

HOUSE to HOUSE  
HEART to HEART

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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 6

## “The churches of Christ *greet you*”

Romans 16:16 *Allen Webster*



Watch on  
Youtube

Most people are a little apprehensive about visiting a new church. We hope a few words will help set your mind at ease about visiting our congregation.

The church of Christ is a growing, friendly church. We are a diverse congregation that reflects the fact that God’s church is for all people. The crowd often ranges in age from newborn babies (a nursery is usually available) to those who have seen most of a century pass. Professionally, there are those from all walks of life—from blue-collar to white-collar to students to retirees. We have business owners, plant managers, educators, office workers, plumbers, retail employees, welders, and everything in between. Educationally, we have those with PhDs as well as those who have not

spent much time in school. Most fall into the category of high school graduates to people with bachelor’s degrees. Churches of Christ are diverse—people of all races and nationalities worship and work together as God’s children (Acts 10:34–35).

Every effort is made to allow guests to feel comfortable. You will not be asked to make a “love offering;” in fact, no collections will be taken at all, except during the Sunday morning service when our members make their weekly contribution as an act of worship. Visitors are not expected to participate.

Our services generally open with a brief welcome from one of the members. The song leader then leads the congregation in two or three songs. A prayer is offered, followed by another song, and then





the preacher delivers a sermon from the Bible. All are encouraged to bring their Bibles and follow along as he leads the study (2 Timothy 2:15). You are encouraged to take notes and ask questions.

At the sermon's end, the Lord's invitation is offered (Matthew 11:28–30) for any who want to become Christians or rededicate their lives to God. There is no coercion. During the Sunday morning service, communion is observed by partaking of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (1 Corinthians 11:23–29). Members make a financial offering for the poor and the spread of the gospel (1 Corinthians 16:1–2). Guests are not expected to give. The service lasts about an hour and usually concludes with a song and prayer. Guests may sit silently in the service, or they may participate.

### **FRIENDLY**

The church of Christ strives to be a visitor-friendly church. Since many of our members were at one time visitors themselves, we know how it feels on a first visit. We make it our goal to be the friendliest church you have ever visited. We aim to treat others the way we want to be treated, as Jesus said (Matthew 7:12). You will receive a warm greeting and find assistance to locate your class (or your children's) and/or a comfortable seat for the worship service. You will not be made to give any "testimony" or in any other way made to feel embarrassed. The services are simple, reverent, practical, and meaningful.

### **BIBLE-BASED, CHRIST-CENTERED, HEAVEN-BOUND**

When you visit, you will meet people who, just like you, sincerely want to follow the teachings of the Bible and please God with their lives. You will find that every sermon and class is based on the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16–17). In fact, members and visitors are urged to bring Bibles and follow along. We seek to exalt Christ in our songs, prayers, sermons, and lives (Colossians 1:18). An air of hope fills the church as we think of the beautiful promise of heaven for God's faithful children (Revelation 21).

### **LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVED EACH SUNDAY**

The church of Christ has communion every week, just as they did in New Testament times (cf. Acts 20:7). It is a highlight of the week to commemorate Christ's death and celebrate His promised return.

### **BEAUTIFUL SINGING**

The whole congregation sings *a cappella* (without mechanical instruments), just as Christians did in New Testament times (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Visitors may sing along or simply listen. Many first-time visitors comment on how beautiful the singing is. Some say they find it easier to focus on the song's meaning since the words are more easily understood without instrumental accompaniment.

### **FREE MATERIALS**

You will find tracts and publications displayed in entrance areas. These are free to any member or guest. Often there will be study materials distributed during Bible classes and worship services. A personal home Bible study (open Bible study or video) is available for those who want to know more.

### **A PLACE FOR EVERYONE**

Christ's church is made up of all kinds of people (1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 3:27–28). You will find that members of all races, educational backgrounds, and economic levels feel comfortable in our services. We mean it when we say, "Everybody is welcome."

