

House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 6

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MINISTER

Michael Tanksley

SUNDAY

Worship 9:00 a.m. CST
Bible Class 10:00 a.m. CST
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. CST

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class 6:30 p.m. CST

Visit Us Any Time!

SERVICES OFFERED

- Active Youth Group
- Home Bible Studies
- Bible Studies by Mail
- Food Pantry
- Clothing Assistance
- Tune In Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (CST) on WAIN 93.5 FM

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

You Should've Seen What Happened

SUNDAY!

Allen Webster

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

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

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

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

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

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

A BABY CRIED

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

What if no baby had cried Sunday? It would have meant there were no babies there, for all babies cry. No church wants to be that quiet—a tomb is qui-



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

A SISTER LEFT EARLY FOR WORK

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

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

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

PAGES RUSTLED

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



A SISTER NODDED

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

A CHILD DREW A PICTURE

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

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

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

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

A CHRISTIAN WORSHIPED FOR THE FIRST TIME

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

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

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

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

TEARS FLOWED

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

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

Watch this lesson
on youtube:



The Rich King's Four Wives

Once upon a time there was a rich king who had four wives. He loved the fourth wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the third wife and always showed her to visiting kings. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another man.

He loved his second wife. She was his confidante and was kind, considerate, and patient with him. When he faced a problem, she would help him get through the difficulty.

The king's first wife was a loyal partner and helped him maintain his wealth and power. However, he did not love her. She loved him deeply, but he hardly took notice of her.

One day, the king fell ill and knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die, I will be all alone."

He asked the fourth wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with the finest things. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No!" she replied, and walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife into his heart.

The sad king asked the third wife, "I have loved you all my life. Now that I am dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No! Life is too good. When you die, I will remarry."

His heart turned cold. He asked the second wife, "I have always turned to you for help, and you have always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, but I cannot help this time!" she replied. "I can only walk with you to your grave." Her answer struck him like a bolt of lightning. He was devastated.

Then a voice called: "I will go with you. I will follow you wherever you go."

The king looked up and saw his first wife. She suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Grieved, he said, "I should have taken better care of you."

We all have these four wives:

- The fourth wife is the body. No matter how much effort we use to make it look good, we will leave it when we die.
- The third wife is possessions, status, and wealth. When we die, these will go to others.
- The second wife is family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, they cannot go with us.
- The first wife is the soul. We often neglect it in pursuit of wealth, power, and pleasures. However, our soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. We should cultivate, strengthen, and cherish it now, for it will follow us to God's throne and continue with us throughout eternity.

—Adapted from eSermons.com



Born Again

An irate subscriber stormed into a news office waving the current edition, asking to see whoever wrote the obituary column. When referred to a young reporter, he yelled, "You can see I am very much alive, and you have put me in the obituary column. I demand a retraction!" The reporter calmly replied, "I never retract a story, but I tell you what I will do. I will put you in the birth column and give you a fresh start."

"A merry heart does good."

PROVERBS 17:22



Presidential Wisdom

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

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

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



“Be Before Them . . .”

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

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

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

HEBREWS 10:24



Another Reason to Kiss Your Spouse

Kissing releases endorphins, those feel-good chemicals, in your brain. The saliva washes away bacteria that causes cavities. It was reported that one French kiss tones all 34 facial muscles to keep you looking young. Plus, you burn two calories per minute!

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—For your love is better than wine.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 1:2



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AND MORE GO TO
HOUSETOHOUSE.COM

The Way to Heaven

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

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

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

There are many false ways:

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

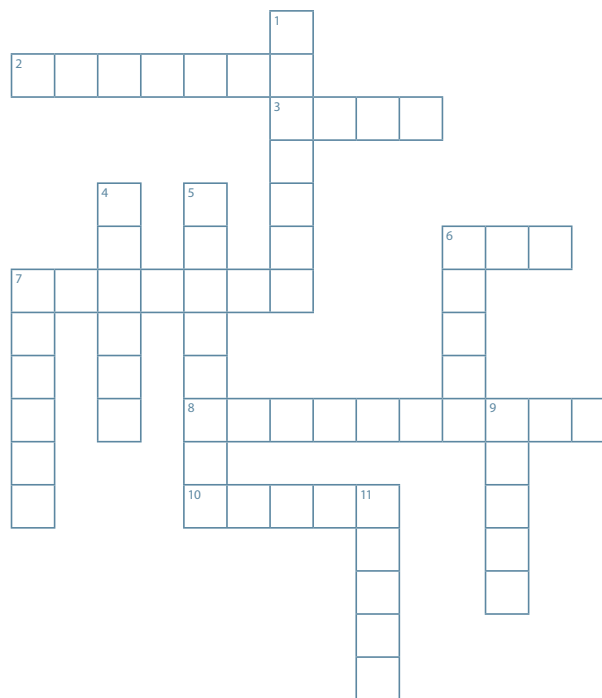
- *Calvinism is the wrong way:* “Brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Peter 1:10).
- *Denominationalism is the wrong way:* “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4–6).

