

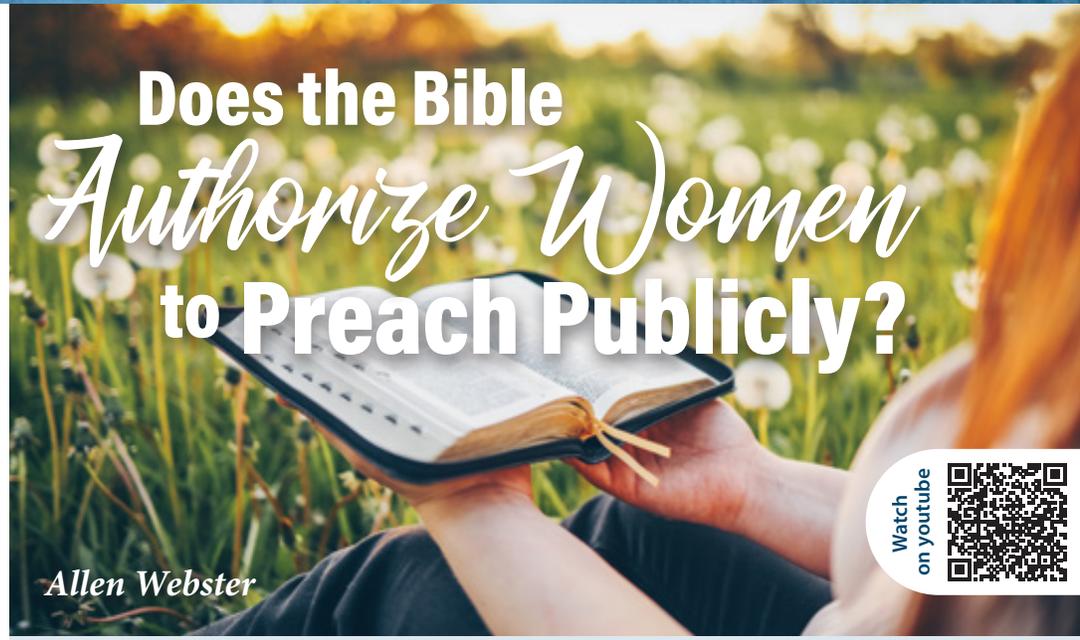


HOUSE to HOUSE  
HEART to HEART

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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 5



## Does the Bible *Authorize Women* to Preach Publicly?

*Allen Webster*



God has always had a role for women in His grand plan of redemption. In *All the Women of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyear discusses more than 160 women named in Scripture, including some of its most famous and important characters. It was a woman who carried baby Jesus and delivered him to the world in the Incarnation (Luke 2:7). Women are neither second-class citizens in God's kingdom nor second-rate soldiers in the Lord's army.

At the same time, men and women are different by design and have been assigned different roles. We must turn to Scripture, not culture, to determine God's plans for each.

- Some differences relate to creation and original intent (Genesis 2:18–25). Physiological/anatomical differences show that God intended women to be mothers, and men to be fathers.
- Some differences relate to function and assignment (1 Timothy 2:8–15). All on God's team have equal status, but all do not play the same position. He assigns different tasks, roles, and spheres to each gender in the home, church, and society.

These Bible truths do not sit well with in a culture fighting culture wars. Many want to remove all gender distinctions in the home, church, and society. In religious circles over the last seventy-five years, social pressure has gradually opened the doors for women to do everything that men do—including preach before men. Did God change His Word in that period to match changing culture? No, Scripture has said—and meant—the same thing for two-thousand years (Jude 1:3).

Galatians 3:28 is at the crux of this discussion. It has become a slogan—neither male nor female—for uniform roles in Christianity. What does it mean—and not mean?

### THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION MISSES THE POINT OF THE VERSE

Each citizen in the Roman world was classified by three criteria, recognized by this verse: nationality (Jew/Greek), status (free/enslaved), and gender (male/female). In Galatia—fairly typical for the time—for instance, slaves were considered property, women were mostly confined, and Gentiles were castigated by the Jewish

community. A Gentile, slave, or woman was a *persona non grata* in a Jewish service and often were equally forbidden in heathen rituals. The gospel removed these criteria for admittance into God's kingdom and worship. With one stroke of Paul's pen, the Spirit settled the three great problems of society—peace, liberty, and fraternity (J. G. Murphy; biblehub.com).

