

SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

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# These Times



"Must" Reading for All Parents  
**SMUT ENDANGERS EVERY HOME**

By William L. Roper

Reader's Choice

**THE MAN WHO LIVED IN A WHALE**

By David Gunston



"They desire a better country, that is, an heavenly:  
wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God:  
for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16.

(See page 17)

# These Times

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A RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE dedicated to the strengthening of the mental, physical, and spiritual life of the individual reader. Basing its recommendations on the living truths of the entire Bible, THESE TIMES promotes evangelical Christianity, the care of the needy at home and abroad, religious liberty, the systematic study of God's Word, the exaltation of Jesus Christ, and the news of His literal soon coming.

## ARTICLES

Smut Endangers Every Home	William L. Roper	4
The Lost Bible		7
The World's Most Complete Depiction of Christ's Life	Bart Leiper	8
How Jesus Saves You	E. C. Ward	10
The Ten Commandments	H. M. Tippet	14
Heaven Is My Home	William A. Fagal	17
The Most Important Person in My Life	Adlai Albert Esteb	22
The Man Who Lived in a Whale	David Gunston	26
Take Off Your Shoes	J. DeWitt Fox, M.D.	28
The Second Look	Marjorie Spiller Neagle	29

## REGULAR FEATURES

This Time	3	Youth Wants to Know	21
Dear Editor:	7	Focusing	25
"Apples of Gold"	13	Events of These Times	30
Editorials	34		

## POETRY

Step by Step	12
Just Suppose	Phyllis Law 24

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THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

## This Time . . . . .

**SMUT-FILLED** literature ("Smut Endangers Every Home," page 4) is becoming an increasingly greater problem. Postal authorities are concerned about it, and every Christian citizen should be alerted to its far-reaching effects. Careful studies by congressional committees and law-enforcement agencies have indicated that behind many of the country's most sensational crimes lies information graphically portrayed in obscene literature. Every parent faces a sacred trust in protecting his child from this material. As William L. Roper emphasizes, we can each do our part by our influence and by appealing to our legislators to pass laws that will effectively bring a halt to this problem.

Sometime you will want to make a visit to Christus Biblical Gardens ("The World's Most Complete Depiction of Christ's Life," page 8). Bart Leiper points out that the Smokies' newest attraction uses scores of life-size Bible characters in wax.

H. M. Tippet maintains that there is more than one way of taking the name of the Lord in vain, in his article "The Ten Commandments," page 14. Careless use of language and the employment of slang in many cases constitute a violation of the third commandment. The author makes a practical application of this important commandment to the everyday life.

## QUOTES FROM THIS ISSUE

"The big ally of the smut peddlers throughout America continues to be public apathy." (Page 6.)

"Though one may not always be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion and release from sinful habit and defiling practice, this does not prove him to be unconverted and not justified before God." (Page 11.)

"Since that hour I have never made a judgment of any man after only one look at him, or one conversation with him. For I know that often the second look, the second word, may prove the folly of so doing." (Page 29.)

If you have been contending with the spirit of rebellion, you will appreciate the "Focusing" column by Walter Raymond Beach, page 25. The author points out that today a spirit of revolt is abroad on the earth. It exists among both individuals and nations. But no prosaic view is taken of the matter. Indeed, it is pointed out that a true Christian is basically a rebel of a kind, for he rebels against every power that seeks to tie the hands of God or to impede His purpose on the earth.



Edward Zychal

The sending of circular advertising through the mail describing pornographic materials and where they may be obtained is becoming an increasing problem.

# Smut Every

*By William L. Roper*

**I** JUST CAN'T understand it," Mrs. Smith said. She shook her head sadly. "Johnny always seemed to be such a little gentleman. And his mother is as good a Christian as you can find anywhere."

But what Mrs. Smith did not know about the neighbor boy, Johnny, who had been taken into custody by juvenile officers for window-peeping and an unprovoked attack on a young girl, was that he was a victim of pornographic, sex-picture racketeers. In fact, Johnny's own mother did not know about the secret packet of obscene sex pictures hidden in a closet of the boy's room until the police found them.

In many other communities throughout the United States, police officers investigating juvenile sex crimes have found similar packets of pornographic pictures; and J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, has said these findings have convinced him that "pornography is a major cause of the rising tide of sex crimes in America."

On that point there is little disagreement. Judges, police officers, and juvenile authorities are unanimous in con-

demning smut as the trigger for many of the nation's youthful sex crimes.

Yet while admitting the national menace, many good parents refuse to concede that their own children are endangered. J. Edgar Hoover, however, warns that no child is beyond the reach of these corrupters of youth,

**J. EDGAR HOOVER warns that no child is beyond the reach of pornographic racketeers, and that every parent must be on guard. The author reveals a constructive plan of action.**

and that every parent must be on guard. The latest congressional investigation of juvenile delinquency discloses that these corrupters of youth are now invading suburbia.

"Not long ago," explains FBI Chief Hoover, "this problem existed as a serious juvenile hazard largely in the hard-to-control underprivileged areas of our big cities. Today it has spread to our suburbs and the green landscaped areas of our schoolyards. Distribution of

pornographic material especially prepared for juveniles is now so efficient that it is accurate to say that no child is beyond its reach."

That is why every parent must join wholeheartedly in this fight. The child you save may be your own.

Despite the efforts of postal authorities and law enforcement agencies to stop the pornographic rackets—sale of obscene sex photographs, erotic literature, and indecent movie films "for private showing"—the racketeers are garnering an estimated \$500,000,000 a year. Is it any wonder that juvenile delinquency continues to increase or

that youthful sex crimes continue to shock parents from coast to coast?

In Santa Ana, California, not long ago, a thirteen-year-old boy crept into a nearby home, carried a sleeping eight-year-old girl from her bed, and stabbed her to death. Later, remorseful and unable to understand the strange compulsion that led him to commit this crime, he confessed to authorities. Searching his room, the officers found the inflammatory sex pictures that had made him

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

# Endangers Home



a fiend. In a Massachusetts community, a teen-age boy attacked a sixteen-year-old girl. Officers found fifty pornographic pictures hidden away under his mattress. In Colorado, investigation disclosed that a youthful student who had molested two teen-age girls had a packet of pornographic literature in the glove compartment of his car. Police records in a Pennsylvania city revealed that a group of boys, who had made gang attacks on girls, had been incited by pornographic photographs and literature.

A study made by a United States Senate subcommittee resulted in the conclusion that almost every sex criminal, including sex murderers, is addicted to pornographic and sadistic material.

Detroit police confiscated a few months ago a mass of this filthy material that had an estimated retail value of one million dollars. Material of a similar form has been found in city schools and playgrounds in many parts of the country. In Buffalo, New York, police arrested a man who was distributing five hundred rolls of obscene "party films." In another raid, obscene comic books valued at \$25,000 were seized in a search of a Brooklyn warehouse. A ton of similar filth was taken in a raid on a New Jersey plant.

In California and New York State, where most of the nation's smut mills are located, the police are waging a continuous but often losing battle against the filth racket. Vague, lax

laws, public apathy, and light jail sentences for offenders tend to nullify their efforts.

On March 16, 1961, police raided a Burbank, California, printing plant and seized approximately \$500,000 worth of pornographic books and magazines. They were labeled "educational materials" and packaged for shipment by truck to Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, Nebraska, West Virginia, Connecticut, Georgia, and Alabama. A woman

found in the plant was arrested on a charge of suspicion of conspiracy to print and distribute pornographic literature. But the ring leaders were not caught. The woman escaped with a light jail sentence.

In nearly all the raids in various parts of the country, similar or identical material was found. This led the Senate subcommittee to conclude: "The similarity between the pornography seized in twenty-two states [ranging from Florida to Massachusetts and California] indicates a central source of supply [and] . . . the possibility that there is an organized syndicate distributing this material."

In 1958, more than 50,000 citizens, many of them mothers and fathers, wrote letters to the United States Post Office Department, urging action to prevent the pornographic peddlers from sending obscene pictures and salacious literature through the mails. Although the Post Office is without authority to censor first-class mail, ways were found to tighten controls. Congress passed drastic legislation giving the postal authorities new power. The penalty for conviction of mailing obscene material was fixed at a maximum of \$5,000 or five years in prison, or both.

International News Photo



The enactment of lurid crimes—usually resulting in lengthy prison sentences—often has its genesis in graphic crime portrayals in smut-filled literature.

Still more important, Congress closed up a loophole in the law. In the past the crime was considered to be committed at the point where the offensive mail was posted, or deposited. Since it was impossible to check all mail, this made detection unlikely. But under the new law, the crime was held to continue to the point of delivery. This meant that anyone receiving such mail could present to federal authorities the pornographic material and the envelope or wrapper in which it came. With this new power the Post Office, with the cooperation of individual citizens, began to make progress in stopping the pornographers from using the mails.

But this did not stop the racket. The filth merchants merely switched to other methods of distribution. For while under federal law it is a felony to send obscene material through the mails or to transport it by common carriers (such as buses or trains), trucks and private automobiles can be used for this purpose. Because rigid city and state laws on this are lacking, the smut peddlers continue to operate—in some areas with immunity.

One smut peddler, who was found to have \$50,000 worth of pornographic material in his car and home when arrested, escaped with a \$250 fine. Another pornographic salesman, who was arrested three times transporting obscene material from Ohio to Indiana in his own car, was fined only \$100 for each offense.

These light penalties point to some of the things needed: tighter local laws and heavier jail sentences, not low fines

which mean little to a peddler making big money in this filthy racket.

These peddlers frequently recruit boys to sell their goods to fellow students. They use a shrewd "come on" approach. First, the peddler will show a few filthy pictures to a boy and warn him to keep his mouth shut.

The boy is certain to share his secret with other boys. They will beg the "man at the corner" to let them see the pictures. In a short time the peddler is doing a big business selling his pornographic packets.

His next step is to invite a few of his best customers to come to his apartment or trailer to view a "party movie." In some cities, investigators have found that these movie showings are used to introduce the youngsters to marijuana cigarettes and "goofballs"—barbiturates.

Police officials in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and other major cities have testified to the link between pornography and crime. But despite this, the United States Supreme Court ruled not long ago that the mail must be open to magazines promoting homosexuality and nudism "because they represent the standards of any American community."

Many Christians will regard this ruling as a slander on their communities and on America in general. They will deny that these are the standards of "any American community," but if they are, America is in a sad plight of decadence. Perhaps in time the Court will alter its view on this, as it has on other matters in the past.

Certainly we have not yet won our war against pornography, because we have made only slight gains in curbing the smut peddlers in their use of the United States mails.

The Los Angeles *Times* on December 10, 1961, published under big headlines a news story: "SMUT PROBLEM GROWS IN VALLEY." In this story Reporter Bob Sherlock wrote, "Pornography in San Gabriel Valley is a bigger problem today than ever before."

Sherlock listed three major reasons for the increase: (1) more of the material available; (2) the difficulty experienced by law enforcement agencies in securing convictions because of inadequate laws; (3) pornography, like narcotics, pays handsomely.

These same factors are behind the increase of pornography in many other parts of the country. The big ally of the smut peddlers throughout America continues to be public apathy.

So one of the first steps to be taken by those who oppose the pornographic racket is to arouse the public. How can this be done? By enlisting the co-operation of your local service clubs, your PTA, and church groups. Urge your local organizations to push a determined campaign against the smut vendors in your community.

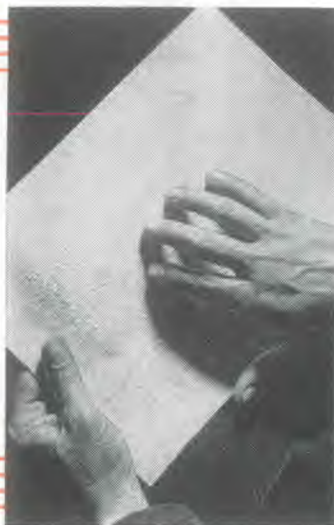
Select a publicity chairman, preferably someone with newspaper experience, and enlist the support of your local newspaper. Like charity, a good cleanup campaign begins at home. Check over the mail being sent to your children. If you find any pornographic material, send it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Washington, D.C. Be sure to include the envelopes or wrappers in which the mail was sent to your home. These wrappers are important to the postal authorities in pressing charges against the pornographic mailers.

Have a lawyer who is a member of your antismut campaign check over the local laws. They may need new teeth in order to curb the racket in your community. If your state laws need tightening, send a delegation to your capital.

Too often parents have shrunk from this fight for fear of being called blue-nosed censors, vigilantes, and squares. But this is a challenge that must be met. Every person interested in the welfare and decency of our children should join in this campaign to stop the vicious smut racket. ★★★

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

Several articles from **THESE TIMES** are brailled and become a part of the *Christian Record*, a monthly Braille magazine published by the Christian Record Benevolent Association, Inc., Box 36666, Lincoln, Nebraska, and provided free to the blind. We recommend your advising your sightless friends of this arrangement.



# The Lost Bible

ONE DAY the world awoke to find that the Book of books had disappeared. All traces of its influence had vanished.

Much of the music of the world was silenced. The mighty oratorios were no longer to be heard. The hymns expressing the hopes and fears, the longings and reverence of human hearts, had died away. Christmas and all the rejuvenating carols were gone. Many of the masterpieces were no more; others had great parts of the music missing. Libraries looked as if millions of devouring moths had descended upon the printed pages. Books of Shakespeare, Milton, Bunyan, Tennyson, Longfellow, Tolstoy, Dostoevski, and hundreds of others were well-nigh unintelligible, due to many omissions. Law books no longer made sense, for fundamental principles had been eliminated.

