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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 2

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



This article is a personal project. The world and its constant busyness keeps drawing me, taking my energies, occupying my time, and dominating my thoughts. After a recent birthday, I decided to remind myself again of what I believe and what my purpose is.

Why do I really want to go to heaven?

I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO SEE PEOPLE I MISS, AND CONTINUE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

My desire for heaven gets stronger with each trip to the cemetery. The older we grow, the more we talk about the people of the past. At some point, we realize that we have more loved ones on the other side than we have here.

The Old Testament recognizes this truth and often uses the expression that one "was gathered to his people" (Genesis 25:8, 17; 35:29; 49:33). When Jacob thought Joseph was dead, he longed to see him (Genesis 37:35), and no doubt longed more for heaven than he had before. David wanted to go to heaven to see his son that lived only a short time (2 Samuel 12:22–23). Personally, I want to see my father, elders I have served under, my teachers and mentors, preachers I have known and respected, and fellow Christians with whom I have worshiped and worked. I can see them in my mind's eye lining the shores of the Jordan to welcome my boat as it arrives!

Further, I want to go to heaven so I can continue relationships with the people I love. The only way one can continue a relationship with a spouse, children, parents, grandparents, extended family, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends is to go to heaven together. We cannot continue relationships indefinitely here, for either circumstances or death eventually part us. There will be no camaraderie in hell, for it is a comfortless place filled with darkness, agony, thirst, and misery (Luke 16:19–31). Since relationships offer joy and respite, we may rest assured that they will not be allowed in the devil's realm.

Yet, in heaven, Christians can continue relationships with all the people we love. Jesus explained that we will not remain married in heaven (Matthew 22:30), but we will know one another there. Abraham was still Abraham and Lazarus was still Lazarus there (Luke 16:23). They knew each other, although they had never met on earth. Peter, James, and John recognized Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3–4). Paul told the Thessalonians that when Jesus returned, He would bring with Him the spirits of their loved ones who had died as Christians (1 Thessalonians 4:14). Those spirits would be recognizable, or these words would not have comforted them (4:18).

I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN SO I CAN BE FREE OF THE FEAR OF DEATH.

I will be honest: I do not look forward to dying. I will have to die once to get out of this world (unless Jesus comes), but I surely do not want to do it twice! And we will not have to, for "the last enemy that will be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26). *Death* is used 904 times in the Bible (in various forms). The next-to-last time is Revelation 21:4, which says that death will come to an end in heaven. The hearse will have made its last trip. You will not see long lines of cars following a coach with their lights on. There will be no more funeral services, no tombstones, no expensive funeral plans, and no tearful good-byes. There will be no hillsides dotted with the markers of loved ones. You will not find silent cities of the dead in heaven, for no one ever dies there!

I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO SEE MY FATHER.

I have preached sermons on heaven now for a quarter century. The content of those sermons has changed little through the years, but the emphasis has. It used to be more about mansions, crowns, reunions, and rewards. Now it is more about who will be there than what will be there.

Someone observed, "What makes heaven heaven is God." If the street were gravel instead of gold, if the walls were particle board instead of jasper, if Main Street had mud knee-deep, and if weeds overgrew the flowers, it would still be heaven because God is there. The greatest treat of Paradise was not the climate or the fresh fruit; it was that God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). He did not just create them, put them in their garden, and forget them. He spent time with them.

That is what heaven will be like. God will spend time with each one of us. John heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3). The most wonderful aspect of heaven will be the presence of the divine Godhead—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Revelation 1:4–5). God is clearly the "star" of heaven. The four living creatures John described constantly worshipped Him, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8; cf. 4:10–11; 5:9).

R. G. Lee observed, "Heaven is the most marvelous place the wisdom of God could conceive and that the power of God could prepare."[1]

Do you have hope of heaven?

Contact us!

Endnote

[1] Lee, R. G. *The Place Called Heaven.* Christ for the World Publishers, 1959.





Jesus Never Had Family Trouble

A man's wife had deserted him for another man. She succeeded in taking away their children. The estranged husband became depressed and lost his business.

