



WILL "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS" DESTROY US?

Though most people do not grasp this fact, the increasing influence of "political correctness" will eventually help *destroy* the United States, Great Britain and Canada! As a man who grew up in America, and who spent about four years of my adult life in Britain, I can truly testify that in my nearly 80 years of human experience I have never seen the basic values and way of life of our ancestors in *all* of our English-speaking nations being undermined so severely. For "political correctness" is like a cancer. It spreads slowly and almost undetectably through the body until death is assured. Millions of people have lost loved ones or friends because of cancer. Yet countless millions more in our lands will be destroyed because of the "cancer" of political correctness.

How dare I write that?

Because political correctness undermines virtually every basic value upon which our Western nations were based in decades past. And because any true Christian who tries to challenge it will be viciously persecuted. Although they rarely if ever will admit it, the advocates of "political correctness" are displaying an underlying resentment and often even hatred against the idea of a true God—a God who can tell them what to do, and how they ought to be living their lives. As Jesus Christ said, "this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Indeed, the "light" Jesus Christ proclaimed involved a consistent way of life based upon sincere obedience to the laws and principles contained in the Ten Commandments. And Jesus also said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

Yet, when God's clear instructions in the Bible are repeated in public or espoused by some of our institutions, ultra-liberal "politically correct" individuals become visibly angry. They act as if people are going against what is sound and rational if they talk about God being the Creator, or say that the *Bible* ought to be the basis of all right conduct. *How far* have we fallen!

As many of you know, the early leaders of both America and Britain had *tremendous* respect for the teachings of the Bible. President George Washington stated, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world

without God and the Bible." Noted statesman Daniel Webster observed, "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

William Gladstone—respected as one of Britain's greatest leaders—said, "I have known 95 of the world's great men in my time, and of these 87 were followers of the Bible. The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors." And the famous British scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, stated, "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history."

But when Christian ministers today explain that fornication, adultery, drunkenness, homosexual practices and abortion are absolutely wrong, the secularists—including, sadly, many top journalists—take *great offense*. In fact, they often try to *persecute* those who hold such views—and certainly those true ministers who follow God's command to teach those views! After Jesus Himself described the time of war, upheaval and terrible earthquakes, famines, pestilences and "fearful sights" marking the end of the age, He stated, "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake" (Luke 21:12).

Why?

Because Jesus Christ said that "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). These "secular" individuals—increasingly in charge of our entire society—feel a sense of terrible guilt when confronted with the truths of the Bible. To relieve this guilt, they turn against others who teach a way of life that has always brought peace and stability throughout any society to the degree that it has been sincerely practiced.

Tomorrow's World magazine publishes the truths of the Bible. We give you many prophetic articles explain-

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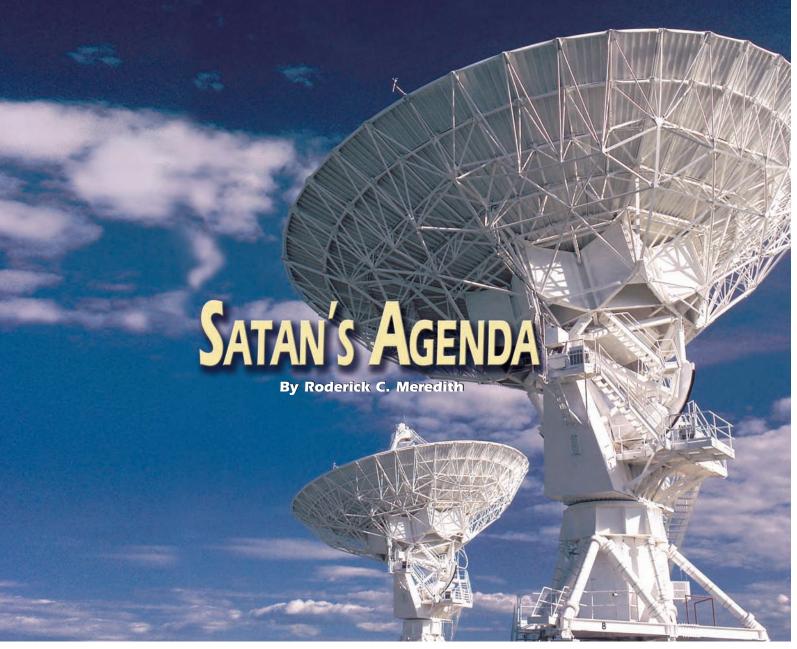
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"What Would the Devil Do?" How would he bring about the decline and fall of nations that had once been greatly blessed by God?

he United States of America seems to be coming apart. Even if you live in Britain, Canada, Australia or elsewhere, this fact is becoming increasingly evident around the world. Various international newspapers and magazines report on it. People are sincerely puzzled as to how and why this is happening.

The inspired word of God makes it very clear that Satan the Devil is the actual "god" of this age—of this present human society. *If* you really believe the Bible and study it diligently, you surely understand this. The Apostle Paul described typical, carnal people, "whose minds the god *of this age* has **blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Later, the Apostle Paul described how such people walk "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). So, Satan is the one who actually *controls* many of the thoughts and impulses that beset human beings. Indirectly, Satan *controls* the media in most situations. For he is the invisible "prince of the power of the air." In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John was inspired to describe Satan as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, *who* deceives *the whole world*" (Revelation 12:9).

Many writers and authorities have described the United States as the "last great bastion" of freedom and Christianity. If I were Satan, how would I set out to destroy the nation that has—in the past—based many of its laws

and customs upon the Bible, has promoted nominal Christianity all over the world, and put on its currency, "In God We Trust"?

Satan might use many ways. But I perceive five foundational methods by which Satan would bring down-and is bringing down-the United States of America.

1. Destroy the Moral **Fabric of America**

Satan is doing a masterful job of confusing the ministers, intellectual leaders and educators of our nation about true religion. He can very cleverly make morality seem passé. He can make the clear distinction between right and wrong seem very "fuzzy" so that morality and deep respect for law and authority are slowly obliterated.

Satan is making true religion seem "out of date" and even obsolete to our peoples! Hundreds of articles and books have come out in the last few years attacking God and the Bible! More and more, our political and even religious leaders are edging away from a clear description of faith in a personal God-especially a God who sets forth laws and a way of life. If there is any mention of "God" at all, it is of a vague concept, far from the true God of the Bible.

Most of you older readers can see this very clearly. Many of us remember how, when America was attacked at Pearl Harbor back in 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt concluded his impassioned speech to the Congress of the United States by stating, "We shall gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God!" The idea of a real God was much more prevalent at that time, and was instilled in the moral fabric of the entire nation—through schools, families and other community institutions. All of that is quickly disappearing.

2. Undermine the Family

Most realize that strong families are the basis of every decent society that has ever existed. A very real Satan the Devil would love to get rid of strong fathers—of the right kind of masculine leaders of the family—and also undermine the loving wives and mothers who are to be the homemakers and have so much to do with the moral formation of a child's character. Any society that can be destroyed by undermining respect for parents is in trouble. Any society that Satan can corrupt by promoting "radical feminism" and the "battle of the sexes" is in trouble. For this

causes great confusion not only to the present generation, but also to generations yet to come. Certainly, bringing in the concept that "homosexual behavior is okay"

also greatly undermines a nation. For it destroys the right basis for the family-and obscures the very basic concept that a real family consists of a man and a woman producing descendants-children who come right out of their own bodies, looking like them and sharing in their heritage.

Yet, Satan is working overtime, as most of you realize, to undermine the family in a thousand different ways. In the media, strong fathers have been "made fun of" for a few decades now-starting way back with Blondie and Dagwood, and now in many more cartoons, television shows and other presentations. The father is commonly pictured either as too harsh-out of touch and unyielding-or else as a bumbling idiot who stumbles over himself and causes problems until he is forgiven by his sharp, effective wife, who is portrayed as the real

leader of the family. Although this may seem like light humor when you first think about it, it is really an abomination in the sight of God, as it mocks God's true purpose for family.

Yes, Satan uses the modern media to push distorted concepts of family, so much so that many of our young people today—never having seen the other side presentedassume that these distorted concepts are correct! The increasing push to treat homosexuality as "normal" is also an abomination in God's sight. It will certainly further divide the family and the nationand tremendously undermine the

> concept of a real God who inspired the Bible's plain teachings about homosexual behavior. Last year, our local paper featured a

major article titled, "A Church Divided." The subhead tells it all, "After vote this week gives gays more rights, Episcopalians face a widening split" (Charlotte Observer, July 18, 2009). The article shows how people in that denomination people who often used to be friends-are really torn because of their concern over the issue of homosexuality. And since most people do not really study or take the Bible seriously, sexual perverts continue pushing their agenda harder and harder and gaining more ground as each year goes by. One leader in this movement stated. "I am persuaded that the current understanding of homosexuality, and how it occurs and how relationships exist, is not descriptive of what the understanding was in Jesus' time" (ibid.)

