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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3

State Street CHURCH of CHRIST

1713 West State Street

Bristol, VA 24201

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Email: ststcoc@naxs.net

Website:

www.statestreetchurchofchrist.com

Weekly Church Calendar:

SUNDAY

Bible Study..... 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship..... 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

MINISTER



Dan C. Bailey

SERVICES OFFERED

- Bible study courses by mail
- Transportation to our services
- In home video series
- Bible literature on variety of subjects
- Back issues of our publication

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

GOD'S INVITATION

to an Honest Conversation About the Church

Allen Webster

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on youtube



People have debated many foolish questions. In the Middle Ages, for instance, theologians debated the following:

- What shape are Gabriel's wings?
- Do any angels have baritone voices?
- Did Pilate use soap to wash his hands?
- How much wine did guests drink at the wedding in Cana?
- Could one eat an egg laid on Passover?

People today also waste time on questions that do not make any difference in how we live or where we will go when we die. These often create controversy, disillusion, contention, and hurt feelings. Paul said to avoid foolish questions "for they are unprofitable and useless" (Titus 3:9).

It is also possible to dismiss important questions as trivial. Which church to attend is one of those. It is important to ask, "Can I be certain that I am a member of the church that Jesus built?" Consider:

A COMMONSENSE PERSPECTIVE

When it comes to religion, God does not want us to close our eyes, disengage our minds, and take a jump into irrationality. Christianity is a reasonable religion

(Romans 12:1-2); it gives reasonable answers to reasonable questions (1 Peter 3:15). Isaiah said, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18; cf. Acts 24:25).

We do not take the "it does not matter" approach in other areas. Does it make any difference which plane we board at the airport? Which wife we take home from the party or which child we pick up at school? Does it matter if a pharmacist gives us a heart medicine, a pain reliever, a laxative, or a psychotic medication?

God limits salvation to one location:

- Did Noah's family have a choice of which ark to enter? (Genesis 6:18).
- Did Rahab have a choice of which house in which to seek refuge? (Joshua 2:18).
- Did Naaman have a choice of rivers? (2 Kings 5:1-14).
- Could snake-bitten Israelites choose any bronze serpent? (Numbers 21:4-9).

God has located salvation in Christ's body, which is His church: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the

body” (Ephesians 5:23–24). Jesus purchased only one church (body) (Ephesians 4:4), which makes sense because He has only one bride (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2–3).

It is true that one can be saved outside of a denomination, but no one can be saved outside of the church Jesus purchased with His blood and built in the days of the apostles (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; 20:28).

It is not a denomination. In the Bible, the church is either local (1 Corinthians 1:2; Revelation 2:1, 8, 12) or universal (Colossians 1:18), but nothing in between. A denomination is too large to be local, and too small to be universal.

Following man’s teaching instead of God’s is condemned (1 Corinthians 3:1–4; Galatians 1:6–10). Division is condemned; unity is commanded (1 Corinthians 1:11–14; Psalm 133:1). Jesus

- Prayed for unity (John 17:20–21);
- Paid for unity (Ephesians 2:16);
- Pled for unity (1 Corinthians 1:10);
- Planned for unity (Ephesians 4:1–6).

Denominations divide. They have conflicting plans of salvation, ways of worship, and moral and ethical behaviors.

One might say, “But Christ is the vine and denominations are the branches.” John 15:1–7 does teach that Christ is the vine, but the branches are not different churches. Read carefully: “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me.” These are individual Christians, not organizations.

Another suggests, “Going to heaven is like going to New York. There are many different roads that lead to the same destination.” This is true for some physical destinations, but not all. Many houses are on dead-end streets. Only one road can get to them. This is true of Jesus’ house: “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; cf. John 14:6).

AN AUTHORITY PERSPECTIVE

When it comes to choosing a church, many people base a decision on:

- Building proximity/nice facilities;
- Tradition/parental influence;
- Friends/social aspects;
- Personality fit (intellectual, emotional, entertaining);
- Programs (daycare, youth, singles);
- Prestige (well-known minister);
- Easy doctrine.

They do not consider the possibility that a church with a sign out front and a preacher up front could be operating without a license. It could be a rogue church that God does not even consider His at all.

God approves His Son’s church—and only that one. It is the only one He authorized for construction on planet Earth. If Christ’s church does not exist today, then no church has divine approval. If it does, then no other has divine approval.