The immediate context of Galatians 3:28 discusses salvation from sin and the Christian's inheritance. Consider an analysis of the passage:

- How were the Galatians God's children—by circumcision or by faith/baptism? By obedient faith. Paul's point in this place is that baptism changed their relationship with God, not their relationship with each other (Roy H. Lanier, Jr. *Spiritual Sword*, January 1996, 21).
- Now that they were God's children, must they be circumcised to enjoy full fellowship? No, "There is neither Jew nor Greek."
- Who is a descendant of Abraham—those who keep the law? No, those who are Christ's (3:29). Now a "son" of Abraham has nothing to do with genetics or gender. All faithful Christians—male/female, Jew/Gentile—are "sons" and qualified for the inheritance.

*Jesus Removed Racial Barriers: There is neither Jew nor Greek.* The first divider, racial antagonism, was neutralized by removing the preferred status of Jews. Since the cross, an uncircumcised Greek is no less attractive to God than a blue-blooded Jew.

While Jesus came to unite, Moses' Law was designed to divide. It created differences to make a separate, holy people and to keep Abraham's seed line intact.



- Individually, it separated Jews and Gentiles by forbidding marriage between them (Deuteronomy 7:3).
- Nationally, it forbade Israel making leagues with nations (Judges 2:2).
- Socially, relations were hindered by the Jews' kosher diet (Leviticus 11).
- Commercially, interaction was limited by Sabbath laws and fashion (Deuteronomy 22:11; Nehemiah 7:3).

Once Jesus finished His work (Galatians 4:4), Moses' Law was repealed. It was nailed to the cross and replaced with the gospel (Colossians 2:14). This event occurred about sixteen years before Paul wrote Galatians. The majority of Jews, though, still clung to that outdated religion.

*Jesus Removed Status Barriers: There is neither bond nor free.* The second divider, rank, was corrected by declaring all men free and rich in Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 5:1; James 1:9–10). No man gets preferential treatment because he is rich and free, and no one is disadvantaged because he is poor, uneducated, or a slave.

*Jesus Removed Gender Barriers: There is neither male nor female.* The third great divider, gender, was corrected by making both men and women a "holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices" (1 Peter 2:5). God had no female priests in the Old Testament, but now half of his temple is filled with them. This authorizes women to offer up their worship directly to God through their High Priest (Jesus) instead of going through male priests on earth. It does not, however, authorize them to have authority over man in his worship (1 Timothy 2:12).

Galatians 3:28, in a nutshell, means that when the invitation is offered Sunday, God is just as happy to see a woman walk down the aisle as a man (cf. John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 2:11).

### THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION IGNORES THE CONTEXT OF THE BOOK

Good Bible students always look at context. They consider a book's purpose and examine closely the sentences around a verse in question. What is the purpose of Galatians? What problem is Paul addressing? Is it church leadership? Women preaching to men? Shared authority?

Paul's purpose was to correct Jewish teachers undermining the inspired conclusion of the Jerusalem Conference on Jewish-Gentile Relations (Galatians 1:6–9; Acts 15:22–29). In Galatians 2, Paul introduces the book's two main questions:

- Must Gentiles be circumcised and keep the law to be saved? (2:1–10).
- Could Gentiles enjoy fellowship with Jewish Christians without it? (2:11–21).

Thus, it is about terms of salvation (2:1–10) and levels of fellowship (2:11–21).

Galatians 2 sheds light on Galatians 3. The gospel opened the fellowship of the church to all six categories—Jew/Greek, bond/free, and male/female. Salvation was now accessible to the widest range of individuals. Enslaved Gentile women (the worst combination to a Jew) were on equal footing with free Jewish males (the best). Galatians 3:28 is not about whether women can preach, but whether they can attend the fellowship meal after the service!

