



HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

www.housetohouse.com

House to House Heart to Heart



WHY ARE WE KNOCKING *on Your Door?*

Allen
Webster

A knock at the door.

“Would you get that?” a husband says.

“Sure.”

“Who was it?”

“Some young people from the church up the street. You know, the one that sends us that paper each month.”

“Oh, I like reading that. What did they want?”

“They are out inviting people to come visit. They have some good programs. Nice people.”

Something similar could happen at your address. Why are we out knocking doors?

We want to . . .

MEET OUR NEIGHBORS

We are the church up the street—likely the closest one to the houses we are visiting. Perhaps both the church and the

families have been here for years without meeting each other. Jesus taught His followers to love their neighbors as themselves (Matthew 19:19), but it is hard to love someone you have never met. So we are taking the initiative to put a face to our “Everyone Welcome” sign (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

OFFER OUR SERVICES

The church is a free service organization (Galatians 6:10; James 1:27). While we are willing to help people from other places, it makes the most sense to help those nearby (Proverbs 27:10). People within the shadow of our building often do not know what our congregation offers and how serious we are in offering it. We provide such things as food for the hungry (Matthew 25:35), clothes for the needy (25:36), marriage/family counseling (Proverbs 15:22; 19:20), financial education/assistance (1 John 3:17), Bi-



ble materials (John 6:44), Bible courses (1 Timothy 4:11), Bible studies (Acts 5:42), rides to worship services (John 1:39), rides to the doctor (Luke 10:33–35), visits to the lonely (Psalm 68:5–6), friends to those needing a friend (Proverbs 18:24), a non-denominational children’s religious Bible school (Proverbs 22:6), in-depth adult Bible classes (2 Peter 3:18), and much more. Even better, we offer an opportunity to worship just like Christians did in Bible times (Acts 2:42; 20:7; Ephesians 5:19), with sermons straight from Scripture (2 Timothy 4:2) and information about how to go to heaven (one must prepare) (Matthew 7:21). And all services are free! (Revelation 22:17).

INVITE THOSE LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME—OR JUST FRIENDS—TO JOIN US

People who move into a community are often looking for a new congregation. Some have not moved, but are dissatisfied with a religious group that has changed over the years and seems to follow culture more than the Bible (Galatians 1:6–10; Hebrews 8:13). Others are not looking for a church so much as social interaction. Many lonely people live behind

closed doors—some in our community, no doubt. They live alone or with persons with whom they feel no connection. Jesus promised the church would provide “houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life” (Mark 10:30).

SHARE HOPE AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

Many live without much purpose or hope. They go to work, get groceries, watch TV, check Facebook, shower, sleep, and repeat. They think, “There has to be more to life than this.” There is. We have found something (Someone) great. Like a former beggar pointing hungry people to food, we enjoy sharing what made our lives better. We like talking about Jesus. At the same time, we know not everybody does, so we will not try to force you to listen. We know the door is not the place for a long visit. (Nothing is more annoying than a pushy salesman or more frustrating than someone dragging out a conversation we did not plan on having.) A door knock is just an opportunity to say hello, invite, and leave information for later. If we are told no, then we say thanks and move on.

We are happy to answer Bible questions. We do not think we have all the answers, but we are happy to share what we know and look up Bible answers to questions we do not know. Answers are given for consideration and information. Consider all teaching to make sure it is in harmony with Scripture (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1; Philippians 2:12). We are not interested in arguing and do not believe

in coercion or manipulation. We do not tell others what to think. We understand all are capable of thinking for themselves and free to decide what to believe (Joshua 24:15; Matthew 11:28).

We get it. People are busy. Some are uneasy about opening the door to a stranger. Some avoid contact to avoid germs. Some aggressive and annoying religious workers have left a bad taste in people’s mouths. We know a culture war is going on, but we are not out to push politics, party, or cultural viewpoints. We are peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) who believe in liberty and justice for all (Micah 6:8; John 8:32). We will not take much time. We understand that we are infringing on others’ time and that interruptions can come at bad times. We have a lot of neighbors to meet, too!