Think! If that same idea of changing what an "understanding" was in



Jesus' time, or assuming He did not teach the truth about "how relationships exist," is applied to other biblical teachings, what will happen? God's plain instructions about adultery, fornication, stealing, lying—and any number of other biblical teachings—can be twisted and perverted in almost any direction these "progressives" wish to go. That should be

obvious. And so it is that professing ministers of Jesus Christ, who are **cut off from God** because of their lack of obedience to His commandments (1 John 2:4), are twisting and pervert-

ing the Bible, as God Himself said they would. They are bringing in a completely false form of Christianity and morality that *condones almost* anything. As God warned, "As for my people, children are their oppressors and women rule over them. Oh my people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

A little later in Isaiah, God also cautions us: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20).

With such a confused and carnal approach even in so-called "Christianity," it is no wonder that increasing numbers of people are disillusioned with religion—and become easy victims of Satan's plan to destroy the family.

3. Destroy the Economy and the Value of the Dollar

Satan surely recognizes that one key way to *destroy* a nation is to *undermine* its economic well-being. And so it is that Satan the Devil—by destroying the concepts of real honesty and hard work, and the correct

foundation of Christianity based upon obedience to the Ten Commandments—is able to bring down our nations in this way. America is now faced with the prospect of putting its children's future "in hock" for *generations* to come because of profligate spending. Increasing numbers of thoughtful economists are beginning to

realize this. Great numbers of articles are coming out in our major publications acknowledging this.

The indication that increasing *trillions* of dollars are

being spent on so many governmental programs is beginning to cause even America's foreign creditors such as China, Japan, Russia and other nations to begin cutting back on the investments they hold in the United States. Since those investments support the dollar and America's standard of living, this is indeed frightening to all economists who understand. It is a *sure path* to the destruction of the dollar—which many acknowledge is imminent unless we return to fiscal sanity!

God told our forefathers that if they turned aside from obeying His commandments, "I will break the pride of your power" (Leviticus 26:19).

After warning His people that they should return to *obedience* to His commandments, God foretold, "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes

which He commanded you" (Deuteronomy 28:43-45).

Because of its national sins, America is indeed being brought "lower and lower" and—instead of being the world's greatest lender as it used to be—is now the world's greatest debtor! As God said, this is a "curse" which will continue until America is "destroyed," because as a nation it has failed to keep God's commandments and His way of life!

It is time for the American and the other British-descended peoples of the world to wake up!

4. Denigrate Patriotism and a National Sense of Purpose

When I was a young man in high school, we heard "The Star Spangled Banner" played at nearly all public events—those in the school and those in the community. We stood up straight and sang our national anthem with gusto! When World War II began, even those who disliked President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came together in a powerful sense of unity. For he was our President and we knew we had to hang together, love our nation and pray to God that He would deliver us from this terrible threat posed by the Axis powers.

Millions of Americans sensed that their nation was a type of "Israel." The U.S. was a *blessed* nation. Americans held their heads high. People were eager to back their leaders, to keep the nation strong and unified. During World War II, and for years afterward, news broadcasters on national radio and later television nearly always sounded a *loyal* theme. They did not always agree with everything that was done, but you could sense that they were *all for America*.

Today, America's political leaders—and many leading educators

and figures in the media-tend to "waffle" here and there about anything patriotic. President Barack Obama has even been apologizing—

over and overfor what America has done in the past! America's leaders appear to be ashamed of the great blessings that God has given their nation, and of the victories that He gave in World War I, World War II and through



many other terrible trials. Many Americans have lost their national sense of purpose, their deep patriotism—and their deep respect for the God who made all of this possible.

I could cite hundreds of articles showing how America has "lost its way" as a nation, and how its sense of patriotism is simply not the same as it used to be. But all you readers need to understand—as many of you do-that the Americans and British-descended peoples indeed very "special." No, they are not "better" than others. But Almighty God foretold in Scripture that the American and Britishdescended peoples would become the single most "great nation" and the greatest "company" of nations at the time of the end. God has given these nations blessings that they are now squandering because of rebellion against Him!

We would like to give you an exciting and powerful booklet that will prove this vital truth to any who are willing to understand. If you have not already done so, please call or write the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine), or go online to our www.tomorrowsworld.org Web site, to request your free copy of our eye-opening and informative booklet, The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy. When you read it, you will understand why Americans have been able to sing

> about the "land of the free and home of the brave." It should help you profoundly understand why the song "God Bless America" talks about the nation extending "from sea to shining sea." Truly, the Americans and all the British-descended peoples should be very thankful to the great God who gave all these blessings-and the peoples of these once-great nations

should humbly repent of all selfishness and rebellion and turn back to the true God with all of their hearts!

television) to infiltrate people's minds continually with anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Bible concepts. Most of us have not realized how cleverly this is being done, for it has been a gradual process creeping up on us. It is like the example of the frog in the pot, which is heated up so slowly that it does not jump out in time! My friends, we are that frog! We are letting our minds be "programmed" by the modern media to slowly yet surely turn against the God of the Bible, against His laws and way of life, against the true understanding of the family itself, against genuine patriotism—indeed, against everything that made our nations great in the first place!

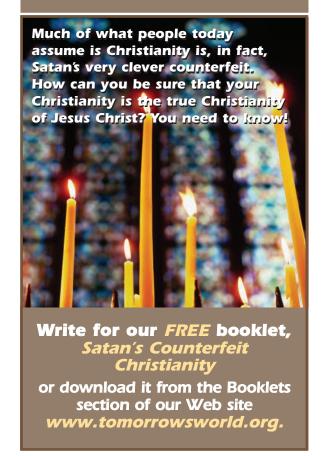
Is this just alarmist talk on my part? No! Consider the example of

5. Control the Media To **Promote All of** the Above

Hundreds of articles and even entire books could be cited to show how so much of the modern media has been and is being used to undermine the concepts of patriotism, true religion, the family—and almost every aspect of a decent life! Remember, God's word calls Satan "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

For Satan is, indeed, in control of this earth's atmosphere, and he certainly uses the "airwayes" (as we used to call radio broadcasting, and now

Satan's Counterfeit **Christianity**



National Public Radio. As most of you know, NPR has received partial government sponsorship, and is supposed to be a "mainstream" vehicle to disseminate news and information to the American people. Yet, in May 2009, the NPR Board changed the wording of its media policy to state: "NPR Member Stations shall provide only [emphasis added] nonsectarian, non-political, noncommercial educational content on all broadcast channel(s) and related media distribution platforms such as member partners that use the NPR member brands." That means NPR stations carrying religious programming were to stop such programming as of May 1.

What about other public outlets? The Station Services Committee of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)—another federally funded media outlet—wrote that it "places a high value on presenting diverse perspectives, as opposed to rigidly adhering to any single political or religious point of view" and that even allowing a few different religious views to be aired would privilege some over others and "would cause the public's trust in PBS to erode, along with the value of the brand."

Since this change was instituted, *many* religious programs featured on NPR member stations have been "axed"! Slowly but surely, Satan is removing all reference to the God of the Bible, unless God is portrayed in a worldly and usually an outright *negative* manner. The great nation of America—which formerly called itself a "Christian"

nation—has turned its back on God in stubborn, willful disobedience. Meanwhile, Americans are letting the "heathen" flourish in their various expressions of religion and philosophy, even while they often *persecute* any genuine Christians.

Our nations have forsaken the Ten Commandments—God's law that leads to genuine liberty and peace (James 2:12). So we are now headed *downward* and **out—unless** there is a genuine national repentance and return to the God of the Bible! May God help all of us realize this more and more as each month passes—and as the sad story of national decline continues. Most of us *love* our nations. But we need to love God more, and pray that He will help us wake up—individually, if not nationally—before it is too late!

How Does Satan Get His Followers?

When most people think of "Satan worship," they picture small groups of demented, wild-eyed people, perhaps wearing hooded robes, chanting blasphemous incantations using odd language during strange ceremonies in which animals—or even people—may be sacrificed. Those vile worshipers, however, are only the most visible of those who are under Satan's influence. In fact, Satan is usually far more subtle in how he draws people away from Jesus Christ.

Although Satan is not omniscient, he knows a great deal about God's plan for humanity. Satan and his demons "believe" in Jesus Christ, but though they may "tremble" they do not obey Him (James 2:19). Satan and his demons know that they have but a limited time to deceive human beings before they will be bound for a thousand years at Jesus Christ's return (Revelation 12:12; 20:2).

Satan is only as powerful as God allows him to be. God greatly limits what he can do. However, in our present age, Satan's power is so great that Scripture calls him "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Most human beings are blinded to his activities.

If Satan appeared in the fanciful manner depicted by poets like Dante Alighieri—a bat-like red being with a pitchfork and a pointy tail—he would be easy to detect and dismiss. But Satan is not stupid; he appears as an "angel of light" to those whom he seeks to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Because of this deception, many who think they are following a gentle god of love—a lamb—are, in fact, under the sway of a "dragon" who practices and teaches sin (Revelation 13:11). But what is sin? The Apostle John explained, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Or, as the *KJV* puts it, "sin is the transgression of the law."

Jesus Christ, who gave the Ten Commandments to Israel at Mount Sinai (1 Corinthians 10:4), told His followers, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Satan's religion teaches that God's law is a burden, but Jesus Christ inspired the Apostle John to write, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

Do not let yourself be deceived! Be sure that you are obeying the true Jesus Christ, not falling under the sway of a lawless impostor!

