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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 7

## Jerseyville CHURCH *of* CHRIST

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Jacob Medford

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Evening Worship..... 6:00 p.m.

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




# Why Me?

*Allen Webster*

Why? is the universal question (Judges 6:13). The word *why* is found 282 times in the Bible (KJV)—on average, once in every four chapters. (It is used 430 times in NKJV.)

- Jesus asked, "Why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).
- Job wondered why he was born (Job 3:11–12, 16).
- Gideon wondered why bad things happened (Judges 6:11–13).
- Asaph asked why the wicked prospered while the righteous suffered (Psalm 73:1–14).
- Paul was perplexed (2 Corinthians 4:8).

When the day comes that makes you ask, "Why?" look for a reason, but do not be surprised not to find one immediately.

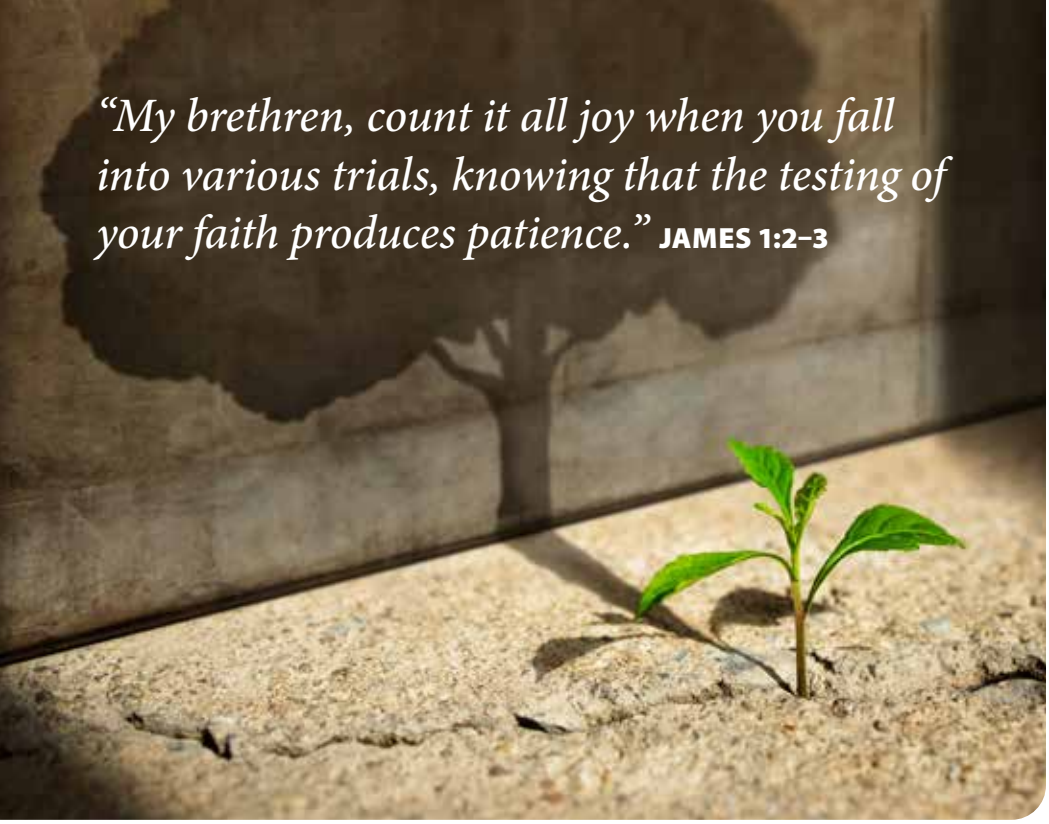
The first thing victims of an accident or attack are taught to do is to examine the head, torso, and limbs for injury. Financial advisors do an analysis of one's current situation before advising investment strategies. This is also true of a spiritual injury or a serious life challenge.

### THREE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF TROUBLE

These are:

- Living in a mortal body in a fallen world (Genesis 3:17–19; Matthew 4:23–24; 10:8)
- God's discipline (Hebrews 12:7)
- Satan's messenger (test) (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

How can we know which we are facing? In this life, we see things imperfectly (1 Corinthians 13:12), especially when blinded by tears. Still, we can determine much by using God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16–17) and the intelligence He gave us (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 8:5).



