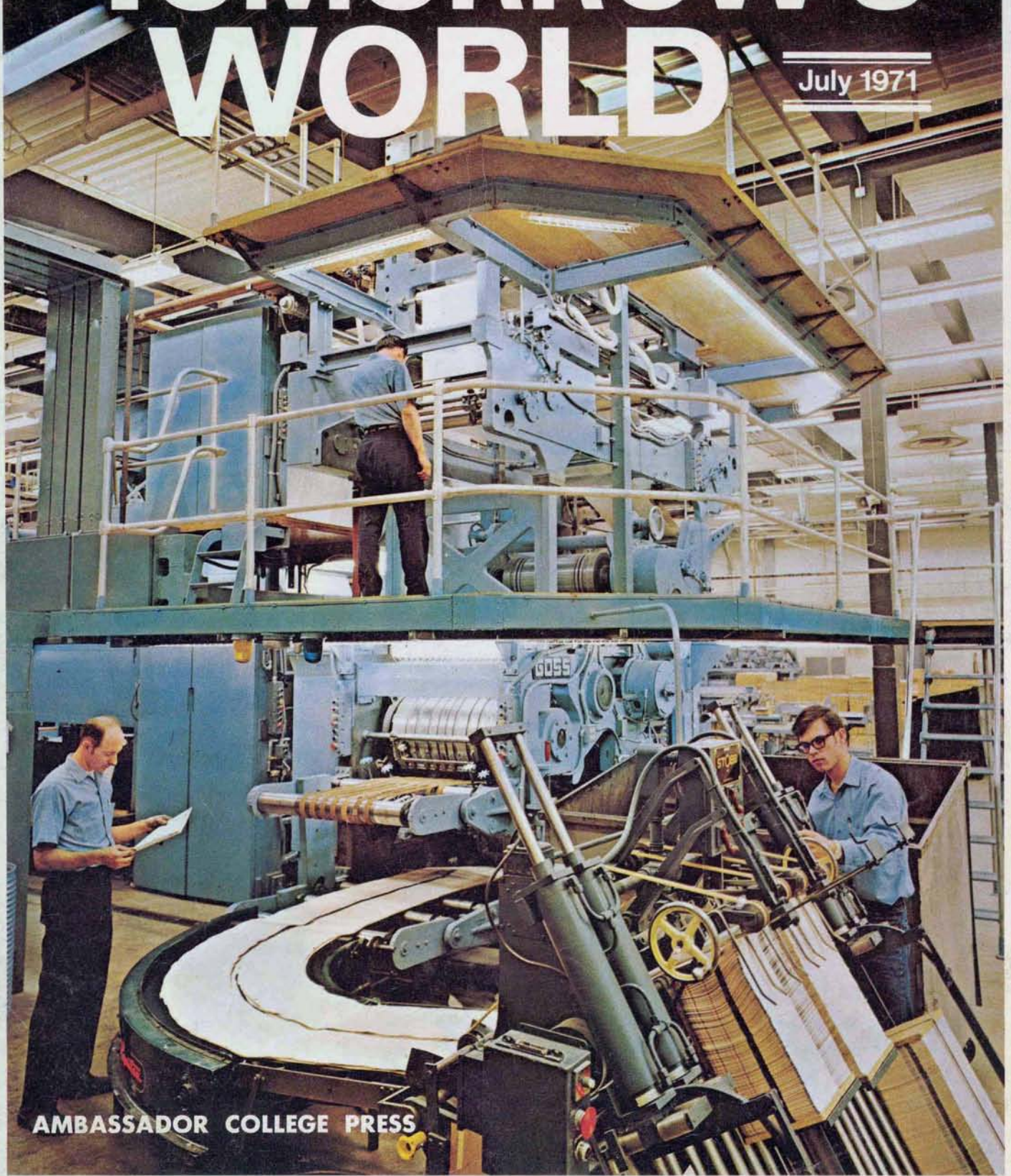


The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

July 1971



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE PRESS

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Ambassador College Photo

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Personal from



What Do You Mean — “The Unpardonable Sin”?

NOT SO LONG AGO, a professing Christian — a prominent churchman, of what denomination I never knew — was murdered for allegedly committing adultery. Many said, “That man was no Christian! No real Christian could ever commit adultery.”

I never knew the man. I merely read of it in the newspapers. It is not for me to judge whether he *had ever been* really a Christian — or, for that matter, whether he was guilty of the alleged adultery.

But, as a hypothetical case, what if a professing Christian *did* commit adultery? Would *that* prove he *never was* a Christian? Or, suppose he *had been* a genuinely converted man, utterly sincere in his Christian life, and that he did commit the adultery. Could he *still* be a really converted Christian after committing the adultery? — or was the adultery, under those circumstances, “the unpardonable sin”? Would God forgive, *on repentance*?

THAT question, I *can* answer!

Many Worry

Many have come to me, worried, and said: “I’m afraid I have committed the unpardonable sin.”

I have replied, “You probably haven’t.”

But they will persist, “Yes, but I consented, *in my mind*, to commit that sin. Sure I was *tempted* — and I tried to resist it in my mind, but the more I resisted, the more I *wanted* to do it — until, finally, I just gave in, and consented in my mind, to do it. I did it *knowingly*. Wasn’t that sinning *willfully*? Wasn’t that the unpardonable sin?”

LET’S UNDERSTAND what is meant by “sinning *willfully*,” and by what is called “the unpardonable sin.”

Many Deceived

Jesus Christ spoke of a certain special kind of SIN — popularly called “the unpardonable sin” — which “shall NOT be forgiven . . . neither in this world, neither in the world to come” (Matt. 12:31-32).

Is this sin committed only by converted Christians — or also by non-Christians?

Is *every* sin committed by a converted Christian unpardonable? Or can a Christian commit a sin, repent, be forgiven, and still remain a Christian?

First, we need to UNDERSTAND, more clearly than most do, *what constitutes* a Christian in God’s sight — according to the BIBLE. I want to make PLAIN some factors you probably have never understood!

The Bible teaching does not altogether agree with the dictionary definition, nor with the popular idea that has gained general acceptance in the so-called Christian world.

Webster’s dictionary defines a Christian as: “One who believes or professes or is assumed to believe in Jesus Christ and the truth taught by him.”

The BIBLE replies: “Thou believest that there is one God, thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19).

Today most professing Christians — and most of the cheap “tracts” passed out indiscriminately, purporting to show “sinners” how to “get saved” — how to become a Christian — quote one verse, Acts 16:31, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Notice, this passage does NOT say, as they appear to ASSUME, “Believe . . . and then thou ART ALREADY saved.” It says “shall be” (FUTURE tense) saved. Assuredly this *believing on* Christ is necessary, yet other Biblical passages make plain that this IS NOT ALL that constitutes “being saved.”

BELIEVERS Seek to Kill Jesus

In John 7:31, it is recorded: “And many of the people *believed on him* . . .” But were they really

Christians? Notice, beginning John 8:30: "As he spake these words, many *believed on him*. Then Jesus said to those Jews *which believed on him*, If ye continue in my Word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed. . . ." But they *did not* actually BELIEVE HIM! They believed ON HIM — that He was a great teacher, as a man — they believed on the PERSON — like millions today. But they did not BELIEVE Him — did not believe what He *said* — His Message — His Gospel. To these same people, who "believed on Him," Jesus said, just a few verses farther on, ". . . But ye seek to kill me, because MY WORD hath no place in you . . . But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God . . . and if I say the truth, *why do ye not believe me?*" (John 8:31-46.)

They "believed on the Lord Jesus Christ," just as these cheap tracts tell "sinners" to do to "be saved." Yet they tried to KILL the very Saviour they "BELIEVED ON." And they DID NOT BELIEVE HIM — did not believe what He said.

There is a DIFFERENCE between "believing on Christ," and BELIEVING CHRIST! So here are two TRUTHS:

1) It may be hard to accept, but it's TRUE — millions who *believe* they are Christians actually are still unconverted, deceived, having accepted a *false* conversion!

2) MANY who, judged by this world's more popular "Christian" teachings, appear NOT to be Christians ARE, in actual fact, truly converted Christians IN GOD'S SIGHT!

Just What IS a "Christian"?

What, then, is a true "conversion"? WHAT constitutes a real Christian *in the sight of GOD*?

The WAY to become a Christian was given, in few words, on the very day that the New Testament Church of God began, by the Apostle Peter. There were three steps. The first two, we humans must do. These do not "save" us, or make us Christians — they are merely required conditions. The third, GOD does.

They are, 1) REPENT, 2) be baptized (which is the outward action testifying to inward FAITH in Christ as Saviour — Acts 8:36-37), and 3) you shall receive THE GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:38).

Now consider one additional scripture: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have NOT the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NONE OF HIS" (Rom. 8:9).

A Christian, then (BIBLE DEFINITION), is one in whom the Holy Spirit dwells! The next (10th) verse speaks of the Holy Spirit of God dwelling IN you as CHRIST being *in you* — in this language: "And if Christ be in you . . ."

And the following (11th) shows how this will "save" — that is, give you the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE — complete "salvation" — when it says: "But *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* quicken your mortal bodies *by his Spirit* that dwelleth in you."

This passage shows that the final SALVATION means being GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE *at the time of*, and *through* the resurrection. It says, of that final GIFT of *being made* IMMORTAL, "He . . . *shall also*" (AS He raised Christ by a resurrection) — and note that it is *future tense* — "quicken your mortal bodies BY HIS SPIRIT which dwelleth in you."

Notice carefully! It is the Holy Spirit of God "dwelling in you" *at the time of* the resurrection. Or, more specifically, *at the end of this mortal life*. IF the Holy Spirit of God is "dwelling in you" *at that time*, which is the *time* of the second coming of Christ, (or at the time of your death, whichever comes first), THEN your mortal body will be resurrected, or CHANGED, to an IMMORTAL body — given ETERNAL life.

As long as the Holy Spirit of God dwells IN YOU, you *are Christ's* — that is, you ARE A CHRISTIAN. But (verse 9 of Romans 8, quoted above), "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*" — he is NOT a Christian.

A Christian, then, in GOD'S terms, is one who has, at the moment, GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT dwelling in him.

BEFORE this change has taken place, he is NONE OF HIS — *not* a Christian. *IF* the Holy Spirit *no longer dwells* in him, then he is no longer a Christian. He is a Christian *while*, and *only while*, the Holy Spirit is dwelling in him.

Millions Deceived Into False "Salvation"

Millions may *profess* to be Christians, but *unless* God's Holy Spirit, given as HIS GIFT by GRACE, is, at the moment, dwelling in them, they are NOT CHRISTIANS.

Millions may have their names written in Church membership books, and still be "NONE OF HIS" — not really CHRISTIANS at all! And millions *are* so deceived!

So UNDERSTAND THIS! A person is a Christian —

in God's sight — ONLY while God's Holy Spirit is dwelling IN him. Not before! Not after!

Must Bear "Fruit"

Next, to UNDERSTAND, it is important you realize that God's Spirit *will not* remain dormant within you. You can't put a cork over it and bottle it up. The scriptures above quoted speak of His Spirit as "*dwelling*" in you — and, with many other scriptures, as "CHRIST dwelling [in Spirit, not in actual Person] in you." But the living Christ is *alive, active*, not lifeless or dormant.

In John 7:37-39 Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as "rivers of living water," *flowing into* us from Him, and then *flowing out of us*, in fulfilling God's Law. God's Spirit is God's LOVE — "the LOVE of God shed abroad in our hearts BY the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). God's Law is a SPIRITUAL Law (Rom. 7:14), and requires the *spiritual* LOVE we can receive only from God to fulfill — for LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law (Rom. 13:8, 10). Your own human (carnal) love *cannot* properly fulfill God's *spiritual* Law! And remember, God gives His Holy Spirit ONLY to "them that OBEY him" (Acts 5:32).

Now a flowing RIVER flows down a riverbed — and God's "riverbed" down which the "living water" of His Spirit flows out from us is HIS LAW. In other words, God's Spirit flows out of us by fulfilling God's Law.

In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus makes this PLAIN! We are compared to the branches on a vine — say, a grapevine. As the sap flows *from* the vine *into* the branches, producing FRUIT, so God's Spirit flows *from* the living Christ into us, producing the "WORKS" of RIGHTEOUSNESS — that is, fulfilling God's LAW. But *this* kind of "works" is *not our* "works" — for that (God's Spirit — God's LOVE) which PRODUCES this fruit of righteousness comes from GOD by His GRACE, freely given. THIS IS NOT OUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS — it is *not OUR* "works" at all — it is GOD's righteousness *given* by His grace, through His Spirit!

Now is *this* God-given righteousness *required* for salvation?

Notice this illustration of Jesus, in the 15th chapter of John.

Jesus says, "I am the true Vine, and my Father is the Husbandman" — that is, the owner and cultivator of the vineyard (John 15:1). Next verse: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit *he taketh away*."

Further, "He that abideth in me, and *I in him*" (Christ abiding, or dwelling IN you through the Holy Spirit) "the same bringeth forth much fruit . . . If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (verses 5, 6).

In other words, the fruit of God's righteousness MUST be produced in the Christian life. And what is "righteousness"? God says, "All thy Commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). This does not necessarily mean God will *cut you off* immediately, the first day or week or month you might let go by without producing active and positive fruit. There is, however, a limit somewhere along life's way where, unless you are definitely GROWING spiritually, that God's Spirit will no longer "dwell in you," and if you let that time come, you shall, like a dead grape branch, be ultimately cast into the final "gehenna fire."

But be sure of this: It is a DANGEROUS thing for a truly converted Christian to grow lukewarm and careless, and become a "passive" Christian. Perhaps most have temporary lapses in spiritual progress. But as soon as you "wake up" to such a lapse, *repent immediately* and seek God with your whole heart, for a CLOSER, more active spiritual walk with Him.

The Two Opposite ATTITUDES

Notice now this BASIC TRUTH.

There are just the two opposite philosophies of life — two OPPOSITE WAYS.

1) The WAY of human nature. This is the self-centered way of vanity, greed, envy; the way of getting, taking, accumulating; the way of competition and strife. It is the WAY of SIN — of Satan.

2) The WAY of the divine nature, which may be implanted within by the Holy Spirit. This is the GOD-centered way of humility, exaltation of GOD, submissiveness to God; the way of outgoing concern for fellowman; the way of GIVING, sharing, serving, helping. It is the WAY of righteousness — GOD'S WAY.

Also, there are the TWO opposite and opposing ATTITUDES of mind.

You have a natural, or carnal, mind. The ATTITUDE of the carnal mind is the attitude of mind and heart that travels THE WAY of SIN as explained in 1) above. Of this natural carnal mind, God says: "the carnal mind is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

The opposite ATTITUDE is that of the repentant

Christian — that of the divine nature implanted by the Holy Spirit. It travels THE WAY of 2) above. This is the *spiritual mind*. The *mind* of CHRIST — *in you!*

Now remember, these are TWO required CONDITIONS, which *you* must supply, before you receive the GIFT of God's Holy Spirit. Neither of these supply or earn salvation. But God will not GIVE His precious GIFT until we put down the hostile rebellion. These two conditions, as stated before, are *repentance* and *faith*.

What is repentance?

This comes to the very crux of the whole question.

Just What IS Repentance?

Repentance is a *change of mind* and ATTITUDE. It is a change *from* this carnal attitude of hostility toward God — of rebellion against God's Law, to the opposite attitude of love, submission, obedience, and worship of God, and reliance on Him. It is an "about-face" in attitude and *intent*, to THE WAY of God's righteousness.

Repentance means that you come to really SEE yourself as you ARE — as GOD sees you — as a self-centered, hostile, shrivelled-up, rotten, vile, filthy, sinning hulk of rotting human flesh, unworthy to breathe the free air God gives you! It means to be SO SORRY, not only for what you have *done*, but also for WHAT YOU ARE — that you so ABHOR yourself that you come, emotionally broken up, throwing yourself on God's mercy, asking His forgiveness, and His redemption! It means *wanting* to be made righteous.

To REPENT means a total *change* of ATTITUDE and HEART! A *continuously* repentant attitude! For God's Spirit will dwell *only* in such a mind!

FAITH means to accept the living Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, RELYING on Him, in full confidence that HIS SACRIFICE of His very life for YOU is altogether sufficient to pay the penalty of your transgressions; relying on Him completely to SAVE you from sinning and to GIVE you righteousness and Eternal Life.

When you receive God's Holy Spirit, you have received the very *life* of God. But that does not make you, as yet, an

inheritor of eternal life. You are *not yet* immortal.

You are then an HEIR of God — and a joint heir with Christ. You are a BEGOTTEN child of God, not yet Spirit-BORN; that is, an *heir, not yet a possessor* or *inheritor*. Still mortal flesh and blood — not yet composed of spirit.

But as long as God's Holy Spirit *dwells* in you (active, as described above), you remain an heir of God, later to inherit and share with Christ ALL that the heavenly Father has!

Given a New Nature

Now we come to an ALL-important fact.

God's Holy Spirit within you is the presence of a NEW NATURE — a DIFFERENT nature — you are now a partaker of the DIVINE NATURE (II Peter 1:4). The nature that not only wants to BE good — but wants to DO righteousness.

But, *mark this well!* The reception of God's DIVINE NATURE within us DID NOT remove the old HUMAN NATURE, with its pulls and temptations. Nor will the HUMAN nature be completely REMOVED until the resurrection, and change into SPIRIT COMPOSITION — until you are no longer composed of matter, but of spirit.

War Between TWO Natures

Notice the Apostle Paul's teaching to the Gentile converts of Galatia: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh *lusteth against* the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye *cannot* do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:16-17).

In Romans 8:14, it is written: "For as many as *are led by* the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

I want you to UNDERSTAND this!

When one receives God's Spirit, it opens the MIND to spiritual comprehension — spiritual KNOWLEDGE. It shows him THE WAY to live — the way of GOD'S LAW. It opens the MIND to *understand* God's Word — and we must *live by* "every Word of God" — so said Jesus.

God's Holy Spirit never *possesses* one

— never *forces* one. It enlightens one's mind — LEADS in the right way. But the individual must make the decision, and exercise WILL, to *go* that way.

Now to the Galatians, Paul wrote that *when* we "walk in the Spirit" — that is, are LED BY the Spirit, then "YE" — that is, YE CHRISTIANS — shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. The sense, here, is that IF and WHEN you — through lack of vigilance — relax and *neglect* to "walk in the Spirit," you may be caught off guard and yield to the PULL of human nature, still in you, and thus fulfill the lust of the flesh — commit a SIN!

In other words, IF, as long as, and WHEN, you WALK in the Spirit, you will NOT commit sin. But, Paul continues: "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit" — and, as the RSV translates the rest of the sentence, "the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are OPPOSED to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would" (Gal. 5:16-17).

What you WOULD, what you really WANT to do, now that you have become *spiritual minded*, is to DO RIGHT — go the WAY of God's Law — be LED by God's Spirit. But is it *easy*?

Did Paul Sin?

This leads us directly to the FIGHT to be obedient the Apostle Paul experienced.

After explaining that THE WAY of God's RIGHTEOUSNESS is THE WAY of God's Law, Paul was inspired to write: "What then shall we say? That the Law is sin?"

When God inspired that question, He knew that multiple thousands of professing clergy of today's deceived "Christianity" would be saying that God's Law is EVIL — it is BAD — it is a yoke of BONDAGE — that it is bad for us — that Jesus "nailed it to His cross" — that that "terrible Law" is "done away." So God inspired the ANSWER: "By no means!"

Read the question and answer again: "What then shall we say? That the law is sin?" And GOD'S answer through Paul: "BY NO MEANS!" (Romans 7:7 — RSV.) Continue, (Moffatt translation): "Why, had it not been for the

Law, I would never have known what sin meant!"

In other words, the LAW DEFINES sin — the definition of SIN is, "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). God does not allow MAN to decide *what* is sin — but God *compels* man to decide *whether* to sin. Man could never know *what* is sin, except by God's Law.

Continue: "Thus I would never have known what it is to covet, unless the Law had said, *You must not covet.*"

Paul says further, "Wherefore, the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, and JUST, and GOOD . . . For we know that the law is SPIRITUAL" (Rom. 7:12, 14).

Yes, indeed — it is a SPIRITUAL Law — a Law of SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES of living — the HOLY, GOOD, SPIRITUAL WAY OF LIFE! Yet God says the CARNAL mind hates it — is hostile to it, not subject to it (Rom. 8:7). According to THAT inspired Word of GOD, a vast segment of the clergy of professing "Christianity" is CARNAL minded! Tragic, but true!

Now notice that it is NOT EASY to GO that way! It requires struggle! And WHY? Because human nature pulls you the other way!

Paul continues: "But then I am a creature of the flesh, in the thralldom of sin. I cannot understand my own actions; I do not act as I desire to act; on the contrary, I do what I detest" (verses 14-15, Moffatt translation).

Notice, Paul is not talking about how he formerly DID, before conversion. He is speaking in the PRESENT TENSE. He is telling us of the struggle against sin that even the Apostle Paul experienced.

Continue: "For in me (that is, in my flesh) no good dwells" (verse 18).

Psychiatrists today reason from the false approach that human nature is essentially good. God Almighty says it is NOT good, but essentially evil. The VANITY in human nature *wants* to be thought of as good — would like to BE good, but *not* to DO good. Thus it is deceptive, deceitful. It "kicks itself" — to use modern slang. God says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

(Jer. 17:9.) Yes, who can know — or UNDERSTAND it? Assuredly modern psychologists and psychiatrists don't!

So Paul says that in him — in his human flesh — *no good* dwells. The ONLY good that can be in us is CHRIST in us, by His Holy Spirit.

What Was This OTHER Law?

So Paul continues: ". . . The wish is there, but not the power of doing what is right" (verse 18). Continue (Authorized Version), "For I delight in the law of God" (verse 22).

Paul had *changed his mind* — REPENTED. He had been converted — received God's Holy Spirit, was now SPIRITUAL MINDED. God's Law was in his mind — it was now "*the law of his mind*" — He *delighted* in it — said it was holy, just and good — a spiritual Law. In his now-converted spiritual mind, he *desired* to DO good.

So he said, "I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see *another law* in my members, WARRING against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the *law* of sin which is in my members" (verses 22-23).

What was this "*another law in his members*"? It is also called "the law of sin which is in my members." It is simply the HUMAN NATURE that was still *in* him. It was *warring against* GOD'S LAW, which was now "the law of his mind." So Paul is describing his experience AFTER conversion — WHILE God's Holy Spirit was "dwelling in" him. And this *other law*, which was his human nature, was bringing him "into captivity" as its slave!

Paul Did EVIL???

As explained in Galatians 5:16-17, human nature — "the flesh" — lusted against God's Spirit in him — against God's Law in his mind, "so that ye cannot do the things that ye would," as he wrote in Galatians 5:17.

It was thus with Peter. It was thus with Paul. And that is the way it is with YOU if God's Spirit dwells in you.

Paul said, ". . . but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:19).

So what is Paul saying? He is saying that the PULL of human nature, warring

against his converted spiritual mind, *did cause him to sin!*

Do not blame me, because THAT is written in your BIBLE! Let's become UNDECEIVED, and UNDERSTAND the TRUTH as God inspired it!

But *there is* a HAPPY ENDING to Paul's experience, after all. So let's make it PLAIN!

After Paul recounted his problem, no wonder he exclaimed, "O wretched man that I am! WHO shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (verse 24.) The Moffatt translation is more clear: "Miserable wretch that I am! WHO will rescue me from this body of death?" And his answer: "GOD WILL!"

The Happy Solution

Then follows the wonderful 8th chapter of Romans — the "Holy Spirit chapter."

So now we come to the HAPPY SOLUTION!

And this is the solution for YOU, also! For you, too, have the pull of human nature to fight.

Plainly, Paul said that he *did*, at times, SIN — even in his converted state. He said, ". . . but the evil which I would not, that I DO." And he did do it *consciously* — *knowingly!* His mind, *for the moment*, did consent to it! He knowingly yielded! So knowingly that he wrote of it for you and me to read!

But he did *not* sin WILLFULLY! The evil he says he DID was "the evil which I would not" (Rom. 7:19).

His ATTITUDE — his overall INTENTION — was to do the RIGHT of God's Law. He said, verses 21-22 of Romans 7, Moffatt translation: "So this is my experience of the Law: I desire to do what is right, but WRONG is all that I can manage. I cordially agree with GOD'S LAW, so far as my inner self is concerned."

He had NOT deliberately DESIRED to follow a life of evil — just the opposite! His overall DESIRE — his ATTITUDE — was to obey God's Law. Yet when the pull of human nature — *in a single incident* — overpowered him, he was aware of what he was doing in his mind — his mind therefore of necessity

(Continued on page 41)

HOW to SOLVE Family Arguments

LAWS regulate marital happiness! Many married people are not living as happily as God intended! Here's how to overcome marital unhappiness!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“YOU are at fault — and I am not going to budge one inch until **YOU** apologize, and say you're sorry!”

“No — **YOU** started it all,” is the quick retort, “and **YOU** will have to apologize **FIRST!**”

Could this be *your* home?

What's Wrong Here?

Almighty God “invented” marriage.

Therefore, God has the right and the prerogative to “regulate” marriage! In the beginning, God set down certain *laws* which, if they were obeyed, would result in happy, scintillating, interesting, *full* lives — the true *abundance* which all mankind is seeking, but in vain.

God, the originator of **GOVERNMENT**, has established a *government* in the home!

It is because of a lack of understanding of *how this government works* that many people are not experiencing the happiness in marriage they really desire.