Brokenhearted and ruined, he became obsessed with the enormity of his troubles and refused every offer of encouragement and hope. He attended a church service and heard a great sermon on Christ's having been "in all points tempted as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). Rather than being comforted by it as others were, he resented the sermon and told the preacher, "Yes, Jesus suffered many things, but he never had a wife and family stolen from Him. He was never married, never had children, so that's suffering He never knew."

The preacher responded, "An accomplished violinist plays a great variety of music. There are only four strings on his violin, but they can produce both joy and dirges. The same four strings can cover the whole range. No, Jesus did not experience your trials in the same details, but He endured the broad range of disappointment, desertion, grief, pain, and even dying, so that the strings of His heart can vibrate with all the sad songs of life's bitterest experiences." —David Pharr, Rock Hill, South Carolina

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

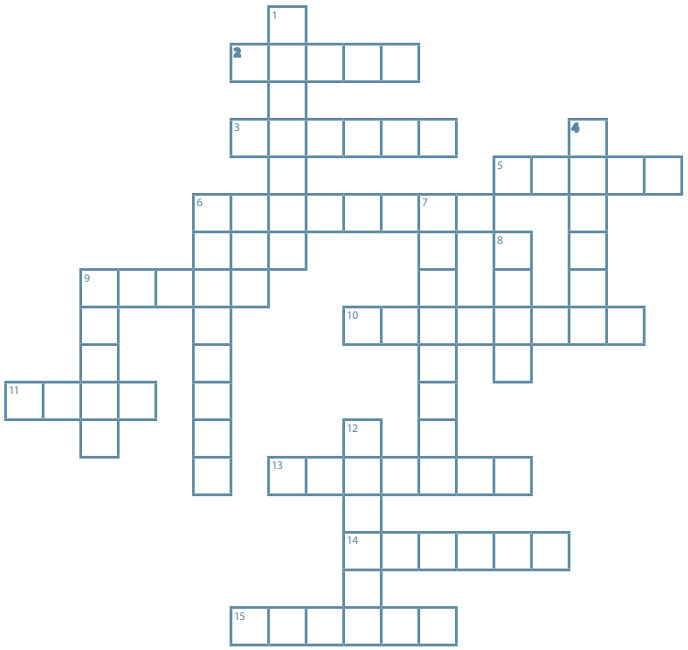
HEBREWS 4:15

Just for Fun — Crossword, Psalm 28:6–9

Use the words in blue to complete the puzzle.

Blessed be the LORD,
Because He has **heard**
the **voice** of my
supplications!
The LORD is my **strength**
and my **shield**;
My **heart** trusted in Him,
and I am **helped**;
Therefore my heart
greatly **rejoices**,
And with my **song** I will
praise Him.

The LORD is their strength,
And He is the saving
refuge of His
anointed.
Save Your **people**,
And **bless** Your
inheritance;
Shepherd them also,
And bear them up
forever. —PSALM 28:6–9



1. FOREVER; 2. VOICE; 3. HELPED; 4. REFUGE; 5. BLESS; 6. (ACROSS) SHEPHERD; 6 (DOWN) STRENGTH; 7. REJOICES; 8. SONG; 9. (ACROSS) HEARD; 9. (DOWN) HEART; 10. ANOINTED; 11. LORD; 12. PEOPLE; 13 BLESSED; 14. PRAISE; 15. SHIELD



How to Part Your Hair with Attitude

A lady woke one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed that she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmmm," she said, "I think I'll part my hair in the middle today." So she did, and she had a great day.

The next day, she woke up, looked in the mirror, and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did, and she had a grand day.

The next day, she woke up, looked in the mirror, and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Yay!" she exclaimed. "I don't have to fix my hair today."

Attitude is everything! —Anonymous

"Whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8

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



Discover the BIG PICTURE of the Bible

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House to House Heart to Heart

Many of us learned to sing "Jesus Loves Me" long before we really knew who Jesus is. That can be good—but it can also cause problems.

