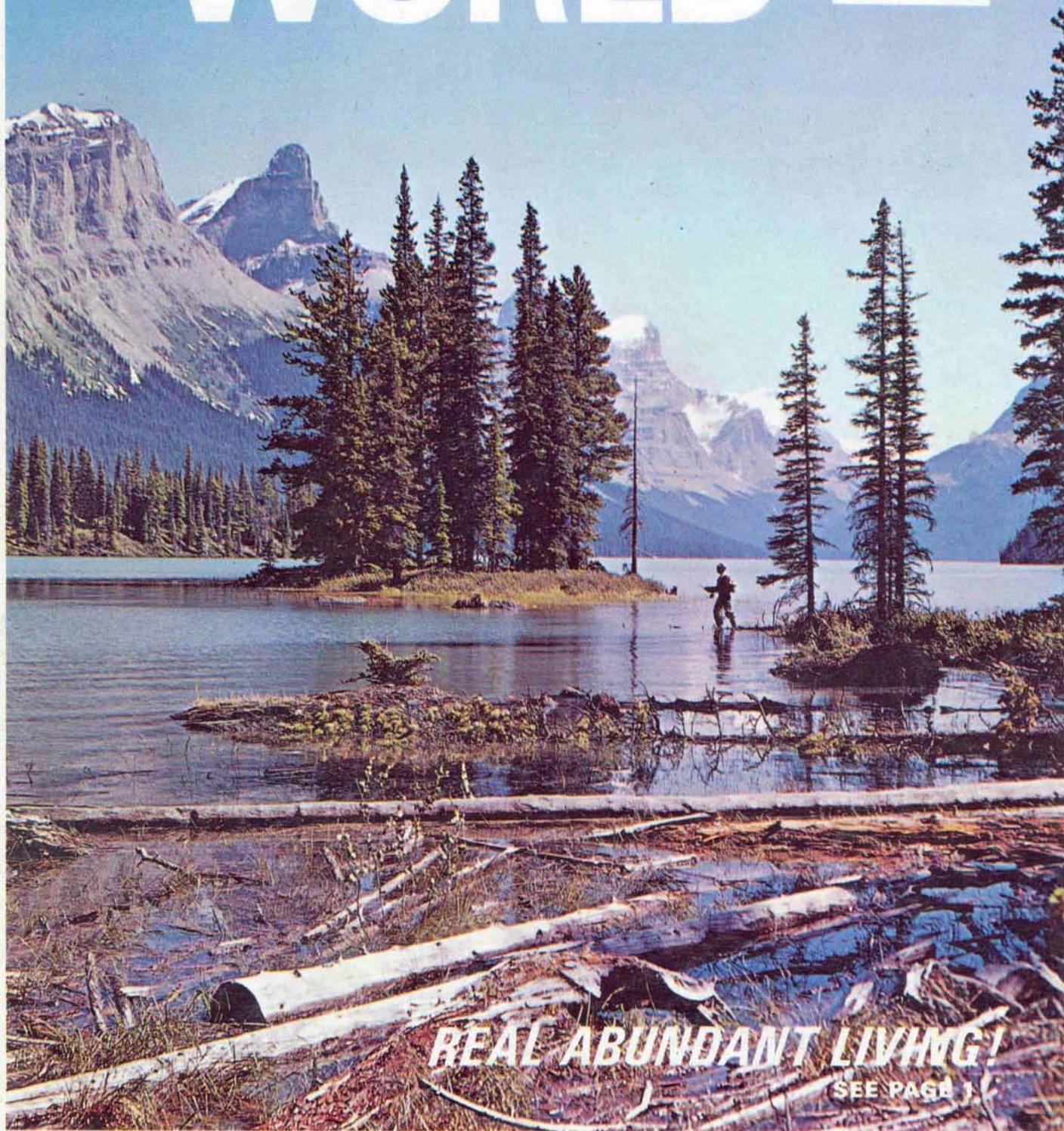


The Good News of  
**TOMORROW'S  
WORLD**

Dec. 1971



**REAL ABUNDANT LIVING!**  
SEE PAGE 1

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## More About Our Cover

Fisherman casting his line into the serene waters of beautiful Maligne Lake, Jasper National Park, Alberta. Fishing is just one of many wholesome, invigorating activities that are part of ABUNDANT LIVING! God intends that *all* should enjoy a happy, abundant life of interest, accomplishment and pleasure in the right proportions. Read more about it in Mr. Armstrong's "Personal from the Editor" on page 1.

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

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# Personal from



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## This is the Life — Real Abundant Living!

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**W**HY DO religious people often seem to feel that their religious life must be one of giving up all the fun and the enjoyment of living? — that in order to please God, they must endure a life of morbid gloom?

Sin to many of these people consists of things that many other people consider to be most desirable. To them, sin is going contrary to a number of “don’ts.” “Don’t smoke.” “Don’t dance.” “Don’t play cards.” “Don’t go to the theater.” “Don’t ever touch a drop of alcoholic beverage.” “Don’t do this!” “Don’t do that!”

### What’s Wrong With Religion?

A prominent lawyer’s wife once said to me, “I couldn’t ever become a Christian. Why, if I had to give up smoking, dancing, card playing, the theater, and all the pleasures of life, *what would there be left to live for anyway?*”

A world-famous philosopher, editor, and lecturer whom I knew — and who also had no use for religion — said that he did not desire to be repressed or to live a life of painful penance. “I desire,” he said, “to be radiant, cheerful, friendly, and to meet people with a smile.”

Apparently *he assumed* that such a happy life could not be a religious life.

But strangely, none of these people **KNEW HOW TO LIVE.**

Very few have ever found or tasted the true abundant life.

## You Were Meant to Be Happy!

Now the Creator who gives you the breath that you breathe does not desire for you to live an empty, depressed, or unhappy life. You never please the Eternal by giving up happiness or anything that is good for you.

God Almighty has never given you a single “don’t” except those things that are going to harm you, tear you down, bring on unhappiness later. Oh, of course, some of these things give you a thrill, or a little kick out of life temporarily, but there is always a boomerang. They exact a great penalty later, and the price is too high. It isn’t good business.

God forbids those things that are bad for us, the things that are going to bring on unhappiness and bring on a life of emptiness and gloom. But never does God Almighty forbid one single thing that is for your happiness, your welfare, your real well-being.

I’m reminded of an elderly man who was of the “shouting kind” of religion. He rose up one time in a church meeting and he shouted out a question to those assembled. He said, “Brethren, are you enjoying it, or *are you only enduring it?*”

Some people endure a solemn, stiff, and formal church service. And some, emotionally inclined, will go to the kind of church meeting where there is much shouting, and much emotional response, merely to have a good time during the meeting. The rest of the week religion doesn’t seem to have a great part of their lives.

Others feel that if they become, as they call it, “saved,” that they must forever after live a gloomy life of giving up everything that they formerly enjoyed, and that their solemn, unhappy lives will somehow please their Creator. Of course, *that kind of religion is more or less a superstition!*

### Christ Brought ABUNDANT LIVING

Let’s get this matter straight. The founder of the Christian religion, Jesus Christ, said that He came to this earth for a purpose.

“I am come,” said Jesus, “that they might have LIFE, and *that they might have it more abundantly*” (John 10:10). Jesus Christ came to bring us the “ABUNDANT LIFE.” Do you know what that is?

God Almighty intended the real Christian life to be one of joy.

Do you know that if you have the real Christian life, if you have the Spirit of God within you, it’s

going to bring about this result? It's going to, as we say, "produce fruits." Now what kind of fruits will be produced in a real Christian life? — not the morbid, unhappy life. Here is the fruit. Here is what will emanate from a real Christian life. It is found in Galatians 5, beginning with verse 22:

"The fruit of the Spirit" — this is the Spirit of God. This is the Holy Spirit that God imparts *only to those who are truly converted*. "That fruit of the Spirit is LOVE" — first of all is love — and the second is "JOY." Joy is happiness, brimful and running over.

That doesn't sound like an unhappy, empty, morbid life, does it? Here's love that will just flow, spontaneously, out from you!

### Life Can Be RADIANT

The first "fruit of the Spirit of God" is LOVE. Love will mean that your face is beaming. It's going to mean that you are really giving out. It's going to mean that you are radiant and happy. Love results in JOY, the second product of the Spirit of God. The third is "PEACE." Instead of going around quarreling, resentful, bitter, unhappy, and arguing — that's not peace, that's a kind of war — you'll be at peace in your mind and with your neighbor, and with your God!

And the next is, in the King James Authorized Version of the Bible, "longsuffering," which in more modern English is "PATIENCE." Impatience makes more people unhappy than almost anything else! If you can really learn the lesson of patience, you're learning one of the things that will make you happy, and make life worth living.

The next is "gentleness," and then "goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." That is the fruit of the Spirit. It will spontaneously spring forth from you. It will be emitting from yourself, radiating from yourself, all the time, *if you are a real Christian*.

### But Most People Are NOT Christians

You read in Romans 8:9 that unless you have received from *without* the Holy Spirit of God, you are not any of Christ's! YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN.

*There are millions of people that profess Christianity that are not Christians according to God's definition.* They're not Christians at all!

Of course, in a Christian life, there are troubles. There are going to be even persecutions. Jesus Christ was persecuted. He said, "If they have persecuted me,

they will persecute you." That comes from without. That's something that comes from other people. *That doesn't necessarily need to disturb you inwardly.* And the person who does have this inward peace, the person who has this joy and this love and this patience — and who has this tolerance for other people — isn't going to be too much disturbed because other people don't agree, and perhaps persecute.

Yes, *you're* going to face problems and trials. Those things are good for us. They come upon us for a purpose — to help us develop character. And a real Christian understands. It doesn't make him unhappy.

### We All Have Trials

We are going to have troubles and problems, and trials just like everybody else. They come to test us. They come to strengthen, to build our character. And that's the very purpose of our being — to make us like God. We, like Jesus Christ, can be born into the Kingdom of God. Notice I Peter 4:12-13:

"Beloved," this is speaking to real Christians, "think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

Some people, when some of these trials and these problems come, think nobody else has ever had anything come upon them like that. It's some strange thing that is peculiar to them. That is not true! Every other person on earth is having problems. Everyone is having troubles. They have things to meet and to overcome, solutions to work out, the same as you do. It's not strange. And so here is the teaching of God. He says:

"But REJOICE," yes, rejoice inwardly in these things, "inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings."

Christ suffered, but Christ also said to His apostles, "My joy I leave with you." "I am come," He said, "*that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly.*" He came to give us THE ABUNDANT LIFE. He had that kind of life. He was happy. He was filled with joy, even though at the same time He was a man of sorrows — and why?

Because He LOVED all human beings, and He saw the way they were going. He saw how they were destroying themselves, how they were bringing unhappiness and emptiness, fear and worry, poverty, sickness, disease and sufferings on themselves. He thereby shared their sufferings. He was a man of sorrows. He

*(Continued on page 46)*

# Should We Use The Old Testament?

*Jesus commanded: "Man SHALL live by EVERY Word of God." How can we prove that He included the Old Testament in that command? — that He meant ALL the Bible?*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**D**ID YOU ever observe people going to Sunday school or church on a Sunday morning? And did you ever notice what a large portion of them — if they carry any Scriptures with them at all — have merely a **NEW TESTAMENT**?

A young man who had been a student in a Bible college for a couple of years once came to me and confessed: "I'm all mixed up — frustrated! After all my Bible study, I suddenly woke up to realize that I'm not *sure* that the Jesus of Nazareth, who lived 1900 years ago, really *was* the **CHRIST**!

"I've heard you say over the air that we must **PROVE** all things — even what we have thought that we believed. Suddenly I woke up," he confessed, "to realize that I never actually **PROVED** that Jesus was the promised Messiah! That realization **FLOORS** me. I'm totally **FRUSTRATED**.

"Tell me," he said earnestly, "How can I prove it? How can I **KNOW**? How can I **BE SURE**?"

## Was This **YOUR** Experience, Too?

That young man had never studied the **OLD** Testament of his Bible very much. I opened his Bible to certain **OLD** Testament Scriptures, and **OUT OF THEM** he found *positive, satisfying* **PROOF** that Jesus was the Messiah — the **SAVIOUR** of the world! I'm going to show you now, a part of what I opened up to him in his Bible.

Many have gained the idea that Christians should never read the **Old Testament** at all! Many seem to believe **THAT** part of the Bible was **DONE AWAY** — that it was only for the Jewish people of long ago — that its message is **DEAD** today!

## So Let's **EXAMINE** This Question!

Certainly the Church — the **TRUE** Church of God — is a **NEW** Testament Church! It certainly is under the **NEW**, not the **Old**, Testament or **COVENANT**. But there's a great dif-

ference between the **Old Covenant** that set Israel up as a **NATION** and those **SCRIPTURES** we call by the name "**Old Testament**."

The **OLD COVENANT** — meaning the **AGREEMENT** between God and Israel, made at Mt. Sinai — is replaced by the preaching of the **NEW**! But most certainly the **NEW Testament Scriptures** show very plainly that those **SCRIPTURES** we call "**The Old Testament**" are **NOT done away**, for we read in I Peter 1:25, "**THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER**"!

Do you know that for approximately **SIX** years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the founding of the **NEW** Testament Church, that this **New Testament Church** had and used **ONLY the Old Testament Scriptures**?

Christ preached the **Gospel of the Kingdom** — the same Gospel He commanded every minister to preach under the **NEW** Testament dispensation; yet do you know He preached

*altogether out of the Old Testament Scriptures?*

### Church Built on Old Testament Scriptures

I wonder if you fully realize that the Church was BUILT upon the writings of the Old Testament PROPHETS, as well as on the APOSTLES? Notice Ephesians 2:19-20, "Now therefore ye...are built upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and PROPHETS, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone."

Notice Jesus' own example: While Jesus was sent from God as the Messenger of the NEW COVENANT — yet HE PREACHED THAT MESSAGE OUT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES. He said, as recorded in John 5:39, "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; for IN THEM ye think ye have eternal life: and THEY are they which TESTIFY OF ME."

Yes, they TESTIFY OF CHRIST. And do you also know that *you could not PROVE* Jesus of Nazareth was the CHRIST, the MESSIAH, the Son of God — your SAVIOUR and mine — WITHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES?

If we are definitely to establish and PROVE, beyond doubt, that Jesus is the Messiah—the Saviour—we must prove it by bringing Him through the door of the Old Testament Scriptures — the prophecies PROVING Him to be the divine Son of the living God! For, as He said, THEY TESTIFY OF HIM!

Notice further what Jesus preached during His earthly ministry. John 5:46-47: "For had ye BELIEVED Moses, ye would have believed me: for HE WROTE OF ME. But if ye BELIEVE NOT HIS WRITINGS, how shall ye believe my words?"

Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament [Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy] — the part which has often been referred to as "the Law." And remember Jesus said, "If ye believe not his writings, HOW SHALL YE BELIEVE MY WORDS?"

And if we today cannot know and BELIEVE the things Moses wrote to be true, HOW CAN WE BELIEVE CHRIST'S WORDS? They are as much a PART of Holy Scripture as those New Testament books quoting our Lord!

### We Must Believe ALL the Prophets

Another time, AFTER His resurrection, we find this example of Jesus' preaching recorded in Luke 24:25-27: "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken."

How did Philip of Bethsaida know that Jesus was the Christ? Read John 1:45: "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

What ARE some of these Old Testament prophecies which PROVE that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, the MESSIAH?

First, Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Now notice, a VIRGIN was to bear a son. The son was to be of a human VIRGIN, to have a human mother, but *not* a human father. And the name of this son, to be born as a baby, to grow up to manhood, was to be "IMMANUEL," which, when translated, means, "GOD with us." And the fulfillment of that prophecy is recorded in the New Testament, in Matt. 1:20-23: "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

And now, let's read right on. Matt. 2:1-4: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the

east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born."

Now WHY? How would the chief priests and the scribes know where Christ should be born? *Because it was written in a prophecy of their Scriptures!* Continue, verses 5-6:

"And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." Notice! This prophecy was quoted from Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

So the Old Testament Scriptures added another detail. The MESSIAH, who was to be the future RULER OF ISRAEL, not only was to be born of a virgin — He was to be born and first appear in the little city of BETHLEHEM of Judaea.

But now let us see how the wonderful 53rd chapter of Isaiah foretold His FIRST coming.

### Foretold in Old Testament

Here is what Isaiah 53:1-5, 8, 12 reads:

"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are

healed. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

HERE we see it foretold that the Messiah was to be BORN, and to GROW UP from a child — that He was to be despised and rejected, NOT hailed as a mighty King and Deliverer! If the Jews of 1900 years ago had only known and understood the Scriptures, they would have recognized and accepted their Messiah. But they were then following the religious traditions of THEIR time, just as nearly *all* the other churches are doing today. And Christendom does NOT understand the Bible today!

This wonderful 53rd chapter of Isaiah tells us the Messiah was to come in human flesh, to grow up, to bear our afflictions and *our sicknesses*. Yes, HE was to be WOUNDED and to suffer for our physical as well as spiritual transgressions, so that by His stripes — His BODY broken for us — *we* are to be healed when sick! *Many of us* do not fully grasp *that* truth, even today!

EACH ONE of the original evangelists who preached Christ and the GOSPEL OF CHRIST — which is the GOSPEL Christ preached, the NEW Testament GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM — EVERY ONE of them whose preaching is recorded in the NEW TESTAMENT, preached CHRIST and the GOSPEL out of the OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES!

Yes, *that is* the way the true FAITH ONCE DELIVERED was originally preached in all its purity and truth! And that is what *we* do today!

### New Testament PROOF!

Notice how PETER used the Old Testament in preaching the Gospel of CHRIST, when delivering the first inspired sermon the day the NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH was really established: "But this is that which was spoken

by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:16-17).

After concluding Joel's prophecy of the coming of the *other* Comforter, the HOLY SPIRIT, Peter continues in verse 25: "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved."

Through the remainder of his sermon on that day of Pentecost, Peter continued to preach Christ from the Old Testament — and 3000 persons were CONVERTED through Old Testament preaching that day!

Later, Philip was sent by the angel of the Lord to preach to the eunuch from Ethiopia, returning home in his chariot from Jerusalem. When Philip met him, the eunuch was reading this in the Old Testament book of Isaiah: "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:30-35).

And yet, some people today still say, "You can't do that — you can't preach CHRIST out of the Old Testament." But the Spirit-led PHILIP did it — JESUS Himself did it — PETER did it — yes, ALL the first-century evangelists of the true, original PURE Church of God did it! And we in God's true Church do it today!

Now consider Paul. How did HE

preach? In the very last chapter of Acts, we read of Paul, after he had gone to Rome: "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23).

A very large portion of the New Testament is simply the Old Testament *quoted*. The New is BASED on the Old. The New Testament GOSPEL is based on the PROMISES God made to Abraham — for if we are Christ's, then we *are* Abraham's children and HEIRS according to the PROMISES (Gal. 3:29). Without the book of Genesis, how could you establish the PROMISES you hope to inherit THROUGH CHRIST?

Yes, your hope of ETERNAL LIFE rests upon the book of GENESIS!

Notice, too, the writings of Peter: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:19-21).

And Paul's instruction to the New Testament Church in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

And how shall we have UNDERSTANDING of salvation? Paul wrote Timothy: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:15-17).

And so, let us say with DAVID: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). □

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# Which Is The Religion **BEST FOR YOU?**

**Should you find the religion best suited for YOU? Should you look for one that "satisfies" your particular need? SHOULD you have a "faith"? Will one be about as good as another? Read what God says about HOW you should search for truth!**

---

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**E**VERYONE knows there is no "cure" for the common cold.

But you wouldn't guess it, listening to the advertisers. One spray reduces swelling, stops sneezing, relieves aches and pains. It doesn't come right out and claim to cure your *cold*, mind you, but on the other hand — *what's left?* If your tortured nasal passages are no longer swollen; your sneeze is gone; your aches and pains have disappeared — then you feel perfectly normal — your cold is gone.

Still, everyone knows there *is* no such thing as a "cure" for the common cold.

## How People Choose a Religion

Everyone "knows" one religion is about as good as another.

Still, everyone who goes to church "knows" *his* particular *brand* of religion will probably get him to "heaven," or wherever he's going, a little more quickly, a little more efficiently, than all the others. Either he believes this, or he is knowingly settling for something like second best.

Ever notice the remarkable similarity between claims of dozens of religious philosophies and the detergent ads?

One claims it washes your clothes "*cleaner than clean*"! The fact that such a statement is an utter superfluity, an impossible exaggeration, never occurs to

average housewives, apparently. Still another claims it gets your clothes "*cleaner*"! But "*cleaner*" than *WHAT*? *Other* soaps and detergents?

How can this be possible? All of *them* claim to get clothes "*cleaner*," too!

How accurate would it be for you to adopt the idea that "*all* these detergent ads *can't* be *WRONG*"?

Let's ask the question another way.

Can they all be *right*?

If any *one* of them is to be *believed* — *POSITIVELY* — then every *other* one must automatically be assumed to be *WRONG*! If any *one* of them *REALLY* *DOES* get your clothes *cleaner* — then the unspoken inference is that they get your clothes *cleaner than any other product*!

What about your personal religious philosophies?

People say, "But *ALL* these religions, these organizations, these philosophies can't be wrong!"

But can they *ALL* be *RIGHT*?

Utterly impossible. If any *ONE* of them is *RIGHT* — and remember, they *ALL* *DIFFER* — then that one being right *AUTOMATICALLY* renders all others *WRONG*!

But in "choosing" a religion, a faith, or a church — thousands pick and choose with the same careless abandon of housewives, selecting the colorful

boxes of soaps and detergents from the shelves of the supermarket.

Surveys show many frankly admit they attend their church because of its size, its standing in the community (being "reputable" or not), its nearness to their home, or the parking facility.

Only a *few* admitted they had given at least a little time to searching into *what the church taught*. Fewer still seemed to wonder *WHETHER IT IS THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD!*

But God has not *left* it up to man to choose for *HIMSELF* a "religion."

Almighty God *REVEALS* His *TRUE* religion — gives us *HIS TRUTH*. It's then up to us to either accept it and *OBEY*, or *REJECT* it, and find a "religion" of our own!

## "Here's the Way I Look at It!"

You're living in the age of opinions. It's a broadminded age — an age of noninvolvement, don't rock the boat, keep out of controversy.

Most people reason out in their own minds a "need" for religion in their lives.

The symptoms may be frustration, worry, unsettled marriages, or a desire for social contact. Their reasons for seeking a "satisfactory" religion may include social pressures, environmental background, political or financial expediency, or, in some remote cases,

an acute desire to seek spiritual knowledge.

Some time ago, one of the current rash of "public opinion" type programs received a call from a woman who was obviously seeking some fundamental truths.

The panel was composed of a Catholic priest, a rabbi, and a Protestant minister.

The lady directed her question to the Protestant minister.

She wanted some straight answers — wanted to get *behind* the obvious confusion in the rank and file of conflicting denominationalism, wanted to find the real TRUTH!

She was advised to seek out a "reputable" church near her.

She was urged to *be sure* it was a bona-fide, reputable, "known" type of church — with a substantial member-

ship, a nice building, a respectable minister.

This, according to the minister on the program, would most assuredly solve all her spiritual problems.

Did the minister mean to say there are churches which he would call "disreputable"?

Not if you asked him so directly.

No more than the detergent ads would be cornered into saying the OTHER product (probably "brand X" — ugh!) leaves your clothes frighteningly DIRTY!

Ever have a friend direct you to a "bad" doctor?

Neither have you ever been advised to go to a "bad" religion, a "bad" philosophy, or a "bad" church.

But, presumably, there *are* such things.

The idea seemed to be that one is as

good as another — so long as it's one of the *name brands!* In washers and dryers, stick to the BIG NAMES, and you're probably fairly safe. They give warranties, guarantees, service seals and the like.

The various religious philosophies?

Some are, admittedly, "reputable," while others are, well, let's say — NOT so "reputable."

When one is asked the question — "If you belong to a *different* organization than I, do you believe *you* will be 'saved,' while *I* will be CONDEMNED?"

How would the average "broad-minded" person answer the question? It's difficult to know.

### Whose Opinions Count?

Does the way we LOOK at it really matter? Will the opinions, the fancies, notions, ideas, guesses, superstitions, philosophies, convictions and beliefs of our friends and neighbors REALLY SAVE US?

NO. It is WHAT GOD SAYS that is important, not what *people* say *about* God.

It's about time you came down off the fence of doubt, indecision, and the belief nothing can be proved to be ABSOLUTE! It's time you PROVED God exists — and time you saw what He says about *His sacred* TRUTH!

*Think* about it — *ponder* it — are the analogies you just read APPLICABLE?

Isn't the religious doubt and confusion about you a little hard to reconcile with Christ's PLAIN statement, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"? (Matt. 28:20.)

