House to House
Heart to Heart
www.housetohouse.com
VOLUME 29 NUMBER 3

GATEWAY
Church of Christ
14950 Northline Road
Southgate, MI 48195
Phone: (734) 282-2235
Web: Facebook:

MINISTERS

Patrick Medlock ..... (248) 842-8185
Rhys Siegel-Hinson ..... (734) 672-5998

SUNDAY

Bible Class ..... 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship ..... 10:25 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies' Bible Class ..... 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

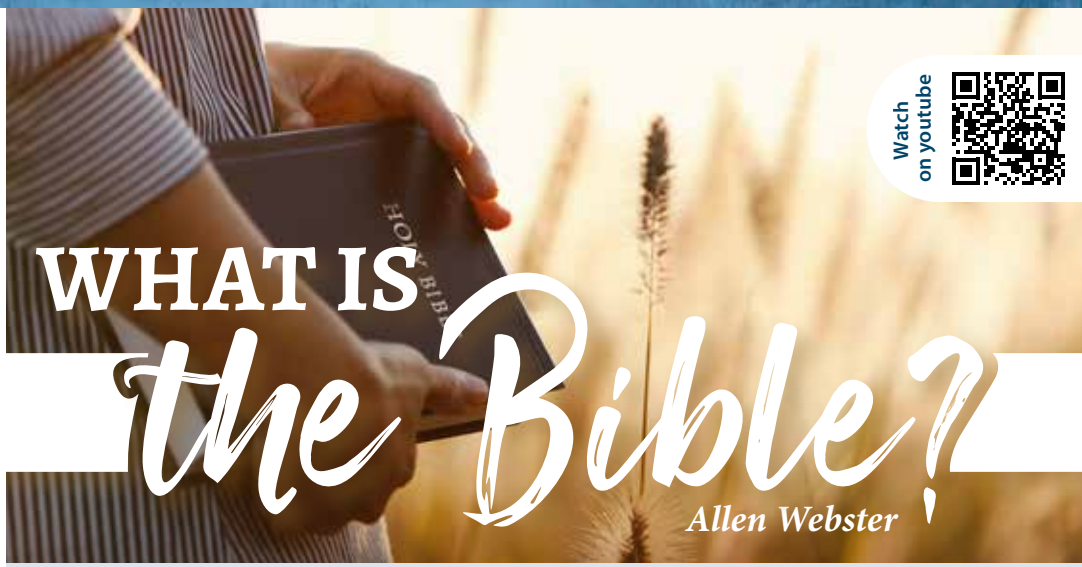
Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

We stream worship services on our website G8waycoc.com and on our Facebook page (where archived services can be found). We would also love to meet you in person.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Home Bible Studies
- Bible Studies by Mail
- Food Pantry
- Monthly Virtual Bereavement - 2nd Saturdays 10 via Zoom
- ChristNet (Support for the Homeless)
- EmbraceGrace (Support for Single, Pregnant Women)
- Recovery Through Christ (Support for Addiction Recovery)
- Counseling Services
- Day and Evening Classes: Financial Peace University

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



WHAT IS the Bible?

Allen Webster

Paper with ink, assembled as pages in a book sitting on a shelf. The object of vitriol in my freshman philosophy class. A keepsake on Grandma's table. Something I see people reading at Starbucks. An option to download in the app store. A prop the TV preacher uses as he asks me to send him money.

Just what is the Bible?

The Bible is a book composed of sixty-six separate books, divided into two major sections (Old Testament and New Testament), and subdivided into chapters and verses.[1] It was written by about forty people from three continents over a 1,600-year period long ago (1500 BC–AD 100). Originally composed in three languages—Hebrew (OT), Greek (NT), and Aramaic (small sections)—it has been translated into all major languages and is perennially the bestselling book in the world (although left off of some lists).

Just what is the Bible?

AS TO SOURCE, THE BIBLE IS GOD'S MIND IN HUMAN WORDS

The words in this article originated in a man's mind—except the Bible verses. Those came from the eternal well of wisdom residing in God (Romans 11:33). The Bible is a "God-breathed" (inspired) book: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). John Barth observed, "The Bible is not man's word about God, but God's word about man."[2] Its words proceed from God's mouth (Matthew 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9–13). It differs from every other book because its Author differs from every other author.