On the other hand, some wonderful relationships have begun with a simple knock on a door. Many people find it refreshing to know that there are people in the neighborhood who care—who offer help without wanting anything in return. Meeting friendly people with smiling faces reminds them that the future has a bright side. Some are encouraged to be reminded that people still believe in Jesus and want to do what He says. Like the common people in Jesus’ day, they hear of Him gladly (Mark 12:37; cf. Matthew 11:25). It is amazing how many nice people still live in our world.

So when we knock on your door, we hope you will open it! Perhaps our visit to you will open an opportunity to get to know you better, assist you in some way, or just give you more information about us. See you soon!





What Must I Do to Be *Saved*?

We can ask no more important question than, “What must I do to be saved?” Since each will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ, each is responsible for obeying the Lord.

Salvation has two parts: God’s part and man’s part. God, because of His love for mankind, has done His part in sending Christ to die for the sins of men. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Paul calls this grace the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). We cannot save ourselves and must rely on God through faith. “Through faith” means that man must also do his part, because no one benefits from a gift until he receives it.

To find what man’s part in the plan of salvation involves, one must go to the right place. The book of Acts explains God’s plan of salvation through nine specific accounts of conversion: The conversion of the Jews during Pentecost, chapter 2; the Samaritans, chapter 8; the Ethiopian eunuch, chapter 8; Saul of Tarsus, chapters 9 and 22; Cornelius, chapter 10; Lydia, chapter 16; the Philippian jailer, chapter 16; the Corinthians, chapter 18; the Ephesians, chapter 19. In each example, certain common actions, or steps of obedience, were taken by those who became Christians.

Upon hearing the gospel message, each believed in Jesus as the Son of God. Though the text does not explicitly mention belief each time, it is implied. The

Jews at Pentecost, having heard the message, “were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). Their question “What shall we do?” showed that they believed, but they realized that they needed to do more than have simple belief to obtain salvation. James wrote, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (James 2:24).

Following their confession of faith in Christ, Peter told the Jews, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Thus we understand that repentance must accompany faith in Christ.

One must also confess faith in Christ, as the Ethiopian did (Acts 8:37), because Christ will not confess us unless we are willing to confess Him. “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32–33).

Baptism is the only step toward salvation explicitly mentioned in every conversion. Each account shows that baptism is necessary for obedience to Christ. Hearing the gospel message, believing in Christ, repenting of past sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized into Christ makes one a Christian and brings salvation. Then one must serve the Lord faithfully (Revelation 2:10). —Bob Prichard

FACTS about the New Testament Church

Founder: Christ (Matthew 16:18)

Place: Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1–3; Acts 2:5)

Time: AD 33 (Daniel 2:44; Acts 2)

Head: Christ (Ephesians 1:22)

Organization:

Christ as head (Ephesians 5:23)

Elders oversee local church (Hebrews 13:17; Titus 1:5)

Deacons as servants (Acts 6:1–6; 1 Timothy 3:8–13)

Members compose body (Colossians 1:2)

Name (group) (Ephesians 3:15):

Church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23)

Churches of Christ (Romans 16:16)

Bride of Christ (Romans 7:4)

Name (individuals):

Disciples (John 15:8)

Saints (Romans 1:7)

Brethren (Luke 8:21)

Children of God (Galatians 3:26)

Christian (Acts 11:25–26)

Creed:

Jesus/Bible (Acts 8:37)

Rule of Faith and Practice: Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Worship (John 4:24):

Sing (Ephesians 5:19)

Pray (Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Teach (Acts 5:42)

Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

Contribute (1 Corinthians 16:1–2)

Mission: Save Souls (1 Timothy 4:16)

Warning: Be Faithful (2 John 1:9)

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: Romans 1:16

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



How to Settle It

When people disagree about how many ounces or pounds something weighs, they can settle the matter by using a scale, the standard of authority.

When people disagree about the length of a piece of lumber, they can resolve the disagreement by using a measuring tape, the standard of authority.

When people disagree about what is right and wrong in religious matters, they should settle the matter by using the Bible, the standard of authority.

—David Sain

*“Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your word is truth.”*

JOHN 17:17

The Safest Place

Automobiles account for 20 percent of all fatal accidents, while 17 percent of fatalities occur at home. Fourteen percent happen to pedestrians on streets and sidewalks. Travel by air, rail, or water causes 16 percent of deaths. Yet of all reported deaths, only .001 percent occur in worship services. See you Sunday!