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: When I began to learn about God from the *Tomorrow's World* program, the magazine and the booklets you sent me, I thought my family, friends and co-workers would be as excited as I was about discovering the truths I have found. So I was very surprised by their negative reactions. Was I doing something wrong by trying to share what I am learning?

ANSWER: You may have made a mistake that people often make when they first come to understand the wonderful and exciting truth about God's plan of salvation for humanity. When you know how wonderful this knowledge is, and how it has changed your life, it is natural to want others to share in your joy. Certainly, Christians are not to hide their faith "under a basket" (Matthew 5:15). However, the foundational way that Christians are to share their faith is by setting a Christ-like example in their conduct (1 Peter 2:21). Yes, we must be ready to give an answer, to anyone who asks, for the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15). But even if people are not asking us about doctrine, they still see how we act. Generally, when people see your personal example as a Christian—when they see true Christianity's effect on your life—they will be more likely to ask you about what you believe.

No matter how excited you may be about what God is teaching you, you cannot—by the force of your words—"preach" someone into God's Church. Scripture makes it clear that it takes a calling from the Father—not the excitement of a friend or relative—to enable someone to understand what God has revealed. Remember: "Jesus therefore answered and said to them, '...No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me" (John 6:43–45).

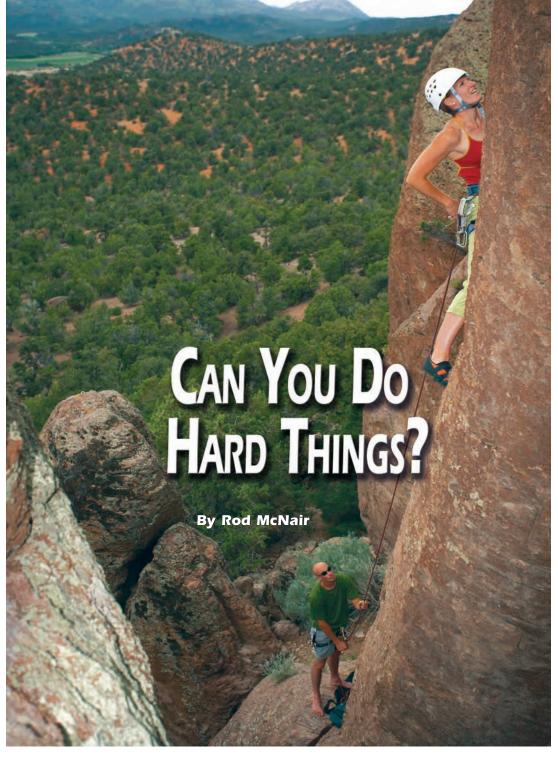
Yes, God decides whom He will call—and we know from His word that He is only calling a relatively small handful of "firstfruits" in this present age, who will take part in the "first resurrection" at Jesus Christ's return. Notice: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men

also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints'" (Jude 14). Although more than two billion people alive on planet Earth today profess to be Christians, the actual number of true Christians whom God has called is far, far less than that.

Of course, we know that God will eventually give everyone who has ever lived the opportunity to understand the Bible and to receive eternal life. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:33–34).

To most people who hear the true Gospel preached today, it will simply be a warning "witness" of what is to come. Out of the many who hear the truth preached, God is calling only a "little flock" in this present age (Luke 12:32). The vast majority of human beings remain blinded (2 Corinthians 4:3–4)—and this is part of God's plan, as He knows that these people are not yet ready for their calling. Indeed, trying to shine the light of truth into the mind of one who is blinded will often just bring persecution on whoever is holding the lantern. "Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13).

So, let your Christian deeds speak for you. If someone asks about your faith, share what has helped you learn and grow. But do not think that you can force God's truth on those around you. Pray that God will work with those you love, but trust in Him—not in your own efforts—to know when it is His will that they be called.



In an age of comfort and convenience, do you have what it takes to stretch yourself and do your very best?

troke, feather... Stroke, feather... Stroke, feather!" I shouted, as our two green canoes raced for the far shore. Dark clouds rumbled in from the west as the sky turned a murky blue. We plowed our paddles into the darkening water, the wind whipping our faces with spray, the canoes bucking with each wave.

Our destination was a protected cove in northern Minnesota's Namakan Lake. After struggling across the body of water, eight bedraggled canoeists finally made it to the cove. As our crafts slid into the smooth water of the landing area, I was struck by the reaction of my fellow paddlers. They were tired

and spent—but not discouraged. In fact, they were ecstatic! Braving the waves had energized them, leaving them thrilled that they had met a challenge and conquered it!

It was day four of a six-day, 50-mile canoe trip through Voyageur National Park, and the trip was living up to its billing as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Forty-three teens from all around the world had come to this park straddling the U.S.-Canadian border to experience the stunning wild beauty of the boundary waters.

The teens, joined by 27 adults serving as guides and chaperones, had wedged themselves and their gear into 17 canoes on a bright and pleasant day to start the trip. But the clear weather passed quickly, and each day after brought new wind, rain and thunderstorms-with only occasional respite. Sleeping bags were soggy, tents were soaked, mosquitoes were unrelenting and muscles were sore.

In short, it was great!

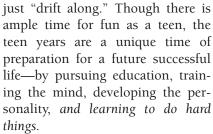
Why did we embark on a trip through remote country with no hot-water heaters and no indoor plumbing? To make the teens miserable? No! We wanted to take them on a trip like few had ever experienced. We hoped to teach them new skills they could put to the test in real-life situations. We sought to help them see that they could muster the determination to endure, even when pushed out of their

comfort zone. We did it to help them learn to face adversity together, to bond as a team and to rise to challenges together. We wanted to teach them to do hard things.

A Challenge for Teens

Sadly, in today's affluent Western culture, not only are teens rarely encouraged to take on diffi-

cult challengesthey are often given all sorts of excuses to fail! Reacting to this trend, teenagers Alex and Brett Harris in 2008 wrote a book, Do Hard Things, encouraging teens to face life boldly and use their teen years as a launching pad into adult life. The teen years, they remind us, are not a time to



Treating the teenage years as a "vacation from responsibility" is a fairly recent phenomenon. In America in So Many Words, authors David K. Barnhardt and Allen A. Metcalf point out that the term "teenager" was not even used before the first part of the 20th century. "Thus the years ending in -teen became something new and distinctive... The teenager remade our world. The concept is... subversive: why should any teenager enjoying freedom submit to the authority of adults? With the discovery of this new age, ours has been the century of the teenager ever since" (p. 234).

Certainly, not all teens shirk responsibility and waste time. Many are diligent, plan for the future, and work hard. Many are exemplary, selfless people who dedicate themselves to serving others. Yet they are bucking a cultural current that mainly encourages youthful apathy

and inaction.

The Bible. not surprisingly, disagrees with our 21st century cultural norm. King Solomon, nearly 3,000 years ago, wrote that we should enjoy our younger years within the overall context of developing a relationship with God: "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and

let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Yes, God wants teens to enjoy youth and to have fun. He wants them to explore the world and develop their minds. He wants them to build relationships and develop their personalities. But doing so does not mean a decadelong vacation from responsibility. The teen years are a time to learn to work hard, build toughness of mind and strength of character, and to learn how to apply God's law in making the good—yet sometimes difficult—choices that help lay the foundation for a successful life!

Parents can unwittingly discourage teens from being their best by not expecting high levels of character. Our children will rise to the level of our expectations. But we must help them begin to build a noble life, with character and moral strength. As Solomon said: "Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right" (Proverbs 20:11).

Does this mean young people will be perfect? Of course not! They make mistakes. They need encouragement—and sometimes correction. But parents must not lower expectations or make excuses for failure. We must inspire them to do the right thing, even if it is hard.

Not for Teens Only

Why is it so important to help teens face responsibility? Because teenage apathy leads to young adult apathy! Television sitcoms today often portray twenty-something (and, increasingly, thirty-something) "kidults" or "adultescents"overgrown children, with no apparent direction or purpose, whose main focus seems to be spending time with their friends in an unending haze of perpetual adolescence.

This is not an isolated occurrence—it is a growing cultural phenomenon. TIME magazine writer Lev Grossman observed: "Social scientists are starting to realize that a permanent shift has taken place in the way we live our lives. In the past, people moved from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood, but today there is a new, intermediate phase along the way. The years from 18 until 25 and even beyond have become a distinct and separate life stage, a strange, transitional never-never land between adolescence and adulthood in which people stall for a few extra years, putting off the iron cage of adult responsibility that constantly threatens to crash down on them" ("Grow up? Not so fast," January 16, 2005).

Yet the young adult years are precisely the time of life when people have the most energy and vitality to pour into building careers, marriages and families. It is not a time to waste just "hanging around"!

Some words from the Apostle Paul to the young evangelist Timothy are particularly poignant

for this generation: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Ironically, while the Western world idolizes perpetual youth, it also despises it. Not only can older people look down on the accom-

plishments of young people who succeed at hard things; young people themselves, by pursuing worthless and wasteful distractions, can unwittingly "despise" the opportunities God has given them to direct their lives and build their futures.