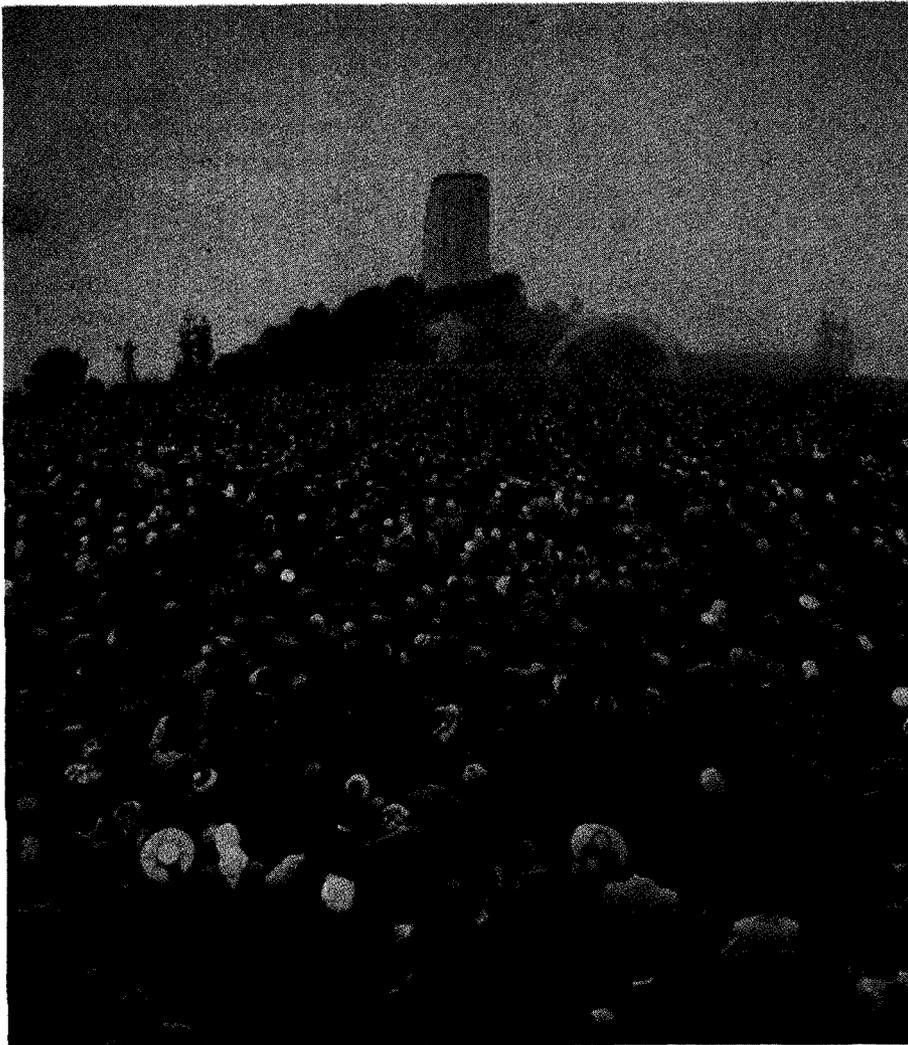
Jesus said, "I will build MY Church" (Matt. 16:18). He DID BUILD it!

But did Jesus Christ leave each individual to decide for *himself* which interpretation, which philosophy, which comfortable idea best suits him? Did Christ leave a legacy of *confusion*?

He said, "Thy WORD is TRUTH"! (John 17:17.) He was POSITIVE in His statements. He was *absolute*. He NEVER BUDGED AN INCH where sin was concerned!

And people — people who like to be "broadminded" — HATED Him for it!

You need to *make sure* you REALLY PROVE God exists — that He DOES RULE in Heaven above, that His word



Ambassador College Photo

Thousands from many different denominations attend traditional Easter sunrise services — but few ask, "What does the Bible say about it?"

is SURE — and that you can believe it, ABSOLUTELY! (Write for our FREE booklet *Does God Exist?*)

A visitor to the studio will sometimes ask me, "What is your belief about . . .?"

My answer?

"Well — you see — it's not important what *I* believe. What *I* believe is only my own personal, private OPINION! And the private OPINIONS of people are utterly worthless in the face of the proven, tested, accurate, absolute FACTS. Now, if you want to know what GOD PLAINLY SAYS on the subject . . ." and then I proceed to tell the visitor *what God says!*

Think about it.

Are you HONEST WITH YOURSELF?

Do you *check up* to PROVE what you read in this magazine? Do you listen CAREFULLY to the statements I make on *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast? Do you read with an OPEN MIND, and do you PROVE each point to yourself, OUT OF YOUR OWN BIBLE?

If you do, then you are coming to know, and know that you know that you are in contact with the actual *Work of Almighty God* on this earth!

### What Are Our Motives?

You need to ask yourself — just what are we of *The WORLD TOMORROW* radio program, and TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine, "after"?

Listen to a few of the facts!

First, you hear a straight-talk half-hour program which NEVER makes any emotional appeal, solicits funds, asks for contributions, or urges you to "join" any kind of an organization!

Secondly, you are receiving what we feel is a most finely printed, top-quality, beautiful magazine — chock-full of straight-from-the-shoulder articles trying to *serve*, and to *help you* — and all absolutely FREE of charge!

At your request, you can join the multiple thousands who are receiving, *without tuition cost*, our Ambassador College Correspondence Course. This FREE course takes you in a step-by-step method through the *entire* Bible in a gripping, scintillating and absorbing manner.

At your request, you may receive any one of the many dozens of booklets and

articles we send out, all absolutely FREE of charge. There is NEVER, in any of these booklets, any solicitation to "join" an organization — or any request for money.

Others don't understand it. They say "How can you publish all this literature and such a *fine* magazine as TOMORROW'S WORLD and send it all out FREE?"

Sometimes, when a few persecutors (who either sincerely misunderstand, disagree, or deliberately distort and wrest our words) write little tracts or pamphlets claiming to "expose" this great Work of God, they refer to our practice of giving away all this literature FREE. One such tract used the word "lavishly" when describing our practice of GIVING the Gospel to the world. The inference was that there must be something *sinister*, something *hidden*, something clandestine and *evil* in GIVING all this literature away absolutely FREE!

But Jesus said, "FREELY ye have received, FREELY give!" (Matt. 10:8.)

Again, *what are our motives?* Have we ever ASKED you for something? Or, on the other hand, don't you see us trying diligently to GIVE you something of great value — truly the "pearl of great price," the precious TRUTH of our Creator God, which comes to you FREE as the breath of air you breathe?

Anything evil, anything sinister in that?

### Are We Competing?

Analyze it further.

Are we a competing organization — proselyting, trying to wrest away members from other organizations?

If we *were* — don't you believe we should adopt a far DIFFERENT "doctrine"? The TRUTH which we preach is not *easy*. We don't apologize. We don't whine or gasp on the air. We don't sob, cry, scream, or add a grunting, explosive "UH!!" after every other word or so on the air. We do *not* attack organizations, churches, or individuals.

Jesus had His persecutors. Ever read in the Gospels how Christ "answered them not a word"? It wasn't His personality, His manner of dress, His appearance that made them so angry. Had He just "gone along" with the rest

of the world of His day — blending into His community, casually taking for granted everything taught by the various conflicting organizations of His day, Christ would have been a "regular guy," a "good Joe," readily accepted by all elements of society.

But He came thundering the Gospel of the Kingdom of God! He came preaching the TRUTH of God! He came living a *life* exemplary of the very commandments and laws of God.

That's what made them so angry. They simply couldn't understand how anybody could be that SURE he was right! They wondered, "Who gives this fellow the right to be right?" While they *did* bicker back and forth among themselves, there was a certain degree of "tolerance" between Essenes, Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians and others. They were "broadminded" enough to live together fairly peaceably in the same communities.

(Incidentally, which one of them did Jesus join? Write for our *free* article "Why So Many Denominations?")

Yes, just what are we after?

### The Work of MEN — or the Work of GOD?

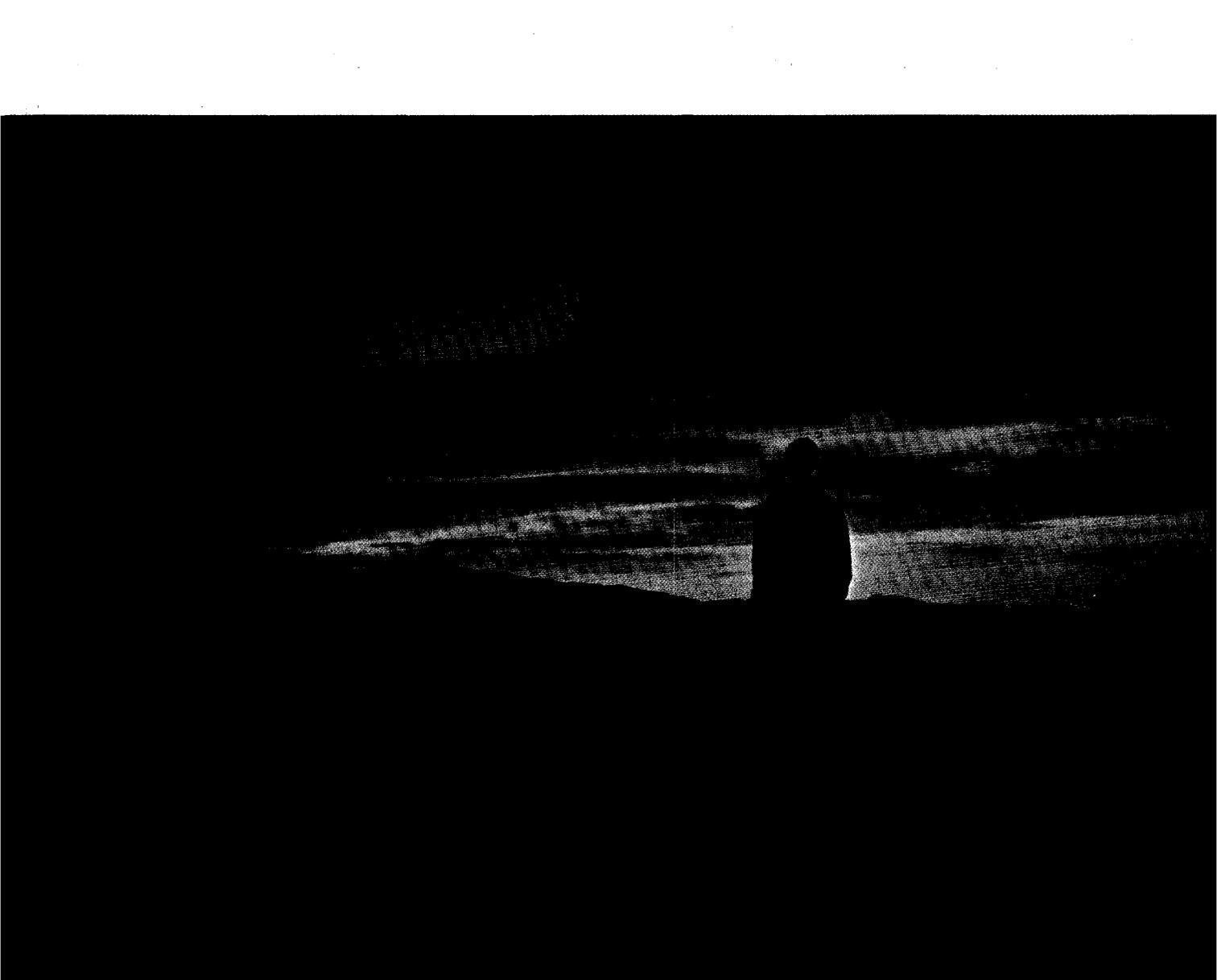
Frequently, those who have been carefully *checking up* in their own Bibles, and have been searching the Scriptures to PROVE the Truth of God will call upon us to send representatives to visit them in their own homes. We never call upon *anyone* unless it is specifically and voluntarily *requested*.

But even *after* some have called upon us, without any solicitation on our part, and have *asked us* if they can "join" with us in this great Work of God — they want to be baptized, and become a very *member* of the Body of Jesus Christ — yes *even then* we do *not* baptize all of them, by any means.

Why? Simply because we are preaching and teaching *what the Bible says* — not the "ideas" of man!

In the Bible, there are definite, positive LAWS revealed. It is only when we have totally *repented* of having *broken* those laws, have come to God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, brokenheartedly — asking His *forgiveness* — and then have become

(Continued on page 45)



# Seven "Keys" To Mental Mastery

Here's how to think "BIG"! How to have real wisdom to make the right decisions. Read and USE these vital principles.

by Roderick C. Meredith

**A**UTHORITIES now confess to "giant blunders" in coping with the twin threats of famine and overpopulation and the growing danger of a hydrogen-bomb war.

And that doesn't include the *immediate* problems of mounting crime, violence, racial conflict. And there is also the serious pollution of our air and water. These problems demand *real solutions* — not political demagoguery.

Truly, the WISDOM of a Solomon is needed.

But where — in this mixed-up world — does that kind of wisdom exist? Yet it is needed more sorely now than at *any time in human history!*

The *solution?*

### The Real GOAL of Human Life

The answer is that the God "nobody knows" — the Creator, the God of your Bible, is going to intervene and send the Living Jesus Christ back to RULE this earth! He will come this time in glory and power as King of kings. The other kings assisting Him in reorganizing the entire society of this earth will be those who, in this life, have *surrendered* their wills to God and who OVERCOME their selfish, lustful, sinful, *rebellious* human nature. These "overcomers" — then born of God and composed of divine spirit — will RULE this earth with and under Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:26).

Man has always *wanted* to rule the earth. Now he hopes even to rule outer space!

God has given man the capacity to do just that! But man is presently limited by a body of flesh that must receive all of its nourishment from this earth and its surrounding layer of air. Our astronauts must ALWAYS take with them some form of food that comes from the *soil* of this earth. They *must* take air and water *from the earth*.

They *must* do these things — or they will surely PERISH.

So man is hindered in his efforts to "conquer" space.

Yet, in the beginning, God said: "Let us make man in *our image*, after *our likeness*: and let them have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle..." (Gen. 1:26).

### The Marvelous Human Mind

To a limited extent, man is made LIKE GOD. For he is made in the form and shape of God. Unlike any animal, he has a MIND not guided by blind instinct but capable of choice, of decision, of building *character*. Also, man ALONE has a *creative capacity* and the ability to think in the abstract, reason, and philosophize. He can invent and bring into being infinite new varieties of physical and mechanical things. He is able to compose beautiful music, write inspiring literature and paint majestic scenes — scenes which in some instances he has "created" in his rich and seemingly endless imagination.

And so God gave man DOMINION over all creatures *on earth*. Yet, in spite of all his God-given possibilities, man has thoroughly *botched* even his responsibilities here. He needs not only a *body* with greater capacities. He needs the MIND of a Solomon — yet a *spiritually motivated* mind to cope with the agonizing problems now facing the entire human race.

The Apostle Paul commanded: "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

The Christian who KNOWS the purpose of life must come to have the very MIND, the viewpoint, the attitude and the WISDOM of Jesus Christ. But what, you may ask, are the qualities and CHARACTERISTICS of that type of mind? And how are these to be developed?

#### I. Alertness and Discernment

The first quality is *awareness* of people, things and attitudes. That's the mark of a real leader. He is ALERT. He is fully AWAKE and *thinking*. He notices people who are tight and tense around the mouth, people who are "working an angle." He also notices people who are UNBALANCED, disturbed and in need of help.

Such a person will also notice physical and racial characteristics. He will be alert to and aware of the nature of the foliage, plants and animals around him if he is out in nature. Normally, he will not be the one to blunder into quicksand — or into a beehive!

I first became impressed with this characteristic when traveling overseas

with Mr. Dick Armstrong — the elder son of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Dick and I were driving through Europe in the summer of 1954. I had just graduated from college a couple of years before, and it was my first trip overseas. I was noticing and learning many things. But often, *many* times in fact, when we would be sitting in the car or at a sidewalk cafe and I would be thinking over what we *had* seen, Dick would suddenly point out to me some unusual characteristic of the people around us, or of the architecture, or of the plant life, the trees, the flowers, etc.

I had traveled throughout the Midwest as a boy and, later, over most of the United States with *many* different young men. But never had I been with a companion who was so *alert* to what was going on around him. He used his God-given eyes and ears to discern the characteristics of each type of people we encountered. He noticed their habits and ways. Soon he would pick up certain words and phrases from each foreign language and begin to use them.

These mental qualities and abilities made Dick a "natural" to head our Overseas Work. He did this, and soon the foundation was laid for the present great and growing Work of God in Britain and Europe.

#### Jesus Christ's Example

Jesus was *alert* to the moods and attitudes of others. You will find His example in Matthew 16:5-12. Here Jesus *noticed* the subtle looks of doubt and confusion in His disciples. He "perceived" the moment His disciples were unsure on a vital point.

In Matthew 22:18, Jesus "perceived" that the Pharisees were trying to *trick Him* and bring about His downfall in the way they asked a certain question. If He had not been *alert* and *awake*, His ministry might have ENDED right there!

Yes, Jesus of Nazareth *noticed* the arched eyebrows, the questioning eyes, or the shifty expressions and furtive smirks of those who doubted Him or tried to trap Him in some way. He quickly "perceived" attitudes as well — and was often able to forestall trouble before it got started. *Always*, therefore,

He was one step ahead of His disciples and was *able* to LEAD them.

### A Constant PRACTICE

Most of us are not by nature as *alert* and *discerning* as we ought to be.

Learn to observe specific things about people — such as height and weight, color of hair and eyes, voice qualities and accent, and any definite national or racial characteristics. This should *not* be done, of course, with any remote thought in mind to *prejudice* yourself against anyone. But this definitive information will help you to better remember people you meet and those whom you only know casually. It will definitely help you to *understand* and to better serve and deal with them in the future.

Become more *aware* of the scenery and the environment around you. Observe the style and architecture of the buildings and notice *what kind* of trees and flowers are nearby, and *what kind* of fish and birds are in the pool or park.

Obviously, this practice will add *immediately* to your store of knowledge and to your effectiveness in dealing with people and things.

If you learn to *observe* and *properly discern* ALL of these things, in right balance, you will in any case be far better prepared to be a literal KING over some area or phase of society in the World Tomorrow!

## II. Education and Knowledge

Nearly every future king is *educated* and *tutored* to prepare him for the wide-ranging responsibilities which await him. He is taught not only the history of his own people and their neighbors, but the social and cultural heritage of the past. He is — or at least *should be* — instructed a great deal about current events. For he must be familiar with recent trends in international diplomacy and warfare as well as domestic and local political issues.

For a future ruler, a *thorough education* is a NECESSITY. For he must KNOW whereof he acts and speaks. He must have correct information and FACTS behind his decisions and his policies — or he and his nation are headed for DISASTER.

It may surprise some to learn that most, if not all, of the great leaders of the Bible were *highly educated men*. The Prophet Daniel was of royal blood and was among the captive princes of Babylon who were taught “the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans” (Dan. 1:4). He was, therefore, educated in the royal court of the GREATEST empire in all the earth at that time.

Moses, the inspired Stephen tells us, “was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds” (Acts 7:22). Again, this prophet of God was educated in the GREATEST empire of his time.

In Acts 22:3, the Apostle Paul tells us that he was “brought up,” or educated “at the feet of Gamaliel” — who historians tell us was the acknowledged GREATEST teacher of Jewish rabbis of that time.

The lesson in all of this is that we should endeavor to obtain the best education possible. Especially, we should be concerned about *basic* subjects such as grammar, diction, mathematics, history, geography and a good knowledge of current events. Obviously, many older people may find it difficult to go back to school. But there are several fine correspondence schools which offer courses in all of the above-mentioned subjects. Besides, many outstanding business and industrial leaders have the equivalent of a Ph.D. through *diligent personal study* of books and courses on their own.

*Read widely*, and keep growing mentally all of your life!

### Teach Your Children

A vital point here is to teach your children to *read widely* and to THINK. Encourage your young children and grandchildren to use the *dictionary* often — to become familiar with the basic meaning of thousands of key words in our language. For words provide the very *tools* by which we think and reason. Teach them also to become familiar with the good encyclopedias — to begin early building a real STOREHOUSE of knowledge on basic subjects.

Both you and your children are to be encouraged to read biographies and autobiographies of the great men of the past and of recent times as well. Read

*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*. Read some of the better volumes of Sir Winston Churchill — “the man of the century.” This type of reading should inspire one to a life of accomplishment and leadership.

If at all possible, have your children or grandchildren read *this very article!* For they should be the LEADERS in *the World Tomorrow*. They must, therefore, obtain the best possible education *today!* Teach them to STUDY the Word of God, the laws of God and the perfect *example* of Jesus Christ! Teach them that *all real knowledge* or TRUTH is based on — and in harmony with — this *revelation of basic knowledge* from the Creator.

Thousands of “educated fools” are abroad in the world today — utterly CONFUSED about *who* they are, *where* they came from, *what* are the LAWS of life, *what* is the MEANING of world conditions, and WHERE WE ARE HEADED. Yet the true answer to *these* questions is the MOST IMPORTANT knowledge of all!

This, in fact, is one of the purposes for the establishment of the three Ambassador College campuses now in operation. For so much MIS-knowledge is being disseminated today that one must constantly exercise his *alertness* and *discernment* to be sure of the “facts” being presented to him in class or in a textbook.

Acquire your education with a high PURPOSE in mind! Acquire it in order to glorify your Creator, and to qualify to join His Son in RULING, in TEACHING, in REBUILDING this world and enforcing PEACE in the *World Tomorrow*. In this way, you will join the Ambassador College students in acquiring a great deal of *tomorrow's* education TODAY!

## III. Understanding, Vision and BIG-mindedness

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has stated that he had a burning desire for “understanding” beginning at about age sixteen.

What is “understanding”?

It is different from *knowledge*. For *knowledge* connotes merely the possession of facts and information. And *wisdom* is the ability to draw on those

facts and with *understanding* make a right decision in a given situation.

But *understanding* is the grasp not only of information and facts, but of their relationship to each other and their MEANING. It is the awareness of the basic *laws* and *principles* governing personal, national and spiritual situations that come up. It usually involves much *study*, *thought* and EXPERIENCE. It enables one to see the BIG PICTURE in a given situation.

Take the example of Sir Winston Churchill, called "the man of the century." It is widely recognized that



— Wide World Photo

his greatness was made possible by the unusual *understanding* and VISION he possessed, at least in material things. He became the Prime Minister of Britain at the beginning of World War II. He felt relief to be able, at last, to straighten out a desperate situation his nation had fallen into and about which he had been warning it for many years.

For, over and over again, Churchill had warned his fellow Britons about the dangerous tyranny rising in Nazi Germany. He *understood* the meaning of Hitler's boasts and the Nazi torchlight rallies. He grasped the *meaning* of the historical background of the German peoples and their militaristic *nature*.

Like "a voice in the wilderness" he had warned the democratic leaders of his own and other friendly states what was bound to come. But *they would not heed!*

On becoming Prime Minister he was able to DEAL with the ugly situation. His people now were frightened at what he had known all along would come. But Churchill was able to see the BIG PICTURE. For he had a *vast* knowledge of history, and he *understood* the nature of the rise and fall of dictators. Moreover, he deeply understood not only the military but the tremendous *indus-*

his wide study, travel and his early military experiences.

His UNDERSTANDING of this whole picture was unique.

So it was that when Winston Churchill was given the crushing responsibility of directing his people in their hour of need, he was not the least upset or overwhelmed. He wrote: "I felt as if I were walking with Destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial" (*The Gathering Storm*, p. 596, pocketbook edition).

### How to Exercise Vision

Along with understanding comes VISION. This is the ability to *foresee events* or situations even before they happen. This comes, partly at least, from training the mind to *think ahead*, to consider the END of a series of events or a particular course of action. I am grouping it here with *understanding* because these two qualities often go together, and complement each other.

As would be expected, therefore, Churchill also possessed a great deal of *vision*. In his autobiography, Mr. Bernard Baruch tells about a conversation with Churchill just after the *First World War*: "Pointing his walking stick toward the east, where the Red Revolution had erupted, he made a prophetic remark, 'Russia, Russia. That's where the weather is coming from.'" Even *then*, Mr. Baruch tells us, Churchill could sense the antagonistic spirit of the Soviet dictatorship toward free men. For he had VISION.

Solomon wrote: "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29:18).

The man who *keeps God's Law* will have vision because he will be given a penetrating insight into human nature — and the collective nature of people and nations. He will possess superior understanding of the principles of life, and will therefore sense, before others, the OUTCOME of various situations and problems.

### Learn to Be BIG-Minded

In like manner, such a man will be given superior understanding and  
(Continued on page 38)

Winston Churchill exercised vision in foreseeing the course of Communism following World War I.

trial power of Britain and America and worked unceasingly to get America to help Britain before it was too late.

Churchill had gained early a deep understanding of his nation's army, its navy, its parliamentary system (he had been a member of Parliament since 1901) and of its people. Most important of all, he was able to see them *in relation to each other* and how they fit together as a WHOLE. This even included the Commonwealth nations which he came to know well through

# ***GOD IS THE ONLY HOPE***

Why the confusion? Why the mounting problems? Why can't human beings achieve universal cooperation and good will? What is man's burgeoning volume of knowledge really producing in the way of tangible answers?

