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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 10

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Jesus Made a **Blood Donation** for You

Allen Webster

Most of us would be touched if someone volunteered to donate blood so that we might live.

In a spiritual sense, Jesus donated His blood for each of us. Not one of the founders of the world's other religions ever offered his blood for his followers.

Jesus' blood reaches men in every rank, every class, every tribe, and every tongue (Hebrews 2:9–10; Revelation 5:9; cf. John 1:29; 12:32; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6). He embraces every race (Matthew 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16; Galatians 3:28). In the New Testament, we see people of all nations and circumstances responding to His love (Ethiopian, Acts 8; Jews, Acts 2; Gentiles, Acts 10; Europeans, Acts 16; Lepers, Luke 17). God loves everyone. He is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9).

Have you ever given blood? Let us contrast our blood donations with His.

OUR PINT IS A DONATION; JESUS' GIFT WAS A SACRIFICE

After we give blood, we enjoy a snack and return to normal activities. After He gave blood, Jesus died. “Jesus cried with a loud voice, and breathed His last” (Mark 15:37). We give what we can easily spare; Christ gave His very life's blood. Man has sinned away his right to live: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Since all have sinned (Romans 3:23), and sin demands the death of the sinner (Ezekiel 18:4), how can anyone be saved? The answer: Jesus died for us. “This Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:12).

OUR DONATION IS IN COMFORTABLE AND STERILE CONDITIONS; HIS WAS ON A CROSS

In your mind, contrast the two scenes: First, a patient in a nice, comfortable chair

in an air-conditioned building with the best of equipment; then Jesus on that cross, nearly naked, beaten, and bleeding while sinful men shout for Him to die. Our blood comes out of our arm via a sterile needle; Jesus' blood came out of His body via thorns, whip, and nails.

After Pilate ordered Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 27:26), Roman soldiers viciously carried it out (Luke 23:33). It was customary for the criminal to carry the cross to the crucifixion site, so Jesus began carrying His to Golgotha (John 19:17). Under its weight, and in His weakened condition, apparently His strength gave out en route (Luke 23:26). Quite a contrast from the medical clinic, is it not?

OUR DONATION IS QUICK AND RELATIVELY EASY; HIS WAS DRAWN OUT AND PAINFUL

Actual blood donation today takes about ten minutes. It took Jesus six hours (Mark 15:25, 34). The entire process for us, from the time we sign in to the time we leave, takes maybe an hour. For Him, the process took twenty-one hours; it began at 6:00 p.m. Thursday and did not end until 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

OUR PINT WILL BE EXPENSIVE FOR THE RECIPIENT; CHRIST'S BLOOD IS FREE TO ALL

A pint of blood costs a few hundred dollars, but it could cost ten times that much depending on how much typing and testing is done on it. On the other hand, you will not need to bring your checkbook to come to Jesus. Salvation is a "gift" (Ro-

mans 6:23; John 4:10); yes, a "free gift" (Romans 5:15–18). We are justified freely (Romans 3:24). The water of life is freely given (Revelation 22:17). The Spirit tells us of the things that are "freely given to us of God" (1 Corinthians 2:12). All of us can agree: "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

OUR DONATION GOES OUT OF DATE AFTER FORTY-TWO DAYS; CHRIST'S BLOOD IS ETERNALLY FRESH

U.S. blood centers often have difficulty maintaining even a three-day supply for routine transfusion demands. Christ's blood's life-giving power is as strong today as it was when it was given on the cross. We may give many times, but Jesus could give only once. It will never need to be replenished. It will remain effective until the end of time.

OUR BLOOD MAY BE REJECTED DUE TO DISEASE, CONTAGION, OR CORRUPTION; JESUS' BLOOD IS PURE AND SINLESS

Thirteen tests (eleven for infectious diseases) are performed on each unit of donated blood. Peter made four references to the purity of Christ and His gospel in one passage (1 Peter 1:18–23):

- Precious: Of much worth; that which is costly. Something that is flawed would not be precious.
- Without blemish: Absence of physical defect (Exodus 12:5; Leviticus 22:20–21; cf. Hebrews 9:14). It was faultless, as the sacrificial lamb had to be.

- Without spot; Without stain, in a moral sense (cf. 1 Timothy 6:14; James 1:27; 2 Peter 3:14).
- Incorruptible: Corruptible seed results in decay and death; incorruptible seed leads to eternal life.

ONE PINT OF YOUR BLOOD CAN SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES; ONE DROP OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST CAN SAVE THE WORLD (JOHN 3:16)

Only thirty-seven percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but only about ten percent do so annually. The number one reason blood donors say they give is because they "want to help others." That is why Jesus came to make His donation (Luke 19:10).