### **EMPHASIS ON FAMILY AND BIBLE SCHOOL**

The church of Christ places a great emphasis on Bible school. Children are important, and we understand that our God-given responsibility is to assist parents in teaching them about their origin, purpose, and destiny. They should come to know their Creator, Redeemer, Lord, and Savior early in life (Ecclesiastes 12:1; Matthew 19:14). They have been born into a mixed-up world, so we try to ground them in simple truth, for the purpose of helping them know right from wrong.

Please bring your Bible and come for that visit you have been thinking about. We will save you a seat.





# A Brief Introduction to the Church of Christ

The church of Christ dates back to the days of the New Testament (Romans 16:16). It was founded by Christ on the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 33 (Acts 2), not long after His ascension back to heaven. In the years that followed, it rapidly grew to fill Jerusalem, then Judea, Samaria, and finally the whole Roman Empire (Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:23). In America, the first churches of Christ were planted in the late 1700s as the result of a movement to go back to the Bible and do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names (cf. 1 Peter 4:11).

Members of the church of Christ believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30–31), that the Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16–17), and that Christ will return to take His kingdom home to God (1 Corinthians 15:24). We emphasize sincere worship (John 4:24), every-member evangelism (Acts 8:4), godly living (Titus 2:11–12), love for each other (John 13:34–35), and helping those in need (James 1:27). We believe the Bible teaches that sinners are saved by learning of Jesus, faith in Jesus, repentance of sin because of Jesus, confession of Jesus, and baptism into Jesus (John 6:44–45;

3:16; Mark 16:15–16; Romans 10:9–10; Acts 2:38). The church of Christ is organized with elders, deacons, preachers, and other members, as in New Testament times (Philippians 1:1). It has no governing body on earth higher than the local congregation.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to unite all Christians into one body (1 Corinthians 1:10). We believe that the New Testament is the only rule for faith and practice in religious matters (2 Timothy 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3), and that God's Word must authorize all that is done in Christian worship (Colossians 3:17; Revelation 22:18–19). Thus, we try to follow the New Testament strictly. We believe that it is possible to have religious unity in a day of division by simply following the New Testament pattern and putting aside human traditions.

To put it simply, the church of Christ is seeking to be the same church one reads about in the New Testament. We aim to restore its doctrine, its practice, its lifestyle, and its zeal. —Allen Webster

## You Expect Me to Believe That?

- In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly, for no reason, nothing exploded and created everything.
- At some point, by chance, the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life.
- Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place; one was male, and one was female. These two new “humans” were healthy, fertile, and attracted. They gave birth to the human race.
- One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly began making decisions based on a morality for which there is no explanation.

You expect me to believe that? I am sorry. I do not operate on blind faith. It is too far-fetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I cannot believe intelligent people claim it is science (cf. 1 Timothy 6:20).

I can believe that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1) without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. That I can believe! —Phil Gear

## 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





## Husband Humor

My wife has not spoken to me in three days. I think it has something to do with what happened on Sunday night when she thought she heard a noise downstairs.

She nudged me and whispered, "Wake up, wake up!"

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"There are burglars in the kitchen. I think they're eating the tuna casserole I made tonight."

"That'll teach them!" I replied.



## Sanity Check

Forget the popular image of the married couple driving each other nuts. "Studies show that getting married improves mental health and decreases depression," says Linda Waite, a sociologist at the University of Chicago. In fact, one study found that people who have never walked down the aisle are more likely to be admitted to a psychiatric facility. The intimacy found in marriage bolsters self-worth and a sense of purpose, which actually enhances mental health.

*"He who is of a merry heart has a continual feast."*

PROVERBS 15:15



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



# Are Children Really to Blame?

We read in the paper, we hear on the air,  
Of killing and stealing and crime everywhere;  
We sigh, and we say, as we notice the trend,  
"This young generation . . . where will it end?"

But can we be sure it's their fault, alone?  
Too much money to spend;  
too much idle time;  
Too many movies of passion and crime;  
Too many books not fit to be read;  
Too much evil in what they hear said;  
Too many kids encouraged to roam;  
Too many parents who don't stay at home.