Some of you have already come to *understand* the organization in the home. You **KNOW** that the husband is to be the one in charge, the wife is to be obedient to the husband, and the children under their parents, and so on.

But do you know *how it works*? Yes — what's **WRONG** with an argument such as the one described? **WHO** is really in the wrong?



The Husband's Obligation

First, let's notice what God said, through the Apostle Paul: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is the man*; and the head of Christ is God." He went on to say "For the man is not *of* the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created *for* the woman; but the woman *for* the man"! (I Cor. 11:3, 8-9.) Later, in writing his letter to the Church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul was inspired to say "Wives, *submit* yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the HEAD of the wife, *even as* Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything"! (Eph. 5:22-24.)

Notice the words "even as." The one distinguishing DIFFERENCE between God's Church and *all others* is its OBEDIENCE to Christ! And, notice, God commands that the husband is to be the *head of the wife*, EVEN AS Christ is the head of the Church!

Most women have thought these verses were all aimed at them!

But they are *not!* While they are commands with regard to the status of the wife in marriage — they are aimed directly *at the man!*

God holds the man RESPONSIBLE! God is pointing these commands directly to the man, who is to BE the head!

He is not the head merely because the wife "lets him" be the head — or because she accepts this as a "doctrine" and then belligerently says "All right, I'll 'go along' with it."

For instance, in a study appearing in one of the major weekly news magazines some years ago, a very respected judge, Samuel S. Leibowitz of the Kings County Court in Brooklyn, reported on a study he made in Italy.

He found, in travelling all over Europe and in Italy, that the Italian home is one that seemingly has more government, and, as a result, the Italian society has less juvenile delinquency than any other country he had entered.

He summed up his full experiences by saying America's delinquency prob-

lem could be solved in nine words. The nine words were, "Put father back at the head of the home!"

TRUE — *in a way!*

But the very fact that he worded it in this way *proves* that some other power, some other source, some other person must do the "putting"!

Even this, then, is a sad admission of the upside-down condition of most American homes today.

God doesn't want the wife to be the one to "put" her husband at the head of the home — but the husband should be the one to put *himself* there!

A Wife's Responsibilities

Paul also wrote "Wives, *SUBMIT* yourselves unto your own husbands, *as it is fit in the Lord*" (Col. 3:18).

But what if the husband is not "in the Lord?" Is the wife *STILL* to submit to him? We are told by the inspired Apostle Peter that we ought to "obey God rather than man"! That is, where the higher government and laws of God *conflict* with the lower powers and government of man, we are to obey God *first*, and then take whatever penalty man may wish to mete out.

However, let's assume a hypothetical situation: The husband is converted, though, like all of us, still has a lot of carnal traits and tendencies. The wife is also converted. The husband, through forgetfulness, carelessness, or sheer carnal selfishness, tries the wife's patience almost beyond endurance by some of his habits or ways. The wife then decides that the husband is not acting "as it is fit in the Lord"! And therefore, she begins to *automatically assume* that she does not have to respect, to obey, to *SUBMIT* herself to him!

Wives assume that the very *second* their husbands evidence the slightest bit of carnality in *their* nature and their handling of the wives and homes, that this gives automatic and immediate permission for the WIFE to begin to berate the husband, to argue with him, to snap out at him *his* faults, and to begin to "wear the pants!"

This is simply NOT TRUE!

Notice it!

The Apostle Paul also described a home where one member is not even trying to obey God!

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord [that is, he was not quoting a personal statement of Christ]: If any brother have a wife that *believeth not*, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which has an husband that *believeth not*, and if he *be pleased to dwell with her*, LET HER NOT LEAVE HIM! For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy" (I Cor. 7:12-14).

Yes, "unfair" as it may sound to some women, and especially those who still have a great carnal tendency, God says that even if the husband is totally CARNAL — makes no "pretense" at being religious one way or the other, smokes, drinks, and curses — but if he is "pleased to dwell with her" and if he is a husband providing for her and supporting her, and wants to keep on living with her as *his wife* — she is COMMANDED on the authority of the sacred Word of God, to HONOR him, to REVERENCE him, to be humble and submissive to him, and NOT to leave him!

Rather, she is to be subject to him IN EVERYTHING — so long as his commands do not *directly conflict* with the higher commands of God!

Let's Answer These Questions!

Husbands, *do all of you* LITERALLY, diligently, faithfully, and honestly before God, treat your wives with the same care, mercy, love, consideration and dutiful solicitation for *their welfare* AS Christ does the Church?

Do you care for them, protect them, provide for them, LOVE them (and love means an *outgoing concern*) in the way you know Christ does His Church?

The chances are, all of you men will have to unanimously say you *fall short* in this!

And *you wives* — does every ONE of you absolutely HONOR, respect, hold your husband in high esteem and even a little bit of "AWE"? Do you look upon him and treat him with the same deference and respect as you might Jesus Christ Himself in the flesh? Are you so concerned with the inspiration, the help, the productivity, the growth

of your husband that you are a constant *help*, a strong and stable companion, a daily inspiration to him?

Do you stand in abject FEAR of berating him, scolding him, nagging at him, in the same way you would FEAR to do such a thing to God Almighty Himself?

Pretty strong questions, aren't they? No, every single one of us certainly falls short in these things!

But we shouldn't!

A Formula for Love

KNOWING the government in the home — *agreeing* with it, as I'm sure many of you do — *is not enough!* You must know how you should put it into effect!

First, let me give you the usual procedure when a "family argument" develops.

Usually, one party or the other has done something that is selfish, thoughtless, inconsiderate, or even deliberately wrong!

Immediately the other party, regardless of which sex, will begin to berate, nag at, scold and condemn the actions of the other! This condemnation and scolding only leads to further condemnation and scolding, with an attempt at self-justification on the part of the other partner; and this leads to a chain reaction on the part of the opposite partner; and so it goes.

To illustrate: "John" has had a long day at the office. Thoughtlessly, he neglected to call his wife when he stayed later with some friends, and the dinner got cold. "Mary" had had her hands full with the children, scorched her finger with the iron, had the soup boil over and burn on the element of the stove, and has seen her dinner get cold, on top of it all.

When John comes home, Mary begins immediately, in a shrill and venomous manner, to berate him saying, "WELL! It's about TIME you got home! You could have *at least* called me! Here I am, burdened down with the children etc., etc." John stands there taking it all in, coming to a slow boil! He reasons in his own mind, "Here I am slaving at the office, bringing home the living, trying to provide for my wife, and instead of a comforting pat on the shoulder, a meal that she *could* have kept warm for

me, and a comfortable atmosphere, I come home to THIS!"

And so, instead of apologizing for his being late, and then taking the situation in hand, he begins to snap back at Mary — and a full-fledged family argument is under way!

What SHOULD they have done?

John should have immediately *taken charge!* He should have begun by APOLOGIZING for his misdemeanor — believe it or not! He should have said "Dear, I'm awfully sorry I forgot to call you — it was sheer negligence on my part, and I'll try to remember not to do it again — BUT . . ." And then John should begin to show that — REGARDLESS as to any wrong action, thoughtlessness, negligence, or even out-and-out deliberate SIN on his part — "two wrongs never make a right!"

Even though he should be WILLING to admit his mistake and his error, and to sincerely and lovingly *apologize* for it — he should *take charge*, and remind his wife that she, too, is guilty of a sin!

He should say, "Come here," and go to their sofa and sit down and open up the Bible, reading through some of the scriptures on husband and wife relationships, beginning by explaining that *he* is often at fault — that he *does* make mistakes — and that he does not want to attempt to JUSTIFY those mistakes.

But then he should also remind the wife of *her* responsibilities, and he should remind her that even if he were a drinking, smoking, swearing, poor excuse for a husband, who is not even making the *slightest* attempt to live a Christian life, she would have to submit to him — regardless! He should show the wife patiently and lovingly, that he is NONE of these things, that he is trying, but that he *does* make mistakes!

Then, after going through a thorough Bible study on the subject, after admitting his sins, and having his wife acknowledge hers, he should kneel down and lead in *family prayer!*

He should begin by asking God's forgiveness for his own sins, and then he should ask God's forgiveness for the error of his wife! He should pray for their mutual understanding, that God will help them both to draw together, closer, in real love

and harmony so they can serve Him! He should remind himself and his wife in their prayer to God that their heavenly Father is NOT the author of confusion, but of PEACE. He should pray *from the heart*, and really MEAN it!

I FULLY GUARANTEE that if you husbands and wives will DILIGENTLY follow this practice, never failing to settle these problems in God's prescribed way, you will begin to experience greater happiness and joy in your married lives than you ever did before!

Time Is Short

When you are shaken to the roots of your *very being* by the DEATH of a loved one, you begin to think soberly and seriously, don't you?

Usually, there's a great deal of remorse connected with the sorrow — because you realize you SHOULD have shown MORE LOVE, spent more of your time with the person, shown more interest in the person — and you begin to think of the MANY things you SHOULD have done to make the person happier while he was alive!

But it's already *too late!*

So far as your departed loved one is concerned — your shed tears and remorse are totally *worthless* and *useless* at this time!

Isn't it FAR BETTER to show LOVE *right here and now?*

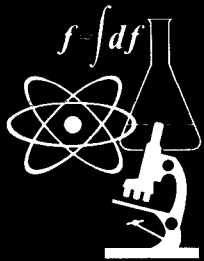
In just a few short years, this whole rotten world is going to be totally changed and altered, and made right side up. IF we are living lives of overcoming, really *growing* in grace and in knowledge, God is going to use us to *help change it!*

Husbands, how long has it been since you bought your wife a bouquet of flowers, took her to dinner, or told her how beautiful, lovely, attractive and sweet she is to you?

Wives, how long has it been — *if ever* — since you told your husband how much you admire, respect, love and appreciate him?

If you really DO LOVE one another — NOW is the time to show it! □

This article is just one important chapter in our full-color booklet *Your Marriage Can Be Happy*. Write for your FREE copy.



Science vs. Theology?

HUMAN MENTAL ACTIVITY

HOW IT DIFFERS FROM ANIMAL INSTINCT

FOR ALMOST four full decades now, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has been proclaiming to the world that man is *not* an animal. Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly asserted what *the Bible teaches*: that the human mind is *vastly* superior to animal brain, having been designed that way by a Great Creator God for a transcendental spiritual purpose.

Throughout this same period of time,

*THE DOGMA OF MATERIALISM proclaims that only the "physical" is real — the possible existence of *nonphysical* reality is categorically rejected. Materialism teaches that "mind" is simply the totality (Gestalt) of physiological brain function. Consequently, "the mind" would be just "the brain". — and nothing more. The materialist believes that *all* psychic processes are entirely the product of multitudinous electro-chemical changes in the nervous system. "Mind" is therefore viewed as an *epiphenomenon* — a *secondary* phenomenon which does not maintain an independent existence of itself, but is actually the shadowy by-product of another, *primary* phenomenon. This being so, the human mind would be merely an artificial categorization or an artificial extrapolation of the physical human brain. As a matter of fact, the materialist might well condescendingly remark that the term "mind" itself is quite confusing and completely unnecessary — having been "invented" by primeval man to superstitiously explain what he could not physically comprehend." One semi-sarcastic, but revealing, analogy used by the extreme representatives of materialism is that "mental thought is the product of brain function in the same way that urine is the product of kidney function."

the growing forces of *materialism** have been "religiously preaching" precisely the opposite. These "erudite authorities" would have us believe that man is *just* an animal and his so-called "mind" merely the complex output of the most advanced mammalian brain.

Is man an animal? If so, he has now reached the end of his rope — his "moment of truth" has come, his time is nearly up. Man is irreversibly bent on self-extermination.

At least it won't be dull. Human ingenuity has concocted a macabre variety of hyper-efficient techniques for mass suicide. The job can be done quickly by nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, or more subtly through overpopulation, famine and pollution. Yet man acts oblivious and carefree, merrily clinging to a fanciful host of idealistic "solutions," as he conveniently represses historical reality. Face it. Humanity's death certificate is signed and sealed — all that remains is to affix the date of demise.

But is this logical? Does it make sense? Did "human animals" abruptly materialize on earth out of the equally unfathomable infinities of space and time for the express purpose of busily organizing their own execution? Is the totality of human history just a passing wisp of time, an evanescent twinkling in an unconcerned rush of eternity? Should beings who can perceive the presence of eternity be denied it — wouldn't that be almost a self-contradiction? Must we believe that all mankind has been conjured up merely

to be the butt of a sadistic cosmic joke? Whatever our particular opinions may be, one fact stands clear: If man *is* an animal, he will soon be extinct.

But *is* man an animal? Or is there a *non-physical* — a "spiritual" — factor in his being?

No longer can we afford the lackadaisical luxury of relegating this vital issue to suburban cocktail parties, freshman philosophy courses, and the proverbial "bull sessions." No longer can we waste what little time we may have left by playing the role of the "cool" philosopher — exuding airs of pompous aloofness — as if we were uninvolved bystanders. No longer can we nonchalantly and condescendingly *assume* that this problem is insoluble. We have no choice but to consider it.

We need an answer.

And soon!

Our Objective

It is within this sobering context that we offer the following presentation. Not as an interesting study in psychology. But as a matter of life or death for humanity.

Now it is *not* our present purpose to go into details about *what causes* the human mind to be vastly superior to animal brain. Nor are we going to undertake a complete scientific analysis to prove that a nonphysical component — a "spirit in man" — does in fact exist. (Those who are interested should consult Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" in the January 1970 issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.)

Rather, we are going to focus in on *one part* of the picture. We are going to ask the materialist's favorite question — "*Is the human mind REALLY different from animal brain?*" — and then proceed to detail a scientifically rigorous answer.

The question *is* fundamental. Because *if* the human mind is *not* radically, qualitatively and uniquely superior to

animal brain, then there can be little hope for the survival of the human species — *because* the Biblical description would then be in error. And the only way by which human beings will still exist by the end of this present century is *if the Bible is true*.

Yet this is precisely what the materialist seems compelled to attack. He must “prove” that the Bible is *not* inspired by a supernatural source, and that *THE HUMAN MIND IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ANIMAL INSTINCT*.

To the layman, this latter claim may sound ludicrous and absurd. *It is not*. The materialist — let's call this representational gentleman “Dr. Materialist” — is prepared: He has done his homework, and has some carefully reasoned arguments. And even though he is motivated by a pre-packaged ideological bias, we must hear “the good doctor” out. Just because most people — religious people for the most part — intuitively “feel” that man “must be” unique and easily distinguishable from all animals just does *not* prove the point. In fact this religious *ignorance*, however sincere it might have been, has been the food by which materialism has been nourished.

What Materialism Propounds

It is our responsibility to present the tenets and arguments of materialism as accurately and as forthrightly as we are able. Then, and only then, can we confidently commence to prove that materialism is wrong and that the unrestrained human mind *is in fact* utterly distinct from the stereotyped animal brain.

Dr. Materialist clings to a fundamental axiom: He claims that the psychological (individual) and sociological (collective) productions of the human mind are *not* qualitatively distinct from those of the animal kingdom. We present what a typical “Dr. Materialist argument” might sound like:

“All the qualities,” our Dr. Materialist might announce, “customarily considered ‘uniquely human’ are merely the highest manifestations on the present psychological continuum, and are in fact represented in other animals.” (Which is a technically pompous way

of stating the materialistic dogma that human mental activities are *not* all that different from animal mental activities.)

The learned doctor continues by asking, “Why do these traits *appear* to be ‘uniquely human’?” He answers his own question: “Simply because they are distended and exaggerated by the full-range *means of expression* available to man. In other words, all human mental processes differ from their *precise* counterparts in animals only because of man's ability to write, speak, compose and draw — abilities which in themselves are just *improved* techniques of expression, and are *not*, if we care to admit it, limited to human beings.”

Dr. Materialist will readily admit that mankind has a phenomenally large intellectual and technological capability — evidenced by the full scope of 20th century society. But he vociferously maintains that all these impressive accomplishments are actually the product of many generations of *accumulated knowledge*. And he thereby deduces that man's innate abilities are not as great as they first seem.

Dr. Materialist might choose to frame his argumentative logic into the following scenario:

“If a group of babies somehow managed to survive to adulthood in complete isolation from the rest of society, they would not have the benefit of educational institutions, libraries, rules, traditions, legends, or even language. And as a result, they wouldn't get much accomplished. Rather, they would spend their time scratching their naked bodies, hunting for food, running from fire, grunting, shouting, lusty, mating, beating

their chests, and hiding from thunder. These people would not invent airplanes, telephones, guns, pianos, ball-point pens, heart-lung machines, razor blades, or even paper cups. They would probably display fear, rage, greed, lust, affection, wonder, awe. But they would *not* display much of what we have come to know as aesthetic appreciation or intellectual achievement. Their actions would not greatly differ from chimps.

“Man has, however, managed one important difference from the primates — his ability to pass on information from one generation to another. Therefore [reasons our good materialistic friend] to compare modern man with chimp can be most misleading. It's like comparing two frogs, one that can jump *eight* inches and one that can jump *ten* inches. There's not much real difference — but on a stairway of *nine*-inch steps, one frog will leave the other far below.” Dr. Materialist concludes by warning that it is easy to be misled by appearances. We agree.

People are traditionally misled by almost anything. Especially religious people. So we must take care to always use the most incisive and analytical reasoning procedures. We must avoid the pitfalls of “traditional religion” just as surely as we want to dissect and destroy the materialistic argument.

IS THERE A



The "two frogs on the steps" analogy epitomizes the entire scope of materialism's main point. It propounds that the fundamental difference between the mental output of man and the mental output of animals is deceptively minor. But this minor difference — in whatever reference system this "minor difference" exists — exceeds the crucial *threshold* for mental advancement.

The analogy of the "two frogs on the steps" applies here. It explains how the concept of "threshold" applies to the problem of the relationship between human and animal mental activity. The frog which can jump only *eight* inches can *never* reach even the second (*nine*-inch) step, whereas the other frog, which can jump a bare *two* inches *higher*, can eventually climb to the top of an Empire State Building of steps. (*Nine* inches is, in this example, "the threshold.") Consequently, a triumphant Dr. Materialist gleefully points out, if a "religious observer" came along near the end of this process and saw one frog at the bottom of the first step, con-

tinuously jumping up, hitting its head on the second step and falling back down to the first step, and then compared this frog with its companion frog who was merrily vaulting step after step on the 100th flight of stairs of the building, the "spiritually oriented gentleman," being rather naïve, would probably come to a rather erroneous conclusion. He might well postulate that since both frogs were nearly identical in structure and function, the leaping frog, hundreds of feet above its fellow frog, "must be vastly superior" — and this "vast superiority must be" due to a "nonphysical component."

This analogy, sarcastically comments Dr. Materialist, may seem absurd. And it is. But, he continues, religionists casually reach just such an absurd assumption regarding the supposed "unbridgeable gap," separating the mental activities of man (the vaulting frog) and chimp (the head-hitting frog). The assumption is absurd — naïve would perhaps be a nice word — because this concept of "threshold" is overlooked. And herein, Dr. Materialist concludes, lies the simple, wholly *physical* solution: The one (man) has *exceeded* the crucial threshold — which is the capacity to pass on information from one generation to the next — and the other (chimp, dolphin, etc.) *has not*. And this is the *only* difference between the two. Not some ethereal "nonphysical component."

Such is the "last-gasp" argument of materialism.

The Burden of Proof

Nonetheless, the onus and burden of proof falls on *our* shoulders. We must *scientifically* establish the truth. Nothing less than rigorous reasoning will be tolerated. To begin, we review materialism's main points:

1) The psychological and sociological products of the human mind are *not* qualitatively distinct from those of animal brain.

2) Those mental activities labeled "uniquely human" are just the result of improved techniques of expression.

3) Man's innate mental abilities are not as great as they first seem — they are just barely superior to the mental abilities of the higher mammals in the same manner as the human brain is just barely superior to chimp and dolphin brain.

4) The simple capacity to pass on information from one generation to another has artificially generated the appearance of a huge gap between the psychological and sociological outputs of humans and animals.

5) Human mental activity is purely the refined product of evolving animal instinct.

But are these statements true? *Is* human mental activity just quantitatively — and just barely — superior to animal mental activity? Or is the difference *qualitative* and *fundamental*? *Is* human mental activity purely the refined product of evolving animal instinct? Or is it something more?

Does there indeed exist an enormous gap between the individual, innate higher mental abilities absolutely unique to human beings and the compulsive, straightjacketed "higher mental abilities" characteristic of all mammals? The eminent writer, J. W. N. Sullivan, as an example of many, concluded that "a great gulf separates even the lowest races of mankind from the highest living animals."

But can we prove it?

This is our objective.

What's NOT Unique About the Human Mind

We are now ready to scientifically and unequivocally prove that the human mind is fundamentally and radically different from animal instinct. We shall

DIFFERENCE?



accomplish this task by enumerating and detailing — over the next few months — the various qualities, attributes and proclivities of the *individual* human mind which can *never* be initiated or imitated by the animal brain.

But first, in all fairness and completeness, we must present the psychological *similarities* between the mental abilities of man and animals. Because if we are to successfully *differentiate* the human mind from animal instinct in order to prove that the physical human brain alone cannot account for the human mind, we must *really* differentiate the two. Not a superficial, self-convincing differentiation — but a *real* one.

The average person might well assume that “*obviously* human mental activity is vastly superior to animal instinct — humans have *intelligence* while animals do not — why all the fuss?” Such a simple-minded assumption lends credence to Dr. Materialist's argument that animal and human thought patterns lie along the same continuum!

Because indeed animals and humans *both* can have “intelligence.” Obviously this assertion is wholly dependent on the precise meaning of the word “intelligence.” And in any basic definition, acceptable to the scientific community in general, *animals and humans just do NOT differ all that much.*

So it becomes our responsibility now to carefully differentiate *which* characteristics are *shared* by animals and humans alike, and which characteristics are the exclusive property of human beings.

First of all, concepts like *intelligence, memory, thought, sensation, perception, emotion, learning, awareness, consciousness, personality, behavior, imagination, communication, etc.*, are all quite prevalent in *animal* mental activity! Surprising? *Not* to the scientifically astute Dr. Materialist. Sure, he's biased. But he also has *thought* about the problem. Remember the difficulty is one of *semantics* — a problem of establishing the exact definitions of very complex and subjective word-concepts.

Carefully note that the above-mentioned mental similarities between man and animals have been generally

thought to be unique to the human mind by uninformed laymen and sincere religious professionals. Now it is certainly true that these shared mental qualities *mean much more to the human mind* than they do to the animal brain. Of course. But that does not change the basic fact that *both* the human mind *and* the animal brain *do share* these qualities. Therefore, it is logically *impossible* for these mental attributes to be used to differentiate the human mind from animal brain, and so they can never establish the need for a nonphysical component in the human mind to explain this difference.

Concerning “intelligence,” for example, we read from J. W. N. Sullivan's classic book *The Limitations of Science* a short demonstration which proves that it is a semantic error to instantly and categorically attribute “intelligence” to humans, and only “instinct” to animals:

If we define intelligence as the capacity to modify behaviour successfully in face of new situations, then it is a matter of common knowledge that some creatures are more intelligent than others. Certain theorists, it is true, have maintained that all animals are automata, and therefore have nothing that can properly be called intelligence at all. It is impossible to refute this theory by observation, since we have no direct access to the minds of animals. But then we have no direct access to any mind but our own. We attribute minds to other human beings on the strength of their behaviour, and we are justified in applying the same inference to animal behaviour.

Actual experiment shows that animals differ very considerably in their capacity to learn by experience. A common test is to give an animal two paths to choose from, one of which leads to food while the other does not. A creature of human intelligence, having once hit on the successful path, would stick to it. But such a creature as a frog, for example, seems almost incapable of profiting by its past successes. Very patient experimentalists have found, however, that even a frog can learn. Indeed, it cannot be definitely stated that *any* animal is altogether incapable of learning. On this ground alone, therefore, we should not be justified in saying that any animal's intelligence was radically different from our own [as some religionists would like to maintain in order to bolster their own shaky theories]. With the higher organisms, particularly the great apes, we have evidence of mental processes akin to the human. Such highly developed creatures as oranges and chimpanzees, faced by a new situation, have been known to make correct inferences for dealing with it, based on past experience, as by using a stick

to draw in food otherwise out of reach, or by piling boxes on one another and mounting them in order to reach food suspended from the roof.

[The naïve anti-materialist might then shift his approach and state that animal intelligence is the result of trial-and-error chance efforts while human intelligence is based on “rational and intuitive cognition.” Again — false.]

Certain performances, even of the higher apes, cannot be accounted for by a trial-and-error process. Kohler's famous experiments on chimpanzees make this quite clear. He gives several instances of intelligent behaviour on their part which are certainly not instances of trial and error. One of the best known is where the ape Sultan is provided with two bamboo canes with which he tries to draw fruit into his cage. Having found that each of these canes was too short for the purpose, Sultan had a period of silent thought. He found, perhaps accidentally, that one end of one cane could be fitted into one end of the other. Directly after he discovered this, he realized that he had the solution of his problem and immediately utilized the lengthened cane he thus obtained to draw in his food. Kohler, speaking of his experiments, generally, says:

“It is certainly not a characteristic of a chimpanzee, when he is brought into an experimental situation, to make any chance movements, out of which among other things, a non-genuine solution could arise. He is very seldom seen to attempt anything which would have to be considered accidental in relation to the situation (excepting, of course, if his interest is turned away from the objective to other things). As long as his efforts are directed to the objective, all distinguishable stages of his behaviour (as with human beings in similar situations) tend to appear as complete attempts at solutions, *none* of which appears as the product of accidentally arrayed parts. This is true, most of all, of the solution which is finally successful. Certainly it often follows upon a period of perplexity or quiet (often a period of survey), but in real and convincing cases the solution never appears in a disorder of blind impulses. It is one continuous smooth action, which can be resolved into its parts only by imagination of the onlooker; in reality they do *not* appear independently. But that in so many ‘genuine’ cases as have been described, their solutions as wholes should have arisen from mere chance, is an entirely inadmissible supposition.”

