House to House
Heart to Heart
www.housetohouse.com
VOLUME 30 NUMBER 7

Is baptism for the remission of sins?



Allen Webster

Watch on youtube

God's greatest gift was Jesus on the cross (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 9:15; James 1:17). Jesus died that men might have remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). After His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection, He told His disciples: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15–16).

This generation of Christians descends from a long line of preachers who have taken their turn at announcing remission of sins to a lost generation (2 Timothy 2:2). Tens of thousands (perhaps hundreds of thousands) are baptized every year to wash away their sins. We average more than five baptisms a day just with the *House to House/Heart to Heart* ministry. Helping sinners receive salvation is a labor of love.

On the church's inauguration Sunday, Peter preached, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). The word translated "for" in the phrase "for the remission of sins" is the Greek preposition *eis*.

That small word has been the subject of controversy through the years. Those who teach salvation by faith only contend that it means "because of." That is, one is baptized because he is already saved. Churches of Christ (among others) say that it means that baptism is "in order to" be saved. Which interpretation is correct?

ALWAYS POINTS FORWARD

Eis never points backward. When one is driving along and sees an arrow on the pavement for a turning lane, he knows what is coming ahead. If one sees arrows pointing the opposite way than he is going, then he knows he is going the wrong direction and must turn around before he has an accident.

D. A. Penick, Professor of Classical Languages at the University of Texas, said, "Normally '*eis*' looks forward, and I know of no case in the New Testament where it looks back" (quoted in Warren and Ballard 187). So, *eis* does not point to what has already happened (salvation at the point of faith), but forward to what is about to happen (salvation at the point of baptism).

The reason one chooses to be baptized is important. If one was baptized to get his parents or wife off his back, then he was not baptized scripturally. If one was immersed in water simply because her friends at camp or a revival were,

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she has not been scripturally baptized. If one was immersed only to join a religious group, he has not been baptized according to Acts 2:38. If one was immersed to demonstrate a saved condition and not for remission of sins, he has not been baptized for the right reason. In God's mind, one has been baptized only when he is immersed by another, understanding the purpose of baptism is to have sins removed.

"IN ORDER TO OBTAIN"

The Bible is the best commentary on the Bible. That is, if one verse or phrase is difficult to understand, the student should find another verse on the same subject or using the same phrase, and it will make the meaning clearer.

In this case, Matthew 26:28 uses the identical phrase found in Acts 2:38. There, Jesus said, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Try substituting "because of" in the place of "for" in this sentence: "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many because of the remission of sins." Is this correct? Did Jesus die because the world was already saved, or did He die so the world could be saved? Clearly, it was the latter.

What do Greek scholars say about *eis*?[1]

- George Abbot-Smith says *baptidzo* (the word for "baptize") with *eis* refers to "purpose or result."
- Edward Robinson says *eis* takes the role of "marking the object and effect of the rite of baptism."
- Greek grammarian G. B. Winer says, "The purpose and end [is] in view" in Acts 2:38.
- Horatio B. Hackett, Baptist scholar and once professor of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew Languages at Brown University (1835–1839), wrote, "This clause states a result of baptism in language derived from the nature of that act. It answers to 'for the remission of sins,' as in Acts 2:38; that is, submit to the rite in order to be forgiven."
- H. A. W. Meyer, a German Lutheran scholar who published a translation of the New Testament (1829), wrote, "'*Eis*' denotes the object of the baptism which is the remission of guilt contracted in the state before repentance."
- Carl H. Morgan, Dean at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1940–1961), wrote, "I do not know of any Greek Lexicon which gives to '*eis*' the meaning of 'because of'" (quoted in Warren and Ballard 186–187).
- James W. Willmarth, editor of the *Advanced Quarterly of the American Baptist Publication Society,* Moderator of the West New Jersey and Philadelphia Associations, and Trustee of Crozier Theological Seminary, wrote a dissertation on the meaning of the Greek preposition *eis* as found in Acts 2:38. In it, he says that "in order to" is the "natural and obvious meaning" of *eis* and chides his brethren for insisting on "because of," saying, "Such methods of interpretation are unworthy of Christian scholars," and "The truth will suffer nothing by giving to *eis* its true signification."
- Edgar J. Goodspeed, in his translation of the New Testament, rendered Acts 2:38, "You must repent, and every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, in order to have your sins forgiven, then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

BETWEEN A COMMAND AND A BLESSING

The preposition, when appearing between a command and a blessing, always suggests the command must be obeyed before the blessing can be enjoyed.

- Romans 10:8–10: Belief unto righteousness.
- Acts 11:18: Repentance unto life.
- Romans 10:8–10: Confession unto salvation.
- Acts 2:38: Baptism unto remission.

