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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 3

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Tim Strickland.....Associate Minister
Garrett Rowlett.....Youth Minister

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Worship 10:00 a.m.
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HOUSE TO HOUSE/HEART TO HEART is published monthly. It is sent to select Gallatin routes and individuals free upon request. Send all correspondence to address above. To God be the glory.

DO WE OBEY THE 10 COMMANDMENTS TODAY?

Allen Webster

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The Ten Commandments are the most recognized moral code in human history. Given to Moses on Mount Sinai in 1491 BC, the words were etched by the very hand of God upon two stone tablets. They were the foundation of the covenant between God and Israel. (Exodus 21–23 and Leviticus contain the rest of Moses' law. The Jews say there are 613 laws—248 positive and 365 negative.)

The Ten Commandments cover both man's vertical relationship (with God) and his horizontal relationships (with people). The first four deal with man's responsibility to God, instructing the Jews to worship only Jehovah, forsake idolatry, revere God's name, and keep the Sabbath holy. These laws require man to honor the Creator, recognize His sovereignty, and depend on His provision.

The remaining six commandments address human relationships. They demand respect for parents, sanctity of life, faithfulness in marriage, integrity with property, truthfulness in speech, and contentment with possessions. They uphold the dignity of individuals and the sanctity of family, forming the foundation for a stable society. While eight of ten are nega-

tive ("you shall not"), the ten can be condensed into just two positive laws: Love your God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36–39; Romans 13:8–10).

The moral behavior described by the Ten Commandments is still required of men, but no one lives under the Ten Commandments today. Some would find it shocking that one could keep the Ten Commandments perfectly and still be lost. Many are puzzled by this statement, even defiant against it. Why is it true?

WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Ten Commandments were the law of God's land for 1500 years. Throughout the Old Testament, they served as both law and instruction. When Israel obeyed God's law, blessings followed; when they disobeyed, judgment ensued (Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 15; Judges 2:11–15).

To understand the Ten Commandments in God's overall plan, start with five important questions:

- Unto whom were they given? Israel (Deuteronomy 5:1–3; Romans 3:1–2).
- When were they given? After Israel left



Egypt, at Mt. Sinai (Horeb) (Deuteronomy 5:2–4).

- Why were they given? To increase awareness of sin (Galatians 3:19; Romans 3:20; 7:13).
- How long was the law to last? Till Christ came (Jeremiah 31:31–34; Galatians 3:16, 19).
- What part of the law was nailed to the cross? All of it (Colossians 2:14). The Bible does not speak of judicial, moral, and ceremonial parts of the law.

The Ten Commandments were more than rules. They provided for Israel:

- A Moral Foundation. They formed the ethical basis for Israel's relationship with God and one another. Deuteronomy 4:2 warns against adding to or subtracting from them, showing the completeness and sufficiency of the law.
- A Covenant Identity. They marked Israel as a people set apart for God. Reflecting His holiness, they revealed God's covenant and expectations for His people. The commandments were stored in the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:16), symbolizing centrality to Israel's worship and life.
- Spiritual Teaching. They revealed humanity's need for God's grace, as no one can perfectly keep the law (Ephesians 2:8–9). Later books, such as Psalms and the Prophets, reinforced the laws, emphasizing obedience and repentance when they are violated. Meditating on the law and obedience to it was the path to prosperity and success (Joshua 1:8).

These were not given to restrict life, but to preserve it and make it better for society and individuals.

WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Ten Commandments (Old Testament) serve as a foundation for the New Testament. The Old Testament laid a monotheistic framework for religion, providing

prophecies, principles, and examples that explain much New Testament teaching.

Christ viewed the Old Testament as binding until its purposes were accomplished. He stated, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). In a rare theophany at the transfiguration, His Father spoke audibly, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5). A change was taking place, as evidenced by the three figures who appeared at the transfiguration.

- Moses represented the law—Do not follow him any longer.
- Elijah represented the prophets—Do not follow them any longer.
- Christ represented the new covenant—Hear Him! The change had fully occurred by the ascension: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). “All” leaves no authority for the law or the prophets.