Obviously, to try to use “intelligence” in any attempt to prove that the human mind is vastly superior to animal instinct would only undermine our entire case. Consequently, we must continue to expose and discard those qualities of the human mind which are actually qualities of the animal brain. We must be circumspect in our analysis. We must not allow (what we hope to be) our conclusion to influence our rea-

soning procedures. We must not be biased. We must be rigorous in our logic.

Memory, Personality and Consciousness

These three qualities of mental activity are completely explained by the physical brain alone. This is the position of Dr. Materialist. And, as usual, the religionist finds himself on the other side of the fence, vehemently disputing this contention.

What about it? Are memory, personality and consciousness unique attributes of the human mind? Or are they found in the animal kingdom? Again, it depends on the exact definition of these word-concepts. Because, for one, Dr. Materialist claims to have developed an *artificial* system of electro-mechanical mechanisms — nuts and bolts and transistors and wires — which can *simulate* memory, personality and consciousness. And he is right! He *can* do just that — depending, of course, on how the words are defined.

And if a computer can do this, how much more the living animal brain! Memory? Personality? Consciousness? Nothing here unique to the human mind.

Where does this leave the traditional religionist? In trouble.

What about us? We reject the simple-minded approach of those well-intentioned religionists who are not aware of current scientific methodology. But we do not reject their conclusion. We support it. The human mind *is* radically different from animal brain. God designed it that way. The Bible confirms it. And we are going to prove it! Furthermore, we are going to use current scientific methodology.

All right — we have seen examples of what *cannot* differentiate animals and humans. *Now what CAN?*

The Uniqueness of the Human Mind

Is human mental activity merely “the highest manifestation on the present psychological continuum” — solely the refined product of evolving animal instinct? That's the crux of Dr. Materialism's argument against a non-physical component in the human mind.

MAN IS UNIQUE BECAUSE OF HIS:

Concept of humor
Appreciation of beauty
Feeling of ecstasy
Self-consciousness
Awareness of death
Compulsion to think in the sphere of time — before and beyond his own personal life
Ability to make abstract manipulations
Capacity for mathematical thought
Comprehension of the connection between words
Capacity for historical communication
Culture
Control of his emotion
Groping aspiration to higher levels
Search for meaning in the entire universe
Search for meaning in human life as a whole
Search for meaning in his own personal life
Search for the meaning of suffering
Search for a meaning in sex
Family life and child rearing
Malleability
In harmony with nature
Need to work
Desire to barter and exchange
Need for change and variety
Abstract moral sense
Free will
Capacity to conceive of self-sacrifice and to commit suicide
Capacity for wisdom
Obsession for worship
Quest for an ultimate purpose
Ultimate capacity for love

It is now time to *prove* what could only be stated — *without proof* — in the past: *That the uniquely unrestrained human mind IS unequivocally distinct and irrevocably dissociated from the instinctively automatic animal brain.*

Dr. Materialist waits — he knows we cannot use intelligence, memory, behavior, consciousness, etc. What else is there?

What about the attributes listed in the box on the left?

The adjacent list means nothing of itself. Over the next few months we will publish a brief but comprehensive analysis of each of the enumerated areas. This will not be easy because all of these concepts and categories are subject to as many “interpretations” as there are minds to read them. Why? Part of the difficulty is semantics: What do these often-repeated and much-abused words really mean? The other part of the problem is preconceived ideas: What is the particular bias of the individual evaluator?

Dr. Materialist, quite naturally, will quickly pick *his* convenient description and understanding so that he can just as quickly “prove” that the human mind is *not* unique because “animals inherently exhibit all these characteristics to one degree or another.”

This means that *again* the burden of proof falls on our shoulders. We must define and examine — in detail — the above-mentioned traits to first discover *exactly* what we mean by each one of them and then to demonstrate *why* the human mind has it and *why* the animal brain does *not*.

Many of the areas will overlap. Don't let that bother you. Consider each as a distinctly individual expression of the *uniqueness* of the human mind. But don't just agree with us. Think about what we say. This is serious business.

Serious because the Bible dogmatically proclaims that *Almighty God* created the human mind to be unique — in a class by itself — with a non-physical component for a great purpose — with a “spirit in man” — in a universal plan — for a spiritual destiny transcending our imaginations.

Man is *not* an animal.

But make us *prove* it.



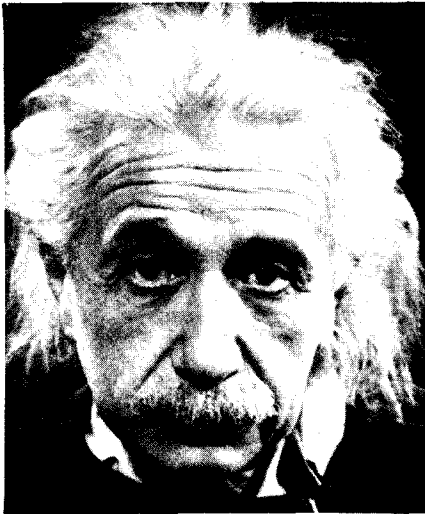
Science vs. Theology?

WHAT IS TRUTH— CAN IT BE SCIENTIFIC?

CAN WE know what is true and what is false? Is it possible to determine precisely what is true by using scientific reasoning procedures? Can we even say that anything is true?

Even a great scientist like Albert Einstein had trouble with analyzing and ascertaining what is truth and what it is not. He made this statement:

It is difficult even to attach a precise meaning to the term "Scientific truth." Thus the meaning of the word "truth" varies according to whether we deal with a fact of experience, a mathematical proposition, or a scientific theory. "Religious truth" conveys nothing clear to me at all (*Ideas and Opinions* by Albert Einstein, Carl Seelig, Ed., N. Y., Crown Publishers, 1954, p. 261).



Wide World Photo

Albert Einstein

Must we have this same difficulty when we want to state that some particular thing is *true*?

Truth has been defined as "exact accordance with what *is*, *has been*, or

shall be" (*Webster's Dictionary, Unabridged*, 1949, p. 1845). In today's chaotic world, can we find statements that fulfill this definition and which are also scientifically provable? Can we really find truth?

The answer is YES. Scientifically provable statements can be found.

Where?

The answer is of course apparent to every reader of TOMORROW'S WORLD — in the Bible!

Yes, that's right. The Bible does make *scientifically provable* statements. There is someone quoted there who tells us precisely accurate declarative statements about the past, the present, *and* the future.

"The absolute truth," said a certain very well-known individual, "is that I was in existence before Abraham was ever born!" (John 8:58, *Living Gospels* by Taylor.) Must have been Adam, you say? No, it was Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ knows what happened in the past because He was an eyewitness. He created the universe (Heb. 1:1-2; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16). He was the God of Israel (I Cor. 10:4). He inspired human historians to record these events so we could read about them.

Furthermore, you can prove scientifically that these events occurred. Just look into geology and archaeology. Read for yourself. Do a little research and you'll see that the Bible *does* contain the truth about "what has been."

Now, what about the "what is"? Is there an unimpeachable witness to the present too? Yes, there certainly is. Even though Jesus Christ walked the earth about two thousand years ago, He

made statements about our day. He prophesied that unless some last-minute changes were to be made, everyone on earth would die (Matt. 24:22) because of worldwide troubles.

Such annihilation has not been scientifically possible until recently when atomic and hydrogen weapons were perfected. Yet Jesus Christ spoke of the extinction of the human race two millennia before its possibility became a scientific truth. He spoke the truth about our day, about "what is," even before it was physically possible to do so. There are many more of His prophecies being fulfilled today too.

The "shall be" is the last remaining test of truth. And here, too, the Bible contains many statements about events yet future to our time. Jesus Christ inspired Daniel to write for us what is to occur in the "last days" (Dan. 2:28). In addition, Jesus Christ says that He will return to this earth (John 14:3), that the rulers of this world's governments will fight against Him (Rev. 19:19) and that He will rule on this earth for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4; 5:10).

The most important events of the future are already written in the Bible. In a few short years they will be scientifically provable — by human observation. The "shall be" will turn into the present and we will see it all with our own eyes!

Truth may vary in the human world, and it may be difficult — as Einstein says — "to attach a precise meaning to the term 'scientific truth.'" But truth does not vary with God. He says that all of the statements in His Book are true and can be counted on not to be fables. Every statement in the Bible was true as soon as it was written and every one is still true today.

To man alone, finding absolute truth is difficult. Indeed, it is often *impossible*. But man was designed *not* to be alone. Our Designer has made available an Instruction Book to go along with the product. As the Bible puts it: "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Science can discover "truths" about the physical world, but only God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son can say truthfully "what is, what has been, and what shall be!"

Why Christ Spoke in Parables

ASK THE average churchgoer why Christ spoke in parables and you will probably hear, "Why, to make the meaning more clear!"

That answer is absolutely, totally wrong — directly opposite from the reason Christ Himself gave!

The disciples came to Jesus asking the very same question once, "... Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" (Matt. 13:10.)

Does Christ's answer agree with the one most would give?

"He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto *you* to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to *them* it is *not* given. . . . Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing *see not*; and hearing *they hear not, neither do they understand*" (verses 11, 13).

From the lips of Jesus Himself. He did not want the multitudes to understand.

He continued, quoting from Isaiah, "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive" (verse 14).

Minds Must Be Opened

God is simply not opening the eyes of all to His truth. And unless God opens someone's mind, that individual is totally blinded to spiritual things.

Paul explained to the Corinthians that the natural human being understands things on a physical, carnal plane. His mind comprehends only that which is logical from the normal, physical point of view. But the true knowledge, true understanding, and true logic of Almighty God can be grasped only by a *mind that is expanded to understand spiritual things* through God's Spirit.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

Unless God *elects* or *selects* an individual to be CALLED AT THIS TIME, unless God expands his mind to discern real spiritual truth, he remains blinded.

Paul went on to explain in Romans 11:25-26, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery . . . that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so *all Israel shall be saved. . . .*"

God plans to eventually give *all Israel* (including modern Britain and America) an opportunity to know His truth; but most, even in Paul's day, were blinded to that truth!

The same Christ who spoke in parables inspired Paul to write to the Thesalonians, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (II Thes. 2:11).

Most Not Interested

Some are simply not interested in obeying God. They are caught up in transitory physical pursuits that have become their god and *do not want to know the truth!* God knows that to wake such people from their dream world could mean eternal death for them — because *they would probably reject His way.* So, in love and mercy, He sends them strong delusion — He allows them to go on in ignorance.

But God plans ultimately to give everyone an opportunity to know His truth. II Peter 3:9 reports, "The Lord is . . . *not willing that any should perish*, but that *all* should come to repentance."

Paul wrote to Timothy that God ". . . will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4).

God wants everyone to have an opportunity for salvation — but at the time that is right for each individual. Christ spoke in parables because it was not yet the time for people of His day to come to a convicting knowledge of the truth.

None Converted Till Pentecost

As astounding as it may be, *not one single individual was ever converted during the ministry of Christ!*

Thousands were taught. Multitudes followed Him, captivated by His preaching and enthralled by His miracles. A few chosen disciples were thoroughly instructed, but none was converted until after Christ ascended into heaven — until the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was made available to those whom God had called.

On that day and afterwards, thousands were converted — including many who had heard and wondered at Christ's parables. But the vast majority — even of those alive during Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection — lived and died never having had their eyes opened to the real meaning of Christ's message.

And the vast majorities down through the centuries have never heard of the truth of the God who created them.

But when God's plan for mankind is all finished, every last human being who has ever lived will have had a chance — *one chance* — to learn of the right way of life.

Paul wrote, "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Romans 9:16).

Christ said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him . . ." (John 6:44).

God wasn't *drawing* everyone in Jesus' day, and *He is not opening the mind of everyone living in our day!*

The Bible makes very plain the fact that the vast majority of all humanity will receive its opportunity — its first and only opportunity for salvation — in the future.

For more information about God's plan, write for our free reprints "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" and "What Is Death?"

What Is a Saint?

What is a saint? What are they for? Are YOU a saint, or can you ever BECOME ONE?

by James L. Chapman

THERE is a vast difference between what most people *believe* concerning saints and what God actually states about them. This article explains these differences and closely examines what God's Word *really* says.

For centuries people have been talking about saints. Yet, few people understand what a saint really is.

How did St. Valentine, St. Patrick, St. Augustine and others become "saints" anyway? There are many conflicting beliefs about this question. Some feel they must pray to a different saint each day, or each time a new problem arises. Others feel that only members of their particular denomination or sect are saints. Still others believe that only those who have been cruelly martyred for the sake of Christianity can be saints.

For example, the article "Saint" in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, states: "In ancient inscriptions, it often means those souls who are enjoying eternal happiness, or, the martyrs. It was not until almost the Sixth Century that the word became a title of honour specially given to the dead whose cult was publicly celebrated in the churches. It was to the *martyrs* that the church first began to pay special honor" (emphasis mine throughout).

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* further asserts that the honoring of saints dates back to the second century and was soon widespread throughout the world. It was a practice devised by men, and as the practice spread, it became much abused. People began to worship saints rather than God.

In these modern times, it is a difficult task to have someone declared a saint. Noel Francis Moholy, the priest who is spearheading the drive to have Junipero Serra, the founder of California's first mission, made a saint, stated in a recent *Los Angeles Times* article:

"Canonization is the most complicated legal process ever *devised by man*. Nobody started work on Serra's cause until *twenty-five* years ago, and the passage of time makes it more difficult."

In one well-known church, the name of a special saint is given to new converts at baptism. On *each day* of the year one or more saints are commemorated. The believers in this faith are also asked to pray to these saints often, for it is believed they will intercede with God for that person. They feel that no one except those *already in heaven* can be saints and that if we please them, they will do us *favours* with God.

If this is true, what about those who have had their sainthood status *taken away*? Were they suddenly thrown out of heaven, or what?

Let's see what the Bible says.

Turn to the Word of God and see what He states about saints. After all, if there is a God, then the heavens and the earth and all that exists belong to *Him*, and *He* is the one who will control who lives where, and He will dictate the terms of who is, and who isn't, a saint.

Notice first the very positive and dogmatic statements in John 3:13: "No man has ascended up to heaven," and in Acts 2:29 and 34 where the Bible states plainly that the prophet and patriarch David is *dead and buried* and has *not* ascended to the heavens.

This means, then, that according to the most popular and modern teachings regarding saints, David, who was a prophet (Acts 2:30) and a man after *God's own heart* (Acts 13:22), would not be *qualified* to be a saint because the Bible plainly states he *is not* in heaven. This, of course, would not make good sense. If God felt David was a man after His own heart,

certainly He would want David around Him where He is.

The Bible shows us plainly that no one is in heaven except God, Jesus Christ and the angels. So why waste all that time praying to some saint who can't hear you, and isn't there?

Furthermore, our prayers should be addressed *directly* to God the Father (Matt. 6:9). It is through the *name* and *office* of Jesus Christ that God hears our prayers (Eph. 2:13, 18).

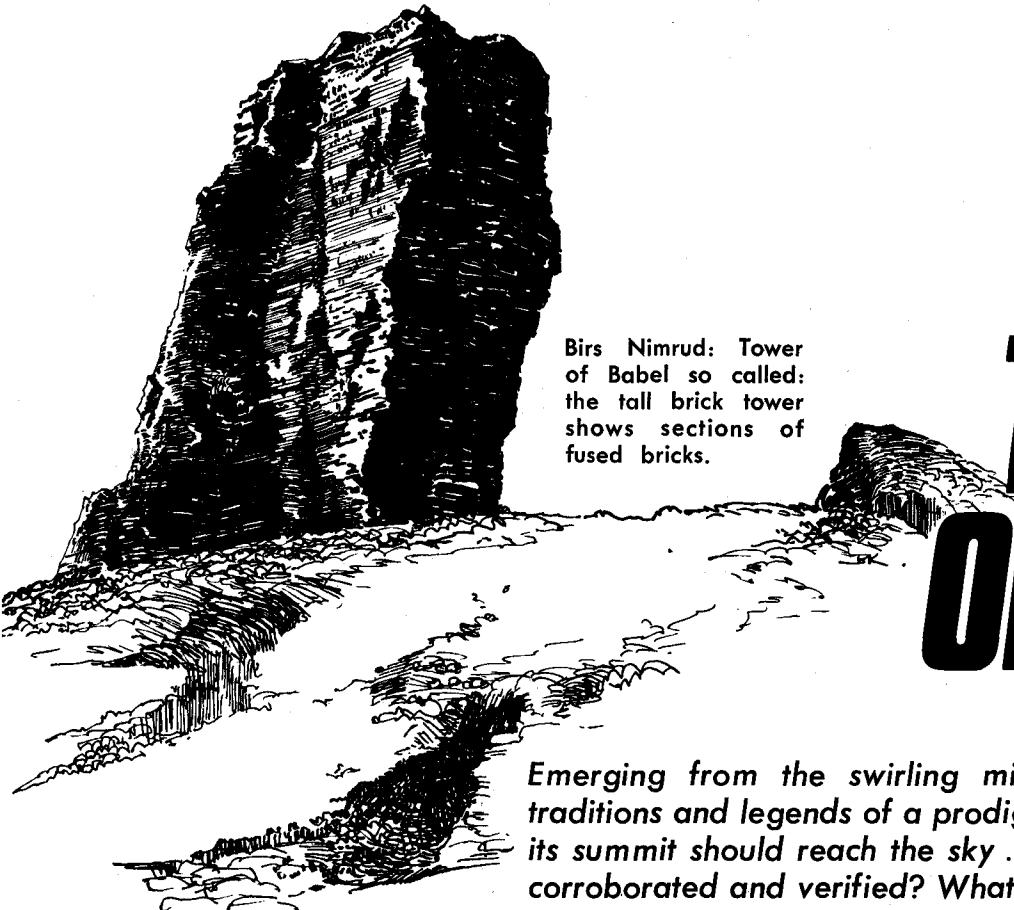
Paul spoke about how, before he was converted, he himself had persecuted and tortured the true saints of God, how he put them in prison and testified against them, thinking all the while he was doing God a favor (Acts 26:10, 11). Then as the rest of Paul's life story is read, it is seen that he became a saint (Eph. 3:8) when he repented — when he changed his way of life and began to follow Christ instead of some religion of man.

Paul makes it *very clear* that the saints were those people who were true followers of Christ, keeping God's Law in spite of severe criticism and persecution, and that they were people who were alive and active in God's Church. (See Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:2; Eph. 5:3; Phil. 1:1.)

As God's Word states in Revelation 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*"

Right at this very moment, God is revealing *His* plan of salvation and *His* way of life to those people whom He is calling and those who *obey* Him. These people are the TRUE SAINTS OF GOD.

That's right — these living, breathing *human beings* whom God is working with, and through whom He is revealing the true hope for *all* mankind — these are His saints! (Col. 1:26-28.) □



Birs Nimrud: Tower of Babel so called: the tall brick tower shows sections of fused bricks.

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Emerging from the swirling mists of antiquity are many traditions and legends of a prodigious tower "... so high that its summit should reach the sky" Can these accounts be corroborated and verified? What does the Bible say about it?

by Lester L. Grabbe

THE "TOWER OF BABEL" is not the exclusive property of the ancient Hebrews! The tradition and mythology of many nations of antiquity is replete with accounts of such a tower. Though these accounts invariably disagree in details and points, it is easy to see a relationship between them.

Most accounts associate the tower with the division of speech into diverse tongues. A careful study of these traditions will demonstrate the fact that *they all came from a common experience.*

Let's examine some of these tower traditions.

The Sumerian Saga

The consensus of scholars is that the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia had one of the earliest civilizations. Only recently the Sumerian version of Babel was made available in an English translation. We have left out some of the superfluous material in the following excerpt. Those interested can find the entire account and a discussion of it in the article "The 'Babel of Tongues': A Sumerian Version," *Journal of American Oriental Society* 88 (1968, pages 108-11):

In those days, the lands Subur (and) Hamazi, Harmony-tongues (?) Sumer, ... Uri, ... The land Martu, ... The whole universe, the people in unison spoke, To Enlil in one tongue ... Then ... Enki, the lord of abundance, (whose) commands are trustworthy, The lord of wisdom, who understands the land, The leader of the gods, Endowed with wisdom, the I [ord] of Eridu, Changed the speech in their mouths, set up contention into it, Into the speech of man that (until then) had been one.

Clearly we have a picture of the world speaking one universal language and then the confounding of that language into many different tongues by "the lord of abundance."

On to Assyria

George Smith, well-known Assyriologist and explorer for the British Museum in the last century, translated an Assyrian inscription in 1875. This document had some fragments missing but gave an unmistakable account:

... His heart was evil ... against the father of all the gods was wicked ... of him his heart was evil ... Babylon brought to subjection, (small) and great he confounded their speech. Their strong place (tower) all the day they founded; to their strong place in the night entirely he made an end ... Bitterly they wept at Babi ... very

much they grieved ... [*The Chaldean Account of Genesis*, pp. 160-162].

Notice the partial word *Babi-*, due to a fragmented text. Professor Smith felt there was only one word it could be: *Babil* or Babel! So the Assyrians talked of a "confusion of tongues" as the Sumerians did. But now we see a "strong place" or *tower* introduced into the story!

There is yet another account in the Middle East, but we will come to that later. For the moment, let's go farther west to the classical writers in Greek. Do they have something to tell us as well?

Classical Records

Plato mentions that at one time all men had one speech but were confused and scattered when they sought immortality. The Titans of Greek mythology tried to ascend to heaven and fight against the gods but were overthrown.

Garbled accounts? Yes! But the Babel tradition is definitely there. There are more solid records preserved by the sober classical historians.

Josephus mentions the record of the Sibyl:

When all men were of one language, some of them built a high tower, as if they would thereby ascend up to heaven, but the gods sent storms of wind and overthrew the tower, and gave everyone his peculiar language; and for this reason it was called *Babylon*. [*Antiquities*, 1, iv, 3. He further cites Hestiaeus' mention of certain priests' going to Shinar after the flood.]

Eusebius in the *Praeparatio Evangelica* quotes ancient authorities extant in his time. He gives Abydenus' account contained in the work *Of Assyrian History*:

But there are some who say that the men who first arose out of the earth, being puffed up by their strength and great stature, and proudly thinking that they were better than the gods, raised a huge tower, where Babylon now stands: and when they were already nearer to heaven, the winds came to the help of the gods, and overthrew their structure upon them, the ruins of which were called Babylon. And being up to that time of one tongue; and afterwards war arose between Cronos and Titan (416b-c).

Eusebius goes on to quote from Alexander Polyhistor's *Of the Jews*:

Eupolemus in his book *Concerning the Jews of Assyria* says that the city Babylon was first founded by those who escaped from the Deluge; and that they were giants, and built the tower renowned in history. But when this had been overthrown by the act of God, the giants were dispersed over the whole earth (418c).

The Tower of Babel — regardless of your opinion of Genesis 11 — was not just an imagined event, preserved by one small, insignificant race "searching for a concept of God." On the contrary, it is preserved in the early history of practically all races and peoples. Let's now look at records far from the Mediterranean world — from Mexico!

Proof From Mexico

The Indians of Mexico were half a world away from the traditional site of man's dispersion. So it must come as quite a surprise to those who would ridicule the Biblical record to learn that these people have preserved very clear accounts of the building of a tower, the confusion of language, and the scattering of peoples. A native Cholula gave the following account, which first appeared in Duran's *Historia Antigua de la Nueva España* (1585 A.D.).

In the beginning... all was a plain... and immediately after the light and

the sun arose in the east there appeared gigantic men of deformed stature and possessed the land... they determined to build a tower so high that its summit should reach the sky. Having collected materials for the purpose, they found a very adhesive clay and bitumen, with which they speedily commenced to build the tower; and having reared it to the greatest possible altitude, so that they say it reached to the sky, the Lord of the Heavens, enraged, said to the inhabitants of the sky, "Have you observed how they of the earth have built a high and haughty tower...? Come and confound them..." Immediately the inhabitants of the sky sallied forth like flashes of lightning; they destroyed the edifice and divided and scattered its builders to all parts of the earth.

A further account is given by the native Mexican historian Ixtlilxochitl, from the legend of the Toltecs:

... after men had multiplied [after the flood], they erected a very high "zaculai," which is today a tower of great height, in order to take refuge in it should the second world (age) be destroyed. Presently their languages were confused, and not being able to understand each other, they went to different parts of the earth. The Toltecs, consisting of seven friends, with their wives, who understood the same language, came to these parts, having first passed great land and seas, having lived in caves, and having endured great hardships in order to reach this land; they wandered 104 years through different parts of the world before they reached Hue Hue Tlalapan, which was in Ce Tecpatl, 520 years after the Flood.

Significantly, the Toltec account squares clearly and precisely with the Biblical one, even though given from an entirely different perspective and obviously independent. The reason for the agreement lies in the fact that the Toltecs came almost immediately to Mexico and thereby maintained an accurate record of the original eyewitness account.

Similar traditions are found among the Chinese, the Hindus, the Persians, the Romans, the Irish, and even the Estonians. Space limits further elaboration. But the examples given assuredly illustrate the point.

