

SEPTEMBER . . . TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

# Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS





# LETTERS From Our Readers

Sirs:

I am writing you asking you to please send me a crystal gazing ball. If you don't sell them, then please send me an address that sells them. I want one of the kind to look up Haden Treasure and things of that kind. Please let me hear from you soon.  
Colfax, La. S.C.

*Editor's Note: Sorry, but we have no connections with crystal ball manufacturers.*

Sirs:

Your quest on the legend of the Flood is incorrect. As the Son of God, I am able to enlighten or give you exact information on the subject.  
Long Island, N.Y. J.B.P.

Sirs:

Under the guise of goodness you send OUR TIMES into our homes, and it really is anything but that or you would not have put that article in about Mindszenty. We all know how the people are doped in those trials to make them admit those silly accusations and I mean silly. No one but an ignoramus could possibly believe it.

Your paper is probably one of the many ways you people have to excite people. If you read the good News paper like The New Word or the Sunday Visitor you would get the correct answer to your article, but papers like yours prefer to be ignorant I guess.

Wilmette, Ill. L.G.L.M.  
*Editor's Note: OUR TIMES is supported in its position regarding Mindszenty by a number of scientists. They know of no drug that causes one to negate or recant previous statements.*

Sirs:

We appreciate the fact that OUR TIMES had the courage to state the truth about Mindszenty. The newspapers have spread a lot of propaganda to arouse the spirit of war, but it is good to know that there are some publications that still present the unvarnished truth without prejudice.

Fort Worth, Texas G.W.

Sirs:

The article in the July OUR TIMES by H. F. De'Ath on the law of God truly defines the world's need of a perfect standard. I have never in all my life been so impressed by the importance of God's law and its immutability. What a pity that the world in general does not recognize God's great standard of right! Perhaps if men could see the importance of adhering to God's law, we would not have so much crime, immorality, and war.  
Mobile, Ala. R.T.

Sirs:

Recently I purchased a copy of OUR TIMES. I have never found a publication as helpful as this is in the home. It is a well-rounded magazine that I believe will do a lot of good, and I am determined to have it in my home.  
Miami, Fla. J.R.

Sirs:

After reading OUR TIMES I have become convinced that the long-looked-for second advent of Christ is imminent. I want to be ready for this event, and I believe that the biblical truths presented in OUR TIMES will help me to so prepare.  
Baltimore, Md. M.J.



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### The Cover

The attractive model sampling a California peach on our cover this month is Mrs. Robert T. Ayres, wife of artist Ayres who paints some fine pictures for the Southern Publishing Association. Photo by R. M. Eldridge.



**N**O, NOT ALL prayers are answered. "Ye ask, and receive not," says the apostle James. The motive that prompts most prayers determines whether or not they will be answered. Some people are selfish in their praying. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3. God condemns selfishness even if clothed in terms of prayer.

The railing words of one of the malefactors that hung on a cross near Christ illustrates a critical and selfish

By M. L. Rice

spirit. "If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us." Luke 23:39. This gives an index to the man's heart—a sort of open window through which we can look right into the man's soul.



# Selfish Prayers

*Our Prayers Are Usually an Index  
to Our Hearts*

As the scientist needs only a thimbleful of water to determine the purity of the stream, even so a single prayer may reveal a selfish and self-centered life. It may show the size, or caliber, of the man. We all resent any inference that we are small, selfish, or narrow in our thinking and dealings. Yet the true size of our souls is sometimes revealed in our prayers.

The dying plea of the thief on the cross was only for escape from physical suffering. How different he seems from his companion and fellow sufferer who sought for healing of soul. The railer did not ask for forgiveness. He merely prayed that he might be saved from suffering. He was not sorry that he was a sinner,

but rather that he had to suffer for his sins. He was not sorry for *what* he was, but for *where* he was.

It is perfectly proper, yes, necessary, that one pray for himself. Salvation is dependent upon this. To pray to God for salvation is one thing, but to ask God to help us to escape some suffering resulting from a wrong course we may have taken, is still another. The publican prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18:13. This prayer was heard and answered. No one else could have prayed this prayer for this man. Salvation is an individual matter, a transaction between God and the individual.

*(Continued on page 23)*





# The Struggle

*Is Civilization Losing  
Sight of the Values of  
Decency and Culture?*

**By Frederick Lee**

**T**HE OLD STANDARDS of decency and decorum are tottering. At the present pace of decline it will not be long before men and women even in the most sophisticated areas of life will abandon all restraint, and behave like unfettered cave children.

When a nation that boasts the highest type of civilization coddles the drunkard, defends the comics, condones the obscene, and smiles indulgently when someone in high place breaks forth in profanity, something is dangerously wrong.

The public today seems all too ready to wink at evil and deride the good. How quickly it snaps up any questionable book or magazine that has been denounced by those who have some regard for civic morality. Let a city official attempt to censor a work that is boldly obscene, even according to present standards, and a great group of intellectuals will arise and cry out for "the freedom of the press." Let someone speak disparagingly of those illiterate weeds, lately sprung up, "the comics," and you will even find educators and heads of Parent-Teacher Associations coming forth and saying, "Let the little ones have their fun. Besides, Dad likes it too."

Almost everyone, it seems, is afraid of the blue-nose reformers who would kill man's innocent joys. The comics, therefore, continue to picture life in its crudest form, the theaters and the publishing houses continue to portray the obscene realities of life. Let some arise

and cry out against these things, and a great chorus of voices will declare with Pharisaical audacity, "To the pure, all things are pure."

Take the consumption of liquor, for instance. Once it was not too reputable a practice in this country. We think of it as it was in the days before prohibition. There was the public saloon with its unsavory reputation. None but those without shame would be seen going in or coming out. Now we have the same thing all dressed up in beautiful garments, and multiplied a hundredfold. The saloons are back, but they are patronized now by the "best people" in town. It only took a few hundred million dollars of subtle advertising to convince fifty million people that drinking is smart.

But since dad and mother are doing it, why can't Mary and John do the same? Thus we have the incessant round of drinking on university and college campuses among youth, parties in parked automobiles, and liquor being sold in grocery stores, drugstores, gas stations, eating places, department stores. Once the drinker was fairly well confined to the saloon, and a respectable member of the community would not dare to be seen entering one. He now roams the open fields, the highways, from the basement playroom to attic apartment in the homes along almost every street in the land. He is everywhere bidding his friends to drink and be merry.

There is also the growth of profanity, which not so long ago was taboo in polite society. Even the authors of popular works hesitated to use such language when repeating the words of their characters, and left blank spaces instead. No woman of good character, no girl who hoped to win popular favor would disgrace herself by using the language of the lumberjack or the stevedore. But nothing is left to the



# o Be Decent

imagination now. Some of the most profane popular sellers, so we are told, were written by women. And to describe a young socialite as being expert in the use of the picturesque language of the gutter, is supposed to be a compliment.

The use of profane language on the part of public officials is increasing, but we are being told that all this freedom of behavior is a sign that we are growing up. Rather, it is a sign of rapid moral decline. An effete civilization, wanting to appear robust and strong, reverts to the crude manners of the frontiersman. A man who is slipping, who is not too sure of himself, resorts to strong language in order to boost his ego. There is no evidence of power in blasphemy.

The struggle to be decent seems to be a losing one. The pressure on the publishers of books and magazines, the producers of moving pictures, the operators of broadcasting stations to slacken restraints, is terrific. The guardians of public morals must constantly be on the alert to see that literature of a questionable nature is not distributed. Some movie and theatrical producers seem to persist in overstepping the bounds of decency. Anyone who listens even intermittently to the radio cannot help but be impressed with the freer use of profanity over the air.

Now comes a new invention for weal or for woe. Already telecasters are wrestling with the problem of how to be decent and popular at the same time. This is not easy with the public continually clamoring for the bars to be let down.

*Time* (March 7), in discussing this new problem, writes as usual in the half-way cynical vein, as if to say, What difference does it make, after all? Mention was made of one popular funnyman who "probably caused the biggest uproar among would-be censors." Telecasters in California are giving consideration to "a code of TV behavior."

According to a *Religious News Service* release, Edgar Kobak, president of the Mutual Broadcasting Company, said recently that there is a growing tendency among some broadcasters to flout the code adopted by the National Association of Broadcasters. Without naming any programs or broadcasts, he said, "Radio and TV have been slipping in the question of good taste."

Some may think that Freud was right when he told us to let go, and not repress our emotions. But what  
(Continued on page 24)

## Pardon Me, But...

KIM SU BANG had a daughter of marriageable age. "When a suitable young man, having the qualifications I desire for a son-in-law, has been found for Ki-Oh-Na, then I wish you to be special guests at the nuptials," he informed us. A wedding feast of Oriental custom is a great affair. Preparations required several weeks. Many bolts of linens and silks which the young man sent to his betrothed had to be embroidered, cut, and sewn by hand into garments. Food preparations also took many days. At last all was completed; Kim Su Bäng sent a messenger to his friends with the word: "Come, for now everything is ready."

But we had been preoccupied with our work. We did not realize that the time for the appointed festival was near. We had made other business engagements that could not be broken, and even had accepted another invitation for that very evening. We really wished to witness an Oriental wedding and to partake of some of the dainties that are reserved for such special occasions. We were truly sorry to disappoint Kim Su Bäng, for he had made extra preparations especially for the "foreigners."

Our thoughtlessness reminded me of the occasion when the Saviour told that "a certain man made a great supper, and bade many: and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Luke 14:16-20.

The first messengers were sent long ago with the invitation to the supper, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy." Isaiah 55:1-3.

Many excuses have been made by His friends: homes, possessions, unions. Like the rich young ruler, we have turned away sorrowfully and have not accepted the invitation.

Excuses may be a great disappointment to those who have invited us, but our regrets for not accepting Christ's invitation may be of greater importance than we anticipate.

BY XANA JUANITA SCHURENE

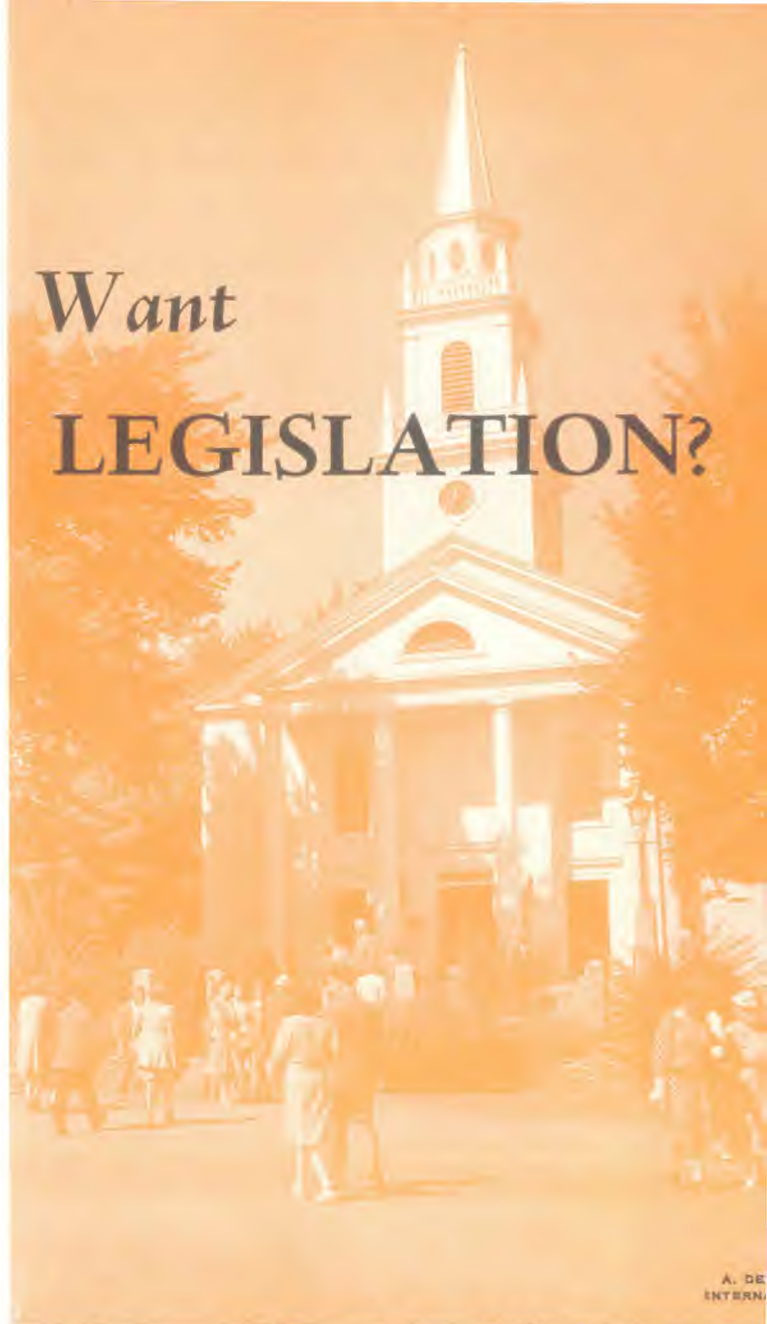


# Does America Want RELIGIOUS LEGISLATION?

By C. S. Longacre

THERE ARE some churchmen who are very zealous in an endeavor to commit the American government to the principle of religious legislation. They have congressmen and state legislators introduce religious measures into Congress and into the state legislatures in every session, in the hope that these measures will finally be enacted into law. The one barrier that has confronted these militant churchmen and has thus far blocked their attempts in Congress has been the First Amendment, and in the state legislatures it has been the Fourteenth Amendment to the federal Constitution. For a number of years they have been silent and perplexed concerning how to meet the arguments that the First and the Fourteenth Amendment are opposed to a union of church and state and all kinds of religious legislation that would interfere with the free exercise of the conscience in religious matters.

The Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly ruled that the First and the Fourteenth Amendment were enacted for the very purpose of bringing about in America a complete and total separation of church and state, and that religion could not be taught at public expense in public schools and on school property, which is being attempted now in many communities. These churchmen take issue with the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States by putting their own peculiar interpretations upon the First and Fourteenth Amendments. These churchmen hold that when the founding fathers framed these Amendments, they meant that no particular church or religion was to be established by law as the state church, and that they did not mean to bar all religious legislation nor government support of religion, provided the





government offered its patronage and co-operation to all sects alike. They hold that it is possible for the government to foster and support a common denominator of all religious faiths, and entertain a polygamous instead of a monogamous union with religion under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

These churchmen insist that the enemies of the church and of religion have, as they say, "manufactured the principle of separation of church and state in order to oppose religion," and that the Supreme Court of the United States, when it ruled that religion could not be taught in the public school, based its decision on "the nonexistent principle of the separation of church and state" and "not on what is in the First Amendment to the Constitution."

If we were going to ascertain what the original teachings of Christianity are, where would we go for proof? Certainly we would not consult our modern theologians, but we would endeavor to discover what were the teachings and practice of the Author of Christianity. Thus, in order to ascertain the true intent and purpose of the First Amendment to the Constitution, we shall consult the author of that Amendment, and the founding fathers who adopted it.

When we examine the *Annals of Congress* at the time this Amendment was discussed and debated and framed as adopted in the House of Representatives, and the arguments advanced by James Madison who introduced the entire Bill of Rights and sponsored its adoption, we discover that the intent and purpose of the First Amendment was far broader in its scope than to prevent a particular church from becoming the

JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUNE **COMING Next Month** JULY AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC.

"The Dangers of the New Dispensationalism," by Varner J. Johns.

"Can Man Save Himself?" by Frederick Lee.

"The Entrance of Sin Into the World," by the Editor.

"Life," by Eva Jeune McAssey.

"The Era of Waning Love," by Taylor G. Bunch.

"What Does It Mean to Be Sanctified?" by John W. Boyd.

"Eden's Serpent Worship," by George S. Belleau.

"One Drink Drunk," by D. H. Kress, M.D.

the Anglican church. Madison and Jefferson agreed with the Baptists, Presbyterians, and other minority religious sects that there should be no union between religion and the state, and that the State of Virginia should not give any financial support to religion in general as was proposed by George Washington, Patrick Henry, Edmund Randolph, and the Episcopal churchmen. Jefferson said that this conflict was the hardest and bitterest battle he ever fought in all his life. The battle fought was to grant religious freedom to all its citizens alike, professors as well as non-professors of religion. Those who advocated a complete separation of religion from the state said that all attempts to enforce religion by law tended "only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness and are a departure from the plan of the Holy Author of our religion." The great majority of the people of Virginia decided the issue on a popular referendum in harmony with the plan designed by Madison and Jefferson against a polygamous marriage of all religions.

When the First Amendment was under discussion for adoption, James Madison, its author, made his position very clear as to the intent and purpose of this amendment. In the *Annals of Congress* we find this statement by Madison: "Religion is not in the purview of human government. Religion is essentially distinct from government and exempt from its cognizance. A connection between them is injurious to both." Madison, when he introduced the First Ten Amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, said, "The great danger lies rather in the abuse of the community than in the legislative body. The prescriptions in favor of liberty ought to be levelled against that quarter where the greatest danger lies, namely, that which possesses the highest prerogative of power. But this is not found in either the Executive or Legislative departments of Government, but in the body of the people, operating by the majority against the minority."—*Annals of Congress*, Vol. 1, p. 437.

(Continued on page 31)



state church as in other countries. It was not merely to prevent a monogamous but a polygamous marriage between the church and the state. Madison and Jefferson had previously made their position on this subject very plain at the time the people of the State of Virginia established the Act of Religious Freedom in 1785. The proposal at that time was to form a polygamous union of all the churches in Virginia in the place of a monogamous union between the state and



WITH POUNDING heart the man stood before the judge. There had been an automobile accident. A car had come suddenly from a side road, and he had not been able to stop his own in time. The blame for the accident had been placed on him, and he now stood before the judge who soon would give the verdict. His pulse raced as he saw that the judge was ready to speak. Then the judge was saying, "Not guilty." He was a free man! He was blameless! How wonderful!

We read in the dictionary that the definition of justification is to pronounce free from guilt or blame. This man in traffic court had been justified. Turning to the Scriptures we find these words: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. The

**By John W. Boyd**

Christian, then, is pronounced free from guilt through his faith in Jesus Christ.

The word "therefore" with which this verse begins shows a conclusion to some line of reasoning. The



COBB SHINN

*What a thrill of joy the prosecuted one experiences when the judge says, "Not guilty"! A much greater thrill will be experienced by the ones who have been justified by faith in Christ when He declares to them that they are eternally free from sin, suffering, and death.*

## Justification by FAITH

Made Free From  
All Guilt and Blame

apostle Paul, writing to the believers in Rome, has been recounting the experiences of Abraham. We read that Abraham "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." Romans 4:20-22.

The word "impute" means to credit to one's account. Then, because of his faith, Abraham had righteousness credited to his account with God. Was it his own righteousness? No; for speaking of the human race, David says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." Psalm 14:3. Whose righteousness, then? Why, Christ's, of course. According to Jeremiah 23:6, the following was predicted of Jesus Christ: "This is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." 1 Peter 2:22 records that He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."

It was the righteousness of Christ that was credited, or imputed, to Abraham. "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." Romans 4:23, 24. That same righteousness of Christ which was credited to Abraham may also be imputed to us who believe on Jesus Christ and His Father.

When the righteousness of Christ is credited to an individual, his sins no longer appear. If we

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believe, if this righteousness is imputed to us, God pronounces us free from guilt. We are justified. W. H. Branson, in his book, *How Men Are Saved*, describes this experience in the following way: "When we accept Him as our substitute and Saviour, He imputes His law keeping to us and reckons that we were the ones who actually obeyed. He did it, but *for us*. . . . God then looks upon us as though we had never sinned."—P. 38. What a wonderful experience! No more sin! No more guilt! No more condemnation! And all accomplished through our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

The Lord Himself said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36. This is Bible justification. It is Christ taking our place, and we taking His. This is described in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He [God] hath made Him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Justification by faith is one of the steps in being saved by faith. Of salvation Paul wrote, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9. Again we read, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Romans 3:28. Works do not justify us nor save us. Salvation is a gift of God, and one does not work for a gift.

In seeming contradiction to these above verses, Romans 2:13 reads, "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." A Bible example shows the harmony of these two scriptures. A woman who had been led into sin by some of the authorities had been brought to Jesus to see whether or not He would condemn her. It is a familiar story that the Lord wrote in the dust of the street, revealing many of the secret sins of the woman's accusers. After they had gone away, leaving Jesus alone with the woman, He said to her, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:11. She became a devout follower of the Lord, but at this time she had done nothing to merit forgiveness. Her justification was by faith and not by works.

Some time later this same woman anointed Christ's feet with precious ointment as He was eating in the house of Simon of Bethany. Regarding this act of kindness Jesus declared, "She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint My body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Mark 14:8, 9.

Thus we see that this woman who had been justified was also a doer. It was not by works that she was justified, but by her faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Still, she who was a doer of the law was also justified. Her deeds were really the result of her faith.

Like this woman, our actions become a gauge of our faith. Without faith we do nothing good; with faith we do the will of God. The doing of the law, or will of God, is really the second step in salvation. It is often called sanctification by faith. Another article will more fully discuss this, but it can be summed up in the statement of Christ found in John 14:15, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." Obedience is



## Amazing Love

*Let's seek the Man of Galilee,  
Who shed His blood on Calvary,  
That mortals like both you and me,  
From sin might be at liberty.*

*Amazing love! How could it be  
That Christ should give His life for me,  
A sacrifice upon the tree,  
That I might be from sin set free?*

*Such love should prompt my soul to see  
What Jesus Christ has done for me,  
And be as He would have me be,  
Then dwell with Him eternally.*

—James Marchman Hammond.

the outgrowth of our love for and our faith in Jesus Christ. It is the fruit rather than the seed; it is the result rather than the cause of our salvation.

A sinner is justified the moment that he accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour. It does not take a day or a week, but a moment. Because of his sins the man

*(Continued on page 21)*





# EVENTS

## *of Our Times*



**MONKEYS WANTED**—Russian agents are quietly purchasing large numbers of monkeys in Abyssinia. It is rumored that Russia badly needs the monkeys for its research in bacteriological warfare.—*United States News & World Report*.

**MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**—“The Federal Security Agency has released the official statistics on marriage and divorce in the United States for 1947. The figures are unbelievable. 613,000 divorces were granted in the United States for the year 1947! In 1900 the number was 55,751. In 1945, the total was 494,000 which jumped to 613,000 in two years, which means the number of homes wrecked by divorce for the entire country is one divorce to less than four marriages, an increase of 24 per cent in one year!

“And this does not tell the whole story, as the showing is for the country at large, rural as well as urban. Some states are much worse than others, showing one divorce to every three marriages, and some cities show a larger number of divorces than marriages, among them Los Angeles, Hollywood, Columbus, Portland, Ore., Washington, D. C.”—From *Progress Magazine*. (*The Civic Bulletin*, January 14, 1949.)

**WOMEN AND CIGARETTES**—A survey conducted by a New York tobacco firm shows that women are now smoking three times as many cigarettes as men are, and that most women who smoke use a pack a day.—*The Civic Bulletin*, January 14, 1949.

**REDS MAKING A-BOMBS**—A German atomic expert said yesterday that he is “almost certain” Russia is making atom bombs at two remote Siberian industrial centers.

Prof. Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel prize winner and wartime head of German atomic research, said also that Soviet scientists may have made “dangerous discoveries” in the field of “death rays.”

Heisenberg said that information leaking through the iron curtain supports the belief that the Russians are producing atomic weapons at the new city of Atomgrad and at a special industrial center at Uchta which resembles the U.S. atom factory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.—*The Nashville Tennessean*, March 10, 1949.

**GAMBLING CHURCHES**—Trenton’s City Commission in New Jersey has dropped its plans to pass an antigambling law with teeth in it. Mayor Donald J. Connolly said a gambling ordinance would be “hypocritical” unless it were enforced to the letter. “And in that case,” he added, “we would have patrol wagons in front of every Catholic church and fraternal organization in the city.” “Let’s not kid ourselves,” the mayor said. “A lot of worthy organizations use bingo games and lotteries every week to raise money. These people aren’t racketeers and gamblers. They are the backbone of our community. And I, for one, don’t intend to cause them any embarrassment.”—*Review and Herald*, March 10, 1949.

**MOVIE MORALS**—Hollywood has been dealt a severe moral blow by the latest romance between actress Rita Hayworth and the Moslem Prince Aly Khan. The Prince, although married at the moment, has been accompanied by Miss Hayworth on a trip to his home. The whole affair took on the air of an international scandal when Australian churchmen of all faiths became incensed at the incident. Rev. C. Irving Benson of Wesley Church, Melbourne, said the churches could be depended upon to support a boycott of Miss Hayworth’s pictures. Even a Hollywood trade paper is reported to have urged the picture industry to “wash its hands” of her.—*The Clippsheet*.

**SHAME ON US**—It has been said that we spent last year:

- 15 billions for crime
- 12 billions for national defense
- 10 billions for liquor
- 7 billions for foreign relief
- 7 billions for automobiles
- 7 billions for recreation
- 4 billions for public education
- 2 billions for cosmetics
- 2 billions for chewing gum
- 1½ billions for religion and public welfare

—*The Civic Bulletin*, February 25, 1949.

**UNITED NATIONS FAILURE**—“If we’re going to rename Lake Success, how about Muddle Puddle?”—Hyman Freedman.—*Christian Victory*, March, 1949.



# Spirits on Trial

*"Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." 1 John 4:1.*

**By Harvey Hansen**

**T**HE LORD, in His great prophecy portraying conditions from the time of the early church to the end of the world, has told us that "false Christs and false prophets shall arise." Mark 13:22. The apostle Peter also said "there shall be false teachers among you." 2 Peter 2:1. And Paul said that after his departing "shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:29, 30. The Scriptures also mention "false apostles, deceitful workers" (2 Corinthians 11:13), "false witnesses" (Psalm 27:12), and "false brethren" (Galatians 2:4). "Many deceivers are entered into the world." 2 John 7.

They appear as "the ministers of righteousness," but actually they are of the devil. (2 Corinthians 11:15.) "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and dis-

obedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 1:16. With "feigned words" they design to "make merchandise of you." (2 Peter 2:3.) They mind "earthly things" (Philippians 3:19) and teach "things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." Titus 1:11. "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly." Romans 16:18. They speak "good words and fair speeches," but in reality they mean to "cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine." Verse 17. They presume to teach doctrine, yet it is "damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them." 2 Peter 2:1.