Not only does God give young people the opportunity to prepare for their future human lives, He is calling all true Christians out of the world today, to prepare for a future as firstfruits in His Kingdom. What does this mean? Those who respond to His call today, and commit their lives to Him, will receive opportunities beyond their wildest dreams! Look at what Jesus Christ told His disciples: "Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. Therefore He said: 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return'" (Luke 19:11–12).

The nobleman gave ten pieces of money to his servants to use profitably while he was gone. When he returned, the nobleman rewarded them for their service. What was the reward? Notice: "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has

e a r n e d t e n minas.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities'" (Luke 19:16–17).

The servant who multiplied his master's money was given a great reward. To day's Christians will receive an amaz-

ing reward if we repent and respond to God's call today. We can become the firstfruits in God's Kingdom at Christ's return, receiving eternal life as our reward (1 Corinthians 15:52-53). We can have the opportunity to serve in Christ's own government. Paul asked the question, "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?" Corinthians 6:2). Today's Christians will be judges-rulers-in the Kingdom of God. Now is the time for us to prepare, by growing in character and obedience to God and committing to be tools in His hands.

When we grasp the opportunities God is giving those who learn to do His will, how can we fall for the laziness and apathy the world wants to offer us? Now is the time to prepare for our destiny! Now is

the time to learn to make and keep commitments. Now is the time to take on and not shirk responsibility. Now is the time to obey God—even when it is tough, and means going against the crowd. Now is the time to be willing to do hard things for God.

The prophet Jeremiah watched Jerusalem descend into warfare and chaos when Babylonians besieged the city. What did he conclude from what he saw? "The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth" (Lamentations 3:25–27).

Jeremiah understood. The youthful years are the time to prepare for responsibility—not to ride along in apathy, flowing with the tide of society.

A Time of Apathy

But is this message just for teens and young adults? Or is it for a broader audience? As Dr. Douglas Winnail describes in his article. Lessons from Seven Churches" (on page 22 of this issue), the second and third chapters of Revelation describe seven historic Church congregations and successive Church eras-from the time of the apostles to the endtime. The seventh and last is named "Laodicea"—and characterizes the prominent attitude of most Christians at the time of Jesus Christ's return.

We are now living in the endtime, so the warning to Laodicea is a warning to our generation—to a people in the end-time, struggling against the corrosiveness of spiritual apathy: "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I

know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:14-16). What a contrast this offers to the portrayal of the faithful Philadelphian Christians, mentioned just a few verses before, who will be holding on as a remnant alongside their Laodicean brethren.

Christ's message is also an indictment against a lukewarm and apathetic society as a whole. Think about it. A few generations ago, values of hard work and self-discipline were deeply ingrained in the fabric of Western society. People grew up expecting that success often meant self-restraint, and required people to do things that were not always fun or comfortable in the short-term. How out-of-date that sounds to many today! Even the terms "self-discipline" and "self-control" sound archaic! Yet self-control pleases God; it is listed as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23), and the Apostle Paul preached about it to the governor Felix (Acts 24:25).

It is sometimes hard to obey God, especially when the tide of society goes against you. For instance, our society finds it hard to control desire for possessions—and so credit card debt soars higher and higher. However, Christ taught His disciples not to set their hearts on possessions. He said that unless we are willing to give up our possessions to serve Him, we are not fit to be His disciples (Matthew 19:21).

It is also sometimes difficult to control one's passion and anger. How many times do we lose our temper and do things we later regret? In a society throwing off self-restraint, we hear almost every day of people losing their tempers and even engaging in road rage and murderous attacks on helpless victims. And yet, to please God, Christians must conquer their emotions and bring even every thought into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

It also is hard to guard what comes out of our mouth. We hear coarser and cruder language all the time, on television, on the Internet and in daily contact with others. The tongue is very difficult to tame (James 3:8). Even so, with Christ's help, we need to control our words, for He said, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36).

In our present day, it can even be hard to keep God's Sabbath. How ironic! The Sabbath is a rest day, yet many who exercise faith and courage to keep it are risking rejection by family, friends and neighbors. We may risk losing a job—or

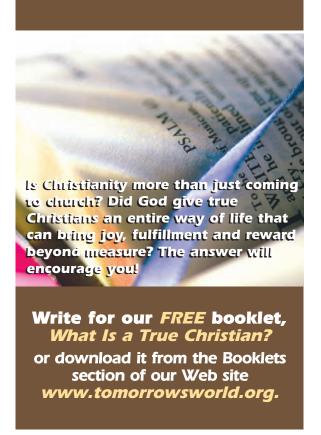
be unable to find one—because we will not work on the Sabbath. Yet Jesus Christ promised that if we make obedience to Him our highest priority, He will take care of us-even making sure that we have what we need to eat and to wear (Matthew 6:33)!

Being a true Christian today demands strength of character! It demands that we are willing to make sacrifices. If God is calling you and opening your mind to His Truth, are you willing to do the hard things? Are you willing to control your desires and passions? Are you willing to control your tongue? Are you willing to conquer your temper?

Are you willing to put God first in keeping His Sabbaths and Holy Days?

This is not the time to shrink back—it is the time to be strong and take the challenge! It is the time to go against the complacency and apathy of society. It is time to truly submit to God. It is time to let Him empower us to do the hard things to serve Him, even when others are not. God is looking for people who will step out and serve Him even when it's hard. Scripture encourages us: "The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). Eternal blessings and opportunities await true Christians who are willing to commit to Him, submit to His ways, and conquer themselves. Even if it is hard.

What Is a True Christian?



LONDON CA

WELCOME TO THE NEW EU!

December 1, 2009 marked an historic turning point for the European Union and the United Kingdom. On that date the Lisbon Reform Treaty passed into EU law, after finally being accepted by all EU member countries.

The Lisbon Treaty was not precisely a treaty as one might expect, but rather an almost incomprehensible hodgepodge of amendments, additions, and subtractions from *previous* treaties, consolidated into two foun-

dational documents: the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Why was the treaty's enactment so complicated? What is its background and context—and how is it viewed from London? Most importantly, what is its prophetic significance? The very reason for the treaty lies at the heart of widespread doubts and fears about the true nature of the so-called "EU project." Opinion polls in the UK have consistently shown that a clear majority do

not want to be subsumed within a highly bureaucratic federal superstate. Such an emerging power would threaten UK culture, ancient history and values, Common Law traditions and the British way of doing things.

The sad truth, now well documented, is that successive UK governments dating back to the early 1970s, aided by sections of the media, grossly misrepresented what the EU project was all about. They said it was merely an economic union, involving no loss of British sovereignty. All too many Britons see a generation of leaders as guilty of denial, misrepresentation and outright lies in their efforts to lead a sceptical and fiercely independent global player (that had arguably, in many respects, formed the modern world), toward an unwanted destination.

Hidden Constitution for a New EU

These fears were progressively heightened by the nature and provisions of previous treaties that culminated in the contentious 2004 draft Constitutional Treaty, which many Britons opposed because they perceived it

as leading directly to a federal superstate. France and Holland for their own reasons rejected the treaty, in their referenda of June 2005, and it never became EU law

After a two-year hiatus, the German Presidency of the EU reintroduced discussion to find a way to bring the contents of the Constitutional Treaty into law. The

result was the so-called Lisbon Treaty, presented not as a constitutional document, but as a tidying-up exercise of the preceding treaties. It was constructed with such mind-boggling complexity that most people, including many politicians, could be forgiven for not reading it and failing to understand what it was



all about.

Yet there is no doubt that the Lisbon Treaty contained the provisions of the Constitutional Treaty, which were deliberately disguised so its contents could be smuggled through intact. Indeed, all nine of the essential points of the previous treaty were preserved wordfor-word! Consider this blunt appraisal by Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President of the convention that drew up the text of the Draft Constitution: "If one looks at the content, the result is that the institutional proposals of the Constitutional Treaty... are found complete in the Treaty of Lisbon, only in a different order, and inserted in the preceding treaties.... In the Treaty of Lisbon, drawn up exclusively from the Constitutional Treaty, the tools are exactly the same. Only the order has been changed in the tool box. The box itself has been redecorated, using an old model, which has three compartments in which you have to rifle around to find what you are looking for" (from an open letter published in Le Monde on October 26, 2007).

Sense of Betrayal

Back in 2005 and under great pressure from media and country, British Prime Minister Tony Blair surpris-

ingly promised a referendum on the EU to the British electorate. But after Gordon Brown succeeded him, the only way to get the Lisbon Treaty accepted was to renege on this promise and pretend that the treaty was not really a constitutional document after all, which would make a referendum unnecessary.

This resulted in a most profound sense of betrayal amongst many of the British; they had not been allowed to express their democratic opinion on EU entry, and with it the very future of their country. Following the adoption of the treaty there is a widespread feeling that the UK has not been told the truth about the EU and its invasive role in UK life. The result is that the UK is now signed up to this important treaty with-

The EU Project Fulfilled?

out popular assent.

Now that it has become law, what effect will the Lisbon Treaty have? On November 19, 2009, in anticipation of the treaty's adoption, the European Council duly fulfilled one of its key provisions by appointing former Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy as the first President of the Council, and former EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton—a British peer—as High Representative for Foreign Affairs. Serving for terms of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 years respectively (renewable once), these are in effect the new President and Foreign Minister of the EU.