**T**HE VERY GOD who created our minds with the capacity to reason says that *He* must be the basis of knowledge. "The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge — that is, its starting point and its essence" (Prov. 1:7, *The Amplified Bible*).

Facts and information can be gleaned by man, but only with God's way as the foundation on which to use those facts can man achieve the happiness, goodness, cooperation and benefits that he desires.

Once God is divorced from knowledge, it becomes an instrument of

destruction in the hands of men. Whether that knowledge be scientific, medical, sociological, psychological, political or religious, man is inherently limited in his ability to wisely and satisfactorily direct that knowledge toward desired goals. God says that there is a limiting factor within man *preventing* him from achieving his cherished desires by himself. "O thou Eternal, well thou knowest that man's course lies not in his own hands; it is not in a man to have control over his actions" (Jer. 10:23, Moffatt translation).

## **Humanistic Tradition**

This places vast segments of today's society on very shaky ground. The humanistic tradition runs deep in the development of Western society. By this I mean the miscellany of ideas which assume that man is completely alone and will admit to no solutions to man's progress other than man finding his *own* happiness his *own* way. H. J. Blackham begins his book *Humanism* by stating: "Humanism proceeds from an

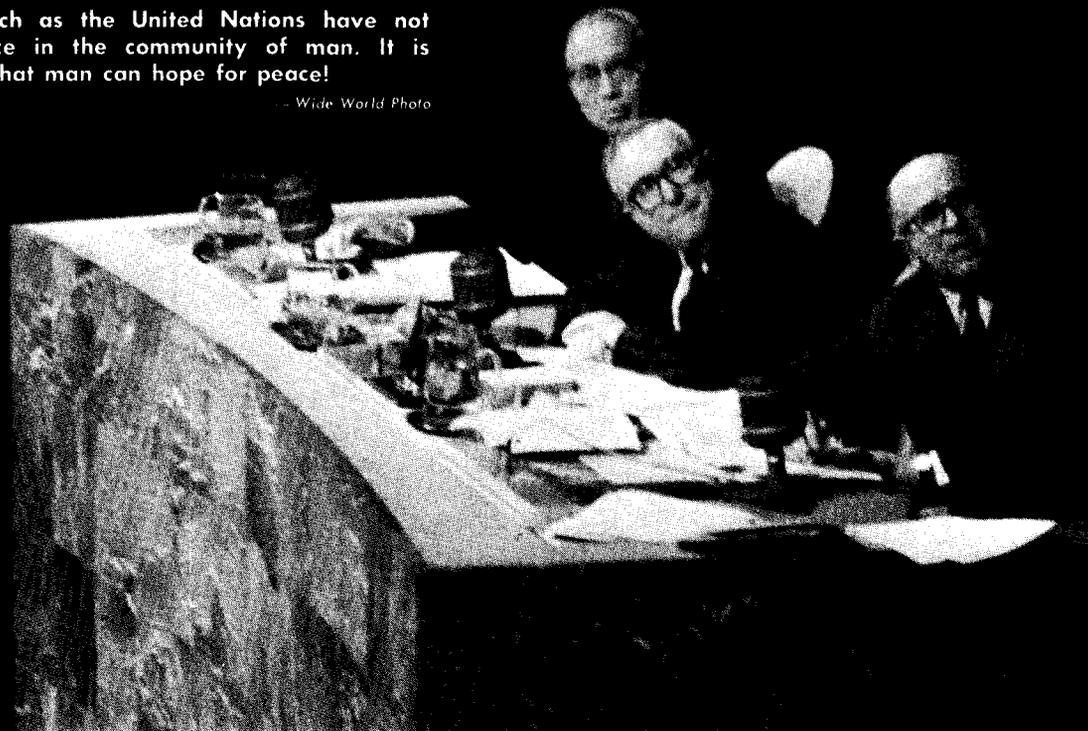
assumption that man is on his own and this life is all and an assumption of responsibility for one's own life and for the life of mankind" (page 13).

Humanism is therefore *materialistic* in approach. This way of looking at man and his world assumes that all recourse to supernatural forces — to the belief in a God — to an existence beyond our present physico-chemical life — can be replaced by the latest enlightened scholarship concerning man and his nature. Revelation, as a source of knowing *what* man is and *how* it is in his best interests to act, is viewed as unnecessary and indeed obstructive to further progress.

Of course, it is natural for man to want to go his own way. Restrictions, laws, rules, dogmas all limit him and prevent the openness and freedom sought for. As Mr. Blackham says, "... all rules ultimately are justified in an open society only by the purpose of enabling all individuals and groups to do what they want to do, as far as this is possible. . . . All rules are ultimately for the sake of enabling people to get

Human agencies such as the United Nations have not brought about peace in the community of man. It is through God alone that man can hope for peace!

— Wide World Photo



what they want and do what they want . . ." (page 54).

### God Rejected

This very attitude of wanting to do things our way, to pursue our own course in satisfying our own wants and happiness, is exactly what God warns us against — for our own good. In fact we are told we *cannot afford* to trust in ourselves. "Rely with all your heart on the Eternal, and *never* lean on your *own insight* . . . *Never* pride yourself on your *own wisdom*, revere the Eternal and draw back from sin: that will mean health for your body and fresh life to your frame" (Prov. 3:5-7, Moffatt translation).

God knows the minds we have, and that human nature distorts our thinking. He says of that nature: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]?" (Jer. 17:9, *The Amplified Bible*.) We have been made subject to vanity whether we admit it or not (Rom. 8:20) — and this bondage is something from which we must be *delivered*, not by and through ourselves, but by the mighty hand of God (Rom. 8:21).

The "wisdom" which man uses to navigate his own way through life is nothing more than abject foolishness. "Where is the wise man — the philosopher? Where is the scribe — the scholar? Where is the investigator — the logician, the debater — of this present time and age? Has not God shown up the nonsense and the folly of this world's wisdom?" (I Cor. 1:20, *The Amplified Bible*.) If we are committed to the assumption that we can achieve our individual and sociological desires by complete trust in human endeavor, goodness, reason and capacity to solve all problems — then God says we are fools.

But men continue, for six millennia of frustration, to provide their own reasoned guidelines to a better world. As Kingsley Martin says in *Objections to Humanism*, "Humanism is an attitude of mind . . . and provides a working theory of life which is consistent with current scientific knowledge. It becomes

a duty, not only a sensible line of conduct, to work for a world society and dedicate our lives to the still rational hope of progress. The future depends on ourselves, not on any doctrine" (page 102).

The achievement of a world society with unified cooperation is indeed a desirable thought, an admirable goal. But it is also a vain hope if based solely on faith in man. Man is, and always will be, his own worst enemy, until not only his behavior, but his very nature is changed. The entire history of man does anything but justify absolute faith in man.

But, undaunted, the humanist looks for the humanly unattainable. "We look . . . to the evolution of a society based not only on reason but on love" says Ian Edwards in *A Humanist View* (page xv). ". . . Life here can be happier for our children and successors if we learn and practise the laws of well-being" says Kingsley Martin, *Objections to Humanism* (page 90). But the very love that can, and will be, the foundation for a Utopian society, is the love the humanist *rejects* (I John 5:3). These laws of well-being that are designed to free us from the burdens of misery and bondage of our own carnality, are the very laws that the humanist rejects.

The humanist refuses to allow his "humanity" or dignity to be lowered to the extent that an all-powerful God should rule his life. As H. J. Blackham notes in his book *Humanism*, ". . . the Christian must remain concentrated upon and bound by the example of Christ as the supreme model for human living. . . . He is the archetype of unqualified submission and obedience to the will of God. . . . It is impossible to follow Christ on any other terms, and the humanist finds acceptance of these terms a violation of himself and his whole experience" (pp. 17-18). The thorough humanist is not about to be ruled — his own way must prevail.

### God Is the Only Hope

To those relying upon the progress of scientific knowledge, of human philosophy and democratic welfare principles alone, the outlook is dismal. The *only*

hope such a person can fulfill is to have personally contributed to some achievement in this temporal life, a goal too few of us are capable of satisfying to any great extent. But the final goal after all the effort, heartache, toil and labor can never be anything more than the inexorable extinction of an all-too-fleeting life. How deep and meaningful can values and achievements be when they are fatalistically confronted with the inevitable?

God, however, is a God of hope. He says we were made subject to vanity *in hope* (Rom. 8:20). All are going to finally learn of this hope, and know it to be a reality. Whether they accept it or not is the free choice offered to them — God is not going to force anybody into an eternity which they are not willing to accept. But one thing is certain: God is not going to give eternal life in His Kingdom to anyone He cannot rule. That means a drastic change of attitude on the part of those who refuse to accede to a ruling power external to themselves and their independent desires.

Every person, humanist or religionist, is going to have to acknowledge what Paul had to confess in Romans 7:18-23. There *is* a law of sin which captivates us, and from whose clutches we cannot escape, unless it is through the one door which is available and open to us — Christ! The freedom every human being wants can be found by this method only. God's way frees us from that which hurts, and instead of the certain specter of death hanging over us, "death is swallowed up in victory" (I Cor. 15:54).

That one cooperative society is a reality, but not the humanist way. It will only come when all the earth is filled with the worthwhile, productive knowledge of God (Isa. 11:9). The way that will receive priority then will be the *revealed* knowledge of the *best* way, rather than man's meanderings through the labyrinthine realm of imaginative trial and error, with all of its reformulations, modifications, dead ends and hopelessness. Man will no longer be a prisoner of his own philosophical idealism, but will at last have the freedom to be truly happy.

# CHRISTIANITY FROM QUMRAN?

**W**AS CHRIST an Essene? Was John the Baptist? Did Christianity actually begin in a "monastic" commune in the wilderness near the Dead Sea?

These very ideas have been advanced in pamphlets and articles. Yes, even *whole books* appeared on the subject in the first few years after the initial Dead Sea Scrolls find near Qumran in 1947. The idea was that Christianity originated among the Essenes, a sect which withdrew from the regular Jewish community. Some few even "traced" the origin of Christianity to the Essene "monastery" at the site of Qumran on the northwestern shores of the Dead Sea.

Even now, there are probably still followers of this line of reasoning.

But Professor Miller Burrows, widely recognized authority on the Dead Sea Scrolls, expresses the general trend of thinking today: "Not only John the Baptist but even Jesus himself has sometimes been thought to have been an Essene. This is *quite out of the question*, as all competent historians now recognize" (*The Dead Sea Scrolls*, p. 329, emphasis ours throughout).

Definitely! One of the basic tenets of the Essene beliefs was asceticism. But Christ was no ascetic (Matt. 11:19). He even ate with the common people, something no Essene would *ever* think of! (Compare Matthew 9:11 with Josephus, *Wars of the Jews* II, viii, 8.) Christ went freely into the Temple on the Holy Days (John 2:23; 5:1; 7:14). While the Essenes would sometimes *send* dedicated objects to the Temple, they would not go up themselves (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XVIII, i, 5, plus note in Whiston translation).

Of course, the Dead Sea Scrolls point out some of the streams of Jewish thought during the same period that God's Church began. They give a fur-

ther background of what was going on at the time. That one would find resemblances between some of the Qumran writings and the New Testament is not surprising at all — it is what would be expected.

But some have deduced completely unsubstantiated theories from the few parallels, forgetting the far louder cry of the differences: "Parallels between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the sayings of Jesus concerning the future have been noted, but there the differences are even more striking" (Burrows, p. 331).

There is not so much as one mention of *any* Essene — much less the Qumran sect — in the whole of the New Testament. *Quite* strange, if one wishes to believe there was some connection!

Professor Burrows, after having studied the Scrolls for seven years, saw no connection between the New Testament and Qumran:

"It is not necessary to suppose that any of the writers of the New Testament had ever heard of the particular sect that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls, and I see no definite evidence that they had. Why are the covenanters [Qumran group] — or, for that matter, the Essenes — nowhere mentioned in the New Testament?" (Page 343.)

Let's face it: Fads run in the scholarly world just as they do in the fashion world. Those who first concluded there must be a connection between Jesus and the Essenes were somewhat hasty in their judgment. But the idea caught on and was taken from there by some. Unfortunately, these ideas continued to circulate even after the studies of sober researchers have shown them wrong.

We should not overlook the contributions which the Scrolls have made and can make to the background study of the New Testament. But neither should we allow sensational claims about a

"revolution in Bible understanding" to unsettle us:

"The continued study of the scrolls should contribute to the better understanding of New Testament background and origins. But there is nothing in the contents of the scrolls or in a careful comparison of them with the New Testament which warrants hasty statements that the Christian gospel was taken over from the Qumran sect or is basically dependent on that sect for its message and way of life" (F. V. Filson, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament," *New Directions in Biblical Archaeology*, p. 138).

On the positive side, the Scrolls have helped *establish* something which conservative scholars have always maintained — that the New Testament was complete by the end of the first century and that there was no "evolution" of doctrine in the books. Some liberal writers had asserted the last books were not written until 150 A.D. or later.

Now Dr. William F. Albright points out his conclusions in this regard after a study of the Scrolls:

"First, the books of the New Testament were composed during a period of possibly half a century [about 50-100 A.D.], more likely thirty or forty years. Second, there is no trace of an evolution of doctrine within these books" (*New Horizons in Biblical Research*, p. 51).

For further detailed information on the Dead Sea Scrolls and their meaning for the Bible, write for our free reprint article "Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls."

It becomes apparent then that Christianity did *not* begin in a monastic commune near the Dead Sea wilderness area! And neither John the Baptist nor Christ Himself was an Essene. Such ideas stand disproved and have no foundation in actual fact.

# IS CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN?

**The origin of many of our Christmas customs is amazing, shocking! Millions of Christians accept the customs without ever questioning their origin. Millions observe them without realizing the God they hope to worship through these customs condemns them!**

by Albert J. Portune

**H**AVE you ever wondered how *Santa Claus* fits into the story of CHRIST? Have you ever pondered where the tinsel-covered, brightly lit Christmas tree with its ornate decorations figures in the worship of God?

Why do we follow the custom of exchanging gifts at Christmas time? From where come the holly wreaths, the mistletoe and the greeting cards? Why is *December 25th* called the "birthday of Christ"?

## In the Bible?

Did you know that thousands of years *before* Christ — before there was ever a CHRISTIAN — people, just as they do today — went out into the forests and cut down evergreen fir trees?

They trimmed the branches, brought the trees into their homes, nailed them down and decorated them with gold and silver *ornaments*. They exchanged gifts, sent greeting cards, played games, sang songs and feasted in a gala festive season.

Did you know this was all done on the same day of the year — our December 25th?

But Jesus Christ wasn't the central figure of that festival. It was a PAGAN GOD — the SUN-GOD! It was HIS BIRTHDAY.

Everyone seems to feel that somehow the pageant of Christmas sums up the concept of God and the coming of Christ — the Saviour of the world.

But, shocking as it may seem, you

cannot find any of these things in your Bible!

Prove it for yourself! Look in your Bible. Search for a mention of Santa Claus. Search for Jesus or His apostles ever decorating a Christmas tree or Jesus ever *saying* we should do so in honor of Him. Examine the Bible carefully for any place Jesus said to celebrate His birthday — to exchange gifts among OURSELVES. Search for the *proof* December 25th WAS Jesus' birthday. Search for holly wreaths, mistletoe and Christmas cards.

They are not there!

Why then do we find ourselves following such customs? Why are these things a part of Christianity? Where did they come from? The truth will

amaze you! Do you have the courage to face it?

### The Amazing Story

How these things became a part of Christianity is a story as old as history. It is a story YOU need to know.

In the dawn of civilization on this earth, men began to multiply into tribes and nations (Gen. 10:5). These people were PAGANS, without the knowledge of the true God.

Their leaders and rulers had the growing problem — as they grew into nations — of keeping their people in subjection and loyal to the state. The standard pagan methods of penalty and punishment were *not enough* to hold down lawlessness and rebellion. A greater and more powerful *tool* was needed to control the masses. *The tool of RELIGION!*

Nimrod became the first such ruler to use this tool. He taught his people that their happiness, their welfare, and their eternal destiny was not in the hands of *man* but in the hands of the SUN-GOD and that HE was the incarnation of that god. He introduced a "new thing" to his people — *superstition* and FEAR! No longer was there just a fear of a human ruler with only *human* powers — but now *superstition* and FEAR of an ALL-POWERFUL GOD who could see and detect all crime and *rebellion* and one who could exact retribution without detection.

What a powerful *tool* this became! *Rulership* through RELIGION!

Beyond the *fear* and *superstition* another concept emerged — the WONDERFUL, the *appealing* and the *sensuous* — PAGAN FESTIVALS in honor of that god. Festivals fraught with the fable of mystery and delight; festivals which gave the people all the pleasures and delights that appealed to the human appetite.

As the SUN — *their god* — dipped lower and lower in the sky and winter approached, it appeared each year to these pagans (as taught by their god-leader) that their god was forsaking them. As the winter solstice of the sun approached, the sun slowed in its retreat, then stopped, and began to return.

After a few days, it was evident the SUN was *returning*. The people became

wild with rejoicing. By the time the date equivalent to our *December 25th* came, it was *positive* and a great celebration or festival began. It was called the BRUMALIA, birthday, or rebirth of the SUN — *their god*.

As this religious holiday evolved among the pagans, the fir tree emerged as a symbol of that god.

When Nimrod was killed, Semiramis, his wife, perpetuated his religion and gave added impetus to it. She claimed a fully grown tall fir tree sprang up overnight from an old dead stump, symbolizing the *reincarnation* of her dead husband Nimrod. (See Hislop's *The Two Babylons*.)

It was at this time the people were taught the custom of worshipping the Christmas tree. They decorated it with round ornaments symbolizing the fertility their SUN-GOD gave them — pictured as a round EGG — the symbol of reproductive fertility.

The people were taught that on each December 25th, Nimrod would visit their decorated tree and leave gifts upon it for them. This is the true origin of "Santa Claus" — St. Nicholas or NIMROD! Indeed the term "Santa" was a common name for the hero-god in Asia Minor (see *Lempriere's Classical Dictionary*).

What a *delight* this holiday became in the ancient pagan world. It was looked forward to anxiously and with great anticipation — just as Christmas is today. The whole *scheme* was that not only would people serve a god and a ruler they *feared*, but also they would be loyal to one who provided such blessings and physical pleasures. To be disloyal or unfaithful to their god and leader who not only held the supreme authority over their lives, but who also gave them the benefits of such delightful festivals — was unthinkable. It became the most *effective* tool to rule the people.

The whole documented story from history is available to you. Write for our shocking and eye-opening FREE booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas*. You will be amazed!

### Proof From Historians

From the pages of history comes graphic proof of how states and rulers

took advantage of this tool of fable, superstition and fear to keep their people in subjection.

Note this striking quotation from STRABO, a geographer and writer of the first century B.C.

"The poets were by no means the first to avail themselves of MYTHS. STATES and LAWGIVERS *had taken advantage of them* LONG BEFORE, having observed the constitutional biasness of mankind. Man is eager after knowledge, and the love of *legend* is but the prelude thereto. This is why children begin to listen to *fables* and are acquainted with them before any other kind of knowledge. . . ."

Notice how these ancient rulers knew the use of fantastic fables in capturing the minds of the *young*. Children today learn of Santa Claus and the delights of Christmas before they learn to read and write.

Strabo continues: "But the MARVELOUS, which is capable of exciting FEAR as well as *pleasure*, influences not childhood only, *but age as well*. As we relate to children *pleasing tales* to incite them to any course of action, and *frightful ones* to deter them. . . . *So numbers of our citizens are incited to deeds of virtue by the beauties of FABLE.*"

Just as today, the ancient peoples were *enticed* into loyalty to a concept, through invented FABLE and delightful fantasy.

Notice the rest of this striking quotation: "The great mass of . . . COMMON PEOPLE, *cannot be induced by mere force of reason* to devote themselves to piety, virtue and honesty; SUPERSTITION *must therefore be employed*, and EVEN THIS is insufficient *without the aid of the MARVELOUS and the TERRIBLE*. For what are the Thunderbolts [of Jupiter], the Aegin [of Minerva], the Trident [of Neptune], the Torches, the Dragons, the Barbed Thyrses, the Arm of the Gods, and ALL the paraphernalia of *antique theology* but FABLES employed by the FOUNDERS OF STATES."

Even ancient historians and geographers like Strabo, KNEW that these customs were purely FANTASTIC MYTH to capture the minds of the people.

Another amazing quotation from history graphically illustrates how the

ancient rulers of states INVENTED religious FABLE to keep the masses in line.

The writer is Polybius, a Greek historian also of the first century B.C. who recognized these same forces at work in the Roman Empire.

"But among all the useful institutions that demonstrate the superior excellence of the *Roman government*, the most considerable perhaps is the opinion which the people are *taught* to hold concerning the gods . . . I mean, SUPERSTITION, which is impressed with *all* its TERRORS; and influences both the PRIVATE actions of the citizens, and also the public administration of the state, in a degree that can scarcely be exceeded. This may appear astonishing to many. To me it is evident that this contrivance was at first *adopted for the sake of the multitude* [the common people]. For if it were possible that a state could be composed of wise men only, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED PERHAPS OF ANY SUCH INVENTION. But as the peoples universally are fickle and inconstant, filled with irregular desires, precipitate in their passions and prone to violence; *there is no way to restrain them*, BUT BY THE DREAD OF THINGS UNSEEN, and by the PAGEANTRY of TERRIFYING FICTION. The ancients therefore acted not absurdly, nor without good reason, when they INVENTED the notion concerning the GODS. . . ." (Book IV, 55, 56. The quote is from Hampton's translation, Vol. II, pp. 405, 406.)

Thus the true source of Christmas and other religious myth is revealed. It was NEVER true. It was never a part of the TRUE worship of the true God. It was *invented* as a tool in the hands of ~~ambitious~~ leaders to ensnare their ~~people~~ and to capture their minds by ~~fear~~ and superstition.

### How These Customs Became Christian

But how did these customs find their way into Christianity? The story will *again* amaze you!

~~When~~ the Roman Empire began to expand and rule the world, it inculcated all the pagan practices of the peoples it conquered. All the pagan gods of the ~~subjugated~~ peoples were brought to ROME! Rome became the religious capi-

tal of the world with its Pantheon of pagan GODS!

So, at the time of Christ and in the days of the apostles, these *same pagan festivals* were being observed in the Roman Empire.

From December 17th to the 24th, the *Saturnalia* was celebrated with all governmental offices and schools closed. Then on December 25th, the *ancient Brumalia* was celebrated in honor of the birthday of the sun-god — just as it had been done for thousands of years before.

Greeting cards were traded, gifts were exchanged — there was feasting and celebrating beginning on the "eve" before — just like our "Christmas Eve" today. But Jesus Christ was not the central figure of this festival. It was again the ancient pagan sun-god. (See *4000 Years of Christmas* by Earl Wendell.)

As true Christianity began to spread, false pagan teachers began to emerge. They taught a counterfeit Christianity which *blended* the truth of God with *pagan fables* which were so popular in the Roman world — following the age-old practice of *absorbing* all religions.

The Apostle Paul — nearing the end of his "good fight" — warns Timothy of this very thing. Notice it: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own LUSTS [desires for pleasure] shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall TURN AWAY their ears from the *truth*, and shall be turned UNTO FABLES" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

Some of the teachers of the pagan religions of Rome, greedy for power and recognition, began to see the value of the simplicity of Jesus' message. It had a Champion — the Messiah — who died for the people. It had the appeal of simple faith, the promise of eternal life. It had the overwhelming warmth of love and mercy. AND, the people were "going for it."

These pagan religious leaders knew their own sensual and alluring festivals were *also* popular and attractive to the people. They saw that an amalgam of the two concepts would become an *all-powerful tool*.

Hence they became associated with the activities of the true apostles. They began to preach Christ on their own,

but a different message—a message that enabled the people not only to have the promises that Jesus brought, but ALSO to continue *their former festivals*. They even began to teach among the Christians that those who didn't believe in these customs — their brand of Christianity — were heretics and began to put them out of the church.

Such an incident is recorded for us in III John: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church" (verses 9-10).

### Hybrid Christianity Grows

Soon this *hybrid* religion — a mixture of Christianity and paganism — began to flourish throughout the Roman Empire.

In the fourth century A.D. the old, established priesthood tried but failed to stamp out this new hybrid religion. So this false "Christianity" was elevated to equal status with paganism. The door was now open, and thousands of former pagans became nominal Christians, bringing with them the whole scope of pagan customs into the so-called "Christian Church."

Notice this historic conflict as recorded by the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia*: "How much the date of the festival [Christmas] depended upon the pagan Brumalia (Dec. 25) following the Saturnalia (Dec. 17-24), and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the 'new sun' . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were *too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence*. . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian *preachers* of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia *accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun-*

worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival" ("Christmas," *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, 1908 edition, III, p. 48). But adopt it they did, nonetheless.