It is a terrible thing to be grateful and have no one to thank, to be awed and have no one to worship.

—Yancey, *OpenWindows*, Vol. 5, no. 4.

For what it is worth, remember: Amateurs built the ark; professionals built the *Titanic*.

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.

First-Century Christianity

Is it possible for people living today simply to be New Testament Christians? Can we be first-century Christians in the twenty-first century? So much is said today about “change”—and much change is evident. Computers, communications, and candidates are constantly changing. Must the gospel be changed to fit a changing world, or is the message of Christ’s sacrifice still enough for today? (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).

Man has not changed. In what is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible (Job), Job’s friend said that man “drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:16). That could be a description of some people today. People struggle with the same greed, lust, and bitterness as those of previous generations. Human nature today is as it was yesterday. Man has always been given the choice of good or evil (Deuteronomy 11:26) and has always—to some degree—chosen evil (Romans 3:23).

Man’s problem has not changed. In Noah’s days people were wicked: “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Everyone has a common problem—*sin*. Man is sin-

ful, ungodly. “There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin” (Ecclesiastes 7:20). There is not even one among accountable people who has not sinned (Romans 3:10, 23).

Man’s hope has not changed. Jesus is our only hope. Paul spoke of Christ as “the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Jesus “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). Without this death, man would be without hope. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Man’s hope is in the fact that Jesus suffered sin’s penalty in man’s place.

Man is the same; sin is the same; man’s hope is the same. First-century Christianity is possible today. Through a return to New Testament teaching and in loving obedience to the gospel, we can be Christians only (Acts 2:36–47; Romans 6:1–6). God requires learning of Christ (Romans 10:17), belief in Christ (John 3:16), repentance of sin (Acts 2:38), confession of faith (Romans 10:9–10), and baptism (Mark 16:16). Have you obeyed the gospel? If not, now is the time!

—adapted from Charles Box



“What Kind of People Go to Your Church?”

Some ask this as they consider attending our worship services. It is natural to enjoy being around people with like interests.

Some organizations are designed to include people with similar backgrounds, abilities, education levels, or wealth. God’s church is not designed with these things in mind. Jesus came to break down the barriers that divide people in society and to bring us together in Him. Paul said, “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27–28). We also find, “He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation” (Ephesians 2:14).

When you visit, you will meet some people like you—and some who are not just like you. On any given Sunday, you may find people of many ethnicities and those of other backgrounds.

You will find some who are financially prosperous and some who do not have much money. You will find some who did not finish high school and some with advanced degrees. You will find old people and young people. You will find people with white collar jobs and blue collar jobs.

You may find people who are originally from all parts of the nation. Some have outgoing personalities, and some are quiet. We have many varying likes and dislikes and different strengths and weaknesses. We realize that we still have a long way to go in learning to love all. We are imperfect, but we know that God wants us to grow in love.

What is it that holds such a diverse group together? It is a common faith in Jesus Christ and a common respect for the authority of His Word. God created us different from each other, but we all want to be like Jesus. We realize that we are saved by the blood He shed on the cross, and we have a common destiny of eternal life with Christ in heaven.

We sing a song that describes unity in these words:

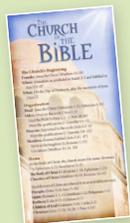
A common love for each other,
A common gift to the Savior.
A common bond holding us to the Lord,
A common strength when we’re weary.
A common hope for tomorrow,
A common joy in the truth of God’s Word.¹ —Brent Missildine

Endnote

¹ www.rjstevensmusic.com/product/a-common-love/.



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



Bible Quiz

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____

Recommended Resources



Where is the Creator in times of crisis? How does pain and suffering in our world reflect on God’s goodness? In this online video program, these topics are considered in light of what the Bible says. video.wvbs.org/crisis.



Why should we believe the Bible? Who is God? How do I become a Christian? Get answers to life’s biggest questions. Listen to a new podcast about faith that is engaging, challenging, and fun to listen to. New episodes every Wednesday. More details at Housetohouse.com/AC.



International Gospel Hour radio has been on the air over 85 years! Sponsored by the churches of Christ and faithful Christians, IGH broadcasts over 100 AM/FM stations, internet radio, and is also available through several podcast apps. They never ask for money and all study offers are free. Check out their website at internationalgospelhour.com.

