

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

Sept. 1969



God hangs the earth
on nothing — Job 26:7

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More About Our Cover:

The earth hangs on "nothing" — shimmering in space like a jewel too beautiful for any crown. Astronauts, with pictures like our cover, have proved beyond any doubt the veracity of this statement the patriarch Job wrote contemporaneously with the building of the great pyramids of Egypt. And astronauts traveling from the earth to the moon and back, sitting for hours on end in the cramped quarters of a space capsule, contemplating the loveliness of the good earth against the backdrop of a harshly beautiful, yet empty space, have gained a respect for the Almighty God who created the entire scene, and inspired the Bible to document His creation. What about you? Is the Bible for you Superstition or True Science? Answer that question after you read the article beginning on page 12.

NASA Photo

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Personal from the Editor

WHY ARE the different branches of “Christianity” talking about UNION? *WHY* is it possible for them to make overtures toward compromise? The answer will surprise!

And anyway, is it not *right* that they should all GET TOGETHER? *WHY* should Christianity be divided?

The Vatican Second Ecumenical Council made many overtures toward both Protestants and the Eastern Orthodox Church. They even took a conciliatory attitude toward Jews. Pope Paul VI assured the non-Catholic Christian world of his purpose to clear away every obstacle blocking “Christian unity.”

An example of the changing religious atmosphere was Cardinal Cushing’s reported approving of Catholic young people in Boston going to hear Protestant Evangelist Billy Graham.

Many Protestant leaders are beginning to make friendly gestures toward the Roman Catholic Church.

At the same time a prominent Jewish rabbi called for greater co-operation and understanding between conservative Protestants and the Jewish community.

The BIG question is *WHY* is such compromise possible?

Can you imagine Jesus Christ beginning to compromise and get together with the Pharisees?

The answer leads directly to the question: WHAT IS THE SOURCE of these religious beliefs? What is the religious AUTHORITY?

I suppose most people would answer that GOD is their authority — the source of their beliefs. But is HE? Does GOD tell the Roman Catholics to believe one thing, the Protestants to believe something different, and the Jews something different from the other two? Did all the hundreds of differing and disagreeing sects and denominations calling themselves “Christian” receive their varying faiths from the SAME SOURCE? Quite obviously not!

A man I know met a staunch believer in a Middle Eastern religion. A discussion followed regarding the relative merits of their different religions. Suddenly

the Mideasterner asked, “Do you believe in your God enough to *fight for Him?*”

“No, my God doesn’t need me to fight for Him,” replied my friend.

“WHAT? You don’t *fight* for your God,” exclaimed the Mideasterner in shocked disbelief. “Why, what kind of a God do you have, that you don’t fight for Him? Everyone of our religion believes in his god so much that he will go out and *fight for him!*”

“Yes, I know,” replied my friend. “You have to fight to *protect* your god, because he can’t protect himself or do anything for *you*. But my God is the *living God* — the All-Powerful, Supreme, Eternally *Living God*. My God fights my battles for me. My God is Supreme, and therefore I obey Him. He RULES me, and guides me in the way I ought to go for my own welfare and happiness. But He also *does things for me*. He tells me to love my enemies—and HE will fight my battles for me. He heals me when I am sick. He is a *living God* — not a dead god. He makes even my enemies to be at peace with me. *He does things for me* — things I could not do for myself.

“You see,” my friend continued, “there is only one *living God*. But nearly all the people in the world worship and serve dead gods. Other people make up their own gods. Their gods are the work of their own hands — or the invention of their own minds. But I am the creation of my God! I didn’t make Him — He made me.”

Now we ought to begin to see the answer to the question, *HOW* can these differing religious groups compromise and get together? They have strayed far away from the Biblical teaching of God. They may have *some* Biblical truth, mixed with much that is of *human* origin or tradition. Their beliefs, their customs, are largely the inventions of HUMANS. Therefore humans feel at liberty to alter or change their own beliefs and ways.

But, one asks, didn’t they receive all their beliefs out of the BIBLE? The answer is an emphatic NO!

Didn’t you ever wonder *WHY* people talk about

their various INTERPRETATIONS of the Bible? Take, for instance, Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is *death*; but the *gift* of God is *eternal life* through Jesus Christ our Lord." Most "Christian" religions INTERPRET THAT — which is to say, they *change its meaning*, to make it say precisely the opposite. They claim that the MAN is an "immortal soul." Man, therefore, they believe, already *has* eternal life — he CANNOT DIE! So, they *change* the meaning of that verse to conform to their erroneous belief — they INTERPRET this verse to MEAN the very opposite of what it SAYS, thus: "The wages of sin is ETERNAL LIFE [in hell]; and eternal life is NOT the gift of God."

There are others who INTERPRET "death" to mean "separation from God," and "gift of eternal life" to mean "eternal life which is NOT a gift, but which you already possess, spent in the geographical *presence* of Christ."

This is the dishonest process by which religious bodies make the Bible say whatever they want it to say. Peter speaks of this twisting, distorting, and wresting of the Scriptures, "which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, BEWARE lest ye also, being led away by the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness" (II Peter 3:16-17).

We ought to understand, therefore, how those who, like the Roman Catholic Church, reject the Bible as the supreme AUTHORITY — setting themselves, as a CHURCH, as supreme authority (saying they have power to CHANGE the Bible — as they claim to have done by changing God's Sabbath to Sunday). When religions, sects, denominations *change* the Bible to suit their own ideas and wishes by INTERPRETING it their own way — we ought to understand how they can compromise and GET TOGETHER.

But do they even HAVE the true *living* God?

Just what determines WHO, or WHAT is your GOD? Actually, most people do not realize the true answer. Whoever, or whatever you worship, fasten your affection on, and serve, is your GOD.

One's country may — and often does — become one's god. Through a wrong kind of patriotism, many WORSHIP their country. Here is a Bible definition: "And they WORSHIPPED the dragon [Satan] which gave power unto the beast [Roman Empire]: and they WORSHIPPED the beast, saying, 'WHO IS LIKE UNTO

THE BEAST? WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM?'" (Rev. 13:4.)

Patriotism, of the right kind, is good. One should *love* his own country, with outgoing concern for it, be *loyal* to it, with a spirit of respect and gratitude for what it has provided him. God commands us to be subject to the human government over us — to give honor where honor is due. But *not* to make it a god before the Supreme Creator!

Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). People do not think of him as the Devil — but as their GOD. Satan appears as an angel of light and truth — not as a devil (II Cor. 11:13-15) and he has many ministers, serving him as GOD, claiming to be apostles of Christ and ministers of righteousness — but with a perverted gospel, and a *different* Jesus (verse 4, same chapter). People serve Satan, obey Satan, believing he is God, accept his lies and believe them and call them truth.

Whoever, or whatever you serve and obey becomes your god. Your Bible says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto *death*, or of OBEDIENCE [to God's Law] unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16.)

The very name — or title — "LORD" means MASTER, or RULER, or the ONE YOU OBEY. Do you not understand what Jesus meant when He said, "And why call ye me 'LORD, LORD,' and *do not* the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46.) To call Jesus "LORD," or "MASTER," is to call Him *the One you OBEY*. To call Him that while you disobey Him is to LIE!

The one and only TRUE God is the *everliving* God who RULES by His spiritual Law of LOVE, summed up by the Ten Commandments — and who actually *does things* for those who OBEY Him and RELY ON Him!

So it ought to be plain WHY this world's churches are able to compromise, and GET TOGETHER, and talk about UNITING.

The one and only true God is the same *living* God who guided Noah in building the ark — who saved Noah and his family from the Flood. This is the *living God* whom Abraham obeyed, and in whom Abraham trusted — who gave the PROMISES! This is the *same God* who guided and prospered Joseph — protected, delivered, rewarded him — because Joseph *obeyed* Him. This is the same God who guided David,

(Continued on page 32)

What'll You Be DOING in the NEXT LIFE?

Are YOU one who won't be there — because you're deceived into a false salvation? Nothing is more misunderstood than the difference between "GRACE" and "WORKS." Here is one of the most important articles ever published.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS OUGHT to disturb you — a pointed question put to me by a man in Middlesex, England. That is, unless you are one of the *very few* who really does understand this difference. Don't be too sure you know! Even most of the clergy do not!

The BIG Question

This man in Middlesex, England, had received his first three trial copies of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. He had been shocked out of complacency.

He wrote:

"As a lifelong 'unquestioning' believer in evolution, the most immediate impact of your magazine has been to shatter my complacency on the subject. However, this presents me with a problem, insofar as, IF I accept that God created mankind, and that there is, therefore, an afterlife, I simply cannot imagine what one *'does'* for an eternity. This is proving to be something of a 'stumbling block' for me." He asked for help.

You need to understand. Almost NO ONE DOES!

A woman explained recently what *she* expects to be doing through eternity.

"I expect to just be sitting at Jesus' feet, looking up into His face," she exclaimed. And this idea was so deeply implanted in her mind, nothing could shake her out of it!

It is perhaps ten times harder to UNlearn error

than to learn new truth. And nearly everyone who believes in God at all — or makes any profession of Christianity — has had one idea so deeply implanted in mind that it is simply *taken for granted* — and almost impossible to root out!

It is this — stated in my own terms (which may not be the way others would state it):

When you were born, you were started on a one-way railroad trip — your life's journey. Because of Adam's sin (or because you are a sinner) a switch in the railroad track at the end of your journey is turned automatically to shoot you down to hell. But IF, at some time during your life's journey you "profess Christ" then that automatically throws the switch at the end of your life's journey so that when you die you will be shot immediately up to heaven. And what will you be DOING through all eternity? Just sitting at Jesus' feet, happily looking up into His face — or, some may have it, playing on a harp. In any case the concept is that you'll have NOTHING TO DO, but just "enjoy" idleness and ease forever and ever! This false concept totally blinds its followers' eyes to the meaning and

purpose of the Christian life *after* initial conversion — *after* becoming a Christian.

There may be variations in the way differing sects or denominations, or different people conceive of it — but that's approximately the generally accepted idea — taken for granted — and so deeply rooted it's almost impossible to get the TRUTH, as GOD reveals it in HIS WORD, into such minds.

Now I wouldn't enjoy lounging around in idleness with nothing to do for even three days — let alone for eternity!

But THAT explains, I think, WHY some ministers falsely accuse me of "proclaiming a salvation by WORKS." Since we are to be SAVED, as your Bible states repeatedly, by GRACE, therefore these people simply cannot conceive of any WORKS whatsoever. They don't understand that the Christian life is one of TRAINING for WHAT WE SHALL BE DOING through eternity IN THE NEXT LIFE. They miss the WHOLE PURPOSE of salvation!

Does that word "grace" sound a little technical — a little theological?

"Grace" is a term used in the Bible. It means undeserved FREE GIFT — and unmerited PARDON.

Nowhere does the Bible teach earning your salvation by your own "WORKS." But what most do NOT understand is that the Bible DOES teach, over and over again,

Because they don't understand it, some have falsely accused us of proclaiming a "salvation earned by works." Emphatically we do NOT! But the ANSWER is something not understood even by most of the world's religious leaders! It's made plain here.

that we shall be REWARDED according to our WORKS!

That has EVERYTHING to do with the question: "WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN THE NEXT LIFE — FOR ETERNITY?"

It has little or nothing to do with whether you GET THERE — but *everything* to do with what will be your STATUS — what you will be doing in the next life IF you are SAVED BY GRACE.

Please believe me, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF YOUR LIFE! You NEED to understand it. It's very VITAL to YOUR ETERNITY!

There's a Vast Difference!

WHY is it that so very FEW understand the great difference between being "saved by GRACE," and "rewarded according to WORKS"? To UNDERSTAND, you need to know *what* "salvation" is, and what "reward" means.

But first, UNDERSTAND. The word "works" translated from the Greek *ergon* means deeds, actions, business, without regard, except as indicated by use in the sentence, to whether physical work, action or labor, or spiritual acts of righteousness. The Bible uses this word primarily in two ways; and there is a vast difference.

When joined with "law," as, "the works of the law," primarily in Romans and Galatians, it refers to the RITUALS of the Law of Moses. These were physical WORK — *labor!* These laborious physical rituals — "the works of the law" — were a SUBSTITUTE for Christ and the Holy Spirit, and were in force only until Christ. They were then ABOLISHED. There were certain other secular laws, such as statutes and judgments, that were not abolished. Nor, of course, the great spiritual Law, the Ten Commandments, which define righteousness, the transgression of which is sin.

But where the word "works" appears alone, unassociated in the context with the "works of the law," it usually refers to acts of RIGHTEOUSNESS — that is, GOOD works. In some instances the context uses the word in the sense of evil works.

In this article we are concerned with "works" in the sense of GOOD works —

righteousness — *not* with "works" of the law," rituals which were abolished.

"Salvation" means being saved *from* the penalty of sin — which is DEATH — for eternity — eternal punishment (*not* eternal punishing!). But to be SAVED means, also, "preservation." In this case, preservation of LIFE. One verse in the Bible explains BOTH: "For the wages of sin is DEATH; but the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

The "wages" you EARN by the "works" of SIN is eternal DEATH. It is ETERNAL PUNISHMENT — and since the punishment is DEATH, and *not* life, it is eternal DEATH. You *now* have only a chemical, temporary, physical existence, sustained by breathing, eating, drinking, and your physical heart continuing to beat and circulate your blood. Stop breathing, stop your heart beating, you die — you cease to live — almost instantly. Stop eating and drinking, and you'll die in 45 or 50 days. This physio-chemical life is only temporary.

So, to PRESERVE LIFE eternally means the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE — spirit life — self-sustaining, INHERENT life.

Salvation, then, means to PRESERVE you FROM eternal death, the "wages" or consequences of sin, and to GIVE you inherent ETERNAL LIFE.

So, then, ETERNAL LIFE is something YOU DO NOT NOW HAVE. It is something you have no power to supply, or give to yourself.

You can't earn it by "WORKS." No human ingenuity or scientific effort can prolong human life eternally. The *only* life that is eternal is SPIRIT life. A physical being cannot turn himself into a spirit being. Spirit life comes as God's free GIFT. Neither can you yourself erase the PENALTY of sins you have already committed — that is, PREVENT eternal DEATH. For "ALL have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). That includes YOU! You have brought on yourself the eternal DEATH SENTENCE, as a penalty!

The Bible teaches NOTHING about an "immortal soul." On the contrary, it teaches, twice, that "the soul that sinneth, it shall DIE" (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Jesus said the "soul" can be DESTROYED in gehenna fire (Matt. 10:28).

What your own "works" have earned for you is the "wages" of ETERNAL DEATH.

You see, everyone has "WORKS" — either good, or bad! And your bad works have earned the wages of eternal DEATH. Good works can earn something, too — which I will explain later — but it is NOT "salvation" or eternal life!

Jesus Christ *only*, of all who have been human, has immortality (I Tim. 6:16). GOD is IMMORTAL (I Tim. 1:17). He has given eternal life, inherent, to Jesus, who has eternal life inherent *in Himself* (John 5:26). We may receive it, as God's GIFT, through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23). God has eternal life INHERENT. He has it TO GIVE. You do NOT have it! You must go to GOD to get it!

But, your sins have CUT YOU OFF from God! (Isa. 59:1-2.) You are so CUT OFF that you cannot reach Him! There is an impassable BARRIER between you and Him, brought on by your SINS!

How, then, can you gain ACCESS to Almighty God (the Father), to receive from Him eternal life and salvation — AS HIS GIFT? Well, Isaiah says, "Let the wicked forsake his way" (Isaiah 55:6-8) — the way of SIN. And, further, "God SO LOVED THE WORLD [of sinners], that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should NOT PERISH, but have everlasting LIFE" (John 3:16).

Yes, but HOW?

The answer is in Romans 5:8-10:

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more, then, being NOW justified by His blood. . . ." GET THIS! "Being NOW justified" — HOW? — by "works"? No, by Christ's DEATH — by His blood. He shed His blood and DIED. He paid the death penalty *for you*, in your stead.

So, IF you repent of sinning — that is, turn around to go the OTHER WAY — forsake YOUR way — the way contrary to God's Law, and turn to GOD'S WAY — the way of His Law — if you have thus REPENTED of sinning, and have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour — accepted His

DEATH as PAYMENT IN FULL for YOUR sins — accepted Him as personal Saviour, not only from the PENALTY of past sins, but as *living* Saviour to save you from SINNING (now and in the future) then you are NOW forgiven past guilt — you are now JUSTIFIED of your guilty past.

But “justified” refers to the guilty past, not to the FUTURE!

So, CONTINUE this scripture: “. . . Much more, then, being *now justified* by His blood, we SHALL BE saved from wrath through Him. . . .” Notice, being “SAVED” is yet in the future. We are now “justified,” by God’s grace — by Jesus’ DEATH — and SHALL BE (future) “saved.”

But, continue, verse 10 of Romans 5: “. . . For if, when we were enemies, we were RECONCILED to GOD by the death of His Son. . . .” Here, you see, being JUSTIFIED by Christ’s death is ALSO being RECONCILED to God by His death. In other words, *we have at last*, through Christ’s death *established CONTACT with God*.

Now continue, same sentence: “. . . much more, being reconciled, we *shall be saved* BY HIS LIFE.”

Not already “saved.” But “*shall be saved*.” And HOW? Saved by the “blood of Christ”? — by His DEATH? NO!!! By His LIFE! We are justified of past guilt, which had cut us off from access to God, by Christ’s DEATH — but SHALL BE, in the future, SAVED by His LIFE. He ROSE from the dead. He is a *living* Christ!