Can there be any doubt as to the real origin of Christmas? Christmas originated with the pagans as an admitted lie and myth foisted off on the people to control their minds. It became a part of Christianity in the same way — through ambitious men seeking power and recognition. They used its delightful myth to lure and attract the people and bring them into their church.

### But What Does God Say?

Most theologians admit the pagan origin of Christmas, but make the same mistake the early church leaders made. They ASSUME it DOESN'T MATTER if they take pagan holidays and Christianize them so long as they keep the name of Christ.

But what does God say about this? Can WE worship God this way? Notice HIS answer! "Take heed to thyself that thou be not SNARED by following them [pagan peoples] . . . and that thou enquire NOT after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? *even so will I do likewise*. Thou SHALT NOT DO SO unto the Lord thy God: for every *abomination* to the Lord, WHICH HE HATETH, have they done unto their gods . . ." (Deut. 12:30-31).

God gives us in His Word — the Bible — the WAY to worship Him. God says we must worship Him in *spirit* and in TRUTH (John 4:24) — NOT through the invented lies of PAGAN peoples.

### Additional Condemnation

Now notice a *condemnation* of a practice so dear to the Christmas season. "Thus saith the Lord, LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven . . . for the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a TREE out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with *silver* and with *gold*; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jer. 10:2-4).

Does that sound familiar? YES IT DOES. But it is the CONDEMNATION by the Almighty God of a practice we have

so long called *Christian*. Could anything be plainer? Does God enjoy our Christmas season and smile upon it when He sees us reveling in the very pagan practices He condemns? Is Christmas really *Christian*?

### Christmas Gifts?

Many will say, "Surely giving gifts at the Christmas season is Biblical. Didn't the wise men bring *gifts* to CHRIST?" But *there* is your answer! They gave them to CHRIST — the MESSIAH — KING of the Jews, not to each other. These Magi, or wise men, had come to honor Him who had been born KING of the Jews (Matt. 2:2).

It was long a custom of the East never to come into the presence of a king without a gift. And here was not only the King of the Jews, but one who was to become "*King of kings and Lord of lords*."

What an open insult it would have been had these wise men exchanged gifts among THEMSELVES rather than presenting them to the King — the Lord Jesus Christ. They were not *exchanging* gifts with each other. They were following the different custom of *bringing gifts to a King*.

But today people blindly follow the *vain* custom of exchanging gifts among themselves while ignoring Christ, the Messiah, in the very festival that is SUPPOSED to honor Him, yet *does not*.

### Christ's Birthday Not

December 25

When *was* Jesus born?

The Bible plainly does not reveal His birthday. Yet, it is clear from the Bible that it WAS NOT on December 25th.

Jesus *wasn't* born in the *winter* at all. The Bible makes that clear: "There were . . . shepherds *abiding* in the FIELD, keeping watch over their flock *by night*" (Luke 2:8).

Beginning in October and November the winter rains and cold weather began in Judaea. Up to that time the flocks *were* in the open fields, but when the rainy season began, the shepherds could no longer abide in the field. This is a plain fact, as many Bible authorities admit.

The plain truth is — NO ONE knows the exact date of Jesus' birth. Jesus'

message of *salvation* points us NOT to His birth, but to His *death* for our sins — at the Passover season — and His *resurrection* as our *Saviour, High Priest* and soon-coming KING.

If you would like a startling, factual account of the *historic proof* that Jesus wasn't born on December 25th, write for our FREE article "When Was Jesus Born?"

The date — December 25th — therefore, *has only one significance*: It was the day selected to honor the rebirth of the *false*, PAGAN SUN-GOD but later falsely claimed to be Christ's birthday by the false teachers who combined pagan lies with true Christianity. Can we honor Jesus by claiming He was born on this day?

### Other Pagan Christmas Symbols

The Christmas wreath — woven of holly vines and berries — simulates the round sun and was a symbol woven during the days preceding the Brumalia as a symbol of the SUN-GOD. The mistletoe was a similar token used in the old *pagan* practice of kissing beneath it as part of the revelry and celebration associated with this festival.

Yes, even the *yule* log and the practice of lighting fires and candles were part of the PAGAN festival and used to entice the waning sun back again.

### What Will You Do?

Already the decorations are up. The whole land is full of Christmas. Everywhere gaily lit trees, Christmas wreaths, Christmas candles, greeting cards and Santas. Shoppers are scurrying for gifts for all. The Christmas fable will be told and retold — all in the name of Christianity.

Yet, the true Christ, whose name this festival has stolen, is truly *left out in the cold* as we FORGET Him in exchanging gifts among ourselves and reveling amid the pagan sights and symbols around us.

What will YOU do this year? Will you honor the gods of the heathen under the guise of Christianity or will you do as God says: "COME OUT OF HER [BABYLON — the origin and seat of paganism], MY PEOPLE, that ye be not partakers of her SINS, and that you receive not of her PLAGUES" (Rev. 18:4). □

# TEN REASONS WHY I DON'T KEEP CHRISTMAS !

**Sour grapes? A bah-humbug Scrooge? Anti-establishment? Irreligious? NO! None of these. Here's a plain speaking-out about a holiday nearly everybody keeps, religious or non-religious, and nearly no one seems to really understand why! Read this personal-experience article for understanding. It's practical. Logical. Truthful. Biblical. All of these!**

by David Jon Hill

**M**ANY years ago I stopped to ask myself — *Why do I keep Christmas?* More people are unhappy, miserable, depressed, deep in debt, and violent during the holiday season than any other time of the year. There's precious little peace on earth or good will among men. There doesn't seem to be much of Christ in the commercialized Christmas that begins to be advertised each year before the last Christmas is paid for! For that matter, in what little reading I had done in the Bible, I never had read anything about Christmas. Where did we get all of these customs anyway? Why do I have to practice them just because everybody else does? What difference will it make if I *don't* keep Christmas?

At first I argued with myself that I would create problems with my friends and relatives, particularly the kids in the family, if I didn't go along with the customs surrounding the twenty-fifth of December.

But I was wrong!

When I said I was sick and tired of it and determined not to have anything

to do with it, I found many people who felt the same way. A great number of those who had in previous years felt obliged to trade gifts with me sighed in relief at not having that obligation. As for the children, when we took the time to look into the encyclopedia and the other reference works at the library, when we read with our thinking caps on the many articles that come out in daily newspapers during the Christmas season, we realized that the origins of these customs were not Biblical at all — and in fact, had nothing to do with Jesus Christ of Nazareth! And children, until they are taught differently, have an inspiring respect for the plain truth!

So looking back on the many years which I have *not* kept Christmas, I can with happy hindsight give many more reasons now than when I first quit observing this outstanding holiday of the "Christian" calendar. Perhaps you will benefit by the cataloguing of some of those experiences and the reasons that I have learned over the years for not having to become involved in what is not only the least understood but the

most *misunderstood* of social customs in the Western world.

## I Can't Afford It!

By the time you add up the cost of decorations, special meals, travel expenses, gifts and cards, time taken off from work during a forced holiday season, etc., etc., it can often — especially by the time you add carrying charges and interest on those things which have been put on credit — amount to *nearly ten percent* of your gross annual income that can be spent on this occasion. You just have to ask yourself — *is it worth it?* The answer I had to give myself was — *absolutely not!* By the time I examined my budget in the light of the rising, inflationary cost of living — by the time I realized the serious investment that has to be made ahead of time for my children's education and for my own old age — by the time I added up all the deductions from my paycheck and then subtracted the absolutely necessary amounts for the basics of living — by the time I set aside a little for yearly family excursions to some place on this

beautiful earth that I have not seen before — by the time I added in the expense of those things which are *not necessary* but which *I would like to do* and be FREE to do (not be forced to do) — by the time I set aside a little for unexpected occurrences and all the other picky things that belong in a budget, I realized that I had nothing left over to pay for financing the biggest business bust of the year! Whenever I mention this to other people, I usually get a hearty agreement and a wistful look from them that says they wish they had the gumption to cut free from this ridiculous expense themselves.

### Accent on Get!

Materialism and commercialism so dominate this “season to be jolly” that there can surely be no soul so blind as not to see it! Although it is the season of giving — and everyone is propagandized to feel evil if they are not involved in that giving — the overtones, from the candy store on the corner to the department store that has everything and the mail-order-catalogue businesses, obviously put the stress on getting them more business during this time of year than any other comparable season. In fact, many commercial ventures rely on this season of the year for their *survival*.

Whenever a question is asked after the twenty-fifth of December is past, it is generally, “What did *you* GET for Christmas?” Each vies with the other, determined to express the idea that he got more.

Nobody likes to pay taxes and I'm sure that if there were a way out everybody would take it and cease paying taxes immediately. But taxes are demanded and it is a criminal offense not to pay them. Being taxed in addition to that by the crass commercialism and social pressure mounted at Christmas time is something I have found the strength to refuse. It is *not* a crime to refuse to go along with the crowds in their rush to fulfill the season's demands — in fact, there's a certain sense of satisfaction in having been able to be assailed with all of that accumulation of social trends and business furor and *withstand* it all, independent, watching the madness from the sidelines!

There's enough of the “go now and pay later” — the “put it on credit and don't worry about payments until February,” the “why use cash when you can use credit?” syndromes going on in the world as it is. I not only don't have to worry about payments until February, but I don't have to worry about payments even when it gets to be March or April or May or June or July or for however long those holidays may continue to cost the average person for his response to Christmas commercialism.

### Giving Is Special

By withdrawing myself from the social demands of giving *on command*, of

— and it is spread over the *whole year*.

Because it is special, care and thought beyond the mad rush of the commercial season are lavished uniquely on the *one* gift at the *one* time for the *special* occasion which I find stands out much more in the memory of the giver and the receiver than any Christmas gift ever could. This way I'm *free* to give, not *bound* to give — and I find this freedom refreshing!

### Hypocrisy — the Spirit of Christmas

“I hate Christmas,” said one department store manager in California. “I hate the hypocrisy, the one-day Chris-



being obliged to give things I can't afford to people to whom I don't want to give — who feel the same way about me and wouldn't like what I give them anyway — *doesn't* mean that I have given up giving. My children, my wife, my family and close friends receive gifts from me, or I do nice things for them, at *spontaneous* times that are *special* — just between me and the one to whom I give. That way the gift is much more special. The receiver realizes that it doesn't have to be done. The thought behind the gift really does count more than the gift. All the giving is not done in just one season. Special joy comes from giving and receiving between people who love each other

tianity of Christmas; I hate the commercialism — and I'm part of it.”

A seasoned divorce lawyer wrote, “Lawyers usually see an influx of new divorce clients immediately following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Too much holiday cheer touches off the smoldering conflicts that have been under control all year.”

A psychiatrist says, “At Christmas, the lonely begin feeling lonelier, the tension prone tighten up as pressures mount and the illusion appears of ecstatic happiness for all just around the corner. Christmas is the worst season of the year for the mentally ill.”

Even the Better Business Bureau warns, “Tis the season to be *wary*” —

that is, it's the season of shysters, shoplifters and sidewalk salesmen. They warn that those who plead for charity should be investigated before any donation is made — *especially* at this time of year.

In a desperate effort to fit in with the "spirit of Christmas," people smile when they don't *feel* like smiling. They greet one another with old pagan slogans. They get increasingly concerned about the debts they are mounting up. They get into more and more of a hard-faced, bitter fighting with their fellow Christmas shoppers as the deadline approaches and they desperately try to snap up the last few gifts from the counters which they know are going to offer the same items the day after Christmas for 30 to 50 percent off!

Far too many try to get their Christmas spirits from the bottle, and either end up drunk with a hangover, or perhaps seriously injured or dead as a result of overindulgence while driving. So many so deeply wish they didn't have to be involved in this season but are forced to by social custom. Hypocrisy stands as the hallmark of this season.

### I Hate to Lie — Especially to Kids!

A famous physician says that the Santa Claus myth is a fantastic web of lies which can cause your child — "when he finds out" — confusion of mind, possible schizoid splits in his personality, or even a physical ailment resulting from the emotional letdown of "losing" so close a friend (Santa). One psychology professor even laid part of the blame for the generation gap and the emerging hippie subculture on the Santa Claus myth.

In the parent-child relationship the TRUTH is the most priceless commodity that they must always share. How many times have you found yourself saying to your child — "Now you be sure to tell me the truth, young man (or young lady)"? We even want them to tell us if they have done something *bad* — which is difficult for anybody to tell. We want them to tell us about their grades in school, about their friends and what they do and think, whether they broke a neighbor's window or took money from mama's purse. We preach

over and over to them that they must *always* tell the truth. And then *we* proceed in nearly *every* holiday season of the year to manufacture the most ridiculous falsehoods imaginable! Sober-faced and with our hypocritical spirit of Christmas wrapped around us, we tell them — and even associate it with God and Christ and the Bible — *one blatant lie after another!*

Is it any wonder we have a generation gap!

One of the biggest things that the young people of today are accusing the older generation of is hypocrisy — and I'm afraid that I have to agree with that charge for the majority of the people who live as slaves to the social system which surrounds us. Thankfully, I determined, *before* my children were old enough to talk to, that I was not going to tell them any lies about a fat man who dresses in a red suit, flies in some magical way on a sled led by a red-nosed reindeer and somehow manages to squeeze down my chimney on the dark night of the twenty-fourth to deposit gifts for all the good little children under some tinsel tree that I have trucked in.

My children didn't have to find out that dad was lying about Santa Claus. My children didn't have to even think the thought in their minds which has been expressed by a few bold children — that thought: "If they lie to me about Santa Claus, what else will they lie to me about? Now I wonder about this whole Jesus Christ business!"

This doesn't mean that my children never have lied — I certainly don't pride myself on being a perfect parent. But it does mean that they could not excuse any lying they did because they caught their mother or father telling them big whoppers — and doing it in the setting of religious worship at that! They know mom and dad don't lie and this gives them a special respect and a special contact that is not only precious to my wife and me as parents but which we feel is a basic requirement and an indispensable tool of child rearing.

It's all too often that we run across the syndrome of people not practicing what they preach. You can't ask your kids to do what they don't see you doing. You can tell your kids, "Don't

do as I do, do as I say," but it won't work! Children have to *learn* to trust their parents — but I never knew an inveterate liar who could be trusted! Being forced by society to tell a package of lies at a time which is so special in the minds of children — when they are at their most tender and impressionable age — deals a crippling blow to child-parent relationships and creates a giant credibility gap between children and adults — no matter how much we might pooh-pooh the idea.

As a child grows up, it leads to a cynical turn of mind. It gives him or her a set of values which is cheap and tawdry regarding the truth.

Yet it is a reward no parent wants to miss to have his children come to him and ask any question they want to, in an open trust, knowing that they will be told the truth. You can't buy that commodity. There's no commercialism or materialism involved with it. It is the opposite of hypocrisy. And despite the fact that you cannot buy it, it costs absolutely nothing! The truth is that commodity which is most missing in today's world, and it truly is the source and power of freedom — "*the truth SHALL make YOU free!*"

### Xmas Tree Bears Bad Fruit!

Another reason I don't keep Christmas is a logical, cause-and-effect reason. I look around me and it doesn't take too much intelligence or research effort on my part to determine that the fruits of the Christmas tree are heavily seasoned with bitterness and violence, depression, depravity and debt.

The Book my Maker gave me says that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. When I look at this Christmas tree, I see a great deal of bad fruit.

It's a paradox. At Christmas time, when millions of families are drawn close together, at least in physical proximity, it is also a fact that simultaneously more people are depressed, deep in debt, discouraged, drunken and dying during that time than any other month of the year.

The FBI says, "The peak monthly rate [for murder and manslaughter] almost invariably occurs in December. This may have something to do with

the approach of Christmas, which leads to an unusually large number of family rows . . . 'Peace on earth,' we say, but it looks very doubtful that we really mean it at Christmas. Not when families are suffering such heavy crime statistics. On a week for week basis more people commit suicide during this holiday season than any other period of the year."

A policeman writes, "I have been an officer for over 19 years . . . we get more calls from neighbors to go out and settle family fights on Christmas Eve than any other night during the year, including New Year's. You walk into a house that is gaily decorated, the tree is aglow, beautifully wrapped gifts are under the tree and the husband and wife are throwing things at each other. The kids are crouched in the corner scared out of their wits."

A leading neurologist says, "There are certainly more depressions, suicidal gestures, cries for help at Christmas than at any other time."

Overeating, hives, crying jags, dishonesty, sexual deviation, playing with your neighbor's wife, plain orneriness, a peak in highway accidents, and family murders are among the fruits of this season's tree!

Personally, for me, I thank God that

the Christmas tree is not in my home to bear these bad fruits!

### Xmas Demands Intellectual Dishonesty!

Beyond just plain lying to our children, coming up with reasons why we keep these holidays produces a prime example of either a bad case of intellectual blinders or outright intellectual dishonesty.

It doesn't take great, in-depth research to find out that the roots of Christmas — and for that matter *every* so-called Christian holiday on the calendar — are *not* found in the Bible, which is the handbook from the Creator. A little further basic research in encyclopedias will force a person to either rebel against the dictates of commercial society — or compromise his intellectual honesty.

Take the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, for instance, under the article "Christmas." It plainly tells us that many early

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Sign for drinking lounge encouraging consumption of "pre-Christmas spirits." But notice the last part of the sign — truly Christmas is a time when many rush to consume excessive amounts of alcohol!

Ambassador College Photo

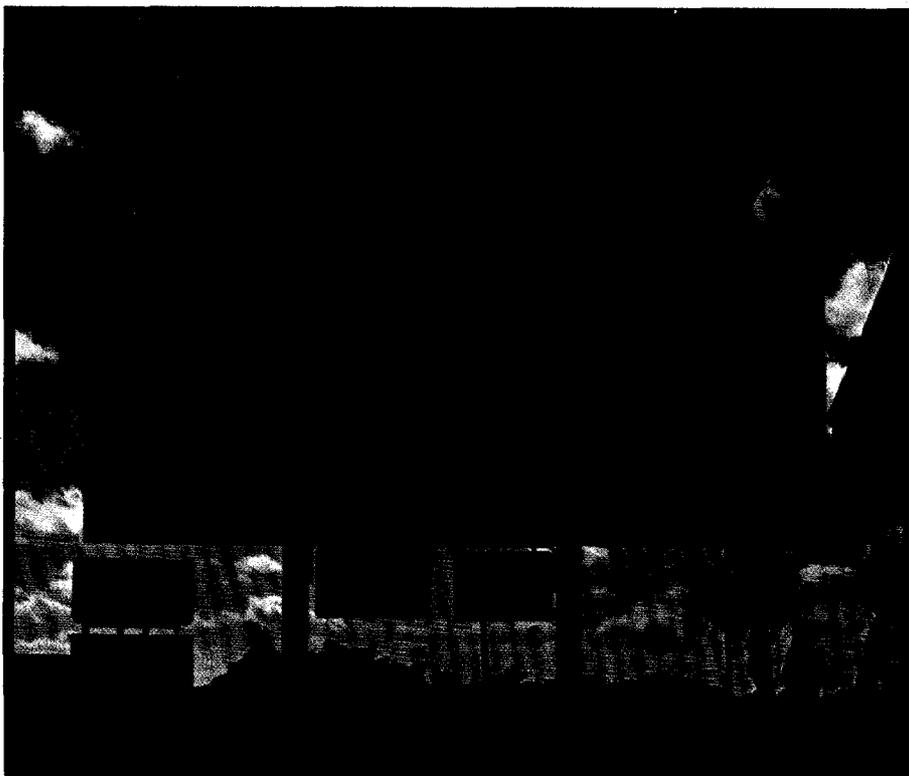
church fathers condemned the keeping of this baptized Saturnalia and that it was not an acceptable "Christian" holiday until well into the fourth century. Even after that it goes on to show that many outstanding leaders in the history of that church as well as a Pope or two have condemned the practices of that season. It continues explaining that even the Parliament of England declared the holiday illegal at one time. It states very plainly that there is no *Bible* example of the observing of birth-days of holy men or saints but rather their death-days!

It plainly points out that nobody really knows when Christ was born — that "respected authorities" can be found who place the birth of Christ in almost *any* month of the year. Further than that it plainly explains that if there is any *one* month when the birth of Christ could *not* have occurred it would be *December!* And on and on and on . . . To think that in the light of these facts and many more — be sure to read Mr. Portune's article on "Is Christmas Christian?" in this issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD — to think that in the light of all the information which is readily available any individual would continue to celebrate this festival seems to me to be blatant intellectual dishonesty.

You always hear over *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast or see us say in the pages of TOMORROW'S WORLD. — "Don't believe us just because we say it, prove it yourself!" To be forced by social pressure to develop a study habit of rejecting or overlooking or compromising or ignoring or twisting plain facts is an exercise I do not want to enjoin on myself, my son, my daughter, my wife, or my friends!

### Christ Never Was in Christ-Mass

"Let's put Christ back into Christmas," some say when they notice the commercialism. Yet this saying is of itself a sad commentary on the entire subject. When you put all your research together, looking at the Bible, looking at the readily available references in your public library and perhaps at the books on your own shelf, you can quickly see that the true Jesus Christ of



Nazareth who lived in Galilee nearly two thousand years ago *never was in Christmas!*

As you progress through a short study, you realize that His name was put into Christmas and accepted as the heart of the story of Christmas by about the fourth century. You realize the name of Christ was used and applied to this custom. But then, of course, you realize that the name of Christ was prophesied by Jesus Himself to be preached and associated with the deception of *the many* as one of the signs that would precede His coming and that He Himself gave this prophecy to His disciples in Matthew 24. As your study goes further, you realize that many attempts at reform were made at various times in both the Catholic and Protestant churches — feeble attempts to get back to the faith once delivered to the saints — attempts to *not* allow, as the early New Testament church did *not*, the name of Christ to be associated with this holiday with such a dubious background!

It would be impossible to put the *true* Christ back into Christmas because the *true* Christ *never was* IN Christmas!

Christ's *name* has been used in vain to decorate that day, and so the third of the great Ten Commandments is broken. Jesus Christ is the Living Word — the personal, human and *now divine* expression of the *living* Ten Commandments. The keeping of this holiday breaks not only the third commandment but every other one! It's obvious to see that the commandment against *lying* is broken here. Often the commandment not to commit *adultery* is broken especially on that day! It's obvious to see that *coveting* is the universal principle of this season. It is all too sadly plain to recognize that *murder* is committed and a great deal of *stealing* goes on and children have a very difficult time *honoring their parents*.

The Jesus Christ of Nazareth who gave His life to pay for my all-too-many sins — the Jesus Christ of Nazareth who by the Spirit of God is, according to the dictates of His Word, the Bible, supposed to be living His life style over in my life — *that* living Jesus soon to come to this world as its King of kings and Lord of lords will not give author-

ity for His name to be associated with any aspect of this pagan holiday!

### It's Pagan!

In most any public library you can get proof of this in a book entitled *Four Thousand Years of Christmas* by Earl Wendell Count. The very name of this book proves that the Christmas holiday isn't Christian. It was celebrated two thousand years *before* the birth of Christ in honor of pagan gods! Therefore, it was and is idolatry. God very patently says, "Take heed . . . that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, How do these nations serve their gods? that I also may do likewise. You shall not do so to the Eternal your God: for every abominable thing which the Eternal hates, they have done for their gods" (Deut. 12:30-31).

### I Give to Christ!

The excuse of giving gifts that comes from the story of the birth of Christ regarding the wise men giving Christ gifts is *misapplied* in our giving *one another* gifts! The reason the wise men gave gifts to Christ was because He was a *King*. He is much *more* a King now than He was then and He will be even much more a King in the soon-coming future than He is now.

To give to every Tom, Dick and Harry and NOT to give to Christ, particularly at a season which claims Christ as its center, seems to me the worst hypocrisy of all. Having read and believed Malachi 3, which says that any individual or nation that does not give its tithes to God is guilty of grand larceny, of robbing God — I have dedicated that first ten percent and another generous amount of my budget to be given to God, to His Work on this earth today, to proclaiming the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God to rule over this world, to His representatives who preach and teach *that* truth which is the only source of freedom! I find many Biblical commands — inescapable — which *require* me to give to my Christ and other statements which *allow* me to give freely of free-will offerings at any time or on special occasions. This kind of giving I can do with a completely free conscience. This kind of giving I will be able to justify

when I look my Creator in the face.

I may be faced with a few unpleasant comments from *people* and have to suffer ridicule or scoffing or accusations because I don't keep the arch holiday which is designated by the name of Christ (taken in vain), but I will not have to stand before my Creator whose name is Jesus Christ and explain to Him why I *kept* Christmas. I don't think it will be too difficult facing the judgment — to be able to say to my Creator that, instead of giving at a time of the pagan winter solstice, gifts I couldn't afford, which were not appreciated, to all kinds of people in His name — that I have instead given *directly* as commanded (and I *hope* *generously* as free-will offerings) my gifts *directly* to the Work of the Living Jesus Christ!