Youth don't make the movies;  
They don't write the books  
That paint the pictures of gangsters and crooks.  
They don't make the liquor,  
they don't run the bars,  
And they don't make the cars.

They don't make the drugs  
that addle the brain;  
It's all done by older folks, greedy for gain.  
In how many cases we find that  
it's true:  
The label "delinquency"  
fits older folks, too.

—Mrs. E. B. Grant

## Just for Fun Word Search

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

"Therefore say to the **children of Israel**: 'I am the **Lord**; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will **rescue** you from their **bondage**, and I will **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with great **judgments**. I will take you as My **people**, and I will be your **God**. Then you shall **know** that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the **Egyptians**. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**; and I will give it to you as a **heritage**: I am the Lord.'"

—EXODUS 6:6-8

What about the

# Thief on the Cross?

There is no doubt that the man we know as the thief on the cross was saved by Jesus. Jesus told him, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). The question is whether or not he provides an example that we may follow to be saved.

What is often overlooked in this discussion is that the thief lived at a time when God's conditions for salvation were different from what they are now. The penitent thief lived during the earthly ministry of Jesus, before the new covenant, the will of Christ, came into effect. For a will to come into effect, the testator—person making the will—must die. The Bible says, "For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives" (Hebrew 9:16-17). Christ saved the thief before He died, and before His will went into effect.

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He forgave many people of their sins, under whatever conditions He prescribed. Before He healed the palsied man of his physical disease, Jesus said to him, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you" (Matthew 9:2). After a sinful woman showed her love for Him by washing His feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair, He told her, "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). These cases are similar to the thief because Jesus saved them without baptism. But the key is, they were also saved before His death—before the new covenant came into effect.

Consider it this way. Suppose you were to write to the Internal Revenue Service that you were not going to file your income taxes anymore because you know that Abraham Lincoln never filed income taxes, and he was considered a loyal citizen.

Would they accept this? No, because Lincoln lived before our laws for filing income tax came into effect. He was not bound by them.

It is clear that baptism is part of the new covenant, or will, of Christ. After His death and before His ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature, saying, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Every account of conversion in the book of Acts, which describes events under the new covenant after the death of Christ, mentions baptism. When Peter told the multitude at Jerusalem, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), he was following the command of Christ. If we would obey Christ today, we also should repent and be baptized for the remission of our sins. —Bob Prichard

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



## Bible Quiz

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Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "30 Days, 30 Minutes through the New Testament" 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. 28:4** Starts with the Letter "M": 1. Mary (Matthew 1:16); 2. Matthew (Matthew 10:3); 3. Matthias (Acts 1:23-26); 4. Myrrh (Matthew 2:11); 5. Moses (Exodus 24:12); 6. Mordecai (Esther 2:20, 3:5); 7. Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (Isaiah 8:3); 8. Malchishua (1 Samuel 14:49); 9. Malchus (John 18:10); 10. Manasseh (Genesis 41:51); 11. Manna (Exodus 16:35); 12. Manoah (Judges 13:2, 24); 13. Mara (Ruth 1:2, 20); 14. Marah (Exodus 15:23-25); 15. Mark (Acts 15:37-38); 16. Marriage (Hebrews 13:4); 17. Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1); 18. Machpelah (Genesis 23:19); 19. Mahalalel (Genesis 5:1-12); 20. Manger (Luke 2:7); 21. Mammon (Matthew 6:24); 22. Mamre (Genesis 18:1); 23. Man (Genesis 1:26); 24. Magdalene (Mark 16:9); 25. Martha (Luke 10:38-40).