Not saved by your “works” — saved by Christ’s LIFE, after having been forgiven your sins, and reconciled to God by Christ’s DEATH.

HOW Eternal Life Comes

So, with the sentence of eternal DEATH paid for us — our past sins which put a barrier between us and God JUSTIFIED — we are now RECONCILED to God — given access. And HE has ETERNAL LIFE inherent — self-contained life — to GIVE.

HOW, then, do we receive it from Him?

Notice a couple of pivotal scriptures: “For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son

to have life in Himself” (John 5:26). God has imparted INHERENT eternal life to the living Jesus Christ, whom He raised from the dead. Now, further: “And this is the record, that GOD hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life [eternal]; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (I John 5:11, 12).

Yes, we are to be SAVED by the *living* Christ — saved BY HIS LIFE! That is, GIVEN eternal life as a GIFT, through HIS life — not through His death!

But, specifically, HOW? Let the Apostle Peter explain: “REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall RECEIVE the GIFT of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). On real REPENTANCE of sinning — a turning around to go the other way — to QUIT sinning — and on faith in Jesus expressed by water baptism (Acts 8:35-37), God has promised WE SHALL RECEIVE HIS HOLY SPIRIT AS A GIFT. Not by our “works” — but by GRACE!

But how does THIS give us eternal life — salvation?

“If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall ALSO [by a resurrection] quicken your mortal bodies *by His Spirit that dwelleth in you*” (Rom. 8:11).

Well is, then, the receiving of the Holy Spirit SALVATION? Is one already “saved” when he receives this Spirit?

GOD’S WORD SAYS NO! Not FINALLY! You are at that stage merely an *heir* of God — not yet an INHERITOR of salvation — of eternal life. Still human — mortal — not yet *immortal*! It is the presence of eternal life *conditionally — provisionally*.

The scripture above quoted spoke of God’s Spirit DWELLING in you. IF this Spirit is dwelling in you until death (the first), or AT THE TIME of the RESURRECTION — at Christ’s coming — THEN you shall be either resurrected IMMORTAL, or, if still alive, CHANGED from mortal to immortal instantaneously (I Cor. 15:50-52 and I Thes. 4:13-17). Then you shall be immortal — composed of SPIRIT — no

longer human and composed of material flesh and blood. Then you, too, shall have life *inherent* — be FINALLY saved.

The receiving of the Holy Spirit, NOW, is the TOKEN PAYMENT — or the EARNEST payment from God on the gift of eternal life. Notice: “. . . Christ . . . in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the *earnest of our INHERITANCE, until the redemption of the purchased possession. . .*” (Eph. 1:12-14). The Moffatt translation renders it in more understandable English, “. . . the long-promised Holy Spirit, which is the pledge and installment of our common heritage, that we *may [in the future] obtain our divine possession. . .*”

Those who have received God’s Holy Spirit are NOW *not yet* inheritors or possessors of this eternal life — of this salvation. They are NOW *HEIRS* of God — co-heirs with Christ (Gal. 3:29). They are now still mortal, not immortal. They are now BEGOTTEN sons of God — not yet BORN of God. They are now in the CHURCH of God — not yet in the KINGDOM of God.

May We Go on Sinning?

But now what of that scripture that says: “. . . ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).

Now that you are UNDER GRACE — does this mean you are given license to *disobey* God’s Law?

Listen to GOD’S answer: “What shall we say, then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? GOD FORBID! How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Rom. 6:1-2.) Later, verse 12: “Let not sin [transgressing God’s Law] therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

Once again, verse 14: “For sin [transgressing the Law] shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but under grace.” The very next words show PLAINLY this does not mean you are free to BREAK God’s Law — to DISOBEY God, “What then? Shall we SIN [break the Law], because we are not under the Law, but under grace? GOD FORBID! Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves

servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness."

GRACE does not mean license to SIN. And the BIBLE definition of SIN is: "Sin is the transgression of the LAW" (I John 3:4).

You *were* UNDER THE LAW, when the Law stood over you, claiming its penalty. When Christ paid the penalty, and satisfied the claims of the Law, you were no longer under the Law, but under GRACE.

It is the FALSE PROPHETS of our day who try to deceive you into believing "GRACE" means permission to BREAK GOD'S LAW! We are being saved FROM SINNING (now and in the future) as well as from PAST sins. Christ came to save us FROM sinning — not to save us IN sin.

WHY the Holy Spirit?

I have been showing you, step by step, the way of "salvation." Where are you, now? You have been reconciled to God — your past forgiven — and you have received God's Holy Spirit. But WHY?

God's Spirit, first of all, is His very own LIFE injected into you — the begetting of ETERNAL life. You are now an HEIR of God — a joint-heir — a co-heir with CHRIST. Not yet an inheritor. The Holy Spirit injects into you also the characteristics of God. First of these is LOVE — not carnal or human love, but DIVINE love — GOD'S love.

And WHY? In order to KEEP GOD'S LAW — *that's why!* How is God's Law fulfilled? "LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law" (Rom. 13:10). But carnal human love cannot fulfill it. WHY? Because the Law of God is a SPIRITUAL Law (Rom. 7:14). It can be fulfilled only by a SPIRITUAL love, which is THE GIFT of God. It is "the love of GOD shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). And, again, God gives His Holy Spirit only to "them that OBEY Him" (Acts 5:32).

Also it requires FAITH to keep God's Commandments. And *your* faith is not strong enough. It requires CHRIST'S faith — the same faith He exercised and lived by during His human life-

time. God also GIVES you this very same FAITH, *by the Holy Spirit*. God's Spirit also imparts to you spiritual comprehension — power to UNDERSTAND spiritual truth; and wisdom, and patience, and spiritual POWER! All these are imparted to you from God, by the Holy Spirit — as His GIFT! But these are given to you to LIVE BY — to USE, in order to GROW spiritually in knowledge and grace and to overcome.

MUST There Be "WORKS"?

I have tried to make it PLAIN that we cannot EARN salvation by "works."

Yet EVERYONE does produce "works" — either good or bad. Your evil "works" — disobedience of the Commandments — will EARN you the penalty of DEATH. But what about GOOD works? Do *they* earn anything?

INDEED THEY DO!

Are good "WORKS" required?

INDEED THEY ARE!

But WHAT, then, do they EARN?

They do NOT earn "salvation." They do NOT earn eternal life. They will NOT get you into the Kingdom of God!

Well, then! What DO they earn?

Ah — that is the point of this article!

You are not JUSTIFIED by "works," nor "saved" by "works," but you are to be JUDGED by your "works," and "rewarded" according to your "works."

This thing called "WORKS" — meaning deeds, good or bad — cannot put you INTO God's Kingdom of IMMORTALS. You get IN by GRACE! But, once *in*, your "works" during this present life — during your Christian life after being "converted" and receiving God's Holy Spirit — DO determine WHAT OFFICE, or POSITION, or RANK, or degree of GLORY, you shall have!

This is what ALMOST NO ONE seems to have understood!

First notice what Jesus said — AFTER His resurrection — inspired after the year 90 A.D.: "To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my THRONE . . ." (Rev. 3:21). Further: "And he that OVERCOMETH, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give POWER OVER THE NATIONS: AND HE SHALL RULE THEM . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27).

Notice again, ". . . hast made us unto our God KINGS AND PRIESTS; and WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH" (Rev. 5:10).

Notice what is said of those in the first RESURRECTION, at Christ's coming: ". . . and they lived AND REIGNED with Christ a thousand years. . . Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, AND SHALL REIGN with Him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4, 6).

Notice, in these scriptures, the "saved" are to REIGN with Christ in the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT, the Kingdom of God. And notice the requirement of OVERCOMING, and keeping Christ's WORKS and also of ENDURING TO THE END! NOTICE! Jesus said "he that . . . keepeth my works *unto the end*."

Now notice further: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall REWARD every man ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS" (Matt. 16:27). Nowhere does the Bible teach being "SAVED" by our "works," but it does teach the degree of *reward* according to "works."

Alexander the coppersmith did great evil to the Apostle Paul, and Paul says: ". . . the Lord reward him according to his works" (II Tim. 4:14). Notice this distinction! This man did EVIL works. He won't get salvation at Christ's coming. He *will* be REWARDED — that is, PAID WAGES according to his WORKS — and the WAGES of SIN is DEATH — eternal PUNISHMENT. "WORKS" means the wages you earn — or the REWARD to be given — *either* good or bad. Evil works (sin) can EARN eternal punishment, but GOOD WORKS can EARN a better position or office in God's Kingdom *IF* you get there — but it *cannot* earn salvation!

Now notice Romans 4:4: "Now to him that WORKETH is the *reward* NOT reckoned of GRACE, but of DEBT." Salvation is not paid as a DEBT, but is GIVEN by GRACE — undeserved GIFT. But "WORKS" earn wages, paid as a debt.

So what we WANT is not GRACE

(Continued on page 28)

SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

Why be baptized? WHAT IS baptism? Is it a religious "rite" required by this or that church? Should it be done in infancy? Should you be sprinkled, poured upon, dabbed at with a damp cloth — or immersed? What IS a valid baptism in God's sight?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

"REPENT!" screamed the panting, perspiring evangelist to a crowd of avid followers in Brooklyn, New York.

It was a hot, steamy, sweltering day, with the heat assailing them in waves from the blistering pavement under their feet. As the hoarse voice of the street corner evangelist grew in fervor and intensity, the excitement of the crowd mounted.

Finally, an impassioned street corner plea for repentance was given. Dozens rushed up — tears coursing dusty rivulets down flushed and perspiring faces as they were swept along on the crest of a tidal wave of human emotion.

They were baptized — right then and there.

The method?

The evangelist had secured permission from the city Fire Department. He turned on a street-corner fireplug, and **SPRAYED THE WHOLE CROWD** — with a fire hose!

Was this baptism **VALID**?

The Scene Changes

At that same hour, on a Sunday morning, a cultured, well-dressed young couple stood solemnly, proudly holding their infant firstborn before the pastor in a fashionable Methodist church.

The pastor graciously sprinkled a few drops of water over the wee bit of humanity. The baby had been baptized.

Was *this* baptism valid?

The scene shifts again. A baptizing service is in progress in a Baptist church. In waterproof costumes and black robes both the pastor and candi-

dates step down *into* the tank of water. The pastor bends the candidates over backward, completely immersing them under the water.

Is *this* the proper mode of baptizing?

Simultaneously, unknown to any of these participants, still another baptizing service is under way, far outside the city. In a swiftly running stream a minister is immersing a number of candidates, also burying them completely. But this minister shunned the water of the baptizing tank. He buried them in the running stream.

Was *this* baptism more valid than the others?

Pouring, sprinkling, immersing. Indoors, outdoors. Babies being sprinkled. Some adults being required to repent. Others baptized on profession of Christ without any repentance.

In many churches there is no baptizing whatever.

But it seems that in all there is **CONFUSION**.

Does anybody **KNOW** which is right? Does it make any difference which **WAY** — or whether one is baptized at all? **WHY** such confusion?

A Confusing World of Religion

Jesus Christ said such things would happen!

He warned you would be living in a world literally *filled* with religious confusion. He said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:4, 5). Notice Christ said **MANY** would be deceived, and that **MANY** would come "in His

name," that is, using the *name* of Jesus Christ as if they had His *authority*.

He said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:11).

In the hodgepodge of conflicts, schisms, splits, divisions, arguments, personal interpretations, and private philosophies that make up our Western world of Christian religion — one starkly clear fact stands out: these plain-spoken prophecies of Jesus Christ have come to be true, **LITERALLY!**

Today, there are well over **TWO HUNDRED** different recognized "*denominations*" — each professing to be preaching and teaching exactly what is in the Bible — and enough other schisms and splits, or independent "organizations" to make up more than **400** differing bodies in the Western World of Christianity!

Can They All Be Right?

The average person is inclined to say, "But **SURELY** all these churches *can't be wrong?*"

But why can't they?

Jesus Christ of Nazareth **SAID** the great majority **WOULD BE!**

Most never think to put it this way: "**SURELY** all these churches **CAN'T BE RIGHT!**" All you need to do is simply add two and two together. The very *fact* there **ARE** so many different views proves, in itself, the latter statement! No, they **CAN'T** all be right!

The dilemma facing each layman, then, is to find out **WHO** is right, and how you can **PROVE IT!**

Remember, the Apostle Paul said,

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21). Isaiah said, "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 taught a group of Jews in Berea who 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" (Acts 17:11).

Remember! "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

THAT is why we constantly say, "Don't believe ME, don't believe US, unless or until you *check up*, and PROVE everything in your own Bible!"

Be sure you DO carefully *prove*, to your own complete and total satisfaction, that you know the *plain truth* about baptism—by checking up on these scriptures in your own Bible!

Christ COMMANDED Baptism!

Jesus Christ of Nazareth was *baptized!* Later, you will see baptism is an outward symbol of the BURIAL of the old self, and of the resurrection to life—to live in a new and a different way! Baptism is *commanded* as an outward sign of our REPENTANCE, and *willingness* to surrender our lives *completely* to God—being willing to *bury* the old self.

Jesus never sinned! He did not NEED to be baptized as a repentant sinner—but only because "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (I Pet. 2:21). Christ's baptism, then, was an EXAMPLE to all true Christians.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?' And Jesus answering said unto him, 'Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he suffered Him. And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him,

and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Matt. 3:13-17). Notice! Jesus said, "Permit it to be so *now*—for thus it becometh us to *fulfill all righteousness.*" John RECOGNIZED Jesus did not *need* to be baptized, but that, rather, JOHN was the one who needed baptism!

Jesus was setting us an EXAMPLE to follow.

After Christ's trial in the wilderness, He "began to preach and to say, REPENT: for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). Jesus' message was that of REPENTANCE.

But Christ *really meant it*. He meant to *really* repent—not just experience an emotional upset or disturbance.

God says, "For godly sorrow worketh REPENTANCE to salvation not to be repented of: but the *sorrow of the world* worketh DEATH" (II Cor. 7:10). There is a "sorrow of this world" which is sheerly human and physical—it is EMOTIONAL—but it *works death*.

What about it? Do YOU know the *difference* between sheer human *emotion*, which would even lead some to sob and SHED TEARS as they "go down the aisle," and GODLY SORROW which leads to real repentance?

Jesus said, "Except you REPENT, you shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5).

In His parable of the one lost sheep, and the "ninety and nine," Jesus said, "I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over *one sinner* that REPENTS more than over *ninety and nine* just persons, which need no repentance"! (Luke 15:7.)

Jesus gave this example to show what a RARE thing it is when one *really* repents. If you have never read our article on the Bible definition of REAL REPENTANCE—then write for it immediately.

One Baptism

Peter, preaching on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D., said, "REPENT, and *be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the

Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Later, he said, "Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Many were deeply *convicted* as a result of the fantastic MIRACLES they had seen, and the almost incredible *fact* of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! God says, "Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Notice, the very FIRST thing they did after really experiencing true repentance was to *be baptized!*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "There is one body [one True Church of God] and one Spirit [the Holy Spirit of God] even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith [body of *belief*, true DOCTRINE], ONE BAPTISM, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

Notice it—there is ONE baptism! That is, there is only one valid, authorized, right baptism according to the divinely inspired Word of God!

There are not two or three different modes or methods, not several different manners in which it may be done—each one "as acceptable as the other."

God did not leave it up to this world to devise some "form" of man-made religious rites, attaching the NAME of Christ to it, and calling it Christian!

God allows us to decide, not WHAT will be our method or mode of worshipping and serving Him, but WHETHER we will obey the ONE mode which He, the Creator, has set before us! What, then, is that "one baptism"?

What Baptism IS

The Greek word *baptizo* means to submerge, to immerse, to bury, to plunge into! The very word itself can, at NO time, mean anything other than to submerge or to immerse, fully, in water!

Notice again the example you read in Matthew 3:13-17. Jesus came to find John on the edge of the *river Jordan!*

But why there? If Christ had wanted to authorize the sprinkling of infants, or "pouring" of water out of a pitcher over someone's head, why did He go all the way to the river Jordan? Notice, "And Jesus, *when he was baptized*, went up straightway OUT OF the water"! (Matt. 3:16.) What was Jesus doing IN the water — if the mode or method He intended to authorize were that of sprinkling or pouring?

Notice Mark's account: "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized [the Greek word means submerged, buried, or immersed!] of John IN Jordan. And straightway *coming up out of* the water, He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him" (Mark 1:9, 10). Notice further, that the baptism of repentant believers required MUCH water, not just a cupful, or a few handfuls. "After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judea; and there He tarried with them and *baptized* [read John 4:1-2, however, which states that Jesus *Himself* did not baptize, but His disciples or students acted in His behalf]. And John also was baptized in Aenon near to Salim, *because there was MUCH WATER* there: and they came, and were baptized" (John 3:22-23).

How PLAIN!

John had gone to this specific location because there was *much water* available for baptism! Baptism, IS, then, a total *submerging into* the water as a sign of the BURIAL of the old self!

A Complete Burial!

Have you ever seen a funeral where the corpse was left lying *above the ground*, and a few handfuls of dirt *sprinkled* over its head? Of course not — this would be absolutely ridiculous, and contrary to all laws of health and common sense!

Notice how Paul explains it, in Romans 6. "Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized [immersed!] into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are BURIED with Him *by baptism* into death: that like as Christ was *raised up* from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we

also should walk [live] in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-4).