Jesus is the only one who has the right to build a church for two reasons:

- He has all authority (Matthew 28:18; cf. 7:21–23; Mark 9:7). The Bible authorizes man to do many things, but it never commands any person to establish a new kind of church. Since we are forbidden to act without authority in religious matters (Colossians 3:17), any man-made church can never gain God’s acceptance—no matter how many centuries pass, how much money is collected, or how many members sign up.
- He is the only one who can afford a church. The purchase price is the blood of an innocent human (Romans 3:23–26), and Jesus paid it on the cross (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23, 25). Even if a man were willing to die for a church he started, his blood would not be a sinless offering, as Christ’s was (1 Peter 1:18–19).

Human churches can have no salvation in them, because men who cannot save themselves surely cannot save others. God’s weeping prophet wrote, “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Jesus said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted” (Matthew 15:13).

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Does the New Testament ever tell us to join the church of our choice? (This section adapted from Robert R. Taylor, Jr., *Sermons That Save*.)

- Matthew wrote the New Testament’s first twenty-eight chapters. Nowhere did he charge anyone to attend the church of his choice. He did record Jesus’ promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18).
- Mark penned one book of sixteen chapters. At no time did he advise anyone to join the church of his own choice. He did record Jesus’ words to go preach the gospel to every creature, and to baptize believers for the remission of sins (Mark 16:15–16).
- Luke penned two books—Luke and Acts—and by volume wrote more of the New Testament than any other. In his fifty-two chapters he never counseled anyone to attend the church of his choice. He did record the apostles’ preaching to be added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:38–47) and noted that the early church continued steadfastly “in the apostles’ doctrine” (2:42). He recorded that the early church was “one” (Acts 4:32). He never recorded multiple “Christian” denominations in his inspired church history.
- John wrote five books—John, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Revelation—an even fifty chapters. Yet he at no time commanded anybody to attend the church of his choice. He did record that Jesus spoke of the time when His people would be “one flock” (John 10:16) as well as His prayer for the abiding unity of that flock (John 17:20–21). He spoke of withholding fellowship from any not abiding “in the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 1:9–11). He wrote that one must not add to or take from God’s Word (Revelation 22:18–19).
- Paul wrote fourteen books (if one includes Hebrews)—an even one hundred chapters. At no time did Paul charge anybody to join the church of his choice. He did speak of “the body, the church” and noted that there is one body (Colossians 1:18). He wrote

of the unity that God's people were to possess: same mind, same love, one accord, and one mind (Philippians 2:2). He wrote that Christians were to mark (look out for) and turn away from those who caused divisions "contrary to the doctrine" (Romans 16:17).

- Peter wrote two epistles consisting of eight chapters. He who initially was given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19) never told anybody to join the church of his choice. He did preach

that they should repent and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

- James and Jude, Jesus' half-brothers, each wrote one epistle. James wrote five chapters; Jude wrote one chapter. In neither epistle did either advise anybody to attend the church of his choice. Jude did instruct us to contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered (Jude 1:3).
- The New Testament urges us to accept the church of Christ's choice (Matthew 16:18).



It Is More Blessed

A friend of mine named Paul received a new car as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, as Paul left his office, a boy on the street was admiring the shiny car. "Is this your car, Mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded, "My brother gave it to me for Christmas." The boy was astounded.

"Your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you nothing? Boy, I wish ..."

Paul thought he knew what he was going to say. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul down to his heels.

"I wish that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at him in astonishment. He asked, "Would you like to ride?"

"Oh, yes, I'd love that."

After a short ride, the boy turned, smiling, and said, "Would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled. He thought the lad wanted to show off to his neighbors. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop where those steps are?" the boy asked. He ran to the house. In a few minutes he came back, carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, sat beside him, and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you. His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and some day I'm gonna give you one just like it. Then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been telling you about."

Paul got out and lifted the lad to the front seat. The older brother climbed in beside him, and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride. That Christmas Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said those words in Acts 20:35. —Kenneth

Gibson, Louisville, Kentucky

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ACTS 20:35



The World's Greatest Needs

A little more kindness
and a little less greed;

A little more giving
and a little less need;

A little more smile
and a little less frown;

A little less kicking
a man when he's down;

A little more "we"
and a little less "I";

A little more laugh
and a little less cry;

A little more flowers
on the pathway of life;

And fewer on graves
at the end of the strife.

—C. Austin Miles

"Be kind."

EPHESIANS 4:32

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





You Can Trust Her

A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a motherly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?"

