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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 4

McCloud

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Warren Boles..... Scott Wilson
Wayne Price Ken Wiser
Bill Wilson..... Doug Tibbits

SUNDAY

Bible Study..... 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Bible Class..... 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Worship With Us Any Time!

SERVICES OFFERED

- Bible Correspondence Courses
- In-Home Video Series
- In-Home Bible Studies
- Free Bible Literature

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

The Doctor Who Never Lost a Case

Allen Webster



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on youtube



Many parents want their children to grow up to be doctors. It is an honored profession; it is rewarding to help others; it pays well. It is a popular enough field that there are 800,000 licensed physicians in America alone.

Jesus could have been a doctor. One of His followers, Luke, was (Colossians 4:14). But Jesus never carried a medical bag or opened an office on Main Street, Nazareth.

Still, Jesus was a healer. Various forms of the word *heal* are used nearly sixty times in His four biographies. The New Testament contains more than seventy-five references to the healing work and ministry of Christ.¹ He was known to say, "I will come and heal him" (Matthew 8:7). In fact, He "healed those who had need of healing" (Luke 9:11). Jesus thought of Himself as a physician, and He seems to have been seen in this light by others. He said to those in His hometown, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself!'" (Luke 4:23).

JESUS HEALED BODIES

Lots of bodies. All parts of bodies. You could say that He had a general fam-

ily practice (Matthew 8:16; 12:15), but He also specialized in

- pediatrics (healed Jairus' little daughter, Mark 5:23),
- hematology (stopped a woman's issue of blood, Luke 8:43-44),
- ophthalmology (caused the blind to see, Luke 18:35-43),
- orthopedics (made "the bent over" to be straight, Luke 13:11-13),
- otolaryngology/ear-nose-throat (made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak, Mark 7:32-35),
- neurology (cured paralysis),
- rheumatology (caused the lame/maimed to walk and be whole, Matthew 15:30),
- internal medicine (healed dropsy, Luke 14:2-4), and
- infectious diseases (cured those with afflictions, Mark 3:10, and leprosy, Luke 5:12-13).

Jesus never made a referral ("He Himself was healing every sickness and every disease among the people," Matthew 9:35). Jesus never found a case too hard. In fact, He seems to have specialized in impossible cases. Consider these:



JESUS HEALED MINDS (PSYCHIATRY)

“They brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those

who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them” (Matthew 4:24; cf. 17:15–18).

Isaiah prophesied of the coming Messiah: “He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1). Luke recorded the fulfillment when Jesus started His work in His hometown of Nazareth (Luke 4:18). The image is of a doctor tenderly rolling a bruised or diseased arm in a bandage or placing a broken one carefully in a sling (cf. Luke 10:34). Broken bones and bleeding wounds are bound up, that they may knit and close again.

Jesus binds up hearts with the bandage of His love. Inner lives crushed by sin and feelings rubbed raw with conflict find lasting peace in His presence (Matthew 11:28–30; Philippians 4:6–7).

God alone can put broken hearts back together (Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 57:15). Matthew Henry makes an interesting point:

“In a sense, we are all broken earthenware—cracked, mutilated jars that have been picked up from the waste heap and been mended and made serviceable for the King. No other religion ever even entertains the idea of making a broken vessel new.”²

JESUS HEALED SPIRITS

The Pharisees asked, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus replied, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick” (Matthew 9:11–12). He was not talking about physical symptoms. He often used a medical metaphor for sin. For instance: “For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15). Sin is pictured as a disease (Isaiah 1:6); thus, salvation is the cure (cf. Malachi 4:2).

Jesus specialized in impossible spiritual cases, too. While on earth, He cured the thief on the cross (Luke 23:40–43), the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1–11), and the publican Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10). Later, He cured Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9), the immoral Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:9–11), and the very ones who had screamed for His blood to be shed (Acts 2:37–41).

Another example is Mary of Magdala, a little village on the northwest of the Sea of Galilee. She was afflicted with seven demons, and Jesus set her free. Jesus offered her forgiveness, giving her self-respect once more. The result? She became a new person, full of love and loyalty to Jesus, who had transformed her life (Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1).