Baptism symbolizes BURIAL! The Apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

God commands, through Paul, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2). If a person is experiencing TRUE repentance, he is literally GIVING his own self to God! He is reckoning himself DEAD, so far as sin is concerned, but *alive* through God and His Son Jesus Christ! "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be *dead indeed* unto sin, but ALIVE unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not SIN [and sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4)] therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Rom. 6:11-12).

Remember, "The wages of sin is DEATH"! (Rom. 6:23.)

Since ALL have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and come short of the glory of God, and since the wages of *sin*, which is the breaking of GOD'S Law (I John 3:4) is DEATH — therefore baptism symbolizes that death!

And it is *only a symbol!*

Christ died in our stead! We do not NEED to die!

But we DO need to *symbolize* the death of our "old man" by being symbolically *buried* underneath the water in baptism! "For if we have been *planted* together in the *likeness of His death*, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom. 6:5-6).

How PLAIN!

Though Christ died for our sins — He nevertheless demands our OBEDIENCE to His example and His command that we *typify* the crucifixion and burial of *the old self*, by being immersed into a watery "grave," and being raised up immediately as if in a resurrection, to live in a totally different manner!

This is the ONLY authorized "mode" of baptism given ANYWHERE in the Bible — and any other method or "mode" devised of man is absolutely *contrary* to God's inspired Word, and is not VALID!

Surely it must be a terrible *travesty* to God to see a literal *carnival* made of such a deeply PERSONAL and absolutely *serious* event as the baptism of a sinner, symbolizing the death and burial of the old self, and as an outward sign of total repentance!

When Should Baptism Be Done?

Surely, in the light of the scriptures you have already read, the answer to this question is obvious.

Since baptism is an outward sign of total REPENTANCE, and of the willingness to BURY *the old self*, it never SHOULD be done to infants!

Baptism symbolizes the putting away of the life of sin! It symbolizes the death and burial of an "OLD SELF"! It does NOT constitute some "magical formula" for getting oneself into the "good graces" of God! Baptism is NOT a secret ritual for "joining a church." Baptism is NOT a "christening" of a baby at birth!

Baptism is not valid if it is done by pouring, sprinkling, dabbing with a damp cloth, or cavorting under a fire hose!

Baptism is not for children!

It would be a very RARE thing if a young teen-ager of even 16 or 17 is truly READY for baptism! There have been cases where boys and girls of this age have been ABLE to come to the place of real repentance — but these are few and far between, indeed.

Baptism should be done as the result of complete and total REPENTANCE toward God and complete *faith* in the

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*Is the Bible a record of science
or a relic of ancient mythology?
Is the Bible relevant to the
Space Age or obsolete folklore?
Here is PROOF the Bible is the
most astounding scientific chronicle
of history!*

THE BIBLE

FOR CENTURIES, skeptics and scoffers have called the Bible a collection of ancient primitive myths, fables, stories, and superstition. One religious leader calmly claimed, "We know now that every idea in the Bible started from primitive and childlike origins. . . ."

Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed, who translated the Bible into English, declared that the book of Joshua "is the legendary story of the conquest of Canaan" and the book of Ruth "belongs to Israel's fiction, rather than to its history, and should be among its tales and stories."

WHY have so many men of high education, scholars, and scientists, REJECTED the Bible as historical truth and reliable science? Is the Bible unscientific?

It is time you knew the incredible truth!

Science Versus Myth

We live in a modern, push-button, scientific world. Science is adulated, placed on a lofty pedestal, and virtually worshipped as the new "messiah" — the new savior of the world.

However, science has also bequeathed to the world lethal modern weapons of



by William Dankenbring

war — the H-bomb, the A-bomb, poisonous gases, deadly chemicals — a murderous host of technologically amazing devices to destroy!

Science has been described as an angel of mercy, and also as a devil of destruction.

But unknown to millions, the Bible has a great deal to say about TRUE science. And it also has much to say about the wrong kind of science! Although the Bible is NOT a *textbook* of science, it does give many *foundational* principles of science — basic principles of biology, physics, chemistry, meteorology, astronomy, geology, and oceanography!

Those who have lightly discarded the Bible and relegated it to the limbo

of outer darkness, as myth and fable, have carelessly missed out on the solid foundation of SCIENCE in the Bible! They have jumped to conclusions without getting all the facts.

For some reason, the world of scholars and scientists has rejected the Bible as the provable Word of the living God — without examining all the evidence!

Very few know it, but the Bible has far more to say about science than many suppose. Scientific facts, not understood by the world until the last few hundred years, with the advent of the "scientific explosion," are plainly and directly *mentioned* IN THE BIBLE!

Think what this means. While pagans worshipped sticks and stones, the sun, moon, and stars; while entire nations were bowing under a cloud of magic and superstition, ignorant of the truth — at that very same time, a Book of books was being *INSPIRED* which contained many fantastic SCIENTIFIC SECRETS unknown to the rest of the world!

Notice how amazingly *scientific* the Bible really is!

Flat Earth Theory

Many people have erroneously believed that the Bible teaches the earth is flat. The Medieval Catholic Church held to the notion the earth is



— Superstition or True Science?

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flat and is the center of the universe. When Galileo presented scientific evidence to the contrary, his facts and theories were branded as “absurd in philosophy, and formally heretical, because expressly contrary to Holy Scripture.”

But nowhere does the Bible teach the flat earth theory, or that the earth is a stationary object at the center of the universe.

Galileo's theories were declared heretical in the 17th century. But, amazingly enough, six hundred years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah was inspired by Almighty God to write and speak of the spherical shape of the earth!

Notice it! In Isaiah 40:22 we read of God, “It is He that sitteth upon the CIRCLE of the earth.” Moffatt translates this verse more clearly, “He sits over the ROUND EARTH.” The *Critical and Experimental Commentary* states this expression is “applicable to the globular form of the earth.” The original Hebrew is *chuug* and means a “compass, circle, or *sphere*.”

But how did Isaiah, an ancient Hebrew prophet, know that the earth is round? Here is PROOF that the ancient Hebrews were far more knowledgeable and scientific than they are given credit for being!

The Amazing Earth

But how much did the ancient writers of the Bible really know about the earth? Did they believe the notions of their Gentile contemporaries who believed the earth was carried about on the back of a great tortoise?

Three amazing truths were known about the earth itself which the rest of the world did not understand for another two or three THOUSAND YEARS! Sound incredible? It should!

First, the fact that the earth revolves around the sun once every year was not generally understood until the days of Copernicus and came to be known as the Copernican Theory. This was in the 16th century — just a little more than 400 years ago. He taught that the sun is the center of the solar system.

However, thousands of years before his time, in the days of the patriarch Moses, the Bible uses the precise expression to indicate the revolution of the earth around the sun once a year was known to ancient Biblical astronomers! In Exodus 34:22 we read, in the King James Version, the innocent phrase, “And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the *year's end*.” According to the original Hebrew, however, this

should be translated “at the REVOLUTION OF THE YEAR.” The original Hebrew word is *tequephah* and means “to move in a circle,” “circuit,” “to go round,” “orbit of the sun,” “revolution of time.”

The Goodspeed translation has “at the *turn* of the year.” In the days of the prophet Samuel, the expression “in *revolution* of days” was used to denote the time from conception to birth of a child (I Sam. 1:20, margin). Goodspeed translates this, “when the time *came around*.”

Notice also II Chronicles 24:23 where the “end of the year” is called, in the original Hebrew, “in the REVOLUTION of the year” (*marginal rendering*).

Don't these verses clearly suggest the fact that the ancient Hebrews KNEW the earth revolves around the sun, and completes one *revolution* — one turning — each year?

But this is not all. Notice Job 38:12-14 — “Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; that it might take hold of the ends of the earth... IT IS TURNED as clay to the seal...”

What does this mean? God is talking to Job about the morning — the rising of the sun. How is it that the

sun appears to rise in the morning? This verse contains the *scientific truth* — the TRUE explanation! The earth itself *turns*, or “rotates” — from west to east, causing the sun to rise in the morning, in the eastern sky.

The original Hebrew in this verse says, of the earth, “it turns *itself*.” What could be a more apt expression? The allusion of the clay and the seal refers to the rolling cylinder seal, one to three inches long, such as was used in ancient Babylon, which left its plastic impression on the clay *as it turned about* or rolled around. What more apt figure of speech could be used to represent the rotation of the earth itself, causing day and night?

Thirdly, the laws of gravity were not explained and understood until Sir Isaac Newton discovered them in the 18th century. The laws of *motion* were discovered by the same genius.

However, strange as it may seem, thousands of years ago the Bible alluded to the laws of centrifugal force, centripetal force, gravity, and motion!

How else do you explain the enigmatic statement in the book of Job, speaking of the earth — “He . . . hangeth the earth UPON NOTHING?” (Job 26: 7.)

The pagans believed a tortoise carried the earth about; but God revealed to His people the truth — that the earth hangs suspended in space by powerful laws of force and motion! But God asked Job, “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . Whereupon are the foundations [sockets] thereof fastened [made to sink]?” (Job 38:4, 6.) It is interesting that science has discovered that the earth's axis is generally pointed toward the North Pole Star, and the north and south poles are the points where the earth's axis of rotation meets the surface of the earth. *God* is the One who planned it all out; set the earth to spinning on its axis; and pointed the north pole toward the star Polaris!

Science of Meteorology

The science of weather and understanding the earth's atmosphere is of relatively recent origin. It, too, has

developed greatly during the last two hundred years. Chemistry and physics play a vital role in this science. Before the nature of matter and air were understood, weather science was in total chaos.

Here again, however, the Bible “scooped” science by more than two thousand years!

The key to understanding weather is the hydrological cycle. Today it is well known that water evaporates from the surface of the oceans, rivers, lakes and all bodies of water; that it rises into the atmosphere; and that later it returns to the earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail. The evaporation-condensation-precipitation cycle was NOT GENERALLY KNOWN, however, before the nature of water, water vapor, and the chemistry of matter was understood.

The Bible reveals this basic CYCLE was understood, however, THOUSANDS of years ago! Once again, the Bible is proved to be SCIENTIFIC!

Notice Jeremiah 10:13 — “When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of *waters* in the heavens, and he causeth the VAPOURS to ASCEND from the ends of the earth.”

Tell me — how could Jeremiah, a prophet of God, have possibly *known* about the evaporation of water into water vapor, condensation of water vapor as rain droplets, and the precipitation cycle?

Was he an inspired *scientist*?

Jeremiah was not the only Biblical meteorologist, however. Solomon was also an expert in understanding the weather cycle. Wrote Solomon about one thousand years before Christ, “The wind goes to the south, and circles about continually, and on its circlings the wind returns again. All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; unto the place from which the rivers come, to there and from there they return again” (Eccl. 1:6-7, *Amplified Version*).

Solomon understood the circuits of the wind — and of water. How did he know? Was he merely guessing? Or was he not truly one of the most gifted, wisest men of all history? If we give Benjamin Franklin credit for being a gifted genius, how much more should we recognize the genius of Solomon

who was the most famous naturalist, writer, poet, composer, and scientist of his time? (1 Kings 4:29-34.)

Consider, for a moment, how amazing Solomon's knowledge was. It was not until the 1800's that William Ferrell, an American meteorologist, formulated “Ferrell's law” which explains the prevailing directions of the winds over the earth, based on the earth's rotation.

Said Matthew Fontaine Maury, an American hydrographer who lived in the late 1800's, “The direction in which a wind blows is so constantly changing that we often speak of the winds as fickle, inconstant, and uncertain. There is, however, ORDER in the movements of the atmosphere. The fickle winds are obedient to LAWS.”

The Sea Around Us

In Job 38:16, God asked, “Have you explored the *springs of the sea*? Or have you walked in the *recesses of the deep*?” (*Amplified Version*).

How could the writer of the book of Job have known that beneath the oceans of the world are *springs* or fountains of fresh water? Or, did *you* even know that?

An article in the *Saturday Review* (July 1, 1967) said, “Although they usually remain undetected, submarine springs of fresh water are often more common along certain types of shoreline than are rivers and other surface streams.” Along some shorelines, as much as 20 million gallons of fresh water a day flows into the sea for every mile of shoreline.

In fact, one major submarine spring in the Persian Gulf flows with enough volume to create a large area of fresh water in the midst of the sea, because of favorable limestone geology in Iran and Saudi Arabia. In Greece, an estimated 100 million cubic feet of fresh water goes into the sea through submarine springs.

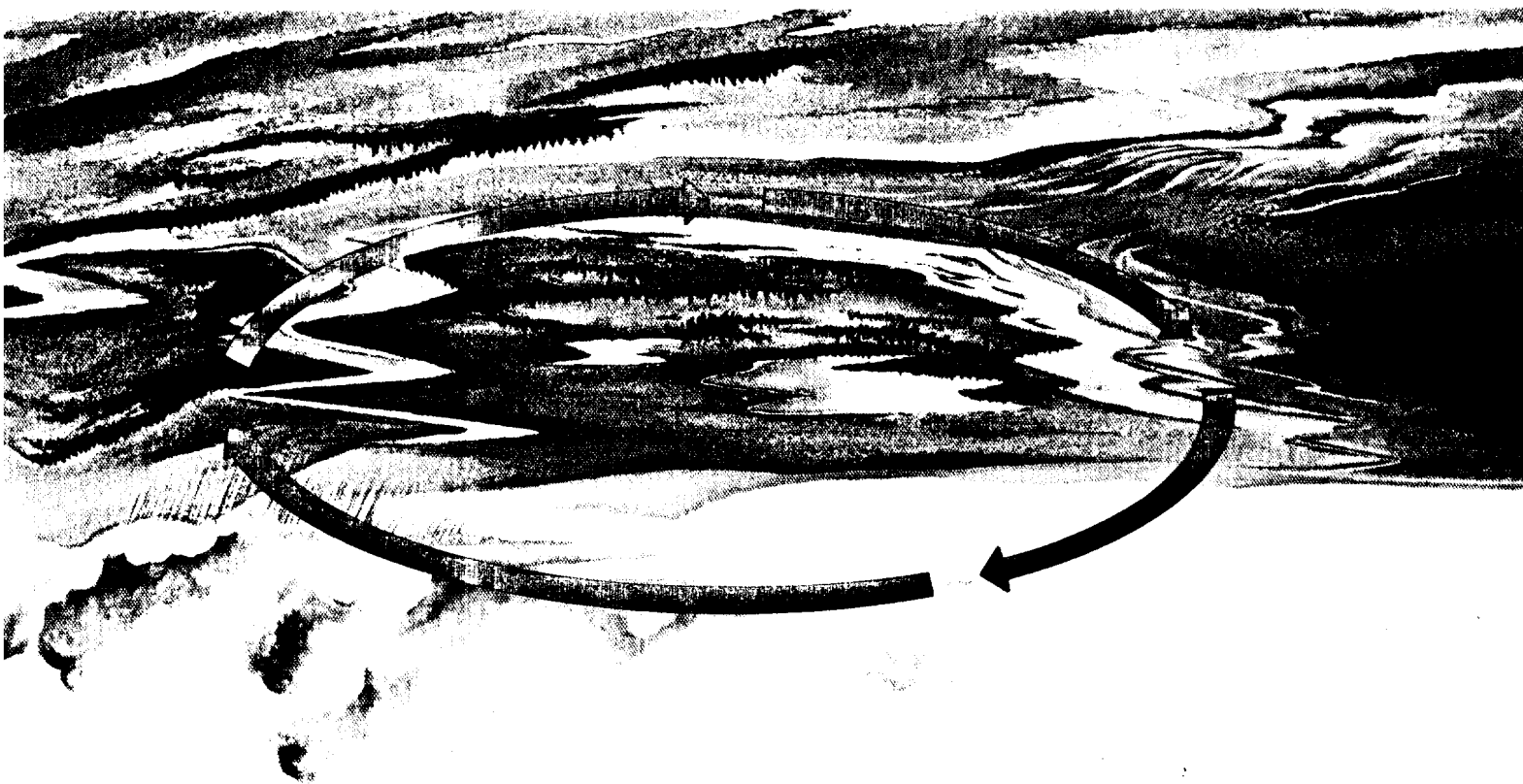
But about *four thousand years before*, God asked Job if he knew about the springs in the sea!

INCREDIBLE!

What about the “recesses of the deep”? Tell me — how could Job have known there are deep trenches of the oceans — such as the Mariana Trench



Rivers in the Sea



Hydrological Cycle

in the Pacific, 36,198 feet deep, discovered in September, 1959 by the Soviet ship *Vityaz* — except by *divine* revelation? The same ship discovered a depth of 35,702 feet in the Tonga Trench; there are four other deep trenches in the North Pacific. The greatest depth in the Atlantic Ocean is north of Puerto Rico — the Puerto Rico Trench, 27,498 feet deep.

The dark world of the bottom of the ocean is now being explored by scientists in bathyscaphes, and special cameras, mounted with strobe lamps, have been lowered miles into the depths.

New instruments have revealed that the ocean bottom is surprisingly rugged. Depths of valleys and canyons running underwater when averaged out are five times greater than heights reached on continents. The undersea world is cut, and sliced, by huge canyons bigger than the Grand Canyon. One such canyon is the Hudson Canyon off New York. Sixty miles off shore, this mammoth canyon knives downward to 8000 feet, and then slopes on down to 16,500 feet.

The sea floor is called the abyssal plains. At their edge are sometimes found tremendous chasms or trenches, averaging 20 miles wide at the top and hundreds of miles long. The deepest such trench discovered is the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, almost seven miles down.