The Magna Charta of Britain, the Constitution of the United States, the American Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and all the great statements of liberty and human rights everywhere in the world were wiped blank except for a few commonplace words now utterly lacking in significance.

But the loss of the Book cut even deeper. Values became blurred; human life grew cheap. Men became tools to be used. Life grew drab and meaningless, and man had only himself to worship. Restraints fell off the human conscience, and all the brutal instincts of the animal in man were unleashed.

With the Bible lost, a veritable Hades had broken loose upon the earth. ★★★



## Dear Editor:

### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

EDNA A. WHITMAN  
*Greenville, Michigan*

At the present time there is a discussion going on in our daily paper as to how many recreational facilities should be provided for the young people of our city. The article entitled "Go Home" on the editorial page of the March issue is fine. Have I your permission to use it in a letter to the editor?

### HELP TO BOYS

CHARLES W. AIKEN, PRESIDENT  
Boys of America Home  
*Greenville, South Carolina*

Your publication has meant more to us than you will ever know. Please visit the home and meet these boys when you are in this area.

### SORRY, NO REPRINTS

MILDRED H. BELDEN  
*Wilmette, Illinois*

I have read the article by Mary Hunter Moore, "Will God Allow Space Travel?" in a recent issue and think it is almost inspired. I am wondering if you have made reprints of this article.

### RE: IMMORTALITY ARTICLE

W. C. ROTH  
*Allentown, Pennsylvania*

Enjoyed your February issue, especially the article by Earle Hilgert, "Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?" I heartily agree that his treatment is contrary to many religious teachings due to the fact that many teachers and translators have misunderstood and misplaced *spirit* for *soul*.

L. E. FROMM  
*Washington, D.C.*

You are to be commended for securing and publishing the book review by Earle Hilgert, of the Cullmann volume *Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?* Dr. Hilgert's evaluation is very sound, and I am glad for this publicity for the Cullmann volume.

### ARMLOAD OF MAGAZINES

NETTIE M. POLLOCK  
*Holt, Michigan*

Some generous person, anonymous, is sending us a gift subscription to THESE TIMES. Although we subscribe to an armload of magazines, secular and religious,

and belong to a book club, we are very happy to have this new-to-us magazine. We like its format and its excellent contents.

### BEST EXPLANATION OF SCRIPTURE

MRS. WOODROW BENNETT  
*Dumas, Texas*

I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed THESE TIMES. The article "After Death—What?" is just exactly what I have always believed, ever since I became a Christian and began my Bible study. Although I have been a ——— all my life, I do not agree with some things they teach. For instance, they believe once saved always saved. I believe people can fall from grace by going back into sin. I would like your opinion on that. Also, what about the use of tobacco with a Christian? Does it condemn him? Speaking of "After Death—What?" my denomination believes you go to your reward as soon as death occurs. They take the scripture of Lazarus and the rich man as an example. But the writers of the New Testament speak often of sleeping after death.

I find in this magazine the best explanation of the Scriptures I have ever read.

### CHRIST TO THE FORE

B. D.  
*Marion, Michigan*

Glory, hallelujah! That's my reaction to your April editorial. It stirs me to joy, for you are bringing Christ to the fore. The whole April issue is wonderful, but the message of your editorial rejoices me, gives me new hope for "the refreshing of the presence of God" to be poured out in abundance and *soon*.

### BOUND VOLUMES WANTED

CALVIN THIELMAN, LIBRARIAN  
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association  
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Will you please send us the bound and indexed copies of THESE TIMES for the years 1960 and 1961? Please send them to the Billy Graham Library, Montreat, North Carolina.

### TOP-NOTCH ARTICLES

E. E. KUNGEL, PASTOR  
*West Palm Beach, Florida*

I think THESE TIMES is the best I have ever seen. The articles are tops.

# The World's Most Complete Depiction of Christ's Life

**Christus Biblical Gardens, using scores of life-size Bible characters in wax, is the Smokies' newest attraction.**

**F**OR MORE than two decades an ever-increasing stream of visitors has been pouring into the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina to revel in the cloud-topping beauty that has made them the magnet of the most-visited national park in the entire United States.

For many of these Smokies visitors, no doubt, the majestic surroundings create a feeling of spiritual uplift truly

in keeping with the psalmist's words: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

Also in keeping with such inspiring and pleasing surroundings, there has come to the park headquarters town of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, a new, all-year visitor attraction regarded by many as one of earth's monumental non-denominational dedications to the highest spiritual values mankind possesses.

This major attraction is Christus Biblical Gardens, occupying a magnifi-

cent mountain-base setting near the heart of the resort town, beside the sparkling Little Pigeon River.

A stately, imposing building of native unpolished marble houses what is believed to be the world's most complete depiction of the life of Christ, using scores of human-appearing, life-size Bible characters master-crafted in wax and presented dramatically in spacious and realistic scenes of the Holy Land.

Realism marks the lifelike appearance of Bible characters as they gather about the humble manger in the impressive Nativity scene, one of ten spacious, three-dimensional dioramas to be viewed in Gatlinburg at Christus Biblical Gardens.

Phil Bopp

By **BART LEIPER**





*Above:* Christ welcomes the little children and rebukes the elders for trying to prevent them from coming to see Him in one of the scenes at Christus Biblical Gardens. *Below:* An exterior view of the gardens at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in the Smoky Mountain area.

These personages—so lifelike one almost expects them to start moving and talking—were created by the London firm of Gems, Ltd., for three generations makers of lifelike wax figures shown all over the globe. All garments were tailor-made by B. J. Simmons, noted English costume firm. Derooy Displays, of Canada, devised the spacious three-dimensional scenes, or dioramas. Christus Biblical Gardens Choir, composed of mixed voices under the direc-

tion of Dr. Cyrus Daniel, head of Vanderbilt University's music department, recorded appropriate songs to form the musical background accompanying the descriptive narration which highlights the tour through the galleries.

Unforgettable chapters from the life of Christ that are shown in realistic tableaux at the Gardens, some of them almost forty feet in width, include The Nativity, Christ in the Temple, Christ Tempted of Satan, "Behold the Lamb

of God," Sermon on the Mount, "Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me," The Last Supper, The Crucifixion, The Empty Tomb, The Ascension.

An exterior feature of unflinching interest is the six-ton block of Carrara marble located in the Fountain Garden; in it Italian sculptors have carved the heroic face they conceive to be that of the Lord. This has been accomplished in such a manner that no matter in what direction you move before it, the entire face as well as the watchful eyes seems actually to turn as if to follow your every movement.

Christus Biblical Gardens is the creation of a youthful Tennessean, Ronald S. Ligon, businessman of Nashville, now devoting a major portion of his time and energies to the operation and development of the Gardens, where extensive exterior additions are planned, including large botanical plantings.

Years of study and planning preceded the actual creation of Christus Biblical Gardens. Ligon visited numerous dedications to Christ, and his travels totaled more than eighty thousand air miles.

★★★

Only God can take a worthless, sinful life like yours and mine, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit and holy law within it, and make it a blessing to humanity.



Clyde Provonshe, Artist

# How Jesus Saves You

By  
E. C. Ward

**T**HE SLAVE trade is and always has been an ugly and degrading business. Sleek black ships out of Africa with a pitiful cargo of human flesh cowering below decks, the lash, the chain, and the filth and squalor of the slave compound are symbols of the bestiality and cruelty of which human beings are capable. But worst of all is the slave market, where one man bids against another for the body and personality of a fellow creature. Depravity and greed can reach no lower. Yet once—only once in human history—the slave market was bright with the full revelation of the love and saving power of God. Its horrors were transformed, and it became the arena, not of man's inhumanity to man, but of God's unconquerable love for the human beings He has made.

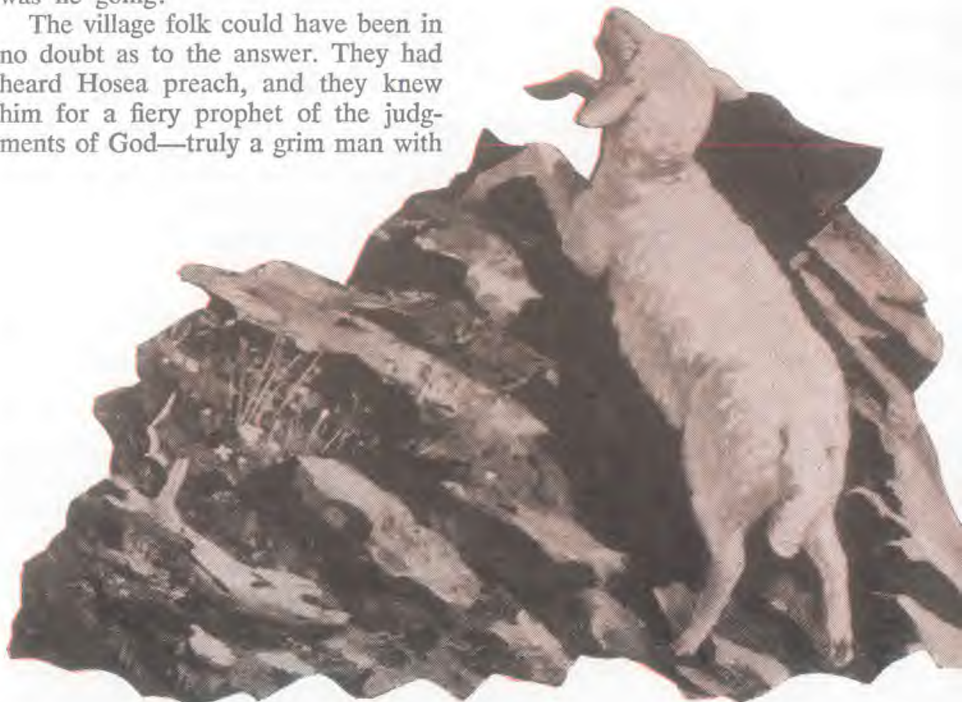
It happened some 750 years before Christ in an unknown village in the northern kingdom of Israel. A man walked through the streets toward the slave market, and the eyes of the villagers followed him as, with head erect and a look of determination on his face,

he strode forward. He was known to them all. His name, Hosea; his occupation, prophet of the Lord. He was the last man on earth who should be dealing in the slave trade and going to the slave market on that day, but up ahead on the auction block his own wife was being sold as a slave that day. Just why was he going?

The village folk could have been in no doubt as to the answer. They had heard Hosea preach, and they knew him for a fiery prophet of the judgments of God—truly a grim man with

a grim message. But there was someone lost whom he must save. Anyone, he had taught, was at liberty to sin, but he had better be ready to take the consequences; for they would inevitably follow Israel, God's people, who had repeatedly disobeyed God's Ten Commandment law. They had been as a rebellious and unfaithful wife.

Now God's patience had run out, and destruction hung over the nation like an avalanche over a mountain valley. Hosea had even gone so far as to give his children names symbolic of his message: Jezreel, to remind the people of the national crime which had been committed in that city when the whole family of King Ahab had been mur-



dered; Lo-ammi, "not my people," since God had cast aside his people and abandoned them to their own fate; Lo-ruhamah, "no mercy," because the healing springs of God's mercy were dried up and would no more nourish the life of Israel.

The rugged man who preached this message had suffered a tragedy in his own home. His wife had deserted him and his family, and had gone out to make her own way in the world. It had been no easy road. She had become a public prostitute, and now that her charms had faded, she was being sold at public auction. Her body and her future would become the property of anyone willing to pay the price.

The fate of Gomer, the prophet's wife, was a perfect illustration of Hosea's message and of Christ's ability to save the lost. She had rejected his love—as Israel had rejected the love of God. She had turned from his home to the arms of other lovers—as Israel had turned from the Lord to idols. The judgment had now fallen upon her, and she would be sold into slavery—as the judgment was about to fall upon Israel, and the nation would become the slave of a foreign conqueror. It was an exact verification of all that God had said and everything Hosea had preached. Who among the townspeople could doubt that Hosea was walking to the slave market to see his words come true, to indulge in a rather sadistic "I told you so"?

### Because of God

The whispering voices fell silent, and looks of astonishment appeared on the faces of the crowd. An unbelievable thing was happening before their eyes. Hosea, a Hebrew, a member of a race to whom the sanctity of the family is of paramount importance, was standing in the public slave market, in the presence of his neighbors and fellow townspeople, bidding for the purchase of the harlot who had dishonored him. He paid the price, half in money and half in grain, and walked back through the wondering crowd, leading his faithless wife—once more at a heavy cost in money and humiliation. Why had the prophet of judgment stepped in to save his betrayer from the consequences of her sin? The answer is both simple and profound. Hosea did what he did because of God.

During the long days after Gomer had deserted him, Hosea had re-ex-

amined his prophetic message. He came to a conclusion possible only for a greathearted man. He had been wrong in representing God as a being of anger and judgment only. He passed the history of his people in review before his mind and read a new lesson there. They had been slaves in Egypt, driven, beaten, and broken, and God had heard their cry of distress and come down to deliver and save them. In the wilderness they had built golden idols and worshiped them. They had grumbled and complained against their God. They had followed every selfish whim of the moment. But God's hand had never left them. As He had been their deliverer from slavery, so He had guided them every step of the way into their own land. This was the kind of God He really was, a God of infinite patience, tenderness, and kindness, teaching His children to walk.

Once the prophet had come to this understanding of what God is like, it became startlingly clear to him what he must do about his wife, Gomer. He must act as God would act. If God is really one who loves, delivers, and saves alive, then His servants must do the same. His new vision of the love of God compelled the prophet to save Gomer from the horror which lay before her.