God gave His words to human penmen assigned to write for Him. "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Bible writers did not use words of man's wisdom, but words the Holy Spirit gave (1 Corinthians 2:13). It claims to be the "word of God" (or similar[3]) more than 350 times (Exodus 20:1; Matthew 15:3–6). Century after century, men recorded more parts of this book, sometimes unaware of one another's writings and sometimes in the dark as to what their own words meant (1 Peter 1:10–12).[4]

The three sources of aquired human knowledge are reason, experience, and revelation. Divine revelation is superior to reason and experience because it is infallible.[5] The Bible substantiates this claim. "The law of the Lord is perfect" (Psalm

19:7). It is tried, tested, proven. God makes no mistakes, and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). His word is holy, righteous, and good (Psalm 111:7; Romans 7:12).

While the Enlightenment (1685–1815) taught skepticism of absolute truth and claimed ancient religious instructions were not valuable for modern man, philosophy has shown that, regardless of how advanced the world becomes (or how primitively humans treat one another), basic humanity does not change. Humans all have in common a search for understanding (past), meaning (present), and direction (future). This makes the Bible invaluable, for it is the only book that gives all three.

- Past: Man was created in the image of a loving God (Genesis 1:27).
- Present: Life's purpose is to glorify, praise, and prepare to meet God (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 2:9).
- Future: Man can live in heaven with God forever (John 14:1–2; cf. Hebrews 9:27; Acts 17:30–31).

The key to this understanding, of course, is inspiration. If an eternal, transcendent God wrote a book, it would remain both timely and transformative. It would always be up-to-date and meet current needs. It would cover human life so completely that no amendments would ever be needed. It would promote every virtue and denounce every vice. Following its precepts would lead to happiness, and ignoring its warnings to sorrow. This is exactly true of the Bible. The Enlightenment principle was correct about other religious books—ancient or modern. They have nothing to offer because they are not from God. Being inspired, the Bible does.

AS TO CONTENT, THE BIBLE IS THE COMPLETE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

Jesus said that the Bible was about Him (John 5:39). He is found in every Old Testament book; He is the theme of every New Testament book. Across the Old Testament could be written, "He is coming." "He is here" is what the New Testament's first eighty-nine chapters are about. These passages record His marvelous birth, life, words, miracles, death, burial, and resurrection. Acts declares, "He has returned to heaven." The epistles (Romans–Jude) teach preparation for His return. Revelation says we can live with Him forever in heaven.

His last recorded words on earth instructed His followers to tell everybody the good news (gospel) that salvation had come to humanity: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15–16).

Looked at this way, the Bible is a love letter from Jesus. One observed, "The Bible is the only book where the Author is in love with the reader."[6] Scripture is a story of a Creator who made man for a relationship, but man's sin separated them (Genesis 1–3). With undaunted love, God provided a way of restoration (Jesus), at great cost to Himself (Romans 3:23–26). Jesus came to live among that fallen creation and to die miserably in its place (John 1:14). While there are differences in circumstances, culture, economic levels, political situations, and lifestyles, Jesus loves all (Ephesians 3:17–19; 1 John 4:8). Love letters are quickly read and long cherished. Have you read Jesus' love letter to you?

AS TO FUNCTION, IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TOOLBOX IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

The Bible is more than a collection of inspired books. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). The Bible is how the Holy Spirit works on humans. Many preachers promote an intuition-based, Spirit-led concept. This is confusing, subjective, and inaccurate. It ascribes to the Spirit that which originates in human feelings, conscience, circumstances, and thought. The Spirit does not leave His work to such confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40). He works through the objective (same for everybody) Word. The weapons of His warfare are not carnal—they are spiritual (2 Corinthians 10:4). This is suitable to the Spirit's nature and to the spiritual work being done. The living voice of God's Spirit speaks through the Bible's pages. Justin Peters wrote, "Want to hear God speak? Read your Bible. Want to hear God speak audibly? Read your Bible out loud."[7]

Since the Spirit speaks through the Word, the Bible is the world's only living book. It is a seed; it has life in it (Luke 8:15; 1 Peter 1:23). It is "living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . . and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is not a sacred object to be enshrined; it is holy ground to be traversed. The Bible is the only book whose Author is always with the reader.

