



An undenominational publication
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and
His apostles and dedicated to those
who want to know more about the Bible

Vol. 15, No. 4

4th Quarter 2023

WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of knowledge. Fools despise
wisdom and instruction.

— **Proverbs 1:7**

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his
mouth come knowledge and under-
standing; he stores up sound wisdom
for the upright; he is a shield to those
who walk in integrity; guarding the
paths of justice and watching over
the way of his saints. Then you will
understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path.

— **Proverbs 2:6-9**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own under-
standing. In all your ways acknowl-
edge him and he will make straight
your paths.

— **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

— **Proverbs 4:23**

There are six things that the Lord
hates, seven that are an abomination
to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood, a
heart that devises wicked plans; feet
that make haste to run to evil, a false
witness who breathes out lies, and one
who sows discord among brothers.

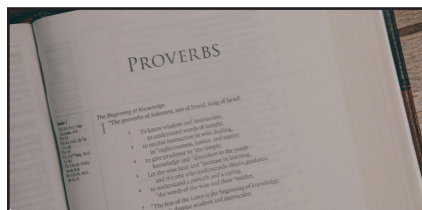
— **Proverbs 6:16-19**

A wise son makes a glad father, but a
foolish son is a sorrow to his mother
... Hatred stirs up strife but love cov-
ers all offenses.

— **Proverbs 10:1, 12**

An excellent wife is the crown of her
husband.

— **Proverbs 12:4**



Scripture quotations from English Standard Version

A GENTILE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN

Jesus came to tell about God’s love and the establishment of His kingdom. He focused primarily on the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” but his ultimate goal was to be a ‘light for the nations (gentiles)’ (Matthew 10:6; Isaiah 49:6). When his church was established its members were exclusively of Jewish descent (Acts 2:22). Breaking down barriers to reach the non-Jewish world was not easy to accomplish. Ethnic and racial prejudices are not easy to overcome. It took 10 years for the doors of God’s kingdom to be opened to Gentiles! How did this transition take place? Two chapters in the book of Acts (chapters 10 and 11) tell the story of the first Gentile to be baptized.



The conversion of Cornelius, his relatives and friends is one of the most fascinating conversion stories of the Bible! No other conversion took as much space in Acts. No other conversion involved so many miracles. Here are the facts:

INTRODUCING CORNELIUS

Cornelius was a God-fearing Gentile with a military career. He was a centurion, in charge of 100 soldiers in the Italian Cohort. He “*feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God*” (Acts 10:1-2). His prayers ascended as a “*memorial before God.*” An angel instructed him to send for Peter who was about 30 miles away, who would “*declare a message*” by which he and his household “*will be saved*” (Acts 11:14). This visit by the angel was the **first miracle** leading to Gentiles being included in God’s kingdom.

The next day the apostle Peter received a supernatural vision of a sheet let down from heaven filled with “*unclean*” animals which Jewish people were forbidden by the Law of Moses to eat. Peter was instructed: “*Rise, Peter, kill and eat....What God has made clean, do not call common*” (Acts 10:9-16; compare Leviticus 16). Peter needed to see this vision three times! He was shocked and perplexed by the experience. This was the **second miracle** in the story. Three men arrived at Peter’s door at the *exact time* Peter was pondering the vision of the unclean animals. The timing was not a co-incidence; it was the **third miracle** in the story.

Peter concluded there was a double-meaning to the vision: first, *God had abrogated the Old Testament regulations about “clean” and “unclean” foods*, and second, *no human being should be regarded as “unclean”, “untouchable” or “common”*. The Holy Spirit told Peter to accompany the Gentile messengers *“without hesitation!”* (Acts 10:19-20). This was the **fourth miracle** leading to Cornelius’ conversion. It was necessary to get the teacher of God’s word and the seeker together.

When Peter arrived at the home of Cornelius many people gathered to hear the word of God. He said: *“You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him”* (Acts 10:28).

Peter spoke about Jesus, building faith in Jesus as the Son of God. He spoke of the *“good news of peace”*, telling how Jesus *“went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.”* He affirmed that Jesus arose on the third day, and is appointed to be *“judge of the living and the dead.”* He said, *“Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name”* (Acts 10:36-43).