The larger context of the New Testament shows that salvation is by faith, but not by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). Jesus declared, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21); and "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Read also James 2.

IN THE MIND OF GOD

Forgiveness takes place in one place—the mind of God in heaven. Only God can forgive. Therefore, man cannot change or dictate terms of forgiveness. He can only accept or reject them. God is not obligated to do as man desires. Man is blessed to be able to do what God requires. The right to forgiveness belongs to God as man's . . .

- Creator (Genesis 1:26–27). He owns our copyright.
- Proprietor (Proverbs 16:1–4). He has a greater right to us than we have to ourselves.
- Sovereign (Genesis 18:14). He is Lord over us, as we are His creatures.
- Governor. He governs the world (Psalm 22:28; 124:1–5), and we are tenants on His property.

Man can claim salvation at the point of un-obedient faith, but that does not make it take place in God's mind. James said, "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? . . . Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. . . . But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? . . . You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:14–24; cf. Romans 6:17–18; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 2:3–5).

CONCLUSION

Every sinner on earth needs remission of sins (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Forgiveness is required to remove the following:

- The wrath of God. Forgiveness brings peace with God (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).
- The curse of the law. We are acceptable to God through Christ (Galatians 3:10, 13).
- An accusing conscience. Forgiveness means no guilt over past sins (Hebrews 9:9, 13–14; 10:22).
- The fear of death. Death becomes the door to God (Philippians 1:21; Hebrews 2:15).
- The awfulness of eternity without God. We look forward to bliss with Him (Psalm 16:11; Philippians 3:19).

A straightforward reading of Jesus' words on baptism could only be interpreted to mean "for the remission of sins" (John 3:5; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:18–20). The Spirit inspired Jesus' apostles to preach the same doctrine to the early church (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:26–27; Colossians 2:12–13; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21).

No one should leave earth without being baptized for the remission of sins. Do you need forgiveness of sins?

Endnotes

[1] These academic scholars are from a variety of religious backgrounds, and so far as I know none is a member of the church of Christ (except Thomas B. Warren). This is a small sampling of the wide literature available that shows the same conclusion.

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A Really Big Word

There is a word that perhaps we all use more than we realize. It is a small word, but it is a big word. The word is *if.*

We might say "if" I had done this or that, things would be different. *If* I didn't have a flat tire, I would have been on time. The word "if" states a condition.

The New Testament uses the word 602 times. Almost half of them are in the section of Jesus' biographies. The Bible makes some things conditional.

If we forgive others, we can be forgiven by God (Matthew 6:14).

If we hold fast the word, we will be saved (1 Corinthians 15:2).

If we faint not, we shall reap in due season (Galatians 6:9).

If we endure, we shall reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

If we add the Christian virtues, we shall never stumble (2 Peter 1:10).

If we walk in the light, Christ's blood keeps us cleansed (1 John 1:7).

—Harry Goff, Macon, Georgia

"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

MARK 4:23





What's the Use?

To have a good time tonight at the expense of a good conscience tomorrow?

To lose the temper at the expense of losing a friend?

To cheat a corporation at the expense of robbing the soul?

To go to church services in the morning if we are planning to go with the devil in the evening?

To have an enemy if we can have a friend?

To sow wild oats if we must buy our own crop?

To spend the last half of life in regret for the first half?

To be discourteous, irreverent, or cynical?

To give God the husk of the heart?

To live at all unless we live for all?

—Charles M. Sheldon

"Ponder."

PROVERBS 4:26

God's Plan for Saving Man

Watch on youtube

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

Bits of Wisdom

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Do not cry because it is over; smile because it happened.

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.

A happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you did not even know you left open.

Once over the hill, you pick up speed.

"Meditate on these things."

PHILIPPIANS 4:8



Means to an End

Fathers and mothers are to use every means at their disposal to get across life lessons: words (Proverbs 2:1); example (23:26); discipline (3:12; 29:17); even immediate physical correction (13:24). Solomon cautions fathers not to wait too long, for there may come a time when it is "hopeless" (19:18). He hints that non-traditional relationships (e.g., adoptions, foster children) can be as meaningful as those with natural children (29:21).

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Coursework for Children

A parent's instruction is important (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Exodus 12:26–27). What is the curriculum? What did the wisest man teach his son? Follow "my son" through Proverbs:

Listen to and obey your parents (1:8; 4:20; 5:1; 6:20; 7:1).

Stay away from sinners (1:10), especially thieves (1:11–19), drinkers, and the party crowd (23:19–21; 28:7); do not walk with sinners (1:15).