### THE SLOGAN INTERPRETATION CONTRADICTS PAUL'S OTHER WRITINGS

Galatians was written by the same apostle who wrote the four great New Testament passages on gender (1 Corinthians 11:2–16; 14:33–35; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Timothy 2:8–15). Those who cheer Paul in Galatians 3:28 as a broad-minded genius, jeer him in First Timothy 2 as a narrow-minded bigot. To them he goes from a freethinker to a woman-hater in a few pages. To criticize Paul's writings, of course, is to slander one of Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and—more seriously—to castigate the Holy Spirit who inspired him (1 Corinthians 7:40; 14:37; 2 Timothy 3:16).

Consider the logic of this interpretation. The God of truth does not give contradictory doctrine. He is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). All truth harmonizes, so all verses must be considered in any interpretation. Did Paul really mean to throw out all gender distinctions in Galatians 3 only to reinstate them in First Timothy 2? Did he intend to say that men and women have equal authority in one place and then say that "the head of the woman is the man" in another? (1 Corinthians 11:3). Did he empower women to

preach to men and then to restrict them to silence in the churches? (1 Corinthians 14:33–34). Such an interpretation of Galatians 3:28 is implausible on the surface.

Although this list is not exhaustive, Scripture shows authorized actions for women include:

- Confessing Christ before others, including men (Matthew 10:32–33; Romans 10:10).
- Speaking in “hymns and spiritual songs” in a mixed assembly (Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 2:12).
- Participating in personal evangelism studies in mixed company (Acts 18:26).
- Supporting evangelism (Philippians 4:3), by inviting others.
- Older women teaching younger women and children (Titus 2:3–4; 2 Timothy 3:15).
- Church work (such as Bible teachers) (Romans 16:1).

A summary of the gender-specific passages shows Galatians 3:28 does not include freedom for women to:

- Publicly present the word of God to mixed audiences (1 Corinthians 14:29–35; 1 Timothy 2:11–12). In worship, women are to “learn in silence” (quietness) (1 Timothy 2:11).
- Act as a representative of the church (lead prayer or administer church discipline) (1 Timothy 2:8; cf. Matthew 18:17–20; 1 Corinthians 5:3–5).
- Lead prayer in the presence of men (1 Timothy 2:8). This prohibition is not limited to formal worship assemblies.
- Assume leadership of the assembly (lead singing, preside over any part of service) (1 Corinthians 14:15, 29–35; Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:11–12).
- Be the head of a marriage and home (Ephesians 5:23–33).

Some argue that Galatians 3:28 is meant to be God’s final word and the other passages simply reflected ancient culture and would not forbid women larger roles today. This view is false for four reasons.

First, it overlooks that Galatians 3:28 itself is cultural. Written to the churches in Galatia (Antioch, Lystra, Derbe, Iconium), it dealt with immediate circumstances (1:6–9).

Second, Greek culture did not necessarily forbid women as worship leaders. The oracle at Delphi, for instance, was well-known. Women served as priestesses.

Third, although some teaching is based upon a custom limited to a location or time (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:2–16), the context shows when this is the case. In First Corinthians 11, for instance, the head covering was a “custom” (11:16). It says, “If it be a shame for a woman to be shorn . . .” (11:6).

Fourth, the context shows this teaching transcended time and culture. Paul gave two reasons for women’s assignments—and neither involved custom or culture:

- Man was given priority in creation. Gender assignments are as simple as God made Adam first (Genesis 2:21–22; 1 Corinthians 11:7–9; 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:13). God does nothing without purpose, so he had roles in mind on Day Six. Genesis 1–3 presents three basic ideas about men and women. First, it affirms human sexual distinction—male and female (Genesis 1:26–27). Second, it affirms sexual equality—both made in God’s image (1:26–27). Third, it affirms different functions and status for the sexes (2:7, 18–23). God addressed Adam as the representative. Eve was made from man and for man (2:18–24; 1 Corinthians 11:9).
- Woman was deceived by Satan (1 Timothy 2:14). After the fall, God said to Eve, “I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” (Genesis 3:16). Jesus did not repeal this judgment. Salvation does not cancel childbirth pain nor remove sexual attraction; thus, it does not cancel God’s order of submission.