"Yes."

"Do you read your Bible every day?"

She nodded her head, "Yes."

"Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes."

With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much."

LUKE 16:10



Gotta Go

On the first day of school, the kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

"Children are a heritage from the LORD."

PSALM 127:3



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The Good Father

In His wisdom, God placed man, who was created first, as the head of the family. Even though societies attempt to normalize distortions of what defines a family, God's plan is always the best.

To assure success in families, God gave both instructions and examples in Scripture. A good father wisely refers to these for guidance as he leads his family down the path ending in their salvation.

Here is a sample:

- Seek God's guidance (Judges 13:8).
- Recommend to their children to walk with the Lord (1 Kings 2:1-9).
- Show compassion (Psalm 103:13).
- Show love and discipline (Proverbs 3:11-12).
- Forgive shortcomings (Ephesians 4:32).

- Share words of wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-10).
- Pray for their success (1 Chronicles 29:19).
- Leave an inheritance (Proverbs 13:22).
- Show integrity (Proverbs 20:7).
- Teach worthy walking (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12).
- Share God's warnings (Ephesians 6:4).
- Teach proper behavior (Romans 12:9-21).
- Teach them to love Jesus and keep His commands (John 14:15).
- Teach the gospel plan of salvation (Mark 16:16; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38).
- Encourage children to be faithful for a lifetime (Revelation 2:10).

—Jay Launius, Maud, Texas

"Bring them up."

EPHESIANS 6:4

Just for Fun Name the Apostles

Answers found in Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:26; 14:14; 1 Corinthians 15:3-9



1. _____



4. _____



7. _____



10. _____



13. _____



2. _____



5. _____



8. _____



11. _____



14. _____



3. _____



6. _____



9. _____



12. _____



15. _____

The Underground Activity of Plants

How did plants learn to prepare so efficiently for winter? Was it chance—or was it programmed into them by their Creator from the beginning? (Genesis 1:11–12; Psalm 104:24). The same God who said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind,” also gave every green thing its seasons, cycles, and secrets. With the same precision that brought life in April, God designed a rest in the autumn.

The underground activity, the rising of the sap, and the swelling of the buds, which prepare for the coming of spring, are not more interesting or efficient than is the manner in which plants shed their leaves, distribute their seed, and withdraw sap from the tender parts in preparation for winter.

Nature keeps time by heaven’s design. In spite of the fact that temperatures in

the temperate zones in the autumn are in many places higher than in the spring, the plant processes of the two seasons are markedly different.

Have you ever thought how marvelously coordinated are the processes represented in the shedding of leaves by trees? Pull off a leaf in mid-season and you leave a raw wound; but when the plant drops its leaves in due season, no wounds exist. This is due primarily to the fact that even while the leaves are in full vigor, the tree prepares to throw them off when their work is finished.

At the spot where the leaf joins the twig, a layer of cells quietly forms. This layer, called the “abscission zone,” acts like a gate—strong in season but designed to close when the time comes. When autumn arrives, that gate seals the branch, and the leaf falls harmlessly away. No sap

escapes. No sore spot remains. The leaf’s work is finished, and the tree rests—whole and unharmed.

This preparation for dropping leaves at the right time begins almost as soon as the leaf is fully mature. Quite early in the history of the leaf, a special arrangement of cells is formed where the leaf is attached to the stem, so when the leaf is dropped there is no open or exposed surface.

There are few more beautifully or intelligently contrived processes in the natural world than this fall of the leaf with which the tree passes into its winter rest. It whispers of a Creator who “has done all things well” (Mark 7:37).

—E. H. Jams (1886–1982), *The Reality of GOD*, pp. 53–54

“Let the earth bring forth...”

GENESIS 1:11

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 31:3

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Chapter to Chapter – 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. 31:1 *Facts About the New Testament Church*: 1. Jerusalem (Acts 2:5, 14); 2. Peter (Acts 2:14); 3. About three thousand (Acts 2:41); 4. Apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42); 5. Church (Acts 2:47; 8:1); disciples (Acts 9:10); or Way (Acts 9:2); 6. In the temple and houses (Acts 2:46; 3:1; 5:42); 7. Healing a lame man (Acts 3:2–9); 8. They put them in custody and commanded them not to teach about Jesus anymore (Acts 4:1–3, 18); 9. They considered all things in common and shared with everyone in need (Acts 2:44–45; 4:32, 34–35); 10. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–10); 11. “We cannot but speak” and “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 4:19–20; 5:29); 12. Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1); 13. Philip (Acts 8:5–13); 14. Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15–17); 15. A eunuch from Ethiopia; he believed, was baptized, and rejoiced (Acts 8:26–27, 39); 16. Saul (Acts 8:1; 9:1–2).