The Old Testament served as a tutor to lead the Jews to Christ. The old law pointed forward to Christ, who fulfilled it and offered grace for failure. Paul wrote, “The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). The Old Testament prescribed rituals, ceremonies, and civil regulations and gave types and shadows that prepared the Jews for the Messiah (Colossians 2:16–17; Hebrews 10:1–3). Hebrews 8:13 states that the old covenant, including the Ten Commandments, became obsolete when Christ died.

The law was fulfilled and replaced by a better covenant (Hebrews 8:6). Paul says that which was written on stone—the Ten Commandments—was done away with, making way for the ministration of the Spirit—the New Testament (2 Corinthians 3:7–8, 11). He identifies the time when the law changed: “He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” (Colossians 2:14). Christians are now free from keeping its statutes: “Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16–17).

Paul used marriage to explain the relationship of the Jews to the old law. A woman married to a man is bound to him by God's law as long as he lives (Romans 7:1–7). If she marries another man while he lives, she “will be called an adulteress” (cf. Matthew 19:9). But if her first husband dies, then she is free to marry another husband. The Jews' relationship to the law was like that:

- The husband was Moses' law; the Jew was the wife. (It's clear Paul was talking about Moses' law—he quotes “shall not covet.”)
- As long as the law was in force, every Jew was bound to it.
- While the law existed, if a Jew married another law (religion), he was guilty of spiritual adultery.
- But when the law ended, the law of Jesus (Christianity) became husband two. Both Jews and Gentiles are now privileged to marry Him who is raised from the dead (Ephesians 5:25–28).

WHY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT A LAW FOR CHRISTIANS

Short Answer: Christianity is a New Testament religion. The Ten Commandments belong to the Old Testament (Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:1–21) which is a different religion (Judaism). The Ten Commandments are never listed together in the New Testament, which is the covenant in force now.

Expanded Explanation: *The Ten Commandments were given to Jews, not to Christians.* The Ten Commandments were part of the law of Moses, a covenant made specifically with Israel (Deuteronomy 5:2). Christians are not under the Ten Commandments for the same reason we eat BBQ and catfish and do not kill lambs on Passover. No Gentile—descendant of Japheth or Ham—was ever subject to Moses' law (except proselytes). Its promises, threats, and punishments were never applicable to non-Jews. Moses emphasized that the covenant was not made with their fathers, or anyone else, “but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive” (Deuteronomy 5:3).

Now there is a better covenant (Hebrews 8:6) applicable to Jews and Gentiles—everyone on earth. Those of Jew-

ish descent can be Christians, but not as practicing Jews. In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek (Galatians 3:28).

The Ten Commandments were temporary and fulfilled their purpose. The Old Testament predicted its own demise: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers” (Jeremiah 31:31–32; quoted in Hebrews 8:7–13). Jesus inaugurated the new covenant at His death (Luke 22:20).

Jesus kept the law perfectly and then ended it permanently. Four hundred and thirty years (1921 BC) before the law was given at Sinai (1491 BC), God called Abram from Ur of the Chaldees and promised that through him all earth’s families would be blessed (Genesis 12:1–3; cf. 22:18). This was the first definite Bible promise of salvation for all mankind. (Genesis 3:15 was veiled.) Who was the Seed? Christ (Galatians 3:16).

When Jesus declared that He came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17), He meant He satisfied all its requirements (Romans 10:4). At the cross, He took away the first law to establish the second (Hebrews 10:9). While hanging suspended between heaven and earth, He bowed His head and said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). Among other things, this included the law. Once fulfilled, the law’s authority ended, making way for the gospel.

What did Jesus do to the law? He blotted it out, took it out of the way, nailed it to the cross, and tore down the middle wall of partition (Ephesians 2:13–22; Colossians 2:14). Thus, Christians are no longer under the old law but under grace

(Romans 6:14), the law of Christ, which emphasizes faith, love, and joy in the Spirit (Romans 14:17; Galatians 6:2).