The new vision demanded a new language. Hosea took a word from the common speech of his people and made it the key to the understanding of God's nature. This word appears in English translations of the Bible in a variety of ways—as "lovingkindness," "mercy," and "love." In the Revised Version it is "steadfast love." But in the end the word defies translation; we can only recognize it when we see it in life.

First of all, loving-kindness, as it is connected with salvation through Christ, is more than an emotion; it is a deed. The verbs used with it in the Bible make this clear. You *show* loving-kindness or *do* loving-kindness—you never *feel* it. Emotion is cheap. You can sit in an armchair before the fire and love all men of all races in the whole wide world, and it does not mean a thing. It may give a comfortable glow of self-righteousness, but it is in the end only self-deception and does no one any good. Loving-kindness must be expressed in action. The doing of it may take us into the filth of the slave market as it did the prophet of Israel, or it may take us to the Hill of

Golgotha on a cross as it did the Saviour of the world.

The Bible deals with, and says much about, the need that all men have for a Saviour. First, by nature "all have sinned, and come short [miss the mark] of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23.) Education, culture, racial background, and financial inheritance cannot change the fact that the so-called best of us are still sinners in the sight of God, until we by faith accept the fact that Jesus came to save the lost.

Secondly, the Bible teaches that all of man's nature was sold to sin as a result of the fall of Adam, or as Paul states, "For I know that in me . . . dwelleth no good thing." Romans 7:18. Therefore body, soul, spirit, mind, and man's morals were lost and had need of salvation, as was illustrated by the supreme act of Jesus at Calvary.

Thirdly, the Bible teaches that man's distaste, abhorrence, and even hatred, for sin will not save him from it. The drunkard may dislike both the act of and the results from his passion for drink, but he still goes back again and again. The dope addict or tobacco user may wish to break the chain of strong habit or defiling practice, but it is hopeless until strength from a higher power aids him. That ability to overcome is only from Christ, who saves the lost. The immoral man and woman, if for no other reason than to avoid the rebuke of society, may wish to break their profane habit. But they are helpless, unless help comes from a stronger source outside themselves. That source is Christ. He is our only deliverer. For He came to "save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21.) Therefore, from the slave market of inherited and cultivated sin there could be salvation in no other name or person, but in Jesus. (Acts 4:12.)

Can a person always tell exactly how this process of deliverance and salvation from sin works?

Though one may not always be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in the process of conversion and release from sinful habit and defiling practice, this does not prove him to be unconverted and not justified before God. Christ said to Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8.

Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, and which dwells in our "hearts by faith" (Ephesians 3:17), begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible upon the conscience of the recipient, its effects are clearly manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will be a positive witness to that fact.

### Words of Comfort

Driven from his home by a debauched and ungodly father, an unhappy boy found as his companions the citizens of the underworld. He knew nothing of God, for he had heard that holy name only in vile oaths. Small wonder that before he reached manhood, he was sentenced to the penitentiary for a foul crime. There he

became known as a desperate character, constantly forming plans to destroy the prison and escape. In an evil hour he made a murderous assault on a guard, and as a result was sentenced to solitary confinement.

There he seemed to become demon-possessed, cursing God and hating man. As a climax to his hostile life, tuberculosis fastened itself upon him, and the grim reaper drew near.

One day a Christian woman came to the prison. Though weakened by disease and debauched by sin, he seemed to see in her a resemblance of his mother, whom he loved and remembered. The words of this Christian worker comforted him. She told him of the Son of God, who came to save the lost and who even yet could reach down and save him. She knelt down and prayed for him, asking God to convert him.

The Holy Spirit touched his heart. Conviction of sin was followed swiftly by repentance. He began a new life.

His heart became as tender as that of a child. All were amazed at the transformation. Hardened criminals stood by his bed and wept as he told how a man could climb from the depths through faith in God. He died triumphant, a witness to the saving power of a merciful Saviour.

This man understood what David meant when he sang, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Psalm 40:1-3.

There wells up in the heart of such an individual the extreme desire to express love to Jesus. The soul cries out, "Lord, how wilt Thou have me love Thee?" And the answer comes ringing back from the courts of glory, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. (See Exodus 20:1-17.) One finds following Christ into baptism a pleasure. (Romans 6:1-4; Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 19:1-5.)

The mystery of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27) may puzzle old friends, bewilder former associates, and perplex even demons of hell, but the divine relationship lost in Eden is restored by Christ when we permit ourselves to be "led by the Spirit of God." It is then while yet on earth that we become "the sons of God." (Romans 8:14.) We gladly "come out" and "separate" from the "unclean" that we may be "sons and daughters" of "the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:17, 18.)

Is all this true? Is it all possible, that Jesus can save the lost, you may ask? Christ answers, Yes!

Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem upon it, and make it worth \$6,000—that's genius. Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth a million dollars—that's capital. Henry Ford could take a piece of metal worth only \$150 and make it worth \$1,500—that's skill. Landseer, the artist, could take a fifty-cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it, and make it worth \$1,000—that's art. But only God can take a worthless, sinful life like yours and mine, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit and holy law within it, and make it a blessing to humanity—that's salvation. ★★★

## STEP BY STEP

*"As thou goest, step by step, I will open up  
the way before thee."*

Child of my love, fear not the unknown morrow,  
Dread not the new demand life makes of thee;  
Thy ignorance doth hold no cause for sorrow,  
Since what thou knowest not is known to Me.

Thou canst not see today the hidden meaning  
Of My command, but thou the light shalt gain.  
Walk on in faith, upon My promise leaning,  
And as thou goest all shall be made plain.

One step thou seest—then go forward boldly;  
One step is far enough for faith to see;  
Take that, and thy next duty shall be told thee,  
For step by step thy Lord is leading thee.

Stand not in fear, thy adversaries counting;  
Dare every peril; scorn to disobey;  
Thou shalt march on, all obstacles surmounting,  
For I, the Strong, will open up the way.

Wherefore go gladly to the task assigned thee;  
Having My promise, needing nothing more  
Than just to know, where'er the future find thee,  
In all thy journeying I go before.

—Author Unknown.



"A word  
fitly spoken  
is like  
apples of gold  
in pictures  
of silver."

*Proverbs 25:11.*

# "Apples of Gold"

## "CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY"

Of all the ways He shows Himself, the dearest  
Is when Christ lives in those we're living nearest.  
He comes again to us in human guise  
Who knows the dimness of our earthbound eyes.  
Sensing how doubts beset our finest choices,  
He speaks to us in quiet earthly voices;  
He sees how quick we are to go astray,  
And uses friends to help us find the way.  
Oh, He was lonely once, He understands  
How dear the loving help of human hands.

—*Wheaton Alumni News*,  
From Sue Vestal.

**A soft answer will prevent  
a lot of hard feeling.**

—*W. S. Bowden.*

## WHEN READING THE BIBLE

The Bible, God's Holy Word, is not to be read like any other book, or like a newspaper or magazine. Too many blessings are lost unless it is read as a personal message from God Himself. Therefore, when truth is revealed, believe it; when a prayer is recorded, appropriate it for yourself; when a promise is given, receive it; when sin is pointed out, shun it; when an example of holiness is presented, follow it in faith; and when Christ is portrayed in the matchless beauty and completeness of His Person and work, adore Him.

Not all great exhibitions of Christian devotion are to be found in the distant past. The following is a 1951 diary entry by James Elliot who, in January, 1956, was killed while attempting to bring the Christian message to the Auca Indians in Ecuador.

I walked out to the hill just now. It is exalting, delicious. To stand embraced by the shadows of a friendly tree with the wind tugging at your coat tail and the heavens hailing your heart—to gaze and glory and give oneself again to God, what more could a man ask? Oh, the fullness, pleasure, sheer excitement of knowing God on earth. I care not if I never raise my voice again for Him, if only I may love Him, please Him. Perhaps in mercy He shall give me a host of children that I may lead them through the vast star fields to explore His delicacies whose finger ends set them to burning. But if not, if only I may see Him, smell His garments and smile into my Lover's eyes—ah then, not stars nor children shall matter, only Himself.

—"Excerpts From Jim Elliot's Diary,"  
*His Magazine*, April, 1956, p. 9.

## PRAYER OF THE OBSCURE

Though there is naught of fame  
The way I trod,  
The world is mine while yet I may  
Stretch forth my hand from day to day,  
To touch some brow deep furrowed with despair,  
And with my fingers place a blessing there.

The world is mine while yet there be  
One lilting bit of melody  
That I may pour into some heart  
Grown sad and still, and feel it start  
With joy, because I came.

Dear God, I cannot leave my mark on every soul,  
But grant, I pray Thee, this my radiant goal;  
That some may learn to laugh, and some to pray,  
Because, one shining hour, I passed this way.

—*Mildred Meeker.*  
From Betty Gunter.

*What is your favorite quotation or bit of verse? Include source, author, and your name. No original material used.*

# The Ten Commandments

By H. M. Tippet

*The third commandment:*

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

THE PLAYWRIGHT Eugene O'Neill once described our modern age as "a generation with a scant view of history but an abundance of irreverence." In the area of sacred history—God's dealing with men and nations—this loss of perspective is eminently true. With a dim consciousness of God, life loses its sanctities and "anything goes." Morals have no norm other than "Don't get caught," and virtue and fidelity are elective. When life's relationships become blurred through loss of faith in God and contempt for His counsel, people have a fragmentary concept of what is sacred. The indictment of Israel by the prophet Hosea may be aptly applied to our times: "There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood." Hosea 4:1, 2.

With the loss of any consciousness of God, irreverence for His name follows, and leads to a contempt for it and for the attributes of His character. The names of the Deity are then associated with vile epithets for emphasis or for no purpose at all except a swaggering braggadocio. That profanity is a foul blot in modern business, industrial, and certain social circles cannot be denied. That it is the most common badge of men without faith and women without virtue needs little argument. That it reveals not only poverty of speech but also shallowness of spirit is the judgment of the cultured mind. That it identifies the swearer with the illiterate, the unspeakably vulgar, the thug, and the hoodlum, every discerning person must concede. But strange as it may seem—

even to many religious people—there is much more involved in the breaking of the third commandment than a mandate against profane swearing and blasphemy of God's name.

Probably no one of the moral precepts of the Ten Commandments is more easily recited than the one which reads, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7. Yet no other of the ten has deeper implications, for in it is infolded the broad scope of God's deity found in Isaiah's prophecy of the Christ: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The entire Christian dynamic is wrapped up in these descriptive epithets, for the ultimate in wonder is the beauty of holiness, the ultimate in truth is God's counsel, the ultimate in power is God's might, the ultimate in love is God's Fatherhood, the ultimate in service is Christ's example as Prince of peace. To profane the names of Deity, then, whether of God or of His Son, is to break the third commandment, for Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." John 10:30.

Reverence for God's name has been the outstanding aspect of piety in every age. Abraham, on his memorable mis-

sionary journey out of Ur of the Chaldees, boldly built an altar in the midst of the Canaanites "and called upon the name of the Lord." (Genesis 12:8.) David the psalmist sang to God's praise, "His name shall endure for ever." Psalm 72:17. Of thousands of man-made things it has been the boast, "This shall stand as long as time shall last." Permanency has been the secret hope of kings for their empires, of military generals for the glory of their conquests, and of geniuses for their works. It was the ambition of those who built the Tower of Babel on the plains of Shinar, but its ruined ziggurat mocks their folly to this day. The Pharaohs of Egypt heaped up their pyramids as perpetual memorials to their name, but decay and erosion have done their work, and the musty steeps of Gizeh and its lesser mounds mutely speak of the presumption and vanity of their builders.

The Levitical choirs sang their antiphonal praises before the temple in Jerusalem: "He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered." "Holy and reverend is his name." Psalm 111:4, 9. And after thirty centuries, today in perpetual tribute to God's ways and works, ten times ten thousand steeple bells summon the faithful to worship weekly in His sanctuaries, while in tragic contrast only the howling jackal

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

and laughing hyena break the dusty silence of the buried cities of Persia and the rubble of the palaces of kings who defied the God of heaven.

The last of the Old Testament prophets declared that God's name would be held in perpetual memory: "From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 1:11. In fulfillment of that promise, witness the solemn Te Deums of great choirs in metropolitan cathedrals around the

globe, the joyous note of song and vesper hymn in thousands of crossroads chapels in Christian lands, and the tuneful praises of pidgin English in the grass-thatched mission huts of steaming jungles proclaiming their conviction, "Me b'long God."

Let us briefly review the series of events at Sinai after Moses broke the first tables of stone in his grief over the idolatry of Israel. Although God had delivered His people from the wrath of Pharaoh, by signs and wonders leading them through the Red Sea to safety; although out of the smoking wonder of Sinai He had spoken to them His commandments, one of which

forbade idol worship, here they were bowing down in degrading rites before a molten image of the gods they had known in Egypt.

Moses pleaded in anguish for his people, even offering that he himself might be accursed if they could be saved (Exodus 32:31, 32), but God's displeasure could not be stayed, and three thousand lost their lives as a result of their depravity and disobedience. Then in mercy and deference to Moses' plea God called him again into the mount for a rewriting of the law. Greatly shaken by the events on the plain, Moses wanted assurance that he was indeed being led by the Holy One whose voice he had heard in the mount. "Show me thy glory," he cried.

In response God promised, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee." Exodus 33:19. Then because no man could see the glory of God and live, Moses was hidden in a cleft of the rock as God descended in a cloud and proclaimed the attributes of His name: "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6, 7. Here was a virtual repetition of the warning and promise that had been given in the second commandment concerning false worship, a terrible reminder of which Moses had seen in the wrath of God on Israel.