There is no substitute for blood. Modern science has done much in the fields of medicine and hygiene, plastic surgery, and synthetic replacements. If a leg is lost, an artificial one is made; if a nose is broken or the face burned, plastic surgery is performed; if a lung collapses, it can be restored. Even the heart can be replaced, but no synthetic blood has yet been manufactured, nor is there any substance that will substitute for it.

The precious nature of blood is clear in the Old and New Testaments. Blood sacrifices were required for the forgiveness of sin. The blood sacrifices of animals never dealt with the sin problem permanently. That took the blood of Jesus. John declares, "the blood of Jesus . . . cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Jesus made a blood donation for you. Will you accept it?



The Preacher's Mother



"Rejoice in the Lord always."
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. A friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked.

"The front row, please," she answered.

"You really do not want to do that," the usher said. "The preacher is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" asked the woman.

"No," said the usher.

"I am the preacher's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" the usher asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he said, as he disappeared into the crowd.

—Van Morris, Mt. Washington, Kentucky (adapted)

Jesus Loves Me

Karl Barth was a famous philosopher who spent many years studying the Scriptures. He was once asked, "What is the greatest theological discovery you have ever made?"

He thought and said simply, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Can you remember where you were the first time you heard those words?

I cannot, because, quite honestly, I do not remember not knowing them. The words are sung by children literally all

over the world, and I do not know a message more needed by every child and adult than those simple words with the life-changing message, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Jesus Himself said, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12–13).

Can you imagine that? Jesus loves me!

"What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

MATTHEW 16:26



Happiest Verses

If you are feeling a bit down, take time to read some of Inspiration's most inspirational words:

Psalms 23:1; 37:25; 127:3–5;

2 Corinthians 5:1;

Deuteronomy 33:27;

James 1:17;

Acts 14:17;

Ephesians 3:20;

Isaiah 26:3; 40:31; 55:7; 58:11;

Luke 15:21–24;

Job 13:15; 42:12;

Philippians 4:4, 7, 13, 19;

Acts 8:8, 39; 16:25–35;

1 Peter 1:7–8;

John 14:1–3;

Hebrews 4:16;

1 Thessalonians 5:16–17;

2 Corinthians 2:14;

Psalms 1:2;

Ephesians 3:8–11;

Romans 5:5; 8:28–39.

—Johnny Ramsey

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

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About That Haircut

A teen had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father if they could discuss his use of the family car. His father took him into his study and said, "I will make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study the Bible daily, get your hair cut, and then we will talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and asked if they could discuss his use of the car. They again went into the father's study, where the father said, "Son, I have been very proud of you. You have brought your grades up, and you have studied the Bible diligently, but you did not get your hair cut."

The young man replied, "You know, Dad, I have been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses and Noah may have had long hair, and even Jesus is pictured with long hair."

"Yes," his father said, "and everywhere they went, they walked."

"A merry heart does good."

PROVERBS 17:22

In the Toilet

My son Zachary, 4, came screaming out of the bathroom to tell me he had dropped his toothbrush in the toilet. So I fished it out and threw it in the garbage. Zachary stood there thinking for a moment, then ran to my bathroom and came out with my toothbrush.

He held it up and said with a charming little smile, "We had better throw this one out too then—I dropped it in the toilet a few days ago."

"Anxiety in the heart . . . causes depression, but a good word makes it glad."

PROVERBS 12:25



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Teach Them to Wait

Studies indicate that early overindulgence is creating unrealistic expectations among today's teens, and it may lead to a lifelong habit of overspending. Researchers at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research blame parents who overspend on their children. Few parents deny the accusation. What can parents do?

Teach the value of delayed gratification. In a compelling study about the power of delayed gratification, psychologist Walter Mischel discovered that, when given a choice between an immediate reward and a better one a little later, children who could wait grew to be adults who were more confident, effective, assertive, and dependable. They also were better able to delay gratification in pursuit of their goals than the adults who could not resist the temptation of the immediate reward when they were children.

Teach through daily experiences. The Bible encourages teaching God's Word to children when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deuteronomy 6:7). We should take the same approach in teaching them about money. Weekly shopping trips offer opportunities to teach children about everything from budgeting to making tradeoffs. Involve them in the process, helping them distinguish between needs and wants. Teach them to establish a budget—and stick to it.

Make it real. Surprisingly, less than one-third of children get an allowance. Children need hands-on experience; let them manage real money of their own.

Be the marketing gatekeeper. In her book *Born to Buy*, Boston University professor Juliet Schor wrote that marketers have been successful at influencing children largely because parents are granting them direct access, with TVs and computers commonplace in children's rooms. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation report, twenty-six percent of two- to four-year-olds and thirty-nine percent of five- to seven-year-olds have TVs in their bedrooms. Both groups watch nearly two hours per day. Consider removing TVs and computers from children's rooms.