Catherine Ashton

Another key provision of the treaty unambiguously confers on the EU *its own separate* (*legal*) *personality*. This means that the EU can now become an international actor on the world stage *in its own right*, separate from and superior to its member states (as constituent countries are now known).

The previous European Community, with its implication of separate countries grouped together, has *now ceased to exist* and is replaced by the *new European Union*. This now has primacy of law over member states and inherits the legislative powers formerly given to the Community.

What was a community held together by international agreement has thus become something more like *a single state*. It has new powers to raise its own separate budg-

et, allowing it to become financially independent from member states. This marks a *radical new stage* in the process of achieving the EU's aspiration of "ever closer union" among all the peoples of Europe. The EU's purposes, always directed towards social, economic and environmental improvement for Europe, now take on *far greater political ambitions*, projecting EU power, policies—and especially what it sees as its *distinctive values*—more

decisively onto the world scene.

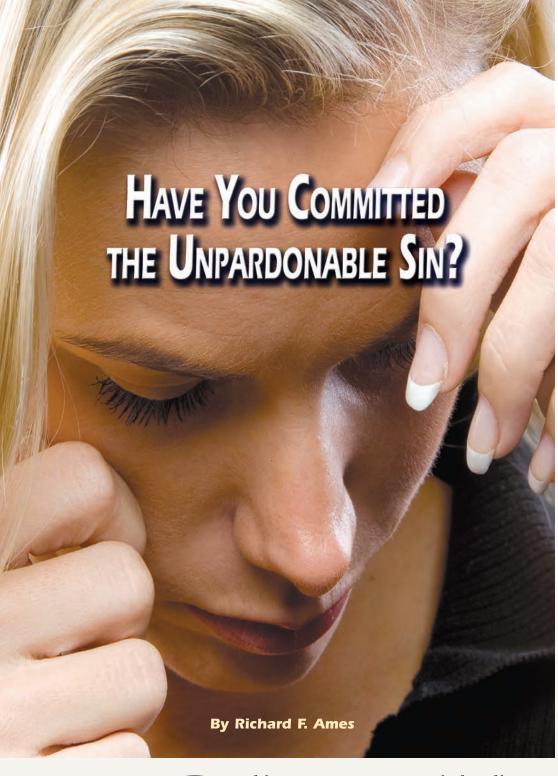
Now that this landmark development has occurred, we can expect the EU to push harder to consolidate its power—both internally and externally. More power will be taken to the centre, and the strength of constituent states will be eroded further. The Lisbon Treaty allows amendments to its two foundational documents, through which the EU can be expected to evolve relentlessly toward the desti-

nation envisaged by its founding fathers—a powerful federal union able to compete confidently on the world stage and project its interests and values. Significantly, no provision in the Lisbon Treaty would prevent the President of the European Commission from also becoming President of the European Council, creating a position of supreme European political power unheard of since the last Holy Roman Emperor!

Prophetic Significance

Looking back over 40 years worth of machinations whilst the EU has come together, few recognize the *spiritual* significance of these developments. They mark a distinct watershed in the prophesied *decline* of Britain, and in the inexorable *rise* of a united Europe—evolving relentlessly to fulfill end-time events as foretold in the book of Revelation. Britain, instead of looking to God to guide the nation (Hosea 8:14), has "hired lovers" (8:9; 7:11), and is slowly being "swallowed up" (8:8) as its former strength is "devoured" (7:8–9; 9:11). The British will come to rue the day their leaders bound the nation to a future beyond their control. Write for our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, to find out more.

—John Meakin



ne of the most agonizing worries is the fear of being cut off from God. Even more distressing is the thought that one may be cut off forever, with no chance of redemption. Some fear that they have committed the "unpardonable sin." Do you feel guilty, worried that your sins are keeping you away from God?

If you want deliverance from your guilty feelings—if you want to repent and you want relief for your feelings of despondency—there is help available. God is not out to trick people into sinning so He can find an excuse to destroy them. On the contrary, God wants us to be a part of His family and to share in His loving way of life. He wants us to learn from our mistakes, repent and change our lives.

Does your conscience bother you? Scripture explains that those who have actually committed the unpardonable sin have seared their consciencesand are totally consumed with rebellion against God. They are not worried about committing the ultimate transgression. They may be fearful of their ultimate punishment, but they are not equivocating over their unswerving dedication to wickedness and evil.

Just what is the unpardonable sin? Put simply, it is a sin that will not be forgiven. God is willing to forgive our sins if we repent of them, if we are sorry for them and if we are determined to change. But when one sears his conscience to never repent, he cannot be forgiven. Jesus states the problem clearly. "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" (Mark 3:28-29).

Jesus said that all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, if they repent of those sins. Yet the one unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? And how does one blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?

Blasphemy, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "to speak impiously or irreverently of (God or sacred things)" or "to speak evil of, slander; abuse." A parallel Gospel account gives us a powerful exam-

ple. "Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He [Jesus] healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, 'Could this be the Son of David?" (Matthew 12:22-23).

The crowds recognized that the prophesied Messiah, the Son of David, would be able to accomplish this miracle, but the Pharisees falsely asserted that Jesus used the power of Satan. "Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, 'This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons" (Matthew 12:24).

These accusers blasphemed they spoke evil of God's miraculous work through the Holy Spirit. Jesus warned them powerfully: "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come" (Matthew 12:31-32).

We all need to heed that warning. Notice the Apostle Paul's warning to Christians, that "if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:26).

Willful sin is a fully conscious and determined act and attitude to not ever repent of sin. The willful sinner is intractable. He or she has a conscience seared to do evil. This kind of sinner will never even entertain the thought of repenting and desiring to return to God's way of life (cf. 1 Timothy 4:2). The incorrigibly wicked are not blinded like the rest of the world; they have "knowledge of the truth." They know the effect of Christ's sacrifice. yet they profane it. Such ones face "a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:27-29).

Yes, there will be a fiery judgment—a lake of fire for those who persist in sinning willfully and who insult the Spirit of grace. Scripture also gives a warning to all who, as Christians, have been "partakers of the Holy Spirit." Remember that God gives the Holy Spirit to those "who obey Him" (Acts 5:32). If Christians willfully turn back to evil-if they fall away and turn to a hardened and permanent attitude of disobedience-Scripture teaches that it is impossible to "renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:6).

Truly converted Christians are those to whom God has given the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). Even converted Christians will sin-but they are committed to repenting always. They need a repentant attitude of mind, always looking forward to changing their behavior and attitude, even if they feel too weak to do so just yet. God is patient, but we need to respond to that patience because the time is growing short. Always desire repentance. Always desire to change your life for good even if, through weakness, you give in to temptation. Ask God for a spirit of repentance!

How Can Christians Avoid the Unpardonable Sin?

We have seen that the unpardonable sin is a sin that will not be forgiven because the sinner willfully blasphemes the Holy Spirit, and hardens his heart to never repent. Such a sinner sears his conscience to do evil, and will end up in the lake of fire, as we read in Revelation 21:8. How can we avoid having this belligerent and hardened mindset?

We all have the opportunity to choose life and love, rather than death and disobedience. But how can anyone deliberately and permanently decide to go the wrong way into rebellion? Here is what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote concerning that deliberate choice: "This may come from wrong reasoning; from wrong desire thought out to a final fixed, permanent decision as to his way of life; or, from allowing resentment in his heart toward either God or some person who may have wronged him. To allow resentment to embitter him, until he comes to change his whole life course, turning from God" (What Do You Mean, 'The Unpardonable Sin'?, 1972, p. 34).

Hurt feelings often lead to resentment, and resentment turns to hate and bitterness. Are you resentful and hateful toward someone? We must always be on guard against such feelings. Remember: "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15). If you have those feelings, you need to overcome them by choosing to fear God and choosing to understand the seriousness of hate and resentment.

In the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus gave another antidote to feelings of hate and desires for revenge. "You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:43–45).

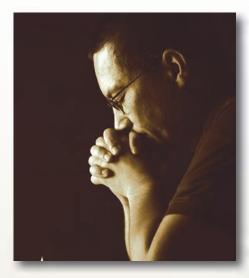
To a carnal mind, that approach sounds naive and foolish. But following those instructions to pray for our enemies can keep us from the poison of bitterness. Yes, this is a revolutionary way of life. It is the antithesis of todav's selfish, covetous, me-first philosophy. But it is the way of life taught by the Son of God, and the way of life everyone in the Millennium—Christ's future 1,000-year rule on earth—will learn. Try it! Actually get down on your knees—and pray for the welfare of someone you may even hate. You will be surprised at the relief of stress you will experience. Our attitude and approach toward others is extremely important.

God, in His judgment, will avenge injustice. As the Apostle Paul wrote: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord' (Romans 12:19). We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (14:10). Trust God to punish the wicked, just as He says.

Notice one more key to overcoming bitterness. "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:14–15).

Here is another warning to avoid bitterness. Notice the pre-

scription: "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness." Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). He said: "Do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Will you take His challenge? Will you humble yourself before God and pray for



your enemies? This will go a long way toward overcoming any root of bitterness you may have.