Fear and find God (2:1–5).

Do not forget what I said (3:1; 4:10).

Do not despise God's discipline (3:11).

Keep God before your eyes (3:21).

Do not commit adultery (5:20).

Do not mortgage property for another's debt (6:1–5).

If you misspeak, correct it immediately—mend your fences and save your friendships (6:1–5).

Work hard while there is opportunity; do not be lazy (10:5).

Foolish sons lose their inheritances to wise servants (17:2).

Do not listen to bad advice (12:5).

You please me—your wise behavior gives me joy (23:15).

Follow my example (23:26).

Enjoy the good things in life (24:13).

Fear the LORD and the king; do not meddle with those given to change (24:21).

Others will judge me by your behavior (27:11), so remember my instructions.

"Train up a child."

PROVERBS 22:6

Just for Fun — Guess the Bible Characters

Guess which people from the Bible go with each image.



1. Jesus; 2. Adam and Eve; 3. Noah; 4. Moses; 5. Solomon; 6. Balaam; 7. Joshua; 8. David; 9. Esther; 10. Jonah; 11. Moses; 12. David and Goliath; 13. Elijah; 14. Samson; 15. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus; 16. Moses; 17. Abraham and Isaac; 18. Moses; 19. Daniel; 20. Aaron

Reasoning on the Resurrection

Christianity is based on Jesus' empty tomb. He prophesied that He would be resurrected on the third day (Matthew 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:18–19).

The Bible records the details of His death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 27–28). It declares that Jesus came back to life.

This is not without controversy. One should take time to examine the evidence, for there is a judgment day coming for all (Hebrews 9:27). Belief in Jesus will be important on that day (John 8:24), as will submission to His teachings (Mark 16:16).

That the tomb was filled is generally agreed to by both sides. Jesus died and was buried. That is not the question. The question is what happened to the body.

There are three choices:

- His enemies stole the body.
- His disciples stole the body.
- He was resurrected.

The first is disproven by the fact that Christianity's enemies never produced the body. Telling about the resurrection began within a stone's throw of His tomb—in the presence of His enemies. They did all they could to stop Christianity's growth, but they never said, "We took His body. You look like a bunch of fools for believing in a resurrection."

The second choice is equally untenable. First, the disciples did not have access to the body. Jesus' tomb was triple protected, by…

- A stone: Artists typically portray a disk-shaped stone over Jesus' tomb, but out of the 900 tombs discovered from this period, only four had stones like that. Most were more like corks. Either way, the tomb's entrance was blocked.
- A guard: Pilate put guards at the tomb. They were likely 16–20 in number.
- A seal: A Roman seal was a sign that the contents belonged to Rome. Anyone caught breaking it would likely be crucified.

Second, the disciples were in no mood to go grave robbing. They fled Calvary in fear (Mark 14:50). They were keeping a low profile from the Jews. If Jesus' enemies had killed their Master, would they not also proceed to His disciples?

Third, their actions show they did not expect the body to be missing. N. T. Wright noted that the disciples had no theological motivation for claiming that Jesus had risen, as they anticipated a military hero and a final resurrection at the end of time.[1]

Fourth, they had no reasonable motive. Homicide detective J. Warner Wallace noted that when a conspiracy is formed, one of three motivating factors is behind it—power, greed, or lust.[2] The disciples demonstrated none of these.

Fifth, the disciples were willing to die for their faith. Not one recanted and said, "We took the body. There was no resurrection. It was all a lie."

People do not die for lies that they know are lies, therefore only one other option is possible: Jesus was resurrected. —Anonymous

Endnotes

[1] www.azquotes.com/author/15971-N_T_Wright

[2] coldcasechristianity.com/writings/i-know-what-motivated-the-last-school-shooter-and-what-will-motivate-the-next-one/

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:7

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Plan of Salvation—Man's Need" 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. 30:5 *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).

V. 30:6 *"One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Teen":* 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).

How Much Do You Know About the Resurrection?

Find answers in Matthew 26:57–75; 28:2; Mark 15:25–34; 16:9, 15; Luke 23:26; 24:37; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 18:10; 19:38–42; 20:11–14, 24–25; 21:1; Acts 1:3. *Questions are taken from the New King James Version.*

1. Who rolled back the stone in front of Jesus' tomb? _____
2. When Jesus appeared to the disciples for the first time after His resurrection, what did they think they were seeing? _____
3. How many hours was Jesus on the cross? _____
4. On which day of the week was Jesus resurrected? _____
5. How many times did Peter deny Christ? _____
6. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner? _____
7. After Jesus died, whom did He send to help His followers? _____
8. Who were the two men who helped prepare the body of Christ for burial? _____
9. Who was compelled to carry Jesus' cross behind Him? _____
10. Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea? _____
11. After Jesus' death, who took Jesus' body away with Pilate's permission? _____
12. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ? _____
13. Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe? _____
14. How long did Jesus wait after the resurrection before He ascended into heaven? _____
15. What final words of instruction did Jesus give to the gathered disciples just before His ascension? _____

Binge-Reading the Bible

Sixty-one percent of Americans claim to have done it. Research by the University of Texas links it with depression, loneliness, self-regulation deficiency, and obesity.