**V. 28:5** Questions from the Book of Ruth: 1. Esther; 2. When judges ruled (1:1); 3. Elimelech/Naomi, Mahlon/Ruth, Chilion/Orpah; 4. Moab (1:2); 5. Elimelech (1:3); 6. 10 years (1:4); 7. Naomi heard that the Lord was giving His people bread (1:6); 8. Return to their mother's house (1:8); 9. Husband (1:12); 10. Orpah (1:14); 11. Mara (1:20); 12. Beginning of barley harvest (1:22); 13. Boaz (2:1); 14. What all she had done for Naomi (2:11); 15. Let Ruth glean among the sheaves and let grain fall purposely for her to glean (2:15-16); 16. A virtuous woman (3:11); 17. There was a relative closer than Boaz (3:12); 18. Boaz would make a decision that day (3:18); 19. Confirmed an agreement by giving his sandal to another (4:7); 20. Rachel and Leah (4:11); 21. Ruth (4:15); 22. Neighbor women, Obed (4:17); 23. David (4:17).

## Starts with the Letter "B"

**Directions:** Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 1:1; 11:1-9; 35:16-20; 43:26-34; 40:5-7; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; 2 Samuel 11:1-4; 1 Kings 15:16; 16:30-32; 2 Kings 1:2; Proverbs 25:23; Daniel 4:28-30; Matthew 12:24; 16:16-18; 27:21; Mark 10:46-52; John 3:16; 11:1; Acts 3:1-10; 4:36; 9:24-25; 17:16-18; Galatians 6:2; 1 Peter 3:21 (not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- One false god Ahab worshiped: \_\_\_\_\_
- The god of Ekron: \_\_\_\_\_
- King of Israel who warred with Asa: \_\_\_\_\_
- Term philosophers on Mars Hill called Paul: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tower begun by man; stopped by God: \_\_\_\_\_
- Nebuchadnezzar was king of this country: \_\_\_\_\_
- Jacob's youngest son, favored by him: \_\_\_\_\_
- Were sad before Joseph interpreted their dreams: \_\_\_\_\_
- His curse of Israel turned into a blessing: \_\_\_\_\_
- "There is also an antitype which now saves us \_\_\_\_\_"
- Released instead of Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter's surname: \_\_\_\_\_
- Son of Encouragement; traveled with Paul: \_\_\_\_\_
- Blind beggar healed by Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul used this to escape over a wall: \_\_\_\_\_
- David committed adultery with her: \_\_\_\_\_
- "\_\_\_\_\_ one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
- Lame man was healed by this gate of the temple: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ruler of the demons: \_\_\_\_\_
- Home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha: \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus is the only \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God.
- "The north wind brings forth rain, And a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue an angry countenance."
- "In the \_\_\_\_\_ God created the heavens and the earth."



# THE INDESTRUCTIBLE WORD

Many have tried to destroy the Bible. In AD 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. His men ruthlessly pursued that cause. Twenty years later, Diocletian was dead, and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

In 1776, the French philosopher Voltaire was quoted as saying, "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antique seeker." One hundred years later, Voltaire was dead, and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. One

hundred years later, the first edition of Voltaire's works sold for eleven cents in Paris, but the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript. God's Word shall stand forever. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35).



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

## Recommended Resource



The WVBS Online Bible School provides students with a free, comprehensive, in-depth Bible study. The lessons are non-denominational teaching based simply on the Bible. These classes are for anyone who wants a focused, organized, and thorough study of the Bible. [school.wvbs.org](http://school.wvbs.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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer requests or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

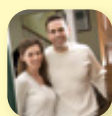
### I would like:



A Bible Correspondence Course



A DVD Bible Study



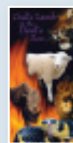
An In-Home Bible Study

## Featured Tracts!

- Jesus' Mother
- A Man with a Wait Problem
- Investing Time Wisely
- My Preacher Says



### More subjects:



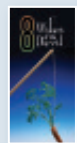
God's Lamb in the Devil's Zoo



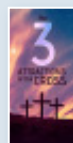
Is Being a Good Person Enough?