V. 31:2 *Cases of Conversion*: Match the converts: 1. d; 2. g; 3. a; 4. c; 5. b; 6. h; 7. f; 8. e.

Match the name: 1. About 3,000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:41); 2. Corinthians (Acts 18:8); 3. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18); 4. Ethiopian eunuch/treasurer (Acts 8:38); 5. Samaritans (Acts 8:12); 6. Cornelius (Acts 10:48); 7. Philippian jailer (Acts 16:33); 8. Lydia (Acts 16:14–15).

More About Jesus, Would I Know

Find answers in Matthew 2:1, 11, 13–15; 3:13–17; 4:1–2, 18–22; 14:17–21, 28–31; 22:36–40; 69–75; 28:1–6; Mark 4:39–41; Luke 1:26–31; 2:7–16, 46–47; 10:38–42; 23:26; John 2:1–11; 11:43–44. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- Who told Mary she would give birth to Jesus? _____
- In what town was Jesus born? _____
- In what kind of place was Jesus laid as a baby? _____
- Who visited baby Jesus from the fields nearby? _____
- What gifts did the wise men bring? _____
- Where did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to escape Herod? _____
- What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him in the temple at 12? _____
- Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan? _____
- What descended from heaven when Jesus was baptized? _____
- How many days did Jesus fast in the wilderness? _____
- What was Jesus’ first miracle? _____
- Who were the first men Jesus called to follow Him? _____
- What did Jesus say we must be to enter the kingdom of heaven? _____
- What did Jesus say to the storm on the Sea of Galilee? _____
- Which two sisters lived in Bethany? _____
- What miracle did Jesus perform for their brother? _____
- What did Jesus feed five thousand? _____
- What did Peter do when he saw Jesus walking on the water? _____
- What is the greatest commandment? _____
- What did Peter do three times before the rooster crowed? _____
- Who carried Jesus’ cross part of the way to Golgotha? _____
- On which day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? _____

The Bible Is Too Wonderful to Neglect

The book of the Lord was once lost in the house of God (2 Kings 22–23). When it was found by Hilkiah the priest, it was brought to Josiah the king, and major reforms resulted from reading God's Word. This needs repeated in our day.

Evaluation: Am I Neglecting the Bible?
How often do I read it? The Bible is used as a coffee table ornament or a keepsake album. As our bodies need daily food, so our souls need daily food (Matthew 5:6; 6:11; 1 Peter 2:1–2).

Do I attend Bible school at every opportunity? It is disturbing to observe how many come to the worship service in comparison to those who attended the Bible school. Do I attend special Bible studies such as VBS/family Bible school, gospel meetings, and lectureships?

Consequences: What Happens?

When the Bible is neglected, ignorance reigns. Hosea 4:6 is appropriate in our day: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Second Thessalonians 1:7–9 teaches that the ignorant will be victims of God's eternal vengeance when Jesus comes. Where ignorance reigns, error runs rampant (cf. Matthew 22:23–32).

Ignorance leads to weak faith and worldliness in churches. Members become the plaything of every wind of false doctrine that blows. Judges 2:6–15 reveals the steps of spiritual illiteracy: first, spiritual illiteracy; second, abandonment of God; third, degeneration into idolatry; and fourth, punishment from God.

Correction: What Can I Do?

What can we do to correct neglect? Let us hunger for God (Psalm 42:1) and a knowledge of God (Matthew 5:6). Let us become daily, serious Bible students (Psalm 1:1–2; 2 Timothy 2:15). Let us attend every service, class, meeting, and lecture at our congregations (Hebrews 10:25). Let us build good, usable religious libraries at home. Let us subscribe to good religious periodicals and podcasts.

Let us "wear" our Bibles out. Charles Spurgeon once held a worm-eaten Bible which could be looked through from one side to the other when held up to the light. He said, "Help me to be a bookworm like that." Let us never forget that if we keep our Bibles open, we will not find the door to heaven shut. —Wendell Winkler

"Blessed is he who reads."