Be involved. Successful families, according to Schor, are thoughtful and consistent in their rules and choices. They spend a lot of time with their children and offer alternatives to the materialistic activities suggested by corporate America. They proactively teach children how to handle money and how to distinguish between needs and wants. They provide allowances, but they require that a portion of the money be allocated to savings and charity.

Of course, Schor says parents need to walk the talk. Not surprisingly, highly materialistic kids are more likely to have highly materialistic parents. Preaching lessons on restraint is unlikely to connect if the parents' closets are stuffed with the latest fashions and a typical family outing involves a trip to the mall. —Matt Bell (adapted)

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

MATTHEW 6:19-20



Is It Possible to IDENTIFY the Church of the New Testament?

With so many forms of “Christianity” today, one may ask, “How can I know I have found the church of the New Testament?” This is a valid question, and we can see why some are confused with over 2000 individual religious groups all claiming to be Christians. However, we can say with certainty that it is possible to find the church revealed in the New Testament. As an illustration, consider the following:

I have been married to my beautiful wife for twenty-two years. Let us suppose I decide to take her on a cruise to celebrate our anniversary. Shortly after boarding a ship filled with more than 2000 passengers, we become separated. My wife is a petite brunette. Suppose every other woman on the ship is a petite

brunette; am I to despair that I should never find her among so many others? Of course not. Even though many on board are similar, I can easily find her because she is unique among all others. She has specific characteristics that allow me to easily distinguish between her and all others.

The same can be said for the Lord’s church. Jesus promised, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). Note that Jesus did not promise to build “churches,” but “church” (singular). In Ephesians 5:22–32, Paul parallels the husband-and-wife relationship with that of Jesus and His church. As a husband is to have only one wife, and a wife only one husband, Jesus has only one church. In fact, throughout this text, there are twelve

references to the church, all of which are singular in nature:

- 5:23—“the church” and “the body”;
- 5:24—“the church”;
- 5:25—“the church” and “her”;
- 5:26—“her”;
- 5:27—“a glorious church,” “she,” and “her”;
- 5:29—“the church”;
- 5:30—“His body”;
- 5:32—“the church.”

If it is possible for me to identify my wife among thousands of other women, though they share some of her characteristics, then it is equally possible for me to find the church Jesus built, though there be thousands sharing some of its characteristics. —Todd Clippard

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:10

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Historically Correct” 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. 30:8 *One Dozen Scriptures for Couples:* 1. Rejoice (Proverbs 5:18); 2. Burdens (Galatians 6:2); 3. Wives, husbands (Ephesians 5:24); 4. Leave, joined (Genesis 2:24); 5. God, joined (Matthew 19:6); 6. Lie (Colossians 3:9); 7. Love, gave (Ephesians 5:25); 8. Body, wife (1 Corinthians 7:4); 9. Adultery, adultery (Matthew 19:9); 10. Honorable, bed (Hebrews 13:4); 11. Husbands, children (Titus 2:4); 12. Love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

V. 30:9 *Facts about the Apostles:* 1. Simon Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:18–20); 2. Matthew (also called Levi) (Matthew 9:9); 3. Fishermen (Matthew 4:18–22); 4. Thomas (John 20:24–29); 5. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14–16); 6. Matthias (Acts 1:23–26); 7. Peter (Matthew 14:28–29); 8. Peter (Luke 22:56–62); 9. Peter (Acts 2:14–40); 10. John (John 13:23; 21:20); 11. John (Revelation 1:9); 12. Simon the Zealot (Luke 6:15); 13. Andrew (John 1:40–42); 14. Philip (John 14:8); 15. Judas (not Iscariot) (John 14:22); 16. James the brother of John (Acts 12:1–2); 17. Nathanael (John 1:45–46); 18. Thomas (John 11:16); 19. John (John 21:22–23 — tradition supports this); 20. Paul (Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1).

One Dozen Scriptures for Parents

Directions: Without opening your Bible, fill in all the missing words and verse references you can. When you do all you can from memory, use these Scriptures to complete the exercise: Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalm 127:1, 3; 144:12; Proverbs 1:8; 13:20; 14:26; 19:18; 22:6; Galatians 6:7; Ephesians 6:4, 8 (not in order). Finally, memorize the verses together. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. “Behold, children are a _____ from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a _____.”
2. “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to _____, but bring them up in the training and _____ of the Lord.”
3. “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his _____ will have a place of _____.”
4. “_____ up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not _____ from it.”
5. “Unless the _____ builds the _____, they labor in vain who build it.”
6. “You shall _____ them _____ to your children, and shall _____ of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
7. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man _____, that he will also reap.”
8. “He who walks with _____ men shall be wise, but the _____ of fools will be destroyed.”
9. “That our _____ may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our _____ may be as pillars, sculptured in palace style.”
10. “_____ your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.”
11. “My son, hear the instruction of your _____, and do not forsake the law of your _____.”
12. “Knowing that whatever _____ anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord.”