*"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* **JAMES 1:2–3**

## THREE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS TO ASK

*Could this be God's discipline for sin in my life?* Is He trying to get me to focus on spiritual things? How can I know?

- Examine yourself from God's viewpoint (2 Corinthians 13:5). Examine outward actions (example), inward attitudes (heart), and the hidden heart (secret relationship with God) (Matthew 5:13–16; Romans 7:22; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Romans 2:16). Is there a sin ensnaring you? (Hebrews 12:1–2).
- Measure your proximity to God (Luke 22:54; James 4:7–8; Revelation 3:15–17). Jesus calls Christians to higher states of holiness (Galatians 5:19–24; 2 Peter 1:5–8). There are degrees of holy living.
- Talk to God about it (Luke 18:1; James 1:2–5).

*Could this just be ordinary trouble that everybody has?* If you determine it is not discipline, then consider if it is just general suffering. Until we arrive at New Jerusalem, we will have sweat, frustration, tears, mourning, sickness, pain, and death (Revelation 21:1–4).

Getting the flu, having a car accident, losing money in a retirement account, and having your dishwasher break are likely general physical things without spiritual meaning. During general suffering, do not become distracted or discouraged by the cares of life (Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14; 21:34).

*Could this be God allowing Satan to test me?* The devil tested Job, Jesus, and Peter (Job 1:12; Luke 4:1–13; 22:31).

Gold must be tested in fire. Diamonds must be weighed and cut. Wheat must be threshed. Christians must be tested (1 Corinthians 3:12–15).

Either we have suffered, we are now suffering, or we will suffer—for "we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Paul wrote, "to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Philippians 1:29).

Be sure to pass the test. "Endure hardship as a good soldier" (2 Timothy 2:3). Use Job as an example (James 5:11). Do not allow suffering to dampen your zeal, kill your interest in the church, or lower your spiritual temperature.

If we pass the test, we come out on the other side with intact faith, stronger love, more joy, greater determination, and more wisdom than before. In other words, we grow spiritually through the pain.

Ultimately, it does not matter if we cannot determine the cause. Every case of suffering can be approached as if it is from God (Hebrews 12:7). If the suffering comes from God, then drawing near to Him fulfills His purpose. If it originated with Satan, then drawing near to God frustrates our enemy. If it is neither, it still blesses us.

