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More About Our Cover:

The Western World's monetary system hinges on the Dollar. Money — where to get it and how to keep it — has always been one of the chief quests of mankind. Today's world is on the brink of economic disaster — a repetition of 1929 looms on the horizon, only this one will be on a larger scale! Solomon cynically states, "... Money answereth all things" (Eccl. 10:19). Yet we've all heard that "the good things in life are free." What is Money, anyway? Learn all the basics about this basic subject in the article, "Your Best Investment," beginning on page 16.

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Personal from the Editor

A UNITED STATES senator preached a sermon in a Methodist pulpit in Los Angeles. Of all things, imagine a well-known senator saying that *patriotism* is a false god to many people! And he is right.

“Love of country can transcend the love of God,” he said, “and we must, in time of stress, avoid making patriotism a religion.”

He said a number of other things I could have said, myself. Among the idols professing Christians worship, he cited *prosperity, science, patriotism, peace* — and some people actually make an idol of the Bible, strange as that may sound. Some, he said, worship the Bible for *itself*, NOT as containing TRUTHS necessary for salvation; and, I add, as a GUIDE to a WAY OF LIFE.

What is *your* idol? What are YOU really dedicated to? Is it earning a living — making money? What absorbs your mind, your thoughts, your time — what are you really *devoted* to? Is it GOD — above all else? Or is it your hobby, your wife or husband, your children, your home, your sports — or amusements and entertainments? What do you keep your MIND on most of the time? What most occupies your INTEREST? Is it friends — society? Is it PEOPLE — or is it THINGS?

It surely couldn't be GOD, could it? Probably not. And, if not, then it is an IDOL. You are breaking the first Commandment. You have this other god *before* Him.

Just WHAT IS RELIGION?

Is it merely an incidental interest, secondary to *many* other things, such as earning a living, your home, your family, your friends, hobbies, sports, entertainments? Possibly secondary to TV or movies?

Religion is your CONNECTION WITH GOD — your relationship with Him. Religion is realizing the PURPOSE of your life — the reason why God had you to be born — the reason you draw the breath of air and exist — the PURPOSE or end-GOAL of your life, and HOW to live that life so as to arrive there.

I have written of the *Seven Laws of SUCCESS*. You may have the free booklet on *The Seven Laws*

of Success by writing our office nearest you. They are really the seven laws of LIFE. They are the seven laws of RELIGION. Yet most people do not know, or practice, or apply, a single one of them.

The first is to have the RIGHT GOAL.

That GOAL — God's PURPOSE for having put the breath of life in you — is that you be born of GOD, to share with Him the GLORY of creation, to inherit His divine NATURE, to be LIKE HIM — to do what He does, to accomplish what He accomplishes, enjoy what He ENJOYS — Peace, Happiness, Joy, resplendent GLORY in LIFE EVERLASTING.

No other goal could be as great. It is superlative.

But what are *you, now*? Just a mass of matter, *put together like a machine*. Your present existence has to be constantly SUSTAINED. You have to keep drawing a breath of air into your lungs about every two or three seconds. You have to eat food on the average of at least three times every day. You have to take care of eliminating the impurities from food, and of bathing and cleansing your body. Maybe you don't *really* have to “brush your teeth after every meal” as a certain toothpaste TV commercial keeps repeating like a phonograph record that got stuck. But you *do* have to maintain and sustain your physical anatomy to keep on existing — and even then you are ageing and degenerating every day and every year — and the most certain thing in this existence we call “life” is that this machine process is going to run down — YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.

Actually, we have to simply *keep pumping life into* ourselves constantly — daily — to continue existing — to continue consciousness.

Yet most people keep on, day after day, year after year, pumping that existence into themselves, with NO MORE PURPOSE than to try to be comfortable, free from pain, and to be pleasing the five senses — with their minds on the passing physical and material things of the moment — things that are not lasting, and are soon gone.

Unless God's own CHARACTER is being formed and

developed in your mind and your life, replacing the carnality that is there now, you shall have missed your GOAL. God's PURPOSE is to CREATE within you, during this life, a new and perfect CHARACTER, so that you may be *given* eternal life — self-containing, inherent life.

If you are converted—that is, if you do once establish actual *contact* with God — He supernaturally puts within you His HOLY SPIRIT. This impregnates you with HIS LIFE — begets you as His child, actually yet unborn. Actually, what many professing Christians call “being born again” *should* be termed “being begotten.”

Technically, to be “born of God” means to be changed in composition from flesh and blood matter to SPIRIT — no longer mortal, no longer human. But it does put within you a NEW NATURE, entirely opposite to HUMAN NATURE with which you were first born. You are, as Scripture says, given “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE” (II Peter 1:4). Of course the old human nature *remains*; and *your mind* makes the continual decisions whether to yield to the downward pull and appetites and established habits of human nature, or to resist it by yielding to the new divine nature — to BE LED BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.

This, then, BECOMES *your very life!*

You can only succeed if your GOAL is kept constantly — continually — before your eyes. When you drive a car, if you take your eyes and attention off what is in front of you (and sometimes coming from the side or behind) even for two or three seconds, you may find yourself “coming to” in a hospital, dying, and saying “it all happened *so suddenly!*” Driving *carefully* means BEING ALERT — being DILIGENT every second — KEEPING YOUR EYE and your mind and attention on the matter of DRIVING — not on conversation or other things.

In the same manner, if you let other interests, material pursuits, steal first place in your mind and heart and *interest*, even for a few days, you are endangering a SPIRITUAL SMASH-UP that will let you wake up being plunged into the LAKE OF FIRE, which will mean eternal DEATH.

That's why God doesn't want you to have these other gods BEFORE Him. For your own sake — in your own interest — you must keep Him enthroned and enshrined constantly ABOVE ALL. You must study HIS WORD in order to be *instructed* by Him.

Instructed in what? Instructed in true KNOWLEDGE

— knowledge of God's PURPOSE for you — knowledge of and about GOD — and knowledge of HOW TO LIVE. Jesus Christ said you must actually LIVE BY the words of the Bible. It is your GUIDE TO LIVING — your INSTRUCTION BOOK the Maker sent along to instruct you HOW to OPERATE this mechanism that is YOU.

More, you must study His Word — your BIBLE — to find what you now believe that is wrong, and what you are now DOING that is wrong — to be CORRECTED and reproved by it. You must study it to let it INSTRUCT you in the ways of God's RIGHTEOUSNESS — His WAY OF LIFE. And then you must *devote* yourself to LIVING IT!

Still, without regular and constant PRAYER, you cannot maintain CONTACT with God. And when that *contact* is broken, you are CUT OFF from Him — and His spiritual LIFE, LOVE, and very NATURE cease flowing into you. For, understand, these divine attributes of His Spirit DO FLOW! They are IN MOTION. They do not stagnate. You either GROW spiritually — in knowledge — in grace — in God's character — or you deteriorate back toward becoming a mere physical animal, to die in ETERNAL PUNISHMENT in the lake of fire!

But if God, and the things of God — His revealed knowledge — His Law — His love — His WAY for you to live — are constantly *foremost* in your mind, your thoughts, your interest, then you are PRAYING ALWAYS — that is, in a constant SPIRIT OF PRAYER — a constant MENTAL ATTITUDE of prayer. The contact with God must be *perpetual!*

This kind of Christian life — the only kind that truly is Christian — requires, as the Bible emphasizes repeatedly, zealous DILIGENCE. You must CONCENTRATE on it. You must be DEDICATED to it. It requires utter CONSECRATION. It requires total EARNESTNESS.

Yes, it requires the application of the other six laws of SUCCESS — education, in which the Bible is the main textbook; good physical health; DRIVE, or concentrated DILIGENCE and EFFORT; resourcefulness; sticking to it — enduring; and continual contact with, and the guidance, help, and power of GOD.

True spiritual mindedness is *not* a sticky sentimentalism. It is NOT a certain emotional mood. It is *not* the use of a certain religious phraseology, saying constantly, “Praise the Lord,” or, “Glory, Hallelujah.” I have known many people whose TALK is so very “spiritual” — but whose hearts were as far from God as the prophet Isaiah described. (See Isaiah 29:13.)

Jesus Christ was a perfectly SPIRITUAL man. But

(Continued on page 34)

WHY Must Men SUFFER?

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous," says Scripture. WHY? "I am the Eternal . . . I create evil," says Isa. 45:5, 7. HOW can this be? Who was responsible for Adam's sin? Did Satan thwart God's purpose? Was God unable to prevent it? The real meaning of the book of JOB brings the true answer.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY DOES God permit war? WHY does God allow human suffering and misery? "If God is GOOD — if God is LOVE — if He is MERCIFUL, He would not wish for people to suffer," is the reasoning of many humans. "And if He is ALMIGHTY," they conclude, "He could prevent it. So why doesn't He?"

What's wrong with this reasoning?

The common conception is this: that God *finished* His Creation as described in the first chapter of Genesis; that God created the first man *perfect, immortal*; the work of Creation was finished — complete. Adam was *perfect* in character — innocent of sin — endowed with immortality.

But then, when God wasn't looking, these people believe, Satan entered, succeeded in overthrowing the man, wrecking God's perfect specimen of human creation. In so doing, of course, Satan thwarted God's purpose.

When God returned and beheld what Satan had done, says this conception, He was forced to think out some plan for repairing the damage. And what is that damage supposed to have been? The man's *nature* had been changed. He had "fallen" from the nature of perfection, innocence and holiness to a fallen, sinful nature.

According to this concept, God must have shaken His head in near-unbelief and near-frustration. But He did think out a plan to repair the damage — a plan to restore man to a state and condition *as good as* Adam, before the "fall." The plan of salvation is, therefore, regarded as designed to restore damaged mankind to a condition *as good as* Adam at creation. But, of course, Satan didn't give up and go

away. He has been around ever since, opposing God's efforts, and winning the contest.

What Men Don't Understand

Either this common idea is true, or the only alternate possibility — that God was looking, expressly permitted it, and that God therefore is RESPONSIBLE FOR IT!

And the preachers, the churches, and the professing Christian people of this world simply cannot believe this! Yet, to reject it makes Satan more cunning, more powerful than God. The common idea represents Satan as outsmarting God.

What men do not understand is GOD'S PURPOSE, and GOD'S PLAN for accomplishing His great purpose.

Yes, God is responsible! And being responsible, God *will see to it* — He and He alone is responsible for accomplishing His great original purpose. But being responsible does not imply being guilty. Nor does it imply God caused it.

All that has happened is a necessary *part* of that great design. Satan can do nothing God does not allow. "My purpose shall stand," says God.

There is NO CONTEST being waged between God and the devil. God reigns SUPREME, and every creature and every being stands subject to God's will!

Becoming the Sons of God

What the world does not grasp is that God is *reproducing Himself* — creating, in mortal humans, His very own divine CHARACTER — permitting humans to *learn by experience*; for character cannot be automatically or instantaneously created, imparted or imputed — it must be *developed*, and this only through

EXPERIENCE, and experience requires *time*.

We humans must *have our part* in the development of righteous and holy character. We must first come to realize the true values, and to thoroughly repent of the false way. We must come to *seek*, with our whole hearts and minds, God's true way of righteous character. We must set our wills in tune with God's will.

Then we must come to realize our utter helplessness, and learn to rely on God, in living FAITH, for the power, the strength, the understanding, the righteousness we ourselves are incapable of attaining.

We receive eternal life, and all righteousness, from GOD. But we have *our part to do!* We must come to *desire* it above all else — to *seek* it with all our might — to *yield* ourselves utterly to God's will, and to trust implicitly and unswervingly in HIM. In no other manner could we become the supreme characters which it is God's PURPOSE to make of us.

To this end, we must now be begotten as God's own children, inheriting His divine nature. Through His power, through feeding on His Spirit, we GROW in grace and knowledge and spiritual character, until, at the resurrection, we shall be BORN of God as His very SONS — elevated to His plane and level!

That's God's supreme purpose. It can be achieved only through EXPERIENCE, and in process of TIME. And men LEARN by suffering.

Jesus suffered. "For it became Him . . . in bringing many *sons* unto GLORY, to make the captain of their salvation

[Christ] perfect *through sufferings*" (Heb. 2:10). Again, "Though He were a Son, yet *learned He Obedience by the things which He suffered*" (Heb. 5:8).

Now see how Job's experience explains all this.

LET'S UNDERSTAND IT!

Job's Experience Explains It!

Thousands of years ago, there was a man named Job. You've heard of the man. He lived, as *you* live today, for a purpose. And, the solution of this whole question is made clear by the life-experiences of Job. Many know the story, but *few* understand its MEANING!

This Job was a wealthy man — the wealthiest in all the East. Solomon may have possessed greater wealth. But, as Solomon was the *wisest* man who ever lived, so Job was the *most righteous*!

So let's glimpse, briefly, this thrilling story and its revealing lesson.

"There was," begins the scriptural record, "a man once in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed [shunned] evil. He had seven sons and three daughters; also in livestock he possessed seven thousand sheep and goats, three thousand camels, five hundred pair of oxen, and five hundred she-asses, besides a very large household; so that this man was the greatest man in all the East" (Job 1:1-3, Moffatt translation and A.V.).

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the ETERNAL, and Satan came also among them.

"And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, 'Whence comest thou?' Then Satan answered the ETERNAL, and said, 'From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.'

"And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, 'Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is none like him in the earth*, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth [shuns] evil?'" (Verses 6-8, A.V.)

"Satan answered, 'But is it for nothing that Job reverences God? Have you not hedged him safely in, his house and all he has? You have prospered him in his business, and his flocks are teeming

on the land. Only put out your hand, touch whatever he possesses, and see if he will not curse you to your face!'" (Verses 9-11, Moffatt.)

This World's Philosophy

Notice, please, Satan couldn't point out one imperfection in the man's righteousness. Even God said it was perfect. Yes, undoubtedly Job was the most righteous man who ever lived.

But Satan tried to get around it. He argued that it *paid* Job to be righteous. So, Satan argued, just take away from him *what he has*, and the man will lose his temper and start cursing God!

Well, God deliberately PERMITTED Satan to take away Job's possessions, and put Job to this test.

"Then said the ETERNAL to Satan, 'There! I leave all he has within your power: *but lay no hand upon the man himself*'" (verse 12, Moffatt).

Notice, will you, Satan did this *with God's permission*! Satan was the active agent. But he did it with God's express permission — he could go just as far, in inflicting evil, as God permitted, and *no further*! God *set a limit* on how far Satan could go! There is no contest here between God and Satan — no equality. GOD IS MASTER OF THE SITUATION! He gives the orders, grants permission, sets the limitations!

"So, away went Satan from the presence of the ETERNAL."

What Happened to Job?

Then one day a servant came running to Job with the startling news that Arabs in a foray had carried off all his oxen and asses. Even while he was still talking, in dashed another servant shouting that lightning had just struck and burned up all the sheep, goats, and shepherds. While he was yet speaking another rushed in breathlessly announcing three parties of Chaldeans in a raid upon the camels had carried them off, slaying all the servants except the one who escaped to bring the news.

And even he was yet speaking when in burst another.

"Your sons and your daughters," he exclaimed, "were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother, when a whirlwind swept across the desert and struck the four corners of

the house, till it fell upon the young folk; they are DEAD! And I alone escaped to tell you!" (Verses 13-19, Moffatt.)

Well, now Job was stripped of all his great wealth — wiped out! Worse, all his children were killed!

Did Job blame this ill fortune upon God? Did he lose his temper and curse God? Did he sin, as Satan expected?

"Then Job rose, tore his tunic, shaved his head, and dropped upon the ground in humble worship, crying, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I must return: *the Eternal gave, the Eternal has taken* — blessed be the Eternal!' In all this Job did not sin, nor did he give offence to God" (verses 20-22, Moffatt).

Notice, Job attributed ALL to God. The wealth he had had, *God gave*. The good — the prosperity — all came from God. But also, "The ETERNAL *has taken!*" The Eternal, too, was responsible for the disaster! NOTHING happens contrary to God's purpose!

Satan Tries Again

"One day the sons of God again came to present themselves before the Eternal, and among them Satan.

"'Where have you been?' said the Eternal to the Adversary, and the Adversary answered, 'Roaming here and there, roving about the earth.'

"Then the Eternal said to Satan, 'Have you noticed that there is no one like my servant Job on earth, a blameless and an upright man, who reverences God and shuns evil? He still holds to his loyalty: it was idle of you to entice me to undo him.' But the Adversary answered,

"'He has saved his own skin! A man will let all he has go, to preserve his life. Only put out your hand, touch his flesh and bones, and see if he will not curse you to your face!'" (Job 2:1-5, Moffatt.)

Notice, there is no contest here between two equals. God sits in authority supreme. Satan cannot do one thing without permission from God!

And here, in this heavenly court, God permits Satan to advance his arguments — even to put them to the *test of experience* on the most righteous human on earth! It is a thrilling drama here

being enacted — a drama with great purpose — tremendous meaning!

“So the Eternal said to Satan, ‘There! he is in your power; only, spare his life!’” (Verse 6, Moffatt.)

Notice again, ALL AUTHORITY comes from God. It is GOD who put poor Job in Satan’s power. Satan was permitted to devise his most cunning and cruel affliction — with but one restriction: “Spare his life,” commanded God. Satan could go no further than God specifically authorized! And God did permit this evil! WHY, we shall soon see!

So “away went the Adversary from the Eternal’s presence, and he smote Job with painful ulcers from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head, till Job took a potsherd to scrape himself.

“As he sat among the ashes, his wife said to him, ‘Still holding to your loyalty? Curse God, though you die for it!’”

Was God Just and Fair?

