares the relationship between a man and his God to that of a sheep and his shepherd (Psalm 23). This figure is used often in the Old Testament (Psalm 74:1; 77:20; 78:52; 79:13; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:12–15; Micah 7:14). God even pictured Himself as Israel's Shepherd (Psalm 100:3). Needless to say, no one

would have been surprised if the Messiah had come in the guise of a shepherd.

But Jesus' hand never held a shepherd's crook, so far as we know. He never counted and recounted sheep as they passed under His rod at sunset. He never crinkled His nose at the pungent sheep smell on a hot Jerusalem day, nor did He strain His eye to see if that was a wandering sheep far down the hillside. He never chased away a bear nor took a lion by the beard, as David did when his little lambs were threatened (cf. 1 Samuel 17:34–35).

THE SHEPHERD'S TEACHING

Still, Jesus knew about sheep and often talked of them. He made these remarkable statements that are filled with sheep-fold rhetoric:

- "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7).
- "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (10:9).
- "I am the good shepherd" (10:11).
- "The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (10:11).
- "I am the good shepherd; and I know

My sheep, and am known by My own” (10:14).

- “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (10:15).
- “Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd” (10:16).
- “When the Son of Man comes in His glory . . . All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left” (Matthew 25:31–33).

THE SHEPHERD’S ACTIONS

The New Testament pictures Christ as the Shepherd over His flock, the church (Matthew 25:32; 26:31; John 10:1–18; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 2:25). Jesus is identified as “the good shepherd” (John 10:11), “the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25), “the Chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:4), and the “great Shepherd of the sheep” (Hebrews 13:20).

Looking at the context of these a bit closer reveals that:

The “Good Shepherd” died for His sheep (John 10:11, 15). David risked his life for his father’s sheep (1 Samuel 17:34–35), but Jesus did more. He sacrificed His life so that the flock might go to heaven.

The “one shepherd” unifies His sheep (John 10:16). Jews and Gentiles, all races and nationalities, all economic and educational levels are found in the same flock.

The “great shepherd” saves and protects the sheep (John

10:9, 11; 1 Peter 1:8–9). He promised never to leave us (give us up, let us go, relax His hold on us) or forsake us (leave us in the lurch) (Hebrews 13:5; cf. 2 Timothy 4:10). A physician can save your life. A lawyer can save your fortune. A financial advisor can save your business. A coach can save your athletic career. An image consultant can save your reputation. But only Jesus can save your soul (Matthew 16:26; cf. Psalm 49:8).

The Shepherd and Overseer (1 Peter 2:25) guides His sheep (Hebrews 13:20–21). He leads in the right way (John 10:4). Cattle are driven, but sheep are led. Jesus does not drive us to heaven, or simply point the direction to us; He goes before us, showing us the way, step by step (1 Peter 2:21–22).

The “Chief Shepherd” will reward His sheep (1 Peter 5:4). He cares for His sheep individually (John 10:3). Jesus knows each name, and even the hairs of each head (Matthew 10:29–30).

THE SHEPHERD’S SHEEP

“We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3). “He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand” (Psalm 95:7). It is no accident that God compared man to sheep, because the behavior of sheep and humans is similar in many ways.

- Sheep require, more than any other livestock, endless attention. Christ must show endless care for us (Matthew 28:20; John 10:16, 29; 2 Timothy 4:16–17; Hebrews 13:5–6).
- Both have a poor sense of direction and get lost easily (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:25). The Shepherd feeds us and leads us.
- Both have sight problems (2 Peter 1:9). Jesus must show us the way.
- Both must have another to supply their needs (Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 1:3; John 14:6; 15:4).
- Both need protection from danger (Hebrews 13:5–6; John 10:11–18; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13–15). Sheep have no other means of protection (like a skunk’s smell or a snake’s venom).
- Both are easily frightened (Matthew 10:28; 28:5). There is a reason “fear not” is found 63 times in the Bible.
- Both can be stubborn (Hebrews 3:8, 15; 4:7).
- Both need constant guidance and are likely to follow the wrong leaders (2 Peter 2:1).

Thrupp’s old hymn says it best:

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us:
Much we need Thy tenderest care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare.*

Are you in His fold?



Never Too Old

Old age is dreaded by many because it is often associated with loneliness, physical decline, and a retreat to inactivity.