Fifth, Paul’s teachings were for all churches in all times (1 Corinthians 14:33; cf. 4:17). He gave the same teaching (1 Corinthians 14; 1 Timothy 2) to two different cities two decades apart.

In summary, Galatians 3:28 is not talking about who delivers Sunday’s message, who holds what office in a congregation, who leads prayers in home devotionals, or who may pass the Lord’s Supper on Sunday.



## In God’s Image

When God wanted to create fish, He spoke to the sea (Genesis 1). When God wanted to create trees, He spoke to the earth, But, when wanted to create man, He turned to himself. Then, God said “Let us make man in our image and in our likeness” (Genesis 1:26).

If you take a fish out of the water, it will die; when you remove a tree from soil, it will die. When man is disconnected from God, he dies (John 15:1–7).

God is our natural environment. We were created to live in His presence. We have to be connected to Him because it is only in Him that life exists. Let us stay connected to God.

We recall that water without fish is still water, but fish without water is nothing. The soil without a tree is still soil but the tree without soil is soon nothing. God without man is still God but man without God is nothing.

*“I am the vine, you are the branches.”*

JOHN 15:5

## 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





## He's Listening

A man went to his doctor to do something about his bad hearing. He said, "Everyone in my family is complaining about my hearing!" The doctor said he could help and gave him with a small hearing aid, saying, "See how this works and come back in a month to let me know." When the man went back, he said, "Everything is working great!" The doctor replied, "I bet your family is happy about that!" The man said, "I have not told them yet. I just sit and listen. So far, I have changed my will 3 times!"



## Good Sermon

After a long and boring sermon the people filed out saying nothing to the preacher. Near the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons.

"Preacher, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" He was thrilled. "No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Well, it reminded me of the peace of God because it passed all understanding and the love of God because it endured forever!"



To watch videos, read articles, answer Bible questions, and more go to [housetohouse.com](http://housetohouse.com)

# Take Care of Your Mother

As Jesus hung on the cross, near death, his mother stood nearby. As He looked at her with John standing near her, He cried, "Woman, behold your Son!" Then, looking at the disciple that He loved He said, "Behold your mother!" From that moment on, John took Mary into his own home (John 19:25-27). Even while in extreme agony and pain, Jesus made sure that His mother would be cared for.

As we age, the opportunity for us to care for our mothers becomes more apparent. What a blessing it is to be able to serve the mother who loved, nurtured, and cared for us during our young lives.

It is time to repay for all the home-cooked meals, the made beds, clean

clothes, bed-time stories, and reassuring embraces. She read the Bible to us, instructed us in God's principles of right and wrong, and taught us by her example of faithful living. It is now time to be sure that she has all of the things that will assure a safe and fulfilled life.

From the Law of Moses to the letters of the New Testament, children are commanded to honor their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:20). Although the Scriptures seem to be addressing minor children, the principle of honoring one's father and mother has life-long application. For those who still have your mother, please follow Jesus' example. Take care of your mother as she once took care of you. —Jay Launius



## Just for Fun Word Search

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

We see **Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the **angels**, for the suffering of death **crowned** with **glory** and **honor**, that He, by the **grace** of God, might taste **death** for **everyone**. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all **things** and by whom are all things, in bringing many **sons** to glory, to make the **captain** of their **salvation** perfect through **sufferings**. For both He who **sanctifies** and those who are being sanctified are all of **one**, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them **brethren**."

—HEBREWS 2:9-11

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

# About the church of Christ

In order for a church to be pleasing to God, it MUST be like the church of the first century. Let's consider some reasons why.

**1.** The church of the first century was designed by God. The church was in God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9-11). Daniel said the church would stand forever (2:44).

**2.** The church of the first century was built by Jesus (Matthew 16:18), and was purchased by the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28).

**3.** The church of the first century had a head and the head is Jesus (Ephesians 1:22).

**4.** The church of the first century was not to be changed. Any who take away from the Word of God will have their names

taken away from the Book of Life (Revelation 22:18-19).