But Job retorted to his wife,

“You are talking like an impious fool. Are we to take good from God’s hand, and not evil too?”

Notice, all the GOOD had come from God. Also all the evil! Beside Him there is no God — no power equal or superior to His. God is responsible for EVERYTHING — both good and evil — because God’s power is SUPREME — absolute! Is this a sin to charge the EVIL, as well as the good, to God?

“In all this,” answers God’s Word, “Job sinned not with his lips.” Charging this evil to God, then, was no sin — no error. It was the TRUTH!

Job’s Friends Have an Argument

“Now, when Job’s three friends heard of all the trouble that had befallen him, they came, each from his own home, Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Maân; they arranged to go and condole with him, to comfort him. But when they caught sight of him at a distance and could not recognize him, they wept aloud; every man of them tore his tunic and flung dust on his head. For seven days and seven nights they sat beside him on the ground; none said a word to him, for they saw how terrible

was his anguish” (Job 2:7-13, Moffatt).

Here is human suffering to compare with the horrors of World War II. Here is anguish almost beyond description! Satan inflicted it. But God permitted it, and therefore is RESPONSIBLE!

Now in the long conversation that followed between Job and his three friends — a conversation occupying the next 34 chapters in the Bible — Job’s friends blamed it all on JOB. Their idea was a good deal like many people believe today. Since God is GOOD, it was impossible to attribute this evil to GOD.

But Job continually denied his friends’ allegations. Continually HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS he upheld and maintained. He attributed it all, rightly, to God — yet, without imputing any blame or fault to God. JOB UNDERSTOOD GOD’S GREAT PURPOSE being worked out here below!

And it is important that we understand! For here Job, as one single individual, is used as an illustration for our learning TODAY, typical of all the mass suffering we see about us in this world today!

God Enters the Argument

Finally, after all these long conversations run themselves out, God Himself takes a hand in the conversation.

Now we begin to see WHY this affliction had come to Job.

“Then the Eternal answered Job out of a storm, saying:

“‘Who darkens MY DESIGN with a cloud of thoughtless words? Confront me like a man; come, answer these my questions’” (Job 38:1-3).

Let me interrupt here with an interesting sidelight explanation which throws light on the conversation to follow. Some authorities believe that Job was the architect and director of the building of the Great Pyramid — still today one of the largest buildings on earth and, prior to the construction of the Woolworth building, the tallest. That Job was proud of his righteousness is plain. That he also might have been puffed up over constructing the world’s greatest building clears up much that God says now to him.

Job was too well aware of his righteousness. God now proceeded to deflate his ego. Can it, then, be possible God

now compares His creation of the earth, and all that is, to the comparatively insignificant accomplishment of building the Great Pyramid? It’s interesting to keep this possibility in mind.

“‘When I founded the earth,’” God opened up on Job, “‘where were you, then? Answer me that, if you have wit to know! Who measured out the earth? — do you know that? Who stretched the builder’s line on it? What were its pedestals placed on? Who laid the corner-stone, when the morning-stars were singing, and all the angels chanted in their joy?’” (Verses 4-7.)

It is significant that a pyramid is the only kind of building on earth where the cornerstone is the top stone — the last stone laid — at the COMPLETION of the building! And here God represents the symbolic “cornerstone” of the EARTH as being laid at its completion — when the angels shouted for joy!

And so God continued to deflate poor Job. Job may have been the most righteous man on earth — yet how insignificant he was, compared to GOD!

Man was created to need GOD! Man cannot live his full life, fulfill his mission, or be happy, unless he keeps himself in his right relationship with GOD! That is the very first lesson man needs to learn and keep ever in mind!

A first principle in character — in the PURPOSE of our existence — is to exalt and worship only GOD, to humble the self, to realize man’s utter helplessness, and his total DEPENDENCE upon GOD!

“‘Who helped to shut in the sea,’” God asked, “‘... when I swathed it in mists and swaddled it in clouds of darkness, when I fixed its boundaries... saying, “Thus far, and no further! Here your proud waves shall not pass?”’” (Verses 8-11.)

“‘Have you ever roused the morning, given directions to the dawn? ... What path leads to the home of Light, and where does Darkness dwell? Can you conduct them to their fields? ... Have you grasped earth in all its breadth? How large is it? Tell me, if you know that! (Verses 12-18.)

“‘Can you bind up the Pleiades [cluster of stars] in a cluster, or loose the chains of Orion? Can you direct the signs of the Zodiac, or guide the constellations of the Bear? Can you control

the skies? Can *you* prescribe their sway over the earth?" (Verses 31-33.)

GOD does all these things. How MIGHTY is God! And how *little*, how *weak*, how *impotent* and *insignificant* is man — yes, even the most righteous man, Job! How Job must have begun to shrivel up in his own estimation! Smaller and smaller Job shrank, as God continued. Job didn't seem so important, now!

"Who, then" — God is not through yet — "is able to stand before ME? Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? *Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is MINE. . .*" (Job 41:10, 11, A. V.) And so God continued to bring down Job's self-righteous importance — and to show the unmatched, awesome MAGNITUDE of God, through four whole chapters, before He finished.

And by the time God finished, Job's estimation of himself was exactly *nil*. All through his conversation with his three friends, Job stoutly maintained *his own righteousness* — his *self-importance*. Even though Satan had taken away his wealth, his children — even though reduced to a pitiful sight, covered with nauseating boils — Job's *own righteousness* he stoutly maintained!

Job was able to maintain his case against Satan — against his friends. But now he could not answer GOD! Job's trouble was not what he had *done*, but what he *was* — SELF-RIGHTEOUS! The *self* in Job had *never died*!

In just 5 verses of Job's conversation he used the personal pronoun 15 times; and in the 29th chapter alone, he used it 50 times!

Now, for the first time, he began to realize the TRUTH — he began to catch a vision of GOD!

The Lesson Learned!

Then Job answered the Eternal, and said,

"I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. I thoughtlessly confused the issues. I spoke without intelligence, of wonders far beyond my ken. I had heard of thee by hearsay, but *now mine eyes have seen thee*; wherefore I ABHOR MYSELF, and REPENT in dust and ashes" (Moffatt and A.V.).

That was Job's SURRENDER to Al-

mighty God — a surrender every human must make before he can be converted — before God's PURPOSE in him can be fulfilled! A man may be naturally GOOD — but even the *self-righteousness* of a Job, God says, is like a filthy rag to Him! The only righteousness that is really good is the Righteousness of GOD, imparted to us BY FAITH!

Job at last had learned his lesson! Just human goodness is not enough. GOD is all in all. And the only goodness that *is* good is *God's own goodness*, imparted through God's Holy Spirit *within us*! All true righteousness comes from GOD.

ALL humans have this great lesson to learn. It's the *one supreme lesson of life*! To learn it, and conform to it, is the PURPOSE of human existence!

Job's calamity and great suffering proved a great blessing to him, in the end! Actually, great good, double prosperity, and eternal happiness, came of it! For, after he repented, and came to really *know God*, he was given another seven sons and three daughters, and *twice* the material possessions he had had before!

"So the Eternal blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning," it is written (Job 42:12, A. V.). And verse 11 speaks of "*all the evil that the Eternal had brought upon him.*"

Satan Never Altered GOD'S PURPOSE

So notice this! Satan has never upset God's program — *never* altered God's purpose! In Job 42:2, the alternate marginal translation of the original inspired Hebrew words is: "*no purpose of thine can be restrained.*"

Almighty God is SUPREME in the universe! Supreme not only in Love, and in Power — but in WISDOM! There was divine WISDOM in God's permitting Satan to afflict Job. Out of all this experience of suffering, Job was humbled, his ego deflated, his self-pride removed. It *hurt*, to have these things torn out of his character — Job suffered — even as you and I suffer, today! But he was brought to *repentance*, surrender to GOD, dependence upon GOD, a filling of God's Spirit, without which he never could have known real happiness, never could have gained eternal LIFE!

All Job originally had was material wealth and possessions, and more *human* righteousness! Now Job had double the material possessions — but infinitely greater, he now had the supreme security of the faith of God, and that true source of happiness, reliance upon the Supreme One, and the indwelling of all His attributes! God's Spirit in us is the only thing that will satisfy the heart-hunger — the *only* thing that can warm, fill, and energize with happiness and joy the human soul!

The True ANSWER to Our Questions!

Now we are ready to see, and to UNDERSTAND, the true answer to our questions!

The real answer was brought out by Job during his conversation, even as it is illustrated by the experience of his life.

"If a man die, *shall he live again?*" asked Job (Job 14:14).

And the answer is the answer to all our questions! Here it is:

"All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: *thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!*"

The part of what Job said that is most often carelessly overlooked is the part that answers the questions of this article! *Notice it again!*

"*Thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands!*"

STUDY THAT! Job knew he was merely the *work of God's hands*! Merely a clay model, which God, the Master Potter, was to mold and fashion and re-shape. Let Isaiah explain it: "WE are all as an unclean thing, and *all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags*; and we all do fade as a leaf; and *our iniquities*, like the wind, have taken us away. . . . But now, O ETERNAL, thou art OUR FATHER, *we are the clay*, and thou our potter, and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isaiah 64:6-8).

Our own righteousness will not save us. We must REPENT, surrender unconditionally to GOD, come to Him through Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and then God PROMISES to beget us with His Holy Spirit — actually put HIS SPIRIT *within us*. His spirit is His

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Why DOES GOD HIDE HIMSELF?

Generations of agnostics and religionists alike have been baffled. Hot debate has raged for centuries. Philosophers have long inquired about God's whereabouts. Theologians have long made excuses for His absence. But must we make excuses for God? Why has God hidden Himself? It's time to get a straight answer.

by David Jon Hill and Robert L. Kuhn

AGNOSTIC Arnold finally "got" Religious Ralph. After years of late hours and vigorous discussions, Religious Ralph was backed into a corner. He couldn't refute Agnostic Arnold's argument.

Could *you*? Try.

HERE'S ARNIE'S ARGUMENT:

"Your God' claims to be the all-powerful 'Creator' of the entire universe. But man doubts His very existence! And supposedly man is 'your God's' greatest creation. That doesn't make sense.

"If 'your God' really exists why doesn't He *show* Himself? If He openly made Himself known to all mankind, nobody could question, 'Does God exist?' — nations would be at peace, our problems would be solved, man would be happy. But 'your God' has conveniently chosen to hide! Come on now, tell me *why*!"

Religious Ralph was stunned. All those years of Sunday school went "down the drain." He fidgeted and mumbled "God *is* trying to save the world. Look at *all* His churches."

Instantly a confident smile erupted on Agnostic Arnold's flushed face. Poor Ralph was stuck. Sensing a "kill," Aggressive Arnie pressed his attack.

"All right Ralphy boy, I'll look at 'all His churches.' What a bickering mish-mash of contradictory concepts, superstitious incantations, hypocritical ministers and unconcerned members. Open your eyes, Ralph. *You* look at 'all His churches' — closeted in steepled sanctuaries and fighting among themselves

about every absurd interpretation of every irrelevant doctrine. And all the while society tumbles from very bad to even worse. Ralph boy, mankind is going to exterminate himself — and 'your God' is just going to watch!

"You admit that 'your hypothetical God' *could* appear to the whole world if He wished to. He *could* clear up 'His mess' if He wanted to. So I guess He just doesn't care. Because He's staying safely hidden. Maybe He likes the world the way it is!

"Your God' *must* have made a very *willful* decision to *obscure* His presence. Therefore, Ralph boy, we can only conclude that what your God *does want* is for man to *doubt* His existence. Obviously he enjoys gazing upon little men running around blindfolded in the dark — forever questioning but never knowing, forever searching but never finding.

"Your God' professes to be merciful — yet he creates man with a burning desire to comprehend Eternal Truth and at the same time makes it impossible for him to ever attain it. Like a child holding a beetle on its back watching it thrash its way to death, 'your God' has conjured up man merely to be the butt of a colossal cosmic joke. And that, Ralph boy, my dear friend, is outright *sadism*.

"So what about your archaic notion of an 'all-wise, loving Father'? Why has He run off like some high-strung woman with a hair-trigger temper? Out of spite? Disgust? Tired blood? Perhaps He felt slighted — and 'tucked His tail' and slinked away like a forsaken lover whose weak advances were ignored. Or maybe He got frustrated — muttering 'I'll show them' as He scampered off to plan His revenge.

"Why *does* God hide Himself? The answer seems simple to me: Either He doesn't exist, or He's a vindictive sadist — take your choice!"

Religious Ralph helplessly answered, "I know God exists by *faith*!" With that he pretended to dismiss Agnostic Arnold's argument. But they *both* knew that Offensive Arnie's reasoning prevailed. So with a condescending slap on the back and a brisk walk to the door, Triumphant Arnie departed. And a whipped Religious Ralph stumbled back to his chair and slumped into it.

Why *does* God hide Himself? A dejected Reluctant Ralph had to confess that he just didn't know!

What About You?

Could *you* have answered Obnoxious Arnie's arguments? God tells us *not to debate* — but we *should* be able to *convict* (not *convince*) the *gainsayers*. We should be ready with an answer to *any* who ask a *reason* for the hope that is within us (I Peter 3:15). Don't be satisfied with being "just simple folk" who aimlessly idle about under the protective shelter of *blind* faith like Religious Ralph.

You CAN have that answer. *This* article will give it to you. This article is written for you — to back up and *prove* your faith!

You don't need to fear the lofty proclamations of "educated" skeptics and "lettered" philosophers. You won't have to make feeble *excuses* for God's "absence." You can know — and *know* that you know — *exactly* why God hides Himself!

We are *not* going to feed you some wishy-washy, pseudo-spiritual, half-hearted "possibility." We *are* going to answer the question once and for all. And it's going to be *easy*. Let's get that straight! You won't have to learn Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek or Latin. You won't have to take courses in symbolic logic. You won't have to struggle through verbose "statements and propositions." You won't even need an unabridged dictionary by your side.

We are going to discover the remarkably straightforward answer to the basic agnostic question, "Why does God hide Himself," through the *common* facts of history and science — *facts which you ALREADY know!*

God's Creation

We start with what we can sense — the physical universe — and we find blunt proof that only a Supreme Creator could have fashioned it all together into such a wondrously unified whole. From the forces which bind atomic nuclei to the principles which run giant galaxies, from the fullness of earth to the emptiness of space, from the existence of law to the law of existence, from the beauty of creation to a mind which can com-

prehend it — all testify to the power of our God, all blazon forth the conclusive evidence of His existence (Rom. 1:20).

The ancient philosophers *knew God*. How? By asking the right questions! They examined their world — and found order and harmony; they wondered about life — and found system and design. And when they did, God began to be revealed to them. Why? Because order, harmony, system and design *demand* a Creator God.

Then they searched within themselves ("know thyself") — and they found their own *self-conscious* human mind. How could this mind have come into existence? Only by the creative act of a Supreme Self-Consciousness — the *same* Creator God! The ancient philosophers were forced to realize this plain fact! "It is not that they [the philosophers] do not know the truth about God; indeed He has made it quite plain to them" (Rom. 1:19, Phillips).

But philosophers didn't expect — and certainly didn't like — *this* kind of revelation. The absolute existence of a Supreme Being just didn't "go over" too well. Why? Because these conceited "intellects" only desired "esoteric metaphysical truths." Why? So that they *alone* could understand it. Why? Because they wanted to be their *own* "god" and amass their *own* worshipful following.

So they held *back* God's Truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) — and consequently they lost it. "Because that, *when* they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22).

What about our *modern* "philosophers" — scientists, politicians, businessmen? *They're no different!*

It seems silly, but rather than becoming more humble as life's unbelievable organization and design are unveiled, detail-oriented scientists have become more deeply imbued with a grandiose sense of personal power in their own human reason. Scientists often give the impression (and may actually begin to believe) that they are *inventing* and *sustaining* the basic laws of life and brain — when, in reality, they have just un-

covered and described *some* superficial events. Like a bunch of roosters fighting for "supremacy of the known world" in the barnyard, our "modern philosophers" have completely ignored reality.

True, some few "moderns" do agree with Dr. Warren Weaver's statement that "Every new discovery of science is a further 'revelation' of the order which God has built into this universe." But even here "God" is often only a term borrowed from religion — it is just a name used to symbolize some unconscious "first-cause," and is condescendingly employed solely to pacify those people whom scientists secretly call "the ignorant, superstitious masses." And that probably includes all of us. Which doesn't hurt our feelings one bit — because God has opened *our* minds to His Truth.

God *has* indeed revealed Himself through the intricate tapestry of His physical creation. *We* can see it. The world can't. The world *doesn't want to*. God is available to all — but all reject Him. He is even *more* available to the educated, the thoughtful, the scientific. God is "plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known, *thus leaving these men without a rag of excuse*" (Rom. 1:20, Phillips Translation).

Get the Perspective of History

Human beings are historically narrow-minded. We look at our world fresh from the exhilaration of casually witnessing televised close-ups of two men jaunting on the moon. We don't realize that man's very first flight took place just 66 years ago. The average person emotionally considers *his* adult life to be the totality of human history — even though he intellectually recognizes that man has been around for thousands of years. When we ponder our wretched God-forsaken world tottering on the brink of global suicide, we become sickened by the poisoned cloud of permanent personal agony mushrooming on our horizon. Is it surprising then that human beings see the absolute necessity for supernatural help (if such help exists) — and legitimately ask, "Why *is* God hiding Himself?"

Let's take the blinders off our eyes! Let's visualize the full scope of 6000

years of human history — multiple dozens of generations strung end to end. Let's understand the *true* history of the relationship between man and his God.