What is it? Binge-watching television shows! Binge-watching is the practice of watching a lot of TV in a short time, typically just one show. It has become particularly popular with the rise of online streaming services like Netflix.

Might I suggest this week or weekend you try binge-reading the Bible? If you look at the categories on Netflix, you will see how many blockbusters could be made from the Bible!

Popular on Netflix
Remember Me (Deuteronomy)
Justified (Romans)

Reality TV Shows
I Love My Beloved (Song of Songs)
Scandal (1 Corinthians)
Coming Home (Philemon)

TV Dramas
Judging Israel (Judges)
Name of Thrones (1 & 2 Kings)
The Man Who Lost It All (Job)
Singing the Blues (Lamentations)
The Family Feud (Philippians)

Documentaries
Gone (Exodus)
Law and Order (Leviticus)
The King and I (1 & 2 Samuel)
Going Home (Ezra)
The Meaning of It All (Ecclesiastes)
The Preacher (1 & 2 Timothy)

Women Who Rule the Screen
The Time Is Now (Esther)
The Mother-in-Law (Ruth)

Action and Adventure
Lost (Numbers)
Crossing Jordan (Joshua)
Better Call Saul "Paul" (Acts)

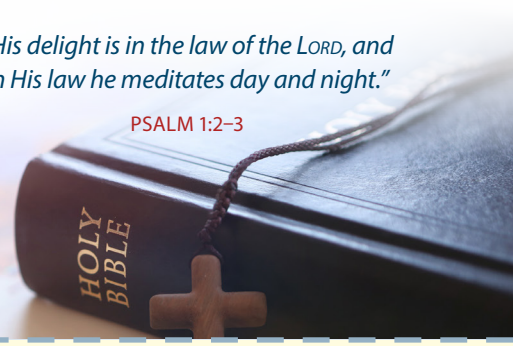
Family
Adam's Family (Genesis)
DIY Wall Builders (Nehemiah)
Boy Meets World (Daniel)

Feel-Good
Do the Right Thing (Proverbs)
Landing in the Right Spot (Jonah)
The Inheritance (Ephesians)
Raising Hope (1 Peter)

Critically Acclaimed
Top 150 Hits Countdown (Psalms)

I do not mean to be disrespectful; I am trying to make the point that the Bible is interesting! It is the most beautiful story ever told of God's love for you and me. It is not only enthralling reading but also eternally valuable! —Corey Sawyer

"His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."
PSALM 1:2–3



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Recommended **Resource**



Since 1969, the *Spiritual Sword* has published quarterly journals with articles about various doctrinal biblical topics. In this podcast, different guests discuss these topics from a biblical perspective. Grab your Sword (Ephesians 6:17) and study with us! **pod.link/1725903849**

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☐ God Loves Sundays


☐ But My Professor Says



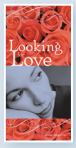
☐ A Baptism of the New Testament



☐ A Man with a Wait Problem



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CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH
Established by Jesus through the apostles (Acts 2:47), AD 30 (early date) or AD 33 (late date) in Jerusalem.

CHURCH OF CHRIST (MATTHEW 16:18; DANIEL 2:44). FOLLOWS THE BIBLE ONLY. HAS NO MAN-MADE CREEDS.

DEPARTURE
Acts 20:28–32; 1 Timothy 4:1
Great Falling Away

CATHOLIC
Established by Theodosius I as the state religion, AD 380. First pope, Boniface, AD 606. Rome, Italy. *Catechism* and Papal decrees.

Great Schism

ORTHODOX
Split in the Great Schism, AD 1054. Constantinople, Turkey. *Nicene Creed* and the other declarations of the seven ecumenical councils.

Gradual decline in relationship

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VARIOUS ANABAPTIST GROUPS

DARK AGES
Catholic Church limited access to the Bible

LUTHERAN
Martin Luther, AD 1517, Germany. *Concordia Confessions.*

MENNONITE
Menno Simons, AD 1536, Dordrect, Holland. *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.*

AMISH
Jacob Amman, AD 1693, Switzerland/France. *Dordrecht Confession of Faith.*

ANGLICAN (CHURCH OF ENGLAND)
Henry VIII, AD 1534, England. *Book of Common Prayer* and *39 Articles of Religion.*

Split

EPISCOPAL
Split over American Revolution, AD 1776. Organized, AD 1785, Middletown, CT. *Book of Common Prayer.*

METHODIST
John Wesley, AD 1739, Oxford, England. *Methodist Discipline.*

CALVINISM (REFORMED)
John Calvin, Mid-1500's, Europe. TULIP Doctrine—Salvation by faith only.

HOLINESS
Phoebe Palmer, AD 1839, New York City, NY. *Articles of Faith.*

SALVATION ARMY
William Booth, AD 1865, London, England. *Booth's Articles of Faith.*

PENTECOSTAL
Charles Parham, William Seymour, AD 1901, Topeka, KS. *Articles of Faith* and *Statement of Fundamental Truth.*

PRESBYTERIAN
John Calvin, AD 1541, Europe. Presbyterian Confessions.

CONGREGATIONALIST
Robert Brown, AD 1592, Britain. *The Cambridge Platform, The Savoy Declaration,* and *The Saybrook Platform.*

UNITARIAN
Henry Wade, William Channing, AD 1819, Boston, NY. *The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.*

BAPTIST
John Smyth, AD 1609, Amsterdam. *The Baptist Faith and Message, The Baptist Manual.*

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST/CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Split from the churches of Christ, AD 1906, U.S

COMMUNITY CHURCH
1930s, U.S. Typically Calvinistic.

NEW PARADIGM
Example: Cowboy Church. 1960s, U.S. Typically Calvinistic.

4 MAJOR CULTS

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
James and Ellen White, AD 1863, Battle Creek, MI. 28 Fundamental Beliefs, *The Great Controversy.*

MORMON (LDS)
Joseph Smith, AD 1830, New York City, NY. *Articles of Faith, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants,* and *Pearl of Great Price.*

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
Charles Russell, AD 1870, Pittsburg, PA. Watchtower Publications.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
Mary Baker Eddy, AD 1879, Lynn, MA. *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.*

Titles of Jesus

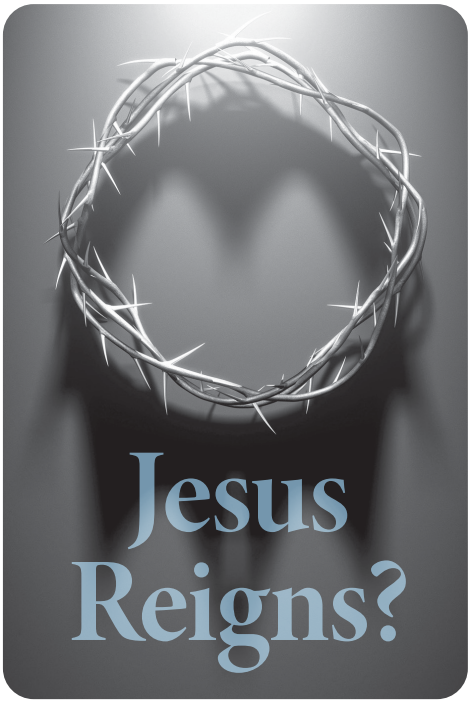
The Almighty
The Mighty God
The Word Was God
My Lord and My God
The Great God
Our Savior Jesus Christ
Wonderful
Counselor
The Father of Eternity
The Prince of Peace
Alpha and Omega
First and Last
God Blessed Forever
The Christ
The Son of God
Jehovah
The Beginning and The End
The Lord
Savior
The Holy One
Lord of All
Emmanuel
The Way, The Truth, The Life
King of Kings
Lord of Lords

"Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

REVELATION 5:13

House to House
Heart to Heart
7/25

Jerseyville church of Christ
24439 US HWY 67
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Jesus Reigns?

Jesus reigns over the whole world—except one place.

When Jesus ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9–11), He also ascended to His throne (Psalm 24:7–10). He presently rules as the King of the world (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14).

Yet there are pockets of resistance—places where His rule is not recognized. Those places are human hearts where He stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20).

Does He rule in your heart? He wants you to take Him with you on your life's journey. He has high expectations. He requires certain behavior and attitudes (Galatians 5:19–23). Christ must be given preeminence in all things (Colossians 1:15–20). He lays out what is right and wrong in Scripture, and we have to follow Him.

Like an engagement proposal, the choice is up to us. He will not make us follow Him, but life is better with Him in it. And eternity without Him is unthinkable.

—Author Unknown

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

REVELATION 3:20

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