These are just ten reasons why I don't keep Christmas — but I think they are adequate to explain my conduct. The freedom I enjoy, the good conscience I am able to have, the sincere friends who give to me of their time and effort and consideration as well as a little, physical gift from time to time — the security I feel at not having a mountain of debts to pay, the ability to look my son and daughter or *anyone else* in the eye and tell the truth — all these are priceless and indispensable factors that influence every day of my life.

When I gave up Christmas, I didn't give up anything but debt, materialism, hypocrisy, lying, bad fruits, intellectual dishonesty and paganism! The freedom of the truth is rich and it gets richer every year. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Why don't you join me in my freedom! □

THE  
PLAIN TRUTH  
about  
CHRISTMAS

# "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY!"

**Some of this world's marriage counsellors advise: "A little adultery is good for your marriage!" But is it really? No breaking of the seventh commandment — before or after marriage — is good in any way. Read this article and find out WHY it is wrong and what you can do about it!**

by Bill McDowell

**J**IM MOORE was an average man. He had learned early to be satisfied with the middle ground of life. High school found him only slightly above the fifty percentile, and he just managed to get a football letter in his senior year.

He earned everything the hard way, but he had satisfaction in what he did. Graduating in 1950, and with a plodding but patriotic spirit, he joined the Navy and soon saw service in the Korean crisis. Grinding away at his Navy duties, he managed to reach the rank of petty officer before honorable discharge in 1954.

That summer of 1954, Jim got a secure job with the United States Post Office. He was twenty-two. His brand of success was within his grasp. And to top it off, his life suddenly took an exciting turn — Mary Schmidt.

Mary had been his secret high school love. Considered by most to be a little too wild, Mary was perfect in Jim's eyes. He'd never had a real date in high school, but he had certainly been lots of places with Mary, only in his fantasy dreams. Even in the Navy, he had not gone out like the others. At twenty-two, he was a male oddity — a *virgin!*

To find Mary still at home and *still single* was almost too much to hope for. It took great courage to ask her for that

first date. Her unexpected acceptance stunned him.

By Thanksgiving, they were going steady. Three days before Christmas, Mary Schmidt became *Mrs. James Moore* — Jim actually pinched himself during the ceremony to be sure he was awake.

With his savings and the GI Bill, Jim and Mary returned from their honeymoon to move into a neat, attractive bungalow. Eleven months later, little Mary arrived, equipped with her mother's same pert nose and deep blue eyes. Although she had periods of restlessness, Mary was trying hard and made Jim a good wife. Jimmy's birth, two years later, only made life more perfect.

Everything Jim did was for his family. He even took a second job to provide the extra things he knew Mary enjoyed. By 1960, he was able to buy a second car for Mary and still have money in the bank. Little Mary was now five years old and Jimmy was three. How he enjoyed Jimmy's cuddliness and Mary's pixie beauty.

Lately, though, his wife had shown signs of increased restlessness and unusual moodiness. He had bought her a new coat with a fur collar to try to make up for any lacks he may have had, but it didn't seem to help much. He just

couldn't seem to get close to her anymore.

It had been one of those bad weekends when nothing went right and Mary seemed particularly unresponsive. Monday morning, Jim's deepening concern caused him to do something he had never done before. He did not go to work.

Instead, he went directly to the florist and bought the most beautiful bouquet of roses they had. In order to surprise Mary, he did not drive up to the house, but parked around the block and came through the alley to the back door. He was happy to find she was not in the kitchen to see him and spoil the surprise.

The tragic scene that greeted him was one no husband should *ever* see!

There was Mary on the living room couch in the act of *ADULTERY with a stranger!*

Jim could not speak; he could not move.

A stranger, in one moment, had totally shattered *all* his hopes and dreams of a lifetime. The life he had painstakingly built no longer was. The mother of his children, the woman of his dreams, his lifetime partner now lay spoiled, damaged, sullied before his eyes. *He just could not bring himself to believe it!*

Before he could move, Mary saw him. "WHAT are *you* doing here?" she hissed through clinched teeth! No remorse, only anger and rage that he had returned home unexpectedly. She had secretly been committing adultery for some time. Her love for Jim had faded beyond repair. She couldn't stand him, and was going to ask for a divorce anyway. This only brought it to a head more quickly.

Little Mary and little Jimmy were only pawns in what followed. Their lives became split and damaged in the tragic aftermath of this ruined family, this broken home, this shattered union! All Jim had ever dreamed of was no more.

Mary has been married twice since; Jim remarried once. Mary took the children and Jim has visiting rights. Mary has two more children and has lost her youthful vigor and beauty. She doesn't realize why, but she never seems to have peace or satisfaction anymore. Jim had no more children, but his eyes betray a cloud of disillusionment and the pain of loneliness and unhappiness.

ALL BECAUSE OF THE SIN OF ADULTERY!

This story of Jim and Mary is true. *Only the names and certain facts are altered to hide their identities.* The tragedy is that their story only mirrors what literally thousands of Americans and Britons suffer each year. The records, the movies, even some clergymen claim it is all right — even good — to commit *fornication* or *adultery*. But they never tell the stories of the Jims and Marys across the country.

Though some few might admit the Bible says adultery is wrong (Ex. 20:14), almost no one understands WHY it is so wrong, WHY God forbids it, and what the irrevocable, tragic consequences are.

### Why Is Adultery Wrong?

God did not forbid fornication and adultery simply because He wanted to be cruel to us. He knew the inevitable result and wanted us to be protected from its horrors.

Today's so-called "wise" people claim there is no damage in promiscuity, but the men of old knew better! Notice what the patriarch Job has to say, "For

this [adultery] is an HEINOUS CRIME; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges. For it is a *fire* that consumeth to *destruction*, and would root out all mine increase" (Job 31:11-12).

What's that? "Root out all mine increase"? "Heinous *crime*"? "Fire"? "Destruction"? Surely a little "extra-curricular fun" couldn't bring on all that! *You'd better believe it!*

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever touches her *shall not be innocent* [or, 'go unpunished' — margin]" (Prov. 6:27-29).

Those who commit adultery (or fornication) have no idea of the penalties that go with it. They cannot understand how *automatic* God's Law is and how surely they *will receive their punishment*. God continues, "... the adulteress preys upon your very life" (Prov. 6:26 — Moffatt).

"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding" (Prov. 6:32). Any man who thoughtlessly takes another man's wife truly does lack understanding. He doesn't understand that he is dragging all the hopes and dreams of that man (and his wife) through all the mud and slime of human filth and degradation. He is ruining all his hopes and desires, destroying a family, besmirching all that is good and tearing down plans, dreams and desires of a lifetime — just what happened to Jim and Mary Moore.

Verse 32 continues, "... he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul." He "destroys his soul" in two ways — first in what the offended husband will do to him and second, what he does to himself. "For jealousy is the RAGE of a man: therefore he *will not spare* in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts" (verses 34-35).

Once a woman is robbed of her virtue, once the offense has been made, it can never be taken back. How can you pay a man for ruining his life and future? How can you placate a man whose dreams have been shattered? How can you restore to a man his un-

spoiled and unbesmirched wife? You can't. The adulterer always stands the risk of having his life taken through the vengeance of a hurt and wronged husband. Any man who can't see and understand this *lacks understanding*.

### The Personal Damage

How does he "destroy his own soul"? Notice how Job describes the adulterer: "The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguises his face... for the morning is to them even as the shadow of death: if one know them, they are in the *terrors* of the shadow of death. He is swift as the waters... he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards... he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree" (Job 24:15-20).

The adulterer learns to sneak and be "shifty." His character becomes untrustworthy. He marks his female targets and tries to avoid being seen. If he is seen, he "beholds not the way of the vineyard" — runs and crashes through the fields and fences to escape what he knows to be his fate.

The adulterer is an untrustworthy person — even to himself.

But that isn't all! Notice what Paul says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth *against his OWN body*" (I Cor. 6:18). How can this be? A man's wife is his own flesh — *his own body* (Eph. 5:28-29). Any man who commits fornication or adultery is sinning against his wife, or future wife, destroying possibilities for future happiness by his thoughtless, senseless act.

He doesn't realize there is an automatic law in effect that his mind and conscience cannot supersede. He can't understand how his unfaithfulness will make it so difficult to truly love his wife and be true to her.

*What kind of ardor can he have for his wife when his mind will not relinquish memories of Jane, or Beth, or Mary — girls with whom he has shared intimacies which should be reserved only for his wife? How can his wife know she is having to compete with past memories irrevocably stored up in her husband's mind*

—memories he should never have?

He sins against his own wife and himself. "Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart [‘understanding’ — margin]" (Hosea 4:11). His understanding of how to have true happiness diminishes with every illicit sex act. "Give not your strength unto women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings"! (Prov. 31:3.)

How tragically true! The wisest man on earth had to find this out — *the hard way!* Solomon had wisdom, understanding, knowledge — all any man could ask for — plus untold riches (I Kings 3:12-13). He set his hand to try things out by his own personal experience. His sad results are recorded in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Against all of God's warnings (Deut. 17:15-20), Solomon finally accumulated SEVEN HUNDRED wives and THREE HUNDRED concubines — ONE THOUSAND women. He had the best-looking, the best-built, the smoothest-skinned, the most voluptuous women in the land.

But what happened? "... And his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was *old*, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father" (I Kings 11:3-4).

Movie markees showing the recurring theme of illicit and adulterous relationships glorified by many modern films.

Ambassador College Photos

Remember Hosea 4:11? "WHOREDOM and wine and new wine take away the HEART"!

Though Solomon had been given *special* wisdom and understanding (heart) above all men, he failed to exercise these qualities. He increased wretchedness in the land. His women persuaded him to build monuments and sex symbols to their individual gods — to Solomon's shame and the desecration of the land and people of God!

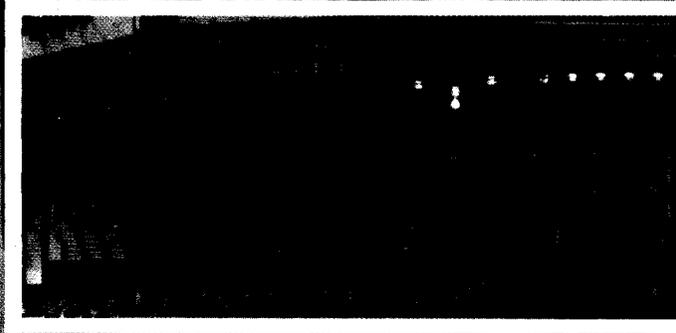
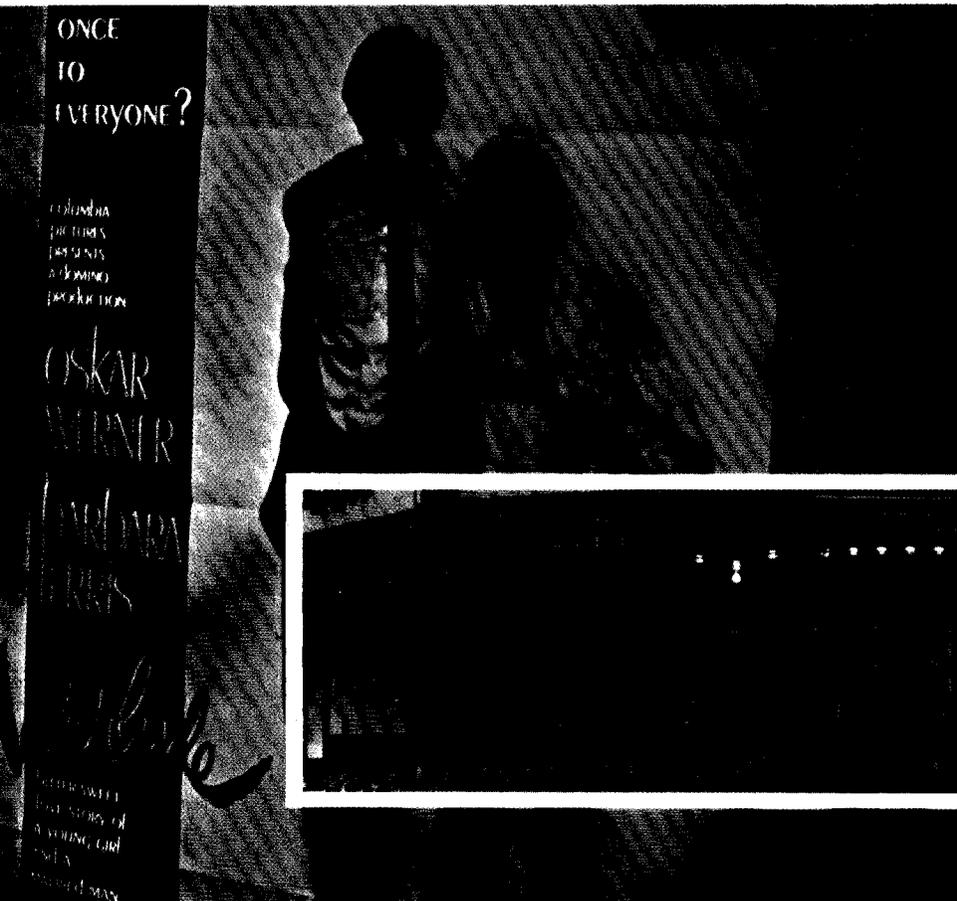
Solomon *may* even have missed his chance for eternal life by his bizarre addiction to illicit sex. This was the one major vice he had. No man who exercises real understanding would erect pagan temples and worship other gods — being led about by illicit bed partners! "A good *understanding* have all they that *do his commandments*" (Psalm 111:10).

Solomon just happened to be able to do what some men or women WOULD DO — if they were able — once they begin to fornicate or commit adultery! He found an INSATIABLE desire for MORE — but he could NEVER be really satisfied.

### Israel's Example!

Israel was God's wife. But when she went after other gods, she committed adultery against Him. "And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and stocks [as well as *other nations*]" (Jer. 3:9). Jeremiah continues, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am MARRIED unto you... Surely as a WIFE treacherously departeth from her HUSBAND, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O House of Israel" (verses 14, 20).

But God saw it just the way Jim Moore saw it. God had rescued Israel from Egypt, cleaned her up as a beautiful, lovely bride and married her (Ezek. 16:1-14). But with all Israel's blessings, she turned against God and became unfaithful. "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications *on every one that passed by*; HIS it was... and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and MULTIPLIED thy whore-



doms" (verses 15, 25). How much clearer can it be?

She totally rejected God and spurned His advances — *scorning* His *true* love for the false. "Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast **UNSATIABLE**; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and *yet* couldst **NOT** be **SATISFIED**" (verse 28).

Do you see what happened? Once she started committing adultery, ancient Israel **COULD NOT BE SATISFIED**. With all his wisdom, Solomon could never be satisfied even with a thousand women. Mary could never again be really satisfied with only Jim. If **YOU** have ever committed fornication, or adultery, *think about it!* Did it ever **SATISFY** you? Was **ONE** time ever enough? **NO!** **LUST** is *never* satisfied.

There is no end to it. If you have never committed fornication or adultery, **BE THANKFUL!** But many of you reading these words **HAVE** committed adultery. You have suffered in your marriage or marriages and perhaps never knew why. Now you can know. You have dragged your life through the mud of human filth, you have fostered an unstable character and you have opened a "Pandora's box" of **INSATIABLE** lust and illicit desire.

### What Can You Do?

Solomon, in all his wisdom, **KNEW** what to do but did not do it. He continued his race to destruction. He did not have a **HEART** like his father, David. His heart was *destroyed* by adulteries! This was the major difference between David and Solomon. David knew what to do and he did it. David's heart had not turned from God as Solomon's.

He realized his deep need for **REPENTANCE** from *his* heinous crime of adultery. When God's prophet Nathan made him realize what he had done with Bathsheba, David was truly **BROKEN** up about it and took **DRASTIC ACTION**. He realized what the penalties were and took steps to **CHANGE**.

David's repentance was complete. He took the whole blame himself. He was not like Sigmund Freud, who felt that **NO ONE** is guilty of personally committing sin — that man is just an innocent victim of environmental circumstances.

Notice how David felt, "For I **ACKNOWLEDGE** *my* transgressions: and *my sin* is **EVER** before me"! (Psalm 51:3.) He recognized that he was the guilty one (verse 4). He took all the blame before God. He knew he had to be *cleaned* and purged by God to be really clean (verse 7).

But, most important, he knew what God really wanted. "For thou desirest **NOT** sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest **NOT** in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a *broken spirit: a broken and contrite HEART*" (verses 16-17).

If you have been involved in the wretchedness of **ADULTERY**, you are in the same shoes with David, Solomon, and Mary Moore. Will you be like David, or like Solomon? Will you let it become an obsession with you and permeate your very being as Solomon did? Will you mull it over in your mind and linger over the "pleasures of sin for a

*moment*" and let it hatch into reality? Will you finally commit the actual **SIN** again? Will you allow your strength, your energies, your proper feelings, your chances for true happiness and your understanding to be ripped away from you by your senseless thoughts and actions?

Or will you be like David, who **SUCCEEDED**, and **QUALIFIED** to be a great *ruler* in God's Kingdom? (Ezekiel 34:23; 37:24.) If you really **WANT** to do **RIGHT** in God's sight, and have the happiness and real **JOY** of living God wants you to have, *be like David*. Have a *heart* like David's. See it as he saw it. Think as he thought! Feel as he felt! **REPENT** like *he* repented!

Take God's way, the *best* way. Follow David's example of repentance. Use Psalm 51 as a guideline to *help* you change and get started toward real help — a future in the World Tomorrow, as well as happiness yet in this life! □

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# Just what do you mean -

# REPENTANCE?

You've probably all heard during your lifetime that you should repent — BUT HOW? What do you repent of? Where does it come from? Read in this article the steps to TRUE repentance.

by Leslie L. McCullough

THE NATIONS of the Western world are *religious* — at least according to statistics.

Many people profess a deep interest in Christianity. Religion has even become fashionable for many people in America and Britain. And with the advent of the "Jesus movement" among young people, thousands of the "now generation" are showing an interest in religion — perhaps for the first time.

Yet our "Christian" societies are bearing *dubious* fruit! Do you know why?

## Where Is the Fruit?

Why with all this interest in religion isn't our society becoming more law-abiding? Why aren't good fruits being borne of our religious beliefs?

Part of this answer was revealed a few years ago in a surprising report in the *Los Angeles Times*: "But increasingly people are becoming disillusioned with churches — so many conflicting, confusing denominations. *Religion seems so unrelated to real life.* Today many people are disillusioned because they can't see the difference between the churchgoer and non-churchgoer; between the BELIEVER AND THE NON-BELIEVER" (emphasis mine throughout article).

Man wants religion, but he wants it — HIS WAY! He doesn't want to give up the way he lives. At the same time he doesn't want to *pay the penalty* for living that way. As a result, people by the millions pour into their churches each week, donating time to help in worthy causes in the vain hope that God will accept their "good deeds" in place of their obedience to Him. Yet, for the most part, their way of *living* doesn't change.

For some, church attendance is actually a means of "*making up*" for their shortcomings and sins. It is something they do *without changing*. It is an act of penance rather than REPENTANCE.

Simple religious interest hasn't seemed to have made any difference in our way of life. What possible good does it do to belong to *any* denomination if no one can tell the difference between the *actions* or FRUITS of a churchgoer and an agnostic?

Jesus Christ said: "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16). The Bible speaks of a true Christian as being a light to the world. Apparently modern-day "Christianity," like so many of our cities, is suffering a power shortage. The result is the same — a "brown-out"! The light has grown so dim as to be barely able to be seen.

## A Christian Society?

Church membership in the United States continues to reach new plateaus with 60% of the population, over 126,000,000 people, claiming church membership. It has been reported that nearly 42% of the United States population can be found in church every weekend. Yet, in spite of church membership figures, crime since 1960 has jumped nearly 175%, while the population has increased by only 13%. The annual cost of crime in the United States is now *conservatively* estimated to be over 30 billion dollars.

When considered in relation to our population growth, crime is increasing 13.5 TIMES FASTER THAN OUR POPULATION! And this is not the result of more accurate reporting methods!

This is the *fruit* of our "Christian society." Unbelievable? Incredible? Astounding? The facts are down in black and white — easily accessible to anyone.

Today's religious interest doesn't go very deep. It doesn't affect the way most people live.

WHY?

## What Is the Problem?

What is the answer?

What does religion have to do with

the way you live? For many it means very little.

Listen to this: "During the years of our greatest growth we produced a generation of anemic Christians, brought up on a few gospel truths captured in platitudes, slogans and shallow Bible study, in an atmosphere where we left the impression that dedication could be measured by the extent of activity in a marathon of somewhat meaningless meetings" (*Los Angeles Times*, April 20, 1969).

Christianity is distant and out of touch with the perplexing and knotty problems of our modern society. The distance between **PROFESSED FAITH AND DAILY PERFORMANCE IS ASTRONOMICAL.**

Today's religious interest is reflected largely on paper. It only shines out from the church roll books. It doesn't show its light as it should in human lives!

The problem lies with the people themselves. Jesus Christ said — in speaking of the religious leaders and people of His day, "... This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit *in vain* do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:6-7).

People attend evangelistic campaigns and talk of all uniting in the brotherhood of Christianity. But very few seem to want to *live* the way Jesus Christ commanded. Most are willing to honor Him with their lips, but they **DON'T WANT TO DO** the things He taught.

The worldwide interest in religion is too often a cheap, shabby facade which serves to disguise a lack of personal integrity and morality. The basic problem is that as nations, and all too frequently even as individuals, there is a lack of *genuine deep repentance!*

### What Is Repentance?

If an increase in the interest in religion around the world doesn't show repentance, what does? If the great evangelistic campaigns aren't producing it, where does it come from? What does it mean?

The dictionary definition of repentance is: "To feel self-reproach, compunction or contrition for past conduct, to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to

be disposed to change one's life for the better" (*The American College Dictionary*).

The Bible definition means all of that **AND MUCH MORE!**

Godly repentance means to stop sinning, to turn and go the other way — **TO CHANGE YOUR WAY OF LIFE!** It's not always easy to say, "I'm sorry." But it's even harder to **MEAN IT.** Godly repentance has to *come from the heart.*

In speaking of **EPHRAIM (IDENTIFIED AS MODERN BRITAIN)**, God says: "And they have not cried unto me **WITH THEIR HEART**, when they howled upon their beds... they rebel against me. Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me. They return, **BUT NOT TO THE MOST HIGH...**" (Hosea 7:14-16).

Your Bible says people have made an *outward* show of returning to Him or repenting, but they haven't done it **WITH THEIR HEARTS!** Ephraim's repentance, and for that matter that of the rest of the world, is the outward, superficial, *worldly repentance* with no real sincerity or *deep* feeling.

### Repent of What?

What is it you should repent *of* or feel sorrow *for*? To some it is one thing and to others — from another society or religion — it is something altogether different. But what does **GOD** say we should repent of?

It is **SIN** we are commanded to repent of (Luke 24:47).

And what is *sin*?

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the *law*: for *sin is the transgression of the law*" (I John 3:4).

**SIN IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW — not human customs!**

Any time you break or disobey *any one* of the holy, righteous commandments of God, **YOU HAVE SINNED.** You must repent. No one is excluded. No man, woman or child has ever lived who hasn't disobeyed and broken God's Law (Rom. 3:10, 23). Therefore *every one* of you needs to repent deeply **AND BITTERLY WITH ALL YOUR HEART.** You need to turn *to God* for forgiveness. You need to begin to obey Him and keep His commandments — all His commandments — with zeal. For "He that saith, I know him [who says, 'I am

a Christian'], and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

### Where Repentance Comes From

We can't just drum up the deep feeling of abhorrence for our sins and our own utter wretchedness. It has to come *from God.*

"Or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the *goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*" (Rom. 2:4).

II Timothy 2:25 tells us, "... *if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.*"

It is God who helps us to see our own wretchedness and shortcomings. He opens our minds and starts us on the way toward repentance.

### How Repentance Starts

There are definite steps to take if you sincerely desire to repent and serve God. They are simple steps. Anyone who will follow them can be guaranteed he will find the true God and the deep repentance that God requires.

Your Bible names dozens of men who are going to be in the Kingdom of God. Such men as David, Daniel and other prophets of God are guaranteed salvation and a place in His Kingdom. They found how to reach the Creator of the universe. Their example will help us to see how we might attain the same goal.

They all had one very essential thing in common. As soon as they realized God was displeased with them or their nation's ways, they set out to correct it. But how can you know when the Father in heaven is displeased? How do you know when any father, who *really* loves his children and has their welfare at heart, is displeased?

"Chastise your son, while there is still hope of him, and do not let him run to ruin" (Prov. 19:18, Moffatt translation).

Our heavenly Father many times begins to deal with us and bring us to repentance through chastening. Often He allows financial problems, family problems, sickness, or other serious situations to develop in our lives which will force us to realize *our need of*

Him. These very things have occurred in your life, but chances are you didn't appreciate them.

These trials are proof of the Father's love for each one of us. Notice Hebrews 12:6-8: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

### Seek God!

Instead of fighting these problems in our own strength, we need to learn the lesson God is teaching us. We need to begin to *seek* Him. He doesn't need us. WE DO NEED HIM!