However, history records that many people made some of their greatest contributions to society after age 65:

- The Earl of Halsburg was 90 when he began preparing a 20-volume revision of English law.
- Goethe wrote *Faust* at 82.
- Galileo made his greatest discovery when he was 73.
- At 65, Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister for the first time, and he started the epic struggle against Hitler.
- At 72, Golda Meir became Prime Minister of Israel.
- At 80, Grandma Moses, who had started painting in her late 70s, had her first one-woman exhibit.
- At 81, Benjamin Franklin skillfully mediated between disagreeing factions at the U.S. Constitutional Convention.
- At 80, Winston Churchill returned to the House of Commons as a member of Parliament and also exhibited 62 of his paintings.
- At 80, Nora Cydrus became a child of God.

You probably will not read about Nora Cydrus in the textbooks of history, but this week she made the greatest decision of all history: she became a Christian, a child of God.

Nora has a dear friend, another octogenarian, named Thelma Clark. Thelma

cared so much about Nora that she wanted her to know about Jesus Christ, and how one can be saved from sin through Him (Ephesians 1:7). So Thelma began to study God's Word with Nora, and she brought her to worship and Bible class. Then, this past Wednesday, a Christian from the Cox Boulevard church of Christ in Sheffield, Alabama, Julia Counts, teamed up with Thelma to teach Nora about how to respond to what Jesus had done for her (and for all of us). They studied about how Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross (Romans 5:8–10).

They read in God's Word that in order to receive the blessings of Jesus' death, we must believe in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9–10), and be immersed in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

Then, Nora Cydrus confessed her faith and was baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26–27) to have her sins washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16). She became a Christian, praising God for her salvation!

Are you a Christian? You are never too old, and it is still not too late!

Won't you trust and obey Him today?

—David A. Sargent

Nor Too Young

A child in church services for the first time watched as the offering plates came around. When the plate neared his pew, he piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me, Daddy; I'm under five."

"Rejoice in the Lord always."

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

The Devil's Bible

Foolishness 19:7: "I'll try anything once."

Popular 6:9: "Go ahead; everyone else is doing it."

Cowardly 1:10: "The best thing to do when Christ and His church are criticized is to keep silent. Critics might get angry if you speak up."

Indifference 3:4: "I'm tired after working all day and cannot attend church services."

Deceit 8:15: "It makes no difference what one believes as long as he is sincere."

Pride 31:3: "If I become a Christian, my friends will think I've become a religious fanatic. I don't like to be laughed at."

Foolishness 6:6: "One drink will do no harm."

Excuses 1:1: "I'm afraid to discuss the Bible with others. Anyway, they won't listen."

Apostasy 2:5: "What difference does it make whether we follow the New Testament or not?"

Heartache 7:2: "I've never cheated on my spouse before, but everybody does. No one will ever find out about this one time."

Hypocrisy 6:5: "When we go home from college on weekends, we go to church so the home folks will think we are faithful at school."

Two Opinions 2:4: "One church is as good as another; therefore, attend the church of your choice."

"Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

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



Get Married First

About 20.1 million in the U.S. live with an unmarried partner, which is about eight percent of U.S. couples, most of whom are in the 25 to 34 age group. Women view cohabitation as a commitment made before marriage to that partner, while men see it as a step before an actual commitment. Living together is illegal in Mississippi and North Carolina.

God's Word says that commitment comes before marriage and marriage before sleeping together. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Let's think about how seriously God views our relationships.

"From the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh."

MARK 10:6-8



Heard in Bible Class

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"



To watch videos, read articles, answer Bible questions, and more go to house-to-house.com

A Few More Principles on Discipline



Do not constantly warn or threaten. If every other sentence is a warning, then it tends to lose its punch or desired effect. I may choose to warn a child in a particular situation, but if I have already "laid down the law" about it, and if I have kept my word in the past about breaking rules, then the child will know that I mean what I say, without another warning.

Remember, children will remember how you deal with them. They will share such information with others. In later years, they will remind you of how you treated them. Perhaps keeping this in mind can help us avoid inappropriate responses.

Remember that God wrote the book on childrearing and disciplining children. His words should be the guidebook for Christian parents (2 Peter 1:3). No parent is smarter than God in any matter, especially in childrearing. Parents might bypass His Word and sometimes have well-behaved children, but how will God look at parents who disregard what He says?

Try to avoid administering discipline when extremely angry. When we are all worked up, we say rash words and take rash action. It is not a good practice to rush into discipline when our engine is overheated.

Take it seriously. How you rear and discipline your children will have a big influence on how they will rear and discipline their children. You could be setting the pace for generations to come.

A failure by parents to deal with children's inappropriate behavior is a failure! Never forget the mistake of Eli (1 Samuel 2:29; 3:12-13).