Thousands of years ago, God asked Job what he knew about these "recesses" or TRENCHES deep under the ocean! In the original Hebrew, the word for "explore" is *chegev* and means to "search out, examine; secret, inmost part." The word for "deep" is *teboun* and means "confusion" — or "the ABYSS, the great deep."

How could such words have been written — unless they had been *inspired* divinely?

"Paths of the Seas"

Matthew Fontaine Maury, when reading the Bible, was struck by the words of Psalm 8:8 — "The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through *the paths of the seas.*" His curiosity aroused, he set out to map the currents of the oceans of the world and became the foremost hydrographer of his day (1806-1873). He discovered the ocean routes which would make best use of prevailing ocean currents and winds. His research enabled ship owners to cut many days from the time required to make their voyages and helped them save many thousands of dollars. He was called the "Pathfinder of the Seas." The Bible was his source of inspiration!

But how did King David, who lived about one thousand years before Christ, know about these paths of the seas and the great currents in the oceans? Could it be this knowledge was much more general and widespread in ancient times than modern scientists like to give credit for?

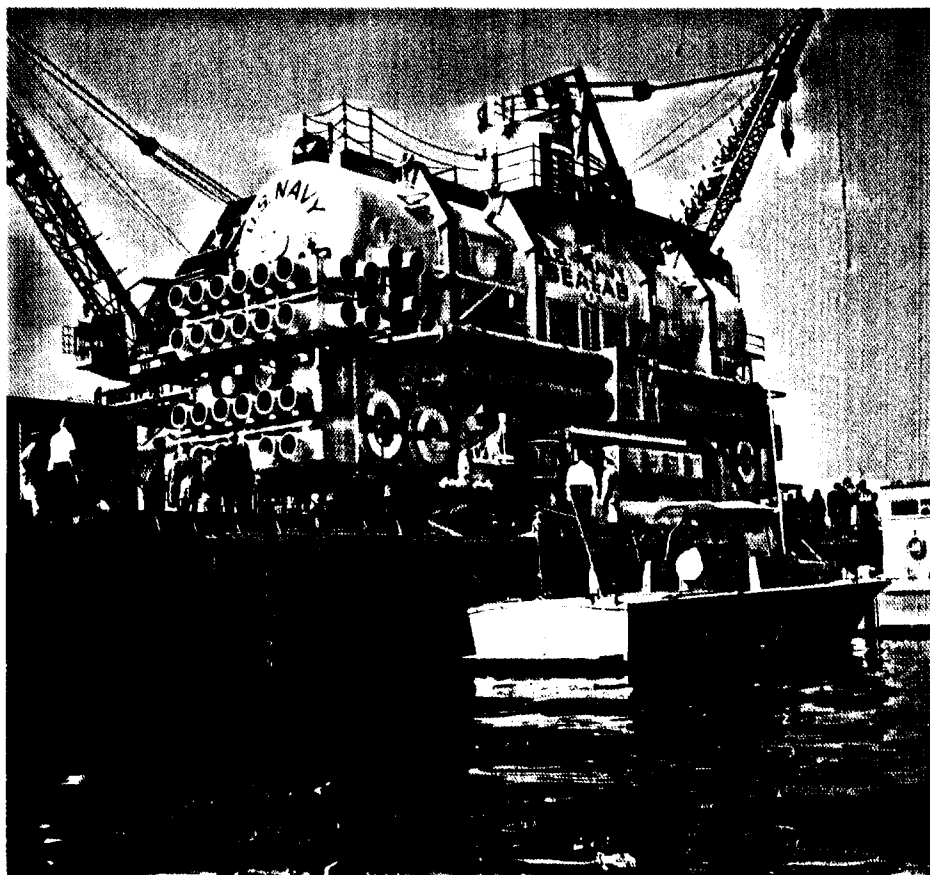
Once again, the Bible is *proved* to be *scientific!*

The Gulf Stream

In 1855 Matthew Fontaine Maury, pioneer oceanographer, wrote, "There is a river in the ocean. In the severest droughts it never fails, and in the mightiest floods it never overflows. Its banks and its bottom are of cold water, while its current is of warm. The Gulf of Mexico is its fountain, and its mouth is in the Arctic Seas. It is the Gulf Stream" (*The Physical Geography of the Sea, 1855*).

Truly a river in the middle of the sea, the Gulf Stream flows for the most part through the Caribbean into the Gulf of Mexico and leaves through the Straits of Florida, from where it flows out into the broad Atlantic across to Northwestern Europe.

"Seaward of New England, where the Gulf Stream is most robust, it can be 100 miles wide and 16,400 feet deep, and have a surface velocity of six miles an hour. There it carries past a given point about 150,000,000 tons of water every second; this makes it the equal of 700 Amazons or 8,800 Mississippis" ("A Capsule History of the Gulf



Kilburn — Ambassador College

Sea Lab III hangs ready to begin its descent into the sea depths in October, 1968. Through "modern technology" such as this we are at last documenting some of the complex scientific statements of the Bible.

Stream," by Thomas Lineaweaver III, *Holiday*, Nov. 1967).

If the Gulf Stream were emptied upon the United States, it would flood the entire nation to a depth of over four feet in just one day!

This mighty river is truly a *PATHWAY* in the sea. The larvae of a snail (*Cymatium Parthenopeum*) found from Brazil to the west coast of Africa ride the Gulf Stream, perhaps taking 300 days to cover 2,640 miles from the Bahamas to the Azores. Although the "odds" against a successful passage for the snails may be 2 million to 1, it is commonly done!

The Gulf Stream is just one of many mighty ocean currents, such as the cold Humboldt Current, pushed by antarctic winds up the west coast of South America. Then there is the Japan Current, or Kuroshio, in the Pacific.

The earth's great wind systems push before them the great sea currents, and have enormous impact on world weather. The westerlies drive the Gulf Stream and Japan Current; the polar easterlies drive before them the Humboldt Current and Brazil Current, and others. The Labrador Current, in the North Atlantic, flows down from the north polar region, pushed along by polar easterlies.

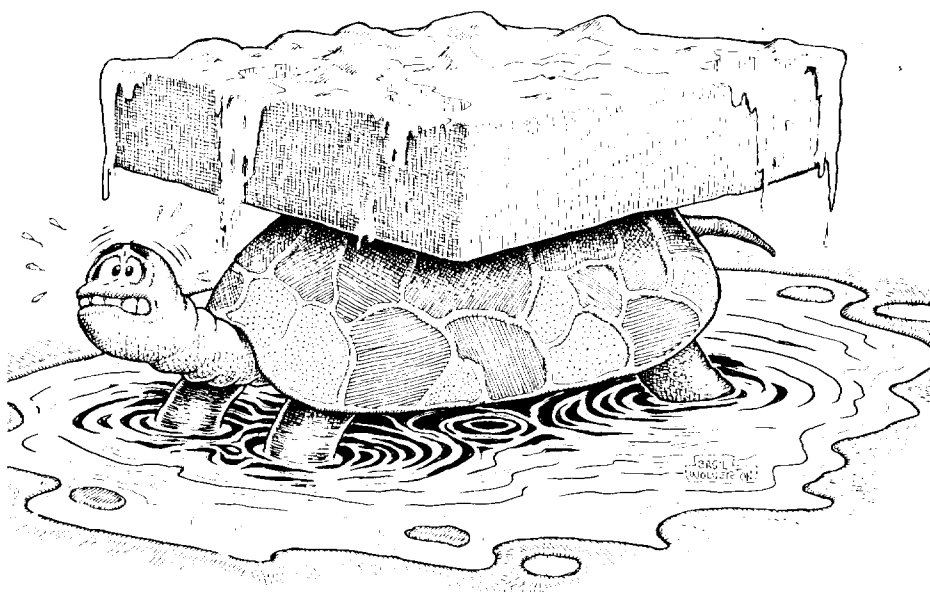
All these mighty currents are virtual rivers or paths in the seas. But — how did David, one thousand years before Christ, know such mighty paths in the seas existed? How indeed, unless navigation was far more advanced in his day than skeptics like to admit?

Winging their way over the seas, in giant paths through the skies, are the Golden Plover and the Arctic Tern — navigating many thousands of miles every year. Navigating in paths through the seas are species of eel, turtles, whales, and many species of fish.

How did David understand these things about the "fowls of the air" and the "fish of the sea" and other migratory creatures? How was he so familiar with the biological sciences of the earth?

Clearly, the Bible is far more scientific than most people would suppose!

Even in the days of David, facts about bird migration and fish migration were understood!



Superstitions of pagan religions — contemporaneous with Job's statement that God hung the earth on nothing (as our cover shows) — proclaimed that the world was supported on the back of a turtle. To assume the earth just evolved from nothing is the non-Biblical superstition predominant today.

Knowledge About Air Pressure

You are probably familiar with the fact that air has weight. At sea level air pressure is 14.7 pounds per square inch. As you go up in altitude, air pressure is less and less. A mountain climber ascending Mount Everest finds the air so thin that he has to take oxygen along to breathe.

When did science discover that air has weight? Any textbook on Physics reveals that the laws of pressure, temperature and volume of gases were not discovered until the last few hundred years. It was not known, previously, that the invisible air actually had weight.

Nor was it understood that rain behaved according to definite *LAWS* of physics and chemistry. But notice what God wrote in His Word over three thousand years ago:

"God... looks to the ends of the earth; beneath the whole heavens he sees. When he made a *weight* for the wind, and meted out the waters by measure [rainfall on the United States averages 29 inches every year!]; when he made a *LAW* for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt" (Job 28:23-26).

The *Amplified Bible* makes it even more specific: "When He gave to the wind *weight or pressure...*"

Here is another remarkable instance of *SCIENCE* in the Bible — thousands of years before modern science discovered these same laws of nature and principles of physics!

How could it be — unless *GOD* inspired the Bible?

God showed Job the relationship between barometric pressure of the atmosphere and the weather *three thousand years* before Torricelli, an Italian physicist (1608-1647) proved the same relationship with his barometer!

The Great Pyramid

In his book, *A History of Egyptian Archaeology*, Fred Gladstone Bratton states, "Of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Giza Pyramids alone have survived the ravages of time and the destructive hand of man. *They are still the most massive and impressive buildings in the world today.*"

"As with astronomical measurements where the scientist has to resort to comparisons in order to demonstrate the immensity of the universe, so it is with the Pyramid of Cheops. *NO OTHER BUILDING IN HISTORY* has called for so much study of construction, dimensions, and purpose as this pile of thirty million cubic feet of limestone. It has been estimated that the Great Pyramid... is large enough to accommodate

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St. Peter's in Rome, and the Cathedrals of Milan and Florence. It consists of 2,300,000 limestone blocks, each one weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons and measuring 3 feet in each direction. Originally it was 481 feet high but now is 451 feet. The average length of the four base lines is 755 feet." (p. 87.)

This author continues, "By using one of the celestial bodies, the Cheops builders were able to orient the Pyramid to the four cardinal points, the errors being only in the following fractions of one degree: north side, 2' 28" south of west; south side, 1' 57" south of west, east side, 5' 30" west of north; west side, 2' 30" west of north. The four corners were almost perfect right angles with the following measurements: 90° 3' 2"; northwest, 90° 59' 58"; southeast, 89° 56' 37"; and southwest, 90° 0' 33"." (p. 88.)

Archaeologist Flinders Petrie calculated that 100,000 men were used in transporting the blocks to the base of the Pyramid, and some 4,000 in its actual construction. The precision is such that Petrie said any errors in the angles and degrees "can be covered with one's thumb."

Eight centuries ago Abd al-Latif observed that the stone blocks were fitted together so well that a knife cannot be inserted in the joints — a truly remarkable evidence of precision

The great pyramid of Cheops. The inset shows the relative size of the stones compared to the size of a man. No small building task for a "primitive and ignorant" group of non-architects.

Dart — Ambassador College



engineering and sheer architectural genius!

In his book *The Pyramids*, Ahmed Fakhry declares, "The Great Pyramid of Giza represents the culminative effort of the pyramid builders. Not only is it the largest monument of its kind ever constructed, but for excellence of workmanship, accuracy of planning, and beauty of proportion, it remains the chief of the Seven Wonders of the World" (p. 99).

It has been calculated that if all the stone in the Great Pyramid were sawn into one foot square blocks and these blocks were laid end to end, they would stretch two thirds of the way around the earth at the equator, or 16,000 miles. Put another way, these one foot blocks could make a five-foot highway stretching from the east to the west coast of the United States!

Said Fakhry of the Great Pyramid, "Even equipped with modern tools and instruments, and profiting from nearly five thousand years of experience, *architects and engineers* TODAY might well quail if called upon to erect a duplicate" (pages 120-121).

Who Built It?

Whoever built the Great Pyramid was familiar with the sciences of

astronomy, geology, mathematics, physics, and had brilliant engineering skill. Who was the builder?

None other than the Biblical patriarch Job!

Allusion to this fact is found in the book of Job itself. God said to him, "Where wast *thou* when I laid the *foundations* of the EARTH? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the *measures thereof*, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?" (Job 38:4-5.)

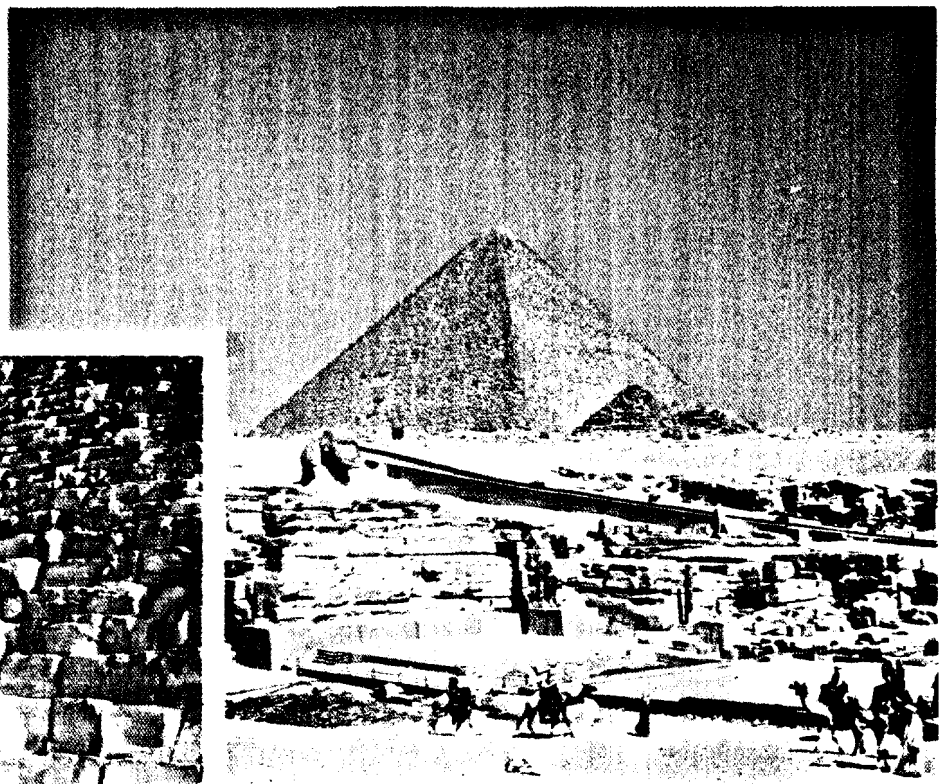
God was telling Job that his accomplishment of building the Great Pyramid was as *NOTHING compared to the great works of God!*

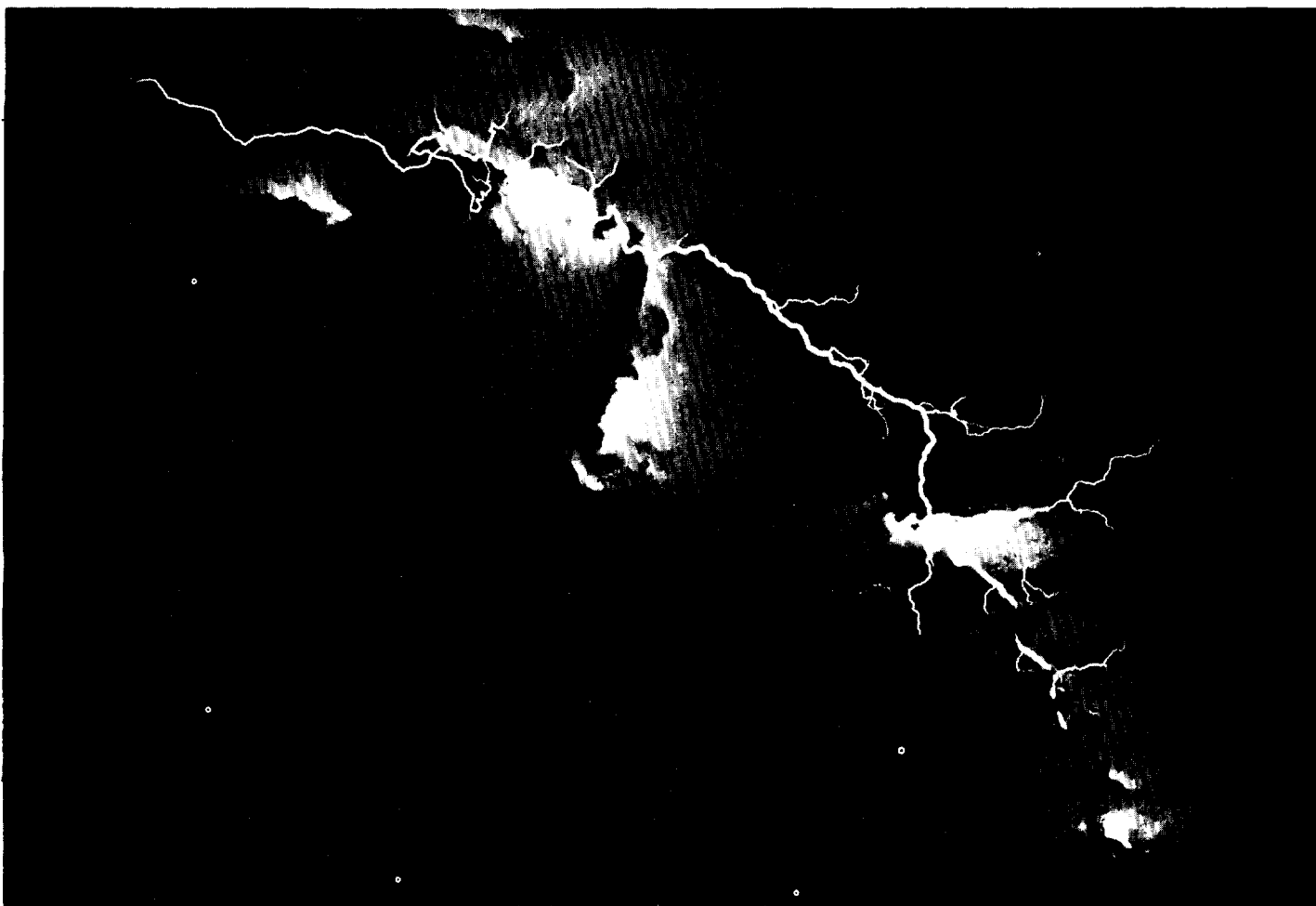
Challenged God, "Whercupon are the foundations [of the earth] fastened? or who laid the *CORNERSTONE thereof*; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:6-7).