The reason for the similarity of the stories is obvious — they all stem from one event — the Tower of Babel. The differences are due to several causes. The closer to the site of the actual event the nation or people were, or the more civilized the nation which kept the account, the more like the Genesis account it is!

Each nation has preserved details particularly relevant to its own national interests. Other nations may not have regarded it important to preserve certain details.

In any case, there are at least three major points on which all accounts are remarkably similar:

1) All human beings originally spoke only one language which was mutually intelligible to all. (This does not, of course, preclude minor dialectical differences.)

2) Some edifice was begun which was contrary to God's will. The bulk of mankind alive at that time (though not necessarily all) participated in that building.

3) God generated many different languages at one time, each group having its own distinctive system so that the various major language groups were not, on the whole, related to one another. Interestingly enough, the most up-to-date linguistic theories agree with this.

The Biblical account in Genesis *has the whole story*. Notice verses 1-9 of Genesis 11:

Now the whole earth had one language and few words... Then they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said,... Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language that they may not understand one another's speech. There the Lord confused the language of all the earth and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth [RSV].

God's provable, inspired Word, the Bible, is the final authority that confirms that there was indeed such a tower built in ancient Babylon. It was constructed in defiance of the Great God of Heaven and construction was stopped by Him. In order to prevent the people from pooling their efforts and reaching the brink of cosmocide prematurely, God confounded and divided the people by linguistic, racial and geographical means.

The evidence of the Tower of Babel is found in national historical records the world around. But only God's inspired Word brings it all together and makes the truth plain! □

IF I WERE THE DEVIL

If you could see and hear Satan, how would he act and talk? Maybe you are listening to him and don't know it! Read this unusual article and learn to recognize the devil's line!

by David L. Antion

IF I WERE the devil I'd be an expert at overthrowing people. Don't forget I caused ancient Israel to be overthrown many times. I conquered persons such as Ananias, Sapphira, Alexander the coppersmith, and Hymenaeus — all true Christians once. I got Demas, a minister under the Apostle Paul, to turn away from God — having incited him to love *this* world.

Look Into History

The Bible is a book of history. It was written for our profit upon whom the ends of the world are come (I Cor. 10:11; Romans 15:4). The devil also

knows the history contained in God's Word. He knows the lessons better than all of us. He was there.

Do you remember how ancient Israel was overthrown time and again during the days of the judges? In Judges 3 God delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the king of Mesopotamia by the hand of the son of Caleb's younger brother. Israel was delivered and the land had rest *forty years*. See Judges 3:8-11.

But what happened during those *forty years*? Obviously it was a time of peace, of prosperity and rebuilding of Israel. Those were "good" years — like the roaring twenties and soaring sixties!

"And the children of Israel *did evil* again in the sight of the Eternal: and the Eternal strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Eternal" (verse 12).

So the children of Israel were taken captive — this time under the king of Moab where they served in captivity and slavery for eighteen years. But when they cried to God, He heard them and delivered them.

"So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. **AND THE LAND HAD REST FOURSORE [80] YEARS**" (verse 30).

Again ancient Israel had peace. This

time for eighty years. Again it was a time of peace and prosperity. During this time the children of Israel became a hedonistic and pleasure-loving nation. And they did evil in the sight of the Eternal.

"And the Eternal sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles" (Judges 4:1-2).

With iron chariots and a mighty army the king of Canaan and the captain of his host mightily oppressed the children of Israel for twenty years.

But God loved His nation. And when they cried to Him from pain and suffering, God's mercy was extended to them again. This time God used Deborah and Barak, the son of Abinoam, to free Israel.

And when He had freed them God's Word tells us, "And the land had rest *forty years*" (Judges 5:31).

Prosperity a Trial

Whenever Israel was freed from captivity and persecution, the land had rest either *forty* or *eighty* (2 x 40) years. Forty is the number for trial in the Bible. When Israel was freed from persecution, at ease in prosperity and good times — it was a trial!

What happened once Israel was set free from the Canaanites? "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal: and the Eternal delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years" (Judges 6:1).

The Israelites had degenerated into pagan perversions. When they had peace they turned toward production. From production they went to pleasure. In their pleasure they forgot the Eternal and drifted into paganism and every vile practice.

God used Gideon to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of the Midianites. "Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness **FORTY YEARS** in the days of Gideon" (Judges 8:28).

What did Israel do during the forty years of quietness? "And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of *Israel turned again*, and

went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god. And the children of Israel *remembered not* the Eternal their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side: Neither showed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had showed unto Israel" (Judges 8:33-35).

There you have it. Ancient Israel forgot God. She turned to pagan customs and made covenants with idols. History is solid on this fact!

Problems Build Character

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, **THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE**" (James 1:2-3).

True Christians are to rejoice and be joyful when they fall into trials. These trials work patience — patient endurance in the way of God.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, **BEING MUCH MORE PRECIOUS THAN OF GOLD THAT PERISHETH**, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6-7).

Notice! The trial of faith drives us closer to God. It is more precious than gold, because under duress we build character when we stay steadfast.

We experience many trials that are blessings. For after the trial is over, we are closer to God than before. We learn vital and important lessons from trials. In the face of trials people have to pray more, fast more, study more, and examine themselves! No wonder the Bible says the trial of your faith is more precious than gold!

If I were the devil, I too would know that trials can be good for Christians.

God's Warning

God gives this warning in Deuteronomy 6:10-12, and the devil knows why.

"And it shall be, when the Eternal your God shall have brought you into the land which he swore unto your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly

cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; **THEN BEWARE LEST THOU FORGET THE ETERNAL**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

"Be careful," God says, "lest you forget me in your prosperity." This is the very thing ancient Israel did!

God gives another warning in Deuteronomy 8. "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Eternal thy God for the good land which *he hath given thee*. Beware that thou *forget not* the Eternal thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when *thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; THEN THINE HEART BE LIFTED UP, AND THOU FORGET THE ETERNAL THY GOD*, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (verses 10-14).

Yes, *prosperity is a trial* — a test! But here God shows us how to withstand this trial. God says we must not forget to acknowledge Him — to keep our eyes on Him — to keep full throttle in His ways!

Here's what Israel did when she got fat and prosperous. "But Jeshurun [Israel] waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and *lightly esteemed* the Rock of his salvation" (Deut. 32:15). Here lies the trouble! Here's the problem! Here's what overthrows so many!

Once prosperous and fat they begin to forsake God by lightly esteeming Him!

Enthralled with their own physical prosperity — gadgets, appliances, and just plain things — they seldom think seriously about God or His ways. They lightly esteem the Eternal.

In prophecy, God rebukes Israel's

descendants (some of whom are our modern English-speaking peoples of America and Britain) for idolatry! "Their land also is full of idols; *they worship the work of their own hands*, that which their own fingers have made" (Isaiah 2:8). The Moffatt translation says they worship the things they manufacture.

Is Material Wealth Wrong?

God wants to bless His people. He delights in heaping abundant material blessings and prosperity on those who fully obey Him. God promised unparalleled blessings to Israel because of Abraham's obedience. Every good and precious gift comes from God. He loves to bless.

Jesus tells Christians that God will supply their needs. Even more, God says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

God promises to bless the tithe payer and to prosper him. (See Mal. 3:10.) The Bible contains dozens of rules on handling money and using wisdom in finances. The Bible says that riches are the crown of wise men. God wants His people to be blessed and prospered.

BUT GOD FORBIDS US TO SET OUR HEARTS ON PROSPERITY!! (Psalm 62:10.)

So if I were the devil I'd try to get Christians to set their hearts on material things!

Jesus Warns of Materialism

Jesus Christ foresaw the end time. He knew what troubles we would face and gave this warning:

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be *overcharged* with surfeiting, and DRUNKENNESS, AND CARES OF THIS LIFE, AND SO THAT DAY COME UPON YOU UNAWARES.

"For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:34-35).

Here is God's warning to New Testament Christians. Don't get too materially minded! Don't let the cares of this life take your mind off God and His purposes! Watch that you don't forget God!

Examine yourself. Have you imbibed

the spirit of this world? Have you taken on the spirit of the society around you? Have you adopted the spirit of lethargy?

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, *be sober*, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet the hope of salvation" (I Thess. 5:6-8).

Money Is Power

Today the emphasis is on materialism. People are frantically concerned about the cares of this life. How to make ends meet. How to get more for their money.

God warns us about the greedy, selfish spirit that pervades our societies today. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL EVIL:** which while some coveted after, *they have erred from the faith*, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Tim. 6:9-10).

Most people are not ready for riches. They can't handle them!

Now, what happens when people get a little extra money? How do they use this money — this power? Is it handled wisely?

All too often it is not. Many spend themselves sick!

Money is power. It must be controlled. Without self-control and restraint money becomes a curse. Satan's aim is to encourage us to destroy ourselves — turn blessings into curses.

Indeed prosperity is a *trial!*

Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matt. 6:21).

He also said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON**" (Matt. 6:24).

The devil knows the choice is either God or your material wealth. Now if he can drug you, hook you on materialism, pleasures and the soft life so you think you can't live without it — then

your mind can be turned away from Godliness. For the Bible plainly reveals that the mind set on the flesh and the fleshly things is enmity to God. (See Romans 8:4-7.)

The Devil's Plan

The devil really hates prosperity! Those he dominates will eventually live in squalor. Witness the underdeveloped nations.

Prosperity is a blessing from God! But it must be used properly! Like fire, water and other elements — prosperity can be *destructive* rather than *constructive* if not handled properly.

Thus the devil's plan: Get people to misuse prosperity so that it becomes a *curse* rather than a blessing. Get people to *set their hearts on material things* — forget God!

So, if I were the devil here's how I'd do it.

Within my power I'd give you a road of smooth sailing. I'd hold back some persecutions. I'd assure you — **CONVINCE YOU** — that there is no need to pray harder, study more, sacrifice further. "Everything will be all right. Take it easy," I'd say. "Rest, relax, enjoy yourself — have another piece of candy."

I'd try my best to convince you there's no need for you to carry all that spiritual armor around (Eph. 6:12-18).

"Look, haven't things been going well? Then why keep that shield of faith up so high? And why lug that breastplate of righteousness around? You don't need it. Neither will you need that sword of the Spirit — the Word of God.

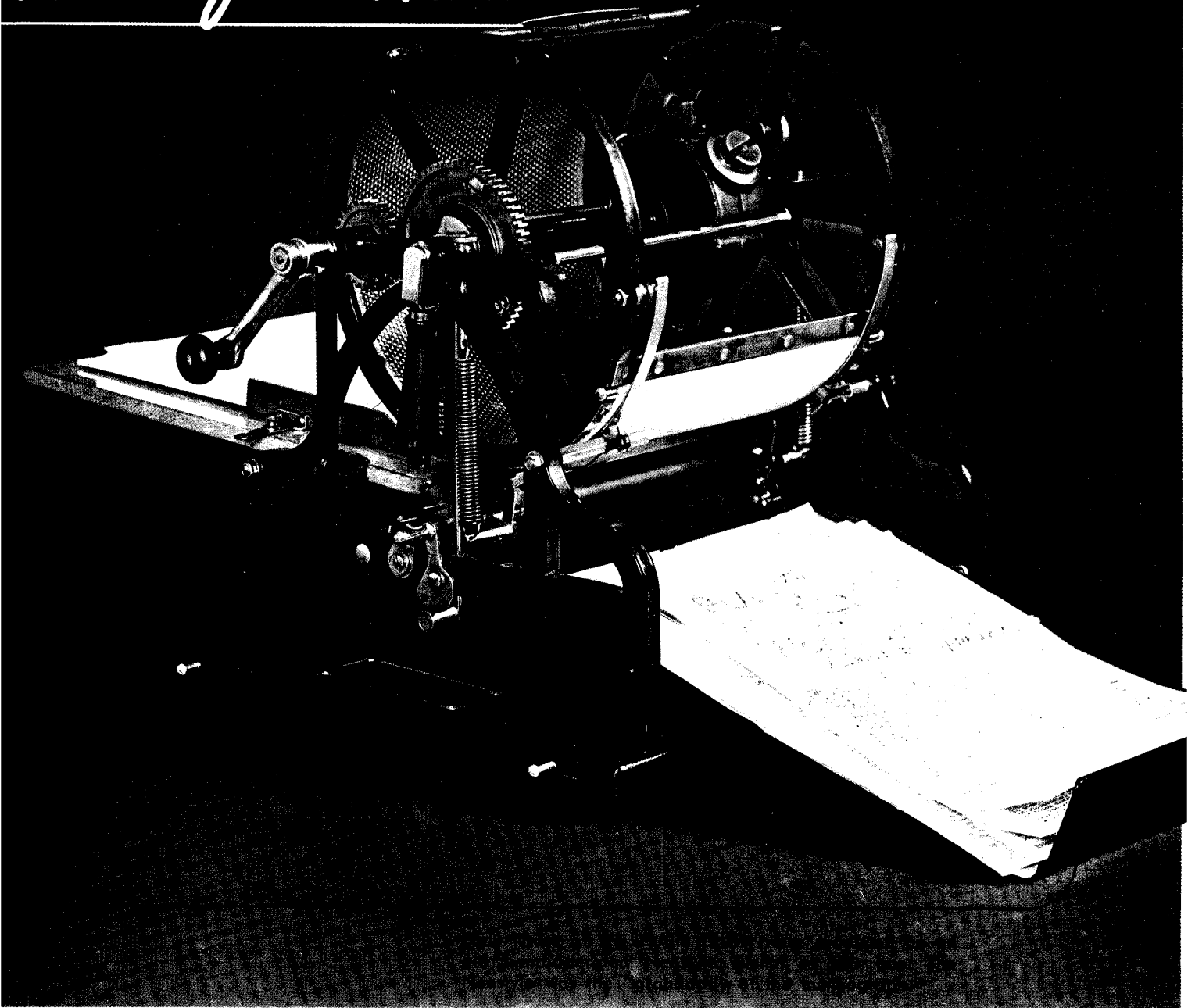
"That's it," I'd say, "take off those shoes of readiness in the gospel. Now sit back and relax. Make yourself comfortable. Take it off. That's it, go ahead — sure, do it. It must be hot under that helmet of salvation."

Now, with all your armor off — you would no longer hear the smooth voice of an apparent friend. *You'd hear the terrifying ROAR of a hungry lion!*

Don't let this happen to you. Don't obey the devil by yielding to *his* temptations. Instead, ask God for help. Refuse to yield to materialistic temptations. Submit to God's correction. Let Him guide you through His WORD. □

The Ambassador College Press / Part 1

News of the Work



THE GOSPEL MUST BE PUBLISHED!

AT THE HEART of the commission Christ gave His Work is the command to PUBLISH THE GOSPEL! (Mark 13:10.) The radio and television broadcasts alone are not sufficient to fulfill this commission in this modern age. The Good News of God's coming kingdom and other vital information on Christian living and prophecy need to be *printed* and *published* as well as preached!

Performing this necessary task is *not as simple as it may sound!*

Today this Work is reaching *millions* with printed material containing vital spiritual truths unavailable from any other source!

It is a gargantuan job requiring the team effort of hundreds of dedicated employees and Co-Workers. Recently a giant new Goss P-50 web-fed press (pictured on cover) has been installed in our Pasadena press building to facilitate our ever-expanding printing needs.

But our printing operations have not always been so large and of such high quality. The Ambassador College Press had a very humble beginning.

The Birth of *The PLAIN TRUTH*

Volume 1, Number 1, of *The PLAIN TRUTH* made its humble appearance a month after *The WORLD TOMORROW* radio broadcast first went on the air. Less

than 200 copies were distributed — all had to be addressed by hand, by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong.

The “printing facilities” were not only inadequate, they were nonexistent!

Mr. Armstrong had cherished since 1927 the idea of a magazine to be called *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Back at that time he had made up an entire “dummy” of this proposed magazine, and had even written articles for it. He even had a professional letter artist design a front cover idea in 1927 — and had tried designing one himself. But there was never the “wherewithal” to start publishing a magazine.

That ambition to publish *The PLAIN TRUTH* was the natural outgrowth of earlier business experience. Much of Mr. Armstrong's 20 years of advertising experience had been spent in the class magazine field.

Then, in January 1934, he realized that this magazine was a must as a backup for the radio broadcast. Yet he and his wife were no more able, financially, to produce it than they had been in 1927.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Since funds were not available to publish a high-quality, professional-appearing magazine, he decided to simply convert the mimeographed “Bulletin” he had been issuing for the scattered Co-Workers in Oregon's Willamette Valley into *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

The first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* came out February 1, 1934. At that time Mr. Armstrong was editor, researcher, typist, compositor (he cut stencils on a typewriter), publisher, business manager, circulation manager — as well as errand runner, window washer and janitor. Mrs. Armstrong was assistant researcher, adviser, printer (she ground out copies by hand on an old second-hand Neostyle, ancestor of the mimeograph), and mailing room staff (she kept a handwritten mailing list, addressed all copies by hand). They were the entire staff. That was the birth of *The PLAIN TRUTH*!

Mr. Armstrong had to borrow the typewriter from a neighbor who lived in the country. There was not money for the usual quality of mimeograph paper. He had no mimeograph, so he arranged with the mimeograph sales office in Eugene to come into their office and borrow the use of theirs.

The sole cost of publishing that first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* was the cost of the few stencils, and the 600 sheets of paper used to print about 150 copies, plus the postage he would have to buy later after radio listeners wrote in requesting the magazine. Even at that, it seemed a giant sum.

He had no stylus with which to letter in the headlines. He used a pencil instead, working in the headlines for the articles by shaky freehand work, holding the stencil up against the windowpane at the farmhouse where he stayed in Eugene, Oregon.

It was a crude, home-produced mimeographed "magazine" — but to Mr. Armstrong, it was the realization of a dream of seven years!

Mr. Armstrong's editorial in that first issue stated what has been the guiding principle of all our publications: "In these anxious days of stress, turmoil and strife; of revolution and economic collapse; of war and fear of war; of confusion before a bewildering onslaught of creeds, dogmas, fables and false teachings, *The PLAIN TRUTH* makes its humble and modest appearance.

"*The PLAIN TRUTH* comes with a definite mission. It comes in a sincere effort to help lead those who honestly

are hungering and thirsting after righteousness out of this modern confusion of tongues, and into the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

"The Master said: 'Ye shall know the truth, and *the truth shall* make you free.' And, praying to the Father in heaven, Jesus said, 'Thy word is truth.'

"The real truth is simple and plain. . . ."

[Editor's Note: *The PLAIN TRUTH* is now a vehicle for performing our *first* and *principal* commission of proclaiming the good news of coming world peace to the whole world as a witness. But it does this in language the world will understand. TOMORROW'S WORLD is now a vehicle to help perform the *second* commission of FEEDING CHRIST'S SHEEP the deeper spiritual truths.]

It was about November 1, 1933, that a few special offerings made it possible to purchase a very old, used, out-dated Neostyle — the predecessor to the mimeograph. It was entirely hand-operated. The sheets of paper had to be fed into it one at a time by hand. There was *nothing* automatic about it! It cost \$10. The Co-Workers were also able to supply the \$10.00 for the purchase of a secondhand typewriter!

That was the beginning of the Ambassador College Press! Of course, there was as yet no Ambassador College. And a Neostyle is not a press. But it *was* a beginning!

But when the old, antiquated Neostyle finally was wearing out — about to lie down and cease functioning because of old age — a new mimeograph became an absolute need — or else *The PLAIN TRUTH* had to cease publication, and die a natural death along with the Neostyle.

So it was, that on February 4, 1939 — five years after the first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, a letter to our few Co-Workers said, "I will have to tell you that we are very seriously in need of a new mimeograph machine. The present one is about worn out, and we are producing this issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* under difficulties. I can get a very good used mimeograph, almost new, one capable of turning out the large amount of work that is necessary in this office,

and that will last for several years, for \$65. There is not one cent available for the mimeograph, unless some of our friends can send in a special and additional offering just for this purpose."

By April 5, 1939, another letter to Co-Workers reads: "At last, after many unavoidable delays, we are sending you *The PLAIN TRUTH*. This issue goes to about one thousand *new readers*. It is still mimeographed, because we have not enough funds to print it, as we did two issues last year. It is a tremendous task, and nearly all the work is done by Mrs. Armstrong, our daughter Beverly, who is office secretary, and myself."

So in spite of the lack of a proper office, deficiency of light or ventilation, shortage of desks, filing cabinets and office equipment, the Work was *growing!* *The PLAIN TRUTH* circulation was growing. It was not produced every month. There were seven issues in 1938. The June number was only the third during 1939. It was issued as often as there was enough money for paper, ink and postage. Yet already this little mimeographed magazine was being read by thousands of people — expounding the very Gospel Christ Himself preached.

Commencing with the August-September 1940 issue, *The PLAIN TRUTH* began to be commercially printed. Except for two crudely printed issues in 1938, *The PLAIN TRUTH* had been mimeographed ever since it started. But now *The PLAIN TRUTH* was growing up — at least enough to begin as a printed magazine. The August-September issue, and the few to follow, were still printed on a very low-cost yellow paper that had been used for years for the mimeographed editions. It was only eight pages — and was issued only bi-monthly.

In 1946, the "Press" took another leap forward: The first real printing department the Work had was established. Now *The PLAIN TRUTH* itself would continue to be printed *commercially* until 1964, but the Work had grown, and there was the need of much *other* printed literature besides *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

Mr. Armstrong's son-in-law James Gott had been working in the lumber industry in and around Eugene. He had



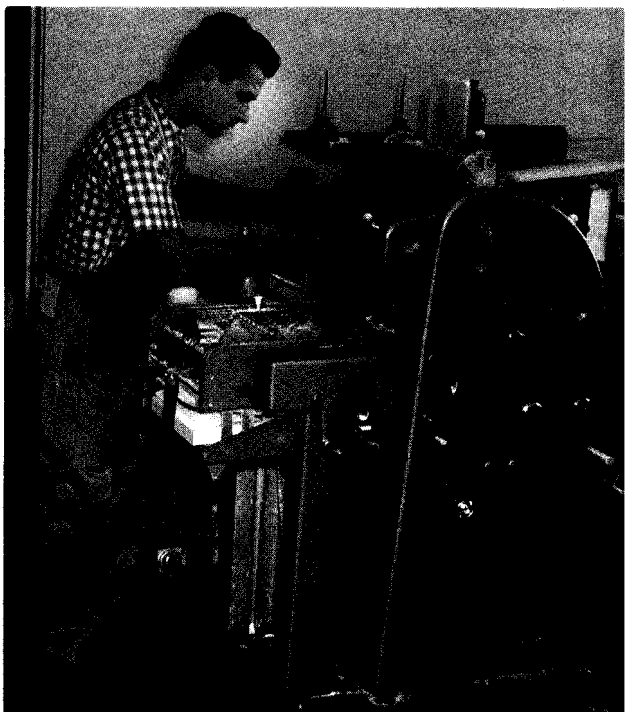
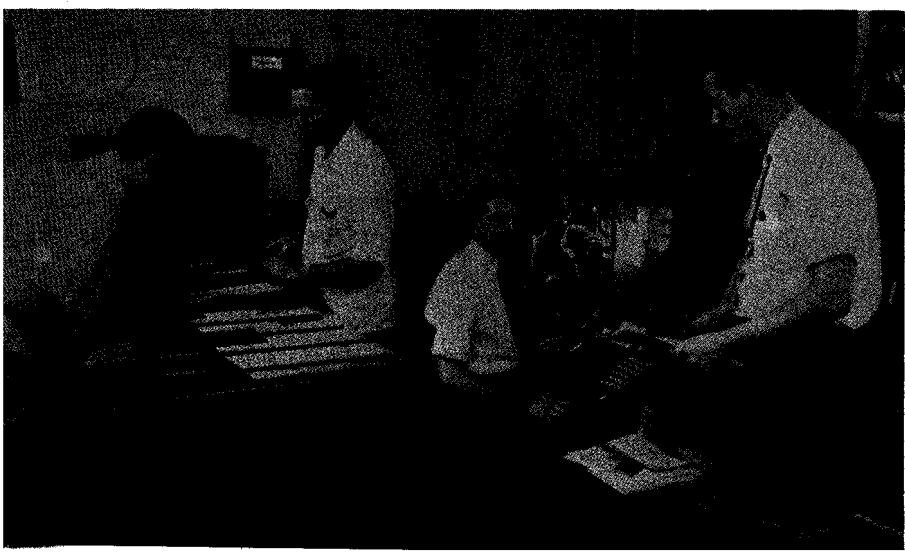
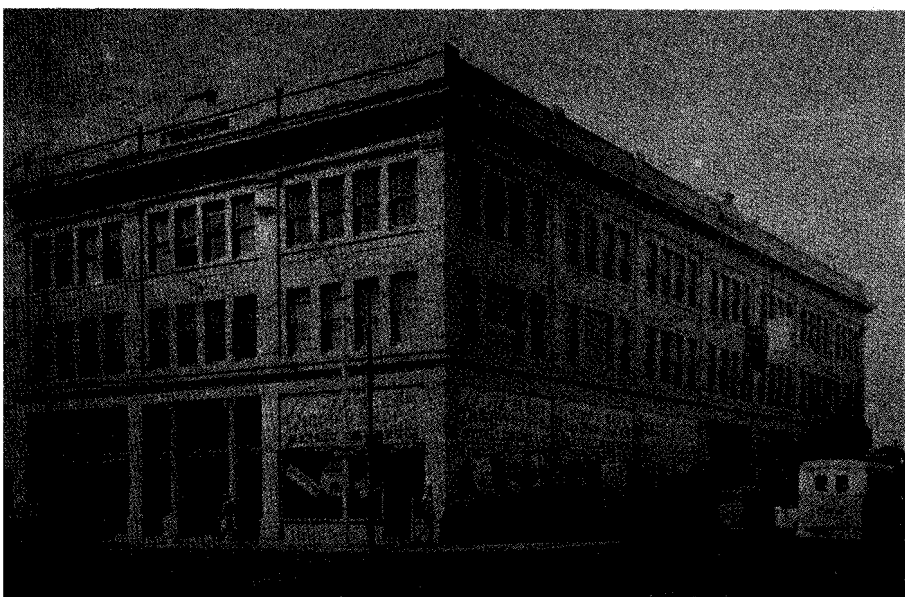
Upper right — James Gott, with only one assistant, ran the printing department when it was first set up at Ambassador College in Pasadena.

