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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 8

Jerseyville church of Christ

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Jacob Medford

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Worship .....10:30 a.m.
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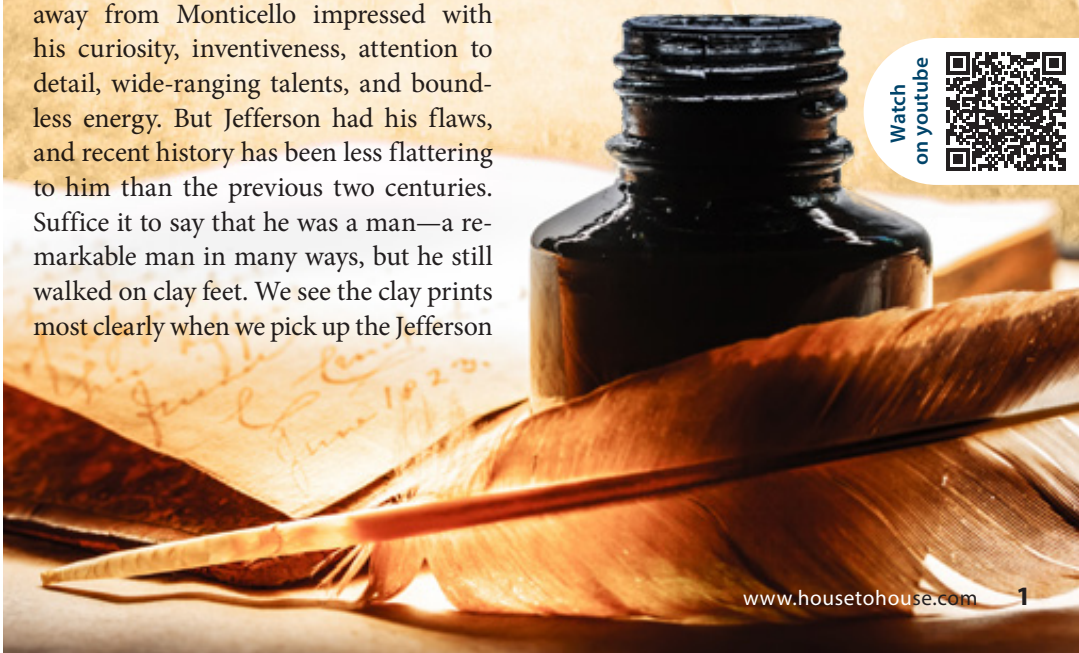
They Saw JESUS Alive

Allen Webster

I picked up a copy of the Jefferson Bible while visiting Poplar Forest, Jefferson's Palladian retreat in Bedford County, Virginia.

I have a keen interest in Jefferson and have read more about him than any other modern figure. I have stood in the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., and read his famous words carved in stone. I walked his footsteps in Natural Bridge, Virginia. I have been to the University of Virginia, which he designed and founded in his old age. Jefferson was a remarkable man for his day—in many ways, he was far ahead of his time. I always come away from Monticello impressed with his curiosity, inventiveness, attention to detail, wide-ranging talents, and boundless energy. But Jefferson had his flaws, and recent history has been less flattering to him than the previous two centuries. Suffice it to say that he was a man—a remarkable man in many ways, but he still walked on clay feet. We see the clay prints most clearly when we pick up the Jefferson Bible: *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth,* which he completed in 1819. The dust cover of Jefferson's Bible says:

> Working in the White House in 1804, Jefferson set out to edit the Gospels in order to uncover the essence of true religion in the simple story of the Life of Jesus. Jefferson was convinced that the authentic message of Jesus could be found only by extracting from the Gospels Jesus' message of absolute love and service, rather than the miracle of the Annunciation, Virgin Birth, or even the Resurrection.



Jefferson's Bible gives us, according to the back cover, "a preaching Jesus of distinctly human dimensions, without miracles or resurrection."[1] We are not surprised, then, to find that the last sentence in the Gospel According to Jefferson reads: "There they laid Jesus. And rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed."[2] Jefferson's Bible is a page short—it ends in Matthew 27 instead of Matthew 28, on Friday afternoon instead of Sunday morning.