Make your appointment with the Great Physician. His office is taking new patients.

Endnotes

¹ David Stevens and Gregg Lewis, *Jesus, M.D.: A Doctor Examines the Great Physician* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 9.

² James Hastings, ed., *The Speaker's Bible: The Gospel According to St. Luke*, vol. 2 (Aberdeen: The 'Speaker's Bible' Offices, 1950), 235

- The woman who had an issue of blood “had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse” (Mark 5:25–34). She had been sick for twelve years; Jesus made her well.
- There was a woman who had “a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up” (Luke 13:11–13); Jesus healed her.
- “Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years” (John 5:5–9); Jesus brought him back to health.
- He saw a man who had been blind from his birth (John 9:1–33); Jesus gave him sight.
- Jesus met “a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs” (Luke 8:27–35); Jesus returned him to normal life.

Changing One's Perspective— Valuable Oranges

One of the most tragic maritime accidents that has ever happened came about in the mid-Atlantic, April 14, 1912.

The *Titanic*, one of the largest vessels of that time, hit an iceberg and sank within a few hours. Many stories of heroism and courage have been written about this incident. Many women chose to go down with their husbands. The band played “Nearer My God to Thee.”

As the ship was sinking, Major A. G. Peuchen hurried back to his stateroom, where he had a fortune in money and jewelry. He left it all in his cabin and grabbed three oranges instead. “The money seemed to be a mere mockery at the time,” he explained.

It seems almost incredible that the major preferred oranges to diamonds. But Death had boarded the *Titanic*, and, with one blast of his awful breath, transformed all values—precious things became worthless and worthless things became precious.

All of the things we work for and worry about seem reasonable until they are viewed in the light of our own death.

The pursuit of pleasurable things seems most reasonable until one thinks about death. Striving for fame would also seem reasonable until one ponders the grave. Death just has a way of changing one's perspective.

The thing that happened on the *Titanic* actually happens every day—but remember: Values transformed at death are values transformed too late. Will you transform your values now? —Norman Mortin

Endnote

¹ Marshall Everett, ed., *Wreck and Sinking of the Titanic: The Ocean's Greatest Disaster* (L. H. Walter, 1912), 107

“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8



Did Adam Have a Belly Button?

A belly button is a scar that proves you were once attached to your mother by an umbilical cord. You required nourishment before you were born, of course, and this was God's way to provide it before you were developed to the point you could be nourished in other ways. After you were born, the cord was cut, leaving behind proof that you once were dependent on your mother. In other words, it is proof that you were born.

Adam and Eve were not born of mothers. They were created directly by God; Adam was made from dust, and Eve from Adam. Since they were not born in the

traditional sense, and instead were created as adults, it is unlikely that either of them would have had a belly button.

Our belly button should remind us that we are descended from Adam, and that just as he was the first man to rebel against God, we are still rebelling today (Romans 3:23). We are all in need of salvation. Praise be to God for providing us a Savior so we can have the hope of living with Him for eternity.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:15



Just Think

*Of stepping on shore
And finding it Heaven!
Of taking hold of a hand
And finding it God's hand!
Of breathing a new air
And finding it celestial air!
Of feeling invigorated
And finding it
immortality!
Of passing from storm
and tempest
To an unbroken calm;
Of waking up and finding
yourself at home!*

—Robert E. Selle

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Watch
on youtube





Childrens' Instructions for Life

- Never trust a dog to watch your food. —Patrick, age 10
- When you want something expensive, ask your grandma. —Matt, 12
- Never smart off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching. —Andrew, 9
- Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning. —Jen, 8
- Never try to hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. —Rosemary, 7
- Don't flush the toilet when your dad's in the shower. —Lamar, 10
- Never ask for anything that costs more than five dollars when your parents are doing taxes. —Carol, 9
- Never bug a pregnant mom. —Nicholas, 11
- Don't ever be too full for dessert. —Kelly, 10
- Whenever your dad is mad and asks, "Do I look stupid?"—don't answer him. —Heather, 16
- Never tell your mom her diet isn't working. —Michael, 14
- Don't pick on your sister when she is holding a baseball bat. —Joe, 12
- Never dare your little brother to paint the family car. —Phillip, 13
- Listen to your brain. It has lots of information. —Chelsey, 7
- Remember, you're never too old to hold your father's hand. —Molly, 11

"Rejoice in the Lord always."