Explain. As children grow and are able to understand, take time to explain why something is required, why it is right, or why it is wrong.

Avoid saying irresponsible things ("I'll knock you into next week").

Be consistent. That is easy to say but difficult to practice. Try to be consistent in matters of discipline from child to child and from case to case.

Evaluate yourself as a disciplinarian. How are you doing? Do you need to make any changes? What mistakes have you made, and what have you learned from them? Would it be helpful in some cases to admit those mistakes to the children, if they are old enough to remember and understand them? —Roger Campbell

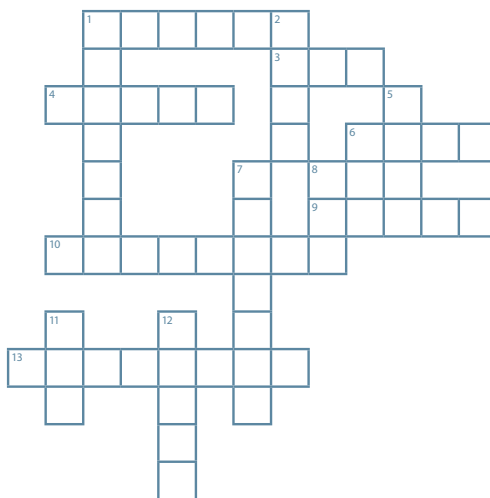
"Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction."

PROVERBS 19:18

Just for Fun Crossword

"Therefore do not **worry**, saying, 'What shall we **eat**?' or 'What shall we **drink**?' or 'What shall we **wear**?' For after all these things the Gentiles **seek**. For your **heavenly** Father knows that you **need** all these things. But seek first the **kingdom** of **God** and His righteousness, and all these **things** shall be **added** to you. Therefore do not worry about **tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the **day** is its own **trouble**."

— MATTHEW 6:31-34



1 (ACROSS): THINGS; 1 (DOWN): TROUBLE; 2: SEEK; 3: EAT; 4: WORRY; 5: NEED; 6: WEAR; 7: KINGDOM; 8: DAY; 9: ADDED; 10: HEAVENLY; 11: GOD; 12: DRINK; 13: TOMORROW



Is Anger Always Wrong?

Anger is a destructive emotion that has led to many kinds of sin, including murder, as when Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4:4–8). The elder brother of the prodigal son “was angry and would not go in” (Luke 15:28). Paul wrote, “‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath” (Ephesians 4:26). It is possible to be angry without sinning, but it is difficult.

When Jesus saw the moneychangers cheating people in the temple, He made a

scourge and drove them out of the temple, saying, “Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” (John 2:16). Jesus acted out of righteous indignation. Undoubtedly, He was angry, but He did not sin because He was zealous for God’s glory. The child of God ought to be angry when the glory of God is challenged, and it is a tragedy for Christians to be so tolerant that nothing makes them angry.

James gives a simple prescription for dealing with anger: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:19–20). To be “swift to hear” means to be a ready listener. Often, we are angered because we do not have enough information. When we listen carefully, sometimes even “reading between the lines,” we may find that concern replaces anger. Anger is often simply an emotional reaction.

To be “slow to speak” means to control the tongue, which is a difficult task. James said, “No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). Solomon said, “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (Proverbs 29:20). Hasty words spoken in anger will almost always be regretted.

To be “slow to wrath” is also difficult. We can slow the anger process by counting to ten. Prayer is also helpful, as is the realization that we can control our reaction to a problem.

The “new man” in Christ lays aside worldly anger. “Put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man” (Colossians 3:8–10).

—Bob Prichard

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



Bible Quiz

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Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “The End Times” 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. 30:4 One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Child or Grandchild: 1. Lord (Psalm 23:1); 2. Fathers, training (Ephesians 6:4); 3. Fool (Psalm 14:1); 4. Obey (Ephesians 6:1); 5. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17); 6. Love (Hebrews 13:1); 7. Jesus, Son (Acts 8:37); 8. Love, kind (1 Corinthians 13:4); 9. Word (Luke 8:11); 10. Christ (Romans 16:16); 11. Gospel, power (Romans 1:16); 12. Do not lie (Colossians 3:9). *And a Half Dozen More:* 13. Love (1 John 4:8); 14. Wept (John 11:35); 15. Cares (1 Peter 5:7); 16. Grace (Ephesians 2:8); 17. God (John 1:1); 18. Flesh (John 1:14).