What did Jefferson miss? What evidence do we have of the resurrection? There is much, but we will focus on the witnesses.

The most outstanding proof that Jesus rose from the dead is that at least 515 eyewitnesses saw Him on twelve different occasions over a period of forty days. "He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). Jesus had six weeks to establish His identity for all time, and He used the time wisely.

The resurrection of Christ is a fact to be proved, like all other facts, by competent and credible witnesses.[3] If you hit a hole-in-one playing golf on Saturday, how would you prove it to incredulous friends on Sunday? You would call over your golfing partner to confirm that he saw you do it. If that failed, then you would bring in others who were there to confirm your story. Any sensible person will believe a report corroborated by several credible witnesses. Paul uses the same logic to prove Jesus' resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. He appeals to the witnesses who had attested to the resurrection, and then showed that it was not possible that so many witnesses were deceived (1 Corinthians 15:5–8).



THE WITNESSES ARE SUFFICIENT

The apostle Paul, when writing a letter to a group of new Christians, laid it all out in 1 Corinthians 15:3–6. If every person the Bible identifies as being an eyewitness to Jesus' resurrection were called to the witness stand for cross-examination, it would take 129 hours to hear their testimony, at only fifteen minutes a person.[4] In other words, it would take from opening session on Monday until the closing session on Friday at dinnertime, listening around the clock to hear the testimony of those witnesses. We in the twenty-first century have a decision to make: whose report will we believe—the more than five hundred eyewitnesses, or the skeptical "scholars" seventeen hundred years removed from the events?

THE WITNESSES WERE DIVERSE

Skeptics, most of whom live centuries removed from the events, would have us believe that the appearances can be explained by mass hysteria or mass hallucinations. Yet the facts do not fit this hypothesis. The time frame does not fit. The interactions were spread over forty days—not merely a few hours or a couple of days (cf. Luke 24:13–35; 1 Corinthians 15:5–7).[5] Most of these five hundred witnesses were still living twenty-five years later when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians. There is no record of a single one who ever changed his mind and recanted his testimony.

The number of witnesses and the circumstances do not fit these theories. A large number of people saw Him alive in different locations, at different times, and under different circumstances. No two appearances were exactly alike. Several saw Him more than once, some alone, and some in large groups. One was in the morning; another in the evening. In some cases Jesus ate with them; one time He cooked a meal; another, He did a miracle like one He had done in His early ministry—the large draft of fish (John 21; Luke 5). The reactions to seeing the resurrected Christ were also diverse. Some worshipped; perhaps others wept for joy. Yet all were transformed by the encounter.

THE WITNESSES WERE UNIFORM IN IDENTIFYING THE LORD

Each told similar stories about his or her experience. How could they be sure that the person they were seeing was not an imposter? Jesus kept the scars from His crucifixion, which no one else could imitate (Luke 24:39–40). Presumably He could have had any resurrected body He wanted, and yet, He chose one identifiable, mainly by scars that could be seen and touched. Doubtless the reason could be summed up in the theme of John's biography: "That you may believe" (John 11:15). Dr. Luke recorded Jesus' reference to His body as "flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39), which is the only time that phrase is used in the New Testament (usually the body is identified as "the flesh and blood"—five times in New Testament). Some see in this a change in Jesus' resurrection body—that it was bloodless—and tie it to His giving His blood for us. Evidently, His body did still have a gaping hole large enough for Thomas to insert his hand (John 20:27).

As a group, these appearances comprise overwhelming evidence for the resurrection—evidence that would stand up in any court of law in the world.[6] Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

No thanks, Mr. Jefferson, we will keep that page of the Bible.

Endnotes

1 Charles S. Adams, *Religious Studies Review.*
2 *Jefferson Bible,* page 147.
3 Albert Barnes. *Barnes' Notes.*
4 Lee Strobel, *The Case for Easter.*
5 Tim LaHaye, *Jesus, Who Is He?*
6 LaHaye

Love Lifted Me

By the main warehouses in a particular town, the river channel has to be dredged often so barges can come in. The sand dredged from the river bottom is dumped on the riverbank. Children love to play on these huge sand hills. However, the mounds can be dangerous. When the wet sand dries, it creates a crust. It can collapse at any time, causing a person to sink down inside the mound and be covered instantly by the sand.