As God's book, the Bible is the most powerful book ever written. The gospel is "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16). God's spoken words were powerful enough to originate all material things (Genesis 1:3, 6, 26); His written words are powerful enough to originate all spiritual life. The implanted word saves souls (James 1:21). The word of God's grace builds up and gives an inheritance (Acts 20:32). (The word translated "is able" in James 1:21 and Acts 20:32 is the verb form of "power" in Romans 1:16.)

The Bible's power is seen in its ability to change lives. It is the devil's nemesis (Matthew 4:1–11). D. L. Moody wrote, "The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation."[8] By God's power, Saul of Tarsus went from persecutor to preacher (Acts 9; 1 Timothy 1:13–15); the Corinthians moved from immoral to holy (1 Corinthians 6:9–11); and Ephesian polytheistic pagans became monotheistic Christians.

Atheism does not have that effect on people. No one ever said, "I used to be an addict, a drunk, a gambler, and a womanizer, but after reading Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* or Robert Ingersoll's *Mistakes of Moses,* I am a changed man." Yet lives are radically changed when the Bible is read, believed, and followed (1 Corinthians 1:17–18).

Bible instructions must be mixed with faith to work (Hebrews 4:2; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Scripture comes alive when read, studied, and put into action (James 2:14–18). For the Bible to change us, we must:

- Read it. This produces faith in a sincere heart (Romans 10:17; Luke 8:15). On the last day, Jesus may well ask, "Have you never read the Scriptures?" (Matthew 21:42). Paul told Timothy, "Give attention to reading" (1 Timothy 4:13). John said, "Blessed is he who reads" (Revelation 1:3).
- Understand it. To profit by it, we must grasp the meaning of Scripture (Proverbs 4:5, 7; Acts 8:30–31; 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22; Hebrews 13:9). The devil steals the Word from those who do not understand it (Matthew 13:19). The goal is not to have a Bible collection on your shelf, but a collection of the Bible stored up in yourself.[9]
- Follow it. Moses advised, "Be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32). In the New Testament, those who heard, believed, repented, confessed, and were baptized were forgiven and added to the church (Acts 2:36–38, 41, 47; 8:5–12, 35–39; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

AS TO PURPOSE, THE BIBLE IS MAN'S MAP TO HEAVEN

We were born traveling. We are sojourners and strangers (Psalm 119:19)—pilgrims heading to a promised land (1 Peter 2:11).

Journeys require destinations and directions. Heaven is man's destination. Where is the map? When Thomas asked, "How can we know the way?" (John 14:5), Jesus explained, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (14:6). Jesus is the way to heaven; the Bible contains His directions. Moses told the Israelites to take to heart "all the words which I testify among you," because the law "is your life" (Deuteronomy 32:46–47). The way to prosperity and success is to meditate on the word and obey it (Joshua 1:7–8).

Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) said, "The Bible shows the way to go to heaven, not the way the heavens go."[10] When NASA was putting a man on the moon (July 16, 1969), if an astronaut had said, "I know the way. The moon is straight up. I do not need a map," others would have laughed at him. If we fail to consult Jesus' map, or ignore it, then we are being equally foolish. Without it, we will wander aimlessly lost through life and end up at the wrong place (Isaiah 55:1–9; Matthew 7:13–14). However, by simply reading and heeding the Bible, we can know the way to heaven (Luke 10:26).

The Bible lights man's path through darkness. "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105; cf. 119:130). It has the secret to a good life (1 Peter 3:10). It allows the man of God to be "thoroughly equipped for every work" (2 Timothy 3:17). Scripture is profitable for

- doctrine (what is right),
- reproof (what is not right),
- correction (how to get right),
- instruction in righteousness (how to stay right) (2 Timothy 3:16).

The King James Version translators wrote (in the 1611 long preface), "If we are ignorant, the Scriptures will instruct us; if out of the way, they will bring us home; if out of order, they will reform us; if in heaviness, they will comfort us; if dull, quicken us; if cold, inflame us."

That is what the Bible is.