There is only one way to heaven.

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

—Randy Kea

Just for Fun Crossword



“That which we have **seen** and **heard** we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the **Father** and with His Son **Jesus Christ**. And these things we write to you that your **joy** may be full.

“This is the **message** which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the **light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the **truth** is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is **faithful** and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:3–9).

DOWN: 1. MESSAGE; 4. CHRIST; 5. FAITHFUL; 6. JESUS; 7. FATHER; 9. HEARD; 11. TRUTH
ACROSS: 2. CLEANSE; 3. SEEN; 6. JOY; 7. FORGIVE; 8. FELLOWSHIP; 10. LIGHT

Is the Church of Christ a Denomination?

A frequent follow-up question to “Are you a Christian?” is “What denomination are you?”

“Denomination” is not found in the Bible, and the idea is based on sectarianism (division). “Denomination” is not simply an incidental name; it is a choice of division from other believers who do not share the same doctrines. Religious denominations are divisions among people who may all claim to follow the same Lord and same Bible, but cannot agree because of their denomination or denominational teachings.

Jesus prayed for His apostles before His arrest, saying, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20–21).

Jesus wanted unity among His apostles and all who would believe the apostles’

teaching (preaching and writings). This unity is not possible as long as the denominational system exists.

The denominational system has developed various creeds, manuals, handbooks, hierarchies, and systems of organization, which have grown more complex over time. Years ago, many people understood that the denominational system violated God’s will and sought to leave it so that they could restore the undenominational church of Christ of the New Testament.

By being just Christians, without being associated with any denomination, they believed they could better serve God. That is why the churches of Christ are undenominational. We have no creed but the Bible, no hierarchy over the local congregation, and no authority for faith and practice other than the Bible. We are not “Church of Christ Christians,” but simply Christians.

Seeds of denominationalism were in the church at Corinth. Paul wrote, “It has

been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ’” (1 Corinthians 1:11–12). Some were not satisfied to be Christians only, but wanted to be “Paulite Christians,” “Apollosite Christians,” or “Cephasite Christians.”

Paul asked, “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1:13). They had divided the church into factions. Paul emphasized the seriousness of the situation by saying he was glad he had only baptized a few at Corinth, because he did not want any to claim to follow him instead of Christ (1:14–16). Of what denomination were Peter and Paul? None! They were just Christians.

The church we read of in the New Testament cannot be a denomination.

—Bob Prichard

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



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 27:6

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 27:4 Starts with the Letter “O”: 1. Obadiah (Obadiah 1:1); 2. Og (Deuteronomy 3:1, 8); 3. Olive (1 Kings 6:33); 4. Omega (Revelation 1:8, 11); 5. Omri (1 Kings 16:22–24); 6. Onesimus (Philemon 1:10–17); 7. Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16); 8. Onions (Numbers 11:5); 9. Ono (Nehemiah 6:2); 10. Onyx (Exodus 28:9–12); 11. Orpah (Ruth 1:14–15); 12. Othniel (Judges 3:9–11); 13. Offering (Ephesians 5:2); 14. Oil (Hebrews 1:9); 15. Ointment (Ecclesiastes 7:1); 16. Overcome (Romans 12:21); 17. Only (John 3:16); 18. Obey (Hebrews 5:9); 19. Observe (Matthew 28:20); 20. One omer (Exodus 16:16); 21. Olivet (Acts 1:9–12); 22. Old (Proverbs 23:22).

V. 27:5 Starts with the Letter W: 1. Walls (Joshua 6:5); 2. Wisdom (1 Kings 3:9, 28); 3. Web (Job 8:14); 4. White (Isaiah 1:18); 5. Wine (Numbers 6:3); 6. Wept (John 11:35); 7. Worship (John 4:24); 8. Washed his hands (Matthew 27:24); 9. Weary (Galatians 6:9); 10. Whip (John 2:15); 11. Wash (Acts 22:16); 12. Works (James 2:26); 13. World (1 John 2:15); 14. Words (Matthew 12:37); 15. Worthy (Revelation 4:11); 16. Worms (Exodus 16:20); 17. Wise (2 Timothy 3:15); 18. Wages (Romans 6:23).

Answers to Previous Quizzes at housetohouse.com/answers

Starts With the Letter “L”