WHY THE NEW TESTAMENT IS SUPERIOR TO THE OLD LAW

The gospel of Christ stands as the ultimate expression of God’s grace and truth, surpassing even the Ten Commandments. The commandments were carved in stone (2 Corinthians 3:7), but the gospel is written on hearts (3:3). Where the law imposed burdens, the gospel lifts them. The Ten Commandments:

- *The Ten Commandments revealed sin; the gospel removes sin.* The law showed humanity’s need for a Savior by exposing sin (Romans 7:13). It provided moral boundaries but no lasting remedy for disobedience. The gospel offers cleansing through Christ’s blood (1 John 1:7). The law condemned; the gospel justifies (Romans 8:1).
- *The Ten Commandments Were temporary; the gospel is eternal.* The gospel is everlasting, proclaiming salvation to all nations for all generations (Matthew 28:19–20).
- *The Ten Commandments Governed actions; the gospel transforms hearts.* The law addressed outward behavior. The gospel goes deeper, renewing minds (Romans 12:2).
- *The Ten Commandments Required repetition; the gospel is final.* The sacrificial system was a temporary arrangement, demanding continual sacrifices and annual rituals. Hebrews 10:1 explains, “The law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never

with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.” Each sacrifice pointed to Christ, the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10). His work is finished, providing eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12).

- *The Ten Commandments Separated man from God; the gospel reconciles man to God.* The law highlighted God’s holiness and man’s sinfulness, creating a barrier (Exodus 19:12–13; Isaiah 59:1–2). It brought condemnation by revealing sin but offering no way to overcome it (Romans 8:3). The gospel removes the barrier. Jesus reconciles men to God and grants direct access into God’s presence (2 Corinthians 5:18–21; Hebrews 9:15; 10:19–22). This brings freedom (Romans 8:2).
- *The Ten Commandments Were exclusive (for Israel); the gospel is inclusive.* The gospel is for all, as God promised Abraham (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8, 16). Jews and Gentiles are one body (Ephesians 2:14).

Those living today are not under the Ten Commandments because Jesus replaced them with a better covenant. The gospel fulfills what the Ten Commandments only foreshadowed. By addressing the root of sin rather than just its symptoms, the gospel grants eternal life instead of condemnation. In Christ, we find not only a moral code but a living Savior.

Are you following Jesus? He invites you to join those on the joyful lane that leads to heaven.

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



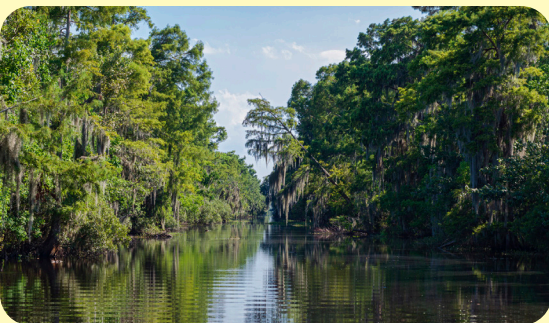


Too Late to Pray

One Sunday in a Midwest city, a young child was acting up during morning worship. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order, but they were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

"Correct your son."

PROVERBS 29:17



Burdens or Blessings?

The Mississippi River Delta is the second most fertile place on planet Earth (second only to the Nile Basin). How did it come to be so fertile and valuable to those who own it? Its fertility results from flood waters overrunning their banks, at the inconvenience and danger of those who live there.

When troubles flood our souls, it may well be that those experiences can turn out to make our lives richer, deeper, and more productive. Our burdens can become our blessings (Psalm 55:22).

"I will give you rest."

MATTHEW 11:28



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



A Parent's Prayer

Oh God, make me a better parent. It is the most important job in the world and one for which I had no prior training.

Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently and respond kindly.

Keep me from interrupting and dismissing them impatiently.

Help me to be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Give me courage to confess my mistakes and ask them for forgiveness.

Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule.

Remove my meanness. May I not nag when I am out of sorts. Help me to hold my tongue and my temper.

Blind me to indifferent shortcomings and help me to see all the good they do.