## THREE POTENTIAL REACTIONS

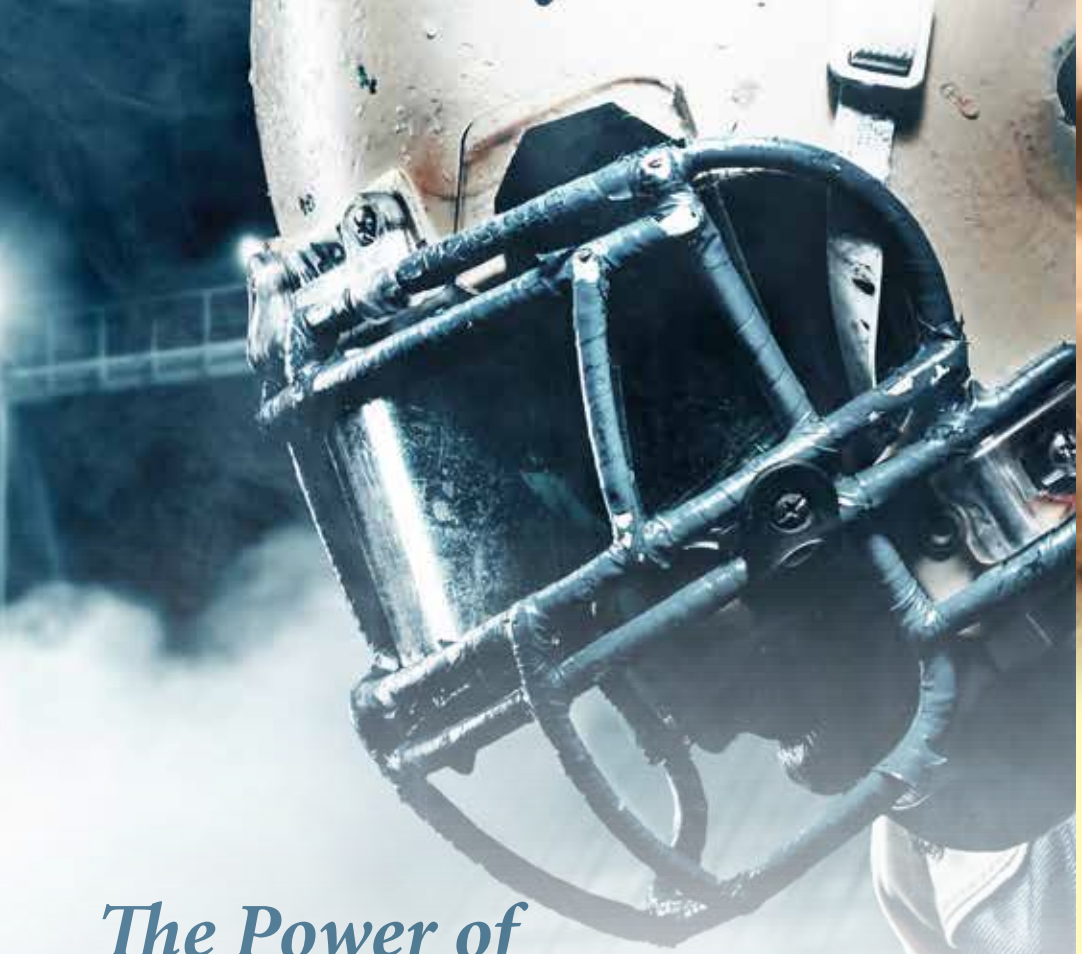
We can think too little of it (Hebrews 12:5–9, 16). If God is trying to get our attention, but we do not recognize it, or if we ignore it, then we will not benefit from it. Our sin will remain, and we will be unprepared for judgment. We suffered for no good purpose.

We can think too much of it (Hebrews 12:5). Perplexity and disappointment have shaken the faith of God's great servants. It can knock us off our feet, as it nearly did with Asaph (Psalm 73:1–14). We can focus on the suffering and miss things of greater importance. We can feel sorry for ourselves and ignore others who suffer more.

We can be trained by it (Hebrews 12:11–13). On New York's Fifth Avenue, there are two statues that tell a story. One is of Atlas with the world on his shoulders. His face shows the strain of the weight. In a nearby church building, there is a statue of Jesus as a boy tossing a ball. Upon examination, that ball is a globe. The same weight that staggered Atlas was not too much for Jesus.

Our burdens can be too great for us, but when we cast them upon God, He can carry them for us (1 Peter 5:7).





# *The Power of* ENTHUSIASM

Charles Schwab, long-time president of U.S. Steel, one of the largest corporations in America, said, "A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm. Why? Because enthusiasm will inspire him to do the things necessary for success."

Schwab began his career as a stake driver in an engineering gang. He rose to president, not so much for his knowledge or talents, but for his enthusiasm and his ability to instill that quality in others.

Upon the plains of hesitation, we find the bleached the bones of countless millions who, on the threshold of victory, sat down to wait, and waiting they died.

Enthusiasm is that quality that Paul sought to instill in Timothy: "Stir up the gift of God which is in you" (2 Timothy 1:6). This pictures a blacksmith stirring coals to a white heat so he can mold steel into a useful instrument (Colossians 3:23). When a Christian has cold water poured on him, he turns it into steam and pushes ahead!

T. S. Elliot spoke of "hollow men." Emotionalism, or sensationalism, is zeal without knowledge (Romans 10:2). While everything in the church is to be done "decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40), it must also be "fervent in spirit" (Romans 12:11).