**5.** The church of the first century cannot be improved by any changes men would make.

The church of Christ has no creed book, church manual, or catechism. Its standard of authority for all matters of faith, doctrine, and practice is the teaching of the New Testament (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).

Its destination is heaven, the eternal realm of the redeemed (1 Corinthians 15:24; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Peter 1:10-11).

The churches that have come into existence since the first one are a result of a departure from and a corruption of the doctrine and practice of the

New Testament church (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The facts about the church of Christ are clearly set forth in the New Testament, and the facts concerning the origin of other churches are available in history. One would do well to acquaint himself/herself with these facts and to build his/her religious and spiritual life accordingly.

Investigate the church of Christ in your community and compare it to the church in the New Testament. —compiled from material from Charles Pogue and Hugh Fulford

*"The churches of Christ salute you."*

ROMANS 16:16

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



## Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:5

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

### Answers to Previous Quizzes

**V. 31:3** More About Jesus, Would I Know: 1. The angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-31); 2. Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1); 3. A manger (Luke 2:7); 4. Shepherds (Luke 2:15-16); 5. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11); 6. Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15); 7. Sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions (Luke 2:46-47); 8. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-15); 9. The Spirit or a dove (Matthew 3:16-17); 10. Forty days (Matthew 4:1-2); 11. Turning water into wine (John 2:1-11); 12. Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18-22); 13. Born again (born of water and the Spirit) (John 3:3-5); 14. "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39-41); 15. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42); 16. He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-44); 17. Five loaves, two fish (Matthew 14:17-21); 18. He walked on the water toward Jesus (Matthew 14:28-31); 19. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36-40); 20. He denied knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75); 21. Simon of Cyrene (Luke 23:26); 22. The first day of the week (Matthew 28:1-6).

**V. 31:4** Scrambled Titles: New Testament: 1. Titus; 2. Romans; 3. Timothy; 4. Corinthians; 5. Revelation; 6. Thessalonians; 7. Galatians; 8. Colossians; 9. Philippians; 10. Ephesians.

Which Case of Conversion Shows...? 1. Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40); 2. 3000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:38); 3. Eunuch (Acts 8:38-39); 4. Jailer (Acts 16:33).

Important questions: 1. Yes (Mark 16:16); 2. Yes (Acts 8:35-40); 3. Personal answer.

## New Testament Bible Characters

Find answers in Matthew 3:13-17; 8:5-13; 9:9; 26:14-16; Luke 1:5-13, 26-31; 10:38-42; 22:54-62; 23:26; John 4:7-26; 11:38-44; 13:23; 18:28-19:16; 20:24-29; Acts 1:23-26; 2:14-41; 4:36-37; 7:54-60; 9:1-6; 16:25-34; Colossians 4:14; 1 Timothy 1:2. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- Who announced the birth of Jesus to Mary? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which disciple denied Jesus three times? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which disciple was known as "the beloved disciple"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw Him? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the first martyr of the church? \_\_\_\_\_
- Whose conversion began on the road to Damascus? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who preached the first gospel sermon on Pentecost? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the mother of John the Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the Roman centurion whose servant Jesus healed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who helped Paul and Silas escape from prison in Philippi? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the disciple known as "the son of encouragement"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the tax collector that became a disciple of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the woman at the well who met Jesus in Samaria? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who carried Jesus' cross? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the sister of Martha and Lazarus who sat at Jesus' feet? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was raised from the dead after four days in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the young man Paul mentored in the faith? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the physician and author of Luke and Acts? \_\_\_\_\_