In this re-emphasis upon the divine nature of the moral precepts, Moses was given such a revelation of God's character as must have been the stay of his faith in all the forty subsequent years of wilderness wanderings. God had identified Himself at the burning bush as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great "I AM," the self-existent One. This was the name God told Moses he must use when presenting his credentials to Pharaoh. The gods of the Egyptians were many. The plea for

Clyde Provonsa, Artist



The contrast between the Pharisee and the publican illustrates the importance of giving true honor to the name of God. The Lord is not honored by outward display or pompous utterances, but by a sincere, repentant heart.

Israel's deliverance could not be made in the name of any of these man-made deities. So to impress upon Moses, and on Pharaoh too, the mandate of Heaven for Israel's deliverance, God used His all-inclusive name, meaning, "I am and was and am He that shall be."

It was as though God had said to Moses, "Do you think of Me as Creator, the great First Cause? Do you conceive of Me as the all-wise, all-powerful One? Do you you concede my pre-existence, omnipresence, and eternal nature? All these I am and more, for I cannot be fully comprehended in the language of men. But here are My attributes—merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth." Here in a new transcendence of meaning, the Fatherhood of God shone through the gloom, revealing a benevolence and loving-kindness that was pledged to follow His people all the way to Calvary.

With what mingled emotions, then, with what new reverence for God and penitence for His people, with what greater depth of understanding, must Moses have watched the second writing of the third commandment on the tables of stone: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7. Here was the third part of the trilogy of worship, the first commandment pointing to the source of worship, the second precept to the singleness of worship, and the third to the sincerity of worship.

Any insincerity in worship, therefore, is taking God's name in vain. A pretentious piety that covers sin in the heart is breaking the third commandment. In fact, of all the commandments, none seems to strike more directly at hypocrisy than this one. If that be so, then we may conclude that although it knows no exemptions, this moral precept was perhaps not directed so much against the frustrated golfer, the loose-mouthed slattern, the bibulous sailor, the inebriate trooper, the obscene rowdy, as it was against the pious fraud, the religious dilettante, the careless, irreverent churchman. Any religiosity that passes for true faith and devotion is an offense to God. It is against all such insincerity that the third command inveighs.

Reverence for God is hardly to be expected of those who do not confess to know Him as God, or as One having

anything to do with the affairs of men. Out of respect for those who do reverence the holy name, however, decent citizens often refrain from profaning God's name in their presence. Certainly every effort to keep social and business conversation from irreverent epithets should be encouraged. For there is a positive and rewarding side to the observance of the third commandment, as when devout people use the name of God or Christ in prayer. Its influence in that connection is so remarkable that when these holy names are used in reverence, angels seem to draw near, rough men doff their caps, and sometimes even brush away a tear.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." The emphasis here is not so much one of negative restraint as it is of being alert to the tremendous power and glory there is in it for the believer. Jesus taught His disciples to use God's name as the por-

Do you have problems, burdens, and perplexities that seem overwhelming? If you drop us a line, we shall be glad to join you in praying to our heavenly Father. Address all correspondence: Prayer Circle, Box 59, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

tal to prayer: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:9. So careful was Jesus to give glory to God when He performed His miracles that the wondering multitude did not praise the Saviour, but "glorified the God of Israel." (Matthew 15: 31.)

Reverence for God comprehends more than folded hands, a bowed head, and bended knees. Unless the heart is involved, we are out of harmony with the great dynamic of the third commandment. Walking softly in the sanctuary, singing alleluias in the choir, and partaking of the emblems of Communion are all commendable religious exercises, and if done with conscious worship of God are accepted by Him. But if these be done with an impenitent heart and, like the Pharisees, only to be seen of men, or because it is a tribute to respectability, the commandment declares that such a person is not free

from guilt, for "lying lips are abomination to the Lord." (Proverbs 12:22.)

This third commandment is the first of the ten that gives force to our criminal laws against perjury. Some of the most severe penalties of our statute books are directed against those who lie under oath. In the light of the deeper spiritual implications set forth here, God's name is not profaned when a witness in court makes a solemn vow under God that what he is telling is the truth, if indeed his story is true. But to forswear one's self to a lie in the name of the Deity brings not only civil punishment but also the frown and displeasure of Heaven. Paul in writing to the Galatians made the solemn oath, "Before God, I lie not." Galatians 1: 20. In his charge to Timothy, he wrote, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . preach the word." 2 Timothy 4:1. These were reverent uses of God's holy name.

In contrast to the solemn use of God's name in civil courts is the counsel of Christ in His Sermon on the Mount when He severely condemned the common swearing of His day. He was obviously not talking about court oaths, but about the light and trifling use of God's name in daily affairs. "Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay." In His day it was common to swear by heaven, by things on earth, by Jerusalem, by one's head; we have its counterpart today even on the part of Christians who use such expressions as "Honest to goodness," "For goodness' sake," "Good gracious," "Mercy me," "Good heavens," and many others worse than these that are only corruptions of the names of Deity. Someone has called these "subtle profanity." These certainly are a use of the attributes of and references to God "in vain." The only emphasis He Himself used was, "Verily, verily."

Obedience to the third commandment carries its own reward. The secret of that blessing may be illustrated by watching a great baritone vocalizing down the chromatic scale until his voice reaches the same pitch as a drinking glass on the table. It, too, then begins to vibrate with sound. So, if the believing heart is in tune with God's way and His will as revealed in the Scriptures of truth, the life will be in harmony with the principles and mandates of heaven. "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3:17. ★★★

# A FAITH FOR TODAY-3



William A. Fagal



## Heaven Is My Home

**Streets of gold, walls of jasper, delectable food, excellent climate—these are just heaven's fringe benefits. Learn now what heaven really has to offer you.**

**T**HERE is no such thing as heaven. When you are dead, you're dead, and that's all!" Spoken as it was to those who mourned a very recent loss, it was a cruel and heartless thing to say. Though fifteen years have passed, I have never forgotten it, for it was spoken within my own family as some of us talked of the hope which we Christians have in God and heaven. Afterward, when we in the family who believed were alone again, we affirmed

anew how glad we were that we had faith in the hereafter.

What has caused many people to reject the entire idea of heaven? Why

do some persist in scoffingly referring to it as "pie in the sky by and by"? My relative's declaration of unbelief made me ask myself this question again and again. Could it be that perhaps we who believe have been somewhat out of touch with modern life and the needs of twentieth-century humanity in our

Enjoyable family scenes on this earth are only a foretaste of the greater pleasure that will come with association in God's great family in heaven.



emphasis on certain aspects of heaven? Let me show you what I mean.

A number of years ago I heard an excellent preacher discuss the hereafter before a sizable audience which had gathered in a large theater. He read verses from the Bible which speak of heaven's Holy City having streets of gold and walls of jasper, and told how appealing that sounded to him. I recall that he spent quite some time in describing the grapes which he felt will be grown there, asserting that they will be huge, and the most delicious and palatable we have ever eaten. He read other verses from the Bible which seem to indicate that the climate of heaven will be just right, with no bitter winter cold or exhausting summer heat. He was very eloquent in his description of the music of heaven, and stated that he intended to spend the first thousand years of eternity in studying music, concentrating especially on the harp, which he suggested was the instrument of heaven. It was all very real to him, and I was favorably impressed by his sincerity.

When it was all over, I tried to analyze my own reactions. I had no desire to dispute any of his points, but I had to admit that he had not really awakened in my heart a favorable and an affirmative response. I decided the reason and reverently but realistically want to share my conclusions with you. Streets of gold would be nice to have, I presume, but I have never really missed them or even longed for them, for in my neighborhood we are getting along nicely with streets made of plain black asphalt. And I have never felt a basic need in my soul for walls of jasper around my town. In fact, I am just as glad not to have any walls at all. In the little suburban Long Island community where I live, there is not even a sign indicating when one leaves one town and enters the next. A wall, no matter how lovely, would not be a basic modern need of a man who does not even feel the need of a definitive sign on the town line.

### Life Is More Than Climate

And speaking about luscious grapes and a salubrious climate, I remember a long-distance telephone call which a number of years ago brought me a tempting invitation to pastor a fine and influential church. My inquiry regarding opportunities to pursue some of my particular special interests in

church work met with no response. However, as a compensation, I was told that accepting this invitation would result in my living in the area of the finest climate in the United States, with the very finest of fresh fruits and vegetables constantly at our disposal.

No opportunities to work in the area of service I loved best—but a fine climate! I tried not to show it, but inwardly I felt a bit insulted! Work *unhappily* in the best climate available? Not me! I would sooner take the worst weather in the world if need be (not that Long Island has it) and all the handicaps of eating out of cans (I'm not doing that, either) if my work can offer me a challenge and my daily life can be happy.

Life is more than climate. Jesus Himself recognized this same principle when He said, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." And of course it doesn't! Streets of gold, walls of jasper, delectable grapes, an excellent climate, are all fine—but not enough in themselves to make me want to leave the relative happiness which I have here and now. And at the risk of being different, I will admit that as yet I have developed no real burden to learn to play a harp. Someday I might feel different about that; but now it does not meet any basic longing or need of my life.

Perhaps others have reacted similarly when only these aspects of heaven have been presented, and have even rejected the whole idea of that kind of heaven. The truth of the matter, as I see it, is that these things are just the additional fringe benefits, if you please, of the life which the Bible describes for us in the hereafter which God is preparing for the saved of earth. Now let us examine what the Bible teaches about that life.

Very few individuals have ever claimed to have actually seen heaven, but the prophet John tells us that God gave him this privilege. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth." Revelation 21:1. What does this man who saw into heaven itself have to say about it? What is his first response and comment regarding it? "There was no more sea." A strange first reaction indeed—until you think about it. And then it becomes exceedingly meaningful. For John had been banished to the desolate and barren Isle of Patmos, where he lived out his remaining lonely years in exile and solitude. Undoubt-



Artists' conceptions of heaven are entirely in those who love Him. Surely the pleasures bring that affirmative response God wishes

edly, on many occasions he watched the restless waves lap monotonously against the shoreline of the island and looked out longingly as far as his aging eyes could see toward his homeland. That was where his loved ones were—on the other side of the sea.

He was separated from everything and everyone that could make life happy for him—by the sea. The first thing he noticed about heaven, therefore, was the absence of the sea. He observed joyfully not the gold and the jasper, but the fact that in heaven there is nothing to separate a man from his loved ones and from his work and from



Robert T. Ayres, Artist

to portray the things God has prepared for love has in mind for His children ought to when He says, "My son, give me thine heart."

the opportunities that bring genuine daily happiness to him. In heaven nothing prevents a man from achieving absolute fulfillment, and that begins to mean something to me too. This simple observation of John gives me something with which I can identify. Death is a great sea that separates loved ones, even at the present. So do misunderstanding, wasted opportunities, mistakes in judgment. I can respond affirmatively to the idea that in heaven there will be "no more sea."

John continued: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, nei-

ther sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. That hits "pay dirt" with me! These are the things that rob all life, including mine, of its joy and beauty. These are the constant and persistent enemies of all that is worthwhile for all of us. I respond wholeheartedly and completely to the idea that they will be done away with forever in the future life which God desires me to have.

Most of what the Bible says about heaven is written in the negative, telling us strongly and encouragingly about what will *not* be there—no more death, sorrow, crying, pain. This used to disturb me somewhat. Good pedagogy would dictate that such a description should be presented in the affirmative. Why this emphasis, then, upon the negative?

Perhaps God faced certain unsolvable problems and serious limitations in describing heaven to us in any other terms. How would you describe a warm island in the tropical Caribbean to an Eskimo who had had few opportunities to travel? You might begin by telling him that islands in the sun have palm trees. But what would this mean to a man who had scarcely seen any kind of tree? You might describe the golden sands of the beaches, washed constantly by the deep blue warm waters of the beautiful ocean, but what would this mean to a man whose world consists mostly of frozen waters?

Before long, in spite of yourself, you would be drawing on the negative, perhaps saying something like this: "Caribbean islands have no polar bears, no freezing temperatures, no ice, no snow, no need for trapping wild beasts to secure warm fur garments." Do you see the direction you would be forced to take by the Eskimo's lack of understanding regarding the tropics? Even greater is the problem faced by God in describing heaven for us. He has told us: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." We have nothing to compare to it.

Much of the present-day emphasis on heaven has stressed the idea of *rest*. To some this may sound most inviting—perhaps to the aged or the chronically ill or those especially weary because of unusual manual labor. But frankly, this does not sound especially attractive to me. I might like a few days of re-

laxation and rest when I first get to heaven, but I am the kind of individual who can hardly stand two weeks of vacation spent in one place with nothing to do but "rest." In a very short time that is not enjoyable for me any more. What would I ever do with the ceaseless ages of all eternity on my hands? I am glad that God has planned something different from that.

Instead of sitting about in everlasting relaxed inactivity, the Bible pictures a fruitful life for those who ultimately reach heaven. "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them." Isaiah 65:21-23. I can engage in an endless variety of satisfying labor which will not be done in vain. And no trouble! I can stand an eternity of freedom from trouble!

### Heaven Fits My Needs

All God's creation will be restored to the peace and harmony that He intended for it in the beginning. Even the animal kingdom will show the tranquility, the lack of hostility and aggressiveness, which God originally intended for His whole creation. "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:25. I respond to a world and a life like that.

I make no apologies for my belief in heaven. The place described in God's Word promises me just the kind of life I have always wanted to live. And God assures me I will be happy—happy forever, every day and every hour of my life. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy." Isaiah 65:17, 18. Heaven completely fits my basic needs. It sounds like *my* country. Its people sound like *my* people. Because of this I can feel with certainty that "heaven is my home."