Worship, to be pleasing to God, must have both "spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

George Cafego played halfback for the old Brooklyn Dodgers football team in the early years of professional football. One day they were playing the New York Giants, and Cafego brought the ball up field on a punt return just moments before the first half ended. He broke away. First one man hit him and then another. Finally, about five Giants ganged up on him, and it looked like he was going down, but remarkably he escaped. Just as he was tackled, the gun exploded to end the first half. One spectator was shocked and shouted, "They had to shoot him to stop him!" —**Anonymous**

*"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might."*

ECCLESIASTES 9:10



## If the Shoe Fits ...

There are many shoe styles. See which of these best fits.

High heels—A haughty, proud person (Romans 12:3).

Loafers—An indifferent, lazy Christian (Matthew 25:26).

Overshoes—A religion that is only outward (Matthew 15:8).

House shoes—Wants things easy, comfortable, and convenient (Amos 6:1).

Sandals—A skeleton of a Christian. This person has not grown or matured as a Christian (2 Peter 3:18).

Sunday shoes—The once-a-week Christian (Luke 16:13).

Work shoes—The active Christain who is always busy for the Lord (Matthew 21:28).

—**Author Unknown**



## *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

## Be Thankful for ...

An unknown writer suggested we count our . . .

Blessings instead of crosses,
Gains instead of losses,
Joys instead of woes,
Friends instead of foes,
Smiles instead of tears,
Courage instead of fears,
Full years instead of lean,
Kind deeds instead of mean,
Health instead of wealth,
And yes, above all,
Count on God instead of ourselves.

—Albert Memmi

*"Be thankful."*

COLOSSIANS 3:15



## What I Want my Children to Remember

Father and mother loved each other.

The reason our home was a happy one was because we all worked at it.

Each child was given every opportunity to develop his own personality.

The books in the house were to be read, and no shelves were under lock and key because of questionable contents.

Sunday was the happiest day in the week, and we looked forward to it coming because it was the day we went to worship together. —Author Unknown

*"Bring them up."*

EPHESIANS 6:4

**To watch videos, read articles, answer Bible questions, and more, go to housetohouse.com**

# *When It Is Best Not to Open the Mouth*



1. In the heat of anger (Proverbs 14:17).
2. When we do not have all the facts (Proverbs 18:13).
3. When we have not verified the story (Deuteronomy 17:6).
4. If our words will offend a weaker brother (1 Corinthians 8:11).
5. If our words will be a poor reflection of Jesus, family, or friends (1 Peter 2:22–23).
6. When tempted to joke about sin (Proverbs 14:9).
7. When we will be ashamed of our words later (Proverbs 8:8).
8. When tempted to make light of holy things (Ecclesiastes 5:2).
9. If our words would convey a wrong impression (Proverbs 17:27).
10. If the issue is none of our business (1 Peter 4:15).
11. When we are tempted to tell an outright lie (Proverbs 4:24).
12. If words will damage someone's reputation (Proverbs 16:27).
13. If words will destroy a friendship (Proverbs 25:28).
14. When we are feeling critical (James 3:9).
15. If we cannot speak without yelling (Proverbs 18:21).
16. When it is time to listen (Proverbs 13:1).
17. If we may have to eat our words later (Proverbs 18:21).
18. If we have already said them often enough (nagging) (Proverbs 19:13).
19. When tempted to flatter a wicked person (Proverbs 24:24).
20. When we are supposed to be working instead (Proverbs 14:23). —North Macon Daily Messenger, Harry Goff, editor

*"Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles."*

PROVERBS 21:23

## Just for Fun — Bible Books Challenge

**How many books of the Bible can you name?**

### Old Testament

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
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38. _____
39. _____

### New Testament

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# Do not Tamper with Doctors' Orders

Medicines and drugs are of great benefit when properly administered but can do irreparable damage if improperly handled. A pharmacist's knowledge, honesty, care, and scruples are important factors in medical treatment.

Similarly, in religion, there must be no tampering with the Great Physican's prescriptions, including no (1) addition, (2) subtraction, or (3) substitution. We have unbounded confidence in Christ as the sinner's Physician, and we are sure that His diagnosis of man's case is correct, His blood is the remedy, and His words as the directions are absolutely safe.

Like pharmacists, preachers must possess knowledge, honesty, care, and scruples to properly administer truth. Preachers cannot be ignorant, unscrupulous, and dishonest.