Upper left — The press department was first established in the basement of the IOOF Building in Eugene, Oregon.

Middle left — The Hampton Building in Eugene. Here in the small inside one-room office, *The PLAIN TRUTH* was mimeographed beginning in 1935.

Bottom left — A view of the composing room just before Ambassador Press began printing *The PLAIN TRUTH* in August 1964.

Ambassador College Photos



suffered a severe accident to his left hand, which required an operation involving considerable plastic surgery. While Mr. Gott was recuperating, Mr. Armstrong learned about the Davidson duplicator press.

This small but modern press printed by the offset method. Mr. Armstrong learned from the Davidson Portland office that they had facilities for training inexperienced men in the operation of this equipment. Mr. Armstrong suggested the idea of starting a printing department to his son-in-law. They would print booklets, letterheads and envelopes — though not, of course, *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

Mr. Gott became immediately enthusiastic with anticipation. It was quite a hurdle to purchase that little press, with sufficient photographic and plate-making equipment to produce the plates. But the financing was arranged. He took the schooling, and a Davidson representative helped get the equipment installed in the basement of the IOOF Building in Eugene, where offices on the third floor were rented.

Later, the printing office was moved to another building with larger space, as the department began to grow. When the Headquarters was moved to Pasadena for the opening of Ambassador College in 1947, the printing department had two of the Davidson presses, and an old-fashioned second-hand paper cutter. By this time there was an assistant, and the department employed two men full-time.

Gradually the department grew. Virtually all of our booklets have been produced by this department through the years.

One of the reasons for moving from Eugene, Oregon, to Pasadena was the fact that the printing facilities available in commercial print shops in Eugene for printing *The PLAIN TRUTH* had been outgrown. Arrangements were made for having our magazine printed by the largest printing establishment on the West Coast — Pacific Press, Inc. in Los Angeles. Today Pacific Press prints the West Coast editions of *Life*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and many other large-order accounts.

It wasn't until the combined issue of the January-February 1949 *PLAIN*

TRUTH that the magazine went to 16 pages. April, 1956, saw the next step forward to 24 pages, and the addition of a cover picture with a border — but still all in one color. The second color was added soon, with the February 1957 issue.

In 1957 the Work acquired an almost new two-story furniture warehouse as an addition to our rapidly expanding college campus. This was remodeled and modernized into our home for the Ambassador College Press. The printing department moved into the rear portion of the ground floor. At that time two larger Miehle presses were added, and a new paper cutter — besides new folding machines and other equipment.

Soon that space was outgrown. The offset department was then moved into a smaller building across the street. Then the printing department was forced, later, to lease an entire store building some two blocks off the campus, and two still-larger presses were installed, in addition to an Inter-type typesetting machine, and other equipment.

That didn't hold the department long, either. As the demand for booklets multiplied, the printing department grew and grew. It became the largest printing plant (outside of newspaper plants) in Pasadena. But soon that large space was overcrowded — and there was not sufficient room for paper storage. It now became evident that we needed to take advantage of the savings made possible by buying paper in carload lots.

Finally we had opportunity to purchase the plant and buildings of the Crown City Lumber Company, across the street from the original Press building. This meant a sizeable expansion of the college campus.

By this time *The PLAIN TRUTH* had expanded to 32 pages. And the demand for booklets had grown and grown.

Back in 1952 — the first year for which records are available — 20,000 booklets were printed. Of course a myriad of other jobs had been done by the shop as well. And 1953 showed 55,000 copies of nine booklets printed (there weren't many booklets even written at that time). Production in 1954 jumped to 150,650. By 1957 the

number had grown to 248,000. A whopping 1,222,000 booklets — way out of proportion in growth — were published in 1960! We didn't pass the million-booklet mark again until 1963, when we printed 1,048,400.

The total number of *pieces* (complete magazines, reprints, etc.) printed in 1964 was 8,453,063. That number continued to grow and grow, and last year — 1970 — the total number of pieces of literature printed was over 33,000,000.

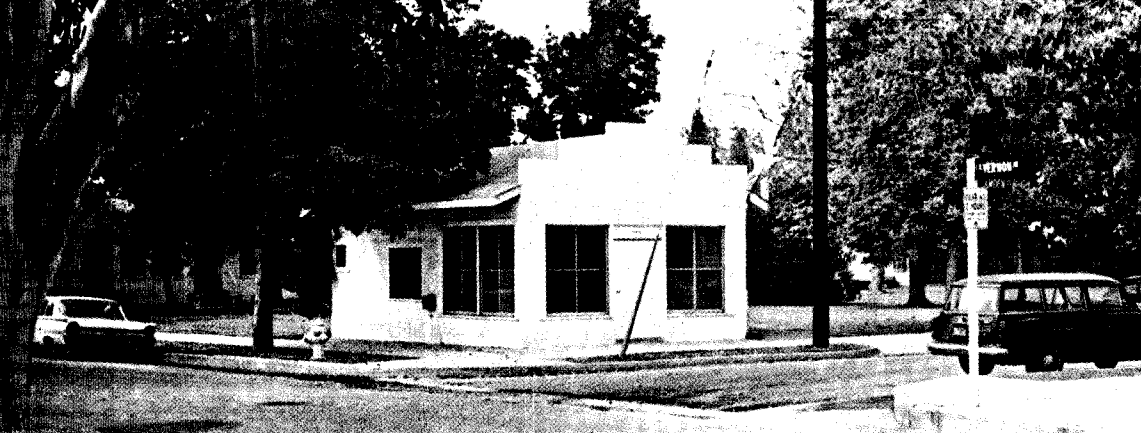
June 1961, brought another eight-page section, making *The PLAIN TRUTH* a total of 40 pages — and the circulation was up from the original 150 to three hundred thousand! Another jump in pages was made in February, 1962. A heavy, glossy paper cover was added in January, 1963, and with it the addition of four extra pages. At last it was beginning to take the shape originally designed for it by Mr. Armstrong back in 1927.

Printing by Faith

The year 1964 brought a historic step forward. The Ambassador College Press began printing *The PLAIN TRUTH* — assuming at the start a circulation load of 510,000 copies.

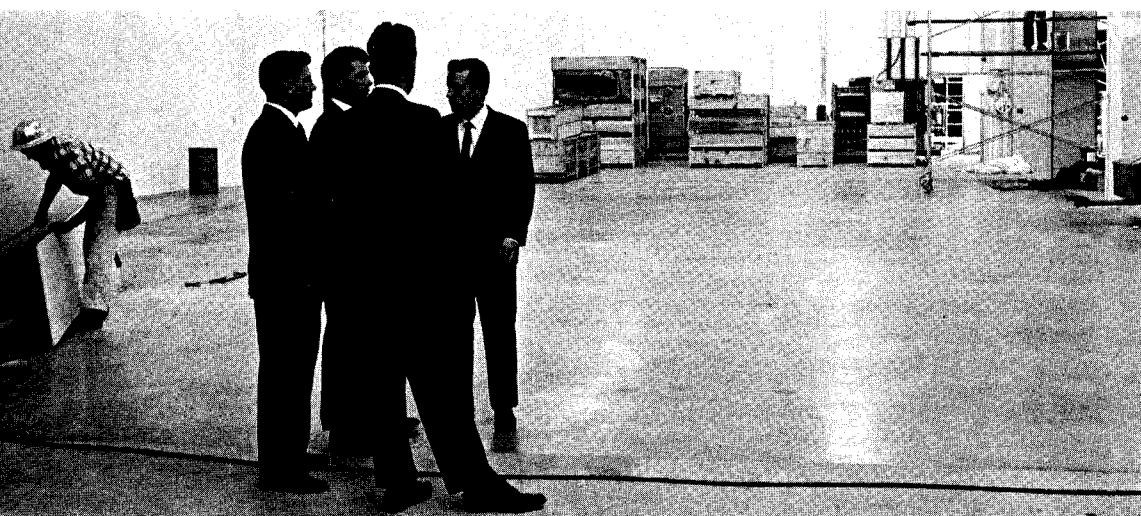
In February, 1965, the *first PLAIN TRUTH with a color cover* was printed, and exactly one year later the first *PLAIN TRUTH* in full color was published. In 1968 we completed our *new Press Building*, one of the largest on the West Coast in terms of floor space. We began transferring our operations to it in the fall of 1968. Since that time, the Press has continued to steadily grow and expand. The acquisition of two huge 4-color web-fed presses — first a Halley-Aller, and now the Goss P-50, besides the many other sheet-fed presses — equips God's Work much more effectively for the publication of the Gospel! Many had claimed it was impossible — that we didn't have the manpower, training, experience or equipment to do such a job. And in reality, that was a pretty good sizing up of our circumstances. But God enabled it to be done! It was printing by faith.

This *entire* Work of God has been
(Continued on inside back cover)



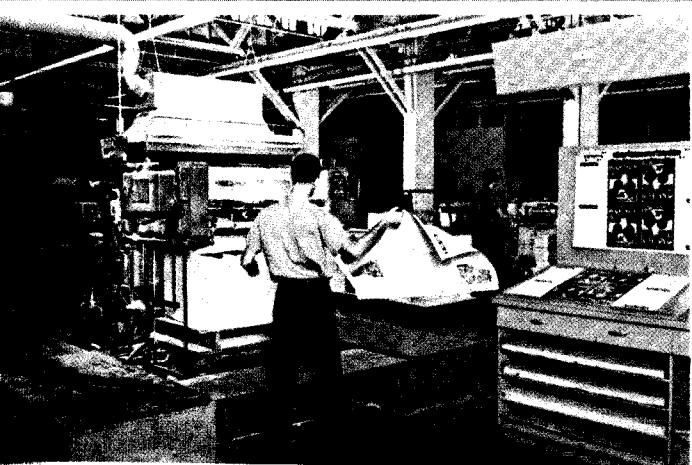
Left — In 1957, growth of the department required the offset section to be moved across the street into the former "Chili Shack."

Below — Later the entire printing department was moved to the acquired Crown Lumber Company, shown in the process of being remodeled.



Ambassador College Photos

Left — Mr. Ted Armstrong (second from left, standing) confers with other Ambassador executives as he inspects the main press floor before the printing equipment was installed in 1963.



Left — 4-color sheet-fed press installed and producing on the empty floor shown above.

Right — In this picture, *Plain Truths* are stacked for mailing as they emerge from the McCain Binder. Pictured is Dr. Robert Kuhn, then an Ambassador student, now an Associate Editor of *Tomorrow's World*.





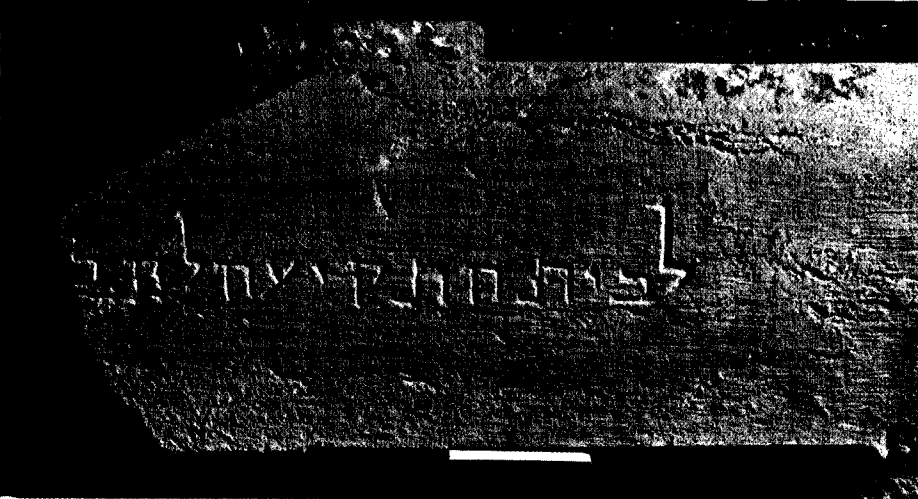
Ambassador's Third Year at The Big Dig, Jerusalem

Above — Ambassador College students at work at the "Big Dig."
Below — Panoramic view of the dig to the south of the Temple Mount area. Conveyor belts are used to move dirt and rubble.

WHEN THE first bite into the overburden of dirt at the southwest corner of the Temple Mount began early in 1968, workers were merely scratching the surface. Underneath are layer upon layer of the remnants of bygone civilizations.

This summer, Ambassador College has again sent about seventy-five volunteers to participate in the "Big Dig" in Jerusalem's Old City. Begun by Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society in 1968, the project received the active participation of Ambassador College beginning December 1968. Under the direction of Hebrew University's Dr. Benyamin Mazar, the undertaking has now expanded in scope to become one of the largest excavations





Above left — Volunteers from Hebrew University starting work on a new pit under "Robinson's Arch" in 1969.

Above right — Professor Benjamin Mazar of Hebrew University conducts a tour of the dig.

of this kind ever carried out.

In the first season of work (1968-1969) the diggers cut down through rubble left behind from times of Turkish domination, through the period of the Crusades, to the Omayyad (Early Arabic) period. Then came Byzantine and Late Roman levels, till finally, in a few exploratory shafts sunk twenty-five feet down from the present-day ground surface, they hit a burnt layer along the southern wall of the Temple Mount.

This was undoubtedly evidence of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D.! Huge building stones that had tumbled down from the temple wall were further evidence of the destruction. Immediately beneath this

fallen debris lay the white limestone slabs of Herodian pavement that ran along the outside of the temple wall. There was no doubt about it! The stratum of the times of Jesus and the apostles, of the Herods and Pontius Pilate, had been reached.

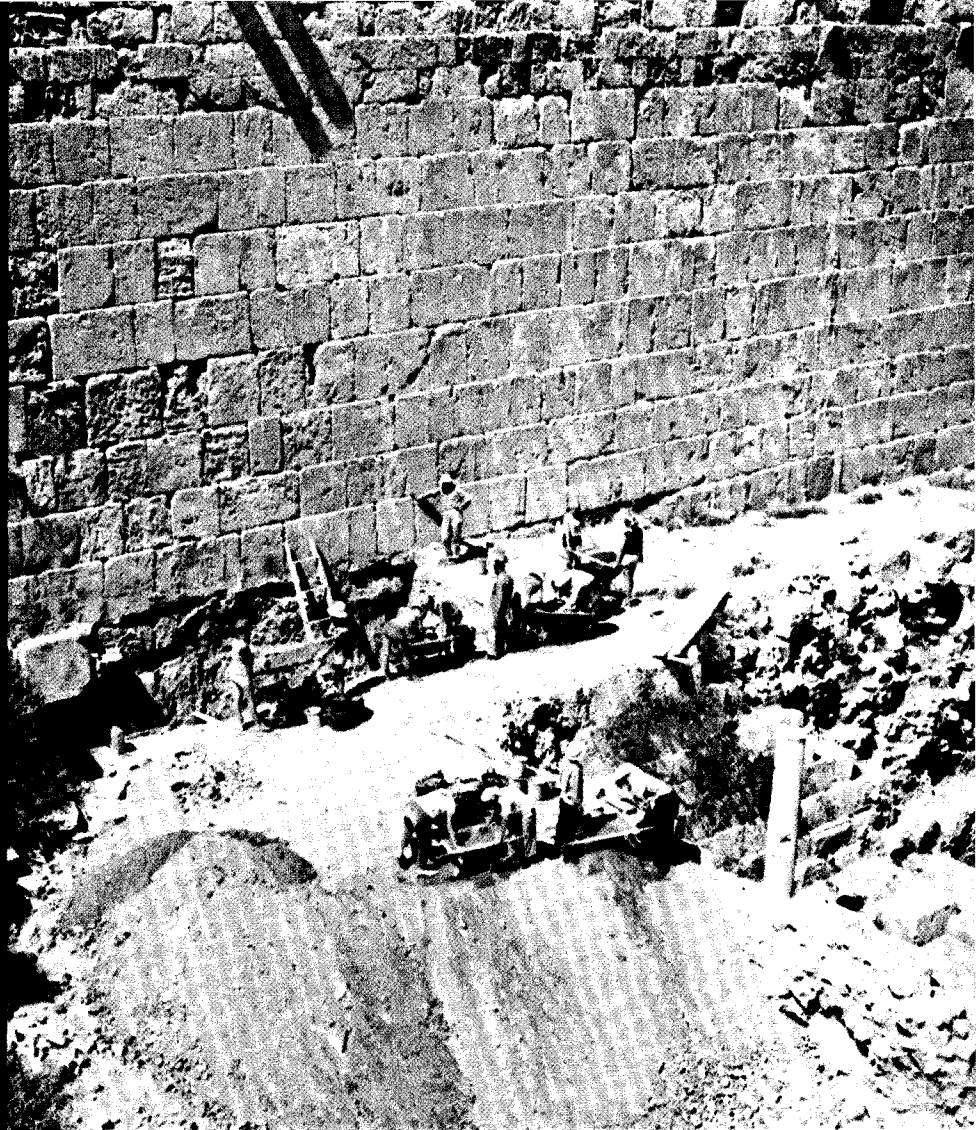
Exciting discoveries followed in the next seasons of digging. The level area immediately south of the temple wall was found to contain the remnants of a large building which had been constructed early in the Islamic era. It was built to a large extent of Herodian stones salvaged from the destroyed temple wall. In one corner of this structure an Ambassador student, John Turner, uncovered in 1970 part of an inscribed column. It contained the name of Vespasian, Roman Emperor at the time of Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D., and had no doubt been a victory column erected in his honor.

Around the corner, at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, another



Ambassador College Photos

Huge limestone blocks fallen from the temple wall — grim reminders of the destruction by Titus — lie on Herodian pavement. Irregular block (see arrow) apparently from one of the corner towers of the wall, bears Hebrew inscription (close-up, above). "House of the blowing of the trumpet. . ."



Above left — A visitor to the dig views a deep pit at the western temple wall.

Left — Ambassador College students shovel material into buckets for hoisting to the surface.

Above — Dirt brought up from the pits is carefully sifted before being removed. Coins, bits of pottery and other items overlooked by the diggers are recovered in this way.

Ambassador College Photos

area was opened. This new area, opened in the first season of the dig, is beneath the remnants of a huge bridge that had been built by Herod from the area of his palace across a valley to the Temple Mount. This roadway, long since fallen, facilitated the access of pilgrims to the temple area in Herod's day. During 1970, digging beneath this "Robinson's Arch" as the remains of the bridge are now popularly called, workers came across a well-preserved Hebrew inscription incised in the wall. It consisted of the words from Isaiah 66:14: "And when you see this, your heart shall rejoice."

Away from the wall, remnants of ancient water cisterns and tombs were uncovered. A pier on which part of

"Robinson's Arch" had rested was also unearthed in the first season.

Another highlight of the first season came when two Ambassador volunteers working among the remains of an early Arab structure near the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount came across a hoard of some 1200 Byzantine copper coins.

The digging is carried on in trenches or carefully laid out and designated squares. As the excavation proceeds downward, these become pits, then shafts. The dirt in a pit is first loosened, then shoveled into rubber "buckets" with handles. Pottery sherds and other large finds are separated from the dirt. The buckets of dirt and separate sherd buckets are passed out of the

pit by hand or hoisted up by a winch.

Once on top, each bucketful of dirt is carefully sifted through a large hand-operated sieve in order to recover any small items that may have eluded the eyes of those working in the pits. A number of coins from the early Arab and Byzantine periods were recovered in this way. All this material, carefully labeled with the location and depth from which it was taken, is then stored to await detailed study by scholars.

This season's dig promises to be bigger than ever before, expanding further along the Western Wall under "Robinson's Arch," progressing further into the actual area of the City of David and plumbing new depths in the areas already under scrutiny.

SAMSON - Man of God!

Surprised? You wonder, "How could God ever forgive Samson after the wretched mess he made of his life?" The life of Samson has always made good Hollywood copy. Some see a shaggy Samson chasing after bad women. They see him slaying a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass in hand. They see a blinded, bitter Samson ending his life in a last fit of vengeance. But Hollywood has told us only part of the story — and that not very accurately. Let's look into his life and find the answer. You will learn a vital lesson from the life of this man of God!

by Kenneth Westby

WHAT WE were never told on the screen or in our Sunday school flannel board lessons, is that SAMSON IS GOING TO BE IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION WITH ABRAHAM AND DAVID! He is going to RULE with Christ and all the saints on this earth!

While listing the faithful righteous, the Apostle Paul includes Samson with men like Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Samuel and the prophets (Heb. 11:32). Paul says these righteous men endured many trials through faith, "that they might obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION"! (Verse 35.)

Let's now examine his life and receive a powerful lesson of *hope* from our Maker.

The accurate historical account of

Samson is found in the book of Judges, chapters 13-16. The setting is the land of Israel, in the 12th century B.C.

Samson's Miraculous Birth

Samson's birth was a *miracle*. His mother wasn't able to have children, but that was no problem for God. Since Samson's parents were still loyal to God at a time of spiritual decadence in Israel, they were chosen to have a son.

A messenger (13:6) was sent by God to give them the news concerning Samson. They were told their son was to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines who were occupying the land and oppressing Israel. They were given instructions on how to care for and rear the child.

Samson's Destiny

Since Samson's parents were of the tribe of Dan and not Levi, their son could not enter the full-time service of God as a priest. But Samson was being called by God to *judge* Israel and break *the yoke* of the Philistines. For this reason God put Samson under a special service called the Nazarite vow. This was a *unique* vow of subjection whereby a non-Levite could dedicate his life to the full-time service of God. This vow required that the hair not be cut — a sign of subjection — nor could any alcoholic beverages be consumed. (The Nazarite vow was rendered unnecessary in New Testament times when Christ replaced the physical priesthood

with His spiritual priesthood — His ministers.)

God had planned to give Samson unbelievable SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH to be used against the Philistines, providing the vow was kept. As a boy Samson was obedient to his vow and loyal to God. His friends came to have a healthy respect for his brute power and quick mind. Not too many fellows had the courage to pick a fight with him.

But, once he was grown, he didn't seem to have much feeling against the Philistines. He *wasn't revolted* at the sight of the *foul pagan practices* of these evil Gentile overlords. HE DIDN'T SHARE GOD'S HATRED OF EVIL, and he *lacked* a compelling zeal to see Israel freed from the Philistines.

Samson didn't think the Philistines were *all that bad*. He even made an attempt to *blend into* their lustful and perverted society. In fact, his first girlfriend was a Philistine from Timnath. He became so infatuated with her he began putting pressure on his parents to approve his marriage.

On one of Samson's trips to Timnath to date his girl he was attacked by an Asian lion. *Bare-handed* he grabbed the poor lion and tore him in two, like you'd rip the plastic off your clothes from the cleaners! He threw the backbone and rib cage along the road and went his way!

Samson finally prevailed against his parents' will and the marriage was arranged. Using his strength to *fulfill God's plan* for the Philistines was far from his mind at this point. Since he was more interested in serving *himself* than serving God, he would have to *learn* the hard way. The only way Samson would fight against the Philistines was if he personally were hurt or wronged. THIS IS JUST WHAT GOD ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.

How much easier it would have been for Samson had he shared God's hatred of sin and willingly allowed himself to be used by God. What misery and heartache he would have avoided.

The Riddle

The marriage didn't last a week! The Philistines didn't trust Samson and they surrounded him with thirty bodyguards

during the week-long wedding festival. To get rid of them, Samson composed a clever riddle and promised them each a complete wardrobe if they could come up with the answer.

They got busy on it, but weren't smart enough. So they put pressure on Samson's wife with violent threats to burn her and her family if she didn't find out the answer. Unsavory "friends" to do business with!

She then started a "crying jag" to get the answer out of Samson — and succeeded. Samson did have his weaknesses! He gave in to her, *again looking for the easy way out rather than the right way*. Of course, there was no *right way* out of this situation which was *wrong* from its beginning — except to pick himself up and return to Israel!

Samson's Anger Kindled

Samson immediately knew that they had gotten the answer from his wife. HE WAS MAD! He left his wife and went to Ashkelon and slew thirty men and took all their apparel and gave it to the thirty who had answered the riddle. He then went back to live with his parents. He had been *betrayed!* He was angry and discouraged! But would he *learn* his lesson?

Samson got lonely and went back to the Philistines to get his wife only to find she had been given to another man. He was beginning to *personally hate* the Philistines! He was now going to pay them back for their evil toward him.

He caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails together! He must have been a good trapper, or faster than any track star we have today.

It was harvest time for the Philistines and Samson set fire to material tied between the tails of the foxes and turned them loose on the crop lands of the Philistines — wreaking great destruction.

The Philistines then went and burned Samson's wife and her family — *she received just what she tried to avoid by betraying* her husband. Now the girl he had loved was murdered and *Samson's miseries increased*.

Overflowing with anger, he slaughtered many more Philistines. Later, he arranged to be caught by an army of a

thousand Philistines and while they surrounded him, he broke loose and grabbed a fresh jawbone of an ass and killed *a thousand men* in hand-to-hand combat!