Concerning New Testament Christianity

Directions: Find answers in Matthew 1:18; 2:11; 3:13–16; 16:18; 22:36–40; Luke 2:16, 20; 22:19–20; John 14:13–15; 16:13; Acts 2:37–38; 4:12; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 1:18; 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 1 Timothy 2:3–4; 4:1; Revelation 22:18–19.

1. How was Jesus conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary? _____
2. Did the shepherds and the wise men all show up the night Jesus was born? _____
3. Who baptized Christ? _____
4. According to Christ, what are the two greatest commandments? _____
5. Does love for Christ demand that we obey Him? _____
6. What did Christ promise to build? _____
7. Was there another way God could have saved man without Christ dying? _____
8. What did Christ promise the apostles to assure them that they would be able to carry out His mission? _____
9. When the church was established, what were inquiring sinners told to do to have remission of sins? _____
10. Who is the true and only head of the church? _____
11. Does Christ want followers divided into denominations? _____
12. Did Christ and the apostles warn about people departing from the truth? _____
13. Christians are to do all “in the name of _____,” meaning by His authority.
14. What is the purpose of the Lord’s supper? _____
15. What does the bread represent? _____
16. What does the juice represent? _____
17. Should Christians be governed solely by the teaching of the New Testament, or is it permissible to add to it? _____
18. Does God desire that all people be saved in heaven? _____
19. When Jesus returns it will be as a _____ in the night. —Hugh Fulford (adapted)

Things About the Church of Christ That SURPRISE PEOPLE

A person can be baptized at any time, and it does not have to be performed by a preacher.

Many people believe that a preacher must baptize (immerse) them, or it does not “count.” This doctrine comes out of medieval church tradition; the Bible places no such restriction on baptism. If a man can teach another what to do to be saved, then he can also baptize him. The great commission applies to all equally (Matthew 28:19–20). Many people, following a Bible study with Christian friends, are surprised to find out that they do not have to wait to be baptized. They figure that there will be a special baptismal service at the end of the month or six months. In the New Testament, in every case when people wanted to be baptized, there was no waiting (Acts 2:41; 8:36–38; 10:47–48; 16:14–15, 33–34).

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

Recommended Resource



Visit House to House’s website for more articles, audio sermons, and videos.
www.housetohouse.com

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?



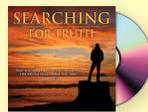
In-Home Bible Study



Online Bible Study (go to biblestudy.housetohouse.com)



Bible Correspondence Course



DVD Bible Study

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____



Free Brochures

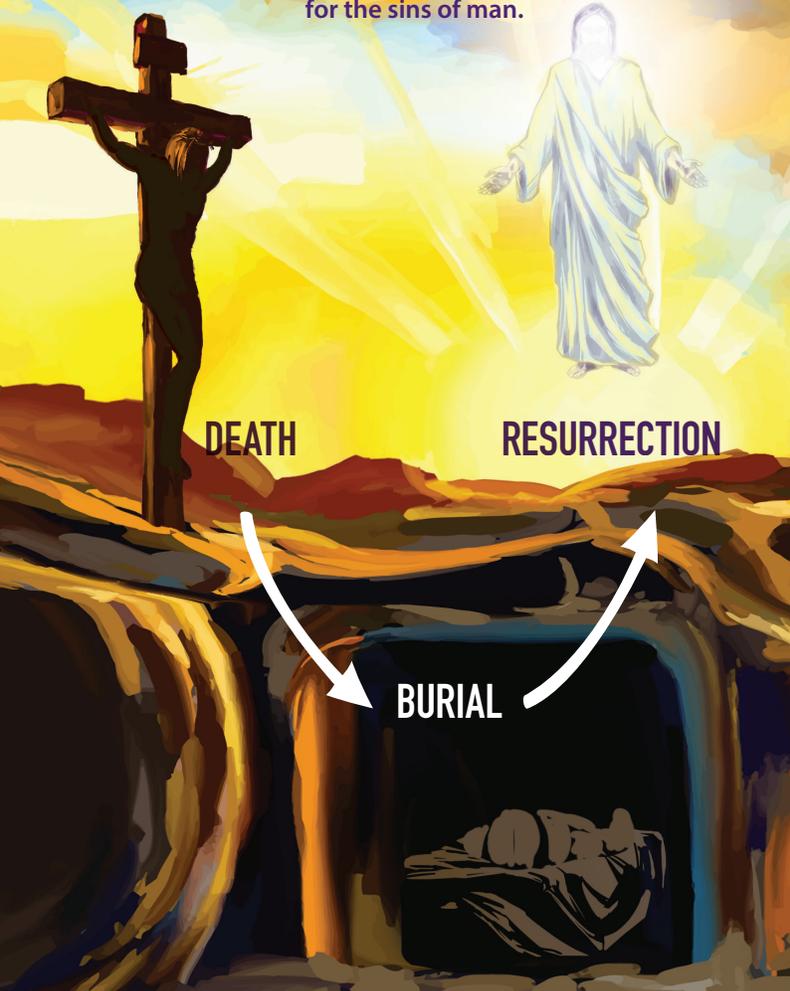
- Does it Make Any Difference Which Church I Attend?
- A Brief Introduction to the Bible
- What to Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ
- Can God Really Forgive Me?
- Is the Church Jesus Built on Earth Today?
- Is One as Good as Another?
- Why Do Bad Things Happen?
- What Does the Church Have to Offer Me?