Help me to be ready with honest praise. Make me mindful that they need nurturing, encouragement, and appreciation for their small successes.

Help me to remember that they are only children and cannot make adult judgments.

Allow me not to remove their opportunities to care for themselves, to think for themselves, and to make their own mistakes.

Forbid that I ever punish them to rid myself of anger and frustration. Help me to exercise reason and control.

May I grant them sensible wishes, and give me courage to withhold privileges that might do them harm.

Make me fair, just, considerate, and companionable, so they will have genuine esteem, respect, and affection.

Make me fit to be loved and imitated by my children, for this is the greatest compliment of all. —Anonymous

"Teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."

JUDGES 13:8

Just for Fun The 10 Commandments

Number the 10 Commandments in order (Exodus 20:1–17).

- ___ a. You shall not steal.
- ___ b. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
- ___ c. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ___ d. You shall not commit adultery.
- ___ e. Honor your father and your mother.

- ___ f. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ___ g. You shall not covet.
- ___ h. You shall not murder.
- ___ i. You shall have no other gods before Me.
- ___ j. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Answers: a-8; b-2; c-9; d-7; e-5; f-4; g-10; h-6; i-1; j-3

Where Are the Ten Commandments in the New Testament?

While the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross, obeying the New Testament means submitting to nine of the same moral behaviors. The nine are not listed together but are incorporated into other passages and lists. Here is where the Ten Commandments are found in the New Testament:

1. No other gods (Exodus 20:3; Matthew 4:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 5:19–20; Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 4:3).
2. No idols (Exodus 20:4; Galatians 5:19–20; Acts 17:29; 1 John 5:21).
3. Do not take God's name in vain (Exodus 20:7; Matthew 5:33–37; 6:9; Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 2:9–11; James 5:12).
4. Sabbath (Exodus 20:8, not repeated)
5. Honor parents (Exodus 20:12; Matthew 15:4; 19:19; Ephesians 6:1–3).
6. No murder (Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21–22; 19:18; Romans 13:9; 1 John 3:15).

7. No adultery (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27–28; 19:9; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10).
8. No stealing (Exodus 20:15; Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 4:28).
9. No false witness (Exodus 20:16; Matthew 15:19–20; 19:18; Luke 3:14; Ephesians 4:25; 1 Peter 3:10).
10. No coveting (Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:3).

Since the fourth commandment was not repeated, there is no Sabbath-keeping in Christianity. The Jews were to do no work on the seventh day (Exodus 20:8–11). (The Hebrew word for *Sabbath* meant “to cease or abstain.”) It was “a Sabbath of the Lord,” which summoned Israel to a day of worship, rest, and remembering God. It halted normal activities so they could devote a day to God and not to work.

The Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10) replaced the Sabbath Day. Christians are commanded to keep the first day of the week—Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2)—and not required to keep the seventh day—Saturday (Colossians 2:16–17; Hebrews 4:9–10). Why the change? Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1–7) and established His church on Sunday (Acts 2).¹ —Allen Webster

Endnote

¹ Pentecost always fell on Sunday. Pentecost was reckoned as seven Sabbaths plus one day (a total of 50 days) from the Sabbath of the Passover week (Leviticus 23:15–16).

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:3

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Who Wrote the Bible” 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. 30:1 *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).

V. 30:2 *One Dozen Scriptures Everyone Should Know:* 1. Loved, Son, life (John 3:16); 2. Created (Genesis 1:1); 3. Way, No (John 14:6); 4. Lord (Psalm 23:1); 5. Rock, church (Matthew 16:18); 6. World (Mark 16:15); 7. Baptized, saved (Mark 16:16); 8. Faith (Hebrews 11:1); 9. Hearing (Romans 10:17); 10. Son, God (John 20:31); 11. Abundantly (John 10:10); 12. Love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Jesus' Miracles