V. 30:5 Jesus’ Parables: 1. Five, two, one (Matthew 25:13–32); 2. First, first (Matthew 20:16); 3. Least, Me (Matthew 25:40); 4. Faith (Matthew 17:20); 5. Understands (Matthew 13:23); 6. Thirty (Matthew 13:23); 7. Yes (Mark 4:26–29); 8. “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29); 9. Treasure (Matthew 13:44); 10. One (Matthew 18:14); 11. Pearls (Matthew 13:45); 12. Sold (Matthew 13:46); 13. Goes to look for the lost sheep until he finds it (Luke 15:4–7); 14. Relent (Matthew 21:32); 15. The younger (Luke 15:11–13); 16. Buries it (Matthew 25:18); 17. Therefore (Matthew 25:13).

One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Teen

Directions: Sit down with your teen and a Bible and look up these Scriptures together. Fill in the blanks. Explain what the verse means. Finally, memorize a verse together each day. Depending on the age of the child, you may want to focus on learning one verse a week. *Questions are taken from the New King James Version.*

- John 3:16; “For God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten _____, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting _____.”
- Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God _____ the heavens and the earth.”
- John 14:6; “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the _____, the truth, and the life. _____ one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
- Psalm 23:1 “The _____ is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
- Matthew 16:18; “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.”
- Mark 16:15; “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the _____ and preach the gospel to every creature.’”
- Mark 16:16; “He who believes and is _____ will be _____; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
- Hebrews 11:1 “Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- Romans 10:17; “So then faith comes by _____, and hearing by the word of God.”
- John 20:31; “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.”
- John 10:10; “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more _____.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:13; “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is _____.”

Don't Accept a Counterfeit

Those who work around money have to be careful not to accept a counterfeit. They must learn to see the difference between a counterfeit and an original at a glance. If they do not know what the original looks like, they are likely to accept a counterfeit and lose some money.

Spiritually speaking, each of us must be able to tell a counterfeit from an original when we see it. We must not let the devil trick us into accepting a counterfeit (2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:14). If we let him trick us, we will lose more than money. We will lose our souls (Matthew 16:26). Let us consider one of the devil's counterfeits that we must be careful not to accept.

Do not accept a counterfeit church. In fulfillment of prophecies and promises, Christ established His church on the first Pentecost following His resurrection (Isaiah 2:2–3; Daniel 2:44; Joel 2:28–32; Matthew 16:18; Mark 9:1; Acts 2:47). Although Christ established only one church (Ephesians 4:4; cf. 1:22–23), the devil has filled the world with counterfeits.

As is always the case with counterfeits, they bear enough of the marks of the original to deceive those who are not careful to notice every detail. Because the devil has many counterfeits, we must make sure that what we have found is the original. We must make sure that the

church of which we are a member can trace its origin back to the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:47). We must make sure that the church of which we are a member teaches the plan of salvation taught in the Scriptures (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:17). We must make sure that the church of which we are a member worships on the proper day and in the proper way (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2; John 4:24).

None of us wants to face judgment in a counterfeit church. Counterfeit churches will be rooted up (Matthew 15:13). You can be sure that Christ can tell His church from the counterfeits made by the devil.

—Wade Webster

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

Help with **Addiction**



Recommended Resource

Millions of people are seeking freedom from porn addiction. Sex was created by God to be a good thing, and He wants us to have a healthy view of sexuality. These ten biblical and actionable things can take you from where you are today to purity in Jesus Christ with a healthy view of sexuality.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWAOffsof5w

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:



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☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

Featured Tracts!

- ☐ The World's Greatest Monument
- ☐ Have Peace with One Another
- ☐ How the Church of Christ Began in Philippi
- ☐ Some Things You Might Not Know about God



More subjects:



☐ The History of the Church in Ephesus in Time-lapse Photography



☐ Why People Don't Understand the Bible



☐ God's Stewards



☐ Where Was God When Disaster Struck?



☐ What God Did for Just One Soul



☐ Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All



☐ 10 Things I Wish the World Knew about Jesus

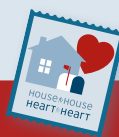


☐ Your Church Seems to Really Care. Why Is That?