Several years ago when two brothers did not come home for dinner, their bikes were found outside the fence where the sand mounds were. Their family and rescue workers began searching frantically. They finally found one of them. He was buried up to his chin in the sand. Because of the pressure of the wet sand and muck around him, he was not breathing; so they began to dig frantically. When they uncovered him down to his waist he regained consciousness. His parents, in hysterics, said, "Where's your brother? Where's your brother? Where's your brother?"

The boy replied, "I'm standing on his shoulders."

The one brother had given his life so the other might be saved.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13).

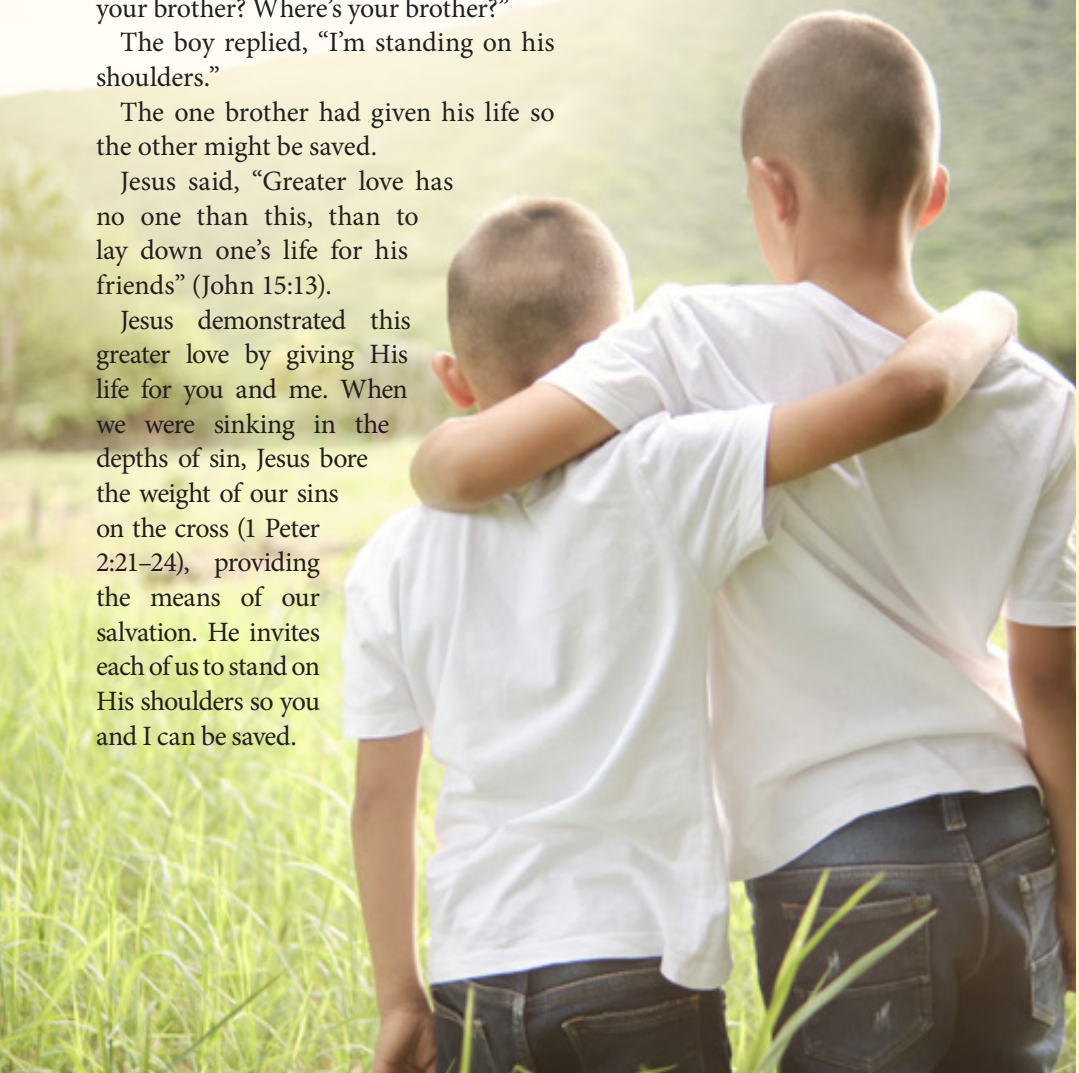
Jesus demonstrated this greater love by giving His life for you and me. When we were sinking in the depths of sin, Jesus bore the weight of our sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:21–24), providing the means of our salvation. He invites each of us to stand on His shoulders so you and I can be saved.