Find answers in Matthew 8:14–15, 23–27; 12:9–13; 14:13–21, 28–29; 15:32–38; 17:1–21, 24–27; Mark 1:29–34; 3:1–5; 4:38; 5:9; 21–43; 6:30–44; 8:1–9; 10:46–52; Luke 5:4–11; 8:30, 41–42, 49–55; John 2:1–11; 5:1–9; 9:1–41; 11:1–44; 21:6. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. What was Jesus' first miracle? _____
2. When the disciples could not heal a boy brought to them, Jesus healed him. Jesus said they were unable to heal him because they lacked faith the size of a _____.
3. Whose mother-in-law did Jesus heal when she had a fever? _____
4. What was Jesus doing just before He stilled the storm? _____
5. Whose daughter did Jesus resurrect? _____ How old was she? _____
6. What was the demon's name that possessed a man in the Gadarenes? _____
7. How many loaves and fish did Jesus start with to feed 5000 people? _____
8. _____ walked on the water to Jesus.
9. Which three disciples were with Jesus at His transfiguration? _____
10. The Pharisees watched when Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. Why? _____
11. When Jesus healed a man blind from birth, He made mud and put it on the man's eyes. What did He tell the man to do then? _____
12. At the pool called “Bethesda,” Jesus encountered a man who had been ill for _____ years and healed him.
13. Jesus raised _____ from the dead after he had been dead four days.
14. Who were the dead man's two sisters? _____
15. What was Bartimaeus' affliction that Jesus healed? _____
16. Jesus used fish in miracles five times:
a. When He fed _____ men; b. When a _____ appeared in the mouth of a fish to pay taxes; c. When He told _____ to let down his nets again, and they were filled with fish; d. When He told the disciples to cast their net on the _____ side of the boat, and it was filled with fish; e. When He fed four thousand with seven loaves and _____ small fish.

Biblical Illiteracy

Years ago, while teaching a Bible class, I mentioned that many people think the forbidden fruit that Eve ate was an apple, but the Bible does not actually identify the fruit.

An elderly lady spoke up and said that the Bible did say it was an apple. I suggested that we read Genesis 3. Of course, we saw that the fruit Eve (and later, Adam) ate is unidentified. Not to be outdone, she said, "Well, it could have been an apple!" We all had a good laugh, but the point was made that people often think the Bible says something, teaches a certain doctrine, or authorizes a practice when it is not actually found in the Scriptures.

Tradition says that three wise men came to visit the child Jesus, yet one does not find the number given (Matthew 2:1-12). The title "Reverend" is commonly applied to preachers, yet the word appears but once in our English translations (Psalm 111:9), and there it is applied to God's name. While it is true the root of this word occurs often

in Scripture of sacred things, Jesus forbade the wearing of religious titles of distinction (Matthew 23:8-9).

As a very young preacher, I stayed in the home of a leader of a congregation during a meeting. He was a good man who had raised a family of Christian children. How shocked I was when one evening he asked, "Hugh, how old was Jesus when He joined the church?" I thought he was being facetious, and came within a gnat's whisker of laughing. I caught myself just in time.

Christ and the church enjoy an intimate relationship. The church is the body of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1-3). But the church did not exist in historical reality during the earthly ministry of Christ, and Jesus never "joined" the church in the sense in which people today talk about "joining" the church. In fact, the whole concept of "joining" the church deserves deeper study, for the Bible speaks more in terms of a person

being saved from his or her sins and being "added" to the church than it does of "joining" the church (Acts 2:41, 47).

We need to be diligent students of the Bible. People sometimes show ignorance of the Bible by speaking against things the Bible endorses. They oppose things the Bible commends. At the same time, not everything that is said to be taught in Scripture is actually taught in Scripture.

Of the Bereans it is said: "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Paul exhorted: "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We need to be diligently engaged in such today. —Hugh Fulford

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day."

PSALM 119:97

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Recommended Resource



Why should we believe the Bible? Who is God? How do I become a Christian? Get answers to life's biggest questions. Listen to a new podcast about faith that is engaging, challenging, and fun to listen to. New episodes every Wednesday. More details at Housetohouse.com/AC.

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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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

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- ☐ Know What You Believe, Believe What You Know



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☐ Victory Where There Was Once Defeat



☐ A Thief Who Has Robbed Us All



☐ His Own Worst Enemy



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☐ Seven Simple Facts about the Judgment

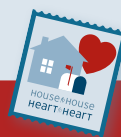


☐ What Must I Do to Be Saved?