God showed Job that his ability, his accomplishments, counted for nothing with God. He could not earn his salvation by his good works.

It should be clear that Job was no ignoramus. He was a tremendous *SCIENTIST* of his time, well endowed with ability, genius, and engineering skill!

Yet, today, men ridicule the men of





American Stock Photo

God in the Bible, calling them ignorant. They assume that God's Word is of no account — just the ancient stories and traditions of an ignorant race of superstitious men! What folly!

David and Solomon

The story of Job is merely one of the accounts in the Bible of engineering genius and great ability. David and Solomon, who were instrumental in the construction of the Temple of God in ancient times, were very knowledgeable in the fields of architecture and engineering. The Temple was to be "exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries" (I Chron. 22:5).

David himself prepared for the Temple 100,000 talents of gold and one million talents of silver. On today's market gold is valued at \$35 an ounce. Therefore, David provided about \$7.4 billion worth of gold for the Temple of God. The silver he contributed

would today be worth about \$2.5 billion. Staggering as it may sound to our "sophisticated" ears, David himself put in the neighborhood of \$10 billion worth of silver and gold *alone* into the Temple! This was truly the most magnificent, expensive, beautiful building EVER BUILT! (See I Chron. 22:14.)

The Temple was built of great stones, cedar beams and boards, overlaid within with gold (I Kings 6:14-22; 7:9-12). Today, such a building would probably cost, by the time you figure in the labor, many multiple *billions* of dollars — probably about \$20 billion, at least! Remember, to construct the magnificent edifice, Solomon had 30,000 men of Israel and 150,000 Canaanites working on the Temple, hewing timber and magnificent stones, and bearing burdens (I Kings 5:13-16; II Chron. 2:17-18; 8:7-9). Actual construction took *seven years* (I Kings 6:38). If Solomon had paid all these men at today's wages, his labor costs alone would easily have soared to the

"A Way for the Thunderbolt" — Lightning actually begins on the ground and streaks upward so quickly that it creates the illusion of striking downward.

neighborhood of \$8-10 billion — plus transportation and shipping expenses!

The construction of the Temple was so precise that the ancient chronicler recorded: "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building" (I Kings 6:7).

Every part was carefully and precisely prepared at some distance from the building site. But when each part, each timber and stone, was laid, *it fit perfectly!* Can you imagine what a gigantic *headache* such a building job would give contractors today???

It is time skeptics, scholars, and everyone admitted that the men of the Bible were not ignorant shepherds,

itinerant nomads, unskilled, unlearned, untutored barbarians! Nothing could be further from the truth!

Far from being ignorant shepherds, David and Solomon were WEALTHY KINGS. The net worth of either of them was *far* more than the wealthiest businessmen alive today — including J. Paul Getty, Howard Hughes, and all the Mellons and Rockefellers combined. David himself was a multibillionaire by today's standards, and Solomon was wealthier than David!

In the heyday of Solomon silver was "not any thing accounted of" (II Chron. 9:20). We read, "And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the low plains in abundance" (v. 27). Solomon had his own personal fleets and dominated world trade. "And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth *in riches and wisdom*" (v. 22).

King Solomon himself may have had more gold than the United States Treasury at Fort Knox. (Of course, the balance of payments problem has depleted U. S. gold reserve. They have shrunk from over \$22 billion in 1957 to about \$11 billion today.) He was a *powerful* king who would have made today's crop of billionaires look like so many peons by comparison!

Way for the Thunderbolt

In Job 28:26 we read, "When he [God] made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder."

Lightning kills more people yearly than any other natural disaster — about 400. It destroys \$37 million worth of property annually, plus the losses due to 8,000 annual forest fires started by lightning.

How are lightning bolts formed? The story is fascinating. Inside enormous thunderclouds are so-called chimney currents — a column of air rising upward with gale force. Within this turbulence near the top small hailstones become positively charged, while raindrops in the lower portion are charged negatively. Below on the earth there is another positive charge buildup, following the drifting cloud.

Tremendous differences of electric potential are created between the top and bottom of the thundercloud, and the earth's surface.

At this point, a gaseous arc reaches down from the cloud for perhaps fifty feet, hanging there, building up, growing. Meanwhile, positive particles on the earth below streak upward as high as fifty feet, called "St. Elmo's fire." When one of these earth "streamers" meets one of the cloud's dangling gaseous arcs, called "leaders," suddenly A PATH IS FORMED BETWEEN THE THUNDERCLOUD AND THE EARTH!

This is where the darting, flickering BOLT OF LIGHTNING hurtles through the air, starting at the point of contact between negative and positive charges of electricity, ripping up to the cloud along the gaseous arc path already formed. The lightning actually travels *upward*, and the fact that it *appears* to travel downward is an optical illusion.

But this is beside the point. The point of this fascinating story is — HOW DID JOB KNOW? *Yes, how could he have ever known that there is "A WAY for the lightning of the thunder"?*

Can there be any doubt?

Science did not discover the secret of this phenomenon until very recent times. But God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, revealed it to Job and inspired him to write of it over 3,700 years ago!

Imagine that!

Secrets of Geology

What about the earth science of geology? Does the Bible have anything to say about it? It certainly does!

Again, the book of Job contains the answers. We read of the process of erosion in Job 14:19 — "The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth. . . ."

Notice, also, Job 28:10 — "He cutteth out rivers among the rocks." Ever stop and notice the majesty of the Grand Canyon? Geologists say that enormous canyon was formed by cutting action of the Colorado River, gouging out a pathway through the rock.

More examples of geology could be noted, but we have no space in this article. But the whole point of the science recorded in the Bible is given in the book of Job. Here is revealed the SUPREME LESSON that science itself teaches, if men only have the wit to see it!

"But ask now the beasts, and they shall *teach* thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: or speak to the EARTH, and *it shall teach thee*: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not *in all these* that the HAND OF THE LORD HATH WROUGHT THIS?" (Job 12:7-9.)

GOD is the Creator! This is the supreme lesson and teaching of ALL true science, and the science of the Bible!

Have *YOU* yet learned that mighty lesson?

TRUE Science

Stop and think, for a moment. The pagans worshipped the heavenly bodies. Christians worship the Almighty One who put them there!

Pagans believed in astrology and worshipped the sun, moon and stars. But, in the pages of the Bible, God expressly CONDEMNS such worship. He tells us the purpose of the creation of the heavenly bodies: "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for SEASONS, and for *days* and YEARS" (Gen. 1:14).

Did you know that *time* is based on the motion of the heavenly bodies? The earth rotates at a constant speed, giving us day and night; it revolves around the sun at a constant speed, taking one year per revolution. The moon revolves around the earth, giving us the lunar month. Every watch and clock is kept accurate by timing them with the most precise Clock ever invented — the solar system and the stars!

Time is kept accurate by basing time calculations and computations on the precise movements of the stars and the positions of the fixed stars. The master clock in the United States is at the Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. By measuring time by the stars, the

Naval Observatory keeps track of time to the tiniest fraction of a second.

By knowing the exact movements of the heavenly bodies, solar and lunar eclipses can be PREDICTED *thousands of years* in advance!

God inspired David to write, "He made the moon for *fixed times*; the sun knows its time of setting" (Psalm 104:19, *Goodspeed*). Or, as the *Amplified* has it, "the sun knows the EXACT TIME of its setting."

Take a look at your watch — a manmade instrument for telling time. You know that a watchmaker made your watch. It didn't just somehow decide to put itself together! Great painstaking workmanship went into it, most likely, and its delicate parts were made with great precision. The more money you paid for your watch, the better it probably is. But you know that if you don't wind it up regularly, it will soon run down, and stop. From time to time, it needs repair.

But you know that your watch did not just EVOLVE!

The universe is a Great Master Clock. It has been running smoothly, accurately, for millions — if not billions — of years. It is still accurate — in fine working order. Its parts still move with age-old, timeless precision!

You admit your own watch didn't evolve. What about the Great Master Clock in the skies — so much more perfect than your watch, so much grander in its execution and operation — do you think it evolved?

You keep your watch running by winding it up. Who keeps the Great Clock of the universe operating? Who SUSTAINS it?

TRUE SCIENCE admits the existence of the original "Clock Maker" — Almighty God. True science admits GOD made the heavens and the earth. True science also reveals God as the SUSTAINER of the universe!

True science sees the hand of God in the universe — and in the writing and preservation of *The Holy Bible!*

But *evolutionary* science, God-rejecting science is NOT true science. It is "SCIENCE FALSELY SO-CALLED" (1 Tim. 6:20).

True science harmonizes with the Bible. False science has put itself in the place of God, virtually claims to *be* God, and has become a false savior of mankind — a FALSE MESSIAH!

Will you put your hopes in the words of false science which rejects God? Or will you depend on the SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE Word of the living God for salvation?

The choice is entirely up to you!

Luke 14:25-33) when you were baptized?

Perhaps you are like many who have written to us. They can "see" many new truths by reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* or *TOMORROW'S WORLD*. They listen, and they "agree with" many things they hear on *The WORLD TOMORROW* program. Perhaps, many, many years ago they were "baptized." This may have been during a revival, at a tent camp meeting, at the local church, or even when they were an infant. They realize there was no really DRAMATIC CHANGE that took place in their lives when they were "baptized," but feel "satisfied" since they are now learning some new "points of truth."

But THIS IS NOT ENOUGH! Remember — and *never forget* — that BELIEF without OBEDIENCE is not enough to get you into God's Kingdom! Even the demons "*believe*" and *tremble!* (James 2:19).

Satan the Devil is the greatest "fundamentalist" of all time! He believes Jesus is the Christ. He BELIEVES in the virgin birth, the temptation and trial of Jesus, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, that Christ ascended to the right hand of God the Father, and that He is coming again! He BELIEVES in ALL the essentials of salvation! He KNOWS they are true — but he *WON'T* obey them!

Belief coupled with OBEDIENCE is necessary to gain the Kingdom of God! What about it? Are you being truly *honest with yourself?*

Should You Be Baptized?

(Continued from page 11)

blood of Jesus Christ! Only a *mature* mind, one which can truly "count the cost," should consider baptism!

What About You?

But what about YOU? Have YOU been baptized? Was it done the WAY God commands? Did you really REPENT first? Did you know what repentance is? Did you know what to repent *of*? Did you really KNOW exactly *what sin is*, according to the Bible? Did you come to feel deeply broken up over your past way of life, the method you used in conducting your private affairs, your business, your home? Did you become so thoroughly DIS-

GUSTED with yourself, your very nature and personality, your habits and methods of expression, that you simply couldn't stand to live with yourself any longer?

Did you not only feel this as a deep and very real *emotion*, but did you thoroughly UNDERSTAND that you must yield in complete OBEDIENCE to God and His Law? Had you really come to Jesus Christ in UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER of your rebellion against GOD'S WAYS — had you thoroughly repented of going with the WORLD?

Did you understand, *fully*, that you were being BURIED, and that a "new you" was to emerge from the water? Did you really "count the cost" (read

Baptizing Counsel

As part of the ADULT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, we now have TRAINED MEN — graduates of AMBASSADOR COLLEGE — available in all parts of the world, ready to counsel with you PERSONALLY — to answer questions — to help you with any spiritual problems — and to baptize any who are ready for it.

We WON'T send anyone to see you, UNWANTED. Not unless you REQUEST IT! *BUT*, PLEASE feel free to *invite* such a visit. That's what they are there for. Actually most of them are consecrated and ordained ministers. They, and we here at Headquarters of this great Work want only to HELP — to SERVE. We count it a PRIVILEGE to do so.

CAN YOU be a *completely dedicated* Christian without being some kind of “freak”?

Without missing out on the interest and excitement of our fast-moving jet age? Without

What is “WORLDLINESS”?

Does the Bible REALLY condemn such things as dancing, card playing, drinking, theatergoing? Here is a frank, straight-from-the-shoulder explanation of what GOD regards as “sinful.”

by Roderick C. Meredith

appearing sanctimonious or “nicey nice” and talking a lot of religious gobbledegook?

Just what kind of personal, private, cultural and recreational life should a real man or woman of God be living in this twentieth century? I mean a man who wants to obey and honor his Creator — a *dedicated* and *consecrated* individual who wants to fulfill the purpose for which he was born. I mean someone who is really *on fire* for his Maker and who *wants to be used* in God’s Work today!

Read on carefully — because many of you may be SHOCKED.

But if you really want *truth* — *whether or not* it agrees with your present ideas and convictions — then you need to *study* and *prove* this *in your Bible*. Consult the *Bible* — because it is *God’s Word* — and it is His opinion you want, not the scores of disagreeing, conflicting, confusing HUMAN *ideas* on this subject.

How to Be Sure

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “*Prove* all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes. 5:21). So don’t just try to argue and “defend” the ideas you grew up with. Don’t take your former opinion — or *any opinion* — for granted. Learn to *think* — to carefully *meditate* and consider the *end result* of each course of action in broadest terms — and to PROVE what your Creator says in His inspired Bible!

If you do, you will find that the great Creator of this vast universe is NOT a “pin-headed,” small-



If it's God's will for us to enjoy...

mind, old fuddy-duddy type or creaky great grandfather figure at all. He is not trying to “catch” people in some little act He arbitrarily defines as “sinful.” Rather, He is *reproducing* man in His own image! He is revealing to a select few—those *whom He calls*—a WAY OF LIFE and an approach to building *character* which fit them to *live forever* as members of His Kingdom, His *ruling family* in the universe.

This BIG-minded, all-wise, all-powerful Creator has also set LIVING LAWS. These laws define THE WAY to produce peace, prosperity, happiness and everything men want. They also, conversely, reveal the *opposite way* which leads eventually to frustration, misery, suffering and DEATH.

In the society of His day, Jesus of Nazareth — the *very Son of God* — upset a lot of human ideas and traditions by turning water into wine, using His powerful, muscular arms and shoulders to violently overthrow the large tables of the money changers in the temple and make a real “scene.” And He did *many other* things which upset to no end the old religious “fuddy-duddies” of His day. Yet, this same Jesus Christ often rose up early while it was yet dark and went out in the early morning mists and dews to *pray fervently* to His God and Father for strength and wisdom (Mark 1:35). He *constantly* talked to God.

When giant problems or decisions loomed ahead, Jesus literally *prayed all night* to the great Creator of the universe for help and wisdom (Luke 6:12-13). He *walked with God* and OBEYED God—setting us an example. He said: “I have kept my Father’s commandments” (John 15:10). He also attended sumptuous dinners and banquets with the Pharisees (Luke 7:36).

Yet, because of His particular ministry and foreordained approaching death, He *sacrificed* the comforts of a home and family in order to do the will of His Almighty Father and God.

Can we *get our balance* on these things? Can we *earnestly* and *sincerely* find the way to LIVE as Jesus lived? And can we truly AVOID becoming involved with “worldliness” as GOD defines it — *walking in the footsteps of Christ instead?*

Bearing all these points in mind, be willing to look through the *entire Bible* on this matter. Consult *all* the Scriptures and examples — not just *part* of them. Completely *rid yourself* of blinding PREJUDICES. Seek GOD’S will with open-mindedness and *honesty!*

God’s Attitude Toward Material Things

Since the problem of “worldliness” revolves around *material* things and their uses, let’s understand God’s

overall attitude toward the physical things and circumstances surrounding man.

First of all, many people *assume* that God loves the *poor* people — and that He would have us all *do without* any abundance of material things. Because James wrote: “Hath not God chosen the *poor* of this world rich in faith?” (James 2:5), a lot of professing Christians can hardly bring themselves to believe that a person of means could really be a sincere follower of Christ.