We can be saved by the merits of Christ's death on the cross if we believe in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized—immersed—in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Then if we continue to follow Him faithfully, He will receive us into an eternal home (1 John 1:7; John 14:1–6).

"I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea,
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me,
Now safe am I.
Love lifted me …"

Won't you allow Jesus to lift you from the deadly depths of sin?

—David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alabama (Story adapted from Tom Moore, Avenue T Church of Christ; Lyrics written by James Rowe 1912.)





The Price of Children

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with $160,140 for a middle-income family. Talk about sticker shock! That does not even touch college tuition. But $160,140 is not so bad if you break it down. It translates into:

- $8,896.66 a year,
- $741.38 a month, or
- $171.08 a week.
- That's a mere $24.24 a day!
- Just over a dollar an hour.

"Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them."

PSALM 127:5

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

Burdens Gives Us Wings

An old legend says that long ago God had a great many burdens that He wished to have carried from one place to another on earth, so He asked the animals to lend a hand. All of them began to make excuses for not helping: the elephant was too dignified; the lion too proud; and so on.

Finally, the birds came and said, "If you will tie them into small bundles, we will carry them for you. We are small but we would like to help." So God fastened upon the back of each a small bundle, and they all set out walking across the plain to their destination. They sang as they went, and did not seem to feel the weight of their burdens at all. Every day the burdens seemed lighter and lighter, until the loads seemed to be lifting the birds, instead of the birds carrying the burdens.

When they arrived at their destination, they discovered when they removed their loads, there were wings in their place, wings which enabled them to fly to the sky and the treetops.

They had learned how to carry their burdens, and their loads had become wings to carry them nearer to God. The burdens we carry for others may become wings of the spirit, to lift us into happiness. —Author Unknown

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

GALATIANS 6:2



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



Financial Advice for Hard Times

- **Set a budget.** Determine where the money leaks are. Evaluate priorities.
- **Do not wreck your finances for big-ticket items**—even for a fancy house.
- **Do not allow the "tyranny of the urgent" to out vote the important.**
- **Do not buy items not on the budget**. For big-ticket items on the budget, wait thirty days before signing. This allows clear-headedness and cancels impulse buying. On most purchases, wait twenty-four hours—in other words, sleep on it. Merchants arrange their stores to promote impulse spending. It keeps them in business; it puts you out of business. Impulse buying concerns wants, not needs, so stay away from it.
- **Evaluate your budget monthly.** If this takes more than an hour, then your budget is too complicated.
- **Remember, your budget is your friend and not the law.** It can be changed when necessary. It is your best paper friend. It may be a lot of fun to get into debt, but it is sheer misery to get out of debt.

"Strong men retain riches."