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



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

Don't Join Just Any Church

All up and down this troubled land confusion reigns today,
As honest folks on every hand in doubt are heard to say,
"I cannot tell which church to join, there are so very many."
To them we offer this advice—you never should join any!

No mourner's bench on Pentecost, the inspired Peter fitted,
But said, "Repent and be baptized, that your sins may be remitted."
The Lord, who saved and added those who did, that day, His will,
Will do the same for you, dear friend, for He is adding still.

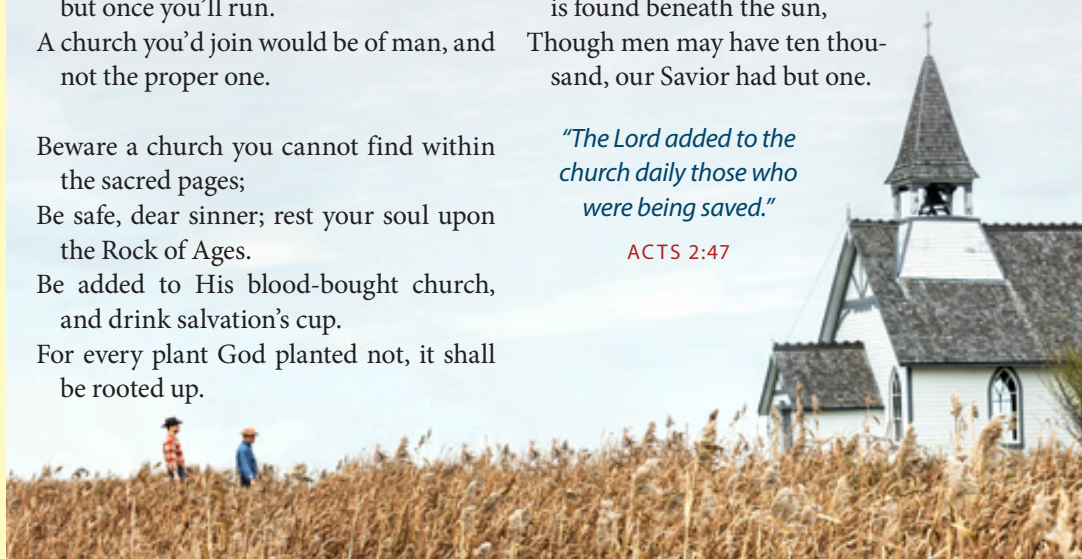
You cannot join the church of Christ; no man can vote you in.
The Lord Himself will add you, when He saves you from your sin.
Then take no chances, neighbor; this race but once you'll run.
A church you'd join would be of man, and not the proper one.

Let not false teachers lead you wrong, nor close your eyes in slumber;
When Jesus said He'd build His church, 'Twas not in plural number!
No choice of churches, neighbor mine, is found beneath the sun,
Though men may have ten thousand, our Savior had but one.

