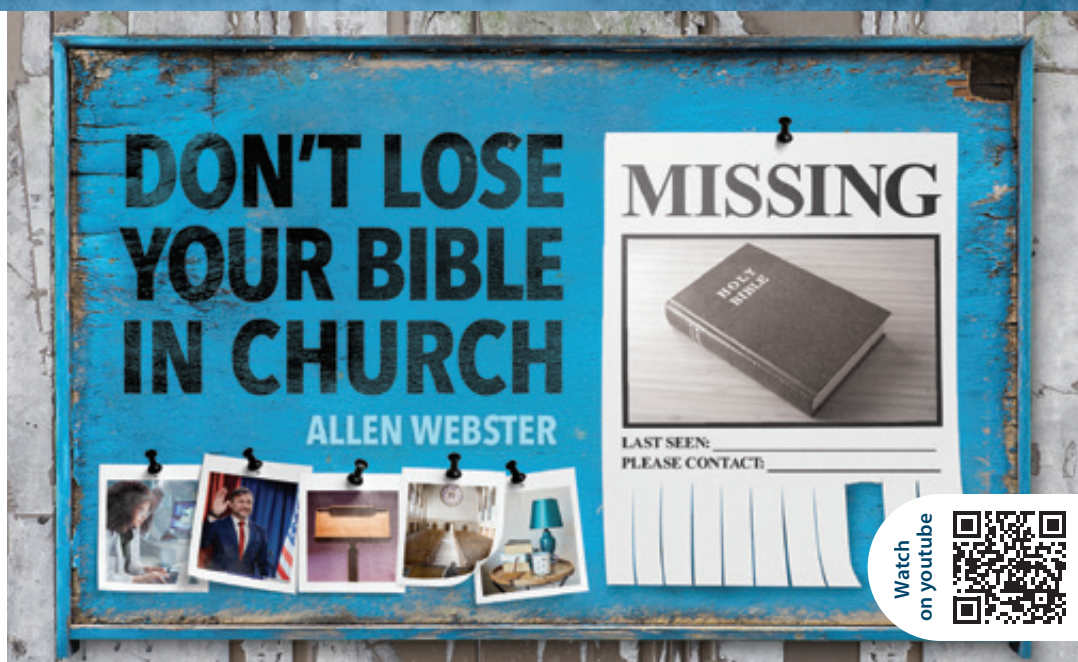


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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 5



There is a website that posts information for those who are looking for lost family Bibles. A typical entry is like this:

LANCASTER

Last known place that the Bible was at in the late 1920s to early '30s Wysox, Pennsylvania. This Bible had the family history in it.

Others are more poignant:

VALENTE

I'm looking for a Bible belonging to Joseph Valente. Joseph passed away in 1998 and his Mom sent the Bible to Joe's brother Danny in North Carolina. Danny never received the Bible, and we can't find it. The Bible has sentimental value, as Joe is no longer with us. Any info would be wonderful.¹

Have you ever lost a Bible? You may have put it on top of your car as you talked to a friend in the church parking lot and forgot to get it before driving home. You may have misplaced it in a move or loaned it to a friend who never returned

it. Most of us have lost a Bible before—at least for a few days.

Have you lost a Bible in church? Many Bibles turn up on church lost and found tables. Of all places to lose a Bible, church seems the least likely. We expect to use our Bibles in worship—not misplace them. We expect to find truth in church—not lose it.

The Jews lost their Bible in the temple in the days of Josiah. Hilkiah the high priest told Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD" (2 Kings 22:8). This led to a revival among God's people. Let's take this idea of "losing the Bible" in church and explore it from different perspectives. Some Christians "lose the Bible" while members of the church. How?

SOME LOSE THE BIBLE IN MODERNISM.

Modernism denies the supernatural. England, who gave the world the King James Version in the seventeenth century, lost the Bible in the nineteenth century. They still had copies of Scrip-

ture; they just did not believe it anymore. English deists denied the miracles of the Bible and claimed that God worked only through natural laws—never by miracles. They rejected the truth that the Bible is an inspired revelation from God (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21).

The liberalism of the English (and later French and German) theologians spread to America. Most religious seminaries in our country now take a modernistic approach. Their professors do not believe in plenary inspiration, the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection of Jesus, nor the miracles the Bible records that Jesus did (cf. John 20:30–31). Many religious groups have men trained in these institutions leading them, and thus no longer take most of the Bible literally.