PROVERBS 11:16

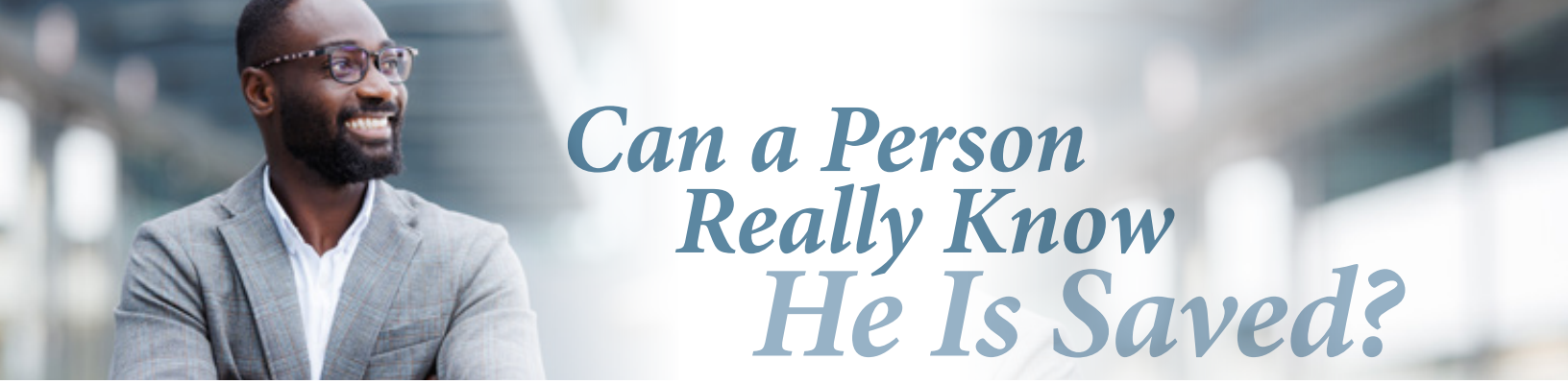
Parenting Tips

- Motherhood—If it was going to be easy, it never would start with something called labor!
- Parents are people who bear infants, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds.
- Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car—and you get about the same results (Proverbs 15:1).
- To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today (Genesis 44:30).
- Good advice on child rearing: enjoy them while they are still on your side.
- Rearing a teenager is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- The joy of motherhood: the time when all the children are finally in bed.
- Life's golden age is when the kids are too old to need babysitters and too young to borrow the family car.
- Grandparents are similar to a piece of string—handy to have around and easily wrapped around the fingers of grandchildren (Proverbs 17:6).

"Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established."

PROVERBS 24:3





Can a Person Really Know He Is Saved?

Although it may sound arrogant for one to say, "I know that I am saved," the Bible teaches that a Christian can know that very thing. John wrote, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

How can we have such confidence? Both trust and obedience play a part. John wrote, "By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3). Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again of water and of the Spirit in order to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:3–5). A person is born again of the water and of the Spirit by being baptized into Christ. This person is then saved and can know it. Thus begins a life-long journey of a "babe in Christ" growing into a mature Christian.

We must also trust God to keep His word. Christians are not perfect, and God does not expect us to be. We still sin, but God forgives those sins as we repent of them and confess them. As God expects a forgiving attitude of Christians, He shows a forgiving attitude as a Father.

Salvation does not depend on how few sins or mistakes we make, but upon whether or not we accept God's grace and are obedient to Christ. As we continue to serve Christ, the Lord continues to bless and forgive us. If we walk in the light, following the pathway of Christ, His blood continues to cleanse us of sin (1 John 1:5–7).

Many Christians have doubts because they are not maturing as Christians should, but are moving backward. This often happens when a person does not give his whole heart to Christ. Jesus said, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:24). The person who tries to live as a Christian while not fully surrendering his life to Christ must have doubts, because he cannot walk in the light if he does not give his whole heart to the Lord.

As the hymn says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 3071, Oxford, AL 36203

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:8

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "How We Got the English Bible" 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. 31:6 *Bible Book Word Find:* a mos (Amos); mark (Mark); lu, ke (Luke); john (John); jo. El (Joel); judges (Judges); job (Job); he brews (Hebrews); es. Ther (Esther); act. S (Acts); jam, es (James); ruth (Ruth); rom ans (Romans); t it us (Titus); m at the w (Matthew); genes is (Genesis); Phi lemon (Philemon); Chronicle, s (Chronicles); Daniel; na hum (Nahum); hose a (Hosea); lamentations (Lamentations); revelation (Revelation); Timothy; Samuel; numbers (Numbers); mal. A chi (Malachi); pete r (Peter); exodus (Exodus); king s (Kings).