What about this? Must we *give up* material wealth, must we drive a second-hand car, must we buy *cheap* things in order to be a really *zealous* Christian?

The answer to James’ inspired statement lies in a proper *understanding* of it. God has “called” or “chosen” more of the poorer classes in this present age because — as a general rule — they are the *ONLY* ones who will willingly *yield* themselves to Him. They have not become so wrapped up in and *OVERLY* attached to *material* things as to prevent them from understanding God’s message. Having little in a *material* sense to lose, they will more readily accept *spiritual truth*.

But IF we can learn to *rightly use* material possessions, God *intends* that we should PROSPER. After all, God Himself is no pauper!

Notice these inspired words of the Apostle John: “Beloved, I wish above

all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in *health*" (III John 2).

Yes, it is God's will to *bless* us in material goods if we will learn to use them properly.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have *life*, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). Solomon wrote: "The substance [material wealth] of a *diligent* man is PRECIOUS" (Prov. 12:27), and he exhorted: "*Whatsoever* thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy MIGHT" (Eccl. 9:10).

So if we work hard, if we use our God-given minds, if we are *diligent*, it is God's will that we be *blessed* and *prospered* materially, and that we live a happy, full, ABUNDANT life.

The *danger* in material wealth is that most people come to "set their hearts" on it. They get *so involved* in making a living, in making an impression on their business and social acquaintances, and participating in general in this world's ways and customs, that they find it almost impossible to *accept* and *obey* God's truth when it comes along.

Material prosperity as such is certainly *not* "worldliness"! In fact, the *lack* of sufficient material goods usually indicates a lack of *diligence* and *wisdom*. God's concern is that we learn to evaluate material things properly, and to use them *wisely* for our own good and the good of others.

Are Physical Pleasures Evil?

Now that we see that just having wealth or physical goods is not a sin, what about the physical pleasures men indulge in? Are they necessarily *evil*?

One of the principal texts often used to condemn the pleasures of the "world" is I John 2:15-16. Let's examine it carefully, bearing in mind that it does *not* contradict the rest of the Bible.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the *lust* of the flesh, and the *lust* of the eyes, and the *pride* of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

You will notice that it is the LUST of the flesh, eyes and life that God condemns. *Lust* is illicit, illegal desire. *Lust* is desiring or using something contrary

to God's will and to His revealed *laws*.

For instance, many people who have grown up in *ignorance* of God's true plan and purpose for humanity suppose that SEX is *sinful*. Just the very word — "sex" — is a nasty, filthy word to them, and they cannot imagine how anything good could possibly be associated with it.

It has probably never occurred to them — or to those who taught them — that it is GOD who made us *male* and *female* — it is *God* who created SEX. And it is *God* who even *commanded* the man and woman to *use* sex in a righteous, holy, God-intended manner when He told them: "Be FRUITFUL, and *multiply* and *replenish* the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

Notice that it is *not* the THING that is wrong. It is *lust* — the *wrong* USE of the thing — that is *sin*.

Lust is not a "thing," an object, or an entertainment. *Lust* is the WRONG USE of material objects or things.

Lust is a *wrong attitude* of heart and mind which causes one to *misuse*, to *misapply* what God has created for good.

Sex is not evil — it is the *wrong use* of sex, outside of marriage, in a way God never intended. The *motion picture* is not "sin" — it is the *wrong use* of this invention that becomes *sin*.

Dancing, liquor, a deck of cards — these things are not "sinful" or "worldly." It is only the *wrong use* of these things which violates God's will.

Remember that it is the *lust* of the flesh and eyes that constitutes "worldliness." The pleasurable use of your five senses — as such — is NOT "worldly."

God *gave* us our five senses so that we might enjoy life to the *full*. God is *not* some fiendish MONSTER who delights in our *suffering* — who wishes us to *do without* and *deny* ourselves all the right enjoyments and pleasures of this physical life.

Christ came to show us the way to happy, ABUNDANT living. So the *right* enjoyment of physical pleasures is *not* "worldliness" — or *sin* in any sense.

What Is Being "Worldly"?

If it isn't *wrong* and "worldly" for us to enjoy material things and physical

pleasures, then just what is being "worldly"?

Again, recall that it is only the *wrong* USE of physical things that God calls "worldliness." This involves the *lust* of the flesh or eyes — which is COVETOUSNESS. And *covetousness* is *breaking* one of the ten points of God's great spiritual law.

God tells us through the Apostle James: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in *one point*, he is *guilty* of ALL" (James 2:10).

So "worldliness" is just one form of *breaking God's Law*, which is SIN. For as we read in I John 3:4, "*Sin* is the *transgression* of the law."

Contrary to much of today's religious teaching, that is GOD's definition of *sin* — a plain, direct statement in His Word. *Don't ever forget that definition* — because it is *God's* definition!

Thus we see that "worldliness" is simply *lusting* for, or *using* material things in a way which *violates* the principles of God's Law. No thought or action is "worldly" — regardless of what misguided, mixed-up *men* might think — UNLESS it breaks the letter or spirit of the *Ten Commandments*.

"Sinful" Pleasures?

Now let's get specific. Many people who think they are Christians firmly believe that "worldliness" and "sin" consist mainly of *drinking, dancing, card-playing* and *theatre-going*.

How can we *prove* whether or not these things are *worldly* or *sinful*?

ONLY by the *Word of God* and the *inspired example* of Jesus Christ and other true servants of God. And *much* of this proof will be up to YOU and to *your honesty* before God. For to completely answer every little technical point and trick argument that people might bring up on this subject would require an *entire book* of several hundred pages!

But let's be HONEST — and look at the plain, clear principles involved, and the examples of Christ and His servants and prophets. Let's look for TRUTH — not an excuse to get around it!

First of all, is DRINKING a *sin*?

The *principle* is this: Jesus Christ set

us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). Jesus Christ is the *same* yesterday, and today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Jesus has *not changed!* He would still be living the *same* kind of life if He were to come in the flesh today as He did live 1900 years ago.

Now notice His *example* in John 2: 1-11. Here is the account of how Jesus turned water into *wine*. If you will look up the meaning of the word "firkin" (verse 6), you will see that this amounted to many gallons of wine!

The account is very clear. It simply shows that — according to Jewish custom — they were having real *wine* at the wedding feast, and ran out. Jesus helped them out, for it was a time of rejoicing, and there were probably several hundred people there.

So He turned the water into *wine* — and it was real, *fermented wine*. They would NEVER have said to the bridegroom: "Thou hast kept the *good wine* until now" — if Jesus had provided only *grape juice* — which they would have regarded as an *inferior* beverage for this occasion.

Also, the original Greek word used here is *oinos*, and it *always* means the *fermented* juice of the grape — nothing else.

Jesus was here only carrying out the principle He gave through Solomon: "A feast is made for laughter, and *wine* maketh merry" (Eccl. 10:19). If properly used, wine is an aid to relaxation and affability at a special occasion.

But being "merry" is NOT being "tight" or "drunk" — which God's Word condemns (I Cor. 6:10).

Paul instructed Timothy about the medicinal and health values of wine when he wrote: "Drink no longer water, but use a *little wine* for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (I Tim. 5:23).

Again, the Greek word is *oinos* — *fermented wine*, not grape juice!

There are many, many examples in the Old Testament where God's servants used *wine* in a proper way and with God's blessing. Perhaps the most significant one is given in Genesis

14:18. Here we read of Melchisedek — whom we have *proved* in our article, "The Mystery of Melchisedek," to be none other than *Christ* — "brought forth bread and wine: and He was the priest of the Most High God." This seems to be a type of the observance later called the Passover — which many mistakenly call the "Lord's Supper" today.

God Himself here gave *wine* to Abraham — *the father of the faithful*. And again, the original Hebrew word used *proves* that it was *fermented* wine — NOT grape juice. The original word is *yayin* — and *always* means *fermented* wine.

This same Hebrew word is used in Amos 9:14 to show that when Christ frees our people from captivity after His return, and brings them to the land of Palestine, they will "plant vineyards, and drink the *wine* thereof."

So Christ — who is the *same* always — is going to *bless* His people with good food and *wine* in the millennial rule!

Contradictory Texts?

Some diehards still cling to certain texts which *appear* (to them at least) to condemn wine, but in reality condemn only the wrong USE of alcohol.

One of these is Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a *mock*, strong drink is *raging*: and whosoever is *deceived* thereby is not wise."

The simple explanation is that wine certainly does *mock* and *deceive* many individuals who have not learned the proper, temperate USE of such beverages. Yes, God's way is *moderation* and *temperance* — NOT prohibition! And there is a *great difference* between these, which so-called "temperance" people seem unable to recognize.

Another text which is often twisted and misapplied is Proverbs 23:29-32. Here is a warning to those who "tarry long" at wine. Of course! One who "*tarry* long" at wine is a "winebibber," or in modern terminology a "barfly" or an "alcoholic."

Such *excessive use* of wine is bound to bring harm on the person involved

and on others. Therefore, it is breaking the spirit of God's Law and is SIN. But this is *no condemnation* WHATEVER against the moderate, sensible use of wine, following Jesus' example.

The latter part of this passage warns us not to "look" upon the wine when it is "red," when it "moveth itself aright."

In the *first* place, it is not a sin to LOOK on *anything* except in *lust*. *Secondly*, the terms "red" and "moveth itself" refer to wine when it is in the *process of fermentation*. This is BEFORE it is fully fermented. And if at this time you "look" on it so as to finally *drink* it, you will become violently ill and possibly even DIE!

Even today, the term "red" is often applied to wine which is in the midst of the process of fermentation. Again, this has NOTHING to do with the proper use of fully aged wine.

God's Way Is Moderation

There are many other texts which *some* people will want to argue about. But the *principle* should be clear to any honest person from the examples we have covered.

Can't we get our BALANCE?

Drunkenness and *alcoholism* are breaking God's Law and are therefore SIN — which leads to *death!* (Rom. 6: 23). No *drunkard* shall inherit God's Kingdom (Gal. 5:21).

But on the other hand, wine has been given as a *blessing* from God. It can help one *relax* at a meal or *rejoice* at a social occasion, and it can be a definite aid in building up one's blood and health — as Paul advised Timothy. It is a thing which *glorifies* God when it is used *sensibly* and *moderately*.

Incidentally, true *moderation* means drinking a great deal LESS than do many who call themselves "moderate drinkers" today. Overindulgence in drink is NOT to be tampered with! *Alcoholism* is a growing CURSE in our land today! (Write for our free article, "Alcoholism — A Worldwide Curse".)

Nevertheless, God gave us wine and alcoholic beverages to learn to use *properly* — and to develop CHARACTER by the proper exercise of *wisdom* and

self-control. Prohibition is NOT God's way — and it does *not* develop character.

This proper *use* of alcohol and *moderation* in drinking is a great *responsibility* to God. But it is only the *wrong USE* which becomes *sin*.

The same principle of the right or wrong *USE* of a thing applies to nearly every action which some consider as "worldly." The real question in each case is "Is this particular thing being used in a way that *BREAKS* God's Law?"

If so, then it is *sin* — or "worldliness."

Dancing and Card-Playing

But if any action or pleasure *does* NOT of itself break God's Law, then it may be quite harmless as long as it is properly *used*, and only the wrong or "worldly" *use* needs to be guarded against.

Such is the case with *dancing*. The Bible is full of examples of dancing. To cite a few, we can turn first to Exodus 15:20, where Miriam and the women of Israel rejoiced in the dance over God's deliverance of their people from Egypt.

In I Samuel 18:6, the women came out singing and dancing to greet Saul as he returned after a military victory. In Psalm 149:3, we read that the saints are to praise God "in the *dance*."

In the account of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), we are given an example of how human joy ought to be expressed — for the "father" is obviously typical of God Himself. Here we see that *dancing* (verse 25) is a natural and *RIGHTEOUS* way to express human joy.

Certainly, we do not know exactly *how* the people danced and what particular *steps* they employed. But the *principle* is that dancing *as such* is not evil.

Wrong *USES* of dancing such as in a *lustful* manner in a smoke-filled nightclub while half-drunk — these *uses* of dancing are obviously *WRONG*. And it is sadly true that these wrong uses characterize *the vast majority* of dancing situations today!

But, if real Christians — young or

old — wish to relax or rejoice by dancing with others of godly faith and character in a *righteous* manner, and in a clean, wholesome atmosphere and surroundings, that is NOT sinful or "worldly."

God says: "There is a *time to dance*" (Eccl. 3:4). Let's see to it that this time is used *properly*!

The principle regarding such matters as *card-playing* or *theatergoing* ought to be clear by now. The Bible makes no *direct* statement about either — but the principle is obvious in the light of God's laws and the Biblical examples.

A deck of *cards* is NOT a sin — and neither is playing with those cards merely for amusement. The only danger is that one might waste too much time in such amusements, and Christians are to use their time *wisely* (Eph. 5:15-16).

The wrong *use* of a deck of cards — or *any* physical object — for the purpose of *gambling* *DOES* become *sin*. God commands: "Six days shalt thou *LABOR*, and do all thy *work*" (Ex. 20:9). As God is the supreme Builder and Creator — so are we to learn to *build*, to *construct*, to *produce*.

Gambling makes one a *leech* on society and *violates* this entire principle and thwarts the very purpose of human existence! Also, the very basis of gambling is the idea of getting something for nothing — of *desiring* material gain at the *EXPENSE* of someone else. This directly breaks another of the Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not *covet*" (Ex. 20:17).

So card-playing as such is *not* sin. But the wrong *USE* of this activity does break God's Law and is therefore "worldly" in the truest sense.

Movies and the Theater

The matter of *theatergoing* revolves around the *reason* why one goes, and the *type* of play or movie being offered.

To frequently attend *any* kind of plays or movies for the purpose of pleasing "self" and of *escaping* from the responsibilities of life is definitely "worldly." And this very thing is done *all too frequently* by MOST Americans.

Let's not *deceive ourselves* about this. We are a nation of escapist!

Also, common sense ought to tell any real Christian that most plays and movies today are simply *filled* and *saturated* with scenes of illicit sex, murder upon murder, hate, greed, lying, cheating, gambling, drunkenness and every conceivable type of vice and sin. Indeed, the movies are a *living testimony* as to why God is going to *PUNISH* this world. Having one's mind filled with this sort of thing *hour after hour* is *CERTAIN* to cause one to break God's laws in his heart, and probably his actions as well.

You cannot vicariously *kill*, *steal*, *seduce*, *gamble*, and *get drunk* through the eyes of a movie hero and not have those thoughts affect your character! And what a frightful *CURSE* *television* can become by these same means. Let this be a warning against the *improper USE* of movies and TV!

But on the other hand, the *right use* of motion pictures, stage plays, or television can certainly be experienced. For instance, Walt Disney has produced a number of full-length feature movies showing the astonishing *wonders* and *beauty* of nature as God created it. These are truly educational and inspirational in every sense of the word.

There are a number of plays and movies which have a historical or other type of educational basis, and are not unbalanced in regard to violence and lust. But they are in the minority, and you will have to be alert to find them. Even a clean, wholesome love story or comedy would not influence you to break God's Law.

The *right kind* of play or movie is hard to find. But God will condemn no one who sincerely uses these means as a proper educational or recreational experience. It is only their *wrong USE* which becomes *sin*.

But DO Avoid What Really IS "Worldliness"!

God *does* want us to have a happy and abundant life. He actually *intends* any human being who will serve and obey Him to become healthy and prosperous — according to his abilities.

And although the "old-fashioned

gospel" preachers of a bygone puritanical Protestant era invented the idea that *drinking, dancing, card playing and theatergoing* were "wordly," we have seen that they are NOT wrong at all if used *in the proper manner*. Again, it is simply a matter of *what is SIN*. And sin is defined as *breaking God's Law* — the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments — as spiritually magnified by Jesus Christ — reveal a *way of life*. They teach us *how* to love, worship and serve our God and *how* to love and serve our fellowman. Any activity, atmosphere or "system" which tends to break or cause *you* to break the spirit of the Ten Commandments is, however, real "worldliness." If you are to be a man or woman of God, develop God's character, be finally BORN into His family to help *rule* this world under Jesus Christ, you MUST *avoid this kind of actual worldliness!*

Writing to the ancestors of the British Commonwealth and the American peoples the Apostle James stated under inspiration: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). What does this mean — we are not to "love the world"? Does this mean we are to hate our fellowman?

Certainly not.

For James had just written that we should keep the royal law: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (James 2:8).

The "World" Defined

To understand the meaning of this and similar passages we need to know the definitions for the Greek word translated "world" in the New Testament. One of these — the one used in James 4:4 — is *cosmos*, which means the *society* or *system* of things men have set up on this earth. So, this passage simply means that true Christians are not to love the *system* or *society* that men have set up here on earth. This *system* is based on *com-*

petition, greed, selfishness and vanity. At the present time this system is bringing more and more wars, total corruption of morals, and soon — unless Almighty God intervenes — WORLD SUICIDE.

And yet it is *so easy* to get wrapped up and want to be *part of* this vanity-filled, competitive and, humanly speaking, "exciting" system! This is perhaps the *greatest danger* to most sincere believers.

It just seems *natural* and "right" to get into the clubs, lodges, activities and social life of the people and society around us. To think and talk and dress and act like *they* do. To have our minds on what is simply *more blatant* VANITY — keeping up with the Joneses, drinking *too much* alcohol, getting *involved* with this world and its politics, backbitings, wars, etc.