After all he had suffered, he still thought SIN looked *good*.

He frequented harlots and seemed bent on following the destructive pulls of his flesh. It wasn't that he couldn't have had a fine wife and a wonderful marriage. Like his parents told him: "Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that you go to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?" (14:3.) Had Samson followed the advice of his parents and of God he could have had a BEAUTIFULLY HAPPY life full of satisfaction.

One mistake after another — one loose woman to the next — that was the path of Samson during the twenty years of his judgeship in Israel. He had been faithful to his Nazarite vow and at times made an effort to serve God, but his desire for Philistine women was his undoing.

Enter Delilah

His selfish lust finally brought him to his last harlot — Delilah. And here is where Hollywood comes on strong. It was a *craving, wanton, treacherous* affair. Samson wanted love and happiness — but they can't be found outside the Law of God. Delilah loved herself and money, not Samson.

The rulers and generals of the Philistines offered her a large sum of cash to find out the secret of Samson's strength. After being almost "nagged to death" by this wicked, unprincipled woman, he finally told her the key to his strength. If his hair were CUT, the *vow would be broken* and he would lose his strength and be as any other man.

Samson's hair wasn't hanging down to the ground hippie-fashion looking like a male lion's mane after a rain! It was neatly arranged in seven locks or braids and probably formed an impressive looking crown to his formidable physical body (16:13).

Delilah now had what she wanted, and after deceitfully causing Samson to fall asleep tenderly upon her knees, she called for an aide to come and shave off

the seven locks of his head. She then began to *hit, punch, and scratch* him as she called for the Philistines who were waiting outside her chamber.

The Philistines overpowered him and his SPECIAL STRENGTH from God WAS GONE! The vengeful Philistines then gouged out his eyes and bound him with brass chains and bands and fastened him to a grinding wheel in a dank prison and made him grind grain like an ox!

What a PITIFUL sight! *Blind, bald, a dejected bulk* of a man grinding like an animal, stepping in his own manure! Day in and day out he walked the same circle amid the continual abuses of his captors! But, Samson had *time to think*.

Time to think about what a fool he had been. Time to think of the lusting eyes that had led him FROM ONE SIN TO ANOTHER and all the bowel-twisting anguish those sins brought. Now there were empty sockets where eyes had been! Now he suffered in abject slavery where before no one dared question his freedom.

He now had time to meditate on God's purpose for his life and what a shattered mess he had made of it. He had time to REPENT before his Creator for all his *filth and self-seeking vanity*. But was it TOO LATE?

Too Late to Repent?

After burning out his life and so utterly spoiling the high calling he had, wasn't God through with Samson? Wasn't God's back turned on Samson? Hadn't God given Samson enough time — enough mercy? Was this the end of the road for Samson?

HOW ABOUT YOU? Many of you feel like you are right there with Samson in the prison grinding like a dumb ox. You may also feel you have made a total mess of your life! YOU TOO MAY HAVE BROKEN GOD'S HOLY LAWS with little regard and lived only for the *pleasures of the moment*. You too may feel it is *impossible* for you to be forgiven.

Maybe you feel that God's Book of your sins is full-up! Some of you have waited *so long* and still haven't acted upon God's Truth. Do you feel it is TOO LATE for you?

The God of Samson has no such

Book! Instead, He has open arms and a *loving, tender* heart full of mercy waiting for you to make the TOTAL COMMITMENT — to REPENT and OBEY HIM!

This is the decision Samson finally made. He couldn't see the light of day without his eyes, but he came to see the truth *that the way of this world and sin does not pay*. He came to see that yielding to his Maker would have spared him a life of suffering. He was still alive and *while he yet lived* he had the opportunity to SERVE his God.

Samson's Last Stand

The Philistines had all gathered in a large viewing stand suspended over an arena for special holiday activities. They were there to honor and sacrifice to Dagon, their god. Dagon had the head of a man and the lower body of a fish! In attendance were the royal family of the Philistines, the Philistine General Staff, and the whole administration of that powerful nation.

They were especially rejoicing and making merry, thinking that their god — old fish-foot — had delivered Samson into their hand. So they called for Samson to be brought out so they could make fun and torment him.

It had been some time since Samson's head had been shaven and by now his hair had grown out and was long again.

After abusing Samson and having their perverted sport, he was allowed to stand by the two main supporting pillars for the arena. He asked the young boy who was leading him to guide his hands to touch the two pillars. He then *prayed*.

He knew he had been called to deliver Israel from the oppressors, but instead he had mainly served himself. Samson was NOW totally committed to God and doing His work. EVEN IF IT MEANT HIS OWN LIFE! He now saw the sorry mess he had made of himself and was willing to let *God work through him*.

He fervently prayed and asked God to hear him. *God did!* Samson said: "Let me die with the Philistines." He then bowed himself with all his might against the two pillars. His muscles bulged and quivered and his God gave

him STRENGTH — the pillars and the whole viewing stand collapsed killing about *three thousand!*

This disaster so disrupted the Philistine nation that Israel was able to throw off its oppression! And in this one act after totally YIELDING HIMSELF to God, Samson accomplished more than in his entire life following the way that seemed right to him!

Learn From Samson's Example

God was not only still willing to HEAR and FORGIVE Samson, but God was still willing to USE him in doing His work for that day.

It doesn't matter what kind of mistakes you have made! *No matter how bad your past* is, if you are willing to totally submit your life to your God in Heaven there is hope for you! But time is running out.

Learn from the mistakes of Samson. Don't repeat them. Be encouraged by how he *turned out*. It isn't how you start the race that counts — though it is important — it is how you finish. *If you have life* — you can CHANGE and BECOME A PART of God's ever expanding Government. If you are sincerely worried that you may have committed the "unpardonable sin" — don't be — because you haven't. Read Mr. Armstrong's "Personal from the Editor" explaining the Unpardonable Sin, beginning on page 1 of this issue.

Samson *became a righteous man* and will be raised from the dead in a few years at the return of Christ to this earth. YOU too can be there!

Sure you have problems. If you want help in solving them, go to God in BELIEVING AND TRUSTING prayer. If you would like spiritual counseling from one of God's chosen ministers in your area, please write us. These dedicated, fully instructed and trained, ordained ministers are in many parts of the world. Since they know *only* God can open your mind to true conversion, they will only call on you *IF you request it*. They will *never* attempt to "pressure" you or "cram" any of God's truth down your throat.

If our *merciful and patient* God *forgave* Samson and *used* him to fulfill His will — He will do the same for you! □

The STORY of MAN

for children five to one hundred five

by Basil Wolverton

JEHOIAKIM BUYS TROUBLE

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN

AT THE TEMPLE young Michaiah heard Baruch read the scroll that he had written for Jeremiah. In it were dire warnings of trouble to fall on Judah just as had already fallen on Israel. Michaiah, grandson of the Levite prince Shaphan, who had been King Josiah's secretary and was friendly toward Jeremiah, ran to the palace and reported what he had heard. His audience was the assembled princes, that is, the chiefs from the tribes of Judah and Levi who had been chosen as the king's counselors. They were impressed.

"Right or wrong, this man is risking death and deserves an honorable hearing," one of the princes spoke out. "He should come here to read his scroll to us so we can hear all he had to say."

The princes agreed. Baruch was brought to

them to read his scroll. They were so alarmed at what he read that they took the scroll and told Baruch to leave at once.

"Get back to Jeremiah and tell him to hide himself or get out of Jerusalem," they warned Baruch. "And go with him. The king may be very angry when he hears what you have written from the prophet's mouth!" They knew the false prophets and some priests would be angered by Baruch's reading all of Jeremiah's warning prophecies to the people at the temple. (Jeremiah 36:1-19.)

Scroll of Jeremiah Burned

While Baruch hurried back to Jeremiah, the officials went to the king, hoping they could persuade

King Jehoiakim snatched up a desk knife, viciously slashed Jeremiah's scroll in two and tossed it into the nearby fire.



him to prevent Jeremiah's enemies from seizing the prophet, whom most of them believed was a spokesman from God. On their way, they left Baruch's scroll in the office of Elishama, the king's secretary.

"This Jeremiah is too determined to upset my people!" Jehoiakim muttered angrily after he heard what his visitors had to say. "I want that scroll brought here and read to me! Then I'll decide what to do, and I don't want any of you men trying to talk me into helping this troublemaker!"

A little later one of Jehoiakim's men started reading aloud from the scroll. The king sat glumly on a couch by a blazing open hearth fire, necessary to offset the chill of a winter day. The princes stood uncomfortably about, waiting to see how the king would react to what he was hearing.

The reader had gone through only three or four columns of Jeremiah's dreadful warnings when Jehoiakim sprang up and snatched the scroll from the surprised aide. With his other hand the king grabbed up the scribe's razor from a nearby table and angrily cut the scroll to throw it into the fire. Then three of the startled princes tried in vain to persuade the king not to burn the scroll.

"You could be burning the very words of God!" one of the three remonstrated.

The king wouldn't listen.

"I said no!" he scowled. "This dismal thing deserves to be burned!"

The whole scroll was burned. (Jeremiah 36:20-25.)

The three officials who were concerned about the scroll were Elnathan the son of Achbor and Gemariah the son of Shaphan (Achbor and Shaphan were conscientious officials whom good King Josiah had sent to confer with the prophetess Huldah — Jeremiah 36:12, 25; II Kings 22:12-14) and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, who was probably the same Shemaiah who had contributed many cattle to Josiah's great Passover sixteen years earlier. (II Chronicles 35:9.) These young men illustrate the importance of good parental example and training.

After all the princes had disappointedly departed, Jehoiakim sent three of his officers to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch. But the two were nowhere to be found, thanks to God causing them to be warned through the princes and providing a secret place for hiding. (Jeremiah 36:26.)

While more and more men futilely searched for

the prophet and his secretary, the king paced impatiently back and forth past the ashes of the scroll. By then he was more troubled than angry. He had heard read a prediction that the Babylonians (Chaldeans) would soon attack Jerusalem. This was the startling statement that had caused him to slash and burn the parchment.

Jeremiah and Baruch didn't waste their time while in hiding. At God's command they began to prepare another scroll. This one contained more details and added predictions, including one that had to do with Jehoiakim.

Jehoiakim's Penalty

"Because the king of Judah has followed idolatry and has spurned my warnings, he shall soon become a victim of the Babylonians," God told Jeremiah. "Later, he shall come to a shameful death. For him there will be no royal burial. His body shall lie outside the walls to be covered by frost at night and bloated by festering heat in the daytime. I shall also punish his descendants, his servants and all the people of Judah who have refused to listen to me." (Jeremiah 36:27-32.)

For a long time the prophet and his secretary managed to remain concealed from the king's police. When the added prophecy concerning his death eventually reached Jehoiakim, he was angrier than ever and sent his men even outside of Jerusalem to seek for Jeremiah and Baruch.

God had said it would happen. So it occurred one day that part of the army of Babylon, commanded by one of King Nebuchadnezzar's generals, set out for Judah.

When Jehoiakim heard that troops, chariots and cavalry were pouring across the Jordan River in the region of Jericho, he became undignifiedly excited.

"Send every man to his station on the wall fortifications!" he shakily ordered his officers. "These pagan imposters can perhaps overrun other cities of Judah, but don't let them take Jerusalem!"

Jehoiakim didn't attempt any defense of the towns, villages and farms in the path of the approaching enemy. He feared that Judah's army would be defeated, leaving Jerusalem without enough soldiers to fully man the gates and walls.

From the vantage point of the walls, the king and his men could see the Babylonians long before they arrived. As they spread out around the city, it

appeared that their numbers were less than had been reported crossing the Jordan.

"This is their whole army?" Jehoiakim asked.

"Surely not, sir," one of the officers answered. "Most of it is probably still in Babylon. And there could be many thousands of them concealed behind the hills off to the north."

Just as Jehoiakim was thinking that his army could probably defeat the Babylonians who were within sight, a group of enemy officers rode up perilously close to the archer-lined wall in which were the main gates.

"We bring a message from the mighty King

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon!" one of them yelled in Hebrew. "Our king has ordered us to deliver it directly to Jehoiakim, your king! Either open the gates immediately to let us in or send out your king with any and all he wishes to accompany him!"

"Our king has nothing to discuss with invaders!" a Jewish spokesman shouted back from the wall a few minutes later.

"By that you are admitting that your king is a coward who is a king over a nation of cowards!" the Babylonian bellowed back.

"We should have gone out to meet these dogs before they reached Judah!" Jehoiakim angrily muttered to his officers.

To Jehoiakim's growing frustration, the Babylonian continued his insults. Even people of the city who were out of range of his voice learned what he was saying almost as soon as he said it.

Foolish Bravado

"Call my best warriors to accompany me!" the king of Judah growled wrathfully. "I'll show my people that I have a few words for these heathen!"

"Your words will *certainly* be few if you do that!" an officer warned him. "Surely you aren't about to fall for their scheme to get the gates open or capture you!"

"Just do as I tell you!" Jehoiakim snapped, glaring. "I'll go out only a short way. If they dare approach, my archers and lancers will bury them in spears and arrows!"

In spite of reminders from other officers that Jerusalem might be lost if the gates were opened, Jehoiakim was intent on having his way. To the gratification and surprise of the enemy, the main gates of Jerusalem swung inward. Out rode Jehoiakim on a handsome charger, surrounded closely by soldiers bristling with bows, spears and swords. The moment they were outside the wall, the gates slammed shut behind them and the huge bars thudded into place.

Instantly Jehoiakim experienced a frantic feeling of being cut off from safety. He was more aware of it when he heard the swiftly increasing sound of horses' hoofs. Suddenly all was confusion as he was knocked off his mount when his men, grouped too closely about him, wildly struggled for room in which to wield their weapons on the Babylonian cavalrymen who had rushed them.

As the king of Judah regained his senses, he



"Either open up your gates to us or send out your king!" a Babylonian officer shouted in Hebrew to the soldiers on Jerusalem's wall.

gradually realized that he was among strangers. There were voices babbling in a language he couldn't understand, and the painful pressure of chains around his wrists, ankles and neck. Smirking, unfriendly faces were poised over him.

"You are fortunate to be alive — perhaps," one of the faces told him in Hebrew. "Some of the soldiers with you were killed by your own archers and spearmen on the wall. Some of my men lost their lives, too, but you owe yours to mine who managed to bring you to this tent."

"Don't assume that I'm thankful to be your prisoner," Jehoiakim muttered bitterly. "Whatever it is that you require of Judah can be discussed after I'm freed from these chains and returned safely inside Jerusalem. Otherwise, my city will disgorge a horde of fighting men who will wipe you out!"

"I can't believe that," the Babylonian general answered, while his officers grinned knowingly. "While you were unconscious, we threatened to kill you unless Jerusalem's gates were opened to us. There was no response. Those chains will remain on you during our trip back to Babylon. There you can explain to our king why you've been paying tribute to a lesser nation like Egypt instead of to Babylon. You'll have about two months and eight hundred miles to think up some good answers."

That night the misery from his chains convinced Jehoiakim that he wouldn't be able to bear weeks of such discomfort. Next morning he asked for a chance to talk to the Babylonian commander, who received him coldly. (II Chronicles 36:5-6.)

"If you're here to waste my time asking for some favor, forget it," the Babylonian advised.

False Peace Purchased

"I'm here to suggest that we exchange favors," the king said. "If you will release me to return safely inside Jerusalem, I will give you any tribute you demand for as long as you demand it."

"In that event, there would be no more tribute to Egypt," the commander finally replied. "You would have to swear full allegiance to Babylon!"

This Jehoiakim eagerly did, but his eagerness faded when the commander stated what Babylon would require as a regular tribute. The king doubted that he would be able to meet such heavy demands for very long, but he promised to comply because his life was at stake.

"You have made your solemn commitments," the commander reminded Jehoiakim. "Be warned now that if you fail in this matter, my king will come to Judah to exact payment in the form of ravaged cities and many Jewish lives! I shall carry out our first part of the agreement by freeing you of your shackles."

At a signal from their commander, Jehoiakim's guards cut his chains. As they rattled to the floor, the king felt that he could breathe freely for the first time in many hours.

"And now for our next part of the agreement," the Babylonian continued. "That is to depart from your land and allow you to return inside your city. That we shall do as soon as you arrange to get together the first tribute payment and have it delivered to us here where our tents are pitched."

Jehoiakim was stunned. He had believed that Judah would deliver the first payment by caravan some days later. Getting the required items together on such short notice was impossible.

"Why do you look so startled?" the Babylonian inquired, grinning slightly because of Jehoiakim's obvious misery. "Aren't you prepared to deliver it?"

"Not right now. It would take several days to obtain some of the items from scattered towns and farms," Jehoiakim explained.

"Then for this time we'll overlook things such as cattle, sheep and foodstuffs and take the total amount in gold, silver and brass. Surely you can easily obtain those items in your great city."

"Let me return there safely, and I'll see that the required amount is brought out to you," Jehoiakim said shakily, knowing that he was in for much more trouble if the commander wouldn't agree.

"If it isn't here by noon, my men will spread over your land and we'll take it for ourselves by the sword!" the commander warned, motioning for his prisoner to leave.

Tremendously relieved, but smarting under the indignity of having to hike, unescorted, back to Jerusalem's gates, Jehoiakim was further humiliated when he had to go to some length to identify himself to guards before thousands of his people on the walls. Once he was safely inside, there was cheering and applause because of his return. But the people showed little enthusiasm when Jehoiakim told them of his problem.

(To be continued next issue)

WHY SO MANY SAY

"I Don't Understand The Bible!"

The Bible is still by far the world's all-time best seller. It has been translated into more than 1400 different languages. Yet the Bible has been called "THE BOOK THAT NOBODY KNOWS." There is a very basic reason why!

by Richard H. Sedliacik

HERE IS an eye-opening example of the appalling ignorance of the Bible among professing Christians today, as related by a startled newspaper reporter:

"Some months ago, a Protestant pastor administered a Bible quiz to members of his congregation. The questions were very simple. Anyone with a general knowledge of the Bible should have been able to answer all of them easily.

"The results staggered the pastor.

"Only five percent of his flock made a commendable grade on the test. Fifteen percent failed to give a single correct answer. Sixty percent were unable to name the four Gospels. Seventy-five percent could not identify Calvary (Golgotha) as the place where Jesus was crucified.

"Some congregations might do better than that," continued our reporter, "but not many. The vast majority of Americans today are Bible illiterates. They simply have never read the book which they profess to regard as the 'Word of God.'"

This same newspaper reporter continued to explain why most professing Christians do not read or study the Bible.

"A great many people have turned away from the Bible because, when they do try to read it, they find they cannot understand it. . . . To the modern reader, it has a remote and antiquarian

flavor. It is likely to leave him with the impression the Bible is an ancient history book that has no real relevance to his life here and now" (by Louis Cassels, UPI Special Correspondent on religious affairs).

Have you had this impression? Have you ever tried to read the Bible, only to throw up your hands and exclaim, "I can't understand it"?

Biblical Ignorance — Hallmark of Our Times

Paradoxically, this Biblical ignorance is considered "respectable" today. "It is one of the curious phenomena of modern times," reports J. B. Phillips in *The Young Church in Action*, "that it is considered perfectly respectable to be *abysmally ignorant* of the Christian faith. Men and women who would be deeply ashamed of having their ignorance exposed in matters of poetry, music, or painting, for example, are not in the least perturbed to be found ignorant of the New Testament" (page 6).

And so the Bible has become little more than an obsolete "sacred book" to which most of its devotees pay lip service, but which they practically never *read, study, or understand!*

What are the underlying reasons for such widespread Biblical ignorance and lack of understanding in the world today? Why aren't people ashamed of not knowing what's contained in their Bibles?

How Theologians View the Bible

You might expect atheists and agnostics to *deny* the divine origin of the Bible. But would you expect that many of today's leading ministers and theologians are *foremost* among the **CRITICS** of the Bible? Incredible?

One such minister of a very large church denomination said: "No mainstream Christian Church accepts the Bible as the literal interpretation of the Word of God. Some of it is folklore, some legend, some tribal history."

How does he know? Answer: He doesn't! He has merely accepted as true the theories and hypotheses taught today in the seminaries and graduate schools of theology!

No wonder the ordinary layman has backed away from the Bible!

Listen to these words from another well-known minister: "We know now that every idea in the Bible started from primitive and child-like origins. . . ." He said it is an "impossible attempt to harmonize the Bible with itself, to make it speak with unanimous voice, to resolve its conflicts and contradictions. . . ."

What a **PARADOX!**

This man was looked up to as a *minister of God*. Yet he attempted to discredit the very Book he was supposed to uphold and teach. Branding the Bible as the contradictory product of the vain efforts of *men*, he called it a book of fables and myths, instead of the

INSPIRED TRUTH OF GOD ALMIGHTY!

In the introduction to a well-known modern version of the Bible, the translator summarizes *his* ideas in the claim that many books of the Bible are "notes by disciples, worked up into literary papers which have been repeatedly edited, sometimes by pious collectors."

This very learned scholar thought that the earlier portions of the Bible stemmed from "the natural desire to gather up the primitive traditions of the people." He took for granted, and without proof, the *false assumption* that God had nothing to do with its inspiration!

Still another theologian summed up the modern trend this way: "We must take the Bible seriously; but not literally."

With statements such as these ringing in their ears, is there any wonder that hundreds of ministers publicly confess — and thousands privately admit — that they *themselves* can't understand or believe the Bible?

Certainly statements such as these by well-known ministers, theologians and Bible scholars have DIRECTLY DISCOURAGED many from trying to read the Bible! What else could you expect the average person to think about the Bible when men looked up to as Biblical "specialists" and "experts" declare it to be a PIOUS FRAUD?

The trouble with most people is that they have taken for GRANTED what other people say about the Bible!

Most people — including church laymen and the clergy — have not taken the time to really look into the Bible and *study it for themselves!* They simply have NEVER PROVED what they have come to believe as the "truth."

And so most people continue to *carelessly assume* the Bible teaches hundreds of conflicting ideas — that it is irrational and irrelevant in our "advanced" age — and that the Bible is responsible for the hundreds of differing sects and denominations we find in the world today!

What IS the Bible?

There is a statement in the Bible which says: "All Scripture is *inspired by God* and is profitable for teaching . . ." (II Tim. 3:16, R.S.V.).

Is this statement literally true? Can you PROVE it? The answer is a resounding *yes!* (Write for our FREE booklet *The Proof of the Bible*. It will give you concrete, undeniable, conclusive evidence proving the divine inspiration of the Bible.)

The Bible is GOD'S revelation to man of basic knowledge — laws and principles which man is *unable* to discover for himself — knowledge which is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man.

For example: God did not directly reveal the law of gravity in the Bible. He equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover gravity for himself.

But man has never been able to discover *what* he is, and *why* he was put here on earth — whether there is a real PURPOSE for human life, or *what* that purpose is. Man has not been able to *discover* the true way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being and real success. The colleges and universities of this world do teach students how to earn a living — but they fail to teach them how to *live*.

The Bible is God's "instruction manual" to show His supreme creation *how* to live! Only in the Bible can one find this basic necessary knowledge. God inspired the Bible to be the very BASIS of true education.

The Bible, then, is the FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE! It gives the *true approach* to the acquisition of knowledge in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology and the health sciences. It reveals basic principles concerning business, commerce, science, the arts, law, government, philosophy and religion.

The Bible also explains the *meaning* of the chaotic times in which we live. And it shows us HOW peace, prosperity, success and happiness are coming to all the world in our lifetime!

The self-proclaimed "experts'" judgments are wrong. The Bible is true! And people *could* understand the Bible — if they were really willing to study it and accept it for what it says! The Bible is plain and simple. It means exactly what it says. If we take it as it is — without trying to *interpret* its meaning — it makes real sense.

You CAN UNDERSTAND It!

For more than a decade and a half, Ambassador College has been helping scores of thousands to become "Biblical literates" through the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. This unique course of *Biblical understanding* has led nearly 200,000 students in nearly every country on earth to a greater knowledge and understanding of the least-read and most-misunderstood book in the world.

This course is a totally *different* method of Bible study. It makes it easy to understand the Bible, and shows how the Bible is RELEVANT to the Space Age! It is dynamic, down-to-earth — a course of understanding. It pulls no punches. It tells the truth straight from the Bible.

You've never seen any course like it before.

The Ambassador College Correspondence Course has been designed to guide you through a systematic study of your own Bible — the Bible is the *only textbook*. It is not a study of men's ideas about the Bible, but a study of the Bible itself.

Many of the informative articles you read in TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine can only deal *briefly* with certain aspects of various subjects because of limited space. But each 16-page, beautifully illustrated, monthly lesson of this 24-lesson course provides ample space to present a *very complete, in-depth study* of each topic.

Twenty-four different major subjects of vital interest in this fantastic push-button age are thoroughly gone into in the Bible and made clear with each lesson. You are directed step by step to the plain, simple answers *in your own Bible!*

This course helps you find the answers to the really BIG QUESTIONS of life you have always wondered about. It is designed to show the *meaning* behind today's world chaos, and it helps you to see the very PURPOSE for your *existence* — the reason why you are drawing breath and experiencing life.

Students from *all walks* of life are enrolled in this course — including even ministers of religion — and all are enthusiastically discovering new truth in

their Bibles with the guidance of each lesson. They are all learning that there is HOPE for the future — that there are *solutions* to the absolutely terrifying and seemingly insoluble problems of today. They are learning the *keys* to understanding Bible prophecy, and the *principles* which lead to success, financial security and a happy, abundant life.