V. 31:7 *Marriage and Family:* 1. One flesh (Genesis 2:24); 2. Christ (Ephesians 5:25); 3. Good thing (Proverbs 18:22); 4. Obey (Ephesians 6:1); 5. Understanding (1 Peter 3:7); 6. Bitter (Colossians 3:19); 7. Rubies (Proverbs 31:10); 8. Mother (Exodus 20:12); 9. Tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32); 10. Kind (1 Corinthians 13:4); 11. Undefiled (Hebrews 13:4); 12. Divorce (Malachi 2:16); 13. Go (Proverbs 22:6); 14. Unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8); 15. Wrath (Ephesians 6:4); 16. Need (Philippians 4:19); 17. Wife, husband (1 Corinthians 7:3); 18. Hatred (Proverbs 15:17); 19. Subdue (Genesis 1:28); 20. Separate (Matthew 19:6); 21. Children (Psalm 127:3); 22. Love (1 Peter 4:8); 23. Admonition (Ephesians 6:4).

They Saw Jesus Alive

Find the answers as you read this issue of House to House/ Heart to Heart. *Questions are taken from the New King James Version.*

Questions from Pages 1 and 2

1. **T or F** Belief in the virgin birth or the resurrection is not essential to true Christianity.
2. **T or F** There is not much evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.
3. **T or F** We should be able to prove that Jesus was resurrected before we believe it.
4. **T or F** Witnesses are not a reliable way to prove that Jesus was resurrected.
5. The most outstanding proof that Jesus rose from the dead is that at least _____ eyewitnesses saw Him on _____ different occasions over a period of _____ days.
6. **T or F** Most of the five hundred witnesses that saw Jesus were still living twenty-five years later when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians. There is no record of any of them ever changing his or her mind.

Questions from Page 3

1. According to the popular gospel hymn based on Scripture, what lifted us when we were sinking deep in sin?_____
2. _____ proved His love for us by dying on the cross.
3. **T or F** God does not have any specific plan for saving man. We can do whatever we think best to be saved.
4. What six things do we need to do to be saved? _____

Questions from Page 4

1. **T or F** Experts say that some miserable times are unavoidable.
2. **T or F** Read Matthew 5:45. God says that He will not allow bad times to come for His children.
3. **T or F** Modern experts on relationships agree with what Jesus said over 2,000 years ago.



The Church of Christ

During His ministry upon the earth, Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18). Although He was rejected and crucified, His promise did not fail. God's promises never do (2 Peter 3:9; Numbers 23:19). In Acts 2, we find the church in existence on earth just as Jesus had promised (Acts 2:47). His death was not an unforeseen occurrence but rather a part of the "determinate purpose and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23; Isaiah 53; Revelation 13:8). His death facilitated, rather than frustrated, God's eternal plan (Ephesians 3:10–11). It was through the shedding of His blood at Calvary that the church was purchased (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25).

The difficulty that faces man today is not whether the church of Christ exists, but rather how to find it among the hundreds of man-made churches that dot the religious landscape. The search can be frustrating. In fact, some have given up on ever finding the church, while others have simply settled for something less than the church recorded in the New Testament. While identifying the church among so many counterfeits may be difficult, it is not impossible. God has given man a blueprint by which he can prove that which is good and reject that which is bad (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Peter 1:3).

From the beginning, the followers of Christ have been identified by their steadfast adherence to the commands of Christ. To some Jews that believed on Him, Jesus declared, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31). In like manner, concerning the church, Luke recorded, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

How do you identify the true church in the midst of so many churches today? You find it in the same way that men and women found it in the first century. You find it by finding those who are abiding in the doctrine of Christ in all aspects of their work and worship (2 John 1:9–11). We humbly ask for you to put us to the test (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We sincerely invite you to "come and see" if we are that church (Isaiah 2:2–3; John 1:39, 46; 4:29).