SOME LOSE THE BIBLE IN POLITICS.

France lost the Bible leading up to the French Revolution in 1789. Before the Revolution, France spent millions of dollars indoctrinating her people with atheistic literature. They felt the Bible stood in the way of progress, so they tried to remove it. When they did, they lost their government. The people gained freedom from religion and rebelled against the tyranny of the state religion. With the Bible's influence muted, half of Paris's children were soon born out of wedlock. Ten thousand newborn babies were fished out of the sewers in a single year.

A similar thing is currently underway in America. Most people no longer read the Bible; many openly defy it. The government has distanced itself from it while opening the doors to secularism and false religions such as Islam. As unbelief in Scripture gains ground, morality plunges. Hate runs rampant; fornication is widely practiced; divorces are common; homosexuality is accepted; abortion is defended; dishonesty, stealing, drug use, gambling, and practically every form of unethical behavior is seen on every street corner, TV show, and news report.

SOME LOSE THE BIBLE IN THE PULPIT.

There are churches that get only a thimbleful of the Water of Life in a whole Sunday service. I am studying the Bible with

a man who previously attended a denomination. He loves the church of Christ because we teach the Bible. He said his previous “pastor” vaguely referred to a verse at the beginning of a sermon, and that was it for the whole hour.

Many congregations hear little but personal interest stories, testimonials, pop psychology, current religious thought, jokes, commentary on contemporary events, and men's opinions. More and more churches receive less and less gospel with each passing year (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2). Franklin Camp said, “Preachers of the past filled their sermons with Scripture. But one may hear sermons today with no scripture or only one passage . . . [A] sermon without scripture is like an empty bucket for one dying of thirst.” How can people learn the Bible if they do not hear it? (Romans 10:14). Abraham spoke from Paradise to say, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Luke 16:29).

SOME LOSE THE BIBLE BY ABSENTEEISM.

Many grew up attending Bible classes, worshiping, and reading the Bible at home, but somewhere in college or in the early days of marriage, they grew lax and quit attending services. One day they will wake up to the fact they have completely fallen away (2 Peter 2:20–22), and their children have grown up without a knowledge of God.

SOME LOSE THE BIBLE IN NEGLECT.

One small child took a Bible from a coffee table and asked, “Mother, is this God's book?”

“Yes, it surely is,” she replied.

“Well, I think we had better send it back to Him, because we don't use it anymore.”

Satan does not care if we own ten Bibles so long as we don't read any of them. On a Bible quiz, one group thought an epistle was the wife of an apostle, the tower of Babel was the place where Solomon kept his wives, and the Mosaic Law was a law

compelling people to have their floors laid with colored stones.