No matter how sincere, people who watch *many hours* of television and movies each week are simply FILLING their minds and hearts with "worldliness"! Because they *cannot escape* the effect of having their minds bombarded by countless examples of wrong emphasis on sex and various implications involving the MISUSE of God's gift of sex; plus fantastic amounts of violence, bloodshed and rebellion against authority; and endless scenes or commercials concerned with interest on "*self, self, self*" and blatant appeals to build the ego and great swelling VANITY of the viewer or listener!

The world of television and the motion pictures is a *fake, a fraud, a false world* in every way. It is not truly "realistic" in any sense of the word. It presents a completely UNBALANCED view of violence, sex, family, home, religion and almost anything else you care to name!

The true Christian simply *cannot live and walk in this kind of make-believe world*. Nor can he live in the world of cut-throat competition, shady deals, dirty jokes and paid women; or in the cocktail lounge or "jet set" world of lust and vanity. And the *weird* world of the "hippies," the "swingers," the "wife swappers," the wild, hedonistic marijuana and "pot" users — this is

"worldliness" to the TOTAL EXTREME and must be *avoided*.

Prepare for Tomorrow's World

The man who would avoid what the Bible really does describe as "worldly," the man who would *dedicate himself* to his God and yet at the same time live a *happy and balanced* life — this man must have definable *values*, definable *goals* and a WAY OF LIFE to achieve these. He must, therefore, be a man who carefully *studies, meditates on* and LIVES BY every word of God (Matt. 4:4:). He must be a man who, following Christ's example, gets up early in the morning and PRAYS on his knees to his God for *help, wisdom, love and guidance*. He must be a man who is carefully and diligently *studying* and FOLLOWING the inspired example of Jesus Christ as revealed in *the Bible* — not in someone's human imagination of what *they* think Christ would be like.

Such a man will be building real *balance and character* to qualify him to live forever in *Tomorrou's World*. Therefore, he will NOT allow himself to get *overly involved* in the passions, politics and petty stupidities of *this* present evil world (Gal. 1:4).

If this goal rings true to you, then you should write immediately for your free copy of our vital booklet, "*The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*." Also, for an *in-depth* understanding of how to apply God's Law to your daily life in every way — how to WALK WITH GOD — write also for our important free booklet entitled, "*The Ten Commandments*."

Then, keep *reading and studying* every issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD. Get the right *balance* on how a man of God should love his wife and build a happy home, train his children, glorify God in his body, get the right kind of recreation, keep God's financial laws and prosper. Yet, at the same time, he should have his real GOAL as the Kingdom of God and be building his mind, his life and his character *toward that goal* even as he learns the right and happy way of life here and now.

Do this and, through Christ's help and mercy, you will surely qualify to live forever in what this very magazine represents — TOMORROW'S WORLD.

What'll You Do in the Next Life?

(Continued from page 8)

or WORKS, but GRACE and WORKS.

The "GRACE" will get us into God's Kingdom — give us IMMORTALITY as God's GIFT. The "works" will EARN us — that is, QUALIFY us for a better office — an opportunity for bigger SERVICE — for doing MORE GOOD, once we are born into God's Kingdom.

Degree of Reward

Notice, now, Jesus' parable of the "pounds."

Jesus' disciples wrongly supposed the Kingdom of God was to appear in *their* lifetime. To CORRECT this error, Jesus spoke this parable.

"...because they thought the Kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for Himself a Kingdom, and to return'" (Luke 19:11-12). That is, Jesus Himself was going to heaven to receive for Himself the Kingdom of God, and to return to earth. Now continue:

"And He called His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, 'Occupy till I come.'

But His citizens hated Him, and sent a message after Him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us'" (verses 13-14). Jesus had come "to His own," the Jews — the remnant of the Kingdom of JUDAH — and "they received Him not" (John 1:11), so Jesus turned to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Matt. 15:24), and sent His twelve apostles to them (Matt. 10:6). That is, to the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes" of Israel. They were then, most of them, in Northwestern Europe and the British Isles (request our free book, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*).

But continue Jesus' parable:

"And it came to pass, that when He was returned," — now speaking of what SHALL happen at Christ's return — "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" (Luke 19:15).

This is speaking of every converted

true Christian, to whom God has GIVEN of His Holy Spirit, and spiritual gifts. Every one, at that time entering God's Kingdom as an INHERITOR — as a POSSESSOR, no longer just an HEIR — actually then "SAVED" — will be called to an accounting — JUDGED, to determine WHAT POSITION in God's Kingdom he has qualified for. And NOTICE that this "REWARD" will be according to his "WORKS" in this present mortal life. Continue, verses 16-19:

"Then came the first, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.' And He said unto him, 'Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.' And He said likewise to him, 'Be thou also over five cities.'"

NOTICE CAREFULLY! They got into God's Kingdom by GRACE (as numerous other Scriptures make plain). But they are *rewarded* — that is, given authority, or rule, or position, according to their "WORKS" — according to how well they did with what they had to do with WHILE CHRIST WAS IN HEAVEN — that is, during their mortal Christian lives.

Continue now:

Beginning verse 20 — read it in your Bible — the one who GAINED NOTHING in this present mortal life — the one who had no good "works" — who did not *grow* in grace and the *knowledge* of Christ (II Peter 3:18) — not only was not given ANY position — but even had TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM even the spiritual gift he had been given! In this parable, the English pound, the main English unit of money — worth approximately \$2.40 United States money — is used as a symbol of spiritual value.

This parable teaches what has been shown by other scriptures in this article — that the Christian must OVERCOME; he must GROW spiritually — grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18). We are being SAVED to SERVE — and if we do not qualify to serve, we may have taken away even the salvation we thought we had!

If you do not have *good* works, you

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have *evil* works, or *sin*, which *earns* the penalty of sin — DEATH!

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) shows the same thing, showing that each is judged by what he has to do with. But the one who makes no SPIRITUAL PROGRESS after his initial "conversion" is cast as an "unprofitable servant into outer darkness" (Matt. 25:30).

Life Is a Race

Finally, SEE WHERE ALL THIS LEADS US. Man is MORTAL, without inherent life, possessing in himself only a transitory physical, chemical EXISTENCE.

God is IMMORTAL, composed of Spirit, having self-contained life inherent within Himself. He made mortal man to be formed and shaped like He is, but composed of matter. ETERNAL life comes as GOD'S GIFT. It comes through the gift of God's Holy Spirit, GIVEN after the prior *conditions* of real REPENTANCE, and FAITH in Christ.

But, once receiving the GIFT of the Holy Spirit, entering upon the Christian life, *this Christian life* is pictured as A RACE in a stadium, or in a contest. We must TURN FROM SIN (and the Bible definition of SIN is: transgression of God's Law — I John 3:4). Notice: "Wherefore . . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us *run with patience the race* that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

FURTHER: Paul wrote: "And this I do for the Gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that *they which run in a race* run all, but ONE receiveth the prize? So RUN, that ye may obtain. And every man *that striveth* for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now *they* [those unconverted] do it to obtain a corruptible *crown*; but we [Christians] an incorruptible. I therefore *so run*, not as uncertainly; SO FIGHT I . . . lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway, [REJECTED]" (I Cor. 9:23-27).

We must STRIVE to overcome. We must *fight* temptation and sin. The Christian life was pictured by Jesus as the hard, rutty, difficult way — NOT the easy way that leads to destruction.

So, SALVATION — being BORN INTO Gods' Kingdom — depends not only on once *receiving* the Holy Spirit, but BEING LED BY God's Spirit *through life* (Rom. 8:14), and God's Spirit DWELLING IN US, *at the end of life's race!* That is, at the time of death, or of Christ's coming, whichever comes first.

God's impregnating Holy Spirit is received by GRACE, as God's GIFT, not as a debt or compensation earned; not by "works." But, once we receive the Holy Spirit, it does not remain bottled up; it does not stagnate; it is not static — it FLOWS in outgoing concern (LOVE) to fellow man, and in worship, reverence, obedience to GOD. It flows into us from God. We can love God only because He first loved us — our love toward God is only a return of His love, which He gives to us.

This spiritual LOVE — the HOLY SPIRIT — must be kept on that RETURN CIRCUIT — fulfilling God's LAW — flowing back to GOD by fulfilling the first four Commandments, and out to neighbor fulfilling the last six.

The parable of the sower and the seed illustrates this. There were four classes. The first heard the Gospel Message, but it never conceived — they never were converted. They may STILL have a chance — later. A second class was converted, with great joy, but simply had no spiritual depth of character, and endured only for a while, but yielded to temptations UNTIL they fell away — that is, CONTINUALLY, till they QUIT TRYING. A third was converted, received God's Spirit, but let the cares of this material life — earning a living — or former unconverted associates — keeping one foot in the world — seeking the PLEASURES of this world's materialism — and they "brought forth NO FRUIT to perfection." So THEY lost out! You MUST BRING FORTH FRUIT — make spiritual PROGRESS — develop spiritual CHARACTER! In other words, *good works*.

Too many, today, are preaching a FALSE salvation of "NO WORKS."

Your "WORKS" won't get you converted — won't earn you God's Spirit — won't earn salvation — as I have

made PLAIN in this article. BUT THE LACK OF GOOD WORKS CAN GET YOU LOST, if persisted in!

The fourth class of the parable are they, "which in an HONEST and GOOD HEART, having heard the Word, KEEP it, and *bring forth fruit* with patience" (Luke 8:15). In Matthew's account of this same parable, those finally SAVED, enduring to the END of life's race, brought forth fruit — some thirty-fold, some sixty, some a hundred. ALL of these were SAVED! ALL of these go into God's Kingdom.

But those who bring forth a hundred-fold, during their Christian lives, will receive a higher REWARD, or position in the Kingdom, than those who produce only thirty-fold!

SALVATION comes as God's free GIFT, by GRACE.

But the DEGREE of office, once in the Kingdom — once made immortal — the rank, the position, the degree of glory — this is what you must QUALIFY FOR, by the fruits you bear in THIS LIFE. Your degree of REWARD will be according to your WORKS!

THAT is the teaching of GOD!

We Must Produce "Fruit"

SALVATION, I repeat again and again, is GOD'S FREE GIFT — not something you can earn. BUT, once you have received God's Holy Spirit — BY GRACE — that Spirit, in you, *must produce FRUIT!*

The Bible *again* explains it *this way*: Jesus says He is the Vine — we are the branches. (John 15:1, 5.) Here we are likened to a grapevine and its branches. The BRANCHES did not get themselves joined on to the main vine by their own efforts. We did not become joined to Christ — receiving His Holy Spirit by our "works"; but it was His doing — His GIFT — it came by GRACE.

BUT once joined on, with the SAP flowing from the Vine into the BRING FORTH FRUIT — make spiritual branch (a picture of God's Holy Spirit flowing from Him into us), we *must produce fruit*. If we don't — *then what?*

Notice this whole picture, in John 15. God the Father is the Husbandman — the Vine-dresser — the chief Gar-

dener, who PRUNES the branches. Now notice verse 2: "Every branch in me that beareth NOT fruit *He taketh away.*" If, once having received the Holy Spirit, we do not produce spiritual fruit, we shall be cut off from Christ — and (verse 6), shall be cast into the fire and BURNED UP — referring to the final Gehenna or hellfire!

The Holy Spirit is GIVEN to us — we didn't deserve or earn it — but given to PRODUCE FRUIT. *HOW?* Jesus pictured the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39) as *rivers* of "living water" — FLOWING from Him into us, and on out of us. HOW will it flow on out of us? A "river" flows down a riverbed. The spiritual riverbed down which God's Spirit FLOWS is GOD'S LAW. This "living water" of God's Spirit is the LOVE that fulfills the Law. The FRUITS, then, are simply *the WAY* of righteousness — keeping God's Law. We must be DOERS of the Law, not hearers only — "for *not the bearers* of the law are just before God, but the *doers of the law* shall be justified" (Rom. 2:13). This DOING produces fruit — develops character — trains us for a more glorified position in God's Kingdom.

Oh, one will vehemently object, THAT'S "WORKS." No — it's *righteousness*. But IT IS NOT OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS! God's Spirit GIVES us the FAITH that makes obedience possible. This is the FAITH that SAVES! It is God's GIFT. And the LOVE that fulfills God's Law is His love, flowing into and out of us — NOT OUR LOVE! It is not SELF-righteousness — it is GOD'S righteousness, GIVEN to us.

What KIND of Works?

One further passage of scripture should COMPLETE the picture.

It is in the third chapter of I Corinthians in the Revised Standard Version. Notice carefully:

Some of these Gentile converts at Corinth wanted to be followers of Paul, others of Peter, others of Apollos. Paul was pointing them to CHRIST, and showing what human "nothingness" he and Apollos were.

"What then is Apollos?" he asked (verse 5). "What is Paul?" And he answered, "Servants through whom you

believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, *but GOD gave the GROWTH*" Paul was showing them that he and Apollos, mere humans, were as NOTHING compared to GOD. The spiritual GROWTH — the FRUIT BORNE — the WORKS — came through God's Holy Spirit. The apostle continued:

"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." Notice — God GIVES the spiritual growth — the fruits borne. It is GOD'S righteousness. "He who plants and he who waters are equal, and each shall *receive his wages* according to his labor" (verse 8). Once again, our WORKS do EARN wages — either good or bad. Evil works earn eternal DEATH. Good works earn a better position or reward in God's Kingdom — IF you get there by GRACE. Now continue:

"For *we* are fellow workmen for God, YOU are God's field, God's building" (verse 9). Apply that to this very Work of GOD *today*. Today God is using me, Garner Ted Armstrong, our active staff of several hundred, and our growing family of Co-Workers who contribute financially — all FELLOW WORKMEN for God. Our WORK in carrying out Christ's Great commission — proclaiming His Gospel around the world by radio, television and printing press — our ministers counseling with and baptizing those being converted — the PRAYERS and financial support of other FELLOW WORKMEN — will EARN a better position — a higher glory — IF we make it into God's Kingdom. But we shall be SAVED only by GRACE, undeserved — as God's GIFT. Yet our WORK, as instruments in GOD'S HANDS, which HE uses in HIS WORK, is the most important Work or activity on earth today! And it contributes greatly to our individual and personal SPIRITUAL GROWTH!

But continue:

Paul says further, "According to the commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it" (verse 10). He now pictures THE CHURCH AS a BUILDING being built. Continue: "Let each man take

care how he builds upon it." Now referring to each individual member as well as the Body of Christ — the Church, as a whole.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is JESUS CHRIST" (verse 11).

Continue: "Now if anyone builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble — each man's WORK will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the WORK which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will *receive a reward*" (verse 12-14).

Christ Does the Works "in Us"

The FOUNDATION did not come by OUR WORKS! That was GOD'S doing. He GAVE us the FOUNDATION to build upon. That foundation is CHRIST — and it is "Christ IN us" (II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27), *by the Holy Spirit!* God's Spirit — Christ IN you — was GIVEN by GRACE, not produced by your WORKS. BUT you must continue to BUILD upon that "Foundation." We must OVERCOME. We must GROW spiritually (II Peter 3:18).

Now notice the MATERIALS mentioned in building the superstructure of the building. The most valuable is mentioned first — GOLD. Second in value and QUALITY of building materials is mentioned next, SILVER. Next, precious stones; next, wood — far less valuable. But now we come down to CHEAPNESS, and INFERIOR QUALITY — HAY! Hay might be used in covering a tropical-zone hut — but it is very inferior building material. Yet, a horse could eat it — it has *some* little value. But, lastly, we come to STUBBLE! You couldn't even build a hut with stubble. A horse wouldn't eat it. Its value is about NIL. It's fit only to be BURNED!

Must Build Character

In this scriptural passage, we are primarily concerned with BUILDING CHARACTER.

But now Paul speaks of TESTING the quality of a man's building by FIRE. Let's *understand* it! Continue: "If any

man's *work* is BURNED UP, *he* will suffer loss, though *he himself* will be *saved*, but only as through fire" (verse 15). WHAT is that "fire"?

To understand this, we need to turn to the 3rd chapter of Malachi. It speaks of Christ as the Messenger of the (new) Covenant, suddenly coming to His Temple. This, like so many prophecies, is dual in application. It refers only typically to Christ's first coming — primarily to his second coming!

"...and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, ... But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's FIRE, and like fullers' soap; and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of *silver*: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and *purge* them as *gold* and *silver*, that they may offer unto the ETERNAL an offering in RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Malachi 3:1-3).

Plainly, this is speaking of Christ's second coming as KING of kings, to set up WORLD GOVERNMENT over ALL NATIONS. Then we who have received God's GRACE — in whom is the Holy Spirit, then made immortal — shall stand before Him for judgment as to what reward, or position, we have qualified for. Christ Himself is that refiner's FIRE, that will burn up the dross. But the pure gold, silver, or precious stones we have BUILT on the foundation of CHRIST will then be MANIFEST — it will come through the test. But the hay and straw will be burned up.

Again, of those who, BY GRACE, do receive SALVATION, and are born IMMORTAL into God's Kingdom at Christ's appearing, Christ says He will bring them "through the FIRE, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, 'It is MY PEOPLE:' and they shall say, 'The ETERNAL is my God'" (Zech. 13:9).

Now back to I Corinthians 3:13-15. It ought to be plain, now!

This is speaking of begotten children of God, who have received God's

Holy Spirit — that is, CHRIST in them, in Spirit — as the FOUNDATION. Some people, once converted and receiving God's Spirit, do begin to *live by* every word of the Bible, as Jesus said we must (Luke 4:4). They have had their hearts in GOD'S WORK for our time. They have prayed for it daily — prayed for God's guidance and protection of those of us active in it — contributed generously and cheerfully toward it financially.