One can also lose the Holy Spirit, and go down the pathway toward the unpardonable sin, by *continued neglect*. Do you neglect prayer, Bible study and fellowship with converted Christians?

This world has such a pull on our interests that we can be distracted from our spiritual priorities. What is your personal goal in life? Jesus said: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). That should be our goal in life, according to our Savior! Neglecting our spiritual priorities leads to spiritual weakness, but God's Spirit is the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you

through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

Without that spiritual power, we will be unable to change our lives. But God is willing to give us that gift, the most valuable gift beyond the gift of His Son for the sins of the world. What must we do? On the day of Pentecost, at the very beginning of the New Testament Church, the Apostle Peter said: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Christians do receive that gift, but it is a gift that must be treasured, and even "stirred up," as the Apostle Paul exhorted.

Continued neglect of our spiritual priorities will lead to a "careless" attitude—an attitude that can lead to a hardened heart and the unpardonable sin. "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Hebrews 2:1). Otherwise, "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (v. 3). Christians must make the commitment never to allow bitter or resentful attitudes to poison their hearts and minds. And we must make the commitment to seek the Lord while He may be found. Keep up heartfelt prayer and Bible study. Choose to stay awake spiritually. Be committed to staying spiritually active and alert!

One of the most comforting and encouraging truths of the Bible is that billions of people—individuals whom some Christians have condemned or considered lost forever—were actually blinded spiritually. They were carnal, they were even wicked, but they never heard or understood the true Gospel. Yes,

(Continued on page 29)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In receipt of the March-April issue of Tomorrow's World, I read about the sign of Jonah, and it was amazing to learn more about the three days and three nights.

After sharing this with fellow members of my local church, they were filled with awe. Thank you for the good work you are doing.

J. N., Eldoret, Kenya

Thank you for the magazines I have been receiving for a couple of years, They have encouraged me, and my husband and I have continued to hold onto the beliefs that the Ten Commandments are important and that the Sabbath is for today and us keeping it is important to God. Finding your magazine has been a real lifeline of encouragement. It is very lonely in these last days as the love of many grows cold and the absolutes of God are not accepted as truth. So, a big "thank you."

C. M., Reefton, New Zealand

I started reading all of your booklets, and found them all quite interesting, but there is one thing that really bothers me. You state, time and time again "remember the Sabbath and keep it holy," but I have noticed all of your sermons and TV sermons are all held on Sunday. This bothers me quite a bit, as there are many, many things in your booklets that I totally agree with. I am 67 years old and would like to do things right with my God and Savior Jesus Christ. You have supplied many answers to my questions. The only thing that bothers me is that you like the mainstream churches practice having your sermons on Sunday. Could you please inform me as to why that is?

C. E., Hagerstown, MA

Editor's Note: The Tomorrow's World telecast is not a sermon. God has set aside the seventh-day Sabbath as the unique weekly time for rest and for assembling together to worship Him. However, there is no prohibition against teaching people God's Truth on any day of the week. Notice that the Apostle Paul met with the disciples for a non-Sabbath dinner, and

taught them until midnight (Acts 20:7). The Tomorrow's World telecast is not a substitute for the God-ordained assembly of believers on the seventh-day Sabbath (Hebrews 10:25). Nevertheless, if you prefer to watch the telecast at some other time, you can find it Wednesday nights or Thursday mornings on several dozen ION Network stations across the United States, and you can watch it online any time of day or night at our Web site, www.tomorrowsworld.org.

Thank you so much for the article, "Bible Principles of Health" (May-June 2009). Thank you for all the details why I should not be eating my favorite crabs and oysters. I now understand, and my system will no longer have them. From now on I will live by my Maker's operating manual. We are all blessed with a beautiful body in whatever form or shape; what is important is keeping this body a temple of God.

V. B., Richmond, BC, Canada

I would like to thank you all at Tomorrow's World, for the excellent and interesting coverage of God's word. I was brought up in a traditional education system that, I now realize some 30 years or more later, indoctrinated me with a complete blasphemy of God. I actually now realize I was brought up to worship some "cloaked" pagan religion based upon ancient Sun-worshipping from Babylon with Jesus Christ and God's name just "stuck-on" as labels. Worse still, it's not only a blasphemy of God, but it's a dumbed-down blasphemy of God, that teaches you can make a complete convenience of God—just turn-up for half an hour every week, put your money in the plate, stand-up when you're told, sit down when you're told, sing a couple of hymns, bless yourself on the way out and see you next week—and, oh, don't worry if you sin, our priests have the divine right to absolve you, and you've got your ticket to an everlasting life when you die. Well how convenient is that? No wonder I dropped away from it, even when I was thirteen I could intuitively "smell a rat" I suppose. I feel I've been cheated from ever knowing God all my life up until a few weeks ago. Keep up the excellent work, you guys.

T. L., Durham, England

We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to *letters@tomorrowsworld.org*. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

WATCH AND W

Babylon and Tribulation

The Lisbon Treaty, which went into effect on December 1, 2009, marks a watershed in European history—because it gives Europe the means to function as the *superpower empire* that in reality it already is.

While political scientists and economists have mar-

veled about Europe's post-World War II transformation, God's faithful Church has *long foretold* these events, and has *long warned* of the tragic consequences facing America and the British-descended nations. Modern *Babylon* is rising, and Scripture shows that its rapid rise will herald the tragic demise of America, Britain and British-descended nations during the *Great Tribulation*.

Thankfully, the exciting truth is that soon after this final Babylonian revival, *Christ will return* as the conquering King of kings to establish His righteous government on the earth (Revelation 11:15).

Geopolitics: European and American

The Lisbon Treaty made all Europeans citizens of the *new* European Union. It *removes many national veto rights*, allows for *qualified majority vote* instead of unanimous consent of member-nations, creates a strong President of the European Council and establishes the diplomatic post of High Representative, giving the EU more influence on the world stage.

As Europe enters a new era, the U.S. seems adrift. The U.S. jobless rate is at a 26-year high above 10 percent, while U.S. fiscal policy is severely restrained by near-zero interest rates and a rapidly bloating federal debt. By contrast, Germany—Europe's largest economy—is surging ahead on fundamentals such as strong manufacturing and exports (*Wall Street Journal*, November 10, 2009). Meanwhile, Europe and Asian nations are making preferential trade deals allowing the EU to take precedence over the U.S. throughout Asia (*Financial Times*, November 9, 2009). Revelation 18:3 foretells that merchants around the world—including the Asian powers—will, for a while, become wealthy by trad-

ing with Europe, and we are beginning to see the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Not only is the U.S. being outpaced and outmaneuvered, it is facing international ridicule! When U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner recently "assured a

group of Chinese students in Beijing that their country's U.S. dollar investments were in good hands," his comments provoked *derisive laughter* that "brought the house down" (*Financial Times*, November 10, 2009)! Such embarrassing lack of confidence in America is one reason why gold rose to record highs in December 2009, and why India's central bank recently purchased 200 tons of gold in a significant

divestiture of U.S. dollars (Wall Street Journal, November 4, 2009).

Those who believe we have "plenty of time" and consider the dollar "too important" to rapidly devalue are overlooking economic fundamentals, neglecting the lessons from the short years it took Weimar Germany and modern-day Zimbabwe to collapse, and disregarding Bible prophecies such as Isaiah 30:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:3. Regardless of economic swings, these trends will accelerate in the years ahead unless there is national repentance.

Europe: The Final Human Superpower

Will a unified and dominant Europe bring peace, or lead the world to a third World War? As London's *The Times* reported, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1989 bluntly warned Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev that a unified Germany "would undermine the stability of the whole international situation and could endanger our security" (September 11, 2009).

Modern pundits may dismiss Thatcher's concern as "controversial," but she recognized that a united Germany had—twice in the 20th century—drawn Europe into devastating conflict in its desire for greater power and influence. Would we expect centuries of German psyche to have changed in just the last 50 years?

VARN

God's faithful Church has *long warned* that Scripture shows a unified Germany leading the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire—an unholy alliance of church and state. More than 40 years ago, our predecessor in this Work, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, wrote the following—*decades before* the fall of the Berlin Wall, German reunification, or the Lisbon Treaty:

"Revelation 13 and 17 show that, after the fall of the original Roman Empire, there would be ten revivals—seven of which would be ruled over by a Gentile CHURCH—the 'daughter' of ancient Babylon—a church claiming to be Christian, but actually named by God 'MYSTERY BABYLON the Great'—or, more plainly, Babylonian Mysteries!

Six of those have come and gone. The seventh is now forming—the last, final, brief resurrection of the Roman Empire by ten European groups or nations. These are the ten toes of the iron and clay mixed" ('Just what do you mean... The Kingdom of God?,' *Tomorrow's World*, June 1969).

Describing how a great false religious system would interact with the final revival of the "Holy Roman Empire," he concluded:

"She 'sat on' (Rev. 17:3) all seven of these resurrections of the Roman Empire—called the 'Holy Roman Empire.'... She is, therefore, to 'sit on' this last 'head of the Beast'—this final resurrection of the Roman Empire. It will be a *union* of church and state. It is to endure but a very short time. It is to FIGHT AGAINST CHRIST at His SECOND COMING! That will be its END" (*ibid.*).