If everyone knew what heaven is

really like, would not each desire a place there too? It would seem so. There is room enough for *all*. God has made provision for every single individual who desires a place in His eternal kingdom. "For 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. Christ's death on the cross has paid the price for every one of us. We may have everlasting life through Him if we accept the blood shed for us on Calvary. Then as we go through life, we will want to be obedient to the principles which our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, have outlined for us in God's Word, the Bible. This obedience will call for a deliberate shunning of some of the so-called pleasures of the world. In this sense it will cost us something. But without doubt, when we finally get on the other side, we will all agree that heaven is cheap enough.

And so I look forward confidently to the future. I recognize there are many things about the future life that

## HEAVEN IS MY HOME--*A Summary*

1. What man actually saw heaven? Revelation 21:1.
2. What was this man's reaction to that which he saw? Revelation 21; 22.
3. Will heaven be a place where man can use his creativity? Isaiah 65:21-23.
4. Will there be animals in heaven? Verse 25.
5. Will heaven be a place of supreme happiness? Verses 17, 18.
6. How can I be assured of a place there? John 3:16; Revelation 22:14.
7. Will the occupants of heaven see the face of God? Revelation 22:4. Will they see the outstanding personalities of the Bible? Luke 13:28, 29.
8. Will everyone be admitted to heaven? Malachi 4:1; Revelation 21:27.
9. Is it possible fully to comprehend the joyous provisions God has made for the inheritance of His children? Isaiah 64:4.
10. Who occupies the heavenly city besides the saints? Revelation 21:3.



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I do not know and cannot understand, and they may never be made plain to me until I finally get there. But I have no fear about these things. Although I do not know all, I have the assurance that God does. He has made the plans for me, and I can safely trust in Him.

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"I said to the man who stood at the gate: . . . 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'"—M. L. Haskins. With my hand in the hand of God, I walk happily through life, looking forward to heaven, my home. Will you join me? ★★★



By ARCH A O. DART

### A MEAN STEPFATHER

**QUESTION:** *I am a girl fourteen years old. A few months ago my mother married a man who is mean to us children. He yells at my younger brothers and tries to boss me around, but I won't stand for it. When he sees that I pay no attention to him, it makes him angry, and he won't speak to me for a week. He doesn't want my mother to give me money for clothes. He makes fun of the way I comb my hair and ridicules my boy friends. Everything I do is wrong. What can I do? Please help me.*

**ANSWER:** Indeed I am very sorry to hear of your unhappy home life. But this situation need not discourage you. In fact, it may prove to be a blessing in disguise. One of the major lessons every teen-ager has to learn is how to get along with adults as an adult. Heretofore you got along with adults as a child, but now you are growing into womanhood and should learn how to get along with men and women as an adult. The early teen-age is the ideal time to learn this art. As you have already observed, some people are easy to live with, and others are not. Now if during your teen age everyone around you is easy, you might not learn the lessons you will need later in life. But if you come in contact with one or two adults who are very difficult to understand, and if you learn how to get along with them, you will have learned one of the most valuable lessons of life.

A teen-age girl's attitude toward her father is very likely to be her attitude toward her husband. If you build up a resentment against your father (or

the one who is substituting for your father), you will find it easy to build up a resentment against your husband later in life. Another thing: the kind of attitude you have toward someone and the way you treat that person usually is the attitude he will have toward you and the way he will treat you. If you frown at a person, he is likely to frown right back at you. If you smile, he is likely to smile. If you talk disrespectfully to him, he is likely to use sharp words in talking to you. If you act stubborn and oppose his every wish and desire, he is likely to do the same with you. Especially is this true with adults and teen-agers.

When a teen-ager shows an interest in an adult and desires to make him happy, he is far more likely to take an interest in that teen-ager. Why not do a little adult observing on this stepfather of yours? Notice how he acts when he comes home from a hard day's work and finds no one glad to see him. He senses that he is not wanted. If he speaks to anyone, he is ignored or answered roughly. See how he reacts and notice the way he talks to people. Then on another day notice how he acts when everyone seems glad to see him. Someone runs to open the door for him, and he is met with a smile and a cheerful greeting. Some of his wants are even anticipated. A glass of water is brought to him without his asking for it. He is handed the paper to read. Notice how he acts now, and what he says to people. It is very hard for the most stubborn person to be cross with this kind of treatment.

When he sees that you appreciate

the kindness he shows your mother, and that you are glad you can go to him for counsel with some of your problems, he is more than likely to begin to treat you as an adult instead of as a child. And you will have learned a most valuable lesson.

### ALL RIGHT TO SMOKE?

**QUESTION:** *Is it all right for a girl to smoke?*

**ANSWER:** If you are asking whether a girl has as much right to smoke as a boy, the answer is Yes. She has as much right to lung cancer and other diseases as anyone else. But who wants to smoke? There isn't anything about smoking that sweetens the breath, gives a rosy tint to the face, or a sparkle to the eye. Smokers have foul breath, sallow complexion, and languid eyes.

Then, pray tell, why does anyone smoke? The answer is, They want to be like everyone else. They see others smoking. They read the appealing commercial ads, and not wishing to be thought a "square" or odd, they start the habit. Few indeed would ever touch the stuff if others did not use it. Hundreds and thousands of intelligent people who innocently formed the habit in childhood and youth have given up the use of tobacco as soon as they realized what it was doing to them. There are nineteen different poisons in tobacco. No wonder the bodies of the users are weakened and often destroyed. The girl who wishes to be lovely and graceful in body, sweet and charming in personality, will never pollute her lips with tobacco. ★★★



Mrs. Ellen G. White

**S**HAKESPEARE, with keen insight, placed in the mouth of Iago this thought-provoking description of the influence that Cassio had upon Iago's thinking: "He hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly." In a sense, that is the distinctive influence that Christ has upon every human being who will seriously study His marvelous life. This is a wonderful service that Jesus renders each dedicated disciple who will keep his eyes focused on Christ. There is a little chorus that partially describes it:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace."

A vision of Christ makes us cry out with Isaiah, "Woe is me! . . . for mine eyes have seen . . . the Lord." Isaiah 6:5. Christ never lets a Christian become satisfied with himself or his achievements. One writer exclaimed: "Sad is the day for any man when he becomes content with the things he is thinking or the deeds he is doing." Bishop Gerald Kennedy of the Methodist Church put it this way: "Christianity never lets a man settle down." How true this is. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18.

It seems that Christ desires to disclose new and wider vistas to us every day. He wishes to unfold new visions before the eager eyes of all His followers. As long as we behold Christ, we can never let our horizon become our boundary. When we behold "the King in His beauty," we soon see the land "of far distances." Yes, along with the *vision of the king* comes the *vision of the continents*.

Christ points us to a path of continual progress, ever onward and upward. In the words of an inspired writer: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there

## THE MOST

*Fourth in a series of pen  
portraits by grateful  
writers who feel eternally indebted  
to those who have most beautifully  
exalted Christ in word and deed.*

is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, pp. 18, 19.

When I first read those words as a lad in my teens, I seemed to feel that Christ was standing upon some lofty eminence and was beckoning me with these reassuring words: "Come up

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

higher, higher still. Come up to higher levels of thinking and living." I had heard the call of Christ in my youth, and since I responded to that call, He has completely transformed my life.

In view of this amazing influence of Jesus upon my life, I can never cease to thank God for everyone who has given me a new glimpse or a clearer vision of Christ. Someone has said, "I am a part of every man I have ever met." Through the influence of their books we may also be a part of many men and women whom we have *never* met. We have read interesting eulogies by various authors about "The Greatest Character I Have Ever Met," or "The Most Unforgettable Character I Have Ever Met." As I write this present tribute to a great Christian leader and author, it could carry this subtitle: "The Greatest Character I *Never* Met." Actually I

have felt after their journey to Emmaus, when they cried out, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32.

This wonderful book which altered the course of my life was *Christ's Object Lessons*. It was a book of 421 pages, written by Ellen G. White. I did not know the author, but as I read the book, it unfolded Christ's parables with such beauty and charm that I was held spellbound. I was fascinated by the simplicity of the language and the earnestness of every appeal to accept Christ as the Saviour of the world. His philosophy of life was made very clear. With compelling power I was drawn to Jesus. I accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour. I joined the Methodist church in my home town and was soon

*Lessons* and received perennial inspiration from the book. Later I was told that its author was a Seventh-day Adventist. I was shocked at this news. I could not understand or believe it, because I had been told that Seventh-day Adventists did not believe in Christ and that "they keep Saturday for Sunday, so they must be Jews." However, I knew from my own reading and study that Ellen G. White *did* believe in Jesus. Her writings had led me to Christ!

I was determined to find out the truth about all these statements. I was eager to secure every book written by Ellen G. White that I could find. I soon discovered that she was the author of many other books. It was not long before I was the proud owner of some of these, such as *Education*, *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, *Ministry of Healing*, and *The Great Controversy*

# IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE

By Adlai Albert Esteb

never met the person who painted for me my clearest picture of Christ and extended to me such a heart-warming and heart-moving introduction to Jesus that I could not resist the appeal.

Many others, including my mother, had told me about Jesus. And I thank every one of them for the part each played in directing my youthful feet on the Christian pathway. But it was a book that finally captured my attention. My imagination was fired as I read. I felt like the disciples of old must



teaching a Sunday School class of boys my own age. As a result, it was not long before I overheard one of these boys say to another on the public school playground, "Let's not swear any more; here comes Adlai." I was gladdened to know that my influence was beginning to help my fellowmen.

I continued to read *Christ's Object*

*Between Christ and Satan*. I found that these books rang just as true to Christ and were just as clear and beautiful as *Christ's Object Lessons*. However, I soon discovered that many other important Christian doctrines—long-forgotten truths of the Bible—were presented with the same simplicity, clarity, and persuasive power. It was a happy day for me when I made my decision to embrace these great Bible truths, and I was baptized by immersion, the same method by which Jesus was baptized. Immediately life took on new meaning for me.

By the time I graduated from high school in Salem, Oregon, I had made my decision to give my life to the Christian ministry. I had read the book *Education* about this time. I was one of three students who gave speeches at our graduation exercises in the Armory in 1919. My talk was largely inspired by what I had read in that wonderful book, *Education*, and I quoted some of the great passages from it.

After our student speeches, one of

the distinguished guests on the platform arose. He was Dr. Carl Gregg Doney, president of Willamette University. He presented two of us with scholarships to the university. I was surprised but grateful for the honor and thanked Dr. Doney. However, I never used the scholarship, for I had already decided to become a literature evangelist and attempt to earn a scholarship to Walla Walla College, a Seventh-day Adventist school, where I would prepare for the gospel ministry. With God's rich blessings I earned my scholarship each summer.

Through my college years I continued to study the writings of Ellen G. White. My respect and admiration for her literary achievements grew. I marveled how God used her pen to unfold the truths of the Scriptures with such clarity and power. I discovered many other books by the same author, a stack nearly as high as my head. Since those days I have made the Bible and her writings my constant companions. After four decades in the gospel ministry I can say that the luminous pages of Ellen G. White's books have lost none of their luster. On all my travels around the world I always take my Bible and at least two of Mrs. White's books with me on every trip. These books always lead me to a fresh appreciation of Christ and of His Word. I have read my Bible through forty-one times and have memorized many inspiring passages from the beautiful writings of God's humble servant.

Christ gave the church a dependable yardstick by which we may measure the merits and worth of a human being. He said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." When I measure Ellen G. White by the fruits of her life and labors, I stand amazed at the overwhelming evidence of the greatness of this noble Christian writer and church leader. Those who knew her, praised her for her humility, sincerity, and beautiful Christian character.

Ellen G. White, through her writings as well as her personal influence, gave counsel which brought guidance to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and helped to build up the organization, which now is established in most of the countries of the world. Her field of writing included nearly every area of church activities. She wrote her books of counsel to teachers, preachers, doctors, editors, literature evangelists, nutritionists, institu-



By  
PHYLLIS LAW

## Just Suppose

A question burns within my heart  
I dare not ask in prose.  
I'll state it here in rhyming words  
And call it "Just Suppose."

Now just suppose you go to church  
And speak to God in prayer;  
Do you invite Him home with you,  
Or do you leave Him there?

Suppose instead of being near  
To listen when you speak;  
Suppose He chose to hear your prayers  
One hour, once a week.

Suppose beyond this veil of life  
His kingdom you would seek;  
Suppose He tells you you're allowed  
In heaven once a week.

tional and administrative leaders, and many others, with the same frankness, the same earnestness and conviction, with which she wrote on general subjects of temperance, religion, or the home.

Indeed, one historian, after reviewing her activities and her influence as an organizer, went on to say: "This remarkable woman, also, though almost entirely self-educated, has written and published more books and in more languages, which circulate to a greater extent than the written works of any woman of history."—George Wharton James, *California—Romantic and Beautiful*, pp. 319, 320.

After her death in 1915 at Elmhaven, the following tribute to her appeared in the *St. Helena, California, Star*, July 23, 1915: "By the death of Mrs. Ellen G. White, a noted religious leader has been called to her reward. Mrs. White was probably one of the best known women in the world. She had traveled extensively, had lectured to large audiences in many countries, and her writings had been published in various languages carrying to people

of nearly all tongues the message she felt called upon by God to deliver.

"The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by all. Though of limited education, for the greater part of her long life in poor health, she never faltered, but for seventy-two years carried and preached the message of Jesus Christ, as understood by her, to the furthestmost corners of the earth. She was a humble, devout disciple of Christ and ever went about doing good. Her writings have been published in books, papers, and periodicals, and from her prolific pen have come writings on many religious topics. She was revered by all the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and honored and respected by all who appreciate noble womanhood, consecrated to unselfish labor for the uplifting and betterment of mankind. Her death marks the calling of another noted leader of religious thought and one whose almost ninety years were full to overflowing with good deeds, kind words, and earnest prayers for all mankind.