But perhaps YOU are one of those who thinks, "A college correspondence course is too difficult for me. I'd never understand it." Or, "I'm too old." If you have ever thought that way, you couldn't be more WRONG! This course is designed for people of *all* ages — for YOU! And it makes studying the Bible enjoyable, rewarding — the experience of a lifetime.

What Our Students Say

Thousands of our Correspondence Course students have written to the Editor expressing their sincere appreciation for the lessons. We'd like to share some of those letters with you, showing how our students are actually UNDERSTANDING the Bible for the first time, and finding that it is *relevant* to their own lives here and now!

Read what these two students discovered with the aid of their Correspondence Course:

I would like to thank you for sending lessons from your Correspondence Course. My educational background was highly technical in nature: and I have, at times, overemphasized a logical approach to my study of virtually any subject. I had always been taught that the Bible could not be studied in a logical manner; however, your course has convinced me that such a method can be used in Bible study.

David S., Levelland, Texas

I have been so well pleased with the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, I must let it be known. It was far beyond my imagination that such a course existed at all. In fact, before I started studying this course by mail I was under the impression that no one could learn the Bible by mail. I was wrong. I really am well pleased with the knowledge I've gained.

R. C. T., Belva, West Virginia

The one most important fact our students have found is that the Bible *does* interpret itself. This letter explains it:

I just completed the first lesson of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. There aren't enough words to express my gratitude. I think

the only word that can describe my feeling is relief! At last a source with which to really study and learn from the Bible, instead of just taking someone else's interpretation. All my life I've heard people say: "The Bible can be interpreted many ways." I can't say that I believed or disbelieved that statement. I just didn't think about it. To me it was just an impressive book that everyone seemed to have. Now that I have respect for the Bible and am reading it, I feel that no [human] interpretation is needed. It is plainly written. I am really looking forward to my next lesson.

W. G., Cincinnati, Ohio

Notice how the following student learned the Bible *is* relevant in our complex age:

Your Correspondence Course really shows one how to study the Bible and what the Bible really says. Most people don't realize that the Bible is a book for our day and age. They have never proved that it is true or that there is a God. You give the proof. I now believe that there really is a God, and that the Bible is His Word. The Bible has become a new book to me. I never realized what the Bible said until now.

D. M., Apache Junction, Arizona

From England comes this enthusiastic letter:

I have just received Lesson 1 of the Correspondence Course. I am delighted, overwhelmed! This is the most interesting and enlightening course of study I have ever undertaken. I can hardly wait for Lesson 2; and if Lesson 1 is any indication of what is to come, then please know that I will be corresponding for a long time to come.

J. W. S., London England

A well-pleased Canadian wrote the following letter:

Before hearing *The World Tomorrow* broadcast I had many unanswered questions that were so big that a psychiatrist was unwilling to answer them for \$20.00 a visit. The only answer I received from him was that I should take a trip to Europe, go hunting, roam the countryside to get close to nature, take up sail boating, get married, etc. This didn't answer any one of my questions. Through *The World Tomorrow* broadcasts and the Ambassador College Correspondence Course I have received direct and workable answers to all my questions. I am now learning the real purpose in life and receiving blessings beyond my wildest dreams.

Student, Vancouver, B. C., Canada

Notice what happened to this student's understanding after just four lessons:

I have just completed my first four lessons of the Correspondence Course. Suddenly I realized the amazing change in my understanding of the

Bible as I recalled the days before I ever requested the course. It has helped move me out of complete misunderstanding, myth, guesswork and bewilderment, and into a clear and ever-revealing knowledge of the Bible.

Edward M., Hanford, California

A well-educated person wrote this letter:

Since I had the advantage of a good deal of this world's education, I feel qualified to make this next statement. Although the Correspondence Course is written so that anyone who can read can easily do the work; in quality and thoroughness of instruction, it is easily the equivalent of courses given for college credit by the better colleges and universities. It is really superior

Student, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Many are surprised to find that their previous schooling is *no barrier* to studying the Bible with these lessons, as this student discovered:

Please tell people they don't have to have a high education to take the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. I didn't finish high school and that kept me from writing for it for a long time. Now there isn't enough money to buy the lessons from me that I have received.

Student, Tavares, Florida

You, *too*, can begin to share these same experiences. You can begin to UNDERSTAND the knowledge that really counts!

The only qualification necessary for taking this course is the ability to read. No prior college training or other advanced education is necessary, as you have seen. These lessons are plainly and interestingly written so even a child can understand. And remember, there is no tuition cost to you! Your lessons have *already been paid for by others* who are voluntarily helping to send the Truth of God to all who request it. The Correspondence Course is *absolutely free*.

Will you let the Ambassador College Correspondence Course make the Bible 100 percent relevant to *your life* today? You can begin by filling out the accompanying enrollment card and dropping it in the mailbox today. You'll receive the first 12 lessons — *one a month* — after which we'll send you a renewal card to let us know whether you want to continue with the final 12 lessons.

Do it *right now* — lest you forget! You'll be glad you did. □

Personal

(Continued from page 5)

did, for the moment, consent and yield.

But THAT WAS NOT THE UNPARDONABLE SIN! It was NOT sinning WILLFULLY! And *it did NOT condemn him!* Nor does such an experience, if truly repented of, condemn YOU. Paul continues:

"There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Here again, Moffatt renders it in more modern English: "Thus there is NO DOOM now for those who are in Christ Jesus; the law of the Spirit brings the LIFE which is IN Christ Jesus, and *that* law has set me free from the law of sin and death."

Many Wrest Paul's Writings

Let's make that PLAIN. Many would try to argue that this last sentence abolishes GOD'S Law. They would argue that "the law of sin and death" is the Ten Commandments. It is JUST THE OPPOSITE!

As Peter wrote, some of Paul's writings are difficult to understand, "which they that are unlearned and unstable WREST, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:16).

Notice now! WHAT is this "law of sin and death" which he is *set free* from? NOT the Ten Commandments! It is, simply that "other law" of verse 23 (Rom. 7), "in my members" — the PULL of HUMAN NATURE into SIN. Later, same verse 23, Paul is brought "into captivity to the law of sin *which is in my members.*" This is the "law" that is "in his members." This is the "law" that is *warring against* the "law of my mind," which is the Law of GOD — "for I *delight* in the Law of God after the inward man" — as Paul made plain.

The "Law of his mind" was the Holy Spirit fulfilling God's Law — the Ten Commandment Law. The law "in his members" that enslaved him, called the "law of sin," was this "law of sin and death" spoken of in verse 2, 8th chapter of Romans. Thus God's Holy Spirit, in his mind, SET HIM FREE from the law of sin and death "in his members" —

that is, from HUMAN NATURE — which had enslaved him!

Notice, Paul had said (last verse in chapter 7), "So then with the mind I myself serve the law of GOD; but with the flesh [human nature] the law of sin."

Some of Paul's writings do seem complicated. All this, made PLAIN, simply says HUMAN NATURE enslaved him — held him captive in sin — he was not able — of himself — to overcome it and resist sin. But God's Holy Spirit FREED him from being the slave of sin — *gave him POWER to resist and overcome sin* — gave him the POWER of DIVINE LOVE which comes from GOD — the love that FULFILLS God's Law.

Paul goes on, in this 8th chapter, to explain how the ATTITUDE of the natural, unconverted man — the carnal mind — is one of HOSTILITY against obedience to God and His Law (verse 7), but you are not "IN the flesh," but "IN the Spirit" — that is, "IN Christ," IF His Holy Spirit DWELLS in you (verse 9). This Spirit "dwelling" in you means an ATTITUDE OF MIND submissive to God and His Law — an attitude that DESIRES to GO *the way* of God's Law — THE WAY of love, of giving, sharing, serving, helping.

The FALSE Teachings

The people of the Western world are beset on every side by various absolutely FALSE teachings on this very subject.

There are those who say: It is IMPOSSIBLE for us to live righteously, so Christ lived a righteous life IN OUR STEAD, and, if you just believe, God IMPUTES Christ's righteousness to you. These people mean that YOU do not need to live righteously. Actually, THEY CONDONE SIN — their false argument means you are free to go on deliberately SINNING, but God PRETENDS you are righteous, by a sort of hocus-pocus of transferring *Jesus'* righteousness to you. Those are the "ungodly men" Jude warns against, "turning grace into license."

Others say that, since it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to keep God's Law, Jesus *did away with* the Law. So — if that be true, you are FREE to go on sinning.

There are also the false teachings about "a second work of grace," and "a

second baptism of the Holy Spirit," and of what "the baptism OF the Holy Spirit" (as they incorrectly phrase it) MEANS. Then there are false teachings about "Justification, Sanctification, and Christian Perfection."

Any one of these might require an entire article — or more — to correct, and make the TRUTH plain.

If the reader would like the plain truth about what *is* THE BIBLE EXPLANATION of the baptism by the Holy Spirit — and of the "tongues" question — write for a free booklet entitled *The Tongues Question*.

Some people speak of having already BEEN "saved." And, indeed, certain New Testament passages, in the English translations, might lead one to assume that one's salvation is COMPLETE, and IN THE PAST, upon profession of Christ.

"Salvation" — Past, or Future?

The word "salvation" — that is, the English word — means, says Webster: "1. The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin... 2. Preservation from destruction, failure, or other evil."

In other words, "salvation" involves TWO things: 1) Saving man from the DEATH PENALTY he has incurred by sin; 2) Preservation of life — and, since man does not have eternal life, his life can be *preserved ONLY* by God's GIFT of Eternal Life by a resurrection or conversion from mortality to immortality.

To explain further: One can SAVE a man from drowning — from falling off a high precipice to his death — that is, to PREVENT or *save from* a calamity or destruction or injury. But one also can SAVE fruit, vegetables, or other things from spoiling, *in the sense of* PRESERVING them, so that their existence is CONTINUED.

Actually, the Bible speaks of salvation in *three ways* — or as a process in *three stages* — if we wish to become theologically technical.

Jesus has already *saved us* (past tense) from the death penalty *by His blood*, paying the death penalty in our stead: "... According to his mercy He *saved us*... that *being justified* by his grace, we should be made heirs..." (Titus 3:5, 7). This passage speaks of having been saved from the penalty of

past sins — JUSTIFIED — having received God's Holy Spirit, thus becoming HEIRS of God. Notice (verse 7 above), it is speaking of JUSTIFICATION of past sins, and of being in the state of an HEIR — not an INHERITOR as yet.

Then, in II Corinthians 2:15, RSV, it speaks of those that "*are being saved*" — PRESENT tense. The verb, here, as inspired originally in the Greek language, is a present participle and should be translated, as in the RSV, "are being saved," and not "are saved," as in the King James version. The Moffatt, and other translations render this as "are being saved."

To make it plain, notice the whole sense of the passage: "For we are unto God a sweet savour [fragrance] of Christ, in them that are saved [being saved], and in them that perish." We Christians are like sweet perfume or fragrance to certain others. If to those that are (already — past tense) saved, then also to those who are, already (past tense) perished. Now those already perished are not smelling anything. This is speaking of LIVING people. If those that "perish" are merely ON THE WAY toward perishing — but not yet perished — then, also those "saved" are BEING saved — on the way to the final salvation.

Then MANY, MANY scriptures speak of the salvation *to come* — of those who "shall be" (future) saved. Most passages referring to the TIME of salvation refer to it as taking place at Christ's coming — as Revelation 12:10 and elsewhere.

In spiritual salvation, the blood of Christ — the death of Christ — paid the penalty we have incurred in our stead. And it SAVES us from this destruction (which is the second death) — that is, PREVENTS us from having to pay it — if and when we REPENT, and accept Jesus as personal Saviour in faith believing (read Romans 5:8-10).

But, God's gift of eternal LIFE comes to us through Christ's LIFE (verse 10), through His resurrection and LIFE — not by His death. His death paid our penalty of past sins IN OUR STEAD. These sins had cut us off from contact with God. When Jesus' sacrifice is accepted by repentance and faith, we are no longer cut off from God, but recon-

ciled to Him — the connection or contact established, so that, through His Son's LIFE, He now can GIVE us His Holy Spirit, and, at Christ's coming and time of resurrection, ETERNAL LIFE. This, finally, *preserves* our life for eternity.

That is why God's Word says, "he that shall endure unto the end *shall be saved*" (Matt. 24:13 and elsewhere).

One is *already saved* FROM the DEATH penalty — eternal punishment — for SINS THAT ARE PAST, upon repentance and faith in Christ — *as long as* he does not sin again! And *he will!* BUT, as explained in this Personal, if and when he slips, and sins again, then, *upon repentance*, he is *again* forgiven. Yes, again, *and again, and again!* That is, as long as his ATTITUDE of heart is submissive to God, he has faith in Christ, and God's Spirit continues to dwell in him.

So we have: 1) "Justification," which is forgiveness of sins that are past (Romans 3:24-25) — because *Jesus* paid our penalty, thus justifying — or vindicating — us. Then, 2) "*sanctification*" (Greek, *hagiasmos*), meaning separation, a *setting apart* for holy use or purpose. This is a continual process — once so *set apart* — and *leads to* ultimate salvation, which salvation is the change from mortal to immortal — from material composition to spiritual — from human to divine. Thus: "God hath . . . chosen you to salvation *through* sanctification of the Spirit . . ." (II Thes. 2:13), and "Elect . . . *through* sanctification of the Spirit, UNTO obedience . . ." (I Peter 1:2). And, finally, 3) SALVATION by RESURRECTION — ETERNAL LIFE.

The Crux of the Truth

Then Paul comes to the crux of the whole TRUTH, so far as the Christian LIFE is concerned. It is in the 14th verse, this 8th chapter of Romans:

"For as many *as are led by* the Spirit of God, *they are* the sons of God."

So we come to *this*:

God's Spirit dwelling in you is God's own divine LOVE, which *can* fulfill God's Law. Thus what GOD has *given* you by grace *may* actually *make you righteous!* That means, put GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS actually within you!

NOTICE, I said God's Spirit in you CAN! It MAY put His righteousness within you!

BUT — and *here is the all-important point* — God's Spirit in you will not *force* you to live righteously. God's Holy Spirit will not POSSESS you — as a demon would if allowed to enter. You remain a free moral agent.

God has given you the SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT to live His Way! His Spirit will OPEN YOUR MIND TO SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING. God's WAY is to *live by every Word of God* — that is, to LIVE BY the whole teachings of the Bible. The carnal mind cannot UNDERSTAND the spiritual things of God. The Holy Spirit imparts to you a SPIRITUAL MIND which *can* comprehend this spiritual knowledge as you study your Bible.

THAT IS, IT SHOWS YOU *THE WAY*.

But YOU must decide, and you must exert WILL, to *follow that Way*. "Not the hearers of the law are just before God, but *the doers* of the law shall be justified" (Rom. 2:13). You *must decide* whether to WALK down that road — *to be led by* the Spirit of God — or *to be led by* the PULLS of your human nature.

A Spiritual Baby

A newly begotten child of God is a spiritual BABE in Christ. And human physical babies fall down several times before they learn to walk! But they do not become discouraged, give up, or quit! Spiritual babies, too, fall down — perhaps many times — in a number of INCIDENTS of sin — learning to WALK with Christ down GOD'S ROADWAY.

But that does not need to move them *off* that WAY! If they are "walking with Christ," HE is there (in Spirit) to pick them up, and help them learn to walk better!

So UNDERSTAND! God gives you the *spiritual equipment* to go HIS WAY. The Holy Spirit imparts power to UNDERSTAND *what is* God's Way, revealed in the Bible. It thus *leads* — but never *pulls*, pushes, shoves, or forces! God's Spirit gives you the spiritual LOVE — God's own LOVE — which *only* may fulfill His Law. His Spirit imparts to you CHRIST'S OWN FAITH, to make possible obeying His Law. It gives you spiritual POWER!

That's a lot of spiritual EQUIPMENT!
A lot of HELP!

But it is still UP TO YOU what you do with it! Jesus said that road *is not easy*. Human nature, the world and its associations, and the invisible forces of Satan, continue *pulling* you the other way. Yes, they PULL! And God's Spirit dwelling in you does *not* pull! YOU must exert your WILL and DETERMINATION to follow God's Spirit leading you to see and understand GOD's way. You have the spiritual equipment to go that way. Yet this *other law* — the law of human nature — the law of "sin and death" — will tug at you, and PULL in the carnal direction.

And you are a spiritual BABY! So, you do fall down a number of times — yet you are falling while still ON CHRIST'S ROAD, walking with Him. As long as you keep His Goal before your eyes — as long as you continue in the spiritual ATTITUDE — as long as you DESIRE to go God's Way — as long as you keep trying, and determined, YOU ARE STILL ON THAT ROAD!

You are NOT CONDEMNED!

The SELF in the converted Christian is still there — but, as Paul spoke of it, it must be CRUCIFIED! A crucified man may be still alive, but nailed up to a stake so he can't get down even though he wants to. The Christian must nail up, so to speak, this old human nature, so that it is NOT ALLOWED to get active and pull him down in the wrong direction.

So Paul said, to the Galatians, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20).

It Takes STRIVING!

Notice what God says about the Christian life.

It is not EASY to overcome sin. You simply DON'T succeed in every encounter — in every incident!

Jesus said, "STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate..." (Luke 13:24). The Greek word which Jesus spoke for "*strive*" means "to strain, to agonize." It means a hard STRUGGLE. A "strait" gate is a very narrow one — difficult to squeeze through. "For," continued Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14), "WIDE is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to

destruction, and MANY there be which go in thereat: because *strait* is the gate, and *narrow* is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Paul, to the Colossians, spoke of his struggle to overcome, saying: "... I also labour, STRIVING according to his working, which worketh in me mightily" (Col. 1:29).

Paul knew that the Christian has a fierce BATTLE with his own nature, the world, and the powers of Satan, when he said, "Ye have not yet *resisted unto blood*, STRIVING against sin" (Heb. 12:4).

Paul also showed how we must have on a mighty SPIRITUAL ARMOR to win this battle. He said, "Finally, my brethren, BE STRONG in the Lord, and in the POWER of his might. Put on the WHOLE ARMOR of GOD, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [WICKED SPIRITS] in high places" (Eph. 6:10-12). Again, in the more modern English of Moffatt, "... but with the angelic [demoniacal] Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the *spirit-forces of evil* in the heavenly sphere."

The Special Help You Need

BUT — there's more to it than that! Each time you stumble and fall down — in an *incident* of sin — you simply failed to fully USE this spiritual equipment God had given you. You *could have* prevented it — you MUST learn to prevent these stumblings along the way. You MUST *overcome* these forces — your human nature, the world, and the devil — which have pulled you down.

The ANSWER?

The Apostle Paul gave it. After picturing these stumblings, he cried out, "O wretched man that I am, WHO shall deliver me from this body of death?" And he answered, GOD WILL!

At each temptation to stumble, you need to cry out to GOD for SPECIAL HELP — for EXTRA POWER.

Yet if you wait until the temptation comes, you may then, for the moment, be too weak to call out for Christ to hold you up. Now JESUS set the

example! And He never stumbled *once!* He is the *only One* who never did! And WHY? Because He is the *only One* who kept Himself *constantly* SO CLOSE TO GOD — in continual PRAYER — keeping His mind so *continually* and *steadfastly* on God — maintaining, constantly, such close *companionship*, and *fellowship* with God that, when each temptation came, He was spiritually *strong enough* to put the temptation out of His mind *instantly!*

He never harbored a temptation. He was tempted in all points, just as you and I are! Repeatedly! Satan worked harder in tempting Him than he ever did on any other human! How did He put *out* of mind the temptations? By having PUT INTO His mind the spiritual power of God's Holy Spirit!

Now you and I can have — must have to succeed — this same FELLOWSHIP with God, and also with the living Christ (I John 1:3, 7).

But if, when the temptation comes, you find yourself NOT so filled with God's power, that the temptation tries you, you STILL can cry out, *at the instant*, for HELP!

Jesus Christ is your High Priest. Read Hebrews 4:16. Go boldly to Him on the Throne of Grace for that HELP in time of need!

Do Real Christians Ever Sin?

Now we approach our final answer.

Suppose the prominent church member, mentioned in the beginning of this Personal, was actually a truly converted man, and that he actually did commit the alleged adultery. Could he *still* be a Christian? If GOD had been previously using him, could God still have used him, after the sin of adultery — if he had not been murdered?

I was mentioning this hypothetical instance to a man who is a begotten son of God. His instant, rather emphatic ejaculation was that *definitely* he never *could have been* a truly converted man of God, IF he committed adultery.

And I am led to believe perhaps MOST people would think the same way.

BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG!

Yes, Even Ministers CAN Sin!

We need to UNDERSTAND!

Not only could a prominent

churchman, under temptation, slip and commit a sin. But even Jesus Christ was *tempted* — probably more strongly than any other human. He, of course, never let the temptation remain in His mind — it never *conceived* or *gave birth* to sin.

And we need to remember — even a minister of Jesus Christ — a true one whom the living Christ USES — is JUST AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE!

First, too many people look on a minister as a holy, superhuman, saintly, super-righteous sort of person who is surely not HUMAN. They seem to think a minister is not like other humans — that he is automatically ABOVE SIN! This can get to be a sort of WORSHIP, of making your minister “another god BEFORE the Almighty GOD.” That can become IDOLATRY!

A minister has the same human nature YOU have — and I have shown you the Apostle Paul had it, too! Surely NO minister today is any more righteous than was PAUL — and he had a mighty BATTLE striving against sin!

And if we battle against EVIL SPIRITS in HIGH PLACES — Satan and demons of HIGH RANK, and GREAT POWER — just consider *how much more* the forces of Satan would try to overthrow a true minister of the living Christ!

God's ministers probably have a far tougher STRUGGLE against sin than YOU do! They NEED your prayers!

Now as I said in the beginning, I did not know this churchman who was murdered. It is not for me to judge whether he was sincere, whether actually a converted man.

I do not know whether he actually committed the alleged adultery.

But I do want to make one thing PLAIN.

IF he were a converted man, with God's Holy Spirit dwelling in him — with an abiding overall ATTITUDE of delighting in God's Law, as did Paul, of obedience to GOD — and if he actually *did* slip, and under a temptation you and I may not understand, yield to this INCIDENT of adultery — then IF he truly repented of it, as soon as he came back to his right senses, God WOULD HAVE FORGIVEN!

Assuredly it WAS possible that he could have *continued* as a real Chris-

tian. Jesus DIED to forgive and BLOT OUT sins REPENTED OF!

Most assuredly *no Christian* SHOULD commit sin!

And most assuredly *no one* teaches more emphatically than do the editors of TOMORROW'S WORLD that Christians MUST KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS! No one can say that we condone sin! NEVER!!!

Now UNDERSTAND!

The Apostle John had been three-and-a-half years *with* Jesus. He wrote under Jesus' inspiration. He said:

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you . . .” (I John 1:5). This is the inspired Message *direct from Christ!* Continue:

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth” (verse 6). The “*we*” here refers to real Christians. In verse 19 of chapter 2 he speaks of NON-Christians: “*They* went out from *us*, but *they* were not of *us*.” His language is plain.

If WE profess to be Christians — if we SAY we have fellowship “with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (verse 3) — yet if we *are living* in darkness — if our lives are going the way of SIN — we are liars. He is not here talking of one who, under temptation, commits *an act* of sin, and then repents. He is talking directly of those followers of the FALSE PROPHETS who teach that GOD'S LAW is DONE AWAY. If you say you are a Christian because you BELIEVE IN CHRIST, or worship Christ — yet DO NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, you WALK in “darkness.” You then do NOT have any fellowship with Christ, and if you claim to be a Christian, you are a LIAR! (I John 2:4.)

Difference Between an Act and an Attitude

He is not talking about AN ACT of sin, repented of — but about *an attitude* and *a life* of continuously *living in sin!*

We must, as a continuous WAY OF LIFE, “walk in the light” — that is, THE WAY of obeying God's Commandments. THEN “we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus

Christ his Son *cleanseth us* from all sin” (verse 7). The word “cleanseth” here is from the original Greek word *katharizo* which is in the Greek *present continuous tense*. It does not say, the blood of Christ “*did* cleanse us, when we were first converted.” But, rather, does NOW cleanse us who were, in the past, converted.

The following verses make this meaning clear. Notice verse 8:

“If WE” (who are already Christians) “say that *we* have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Here again, notice the tenses. John does not say, “If we Christians say we *did not* sin, *before* we were forgiven and converted.” He is *not* talking about past sins, committed before repentance and conversion. THOSE sins God has forgiven in the past and no longer remembers. He is speaking here of the present. “If we, NOW, say that we NOW have no sin.”

Now continue, “If WE confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE US from all unrighteousness” (verse 9). This is speaking of any sins a Christian may commit, *after he has been converted*. IF we confess, and REPENT, Jesus, our High Priest, alive in heaven, will FORGIVE, and, more, CLEANSE us of *all* unrighteousness.

What is “righteousness”? Psalm 119:172 — keeping ALL God's Commandments. Unrighteousness is transgressing one or more of God's Commandments. If WE, who are already Christians, confess and REPENT of any sin we might, unhappily, commit (though we certainly SHOULD NOT SIN!!), the living Christ not only will forgive, but CLEANSE US from doing it anymore!

Next verse: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his Word is not in us” (verse 10). In other words, “If WE CHRISTIANS say we CHRISTIANS have not sinned.”

The next verse continues right on, though it is in chapter 2.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not” (chapter 2, verse 1). Or, “I write this to you CHRISTIANS, that you who are already Christians *will not* sin.” Then he con-

tinues, "And if any man sin, *WE* [we Christians] have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for *OUR* sins" (verses 1-2). And he continues, same verse, to show he is NOT talking about forgiving sins of people "in the world" repenting and just BEING converted: "and not for *ours* only, but *also* for the sins of the whole world."