When I hear a preacher dispensing spiritual medicine by quoting Acts 8:23 as: "I see that you are still poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity," I know he is tampering with Doctor's orders. He added *still* to indicate that Simon was not a Christian, and had not therefore fallen from grace. The Bible did not say that Simon was "still" lost. He had believed and been baptized (Acts 8:13), which Jesus said saved him (Mark 16:16). When he sinned, Peter told him he was on the road to perdition (8:22). To add a word is to be guilty of sin.

Martin Luther tampered with Romans 3:28 by adding the word *alone* (*allein* in German) to teach salvation by faith alone. Other things are involved in salvation. Is a man saved without loving God? No (1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:13). What about repentance? Essential (Luke 13:3). What about baptism? Same (John 3:5). If love, repentance, and baptism are required, then a man is not saved by faith only.

Tithing and Sabbath-keeping, laws to the Jews, were never given to Christians. The new covenant, which went into effect after Jesus' death (Hebrews 9:16–17), does not require a specific percentage (1 Corinthians 16:1–2) and changed the day of worship to the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

Old Testament Jews used instruments in worship, but the Great Physician prescribed singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) in New Testament worship. Instruments were not introduced into church worship until the seventh century by Pope Vitalian I.

No pharmacist has a right to take a doctor's prescription for somebody else and mix it with your medicine. No preacher has a right to take part of God's law for Jews and apply it to anyone today (Colossians 2:14).

Be careful with divine directions—life and death are at stake. —Gayle Oler

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




## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 28:7

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Types of Christ – The Passover Lamb and Sacrificial Goats and Scapegoats" 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. 28:5** *Questions from the Book of Ruth:* 1. Esther; 2. When judges ruled (1:1); 3. Elimelech/Naomi, Mahlon/Ruth, Chilion/Orpah; 4. Moab (1:2); 5. Elimelech (1:3); 6. 10 years (1:4); 7. Naomi heard that the Lord was giving His people bread (1:6); 8. Return to their mother's house (1:8); 9. Husband (1:12); 10. Orpah (1:14); 11. Mara (1:20); 12. Beginning of barley harvest (1:22); 13. Boaz (2:1); 14. What all she had done for Naomi (2:11); 15. Let Ruth glean among the sheaves and let grain fall purposely for her to glean (2:15–16); 16. A virtuous woman (3:11); 17. There was a relative closer than Boaz (3:12); 18. Boaz would make a decision that day (3:18); 19. Confirmed an agreement by giving his sandal to another (4:7); 20. Rachel and Leah (4:11); 21. Ruth (4:15); 22. Neighbor women, Obed (4:17); 23. David (4:17).

**V. 28:6** *Starts with the Letter "B":* 1. Baal (1 Kings 16:30–32); 2. Baal-Zebub (2 Kings 1:2); 3. Baasha (1 Kings 15:16); 4. Babbler (Acts 17:16–18); 5. Babel (Genesis 11:1–9); 6. Babylon (Daniel 4:28–30); 7. Benjamin (Genesis 35:16–20; 43:26–34); 8. Butler and baker (Genesis 40:5–7); 9. Balaam (Deuteronomy 23:4–5); 10. Baptism (1 Peter 3:21); 11. Barabbas (Matthew 27:21); 12. Bar-Jonah (Matthew 16:16–18); 13. Barnabas (Acts 4:36); 14. Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52); 15. Basket (Acts 9:24–25); 16. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1–4); 17. Bear (Galatians 6:2); 18. Beautiful (Acts 3:1–10); 19. Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24); 20. Bethany (John 11:1); 21. Begotten (John 3:16); 22. Backbiting (Proverbs 25:23); 23. Beginning (Genesis 1:1).

## Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

**Directions:** Find answers in Matthew 21 and John 12. *Questions from the New King James Version.*

1. How many days before Passover did Jesus enter Jerusalem? _____
2. From what place did Jesus' entry originate? _____
3. In what place did it terminate? _____
4. Where did He get the animal He rode? _____
5. Who did the prophet say would come on a donkey? _____
6. If anyone challenged the disciples as they got the animal, how were they to respond? _____
7. What "saddle" did Jesus use? _____
8. With what was the road "paved"? _____
9. What words were in His ears? _____
10. What did Jesus do immediately upon entering the city? _____
11. What did He say they had made the house of prayer (temple)? _____
12. What did Jesus find when He went to the fig tree? _____
13. How did Jesus answer the chief priests and elders who asked by what authority He acted? _____
14. How did they respond to His challenge? _____
15. Did He ever answer their original question? _____
16. What story (parable) did Jesus tell to explain that the publicans and harlots went into the kingdom of heaven ahead of the Jewish leaders? _____
17. What answer did the first son give when told to work in the vineyard? _____
18. Afterwards, the first son did what? _____
19. When the father told his other son to go work in the vineyard, how did he answer and do? _____
20. Which one did the will of his father? _____
21. The absentee landlord sent whom first to receive his fruit? _____
22. What did the vinedressers do to them? _____
23. What did they do to the landlord's son? _____
24. What did Jesus say would happen to the kingdom of the Jews? _____
25. Why did the chief priests and Pharisees not lay hands on Jesus? _____

# How to Apply the Bible to Life

Apply it inwardly by asking,

1. What are my thoughts? (Isaiah 66:18).
2. What are my words? (Matthew 12:37).
3. What is my attitude? Am I happy serving God or the world? (Matthew 6:24).
4. What are my motives? Why do I do what I do? (1 Corinthians 13:1–8).

Apply it outwardly by asking,

1. Have I told a soul about Christ? (Matthew 28:19).
2. Have I won one by my godly influence? (1 Timothy 4:12).
3. Have my words/actions caused one to come closer to or to go further away from God? (Luke 17:1).
4. Have I purposed and given to meet the needs of others? (1 Corinthians 16:2; Luke 6:38).

Apply it upwardly by asking,

1. Do I do all to the glory of God? (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).
2. Is God pleased with the direction of my life? (Revelation 2:10).
3. Is my worship pleasing to God? (John 4:24). —**Author Unknown**

*"Incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding."*

PROVERBS 2:2

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

## 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?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

_____

### I would like:



☐ A Bible Correspondence Course




☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

## New Tracts!




- ☐ Perennial Issues in the Restoration Movement
- ☐ Sunday's Coming, Are You?
- ☐ God Loves Sundays
- ☐ But My Professor Says

### More subjects:



☐ When Did the Church of Christ Begin?



☐ How to Bring out the Best in Others



☐ The Way



☐ The Safe Channel



☐ In Pursuit of Dreams



☐ A Thief Who Has Robbed Us All



☐ Helping Widows



☐ Four Reasons Jesus Sent the Holy Spirit



☐ Seven Things a Loving God Hates: Hands that Shed Innocent Blood

Do not see the topic you need? Visit **www.housetohouse.com** for more subjects.

VOLUME 28:7



**All materials are completely FREE of charge** (including shipping in the U.S. or Canada).

# TYPES & ANTITYPES

## ESTHER as a type of CHRIST



God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadow in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

While Esther is not a direct type of Christ, her character and story reveal several parallels from which we can learn some important lessons.

| ESTHER<br>TYPE | JESUS THE CHRIST<br>ANTITYPE |
|---|---|
| God's people were sold into destruction for 10,000 talents of silver (ESTHER 3:9; 7:4). | Jesus compares the weight and debt of sin to 10,000 talents (MATTHEW 18:24). |
| The potential destruction of God's people came about because God's people did not obey the commandment to destroy all of the Amalekites (1 SAMUEL 15:1–9). Haman was a descendent of the King of Amalek, and an enemy of the Jews (ESTHER 3:10). | The potential destruction of God's people came about because of man's sinful disobedience (ROMANS 5:12). |
| Esther was raised by a godly man other than her father. She was raised by her cousin Mordecai (ESTHER 2:5–7). | Jesus was raised by a godly man other than His Father. Mary and Joseph had not come together as husband and wife, and she was informed by an angel that the child was conceived from the Holy Spirit (MATTHEW 1:18–25). |
| She was obedient to her cousin (ESTHER 2:10). | Jesus was obedient to His parents (LUKE 2:51). |
| Esther was put in place for just such a time (ESTHER 4:14). | Jesus appeared at just the right time (GALATIANS 4:4). |
| Esther was willing to lay down her life to save her people (ESTHER 4:11, 16). | Jesus was not only willing, but did in fact lay down His life for His people (1 JOHN 3:16; ROMANS 5:6–8; HEBREWS 2:9). |
| Esther sought another way, but submitted to the will of God (ESTHER 4:11–16). | Jesus prayed that the cup might pass from Him (MATTHEW 26:39), but submitted to the will of God (HEBREWS 5:7–9). |
| Haman passed a law that was against Esther and her people (ESTHER 3:13). Esther was able to effectively nullify that law with a new law (ESTHER 8:4–10). | Jesus nullified the law of Moses (COLOSSIANS 2:14; EPHESIANS 2:15) with the new law of liberty (JAMES 1:25). |