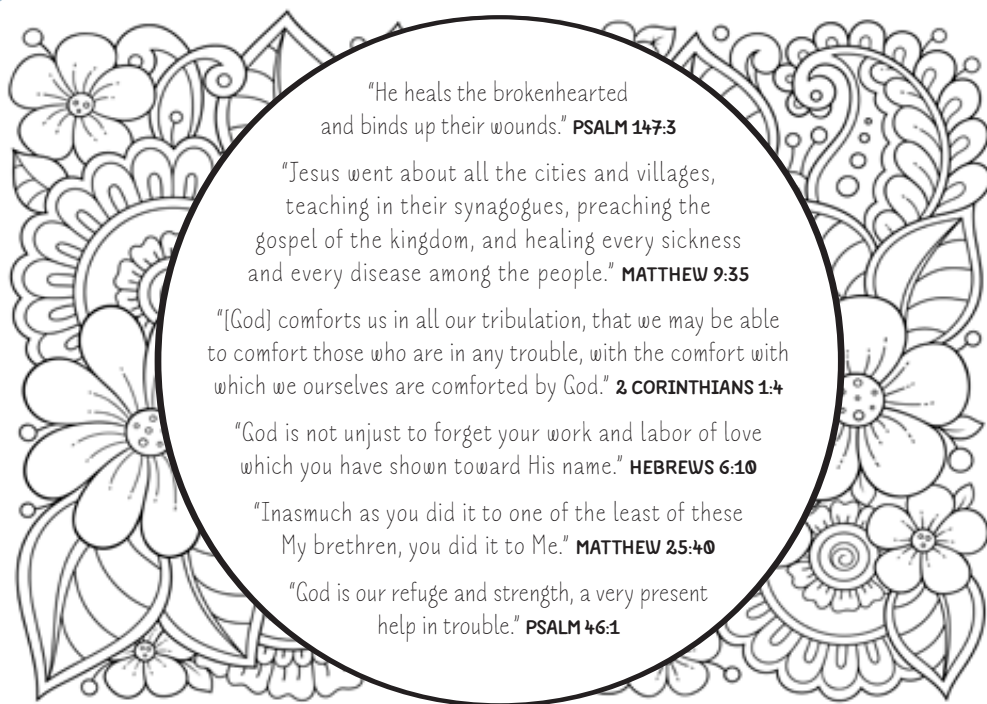
Beware a church you cannot find within the sacred pages;
Be safe, dear sinner; rest your soul upon the Rock of Ages.
Be added to His blood-bought church, and drink salvation's cup.
For every plant God planted not, it shall be rooted up.

"The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

ACTS 2:47



Just for Fun Verses for Nurses Coloring Page



OLD TESTAMENT *Food Laws* Today?

God intended for Israel to be different from other nations. To this end, He gave them the Ten Commandments and hundreds of other laws to follow. Many of these laws prohibited the eating of certain foods.

Certain foods were “unclean” to Israel. Leviticus 11 mentions several, including the hare, swine, fish without fins and scales, and birds such as eagles and ravens (11:6–15). Among the clean foods were locusts, crickets, and grasshoppers (11:22). God explained that for the Israelites to be holy they had “to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten” (Leviticus 11:45–47).

Two primary reasons for God’s dietary restrictions were to keep them separate from surrounding nations and to protect their health. Leviticus contains numerous laws that deal with health issues. Many were in conflict with the customs of Egypt, where Moses had been trained. We now know, for instance, that pork was very unhealthy then because it carried diseases that only modern science has been able to detect and control.

Following this diet would not be wrong or unhealthy today, but these laws are no longer bound on Christians. Jesus freed us from the Old Law, including food restrictions (Colossians 2:14). Paul said, “Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or

sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16–17).

Peter received a vision of a vessel filled with “unclean” beasts and a voice saying, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” He was then told, “What God has cleansed you must not call common” (Acts 10:13–15). Peter thus understood that the gospel included Gentiles, and that Gentiles would not have to keep Jewish food laws. The only restrictions placed on Christians were “that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (Acts 15:29). —Bob Prichard

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:4

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Noah by the Numbers” 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. 30:2 One Dozen Scriptures Everyone Should Know: 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).

V. 30.3 Jesus’ Miracles: 1. Turning water to wine (John 2:1–11); 2. Mustard seed (Matthew 17:14–21); 3. Peter’s/Simon’s (Matthew 8:14–15; Mark 1:29–34); 4. Sleeping (Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:38); 5. Jairus’, twelve years old (Mark 5:21–43; Luke 8:41–42, 49–55); 6. Legion (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30); 7. Five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44); 8. Peter (Matthew 14:28–29); 9. Peter, James, and John (Matthew 17:1–13); 10. That they might accuse Him (Matthew 12:9–13; Mark 3:1–5); 11. “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (John 9:1–41); 12. Thirty-eight (John 5:1–9); 13. Lazarus (John 11:1–44); 14. Martha and Mary (John 11:1–44); 15. Blindness (Mark 10:46–52); 16. a. Five thousand (Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44); b. Piece of money (Matthew 17:24–27); c. Simon (Luke 5:4–11); d. Right (John 21:6); e. A few (Matthew 15:32–38; Mark 8:1–9).