"This good Samaritan will surely be

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962

greatly missed. Her reward will be commensurate with the great good she has done."

This tribute was printed by the editor of a secular newspaper, a friendly on-looker. What could be the tribute of thousands whose lives have been completely altered by the influence of her life and labors? It was through her books that Ellen G. White became the most important person in my life. Her books seem almost like living things! Indeed, John Milton wrote: "A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose, to a life beyond life."

Yes, a good book is "precious life-blood," and it *does* speak! Did not the Apostle Paul write about Christ's "precious blood" and that His blood "speaketh better things than Abel's"? Abel's blood spoke. Did not God Himself say that Abel's blood was crying out of the ground after Cain had killed him? In Hebrews 11:4 Paul reminds us that Abel, although long dead, "yet speaketh." And Ellen G. White, although now long dead, "yet speaketh" through the "precious lifeblood" of her books! Through her books she has spoken to my heart and has continued to influence my life more than any other person.

Ellen G. White was the author of fifty-four books with 23,000,000 words all written by hand. In addition to all these books, most of which have been in continuous publication, there are also many unpublished letters and manuscripts still in the vaults, like a rich treasure waiting to be explored.

Here is a quotation selected from thousands of passages that bring perennial inspiration to my soul: "When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 77, pocket edition.

In all my personal study I have always found the writings of this noble woman exalting Jesus and never exalting herself. Her writings lead one's thinking away from self to Christ, away from human weakness and imperfections to God, the Source of spiritual strength and happy Christian living. Her writings not only lead one to

Christ but also give guidance as to how to live for Christ and how to prepare for the kingdom of heaven.

Some of Ellen G. White's descriptions of heaven are so moving that you would think anyone who reads them would want to live there. Here is a sample: "The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all flow life and light and gladness throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the

greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 678.

The reading of these words always deepens my desire to be there. I want to see Jesus, my living Lord, and the heavenly mansions He has gone to prepare. I want to meet Ellen G. White also. I want to thank her for what her writings have done for me personally and to tell her that through her books she has exerted the greatest spiritual influence upon my life of any person on earth. ★★★



## FOCUSING

By WALTER RAYMOND BEACH

### On Rebels

A SPIRIT of revolt is abroad in the earth, leading more often than not to violence and distress. However, not every rebel is a bearded revolutionary overthrowing his government, or an undisciplined beatnik willfully breaking the mores of his society. As a matter of fact, a true Christian is a rebel of a kind. He rebels against every power that seeks to tie the hands of God or to impede the sweep of His purpose.

As a Christian you will rebel against three major temptations. First, you will rebel against the temptation to gauge what is right according to the eyes of the majority. Even if you suffer loneliness, the standards you set will be on the basis of principle and conviction. You will not be swayed by huge billboards or garish advertising or mass action. Every moment of decision will be measured by mind and heart and in accordance with the "still small voice" speaking to you.

Second, you will rebel against the temptation to make life as easy as possible. You live in an age of short cuts and timesavers. You can have charge accounts, push-button service, and instant everything. Yet, remember always that spiritually, the cross is your

symbol. Christ had to carry it up a long hill to His death. He walked the dusty roads of Palestine. His disciples knew hunger, thirst, and persecution. Christianity is not easy street, because the stakes are too high. Everywhere there is hunger, poverty, sickness, or ignorance—and there Christ expects you to be representing Him. Christianity makes demands on you—demands that you cannot dodge or ignore.

Third, you will rebel against the temptation to place religion apart from daily living. People will tell you that religion is fine for the weekly eleven o'clock church service, or for ten minutes before bedtime; but that it has no place in a classroom, a busy factory, or on the highway. They will try to convince you that you cannot be religious while at work. Be a rebel! Show the world that life and religion must be fused, else religion is worthless. Bring religion into your home, your work, even your play.

In this threefold rebellion you will not always remain alone. Others will join you. Together you will form a mighty force in behalf of Christ. You will be His rebels—the only truly effective ones in the world. ★★★

# The Man Who Lived in a Whale



Ewing Gallon

**A**LTHOUGH in the old days of whaling, when ferocious sperm whales were the main quarry, more than one staunch seaman met death through being swallowed by an enraged monster, the instances where the man survived and lived to tell the tale are rare indeed. To be tossed into the sea from a frail whaleboat by a leaping, tail-thrashing sperm in agony from the first harpoons, bitten and maybe even swallowed, was a not infrequent fate of these intrepid whalers. But to emulate the ancient miraculous experience of the Hebrew prophet Jonah and emerge from the whale's belly later alive and unharmed is an adventure at once unbelievable and fantastic. Yet it has undoubtedly occurred.

In a long and close study of the subject I have discovered only one instance completely corroborated by reliable authorities, and its details are so remarkable that it is worth recounting.

It was February, 1891. The English whaling ship *Star of the East* was cruising near the far Southern Falkland Islands, then a great whaling base. She was after sperm whales, or cachalots, the great barrel-headed, sixty-to-seventy-foot-long kin of Moby Dick which were at that time still the mainstay of the industry. (Nowadays, the rather larger blue and fin whales are the chief commercial prize, far fewer sperms remaining to be caught.) The lookout on the mainmast suddenly spotted a large sperm about three miles away, so two whaleboats were lowered and eventually one of the harpooners was able to sink his first lance in the creature's side. As so often happened, the sperm curved over to dive, its twelve-

foot-wide tail rearing out of the water and upsetting the second boat and its crew. One man was drowned, and a later check of the rescued revealed another unaccounted for.

He was seaman James Bartley, a youngish, very tough and hardy whaleman of great value to his ship; but after this fateful encounter with a sperm, he was given up for lost like so many before him.

The whale in question was finally killed by the first boat and in a few hours its great carcass was lying alongside the *Star of the East*, waiting to be flensed. The crew set to work and spent the rest of that day and part of the night dismembering their haul and "trying out," or rendering down into oil, its thick underskin of blubber. Next morning they resumed their gruesome task and attached lifting tackle to the whale's stomach, now exposed, and hoisted it onto the deck for cutting up. The men were startled by what they thought was a slight, spasmodic movement within. Being well acquainted with the voracious appetites of the sperms and doubtless expecting to see a large fish, maybe a shark, still alive, they immediately slit open the great paunch. Inside, to what must have been their immense horror, was Bartley, doubled up, drenched, but still alive, though deeply unconscious.

He was at once laid out on the deck and treated with a crude but effective dousing of sea water. After some minutes of this, he began to come round, but his mind was not clear and he was put to bed in the captain's own quarters. The entire ship's company, from master downward, doubtless appalled and overwhelmed by his fate, treated

him with a kindness and solicitude that must have been rare in those rough, uninhibited days. For two weeks Bartley remained under lock and key in the captain's cabin, an only half-human, gibbering lunatic whose recovery was more than once despaired of.

However, he gradually regained possession of his senses and at the end of the third week had almost entirely recovered from the psychic shock of his experience. His physical condition seemed unimpaired, and he soon resumed his normal duties.

During his stay in the whale's stomach his unclothed parts were exposed to the merciless acid of the animal's gastric juices, and his face, neck, and hands were bleached and shriveled to a deadly whiteness with the look and feel of old parchment. When he was able to talk coherently of his ordeal, he said he clearly remembered the sensation of being thrown from the boat into the sea. Then followed a tremendous rushing sound he believed was the swirling of the whale's tail through the water, and he was soon "encompassed by a great darkness." He

## READER'S CHOICE

First suggested by Lehman F. Taylor, of Elmira, New York, this harrowing story makes for fascinating reading. Send in the article or book chapter that has meant much to you. If you are first to submit it and we use it, you will receive \$15.—Ed.

said he felt he was slipping along a smooth passage that itself seemed to move along and carry him onward. This sensation lasted only a short while, and then he realized he had more room. As he groped about him, he touched the walls of his prison: they were thickly slimy and yielding. Slowly it dawned on the fellow's bemused mind what had in fact happened to him, and he confessed he was overcome with horror and fright. He asserted he could breathe easily but the heat was terrific—not a scorching heat like that of the sun, but a close, oppressive heat that seemed to open up the pores of his skin and draw out his vitality.

In time he became very weak and sick and began to realize there was no

his long account published in the *Journal des Débats* in 1914 with these words: "I believe that the account given by the English captain and his crew is worthy of belief. There are many cases reported where whales, in the fury of their dying agony, have swallowed human beings, but this is the first modern case where the victim has come forth safe and sound. After this modern illustration, I end by believing that Jonah really did come out from the whale alive as the Bible records."

De Parville died during World War I, and the Bartley case was later reinvestigated by Sir Francis Fox, a well-known and respected British civil engineer who was associated with the construction of the Mersey Tunnel at

and there is some evidence that when attacked, enraged, and in pain these whales will attack man deliberately in self-defense, occasionally swallowing their victims whole.

It is noteworthy that Bartley bore no teeth marks, and his unvarnished description of the swallowing and after fits in with the known biological facts. The gullet would aid his progress stomachward, the walls of the belly would be soft and mucous-covered, and the insulation from outside sound there would be complete. The great heat is explained by the fact that the normal body temperature of a sperm whale is around 104° F., to a human being high fever heat.

The greatest stumbling block some modern scientists have encountered in this case is just how Bartley managed to breathe sufficient air during his many hours' incarceration, when the creature's digestive juices were present and eating into his unexposed\* skin. But according to the man's own testimony he found no difficulty in breathing while still conscious, and he also asserted that he felt he would have finally died from starvation than from other causes, and in fact he collapsed from fright and shock, not from lack of air. The explanation seems to be that contrary to later beliefs based on only partial knowledge of the case, the whale's belly was not full, or indeed even partly full, of gastric juices at the time, and as shortly afterward the animal was in fact killed, its stomach secretions ceased altogether from that time. Bartley was never completely immersed in fluid, and there was sufficient air within to keep him alive.

Nevertheless, the case remains remarkable and quite miraculous. From my own researches into it I am satisfied that this modern Jonah really did endure this bizarre adventure, an adventure that certainly lends credence, in an age of skepticism, to the age-old story of Jonah. Bartley did not equal the prophet in the duration of his ordeal, for Jonah was in the whale's belly "three days and three nights." It is rarely mentioned, also, that our Lord Himself corroborated the Jonah story in a passing reference. (Matthew 12: 40.) Those who, in spite of this, condemn the Biblical tale of Jonah and his whale as "just another fish story," cannot have heard of James Bartley and his. ★★★

\*Printed thus in *Courier*.—Ed.

## *A Startling and True Story Which Makes Credible the Jonah Experience*

**BY DAVID GUNSTON**

Reprinted from *Courier*—the British Monthly Magazine

way of escape. He admitted trying to face death calmly, but the knowledge of his predicament, the complete darkness, the intense heat, his growing weakness, and oddest of all, the terrifying quiet, finally overcame him. He claimed he could remember nothing more until he came round in the captain's cabin—which for a lowly seaman must have been the final touch to his nightmare! His mental and physical condition was not harmed, however, and when interviewed on his ship later he was reported to be "in splendid spirits, and enjoying life," as well he might, for he must then have been one of the luckiest men alive.

Of James Bartley's subsequent fate nothing seems to be known other than that he continued at sea. With the typical modesty of the mariner he appears deliberately to have avoided publicity, but after the *Star of the East's* return home both her captain and one of her officers issued separate detailed descriptions of the incident. The case was later taken up and investigated very thoroughly by M. de Parville, scientific editor of the Paris *Journal des Débats*, and a scientist of authority and repute. In spite of his initial skepticism, de Parville was eventually so convinced of the truth of the thing that he closed

Liverpool and the Victoria Falls Bridge. From his personal interest in the story of the original Jonah he again went into the 1891 story, checking de Parville's records and drafts. In his book of memoirs *Sixty-three Years of Engineering*, published by John Murray, London, 1924, he recounts the story very fully and examines it with detachment, reaching a firm conviction of its complete veracity.

Since then a number of natural history writers have asserted disbelief in often garbled or fourth-hand stories of Bartley's experience—without checking its original sources. There is no doubt that sperm whales can swallow a man with ease, and have in fact done so many times. One old-time whaling captain described the sperm as having "an eight-foot swallow," and instances of sharks both ten feet and sixteen feet long have been reliably recorded as found in the stomachs of sperms cut up on whaling ships. These creatures have a V-shaped trapdoor of a mouth lined with eighteen to twenty-eight conical teeth eight inches long, and this formidable equipment is mainly used for biting and eating large chunks of the giant squids that form their main food. However, complete, unbiten food is sometimes taken, usually fish,

THE DOCTOR SAYS:

# Take Off Your Shoes

**O**NE OF THE precious moments to every man comes when he can take off his shoes, put on a warm pair of slippers, and lean back in his favorite easy chair with the evening paper. This spells perfect relaxation. Merely the thought of it is enough to make a man feel better when taking the hard knocks of a competitive day.

The important part of this relaxation ritual is taking off the shoes; for there is something about unharnessing the feet, letting them stretch and breathe, that aids in general body relaxation.

During World War II the thing the wounded soldier wanted first was to have his shoes removed. Even disc jockeys are aware of the joy of removing the shoes. Eddie Gallaher, noted Washington, D.C., radiobroadcaster, highlighted his Moondial program by calling it "the program that's better with your shoes off."