Suddenly, *“the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.”* This was the **fifth miracle**. The Jewish brothers who had come with Peter were absolutely amazed to hear Gentiles speaking in foreign languages and extolling God! (We should note that the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius not to forgive his sins, but to convince the prejudiced Jewish brothers that God was willing to accept Gentiles into His family.) This was a difficult lesson to learn, but the evidence was irrefutable and overwhelming! Peter then asked: *“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing (immersing) these people? He then “commanded them to be baptized (immersed) in the name of Jesus Christ”* (Acts 10:48).

PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR US

The conversion of Cornelius teaches that God loves people who seek to know his will, to honor him as the one true Lord, to pray, to obey his will. Through his providence God will get the person who wants to learn his will with the one who will faithfully teach God’s will. God listens to the prayers of seekers. He did this for Cornelius and he will do it for you, too! We should also learn that water baptism (immersion) is vitally important to receiving forgiveness of sins. The Scriptures say: *“Repent and be baptized (immersed) everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”* (Acts 2:38). Are you a seeker? Do you want forgiveness of your sins? Let us help you obey God.

— David Tarbet, Editor
Church of Christ, New Milford, Connecticut

BIBLICAL MANHOOD IN A CHANGING WORLD



Christian men are called to be biblical men in a changing world. We need to be at our watch post and address the detrimental things that influence our nation, our families and God's church. We need to confront the challenges that breakdown fundamental values God has put in place.

Society no longer considers godly men to be important and our families are suffering from this low view of manhood. The government will pay a woman more money if she lives by herself than if she is married. What effect does that have on children growing up in homes without dads? Television portrays fathers as buffoons; dads produce problems but only mothers can solve problems. People have lost respect for church leaders because scandals that have been covered up in the name of religion. Unbiblical traditions, man-made innovations in worship and confusing messages about gender need to be addressed by godly men with courage to stand up for what the Bible teaches. Christ-centered leaders need to put their faith into action!

The divine calling is not to please people, but to please God; to hold high the word of God; to maintain what God has established. Like the biblical king David godly men are to be men *"after God own heart"* (Acts 13:22). David was far from perfect, but God used him to lead his people. The Scriptures say: *"David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him"* (1 Samuel 18:13-14). When David was confronted with his sins he did not hide behind them; but confessed them with a humble and repentant heart (2 Samuel 12:13).

Christian men need to men of risk -- ready to serve the Lord with strong faith and courage. We must call our confused and troubled world back to God. We need to take responsibility for things under our control-- to set the right example for others to follow. We must be spiritual leaders of our families. We must be prepared to endure opposition, remembering that God is working in and through godly leaders.

As changes come to our world, it is important to focus on words given to Joshua: *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."* (Joshua 1:8-9).

--Maurice Davis
Church of Christ, Abington, Massachusetts

FEAR & HOPE IN TROUBLED TIMES



We live in gravely dangerous times. In America, we have a surge of illegal border crossings with a real concern that some of the “refugees” are men of fighting-age who may commit acts of terrorism in the U.S. Our political parties are so divided that they are like street gangs fueled by hatred and incapable of recognizing any good on the other side. In some states, large groups of thieves help themselves to thousands of dollars worth of merchandise seemingly without consequence, and some cities have a homeless, drug-infested crisis on their hands.

There is political unrest in Europe as immigrants run riot through the streets of its greatest cities, and all across the West there are debates as to what constitutes a certain gender and who may or may not compete in gendered sports programs. There is war raging between Russia and Ukraine. Thousands are dead and displaced. Israel and Hamas are in the midst of conflict. We have a looming conflict between China and Taiwan and an uneasy peace between India and Pakistan.

Everything that is happening in the world is making Christians and non-Christians nervous, maybe even fearful. However, Christians can rest assured that no matter what happens, our final destination is secure. James 1:12 should comfort us: *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love him.”* We cannot control the motives or actions of others, but we can make sure that we are prepared no matter the outcome. James’ words encourage us to stop being alarmed and calmly face the future with faith and expectant hope. After all, Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, *“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”*

Recall the words of Paul the Apostle in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, *“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”* Instead of worrying when the world will end, prepare yourself in case your end comes sooner. Be sober-minded and aware, but don’t allow the happenings in the world to steal the joy of God in your hearts. Don’t let the devil be sober-minded and aware, but don’t allow the happenings in the world to steal the joy of God in your hearts. Don’t worry about a single battle because the final victory has already been written in the annals of time. Christians are on the right side. If you are God’s child, you will be victorious.

— John Cleve Stafford
Berkshire County Church of Christ, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

SIN - DOES IT MATTER?