Endnotes

1 1,189 chapters; 31,102 verses (KJV).
2 https://quotefancy.com/stories-quotes.
3 Words of God, word of the Lord, commandments of the Lord.
4 Wilkinson and Boa, *Through the Bible.*
5 The Bible describes two forms of revelation: general and special. General revelation is evidence for God seen in nature (Psalm 19:1–6; Romans 1:18, 20). Special revelation refers to God's direct communication in Scripture (Hebrews 1:1–2).
6 https://biblereasons.com/bible-quotes/.
7 https://quotefancy.com/quote/1783796.
8 www.goodreads.com/quotes/239061.
9 Wendy Speake, *The 40-Day Feast.*
10 https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/galileo_galilei_381320.

Bought to Be Set Free

A man walking through the park saw a young boy with a birdcage full of wild birds. The man asked the young boy what he was doing with them, to which the young boy replied, "Playing."

The man asked what the boy was going to do with the birds once he was done, to which the young boy replied, "I am going to kill them." The man asked, "How much do you want for the cage?" and the boy said he required fifty dollars for the cage. The man, to the boy's surprise, paid the price, and when the boy was gone, the man freed the birds.

Satan has the world in a cage. He is going to play with them. When the world ends, those whom Satan owns will be condemned to hell. Christ asked what price must be paid for the world. It was His blood. Christ paid this, so the door to the cage is open.

Too many are still in the cage. The price has been paid, and the transaction is finished, but still, some remain.

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

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

A Word Master

To please his father, a freshman went out for track. He had no athletic ability, though the father had been a good miler in his day. His first race was a two-man race in which he ran against the school miler. He was badly beaten. Not wanting to disappoint his father, the boy wrote home as follows: "You will be happy to know that I ran against Bill Williams, the best miler in school. He came in next to last, while I came in second."

—*Bits & Pieces*, September 17, 1992, p. 12.

The Rules Don't Apply

Napoleon always advocated the sanctity of the home and the obligation of public worship—for others. Of himself he said, "I am not a man like other men. The laws of morality do not apply to me."

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

The Easy Part

A friend was in the hospital to give birth to her first baby. As the labor pains became more frequent and severe, she gasped to the nurse, "Is the hard part about over?" The nurse replied, "Honey, this is the easy part. The hard part will last for the next 18 years. "' —W. R. Sumrall

"A sword will pierce through your own soul also."

LUKE 2:35

If you want children to improve, let them hear you say nice things about them to others.

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

Building a Wall *or Building a* Bridge?

In ancient China, the people desired security from the barbaric hordes to the north, so they built the Great Wall of China. It was so high they knew no one could climb over it and so thick that nothing could break it down. They settled back to enjoy their security.

During the first hundred years of the wall's existence, China was invaded three times. Not once did the barbaric hordes break down the wall or climb over its top. Each time they bribed a gatekeeper and marched right through the gates. The Chinese forgot to teach integrity to their children (attributed to multiple sources).

The apostle Paul wrote: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." It was "God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17–18).

As followers of Christ, we want our children to know about this new creation. In the midst of controversy, whether family disputes, neighborhood disputes, or disputes between nations, of necessity we must rise up and speak on behalf of the children.

Are our children learning how to build walls of division or how to tear them down?

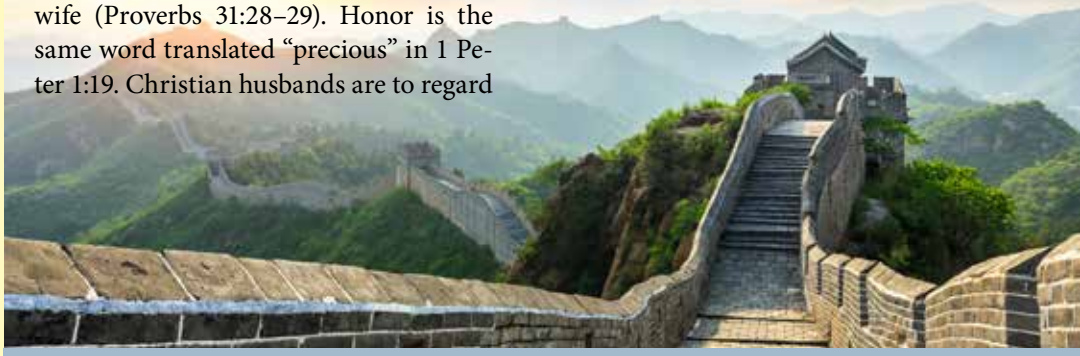
"You yourselves are taught by God to love one another."