Just why we humans like to slip our shoes off is hard to say. Probably it represents a break from social ritual. Certainly it is marvelously comfortable. In the privacy of man's home or under his office desk he can give his tired feet a break.

The Orientals have the problem permanently solved. In Japan they slip out of their wooden platform shoes into slippers at the door of their home. No shoes are allowed inside. This custom gives a quiet relaxation not found in

some American homes. It also adds to the cleanliness of the home, for no one is tracking mud and dirt through the house.

The Chinese were long noted for binding the feet of their women, but the men always enjoyed feet that could stretch and relax. To this day they wear light silk slippers. Go into any Chinese laundry in America and see

what the Chinese are wearing as they iron your shirts—slippers.

We Americans need to give our feet more freedom. With it will come more bodily relaxation. We should take off our shoes, toss our feet up onto footstools, and stretch our toes more often.

One reason our feet give us trouble is that we do not exercise them enough. Too few of us walk farther than to the



S. C. Eldridge

By J. DeWitt Fox, M.D.



A. Devaney, Inc.



J. DeWitt Fox, M.D.



garage or the corner grocery in a day's time. Our feet become weak, ligaments become stretched, muscles flabby, and circulation poor. When we do walk a mile or so, our feet really give us trouble. Hiking, a sport that is rapidly disappearing, is one enjoyable diversion. After a happy hike it is a real comfort to take off boots and heavy socks and rest the feet on a camp stool. These joys of outdoor exercise and feet-stretching would give us new vitality and even greater pleasure from our feet.

Your feet are very interesting structures. They are actually intricate pieces of machinery containing 52 little bones (one fourth of all the bones you possess), 38 muscles, 2,114 ligaments, and the highest concentration of sweat glands and tiny blood vessels in the entire body.

The average day's walking adds up to thousands of jolts on the soles of the feet. Many women make the gross mistake of doing their household chores in an old pair of high-heeled pumps or floppy shoes. There is no better way of mutilating feet than wearing ill-fitting shoes.

Foot health is closely related to general well-being. A painful corn may cause a person to alter his natural posture so radically as to invite strain on muscles and nerves far removed from the foot. Foot discomfort may cause faulty posture, later leading to low back pain.

Many foot ailments, such as calluses, corns, bunions, ingrown toenails, fungus infections, and hammertoes, have medical histories that go back to the patient's youth. Others may be aggravated by poorly fitting footwear.

Foot exercises can do much to improve foot comfort. One of these is simply to place a towel on the floor and in your bare feet curl your toes

over the towel and keep working it up under your foot. Another is to pick up marbles with your toes and place them here and there on the floor. Still another: roll a small round bottle, such as a soft-drink bottle, under the sole of the foot. This serves as a good massage to the bottom of the foot and stimulates the nerves and blood vessels.

Probably one of the foot exercises you enjoyed as a youngster has long been neglected. Surely everyone recalls the barefoot boy with cheeks of tan, walking along a creek bed with the sand between his toes, a fishing rod on his shoulder. Maybe your special fun as a youngster was running over the wet morning grass in your bare feet or sinking your toes into the mud at the seashore as the waves from the breakers crept to the shore and crawled into your sand castle. It is never too

late to be a kid again. While there is still time this summer, let's take our shoes off and wade in the lake, stream, or ocean. Let's wriggle our toes in the warm sand and feel the joyous relaxation that comes from taking our shoes off, letting our hair down, and really living, as we did when we were kids.

Don't forget the joys of the evening fireside with your shoes tucked away, your feet enjoying the sweet release of a few minutes' peace before the fireplace in a pair of soft slippers, a youngster on your knee, a good book in your hand. Let the warmth of the fire pervade your soul. I guarantee it will be a rich experience.

Wherever you are, whatever you do for a living, you will have fun at the end of the day if you'll slip off your shoes and enjoy the freedom of foot comfort. ★★★

## The Second Look

By Marjorie Spiller Neagle

**A**N OLD MAN told me the following incident, which had occurred in his youth and which, he said, had colored his way of thinking for the remainder of his life:

"I was traveling around the country in search of some 'local color and characters' for the book I planned to write. My characters were to represent an indolent, shiftless people whom I could see in my mind, but whose existence needed to be authenticated. After some days I found myself in a backwoods area which was just what I had dreamed it would be—complete as to 'color'—the run-down farms, the seedy men, the washed-out women. Now there remained only for me to find the one character who would epitomize the indolence and spiritlessness of the community.

"Suddenly I came upon him; he had been made to order. He was a white-bearded old man in a faded blue shirt and overalls. He was hoeing around a little patch of potatoes in a scrubby back-yard garden—*while sitting in a chair*.

"I was elated. My eye, trained for detail, took in the whole scene: the unpainted shack, the sagging door, the broken wooden steps of the porch. Here was my background complete, and in the foreground my 'character' sitting down to hoe his garden.

"I started back to the rooming house where I had put up for a few days; my fingers were itching to get at my typewriter keys. As I made the turn in the dirt road which ran past the cabin, I turned to look back, to see the scene from another angle.

"When I did so, I saw something that stopped me cold in my tracks. For from this side I observed, *leaning against the chair, a pair of crutches, while one empty overall leg hung limply to the ground*.

"In that instant the shiftless, lazy 'character' I had been looking for was transformed into one of dauntless courage.

"Since that hour I have never made a judgment of any man after only one look at him, or one conversation with him. For I know that often the second look, the second word, may prove the folly of so doing.

"And I thank God because on that day so many years ago I turned for the 'second look.' " ★★★

## BOOKS LIVE FOR GOD

How important are books in your life? Edward R. Murrow, director of the U.S. Information Agency, recently said, "As one who has spent a lifetime in electronic journalism, I am more and more impressed with the importance of books."

The noted radio and television commentator sees the value of libraries in

Let the church continue to publish the greatest story ever told—the story of Jesus Christ. When Philip, a deacon in the early Christian church, met the Ethiopian officer returning to his homeland from Jerusalem, the man was reading. The zealous Christian approached the Ethiopian's chariot and asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?"

The officer was reading the prophe-

from different points of view, is that we do not seem to enjoy life as we once did. There is too much activity, too much commercialized amusement.

For example, the nation's annual bill for recreation is over \$40 billion. Some fifty million Americans spend over a billion dollars a year on bowling and hunting. Again, some fifty million souls spend a billion dollars annually on gardening, yet less than half of them say they like the hobby. They simply force themselves through the motions in order to keep the yard presentable—a status symbol to the neighbors.

Children do not go on hikes any more. They must be recruited and regimented in organized camps, junior baseball leagues, and every other type of recreational grouping.

If the labor unions carry out their present aims, they will in the next twelve months put heavy pressure on lawmakers to require a thirty-five-hour work week. This may be essential to keep enough people working, but what will families do with their leisure? As Gene Sherman, in the *Los Angeles Times*, writes: "The pitiful thing of it is that no one knows how to do nothing for a while. The pressure is on to fill the spare time with activity in anticipation of that awful day when we will be inundated with leisure."

Work is a blessing ordained of God for human welfare. Too little labor destroys the creative impulse, the feeling of accomplishment, in human beings. If we are to have more hours of leisure, we must learn how to use our time to find genuine relaxation, sound recreation, and happiness.

## ACID TEST OF MORALITY

Striking at the declining standards of morality, beauty, and decency in these United States, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said recently that the twist is not a minuet, movies and books center on immorality to be best sellers, and much modern art fails to inspire.

We agree with the sound observation of the former president of the nation, and we remember similar statements of Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor of the *Tulsa Tribune*, as presented to the Inland Daily Press Association in Chicago. He asked, "Who is tampering with the soul of America?" Comparing Russia and America, he declared, "The Russian stage is as austere as the

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962



countries around the world. The U.S. Information Agency published some six million books for overseas distribution in 1961. American publishers sold an additional \$40 million worth of books in foreign lands in 1961, too.

The Christian church has also recognized the importance of the printed page since the days of the Reformation. Martin Luther published pamphlets for Germany, and the fervor of the reformers was transmitted to the written word. Since that day the Bible and religious literature have been translated and published in hundreds of languages. The good news of God's love has reached into the minds of millions of men and women as the result of reading.

cies of the Book of Isaiah, and as the result of his study and Philip's invitation, the man was baptized a Christian that day. The power of the written word cannot be overrated. It is the seed which is sown by followers of the Master, and it brings fruit for God's kingdom. Books are alive. They speak of heaven to waiting multitudes.

## ON ENJOYING LIFE

Two significant books have recently been published which deserve attention as a reflection of our social situation. One volume, by Walter Kerr, is entitled *The Decline of Pleasure*; the second, by Norman M. Lobsenz, is called *Is Anybody Happy?* The theme of both authors, although approached

Victorian stage. Russian literature may be corny, but it is clean, and it glorifies the Russian people and exudes optimism and promise." The philosophy of the United States, said the editor, is saturated with "behavioristic psychology." Then he added, "Clearly something is missing. Could it be the doctrine of individual responsibility? When nations cease to believe in themselves, when they regard their institutions with cynicism and their traditions with flippancy, they will not long remain great nations."

There was a close examination of our needs when Editor Jones said, "The healthy man who chooses to loaf on unemployment compensation is not a defender of human freedom. The playwright who would degrade us, the author who would profit from pandering to the worst that's in us, are no friends of ours. . . . It is time we brought self-discipline back into style."

Discipline means obedience to fundamental laws; it centers in obedience to the eternal Ten Commandments. Because we have cast aside the basic laws which reveal our allegiance to God and our respect and honor to our fellowmen, we have sunk into this present-day morass of lawlessness. The standards of literature, art, and music are flouted by clever artists. The laws of the land are winked at by astute business manipulators. Social standards are cast aside as men rationalize any kind of conduct they choose.

We are breaking ourselves by a life of lawlessness. The laws stand as a challenge to sane living. The psalmist said that God's commands were his "delight." Again he declared, "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." Psalm 119:127. How many Americans today will obey the laws of the land and the eternal Ten Rules even at the sacrifice of personal wealth? Is it the gold or the Golden Rule? Is it money or conduct according to law? This may be the acid test of the nation's morality.

#### SHYING FROM CIGARETTES

We admire the way the British are facing the issue of cigarette smoking and cancer. Recently the Royal College of Physicians issued the report of a nine-man team which definitely concluded that cigarette smoking was a cause of lung cancer.

The government has backed the report with vigorous speeches in Parlia-

THESE TIMES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1962



Wide World Photos

O. K. ARMSTRONG,  
BAPTIST LAYMAN AND FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN FROM MISSOURI

## CURRENT AND QUOTABLE



**O. K. Armstrong**, Baptist layman and former congressman from Missouri: "Tax exemption for churches and their related activities rests upon two historic American principles: complete freedom of conscience and worship, and recognition of the benefits of organized religion to society."

**Dr. Frederick Brown Harris**, chaplain of the U.S. Senate: "Some depictions on stage and screen could not better fit into the total disparaging picture the Soviets are always painting of America if they had been selected by a 'Board of Communists' whose goal is the destruction of our free land."

**C. Ernest Tatham**: "Modern advertising is shot through with false representations. Exaggeration to the point of impossible claims seems to create no real protest from the purchaser. To listen to the amazing claims of certain modern drugs, for example, one can only marvel that anyone today can possibly be sick!"

**George Romney**, automobile executive and political leader: "The Constitution was written by inspired men raised up just for that purpose."

**Dr. George Lucas**, pharmacologist, University of Toronto: "I have found it safer not to undertake driving in a fatigued state and not to use even caffeine to bolster a weary body."

**Howard W. Oursler**, minister: "Every Christian would profit by reading in every major field of Christian literature. Since so few have the time to read three or four books at the same time, a variety of reading can be accomplished by reading in different fields at different times. For example, a Christian ought to read at least one good Christian biography a year, one good book on missions, one good devotional book, and so on. High on the list should be a book that would help one to study a specific book of the Bible. One should not overlook the Christian classics."



## EVENTS OF THESE TIMES EVENTS OF THESE TIMES EVENTS OF

ment. Physicians have recommended higher taxes on packs of cigarettes. Booklets, placards, radio and television, are all publicizing the menace of cigarette smoking. *The New York Times* reports that "thousands of Britons have given up smoking cigarettes, some for pipes and cigars. Some tobacco shops have reported a 10 to 40 per cent drop in cigarette sales."

Americans have had the same scientific facts for several years; but in contrast to the British, we have paid little attention to the warnings of science. While British tobacco companies have decided to withhold television advertising until after 9 P.M., when children are less likely to be watching, American companies have more and more flooded television channels and radio with sinister appeals to youth to start smoking. One tobacco concern in England is withdrawing hundreds of cigarette vending machines from public places to curb illegal purchases by youth under sixteen years.

The newspaper also reports that the sales of antismoking pills have soared, and tobacco shares have dropped steadily on the London Stock Exchange.

Senior girl scouts Kathleen Mill, 15, of Hicksville, Long Island, New York (left), and Bonnie William, 16, of Levittown, Long Island, practice pitching a tent in preparation for the 1962 Girl Scout Senior Roundup in Button Bay, Vermont.



We would like to see Americans take the same interest in their health and in the well-being of the younger generation that Britons are manifesting. Despite the meaningful reports by the

U.S. Public Health Department warning of the relation of cancer to cigarette smoking, nothing has been done by Congress to curb advertising or to educate youth of the danger. More millions are being poured into the cigarette image of the nation—be a he-man, be virile, be romantic by smoking! All efforts to get cigarette manufacturers to face the cancer threat have come to naught. These unscrupulous concerns are determined to make millions in profit, no matter how many Americans are sent to their graves because of the deadly peril.