They have sought, and found, the TRUE VALUES of life. They have striven to overcome. They have studied to know God's WAY — to show themselves approved unto GOD. They have kept close to God, by daily Bible study and prayer. They have BUILT RIGHTEOUS, SPIRITUAL, STERLING CHARACTER! In other words, they have built on the FOUNDATION with gold, silver, and precious stones. These have survived the TEST. They came through the fire. These are the ones who "brought forth fruit" — whose "pound" gained "ten pounds" — who will be given authority over MUCH.

But there are MANY — and I personally know of many such — who with JOY have received God's Holy Spirit — their conversion as Christians — and have remained in a GOOD ATTITUDE, but whose "WORKS" have been of inferior quality, pictured by the hay and stubble. Most of their "WORKS" of their Christian lives will be burned up, when the final examination comes. Their reward — status in the Kingdom — position qualified for — is very small, yet THEY, themselves, will be SAVED by God's grace! They suffer the LOSS of higher position — greater authority for service and doing good — but they themselves will be SAVED.

We are SAVED by GRACE, through Christ's FAITH — given as God's GIFT. But whatever "REWARD" — status, rank, position, degree of GLORY — is conferred, once we are changed to immortality in God's Kingdom, will be according to our "works" in this present mortal life — and according to the character and quality of those works.

And remember, even the WORKS come through God's Holy Spirit — the

works of righteousness are not our *self-righteousness*, but GOD'S *righteousness*. That's the KIND of "WORKS" I believe in and teach!

WHY the Christian Life?

WHY do most of those who claim to be the very CLERGY of Jesus Christ say there are "NO WORKS WHATEVER" in the Christian life?

Because of their false pagan and unscriptural doctrine about what "salvation" is. Their conception of salvation seems to be an eternity of idleness and ease — with nothing to do. The development of the very CHARACTER of the living GOD — preparing for RULERSHIP — qualifying for SERVICE — have no place in their false pagan theology.

Many times I have asked, over the air, and in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, "WHY, if there are 'no works' to the Christian life, is not one taken *immediately*, upon first accepting Christ, to his 'reward'? WHY must the converted Christian — if he is '*already saved*,' *finally*, if he has been already 'born again' — go on suffering IN THIS LIFE? WHY does the Bible say, '*Many* are the afflictions of the righteous,' and '*All* who will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall suffer persecution*? WHY not avoid all this suffering? WHY doesn't God take new converts *immediately* to 'glory' — or wherever, or whatever, they conceive as the eternal state of the saved?"

The answer is that God put humans on this earth for a PURPOSE! That PURPOSE is stated in Genesis 1:26 — God is actually *reproducing Himself*! God is the Supreme Spiritual CHARACTER — holy, righteous, perfect. We, to be actually BORN of Him — BORN into His FAMILY as His divine children — must be *changed*, not only from mortal to immortal — not only from human to divine — but from our human nature and sinning character, into His DIVINE NATURE (II Peter 1:4) and into His HOLINESS and PERFECTION of character (I Peter 1:16; Matt. 5:48). And that *must be developed*, through the Christian life! It means *overcoming*, *growing* in knowledge and character!

We are to become a NEW CREATION (Gal. 6:15, margin). God's SPIRITUAL CREATION is still going on, *in us*! We

are now mere CLAY — made of the dust of the ground. God is the Potter — we are the clay (Isa. 64:8). We must, *on our own decision*, with our own complete *submission*, and even with *our own effort* accompanying, yield so that the Master Potter may completely remake, refashion, reshape our vile characters into the holy, righteous, spiritual and perfect character of GOD.

Your Part in GOD'S WORK

In my forty-two and a half years' intensive, rich, active experience, since God changed MY direction into HIS WAY, I have observed that the *very first* need of every Christian, who is to GROW and develop this spiritual character, is to have his heart completely in THE WORK OF GOD, which the *living* Christ has called His servants to do, as His instruments! Our "WORKS" are our part in GOD'S WORK — getting His true Gospel to the whole world *as a witness* — preparing the way for Christ's coming. We are merely His INSTRU-

MENTS. It is GOD'S WORK! Those who condemn "WORKS" are condemning the Great GOD who is the actual DOER *through us* as His instruments and Co-Workers! It is not, after all, *our* works!

Those who are self-centered, caring nothing for the WORK OF GOD, having not enough *outgoing concern* to want to help GET CHRIST'S MESSAGE out to this blinded, deceived, dying world, fall away. Those who center their whole "Christian" life and activity on developing *their own selves* spiritually, whose hearts are not in or concerned about this great OUTGOING worldwide WORK OF GOD, actually directed by the *living* CHRIST, develop only INWARDLY, until they shrivel up spiritually and fall by the wayside! Those whose hearts, their active, constant, earnest, fervent PRAYERS, and their tithes and offerings are in GOD'S WORK continue to EXPAND spiritually — they become HAPPIER — they become greatly BLESSED — their lives

become richer and fuller — and their faces beam in smiles. They RADIATE! They PROSPER!

The New Testament is literally *filled* with instruction on *Christian living* — leading a new, different, sparkling, joyous life — or, perhaps more correctly, allowing Jesus Christ to live such a life — GOD'S WAY — in them!

How WONDERFUL is *God's Way!*

SALVATION comes — if we are willing — as God's FREE GIFT — by GRACE!

But *we must be changed*. There is DOING, not hearing only (Rom. 2:13). There is development of a new righteous CHARACTER. Yet, even that is CHRIST IN YOU actually DOING it! Actually, even the "works" are primarily done by HIM! But how WONDERFUL that there *are* righteous "WORKS" in the true Christian life — opportunity for *more* than salvation, priceless though that be — opportunity for higher position, rank, opportunity to SERVE, higher GLORY!

Personal

from the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

as a lad, when he went up against the ten-foot-tall Goliath who dared to mock the *living God*.

This is the same *living* God who sent plagues on the Egyptians to teach them that *their* gods were false and that He is the only God who could help them — *passed over* Israelites, spared them from death — delivered them from slavery — parted the waters of the Red Sea.

This is the identical, same *living* God who fought the armies of Assyria for Judah's King Hezekiah, when the Assyrian Shalmaneze: denied the *power* of the Everliving God.

This is the same *living* God who fought the battle for Judah when the Jews were attacked by the armies of three allied enemies — as a result of the *obedience and faith* of King Jehoshaphat — the God who said: "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of the great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."

This is the same *living* God who intervened to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego from the burning fiery furnace, when they obeyed and trusted Him, saying to the King: "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and *He will* deliver us out of thine hand, O King!"

Isn't it time we asked: Is *this* the God of the religions and sects who can compromise with belief in order to UNITE with evil?

The ETERNAL is the *living* God who is very soon going to RISE IN JUDGMENT against our nations — against these religions — which deny Him, disobey Him, trust in any and everything *except* Him, and in fact serve dead gods, in the form of interests, pursuits, sports, entertainments, love of money, pride, vanity, and selfishness.

To serve and obey God is to go *the way* that leads into peace, happiness, prosperity and JOY. I know! I started on that way more than forty-two years ago, and it has led me into those rewards.

The DAY OF RECKONING is fast swooping down on this rebellious world. God says He will do nothing, except He reveal it to His servants and prophets (Amos 3:7). HE HAS REVEALED IT — I HAVE PROCLAIMED IT!

The Man Who COULDN'T AFFORD to TITHE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT WAS late in 1933 — the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well driller by profession, but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services I was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services, and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated.

"Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible or pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

Thousands Like Him

There are thousands who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

I heard about the above conversation, and preached a sermon on the question of whether the *unconverted* should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed had reasoned, these things were only for Christians. I pointed out that God's Law was put in motion for man's good — it is THE WAY of life that brings peace, happi-

ness, prosperity; the full, abundant, interesting life; success, joy, *here and now*, as well as eternal life through Christ for the saved.

I showed that it PAYS, and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation — and that, even if one is finally lost, he who sins little shall be punished with *few stripes*, but he who sins much with *many stripes*. (Luke 12:47-48.) I pointed out God's promises to *prosper* the tithe-payer, and that this is a definite LAW God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service — we were holding services at this little schoolhouse three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time — Mrs. Smith smilingly handed me a one dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to me with another happy smile.

"Here's a five dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's Work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to *pay!* But only *beginning!* By the next service, as I remember it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. *Before he finished that job*, another was contracted. Soon he had

three or four jobs coming in at once, and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of *many* I have known who learned *by experience* that one cannot afford *not* to pay God the tithe that BELONGS to God! I remember Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later, and his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in real repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to me, according to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died several years ago, but I'm happy to remember these incidents in his life in the hope they may start many others on the right and *profitable*, as well as the Christian, way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really needs your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His Work. But to have done so would have robbed us of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. I do not mean necessarily wealthy — but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit *that may abound to YOUR account*" (Phil. 4:17).

God promises His children shall

always have something to give (Deut. 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate the tithe and offerings that He fails to prosper them. For through John He tells us "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (III John 2).

"Honor the Eternal with thy substance, and with the *firstfruits* of all thine increase: *so shall thy barns be filled with plenty*, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Prov. 3:9, 10). Try it! "*Prove me now herewith*," challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for *our* day (Mal. 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" — financial blessings! Are you behind financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings *may be the reason!*

Concrete Experiences

John D. Rockefeller, it is said, accepted at eight years of age God's challenge to prosper the individual who pays God His tenth. Did he prosper?

Mr. Colgate, the great soap manufacturer, left home when a very small boy. He soon met a prosperous old sea captain. He asked the boy what he could do, and the boy replied he knew only how to make soap and candles.

"Yield yourself to God," advised the old sea captain, "and pay Him a tenth of your income. Some day there is going to be a man at the head of the great soap industries in New York, and there is no reason why you should not be the man." The boy took the advice, got a job, earned a dollar and paid a dime.

Very soon he earned two dollars and paid twenty cents. Soon he got a job in a soap factory and he continued to pay a tenth and to prosper. He rose from common laborer to foreman, later to manager, and then to president of the company, and finally he owned the entire establishment. As he continued to prosper, Colgate paid two tenths. He prospered still more and paid three tenths. Still he prospered, and he paid four. His prosperity kept increasing and

he decided to give HALF of all his income.

And still he prospered!

I know a man who started a small grocery business in a small city in the state of Oregon. This was during the great depression. He had practically no capital, had the poorest location in town, and refused to sell tobacco. Others said he could never succeed. Thus handicapped, starting in the beginning of the worst depression the world ever knew, not many would have dared pay a whole tenth.

This man decided he would be a faithful steward, take God into partnership, and trust the Lord with his business. He prospered from the start and was the only grocer in his town who weathered the storm of depression successfully.

When God receives His portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He causes His partners to prosper, so if you are in debt, take God into partnership *first*, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes FIRST.

Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it *is* right, and the other way is WRONG. "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." God's Word tells us what is RIGHT, and God tells us to pay to His Work the *firstfruits* of all our income. Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says, "Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you owe God. This debt is FIRST in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your PARTNER in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your

debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to HIM, not to you. (Deut. 10:14.) You are in the position of steward handling that which *belongs to another*. He is your silent partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest He gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself HIS share, *you are stealing*, and ROBBING GOD (Mal. 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, *we call it embezzlement!*

The only *sure way* to know you have God as Partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey Him in tithing.

Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe."

God has blessed you according as you have *yielded* to Him according to the light He has revealed to you, from His Word! While you have the light, WALK in it, *lest darkness come upon you!* (John 12:35, 36). GROW in grace and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord" (II Peter 3:18). See also Rom. 11:22.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, the Work of the Eternal would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be ADDED. Try it! Take God at His Word! PROVE HIM! (Mal. 3:10.) *See how you begin to prosper!* Be a faithful steward; make God your PARTNER! Receive His BLESSING! God's Work is waiting upon YOU!

And if you haven't read our astonishing, helpful booklet, *Ending Your Financial Worries*, write immediately for it. It is free. It will tell you how you can get on your financial feet!

Letters to the Editor

Grateful For Seven Rules

"I'm so truly grateful for the wonderful new magazine, TOMORROW'S WORLD. I especially liked the article, 'Seven Rules to Right Decisions,' as I am a widow, live alone and have to make all my own decisions. I have made so many wrong ones in the past, I know these articles are going to help me in the future. This wonderful magazine seems to be a personal guide to me, to help me along life's way. I thank God and all of you for it, and am ever so grateful to be among the 'ones' to receive this great blessing of God's own doing."

Mrs. Marjorie B.,
Winton, California

"Please thank Mr. Portune for his fine article, 'Seven Rules to Right Decisions.' It is difficult to imagine a more important subject to write about. Judging from the wild emotional reactions of the supposedly educated, as seen in the television specials on the current educational scene, logic and straight thinking in important affairs is getting to be conspicuous by its absence. Mr. Portune's article, which went straight to the heart of the problem involved, and gave the entire complete solution, was not only timely and needed but unique in its comprehension of the problem."

George A.,
Fargo, North Dakota

Comments On "Till You Smoke Yourself To Death!"

"I know you will get hundreds of letters about your article, 'Till You Smoke Yourself To Death,' and mine is going to be one of them. I was a smoker until I read that article! I had read article after article on the subject, even read the story you spoke of in *Reader's Digest*. All this, and it never really bothered me. I would think, 'never happen to me.' Several times I'd tried to quit but usually lasted half a day or so. I read the chemistry of smoking and was really shocked but the real

'clinger' was the picture of the stoma smoker. The picture is sickening as well as pitiful. I have actually seen patients like the man in that picture (I worked in hospitals for 10 years). What impressed me more was the words under the picture, 'Rather than quit, this man chooses to continue inhaling smoke.' Now when I am tempted to get a cigarette, I look at that picture and if that doesn't work I reread the article and then I make my decision. For two days (that's long for me) I have *chosen*, for once in my life, the right course!"

Mrs. Barbara C.,
Hudson, New York

"Just a note to tell you that your new magazine, TOMORROW'S WORLD, does have 'deeper spiritual food' as I can very gratefully attest to. I had smoked for twenty years — hearing every argument imaginable against smoking — yet, always rationalizing to myself the reasons why I continued to smoke. But the day the new magazine arrived, and I read the article on smoking, it was as if for the first time my eyes were really opened and I could really see what I was doing to myself and to my family. Since that day, I have quit smoking entirely and I am sure I will never smoke again."

Mr. William D. T.,
Huntsville, Texas

"I just received your new magazine TOMORROW'S WORLD. I want to say that it's really great. The articles in this first issue are the best that I've ever read, just what we need for deep thought and meditation. Thank you so much for making it available. This magazine is definitely 'stronger meat,' than *The Plain Truth*. Those of us who want to build character and do something about our lives need this kind of truth as you have put into TOMORROW'S WORLD. I hope, and I know that many others do also, that you will be able to continue publishing this new magazine."

Mrs. Charlene L.,
Huntington Beach, California

"Just received June's TOMORROW'S WORLD and that article about smoking is the best thing that ever was printed. I have had my 12- and 14-year-old children read it tonight and they both said they would never touch a cigarette as long as they lived."

Mrs. Allan W.,
Blaine, Washington

Letters From Teen-agers

"TOMORROW'S WORLD sure is a blessing. I liked best the article, 'Seven Rules to Right Decisions.' Since I had to decide which college to attend, this article helped."

Bill R.,
Kingman, Kansas

"Thank you for sending the new magazine TOMORROW'S WORLD. I need this spiritual food. Please keep sending it. Thank you."

Margaret F.,
St. Albans, Herts., England

"I was very excited to receive TOMORROW'S WORLD. Being a teen-ager, with so many problems to solve, I need the additional help this magazine offers."

Patricia W.,
Powder Springs, Georgia

From England

"I have just read and enjoyed the new TOMORROW'S WORLD and look forward to future copies. I should like to take advantage of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, as I was most impressed by readers' letters."

Mr. W. D.,
Newport, Monmouthshire, England

"I wish to thank you for the new magazine *The Good News of TOMORROW'S WORLD* which I received this morning. I have done very little work, as I have been so interested in all it contains I just had to keep reading one article after another. I am really so pleased with it, it has given me encouragement."

Mrs. Louise W.,
Ashford, Kent, England

Coming:

TOMORROW'S WORLD
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Pasadena, California 91109

Printed in U.S.A.

★ What Is DEATH?

Just what is death? Is there a resurrection? Do the dead know what the living are doing? Is suicide unforgivable? Where will you meet loved ones again? Why does God allow Christians to die? Does death ever come as punishment? What if one dies being unconverted? — is he lost forever? Here is what God Almighty answers, from His inspired Word.

★ The World's Oldest Throne

The British Throne is the oldest in the world. In July, half a billion saw — via world-wide television — Britain's Heir Apparent, her future King, invested with the symbols of that Royal House. Will the British Throne — like so many other thrones of Europe — soon become extinct? You need to understand the fascinating history and the thrilling future of the 3,000-year-old Royal Throne of Britain.

★ Does God Still Answer Prayer?

Why doesn't God answer prayer today? Or does He? Can you be sure? Do you know anyone who continually receives answers to prayer — actual, concrete demonstrable answers? Read in this article how you can make sure your prayers will be answered.

★ How to Be a Girl

Female emancipation is now a reality. Women are competing with men on every level. Are we racing toward a unisex world? Are there standards for young girls and teen-agers to live by? How do you become the right kind of girl? What does God say?