To make God's Word of none effect, to make men turn from the truth, to err and depart from the faith, they specialize in traditions and "commandments of men," "philosophy and vain deceit, . . . after the rudiments of the world," "profane and vain babblings," "oppositions of science falsely so called," "fables," "lies in hypocrisy," and "doctrines of devils." (Mark 7:7, 13; Titus 1:14; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 4:4; 1 Timothy 4:1, 2.) With every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, they lie in wait to deceive. Christ says they

*(Continued on page 29)*





# We Are ONE DAY NEARER ETERNITY

By Truma Elizabeth Rhodes

*The King of Kings  
Will Soon Appear*

THE GENTLE, late-afternoon breeze was refreshing as I sat on the back porch, swinging my legs and humming a happy tune. While I sat enjoying the sunshine and the shadows it made from the big oak trees, old Willie appeared from the woods. He had come out from town to help Dad a day or so with the work on the farm, and I could tell from the way he walked that his day's work had been tiresome.

He came on up to the well, drew a fresh bucket of

"We're one day nearer eternity" kept ringing in my ears, and today, after many years, they are still ringing. I never see a sunset without remembering Willie's words, "We're one day nearer eternity."

We are several years nearer eternity than we were

water, drank his fill, and mopped his face with his already damp red handkerchief; then he leaned back against the porch to rest. He did not have time to sit down, he said, because tonight he was going home.

He took his old battered straw hat and began to fan. He leaned in silence a few moments, and then, speaking with more meaning than he realized, he said, "Well, the sun has set and we're one day nearer eternity than we were yesterday."

He said it as if he were thinking deeply, as if there might be a few regrets. And I do not wonder, for Willie was well past his seventies, and he had never given his heart to God.

He jammed his old hat back on his head, and after the usual, "Well, come to see us," and, "You folks come," he started up the narrow, winding road that led up to the highway, there intending to thumb a ride into town. I watched him zigzag through the trees until he was out of sight.

that memorable summer afternoon; in fact if we would only take time to relax and concentrate a bit, we might realize that we are nearer eternity than we think.

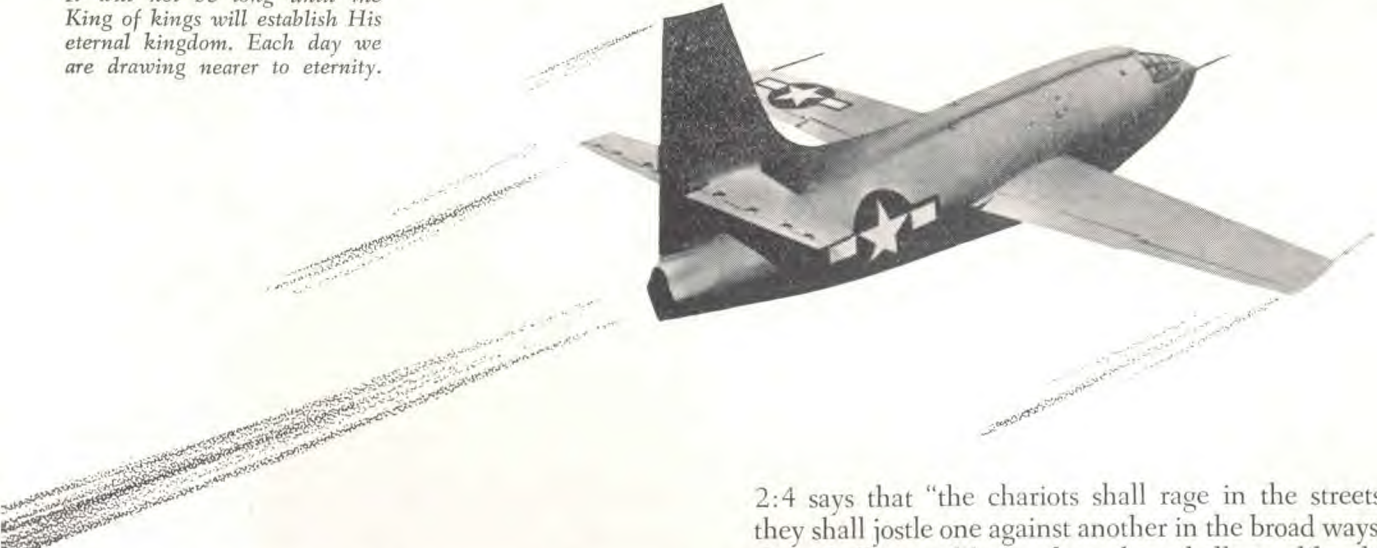
We are living in a fast age. The actions of man, all nature, and the very elements are continual reminders that we are living in the days of earth's closing history, that soon the Lord of glory is coming to execute judgment upon this sin-cursed world.

Although Matthew 24:36 tells us that "of that day and hour knoweth no man," Mark 13:28, 29 makes it clear that it is the privilege of every God-fearing man and woman, boy and girl, to know the times in which we now live. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: so ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors."

There are many world-wide developments which stand out as conspicuous characteristics of our day, marking it as different from any other time of this earth's history.



The world rushes on with greater speed every passing day. It will not be long until the King of kings will establish His eternal kingdom. Each day we are drawing nearer to eternity.



Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, the world has witnessed the most destructive earthquake; the most appalling pestilence; the worst war, when the light of civilization was almost extinguished; and the greatest famine, when millions of the human race went hungry in a land of plenty.

A century ago there were probably less than a half dozen millionaires in all the world, today there are hundreds in the millionaire class. The increase of wealth reminds us of James 5:3: "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." Never before in the history of man have there been such intensified and extensive conflicts between capital and labor. We see unrest, insecurity, and distress in every nation and among all races of people.

Every thoughtful person knows that there has never been another time like our day. From what we read and hear and witness with our own eyes, we know that it is different not only from a physical and financial standpoint, but from its religious, moral, and intellectual, its scientific, political, and social aspects. And from the light of Bible prophecy we find these differences to be signs that the coming of the Lord of heaven and earth is near.

"Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:11. This prophecy is being fulfilled in the increasing number, year by year, of earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and droughts.

There has been a greater awakening in science, industry, invention, and discovery in the past one hundred years than in all the rest of the time of man's existence upon the earth.

Daniel 12:4 tells us that "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," while Nahum

2:4 says that "the chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." Men are, as this prophecy predicts, literally running to and fro in the earth, by means of travel such as the train, auto, airplane, and ocean liner.

Although we have such an endless number of labor-saving devices today, humanity is more rushed and has less time for anything than a few years ago in the horse-and-buggy days. One would think from the wonderful means and methods we have for combating disease that fewer doctors and hospitals would be needed, but this is not so. Man has degenerated and is degenerating until the doctors' waiting rooms are crowded, and it seems that doctors can hardly be educated fast enough. Disease is rampant.

While some of the world's greatest statesmen have contributed their best efforts and noblest ideas to world peace and security, as Micah 4:1-3 prophesied, at the same time, in contrast, we are witnessing the greatest war preparation that the world has ever known, just as Joel 3:9, 10 predicts.

The nineteen sins that predominate in the last days, as recorded in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, are not those of worldlings alone, but these sins are prevalent among professed Christians, causing the last days to be perilous times. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves." Selfishness has always been the undermining cause of the downfall of humanity. "Covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

The annual cost of lawlessness in our land is staggering. The appalling blight of gangsterism, racketeering, and organized crime has spread to an alarming degree, and while our neighbor countries are starv-

*(Continued on page 32)*





# The SERMON of the MONTH

## THE HIGH COST OF LOW LIVING

By Taylor G. Bunch

IN THE MIDDLE West in a certain city stands the skeleton of a great church edifice, a monument to the folly of an overenthusiastic minister who failed to count the cost. Jesus warned against the mistake of not planning ahead and counting the cost before beginning an enterprise: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish." Luke 14:28-30.

On the other hand, a cheaply constructed building is in the long run more expensive than one that is constructed of good material for permanent use. Likewise, a good character building is less expensive and infinitely more valuable than a poor one, for "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Proverbs 22:1. There are two types of character. The cost of building either is great, but counting the cost will bring us to just one conclusion—that it pays to be a genuine Christian. The dividends on such an investment are great.

There are only two ways of life—the highway of righteousness and peace, and the low-way of sin and death. The former is called "the highway of holiness," and "the way of life." Paul calls it "a more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31), or "the way of life that transcends all others." Said the ancient prophet: "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16. One is the "narrow way" that is strait, strict, and restricted, but the end is life. The other is the "broad way" because it is easy, liberal, popular, and unrestricted, but the end is death, a tremendous price to pay for the privilege of indulging self.

There are only two roads for travelers, and we must choose between them. "Thus saith the Lord: Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death." Jeremiah 21:8. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deuteronomy 30:19. Whenever we choose between right and wrong, truth and error, we are at the part-

ing of the ways, the crossroads of life, where decisions are made which determine our eternal destiny.

Since the entrance of sin and the fall of man, there have been only two strata of life, or planes of living—high life and low life. What is often called "high life" is more appropriately called "low life," and a "high time" is really a "low time." The earth is surrounded by two spheres, the lower atmosphere and the stratosphere, with a marked contrast between them, and these beautifully illustrate worldly and heavenly influences. In which do we live and move and have our being, in a worldly atmosphere, or in a spiritual stratosphere?

It costs to live. Birth, childhood, youth, manhood, old age, and death are all expensive. There is nothing absolutely free in this life. There is either a reward or a penalty attached to every act of life, and most of them are at least partially meted out here and now. We should carefully count the cost of the two ways of living. Which is the most expensive, life on the highway, or life on the low-way, high living, or low living?

Like the Godhead, man is a sort of trinity composed of body, mind, and spirit (or the physical, mental, and spiritual), and these are inseparable. We cannot deal with one and ignore the others. The following scriptures are quoted from the James Moffatt translation: "A mind at ease is life and health, but passion makes man rot away." Proverbs 14:30. "A glad heart helps and heals: a broken spirit saps vitality." Proverbs 17:22. "My health is wasting under my woe, my life is eaten away with sorrow, . . . my body falls to pieces." Psalm 31:9, 10. "So long as I refuse to own my guilt, . . . life ebbed away; . . . my body dried up as in summer heat." Psalm 32:3, 4. "Banish all worries from your mind, and keep your body free from pain." Ecclesiastes 11:10.

Physicians estimate that at least 50 per cent of all diseases are rooted in the mental and spiritual realms, and the other 50 per cent in the physical. Some medical men place the ratio at 85 and 15 per cent. A psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins Hospital declared that 40 per cent of the cases coming to the clinic were of mental and spiritual origin, but the surgeons present insisted that the percentage was nearer sixty.



The influence of the spiritual on the intellectual and physical is beautifully set forth in the following statement: "When the gospel is received in its purity and power, it is a cure for the maladies that originated in sin. The Sun of Righteousness arises, 'with healing in His wings.' Not all that this world bestows can heal a broken heart, or impart peace of mind, or remove care, or banish disease. . . . The life of God in the soul is man's only hope.

"The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part—the brain, the heart, the nerves—it touches with healing. . . . It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety and care, that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul joy that nothing can destroy,—joy in the Holy Spirit,—health-giving, life-giving joy. . . . If human beings would open the windows of the soul heavenward, in appreciation of the divine gifts, a flood of healing virtue would pour in. . . . Gratitude and trust open the heart to the healing power of God, the energies of the whole being are vitalized, and the life forces triumph."—Mrs. E. G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 115-119.

We are living in a sick world, a lazar house, the result of sin and low living. With all our boasted living standards in the United States, more than 4,000,000 (or one third) of the draftees into the army during the recent war were rejected because they were physically and mentally unfit. Out of each 1,000 up for induction, forty-seven were rejected because of syphilis. In an army of 10,000,000 men, syphilis puts 300,000 out of action each year, which is often more than the casualties of battle.

Dr. Thomas Parren, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, in his book *Shadow on the Land*, declares that venereal diseases constitute the blackest shadow on our fair land. He said that 500,000 citizens are diagnosed each year as syphilitic, and 1,000,000 potential mothers now have or have had syphilis, and that 60,000 children are born with the disease each year.

J. Edgar Hoover declared that "a creeping rot of moral disintegration is eating into our nation," and Herbert Hoover said that "the moral life of America is in danger. If civilization is to be saved, you and all of us must fight hardest of all on the front of human decency." Will Durant said: "Morals which change so slowly, are changing today like clouds before the wind. Customs and institutions older than human memory melt under our eyes as if they were superficial habits, recently acquired and easily forgotten."

It has been said that a person is not responsible for the way he looks at fifteen. The parents are 50 per cent responsible, the grandparents 25 per cent, and the other 25 per cent on a graduating scale back to Adam. But when a person is fifty years of age, he is responsible for everything written on his countenance.

This gives force to the scriptural statement that "the show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not." Isaiah 3:9.

Of all the patients crowding the hospitals of America, 75 per cent are psychopathic. The human race seems to be slowly but surely going insane. Certainly the conduct of the present generation indicates irrational thinking. On what other basis can we account for the great wave of crime and moral delinquency, of war and strife on such an unprecedented scale? Evidences of insanity are manifest in modern

## Christians Must Lead

Christians must lead and never follow;  
The church must ever clearly shed its light  
On all earth's dark and shadowy places.  
Immortal beacon overcoming night  
Of doubt and fear whose ways would  
threaten

The peace that men are seeking every-  
where.

Christians must ever tell their message;  
The way to everlasting good prepare.

—Louise Darcy.



art, music, and literature, especially in the uncomical and crime-producing comics. Only on the basis of warped minds can many things be explained.