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

VOLUME 30:3



Christ *in the New Testament*



In **Matthew**, He is the King of the Jews.

In **Luke**, He is the perfect Son of Man.

In **Acts**, He is the ascended Lord.

In **1 Corinthians**, He is the first fruits from the dead.

In **Galatians**, He is the end of the law.

In **Philippians**, He is the supplier of every need.

In **1 Thessalonians**, He is the returning Lord.

In **1 Timothy**, He is our Mediator.

In **Titus**, He is our great God and Savior.

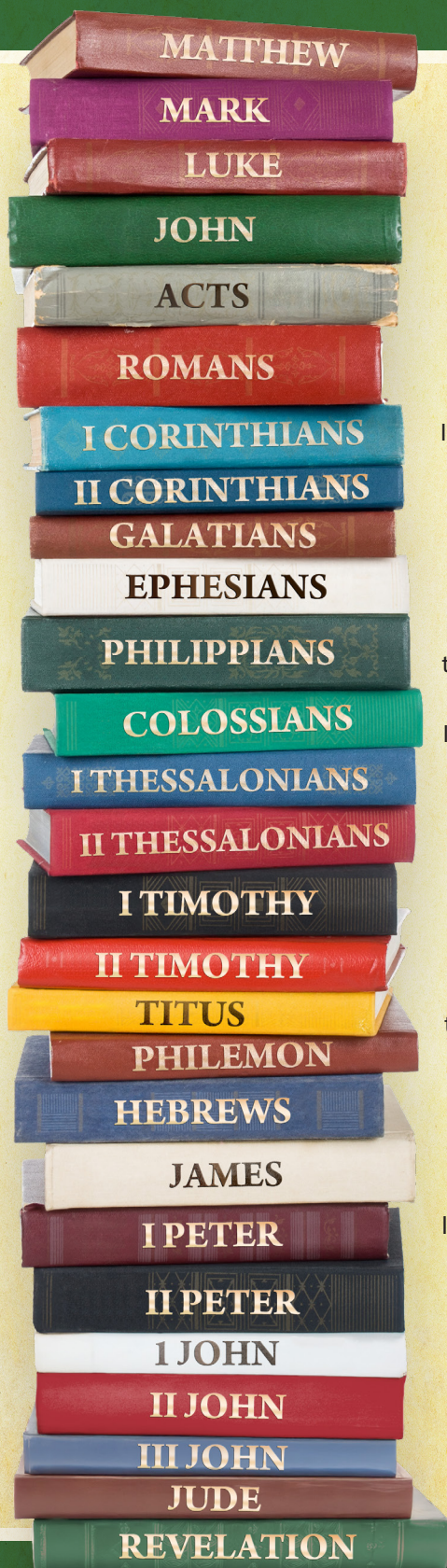
In **Hebrews**, He is the giver of rest and fulfiller of types.

In **1 Peter**, He is the theme of the Old Testament prophecy.

In **1 John**, He is the Word of life.

In **3 John**, He is the personification of truth.

In **Revelation**, He is the victorious Lamb.



In **Mark**, He is the servant of God.

In **John**, He is the Son of God.

In **Romans**, He is our righteousness.

In **2 Corinthians**, He is made sin for us.

In **Ephesians**, He is our armor.

In **Colossians**, He is the preeminent one.

In **2 Thessalonians**, He is the world's merciful judge.

In **2 Timothy**, He is the bestower of the crown.

In **Philemon**, He is the Father's partner.

In **James**, He is the Lord of glory.

In **2 Peter**, He is the longsuffering Savior.

In **2 John**, He is the target of the antichrist.

In **Jude**, He is the believer's hope.