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9

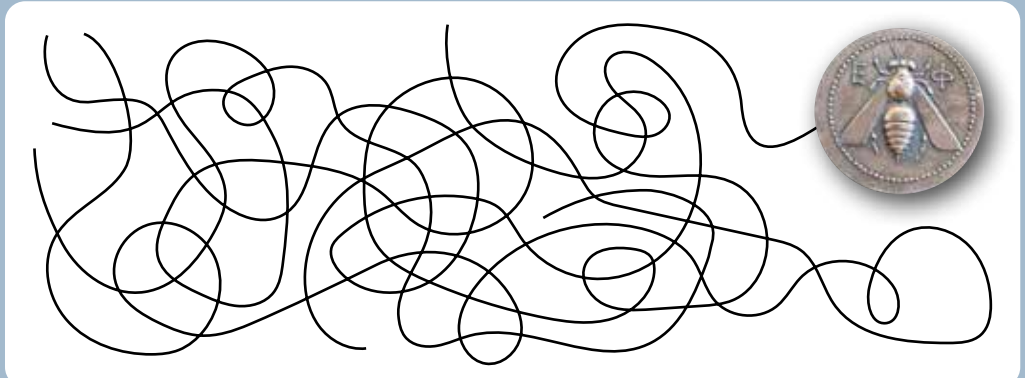
Give the Gift of a Sincere Compliment

Jesus complimented (Matthew 8:10; 15:28; Luke 7:50; 10:38–42). Paul complimented (Philippians 2:20; 2 Timothy 1:5; Philemon 1:21). Barnabas' name means "Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36).

Spouses should compliment each other (1 Peter 3:7). The husband is to honor his wife (Proverbs 31:28–29). Honor is the same word translated "precious" in 1 Peter 1:19. Christian husbands are to regard their faithful wives as precious. A Christian husband should value his good wife (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14), and he should not be afraid to let her know it. A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job," or "That was a wonderful meal" can make her day.



Just for Fun — Lost Coin Maze —Luke 15:8–10



Baptism is a Work of GOD

Jesus was the plan before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). God worked out the plan of salvation through the ages (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:16; Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8). When we discuss our salvation, we must acknowledge that God has been working out a plan for a long time, and He has done the heavy lifting.

There is no plan, there is no solution, there is not even a chance without the work of God.

When presented with these facts, many of the people in the New Testament asked a similar question: "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37; cf. 9:6; 10:4; 13:42; 16:30). They understood that the overwhelming work of God demanded a response on their part.

Today, if we agree that God has made salvation possible, and we agree that it demands a response on our part, let us ask the same question the people in Acts asked: "What shall we do?"

Consider this.

Hearing the word of God is a lot of work. We must clear our schedule, find some alone time, and read. Hearing takes work.

Belief is a lot of work. Humbling ourselves to the point where we can be taught is hard. Changing what we have thought for years, or what our family has thought for generations, is tough! Belief takes work.

Is repentance hard? Ask the person who is addicted to sin. Changing our behavior after five, ten, or even fifty years is hard. Repentance takes work!

Confession can be challenging. Confessing Jesus in a crowd may put us out of our comfort zone. Confessing Jesus with our words and by the way we live in our workplace and with our family can be new and difficult. Confession takes work!

Although each step of the process requires us to work, most of us understand our role in our salvation. However, even though the majority of conversions in Acts specifically mention baptism, some people object to baptism, calling it a work.

Did you know that only one verse calls baptism a work? This verse does not say that it is our work, but "the powerful working of God" (Colossians 2:12).

Baptism is the most passive part of our conversion. In baptism we give up control, both physically and spiritually, and let someone immerse us in water while God does the work. This is a divine precedent for the rest of our Christian walk: We will need God and other people.