REVELATION 1:3

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

Recommended Resource



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: _____

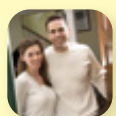
I would like:



☐ A Bible Correspondence Course



☐ A DVD Bible Study



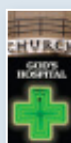
☐ An In-Home Bible Study

New Tracts!

- ☐ Don't Run God's Stop Signs
- ☐ The Green Sickness
- ☐ The Five A's of Scriptural Worship
- ☐ What Relevance Do the 10 Commandments Have Today



More subjects:



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☐ Lonely?



☐ Married for Life



☐ Old Age: Taking Care or Taking Advantage?



☐ Pornography's Pain

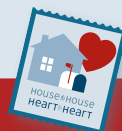


☐ Salvation Is Free, But It's Not Cheap



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VOLUME 31:3



The Covenants of the Old Testament

A reminder of God's faithful promises through the ages.



THE NOAHIC COVENANT

Promise of Preservation: *"I establish My covenant with you: never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood."* —GENESIS 9:11

Sign: The rainbow — God's mercy extended to all creation.



THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Promise of Blessing and Seed: *"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* —GENESIS 12:2-3; cf. 15:18; 17:4-8

Sign: Circumcision — symbol of faith and separation unto God in Old Testament times.



THE MOSAIC COVENANT

Promise of Law and Relationship: *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people."* —EXODUS 19:5-6; cf. 24:7-8

Sign: The Sabbath — a continual reminder of holiness and rest in God until Jesus' law superseded it.



THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

Promise of a King and Kingdom: *"Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."* —2 SAMUEL 7:16

Sign: The royal line — a promise pointing directly to Christ, the Son of David.



THE NEW COVENANT

Promise of Redemption and Spirit: *"This is the covenant that I will make. ... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* —JEREMIAH 31:31-33

Fulfilled in Christ: *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."* —LUKE 22:20; cf. HEBREWS 8:6-13



OUR COVENANT TODAY

Through Jesus Christ, the Mediator of a better covenant, believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14) and invited into everlasting fellowship with God. The Law is written on our hearts, not on stone; grace reigns where once law condemned.

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." —JOHN 1:17

The Word Became Flesh

John's claim, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14), stands at the heart of Christian wonder. The eternal Son entered our world—not as a spirit alone, but in true humanity—so that God might be known, touched, and understood. The incarnation, Jesus as a man, shows God's humility and love: The Maker of heaven and earth chose to live in a fragile human body and experience life as a human (Luke 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:5).

That reality changes everything. Jesus' life displays God's character in tangible ways—compassion, teaching, holiness, and sacrificial love. Because He experienced hunger, sorrow, rejection, and temptation, He truly sympathizes with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). Yet He remained without sin, modeling perfect obedience.

The Word made flesh also secures our access to God. In Christ, divine revelation, the Word, becomes personal. We read the Gospels not about a far-away deity but about God with skin on—who touched the leper, forgave the criminal, and raised the dead. The incarnation assures us that salvation is not a distant idea but a lived reality in Jesus. In the humanity of Jesus, God speaks, acts, and saves. —Matt Wallin

SEEING GOD

A BIG PICTURE Study of the Bible

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Free Online Study

[housetohouse.com/study](https://www.housetohouse.com/study)



Join us each week as we walk through the Old Testament, tracing concepts like "church," "gospel," and "Jesus" long before the manger or the cross. By the end of the study, you will be able to open your Bible and know the story that ties it all together.



The Bible Is the Answer to All of Your Problems

Life comes with more questions than answers. How do I fix my marriage? What should I do about my job? How can I stop worrying? Where do I turn when I have failed? The world offers advice, but it changes with every trend. The Bible offers truth that never changes.

God's Word does not claim to answer every curiosity—but it speaks to every need of the heart. "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). Whether you are struggling with guilt, fear, grief, or direction, the Scriptures shine light into the darkness. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The Bible does more than just supply information—it offers transformation. It tells us who God is, who we are, and how He can make us new. It does not just tell us to "try harder"; it tells us to "trust deeper." Through its pages, we meet Jesus—the One who can calm storms, heal hearts, and forgive sins.

When you turn to the Bible, you find comfort for life's hurts, correction for when we wander, and strength for weakness. Problems find their truest solution in the One the Bible reveals—Christ Himself.

If you are searching for answers, open the Bible and see what God says. If you would like help as you learn, we would love to study with you and help you discover the peace and direction only His Word can give. —Matt Wallin

"Your word is truth."

JOHN 17:17

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