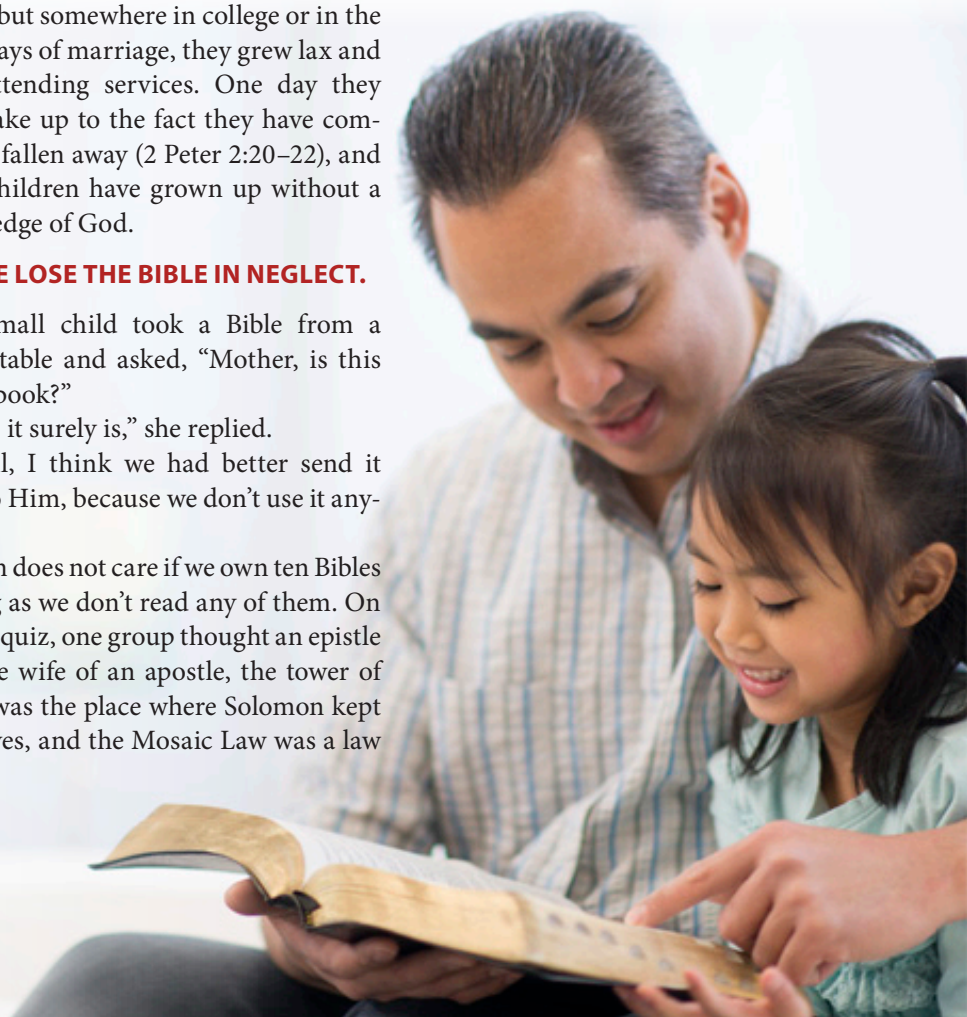
It may seem simplistic in this tech age to encourage such a basic thing as reading a book, but it is fundamental to spiritual life. John said, “Blessed is he who reads” (Revelation 1:3). Paul said, “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (1 Timothy 4:13).

God commanded every king of Israel to acquire a copy of the Scriptures and read it: “And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes” (Deuteronomy 17:19).

Mark Twain once said, “The great books are the books that everybody wants to have read but nobody wants to read.” No one should go to the grave without having read the Bible. Find your Bible and read it!

Endnotes

¹ <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/ancestors/lost.html>.





Christian Gardening

Plant three rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip (Proverbs 17:9)
2. Squash criticism (Matthew 7:1)
3. Squash indifference (Hebrews 2:3)

Plant seven rows of peas:

1. Prayer (Luke 18:1)
2. Promptness (Proverbs 1:28)
3. Perseverance (Galatians 6:9)
4. Politeness (Colossians 4:6)
5. Preparedness (Luke 21:36)
6. Purity (Matthew 5:8)
7. Patience (Romans 12:12)

Plant seven heads of lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal (Philippians 2:3–4)
2. Let us be faithful to duty (1 Peter 4:10)
3. Let us search the Scriptures (John 5:39)
4. Let us not be weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9)

5. Let us be obedient in all things (Acts 5:29)
6. Let us be truthful (Colossians 3:9)
7. Let us love one another (1 John 4:7)

No garden is complete without turnips:

1. Turn up for church (Hebrews 10:25)
2. Turn up for meetings, prayer, and Bible study (Titus 2:14).
3. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult (Philippians 4:4)
4. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service (Hebrews 12:1–2).

After planting, may you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). May you reap rich results. —Glenn Hitchcock

"Grow."

1 PETER 2:2

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;

Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

—Isaac Watts (1674–1748), *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1707.
Charles Wesley reportedly said he would give up all his other hymns to have written this one.

*"God forbid that I should boast except
in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

GALATIANS 6:14

Ten Other Reasons I Never Wash

1. I watch other people washing on TV.
2. There are lots of clean people who never wash.
3. We've just moved here six years ago, and I haven't had a chance to wash yet.
4. I bought a bad bar of soap once, so I vowed I would never wash again!
5. I feel as close to washing on the golf course as I do in the bathroom.
6. I never wash when I have company.
7. Washday is the only day I have to sleep in.
8. My wife washes enough for the whole family.
9. I know people who wash but don't act very clean.
10. Washing is the opiate of the masses. —Johnny Ramsey

"Oh come, let us worship."