We often study the Bible backward. We start with the New Testament and only later, if ever, get around to the Old Testament. That is not how the Bible was written, and it is not how God's people studied for the first 1500 years. They knew the Old Testament well, which helped them understand the New Testament!

Join us for a weekly online Bible study as we walk through the Old Testament, tracing concepts like "church," "gospel," and "Jesus" long before the manger or the cross. By the end of the study, you will be able to open your Bible and know the story that ties it all together.

Scan the QR code to register and start your journey through the Bible's big picture!

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Cogito, Ergo Sum

"*Cogito, ergo sum*"—"I think, therefore I am"—is perhaps the most famous statement in philosophy. Rene Descartes wrote these words in his *Discourse on Method*, as he explained that, since he knew he was able to think, he could know that he could exist. He continued to reason from this point that God exists.

Louis XIV had a different philosophy: "*L'État c'est Moi*"—"I am the state." It is not surprising that he would come to this conclusion, in view of the fact that he reigned as king over France for seventy-two years. His absolute monarchy set a pattern followed in several other European countries. No doubt this pattern of tyrannical behavior led to the bloody French Revolution of 1789.

Anna B. Warner penned a philosophy for all of us, however, with her words, "Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so." In her 1860 hymn, we find words of comfort and strength. This is a favorite with children, but all of us can benefit from the words.

Even if you missed every doctrinal point in the New Testament, surely you could not miss this one. "When we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6–8).

"Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31).

"Jesus loves me, He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide. He will wash away my sin; let his little child come in. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so."

—Bob Prichard, Oxford, Alabama

Removeable poster

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:2

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "60 New Testament Verses to Learn Before You Die" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 30:12 *One Dozen Scriptures for Women:* 1. Virtuous, rubies (Proverbs 31:10); 2. Could (Mark 14:8); 3. Beauty, fears (Proverbs 31:30); 4. Train, depart (Proverbs 22:6); 5. Love (Titus 2:4); 6. Gracious (Proverbs 11:16); 7. Modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9); 8. Crown, husband (Proverbs 12:4); 9. Needed, good (Luke 10:42); 10. Silence (1 Timothy 2:11); 11. Adornment, hidden, quiet (1 Peter 3:3–4); 12. Builds (Proverbs 14:1).

V. 31:1 *Facts About the New Testament Church:* 1. Jerusalem (Acts 2:5, 14); 2. Peter (Acts 2:14); 3. About three thousand (Acts 2:41); 4. Apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42); 5. Church (Acts 2:47; 8:1), disciples (Acts 9:10), or Way (Acts 9:2); 6. In the temple and houses (Acts 2:46; 3:1; 5:42); 7. Healing a lame man (Acts 3:2–9); 8. They put them in custody and commanded them not to teach about Jesus anymore (Acts 4:1–3, 18); 9. They considered all things in common and shared with everyone in need (Acts 2:44–45; 4:32, 34–35); 10. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–10); 11. "We cannot but speak" and "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 4:19–20; 5:29); 12. Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1); 13. Philip (Acts 8:5–13); 14. Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15–17); 15. A eunuch from Ethiopia; he believed, was baptized, and rejoiced (Acts 8:26–27, 39); 16. Saul (Acts 8:1; 9:1–2).

Cases of Conversion

Find answers in the book of Acts. *Questions are taken from the New King James Version.*

Directions: Match the converts with the chapter:

1. ___ Saul of Tarsus
2. ___ Philippian jailer
3. ___ 3,000 on Pentecost
4. ___ Ethiopian eunuch/treasurer
5. ___ Samaritans
6. ___ Corinthians
7. ___ Lydia
8. ___ Cornelius

a. Acts 2:1–47
b. Acts 8:5–13
c. Acts 8:26–40
d. Acts 9, 22, 26
e. Acts 10, 11
f. Acts 16:9–15
g. Acts 16:23–34
h. Acts 18:8

Directions: Match an answer above with these quotes.