# Christ in the Old Testament

**Genesis**—He is the Creator (1:1; John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:16)

**Exodus**—He is the Lamb of God (12:5–7, 13; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

**Numbers**—He is the Star of Jacob (24:17; Matthew 2:2; Revelation 22:16)

**Deuteronomy**—He is the Prophet (18:15; Acts 2:22–23)

**Joshua**—He is the Captain of the Lord's host (5:13–15; Hebrews 2:10; Revelation 19:11–14)

**Judges**—He is the messenger of Jehovah (13:18–22; John 6:38)

**Ruth**—He is our kinsman Redeemer (4:14–15; Galatians 4:4–5; Hebrews 2:14–15)

**Samuel**—He is the rejected king (1 Samuel 8:7; John 1:11)

**Kings and Chronicles**—He is Lord of Lords and King of kings (1 Kings 8:23; Revelation 19:16)

**Ezra and Nehemiah**—He is the Lord of heaven and earth (Nehemiah 9:6; Matthew 11:25).

**Job**—He is our Redeemer (19:25; Titus 2:14–15)

**Psalms**—He is the Son of God (2:7; Hebrews 1:5)

**Proverbs**—He is our wisdom (8:22–30; 1 Corinthians 1:24)

**Ecclesiastes**—He is the forgotten wise man (9:14–16; Mark 6:3)

**Song of Solomon**—He is the man of sorrows (5:16; Isaiah 53:3; John 19:5)

**Ezekiel**—He is the throne sitter (1:26; Revelation 5:6–7)

**Daniel**—He is the smiting stone (2:34–35, 44; Matthew 21:44; 1 Peter 2:6–8)

**Hosea**—He is David's great King (3:5; Luke 1:32–33)

**Joel**—He is the Lord of bounty (2:23–26; Acts 2:16–21)

**Amos**—He is the rescuer of Israel (9:11–12; Acts 15:15–17)

**Obadiah**—He is the deliverer (1:21; Romans 11:26)

**Jonah**—He is the risen Savior (1:7; cf. Matthew 12:40)

**Micah**—He is the everlasting God (5:2; John 1:1; Hebrews 7:3)

**Nahum**—He is our stronghold (1:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10)

**Habakkuk**—He is the judge of our faith (2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11)

**Zechariah**—He is the smitten Shepherd (13:7; Matthew 26:31)

**Malachi**—He is the Son of Righteousness (4:2; Luke 1:78–79; John 8:12)

—Author Unknown

*"Search the Scriptures ... they testify of me."*

JOHN 5:39

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

## Recommended Resource

**From Our House to Your House**

youtube.com/@HousetoHouseHTH

"From Our House to Your House" is a series of discussions centered on building a godly home. It highlights the significance of creating a home environment filled with joy, grace, and mercy, ensuring that each family member feels valued and supported.

## 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!

- Blessed Are the Merciful
- The Blessing of Tears
- Satan's Calling Card
- What to Do When You Become Disillusioned with a Church



### More subjects:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Battlement of God's Love    | <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion Wrongs     | <input type="checkbox"/> My Preacher Says          | <input type="checkbox"/> Looking for Love                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Where the Omnipresent God Isn't | <input type="checkbox"/> God's Refining Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> If I Don't Preach on Hell | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical Suggestions for Learning the Bible |