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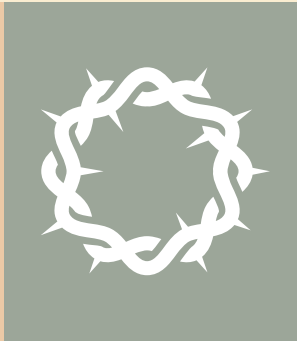
The Plan of Salvation

MAN'S NEED: ROMANS 3:23



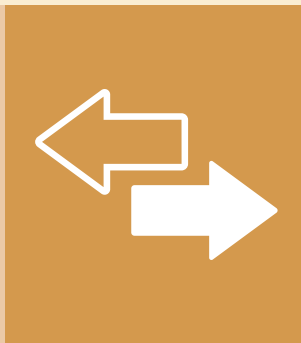
HEAR

Romans 10:14, 17;
Luke 6:47, 49



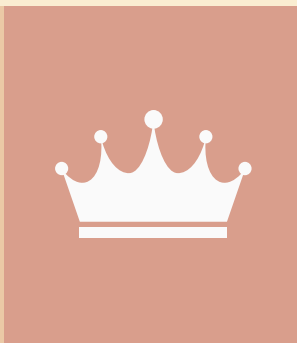
BELIEVE

Hebrews 11:6;
Mark 16:16; James 2:24



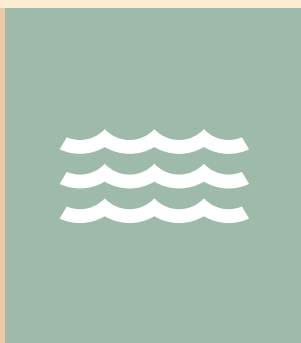
REPENT

Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20



CONFESS

Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12;
Matthew 10:32-33



BE BAPTIZED

IMMERSED IN WATER AS A BELIEVER

Acts 2:38; 22:16;
Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21



REMAIN FAITHFUL

Revelation 2:10;
1 Corinthians 10:12; 15:58

Helping the World See Jesus

The Bible presents Jesus as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He characterized His mission by saying: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The world greatly needs to see Jesus and to be obedient to His teachings. This is not optional, but essential for one's enjoyment of life on this earth as well as one's eternal life in heaven.

The Greeks desired to see Jesus (John 12:20-21). Nicodemus came to Jesus by night (John 3:1-2). Zacchaeus even climbed up into a tree in order to see Jesus (Luke 19:2-4). The world urgently needs to see Jesus. But how? Here are three ways.

First, we can see Jesus through the written word. John concluded his biography of Jesus by saying that those things were "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (John 20:30-31). Not only is Christ the Mediator of the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15), but all Scripture is the power of God to save, and it is that by which we will one day be judged (Romans 1:16; John 12:48).

Second, the world can see Jesus through the spoken word. The preaching of the truth is the means by which God has chosen to save men (1 Corinthians 1:21). The gospel was preached at Corinth, and preachers today are charged with the responsibility to "preach the word" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Third, the world can see Jesus through the lives of Christians. Paul mentioned the fact that Christians are living epistles—letters—and that they are "known and read by all men" (2 Corinthians 3:2). Christ lives in the life of every faithful Christian (Galatians 2:20). When we live a godly life, Jesus is magnified, and God is glorified (Matthew 5:16; Galatians 1:24).

One of our most solemn tasks is to help the world see Jesus! —Kelby Smith

The erring Christian can be restored by repentance and prayer (Acts 8:22).



Three Things You Will Not Hear on the Day of Judgment



The concept of a coming Day of Judgment is not a fantasy or fable. It is a fact. Paul told the people in ancient Athens that God “has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). All people who have ever lived on the earth will be brought before the throne of God, and His glorious Son will judge each one of us (Matthew 25:31–33). On that great day, do not expect to see or hear these things:

1. On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “There is no God.” According to the Bible, that is what fools say while living in this world (Psalm 14:1). However, on judgment day this truth will be clear to all: “He is” (Hebrews 11:6). “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).
2. On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “One religion is as good as another.” On that day, all will know without a doubt that only through Jesus can people come to the Father (John 14:6). All will see that only those washed in the blood of the Lamb are redeemed from sins (Revelation 5:9), and the only way for His blood to keep on cleansing a person is for that person to continue to walk in the light of His word (1 John 1:7).
3. On the Day of Judgment, no one will say, “I regret that I did my best to follow Jesus faithfully.” The crown of life is for the faithful (Revelation 2:10). It is the good and faithful servant who will hear on that day, “Well done. . . . Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:23). Regret such a reward? Never! Every service attended, every prayer offered, every minute spent in Bible study, every visit made, every mile walked for the cause—all of this and more will make us think, as the hymn says, “Heaven will surely be worth it all.”

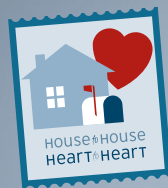
May we all give diligence to make our call and election sure (2 Peter 1:10–11).

—Roger Campbell



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