Examples of the high cost of low living fill the pages of the history of the past. The antediluvians perished in the Flood because "all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (Genesis 6:12), and "the earth was filled with violence" (verse 11). The record is that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Verse 5. The cities of

(Continued on page 27)



# God's Hedge

**God's Followers Will Be Safe as  
Long as They Stay Within Its Limits**

**By Arnold V. Wallenkampf**

**E**ACH MORNING as I go to work I pass by a certain house. This particular house does not differ much from other houses along my way, but its back yard is fenced with chicken wire. The people who live there have no chickens; the city ordinance undoubtedly even prohibits the keeping of chickens in this zone. But often as I passed by that house on my way for lunch on warm summer days I have noticed two small boys, about five and seven years old, playing inside the fence. A busy street runs by this house and cars speed back and forth on it in a continuous stream. Out of love for their two boys, the parents have erected the fence to protect and shield the youngsters from the danger of their being run over and hurt or possibly killed by the madly rushing cars.

This back yard has reminded me of the small enclosures I used to see during my two years on the plains of North Dakota. When I arrived there, I was a complete stranger to the Western plains, and I was struck by the rarity of fences. But even though

fences were scarce, I invariably noticed a small patch enclosed with chicken wire behind each farmhouse. I soon learned the enclosure was not intended for the chickens; they were allowed to roam the farmyard and the near-by fields. On the contrary, the fence enclosed a small garden where the farmer's wife raised kitchen vegetables and flowers. The purpose of the fence was not to confine cattle to the enclosed area, but rather to protect the garden from marauding animals and fowls.

Often my thoughts have gone to these enclosures and the fences surrounding them. In both instances the fences were for protection; they were symbolic of the solicitude and tender regard for what was within. The fence surrounding the back yard was expressive of the parents' love for their two boys who were playing inside. It was indeed a fence of love.

God also has a fence of love. He has built such a fence of love around us to protect from misfortune, calamity, and harm, since He is just as solicitous for our welfare as a father and mother are for the welfare of their children. This fence of love is His law—the Ten Commandments.

As the vineyard in the Bible often symbolizes God's church or

OUR TIMES, SEPTEMBER, 1949



H. A. ROBERTS

*Think of the confusion and loss in our world if there were no fences, guideposts, limitations, and standards. God has a great hedge that protects His people from stepping into a danger zone. If they will stay within its limits, all will be well.*



His chosen people (Isaiah 5:1-7), so the fence or the hedge surrounding it symbolizes His law. As the parents hoped that their two boys would stay inside the fence lest they be hurt on the street, so God yearns to see us remain inside the biddings of His law and thus be safe from calamity. One eminent Bible commentator says, "In obedience to God's law, man is surrounded as with a hedge, and kept from the evil. He who breaks down this divinely erected barrier at one point, has destroyed its power to protect him; for he has opened a way by which the enemy can enter, to waste and ruin."—Mrs. E. G. White, *The Mount of Blessing*, p. 83.

The evil one knows that God's followers are safe inside an intact hedge, and that God will not permit him to harm and destroy those who keep His law. The old patriarch Job in the land of Uz enjoyed security within God's hedge, and Satan could not touch Job until God had granted him special license to do so. (Job 1:10-12.)

But we cannot afford to jump over this fence or hedge, neither can we afford to make a hole or a gap in it. Just as cows, horses, and turkeys would soon discover a hole in the fence surrounding a vegetable garden on the Western plains, so Satan, who "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8), would soon discover if we had made a gap in God's hedge by transgressing one of His precepts.

There are many gaps in God's fence of love and protection today. Some of God's commandments are openly ignored, others are less flagrantly violated. Thus holes are left open for Satan to come in and despoil God's heritage. In this way God's people will not be safe in the day of Satan's visitation. The prophet Ezekiel found the same condition prevailing in his day. His fellow prophets had failed to repair the gap, or heal the breach, in God's hedge by neglecting to teach Israel the whole law. (Ezekiel 13:4-16.) Thus ancient Israel was not ready "to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." (Verse 5.)

Today God's professed people are likewise ill prepared to stand "in the day of the Lord." But God is anxious to make His people ready for this great and terrible day. To this end He is calling upon every true follower to help repair the breach in His fence of love, erected around His people, by proclaiming the whole law. (Isaiah 58:12.) Only by keeping the whole law will God's people be protected from the onslaughts of Satan.

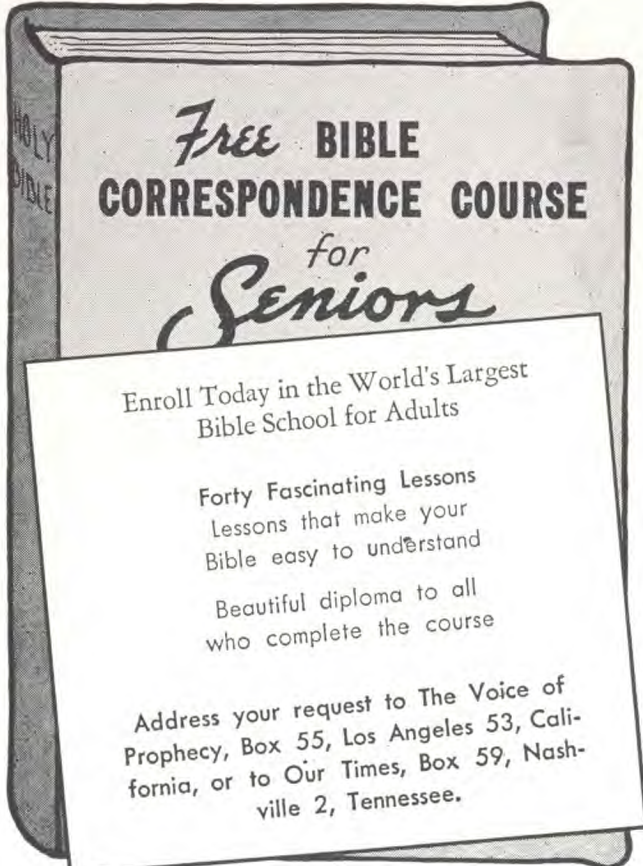
Many people today erroneously conceive of the Ten-Commandment law as an oppressive burden that God laid upon His ancient people, but from which His present-day followers are delivered by the sacrifice of Christ. But would love have prompted the parents of the two small boys to tear down the fence around their back yard? It was love which had impelled them to build the fence; cruelty—rather than love—

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would have suggested its removal, inviting the two innocent boys to step out on the busy street and there be exposed to the dangers of the mad traffic. Thanks be to God that Jesus did not destroy this fence of love through His death. Rather than to destroy it, He came to establish it more firmly. In Matthew 5:17, 18 He says: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

In dying for us on Calvary's cross, Jesus atoned for our refusal to remain inside the hedge and for our making gaps in it. This we had done by breaking the law. But by believing in Jesus as our personal Saviour we are saved from the consequences of those transgressions and given another opportunity to live for Him in newness of life. And as Jesus lives out His life within us, He will deliver us from the proclivity to jump over or make holes in God's great fence of love. By His transforming grace He will make it our most ardent desire to live in obedience to our heavenly Father inside the hedge of His law.

Yes, the law, instead of being an oppressive burden imposed on us to make our lives dismal, hard, and sorrowful, is a precious gift that God has given to us because of His measureless love. It is indeed a hedge of love to shield and protect us from Satan's destructive malice during our journey through life, and to help us safely to reach our heavenly home.



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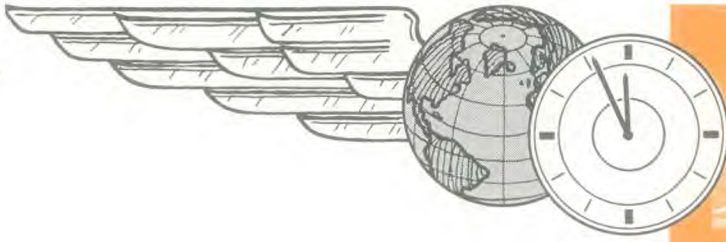
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# INTERPRETI

*In the Light*

## ★ You Can't Win at Gambling

DR. ERNEST BLANCHE, a logistics expert of the Army General Staff, who spent a lifetime in the analysis of wagering games, has said that it is impossible to win at gambling. He points out in his book entitled *You Can't Win* that fifty million Americans participate in various types of gambling without realizing the tremendous odds that are against them.

Gambling is increasing as people seek to get rich quick. Numerous types of gambling devices and methods are developing in this money-crazed world. One of the most recent get-rich-quick gambling methods was the pyramid club. Thousands of people bet their money in this seemingly harmless system, only to find that they received absolutely no returns. Churches even are participating in a gambling racket in the bingo games that they are sponsoring. In fact, Dr. Gallup revealed some time ago that there was more gambling in churches than at race tracks.

Intelligent people ought to be able to see that in games of chance, chain-letter schemes and pyramid clubs, only a very few can win. The large majority of participants must lose. Yet in the current frenzy to get something for practically nothing, millions of people are becoming involved in these crooked schemes.

Perhaps it would be well for us to list Dr. Blanche's thirteen reasons why you can not win at gambling:

1. Every system of betting breaks down and fails sooner or later.
2. So-called skill games are really games of chance that even the most skilled players can't beat.
3. The mathematical probabilities are always against the better.
4. Gambling has always been and always will be a crooked business.
5. The odds are inevitably against the dice tosser.
6. The roulette operator is ahead of the game before it even starts.
7. Carnival wheels are invariably "fixed."
8. Only the race-track operators are sure of their "take."
9. The numbers racketeers get from 46 per cent to 55 per cent of the money wagered by the public.
10. The card "sharper" uses a score of tricks to deceive the amateur.
11. Most of the tickets for the Irish Sweepstakes

sold in the United States are definitely counterfeit.

12. Punch boards pay out less than half of what they take in.

13. You have only one chance in 2,000 of getting any money back in a chain-letter scheme or in pyramid club participation.

We can understand how a person who is not a Christian would become involved in gambling rackets, but it is hard to understand how a Christian who claims to have a burden for the spreading of the gospel of salvation can place his hard-earned dollars into the hands of racketeers. If it is large returns that are sought, perhaps it would be well to ponder the words of our Saviour who said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6:19, 20.

It is not a gamble to invest our money in the cause of God, for some day there will be returns beyond anything that this present world knows. Oh, that Christians would pyramid the gospel to a rapid climax! Think of what the results would be if the 73,673,182

*The world has many displaced persons, and with each succeeding year in the wars that come the populations are forced to shift around, resulting in tragic separations. The war in China has brought about another great unsettlement of society.*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



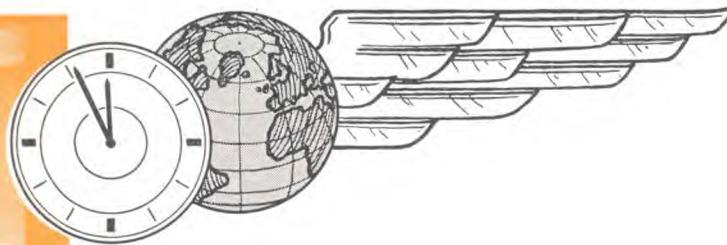
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# OUR TIMES

Bible Prophecy

or



A radar protection system is being urged for the United States by F. H. Lack, chairman of the mobilization committee of the radio industry. It is suggested that radar stations be arranged in concentric circles so that their electronic eyes would scan every inch of approach to continental U.S.

church members in America would give \$2.00 every year above their regular offerings for the sole purpose of spreading the gospel to those who know it not. This would mean a yearly total of \$147,346,364. This is the kind of pyramid club the world needs, and is the kind of investment in which you cannot lose.

## ★ Can a World Government Be Established?

IN AN ARTICLE entitled "A Warning on World Government" by Warren Austin in *Harper's Magazine*, May, 1949, we find an intelligent discussion of the problems confronting those who seek to establish a world government. Mr. Austin, as the United States representative at the seat of the United Nations, speaks with authority when he says, "I do not believe

that world government is feasible in the foreseeable future." Some of the reasons given for this conviction are well worth our consideration. So many people talk about world government in a dreamy sort of way, and think that it is something quite easy to obtain; but after reading this article, it appears that the great powers of the world would be very reluctant to give up all their sovereignty.

In America an amendment to our national Constitution would be required before membership in a world federation could be effected. Perhaps this does not seem like a very great item, and yet we are inclined to believe that it is something that would not be done casually or in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Austin tells of inviting the representatives of the United Nations General Assembly from China, France, England, and Russia to a luncheon at his apartment to discuss the modification of the veto. He says that "at that time, each of my guests made it clear that his government would not be willing to consider any such modification." This experience alone should indicate how far we are from the point of surrender of sovereignty on the part of any of the great powers of the world.

In the matter of the atomic bomb, we find that the United States has offered to surrender a portion of its sovereignty and vast property so that the atomic bomb could be effectively controlled by an international agency with powers of inspection and enforcement that would not be subject to the veto. The Soviet Union and its satellites refused to accept this plan, because it absolutely did not want the inspection involved. If Russia is unwilling to give up a little bit of her sovereignty, how can we expect her to give it all up in security matters in order to establish a world government? On this point Mr. Austin makes the following statement: "There are few certainties in this world, but after a few years of experience in dealing with the USSR around the council tables of the UN, I would consider it the ultimate in improbabilities."