## Free 8"x12" Poster

- Types and Antitypes – Bronze Serpent

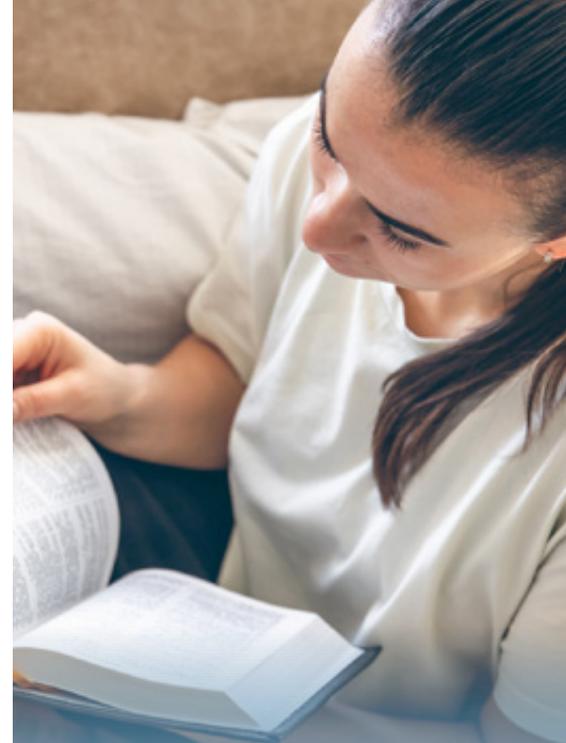


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VOLUME 31:5



INFOGRAPHIC COMING SOON

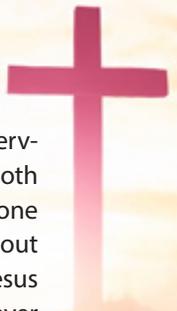


## The Love of Jesus

Jesus' love is visible, universal, individual, and costly. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. ..." (John 3:16). Jesus loved by leaving heaven, living among us, and ultimately laying down His life. His compassion drew Him to the hurting—He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and wept with the grieving.

Love defines Jesus' mission: He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). His cross is the supreme demonstration of that love—"but God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Love also shapes how He calls us to live—"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). The command itself wasn't new—but the standard was: we are to love as He loved.

Jesus' love transforms priorities. It reaches the outcast, forgives the guilty, and invites the undeserving. Because His love is both personal and universal, no one is beyond His concern or out of His reach. The love of Jesus has appeared so "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).





# Are You Looking for a Church?

A lot of us are searching for a church. Some people want a place that feels like family. Others look for strong preaching, uplifting singing, or programs for children. These are good things—but the most important question is: Is it the church of the Bible?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build My church.” Notice—He didn’t promise to build churches (plural), but His church (singular). The church belongs to Him. It bears His name, follows His teaching, and exists for His glory. When we read the book of Acts, we see what that church looked like in its beginning—devoted to the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42).

The Bible never describes Christians joining a church of their choice. Instead, those who were saved were “added to the church” by the Lord Himself (Acts 2:47). The same thing happens today when we obey the gospel.

The church is more than a building or a Sunday routine—it is a family, a body, a kingdom. Paul wrote, “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (1 Corinthians 12:27). Each member matters. Each one has a place.

If you are looking for the church that belongs to Christ, open your Bible and look for the one that teaches what the first Christians taught, worships how they worshiped, and lives how they lived. That’s where you’ll find the church of the Bible.

We’re not perfect, but we are striving to follow the perfect Savior and His perfect Word, and we are striving to be that church.

Are you looking for a church? We are looking for you. Let’s open God’s Word together and grow closer to Him—and to each other. —Matt Wallin



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# FREE POSTER

Request a free 24" x 36" poster featuring baptism! Perfect for your Bible class, homeschool classroom, child's bedroom, office, or church building.

See contact information on front.  
Supplies are limited.

What shall we say then?  
Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?  
*Certainly not!*  
How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Or do you not know that as many of us as were  
**baptized**  
into Christ Jesus  
were baptized  
into His **death?**

Therefore we were *buried with Him*  
through baptism into death,  
that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the  
glory of the Father, even so we also should walk  
*in newness of life.*  
ROMANS 6:1-4

The jailer's question: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) is vital for the souls of thinking individuals. According to the Bible, the answer begins with having the gospel of Christ preached to you (Acts 17:3) and following to Jesus in faith (John 16:24; John 8:24). Here, the Christ (Romans 8:3; 9:5; Matthew 16:21, 22; Acts 8:27). Then the committing act of one's adherence to baptism to be saved (Mark 16:15-16).  
A question often asked: "Why stress the baptism so much?" These Bible references give the answer:

Water stands between the sinner and justification (Ephesians 5:26).  
Water stands between the sinner and sanctification (Ephesians 5:26).  
Water stands between the sinner and getting into heaven (Colossians 2:12).  
Water stands between the sinner and new life in Christ (Ephesians 2:5).  
Water stands between the sinner and being with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).  
Water stands between the sinner and forgiveness (Colossians 2:12-14).  
Water stands between the sinner and the Kingdom (John 3:5).  
Water stands between the sinner and the blood of Christ (John 13:10).  
Water stands between the sinner and a good conscience (1 Peter 2:21).  
Water stands between the sinner and the promise through Christ (Acts 2:39).  
Water stands between the sinner and the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).  
Water stands between the sinner and salvation (1 Peter 3:21).  
Water stands between the sinner and unity (Galatians 3:28-27).

WHY STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM?