

HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 6

You Should've Seen What Happened

SUNDAY!

Allen Webster

The view from the pulpit is often interesting. People are so used to watching unresponsive TV, computer screens, tablets, and phones that they forget preachers can see them. After a while, the unexpected becomes common, and he is able to keep his composure through unusual circumstances.

When Christians gather for worship on the Lord's day, something special happens. Their common bond is strengthened as they pour out their gratitude to their Savior. It is a time to worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), rejoice (Psalm 118:24), examine (2 Corinthians 13:5), and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47).

It is the week's beginning and its highlight—nothing else in the next six days equals it. We understand why Paul delayed a journey for seven days so he could worship the Lord on the Lord's day with the Lord's people (Acts 20:6-7).

People of all ages are usually present: babies, children, teens, young adults,

families, singles, empty-nest couples, seniors, widows, and widowers. Each comes to express a common love for an uncommon God; each feels a universal thirst for eternal truth. While worship is formal and congregational, it is neither cold nor impersonal—it is "in spirit" (John 4:24).

Since personalities are involved, it can get interesting. This past Lord's day we had an uncommon service. You should have seen what happened.

A BABY CRIED

Occasionally someone frowns when a baby cries in services, but most of us smile. Parents recognize the need to take a child out to avoid disturbing others, but they should never feel self-conscious. We are glad it happens!

What if no baby had cried Sunday? It would have meant there were no babies there, for all babies cry. No church wants to be that quiet—a tomb is quieter than a nursery, but no one wants to worship in a



cemetery. A church without children is a church with its best days behind instead of ahead. If no baby had cried Sunday, it might indicate that parents saw no need to train the next generation in the Lord's way (Ephesians 6:4). Good parents want children to learn about God from their first Sunday on planet earth (Matthew 18:1-3; 19:13-14). They do not want them to be able to remember the first time they came to worship. We know they will eventually learn to be quiet, but for now we are glad to hear them.

A SISTER LEFT EARLY FOR WORK

In a perfect world, all businesses would close on Sundays so all could exalt the name of God in worship (Psalm 34:3). We will be completely free from distractions from worship in heaven, but it is not that way on earth. Christians are sometimes forced to make decisions. This sister had to be at work before the service ended.

What to do? She could have skipped the service and told others she had to work. She could have slept in, so she would have plenty of time to get ready and to eat before her shift.

Instead she chose to get up early, be in Bible class, sing God some songs, open her heart in prayer, thank Him for Christ's sacrifice in communion, give Him part of last week's check, and listen to His Word. She sat toward the back to avoid disturbing others when she got up a few minutes before the end. Few saw her priorities (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1-2)—but the preacher did.

PAGES RUSTLED

As the messenger preached the word (2 Timothy 4:2), hearers "searched the

Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Far from offending him, it was music to his ears. Jesus found the "place where it was written" (Luke 4:17), and so should we. We may joke that the best words in a sermon are "in conclusion," but most Christians thirst for the word (1 Peter 2:2) and hunger for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). They bring their Bibles, read their Bibles, mark their Bibles, memorize their Bibles, and live by their Bibles.

A SISTER NODDED

No one except the preacher probably noticed, but a faithful sister nodded in agreement with a sermon point. She would not speak out to say "amen" like her husband (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11), but she encouraged the preacher just as much without saying a word. Nods also help others know that the sermon is expressing both the preacher's convictions and those of other Christians.

A CHILD DREW A PICTURE

Any parent knows that out of the mouths of babes come profound statements. Often a little child has led God's people (Isaiah 11:6). Most churches can point to young people whose faith is worth imitating by those much older (1 Timothy 4:12).

Last Sunday a child was interested enough to draw a picture of what the preacher was discussing (1 Timothy 3:15). There is nothing so unusual about that—when a visual presentation is made, little eyes always pay attention, and little hands copy words from the PowerPoint.

They may not yet fully comprehend the concepts, but the seed is planted, the foundation is laid, and the base color is on the canvas. One day fruit will ripen, a structure will stand, and a painting will be perfected.

These very notes may become fresh classes and sermons for another generation's children. Some in pulpits now occasionally use notes written with childish letters on yellowing paper. These lessons have been born again for those who were not born when the notes were taken. The truth never ages; it only needs recycling.

A CHRISTIAN WORSHIPED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Baptized on Tuesday, a young man offered God worship for the first time. God cleansed him from sin, set him in the church, and watched with interest as he bowed his soul in adoration (Acts 22:16; John 4:24).

If the Lord delays His return, and the new Christian's days are prolonged, that is probably only 1 of 6,000 times he will publicly worship his Creator (Hebrews 10:25). It was a beautiful step on a long journey, a first note in a grand symphony.

THOSE FROM "EIGHT TO EIGHTY" COMMITTED TO READ THE BIBLE

Christians may resolve in January to read through the Bible in the New Year, but by June some have fallen behind. On Sunday, more than a hundred agreed to renew their effort. The youngest reader is under eight, reading it for the first time. Perhaps this is the first of fifty or more times this mind will have the cleansing Water of Life purify its recesses. The oldest is past eighty and may be reading it for the last time (Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14).

TEARS FLOWED

Christian love often expresses itself in tears (Luke 19:41; Acts 20:37). God's word touched good and honest hearts (Luke 8:15). Souls responded to the Lord's invitation. Joyful tears flowed over one sinner that repented (James 5:16, 19-20).

What is going to happen this Sunday? Come and see!

Watch this lesson
on youtube:



The Way to Heaven

Most people believe that they are going to heaven, but it is important to be absolutely sure!

There is a way that seems to be right but is not:

- “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 16:25).
- “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise (Proverbs 12:15).
- “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits” (Proverbs 16:2).
- “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9).

There are many false ways:

- *Universalism is the wrong way:* “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13–14).
- *Calvinism is the wrong way:* “Brethren, be even more diligent to make

your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Peter 1:10).

- *Denominationalism is the wrong way:* “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4–6).

There is only one way to heaven.

- *Christ is the only way:* “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).
- *His word tells us how to go to heaven:* “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).
- *We must obey:* “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21). —Randy Kea

Presidential Wisdom

“There are men and women who make the world better just by being the kind of people they are. They have the gift of kindness or courage or loyalty or integrity. It really matters very little whether they are behind the wheel of a truck or running a business or bringing up a family. They teach the truth by living it.”

—James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President

“Be Before Them . . .”

Statistics show that entire families who begin the day with hot food, encouraging words, and affection do their respective tasks more efficiently during the time they are apart.

The unfortunate ones who leave each other after a quarrel do not fare well. Unhappy or stressed students make poorer grades and do not get along with others as well as children who leave home with a positive attitude. It is the responsibility of parents to instill in children positive attitudes, as well as love and forgiveness that make for peace in families. This is best done by example. Be before them what you want them to become. —Frances Parr

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

HEBREWS 10:24

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front. All materials are completely FREE of charge (including shipping in the U.S. or Canada).



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 27:6

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “10 Commandments” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Starts with the Letter “L”

Directions: Find answers here: Genesis 4:19; 28:10–12; 29:16–17; Numbers 11:5; Judges 15:14–15; 2 Kings 5:1–7; Proverbs 31:1; Matthew 3:4; Mark 5:9; Luke 16:19–25; 23:38; Galatians 5:19–21; Revelation 3:14–16. (Questions are taken from the New King James Version).

- Jacob saw this ascending. _____
- First man with two wives. _____
- Lukewarm Christians. _____
- A “work of the flesh” (meaning exciting lust). _____
- One language used on sign on Jesus’ cross. _____
- Beggar in a parable of Jesus. _____
- Laban’s oldest daughter; married Jacob. _____
- Food of John the Baptist. _____
- A food Israel missed from Egypt. _____
- Name of Gaderene demon Jesus cast out. _____
- Where Samson killed men with a jawbone. _____
- King instructed by his mother to write Proverbs. _____
- Disease Naaman the Syrian had. _____

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?

Free tracts (Visit housetohouse.com/freestuff/ for more subjects.)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> God’s Stewards | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Most Important Words Ever Spoken on Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> What Responsibilities Do Members Have to Elders? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> The Sins of a Caveman | <input type="checkbox"/> How the Church of Christ Began In Phillippi | <input type="checkbox"/> Until I Make It Better |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> That Church Is Dead | <input type="checkbox"/> Have Peace with One Another |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> The World’s Greatest Monument | <input type="checkbox"/> Why People Do Not Understand the Bible |

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In-Home Bible Study A Bible Correspondence Course A DVD Bible Study

Prayer requests/comments:



When to Preach

Paul wrote, “Be ready in season and out of season.”

Picture a paramedic unit on call, ready to save someone’s life. Souls are perishing without Christ. Christians are straying from the fold. Will we get there in time?

People sometimes will not listen, but the preacher must keep preaching anyway. Paul commanded Timothy to “be sober” (literally, “Don’t be drunk”). When people get intoxicated with the latest winds of false doctrine, you are the designated driver. Keep your head about you and continue preaching truth.

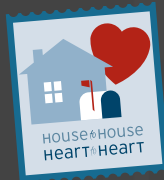
An eighth century preacher was called in and reprovved for preaching at all hours of the day and on every day of the week. “My lord,” he replied, “I preach only at two times.” The man pressed him, “And which are they, Mr. Berridge?” He responded, “In season and out of season, my lord.”

—Anonymous



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