As Ezekiel 27 and Revelation 18 reveal, initially all nations will benefit from trading with the Beast, but national sovereignty and religious and political *submission* will be the price.

Babylon Is Fallen

Before Christ's return, Babylon the Great will nearly obliterate the U.S. and British-descended nations during the *Great Tribulation*—a traumatic time for the entire

world (Matthew 24:21), for God's Church, and especially for the physical nations comprising the modern-day descendants of Jacob.

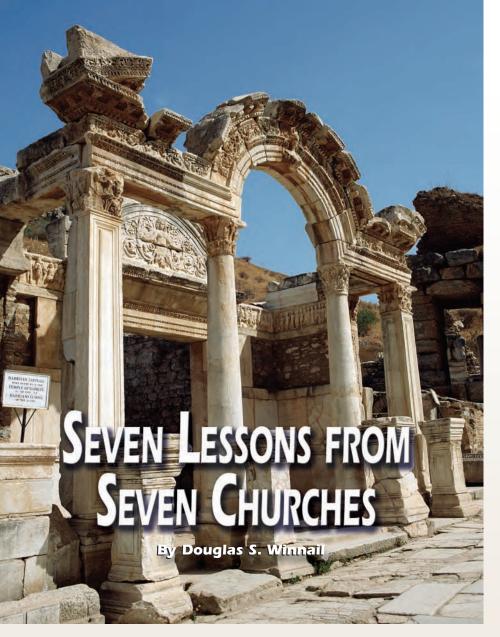
As Babylon rises, God's Church will suffer persecution, but zealous Christians—who are wholeheartedly dedicated to supporting the Work of preaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15; Revelation 3:8), vigorously warning the nations (Ezekiel 33:6), and growing in all of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)—will be removed to a physical place of safety (Revelation 3:10) before the Great Tribulation. Sadly, those lukewarm Christians who have lost their focus—whether through arrogance or apathy—will not receive God's protection. They will be "given into his [Satan's] hand" (Daniel 7:24–25) to become purified by suffering three-and-a-half years of horrific tribulation and martyrdom (Revelation 7:14).

Ezekiel 5:12 shows that two-thirds of modern Jacob will die by pestilence, famine and war. One-third will be taken into captivity throughout *the north* (Isaiah 10:5–6), *the south* (Deuteronomy 28:68) and *the east* (Ezekiel 27:12–13). The captives will endure suffering typical of those enslaved during war. "The sword" will be drawn after them, and *barely ten percent will survive* (Isaiah 6:9–13)! This is genocide of a magnitude never before seen in human history!

However, God promises that humanity's final fate is *not* to end in apocalyptic horror. Jesus Christ, the returning King of kings, will "set His hand again *the second time* to recover the remnant of His people" (Isaiah 11:11). He will "have mercy on the whole house of Israel," bringing them back to their own land, leaving "none of them captive any longer" (Ezekiel 39:23–28). The Kingdom of God will cover the entire earth, and *all nations* will learn to obey God's commandments—all will keep the seventh-day Sabbath and annual Holy Days (Isaiah 66:23; Zechariah 14:16–18).

You can be a pioneer in this coming reality! You can escape these terrors and can stand before Christ, at His return, as a faithful servant who will receive the first and better resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52; Hebrews 11:35). You can—if you act on the Truth you are learning in the pages of this magazine!

-Wyatt Ciesielka



Two key chapters in the book of Revelation explain the history of God's Church—where it has gone astray, and what you need to do about it!

deas circulating among Christians today are significant in ways most do not realize. New ideas and new controversies cause some groups to move together, and others to move apart. But why is this happening, and what does it all mean? Does Scripture give us any clue?

Yes, it does! In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John wrote about events that would lead to the end of this age. The *link* between John's day and the time of Christ's return is the prophetic time period pictured by *seven Church eras* outlined in Revelation 2–3.

The letters to the seven churches describe actual conditions in each church at the end of the first century AD. However, the letters are also prophecy about the future. The seven churches were geographically arranged in sequence on a mail route in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Scholars realize that this sequence

portrays seven eras of God's Church, from the days of the Apostles to the end of the age. The church conditions described in the letters prophetically describe conditions that would prevail in each successive era. John addressed the book of Revelation "to the seven churches" (1:4), indicating that the letters to each church were to be read in all the churches. Thus, a third purpose of the letters is to convey universal lessons that describe and deal with universal human tendencies. We need to understand what these letters reveal about the eras of the Church-especially our modern era—and how their lessons apply to us today.

Ephesus: Lost Its First Love

Ephesus was the leading city of Asia Minor-but it was in a state of decline. The Ephesian church is symbolic of the Apostolic era of the first and second centuries AD. This church is commended for its works-the preaching, enduring and serving by the early disciples (Revelation 2:1-3). Even they had to discern between false teachers and true Christian ministers. However, like the fading glory of Ephesus, the Church at the end of the first century was told that "you have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4). God warned that, unless they repented, He would cease to use them for His purpose (Revelation 2:5).

John equates "love" with walking in the truth and keeping the commandments (2 John 6). Concerning the effect of false teachers, he warns, "Look to vourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for," including our reward (2 John 7-8). In 3 John, he urges the Church to serve the brethren and to "become fellow workers for the truth" (vv. 4-8). Though Jesus emphasized humility (Matthew 5:5) and love for neighbor (John 15:12), the Church at the end of the first century contained individuals who loved preeminence over others—an attitude the Bible calls evil (3 John 9–11).

The church at Ephesus had lost its love—for God, for the Truth, for doing the Work and for the brethren. In place of these key fundamentals, people were listening to deceptive doctrines (see Revelation 2:6). For some, holding on to a position was more important than holding on to the Truth. Even today, some are more concerned with holding a position—perhaps serving as an elder or deacon, passing out songbooks or leading a choir than with doing the Work of God. The lesson of the Ephesian era is clear: Get back on track-do the Work. Preach the Gospel with zeal, love the Truth and love each

The New Testament Church, which began in the 30s, was beginning to fragment in the 90s, when John wrote his epistles and the book of Revelation. The Apostle Paul indicates that this diversity of opinion had been present for some time (1 Corinthians 1:10-13), and was causing people to fall away (2 Timothy 1:15). In just over 60 years, the Church founded by Jesus Christ was already rife with division and doctrinal strife. This should be a sobering lesson for us today!

Smyrna: Faithful in Trial

The church at Smyrna offers another powerful and timeless lesson. Smyrna was a prosperous, bustling, beautifully planned port city, but Christians there faced considerable persecution. The Smyrna era appears to cover the third and fourth centuries AD, a period of intense Roman persecution of the Church. While the Smyrna era is commended for its works and being rich in faith (Revelation 2:9), it is urged to be "faithful until death" in order to receive a reward (Revelation 2:10). The church at Smyrna illustrates the vital importance of endurance—of holding on to your beliefs during difficult times. Jesus said that "he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). The Apostle Paul wrote that only those who finish the race will be given a prize (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Elders are admonished that they must be found "holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught" (Titus 1:9). If your foundation is solid (Matthew 7:24-29), and you take time to "prove" what the Truth is (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV), you will be prepared to endure when the going becomes rough.

Historical sources reveal that Christians of the Smyrna era believed in the Millennium—the thousand-year reign of Christ and the saints on earth. They would have nothing to do with the Roman Saturnalia and Brumalia (sources of modern Christmas customs). They tithed and did not believe in an immortal soul. They kept the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and followed the dietary laws of Scripture (see Edward Gibbon's The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, chapter 15). It is no wonder they were persecuted; they did not follow prevailing social and religious customs. Smyrna is one of only two churches to receive no correction. The lesson of the Smyrna era is simple, but vital and timeless: Remain faithful in trials-endure to the end and do not give up! It is a lesson we cannot afford to forget!

Pergamos: The Compromising Church

Pergamos was the capital city of Asia Minor, home to imposing temples dedicated to Zeus, Apollo, Athena, Asclepius (the healing cult) and Caesar. Its citizens were sophisticated and literate. The church at Pergamos is admonished

for permitting false teachers to put "stumbling blocks" in the way of believers (Revelation 2:14). While people may not initially believe false teachings, tolerating the spread of deceptive ideas will eventually lead many to stumble spiritually and compromise the doctrines of true Apostolic Christianity. The Bible reveals that not only can false teachers cause people to stumble; so also can trials, tribulations, persecutions (Matthew 13:21) and poor examples (1 Corinthians 8:9). Some will even stumble over the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ (Malachi 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:23).

The Pergamos era appears to extend from about 500-1000AD. It was during this time—the Dark Ages when the Roman Church dominated Europe—that Easter, Christmas, Halloween and the philosophical ideas of the Trinity and the immortal soul were absorbed from paganism into the dominant church. Intellectual sophistication, human reason and the desire to be "progressive" often leads to abandoning fundamental biblical truth The lesson of Pergamos is pointed: Do not tolerate false teachings or those who promote them—compromise causes people to stumble; Christians must stand for the Truth. This advice is particularly appropriate for the Church today!