Start at the Beginning

Adam was the first human being ("enlightened" anthropology notwithstanding). And God dealt very intimately with Adam: forming him (Gen. 2:7), moving him (2:15), bringing animals to him (2:19), teaching him (2:19, 20), giving him a wife (2:22), etc. Adam knew God as we know our parents — God *literally* walked in the garden of Eden (3:8).

But Adam, rather than following his Creator's orders, obeyed his own *human* reasoning — ADAM SINNED. And immediately thereafter, "Adam and his wife *HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD*" (Gen. 3:8).

That's the crucial point! *Man hid from God — God didn't hide from man.*

This is the crux of the whole question, "Why does God hide Himself?" Because God *did* reveal Himself. It was man who hid. Man was the first to play "hide-and-go-seek" and man was the first to run and hide. As a matter of fact, man has *always* hidden from God. Throughout history — in every time and generation, no matter what the circumstance and situation — whenever God has revealed Himself to help men or nations, that man or nation has crudely told God: "Keep Your (unprintable) Nose out of our (unprintable) business" — and more often than not backed up that blasphemous insult by murdering God's contemporary human representative (Matt. 23:37).

This then is *the purpose* of this article: to irrefutably demonstrate that man has always hidden from God — and that God has not, does not, and will not hide from man.

From Adam down through all history to the present day and even on into the future, we are going to watch man resist God's every revelation of Himself. Don't just believe *us* now. Make us *prove* our point! Make us *prove* that God is *always* ready to *reveal* Himself

to man. And make us *prove* that man has consciously and continuously hidden himself from God.

Adam — the "Prototype"

God created Adam as His "test case" or "prototype" for all mankind (the Hebrew word for "man" is "adam!"). How did the Creator make Adam His prototype? By putting the same human brain, spirit, mind and nature in Adam as He would subsequently put in all other human beings. Therefore, God knew that Adam would react to a given situation in the same general manner as every other human being would react to that same situation. As Adam "went" so all mankind would "go."

God *designed* human nature to be vain, jealous, lustful, greedy, and antagonistic to God — so that when man would learn to *control* his carnal nature, eternal and Godly character could be developed (Rom. 8:20-21).

So Adam sinned and hid himself from God — precisely conforming to God's specifications. And when that happened God knew that *every* subsequent carnal human being would likewise sin and hide himself from God. And that's been the history of the human race ever since: cringing before God, hating God, spurning God, hiding from God.

Now let's widen our field of view. Let's look down the corridors of time and generations of societies — and observe man's *consistent* repudiation of God. God hiding Himself from man? Hardly! It's been just the reverse!

Pre- and Post-Flood Worlds

The pre-Flood world teemed with wickedness and overflowed with violence — Gen. 6:5 is unique in its poetic portrayal of the prodigious depravity of man. Yet the world knew God!

It was only ten generations from Adam to Noah — and human beings had a nine-generation lifespan! Furthermore, Noah was the *eighth* preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5). For the 120 years during which his servants built the Ark, Noah himself proclaimed God's warning witness. The world heard Noah and the world knew God — but the world despised Noah and the world rejected God. The entire human

race at that time "had [*knowingly*] corrupted His Way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:12).

Little more than 100 years later, man once more *renounced* God's revelation and leadership. Man didn't *want* to be distributed around the world as God directed Noah (Gen. 11:4) — so man built for himself a huge tower as a rallying point to thwart God. There was no excuse — everyone knew God — all had heard the heinous firsthand accounts of the monstrous pre-Flood world and all could see the *still fresh evidence* of God's wrath. All knew God's servant Noah — and all flouted him.

* Israel Habitually Rejected God

We think of ancient Israel as God's "Chosen People." Yet God's every revelation of Himself to Israel was met with rebuff and rebellion.

Israel cursed Moses for trying to free them (Ex. 5:21). They told Moses to "Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians" (Ex. 14:12). Israel *didn't want* to leave Egypt and serve God — they loved the idols and abominations of Egypt too much (Ezek. 20:8) — so God had to pry Israel loose by pouring out His devastating plagues. Even after witnessing the supernatural ferocity of these plagues, God's "Chosen People" wanted to *return* to Egypt (Ex. 14:10-12).

With the victory celebration of God's spectacular destruction of Pharaoh's army still ringing in their ears, "The people murmured against Moses" because the waters of Marah were bitter (Ex. 15:23-24). Even after God had made these waters sweet, Israel again murmured, incredibly preferring to have died in Egypt with bellies full of meat and bread than to have obeyed God (Ex. 16:3). After receiving all the meat they could eat, Israel broke the Sabbath in an effort to get more (Ex. 16:27-28). Once more Israel got thirsty and this time they were ready to *stone* Moses (Ex. 17:4).

And, as unbelievable as it sounds, after all they had seen with their own eyes, they asked "Is the Lord among us or not?" (Ex. 17:7) — or, in other words, "*Why is God hiding?*"

God answered that question in His

glory on Mt. Sinai. "And all the people *saw* the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking" (Ex. 20:18). Here was God "coming out of hiding" — here was God "finally" revealing Himself.

But what happened? "And when the people saw it, *they removed, and stood afar off*. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear; BUT LET NOT GOD SPEAK WITH US, lest we die" (Ex. 20:18, 19). Here was man plainly asking God to cut off all personal communication with them. Here was man telling God to *get lost!* And we have the audacity to ask — why does *God* hide Himself!

A short time later Israel reasoned that "Moses *THE MAN*" (Ex. 32:1) had brought them out of Egypt — and since he was missing, the Egyptian gods had better be reactivated to supervise their orgy (Ex. 32:1-6). After once more receiving God's stern correction, and with the full knowledge of God's continuous revelation and awesome Power filling their minds, Israel *mutinied* on the threshold of the Promised Land: "And they said one to another, Let us make a captain and let us *return* into Egypt" (Num. 14:4).

Why does God hide Himself? What can we say? *Ancient Israel has said it all!*

In the Promised Land

When Israel was finally allowed to enter the land promised to Abraham's seed, she continually rebelled. (That's not particularly surprising.) The cycle went round and round: Israel forsook God and was conquered (Judges 2:11-15), then she cried out to God and was delivered (Judges 2:16) — but a very short time later she forsook God again (Judges 2:17-19). The entire book of Judges tells this amazing story (Judges 3:7-9; 3:12-15; 4:1-4; 6:1-8; etc.).

Soon thereafter, Israel *completely* rejected God's reign over them — demanding a *human* king "like all the other nations" (I Sam. 8:5-7).

Some 120 years later, Israel's northern ten tribes rebelled against the house of David. Jeroboam, their servant-king, resurrected again the old Egyptian gods, instituted a new priesthood, and

changed God's annual festivals — all to protect his own reign, willfully *ignoring* the True God (I Kings 12:26-33).

The House of Israel rejected those they *knew* to be prophets of God. Isaiah was such a man. He told Hezekiah that God would stop the besieging armies of Assyria from even touching Jerusalem (II Kings 19) — and that night God killed 185,000 armed men (verse 35). Later, after Isaiah prayed to God, the *sun went backwards ten degrees* (II Kings 20:11). There was NO DOUBT who Isaiah's boss was! Yet some years later, *tradition* tells us that Isaiah was *sawed in two* by his own people (Heb. 11:37).

Likewise the House of Judah rejected the men of God (and she was worse than her sister Israel — Ezek. 23:11). Jeremiah was ordained a prophet from his mother's womb (Jer. 1:5). He was always in the public eye — revealing God's will, way and prophecies. All Judah *knew* that Jeremiah was God's representative — yet he was held in derision daily, *everyone* mocked him (Jer. 20:7), and all the priests, prophets and people conspired to kill him (Jer. 26:8).

The House of Israel was taken captive beginning in 718 B.C. by Assyria. Israel had long since forgotten God's Sabbath — and so even their *identity* was lost. The House of Judah was taken captive by Babylonia in 585 B.C. They retained the Sabbath and kept their identity. But they mongrelized God's Truth so badly, by adding many pagan ideas, (for example, the immortality of the soul), that a *new-found* religion was born.

The facts speak plainly — at every step in their history Israel and Judah hid from and rejected their God.

The Full Revelation

Whereas in the past God spoke through many forms, fashions and figures, and communicated by various means, methods and manners, He was now ready to *pour* out the *whole* story through a *Son* (Heb. 1:1-2, Phillips). It was exactly 483 years after Artaxerxes' decree allowing the repatriated Jews to rebuild Jerusalem — just as Daniel had prophesied (Dan. 9:25) — when Jesus

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What Is a REAL Christian?

It's SHOCKING, but it's TRUE! Most professing "Christians" today are not REALLY Christians! Read this frank, vital article proving it — and find out what YOU need to be doing about it!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WHAT IS A REAL Christian? Perhaps you've heard *many different, conflicting* definitions. I have. But have you ever heard the real BIBLE definition?

It is time you understood the very basic, down-to-earth, FUNDAMENTALS of Christianity — the very HEART, the root and core of the teachings of Christ!

So listen! I want you to *realize*, once and for all, that most professing Christians today believe the exact opposite from the very SIMPLEST, the CLEAREST teachings of Christ!

And so, let's go to the very basis of REAL Christianity — what is commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount."

The "Sermon" on the Mount

Actually, the scriptures found in Matthew's 5th, 6th and 7th chapters are *not* a "sermon" though they have been labeled as such by men who did not understand the Bible.

This is one of the very first *opposites* you will see in comparing these plain, clear statements of Christ with the commonly accepted beliefs and practices of a modern "Christianity."

"And *seeing the multitudes*, He went up into a mountain, and when He was set, His disciples came *unto* Him..." (Matt. 5:1). Yes, Christ wanted to ESCAPE the big crowds. Notice it!

But haven't you always heard differently? Haven't you always taken for granted that Christ spoke in *parables*, similes, or analogies so the people could *understand* more easily? But that's NOT what Christ Himself said!

"And the disciples came, and said unto Him, 'Why speakest thou unto them in parables?' He answered and said unto them, 'Because it is GIVEN UNTO YOU [His disciples] to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, *but*

to them it is not given. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; LEST at any time they should see... and should *understand*... and should be converted, and I should heal them'" (Matt. 13:10-11, 15).

Christ said, in quoting Isaiah, that the people *could not* understand — that He deliberately *clouded* His meaning, LEST they should be converted!

HOW UTTERLY DIFFERENT from what you've always assumed!

You see, Jesus *did not come* to convert the world *then*. He came to ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH, to DIE FOR THE SINS of all mankind, to commission His disciples who were to carry His MESSAGE to all nations. Christ came for MANY reasons — none of them to save the entire world *at that time!*

He was a Divine Messenger, *sent* from His Father in heaven, to *teach and train* His disciples. "Disciple" merely means "student," or "learner."

Notice then, Jesus "opened His mouth and *taught* THEM [His disciples, or His students] saying..."

So, you see the "sermon" on the mount was not a sermon at all, but a private, personal *lesson* Jesus gave to His disciples. He was *sitting down*.

"The Beatitudes"

The next few verses are among the best-known in the entire Bible. Perhaps many of you can say them by memory. That is exactly why I wanted to write this article. I wanted to ANALYZE, CAREFULLY, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! I wanted to take the CLEAR, BEST-KNOWN parts of Christ's teachings — and show you FROM THEM how UTTERLY REMOVED from *true Christianity* are most professing Christians today!

Christ said, "Blessed are the *poor in*

spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (verse 3).

What does it *mean*, to be "poor" in spirit? Certainly Christ didn't mean to be LACKING in the Spirit of God, for He urges, through Peter, "GROW in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18), and inspired Paul to write, "Now if any man have not the SPIRIT of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). Jesus said, "If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, *how much more* shall your Heavenly Father GIVE the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13.)

No, Jesus doesn't mean to LACK the Spirit of God, as the foolish virgins, but means *blessed* are those who are truly LOWLY, HUMBLE, YIELDING in attitude of heart and mind!

HOW MANY "Christians" are *truly Christlike* in spirit? Jesus was *completely* "poor in spirit"! He was completely HUMBLE! A greater man never lived — a man never lived who could exercise more gigantic, all-encompassing POWER than Christ! There never was a more dynamic, lively, energetic, personable, talented man! There *never was* a man with more REASON to get all "puffed up" and *proud* — filled with HUMAN VANITY! But yet — Jesus was humble! Paul wrote, "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but *condescend to men of low estate*. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:16).

Christ *went about with* publicans, sinners, harlots and the very *lowest* (in man's eyes) of the society of His day. For this He was constantly criticized by the haughty, proud, puffed-up denominational leaders of that time.

What about OUR time?

It just isn't too "popular" to help out

a tramp, to comfort a diseased, afflicted person, to care for invalids, to GIVE something of yourself to someone who is really in *need*, is it? To be really *poor in spirit* is a great RARITY today!

"Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven"

Here is the *next* diametric opposite!

Skipping ahead just two verses, Jesus said, "Blessed are the *meeek*: for THEY shall *inherit the earth!*" Does Christ mean to imply the "poor in spirit" are going to "heaven," but the MEEK are going to remain on earth?

Look at it! What does it SAY? IF Jesus promised HEAVEN to the poor in spirit — then it is VERY CLEARLY stated the MEEK are going to stay ON EARTH!

But *did* Jesus promise "heaven" to the poor in spirit?

No! *Nowhere* in all the Bible is HEAVEN promised as the reward of the saved. Here is another GREAT OPPOSITE that is the very BASIS of "Christian" doctrine today — and *did not come out of the Bible!*

Read it again carefully. Christ said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom OF heaven" (verse 3). That little word "OF" qualifies the verse, makes it plain! It is a KINGDOM God promises His elect — a kingdom ruled by God, FROM HEAVEN! It is a kingdom OF heaven — but not a kingdom IN heaven, and there is a great difference! Notice just a FEW of the HUNDREDS of Biblical proofs!

Jesus is pictured in Luke 19 as a young nobleman who *went* into a FAR country to get for himself a kingdom — *and to return!* When He returns, he apportioned RULERSHIP to His faithful servants over cities, on this earth! Read Luke 19:12-17!

John was inspired to write, of the saints of God, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign ON THE EARTH!" (Rev. 5:10.) Jesus promises, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in MY throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). Christ came to inherit the "throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32) which is ON THIS EARTH!

The Apostle Paul wrote of our *citizenship* which is IN heaven! He likened

the saints to foreigners, as did Peter, and as strangers, sojourning in a strange country! "For our CITIZENSHIP [margin] is in heaven, FROM whence [He is to return to the *earth*] also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Many prophecies illustrate the return of Christ *to this earth*, and His RULE over the earth. Daniel's second and seventh chapters both illustrate Christ RULING ON EARTH! "... And the stone [which is Christ] that smote the image became a great mountain [type of a kingdom — or a *government*], and filled the WHOLE EARTH" (Dan. 2:35). "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven... and there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*, that all PEOPLE, NATIONS and LANGUAGES, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14). People, nations and languages are ON THIS EARTH! "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise *out of the earth*, but the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever" (Dan. 7:17-18). The saints *take away* the rulership OF THE EARTH *from* carnal-minded men!

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN, shall be given to the people of the saints..." (Dan. 7:27). UNDER heaven is on EARTH!

Notice further! Isaiah prophesied of the setting up of the Kingdom of God ON EARTH! "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and ALL NATIONS shall flow unto it. And many PEOPLE shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for OUT OF ZION [in Jerusalem! on earth!] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord *from Jerusalem!*" (Isa. 2:2-3).

Notice Micah's 4th chapter! Read all

of it! "But in the *last days* it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains... and people shall flow unto it... for the law shall go forth *of Zion*, and the word of the Lord *from Jerusalem...* And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign OVER THEM *IN MOUNT ZION* from henceforth, even *forever!*" (Micah 4:1-2, 7.)

"Behold the day of the Lord cometh... And His feet shall stand IN THAT DAY upon the MOUNT OF OLIVES, which is before Jerusalem on the east..." (Zech. 14:1, 4).

Read the entire 14th chapter of Zechariah! "And the Lord shall be king OVER ALL THE EARTH!" (Verse 9.) "And men shall *dwell* in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely INHABITED!" (Verse 11.) The remainder of the chapter pictures nations being punished to force them to *keep God's annual feasts* to keep them in mind of the *plan* He is working out here below!

Remember! The Bible does NOT contradict itself! The oft-quoted and well-loved scripture in I Thessalonians the 4th chapter means what it says! But chances are you have not heard what it actually SAYS!

And so now, after reading these MANY scriptural *proofs* that Christ is coming to this earth to REMAIN here ruling with His saints, let's candidly read this often-quoted, completely misunderstood text.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thes. 4:16-17).

Notice there is not one single word about saints going to heaven!

What this passage does NOT say is clear! It does NOT say the saints are going to HEAVEN!

What it DOES say is equally clear! It DOES say the saints will rise to meet the Lord IN THE AIR! Notice it! Jesus is going to "DESCEND FROM HEAVEN"

and the resurrected and changed saints will be caught up "IN THE CLOUDS, to MEET the Lord IN THE AIR!"

Some time ago, my father and I returned from Rome to New York on a big Boeing 707 jet airliner. We were sped through the thinner upper atmosphere, HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS at the flashing speed of about 600 miles an hour! We actually flew in a man-made airplane MUCH HIGHER than your Bible says the saints will rise when Christ returns! The Bible says IN THE CLOUDS — NOT UP IN HEAVEN! This earth is enveloped by layers of *air*, composed of PHYSICAL SUBSTANCES. Air is composed of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and many types of gases. Clouds are merely formed of vapors and mists, the condensation of moisture when cold air masses meet warm air masses. As such, air and clouds are a PART OF THIS EARTH! They belong to EARTH, not to heaven, which is far beyond the outer reaches of man's telescopes which only *begin* to probe the vast, incomprehensible reaches of the universe!