—Wade Webster, Southaven, Mississippi

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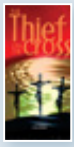
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☐ Heaven is Just Four Steps Away: Part 3



☐ The Amazing History of Instrumental Music: Part 2



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The Crucifixion CHRONOLOGY

DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE
Sunday	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Mark 11:1–11
Monday	Cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem	Mark 11:15–19
Tuesday	The Sanhedrin challenges Jesus' authority	Luke 20:1–8
	Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and His Second Coming	Matthew 24–25
	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany	John 12:1–8
	Judas bargains with Jewish rulers to betray Jesus	Luke 22:3–6
Thursday	Jesus eats the Passover meal with His disciples and institutes the memorial supper	John 13:1–20 Mark 14:22–26
	Jesus prays in Gethsemane for His disciples	John 17
Friday	Jesus is betrayed and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane	Mark 14:43–50
	Jesus is questioned by Annas, the former high priest	John 18:12–24
	Jesus is condemned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin	Mark 14:53–65
	Peter denies Jesus three times	John 18:15–27
	Jesus is formally condemned by the Sanhedrin	Luke 22:66–71
	Judas commits suicide	Matthew 27:3–10
	The trial of Jesus before Pilate is held	Luke 23:1–5
	Jesus appears before Herod Antipas	Luke 23:6–12
	Jesus is formally sentenced to death by Pilate	Luke 23:13–25
	Jesus is mocked and crucified between two thieves	Mark 15:16–27
	The veil of the temple is torn as Jesus dies	Matthew 27:51–56
	Jesus is buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea	John 19:31–42
Sunday	Jesus is raised from the dead	Luke 24:1–9

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House to House
Heart to Heart



The Temptation and Sinlessness of Jesus

Jesus faced strong temptation, yet never sinned. Luke records His testing in the wilderness, where Satan tempted Him to satisfy hunger, seek shortcuts to power, and test God (Luke 4:1–13). Jesus answered with Scripture, showing obedience and trust. Hebrews reminds us, "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).

His sinlessness is critical: only a spotless Savior could atone for sin. First Peter declares that He "committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). Jesus suffered but was sinless. He experienced human trial and remained faithful. That perfect obedience qualifies Him to represent us before God and to be the sacrificial Lamb whose righteousness we receive by faith. His example instructs Christians to resist temptation through Scripture, godly community, and complete dependence on God. —Matt Wallin

Misery Is Good?

The key to a happy relationship could be accepting that some miserable times are unavoidable, experts say.

The *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* reports that the pursuit of relationship nirvana can actually be potentially damaging, the unrealistic aim leading couples to feel they have failed. "Nobody's life or relationship can be in a permanent state of happiness," says Jan Parker of the Association of Family Therapy. "There will always be difficult times." Instead, "Couples need to build strengths, such as understanding, into their relationships to help them cope with hard times and appreciate the good times."

"The testing of your faith produces patience."

JAMES 1:3

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

You Can Live Forever

This physical life is fleeting, a brief journey from birth to death (James 4:14). But the Bible reveals a hope far beyond what we see in this world: eternal life. God made us for more than a temporary existence—He made us to live forever (Ecclesiastes 3:11, 1 John 2:25).

Jesus promised His followers, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25–26). Eternal life isn't just a future hope—it begins the moment we come to Him in faith, repentance, and obedience. The Bible teaches that all who obey God's plan for salvation will be raised to a new, incorruptible body (1 Corinthians 15:42–44; Romans 6:3–4). Death does not have the final word. Those who trust in Christ will share in His victory over sin and death (Romans 6:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

God's gift of eternal life is not earned by perfection or human effort—it is given through Jesus' sacrifice and accepted by obedient faith (Ephesians 2:8–9, James 2:17, Matthew 7:21). Even the most broken, flawed, or ordinary people can live forever if they follow Him. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 6:11). And here, at this church, "such were some of us." But God has given us a new life now (Romans 6:4, John 10:10) and hope of a new life forever! (John 3:16).

You should not wait for death to think about eternity. The choice to follow Christ today is the way to live forever (Revelation 21:3–4).

Do you want to live forever? If you want to explore what the Bible teaches about eternal life and how to receive this incredible gift, we would love to study it with you.

—Matt Wallin

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0489 Jerseyville



We'd love to get to know you!

We are excited to invite our community to our special Back-to-Church Sunday service on September 20! Location and contact info can be found on the front.