Ten Reasons Why I Never Wash

Sudney Laing of Dublin, Ireland, apparently fed up with excuses given over the years as to why people don't attend services, included "Ten Reasons Why I Never Wash" in his Sunday bulletin:

1. I was made to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites. . . they think they are cleaner than others.
3. There are so many kinds of soap, I could not decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got boring.
5. I still wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'm still young—when I'm older and a bit dirtier, I might start washing.
8. I really don't have time to wash.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough (or cool enough).
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

—bethlehempetersburg.com/Humor.htm

"Worship God."

REVELATION 22:9



"Search the Scriptures . . . which testify of Me" (John 5:39).

Take the time to read the New Testament this month and find Jesus in each of these books.



There once was a little boy who had climbed up on a barn. It was a tall barn, but he was able to make it up on the roof through a hole in part of the tin. As he climbed up on the tin, he noticed all of the nails holding the tin down. A few were starting to rust away, and some were sticking out. The young boy made a mental note to tell his father about the nails, and then he continued climbing to the very top of the roof.

Just before he reached the pinnacle, his foot slipped, and he was sliding down the roof with no signs of stopping. Knowing that this fall would injure or even kill the boy, he recalled the Bible class he had attended days before. The teacher discussed the power of prayer, so, as he was sliding, the boy prayed, "God, help me." As soon as those words were uttered, the boy finished his prayer with, "That's all right, God, I don't need your help anymore. My pants got caught on one of the nails and stopped me."

We live in a world full of uncertainty. Each day brings forth its own challenges, and we do not know what kind of crisis could happen next. I wonder, though, about people who have never truly had a place for God in their lives. How often do they turn to Him? Maybe they lose their job and begin to suffer financially. Maybe they get a bad diagnosis from the doctor, or maybe they have a loved one who is suffering. In desperation, they turn to God in prayer. However, when the crisis is averted and everything gets better, they simply say to God, "Never mind, I no longer need you."

We might think that this is a common side effect of the modern age. We live in a society that is so full of things that distract us and pull us away from God that it is easy for us to forget about God when things seem to be looking good for us. This attitude is not a new problem.

Remember when God's people were slaves in Egypt? In Exodus 8:8, we read about this same attitude. "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, 'Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.'" During the second plague of Egypt, the Pharaoh had become desperate to the point of asking God for help. However, once the frogs were gone, he broke his promise. "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said" (Exodus 8:15). When the fourth plague came, Pharaoh did the same thing. Wishing for the flies to be gone, he pleaded again that God would take them away, promising he would release the people of Israel. When the flies disappeared, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let them go (Exodus 8:32).



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This attitude has been a problem throughout history, and God has warned us about. "Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. "Therefore let your words be few" (Ecclesiastes 5:2). Verse 4 advises, "When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow." Finally, in verse 7, we see why talk is cheap. Our words and promises are like daydreams and other pointless works. Instead, we need to fear God.

Turning to God is far more than simply crying out to a rescuer when we are in trouble. He is much more than just a rescuer; He is Lord. He is the Master, the Ruler of all His creation, and the only Way. "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22). Did you notice the second half of that verse? Our Heavenly Father requires us to follow Him. He is a rescuer, but we cannot select only those few traits we want from God and ignore the rest.

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). Troubles come to everyone eventually. We need to know God and serve Him before troubles come. God provides us many "nails of rescue," but we must acknowledge that He is the one who provides and promises help to those who serve Him all the time.

Jesus told one of my favorite parables in Luke 6:46-49. A wise man worked hard to build a strong house. He dug deep until he found the rock bed, and he then built his house on a stone foundation. The foolish man, on the other hand, did not do what he had been taught about building his house. He saw how much work that it took to dig deep and find rock and he probably had seen some dig for days with no luck of ever finding a solid foundation. Instead, he built his house directly on the sand. When the storms came and the stream flooded, the first man's house was solid, but the second man's house was utterly destroyed.

Now why did Jesus tell this parable? Was he trying to teach construction classes? Not exactly. Jesus shows us why this parable was necessary. Before the crowd He asked them, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). God truly does provide the escape for the struggles and trials in our life, but we must do as He tells you. Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We must make sure our prayers are not in vain. Are you truly following all that He commands? Before the storms arise in your life, make sure your foundation is on Christ.