## If Paul Had Twitter

Social media sites allow users to share thoughts with friends and strangers.

We let people halfway around the world know we saved $8 at Kroger. We share our deepest thoughts and our shallowest feelings. We air political views or cheer a favorite team.

Twitter's users post 140-character opinions. What might Paul have tweeted to his followers?

Romans: "All have sinned. All deserve death. But there is no condemnation in Christ." Read Romans 3:23; 8:1; 6:23.

1 Corinthians: "A divisive church is against Christ." Read chapters 1–3.

2 Corinthians: "My apostleship and your benevolence are genuine."

Galatians: "The old law served its purpose. Live by faith; walk by the Spirit."

Ephesians: "We are saved by grace and are unified by one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." Read 2:8–10; 4:1–6.

Philippians: "Do not let circumstances dictate your faith. Live with joy. Be content." Read chapter 4.

Colossians: "Philosophy distorts the gospel. Live for Jesus." Read chapter 2.

1 and 2 Thessalonians: "Jesus will return, and many people will not be ready. Be prepared for that day." Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

1 and 2 Timothy: "Preach the word. Serve the needy." Read 2 Timothy 4.

Titus: "The grace of God teaches us to live godly lives." Read 2:11–14.

Philemon: "People from all backgrounds can be useful in the church."

—James Hayes (adapted)

House to House
Heart to Heart
7/23

Jerseyville church of Christ
24439 US HWY 67
Jerseyville, IL 62052



# *If God Should Go* ON STRIKE

How good is it that God above
has never gone on strike.
Because He was not treated fairly
In things He did not like.
If only once He had given up and
Said, "That is it; I am through!
I have had enough of those on
Earth, so this is what I will do.

I will give my orders to the sun—
Cut off the heat supply!
And to the moon—give no more
Light, and run the oceans dry.
Then just to make things really
Tough and put the pressure on,
I will turn off the vital oxygen till every
Breath is gone!"

You know He would be justified, if
Fairness were the game.
For no one has been more
abused or met with more disdain.
Yet He carries on,
Supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace,
And everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal,
And so on strike they go,
But what a deal we have given God
To whom all things we owe.
But what a mess we would all be in, if
God should go on strike. —**Author Unknown**

*"Truly God is good to Israel."*

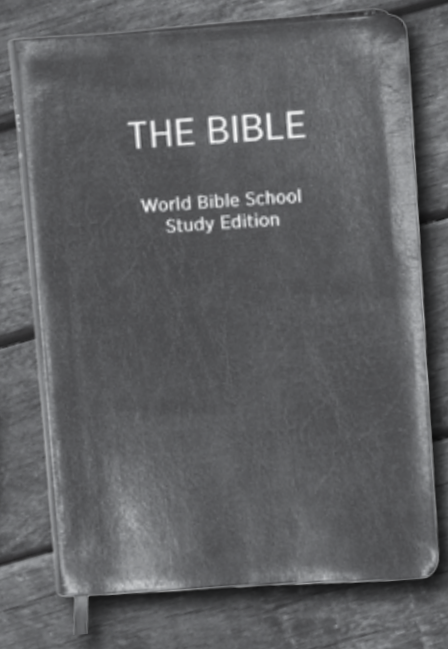
PSALM 73:1

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# Free Study Bible!




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