Daniel was inspired to record his own reactions in such a case as this for our instruction. "And I set my face unto the Eternal God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes" (Dan. 9:3).

Nehemiah's example is also recorded for us. When he found that his nation which had returned to Palestine was in affliction and reproach, here's what he did: "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven" (Neh. 1:4). He immediately set out to draw close to God. He didn't do it in a half-hearted, lackadaisical, matter-of-fact way. He set himself to find God and His will by PRAYER and FASTING. These men *earnestly* desired to find God's will. They were desirous of doing whatever was required to draw close to Him and receive His forgiveness. They were even willing to do without food and water to demonstrate their sincere desire to know God's way.

### Do It With All Your Heart

Hard as it is to say, "I'm sorry," it is even MORE DIFFICULT to *mean it with all your heart*. The earnest supplication of God through prayer and fasting shows Him you mean business. He doesn't want a temporary, fleeting repentance which is brought about by an emotional appeal or due to the pressures of those around you. Salvation is a personal matter between you and your God. *But it has to be on His terms.*

In the days of ancient Israel, God

told King Solomon exactly what steps to follow if he found God's displeasure on his nation. These same steps apply to us today. God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). He doesn't change. So if we will apply these steps in our everyday lives, He will answer just as He told Solomon He would.

Read these steps, this formula for repentance, for yourself in II Chronicles 7:12-14. "And the Eternal appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; if my people, which are called by my name, shall HUMBLE THEMSELVES, and *pray*, and *seek my face*, and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; then will I hear from heaven, and will *forgive their sin*, and will heal their land."

The steps are so simple, so clear and plain.

What does it mean to humble yourself? How do you go about it? Exactly the same way Daniel and Nehemiah did. David explains in Psalm 35:13 how to humble yourself. "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I HUMBLed my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom."

*Occasional* fasting shows our earnestness and sincerity in seeking God and adds impetus to the prayers we raise to Him.

### Admit Your Sins

Prayer and fasting aren't the only requirements in seeking God. If you will read back over the examples of Daniel and Nehemiah as well as many of the other prophets of God, you will notice that in every case they *freely acknowledged* their own sins and shortcomings. It takes a deeply sincere man to say, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

If we are earnestly seeking God and His way, this is the attitude we will be reflecting. We will freely admit our

own sins and shortcomings and be earnestly importuning God to show us the right way. Jeremiah said, "O Lord, I know that *the way of man is not in himself*: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing" (Jer. 10:23-24).

We as individuals do not know how to live. Once we begin to learn that lesson, and look to God to show us how to live and how to change our lives, we are on our way to real repentance.

The steps are simple. Yet it is not easy to completely give of yourself, to admit your own faults and sincerely ask for God's forgiveness.

### Turn From Your Own Ways

The people of this world outwardly follow many of these steps and yet fall short in the final, most important of all the steps — *turning from their wicked ways*. That is why it is so hard to distinguish between the believer and the non-believer. That is why the distance between professed faith and daily performance is astronomical.

So many people of this day and age profess to be repentant — profess Christianity and yet still live in all the wretchedness of their sinful ways. So, finally, one of the most important of all the steps in coming to true repentance is to STOP SINNING! Millions *claim* membership in a church. They loudly proclaim their belief in Jesus Christ. They testify for Christ BUT THE FRUIT IS NOT THERE.

All too often our repentance is the worldly repentance spoken of in II Corinthians 7:10. What we really need to come to see and understand is the kind of repentance God speaks of. "Therefore also now, saith the Eternal, Turn ye even to me *with all your heart*, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and REND YOUR HEART, and not your garments, and turn to the Eternal your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil" (Joel 2:12-13).

No, God doesn't want the worldly kind of repentance which is *manifested* by a trip down the sawdust trail. No, He doesn't just want your name on the

membership rolls of some church. What God wants and what you should come to deeply desire is to *sincerely* acknowledge your sins and ask forgiveness. God wants you to say, "I'm SORRY" — and mean it! He wants you to repent of breaking and to begin *obeying* His Law.

The decision is up to you. The steps are before you. You know the way — "Walk ye in it."

### Personal Counsel

If you are one who really wants to repent and begin obeying God, here is GOOD NEWS.

As a part of the Adult Education Program, we now have trained men [ordained ministers] available in all parts of the United States and many other parts of the world. They are ready to counsel with you personally, answer any questions about repentance, or help you with any spiritual problems. We won't send anyone to see you unless you request it.

But if you would like one of our personal representatives to call and counsel with you about any problems and answer any questions, there is such a man near you.

We who are in this great Work want only to help — to serve. We count it a privilege to do so.

### "In the Meantime . . ."

Remember, God commands us all to *grow* in grace and knowledge (II Peter 3:18). The way to *grow* is by a careful, constant study of the inspired Word of God. Use your time. Study the Bible! *Study* the scriptures on down-to-earth, solid, specific points of Christian living. Grow closer to God; make sure you are really repentant. □

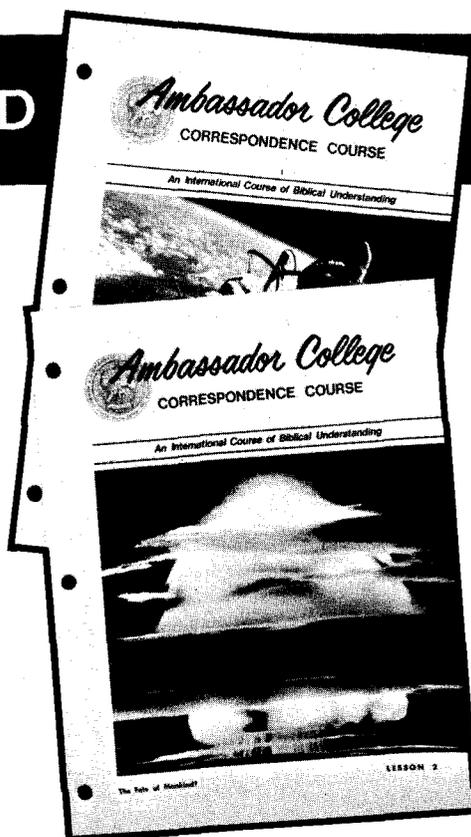
## UNDERSTAND

**W**HEN you read the Bible, do you find it *difficult* to understand — even CONFUSING? You're not alone if you do. MOST people do not understand the Bible today!

Did you know this lack of understanding — this frustration and confusion — was foretold long ago? Isaiah prophesied, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to *understand* doctrine? . . . For precept must be upon precept . . . line upon line; here a little, and there a little . . . that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken" (Isa. 28:9, 10, 13).

That's the way the Bible is written. Not *all* the truth on any one subject is found in any one place. To properly UNDERSTAND the Word of God, you must put together ALL the scriptures on a particular subject. "Here a little, and there a little"! And only when all the scriptures are put together can you *really* see what the Bible says.

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# What Should You Do Until CHRIST RETURNS?

**Bible prophecy shows that Jesus Christ — the MESSIAH — is going to return to this earth soon. What should YOU be doing in the meantime?**

by William F. Dankenbring

AS THE WORLD seems to be falling apart at the seams, hurtling toward oblivion, new religious groups are blossoming everywhere. Many of them profess to be Christian, others blend Eastern mysticism with Western psychology and certain "Christian" tenets.

Gurus, prophets and priests are preaching their various doctrines dealing with salvation, grace, and — sometimes — heralding the "coming of the Messiah."

But how many people do you know who LITERALLY believe that Jesus Christ — the Christ of YOUR BIBLE — is actually going to come to this earth again, this time not as a lowly carpenter of Nazareth, but as the resplendent, glorious, powerful KING OF KINGS?

Countless Biblical prophecies foretell this wonderful event. It is all through your Bible. But how does this scriptural fact affect YOU? What are you presently DOING about it?

What should YOU be doing "till the Messiah comes"? Should you go out, sit on a hilltop, and meditate? Should you simply ignore the possibility, and go out and "live for today, for tomorrow we die"? Should you become a religious recluse, or an acerbated ascetic, living on prune juice and rose hip tea, contemplating deep "spiritual" things?

What SHOULD you do?

## The "COP-OUT" Attitude

Many people today — especially young people — look at the mess the world is in and become direly pessimistic. They see that global catastrophe seems right around the corner — that we are populating ourselves into oblivion, polluting our human environ-

ment, and that the arms race has reached the point of "OVERKILL."

They muse: "Since the world is going to destroy itself anyway, what's the use? Why plan for the future? Why study and prepare? Why pursue my education and find a vocation? What's the use of it all, since it's all going up in smoke, anyway?"

And then another thought strikes some: "Christ is coming, and He will solve all this world's problems anyway. So what can I do? What is there for me? What should I do with my life?"

What about it? Are you a victim of this attitude of discouragement and hopelessness? Have you been worried about what you should do with your life?

The Bible gives us an example of people who felt the very same way 1900 years ago. Some of the Christians in ancient Thessalonica were growing discouraged. They were being influenced by the world around them, and Paul had to exhort them not to give in to the sins which were prevalent in society at that time (I Thes. 4:3-7). Paul had to exhort them not to let down, but to walk WORTHY of God, and to WORK with their own hands (I Thes. 2:12; 4:11) — and not just sit and "wait it out" till Christ comes.

Paul wrote and said, "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, *working not at all*, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that *with quietness they work*, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, *be not weary in well doing*" (II Thes. 3:11-12).

Do you catch the import of this instruction? God does not want any of

us to grow discouraged, to give up, to "cop out," to do *nothing*. He intends for each one of us to make something of his life — to develop his abilities, to build righteous CHARACTER, so *we all* can help build a better tomorrow!

Don't think that your life is wasted and there is nothing for you to do. Rather, realize that *never* were the opportunities so GREAT and challenging as they are today! With the world facing a momentous crisis, you should — no matter what your age — strive to *understand* that crisis and its solution, so YOU can have a part in solving the world's problems!

Make no mistake. When Christ returns, He is NOT going to "do it all Himself." The saints — true *Christians* — are going to help Him clean up this world!

Don't give in to this modern generation, and its hopeless, discouraged, negative attitudes. Ask for God's guidance in planning your life. Develop your particular abilities and talents, and then get busy and USE them so you can have a part in the coming World Tomorrow!

Christ *may* come in the next few years. But Bible prophecy doesn't state *exactly* when He will return. Meanwhile it is God's will for YOU to actively plan and prepare your life, and develop your abilities and your talents, and above all to develop holy, righteous, godly CHARACTER.

When Jesus Christ was on this earth, He told His disciples a parable illustrating what they should be doing when He was gone. He said: "A certain nobleman [representing Jesus Christ] went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to RETURN. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, OCCUPY TILL I COME" (Luke 19:12-13).

And verse 15: "And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having

received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had *gained by trading*."

Read the rest of this parable. Christ REWARDED His servants, according to how much they PRODUCED in this life; according to how well they employed their abilities and talents to develop *character*, to overcome sin, and to perform the work God had given them to do.

Even so, God expects each of us — no matter what his age or circumstances — to make the most of his opportunities, challenges, and abilities. He expects us to grow spiritually, to overcome human nature, to develop godly CHARACTER so we can be a part of the wonderful World Tomorrow!

### Step #1 — Inform Yourself

Those who are confused, and who don't really know what they should be doing until the Messiah comes, have probably been deceived by the false religious doctrines of this world and its countless *imitations* of the true Church of God!

God's Word is VERY PLAIN as to what each one of us should be doing — right now!

What?

First, your job is to *inform yourself* where the true Church of God is today. Investigate. Check up. And PROVE to yourself where God's Work is really being done!

The Apostle Paul said of the people in Berea, a city in ancient Greece, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed..." (Acts 17:11-12).

What about you? Are you studying the Bible — searching the Scriptures daily — attempting to PROVE who has the *truth* of God, who is preaching the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, the same Gospel He preached?

The Apostle Paul charges us, "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be

ashamed, *rightly dividing* the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

It is your main responsibility, before the Messiah comes, to STUDY the Bible. Pore over it. Learn what it teaches. And then LIVE by it!

Jesus Christ said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Are you striving to LIVE by every word of the Bible — every word of God?

But what else should you be doing, before the Messiah comes?

### Step #2 — Pray

You need to maintain a vital contact with God. If you are not praying to your heavenly Father every day, then your contact with God is severed — you are cut off from Him.

Have you learned how to pray effectively, so that your prayers are answered? Do you pray as Jesus commanded His disciples (Matt. 6:5-8)? Do you exalt God daily in your prayers? Do you pray daily for His Kingdom to come, to be established on this earth soon? Do you pray for forgiveness of your sins, even as you forgive others who sin against you?

The Apostle Paul says we should be "PRAYING always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:18). Are you doing this, right now?

But even if you are praying and studying, there is still more that you should be doing till the Messiah comes.

### Step #3 — WATCH World Conditions

At first glance, this may seem like an unusual requirement for those expecting the coming of Jesus Christ soon. Why watch world conditions? What does this have to do with the coming of Christ?

Nineteen hundred years ago Jesus' twelve disciples came to Him and asked Him when He was going to come again — what the *signs* would be of His coming, and of the end of the present age of man's misrule on the earth (Matt. 24:1-3).

Jesus then gave them a step-by-step *sequence of events* which would occur in the world, *leading up to* His dramatic second coming! This sequence of prophetic events is listed in Matthew, chapter 24 (as well as Mark 13 and Luke 21). It included world wars, famines, disease epidemics, earthquakes, religious persecution, and great tribulation upon the earth, among the nations (see Matt. 24:6-7, 9-10, 21-22). After this, Christ will come (Matt. 24:27-31).

Jesus then declared: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; *so shall also the coming of the Son of man be*" (Matt. 24:37-39).

Jesus then added: "WATCH THEREFORE: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. *Therefore be ye also READY: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*" (Matt. 24:42-44).

Christ commands His followers to WATCH!

Are you watching? Are you observing world conditions? Do you see the prophecies of Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 being fulfilled right before your eyes in the daily newspaper headlines? Are you vigilantly aware of what is happening in the world around you?

*Are you alertly watching?* Or are you dozing in the doldrums, deliriously deluded that "everything will be all right"?

### Step #4 — Keep The Commandments

What else should you be doing till the Messiah — Jesus Christ — comes?

So many people, today, seem to think that all Christians have to do is "believe on Christ" and they are automatically SAVED. The common concept is that life is a one-way "train ride" destined for hell. But at the moment you "accept Christ," a switch is changed, and your

"train" is then rerouted to heaven when you die!

According to this concept, all a Christian has to do, then, is "accept Christ," and wait. There are NO WORKS to salvation! There is NOTHING he must then do — except wait at the station with his bags packed, so to speak.

What's wrong with this prevalent conception — this common belief?

Just this — it is a surefire method to LOSE OUT on the very salvation a person might think he has!

Let's read the scripture commonly quoted to support this belief, and then see what the Bible REALLY says! In Ephesians 2, verses 8-9 we read: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

Clearly, salvation is a GIFT of God. It is not something we *earn* by our own sweat, labor, toil and tears. But does this necessarily mean there are NO WORKS AT ALL involved in salvation?

Why do so many read these two verses and then stop right there? Why don't they go on and read the very next verse? "For we are his WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM" (Eph. 2:10).

There it is! We are created for the purpose of performing GOOD WORKS. God intends for us to WALK in GOOD WORKS!

Salvation, then, involves not only accepting Christ, but also demonstrating that acceptance *by the way we live* afterwards. It involves performing GOOD WORKS, thereby proving we really endorse Christ's teachings and His way of life!

All our good works, of course, will never in a million years EARN us our salvation. Rather, salvation is a gift which God will bestow upon us because we have accepted Christ's sacrifice for payment of the penalty of our sins. But God does require that we live according to His way of life, the way set forth by His commandments — the way of love for God and love for our neighbor!

When asked by a young rich ruler what he should *do* to inherit eternal

life, Jesus Christ replied: "If thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matt. 19:17).

Christ Himself did (John 15:10). And He set us an example that we should follow His steps, and walk as He walked (I Peter 2:21; I John 2:6). We *can* do it — through the POWER of the indwelling Spirit of God — if we want to (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:2, 4).

### Step #5 — Your Part in God's Work

You should study the Bible, find out where God's Work is being done today, pray, watch world events, and keep God's commandments. Is there anything else you should *do* till the Messiah — Christ — comes?

There is yet one thing you should do. In the second chapter of Luke, we find that when Jesus was twelve years old, He remained behind in Jerusalem after his parents returned home, thinking He was with them. They finally discovered He was missing, and returned to Jerusalem searching for Him. When they found Him, He told them: "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I *must be about my Father's business?*" (Luke 2:49.)

Jesus later told His disciples, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK" (John 4:34). He told them on another occasion, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Christ devoted His entire life to DOING the Work of God! He literally *GAVE HIMSELF* to accomplish that supreme, most important Work!

And He says to us, today: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord *when he cometh* SHALL FIND SO DOING. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods" (Matt. 24:45-47).

### What YOU Should Do Till the MESSIAH Comes!

Are YOU busy DOING YOUR PART in the Work of God, on the earth, today? Have you yet *proved* to yourself *where*

that Work is? Are you behind it, supporting it, praying for it, sacrificing for it, and making it a big part of your life?

Are you busy about your *Father's business* — His *Work*?

Never in the history of mankind was the need greater for selfless, dedicated individuals to do the Work of God. We of this end-time generation need to have VISION — we need to see the GOAL of God's Kingdom — we need to grasp the *bigness* of the job ahead of us in tomorrow's world!

God is NOT going to do it all Himself. The SAINTS will rule that Kingdom, bringing justice and judgment to the entire earth under Christ (Dan. 7:22, 27).

The jobs we will have, in the world tomorrow, will be immense. They will involve remaking, reshaping, remodeling the societies and governments of the entire earth (Acts 3:19-21). In the World Tomorrow there will be a *tremendous need* for individuals who have developed RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER *now* to be leaders *then*!

Are you making *right decisions* — the foundation of character — in this life, now? The example you set, your moral standards, your closeness to God, your vigilance in watching and your constancy in prayer, your diligence in Bible study, your dedication to the WORK of God, today — these things will determine your usefulness in TOMORROW'S WORLD.

Now is the time to prove where God's Work is being done, and then to get behind God's Work and do *your part* so that the Gospel will be preached to the world as a witness (Matt. 24:14). This is not the time to sit nonchalantly, watching the world go berserk, thinking hopeless, helpless thoughts.

Now is *not* the time to think, plan and live *selfishly*, seeking the so-called "good life." Now is the time to GET BUSY in Bible study, prayer, watching world events, overcoming human nature, keeping God's commandments, developing righteous character. Now is the time to GET BUSY doing God's Work in anticipation of the Kingdom of God and the coming of the Messiah!

What are you *doing* about it? □

# ANSWERS to your Questions

● "I am a little dismayed to see the booklets I asked for in the past arrive one at a time. Tell me, wouldn't it be less expensive to send them all at once in a package rather than individually? Please consider this, for I send my tithes to you to do God's Work—not buy stamps."

Those of us involved in doing God's Work are very concerned with how each tithe dollar is spent. A certain amount must go into radio broadcasting. A portion goes for television time. Some goes for printing presses, paper and ink for publishing literature that explains the Gospel. And a smaller sum goes for postage that carries that literature to your door.

Take your recent request, for example. We could have mailed it to you in one package at the first-class rate. That would have cost us, in your present case, \$1.60. But, fortunately, the United States Postal Service makes special provisions for organizations who mail in bulk quantities. Following the rules set up by the Postal Service allows us to save considerable money.

By mailing your recent request by third-class mail in one package, we would spend 75 cents on postage. By utilizing the special book rate on your request, we would have sent two packages and spent 35¢.

But by sorting your request into the proper units for using the bulk permit rates of postage, we would spend only 19¢ to mail it to you. Probably that would mean you would receive five packages.

These individually wrapped packages are also less expensive to prepare for mailing. When we must send all of your requests in one box, the box must be custom fitted, by hand, to hold your booklets safely. You'd be surprised at the number of combinations of booklets

our readers request. But certain booklets are requested more often than others. We use the computer to sort these into large groups of one or two booklets — one booklet or a certain combination of booklets in bulk quantity.

When we package your booklets to meet bulk mailing requirements, we are able to do it almost exclusively on machines. The machines operate much less expensively than costly hand work. Following the postal requirements creates more single packages but actually far less hand work and postage costs.

You may also begin noticing that some of your booklets are arriving in wrappers instead of envelopes. This is yet another dollar-saving technique we are using. Wrappers cost less than one-third of what envelopes cost. Most large mailing firms are beginning to use wrappers.

Putting it all together, we might have spent over \$2.00 to mail you your recent literature request. Instead, we spent less than 25¢ — and that includes postage, wrappers, envelopes and labor. And every department connected with this Work is very conscious of making similar savings in their respective areas of service and responsibility.

All of us here at the Headquarters of this great Work are concerned about the use of the tithe money which you send in for God's Work. And I think you will agree, we get a lot of mileage out of each dollar.

● "Was Jesus Christ an Essene of Qumran?"

The Qumran group was apparently a splinter group of Essenes who came to historical fame in recent years as a result of the discovery of their Dead Sea Scrolls.

Christ was not associated with this

group. The Essenes are, in fact, not so much as even mentioned in the New Testament.

The Essenes were an ascetic sect that kept to themselves. They lived in the wilderness. They practiced celibacy, never drank wine, nor did they attend Temple services.

Jesus clearly did not practice their tenets. Scripture shows Christ drank wine (Matt. 11:19; 26:29) and was at the Temple on the annual High Days (John 2:23; 5:1; 7:14). He certainly did not withdraw from society and He even associated with publicans and people called *sinner*s by members of the religious sects of that day (Matt. 9:11). No self-respecting Essene would have done that.

In Colossians 2:21-23, the Apostle Paul condemns asceticism as a way of life. The Essenes accepted it as a fundamental doctrine.

Be sure to read the article "*Christianity From Qumran?*" beginning on page 15 of this issue. It gives positive Biblical and historical proof that Christianity did *not* originate among the Essenes.

● "Should we really strive to be kings in God's Kingdom? David was a man after God's own heart and he only wanted to be a humble doorkeeper."

Many have misunderstood the meaning of Psalm 84:10.

First, note that the Psalm is not written by David. It is a "Psalm of the sons of Korah." Now read the verse: "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had *rather be* a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." This verse in the modern-English Moffatt translation reads, "Better a single day within thy courts than a thousand outside! I would *rather* sit at the threshold of God's house than live in the tents of worldly men."

The author of the Psalm saw the contrast.

He DIDN'T say he wanted to be a doorkeeper. But he did say that he could see that it was *far better* to be the lowest servant in God's House — somebody of the sons of Korah had to be

doorkeepers in God's House — the Temple (see I Chronicles 26:1 and 19), rather than to be great outside and participate in the evils of this world.

The sons of Korah realized how valuable life in God's service is compared to the hopelessness of what the Bible calls "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4).

David, too, like the sons of Korah, was humble before God. But he was not deceived into thinking that God will grant eternal life to anyone who only wants to put forth the very minimum effort to obtain this matchless goal. Read the parable of the pounds in Luke 19. What happened to the servant who put forth little or no effort to multiply his pound?

Did David only exercise minimum effort in his quest to obtain Sonship in the Kingdom of God? Did David approach things in a half-hearted way? Notice a few scriptures: "Now I have prepared *with all my might* for the house of my God..." (I Chron. 29:2). "And David danced before the LORD *with all his might*..." (II Samuel 6:14). "My soul followeth hard after thee..." (Psalm 63:8). David strove hard — exerted maximum effort to achieve God's Kingdom. Because of his wholehearted attitude and approach, God promised him a position of HIGH AUTHORITY in God's Kingdom (Ezekiel 34:24).

And God promises Christians today *rulership* in His Kingdom (Rev. 2:26; 3:21). But do not think that God will grant such rulership to one who makes little or no effort to achieve that Kingdom.

You need to understand the importance of rulership in Tomorrow's World. Write for our FREE booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. Also, our FREE reprint "What'll You Be Doing in the Next Life?" You cannot afford to be without this vital knowledge.

Just send your request to:

TOMORROW'S WORLD  
P. O. Box 111  
Pasadena, California 91109

For those outside the United States, see the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.

● "You stated that the physical brother of Jesus Christ wrote the Epistle of James. What proof do you have for this?"

There are three men named James in the New Testament. James the son of Zebedee and James the son of Alphaeus were two of the original twelve disciples (Matt. 10:2, 3). Another James, called the Lord's brother (Gal. 1:18, 19), was the son of Joseph and Mary.

According to the *Angus-Green Bible Handbook*, the fact "that James, 'the brother of the Lord' was the author [of the Epistle of James] is held with practical unanimity by Biblical scholars" (page 738). Why? Notice the Biblical proof.

Christ had a physical brother named James (Matt. 13:55). Christ had another brother named Jude, or Judas. For proof that these two brothers were actually physical brothers and not just spiritual brethren, write for our special reprinted letter on the subject. It's entitled "Did Jesus Have Brothers and Sisters?"