### PRACTICE, THEN PREACH

If society is slipping in its morals, we cannot put all the blame on others; we must look at ourselves. Erwin D. Canham says: "The first steps in a personal agenda for action are moral. The individual can ask himself: Am I setting and striving to live up to sound standards in my own life, standards free from hypocrisy, self-righteousness, dishonesty? In the religious, the ethical, the parental training and experience of nearly every individual there are moral standards. They need to be applied."

Too many Americans are ready to preach to others while they, the moralizers, are selfish, lazy, materialistic, and

Mrs. Mary Celesta Weatherly (left) was named American Mother of the Year and Mrs. John H. Glenn, Sr., was chosen as World Mother by the American Mothers Committee, Inc., in New York. Mrs. Glenn is the mother of the first American to orbit the earth.



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lax in their moral standards. The dictators have their brainwashing techniques; but the free countries have the temptation to sidestep principles and evade decision-making.

The heart of true religion was set forth centuries ago by the prophet Micah. This is the standard of God: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8.

There is no substitute for a *creative* religious experience in which the individual goes into action every day for God. The best sermons are not given in the pulpit; they are living sermons in the workshop, the kitchen, the office, the sickroom, or the field. They are Christianity in action!

### CHRIST AND LIBERTY

"If we are to win the cold war, we must get back to God, and to get back to God we must get back to the Bible," said Federal Judge Luther W. Youngdahl of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, to the 146th annual meeting of the American Bible Society.

"Christianity has not been as effective as it should be because we haven't always accepted what Christ has offered us," added the judge. "We haven't been willing to pay the price for it. We haven't been willing to trust Him and to follow Him, and that is the reason why we haven't been doing so well in the cold war."

Speaking of human liberties, Judge Youngdahl emphasized, "The Bible is of vital importance in teaching freedom. Never before has there been such a need to get the inspired Word of God to people all over the world in their native tongue. The good news contained in the Bible will bring wonderful changes in people."

### BEYOND IS DARKNESS

While we live in a secure and healthful environment, let us not forget others in our world who are not so fortunate. Take the city of Calcutta, India, as an example. It has a population of some four million persons, but every night "over 20,000 of the homeless sleep on sidewalks." Though efforts are made to stamp out cholera, the plague

"claims 2,000 lives every year" there.

The crowded living quarters are almost unbelievable, according to Cecil Northcott, writing in *The Christian Century*. Some 30 per cent of the population live three families to a room. Only 14 per cent of the city dwellers are members of families with more than one room to live in. Seventy per cent of the people must share lavatory facilities with from ten to one hundred other families.

Refugees from East Pakistan pour over the border into India, and many of these displaced persons settle in the poorer areas of Calcutta, which only worsens the situation.

To give this sordid picture of living conditions in this city is to present a situation that may be duplicated in many parts of the Orient. Healthful living conditions, sanitation, and medical

care are needed desperately. Yet with all the physical betterment there is yet a greater need—that of spiritual regeneration. Millions of bewildered, hopeless men and women have no knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ and how He died to redeem them from ruin.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," said Paul, a man with a world vision, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16. But how can millions know this power unless it is brought into their daily experience? Look to the lands afar. Civilization is beckoning to the waiting multitudes. But beyond the faint promise lies a deep, intense darkness which the dedicated church of Christ must penetrate. God is depending upon His faithful disciples of this generation to carry the torch of truth to all mankind. ★★★

## NEW NAME FOR OLD POT



# Editorials

## GETTING READY FOR ARMAGEDDON

THE TITLE of this editorial is the same as one that appeared recently in the *Saturday Evening Post*. In it the writer commended our government for its thorough preparation for Armageddon, but expressed the need for perfecting a system of transferring control should the president be killed in the event the U.S. receives the first blow of a thermonuclear war.

Fletcher Knebel, with Armageddon also in mind, wrote in *Look*, January 2, 1962: "A new element of terror in the practice of statecraft became apparent last summer, when the Soviet Union cynically shattered the moratorium on nuclear testing. Now, the 50- and 100-megaton bombs hang over all mankind like a guillotine blade suspended by a thread. As never before, the horror of the 'great insupportable' casts its ugly shadow over every issue, from Cuba to Laos, from Berlin to Vietnam. Now, the two great powers can obliterate each other, and much of the world with them, within half an hour."

What the *Post* editorial writer, Fletcher Knebel, and other secular journalists do not point out is that Armageddon, a Biblical term, is primarily a spiritual battle involving Jesus Christ with His followers and Satan with his hosts; that man's eternal destiny is sealed before this conflict begins; and that there is a Heaven-sent way to prepare for it.

In popular modern usage Armageddon designates any great military conflict involving the nations of earth. Usually there is no reference to the setting of the term in Bible prophecy, although to many Armageddon spells finish to human history.

STILL, since Armageddon is of Biblical origin, the important thing is, What does God's Word say about it? To put it simply—and without getting into theological involvements—Armageddon is earth's last battle. With the gathering of the nations at Armageddon, rebellion against God's law reaches its climax, and God intervenes to execute "the fierceness of his wrath" upon apostates and to bring deliverance to His own people.

The fact that Armageddon is at our very doors seems to be of little concern to most people. They could not care less. They are rushing headlong into oblivion. After a five-year worldwide survey an official of the American Bible Society, E. H. Robertson, says, "Not one person in ten thousand gives serious attention to the Bible today, even in nominally Christian countries." Recently a Vermont newspaper editor, in order to fill a blank space in a column of his paper, printed the Ten Com-

mandments verbatim and without comment. Several days later he received a brief letter: "Please cancel my subscription. Your newspaper is getting to be far too personal."

At the bottom of all political and spiritual trouble today is men's disregard for the laws of God. This unrest is evident in all groups and individuals who do not allow Christ to have full sway in their lives. Men are throwing off the restraints of God's law, and the way is open for the prince of evil to do his final, most devilish work on the hearts of men. Disobedience to the laws of God is at the bottom of all individual and world troubles, and God is not going to allow the situation to continue much longer.

TRUE, in some quarters there is a resurgence of real Bible study. There is a seeking for the Spirit of God such as was manifest in the first-century Christian church. As one Christian writer has put it, "Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law."

Despite all this, Bible prophecy predicts that Armageddon is approaching. The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, fires, floods, disasters by land, sea, and air, stock-market fluctuations, rumors of war, political unrest, poverty, atheistic materialism, abolition of all restraint, subtle diminution of our liberties—these are signs telling us that the battle of the great day of the Lord is near at hand.

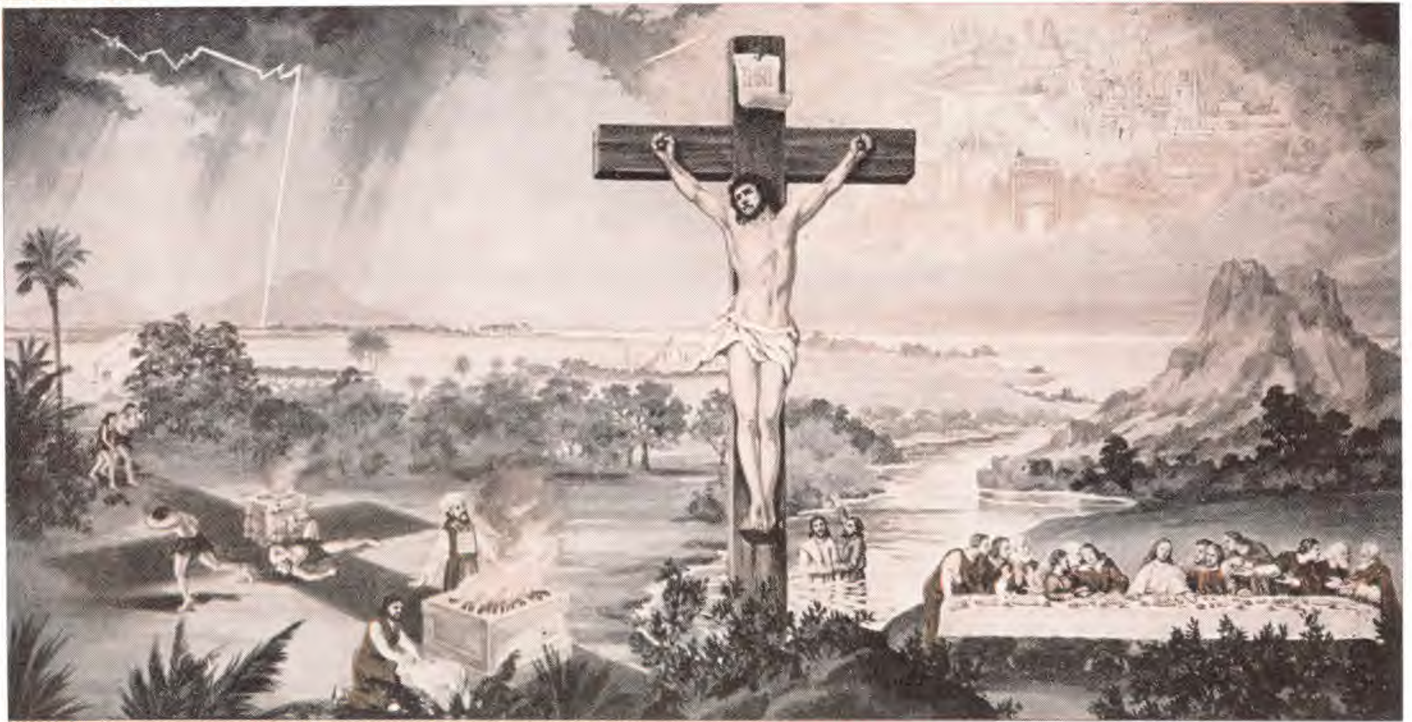
We are today under divine forbearance, but how long will the angels of God continue to hold the winds of strife, that they shall not blow? When God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be a scene of trouble such as no pen can picture.

We have entered a time of great and terrible events, leading to Biblical Armageddon. How to prepare for it? The Bible answer is the same as it always has been—only with a solemn note of urgency: "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21. The time to repent and seek the Lord is now, for even before the first shot of Armageddon is fired, man's chance for salvation will have passed. K. J. H.

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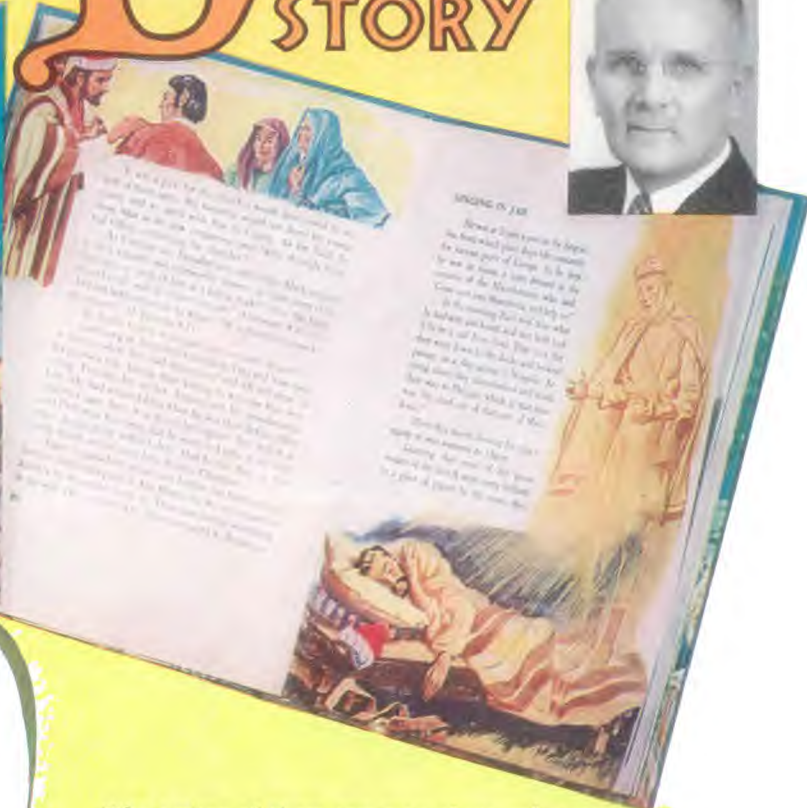
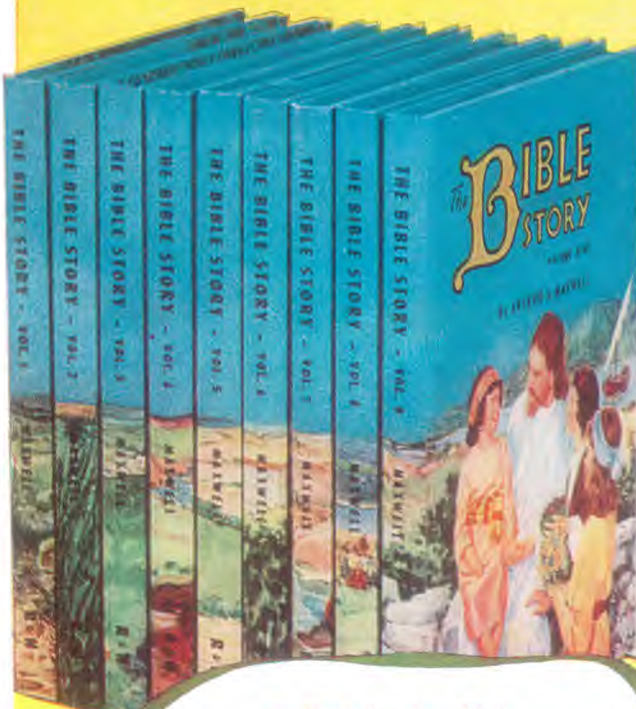
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