There are other considerations in this matter of establishing a world government that compel us to agree with the position that Warren Austin has taken, one of these being the lack of economic co-operation among a number of nations, even though negotiations have been carried on for months and years to establish

*(Continued on page 25)*



# The Blessings of TRUE REPENTANCE

*There Is Joy and Contentment for All Who Are Victorious in Christ*

By John W. Halliday

PRECIOUS indeed are the blessings of true repentance, to both the repenting sinner and the repenting believer who has stumbled and fallen. The Saviour said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4. The repenting one is taking a step nearer to the heart of infinite love and tenderest comfort.

How true are the following words: "By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin. . . . It is the strength which binds the penitent to the Infinite One with links that cannot be broken. It shows that the angels of God are bringing back to the soul the graces that were lost through hardness of heart and transgression. The tears of the penitent are only the raindrops that precede the sunshine of holiness. This sorrow heralds a joy which will be a living fountain in the soul."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 300.

The human heart deeply needs heavenly contrition to be breathed upon it, for through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord declares, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. The human soul is unable of itself to turn back to God. But in tender mercy the heavenly Father says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3.

Repentance is so important that its spectrum is given us. The light of the sun, when divided by being passed through a prism (a bar of solid glass in triangular shape), is divided into the seven colors composing it, called its spectrum. Likewise repentance is divided for us into its seven primary parts, as follows: "Behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, what

vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!" 2 Corinthians 7:11. Here we behold some of the blessings of repentance. The soul begins with carefulness in trying to get rid of sin; then tries to become



*When Peter denied Christ so vociferously, and Jesus heard him and turned and looked upon him with moving compassion, then Peter truly repented and experienced a great change.*

ERAF HARRACH, ARTIST



fully free from it; then becomes indignant at it; then strongly fears it; then develops a vehement desire to be free from it; then becomes in dead earnest, zealous to be free from it; and finally turns against sin with all the heart, mind, and might. What a wonderful victory is wrought by true repentance!

This does not mean that the repentant one is as yet fully set free from his sin, but that his whole heart is now set on obtaining this freedom. Repentance comes through Christ, who awakens it in the heart by His saving love; and if the repentant one yields to this love, he will be led to the foot of the cross to plead for pardon and cleansing. We read of Christ, "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31. The needy one's privilege, therefore, is to seek for both repentance and pardon. He must not wait to become better, but must come to Christ just as he is. And for every such needy one, the following heartfelt appeal has been written:

"As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up to despair. It was sinners that Christ came to save. We have not to reconcile God to us, but—O wondrous love! God in Christ is 'reconciling the world unto Himself.' He is wooing by His tender love the hearts of His erring children. No earthly parent could be as patient with the faults and mistakes of his children as is God with those He seeks to save. No one could plead more tenderly with the transgressor. No human lips ever poured out more tender entreaties to the wanderer than does He. All His promises, His warnings, are but the breathing of unutterable love."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 40.

A touching example of how our heavenly Father, through Jesus, draws the wanderer to repentance, is found in the penitence of Peter. After he had thrice denied his Lord, "the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And Peter went out and wept bitterly." Luke 22:61, 62.

What compassionate love must have been in the look of Jesus toward His poor disciple, what saving sympathy, what touching entreaty! And many others whom Jesus is constraining compassionately to repent, beholding the great price He paid on the cross for their washing and cleansing, are brought to full repentance like Peter, and meekly and fervently plead with the Father above:

"May I to the fountain be led,  
Made to cleanse my sins here below;  
Wash me in the blood that He shed,  
And I shall be whiter than snow."

As their hearts go out directly to Jesus, they plead in deep repentance with most heartfelt entreaty:

"Jesus, to that fountain of Thine,  
Leaning on Thy promise I go;  
Cleansed me by Thy washing divine,  
And I shall be whiter than snow."

Leaning with all the strength they have on the promise of Jesus that He *will* accept them as they *come* to Him, they claim by faith the fulfillment of His sacred personal promise, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Taking Him at His word, they *accept* His forgiveness and washing and cleansing by simple faith, and say with glad assurance words like the following adapted ones:

I'm whiter than the snow,  
Yes, whiter than the snow;  
I'm washed in the blood of the Lamb,  
And now I am whiter than snow.

### **Justification by Faith**

(Continued from page 9)

should die, but Jesus died upon the cross erected on Calvary "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Not only did Christ pay the penalty for sin, but He also provides the righteousness that prepares us to see God.

The Lord told of a man who disdained to wear a wedding garment when invited to the marriage of a king's son. This man was cast out into darkness. God invites you to be a guest at the marriage supper of the Lamb, when Jesus will have received His kingdom and the New Jerusalem "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The Father also provides the wedding garment which is the righteousness of Christ. All must have that garment. All can have it, as we read in Isaiah 61:10, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation."

With shame the prodigal son was returning to his home. His clothes were tattered and spattered with the mud of the pigsty where he had been working. The youth was met on the road by his loving father whose anxious eyes had long scanned the horizon for the sight of his younger boy. After the joyous embrace, the father took his own robe and threw it over the shoulders of his son, covering his filth and rags.

And our Father in heaven is just as anxious to cover our sins with the beautiful robe of Christ's righteousness. He bids, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Accept that offer today.

When the Lord does return in power and glory, those who have been justified and sanctified will then be glorified. It is written, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." Philippians 3:20, 21.



# For BETTER HOMES and HEALTH

## WATCH OUT FOR HOOKWORMS

Many People Are Suffering From the Invasion of These Parasites

By Colonel George A. Skinner, M. D.

*Medical Corps, U. S. Army, Retired*

LIKE MANY other serious human maladies, the discovery of hookworms and the serious devastations they have caused to the human family are within the memory of men still living. Although this serious infestation has materially decreased through the years since we have learned the cause and cure of the troublesome worms, there are large numbers of people who carry these parasites, especially where sanitation is still primitive and education below standard. In addition, many people suffer for months or years from the invasion of these worms without knowing what is the trouble, or how easily they can be relieved and restored to health if they follow the simple instructions for the cure and the prevention of the return of these worms.

The hookworm is tiny, less than an inch long, and about as big around as the wire of a hairpin. Their life cycle is peculiar and interesting, in that a knowledge of how they live and attack us makes it possible to destroy them and prevent further infestation.

The eggs (first stage) are laid in the human intestinal tract and are passed out with the bowel movement. Where modern sanitation exists, this does little damage, as the eggs are all destroyed. But where human wastes are deposited upon the ground, especially where the soil is wet and shady, these eggs quickly hatch into worms (larvæ, second stage) and in a few days are developed sufficiently to attack bare feet as they pass along the ground. They attach themselves, usually finding a soft place between the toes, and quickly burrow through the skin into the blood vessels. Here they are carried by the blood into the lungs. They are too big to pass through the tiny vessels there, but this does not stop them for long. They dig through the vessel walls into the small air tubes (bronchus), climb up these tubes until they reach the large tube (trachea, or windpipe), and into the throat, where they are swallowed. All this time they have been growing larger, and by the time they reach the intestines, they are able to suck blood, mate, and lay eggs.

Hookworms get their name from several hooks on the head by which they grip the lining membrane of the intestines and suck the blood. After they get a

meal, they let go; but the blood keeps oozing for some time. When there is severe infestation, up to several thousand worms, it is not hard to understand that the infested person loses much blood and soon begins to feel "run down." Many a person has been accused of laziness and shiftlessness, when worms were taking all his strength and vitality.

Each female worm is capable of producing a prodigious number of eggs daily, and these are passed out with the bowel movement, as mentioned. If sanitation is not good, the soil is soon badly infested. Then almost everyone in that section gets hookworms. They are very disastrous to children, as they prevent normal growth when there are a great many worms. And as new worms are constantly added under such circumstances, usually everybody carries enough to interfere materially with nutrition. The food that builds the blood is wasted because the worms get most of the blood.

Like most intestinal worms, hookworms are quite readily removed by medicines, but it is of little use to remove them unless, at the same time, we also remove the possibility of others quickly being added. It, therefore, becomes a community problem in sanitation and instruction to all the people how to avoid this infestation.

There are several varieties of hookworms, but the common one (*Necator americanus*) in the warmer portions of the United States is less severe in its actions than those found in other lands. But they are bad enough. They are not so numerous as formerly, for more people wear shoes, and the privy vault is much more in general use than it was one or two generations ago. But in many areas there are still careless people and barefooted children, which make a perfect combination for the spread of hookworms. In backward localities the infestation now is largely among children, especially before they start to school.

When people are willing to use proper methods of disposal of body wastes, either water closets or properly constructed privy vaults, hookworms disappear in a comparatively short time. The wearing of shoes almost completely prevents such infestations.

The problem is mostly in the South, as freezing



kills both worms and eggs. The problem was formerly serious in mines in all climates, as freezing rarely occurs and most mines are damp. The disease was then called "miners anemia."

When sanitary methods prevent the further spread of worms, they can be quickly removed by proper treatment. But it is not wise to take drugs unless the effects are known, for drugs that destroy hookworms may be dangerous if not properly used. Particularly is it necessary to avoid everything containing alcohol when these medicines are taken.

If there are individual cases with serious hookworm infestations, of course treatment will not be refused. But they should be warned that it will be of little value unless they can prevent reinfestation. Where a community understands the problem and is willing to work together, this menace can be removed completely. Hookworms are a menace, for when uncontrolled they cause many deaths among all ages, but take greatest toll among children. It requires much work on the part of community leaders to put over a successful campaign, but it has been done many times, and can be done wherever the people wish it.

### **Selfish Prayers**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Selfish people—and by nature all are selfish—are inclined to be small in their dealings even in praying. In life they stumble and find fault over mere trifles. Many wrecked homes are caused by petty things. It is not big things that wreck many marriages. Real problems, deep sorrow, tend to draw people closer to one another.

The size and true caliber of a man can be determined not only by his praying, but by the coin he uses. If he pays people with the same kind of coin they give him, and that coin is not made in the mint of heaven, he shows his littleness. It was said of Henry Ward Beecher, that prince of preachers, "Whoever did him an injury could count with assurance upon having that injury repaid by kindness." It takes a big soul to do that—not much selfishness there. That is the spirit of a true Christian.

One of the great transformations that Christ still performs is to take little, selfish, self-centered people and make of them big, truehearted souls. This is what He did for selfish, ambitious Peter. James and John were so completely changed that all desire for first place was entirely removed, and they became loving and unselfish servants for Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ brings about a bigness that appeals to all. There is nothing narrow or small about it. When rightly received, it never makes narrow or selfish people of its believers. It is inconceivable that one would ever find a true Christian that is selfish. It is usually quite evident when a professing Christian is that way for it will be manifest in his actions and prayers.



**By Caris Lauda**

Hello there, Teen-agers!

I wish you could see what I have in my hand. It is a real souvenir—something I have been wanting for a long time. It was given to me the other day while in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. A friend of mine—one of the American League baseball pitchers—gave it to me with his signature on it. You guessed it—an autographed American League baseball signed by one of the League's fine relief pitchers.

We all think it is fun to gather souvenirs—pennants, stickers, streetcar tokens, ties, scarves, pins. Oh, there are all kinds of them. We usually gather these from friends—to remember them by. Which reminds me, it is wonderful to have friends, isn't it?

I asked a young man the other day, "What kind of friends do you choose?" He said, "Good-looking ones!" Well, that is natural, isn't it? But really, what kind of friends are best? Good-looking ones are fine, but you know "good looks are only skin deep," so one had better pick friends with other characteristics too. You have heard the statement, "beautiful but dumb." Don't you think it best to choose friends who are kind, wise, sympathetic, and always true?

For a moment tonight I have been imagining that I did not have a friend in the world—neither father, mother, sister, brother, sweetheart, or anybody—and that I was all alone and that nobody cared for me. My, what a dark picture! It makes me feel extremely miserable. I am going to think about something else—about you. Just suppose you could choose a friend from all the people in the world. Whom would you choose? You ask me whom I would choose? Oh, that is easy! Here is my choice:

The kindest, purest, wisest, most sympathetic, patient, and lovable Friend I have ever met is the one I am going to tell you about now. His name is Jesus. He appeals to me because of His great wisdom. Think of it—He has lived since His ascension nearly 2,000 years. My, how much knowledge He must have! I can talk to Him about any problem, for He will understand. The Book that tells of His life says that the hairs of our heads are numbered. (Matthew 10:30.)

Then, too, He is a strong Friend. He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15. He made the sun, the moon, and the stars. He made the worlds, and His power controls all things. Yet He is tender, for He sees even the sparrow fall.

He is a rich Friend, too, the Creator of all things, and one of His friends, Paul, tells us, "My God shall



supply all your need according to His riches in glory." Philippians 4:19. It is great to have a rich uncle who will come to our rescue when we are in need. Jesus is a true, sympathetic, understanding Friend. Living on earth through His teens, for some thirty years before His ascension, He was always helping others—the sick, the lame, the blind, the children, the rich, and the poor were all helped by this greatest of all friends.

Another fine trait of character this Friend has is that He is a patient, ever-forgiving Friend. That means so much to me. Most of our earthly friends get angry and leave us when we offend them, but not so with this Friend—He loves us with an everlasting love. We may grieve Him by our foolish, evil doings, but "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us." Of course He is sorry we have yielded to temptation and sinned, but He readily forgives us and forgets, and tells us "He will remember our sins no more."

The following story leads me to the last and greatest reason I have chosen Jesus as my Friend. A great symphony orchestra was one evening carrying on a rehearsal. The conductor was directing the symphony in detail. There was the thunder of the organ, the roll of the drums, the singing wail of the violins, and the brass of the trombones. One man who played the piccolo, way off in the corner, suddenly decided in all the noise, "What does it matter what I do?" So he stopped playing. Suddenly the great conductor stopped and threw up his hands. All was deathly still. "Where," he cried, "is that piccolo?" Ah, friend, the great conductor had missed the sound of the piccolo.