THE GOSPEL ENACTED

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4

Jesus the Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for the sins of man.



THE GOSPEL REENACTED

IN BAPTISM (OBEYING THE GOSPEL)

ROMANS 6:3–5

In baptism, we are buried in water for the remission of sins, and then raised to walk in a new life.



Why Become a Member of the Church of Christ?

Why should a person become a member of the church of Christ? May I offer some reasons for your consideration? Please read the Scriptures found with each one.

- It was founded by the scriptural builder—Christ (Matthew 16:18).
- It was founded on the scriptural foundation—the teachings of Christ (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11).
- It was founded at the scriptural place—Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2–3; Luke 24:46–49; Acts 2).
- It was founded at the scriptural time—the first Pentecost following the resurrection (Acts 2, “church” is described as an established organization for the first time).
- It has a scriptural name (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16).
- It has scriptural organization (Philippians 1:1).
- It has the Bible as its only creed (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3).
- It is undenominational (John 17:20–21).
- It administers scriptural baptism (immersion) (Matthew 28:18–19; Acts 8:36, 38; John 3:23; Romans 6:4).
- It gives scriptural answers to the question, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16).
- Its observation of the Lord’s supper is scriptural (1 Corinthians 11:23–25; Acts 20:7; 2:42).
- It has scriptural music in worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- Salvation is in Christ’s church (Acts 20:28; 2:47; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

Friend, why not obey the simple gospel of Christ today? Sin condemns one’s soul eternally—but God has given His Son, making it possible for sin to be removed.

We can be members of the same church today that Christ said He would build (Matthew 16:18)—the one that is found within the pages of the Bible. By doing what they did, we can become what they became—just Christians.



House to House Heart to Heart

We are now taking appointments for free personal Bible classes!

Churches of Christ offer both free group classes for all ages on Sundays and Wednesdays, and personal studies by appointment.



These can be at the student's house or at the church building. There are a variety of study methods and topics to fit ages and interests.

If interested, fill out the form at www.housetohouse.com/freestudies or fill out and send in the form below.

Step 1: Check the method you prefer:

- Video
- Open Bible
- Interactive
- Correspondence (conducted by mail, completion certificate provided)
- Coffee shop (at a local coffee shop or restaurant)

Step 2: Check the topic you prefer:

- Children's Video Study
- General Introduction to the Bible
- Visualized Bible Study (a DVD presentation of the story of the Bible)
- God's Plan of Salvation
- Finding the Church of the Bible
- Let Us Reason Together (for those with doubts about God/the Bible)
- Principles for Marriage and Family
- Searching for Truth (15 lessons)
- A Tailored Study (providing answers to your questions)

Step 3: Choose your appointment. What works best for you?

- Weekend
- Weekday
- Weeknight
- Contact me and I'll look at my calendar

Step 4: Send this in or call the number on the front.

Thank you for your interest
in learning the Bible!



Please recycle House to House by giving this copy to your family or friends.

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The End of Your Search for a

Friendly Church!



Thinking of attending church? Looking for a new church home? We've put out the welcome mat. Give us an opportunity to win a second visit!

WELCOME