PSALM 95:6



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





This Will Not Work at Home

Who's Your Father?

While the family was sitting around the dinner table, Jennifer, age five, turned to her brother Andy (age three) and pointed to her dad. "That's not your real father," she said, startling the whole family.

"Yes, he is!" Andy replied.

"No, he's not," Jennifer insisted. "God is your heavenly father."

Then pointing at her dad, she said, "That's your homely father!"

Barriers to Submission

First Corinthians 11:7 tells us the "woman is the glory of man." Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing." A godly wife brings great benefit to her husband and family, cultivating a peaceful home, stronger marriage, and spiritual growth (1 Peter 3:1-4). Here are some barriers to being a godly wife:

- She does not support her husband's decisions.
- She feels that she should have equal or greater say in leading the family.
- She wants to be independent. (Husbands and wives are to depend on each other.)
- She has not studied God's command to husbands to be leaders and providers (Ephesians 5:23-33; 1 Timothy 5:8).

In Genesis 2:18, God said "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." The wife is as important as the husband; he honors her (1 Peter 3:7). Let us be thankful for the women in our lives. What would we do without them?

On a recent trip, my wife and I stayed in a hotel. I noticed a label on the TV remote: "This will not work in the home."

I thought of other things that will not work in the home.

- **Selfishness**—A family cannot work based on "Big me, little you." Marriage and parenting both require sacrifice and love (1 Corinthians 7:4; Ephesians 5:25; 6:1-4).
- **Dishonesty**—Honesty is not the best policy; it is the only policy. Many families are unstable because they are dishonest with each other. An extra-marital affair divides a home. Jesus said, "Every city or house divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25).
- **Rebellion**—Rebels displease God (1 Samuel 15:22). A rebellious home is neither happy nor functional. Children who respect parents have far fewer problems than rebels (Ephesians 6:2-3).
- **Permissiveness**—Children often rule the roost. Parents back away from firm

rules and discipline because they fear they will damage their children's self-esteem. Children need discipline in order to become mature adults. The Bible still says, "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24).

- **Secularization**—In times past, parents feared God, read the Bible, and followed morality in the home. There was a healthy fear of eternal punishment. These days, however, the perpetual influence of television brings a post modern philosophy of anything goes and people do not matter much. Grappling with issues of "right" and "wrong" do not occur in some homes, because, according to many, "right" and "wrong" no longer exist.

Like the hotel TV remote, these things will not work in the home. —Lance Cordle

"The wise woman builds her house" (as does a wise man).

PROVERBS 14:1

Just for Fun Bible Verse Word Search

N	O	I	T	A	R	I	P	S	N	I	X	C	S	E
A	Q	E	U	K	N	N	A	R	X	J	M	O	C	T
T	S	I	R	H	C	L	J	N	D	H	M	N	R	E
F	A	O	P	J	V	K	Z	R	E	B	L	T	I	L
A	W	Q	Y	A	I	K	J	G	P	J	E	I	P	P
S	J	Q	T	C	E	P	E	Q	P	S	R	N	T	M
C	H	I	L	D	H	O	O	D	I	R	G	U	U	O
I	O	G	I	C	B	A	P	W	U	W	F	E	R	C
N	F	L	A	S	U	S	E	J	Q	E	O	Z	E	F
R	M	R	E	P	R	O	O	F	E	U	H	O	L	Y
L	K	Q	C	A	C	O	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N
C	M	N	C	Q	R	G	N	I	W	O	N	K	D	Z
Q	T	T	V	Z	E	N	I	R	T	C	O	D	O	X
H	T	I	A	F	I	X	E	G	O	O	D	E	G	N
P	N	F	F	V	O	Q	L	D	H	D	S	M	M	F

Find the words in blue. Words can go in any direction.

You must **continue** in the things which you have **learned** and been assured of, **knowing** from whom you have learned them, and that from **childhood** you have known the **Holy** Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise** for **salvation** through **faith** which is in **Christ Jesus**. All **Scripture** is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of **God** may be **complete**, thoroughly **equipped** for every **good work**. —2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17



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

Christ Is the

Center, Focus, & Key

Let us not forget the reason the Bible was written and preserved: "that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Christ is the center, focus, and key to the inspiration and interpretation of the Bible. This is why the books of the Old and New Testaments fit together so well into one cohesive and comprehensive whole. Taken together, they present the progressive unfolding, revelation, and communication of Christ.