Plainly that says that Christ is the propitiation NOT ONLY for the sins of the whole world — the UNconverted — BUT, ALSO, for OURS — speaking of converted Christians.

In the very next verse John shows how WE Christians *know* that we know HIM — "IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS." That is, if that is OUR WAY of life — OUR ATTITUDE — our DESIRE — our INTENTION. We may stumble and fall down once in a while, along THAT WAY. We are "BABES IN CHRIST" and babies fall down sometimes, learning to WALK. But our "WALK" is THE WAY of keeping God's Commandments!

In verse 4, he speaks of the FALSE Christians. "He that saith 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His Commandments, IS A LIAR, and the truth is not in him." That is, the one who never professes to keep God's Commandments, yet professes he is "saved by grace."

The FINAL CONCLUSION

Now we are ready to MAKE PLAIN what IS the "unpardonable sin" — that sin that can never be forgiven, in this world or the next!

SALVATION means being BORN into GOD'S KINGDOM, changed from a flesh-and-blood mortal HUMAN, to a Spirit-composed, life-inherent, immortal son of God the Father — the Father of the divine Family. *That* change will come at the *time* of Christ's return. This salvation depends upon God's Holy Spirit *dwelling* in one at the END of the ROAD — end of your life — or, as Paul characterized it, the end of the race.

SIN is the transgression of GOD'S LAW. We are born with a carnal mind, hostile to God's Law, resentful of authority over it. All have sinned!

When one REPENTS of sin and sinning — comes to a CHANGE of mind and attitude in regard to sin, and BELIEVES in

Jesus Christ as His Saviour not only from past sins, but from SINNING — God has PROMISED His Holy Spirit. This GIFT from God, of the presence within of His own immortal life, effects a CHANGE in the MIND. It becomes spiritual minded — comes to the ATTITUDE of *desiring* to GO THE WAY of God's Law — of loving God, being submissive to God's authority, WANTING God's righteousness. No longer SELF-centered, but GOD-centered.

He thus starts his WALK down that road, to the end of his life. It is the WAY of God's Commandments, as a WAY of LIFE. At the end of that road is ETERNAL LIFE — his LIFE GOAL, which he now desires *above all else!*

God's Spirit dwelling in him is the divine LOVE of God which fulfills God's spiritual Law. Through God's Spirit, God by grace has GIVEN him the spiritual EQUIPMENT *to walk that Way*. It is a WAY of overcoming, and of GROWING in character — in the knowledge of Christ and of God's WAY. God's Spirit dwells in one *actively*, flowing into him from God, flowing on out in LOVE to God, and LOVE to neighbor.

BUT, as he WALKS this WAY of life, HE IS A "BABE IN CHRIST," actually *learning* to walk spiritually, just as a human baby must *learn to walk* physically. He must TRY not to fall, yet he is bound to fall down a few times along the road, learning to walk spiritually.

If, through former HABIT, or being overcome by temptation of the PULL of the flesh — of his human nature — or other cause, he encounters an INCIDENT of committing a sin, for which he is afterward truly sorry — and for which he REPENTS — all the while his INNER Spirit-begotten MIND is still in the ATTITUDE of DESIRING to continue on GOD'S WAY, then he has an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ our High Priest — TO FORGIVE that sin.

THAT IS NOT AN UNPARDONABLE SIN!

Even though, in that incident, under temptation, or neglect of prayer and Bible study, he does yield KNOWINGLY, his mind, for the time being, ASSENTING to the deed. This is doing it, for the moment, WILLINGLY, but it is NOT *willful* sin.

The determining factor is this: As long as God's Spirit is DWELLING IN him, he is in contact with God, and still his ATTITUDE is right. And as long as God's Spirit does dwell in him, he is ON THE ROAD TO ETERNAL LIFE. He may, on occasion, stumble and fall down. But he continues, so far as his overall ATTITUDE is concerned, on this ROAD TO LIFE.

Now I have shown that God *will forgive* such an *incident* of sin in a Spirit-begotten Christian.

You may ask, "But would God forgive if he ever sins AGAIN?" As long as his INTENTION — his overall ATTITUDE and desire — *and effort* — is to WALK WITH GOD, going GOD'S WAY, God will forgive. Jesus said we must forgive, not just once, not twice, or seven times, but seventy TIMES seven. Is God LESS forgiving than He expects us to be?

WILLFUL Sinning

WHEN one receives the Holy Spirit by God's grace, this Spirit dwelling in him is tentative and conditional SALVATION. But IF one *again* changes his mind — changes his LIFE'S GOAL — takes his eyes completely off the Goal of God's Kingdom, and fixes them PURPOSELY on going back to THE WAY of worldliness and sin — IF he changes his WAY of life back to the CARNAL WAY of the world, *leaving* the ROAD he was traveling with CHRIST — THEN he has set his mind on determined, premeditated, deliberate WILLFUL SIN!

IF he decides he *no longer* WANTS to go GOD'S WAY, deliberately and intentionally *changes* his OVERALL ATTITUDE, and desires, and CHOOSES the world and its ways — deliberately chooses a life of rebellion, comes to have contempt and disregard for God's Law, then that man either *has done* or *is in danger of doing* despite to God's Holy Spirit which a merciful and loving God had GIVEN by grace!

SUCH A MAN is surely in grave DANGER of BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT!

This is not a mere stumbling while ON THE WAY — on GOD'S WAY — the WAY of His LAW fulfilled by His HOLY SPIRIT — the way to Eternal Life. This is not an *incident* of sin. A man may

stumble over an INCIDENT of sin *again and again*, while WALKING the WAY of God, with God's Spirit still dwelling IN him. Always he will repent — because his ATTITUDE is, simply, that he DESIRES, more than anything in life, to SUCCEED along this WAY he has chosen — to OVERCOME, to GROW spiritually, to receive ETERNAL LIFE. He may find the road hard, difficult, beset with temptations and spiritual pitfalls. He will most certainly suffer persecution. But his overall WILLFUL purpose, ATTITUDE and life-GOAL is to be submissive to God, to RELY on God, to be OBEDIENT to God, to LIVE for God, and to enter the Kingdom of God.

What most people do not understand is the *difference* between an *incident* of a sin committed — even though there be REPEATED such incidents of stumbling, always repented of — and one's overall ATTITUDE, or desired, deliberate, willful, and fixed PURPOSE!

The one who changes that overall ATTITUDE from one of submissive yielding to God to one of hostile rebellion — the one who changes his life's GOAL from wanting God's RIGHTEOUSNESS, and ETERNAL LIFE, to *wanting* SELF-centeredness and willfully going the WORLD'S WAY, is in an altogether different category than the one whose GOAL is the Kingdom of God, but who stumbles in an *incident* of sin — or even many such incidents.

TWO Ways Into Unpardonable Sin

I want to be even more specific. I want every reader to UNDERSTAND. And I feel very few DO fully understand this question.

There are at least TWO ways in which a Spirit-begotten Christian may LOSE the gift of God's Holy Spirit.

1) By deliberate choice. This may come from wrong reasoning; from wrong desire thought out to a final fixed, permanent decision as to his WAY OF LIFE; or, from allowing *resentment* in his heart toward either God or some person who may have wronged him. To allow resentment to embitter him, until he comes to change his whole life course, turning from God.

I cannot put too much emphasis on guarding against harboring resentment.

It is spiritual POISON — *deadly* spiritual poison. If ever you begin to feel resentment against some injustice, go PRAY, asking God to remove it QUICKLY. Do not let it well up inside you — never harbor it. If you do, you will become as "hooked" with it as a dope addict becomes "hooked" with heroin! It is *that serious!*

God warns you, "Follow PEACE with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking *diligently* lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any *root of bitterness* springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled" (Heb. 12:14-15). Your bitterness may not harm the other fellow — but it may destroy YOU!

2) The converted Christian can *lose* the presence of God's Spirit by CONTINUED NEGLECT. Neglect of prayer, neglect of Bible study, neglect of spiritual fellowship with God's people. Or, by continuing too close a friendship with unconverted people — letting participation with them in material interests, pleasures, sports, entertainment cause NEGLECT of spiritual interests. Don't misunderstand. A certain amount of diversion can be healthy. And you cannot avoid all contact with unconverted people. But never let it DOMINATE in your interest and heart.

To the Colossians, God says through Paul: "Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1). That is, instead of *seeking* an interest in television shows, or popular materialistic interests, actively *seek* more knowledge of Christ — more of the UNDERSTANDING that comes from GOD, in the Bible. Make this your MAIN interest. Never let occasional diversion compete with it as your overall interest.

The passage continues: "Set your *affection* on things above, not on things on the earth" (verse 2). Make the SPIRITUAL things your dominant, all-absorbing BIG interest — until you LOVE the receiving of new spiritual knowledge, and set your *affection* on it. Digging out new spiritual TRUTH in the Bible is *the most exciting interest* there can be in life. It's not dry, dull, uninteresting, boring. It's exciting, thrilling — and also profitable and uplifting!

NOT the World's Way

Remember it is a WAY OF LIFE. It is *not* the way the world is living. It is a different ATTITUDE altogether. Jesus said we must *live by* every Word of God — that is, the WHOLE BIBLE! Since the world lives a different way — travels a different ROAD, if you get interested in, absorbed in, and walking down *that* road, you certainly will no longer be walking with the *living Christ* down the spiritual road, with God's LIFE — His Spirit — *dwelling* in you!

Remember, Jesus tells us it is "he that shall endure unto the END, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). He means the END of this Spirit-LED road, which every Christian must travel — if LED BY the Holy Spirit. That is LIFE's road. So it means the remainder of your life.

You cannot travel down TWO different roads, leading in opposite directions, at the same time. Once you have *started* traveling with the *living Christ* on GOD's road that leads to eternal life, if you allow materialistic interests to *dominate*, they may soon lure you back onto the carnal road of this world.

And *then what?*

If you leave THE WAY that God's Spirit is leading, then God's Spirit may leave you — no longer dwelling in you! You will commit sins, but you will not be sorry — and you will probably not repent!

So UNDERSTAND! Salvation is *from sinning!* It comes as God's GIFT — by grace.

"Works" do not earn or produce it. "Works" determine the degree of "reward," or office, or glory, in God's Kingdom, *IF* you are born into that Kingdom, by grace!

To be "saved" — to inherit eternal life in God's Kingdom — you must still be traveling *THAT WAY* at the end of your life! Stumbling — falling down — *on that road*, repented of, DOES NOT PUT YOU OFF THAT ROAD! But to deliberately *change roads*, to willfully go back on the world's road, or to let the false glamour and glitter of the world's road begin to dominate your life, may bring you to a place where you are unable to REPENT and get back on

GOD'S WAY. You may never WANT to get back on the *right* road, traveling with the living CHRIST!

Important!

Yet I am persuaded that anyone who does seriously REPENT, and earnestly SEEK Jesus Christ, may find Him, and forgiveness, and get back on the right road.

But *don't take chances!*

Remember Esau. He "found no place of repentance, though he sought it with tears" (Heb. 12:17). It was *too late!* The Birthright had already been *confirmed* to Jacob! And Judas found it was TOO LATE to move time back and prevent betraying the very CHRIST — after Jesus was crucified! Judas "repented himself," — but it was TOO LATE. He "went out and hanged himself."

DON'T take chances on it being TOO LATE for YOU!

Probably it is NOT "too late" yet! *Don't delay* repenting and getting back to Christ!

How About NON-Christians?

So far, we have treated only with the case of converted Christians, who have actually received the precious GIFT of God's Holy Spirit.

But can a NON-Christian commit an UNforgivable sin?

Let me say, first, MANY have *supposed* they had been converted, but who, actually, NEVER WERE!

I knew a man who thought he had repented, and was baptized. Others thought he had been really converted — that is, had received God's Holy Spirit. His *attitude* seemed changed. He now had the same *attitude* toward the world in general that spirit-minded people do. He certainly could see what was wrong with the world. He was disgusted with it. He was accepted among spirit-minded people as one of them.

But very soon he turned the other way. His Christian friends wondered if he had committed the unpardonable sin. Then it came to mind, they didn't remember ever hearing him expressing any disgust with his own SELF. The WORLD was wrong — but was *he*? Had he, after all, ever come to any real REPENTANCE — or only a little of the

sorrow that people of the world experience?

HAD he, after all, received the Holy Spirit? Were there any FRUITS of it? Very doubtful. He seemed still to be SELF-centered, more concerned with SELF than going God's WAY.

Such a person might have had no more than a FALSE "conversion," like multiple MILLIONS in the world today. If so, he certainly had NOT committed an unforgivable sin!

IF such a one DOES come to real repentance, and real heartrending DESIRE to be God's son, to go GOD's way henceforth, and to find salvation, HE CAN!

Those deceived with the popular FALSE "salvation" of this world's "Christianity" are not necessarily yet CONDEMNED!

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

Now notice what Jesus said about blaspheming the Holy Spirit. There had been brought to him a demon-possessed, blind and dumb man. Jesus healed him. The man then saw and spoke. The people were amazed! But the Pharisees (Matt. 12:24) and the scribes which had come up to Galilee from Jerusalem (Mark 3:22) accused Jesus of being Satan-possessed, and casting out demons by Beelzebub (Satan).

These hypocritical scribes and Pharisees *knew* their accusation was a lie! Just before this, they had been holding a council, plotting to discredit — and to MURDER — Jesus! (Matt. 12:14.) They accused Jesus falsely, attempting to discredit Him in the eyes of the people.

The *modern* "Pharisees" of this world's organized but deceived "Christianity" — resisting the *same true Gospel* of the Kingdom of God, now being heard by the MILLIONS worldwide today through *this* Work of God, use the same tactics against us! They falsely accuse us of being what they are — false prophets. They deliberately misrepresent what we teach. They falsely say we teach what we do not — and that we do not teach what we do!

Jesus had been casting out demons. The crowd was awed! Many were beginning to believe! These religious leaders said to the crowds, "He hath

Beelzebub, and by the prince of demons casteth out demons" (Mark 3:22).

To these scribes and Pharisees — and to the crowds — Jesus replied:

"Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: *BUT* he that *shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit* hath never forgiveness, but IS IN DANGER OF eternal damnation" (Mark 3:28-29).

Now what does "*blaspheme*" mean?

The Greek word, as the English word "blaspheme," means "*intentional indignity offered of God or sacred things.*"

With these scribes and Pharisees, it was *intentional*. And they *KNEW* it was false. To say a thing like this in ignorance of the true facts, or impulsively in emotional anger without thinking, would be different. But these religious leaders *knew* their accusation was false! Their blasphemy was *deliberate*, premeditated, intentional. They had just been counselling together on HOW to discredit Him, and to murder Him.

So, this unforgivable sin is one committed deliberately, *knowing* they are wrong, after thinking it over, and doing it intentionally, *willfully*. Jesus said they were IN DANGER OF damnation in gehenna fire, the final, second death!

And *this* sin was committed by *unconverted* men!

No ordinary sin, even by a Christian, is unforgivable. Jesus said plainly that ALL sins, and blasphemies — against even GOD — even against Jesus Christ — will be forgiven on repentance. It is ONLY premeditated, thought-out, planned, deliberate, intentional, willful indignity, insult, false accusation against God's HOLY SPIRIT that is unforgivable.

Sinning Willfully

Now, finally, notice the two passages in the book of Hebrews, speaking of sinning WILLFULLY, and being IMPOSSIBLE to repent.

These, actually, have already been explained at great length in this Personal. So now we come to these scriptural passages themselves.

Notice: "For if we sin WILLFULLY after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and

fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, *who hath trodden under foot the Son of GOD, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and HATH DONE DESPITE UNTO THE SPIRIT of grace?*" (Hebrews 10:26-29.)

I have fully explained in this Personal the meaning of WILLFUL sinning. This passage refers only to those who have become truly converted — received God's Holy Spirit. The "WE" refers to converted Christians. None can, in fact, come to the real "KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH," until they have received the Holy Spirit to open their minds to that spiritual TRUTH (I Cor. 2:9-11, 14).

But notice, this sinning WILLFULLY is connected with doing "despite to the SPIRIT of grace" — certainly dangerously close to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

However, as explained above, most sins committed by begotten children of God are NOT in this category!

The other passage is this:

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift" — the Holy Spirit — "and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, IF they shall *fall away*, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:4-6).

Actually, if you understand one phrase here, it is self-explanatory. That is this: "For it is IMPOSSIBLE . . . IF they *fall away*, TO RENEW THEM AGAIN UNTO REPENTANCE."

Now there may be *degrees* toward "falling away." How shall we know how far is here meant? By the next words: whenever it becomes IMPOSSIBLE to renew one to repentance — well, he has "fallen away" — completely!

Remember, God *grants* repentance (Acts 11:18; 5:31). Yet of course God never *forces* repentance on one. When one has come to the place where he WON'T — can't — has totally, com-

pletely, lost all desire to repent — is UNABLE to repent — he has "fallen away."

And of course this is NOT speaking of UNconverted people — those who never had been converted — but only those who had been.

The TEST is this: IF and WHEN one really does DESIRE to repent — *does* feel completely disgusted and abhorrent of himself — does DESIRE to repent and get back into God's grace — *HE CAN!*

What about the "backslider" — as some phrase it? If he at any time becomes *willing* to repent — comes to DESIRE to repent and return to God's WAY, the gracious, merciful, all-loving GOD *will* forgive — and *will grant* full repentance.

God inspired James to close his book with this important admonition:

"My brothers, if anyone of *you* goes astray from the truth and someone brings him back, understand that he who brings a sinner back from the error of his way saves the man's soul from death and hides a host of his own sins" (James 5:19-20 — Moffatt translation).

That's the final answer. If he's committed the unpardonable sin, he won't want to. If he *wants to* — if he does REPENT, and WANTS the contact re-established with God — *HE CAN!*

And how about one never yet truly converted — or one who *thought* he was, but had only a false "conversion" and backslid? Well, *whenever* he is willing to really REPENT, and WANTS to find Christ — *HE CAN* — if he just WILL!

How WONDERFUL are the ways of GOD!

Personal Counsel

If you are one who wants to really REPENT and obey God — then here is good news! As a part of the Adult Educational Program, we now have dedicated, consecrated, converted, fully instructed and trained, ordained MINISTERS in all parts of the world — available to call on you, visit you in your home, answer your questions, explain the Bible to you — *IF YOU REQUEST IT!* But none of them will *EVER* call on you, unless YOU of your own free will request it!

Neither Jesus, nor Peter, nor Paul, nor any of the original true Apostles

ever approached people and personally URGED conversion on them. God has made every human a FREE MORAL AGENT. God compels each to MAKE HIS OWN DECISION, *and the true GOD* will never force you to be converted.

But if you, of your own volition, want to know MORE about the Bible, repentance, and the Christian life — if you'd like to ask questions about them, why not write your request for a personal visit to the Editor? We may be able to have one of God's own ministers call on you quite soon. □

ANSWERS to your Questions

● "Where is the Garden of Eden today?"

It's gone! Adam was ordered to dress and keep it. He sinned and was driven out and the garden became overgrown as would any garden without human care. What your question should have asked is: "Where *was* the Garden of Eden?"

God planted a garden in Eden about 6,000 years ago. Where was it located? The Bible does not dogmatically tell us. However, the strong indication is that it existed somewhere in the area where Jerusalem was later built. God has consistently used this area of the Holy Land to work out His plan of salvation. When Christ returns, the center of His kingdom will be at Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:17; Jeremiah 3:17).

Ezekiel 47:1-12 shows a river will be flowing out from Jerusalem during Christ's reign, just as it did from the ancient Garden of Eden (see Gen. 2:10-14). Since that is the time of the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21), we have another strong indication that God will re-establish His presence at the same locality as before (see Gen. 3:8, 23-24; 4:16).

Also, since the saints rule with Christ from Jerusalem, Rev. 2:7 seems to indicate that the area will be restored to its former Edenic condition. Paradise means garden. This is the "garden of God."

Letters to the Editor

How to Be an Overcomer

We received *Tomorrow's World* just the other day and we are enjoying the articles very much. We especially enjoyed "How to Be an Overcomer." This article "hit home." We all stumble and fall so many times—but God always helps us up. We need encouragement and help to live daily. Our Father is always there. Thank you for the article.

Mr.-Mrs. Bobby H.,
Bean Station, Tenn.

The Locusts' Deafening Defense

Who'd ever expect to find an article on locusts in an issue of *Tomorrow's World*? I'm not writing you to complain, but to congratulate you on one of the most educational articles I have ever read. I've recently shown it to my biology teacher at school and after reading it he remarked that he had never read anything quite like it. One more thing, since the sound of intensity is measured at 80-90 decibels, how did you manage to snap a close-up of it?

Mr. Joseph M.,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

• We'll answer your question with another question: How do New Yorkers live in Manhattan, where 100 decibels are encountered in express subway cars and 103 decibels have been recorded on sidewalks? Thanks for the letter. We appreciate it.

Personal Counsel

In the article "How Does God Answer Prayer?" it states there are true servants of God in every part of the United States. I would like such a person to come to my home.

Nicholas T.,
Canton, Ohio

Ambassador College Press

(Continued from page 26)

and is being done by *faith*! A comparatively *small* group of Co-Workers has supported God's end-time Work for many years now. *Humanly* speaking it would have been impossible to accomplish what has been done. But with *God* it has been accomplished. And the best is *yet to come*!

In the next issue be sure to read the rest of the story of the Ambassador College Press and the facts concerning more recent developments as well as what is projected for the future!

Having studied many of the Christian sects as a seeker after truth, I am extremely interested in the Message as presented in *Tomorrow's World*. I would welcome a visit from one of your ministers as there is much to discuss and time seems to be of the essence.

M. H. S.,
Pevensey, Sussex, England

I am writing to request that you send someone to see our family and answer all the many questions I have. I would very much like to have the personal touch of someone who really knows what he is talking about. I just don't seem to be able to stick to my convictions alone. I need all the help and guidance of someone who can really be of help. Please send someone to see us as soon as possible.

Mrs. M. A. J.,
Bellefontaine, Ohio

The Ambassador College Graduate School of Theology has sent dedicated men (most are fully ordained ministers) into the vast majority of communities in the United States and British Commonwealth and into many cities of the world. These sincere individuals have no religious "ax to grind," no "quota" to meet, no pressure to exert. Their main purpose in life is to help you gain eternal life. Of course, none will call on you unless you request it, but if you do have questions which you want answered, or you desire counsel concerning baptism, write to us and request a special, private appointment. Give us the pleasure of serving you.

The "Jesus Trip"

Thank you for your outstanding article "The Jesus Trip — Ticket to Nowhere?" Before I read your article about these Jesus freaks I wondered if they were for real — really sincere, that is. Now I'm sure they are, or else they wouldn't make such drastic changes in their life style. I'm sure glad you explained that sincerity doesn't necessarily equate with being right about something. You told us to see what the Bible said. You then said a lot of radical (to me) things which I could see were in my Bible. But then toward the end of the article, you said Christ was born in Nazareth. I don't want to be picky, but my Bible says He was born in Bethlehem. Your article got down to the nitty-gritty, so I will. What about this?

Ben N.,
Tacoma, Washington

• Please accept our apology for this editorial oversight. Bethlehem was where Jesus was born (Matthew 2:1). He grew up in Nazareth (Matthew 2:23; Mark 1:9; Luke 1:26; John 1:45).

Tithing and Unemployment

Just wanted to let you know that I find tithing really pays off. For example, I have been tithing for several years now, and since that time I have never been without money that I needed, even while paying my own way through college. I have been living on my bank account and unemployment. The very day my unemployment ran out, I went to work as an engineer in a job that involves world travel, while many thousands of experienced engineers are out of work in this area. How is that for timing?

Arthur M.,
Mountain View, Calif.

After a year of not working, I am called back to work now. I had never, before I received your magazine, thought much about tithing. When I received my tax returns I sent one tenth (\$31.20) to Ambassador College. No sooner had I sent my tithing money away, than I received this offer for work in Prince George, so I cannot thank you enough for your magazine.

Mr. K. B.,
Prince George, B.C., Canada

I have been reading *Tomorrow's World* on tape recordings. Although visually handicapped, I have always been well-employed and fairly prosperous financially. However, six months ago, I was forced to leave my job. In the last six months, I have been unable to find a job to support my family. However, this week after notifying my attorney to initiate bankruptcy proceedings, I started reading an issue of *Tomorrow's World* — and in particular the article on tithing. I read it over and over, and decided to make a change. I put aside 10% of the last money I had left and two days later a friend paid \$50.00 that was owed me. Yesterday, a check came for \$300.00 that was owed me for five months and frankly I'd given up hope that it would ever come. Therefore enclosed please find my tithes for the week and I fervently hope that my offering may serve as a beginning of my change. May this be a prayer unto God that I may be freed from the bonds of financial difficulties.

Richard Z.,
Elizabeth, New Jersey

New Co-Worker

I had listened to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast for about two to three years before writing in for *The Plain Truth* magazine a little over a year ago. I must admit that I had hesitated because of being sceptical. It is hard to believe that in today's 'everything has a catch' society, you can receive something absolutely free. It is obvious to me now that this hesitation had withheld from me the truth, knowledge, and understanding that I have since obtained from the many high quality books and booklets that I have received on request. Thank you. It would give me great pleasure to assist your great Work as a Co-Worker. Please find the enclosed cheque.

Mr. P. S.,
Frankston, Victoria, Australia

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