One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Child or Grandchild

Directions: Sit down with your child and a Bible and look up these Scriptures together. Fill in the blanks. Explain what the verse means. Finally, memorize a verse together each day. Depending on the age of the child, you may want to focus on learning one verse a week. Questions taken from the *New King James Version*.

1. “The _____ is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).
2. “And you, _____, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the _____ and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).
3. “The _____ has said in His heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1).
4. “Children, _____ your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1).
5. “_____ without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
6. “Let brotherly _____ continue” (Hebrews 13:1).
7. “And he answered and said, ‘I believe that _____ Christ is the _____ of God’” (Acts 8:37).
8. “_____ suffers long and is _____” (1 Corinthians 13:4).
9. “The seed is the _____ of God” (Luke 8:11).
10. “The churches of _____ greet you” (Romans 16:16).
11. “For I am not ashamed of the _____ of Christ, for it is the _____ of God to salvation” (Romans 1:16).
12. “_____ to one another” (Colossians 3:9).

And a Half Dozen More

13. “God is _____” (1 John 4:8).
14. “Jesus _____” (John 11:35).
15. “Casting all your care upon Him, for He _____ for you” (1 Peter 5:7).
16. “For by _____ you have been saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).
17. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was _____” (John 1:1).
18. “The Word became _____ and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Some Principles for Disciplining

Christians who lived in the first century were well aware of the practice of disciplining children. They had experienced such discipline firsthand: "We have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect" (Hebrews 12:9). A number of references in Proverbs serve as a background to this New Testament instruction (Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14). Proverbs 29:15 points out the value of both verbal and corporal discipline: "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

I make no claim to be an expert in child discipline. I am a son, son-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, father, father-in-law, and grandfather. Along life's way, I have learned a number of things about disciplining children. Many lessons I learned from my own poor choices as a father. Others I observed in the practices of other parents. I have also heard a number of true stories about how parents deal with

their children. Some of those accounts are delightful, while others are real horror stories. For what it is worth, I recently jotted down a list of principles for parents to consider when it becomes necessary to discipline their children. The order in which I have listed them is irrelevant.

1. Give oodles of positive reinforcement for things well done. Verbal pats on the back can help a child develop positive self-esteem. Use phrases like "Good for you," "Way to go," "Great job," "You make us happy," "We love you," or "You're such a good ____." It seems that some children hear only negative things from their parents, like "No" and "Quit it." Those words definitely have a place, but children need to hear positive things, too.
2. Make the punishment equal to/fair for the misbehavior. If a teenage boy purposely hits his little sister in the face with his fist, he should be punished more severely. If he arrives

home one minute past his curfew, a gentle warning is probably enough.

3. Watch your tone of voice. Excessively raising our voice or using stinging sarcasm can cause our children to resent us.
4. Express disappointment when a child has misbehaved, but never refer to him/her using such terms as stupid, dumb, moron, or idiot.
5. Set your rules/boundaries of behavior, and then back them up! As soon as you do not enforce a rule that you have set, you immediately have the reputation of being a non-enforcer. Your words have no authority, and that spells big trouble.
6. Pray with your children. Pray for them. Pray for them in their presence. If you are willing to tell God how much you care about them and their lives, then let them know that you really do care for them. That's important. —Roger Campbell

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Recommended Resource



In a world of increasing unbelief, **ApologeticsPress.org** is a free resource that could be a great blessing to your life. With thousands of articles and hundreds of videos on everything from the existence of God to alleged Bible contradictions, AP's website can assist you in your search for and defense of God's truth.

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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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Prayer requests or comments: _____

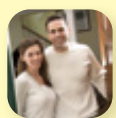
I would like:



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- ☐ But I Don't Believe the Bible
- ☐ Don't Give Up. Don't Ever Give Up
- ☐ I Have This Nagging Fear That I Am Not Saved



More subjects:



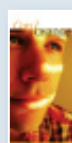
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☐ Practical Suggestions for Studying the Bible



☐ Where the Omnipresent God Isn't



☐ Can I Change?