Since James the son of Zebedee (and the brother of John) was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:1-2) in the early 40's A.D. (see any recognized Biblical commentary for verification), this leaves only two Jameses.

Which one of them wrote the book of James?

James the son of Alphaeus is nowhere mentioned in Scripture after Acts 1:13. He mysteriously disappears from the Biblical scene. Where did he go?

Jesus Christ sent the twelve apostles to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt. 10:5, 6). A valuable source of information regarding the travels of the twelve apostles is William Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae*. According to this source, James the son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve, planted true Christianity in Spain and "these western parts," some authorities adding Ireland and Britain. Fulfilling Jesus' command to go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, he carried the Gospel into Western and Northwestern Europe. (If you want to know the amazing story of how the original apostles carried the Gospel into these and other areas of the world,

write for our *free* article "Where Did the Twelve Apostles Go?")

Only one James remained behind in Judaea. James, the Lord's brother, was at the Headquarters Church in Jerusalem (compare Galatians 1:18, 19 with Acts 15:13-21).

The story should be clear. The Epistle of James was written by James, the brother of Christ, son of Joseph and Mary. He was the one who wrote from the Headquarters Church "...to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" (James 1:1). So also did Jude, another brother of Jesus, write the book of Jude after the death of his older brother James in A.D. 62.

● "I know your organization accepts tithes and general offerings as long as they are not intended to be direct payment for your magazines or other booklets. But how do I go about naming your organization in my will?"

Many concerned readers of TOMORROW'S WORLD have requested information on how best to make a gift to God's Work, either during their lifetime or upon death, through wills, trusts or other legal means. They have also asked how they can avoid the costly and time-consuming procedures of probate.

If you are desirous of receiving information regarding such gifts, our Legal Department is available to advise and serve you without cost or obligation. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, in accordance with the Bible's teaching, set a policy many years ago never to make a public appeal for contributions. Therefore, this should not be taken as a request for donations, but only as a notice that such information is available for those who are desirous of receiving it.

We regret that due to the variance in laws of other countries, such legal information is only applicable to residents of the United States and Canada.

Merely write:

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE  
Attention: Legal Department  
P. O. Box 111  
Pasadena, California 91109

# Seven "Keys"

(Continued from page 12)

BIG-mindedness. For God promises: "A good understanding have all they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS" (Ps. 111:10).

To gain greater understanding, read widely — especially in history — trying to learn the *lessons* behind the many adventures and misadventures of man down through the centuries. In any situation, try to see the BIG PICTURE. Relate the situation to similar ones in the lives of others you know or may have read about. Don't be so upset or involved in the *immediate problem* that you fail to relate it to your whole life and future. Think of its meaning in terms of the *entire world* and God's ultimate PURPOSE.

An amusing yet meaningful account of how Winston Churchill did this concerns his being run down by a New York taxicab in 1931. Confined to a bed of pain and kept from his work for some time, he could easily have become discouraged, or perhaps bitter against America and against all cab drivers, etc.

Instead, Churchill made front-page news by completely exonerating the driver. Then, he dashed off a lurid description of the episode for which he received \$2500!

Churchill was BIG-minded about what could have been thought of as a "tragedy" by a lesser man. For he possessed the *understanding* that this need not be a tragedy at all unless he made it so.

USE these examples in gaining understanding yourself!

Remember always the account of King Solomon's early reign over ancient Israel — while he was still obedient to his God. For, because of Solomon's yielded spirit, God asked him to name what he would like and promised to grant it. Solomon's concern was not for *vanity*, but for his awesome *responsibility* as king over all Israel. So Solomon asked: "Give therefore thy servant an *understanding heart* to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (I Kings 3:9.)

This greatly pleased the Eternal. And so God gave Solomon a *wise* and

UNDERSTANDING heart, and both riches and honor — for which he had not asked (verses 10-12).

In addition to *reading widely* — especially the *lessons* of history and the lives of great men — try always to see the BIG PICTURE in any given situation. Exercise VISION and train yourself to look to the real END or *outcome* of a problem or a course of action. Read and *study* the Bible itself to gain *real understanding* and acquire GOD's viewpoint on the big questions and problems of life. Then pray earnestly to the Eternal God and ask HIM for *understanding* — remembering in faith the example of Solomon!

## IV. Wisdom and Resourcefulness

One of the most important qualities in any high official or leader of men is WISDOM. For although a President or Prime Minister cannot possibly be an expert in petroleum engineering, aircraft and missile production and nuclear physics, he must nevertheless have the *wisdom* to make sound decisions on all these matters and many, many more.

Solomon wrote: "*Wisdom* is the principal thing; therefore *get WISDOM*: and with all thy getting *get understanding*" (Prov. 4:7).

Wisdom, of course, is the faculty of making *sound decisions*. Anyone with great wisdom would necessarily need to be possessed of at least a good degree of *understanding* and *vision*. He would also have to acquire *knowledge* of the problem at hand — and attempt to get ALL of the pertinent facts.

Having the *facts*, and *possessing understanding* of the past history, trends and laws governing the type of situation he faces, the man with WISDOM must correlate all of these factors and make a SOUND DECISION that will be practical and that will actually work — both now *and in the future*. This is true WISDOM.

All too often political decisions, "expedient" decisions, are made in order to please the general public *at the moment*. Undoubtedly, those making this type of judgment realize that there will be double trouble in years to come because of their shortsighted, crowd-pleasing decisions. But, perhaps at least partially blinded by the pressures of the moment,

they "hope" that their biased decisions will somehow work out all right!

[Editor's Note: If you need help in coming to right decisions, write for our FREE reprint article "How to Make Wise Decisions." It gives seven keys in arriving at wise decisions.]

One of the "keys" to real wisdom is the willingness to *learn from one's own mistakes*. One of the wisest men of this century, Mr. Bernard Baruch, wrote of how he systematically developed this practice: "After each major undertaking — and particularly when things had turned sour — I would shake loose from Wall Street and go off to some quiet place where I could review what I had done and where I had gone wrong. At such times *I never sought to excuse myself* but was concerned solely with *guarding against a repetition of the same error*."

Be willing to LEARN from your *own mistakes*!

Another point of wisdom is to *get ALL of the pertinent facts* concerning any problem. Many are too lazy or too vain to do this — feeling they can "play it by ear" and somehow get by. The powers of human intuition being what they are, this will work *part of the time* — especially when one is on familiar ground and the decision is not of major consequence and it is not a volatile or potentially dangerous issue. But when it is, then WOE be to the man who rushes around making decisions *without having gotten the facts* and without also getting WISE COUNSEL!

For God's Word makes plain: "Where no counsel is, the people fall: *but in the MULTITUDE of counsellors there is safety*" (Prov. 11:14). A great leader is usually one who surrounds himself with topnotch assistants and *advisors of both ability and WISDOM*. He will not be seeking insipid "yes men," but men who themselves dig deeply into the facts, possess *vision*, and who will independently give truly WISE counsel when an important decision is to be made.

Where does WISDOM come from?

## Wisdom Proceeds From God

The Eternal God answers: "The fear of the Lord is the *beginning of wisdom*: and the knowledge of the holy is

understanding" (Prov. 9:10). Apart from the knowledge of the Creator, deep and lasting wisdom is impossible. Regarding the knowledge of money-making, social status and purely material things, Jesus said: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). But in the BIG decisions that involve the OUTCOME of human lives, nations and the *entire human race*, only those who deeply *respect* and *reverence* the great GOD of Creation and understand HIS PURPOSE possess *real wisdom*.

"For the Lord *giveth* WISDOM: out of his mouth cometh *knowledge* and *understanding*" (Prov. 2:6). Remember God's promise in James 1:5: "If any of you lack *wisdom*, let him ask of God, that *giveth* to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and *it shall be given* him."

So ASK GOD, in believing *faith*, for *wisdom*. Then STUDY the Word of God — especially the book of Proverbs — for the examples of wisdom in God's own revelation to man. Also, read and study the lives of great and successful men for some of the keys to wisdom.

For God says: "He that walketh with wise men *shall be wise*" (Prov. 13:20). Everyone cannot be the personal friend and confidant of men like Sir Winston Churchill, but everyone *can* read the examples of wisdom from their lives and in this way "walk with" and *learn* from these great men.

Seek to learn not only *wisdom*, but RESOURCEFULNESS — the capacity to *solve emergencies*, to come up with wise alternatives when trouble has upset a going plan or operation. Along with wisdom, seek to *exercise resourcefulness* in your daily life. For it will grow with *habitual use*.

Do ALL of this to grow in *wisdom* and *resourcefulness*.

Then, when a particular problem arises, always be sure to get ALL of the pertinent *facts* involving a decision. Next, be sure that you get *wise counsel* — not just from those who necessarily reflect your own opinions — but from a number of others who understand the subject you are concerned with and will independently give you well-considered advice.

Not only to be a KING someday, but

in our day-to-day lives, all of us need more *wisdom* and *resourcefulness* to be truly happy and successful. Start *now* to build these vital qualities into *your life*!

### V. Faith, Hope and Courage

A *positive* frame of mind — coupled with *faith* and *courage* — is what often "separates the men from the boys" in times of trial and test. A truly great leader MUST possess these qualities.

Yet, we live in an age of compromise and expediency. We live in an age when men whine and moan around about the dangers in the world — and are *afraid* to ACT *resolutely* when crises come. More, we live in an age when men are "not sure" of God's existence, "not sure" whether they should be *completely loyal* to their country, not sure, in fact, of ANYTHING.

In this sickening situation a person has *no basis* for faith or courage! Thank God, then, that this kind of society is soon coming to an END.

For the kind of real MAN God intends to use in governing this world is typified by King David of Israel. Remember that even before he became king, David exemplified *faith* and *courage* to a high degree.

When David, as a very young man, was challenged about his ability to fight the giant Goliath, notice his answer: "Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God" (1 Sam. 17:36). David had learned to have confidence and courage. But he also had FAITH in the LIVING God and His *willingness* to intervene in behalf of those who served and obeyed Him.

As young David strode out across that valley toward a cursing, raging, *experienced* GIANT of a warrior, he had to have supreme courage to do *his part*. And he had to KNOW that the Creator God of his fathers *would intervene* and *help*!

Men who are always *fearful* and *worried* are not fit to be leaders and KINGS. For they will be utterly unable to inspire others or command their respect.

They will be afraid to make the hard decisions, afraid to take swift ACTION when it is necessary. In addition, their effectiveness is doubly impaired, for

their fears and worries will bring on ulcers, high blood pressure and perhaps even a heart attack or mental breakdown!

Note what God's Word says: "But the FEARFUL, and UNBELIEVING . . . shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

So think *positive* thoughts! Set yourself to develop an attitude of *courage* and *confidence*! Set out to PROVE the existence of the true and LIVING GOD! Write immediately for our free booklet *Does God Exist?*

*Learn* WHY you are here, WHERE you are going and WHAT LIFE is really all about. Don't be an intellectual or spiritual coward! Have a reason for BEING — something worth *living* for and, if need be, worth *dying* for!

Heed God's instruction: "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25). Quit worrying so much about what people think or say! *Seek* and OBEY the Creator God. In all things, PROVE what is true and right. Then, with God's help, think and act *courageously* and let the world know that you STAND for something!

### VI. Mental Discipline and Persistence

There are many intelligent and capable people who seem to make a success — *for a little while*. Then, inexplicably, they suddenly give up and quit when only a minor trial confronts them. Or, they suddenly let their feelings and passions dominate them and begin to throw away their short-lived "success" in the pursuit of drunkenness, dope, sexual conquest or some other human weakness.

They have *not learned* to DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES!

In our society, dominated by the "permissive psychology" in its child-rearing methods and educational processes, this *lack of self-discipline* has become a GIGANTIC problem. With youngsters *under eighteen years of age* accounting for a major segment of many types of crimes, with drunkenness, dope addiction and the incidence of venereal disease becoming great physical and

mental "crippers" in our Western world, we need to learn the vital importance of SELF-DISCIPLINE.

The Word of God says: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and *he that RULETH his spirit* than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32).

Every *lastingly* successful person is one who has learned to guide, direct and MASTER his thoughts and emotions. He has learned to say "No!" to himself on many, many occasions.

Referring to the national need for self-discipline, Bernard Baruch — "the counsellor of Presidents" — wrote: "The greatest blessing of our democracy is freedom. But in the last analysis, *our only freedom is the freedom to DISCIPLINE OURSELVES.*"

Apply this to *yourself!*

### Build Right Mental Habits

Develop the HABIT of *ruling* over your thoughts and emotions. *Discipline* yourself to get up on time in the morning, to get to work *on time*, to work hard and grow on the job. *Direct* your thoughts into constructive channels — NOT permitting yourself to dwell on hurt feelings or lusts. Purposefully *guard* your mind so that these negative and destructive thoughts do not even find a place of lodgment. Also, *avoid* idle and purposeless "daydreams" which usually engender lusts, vanities, foolishness and are a childish form of *escape* from REALITY.

Train yourself to *avoid discouragement* and to FINISH whatever worthwhile project you have begun. God says: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small" (Prov. 24:10). DON'T be a "quitter." Train and discipline your mind and body to *keep on to the end.*

So *discipline* your mind and your moods. *Guard the door of your mind* against negative, vain or lustful thoughts. *Don't* allow yourself to sit around moping, to feel sorry for yourself, or to give up and quit anything worthwhile.

Rather, direct your mind and emotions into positive channels — into *productivity* and ACCOMPLISHMENT. Have an attitude of *outgoing concern* for others, of *giving* and *servicing* and KEEPING ON to the end. Then you will be

*truly happy* and, at least in some degree, a LEADER both now and in your ultimate future!

### VII. Loyalty and Service

One of the most important qualities any nation, group or organization looks for in its leaders is *absolute* LOYALTY. For if a man cannot be completely *relied upon* — then ALL of his other good qualities are negated.

To the very end of His physical life, Jesus Christ was *totally loyal* to God the Father — even unto DEATH. He never argued or questioned His Father's will. He said: "Not my will, but *thine*, be done" (Luke 22:42).

The main thing that caused God to promise Abraham and his heirs the ultimate possession of *this entire earth* was Abraham's complete *faithfulness and LOYALTY* to God. When Abraham had demonstrated his willingness even to sacrifice his own son — his *only* legitimate son, the very son through whom the tremendous birthright promise would have to come — God *blessed him*. God said: "By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for BECAUSE THOU HAST DONE THIS THING, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in *blessing* I will BLESS THEE, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (Gen. 22:16-17).

God gave this tremendous blessing BECAUSE Abraham was *faithful* and LOYAL *to the utmost!*

So develop this sense of *absolute loyalty* to God, to your nation, to your employer, to your husband or wife, your children and family. Then, along with it, develop an attitude of SERVICE.

At the beginning of this article, I quoted the scripture: "Let *this mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). Christ *exemplified* the spirit of service. He GAVE His life for us. He was constantly *giving help*, encouragement, blessings, healings, and real LOVE to others throughout His physical life.

Notice verses 6-9 of the above scriptural passage. Although Jesus was equal with God, and had been *very God*, He "emptied Himself" as the original

Greek should be translated, "and took upon him the form of a SERVANT, and was made in the likeness of men." Even though Jesus had shared the GLORY OF GOD, even though it was *His* voice that had said: "Let there be light," when God reformed the earth at the time of Adam, Jesus was more than willing to *give that up* in order to SERVE the lowly human beings He Himself had helped to create (Eph. 3:9).

*What about you?*

Are you not only *loyal* to God, to your family and others — but do you have an *outgoing concern for them?* Do you have the spirit of *giving*, of *sharing*, of SERVING?

Jesus said: "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Learn to GIVE of yourself to others — in service, in warmth and encouragement and in your TOTAL PERSONALITY. In this way, you will find that what Jesus Christ said is not just an idea, but a *living law* that WORKS. For it is more blessed to *give* than to receive!

Getting the mind OFF of one's self, and onto *servicing others* — and most of all *servicing the Eternal God* — that is THE WAY to lasting joy, peace of mind and true success.

With the daily practice of *alertness and discernment*, with the acquiring of *right education and knowledge*, the cultivation of *understanding, vision* and *big-mindedness*, the exercise and development of *wisdom and resourcefulness, faith and courage, mental discipline and persistence*, you will be well on your way to building the mind of a great leader — a KING. With the additional qualities of total LOYALTY, and the spirit of GIVING and unselfish SERVICE to God and fellowman, your horizons will be even broader!

You will be building a mind LIKE GOD, your Creator. You will be building an instrument of SERVICE — both *now and forever*. You will be exercising seven basic "keys" to *building and mastering* what is undoubtedly the greatest physical thing God has created, the *human mind*. In all this, you will be GLORIFYING your Creator. And you will have a sense of *deep fulfillment*.

Now it's *up to you!* Do *your part*, and be sure to read the next vital article in this series. □

# THE STORY OF MAN

*for children five to one hundred five*

Written and Illustrated by Basil Wolverton

## NO SAFETY IN EGYPT

### CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO

**I**SHMAEL and his ten men were attempting to herd a group of their Jewish countrymen to the land of the Ammonites. The captives had been forced to walk only a few miles when Johanan, a friend of the murdered governor of Judah, began to catch up with the mounted assassins and their prisoners.

#### Men Request God's Counsel

Ishmael realized that he would surely be overtaken by Johanan and his superior number of charging men. He suddenly decided to give up his captives and large supply of food and make a dash for safety. Without even taking time for any instruc-

tions to his men, he spurred his horse into a frantic gallop to the east.

Seeing their leader leaving, the other ten attempted to follow. Eight of them escaped Johanan's onslaught. The other two were left lifeless on the ground as the rescued captives were escorted back to Mizpah by Johanan and his men. Meanwhile, Ishmael and his eight remaining murderers rode on, eventually to report to King Baalis that the leadership of Judah had been destroyed.

There was a growing concern among the Jews over what would happen when Nebuchadnezzar learned that his puppet governor and several Babylonian representatives had been murdered. Johanan, especially, was worried.



"The king of Babylon will be so angry that he is likely to send his army to wipe out what little is left of Judah," Johanan told his men. "We wouldn't be safe in our own country. It might be wise for us to get out of Judah while there's still time."

"But where is there to go?" asked one.

"To Egypt!" was Johanan's surprising answer. "The king there would probably help any he considers as being at odds with the Babylonians. Surely the Babylonians wouldn't go so far as to try to war against a powerful nation merely to avenge a few deaths."

Johanan's suggestion spread swiftly among the Jews. But some of them, including Johanan, belatedly decided that it would be wise to try to find out what God's will was in the matter. To do this, they went to Jeremiah. The prophet had left Mizpah with the Jews because he wished to stay with the remnant of his people, and especially with King Zedekiah's daughters, who were his special charge. Jeremiah didn't think the time had come that they should leave their country.

"We can't decide whether to stay here and risk being killed by the Babylonians or give up our land and go to Egypt," they explained to the prophet. "We would be pleased if you would ask God what we should do."

"My God is your God," Jeremiah told them. "I will pray to Him. Whenever and whatever He answers, I'll report it to you."

"We will do whatever our God says," they promised Jeremiah. "We are anxious to obey His will, no matter what we are told to do." Most of the Jews expected to hear from the prophet almost right away, but it was ten days before he sent word for them to assemble for an answer. (Jeremiah 42:1-7.)

### But Speedily Reject It

"Hear what our God has revealed!" the prophet called out to them. "He wants you to know that you should stay in your land. You who have homes in Mizpah should return there without fear of the Babylonians, whom God won't allow to harm you. Because you have looked to God for guidance, He will not punish you as most of your countrymen are being punished. As long as you remain in Judah, your numbers will increase and there will be plenty to live on. On the other hand, if you ignore God's advice and refuse His help by insisting on going to Egypt, you won't find safety there. Neither will you

find enough to eat to keep you alive. If you aren't slaughtered by the sword or if you don't starve to death, you will die in Egypt by horrible diseases. You may leave here if you choose, but be warned that those who insist on going to Egypt will never return!" (Jeremiah 42:8-22.)

To learn that they could have God's protection without having to leave their homes and their nation should have been good news to the Jews. Their reaction, however, was anything but joyful. There was only an awkward silence. Most of them appeared uncomfortable. Some even scowled with obvious irritation.

"You should happily welcome God's promise to take care of you as long as you stay here in your country," the prophet continued. "It's easy to see that you aren't pleased. That's no surprise to me. You promised to go by what God directed, but you never intended to unless He approved of what you still plan to do, which is to go to Egypt. Idle curiosity was your only reason to ask me to contact God for you. And regardless of God's warning, you still believe that if you go to Egypt, you can come back any time you choose. That will be quite an accomplishment after you are corpses."

These were antagonizing words to the people, especially to Johanan, who had suggested that they go to Egypt, and to a man named Azariah, who had originally suggested the idea to Johanan. These two, followed by a group of leading men under them, strode up to Jeremiah.

"Why do you talk to us this way?" they loudly demanded. "God surely wouldn't forbid us to go to Egypt, yet you declare that He did! Isn't it a fact that your friend Baruch, who secretly wishes the Babylonians to destroy us, talked you into lying to us in this matter?"

"You are the ones who speak an untruth," Jeremiah contended. "Baruch, my secretary, has proved his loyalty to Judah by helping me declare God's warnings to our people."

"You and Baruch have been friendly with the Babylonians, and that's proof of why you don't fear them!" Azariah muttered.

"We're only wasting time talking!" someone shouted. "Let's get started so that we can reach Egypt before the Babylonians get here!"

There was much to be done, but before dawn the Jews were on their way, walking beside their burros or trudging under their own loads. As Jere-

miah and Baruch stood gloomily watching the long line move by, Johanan and Azariah walked up to them.

"Aren't you taking any belongings with you?" Johanan asked them.

"We're not going," Jeremiah replied. "God has warned us to stay out of Egypt, and we intend to obey."

"And we don't intend to leave you behind!" Azariah snapped. "If you're important to God, surely He'll spare you wherever you are. And as long as you're with us, we can look forward to protection for all. I'll send some men with you to help you pick up your belongings."

Regardless of their firm intentions, the two had no choice but to join the exodus.

### Warnings in Egypt

Journeying southwest past the south tip of Philistia and across the Shur desert in the upper part of the Sinai peninsula, the Jews came to the Egyptian city of Tahpanhes, about fifty miles east of the east mouth of the Nile River. There they stayed for a time, awaiting permission to go farther into the nation, which they weren't allowed to do unless and until they could prove they weren't enemies. (Jeremiah 43:1-7.)

While in Tahpanhes, where Egyptian workmen were building a summer house for the king, Jeremiah was told to again remind the Jews that being in Egypt would give them no safety. God instructed the prophet how to explain it to his countrymen. There was a brick kiln only a few yards from the nearly finished building. Choosing a time when many of the leading Jews were grouped together gazing at the new structure, and when workmen weren't present, Jeremiah and Baruch carried several heavy stones to the kiln and placed them in the clay.

"God wants me to tell you," Jeremiah explained, "that these same stones will soon be used on this very spot in building the foundation for a throne room for King Nebuchadnezzar." (Jeremiah 43:8-13.) "How ridiculous!" scoffed Azariah. "What would the king of Babylon be doing with a throne room in Egypt? Pharaoh wouldn't allow it to be built anywhere here, and certainly not right next to a house of his!"

"Pharaoh won't have anything to say about it because the Babylonians are going to invade this nation," Jeremiah patiently continued. "They will

kill many Egyptians. Many more will starve. Part of them will die of disease. Others will be taken captive. The Babylonians will burn the temples of the Egyptian idols, as well as the gods of wood. The idols will be smashed, and their gold taken to Babylon. Egypt's wealth will all be taken. Nebuchadnezzar will accomplish this as easily as a shepherd puts on his coat. The Egyptians won't have the strength to stop him. When he leaves at the time he chooses, he will have broken their will to fight."

"I'm not convinced that you're right about coming here to Egypt," Johanan said in a low voice to Azariah. "If Jeremiah is a true prophet of God, we aren't going to have much of a future."

### Zedekiah's Doom

By this time part of the Babylonian army and its special captives, still in chains, had long since reached the city of Riblah in Syria, where King Nebuchadnezzar had temporarily retired after personally leading his army against Egypt and Judah. There, more than two hundred miles northeast of Jerusalem, Zedekiah, most of his family and officers were brought before Nebuchadnezzar, who eyed them critically. (Jeremiah 39:4-5.)

"That is Zedekiah, king of Judah," an aide informed the Babylonian king as guards brought Zedekiah out of the crowd of captives. For long, awkward moments Nebuchadnezzar stared at Zedekiah, who stood in discomfort and humiliation, which he now expected to be followed by death.

"Months ago I decided that you would pay with your life because of breaking your sworn allegiance to me," Nebuchadnezzar addressed Zedekiah. "Now that I see you, I'm going to change that decision and spare your life!"

Zedekiah's hopes soared on hearing this, but before long he had reason to harbor much more hatred and fear of the Babylonian ruler. At a word from Nebuchadnezzar, Zedekiah and his sons were separated from the other captives and led outside to an enclosure.