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 4:19; 13:12; 28:10–12; 29:16–17; Numbers 11:5; Judges 15:14–15; 2 Kings 5:1–7; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 31:1; Lamentations 1:1–10; Matthew 3:4; 5:28; Mark 5:9; Luke 3:16; 16:19–25; 23:38; John 1:29; 8:44; Acts 16:1–2, 14–15; 23:10 & 24:7; Galatians 5:19–21; Colossians 4:14; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:5; Revelation 3:14–22; 19:20. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- Jacob saw this ascending. _____
- First man with two wives. _____
- Lukewarm Christians. _____
- A “work of the flesh” (meaning exciting lust). _____
- One language used on sign on Jesus’ cross. _____
- Beggar in a parable of Jesus. _____
- Laban’s oldest daughter; married Jacob. _____
- Food of John the Baptist. _____
- A food Israel missed from Egypt. _____
- Name of Gaderene demon Jesus cast out. _____
- Where Samson killed men with a jawbone. _____
- King instructed by his mother to write Proverbs. _____
- Disease Naaman the Syrian had. _____
- The devil is the father of _____.
- Timothy’s grandmother. _____
- Timothy’s home. _____
- Pitched his tent toward Sodom. _____
- The beloved physician. _____
- Woman of Thyatira; first European convert. _____
- Roman captain who rescued Paul. _____
- Hell is described as a _____ of fire.
- John called Jesus the _____ of God.
- Jeremiah wrote this book after Jerusalem fell. _____
- God’s Word is a _____ unto our feet.
- Men should not look on women to _____ after them.
- John felt unworthy to _____ Jesus’ shoe.
- “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal _____.”

DISCOVERIES OF A LIFETIME

Some have discovered cures for dreaded diseases. Some are credited with discovering countries. Some have changed the world through scientific discoveries. Think of the discoveries relating to transportation and communication. Discoveries in the space program have taken us to new heights. No doubt there will be other discoveries if time continues (James 4:15).

You may have made some interesting discoveries, too. You might have found some arrowheads while digging or while walking in a field. You may have found old coins, discovered valuable antiques, or come across an old book, long out of print. These may enrich our lives, but

none are discoveries of a lifetime. Consider true discoveries of a lifetime that anyone can find.

Finding the Lord: Joseph and Mary found Jesus (Luke 2:45–46). Philip told Nathanael that he had “found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth” (John 1:45). We sing about finding “a friend in Jesus” and “finding my Lord and He is mine.” Jesus is above all (John 3:31). He is the friend of sinners. Never did a man speak or live like Him (John 7:46; Hebrews 4:15). The Lord can be found; He is not far from any of us (Acts 17:27). Jesus is the discovery of a lifetime!

Finding the Law of God: During Josiah’s reign, the book of the law was discovered (2 Kings 22). Of all places, it was found in the house of the Lord! Friend, have you found the law of God? It is a map from earth to heaven. It is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). Your life would be greatly blessed by seeking out the law of the Lord.

Finding the Church of the Lord: Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to finding a treasure or a pearl that one would sell all he had to obtain (Matthew 13:44–46). The church was designed by God (Daniel 2:44; Ephesians 3:10), built by Christ (Matthew 16:18), bought by Jesus’ blood (Acts 20:28), and will be saved by the Lord (Ephesians 5:23). It is the group for which the Lord will return and present to the Father at the end (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Finding Heaven: Wise people in ancient times looked for a city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10). How sad not to find heaven at the end of the way!

Friend, these things are life’s greatest discoveries. You can anchor your life and hope in these precious things. They will not pass away. —Vance Hutton

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Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

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: _____
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 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Prayer requests or comments: _____

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Why People Do Not Understand the Bible

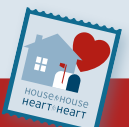


Until Make It Better



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

VOLUME 27:6



A HOUSE is not a *Home*

A house is not a home; it is many things.

It is a kitchen stove on which a kettle sings.

It is a table set with care and loving thought

Where conversations dear and
fellowships are wrought.

It is a well-worn chair beneath shaded light,

Or perhaps a cherished book by a log fire at night.

It is a quiet place for prayer or for rest,

Or just to be alone when aloneness is best.

A home is not a house, but it is several things

Within high walls of love where
contentment clings. —Anonymous

The Importance of Fathers

In a recent issue of *In Character*, James Q. Wilson talks about yet another reason having a father in the home is so critical for the future of our society:

“After holding income constant, boys in father-absent families were twice as likely as those in two-parent ones to go to jail, and girls in father-absent families were twice as likely as those in married families to have an out-of-wedlock birth.

“What all of this means for the rest of society is evident on the evening news programs. Boys without married fathers populate street gangs, and these gangs are responsible for an inordinately high level of violence. We rely on the police to control gangs, but the important, and often absent, control is that exercised by fathers.

“A boy growing up without a father has no personal conception of what it means to acquire skills, find a job, support a family, and be loyal to one’s wife and children.

“Research on the link between unemployment rates and crime has shown that the connection is very weak. The connection between crime and father absence is much higher. Boys in single-parent families are also more likely to be idle rather than in school or unemployed and to drop out of high school.

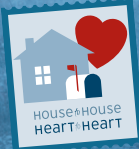
“These differences are as great for white families as for black and Hispanic ones and as large for advantaged children as for disadvantaged ones.”

—Adapted from eSermons.com

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

MALACHI 4:5-6





When to Preach

Paul wrote, "Be ready in season and out of season."

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

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

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

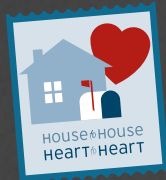
—Anonymous



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