1. "Those who gladly received his word were baptized." _____
2. "Many of the _____, hearing, believed, and were baptized."
3. "He received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized." _____
4. "Both Philip and the _____ _____; went down into the water, and he baptized him."
5. "When they believed . . . both men and women were baptized." _____
6. "He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." _____
7. "Immediately he and all his family were baptized." _____
8. "The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized. . . ." _____



Why Are the Words of Christ Printed in Red and All Others in Black?

While millions read the Bible, few know why some Bible publishers print the words of Christ in red.

Words in red are neither more nor less important than the words in black. Jesus said to the seventy, "He who hears you hears Me" (Luke 10:16). Jesus meant that every divinely inspired writer or speaker was equally important, since the message originated with God's Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The idea of a red-letter Bible originated with Louis Klopsch, the first editor for the *Christian Herald*. Its November 1901 issue ran an advertisement offering a red-letter Bible to readers. Dr. Klopsch based this on Luke 22:20, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you," spoken by Jesus as He instituted the Lord's supper. Reasoning that blood was red, he asked himself, "Why not a red-letter Bible with the red words to be those of our Lord?" He asked Bible scholars in America and Europe to submit passages they regarded as spoken by Christ while on earth.

The first printing of a red-letter Bible numbered 6,000 copies. They sold quickly. Presses were soon running day and night to supply the demand. The King of Sweden sent a congratulatory cablegram, but the message that thrilled Klopsch the most came from President Theodore Roosevelt. He was even invited to dine with the chief executive at the White House.

Dr. Klopsch died March 28, 1910, and was buried at Mont Lawn near Tonawanda, New York, where he had established an orphanage. At the time *The New York Tribune* said, "He will not be easily replaced. He lived and died by his own motto: 'Do All the Good You Can for All the People You Can.' This, he truly did." —Mark N. Posey, Guin, Alabama

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

Recommended **Resource**

The WVBS Online Bible School provides students with free, comprehensive, in-depth Bible studies. The lessons are non-denominational teaching based simply on the Bible. These classes are for anyone who wants a focused, organized, and thorough study of the Bible. **school.wvbs.org**

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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Prayer requests or comments: _____

_____

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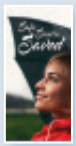
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☐ God's Heavenly Preachers



☐ How to Help Your Elders



☐ Safe, Secure, Saved



☐ The Beverage of Choice at the Devil's Banquet



☐ Roadblocks on the Road to Ruin



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Chapter to Chapter JOSHUA

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 Joshua, the book records Israel's conquest and settlement of the promised land following Moses' death. It begins with God's charge to Joshua to lead with strength and courage, and it shows how God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled. The book is divided into three main sections: the conquest of Canaan, the division of the land among the tribes, and Joshua's final exhortations to remain faithful. It emphasizes obedience, God's faithfulness, and the consequences of compromise. Joshua was likely written around 1400–1370 BC, shortly after the events it describes.

CHAPTER/TOPICS	VERSES
1. "Be strong and of good courage"—God commissions Joshua.	1:9
2. Rahab hides the spies in Jericho.	2:1–4
3. The Jordan River parts as the priests step in.	3:15–17
4. Twelve stones are set up as a memorial.	4:4–7
5. Manna stops as Israel eats the fruit of the land.	5:12
6. Jericho's walls fall after seven days.	6:20
7. Achan's sin leads to defeat at Ai.	7:1, 4
8. God helps Israel conquer Ai.	8:1–24
9. Israel makes a treaty with the Gibeonites without seeking God.	9:14–15
10. God has the sun stand still during Joshua's battle.	10:13
11. Joshua takes the whole land as the Lord commands.	11:23
12. List of 31 kings defeated by Israel.	12:7–24
13. Land remains to be possessed.	13:1
14. Caleb asks for the mountain he was promised.	14:12
15. Judah receives its land but cannot drive out the Jebusites.	15:63
16. Ephraim also fails to remove all Canaanites.	16:10
17. Manasseh is promised hill country.	17:18
18. Joshua rebukes the tribes for delay in possessing the land.	18:3
19. The land allotment is completed.	19:51
20. Cities of refuge are designated for justice.	20:2
21. God gives Israel all the land He promised.	21:43
22. Eastern tribes build an altar of witness, not rebellion.	22:34
23. Joshua warns Israel to love the Lord and avoid idolatry.	23:11
24. "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."	24:15

Jesus Is God!