1. The Law (Genesis—Deuteronomy) gives the foundation for Christ. A foundation is prepared—the ground or base on which some structure rests. It is the beginning or first principles of the system of truth. Christ is the foundation of all that is right and true (1 Corinthians 3:11).
2. The History section (Joshua—Esther) shows the preparation for Christ. History, from an inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16) biblical perspective, holds true the facts of righteousness and faith.

3. Poetry (Job—Song of Solomon)

expresses aspiration for Christ. Seeing that

Scripture is nothing less than the words of our very Creator, it is no wonder that throughout the centuries men and women have been astonished by them. David said, "The law of the LORD is perfect" (Psalm 19:7).

4. Prophecy (Isaiah—Malachi) proclaims an expectation of Christ. The Bible is the account of redemption, how God rescues men from sin and from death.
5. The Gospel Records (Matthew—John) are the historical manifestation of Christ. They are true historical facts and accounts of the work and the acts of Christ the Son of God (John 20:30–31).
6. Acts relates the propagation of Christ. Acts portrays the resurrected Christ in

His ascension, by the Spirit, through the disciples, for the producing of the church—the kingdom of God.

7. The Epistles (Romans—Jude) give the interpretation of Christ. The epistles answer questions asked by the church or address the problems within the church.
8. Revelation describes the consummation of all things in Christ. The second coming of Christ marks the time when the church goes home for eternity.

How is it that every part of the Bible, in spite of its great diversity, can contribute to its overarching theme of redemption and its central figure, the Christ?

How? Because it is from God! —Mark Posey

"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

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

Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:5

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "30 Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises of God" 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. 30:3 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).

V. 30:4 One Dozen Scriptures to Learn with Your Child or Grandchild: 1. Lord (Psalm 23:1); 2. Fathers, training (Ephesians 6:4); 3. Fool (Psalm 14:1); 4. Obey (Ephesians 6:1); 5. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17); 6. Love (Hebrews 13:1); 7. Jesus, Son (Acts 8:37); 8. Love, kind (1 Corinthians 13:4); 9. Word (Luke 8:11); 10. Christ (Romans 16:16); 11. Gospel, power (Romans 1:16); 12. Do not lie (Colossians 3:9). *And a Half Dozen More:* 13. Love (1 John 4:8); 14. Wept (John 11:35); 15. Cares (1 Peter 5:7); 16. Grace (Ephesians 2:8); 17. God (John 1:1); 18. Flesh (John 1:14).

For the editors: **V. 30:5 Jesus' Parables:** 1. Five, two, one (Matthew 25:13–32); 2. First, first (Matthew 20:16); 3. Least, Me (Matthew 25:40); 4. Faith (Matthew 17:20); 5. Understands (Matthew 13:23); 6. Thirty (Matthew 13:23); 7. Yes (Mark 4:26–29); 8. "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29); 9. Treasure (Matthew 13:44–46); 10. One (Matthew 18:14); 11. Pearls (Matthew 13:45); 12. Sold (Matthew 13:46); 13. Goes to look for the lost sheep until he finds it (Luke 15:4–7); 14. Relent (Matthew 21:32); 15. The younger (Luke 15:11–13); 16. Buries it (Matthew 25:18); 17. therefore (Matthew 25:13).