Think for a moment!

If an intimate friend of yours were returning to stay with you after a long absence, and you went to the gate to *meet* the friend — wouldn't it be silly if you *left* your home, turned around and went back to HIS home with *him*? Christ is to RETURN to the earth, FROM heaven!

Paul wrote, "... and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (verse 17). Yes — we shall be WITH the Lord, where HE WILL BE! And where will HE BE? ON THE EARTH, as you have already seen PROVED from your own Bible!

Christ said, "... I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that *where I am, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO!*" (John 14:3.) Where will Christ BE?

ON THE EARTH!

Yes, here is another of the amazing, breathtaking OPPOSITES of your Bible from the commonly accepted and assumed teachings of the world. The ideas of men do not fit — even with the "Sermon on the Mount!"

The Kingdom OF Heaven is a kingdom RULED by heaven, which is to come down OUT of heaven — *to this earth!* Just as the house OF John is not

IN John, so is the Kingdom OF Heaven NOT to be IN, but FROM heaven!

"Blessed Are They That Mourn"

"... For they shall be comforted" (Matt. 5:4).

Surely you would believe there is no conflict HERE. Surely *all* professing "Christians" *believe* this scripture?

I suppose hundreds of thousands *do* believe these words of Christ — but how many really *discern their meaning*?

Jesus said, "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly*" (John 10:10). Christ wants us to have life brimful and running over with JOY! One of the FIRST attributes of God's Holy Spirit, the very mind and nature of God, is JOY! (Gal. 5:22.) But Solomon wrote, "For in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (Eccl. 1:18).

Christ was called a "... man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief..." (Isa. 53:3). But why? Because of the EVIL of man! Because of SIN!

When all mankind went the *wrong way* after God had revealed the RIGHT way to him, God "... saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented [made sorry] the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart" (Gen. 6:5-6).

Yes, the One who became Christ was made MOURNFUL, and SORRY, when He saw the wretchedness, the sickness, poverty, squalor, war and death man was *bringing on himself!* And so it is with a TRUE Christian! Even though Christ wants us to have more abundant life, He also inspired Solomon to write, "To everything there is a season, and a *time* to every purpose under the heaven... a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance..." (Eccl. 3:1-4).

Yes, BLESSED are they who MOURN NOW! For they SHALL be comforted! They will experience GREAT JOY, *happiness defying description* in the Kingdom of God! Many mourn because of persecution! But do MOST modern Christians receive any persecution what-

soever for accepting the "modern" POPULAR concepts of "Christianity"? Certainly not! But Jesus said, "... In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

No, rather than suffering persecution, being given cause to MOURN — most professing Christians today have come to believe the exact opposite! They feel, instead, that "belonging to a church" or "having some faith" will give them better standing in the community, result in better business relations, make them an accepted, integrated part of community life! This, too, is a direct OPPOSITE from the Bible teaching!

"Blessed Are the Meek..."

There is a difference between being meek, and being *weak!* Jesus was MEEK but not weak! Even though he was weakened *physically* when suffering the terrible beatings and lashings prior to His crucifixion (Paul said, "For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the power of God...") (II Cor. 13:4), Jesus was physically *strong* and *healthy* throughout His earthly life.

Remember, Christ never sinned! He obeyed *perfectly* the *physical* laws of God which regulate health and strength, as *well* as the spiritual laws!

What does it *mean* to be really *meek*?

LOOK for examples in modern Christianity. Where do you find very much gentleness, kindness, yieldedness? To be meek means to *yield* rather than cause an argument or trouble. It means to be HUMBLE, to be LOWLY in spirit and attitude. A truly MEEK person will be CHRISTLIKE in character.

Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart..." (Matt. 11:29). Paul was inspired to write, "I therefore... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and *meekness*, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love..." (Eph. 4:1-2).

A truly meek person will not try to justify the self, to feel the self is "better" than others, to "get even" with others. Rather, a meek person will be *imitating* Christ. □

(To be continued)

YOUR BEST

Is Money the "root of all evil"? What is Money anyway? Where did the idea originate? What about interest rates and "paper gold"? Where did the United States and the British Commonwealth get their fantastic wealth in the first place? Most important of all, what will happen to that wealth within your lifetime? What is the true source of wealth and what is YOUR best investment?

by David Jon Hill

MONEY MATTERS.

Walk into a bank and your whole manner changes. An aura of awe makes people use hushed tones in the marbled mausoleums of Mighty Money! The building itself exudes an atmosphere of absolute confidence — if not the confidence of solid stone, brick, marble, polished thick oak, high-ceilinged basilicas of the old-fashioned banks, then it is the modern confidence of concrete, steel and glass with clinical and controlled luxury displayed in plush carpets, and pieces of modern art.

The Confidence Game

As a customer you are treated with friendliness, warmth and sincerity — but always with a certain austere reserve, a certain understandable and fully expected distrust on the part of the money-holder toward the money-needer. It's something we take for granted.

You have confidence that the bank is adequate to supply your need. You hope the bank will have enough confidence in you to risk supplying your need. You know certain securities will have to be produced to bolster the bank's confidence in your ability to repay — your land, your home, your life insurance, your auto, your ability as a wage earner... ALL will be freely open to scrutiny, and of course your past record of bill paying — your credit rating.

It's not that debt is not respectable. Debt is demanded. It is a red ink society from the impossible national debt through ponderous corporate debt to individual insolvency. It's a society living on borrowed time spending money borrowed on time!

Everybody does it!

It's hard — no, difficult if not near-impossible — to make ends meet, to live within your means. But that's all right. Nobody else can either. In fact since the early thirties, when the government decided it would be better to mortgage the future than to pay for the present, a climate was created in which it is uncomfortable NOT to be in debt! Nationally speaking that mortgage on the future is just about due to be paid — and when all the notes come due at once we're going to discover a fantastic and horrible truth: *the richest nations on earth are bankrupt!* But that comes later in this article: let's get back to *you*.

Does God Condemn Money?

Despite some *misquote* you may have heard from the Bible about money being the root of all evil, let's prove unequivocally at the outset that neither God nor His Word, the Bible, condemns money. There is nothing unholy or inherently evil in money or a bank! As with all *things*, God's principle is: it is not the *thing* which is evil, but

INVESTMENT

what is *done* with the thing, the *attitude toward* the thing.

What the Bible *does* say is, "For the *love of* money is the root of all evil..." (I Tim. 6:10). Even this is poorly translated in the King James Version and is better understood as rendered by J. B. Phillips — "For *loving* money leads to all kinds of evil, and some men in the struggle to be rich have lost their faith and caused themselves untold agonies of mind."

No, God is not against money of itself. Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, the Friend of God (James 2:23), was a very rich man (Gen. 13:2) and was familiar with the use of money (Gen. 23). David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), during his lifetime gathered up *tons* of gold and silver, precious stones and costly jewels (I Chron. 29). Though there were many poor men God used in the history of this world, there were just as many, if not *more*, rich men in His service — if that surprises you, check your Bible and prove this truth!

The paradox of the problem of riches is solved by the principle mentioned in the same sixth chapter of Timothy quoted above. Most of the chapter talks about *how* to be rich. It does not condemn the wealth itself. Again in the Phillips translation let's read a good summary of the principle beginning in verse 17, "Tell those who are rich in this present world not to be contemptuous of others, and not to *rest the weight of their confidence* on the transitory power of wealth but on the LIVING GOD, who generously gives us *everything* for our enjoyment."

Remember that in the same example Jesus gave to the disciples to explain the difficulties a rich man would have in gaining the Kingdom of God, He also

said that "with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" (Matt. 19:23-26).

For a more thorough explanation of this basic subject, for which we do not have room here, please write for our reprint article entitled, "Does God Hate the Rich?"

Why All the Mystery?

Money is mysterious to many. It's simple enough to see that if you have enough of it you can buy anything (almost) that you want. But what *is* money? Why do some people have more than others? Just how complicated *is* the system anyhow? What's the history of the mystery?

As with nearly every major facet of our society — medicine, education, law, farming, government — banking finds its recorded beginnings in Babylon, inextricably entwined with religion because *Priest-Kings* ruled in ancient times.

In an agricultural economy, barter was sufficient as a means of exchange. As men gathered themselves into cities and began to deal with one another in many capacities, they no longer raised flocks, herds and crops so they needed something to *represent* wealth. Something portable, precious, protectable.

Gold and silver quickly came to *represent*, in certain weights, a given number of cows, sheep, donkeys, etc. Words you may be familiar with such as *capital*, *capitalism*, *fee*, *rupee* are all words which derive from *cattle*, or a cow-standard society. Many other *forms* of representation have been used — salt, feathers, dog's teeth, fishhooks. In today's modern world we may enjoy a laugh at someone who would think *salt* was money (are you worth your salt?), until we would try to convince him that a column of figures in the electronic



memory of our local bank's computer was what represented *our* true wealth!

Back to the Beginning

As people gathered into cities and their horde of *representative* wealth (gold and silver) became larger, protecting it became a problem. Many a house had a secret chamber for the master's money — perhaps in a hole dug into the floor, perhaps a secret hiding place behind a tree, under a hedge, three feet deep in the earth of the little walled garden to the rear. At any rate, it was secreted in as safe a place as the master could think of — you can bank on that!

BANK?

Right, you guessed it! Look up the word in the big dictionary at the local library sometime. A *bank* is a mound or rise of earth! One basic meaning of the word is also "to cover" — you bank a fire by covering it with ashes so it won't all burn up while you sleep. Then when you want to start the fire in the morning you remove the covering (you make a withdrawal from your fire bank). Sometimes we become ashamed of the humble beginnings of our dignified institutions — why?

These private banks (holes in the ground) were not as safe as desired. People didn't respect *each other's* private property, but being a superstitious lot they feared their many gods and wouldn't think of violating the temples. So, for a price, the local high priest would allow the storage of the representative wealth (money) in his temple treasury to insure its "safety." In fact, the very word "money" derives from the Latin and comes from the Roman mythology that Juno *invented* money. The truth of the matter is that *both* Juno, with his panoply of gods and goddesses, *and* the invention of money came from Babylon! The Romans continued the temple-money practice in the temple of Juno MONETA: so what was coined became called "money" and the *place* where it was coined was called the "mint"!

Back to Babylon

As the gold or other representative wealth began to accumulate in the private coffers and under the protective

custody of the high priest in the temple, the Priest-King (let's call him Baal Nimrud, Rude for short) put together an interesting plan (about 2200 B.C.). He noticed that at no *one* time did *everyone* call for the wealth sequestered in the safety of the temple vaults. He also noticed that intelligent and capable men who had *REAL* property (land, cattle, houses, slaves) often lacked the cold gold to finance a venture that would turn them from middle class into rich men.

Putting these two factors together he became a banker. He called the men aside (those whom he had first checked out to be sure of their securities) and told them the deal he had in mind for them. If they would pledge their property in lieu of the repayment of the gold he would lend them (should their venture fail), Rude would finance their plans. Rude arbitrarily picked *thirty percent* as the yearly amount of interest that should be paid to him for the *use* of the gold.

The first farmer took the gold from Rude. After pledging his property in lieu of repayment at the stipulated terms, he took the gold to a local businessman contracting to have an irrigation system built and enough seed supplied to plant a crop. That local businessman took the gold to the temple for safekeeping.

Rude then offered the *same* chunk of gold on the *same* terms to *another* farmer who wanted a house built. The builder brought the gold to the temple for safekeeping! Rude then offered the *same piece* of gold to a local merchant, on the same terms, so he could pick up enough camels to form a caravan to Egypt. The camel dealer brought the gold bar to the temple and deposited it in the safety of the sanctuary.

By this time Rude added another idea to his plan. Since the gold was heavy, cumbersome to carry, even dangerous to transport — Rude convinced his next customer (sticking to the same terms for the loan) that it would be *safer* for all concerned if he just issued a clay tablet receipt for the amount of worth that the gold represented. The clay was easier to carry. It bore the imprint of the

high priest's own signet ring and would be accepted *as if it were* gold by all local businessmen.

So Rude's convinced customer took his clay (which represented gold, which represented wealth) receipt to the boat builder and had ten barges built. The boat builder accepted the receipt, gave it to a lumber supplier and in addition went to Rude and requested a loan, for expansion of his operation, of an equal amount (also indicated by a clay tablet receipt) and put his business in hock for security.

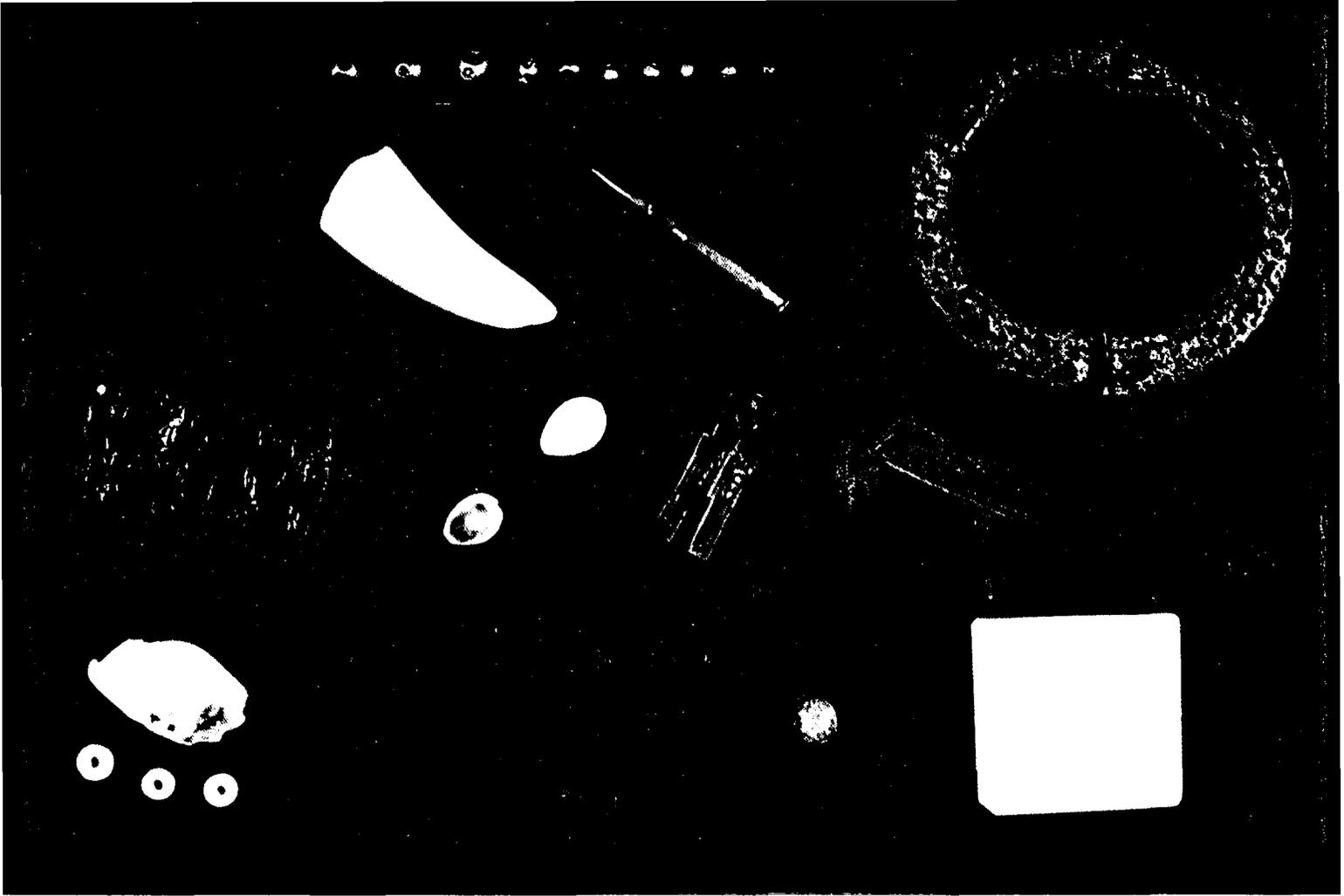
Nimrud's Pound Gained

To make a long story short, Baal Nimrud found that within the year he was able to lend the *same* bar of gold *TEN TIMES*. Let's say it was a ten-pound bar. At the end of the year Rude was still in possession of the original gold bar itself. In addition he owned one farm and a half interest in a caravansary (two of his debtors didn't make it). In addition to that he had been paid *eighty pounds* of gold by the eight debtors who *succeeded* with the help of the loan, plus of course the *twenty-four* pounds of gold in interest.

Rude's ten pounds had gained him one hundred four — not bad! Of course the original ten-pound bar was not *really* his — it was only left there for "safekeeping" by a merchant from Ur, but he hadn't called for it in the course of the year. And if that merchant ever did call for his bar, Rude figured he could talk him into taking a clay tablet receipt for it, leaving the actual bar in safekeeping (?) in the temple!

The *ten* ten-pound bars (plus a little) that Rude now actually owned, were not worth *just* ten times the original bar he had speculated with — to Rude they were worth *much* more! He had already learned by observation that only about one out of ten of the people who had money in the temple for safekeeping ever actually requested to have their gold *back* at any *one* time. This meant he could use nine tenths of other people's money at any *one* time any way he wanted.

And now that the idea of accepting clay receipts was catching on, there was no way to tell how far he could bluff his



Ambassador College Photo

WHAT IS MONEY?

Throughout recorded history, hundreds of odd and curious items have served man as a medium of exchange. Whatever that society decreed as valuable **BECAME** valuable. Everything from woodpecker heads to cigarettes (in post-World War II Germany) have served as widespread mediums of exchange. Playing cards served as valid money in Canada for a century.

Pictured above are a representative banker's dozen from the collection of John Seay, California. At the extreme top is bullet money. The near top row (left to right) includes tobacco money, whale's teeth, cartridge money, and Egyptian ring money (worth "six fat cows or one good wife").

The middle row contains beeswax and three of the most ancient of monies: cowrie shells, Chinese spade money, and Chinese sword money. The bottom row contains Indian wampum (3 beads and a shell), rusty nails, a musket ball, and salt money.





Los Angeles Times Photo

THE STONES OF YAP

Perhaps the world's most stable currency is found in the Caroline Islands of the South Pacific, on an island called Yap. On that tropical island of only 4,000 inhabitants are found 30,000 huge limestone donut-shaped stones that have survived several centuries and innumerable foreign occupations *without any devaluations!*

One of the richest of the island's chiefs, Pitmag, is pictured to the left with the largest of all Yap stones (12 feet high, 1 foot thick, and weighing 2 tons). He tells the story of why these unwieldy stones represent real wealth to the Yapese:

"When Spanish were here they had Spanish money. Then Germans came and Spanish money no good. When Japanese came, German money no good. When Americans came, yen no good. Maybe somebody else come, American money no good.

"Stone money always good. Value never change.

"Stone money like gold. For centuries Yapese go 300 miles to Palau Islands to mine stone money. Month to go to Palau in canoe. Take long time cut stones out of mountain. Put hole in middle. Pull money down mountain to canoe. Very hard work. Risky. Yapese lose lives mining money. More lose lives carrying money over oceans in small canoes and rafts to get here. Canoes sink.

"Nobody steal yap money. Cannot hide it. Yapese money too big to put in pockets, if we had pockets. Always know what it's worth.

"Stone money value determined by how many lives lost getting

way. As long as the people had *confidence* in the clay receipts, he could continue to amass great wealth at very little actual risk or expenditure.

Good for the Economy

Rude even got himself into thinking he was performing a real public service in the process of gathering all the real wealth of the people into his own coffers. There were more jobs. Every type of shop and industry had been

given a shot in the arm. There was bustling activity everywhere. Rude began to see that he could control the entire economy. If his system began to destroy itself because people couldn't any longer sustain the exorbitant interest rate of 30%, he could postpone the ultimate day of reckoning by lowering the rate, say to 20%!

Baal Nimrud realized, of course, that sooner or later the ultimate would happen. The economy would collapse. In



New York Times Photo

THE STONES OF YORK

Civilization has advanced tremendously from the primitive Yap economy. Today, modern bustling Western nations have their ultimate reserves in GOLD, a metal which is mined 5 to 10 thousand miles away in South Africa at 10-12,000 feet underground. Like Yap limestone, gold is scarce and endangers the lives of those who mine it.

This "modern" money is then shipped under great security precautions through various intricate channels to the coffers of national reserves. In the United States, this money is vaulted 85 feet below the street level of the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City.

When other nations claimed the U. S. gold in exchange for dollars (before March, 1968, that is), the caretakers of the metal shuffled that amount of gold from one room to another. This way, the central bankers in their gray business suits could "peer into the emerald lagoon," proclaim that gold was *theirs*, and then buy hundreds of millions of dollars of money in international exchange.

But — international monies are worth less and less each year in terms of gold. Yap money never devalues. . . .

How far have we really come from the Yap lagoon?

it here. Each piece has history. Yapese know who owns each stone money."

In one instance, numerous stones catapulted into the lagoon during a tropical storm. Just as Pitmag said, everyone knew who owned each stone. Trade continued as usual, with the owner pointing to his stone in the crystal-clear emerald lagoon, and purchasing **REAL** goods with his underwater treasure.

order to pay their debts the society as a whole would become sellers, and there would unfortunately be no buyers. They would storm the temple in angry protest when the word leaked out that the clay receipts couldn't be redeemed for gold, that they weren't worth the mud they were written on. The people would *lose* their *confidence*, their *faith* in him (or his sons or grandsons), in the clay money, in the temple. But if he exercised just a *little* caution he could

make it work during *his* lifetime — and that is what counted to him!

History shows plainly what did happen. Not just to Nimrud's economy, but to all those who followed in his footsteps. Usually the economy collapsed in 100 to 150 years. The economy slipped from gold-backed to silver-backed to copper-backed to lead-backed money. In each case, whatever metal was the backing was hoarded until there was not enough of it available to conduct the economy (tight money). So a cheaper, more available metal or medium of exchange (easy money) would be substituted, etc., etc. until ultimate collapse.

Babylon went this way. Assyria, the Greeks in their time, and the Romans all trod the same road. Numberless other economies: ditto.

The key to the downfall was the *ex-orbitant* (though exhilarating at the time it was initiated) *interest rate*.

Confidence

According to the Federal Reserve Bank, "Money is the confidence people have that they will be able to exchange such money for *real* goods and services whenever they choose to do so." This is why money becomes a god to many people — money becomes that in which they have their *trust*, their *confidence*, their FAITH. It's really very simple: *Money is confidence*.

Money is what people mutually agree it is at a given time. If they all agree that it is gold, then money is gold! Gold is certainly the dominant money idol in the pages of history. Many is the man, or whole society of men, who has striven greedily and died for the sake of *gold*! But the *gold* is not to blame! Just as much suffering has gone on in the process of the greedy getting of *stones* and *bones*, *silver* and *lead*. It doesn't make much difference whether you call it *Federal Reserve Note* or *Rusty Nails* (which *have* been used for exchange purposes) — whether you term it *Special Drawing Rights* (the "*paper gold*" based on nothing currently being used to settle international debts) or whether you agreed to settle for *Elephant Tails* as they readily did in the past in Portuguese West Africa.

AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE YOU DO

BUSINESS WITH AGREE TO ACCEPT YOUR "MONEY" IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS. AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WHEN THE PEOPLE YOU TRADE WITH NO LONGER HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE, YOU CAN BECOME A "RICH" BANKRUPT!

CONFIDENCE IS THE KEY!

VIGNETTES ON DEBTS

(IN THE U.S.A.)

- *Installment purchases alone grow by more than \$1 million per hour.*
- *More credit cards are mailed out each year than the total number of adults.*
- *Banks own 70% of all newly purchased cars.*
- *In contrast to \$8,750 per capita debt, 50c of new gold is mined per person per year.*
- *There was no national debt in 1840, only \$1 billion in 1915, \$16 billion in 1930, but \$380 billion today.*
- *It took 60 years and 11 presidents to spend our first BILLION, now the government spends a billion each two days.*
- *Each second the nation goes \$3,174 further into debt. Each time you breathe: \$15,000, so hold your breath!*

There are two schools of thought at the extremes of money thinking. One feels that only a solid (which word comes from a Latin coin, *Solidus*) gold-backed monetary system can bring stability to the financial world. *Their confidence is in Gold*. At the other pole of thought is the thesis upon which the Western World has its confidence — *the productive capacity of the society itself*. This school has been followed diligently since the early thirties.

A fellow by the name of Keynes (pronounced Cain's) put this theory into words in an essay entitled *Auri Sacra Fames*: "Almost throughout the world, gold has been withdrawn from circulation. It no longer passes from hand to hand, and the touch of the metal has been taken away from men's

greedy palms. The little household gods, who dwelt in purses and stockings and tin boxes have been swallowed up by a single golden image in each country, which lives underground and is not seen. Gold is out of sight — gone back into the soil. But when gods are no longer seen in a yellow panoply walking the earth, we begin to rationalize them; and it is not long before there is nothing left."

From One Ditch to the Other

While succinctly pointing out the fallacy of trusting in and worshipping gold as the money god of the past, Keynes didn't seem to realize that he was substituting a new god for the old god! And so today's money worshippers bow down before the image of nothing, whereas their opposites bow down to the image of gold!

Since the Keynesian theory is what we are living under, let's examine it briefly, a little more thoroughly. Perhaps the key is provided by the highly respected international advisor on finances, Dr. Harry Schultz. In his circular letter of October 30, 1969 he states, "Once man introduced money he introduced speculation." In other words, while man remained on a barter system, speculation was nearly impossible. If you had ten head of cattle, you had ten head of cattle, and there was no way to make that ten head of cattle *appear to be* a hundred head!

But a piece of metal was substituted as a *representation* of the real wealth. A piece of metal was acknowledged as being worth so many head of cattle. Speculators could then "play the market" with the metal, since the decision as to *how many* head of cattle it was worth was *arbitrary* and decided by men in common agreement. Men could agree at a *different worth* for it at one time than at another: THIS IS SPECULATION.

At each stage of the money game you get further away from a total grasp of *real* wealth. "It becomes more and more abstract, until it reaches the highly sophisticated form of our money, which consists primarily of numbers on the ledgers of the banks that maintain our checking accounts. Although we still use some currency (worth, in reality, no

more than the paper it is printed on) and some coins, most of the money we spend moves from buyer to seller through the checks that order the banks to debit one account on their books and to credit another. Thus most of our money has no real value and no tangible existence: "We can't see it or feel it or smell it. This is one of the reasons why its quantity is so difficult to regulate" (*A Primer on Money, Banking, and Gold*, by Peter L. Bernstein).

The crude manipulations that Baal Nimrud went through to augment his wealth are multiplied in the many devious and mysterious imaginations of a modern market which has many diversified representations of true wealth: coin, currency, gold in Ft. Knox and the Federal Reserve vaults in New York, demand deposits which back up our checking accounts, time deposits which exist only as figures on a ledger, bonds, stocks, mortgage papers, charge accounts, ad infinitum.

Funny Money

So we find ourselves in a rather ludicrous situation. If you have any money in your pocket, please take it out and take a look at it. Since American currency is the hinge of international financing, let's see what it says on the American money. On the top of one side of the paper money you will notice that it says, "Federal Reserve Note." I am now looking at the face of what we call a five-dollar bill. It also says, "This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private."

But what does that *mean*?

"The trick in the Federal Reserve Notes is that the Federal Reserve Banks lose no cash when they pay out this currency to the member banks. Federal Reserve Notes are *not redeemable* in *anything* except what the government calls 'legal tender' — that is, money that a creditor must be willing to accept from a debtor in payment of sums owed him. But since all Federal Reserve Notes are themselves declared by law to be legal money, they are really redeemable only in themselves! To put it briefly, they are an *irredeemable* obligation issued by the Federal Reserve Banks" (*A Primer on Money, Banking, and Gold*).

A few more quotes from this basic

book will help us understand the money we use a little better. "In short, the money we use every day, the money that we are all happy to accept in payment for goods sold, services rendered, and debts incurred, is *intrinsically worthless*: It has no tangible backing, in the strict sense of the word" (p. 105).

"When we look back over the ground that we have covered and ask what the American dollar is really based upon, we would have to say that it exists essentially on *promises and bookkeeping machines*" (p. 107).

"These trends have had another curious corollary. Whereas the public has been feeling more liquid, the banks have actually been moving into an increasingly illiquid condition. . . . This partially reflects sufficient *confidence* on the part of the bank officers that the American economy is now so stable that wholesale withdrawals of cash from the banking system, as happened in the 1930's, are highly unlikely. But it also reflects the belief of bankers that most of the money in time deposits will stay there instead of moving into demand deposits where the odds are much greater that it will soon be withdrawn. . . . Of course, none of these trends need lead to difficulty *so long as current patterns prevail*. They suggest, however, that a reversal of current patterns, prompted, perhaps, by rising demand for money occasioned by an inflationary cycle, could *ultimately cause a monetary crisis as intense as anything witnessed in our earlier history*" (p. 154).

"To return to the point from which we have started: Money and gold have no use or value in themselves. On the contrary, their value derives only from what we can buy with them.

"In short, our wealth lies neither in the vaults at Ft. Knox nor on the ledgers of our banks. Rather, it lies all around us, in what we have so prodigiously produced in the past and what we are capable of producing in the future" (p. 166).

In God We Trust!

On the other side of this five-dollar bill I have in my hand it says, "IN GOD WE TRUST." It is through a great deal of controversy that this statement has remained on our money. But what does

this mean? I'm afraid it doesn't mean much more than the hollow circular reasoning behind the expression "Federal Reserve Note."

In fact, when you understand what money is, it seems that there must have been a typographical error in the printing of this currency and it should read, "IN *THIS* GOD WE TRUST." Surely you have heard the expression, "THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR"!

Because we do literally trust in that physical piece of paper to bring us our needs—to supply us with goods and services of our choice at the time of our choice. Our trust is in the money itself and in what stands behind the money—the economy of the nation.

There is a deeper hypocrisy in bringing God into the picture than might be supposed. Let's read that verse from the Phillips translation mentioned earlier in this article again, "Tell those who are rich in this present world not to be contemptuous of others, and NOT to rest the weight of their confidence on the transitory power of wealth but on the LIVING GOD, who generously gives us *everything* for our enjoyment" (I Tim. 6:17).

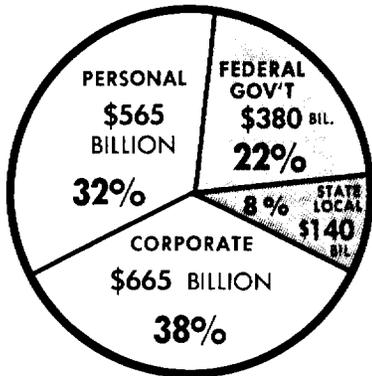
God's message clearly throughout the Bible is that we should put our trust in Him, not in princes or governments or land or money or people or institutions, but in Him! This does not mean that the land and the resources on that land and the money and everything else that is freely given to us from God is evil of itself or should not be *used* freely; but that in the use of it we should always maintain our ultimate trust and faith and confidence in God and not in any of these *things*! It's all too easy to focus on the physical.

Source of Our Wealth

Let's understand where the wealth comes from in the first place—the real wealth! The Eternal God is the Possessor of the heavens and the earth as well as being its Creator. It is He that made the earth habitable for mankind in the first place. It is that great God who put the abundance of wealth into the earth for man to dig it out. It was a loving Creator that covered the millions of square miles of the surface of this globe with riches beyond imagining in the

DEBT

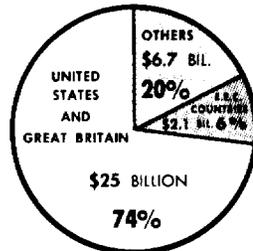
\$1 ¾ Trillion
TOTAL U. S. DEBT



DECEMBER, 31, 1969 ESTIMATES.
SOURCE: DEPT. OF COMMERCE
AND FEDERAL RESERVE BULLETINS

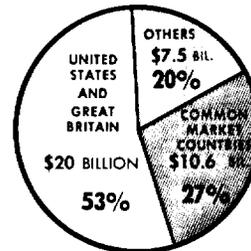
THE GOLD DRAIN

Total: \$33.8 Billion



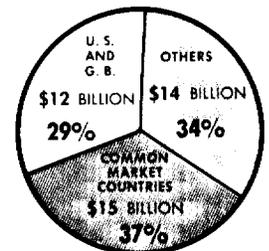
1950

Total: \$38.1 Billion



1960

Total: \$41 Billion



1970

WHY? The loss of more than \$14 billion in gold between 1949 and 1968 was caused by 1) American spending overseas and 2) Those foreign nations claiming our GOLD for our Dollars. Thus, for all but ONE year (1957), the United States paid OUT more than it received. The average deficit per year was more than TWO BILLION dollars. In March, 1968, after a severe 3-month gold rush,* the U. S. refused any more gold payments for our Dollars.

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natural resources we not only take for granted, but greedily destroy beyond measure as we use them.

That same great God made a covenant with a man called Abraham and promised that man that if he would serve Him unswervingly, if he would put his absolute and total and complete trust and confidence in the living God, no matter what, that He in turn would share as a co-owner with Abraham this entire earth and indeed even the entire universe!

That promise God made to Abraham was dual: Part of the promise showed that Abraham was to have that inheritance from God forever. In order for that to happen, Abraham had to have offered to him eternal life as well as all of those great possessions, or else the sad and cynical truth would come to pass that Christ mentioned in the New Testament: If a man gain the whole world and lose his life what has he got? (Matt. 16:26.)

That promise to Abraham also contained a temporary and physical fulfillment for his descendants. Abraham's descendants were to possess the gates of their enemies and live in the rich and fat places of the earth in comparison with the other nations. Contrary to popular belief, ancient Israel did not receive those promises from God, but because of a constant rebellion against

Him had the ultimate fulfillment of those promises postponed for 2520 years. Scattered in total captivity over the broad face of the earth, the many tribes of ancient Israel settled down in new lands. They lost their identity as *Israel!* They forgot who their God was! Still they received the physical part of the unconditional promise that God had given to Abraham.

Since about 1800 the chief beneficiaries of the birthright promise that God made to Abraham have been the modern-day descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh. These modern nations of Ephraim and Manasseh do not realize that it was God who gave them their great wealth because they do not even know who they are, much less recognize that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is their ancestral God as well as their Creator God!

Those birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh are today the great nations of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America respectively. (For a very thorough explanation of this, if you do not already have the book, please write immediately for *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* — it's free.)

Is Israel All of Israel?

The tiny nation of Israel today by no means represents more than a very small

portion of the modern descendants of Israel. Before all Israel was taken into captivity anciently, it split up by civil war into two nations: Israel and Judah. Those people who live in the Israel of today are descended from a portion of those who came down through history maintaining their identity as the house of Judah.

The vast majority of the ancient Israelites in the Ten-Tribed Nation called Israel in that day, rejected their God and rebelled against Him to such an extent that in their captivity they lost not only a knowledge of that God and the promise that He had made to their ancestor Abraham, but they even forgot that Abraham was their ancestor! They forgot that they were Israel! History swallowed them up about 700 years before Christ, and it wasn't until the first years of the 1800's after Christ that the unconditional promises that God gave to Abraham began to be fulfilled in the magnificent splendor of the riches that the God who made the earth gave to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh — the British Commonwealth Nations and the United States of America.

In Which God Do We Trust!

So the great God who gave all the wealth is rather upset when He sees Himself denied by that wealth and yet sees His name mockingly printed on the

nation's money! In Hosea that God says, "Little she knew it was I who had given her the grain and oil and wine, who had heaped on her silver and gold [they devoted it to Baal]. So now I recall my grain in its season, my wine in its month; I reclaim my wool and my flax, that went to cover her nakedness; and I leave her all bare to the eyes of her lovers [international allies and trading partners]" (Hosea 2:8-10, Moffatt translation).

Speaking to the end-time nations of America and Great Britain, Isaiah prophesies, "Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots [that is, automobiles and mobile weapons of war in modern language]: Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made [they trust and have confidence in their own ability to produce a prodigious economy]" (Isaiah 2:7, 8).

Even if you do not agree that these great nations today are indeed end-time descendants of Abraham, you must agree that, since these two great nations came to affluence, they have steadily departed from even a semblance of Godliness. That they have been absorbed in their own affluence. That they worship their own economies and forms of government. That they are hell-bent on a toboggan slide to the depths of immorality. That they have trust and faith and confidence in what their economies can produce and *not* in the God who gave them the resources from His earth to produce those manufactured goods. That the mocking statement, "In God we trust," is printed blasphemy!

The God of Abraham Lives

That same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, disowned and unrecognized by His modern peoples, is right now in the process of *taking away* the great wealth that He gave to us — because of our blatant and total rebellion. Actually the main way God takes these things away from us is merely by *letting* the natural laws He set in motion take their toll. To *permit* the greedy nature which has led us into the economic chaos in which we live destroy us. To *allow* us to

fall into the pits we have dug for ourselves.

God is going to allow us to fall into TOTAL COLLAPSE in the near future. A collapse in every sense of the word — and a final, *actual* PHYSICAL CAPTIVITY! A financial collapse, a moral collapse, a collapse in the health and even the daily sustenance of food on our plates, a collapse of our great cities in nuclear holocaust, a total collapse of the entire nation and economy in which we trust and have our confidence — that which our money is based upon — our *god*: our manufacturing capacity!

Not until the remaining few left alive, who are in captivity, come to *see* their mistake and *recognize* who their God is, will He intervene and restore to them, not only the riches they had before but those far beyond our ken in the Wonderful World Tomorrow.

At that moment when the great God of heaven and earth decides to intervene in mankind's affairs, and particularly in the affairs of the descendants of His friend Abraham, people will begin to recognize that there is only *one* source of true confidence, one secure hope for eternal prosperity: God Himself!

"In that day shall a man cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship [whatever you have trust and faith and confidence in, whatever you worship, is your god], to the moles and to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth. *Cease ye from man*, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" (Isaiah 2:20-22.)

God is returning to take over the governments of this world, to establish the economy of the World Tomorrow, to put down all war and see to it that people do not learn to make war anymore. The Creator God is coming to restore this polluted planet to its intended beauty by teaching man how to *use* the great blessings He gives. All men everywhere are going to discover that whatever they trusted in before, whatever they had confidence in before is no longer of any worth or any value. Everyone will discover that of his own hand,

of what he can manufacture or make, of a gold or silver or paper representation of wealth — that he cannot even supply the simple necessities of food, clothing and shelter for himself but *must in all things rely on God*.

Expanding World Economy

Make no mistake. There will be a great rise in world trade even after the destruction of the nations of the British Commonwealth and of America. Trade and industry will be surging and burgeoning just as it was in ancient Babylon under Baal Nimrud.

And when man's society, drunk on its own apparent success, sees that God of heaven and earth intervening, a great cry of *lament* goes up: "And the merchants of the earth shall *weep* and *mourn* over her [the end-time Babylon which controls the world at the return of Christ]; for no man *buyeth* their merchandise any more: the merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and *slaves*, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, *which were made rich by her*, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! *For in one hour so great riches is come to nought!*" (Rev. 18:11-17.)

God's Economy

Along with all her other monstrous debts, public and private, the United States of America has a debt to its Creator God! This year alone that debt amounts to a figure in excess of SIXTY BILLION DOLLARS! "How can that be?" you say. That can be, because that

YOUR SHRINKING DOLLAR

1940-1970

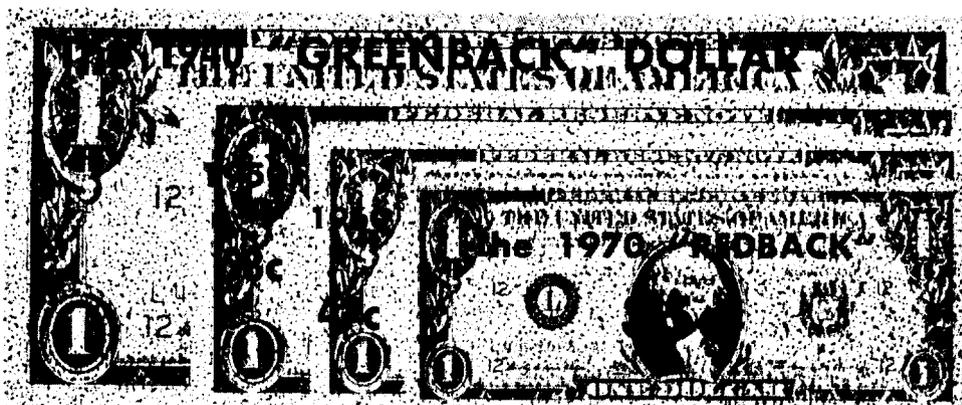
Inflation has been called the number one domestic problem by many observers. The "Cost of Living" has increased each year since 1964, and now stands at about 7% annually.

Pictured here are the deflated currencies of the U. S. and Great Britain. Today it takes you four pounds sterling or three dollars to buy what one pound or dollar did thirty years ago! (And this does not include the two Pound devalua-

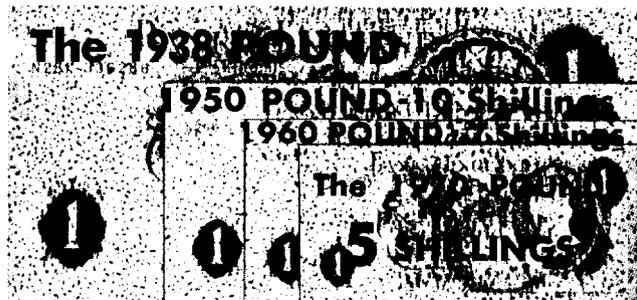
...AND YOUR SHRINKING POUND STERLING

tions, totalling 40%, in 1949 and 1967.)

At the present spiralling rate of inflation, it won't be long before your pounds and dollars are worth a dime a dozen!



Source: Consumer Price Index for U. S.
Whitaker's Almanac for Britain



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figure is roughly one tenth or ten percent of our gross national income for this year. One tenth of that which we worship as a god instead of giving it to God.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this WHOLE NATION!" (Mal. 3:8, 9.) Yes, this entire nation, forgetting its God, not knowing its own true identity, wandering Godless in a Godless world, refuses to recognize its debt to its Creator.

This nation spends on its defense alone, an amount *billions* greater than its tithe would be! It trusts in its manufacturing ability and armies to preserve it in the face of enemies, it trusts in its economy to sustain it financially. It trusts in its technological know-how to continue to produce a giant volume of goods from the good earth — rather than trusting in the Creator of the good earth!

Let's notice just briefly, in contrast to the world's way of doing business, what God's way of doing business is. Instead of God *loaning* us some hard

piece of metal which we would agree with Him represents wealth, God *gives* us the earth! Out of that earth by His generous laws, sustained by His might every second, come the untold riches God designed to be ours in the first place: that is ONE HUNDRED percent of *everything we have!*

Instead of requiring us to pay back that 100 percent to Him every year plus 30 percent, or 20, or any other figure we might pick (from where we would get that percent I don't know!), God gives us the full 100 percent and requests that we return to Him *ten* percent!

It's ALL HIS!

But He tells us that *if* we have our faith and trust and confidence in Him, then we *will* return to Him that which is His anyway. But He only requires *one tenth* of all He has *given us freely in the first place!*

If we put our trust in Him rather than in the manufactured goods or the cold metal that comes from the earth, then His promise is that He will pour us out such a blessing that there will not be room to receive it! That the crops of the next years will exceed those of the years before. That our *health*, our

well-being, our *safety* will be insured — THIS PROMISE APPLIES TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS TO EVERY NATION! (See Mal. 3:8-12.) For further information about that vital tenth, write for our free booklet, *Ending Your Financial Worries*.

Things Money Can't Buy

As you well know, *happiness* cannot be purchased with money. *True love* cannot be purchased with money. *Health* cannot be purchased with money. *Safety* from our many enemies cannot be purchased with money and certainly ETERNAL LIFE cannot be purchased with money! *Salvation, forgiveness of sin, SONSHIP* in the Kingdom of God *cannot be purchased with money.*

Let's notice an unusual statement made by God in the book of Isaiah — "For thus saith the Lord, ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money" (Isa. 52:3).

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

To think that very soon, *the Great God who made everything is going to set His hand to SAVE THE WORLD!* To think that God is not going to require payment of any kind but *gives freely* all

those things which cannot be purchased is good news!

The purpose of this Work is to see that as many people as possible realize that the time of God's intervention is at hand. That it is time for all of us to check our securities, to examine our true wealth, to find out *what it is* we have our *faith in* and how confident we are in the true and everlasting values of good character as described by our Maker! And so as it goes on to say in verse 7 of this same chapter in Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, 'Thy God reigneth!' The watchman shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion" (verses 7-8).

Use Money God's Way

No, money of itself is not evil — it is how we think about it or what we do with it that is either evil or good. So those of us who know and believe this truth from the innermost part of our beings *have put* our confidence and faith and trust in God and His promises. To prove this in every way we endeavor and strive to *do* what God says, whether it is with our time, our effort and energy, or our money. Jesus Christ put it very aptly in the New Testament where He said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

If we trust in money, whatever its substance, to solve our problems, give us health, protect us, heal and help us, then we have our trust in money and we are worshippers of that god called Mamon about which the Creator God has a great deal to say. He uses many analogies regarding money, such as the parable of the talents, which shows that we should *use* everything that we have been given by God to serve Him and to increase — with the power of His Spirit and according to His laws — those gifts that He has given to each and every one of us (Matt. 25:14-30). He warns us very sternly not to put our trust and confidence in physical representations of wealth that we have laid up where

"moth and rust" — and He might well have added "inflation and collapse of an economy" — corrupt, but to make for ourselves treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:19, 20).

That is not just an ecclesiastical phrase. It is not just a gimmick to get the clergy supported. It is a statement from your Savior endeavoring to get across the important point that *your total trust, your ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE, must be in God who made all things and not in any physical representation of wealth dictated and stipulated by your fellow mankind* — that you do not trust in *things* but in the CREATOR of *all things!*

Our Creator goes on to command of us that we be good stewards of the physical things that we find in our hands (Luke 16:1-13). That is, that we use the money, the property, the abundance that comes from the soil *to serve and to worship GOD and NOT to worship that abundance itself as a god*. God wants us to be business partners of His. We establish that partnership, we prove our trust and faith in Him by returning to Him one tenth of what He gives to us. A very simple token and a small one, as physical and monetary proof of our belief.

Those of us who have so dedicated our hearts and treasures in complete trust and confidence into the hand of Almighty God will come with confidence to that place in human history when all the economies of all nations dissolve into nothingness. At that time the great treasure which God has in heaven will be brought with Him *from* heaven to this earth and given freely, abundantly, overflowing in the currency of *true wealth* — in the *sharing and possessing of the heavens and the earth as a SON OF GOD!*

Truth Is Free

Truth should *be given freely*. "Freely ye have received, *freely give*" (Matt. 10:8). Let's see some inspiring things that God has to say about the spiritual truth of the purpose of life and the reason for His creation of mankind — "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without

money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with *you*, even the sure mercies of David" (Isa. 55:1-3).

This is talking about that soon-coming time when God will be ruling this earth. The Good News of Tomorrow's World! It does not mean that money or gold or banks will not be used. It means that the trust and faith and confidence will be in *God* and NOT in *things*.

In so warning us ahead of time, God urges us to recognize what our true source of wealth is and so He says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked *forsake* his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him *return* unto the Lord, and *he will have mercy upon him*; and to our God, for *he will abundantly pardon*. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Make your investment an eternal investment. Make God *your* Partner! Put your heart into the Work that God is doing in this end age — the Work of warning the world of the immediately impending troubles soon to come — the Work that is publishing the message of the Good News of Tomorrow's World — a world at last at peace living under the loving auspices of our Creator God.

Let this verse be a prophecy in God's Word concerning YOU — "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion" (Isa. 52:7-8). □

Man would like to get rid of the Bible. He's tried. For some reason, however, that ancient Book refuses to roll over and play dead. It keeps on impartially proclaiming, "Here is Truth," in face of a barrage of criticism unparalleled in the history of literature. There are those who will tell you that the Bible has been discredited. But will they tell you who has performed this feat and how it was done? It's time you learned the real truth about Biblical criticism.

THE BIBLE

Superstition or Authority?

by Ronald L. Dart

A FEW MONTHS ago a man wrote to the editor of his Sunday newspaper: "I honestly try to live the right kind of life, but when we read that so much of what we used to think true in the Bible has been discredited, *how do we know what is right?*" In that one sentence, he brought into focus one of the most serious problems facing modern man.

There was a time when a question of right and wrong was settled by an appeal to the Bible. In spite of all the doctrinal disagreements and inter-church bickering, the Bible still had a profound influence on the lives of millions of people who called themselves religious. They may not have agreed on the meaning of the Bible, and certainly many of them were not willing to do what the Bible said, but at least the Bible was recognized as *an authority*. It was a source to which man could look to see for himself what was right.

Yet somehow, we have come to the place today that millions of people believe that "much of what we used to think true in the Bible has been discredited."

Is that so? Who discredited the Bible? What *proof* did he show? Who checked up on his evidence? Do we *know* that the Bible has been discredited, or is it one of those things that "people say"?

"*They* say the Bible contradicts itself." "*They* say you can prove anything by the Bible." "*They* say the Bible has been discredited."

But if you asked them *who* had discredited the Bible and what proof they had seen, most simply would not know. Their only answer would be: "Well, *they* say the Bible contradicts itself." But if you ask them who "*they*" are, the chances are they simply will not know.

Some people may have a vague idea that "Biblical scholars" or "the higher critics" have found out things about the Bible which would at least *seem* to discredit it.

Biblical Scholars

The very word "scholar" tends to intimidate the average layman. When he hears of "the assured results of modern criticism," or that "scholars are agreed," he is expected to bow before superior wisdom. Yet scholars are only men and are subject to human failings just like the rest of us. They can be wrong.

For too long now the critics have hidden behind a barrier of complexity which has frightened off the average layman. The Hebrew language, the mysteries

of Greek, the complexities of archaeology — all these things seem beyond our comprehension.

But really, the scholars and critics of the Bible are not that difficult to understand. When all the window dressing is removed and the foundation laid bare, *anyone* can understand.

Who Are the Critics?

The most serious assaults ever made on the authority of the Bible have NOT come from atheists, rationalists, or scientists. They have come from the Christian ministry.

An atheist haranguing against the Bible from a soapbox would hardly receive a hearing from most Christians, but when a *minister* solemnly steps into the pulpit and begins to criticize the Bible, people are going to sit up and take notice! This is happening week after week in our Western Christian World.

A rector of the Church of England, for example, was quoted as saying that the Old Testament contains passages of "spiritual junk" and "poison" for the people (*Daily Express*, May 10, 1963).

Another, Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, former president of the Methodist Conference, said he would like to go through the Bible with a blue pencil and cut out certain sections. He said that in his opinion, the Old Testament was out of date and completely outmoded and that many of the Psalms were nonsense (*Sunday Pictorial*, London, August 12, 1962).

One vicar even went so far as to call the Ten Commandments the "Terrible Ten" and to say that it is *often* right to BREAK THEM!

With so many clergymen openly challenging the authority of the Bible, is it any wonder that people are wondering *what is right?*

How *can* they know what is right when clergymen on every side are rejecting the Bible as the standard for human behavior. They certainly cannot look to the clergy. They are so deeply divided on moral issues that they are becoming confused themselves. Abortion, teen-age sex experimentation, trial marriages, divorce, drug addiction, adultery, homosexuality — all these are wide-open,

controversial subjects among clergymen today.

Why No Agreement?

But why is it that intelligent men are unable to agree on the *right* or *wrong* of such vital issues? "Surely," we exclaim, "they *must* see from the *fruits* of these things that they are wrong!"

No, they don't. When they threw away the standard which defines right and wrong and attempted to become a law to themselves, they *lost* the only wisdom they ever had.

As a desperate world looks to these men for help, all they get are opinions. "There are no absolutes," says one minister. "There are no blacks or whites where morals are concerned — only shades of gray," says another.

Meanwhile a hopelessly confused people sink further into moral quicksand.

Well did Jeremiah prophesy of these men, "Lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in *them?*" (Jeremiah 8:9).

God has *clearly* defined what is right and wrong for man. If clergymen would turn to the Bible, and accept its *authority* on the vital questions pertaining to man's life, all this confusion would disappear. God says: "But if they had stood in *my* counsel, and had caused my people to hear *my* words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings" (Jeremiah 23:22).

Assailed by Doubts

But the Bible is no longer accepted by many religious leaders as an authoritative standard.

Having rejected any Biblical authority, much of the Christian ministry has sunk into a morass of doubt and agnosticism.

One of the most eloquent spokesmen of the new "theology of doubt" is Dr. John A. T. Robinson, Bishop of Woolwich, and author of *Honest to God*. His book has been described as saying "that the concept of a personal God as held in popular Christianity is outmoded — that atheists and agnostics are right to reject it."

Bishop Robinson was asked in an interview by Jack Lucas of the *Daily Her-*

ald whether he believed literally in a virgin birth. He answered frankly: "I am prepared to be agnostic. I do not believe it matters very much. I think the evidence is pretty weak on the whole."

Bishop Robinson, of course, does not intend to speak dogmatically in his book, nor does he really intend to prove anything. In his own words, he is merely "thinking out loud."

He summed up the general confusion in theological circles by admitting to Mr. Lucas: "I do not fully understand myself all that I am trying to say" (*Daily Herald*, March 19, 1963).

These questions that have arisen in the mind of Bishop Robinson are by no means unique in theological circles. Reviewing the book, *Honest to God*, Canon Theodore Wedel said:

The Bishop is not committing a crime in revealing to a wider public what has been going on for a generation and longer in the world of advanced theological learning. . . . *Honest to God* is simply a bold, and as some theologians may say, premature opening of a Pandora's box of theological novelties under debate among doctors of the schools BEHIND THE SCENES (*The Episcopalian*, August, 1963, emphasis mine).

No Authority

Very few theologians today will accept the Bible as an end to all dispute. In a major American city a group of theologians appeared on television to answer questions about religion for people who telephoned in to the studio. One woman who called, after trying in vain to point out something she thought was very clear in the New Testament, became exasperated and said, "Can't you see it? It's in plain English."

"Well, no," was the theologian's reply, "it's in corrupt Greek."

His answer illustrates the attitude of the modern schools of Biblical criticism. The Bible is not accepted as the infallible Word of God, authoritative in all matters of religion. It is looked upon as the work of men, subject to human error and therefore quite fallible.

A survey commissioned by *Redbook Magazine* in 1961 shows how far this has gone. They assigned Louis Harris and Associates, a public opinion research firm, to interview student min-

isters in eight leading theological schools. The results were shocking.

It was found that only 44 percent of these future ministers believed in the virgin birth of Christ, only 29 percent believed there is a real heaven and hell, and only 46 percent believed that Jesus ascended physically whole into heaven after His crucifixion!

Of all the figures listed in the article, the most striking concerned the second coming of Christ: Only one percent of these future ministers are convinced that there will be a second coming of Christ, even though Christ *specifically* said that He would come again to this earth (Acts 1:11, John 14:3).

Confusion Without Authority

A woman wrote to a minister who writes a column for *The Birmingham Mail* and asked: "If you reject the authority of Scripture, what authority can you speak with or appeal to? Or don't you think there is any need for authority today?"

His answer? "Your own mind is the authority!" Each of us must face any decisions that come our way and "hear again the inner voice, something in us that responds, that whispers 'This is true.' There is your ultimate authority!"

But what if the "inner voice" is wrong? What if it has been the victim of miseducation, misinformation, or outright falsehood? There are millions of people in the world today telling themselves, "This is true," while, in fact, disagreeing with countless other people who are telling themselves, "This is false." Who is right? Is anybody right? It is this sort of confusion that has led to a sort of "Christian agnosticism" in our day.

Mankind needs a *guide*, an authority he can turn to with assurance. The *Bible* has that authority. Why have ministers rejected it?

Trust No Man

When you read a statement about the Bible by a critic, can you rest assured that the man has always approached the Bible with an open, unprejudiced mind — that his research has always been careful, thorough, well documented?

Unfortunately, you cannot.

Far too many of the objections raised against the Bible by critics are firmly

grounded in *sheer ignorance!* Scholars do *not* always understand everything they write about. Even "learned men" are occasionally guilty of carelessness, false assumption, or even ignorance.

Take, for example, Thomas Paine, who launched one of the most widely read attacks ever made on the Bible with his *Age of Reason* in 1794. Although Paine ripped apart the contemporary philosophy of the Bible held by some churchmen, he left the Bible itself virtually *untouched*. He wrote:

From whence then could arise the solitary and strange conceit that the Almighty, who had millions of worlds equally dependent on His protection, should quit the care of all the rest and come to die in our world, because *they say* one man and one woman had eaten an apple? (Thomas Paine, *Age of Reason*, pp. 26, 27, emphasis mine.)

Notice that his objection is *not to the Bible itself*, but to what "*they say*" about the Bible. "They," in this case, were the "Christian" teachers whose doctrines he had sampled. The chances are he did not look any more deeply into their teachings than he did into the Bible. He *admitted* that when he wrote the first part of his book, he did not even possess a Bible! (W. Neil, *Cambridge History of the Bible*, p. 250.)

We might borrow a phrase from Paine and ask: "From whence then could arise the solitary and strange conceit" that leads a man to argue so confidently from a position of ignorance?

It seems strange to hear a man admit that he doesn't know what he's talking about, but we should at least be refreshed by his honesty. A great deal of criticism of the Bible is launched from a similar lack of knowledge but without the candor to admit it.

Check the Source

It is easy to see how Paine made his mistake. After all, if the clergy did not speak for the Bible, who did? It is always risky, however, to take another man's word for something. Thomas Paine simply failed to check up to see if the Bible really did say what he had heard that it said.

A good many errors result from just such a failure. For example, Robert Graves and Raphael Patai published

a book called *Hebrew Myths, the Book of Genesis* in which they attempt to show the alleged mythological character of much of the Old Testament. In making a point on page 13, the writers state: "A Ugaritic deity worshipped as Baal-Zebub or Zebul, at Ekron was insulted by King Ahaziah (II Kings 1:2ff)."

If the reader simply accepts this without checking, he is going to be completely misled. If he checks, he will find the account in the Bible is clear and easy to understand. King Ahaziah sent to *inquire* of the god of Ekron whether he would recover of his disease. Elijah the prophet intercepted the messengers and sent them back to tell Ahaziah he would die. There is no indication that the messengers ever got to Baal-Zebub and certainly no *insult* to Baal-Zebub is mentioned in the text.

The book gives no indication and the reader cannot tell whether this represents an interpretation of the authors or a slip on their part.

This is a particularly interesting example, because the two authors have an impressive record of scholarship in their fields and list no fewer than *seventy literary works* between them! As one reads through the introduction, he cannot help being impressed by the obvious scholarship, learning and confidence exhibited.

This impression, however, gets damaged a bit when we read on page 15 a reference to the "feast of atonement." Anyone who is going to write with authority about the Old Testament ought to know that the Day of Atonement is a *fast day, not a feast!*

One thing is clear, however — we can't swallow everything we see in print! It is often necessary to go *right to the source* to see if it really does say what it is purported to say.

What Kind of God?

If Thomas Paine had done this, he could have saved himself a great deal of misunderstanding.

Where did he get his concept of God? He wrote:

When we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more

than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we called it the word of a demon than the Word of God (Thomas Paine, *Age of Reason*, p. 7).

Of course, the careful student of the Bible already knows that the cruelty, barbarism, and vindictiveness which *we do find* in the Old Testament are *not the will of God!* They are *the works of man contrary* to the laws of God!

Nevertheless, far too many people who have read Paine's work still share his false impression of the God of the Old Testament. They look upon God as a harsh hanging judge who is all too eager to descend upon man with great wrath every time he deviates from an "impossible law."

As a new PLAIN TRUTH reader from Northampton, England, wrote:

I accept the ethical teaching of Jesus, but I cannot in any way reconcile the God Jehovah of the Jews as having anything in common with such a teaching. There is *hardly a page* in the Hebrew Scriptures which does not deal with murder, rape, pillage, etc. . . . No loving or merciful God or being could have allowed or attributed to the acts as reported in the Hebrew Scriptures. I can't read it. It is too bloody. There is too much fear. Didn't Paul write perfect love casteth out all fear? (Emphasis mine.)

Of course, those who have more than a nodding acquaintance with the God of the Old Testament have encountered an entirely different God. They have found in the pages of the Bible the God who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. They have encountered the God who cried out, "Why will you die, O house of Israel?" These students of the Bible have encountered prophets whose main message was a *plea* to Israel *not* to destroy themselves.

For some reason, the reader was oblivious to this. Either he had not read the Old Testament carefully, or, like Thomas Paine, he had allowed his mind to be *prejudiced against it before he ever started.*

But what about you? To what extent have you allowed your opinions of the Bible to be formed by what others have told you? Have *you* checked the Bible to see what it really does say about God?

It is a shame, but all too many of the criticisms leveled at the Bible have little or nothing to do with the *real message*

of the Bible. They deal purely with the false concepts and philosophies of man *about* the Bible.

Science Versus the Bible

Thomas Paine was certainly not the only one to make the mistake of assuming that the teaching of the church was the teaching of the Bible. When the science of geology began to discover evidence in the rocks that the earth was more than six thousand years old, many jumped to the conclusion that the book of Genesis had been discredited. However, as one writer put it, their concept of Creation was not so much that of the Bible as that of Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

In their minds, they had somehow developed a mental image of the creation of man *within a week* of the creation of the earth out of nothing and the sudden shaping of the sun, moon, and stars.

When this idea clashed head-on with evidence that the earth may be *millions* of years old, the faith of some was shaken. It was unfortunate, because their faith in the Bible need not have been shaken at all. The Bible simply *does not say* that the earth is only six thousand years old!

It is not difficult to see how a superficial reading of Genesis might reinforce such an idea. But a careful study of the first chapter makes it clear that Genesis *reveals nothing about the actual age of the earth.*

The account starts simply in the first verse by saying: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The writer of Genesis does not tell us when "the beginning" was. The very language of it certainly implies antiquity, but it is *indefinite.*

The writer goes on to say: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

It is obvious from the wording of these verses that there is some time lapse between verse 1 when God created the heaven and the earth, and verse 3, where He said, "Let there be light."

How long did the earth lie without form and void? How long was darkness upon the face of the deep? How long did the Spirit of God move upon

the face of the waters before God finally took action, saying, "Let there be light"?

As far as the book of Genesis is concerned, the earth could just as easily be twice as old as the wildest estimates of geologists.

The Full Story

It is only after a careful investigation of the Bible that the full story of what is described at the beginning of Genesis comes to light. An examination of the original Hebrew of Genesis 1:2 reveals that the word rendered "was" by the translators of the Authorized Version should more correctly be translated "became."

Furthermore, the original Hebrew words for "without form, and void," were *tohu* and *bohu*. The words simply mean "chaotic, in confusion, waste, empty."

Then, we read in Isaiah 45:18 that when God created the heavens and the earth He did *NOT* create them *TOHU* — in confusion.

God is not the author of confusion. When He created the heavens and the earth in the first place, He created them *perfect* and "*to be inhabited*" (Isaiah 45:18). It was *after* this creation that the earth *became* chaotic and in confusion as a result of Satan's rebellion. We're not told in Genesis how this happened or how long it lasted. For the full story of the earth before Adam, request our articles, "Did God Create a Devil?" and "Dinosaurs Before Adam?"

A Total Misconception

It is a fact that many of the criticisms leveled at the Bible have been made because the critic was misinformed, failed to check the source, misunderstood what the Bible said, or simply did not read it carefully enough. Yet many have read their works and supposed that the Bible couldn't be trusted.

Since the critics have taken it upon themselves to scrutinize the Bible, surely it is only fair that we scrutinize the critics.

What are they trying to prove and why? Do they back up their conclusions with *facts*, with proof, or only with *opinions*?

You may be in for a surprise! □

(To be continued)

Why Does God Hide Himself?

(Continued from page 12)

Christ of Nazareth began His ministry in 27 A.D. It was God Almighty's time to *completely* reveal Himself. He had become a human being!

As strange as it sounds, Jesus Christ *was* the very God of the Old Testament — the Everliving One called YHVH, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was the One who had created the universe (John 1:3; Eph. 3:9). He had walked with Adam, dined with Abraham, wrestled with Jacob, spoken with Moses, and watched over Israel (I Cor. 10:4).

But this was vastly different — He had now emptied Himself of eternal spirit life and became human flesh, subject to death! (Phil. 2:7.) For what reason? To help His beloved creation — to pave the way for His brothers to become joint-heirs with Him in God's Family (Rom. 8:17). God no longer held *anything* back — here was His *full* revelation to man.

But He was *despised* and *rejected* of men (Isaiah 53:3)! He was beaten so badly that His face emerged more disfigured and His body more mutilated than any man in all history (Isaiah 52:14). That's what happened when God "came out of hiding."

Who called for Christ's blood? Many of the same multitudes whom He had taught and fed for weeks and months and years. They *knew* He was from God (John 3:2), they *knew* He could give Eternal Life (Mark 10:17) — they *worshipped* Him (Mark 7:7). But they also expected that He would drive out the Romans and set up an independent Jewish kingdom *immediately*. No, they didn't "expect" it, they *DEMANDED* it. That's why many thousands lined His route into Jerusalem, garnished His path, and shouted praises to "the kingdom of our father David" (Mark 11:8-10).

The people wanted God on their *own* terms. And when He wouldn't agree, they shouted, "String Him up! Kill Him!" You doubt? Read on.

The Judean multitudes were stunned when Christ was captured. He was sup-

posed to expel the Romans! The people felt cheated and "taken" — they looked like fools, tricked by the carpenter from Nazareth. Their religious leaders were quick to take advantage by turning the fickle and indignant crowds against their former hero (Mark 15:10-11). It wasn't hard to do.

Those same quiet people, who had sat patiently on the hillsides listening to Jesus for hours on end, had now been transformed into a bloodthirsty howling horde. Simple "loss of face" had galvanized individual human beings into a viciously rabid mob!

Faces flushed with waves of frenzy when Pilate stated: " 'He has done nothing, you see, that calls for death . . . ' But they all yelled as one man, 'Away with him! . . . ' Again Pilate addressed them, for he wanted to release Jesus; but they roared, 'To the cross, to the cross with him . . . ' [Pilate] spoke to them the third time . . . But they shouted him down, yelling their demand that he should be crucified, and their shouts carried the day" (Luke 23:15-23, Moffatt and Phillips).

The God of Israel (YHVH) did much more than manifest Himself when He became Jesus Christ — He unveiled *God the Father*, His *Own* Master (Psalm 110:1), the *Most* High God (Gen. 14:18). Everyone who *knew* Christ *knew* the Father (John 14:9).

Something else was also revealed. Something pretty important for us. Under the Old Covenant, YHVH promised the obedient an abundant *physical* life. And that's all. But now, in the "uncomely" form of Jesus Christ, YHVH disclosed *THE* Mystery of God (I Cor. 2:7). Christ revealed that human beings can inherit *eternal* life (I John 1:2; Matt. 25:46). And a *quality* of eternal life beyond the wildest dreams of any human mind.

Jesus Christ revealed that *we* are literally to become *God ourselves* (John 10:34-35). That's right — read it again — *God ourselves!* The Eternal Creator of the universe — that's Jesus of Nazareth our elder brother — has proclaimed that *we* are *now* joint-heirs with Him as begotten *Sons* in God's Family (Rom. 8:17; I John 3:1-2)! What will we inherit with Christ? Christ has *all things*

(Eph. 1:22). And so will we (Heb. 2:8)! *All things!*

And so with the awesome majesty of God's greatest gifts still coursing through their craniums, *humanity* butchered the body of Jesus Christ. Here was God-hating human nature in the raw. The *human race as a whole* willfully murdered the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who had sacrificed so much to share His Eternal Life with all men! The mangled mass of flesh and muscle which hung there limply on the stake was all that remained after God had "finally" given mankind the full revelation of Himself.

Here was the complete presentation of YHVH — the God of the Patriarchs and Prophets; here was the first manifestation of YHVH's Almighty Father — the Most High God; here was the overwhelming disclosure of man's individual *purpose* in life — to become God himself. Yet man mutilated Jesus Christ their Saviour, killed YHVH their Creator, rejected God their Father.

AND, INCREDIBLY, MAN CONTINUED TO ASK, "WHY DOES GOD HIDE HIMSELF?"

Christ Through the Centuries

Peter, John and the other apostles were set apart as God's true representatives by the enormous power which passed through them to perform miraculous healings (Acts 3:1-9; 5:12-16). The religious establishment *never* doubted the authenticity of these signs and wonders. But did they accept the presence of God? No sir! They feared for their *own* position — they didn't want to lose their *own* followers, their *own* adulators, and of course their *own* tithe-payers (Acts 4:16-18; 5:17-18).

God was now working through the New Testament Church. But the religious leaders, true to form, acting as they always have and always will, cared more for "letters and learning" (Acts 4:13) than for the overt revelations of God.

For the more than 1,938 years since Christ's death and resurrection, mankind has had access to Him through the Bible. (The Bible is the Word of God — and so is Christ, John 1:14.) But what has man done with *it*?

He has "interpreted" it — in a myriad of councils, conclaves, conferences

and consistories. How? For his own convenience! No more laws, Sabbaths, Holy Days, tithing, prophecy, correction. Now even morality is "out of date." What's the purpose of these "Bible interpretations"? Very simple — *muzzle* the Bible and *HIDE* its God!

For 18½ centuries, the True Church of God was a small persecuted group of outcasts who met in private houses and hired halls (Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15; Acts 28:30). It was *not* a "respected" religio-political system, like "Organized Churchianity" which is really *baptized paganism!*

If Jesus Christ began his physical ministry today, He would be accused of being the greatest threat to "God, Christianity and Patriotism"! He would be charged with treason and sedition by every country on earth — and His trial and "execution" would be festively celebrated around the world (probably on December 25)!

The Coming Revelation of God

"Ridiculous," Mr. Christian would say. "If God really appeared mankind would *rejoice* — not reject Him." This namby-pamby hypothesis will be exposed as a myth. Christ *is* soon going to return — and the world won't like it one bit. Because Christ will not return as a pleading preacher-boy. He will *NOT* make speeches at the United Nations, He will *not* appear on televised press conferences, and He will surely *not* lead protest marches. He *won't* "prove Himself" to scientists. He *won't* explain His behavior to psychologists. And He *surely won't* quibble and quarrel with theologians. No, Christ is going to rule this world with a *rod of iron!* (Rev. 2:27.)

The Book of Revelation tells the story. Curiously enough, the world looks on this book as a deliberate effort by God to "*hide* His mysteries." Nothing could be further from the truth. Read the name — *Revelation!* These 22 chapters spell out, in excruciating detail, the history of the world — before it happens. Here God reveals all — yet man claims it is "hidden in symbol." (Write for our free booklet, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!*)

Agnostic Arnold's "wish" (remember him?) will soon be granted — God

will soon open Himself for all to see (Matt. 24:27). But humanity will respond just as it has always responded. Man will once again *hide* from his Creator. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, *HID* themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and *HIDE* us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:15-16).

But don't we read that all mankind will rejoice, make merry and even send gifts to one another at this time? Sure—that'll be when God's two witnesses are *murdered!* (Rev. 11:3; 7-10.) And soon thereafter, when Christ takes over "the kingdoms of this world" (Rev. 11:15), the nations will be *angry* (verse 18) and men will *blaspheme* God (16:21).

Do you catch the ironic drama of the situation? The same men, who had pompously proclaimed that they would "surely obey God if only He would stop hiding 'like a woman' and appear 'like a man,'" will *themselves* hide under rocks and blaspheme Him when He actually does appear *like a God!*

The WORK of God

Soon, *very soon*, God *is* going to reveal Himself to all mankind. You don't have to believe it. We're *not* trying to *make* you believe it. Our job is just to tell you about it. Because you're going to *see* it for yourself. We know that for an *authoritative fact* — because we've been commissioned to herald the GOOD NEWS of Christ's World-Ruling Government.

You have come into contact with the very *WORK OF GOD!*

Many of you subscribers to TOMORROW'S WORLD have been personally selected by the Creator of Heaven and Earth to *actively* participate as Co-Workers in His End-Time Work. You have caught the vision. You have forged a position of mammoth responsibility for yourself. You have had the courage and the foresight to enthusiastically support God's Work with your tithes and offerings. You have become Co-Workers *forever!*

That's not just a figure of speech.

You are literally Co-Workers with Christ on God's Eternally Triumphant Team! Together, all of *us* are the instruments through which God is revealing Himself to this last generation of humanity. It is our job to give *all* nations God's warning witness (Matt. 24:14) before the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord strike.

The world as a whole will reject us and *hide* from their God — just as they always have whenever God's messengers have spoken. That's all right. We are not trying to convince or convert anybody — even if we were, it wouldn't do any good.

Our purpose is to give this world a witness that they'll never forget — so that when these prophecies do unfold in headlines and blare out of radios, when a conquering Jesus Christ returns to earth, the people "shall know that there hath been a prophet among them" (Ezek. 2:5; 33:33), and that the Lord God had indeed spoken through *this WORK* (Ezek. 24:24; 6-10).

Humanity will come to know our WORK with the most intense worldwide emotion in history. They will see spectacular miracles (Matt. 10:7-8; Rev. 11:6) — and deeply realize that God is revealing Himself through us! They will hear our words — but in most cases they will *not* obey (Ezek. 33:31). One *last time* mankind will reject God's prophets and hide from its Creator.

The Ultimate Revelation

We have thrown at you a mass of historic and prophetic information. No doubt you believe our general thesis — that God has continuously revealed Himself to man but man has always hidden himself from God. But your belief is founded on secondhand data. It's right, it's good — but there's better! How would you like some *firsthand evidence?*

Your Creator has provided a way — He can reveal Himself *through you!* He can literally dwell in you (I John 4:12) — Jesus Christ, the Creator of this universe, can come into your mind and flesh! (I John 4:2.) How? By the implantation of His Holy Spirit (John 14:17) — which is God's Power to express Himself through you.

God is offering a majesty which tran-

scends even the most fertile imaginations. And *you* can have it!

How do *we* know that God can reveal Himself through individual men? What's our evidence?

We have an absolute two-fold proof: First, the person can keep God's Law for the first time. Of course God's Law will be kept! If God is going to manifest Himself through men, He is obviously going to obey His own Law! Second, the person can develop progressively more Godlike character.

The phenomenally incomprehensible result of this development occurs at the resurrection — when, in truth and in fact, the *person himself* is changed into Eternal God! As wildly incredible as it surely sounds to our brainwashed ears, *God Almighty is reproducing Himself*. He is making man eligible for *full-fledged Sonship* in His God-plane Family. That seems like sacrilegious blasphemy to worldly religions — but it happens to be the reason why God created the entire universe! Request our booklet, *Why Were You Born?*, for the full explanation.

The world teaches that man can't keep God's Ten Commandments. True. Man alone can't. But, when God impregnates and augments man's spirit by His Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16), then man can fully obey God's Law because Christ Himself will help. The world hates obeying God and the world ridicules the idea of God reproducing Himself. As a result the world rejects God's revelation through man.

And by rejecting God's revelation, the world blasphemes God's Holy Spirit. Religionists tell you "just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved." They also make the equally ludicrous claim that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person! This is a flagrant attempt to both close off the Godhead in an unexpandable "Trinity" and deny God's power to keep His own Law through human beings.

How do *you* know that God can reveal Himself through men? You can't stake your belief on these words stuck end to end. So prove it! Prove it by trying it! There is no other way. You must *personally experience* the enormous benefits of God's Spirit. And

we don't mean some pseudosanctimonious hodge-podge of self-deluded emotion, nicey-nice prayer meetings and goody-good testimonials. We *do* mean God's breathtaking Purpose in life — and His specific office of scintillating authority prepared especially for you.

Let's get down to business. How do *you* get God's Holy Spirit? There are just two requirements: 1) A wholly repentant attitude of mind and 2) baptism. That's it (Acts 2:38).

How do you know if you are repentant? How do you get baptized? Where are *God's* ministers? We can answer your questions. The Graduate School of Theology of Ambassador College has sent dedicated men into most communities in the United States and the British Commonwealth, and into many other cities around the world. These sincere individuals have no religious "ax to grind," no "quota" to meet, no pressure to exert. Their sole purpose in life is to help you gain eternal life. If God has granted *you* the capacity to catch the vision, if you have questions which you want answered, write to us and request a special, *private* appointment. Give us the pleasure of serving you. We'd love to.

Of all God's revelations to man, the clearest and most dramatic for you will occur when *you personally* sense the remarkably thrilling change in *your own mind* brought about by God's Holy Spirit — a steady perfection of your character, a new power in your understanding, a sudden zest in your life, and a fantastically happy outlook for your future. You will never again have to rehearse the many times, places and ways of God's revelations to mankind. When you want to see God revealing Himself, you'll just look at *God's Power in your own life!*

Why Does God Hide Himself?

He *hasn't*.

He *isn't*.

He *won't*.

It's man who hides from God.

God *HAS* revealed Himself — by His creation, by His patriarchs and prophets, and by the ministry of Jesus Christ. God *IS* revealing Himself — to scientists by their discoveries, and to the world by *this Work*. God *WILL* re-

veal Himself — to you personally by His Spirit now, and to all mankind by His soon-coming conquering return.

But let's not forget poor old Agnostic Arnold — really a nice guy beneath his obnoxiously self-confident exterior. He has a rendezvous with the shock of his academically sheltered life. He will soon shed that pretense of "erudite sophistication." *Arnie is going to repent*. Hard to believe? Naturally — but nonetheless true.

He can't even *imagine* the awesomely terrifying sequence of cataclysmic eruptions by which the Almighty Jesus Christ will conquer this world. Arnie's calloused, self-protecting emotions will be taxed beyond their limits — he will be shaken and whirled like a dried leaf in a tornado. Of course that'll be the best thing for him. Because at last he's going to become *teachable* — like a wide-eyed child hungry for basic knowledge.

Don't worry — God hasn't been indignantly hurt or pridefully upset by Arnie's present buffoonery. This boy is just deceived — like the rest of the world (Rev. 12:9). God knows that. He loves Arnie *even now* (Rom. 5:8). So it's going to give God great pleasure to mercifully grant Arnold repentance (II Tim. 2:25). God can hardly wait to see the *NEW, humbly repentant* Arnie, sitting quietly and listening attentively as one of Jesus Christ's ministers begins to teach him *the Way of Truth*.

There are thousands of millions of "Arnies" in today's world — everyone deceived in his own particular way. These helpless specks of frustrated life aren't "lost." God is getting ready to give *each and every* person his or her chance for eternal salvation. What a fantastic time to live! We are going to see the very unfolding and fulfillment of God's Plan!

You are a critical part of that Plan! God is offering you the opportunity to help in *His Work*. No exaggeration. You can share the joy of proclaiming God's worldwide witness today — and qualify to share *God's joy*, as a born member of His divine Family, when He comes to save the world!

Come help humanity!

Let God put *you* on His team! □

Why Must Men Suffer?

(Continued from page 8)

very LIFE — His Love, His understanding and wisdom, His power, His faith, His righteousness. *We drink in,* through His Spirit, HIS NATURE AND HIS CHARACTER.

Through a long life of Christian living — of *overcoming* self, of growing spiritually, through the very power of GOD imparted to us, we develop spiritually ready to be finally BORN OF GOD — by a resurrection, or instantaneous conversion from mortal to immortal — from human to divine — from weakness to power — from dishonor to GLORY!

And what about all these human sufferings which work character within us?

The Apostle Paul settled that: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the SONS OF GOD" (Rom. 8:18-19). □

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

He did not go about using such mushy language. He was *not* a girlish, effeminate, sentimental or emotional weakling. He was a strong, virile, masterful, yet kind and gentle MAN. He possessed LEADERSHIP, STRENGTH, PURPOSE, SUPREME STRONG WILL — and yet these masculine qualities of strength and power were perfectly blended with wisdom, judgment, knowledge, understanding, justice, and also patience, compassion and mercy. He was filled with PEACE, LOVE, FAITH. And His WILL, strong as it was, was totally yielded and obedient to GOD. All this was the character of GOD.

He is our PATTERN. We must imitate Him — copy Him.

Look at the men of God in the Old Testament — Abraham, Noah, Joseph, David, Daniel, Elijah. They were all different from Christ in one respect — in which you and I must also be different — they had human weaknesses, and all did sin, yet these men all repented and strove to overcome. But they were all men of strong PURPOSE, strong WILL guided by God, all possessed leadership, but also love and faith and a consecrated OBEDIENCE to the will of GOD. But they were not effeminate, sentimental men indulging in an affected, put-on, religious-sounding way of talking.

Look at the Apostles Peter and Paul. They were the same. You don't find any of this pseudo "spirituality" in them — yet they were truly SPIRITUAL men, devoted to obeying God and serving the needs of the people.

But one thing to watch and guard against every second, in the way of attitude, is resentment, bitterness, hatred. Don't let ANYTHING, no matter how

unjust, make you sour and bitter. That is the deadliest mental and spiritual POISON. We must LOVE even our enemies who perpetrate the greatest outrages — though we do not condone their evils.

If you ever think *PM* wrong about anything, *don't get sour or bitter about it* — let GOD correct and punish me — vengeance is HIS, you know. Resentment against me won't either punish me or benefit you, but it could consign YOU to *eternal* punishment! Whether YOU believe it or not, I have come, by years of experience learning the HARD WAY, to have supreme faith that GOD will never neglect to correct or punish *me* wherever I deserve it! You may TRUST HIM to do it!

Remember what a GLORIOUS GOAL we have before us!

How GRATEFUL we ought to be! How our hearts ought to be FLOODED with love and gratitude to the Great God for His matchless LOVE toward us. I'm sure we don't grasp what a supreme price He paid to make it possible. He wants us to be CHANGED — to overcome and root out this debasing, rotten carnality we all have in us — and to GROW into His righteousness, that we may SHARE His GLORY.

And, you know, I believe God wants and *longs to* share the supreme GLORY that He has with YOU! Make it your supreme over-all life VOCATION, and WORK HARD AT IT!

The Japanese spy who stealthily and secretly obtained all the information the Japanese needed to bomb Pearl Harbor said that he was not a very brilliant man, and learning came hard to him, BUT HE WORKED HARD AT IT, relentlessly, with zeal, and with purpose, and with diligence. He SUCCEEDED — in terrible DESTRUCTION — in plunging the United States into World War II — and, finally, in the ignominious defeat of his own nation.

Let us *work hard at our calling and mission* of being real Christians. We shall succeed, with GOD'S help — in final and eternal GLORY! □

Letters to the Editor

"What Do You Mean — Salvation?"

"I have just finished reading the article in TOMORROW'S WORLD, 'What Do You Mean Salvation?' I intend to read it again and again; it is so plain, so understandable and answers so many questions which needed answering. Repetition will embed them in my mind."

W.P., Penns Grove, N.J.

• *An excellent idea — most of our articles are basic and need study, not just reading. For new subscribers, this particular article is available in booklet form.*

Smoking

"Why do you spend so much time criticizing smoking? I have been a Christian for 54 years. I have smoked for 48 years. I find it relaxing and a pleasure too. For the past 30 years I have been working two full-time jobs. I have also been taking care of my 15 apartments, two houses and my beautiful home. I will not work on Sundays. God has blessed my wife and I all these years; we have been well and happy, and prosperous in many ways. The way I look at it is this, life on earth is just for a short time, a place to prepare for the future everlasting life. If I live a Christian life what difference does it make if I live or die ten years sooner or later? You might say, we are supposed to have a healthy body, but how many Christians die from heart attacks from overeating — how many are poisoned from cosmetics — how many are injured from improper clothes — may I continue to smoke?"

H. Merton S.,
Cincinnati, Ohio

• *First, we're concerned that people are dying so needlessly.*

Second, "What difference does it make?" — why don't you ask your wife!

Third, sure — it's your heart, mind, lungs and life.

Fourth, two or three or a dozen wrongs don't make even one right.

Fifth, we suggest you read the next two comments.

"Just a note to tell you that your new

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

Mr. William D. T.,
Huntsville, Texas

"I thoroughly enjoy TOMORROW'S WORLD, especially the articles on smoking. I am only 14 and have been smoking off and on since I was nine — the last two years have been steady. Most of the group I run with at school (about 15 or 20 kids) smoke. Three of them have quit now thanks to these articles and we're hoping to gain more because there are four more that want to read it. I never in my life realized how many poisons were in a cigarette."

Joyce M. M.,
Pleasanton, Kansas

• *Good for you Joyce — this is one case when it's great to be a quitter!*

Ready For a Change

"After reading several issues of TOMORROW'S WORLD, and realizing what an unhappy, unsatisfactory life my family and I have been leading, I decided to do something about it. For many years I have believed that the Bible is only a collection of stories about the genealogy, history and beliefs of a group of nomadic tribesmen. I do not believe in a personal, living God, but I do believe in an all-pervading Creative Force that existed before creation and continues to exist in and around us and is part of us and we are part of it. However, this austere, intellectual belief does not give one the strength and courage needed to build a satisfactory life. I am certainly a great transgressor of the Law. I want to come

to believe again, as I did to a limited extent as a child, in the existence of God as you believe in Him. It will not be an easy job to overcome 30 years of wrong thinking, but I intend to try my best, with God's help. The one thing that I can do right in the beginning, and which will prove the sincerity of my intention, both to God and myself, is to start tithing. My check is enclosed, representing 10% of my weekly salary.

John V. B.,
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

• *Every service we are able to perform to help you become personally acquainted with your Maker and Savior is at your disposal — we're here to serve — and thank you for helping us help!*

College Education

"I thank you very much for my copy of TOMORROW'S WORLD. It is a college education in the privacy of my home."

Roy W. L.,
West Allis, Wisc.

• *That's right, TOMORROW'S WORLD is an education — one you couldn't find at any college other than at Ambassador — yet presented in such a manner that you don't need a college-level education to understand.*

Correspondence Course

"I wish to compliment you on your excellent Bible Course, of which I have now completed Lesson 12, and eagerly look forward to receiving Lesson 13. Over the years I have taken part in a number of Bible Study groups, so I do feel I have a good base for comparison. What impresses me most about your Bible Course, is the way you present the Bible truths, without any denominational slant or viewpoint; only plain facts, which surely make one think, as well as wonder why 'ministers of the Gospel' are knowingly distorting the truth. I am very pleased to tell you, that I finally am learning to understand my Bible, and the 12 lessons now completed have taught me more than all previous courses I have taken combined."

Eric J. T.,
New Hartford, New York

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★ **Holidays — Headaches and Hangovers — Why?**

More people are unhappy, miserable, depressed, discouraged, deep in debt and violent during the holiday season than at any other time of the year. There is precious little peace on earth or goodwill among men. There doesn't seem to be much of Christ in the commercialized "Christmas" that began last September in the stores! Just how Christian are these holidays anyway? Where did we get all these customs? What does the Bible have to say about them? Don't miss next month's answers to these practical questions — you'll find them surprising, thorough, documented from God's Word.