It is just that way with Jesus. He notices all and misses the voice of His friends. He is always listening for the sound of a voice saying, "Jesus, be my Friend." Just now He wants *you* for His friend. He will be true forever and ever, too. Remember—He is kind, sympathetic, pure, wise, strong, and rich in all His friendship.

How can you make friends with this great Creator of all things? Just bow your head, close your eyes and say: "Jesus, let's be friends. I will be true to you and I know You will be true to me." He promises to be an ever-present Friend to all, whether thirteen years of age, seventeen, or nineteen. He is so wonderful that He is able to be an understanding Friend to just everyone.

Now you know why I have chosen Jesus to be my Friend, and why I want you to choose Him as your Friend. It is fun to walk and talk with Him. You will love His friendship more each day that you know Him.

I will be visiting with you again next month. Good health, happy days, and a wonderful friendship with the greatest of all friends, Jesus, to all you Teen-agers.

Sincerely your pen pal,  
Caris

## *The Struggle to Be Decent*

(Continued from page 5)

a picture of human nature this presents! Indeed it is a most alarming one. Neither has it lessened worldly evils but rather has made them more glamorous. Mrs. Jones acts that way, and her name is in the social register, so it must be all right. Mr. Jones is a leading light in the community, and he does it, so maybe it is not so bad after all. And thus the evil influence spreads from group to group until the whole is being leavened.

This country seems to be going overboard in moral abandonment. Visitors from Europe are often shocked by the daring behavior of Americans. If this be modern Rome, then we are on the way to ruin. For it was when Rome went mad with pleasure seeking, abandoning all moral principles, that it was ready for the burning.

Many are noting the dangerous trends in our society, and are warning us of the dire results that are bound to follow. Dorothy Thompson, in her column that appeared in the *Washington Star* (Jan. 3) refers to "the growth and impudence of criminality and public indifference to it," "the decline in decorum among all classes," "the passage of authority from the hands of those who create values, economic and cultural, into the hands of those who 'control' them," "the timidity of the intellect," "the substitution of slogans for ideas." Concerning this situation she writes:

"It seems as though Western civilization has become too tired to think and too skeptical to hold to values which hitherto have assured survival. A great and brilliant culture—whose supremacy a generation ago was recognized throughout the globe; which gave the world the first concepts of liberty under law; which recognized the menace of unchecked power; which created the most humanistic societies; whose policies were submitted to reason and inhibited by Christian ethics; from which came nine tenths of modern science; which in the last two centuries produced of its least fortunate citizens richness, compared to the condition of their predecessors—has fallen into a condition of such self-distrust, mental confusion, false alliances and indecision as to prepare the way for a receiver who has but to wait to take over the wreckage."

Long ago the Holy Word predicted that this world would end in wreckage. First would come the wreckage of all moral standards, to be followed by the wreckage of divine judgment. Speaking of our day, the apostle Paul declared: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of god-



liness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. . . . But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13.

It was not of a barbarian age that Paul was writing, but of the greatest age of human history. All this would come in spite of the spreading influence of Christianity and the increase of knowledge. This paradox reveals man's great weakness. He can only destroy, not build. God alone is man's hope. He will not only destroy, but He will build a new world.

We are told that God will destroy them which destroy the earth. Said the prophet John, "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18.

Peter pictured how this would come about: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10.

But destruction is not the end, thank God. We read on, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth." Verse 13.

### ***Can a World Government Be Established?***

*(Continued from page 19)*

such co-operation. If the nations cannot get together on some of these minor points, how can we ever expect them to make a full surrender for a world government organization?

Two very vital questions are asked by Mr. Austin that bear consideration. They are questions that at present are being tossed off as "technical difficulties."

1. How would voting power be arranged in this world federation? In terms of population, so that the United States would have approximately 6 per cent of the votes? Or in terms of productivity, with preponderant power in the hands of less than 20 per cent of the world's people, who produce 75 to 80 per cent of its wealth? How would we, as a member of that productive minority, then answer the cries of "imperialist plot"?

2. What would limit the exercise of world police power over disarmed nations, or protect a minority against tyrannical action or laws voted by a majority of nations under the sway of groups representing only a small portion of their own people? What would prevent the seizure of the administrative machinery of a world government and its military power by totalitarian forces? (Remember that Lenin seized power from a struggling new democratic regime and then used force to suppress a representative congress; and that Hitler maneuvered himself into power under

the Weimar constitution, and then seized control.)

These are just a few of the problems facing those who desire a world government. There are numerous complications and involvements that we all ought to think about very seriously before we even commit ourselves to such an establishment. We are personally convinced that there will never be a successful world organization until Christ comes to establish His government and "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15.

Men are saying that it is entirely within the ability of fallible mankind to establish a peaceful world organization, yet we find that the Bible teaches the very opposite. The various prophecies pertaining to the end of the world reveal that "in the last days perilous times shall come." 2 Timothy 3:1. The prophecy also says that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." Verse 13.

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## God Walks Alone

**God walked alone in Eden**

**At the close of that dreadful day,  
His heart all broken with sorrow—  
He had sent His children away.  
God walked alone in Eden;  
And the lovely garden was bare,  
No answering voice or footstep  
In the dim, shining stillness there.**

**God walked alone in heaven**

**The night that Christ came to this earth,  
While all the celestial choir  
Were singing to mortals His birth.  
God walked alone in heaven,  
And not even angels above  
Could know the weight of His anguish,  
The wonderful depths of His love.**

**God walks alone in heaven**

**Once more when this old earth is done,  
Waiting in glad expectation  
Return of His glorified Son.  
With the redeemed of all ages  
To gather around His great throne  
In thankful, satisfied glory,  
Our God walks no more alone.**

*—Mildred Wood Harris.*

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# Let's Ask the DOCTOR



The answers to health questions are supplied to the readers of OUR TIMES by Owen S. Parrett, M. D.  
Address your queries to him in care of this magazine.

*What is hypoglycemia (superinsulinism)? What causes it?—J.M.*

There is no single cause of this condition, but the cause is sometimes a tumor of certain parts of the pancreas, or it may sometimes result from infection of the pancreas. Often the cause is obscure and hence the specific cure is often difficult or impossible. However, one can learn how best to live with the condition, and the time factor may find the condition improving. The rise of insulin follows directly the amount of blood sugar, hence an effort should be made to keep it at as low and at as constant a level as possible. This may require the eating of more moderate meals and the taking of a little food between meals if a feeling of faintness occurs. Such food can best be fruits or juices which require little digestive effort, and such nourishment is readily available to the blood. One might carry an apple, pear, or banana in the pocket for such an emergency.

*How can a person suffering from superinsulinism avoid the overweight that comes from the extra eating made necessary by the frequent collapses of vitality?—M.M.*

The answer to the former question, namely, the eating of smaller amounts of food and a little between meals, thus keeping the blood sugar level as low as possible, indicates the course that may help control the situation. Also the use of a small amount of thyroid, such as Endothylin, might help to control the overweight.

*What causes bursitis? How can a person protect himself from having it?—J.M.*

Bursitis, which is irritation due to either injury or infection in a bursal sac, may be caused by focal infections such as might occur in either the tonsils or teeth, sources of which should be investigated and eliminated if possible. The part or limb should be rested for a period if possible. Alternate hot and cold packs may be helpful. Building up the general health by every possible means will render the tissues more resistant to all types of infections.

*Please give a layman a brief, clear explanation of what is meant by the words neuroticism and psychoneurosis.—B.L.*

Neuroticism is the condition of persons who suffer from oversensitive nerves to the degree that they are fearful, overanxious, and apprehensive beyond that which is considered normal. When this condition has increased to the degree that normal thinking processes are warped into abnormal thoughts or actions, then we call such a condition a psychoneurosis. Often a person suffering with a psychoneurosis is able to get along fairly well in society if the symptoms are mild; but if extreme, he may require special care and attention.

A friend who had much experience in mental and nervous diseases was asked if a certain person was a little "off," and he replied with a smile, "Well, perhaps it is only a question of degree with all of us." A highly intelligent editor friend once said to me when we were talking on this subject, "I am quite aware that I am a neurotic." To recognize one's own neurotic tendencies, which are common to many of us, is the first step in curing or controlling such tendencies, and certainly helps to prevent one from becoming psychoneurotic.

The field of medicine that deals with psychoneurotic persons is called psychosomatic medicine, and an increasing number of men are taking up this specialty. A psychoneurosis may bring on an actual organic disease, or what may be worse and even harder to cure, functional symptoms that stop short of actual injury of brain tissue, or organic disease. As evidence of how widespread neuroticism may be, I recently heard a prominent specialist in obstetrics and gynecology remark, "The longer I practice medicine, the more I believe that one half of patients' troubles are in their heads."

A good cure for neuroticism is a hobby or a project or enough real troubles so that one does not have any time left for imaginary ones. Find someone worse off, and go to work to help him out, and personal problems will not seem as great.



## The High Cost of Low Living

(Continued from page 15)

Sodom and Gomorrah perished for the same reason, a fearful price for living on the lowlands of life.

A visit through the records of history to the cemetery of the nations of the past reveals the cause of their destruction. The great empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome fell through internal moral rotteness. They were weighed in the balances of eternal justice and found wanting in intellectual and spiritual values. It is estimated that at least twenty-two civilizations have flourished, but most of them have disappeared. The nations of the modern world are fast filling up the cup of iniquity in a final demonstration proving that low living does not pay because the price is too exorbitant.

But there are also many examples of the high rewards of right living, among which were the lives of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the great galaxy of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles. Joseph maintained his purity under the fiercest temptation, and the reward was the governorship of Egypt. Daniel and his companions traveled the highway of holiness in corrupt Babylon, and their recompenses even in this life were great. The greatest example of all is that of Christ who was tempted in all points but who never yielded to the allurements of sin. The reward? He has been "highly exalted" and given a reputation or "name which is above every name" in the universe. (Philippians 2:9.)

Down through the ages there has been a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), or "a firmament of chosen ones," who testify to the "great recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:35) to those who live on a high moral and spiritual plane; who always maintain a "conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16) and who are as true to duty as the needle to the pole.

Speaking for himself and the other disciples, Peter said to Christ: "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" Matthew 19:27. The answer of Jesus thrilled the disciples and should encourage every Christian. He told them if they forsook all and followed Him, that when He ascended the throne of His glory at His second advent, they would "sit upon twelve thrones" reigning over the twelve nations of the redeemed. Then He promised that all who forsake property and relatives for His name's sake "shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Verses 28, 29.

Moses made a wise decision when he refused the throne of Egypt, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews 11:25. He made this choice because he esteemed "the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Verse 25.

OUR TIMES, SEPTEMBER, 1949



## Choice Thoughts FOR CHILDREN



By D. A. Delafield

### How to Get Out of Trouble

THE QUESTION of right and wrong is as old as the world and as big. People want to know whether it is right to smoke and to drink, to go to movies, to dance and to play cards. They would also like to know whether or not it is right to read novels and comic books. I will answer these particular questions in a future sermon, but today I want to help you to know what to do when you are sure you have done wrong and are in trouble.

It will be helpful, juniors, for you to remember that Jesus has good eyes and that "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:13. Perhaps a story will make this clear.

"In the town of Puno, Peru," writes Lester F. Sumrall, "on the border of famous Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world (which has an altitude of 12,500 feet and an area of 3,200 square miles), I was in the home of Mr. Reid, a Baptist missionary. While there, he related an incident to me regarding his small son, Oliver, who had startled the family by coming into the house from play and inquiring, 'Daddy, can Jesus see from heaven all the way down here to Puno?'"

"'Yes, son,' he had replied, 'Jesus can see us here in Puno.'"

"'Daddy,' Oliver then said, 'can Jesus see inside my heart?'"

"'Surely, Oliver,' his father answered. 'Jesus can see everywhere—even into your heart.'"

"The youngster's problem had not yet been divulged. He looked eagerly into his father's face as he continued,

"'Daddy, can Jesus see me when I am under the house?'"

"The missionary patted his son on the head and said, 'Yes, Jesus can see you under the house.'"

"Then with an unexpected burst of excitement, Oliver cried, 'Well, I wish Jesus were blind!'"—*Sumrall's Short Stories*, p. 60.

Of course Jesus is not blind, and whatever was going on under the house was troubling Oliver's conscience, and he did not want Christ to see him. The fact that he asked his daddy all these questions is proof that he was not quite sure of himself. It does not pay to try to hide anything from God. Many

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# What Says the BIBLE?

## Adam and the Second Advent

The blessed hope of the second advent was real and bright to Adam and Eve. It was given them by God Himself when, in their hearing, He told Satan of his doom.

*"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed (Christ); it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."* Genesis 3:15.

This hope was so real to Eve that, when her first son was born, she exclaimed with intense joy:

*"I have gotten a man from the Lord."* Genesis 4:1.

Before the Flood, Enoch, the great grandfather of Noah, had a knowledge of the purpose and the manner of the advent of Christ to consummate the plan of salvation. His adventual teaching was known and preserved through the ages after the Flood and recorded in the Bible by the next to the last writer.

*"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."* Jude 14, 15.