The New Testament plainly declares the deity of Jesus. John begins: "In the beginning was the Word … and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Later, John records the Word "became flesh"—God Himself taking on human nature (John 1:14, cf. Philippians 2:5–8). Thomas' response after the resurrection is striking: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). The Bible expects that confession from all.

Jesus accepted worship, forgave sins, and exercised divine authority—actions reserved for God. He claimed unity with the Father (John 10:30) and said that seeing Him is seeing the Father (John 14:9). As God, Jesus made and sustains everything (Colossians 1:16–17).

The doctrine of Christ's deity matters because only God can atone for the world's sin and conquer death permanently. If Jesus were just a good man, His death could not accomplish the scope of salvation Scripture describes. Because He is God, His sacrifice meets divine justice and extends divine mercy. This conviction shapes worship, trust, and life—Jesus is the Lord, worthy of complete allegiance. Jesus is God!

—Matt Wallin



The Center

I am a historian. I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history. —H.G. Wells

"His name will be called Wonderful."

ISAIAH 9:6

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What Happens When We Die?

Death is a reality we all face (Hebrews 9:27; 1 Kings 2:2). Our physical body is temporary, like a tent or an earthly house, and it will return to the dust (Genesis 3:19; 2 Corinthians 5:1). Thankfully, the Bible gives us some clarity about what happens after death. But our soul—the essence of who we are—returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

After death, the soul enters a temporary waiting place called Hades. Hades has two compartments, separated by a great gulf. For the faithful, it is a place of comfort and peace, sometimes called Paradise or Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22). For the wicked, it is a place of torments (Luke 16:23). Both the righteous and the wicked are conscious during this intermediate state, awaiting God's final plan.

Then the day will come when time itself ends and resurrection begins.

When that happens, Hades gives up its dead (Revelation 20:13–14), and the body and soul are reunited—never again to die. The righteous will be raised to a new, incorruptible body and inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:42–44; Revelation 21:3–4). The wicked will be resurrected to face judgment, and those who rejected God's grace will be sent to eternal punishment in hell (Matthew 25:41, 46).

Death is not the end for anyone. For the believer, it is a transition into the presence of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23). For one who rejects God, it is the beginning of eternal consequence.

If you want to understand more about life, death, and the hope of resurrection, we would love to study the Bible with you. God promises a future beyond this life, and He wants everyone to know the path to be with Him forever. —Matt Wallin

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BACK TO THE BIBLE

A Gospel Meeting for Everyone

Friday, March 27 - 7:00pm
God's Grace: The Gospel Plan of Salvation

Saturday, March 28 - 7:00pm
Paul: From Chief of Sinners to Apostle of Christ

Sunday, March 29
9:30am: What Is the Purpose of the Church?
10:30am: Blessed Assurance
1:00pm: What Does the Lord Require?

Looking for something real, simple, and rooted in God's Word? If it's been a while, you're not alone. Join us for clear, Bible-based lessons in a welcoming, pressure-free setting. Everyone is welcome. Come as you are.

Guest Speaker: Norm Fields

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HOW TO BE SAVED FROM SIN



Norm Fields has served as the minister for the Northside church of Christ in LaGrange, Georgia, since 2014. In 2024, he began working with the God & Man Mission, focusing on domestic missions. Northside LaGrange remains his home congregation. He is a 1998 graduate of the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions. His background in the Gospel includes two years of mission work in India, as well as labors with congregations in Jasper, GA, West Monroe, LA, and Jerseyville, IL. Follow Norm at NormFields.com, @PreacherNorm on X, Facebook, YouTube, and Rumble.

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