Yes, God has done the heavy lifting. But His hard work demands a response from us. In light of what God has done, what will you do? —**Matt Wallin**

"Now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

ACTS 22:16

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

Bible Quiz

VOLUME 29:3

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Types – Manna and Jerusalem" 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. 29:1 *Who Is the Greatest?:* 1. "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1); 2. A child (18:2–4); 3. Converted, children, kingdom (18:3); 4. Drowning (18:6); 5. Hand, foot, eye (18:8–9); 6. Being cast into everlasting fire (18:8–9); 7. Come, save, lost (18:11); 8. Seven (18:21); 9. Seventy times seven (18:22); 10. That he and his family be sold and that payment be made (18:25); 11. Released him and forgave the debt (18:27); 12. Compassion (18:27); 13. A hundred denarii (18:28); 14. Choked him, demanded payment, and threw him in prison (18:28–30); 15. Delivered the uncompassionate servant to the torturers (18:34); 16. We must forgive (18:35); 17. Humbles, child, greatest (18:4).

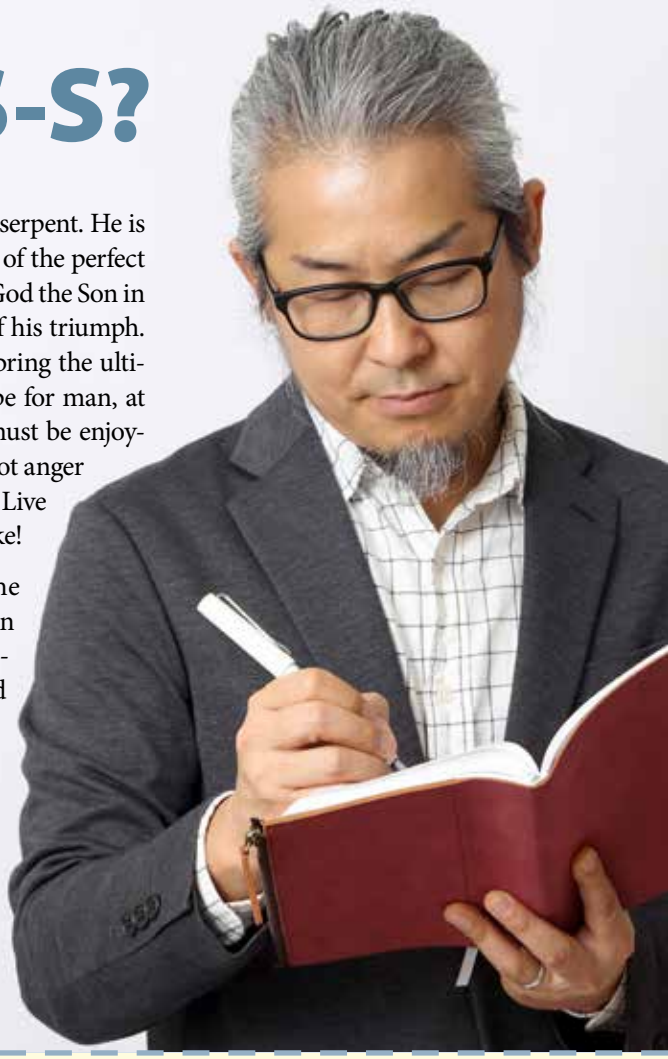
V. 29:2 *Starts with the Letter "I":* 1. Ichabod (1 Samuel 4:21–22); 2. Inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16); 3. Idle (Matthew 12:36); 4. Idolatry (Colossians 3:5); 5. Ignorance (Acts 17:30); 6. Image (Genesis 1:26); 7. Intent (Genesis 6:5); 8. Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14); 9. Impossible (Luke 1:37); 10. Increase (1 Corinthians 3:6); 11. Inheritance (1 Peter 1:4); 12. Iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19); 13. Inn (Luke 2:7); 14. Isaac (Acts 7:38); 15. Isaiah (2 Kings 20:11).