This second-advent hope burned bright in the breasts of all the ancient men of God. Jacob, prophesying of the future of his sons as the spiritual fathers of the nations of the redeemed, foretold the coming of Shiloh, to whom would be the gathering of the people. (Genesis 49:10.) Job rejoiced that in his resurrected body he would meet his Redeemer when He stood "at the latter day upon the earth." (Job 19:25-27.)

Second-advent hope forms a large part, almost the largest part, of the writings of the Old Testament prophets. The words "that day" are used about two hundred times in the Bible; considerably more than half of the references relate to the second advent, and not one of them refers to death.

This advent hope was expressed by Old Testament writers in glowing terms of vivid anticipation. To them the hope of the second advent to end the reign of sin was real and powerful. Though they saw the promises "afar off," they "were persuaded of them, and embraced them." Hebrews 11:13.

In the New Testament the advent hope glows so brightly in the words of all the writers that Bible

readers have assumed that the first-century Christians all thought that Jesus would return in their day. The idea is very commonly expressed that the disciples were mistaken in their advent hope, because they looked for Him to return in their lifetime.

But this idea is really the result of a very superficial reading of the New Testament. The strongest and most impressive explanations in the Bible of the events of the two millenniums from Christ's day to this are in the New Testament. See Christ's own prophecies of the ages of persecution between the advents. (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21.) See the different chain prophecies in the Book of Revelation of the successive eras of history from John's day to the second advent. More than once John foretold a period of 1260 years that was to be only part of the time between the advents. (Revelation 12:6; 13:5. For a full interpretation of Revelation see *Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, by Uriah Smith.)

And Paul vigorously warned people against supposing that the apostles believed or taught that Christ was coming in their day.

*"Be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, . . . let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first (the period of the 1260 years)." 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 3. Read verses 1-12.*

Why, then, since Bible writers knew that it would be a long time till the second advent, did the Bible characters from Adam and Enoch to John the revelator speak of the second advent in such glowing terms of present anticipation? The reason is amazing; it is yet simple and obvious—though so obscured by false doctrine as to have been almost completely lost to sight. Here it is:

*Experientially*—that is, in experience—the second advent was as near to Adam as the last human being who dies before Jesus comes. Adam has already rested in his grave for millenniums; the other will sleep in death but a few days or hours. But to each, since death is an unconscious sleep (Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10), the next event after the last conscious moment will be the resurrection.

*Temporally*—that is, in time—there may be ages between the death of a saint (David, for example, who is not yet "ascended into the heavens," Acts 2:25, 29,



34) and his resurrection at the second advent. But in the experience of that saint, that time is annihilated. So the advent hope has glowed with *present* power to God's saints of the past.

Over us who live in momentary expectation of the event without cancelled time between, what inexpressible controlling power the advent hope should exert!

### *Spirits on Trial*

(Continued from page 11)

will even "show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." Mark 13:22.

Christ, therefore, explicitly warns us, saying, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:4. Likewise, the apostles are persistent to put us on guard. Paul says, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8. In Ephesians 5:6, 8, 10 he says, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: . . . walk as children of light: . . . proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

John says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." 1 John 4:1. The prophet Isaiah gives the rule by which to test them: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

The law reveals when any act or teaching is sinful or contrary to the love of God and of our fellow men. "For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20), and by the law one knows how to love God and his fellow men (1 John 5:2, 3). Through a knowledge of His law is gained the understanding "to deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things." Proverbs 2:12.

In Revelation 19:10 we learn that "the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy." Christ, through the Spirit which testifies of Him, showed the disciples "things to come" (John 15:26; 16:13-15), and by the same Spirit, prophesied in old time by the holy men of God (2 Peter 1:21; John 14:26). Thus we have additional means of safeguarding ourselves against deceivers. For by taking heed to the "more sure word of prophecy" and comparing it with what others say, we can know whether or not His Spirit has moved them to speak. (2 Peter 1:19-21.)

To further help us know what is error and what is truth, we are told specifically that "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4. Also he "that denieth that Jesus is the Christ" is a liar. "He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." Verse 22. "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye

have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:3. Speaking of himself and his associates, John also gives this principle: "He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." Verse 6.

Besides giving us these sure principles for detecting false teachings, the Scriptures, in identifiable figures, describe for us religious powers which are especially "full of all subtilty and all mischief" (Acts 13:10) and "all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Identifying them is a study in itself. But it can be stated here that many, by comparing the scriptural accounts with religious history, have established to the satisfaction of numbers of Bible readers the identity of these powers. In Bible terms they are "that man of sin," "the son of perdition," the "little horn," the "beast," "Babylon," and "them that have familiar spirits." (See Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 2; Rev. 13, 15, 17-20.)

We do well to learn what they are and to make certain that we are not part of them. God does not want His people to regard them that have familiar spirits. He wants His people to gain the victory over the beast (including the man of sin and the little horn) "and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." Revelation 15:2. He wants His people to come out of Babylon and not be partakers of her sins.

By the Scripture we can correct ideas and ways and can prove all things and hold fast that which is good. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16. Therein we learn what Christ taught, what the apostles witnessed, and what the prophets of old were moved by the Holy Ghost to speak. *They* have not followed "cunningly devised fables" (2 Peter 1:16); *they* have not walked in craftiness, nor handled the Word of God deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2).

When any say that Christ is here or there; when any teach that Christ is just a principle; when any purport that man has the power to absolve sins; when any hold that man of himself can make on earth the kingdom of God; when any religion, or "ism," or philosophy speaks to you—*find out for yourself what the Scripture says.*

As Paul says, "I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32. "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Heb. 13:9.

It is a wise thing to anchor our lives to Christ and His word in this day of confusion. If we have no anchor, we are very apt to be blown about by the many winds of false doctrine that permeate this present world.





# Brief Discussions of **SOUND DOCTRINE**

By  
The  
Editor

## **THE ORIGIN OF SIN**

"HOW A PURE BEING, possessed of those intellectual capacities and moral intuitions which were needful to make him justly responsible to divine law, could and did lapse from his primitive innocence and fall into sin is one of those dark problems which philosophers and theologians have vainly endeavored to solve."—*The Fundamentals*, Vol. XI, p. 12.

The entrance of sin into the sinless universe of God is best explained in the Scriptures. According to Scripture, it made its first appearance in the angel Lucifer. God says of him, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:15.

Lucifer could have remained in favor with God and held his high position of esteem and honor in the angelic host, but the Bible says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty." Verse 17. More and more, Lucifer indulged a desire for self-exaltation until he reached the place where he coveted the position and authority of God and said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . . I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14. Finally Lucifer resented God's authority, and openly rebelled against Him. He transgressed against God's law, for "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4); and started his satanic work of deception among the other angels to cause them to rebel. Finally God had to cast Satan and the angels who followed him out of heaven. (Revelation 12:7-9.) One third of the angels of heaven fell from their high estate as a result of the entrance of sin. (Revelation 12:4.) The Bible records the fact that the angels sinned and kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.)

Satan and his followers who thought lightly of sin at first soon found out that they had lost paradise and were eternally ruined.

"Sin first is pleasing, then it grows easy, then delightful, then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed; then the man is impenitent, then he is obstinate, then he is resolved never to repent, and then he is ruined."—*Leighton*.

We are sure "that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin."—E. G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 493. Its entrance into the universe is mysterious and unaccountable. It has been well said,

"To excuse it, is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin."—*Ibid*. It does appear, however, that in the creation of a finite personality endowed with a freedom of will, there is necessarily involved the possibility of making a wrong choice. Satan made the wrong choice when he chose to rebel against the government of God. His sin was soon apparent to the heavenly host and could not be concealed. It reminds us of the experience of a Christian martyr the night before his sufferings, who fell asleep and dreamed of paradise. He was walking in a garden of delight where all was made of the purest transparent glass clear as crystal. The people themselves who moved up and down were also transparent, and as he passed among them he perceived that all eyes were turned to him and fixed with surprise and dismay on his breast. On looking down he was horrified to see that he had become transparent, and that a dark stain in his heart, a shadow amidst all his brightness, had drawn all eyes upon him. Instinctively he raised his hand to hide it, but his hands, too, were transparent, and heaven for him was no longer heaven. "There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed."

When Satan fell from his high estate and permitted sin to remain in his heart, he reached the point where he did not hesitate to stoop to any level of wickedness. When Jesus spoke of him in John 8:44, He said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." He resorted to lies to deceive his fellow angels, and caused the downfall of many of them. He practices every deceit in his tempting of men today. He is ruthless, cruel, shrewd, and the only way we can escape from his snares is to flee to our refuge in Christ. Satan cannot remain in the presence of the weakest child who calls upon Christ.

When a young fox asked his father to teach him what to do in order to get the best of the dogs when he should meet them, the old fox answered with a sigh: "My child, all my experience forces me to confess that the best thing to do is to go out of the way so as not to meet them."

In the next issue we will discuss the question, "How Did Sin Enter This World?"



## Does America Want Religious Legislation?

(Continued from page 7)

The Bill of Rights aimed to protect the individual and the minority groups in the enjoyment of their inalienable rights against the encroachments of a tyrannical majority. Individuals and minority groups of dissenters and nonconformists have always suffered their severest persecutions and afflictions at the hands of mobs rather than governments. The majority have the inherent power in themselves to protect themselves against the abuse of the minority; but the minority, lacking such inherent power in themselves, stood in need of a Bill of Rights to protect them against the mob spirit of an overpowering majority.

Madison admitted that "paper barriers against the power of the community" might not prevent the abuse of power by the majority. "Yet," said he, "as they have a tendency to impress some degree of respect for them, to establish the public opinion in their favor, and rouse the attention of the whole community, it may be one means to control the majority from those acts to which they might be otherwise inclined."—*Id.*

We have witnessed in recent years in certain European and South American countries the evil consequences of the mob spirit that has flouted all law and all established order by vicious attacks upon minority groups. Especially is this the case where religious and race prejudice is the controlling motive back of the mob spirit. It is far easier to control and check the abuse of power in the three branches of our government than it is to check the mob spirit of the tyrannical majority in a community. The founding fathers of our American republic recognized this fact, and they went on record by placing constitutional barriers against the abuse of power not only by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government, but against the abuse of power on the part of a tyrannical majority in the community, and they clothed the Supreme Court with authority to penalize the abuse of power by the government and by the people themselves, thus providing protection for the inalienable rights of the individual.

The natural, inherent, and God-given rights of man cannot be alienated, whether governments recognize this immutable principle or not. Most governments do not safeguard the inalienable rights of all men by placing constitutional barriers and limits upon the powers of the state and upon the whims and caprice of an omnipotent tyrannical majority. Some governments assume the right to legislate upon every subject under heaven and to regulate and regiment all the activities of life, whether secular or spiritual, human or divine. However, in the United States these paper barriers, denying totalitarian powers to an omnipotent state or to an omnipotent authoritarian church, leaving religion free to propagate its

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MT. PALOMAR 'DISAPPOINTMENT.—Last June *Science Illustrated* announced the long-awaited opening night on Palomar. The excitement was high—the world awaited anxiously for the giant "eye" to peer deep into some of the mysteries of the universe (see *SI*, January, *Mystery of the Vanishing Universe*). Now it seems we'll have to wait for another eight months or so for the "bugs" to be worked out of the world's largest and most complicated single mechanism.

One trouble is that the outer edge of the mirror is too thick. Experts had expected the mirror to sag, and allowed extra thickness to compensate for that sag. But the mirror doesn't sag enough and so the outer edge is too high. How much too high? Twenty millionths of an inch (1/100 the thickness of a human hair). That's not



ACME

*Demonstrating egg-shaped wheels that are guaranteed to give better traction to mud or snowbound vehicles. The invention is being recommended to the Army War College for future study.*

much, you might think, but it's enough to make the great camera useless for astronomical photographs.—*Science Illustrated*, March, 1949.

FIND GALLSTONES BY SOUND.—Gallstones hiding in the common bile duct after the surgeon thinks he has removed them all can now be made to broadcast their presence to the surgeon or to the entire surgical team. They will do it through a gallstone detector developed by Dr. Eric A. Walker and E. G. Thurston, of the Ordnance Research Laboratory, Pennsylvania State College, for Dr. C. K. Kirby of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.—*Science News Letter*, January 22, 1949.



## ***Does America Want Religious Legislation?***

*(Continued from page 31)*

tenets on their merits without state aid, sanction, or interference, have proved the greatest boon to all sects and the greatest stabilizing factor to the state under our republican form of government.

The present-day argument, invented by modern churchmen who favor government support and cooperation in the promulgation of religion in general or a polygamous union, never entered the minds of the framers of the Constitution of these United States.

The Supreme Court of the United States correctly interpreted the intent of the First Amendment when it decided in the McCollum case from Illinois by an eight to one decision that religion itself could not be taught in the public schools or on school property and under government supervision. Any churchmen who believe that a common denominator of religion can be taught in the public schools under government supervision and at public expense, that would be acceptable to all sects, and that would not cause religious controversies, simply do not understand human nature and sectarian prejudices.

## ***We Are One Day Nearer Eternity***

*(Continued from page 13)*

ing and the needy in our own country are ill clothed and underfed, America spends billions annually for liquor, narcotics, gambling, and amusements. Alcoholic beverages are responsible for a large percentage of our juvenile delinquency. The crimes committed by teen-age boys and girls of America are shocking and alarming, and this wave of crime is sweeping not only our country, but the world, as never before. Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:13 reminds us that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" as the end approaches.

Christ made mention of the wickedness prevailing before the Flood, and then He spoke with emphasis, "So shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37.

Perhaps man does not realize that he himself is helping to write some of the very signs that point to the second coming of Christ. As we drive down the modern highways today and see the many neon signs that read "Eat," "Drink," we are again reminded of Matthew 24, verses 37 to 39, "But as [in] the days of Noah, . . . they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, . . . so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

The atheist and the infidel who scoff and say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were" (2 Peter 3:4), are themselves fulfillments of the advent prophecy.

We have read from history of the darkening of

the sun and moon on May 19, 1780, and of the falling of the stars which took place November 13, 1833, which were foretold in Matthew 24:29, when the powers of heaven and earth were shaken by God Himself as a signal of attention that His coming was near.

We are living between verse twenty-nine and verse thirty of Matthew 24, the fulfillment of verse twenty-nine having taken place over one hundred years ago. How soon will verse thirty be fulfilled? I am assured in verse thirty-six that no one knows, but never has this old world been shaken as it will be with the fulfillment of verse thirty. Never has it reeled and rocked as it will when Revelation 16:18 is fulfilled: "There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth."

Yes, Jesus is coming soon. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44. Another text explains the separation that is to take place, "As a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Matthew 25:32. Are you ready for His coming?

Last, but not least, among the numerous signs in the Sacred Scriptures pointing to the second coming of Christ is the outstanding prophecy given by Christ Himself: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

This gospel of the kingdom is the good news of Christ's second coming to establish His everlasting kingdom. The latest figures available show that this message of a soon-coming Saviour is being preached in 685 languages and approximately 227 countries and islands.

By aid of printing press, radio, telephone and telegraph, steamship, railway, automobile, and airplane, we have seen the good news of our Lord's return speeding to almost every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. (Revelation 14:6.)

What a marvelous hour in which to be alive! How soon will this definite prophecy be fulfilled? No one knows. The all-important question concerning us should be, Am I ready to meet the sinless, all-powerful King of kings and Lord of lords? Have you seriously considered the matter? Can you sincerely say with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus"? Revelation 22:20.

## ***How to Get Out of Trouble***

*(Continued from page 27)*

young people try to do this, but God knows all the time what is going on. He has made it possible for us, by confession and prayer, to get rid of the sin that is troubling us. Why, then, should we try to hide what God already knows? Would it not be better to tell Him about it on our knees and ask Him to forgive





MONKMEYER

*If children are taught to pray, they will have learned something that will be the power in their lives to safeguard them against trouble and help them whenever they get into difficulty.*

us? He is willing and eager to lift the burden from our hearts.

We should confess to God the exact sins of which we are guilty without telling anyone else. Of course, you should never hesitate to confide in your Christian parents. They understand and will give you good advice. But whatever you do, go to God and confess your sins to Him. He will always receive and pardon you. There are times when we have wronged our brothers and sisters and friends. Then we should tell them we are sorry and that we will do better with God's help.

Do you know the reason why God is able to pardon our sins? It is not hard to understand. Sin is breaking one of the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:3-17; 1 John 3:4.) And we have all done that. (Romans 3:23.) The apostle Paul says that "the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. The penalty for our sins is death. Is it little wonder, then, that we feel guilty when we do wrong when sin carries with it the awful sentence of death? But here is where Christ our Saviour can help us. He "died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and . . . was buried, and . . . rose again the third day." 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4. He was our substitute, and bore the penalty of your sin and mine when He was crucified on the cross.

Do you not think it a wonderful love that would lead the Saviour to lay down His life for us? Some people are willing to lay down their lives for their loved ones. Others are willing to lay down their lives for their friends. But Christ sacrificed His life for sinners like you and me. "For a good man some would . . . dare to die," says Paul, "but God commendeth

His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:7, 8.

Suppose that you had grown to manhood and you learned one day that a childhood acquaintance had been sentenced to death for murder. This boy had always been a problem in the neighborhood. He had no friends, and now he faced the electric chair. Let me ask a question and make it very personal. If it were possible for you to go to your death in the electric chair in his place, would you be willing to do so? If the governor of the state would pardon him and let him go free if you paid the price of his sin, would you be a willing substitute? Come now, be honest. Would you be willing? Remember, this criminal is unlovely and unkind. He is cruel and selfish, yet he needs a friend. Would you be willing to be a friend to him and die in his place?

That is exactly what Christ did for us. We did not love Him nor serve Him, but He loved us and became our servant, dying in our place upon the cross and offering pardon to all who believe in His name. Such wonderful love! Even the angels in heaven cannot understand why "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. But we can understand if we will go to Him, tell Him all about the wrong things we have done, ask Him to forgive us for Christ's sake and to give us power to keep from making those same mistakes over and over again.

Perhaps you have not committed murder. Indeed, you may not have done anything that was very bad, but sin of any kind, whether it is lying, stealing, swearing, or losing our temper, is bad enough. If we do not get rid of those weaknesses in our characters by going to Christ and asking Him to forgive us, we will find as we grow older that the smaller things have grown larger and larger and that they bind us with chains as strong as steel. Christ can break this awful chain and set us free, but we must go to Him for help. He will receive us and become a wonderful Saviour and Friend. Here is His promise: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

The way out of sin and trouble, therefore, is the way up to God. By going to Him in prayer and telling Him all about it, we may be pardoned and cleansed. Is that not better than hiding our sins from God?

If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. . . . There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are.—E. G. White.



# GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore

## "As the Apple Tree . . ."

September is a splendid month. The glories of summer are tinged with fires of fall and mitigated by the cooling breath of shortened days. September suggests apples. Somewhere it is apple harvest today, and busy hands are polishing and packing the beauties that will later adorn the grocers' displays, then our sideboards, and lastly our tables—good and beautiful to the last translucent slice in the pie. No wonder the Creator gave the primeval pair "the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Genesis 1:29. And it is a satanic slander that the forbidden fruit was an apple.

Apples suggest apple trees, and apple trees give year-round enjoyment. From the peak of September look back to apple blossoms of last spring and ahead to the blossoms of next spring—Eden of the spring of the race and of life, and Eden of the new earth in anticipation, and in between a lifetime of work, service, and fruit bearing.

There is no time in the year when an apple tree is not pleasant. Blessed is any child who grows up near a thicket of wild crab apple trees. Doubtless other flowers are superb, but to my taste few equal and none surpass the colors, grace, and fragrance of wild crab apple buds and blossoms. Even the fruit, like some people, is not nearly so impossible when properly treated with sugar and spice.

All apple blossoms are lovely. Poets write hymns to Mont Blanc and thrill to old ocean's solemn roar. But some people think the most beautiful scene on earth is California's Santa Clara Valley in fruit-tree-blossom time.

The summer joys of an apple orchard are legion. No other trees are more delightful for climbing, for lingering in to watch the birds' housekeeping. No vista of the summer sky is more soul inviting than that seen while lying on the back under an apple tree.

An apple orchard is a homey place. All sorts of flying, furry, feathered folk live there—insects, birds, quadrupeds. From the apple orchard Bobwhite whistles up the farmboy at sunrise, and the whippoorwill lulls him at moonrise.

And an apple orchard can be a sacred place. Happy is that orchard that has a footpath trodden to a secret place of prayer. Thrice blessed is that child that sees a parent tread that path and return with shining face.

September crowns the apple orchard with harvest,

but only if the spring of youth has not harbored the insect eggs of sin.

Even in winter the apple tree is beautiful. Its gracious humility of low-spreading growth is not austere like the giant trees, and its fat buds point to a resurrection.

"As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my Beloved among the sons. I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste." Song of Solomon 2:3. The apple tree is a symbol of Jesus Christ, and its year-round pleasantness is a figure of what He is to the soul.



**The cynic is one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.—Oscar Wilde.**

**It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.—G. H. Lorimer.**

**Europe is a jig-saw puzzle with a peace missing.**

**If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should not grow old.—James A. Garfield.**

**It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.—Benjamin Disraeli.**

**A man without mirth is like a wagon without springs, in which one is caused disagreeably to jolt by every pebble over which it runs.—Henry Ward Beecher.**

**If we had paid no more attention to our plants than we have to our children, we would now be living in a jungle of weeds.—Luther Burbank.**

**Govern the lips as they were palace doors, the king within; tranquil and fair and courteous be all words which from that presence win.—Sir Edwin Arnold.**



# ? PLEASE EXPLAIN ?

*Wasn't the Sabbath given to Jews (descendants of Jacob) only, and never meant for the Gentiles?—T.S.*

"The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27), just as woman was made for man (1 Corinthians 11:9). Now, if we imply by this first quotation that Christ was referring only to the Jews, we have the same reason to believe that the second text has the same application. If this is true, then man means Jew, and only Jews have a right to marry women. What a predicament! But, of course, this cannot be. The Sabbath and women were made for mankind. This is the teaching of Christ.

The Sabbath was made for man at the close of creation week and given to him at that time. (Genesis 2:1-3.) There were no Jews in existence then, and there were none until about twenty-five hundred years later. Would it not be foolish for God to make the Sabbath in the beginning, and let no one keep it until the Jews came along twenty-five hundred years later, then when the first Jew appeared, inform him that the Sabbath was for him and him alone?

God calls the Sabbath "My holy day" (Isaiah 58:13), and He promises to honor them who will honor and respect it. Furthermore, the New Testament reveals that the Sabbath was kept by Gentiles as well as Jews. The apostles preached to the Gentiles in the synagogue on the Sabbath. In Acts 13:42, 44 it says: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath [not Sunday]. . . . And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city [Jews and Gentiles] together to hear the word of God."

*Please explain Ezekiel 36:25. Some people take this text to prove that sprinkling is just as good as immersion.—L.T.W.*

Ezekiel 36:25 is part of a promise of the restoration of Israel after the Babylonian captivity. God promised that the repentant Jews would be forgiven their sins, restored to a new-covenant relation to Himself, and restored to a purified land. (Ezekiel 36:21-38.) As a figure of speech to illuminate this promise to them, God alluded (in verse 25) to the ceremony in the tabernacle service by which a person or a house that was ceremonially unclean (as by leprosy or a death) was made ceremonially clean again. This was by *sprinkling* certain ceremonially prepared *water* upon the person or locality. (See Leviticus 14:1-7, 49-53;

Numbers 8:7; 19:9, 17-19.) God used this type through the prophet Ezekiel to foretell the restoration both of the *land* and the people. Sprinkling is the figure so used, and it has nothing to do with New Testament baptism.

New Testament baptism, which has nothing to do with places, but only with an inner spiritual experience, has its type in the ceremonial service in the consecration of Aaron and his sons (Exodus 40:12; Leviticus 8:6) in which their whole bodies were washed, completely bathed. Sprinkling could not be an antitype of that.

*Many Protestants have accused the Catholics of depending upon their priests for the interpretation of the Bible, but don't you think that Protestants are guilty of the same charge when they depend upon their ministers to interpret the Bible for them instead of studying for themselves?—S.J.*

Absolutely. We have come to the place where men know far too little about what the Word of God says. In the days of the Reformation Protestants had as their battle cry, "The Bible, and the Bible only!" Men received the spiritual truths within its pages like desert camels taking water. Today many people depend upon their preachers to feed them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it could be said of present-day Christians as it was said of the Bereans by Paul: "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11. The Bereans were mighty in the Word. They were not spiritual weaklings. Those who think they know enough Bible truth to be saved had better consider the striking statement of Christ, who said: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." John 5:39.

*What does "rereward" mean in Isaiah 58:8? I am told it means a "re-reward," or a reward given a second time; but that puzzles me.*

"Rereward" is simply the old-fashioned spelling of rearward—rear, behind; ward, guard, a guard at the back of anything. The verse says, "righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward." That is, the righteousness and the glory of God are a protection to His people on all sides, behind as well as before. The margin says, "shall gather thee up." That is, just as an older person watches to see that none of a group of children lingers and is lost, so God protects us before and behind.





# YOUR LIFE IS SHOWING

By Edna Atkin Pepper

**T**HE HEAD of the mission was talking to the down-and-outers that had come in, as he did every night. Suddenly a hard, rough-looking man stood up and pointed at him:

"You're just an ex-convict, even as I am, a plain jailbird. Don't try to fool these people. Tell them the truth. Tell them that you served a sentence of twenty years, and that you were guilty of the crime of which you were convicted."

The self-taught preacher came out from behind his pulpit and freely admitted the truth of the statement just made. Then he addressed a question to his accuser:

"You knew me for more than two years as a fellow prisoner after the day I gave my heart and life to Christ. Do you know of anything I have ever done or said since that day when the old Jim died and the new Jim was born, which has been dishonorable or unworthy of a Christian?"

After a prolonged stare, the accuser shook his head and sat down.

Can you ask a similar question of those who know you best, confident of a truthful negative answer? Your life is showing, not only in the pew or in the Bible class, but every day, in the office, shop, or at home.

It has been said that if you want to know if one is a Christian, ask the husband or the wife, the children or the family pets.

"The unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife," wrote the apostle Paul. 1 Corinthians 7:14. What a challenge to the converted partner in a divided home! If she can keep sweet through the ups and downs of intimate daily living, in sickness and health, in poverty and prosperity, she may be sure the influence of her life will not be lost.

Oh, that we might all live so that "the accuser of the brethren" could never find one thing we have said or done unworthy of a Christian in the record of our lives! The secret is contained in those words of Jim's: "When the old Jim died, and the new Jim was born." The old Jim "receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14. But when the new Jim is born, the order is reversed; he no longer responds to the things of the world because he has become spiritual by virtue of his new birth.

Your life is showing. Can you meet the gaze of an accusing world clear eyed and unashamed?