Jesus' Parables

Find answers in Matthew 13:23, 44–46; 17:20; 18:14; 20:16; 21:32; 25:13–32, 40; Mark 4:26–29; Luke 10:29; 15:4–7, 11–13. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. In the parable of the talents what three amounts (number of talents) did each receive? _____
2. "So the last will be _____, and the _____ will be last."
3. The King will reply, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the _____ of these My brethren, you did it to _____."
4. What great characteristic is the mustard seed compared to? _____
5. The seed falling on good soil refers to one who hears the word and _____ it.
6. The good soil yields a hundred, sixty or _____ times what was sown.
7. In "the parable of seed that grows of itself," is the seed ever harvested? _____
8. What question was Jesus answering in the story of the Good Samaritan? _____
9. The kingdom is like _____ hidden in a field.
10. "In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that _____ of these little ones should perish."
11. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for beautiful _____.
12. When he found one of great value, he went away and _____ everything he had and bought it."
13. In the parable of the lost sheep, what does the man do who when he finds one sheep missing? _____
14. Jesus told the Pharisees that they did not believe John, but the tax collectors did. He concludes, "you did not afterward _____ and believe him."
15. In the parable of the prodigal son, which son goes to the far country? _____
16. In the parable of the talents what does the one-talent (unit of money) do with money? _____
17. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus concludes, "Watch _____, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Four Thieves of the Crucifixion



(1) **The thief who regretted** (John 12:6). Oh, the advantages Judas had! Jesus selected him to be an apostle, and his peers trusted him as the treasurer. He also observed many of Jesus' sermons and miracles (Matthew 11:5). Yet it was this Judas who betrayed Christ for money. His betrayal turned to regret, but rather than seeking forgiveness, he hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-5). Repentance means more than feeling sorry for a wrong. It is the desire to change and do better (2 Corinthians 7:10).

(2) **The thief who was replaced.** It was customary to release a prisoner at the Passover. Thus Pilate offered the crowd either Jesus or Barabbas. They requested the notorious murderer and robber rather than Jesus (Matthew 27:15-16, John 18:40). Barabbas had someone else (Jesus) take his punishment for him. Barabbas could say that Jesus died in his place. Of course, we can say it, too! (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

(3) **The thief who rebelled.** At first both thieves crucified spoke against Christ (Matthew 27:41-44), but only one kept on doing it (Luke 23:39). This thief remained impenitent because he forgot God, ignored death at hand, and justly deserved what he was receiving (Luke 23:40-41). He died in a state of rebellion in spite of the rebuke and repentance of the other thief and a Savior close at hand.

(4) **The thief who repented.** This thief had a change of heart. In his agony, he looked to the Savior and admitted his sinfulness and Jesus' innocence (Luke 23:40-42). His repentance did not bring escape from death, but it did bring relief and fellowship with Jesus in the next life (v. 43). He did what the Lord asked him to do, and in that sense he is an example to us.

All of us are represented by one of these thieves. Have you let Jesus down? Have you allowed Jesus to take your place? Are you rebellious? Have you repented? Which are you? —Gary Puryear

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

Recommended Podcast



Sisters is a podcast for Christian women by Christian women. Our goal is to help you grow your faith and knowledge of God's Word – while also growing our own. We cover a variety of topics to encourage us, challenge us, and root us in Christ. Find episodes here: pod.link/1723627768

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: _____

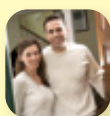
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☐ A Bible Correspondence Course



☐ A DVD Bible Study



☐ An In-Home Bible Study

New Tracts!

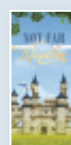
- ☐ Why Are We Knocking at Your Door?
- ☐ Seven Things Satan Wants You to Do
- ☐ A New Sheriff in Town
- ☐ Faith Is the Victory That Overcomes the World



More subjects:



☐ His Own Worst Enemy



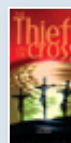
☐ Not Far From the Kingdom



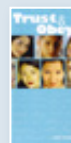
☐ How to Get Ahead Without Getting Even



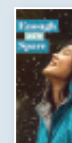
☐ Should Christian Teens Dance?



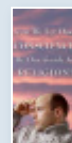
☐ The Thief on the Cross



☐ Trust and Obey



☐ Enough and to Spare

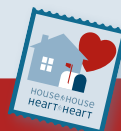


☐ Can We Let Our Conscience Be Our Guide



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

VOLUME 30:5



30 Exceeding Great & Precious Promises of God **Part 2**

2 Peter 1:3-4

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

God's promises:



Strength (Psalm 29:11)

"The LORD will give strength to His people;
The LORD will bless His people with peace."



Protection (Psalm 91:4-6)

"He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday."



Provision (Matthew 6:33)

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."



A new name (Isaiah 56:5)

"Even to them I will give in My house
And within My walls a place and a name
Better than that of sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
That shall not be cut off."



Wisdom (James 1:5)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."



Rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."



Forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



A new heart and spirit (Ezekiel 36:26)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."



Things working together for good (Romans 8:28)

"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."



Supplying our needs (Philippians 4:19)

"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."



Nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39)

"I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."



Eternal life (1 John 2:25)

"This is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life."



Being a help and shield (Psalm 33:20)

"Our soul waits for the Lord;
He is our help and our shield."



Closeness with God (James 4:8)

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."



Victory over sin through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Before . . .

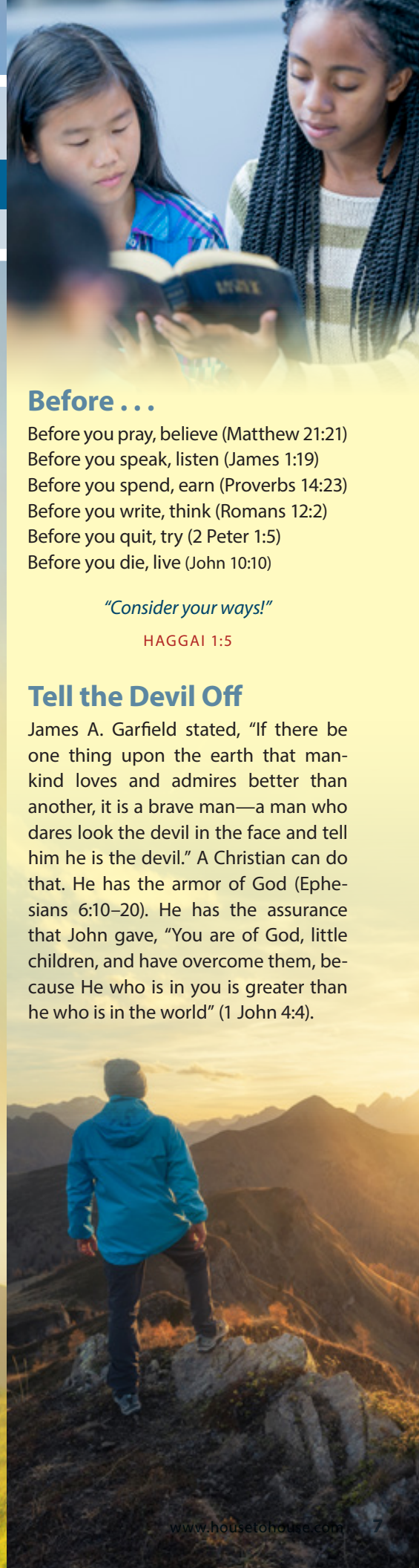
Before you pray, believe (Matthew 21:21)
Before you speak, listen (James 1:19)
Before you spend, earn (Proverbs 14:23)
Before you write, think (Romans 12:2)
Before you quit, try (2 Peter 1:5)
Before you die, live (John 10:10)

"Consider your ways!"

HAGGAI 1:5

Tell the Devil Off

James A. Garfield stated, "If there be one thing upon the earth that mankind loves and admires better than another, it is a brave man—a man who dares look the devil in the face and tell him he is the devil." A Christian can do that. He has the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20). He has the assurance that John gave, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).





The Devil's Darts

Paul spoke of “taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Ephesians 6:16). The devil is powerful (1 Peter 5:8). We should be aware of his strategies (2 Corinthians 2:11). Consider some of the devil’s darts.

The dart of doubt. If the devil can create disbelief in the existence of God, His supernatural power, or the inspiration and truthfulness of the Bible, he has rendered that person ineffective. The promises of God do not challenge because the doubter is not convinced that they will be fulfilled. Warnings concerning the punishment of sin do not motivate.

The dart of deception. Satan is a master hypocrite. He appears to be an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:13–15). His charming appearance is simply sheep’s clothing disguising the wolf underneath (Matthew 7:15). His teaching is deceptive. He has contradicting doctrines to please anyone who will listen.

The dart of discouragement. The devil tempts one to reflect on past failures, other’s unfaithfulness, or incapability. The devil tempts one to reflect on past failures, others’ unfaithfulness, or his own incapability. When we are faithful to God, we may be down, but never out (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The dart of delay. The devil always says, “Tomorrow will be better.” However, God says, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). —Jerre Barber



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