The Sermon that Nearly Got Jesus Killed



Eight Wives of the Devil



Three Attractions of the Cross



14 Chapters and No Sins



You Can't Get to Heaven Alone



5 Steps of Salvation: Hear

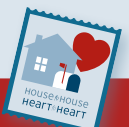


A Baptism in the New Testament



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VOLUME 28:6





# TYPES & ANTITYPES

## The **BURNING BUSH** as a type of the **CHURCH**

God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadows in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

The burning bush is never explicitly described as a type of the church in the Bible. However, there are enough similarities that can be noted to draw an allegorical comparison between the two to help illustrate various aspects of the church's nature, mission, and relationship with God.



### **BURNING BUSH** TYPE

### **THE CHURCH OF CHRIST** ANTITYPE

The burning bush was not consumed by the fire (**EXODUS 3:2**).

The church is resilient and indestructible; it withstands fiery persecution and trials throughout history (**MATTHEW 16:18; 1 PETER 1:7; 4:12**).

God's presence was manifested in the burning bush (**EXODUS 3:2**).

The church is where God's presence dwells among His people (**1 CORINTHIANS 3:16; MATTHEW 18:20; 28:20**).

Moses received his divine mission at the burning bush (**EXODUS 3:10**).

Christians receive their mission to reach the world through working as the church (**EPHESIANS 4:12; MARK 16:15-16**).

Moses removed his sandals in obedience to the command of God at the burning bush (**EXODUS 3:5**).

The Lord adds those to the church who obey His command that repentant believers be baptized (**ACTS 2:38, 47; JOHN 14:15**).

The place was holy ground (**EXODUS 3:2-5**).

The church is holy ground (**1 TIMOTHY 3:15; EPHESIANS 3:10, 21; HEBREWS 10:19-21**). It is not the building but the community of people who make up the church.

The burning bush was the starting point for Moses' mission to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage (**EXODUS 3:10**).

The church must carry out the Great Commission by spreading the gospel to all nations and freeing us from the bondage of sin (**MATTHEW 28:19-20; ROMANS 8:2**).

## Who Is Jesus?

- To the artist, He is Altogether Lovely.
- To the astronomer, He is the Sun of Righteousness and the Bright and Morning Star.
- To the baker, He is the Living Bread.
- To the biologist, He is the Life.
- To the builder, He is the Sure Foundation.
- To the carpenter, He is the Door.
- To the doctor, He is the Great Physician.
- To the editor, He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy.
- To the educator, He is the Great Teacher.
- To the engineer, He is the New and Living Way.
- To the farmer, He is the Sower, the True Vine, and the Lord of Harvest.
- To the florist, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.
- To the geologist, He is the Rock of Ages.
- To the hopeless, He is the door of Hope.
- To the juror, He is the Faithful and True Witness.
- To the jeweler, He is the Pearl of Great Price.
- To the lawyer, He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Righteous Judge, and the Advocate.
- To the philosopher, He is the Wisdom of God.
- To the proud, He is the Rebuker.
- To the sculptor, He is the Living Stone.
- To the straying sheep, He is the Good Shepherd.
- To those who suffer, He is the Comforter.
- To the thirsty pilgrim, He is the Water of Life.
- To the troubled soul, He is the Pacifier.
- To the sinner, He is the Savior.
- To the Christian, He is the All in All.

*"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"*

**MATTHEW 16:13**





## *Do not stay away from church . . .*



- . . . because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
- . . . because you are rich. Money is not everything.
- . . . because it rains. We go to work and school in the rain.
- . . . because it is cold. It is warm and friendly inside.
- . . . because it is hot. So are fishing, attending ball games, and golfing.
- . . . because no one invited you. People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. (Consider this your invitation!)
- . . . because of hypocrites. We associate with them in the world every day.
- . . . because of company. Bring them along; they will enjoy it and respect you for inviting them.
- . . . because you have little children. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them" (Matthew 19:14).
- . . . because your clothes are not nice enough. God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).
- . . . because the church always wants money. That is not true here.
- . . . because you have plenty of time in the future. Are you sure? (James 4:13-17).

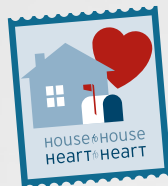
*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"*

PSALM 122:1



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Ask a Bible question.

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