David and Goliath

Find answers in 1 Samuel 17. *Questions are taken from the New King James Version.*

1. What was Goliath's hometown? _____
2. Who were Goliath's people? _____
3. How tall was Goliath? _____
4. He much did his coat of mail weigh? _
5. How much did his spearhead weigh? _____
6. How many days had Goliath challenged Israel? _____
7. How many times a day? _____
8. What was Goliath's proposal to avoid a war between the two nations? _____
9. What was Saul's reaction to Goliath's challenge? _____
10. What was David's reaction to Goliath's challenge? _____
11. Who was the oldest son of Jesse? ____
12. Who was the youngest of Jesse? ____
13. What food did David bring his brothers on the battlefield? _____
14. What food did he bring their captain? _____
15. What three incentives did Saul offer for the one who killed Goliath? _____
16. What three people did not think David was able to fight Goliath? (17:28, 33, 42) _____
17. What previous successes made David confident he could defeat Goliath? __
18. Goliath came against David with what three weapons? _____
19. David came against Goliath in the _____ of the _____, the God of the armies of Israel, whom he had _____.
20. David wanted all the earth to know what? _____

How Do You Spell C-R-O-S-S?



"SEE"

Look at Calvary. Do not turn away. I know it is not easy. What is done to Him is shameful. I know. But look closely! Past the spittle. Beyond the blood. There. In His eyes. Friend, that is love. It is love for you! See the nails in His hands and feet, fastening Him to a tree He created for man's use. Look at the love He has for you!

"ARE"

Are you able to see that He bled and died for you? Are you willing to admit that you are lost without Him? Are you ready to submit to His will, to obey Him, and to live for Him? Are you prepared for eternity? Are you convinced?

"OH"

Hear His cries of pain and agony. The death of a thousand deaths. Bitter moans of His disciples. The gasp of heaven's angels. The sorrow of a Father for His only begotten Son! The gasps and exclamations of a hateful mob.

"SS"

That is the hiss of the beguiling serpent. He is the one who is bruising the heel of the perfect One (Genesis 3:15) and putting God the Son in the tomb. This is the moment of his triumph. Though resurrection will soon bring the ultimate victory for Christ and hope for man, at the cross of Calvary the devil must be enjoying his front row seat. Does he not anger you? Disgust you? Motivate you? Live for Jesus. Do not live for the snake!

Friends, the cross spells the difference between heaven and hell, hope and helplessness, joy and sorrow, day and night! The cross spells life!

—Anonymous

"God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

GALATIANS 6:14

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!

- ☐ What Death Cannot Do
- ☐ Who Has the Good Life?
- ☐ The Catholic Church Is Not the Oldest Church in the World
- ☐ Three Thousand Converted

More subjects:

☐ Centripetal or Centrifugal?

☐ The Half Has Never Been Told

☐ Not Far from the Kingdom

☐ Should Christians Today Follow the Jewish Calendar?

☐ Gold-Plated Christianity

☐ When Jesus Was a Boy

☐ Don't Fall

☐ The Rich Poor Church at Smyrna

☐ Did He Not Also Die for These?

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

VOLUME 29:3

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

TYPES & ANTITYPES

The ARK of the COVENANT 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.

Most of the furniture of the tabernacle and temple are of a typical nature. The Ark of the Covenant occupied the most prominent place in the Holy of Holies and in many ways points to Christ.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT TYPE	JESUS THE CHRIST ANTITYPE
The space above the ark is where the presence of God met with the high priest (EXODUS 25:22).	Is called Immanuel, which means "God with us" (MATTHEW 1:23).
Contained the tablets of stone given to Moses that were engraved with the law (HEBREWS 9:4).	Is the Word made flesh; fulfilled the Law and gave grace and truth, which bring salvation (JOHN 1:14, 17; COLOSSIANS 2:14; TITUS 2:11).
Contained the jar of manna (HEBREWS 9:4).	Is the bread of life (JOHN 6:48).
Contained the rod of Aaron the high priest, which budded (HEBREWS 9:4; NUMBERS 17:10).	Is our High Priest (HEBREWS 4:14–16).
Was precious and pure (EXODUS 25:10–11).	Is holy and undefiled (HEBREWS 7:26).
Opened the passage through Jordan to the promised land (JOSHUA 3:7–4:18).	Opened the way to heaven and was baptized in the Jordan (MATTHEW 3:13–17; JOHN 14:1–6; EPHESIANS 4:8).
Caused the walls of Jericho to fall after the people exercised faithful obedience (JOSHUA 6:12–20).	Has broken down the power of Satan for the faithfully obedient (HEBREWS 2:14; COLOSSIANS 1:13).
Was victorious in battle (JOSHUA 6:1–27).	Is victorious over sin and death (1 CORINTHIANS 15:57).