☐ Scared of the Dark



☐ When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



☐ The Weakness of a Strong Man



☐ Sweat the Small Stuff



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VOLUME 30:4



30 Exceeding Great & Precious Promises of God **Part 1**

2 Peter 1:3-4

Take a look at the blessings God gives to His people, and rejoice!

God's promises:



God's presence (Hebrews 13:5)

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"



A kingdom that will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44)

"In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."



Pouring out a blessing (Malachi 3:10)

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.'"



Joy (John 16:20)

"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy."



Christ will come again (John 14:1-3)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."



God's Word will never pass away (Matthew 24:35)

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."



A fountain to cleanse (Zechariah 13:1)

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."



The rainbow (Genesis 9:13-15)

"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."



God will not forget (Hebrews 6:10)

"God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."



He will fight for us (Exodus 14:14)

"The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."



Satan's fleeing (James 4:7)

"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."



Peace (John 14:27)

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."



Grace (Psalm 84:11)

"The LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly."



Answered prayers (Matthew 7:7-8)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."



A way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."



Appreciate Each Other

The divorce rate in America is too high. "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" (Matthew 19:3). "Not so," said the Lord. What happens that changes those moments of starry-eyed splendor into unconcern and apathetic feelings? Consider:

- He married her because, among other things, her hair looked so beautiful. He divorced her because she spent too much time fixing her hair.
- He married her because she was such an adept conversationalist. He divorced her because she talked all the time.
- She married him because he enjoyed her home cooking. She divorced him because he never took her out to eat.
- She married him because he was a "real sport." She divorced him because he refused to give up his "sport."
- He married her because their families shared a common background. He divorced her because her family interfered in their affairs.
- She married him because he was so attentive to little things. She divorced him because he was oblivious to important things.

An ideal marriage is not one in which people marry to be happy, but to make the other one happy. This means to give as well as to take, to forget as well as to remember, and to love as well as to be loved. —*The Beacon*, Pensacola, FL

"What God has joined together, let not man separate."

MATTHEW 19:6

McCloud church of Christ
301 S 8th St.
PO Box 760
McCloud, OK 74851



Wasting Life

There was something different about Morris Siegel, a street person in Los Angeles, California. On the surface, he seemed like your average Los Angeles street person—roaming about in dark alleys, sleeping out-of-doors, carrying everything he owned in an old shopping cart.

And he died the way one expects a street person to die; he was found in an alley, dead of natural causes, heart trouble perhaps.

Something about him was different, though. Maybe it was his three bank accounts containing a total of \$207,421.

In 1979, Morris' father died and left him the money. When Morris did not claim it, the Division of Unclaimed Property tracked him down, and his family forced him to accept it. He did not show up at the ceremony when the cash was awarded. He took enough of the money to buy an old car, where he slept in bad weather. Relatives rented him an apartment; he never went there. He died on December 14, 1989, with three dollars in his pocket and an untouched fortune in the bank.

Sound crazy? Well, figure this one out.

A couple of thousand years ago, our heavenly Father ratified His will and left all of His children eternal wealth—life, peace, victory. To this day, many have not claimed the windfall, and some have refused to spend any of it. Lost people shuffle down blind alleys of an empty existence, facing hell for eternity, and ignore the salvation promised in Christ. Many Christians are content to live isolated, unproductive lives on this earth, when they have the riches of heaven at their disposal (2 Corinthians 8:9). Trading eternal life for a perishing earth sounds even crazier than the choice Morris made (Matthew 16:26).

—Leland Reed as found on www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm



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1017 McCloud

What do you look for in a church?

Are you looking for a church home? With a church building on every corner, how does one decide where to attend?

Some pick a church based on how close it is, the programs it has for families, or where their friends go. Is there a better way, a more biblical way? Can we find a church that looks like the one in the New Testament?

Do you want help choosing a church? Do you have questions about what is taught and practiced where you attend?

Here is a test you can give a church before placing membership:



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