The very first chapter in the New Testament tells us that the mission of Jesus has everything to do with the problem of sin. *“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). The name “Jesus” means “the Lord saves.” What does he save us from? Our sins.

God has taken extreme measures to resolve our sin problem, telling us that sin is a serious matter. Suppose you wanted to illustrate, in an unforgettable way, that sin is a matter of life and death. Maybe you would say this: *“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire”* (Matthew 18:8-9).

Clearly, sin is something serious. In fact, it can actually enslave us. Jesus told some of his followers that *“everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”* (John 8:34-36).

Don’t you get the impression from the above that the struggle against sin requires something more than gritting one’s teeth and resolving to be good? You will be free only *“if the Son sets you free.”* Someone’s response to Christ makes all the difference. Jesus told the Pharisees that if they did not believe in him, they would *“die in your sins”* (John 8:24).

According to Scripture, our baptism (immersion) is a participation in the death

and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-4). *“Our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin”* (Romans 6:6).



— Mike Johnston
Church of Christ
Groton, Connecticut

15 BIBLE VERSES ON GOD'S LOVE

GOD'S VERY NATURE

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8)

IS RENEWED EVERY DAY

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

HAS BEEN EXPRESSED

In the Gift of His Son:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “God shows his love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

CANNOT BE DEFEATED IN HARD TIMES

“I am sure that neither death nor lie, or angels nor rules, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

OUR LOVE RETURNED

In Loving Him

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12:30).

In Private and Public Worship

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you” (Psalm 63:3). “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).”

In Meditation On His Word

“Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

By Allowing His Love to Control Our Behavior

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one died for all, therefore all have died, and he died for all that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

SENDING 'CHRIST FOR TODAY' INTO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CONNECTICUT

NEW MILFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

129 Litchfield Road (Route 202), Tel: 860-355-0489
Tim Tarbet, Evangelist Tel: 203-788-3986
David Tarbet, Outreach Tel: 214-926-2747
Tel: 860-355-0489
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class), 11:00 AM (Worship)
Web: nmchurchofchrist.org



BRIDGEPORT CHURCH OF CHRIST

15 Dewey St. Tel: 203-751-2205
P.O. Box 55158, Bridgeport, CT 08805
Ellis Stanley, Minister
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class); 11:00 AM (Worship)
Web: info@churchofchristbpt.com



MAINE

KITTERY CHURCH OF CHRIST

48 Love Lane. Tel: 207-439-0720
Nathaniel Hios, Minister
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class), 11:00 AM (Worship)
Web: kitterycoc.com



FARMINGTON FALLS

122 Crosswell Rd; Zip: 04940; Tel: 207-578-2629
Bruce Rollins, Minister
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)

MASSACHUSETTS (PITTSFIELD)

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

112 Elm Street, Tel: 413.464.0016
Cleve Stafford, Minister
Sun: 10 AM (Bible Class); 11 AM; 5:30 PM (Worship)
Web: berkshirecountycoc.org



WORCESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

89 Beaver Brook Pkwy. Tel: 508-754-8625
John Nat Kissi, Minister
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: worcestercoc.org



NEW HAMPSHIRE (ROCHESTER)

SALMON FALLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

336 Salmon Falls Rd; Tel: 207-651-0703
Sun: Bible Classes 10 AM; Worship 11 AM
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterNHCoC>



NEW YORK

HALFMOON (MECHANICVILLE)

250 Pruyn Hill Road. Tel: 518-670-3005
Sunday Bible Classes: 9:30am; Worship: 10:30 AM
Web: <https://halfmoonchurchofchrist.org>



HORSEHEADS

165 Miller St. Tel: 607-739-5776
Sun: Bible Classes 10:00 AM; Worship: 11:AM
Minister: Paul Cowels (Tel: 607-592-8091)
Web: horseheadschurchofchrist.church

POUGHKEEPSIE

DUTCHESS COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

43 Vassar Rd. (Tel: 645-214-0811)
Sun: 11:00 AM; (Bible Class), 11 AM (Worship)
Contact: Scott Genco (Tel: 845-234-3815);
Web: dcountycoc.org



PENNSYLVANIA

VALLEY CITIES CHURCH OF CHRIST, SAYRE

701 S.Wilbur Ave. Tel: 570-886-1838
Sun: 9:30 (Bible Class), 10:30 (Worship)
Contact: Arthur Barry (Tel: 607-280-1732)
Web: valleycitieschurchofchrist.org