"My king suggests that you carefully watch what is about to happen here," a Babylonian officer told Zedekiah. "It is the last event you will see."

The former king was puzzled by this ominous statement. Then, almost before he could realize what was going on, his sons were lined up and slaughtered by Babylonian soldiers. Even while Zedekiah stood gasping in horror, he was bound tightly to a post

and his eyes brutally seared out by a hot iron.

Not long after this shocking event, Nebuchadnezzar started back to Babylon, about five hundred miles to the southeast. Zedekiah and the other captives, bound and guarded, had to make the long, rough trip by foot far behind the triumphant Babylonian king.

As soon as they arrived at Babylon, Zedekiah was imprisoned, where he later died. (Jeremiah 39:6-8.)

### Many True Warnings

As God had repeatedly warned through prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and many others, Judah's idolatry resulted in a scattering of the people in almost the same way in which the Ten Tribes had been scattered about one hundred and thirty-three years previously. Rebellion against God had resulted in the shattering of both kingdoms, although Judah wasn't swallowed up and lost in surrounding nations as the Ten Tribes of Israel were. If these kingdoms had obeyed God, the people would have remained safe and prosperous in their own land. (Jeremiah 34.) Now the prisoners, slaves and outcasts learned that food and shelter were difficult to find. Meanwhile, the homes from which they had been driven were taken over by wild animals and their fields and orchards were choked with weeds and brush.

While two kings of Judah — Jehoiachin and Zedekiah — languished in Babylonian prison cells, many Jews captured previously by the Babylonians were living as exiles in colonies along the Chebar River about two hundred miles north of Babylon. Among these exiles was a young man named Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 1:1-3.) He had a most unusual vision in which he was told by God to tell his people, who still followed idolatry, that they should give up the worship of false gods and turn to the only true God or suffer even greater miseries than they had gone through.

Ezekiel obeyed, but few paid much attention to him. Along with his strong warnings from God, he made many predictions that paralleled some made by Jeremiah. He even foretold Zedekiah's attempted escape from the Babylonians at Jerusalem, and about his loss of sight and being brought to Babylon. (Ezekiel 12:10-13.) Even after Ezekiel's countrymen along the Chebar River heard that these things had come about just as Ezekiel said they would, most of

them doubted that God had chosen him to be a prophet. This was as God told Ezekiel it would be. Nevertheless, because he was obedient and had a special concern for the exiles, the prophet faithfully continued to repeat God's warnings and prophecies to the people.

So did Jeremiah. Before the fall of Jerusalem, he wrote letters to the people Ezekiel was with, encouraging them to keep up their family lives and look forward to a time when their children could return to their homeland after the Babylonians would fall from power. (Jeremiah 29:1-32.)

Ezekiel predicted many things, including the victorious invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezekiel 32:1-18) and the fate of the Jews who had gone there contrary to God's warning through Jeremiah. Meanwhile, Ezekiel married and established a home in one of the Jewish communities north of Babylon. Although the Jews generally ignored his prophecies and admonitions, they had unusual respect for him and often came to him for advice. In spite of their stubbornness in ignoring many of the warnings he passed on from God, they believed that God had endowed him with good judgment and the power to foresee the future.

### No Escape

Ezekiel was meant to be more than a prophet to the Jews. He kept the people informed and comforted, and he encouraged all who sought wisdom and tried to forsake their wrong ways. Many of them, naturally, failed to appreciate what he did for them for twenty-two years. *Little did they guess that his writings, many of which were quite puzzling, would eventually be read all over the world for centuries and be interpreted in many different ways, mostly erroneous.*

One of the things Ezekiel wrote about had to do with the future of Israel after the Messiah's second coming to earth from heaven. (Ezekiel 36.) Another matter, among many others, was how people would be resurrected and what tomorrow's world would be like when David would again rule Israel and all the nations of the earth under the Messiah. (Ezekiel 37.)

Inasmuch as both Ezekiel and Jeremiah were inspired by God, their prophecies agreed, proving that they were indeed the Creator's true servants. Among the subjects in which they both spoke was the prediction that God would certainly provide a successor

to the throne Zedekiah had lost. God had already promised David that He would forever establish David's kingdom, but one might wonder how that would be accomplished after the murder of Zedekiah's sons and the later death of Zedekiah.

At that time Jehoiachin, former king of Judah who had been taken captive by the Babylonians, was still alive but was spending his time in a Babylonian dungeon. He had sons who were of the royal line, but they were prisoners and none of them while in prison could become king of a nation that had ceased to exist. After its restoration, one of Jehoiachin's grandsons was made governor by the king of Persia, but he was never crowned king. There were indeed men of the royal line who were qualified to become king decades later at Jerusalem, but that didn't happen, because it wasn't according to God's plan. God had decreed that his line would never again sit in Judah on the throne of David. (Jeremiah 22:24-30.)

Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel stated that the throne would be established elsewhere. (Jeremiah

21:11-12; Ezekiel 17:1-6, 22-24.) They also foretold the invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar, to occur a few years after the fall of Jerusalem. By that time, the Jews were scattered throughout Egypt. As might be expected, many of them fell in with worshipping Egyptian idols. That danger was one of the reasons God had told them not to leave Judah.

Jeremiah was still warning his people that if they continued in any kind of idolatry they would be killed or captured when Nebuchadnezzar would surely come to overrun Egypt. (Jeremiah 44:1-30.) Most of the Jews still believed that the prophet was somehow in league with the Babylonians, and didn't take him seriously. A few, including Baruch and the daughters of Zedekiah, regarded Jeremiah as God's spokesman and their leader and remained faithful to God.

It was a fearful shock to those who disdained Jeremiah when they learned that the Babylonian army was indeed moving into Egypt!

*(To be continued next issue)*

## Which Religion?

*(Continued from page 8)*

willing to OBEY God, that we are truly qualified for baptism.

Some, we find, simply do not understand.

They see a work which they feel is the work of men. They sincerely want to have a part in it. They appreciate it, they are enthusiastic about it, and they want to help in it. But we don't baptize them if that's *all* they see — we are NOT a proselyting organization just out to get members.

Again, what are our motives? Surely, you might think, if we were trying to build some type of competing organization, begin a "movement," or start a large "denomination" we should have to change our tactics, wouldn't you think? As I said, we should have to "adopt" (which would be direct disobedience to God's plain commands!) a price on TOMORROW'S WORLD — just for a start.

Do you begin to see?

We are not just another voice among thousands — not just another label on the supermarket shelf — not just another size, brand name, or product

which may be "better suited" to some people than to others.

We ARE the very servants of the LIVING Jesus Christ of Nazareth preaching HIS Word, fulfilling HIS great commission to HIS own Body! And we do baptize those we find truly repentant according to the Word of God. If you feel YOU would like personal counsel about *repentance*, we would be happy to send our representatives to see you *upon your personal request*.

### How Can You Prove It?

Again I say, "DON'T believe us!" Believe what you read in *your own Bible!*

Isaiah wrote, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak *not according to this word*, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

The Apostle Paul urged, "PROVE all things, hold fast that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21). Luke wrote, in the book of Acts, of the Bereans who "received the word with all *readiness of mind* [as opposed to (NOT with) suspicion, hostility or resentment, but with an OPEN mind], and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

But the text goes on: "THEREFORE many of them believed" (verse 12). In

other words, BECAUSE of their honest, forthright, open-minded zeal in wanting to prove the TRUTH, as opposed to the suspicious, resentful and biased approach of someone whose mind is *already made up*, these Bereans BELIEVED. And they believed the literal TRUTH!

YOU, too, can PROVE where God's truth is available. You can *prove*, and come to really KNOW what is the only and the one *true religion* which Jesus Christ of Nazareth brought to this earth from His Father!

You can come to know Jesus Christ is ALIVE today, that He RULES in His own true Church, which is His Body!

Again we say, don't believe us — just because we say so. But believe us if and when you find we speak according to the very Word of God, and then only believe us as we speak according to *that Word!*

The Apostle Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ"! (I Cor. 11:1.)

What about it? Do you really WANT to know the truth? Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the TRUTH shall make you free"! (John 8:32.) The truth is available. We're doing our best, working day and night, striving to bring it to you — and to give it to you FREE, just as Jesus said. □

## Personal

(Continued from page 2)

was sorrowful for them. But he was a man who was happy *inside*. He was setting us an example of the kind of life that we should live. So we read here:

"Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

### Why We Can Always Be Happy INSIDE

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled . . ." (I Peter 1:3, 4).

There isn't one person in 10,000 professing Christians who really knows and understands what that incorruptible inheritance really is. It is far greater — filled with far more splendor and glory, and far more happiness — than you probably ever imagined. That is what is in store for you *if you will surrender your life to God*. It's up to you!

Peter continues, saying that we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready "to be revealed at the last time." That means a time yet future, ahead of us just now, only a few years future in our time, at the second coming of Christ. Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth once again!

"Wherein," continues this scripture, "ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" or trials and troubles that come upon us: "that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth" — because this trial of our faith is developing *character that will never perish*. It's more valuable than gold.

When a trouble comes upon you, instead of griping, grumbling, moaning, and being unhappy and miserable about it, realize that something is come upon you to try you, to develop character, to develop something real and genuine in you that you will carry with you for all eternity.

But when troubles come, do you rejoice in them? Do you realize that something is come that is more valuable to you than a great sum of gold? Or do you grumble and complain and wish that such things had never come?

Jesus Christ came so that our lives should be *changed* from what they are. They are to be changed from drifting, going the easy way, acting according to impulse — which builds no character, which is putting nothing into us that we can take with us, nothing that is real, that is lasting and permanent — to the life that finds the true values. He gives us a life that does meet and overcome obstacles and temptations, a life that is just filled with happiness, brimful and running over with joy, the real abundant life. We realize what is being accomplished, where we're going. *You* have a goal if you are Christ's. You have an objective. You know where you're going; you see the progress you're making. It gives you a thrill of happiness.

### Material Blessings, Too

And, incidentally, if your life is the right kind that God desires, which is for your good, if you seek first the Kingdom of God, which is your objective in life — or should be — and His righteousness, the right ways of life, *He says that all these material things shall be added*.

God, perhaps, may not add material things early in life. He may not add them right away. It may be some little time, but He will give you all the material goods and necessities that you really need, and even a great many of the luxuries, if your life pleases Him. Yes, you can have those things when you know how to possess them and how to use them.

What is an abundant life? What is abundance? Here is the definition: "possessing an overflowing fullness." It means great plenty — great plenty of life and real living. It means exuberance. It means abounding. That's the kind of life that Jesus Christ came to reveal that we could have.

Not very many people understand it. Not very many people understand what real Christianity is. Not very many professing Christians know what a real

Christian life is. They're making themselves so unnecessarily unhappy.

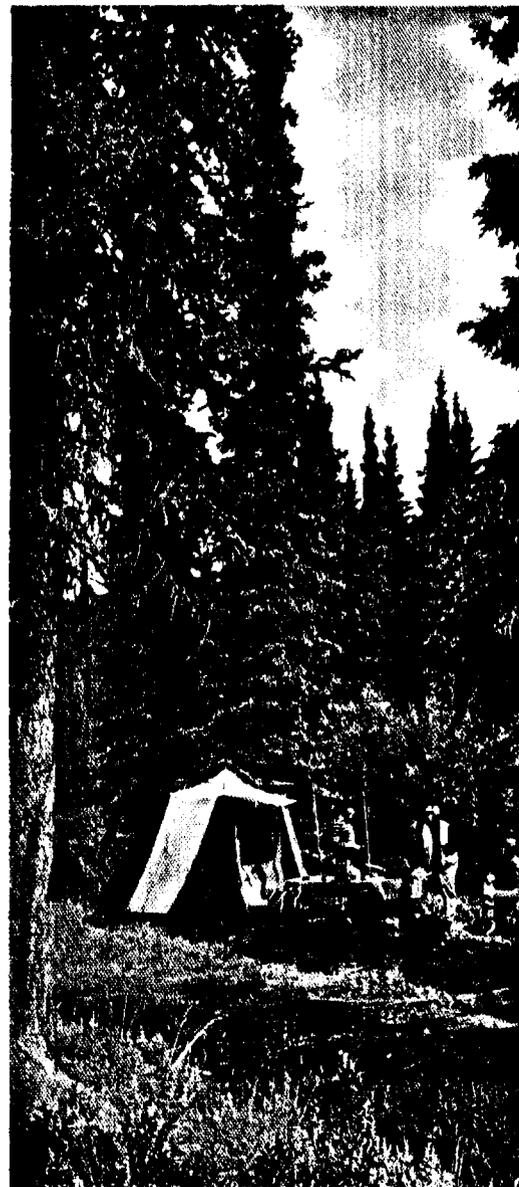
The true Christian life, then, possesses an overflowing fullness of the things that are the fruits of the Spirit of God — an overflowing fullness of LOVE (it's *God's* love; it's a genuine, spiritual love), a fullness of JOY, and of PEACE, and of *faith*, of *meekness*, of *temperance*. Does YOUR life possess those things? Have those things come into your life to fill you?

I know that you fall a great deal short of all of that. Everybody does. *We all* still fall short. But that's our goal! That is the life that we shall live in the Kingdom of God. That is the life that

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Family enjoying the abundant blessings of outdoor living.

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo



we should strive for, and with God's help, we can gradually grow more and more into it.

That is the challenging life we grow into, the life of God's Spirit within us — *that* is the HAPPY life, *that* is the JOYOUS life, and the ABUNDANT life.

### Where Do Our Resources Come From?

The abundant life must be a life that has abundant RESOURCES. If you have these resources, they have to come from somewhere, because *if you look within, you will find that THEY ARE NOT THERE!* We have some resources within, but they fall far, far short from the kind of abundant living that Christ reveals and I'm telling you about. You don't have this kind of resources within and you can't obtain them from the "around."

Look around you. You can't obtain them from other people because they don't possess these things either.

### GOD Above Is the Source

We can have abundant resources if we know where to go to obtain those resources. But *material wealth* does not give anyone those resources. It can only add to them.

You don't have them *within*. You can't get them from the *around*. But you can receive them — *only from the above*, from God Almighty. God Almighty is the great Giver, not only of life, but of life more abundantly. God is the Giver of the great resources. He is the Almighty.

God Almighty has a great deal of power to give you, to impart into you. You can receive from Him abundant FAITH, the resource of POWER, faith to drive out fear and worry, faith to drive out discouragement before obstacles, to know that it's going to work out every problem; *power* where you are now weak, to give you love to cover up and to drive out the bitterness and the resentment when other people do you wrong.

The LOVE of God will cover all of that and drive it out. God will give the resource of WISDOM that you now lack. God has all knowledge and all wisdom. God says if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men

liberally. And if you really believe, it *shall be given*, and *understanding* too! And then *zeal* and *energy* — real living, driving energy that is needed to do the work that you must accomplish.

### It Can Happen to You, Too

I am going to mention something personal. To conduct this work I lead a very busy, driving life, and expend a great deal of energy. A physician friend of mine once asked me: "Mr. Armstrong, I don't see how you do it. Where do you get this energy? How do you keep going so long and under so many hours of strain and stress, and still have that driving energy?"

I told him, "It's one of the resources that I get from above."

You, too, can have these resources that make you happy. These are the things that we all need. These are the resources that can come only from God. And these are the resources that will produce those fruits of love, and joy, and of peace, and of patience.

Most lives today are empty, absolutely *empty!* They are filled with boredom, with frustrations and fears.

It is as you read in Isaiah 55:1-2:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Everyone is really thirsty for the good things of life, for the happiness, the pleasant things and, to some extent, even exciting and thrilling things in life that we could and should have. But most lives seem empty. The well is dry, and they're thirsty.

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?"

### The Holy Spirit Provides the Power

What do *you* drink in? Jesus said that if you drink of Him, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of *living water*" — not stagnant water, but living water, sparkling water. "BUT THIS SPAKE HE OF THE SPIRIT, which they that believe on him should receive" — the Holy Spirit of God (John 7:38-39).

The Holy Spirit of God is pictured as living water. It comes into you. You go to Christ to receive it. You don't bottle it up and put a cork on it. It flows out from you. The Holy Spirit flows out in love, peace and joy, radiating *from* you. There is no other way to find these resources. There is no other way to live a happy life.

The laws of God are a way of life. The Bible in its whole is a way of life. Jesus Christ said that *we must live by every Word of God*. If you live by every Word of God, you will live according to the way of life that God has laid down in this book, the Holy Bible. It is the way of life that is the *abundant* life. It's the way of the happy, the cheerful life that simply *radiates*. It radiates sunshine and happiness, and it's always happiness within. The well is not dry. It's filled!

Now here is what this kind of life will mean. It means that you will be RADIANT. It means that God's Spirit in you will radiate *cheerfulness* and *smiles*, *friendliness* toward others, *love*, *sincerity*, *good health*, *vigor*, *calm courage*, *goodwill*, and *interest in others*, instead of being so self-conscious, with so much over-interest in your own self.

If the Spirit of God is *in* you, you will be plain and simple, you will put on no airs. There will be no posing, as most people do in the world. You will be natural, and not pretending. You will be honest and frank and unaffected, clean in mind and in body. You will be humble. There won't be *self-confidence*. There will be *faith in God*, instead.

You will be humble, but you will have THE FAITH and THE POWER OF GOD, whose power is unlimited. You will be strong through this faith of God.

There will be no weakness, but great strength. You will have wisdom, and you will have courage. You will have everything, every resource you need.

You will be ready always to say, "I don't know," if it be so. You will be ready, always, to admit error when it is so proved, to confess wrong and to *change* to what is right, wherever you are wrong. You will be ready to accept correction and reproof, and to act upon it, no matter how humiliating or pain-

ful. You will diligently study to learn the right way and to live it, and you will study the Bible to find it. You will face every obstacle that comes along — every difficulty, every problem and trouble — unafraid, in the full faith of God, looking to Him for wisdom and knowing that He will guide you and deliver you out of it.

### The Attitude of a Christian

Here is the kind of attitude you will have. You will wish others to live their lives, too, up to their highest, their fullest, their best. You will be concerned for their welfare.

You'll try to help others every way you can, never to hurt or to injure. You will never meddle. You will never dictate, interfere, or give unwanted advice, or speak ill of, nor gossip about others. Never will you go around griping, complaining, and murmuring that things make you and others unhappy.

You will always be willing to help others by giving them a chance, and mainly you can help others by helping them to help themselves, by encouragement, by setting a good example, by thus inspiring and uplifting others, *giving advice ONLY WHEN IT'S WELCOMED*, and when they want it and are willing to open their minds and to receive it.

You will *hew to the line* of the one supreme goal of life which should be to inherit the Kingdom of God, to be really born of God into the very family of God. You will be relentlessly pursuing this goal with zeal, with enthusiasm, with drive and with energy fired by Godly ambition, with hope, with faith, living by every Word of God. *The Bible will be the authority that you OBEY*, the authority that you look to for everything in your life.

You will be overcoming your own human nature and the world, resisting Satan, drawing nearer to God by constant daily Bible study and by prayer, and by occasional fasting and prayer.

*That is the Christian life. It's the happy, the abundant life.*

It's yours for the asking. It's yours for the willingness to confess your sins to God and to repent of breaking His laws. It's yours if you're willing to do what He says. □

## How Your TOMORROW'S WORLD SUBSCRIPTION Has Been Paid

So many ask: "HOW does it happen that I find my subscription price for TOMORROW'S WORLD has already been paid? How can you publish such a high-class magazine without advertising revenue?"

The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A PRICE must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, "freely GIVE!" "It is more blessed," He said, "to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's WAY is the way of LOVE — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His

to give free-will offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to others. We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of others. We believe in what we are doing, and THE WAY it is being done. Our ever-growing family of volunteer Co-Workers believe in it, and gladly give of their incomes that we, with them, may GIVE these precious success secrets to an ever-widening number of readers. Yet it must go only to those who themselves wish to receive it. Each must, for himself, subscribe — and his subscription has thus already been paid by others.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine on an already-paid basis; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Correspondence Course with full tuition cost already paid; and to provide other literature and services without charging a price. God's way is RIGHT — the way of giving to others.

# Letters to the Editor

## "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?"

I would be remiss if I did not heartily commend your "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" This article in Oct. 1971, *Tomorrow's World*, with the Biblical references included is another example of excellent religious journalism which makes your *Tomorrow's World* magazine welcome in the homes of two million readers.

Hal G.,  
Tampa, Florida

This week I've just received my first copy of your magazine *Tomorrow's World*. The article "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" impressed me so much with the truth that I am quite astonished and compelled to write you. I thought I had a real born-again experience (although I now realize I am only begotten and not yet born). That is the glory yet to come.

John B.,  
Oceanside, Calif.

Your article in the October *Tomorrow's World* about being born again was most enlightening and confirmed a belief that I have had for a long time. Only yesterday I listened to a TV church service in which the preacher talked almost entirely on "Born Again Christians," exhorting his listeners to come forward, be baptized (immersed) and be *born again*, all in this earthly existence. I couldn't help wondering how an educated man could believe his own words.

Mrs. Mary S.,  
Canton, Ohio

I now thoroughly understand the "Born Again" concept (as you explain it in October's issue of *Tomorrow's World*)! My upbringing (in the church) did not dwell on that area — so, over the years I was amazed over and over by people of other "isms" accusing me of *not* being "Born Again." They were so sure *they* were! I could not understand how they knew! Thanks to you — you are clearing the cobwebs from my brain — it's been a long time, because I'm *now* 60 years old!

Carolyn R.,  
Rialto, Calif.

I received my Oct. copy which included the article "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" I want to thank you for printing it; I think every Christian should read it. I put it into my loose-leaf folder with my other study materials.

E. M.,  
Trenton, N.J.

Your article on "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" was so beautifully compared to human birth and so plain and easy to understand.

Mrs. Catherine S.,  
Houston, Texas

I enjoyed the article on "Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?" It's a thought

I've had over a long time, but one over which many of my Christian friends do not agree. I'm happy to have your article to pass on to them for their consideration and for approval of what I maintain.

A.V.,  
Hollywood, Fla.

Just finished your article "Born Again," Oct. issue. What I don't understand is the utopia being born again will offer. How will we function; what will we have as a purpose? I can see where the first years will be triumphant in bringing peace and victory over aggressors. But what then? Surely to float about with no cares has got to create problems.

Donna J.,  
Moorhead, Minn.

• *You do not yet fully comprehend what it means to be a member of the RULING Family of God. Members will first help Jesus Christ RULE this earth for A THOUSAND YEARS (Rev. 2:26-27; 20:6) — then the universe FOREVER (Hebrews 2:5-8). Life will be scintillating. Eternity could never get boring: "In thy [God's] presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore" (Psalms 16:11).*

*For further understanding, write for our free booklet The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like and the free reprint "What Will You Be Like in the Resurrection?"*

I think "Born Again" is one of the finest articles ever. I agree with you except about the soul. Please with very simple words explain for me why you say on page 47, the Bible does not teach man has an "immortal soul"? The reason I must know is I have been taught all these years I have one. If there is no immortal soul, would you please explain Luke 16:19 where Jesus tells of the rich man and Lazarus and about the torment in hell fire? . . .

Willis F.,  
New Castle, Pa.

• *We will quote one simple scripture: ". . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). That one verse alone proves the soul is NOT immortal — it can die. But for a thorough explanation of the entire subject, request the following free literature: "Do You Have an Immortal Soul?", "There Is a Real Hell Fire!" and Lazarus and the Rich Man. The latter will explain Luke 16:19.*

I read your article on "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" The best treat-

ise on "Born Again" is found in II Hermas Similitude IX verses 113 to 161. When one takes on the name of the Son of God, he enters the Kingdom of God. (Verse 113.) Do you want to contradict the angel and what he gave Hermas?

E. R.,  
Sacramento, Calif.

• *II Hermas was not included in the closing of the New Testament Canon. It is not included in any Bible versions we know of. Write for a free copy of "Do We Have the Complete Bible?" It will show you which books belong in the Bible and which do not.*

Your article "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?" was the most confused thing you have ever put in print. You no doubt ignored the Bible passage: "The Kingdom of God is within you" . . . and your constant mentioning of the human gestation period is totally irrelevant to the subject of being "Born Again." Why can't you explain a Bible term by Biblical examples, instead of throwing in some unrelated human activity such as gestation?

Richard Q.,  
Silver Spring, Md.

• *Luke 17:21 is a mistranslation in the King James Version. Luke wrote these words, originally, in the Greek language. He did not write the words "within you." The Greek words he wrote were mistakenly translated into the English words "within you." If you have a Bible with marginal references, you will notice that this is corrected in your margin to read "in the midst of you," or "among you." Jesus Christ — the King of the future Kingdom was, then and there, standing in the midst of the Pharisees (see context). For an in-depth explanation of Luke 17:21, write for our FREE booklet Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?*

*Human gestation is unrelated to being born again??? What about Romans 1:20? "For the invisible things of Him from the creation are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead..."*

For any new subscribers who may have missed this most important article — dealing with the very purpose of human life — we are reprinting it in booklet form. Request your FREE copy of "Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?"

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