WORLD'S BEST BOOK

This book contains the mind of God, the state of men, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy; its precepts are binding; its histories are true; its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It

is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven is opened, and the ways of hell are disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the redemption of man its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given to you in life; it will be open in the judgment, and it will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities; it will reward the greatest labor; it will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. —Author Unknown

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!"

PSALM 139:17

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

Recommended Resource



Want to learn more about the Bible? World Bible School offers a FREE online Bible study. You will be joined by one of our Study Helpers who can help answer your questions, provide positive feedback and guide you through the study. Start today at worldbibleschool.org or download the World Bible School app.

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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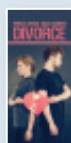
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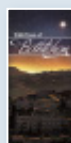
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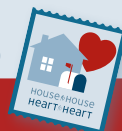


☐ I Would Go to Church, But All They Want Is Money



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VOLUME 30:10



Chapter to Chapter LEVITICUS

This chart is part of a memory system for learning the key people, events, topics, and verses of all 929 Old Testament chapters.

INTRODUCTION

Written by Moses, Leviticus provides detailed laws for worship, sacrifice, and holiness. It centers on how Israel could approach a holy God through atonement and purity. It emphasizes the role of priests and outlines the annual feasts. It was likely written around 1445 BC during Israel's time at Mount Sinai.

CHAPTER/TOPICS

CHAPTER/TOPICS	VERSES
1. Burnt offerings	1:3
2. Grain offerings	2:1
3. Peace offerings	3:1
4. Sin offerings	4:3
5. Guilt offerings	5:1
6. Laws on theft and repayment	6:2
7. Eating the offering	7:15
8. Aaron and his sons are anointed and consecrated.	8:12
9. Fire from the Lord consumes the offering.	9:24
10. Nadab and Abihu die for offering strange fire.	10:1-2
11. Clean and unclean animals	11:2
12. Laws for purification after childbirth	12:7
13. Guidelines for identifying leprosy	13:2
14. Cleansing procedures for lepers	14:4
15. Rules on bodily discharges and defilement	15:2
16. The Day of Atonement	16:30
17. Life is in the blood; blood is for atonement.	17:11
18. Israel must not follow the immoral ways of Egypt or Canaan.	18:3
19. Love your neighbor as yourself.	19:18
20. Penalties for child sacrifice and other sins	20:2
21. Priests must be holy and undefiled.	21:6
22. Sacrifices must be without defect.	22:21
23. Feast days of the Lord at appointed times	23:2
24. Lampstand oil and showbread for continual worship	24:2
25. The Year of Jubilee—freedom and restoration	25:10
26. Blessings for obedience; curses for disobedience	26:3, 14
27. Laws on vows and dedicated things	27:2

Judgment Day Excuses That Will Not Work

Jesus will come again (John 14:3). On the same day, He will judge all men. That day is called both "the last day" (John 12:48) and "the day of judgment" (2 Peter 3:7).

What excuses might be given that day? "But, Lord, I thought . . ." This sounds like Naaman when he was told to dip in the Jordan to be rid of leprosy (2 Kings 5:11). He thought he knew how things ought to happen, but God thought differently. On Judgment Day it might be, "But I thought that all a person had to do to be saved was believe in Jesus as God's Son." The Bible says, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. . . 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness'. . . You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:17-24).

Jesus will judge us by the Bible (John 12:48). "But, Lord, I was always told. . . ." In the religious realm, all kinds of faulty messages are given. Only God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Some might say, "I was told that one church is as good as another." God's Word teaches that there is only one body or church (Ephesians 4:4), and that Jesus promised to build one church (Matthew 16:18). He purchased and saves only one church with His blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23, 25).

"But, Lord, my pastor always said. . . ." It is amazing how many people hang their soul's destiny on what a preacher has to say. The only Pastor whom we should accept as final authority is "our Lord Jesus . . . that great Shepherd of the sheep" (Hebrews 13:20). He alone has all authority (Matthew 28:18-20). At the judgment, some may plead, "But my pastor said that it does not matter how you worship, just as long as you worship the Lord." The Master said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Think about it.

— Roger Campbell





Two People

Two people were sitting on a park bench discussing what had made them failures. The first said, "I am a failure because I did not take anybody's advice." The second said, "I am a failure because I took everybody's advice."

These are among the greatest mistakes a person can make.

In religious matters, God expects us to listen (Romans 10:17), but He also expects us to think for ourselves (Isaiah 1:18; Romans 12:2). The Bereans were commended because, after Paul preached to them, "They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). In other words, they checked up on the apostle Paul.

The message is obvious: Do not accept anything religiously just because someone says it is so; check for yourselves whether or not it is true to the Book.



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ASK

A BIBLE QUESTION

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