VERMONT

CASTLETON GREEN MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST

522 Route 4a.
Kirk Israel, Minister Tel: 802-683-4970
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: vermontchurchofchrist.com



SEE FOR YOURSELF! WORSHIP WITH

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

WHICH SEND "CHRIST FOR TODAY" IN YOUR AREA

Addresses and Times of Services Listed Above

True-to-the-Bible Messages

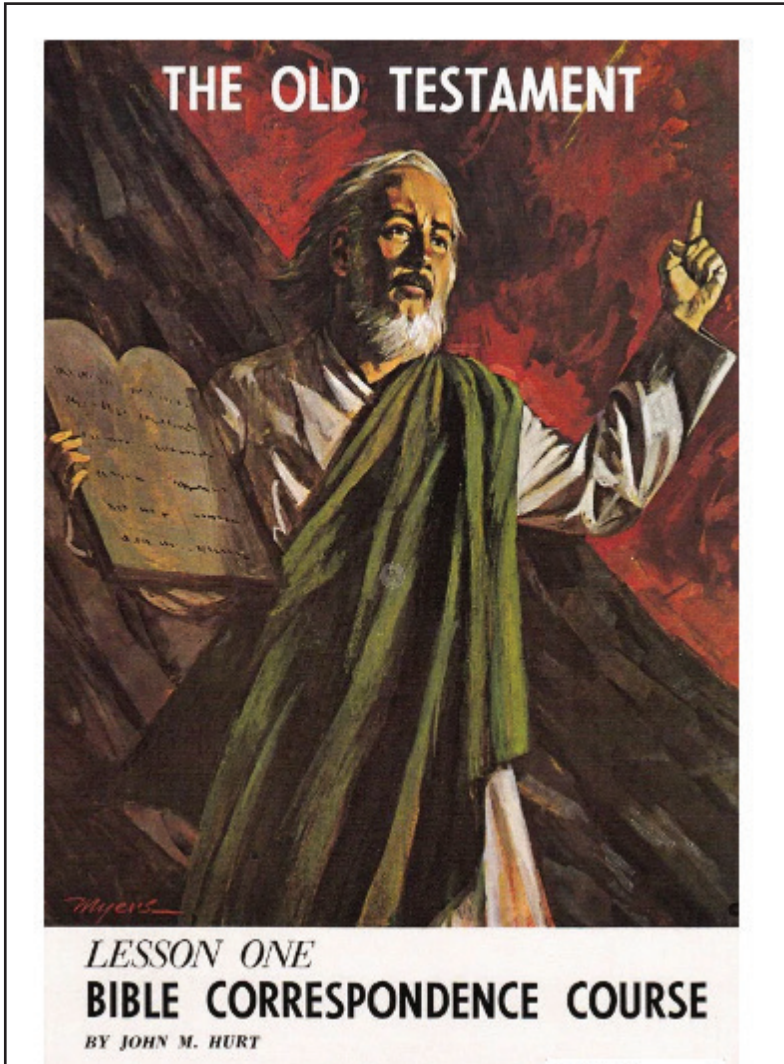
Visitors Always Welcome

Undenominational Christians



YOU ARE INVITED TO ENROLL IN A **BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

(All 8 lessons are free!)



SEND FOR YOUR FIRST LESSON TO:

Christ for Today, P.O. Box 755, New Milford, Connecticut 06776,

or E-mail your request to: christfortoday@gmail.com

Please include your full contact information



PICK 3 BOOKLETS YOUR CHOICE!

- When Jesus Healed a Boy He Never Saw
- Copy of the Bible (Easy To Read Version) Shipping \$3
- Looking for Love
- Be Faithful: Steps of Salvation
- Where God Isn't

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____
E-MAIL: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

MATERIALS SENT TO NORTHEASTERN STATES

Send requests to:

CHRIST FOR TODAY
P.O. Box 755, New Milford, CT 06776
PHONE or TEXT: 214-926-2747
E-MAIL: christfortoday@gmail.com

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

www.christfortoday.org
www.nmchurchofchrist.org
www.church-of-christ.org
www.churchzip.com

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, Texas
Permit 2829

CHRIST FOR TODAY

David Tarbet, Editor
New Milford Church of Christ
129 Litchfield Road (Route 202)
(2 miles North of New Milford Hospital)
P.O. Box 755
New Milford, Connecticut 06776