What Jesus Told Peter

"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

From this text and related verses, we find ten important truths about Jesus' church.

1. The church has one builder—Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 3:9–11).
2. The church has one purchaser—Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28).
3. The church has one head—Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23).
4. The church has one Savior—Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:23).
5. The Lord has one Proprietor—Jesus Christ. The church is His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16–17); He dwells in it; He adds to it (Ephesians 2:20–22).
6. The church has one inheritance—eternal salvation (Colossians 3:24).
7. The church is the spiritual body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23; 5:23). Just as the church has one Head, it is one body, not many bodies (Ephesians 1:22–23; 4:4).
8. The church is the depository of the saved (Acts 2:47). One is placed in the church at the point of salvation. It is impossible to get into the church and not be saved; it is impossible to be saved outside of the church. (It is possible to leave the church after being a member of it, Revelation 2–3; Galatians 5:4.)
9. The church is the kingdom of Christ (Matthew 16:18–19; Hebrews 12:28).
10. The church is destined for heaven (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Gateway Church of Christ
14950 Northline Road
Southgate, MI 48195

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

This is the final of the four articles explaining how we are made in the image and likeness of God.

We have in previous months addressed how both God and man get emotional, i.e., *mad*, *glad*, and *sad*. Man is also a "free-will moral agent." Unlike the animal, man has a built-in moral compass, and those of us who are Christians can have our conscience influenced through the Holy Spirit. We have discussed how we have a greater capacity to relate, not just to people who look, walk, talk, or vote like us, but any and all others.

Unlike the animals, we don't just exist; we are also sentient and volitional. Before I go any further, let me define both terms. *Sentient* is an adjective that means "having the power of perception by the senses; conscious." It also means "characterized by sensation and consciousness." *Volitional* is an adjective that means "done of one's own will or choosing; deliberately decided or chosen. It also means "under conscious control."

Categorically, animals were not made and do not operate with the capacity for sentience or volition like humans do. So volitional, coupled with our morality, make us the "free-will, moral" agents that we are. Hence, our decision-making is not limited primarily to sustenance; it also includes quality of life for ourselves and others, wisdom on a sophisticated level, and choices to "do" good or evil. For it is "in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

If we are mirroring God, it is important to know the difference between our volition and God's. God's volition is referenced in the Old and New Testaments. Please note the following verses:

". . . the LORD listened to me that time also. The Lord was unwilling to destroy you" (Deuteronomy 10:10).

"But the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Ord your God loved you" (Deuteronomy 23:5).

"I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

". . . you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

"Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done'" (Matthew 26:42).

Both testaments would seem to testify through these and many other passages that God's volition is sovereign, eternal, and absolute. God can't cease to be God. God can't cease to be holy. God can't cease to be just. God can't cease to be gracious. God can't cease to be loving. God can't cease to be a fulfiller of His promises. He cannot lie. His very nature drives His will.

As God exists, thinks, feels, and acts similarly, humans do as well. (So do angels also, but that is a topic for another day.) Man's mental, moral, and volitional capacities, initially given to Adam and Eve, allow us to walk in relationship with our Creator, with a usable vocabulary bank to understand him, themselves and what existed in their environment.

The image of God, as exemplified in our volition as well as the other elements discussed in this series, is what make us a cut above the rest of creation. God gave us our wills, but He still directs us to be obedient to His. Sin is the oldest and worst complication that man has ever encountered. When man wants to follow the will of our God, the mire of sin mucks up our good faith efforts. The following New Testament passages bare witness to our spiritual conundrum:

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do" (Galatians 5:16-17).

". . . For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand" (Romans 7:18-21).

Despite this challenge, the volitional nature of man helps us to utterly understand the axiom "to whom much is given, much will be required . . ."

(Luke 12:48.) We are given such volition with a "more than conquerors" ability to overcome our sinful nature and the lusts within us that the world reinforces.

Congratulations to each of you for being willing to walk in covenant with a "not my will, but Thine" attitude! And thank you, God, for creating us in Your image!

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