Thyatira: The Corrupt Church

Thyatira was an inland city located on a major trade route. It was a commercial center with many trade guilds, and was the home of a military garrison. Its patron deity was a warrior goddess. To participate in the local economy would have required membership in trade guilds that sponsored idolatrous annual festi-

vals-thus putting pressure on Christians to compromise to fit in. The Thyatira era appears to stretch from about the 11th century to the 16th century, including the Reformation and Counter-Reformation periods when many left the established Roman Church. During this time, in central and southern Europe, we find groups of Christians who believed in the Sabbath, some of the Holy Days, tithing, adult baptism and the dietary laws, and rejected doctrines of the Trinity, immortal soul, purgatory, and the popularized concepts of heaven and hell. However, over time and under the pressure of Counter-Reformation forces, many drift*ed back* into prevailing practices by sitting in Sunday services, observing pagan holidays and

serving in armies to avoid per-

secution. Many suffered and

died as a result, as we see from

the history of the Waldenses.

The lesson of Thyatira is blunt: Do not pretend to go along with false teachings for appearance's sake—do not compromise the Truth, do not go back into ways you have been called out of or you will suffer tribulation. Scripture contains very graphic warnings about this (see Deuteronomy 12:29-31; Jeremiah 10:2: Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Peter 2:18-22). We are specifically told that at the end of the age, many professing Christians will be "deluded" into accepting false but fashionable religious beliefs, because they did not know the Truth, or were willing to compromise the Truth they once knew (2 Thessalonians 2:1-13). Today, as many who once attended the Church of God are returning to their former beliefs, Paul's message rings clear, to "stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught" (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Spiritual compromise leads to spiritual corruption. It happened before, it is happening *today*—and we need to be alert!

Sardis: The Dead Church

Only a few comments are made about Sardis, a city *once famous* for arts, crafts and wealth. Sardis appears to correspond to the Church era from about the 16th century to the early 20th century. The main description of the Sardis era is that it was a *dead* church



(Revelation 3:1). Although it had a recognizable name and pieces of the Truth, it never did much with that precious information. During this era, we find a number of small congregations-in England, America and other parts of the world-keeping the Sabbath and other doctrines of original Christianity. However, most were (or remain) tiny and insignificant groups, of which few people have ever heard! The Sardis church was also urged to be watchful—but, as we will see, they did not know what to watch for! They lacked a vital key for understanding Bible prophecy.

The lesson of Sardis is sobering: Do not let the Truth die—hold on to the Truth you have been given; bear fruit with this precious Truth, or be blotted out of the Book of Life! Sadly, Scripture indicates that despite these strong warnings, many believers at the end of the age will "turn their ears away from the

truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 4:4). Isaiah wrote of a time before Christ returns when Truth will be "fallen in the street" (Isaiah 59:14). The cost will be high if we let the Truth die, failing to learn from the lessons of the Bible and history!

Philadelphia: Small but Faithful

In contrast to the other churches on the mail route,

Philadelphia was not a wealthy, sophisticated or influential city. Located on an easily defended hill beside a major highway, it functioned as an outpost for spreading Greek and Roman culture (and later Christianity) to the surrounding region. The city was destroyed several times by earthquakes, but each time was rebuilt. It still exists today. Its name means "brotherly

love." The Philadelphia era appears to have begun in the 1930s-about the time radio became popular and just before the age of television. In the last 75 years, the Church of God has used mass media to reach millions of people—proclaiming the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God, and warning the world to watch for the signs of the end of this age and the return of Jesus Christ. This was the mission Jesus gave to His Church (Matthew 4:23; 10:6-7). This message was to be prominent at the end of the age (Matthew 24:14). Understanding the identity of modern Israelite nations—a key to understanding Bible prophecywas restored to the Church of God during the modern Philadelphia era.

God promised to provide the Philadelphia era with an open door—a door no man could shut—for preaching the Gospel. God commends this small church for its *per-*

sistence in fulfilling its mission, and for holding on, without compromise, to His precious Truth (Revelation 3:7-8). For faithfully doing a Work and holding onto the Truth, not just attending a church of their choice, Philadelphian Christians are promised protection from the coming Tribulation (Revelation 3:10). The lesson of Philadelphia is simple: Remain faithful to Truth-do the work of preaching the Gospel, love the brethren and let no one take your crown. We cannot afford to "drop the ball" at this vital moment of history! Our salvation and our reward are at stake if we do!

Laodicea: Lukewarm and Laid-Back

Laodicea is a study in contrasts. From history, we learn that Laodicea was a proud and prosperous city, yet it played only a minor role in the spread of Greek culture. Its imposing fortifications gave the appearance of strength and promoted a feeling of security, yet its valley location and its exposed water supply made the city quite vulnerable. Laodicea was a banking center with a strong sense of independence. This independent attitude is reflected in its name, which in Greek means "the people decide" or "the people judge" (see Strong's Exhaustive Concordance). The Laodicean era describes the condition of the Church of God just before the return of Jesus Christ. It is not a pretty picture. Perhaps this is why some try to deny that these seven churches represent seven historical eras—understanding this truth may make some Laodiceans uncomfortable!

The charge against the Laodiceans is their lukewarm attitude (Revelation 3:16). Their wealth and prosperity fosters an attitude of worldliness. They are

lukewarm about the Truth, obedience to the commandments and their mission to preach the Gospel. They are very independent, and have "need of nothing" (Revelation 3:17). Laodicea had a medical school noted for its eye-salve, yet the Bible describes its people as blind to their own spiritual condition. Intellectual "sophistication" prevented them from seeing their own lack of spiritual discernment. Laodiceans produced fine black wool clothing, yet the Bible calls them naked, in need of white garments (Revelation 3:17-18). In a sense, naked Laodiceans lack vital pieces of spiritual armor—faith, love, perseverance, commitment to the Truth and godly fear of disobeying God's commandments. They may be failing to exercise the (see **Ephesians**

Holy Spirit 6:10-19) to stand firm in times of trial and preach the Gospel with boldness.

The picture of Laodicea is of a sophisticated and selfsufficient church that trusts in its own wealth, numbers and wisdom. It appears strong, stable and unified, but it is internally divided. independent-minded people unknowingly reject the leadership of Jesus Christ while they do their own thing! The "democratic" (people-deciding) aspects of the Laodicean era can extend to decisions about doctrine, organization, governance, mission and methods. This lukewarm attitude is prophesied to become

dominant in the Church of God at the end of the age. The lesson of Laodicea is urgent: Wake up before it is too late, and ask God to open your eyes to see your own spiritual condition—repent of complacency, compromise, materialism and stubborn independence; respond to the leadership of Jesus Christ and do not lose your reward!

The letters to the seven churches-and the seven Church eras they represent—contain important lessons! If we heed these lessons, we will gain a reward from Jesus Christ. John advised all seven churches: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 3:22). Do we understand how the lessons apply to each of us today?

Where Is God's **True Church Today?**

God promises a great reward for those He calls into His Church, who remain faithful with the help of His Holy Spirit. But, in our time of widespread spiritual apathy, can you find that Church? Write for our FREE booklet, Where Is God's True Church Today? or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowsworld.org.

PROPHECY CON RETURNS, REBELLIONS AND ROME

"One of the most significant developments since the Reformation," it was called, in the words of

London's Daily Telegraph newspaper (October 24, 2009). In October 2009, Pope Benedict XVI dropped an ecclesiastical bombshell on the professing Christian world by approving Anglicanorum Coetibus, announcing a stunning new plan to allow disenchanted Anglicans, upset over homosexual bishops, women's ordination and same-sex marriages, to return to the fold of the Roman

Catholic Church while retaining much of their former Anglican discipline—including married priests!

This surprise announcement by the Vatican—which shocked the Church of England—has been hailed by the Roman Catholic policy makers as the work of the Holy Spirit guiding the various parts of the professing Christian community "towards Catholic unity" under the Pope. However, both history and Bible prophecies that are coming alive today, offer a very different perspective on this remarkable recent development!

Turning Points of History

The momentous announcement by the Vatican is an attempt to reverse the course of history! The Anglican Church—the Church of England—split from the Church of Rome in 1534 when King Henry VIII was refused a marriage annulment by the Vatican. Since that time, the Anglican Church has been at the heart of Protestant England—the tiny island nation that withstood several attempts by Catholic sovereigns on the Continent to bring the English back to the Roman Catholic fold by force! The defeat of the Spanish Armada, sent by the Catholic King Philip II of Spain in 1588, was viewed in England as "an act of God" to preserve Protestant England. These dramatic events in

England and other parts of Europe effectively advanced the Protestant Reformation. The recent announcement

to ease Anglicans' return to the Roman Church will be a significant reversal of prior trends, and may achieve what the Spanish Armada failed to accomplish—the demise of the Anglican Church and the eclipse of Protestant England.

Another ancient rift is also in the process of being smoothed over. In 1054, the "Great Schism" split the Roman Church in two when the Pope in Rome and the Patriarch in Constantinople excommunicated

each other over issues of theology and papal authority. Old antipathies were further aggravated by the rise of Italian Catholic merchants into dominant positions in the trade and financial sectors of Constantinople, where they displaced native Greek traders. This smoldering discontent erupted into violence when Greek Catholics in Constantinople attacked the Roman Catholic merchants. In 1204, crusaders on the Fourth Crusade launched by Pope Innocent III conquered and brutally sacked the magnificent city of Constantinople. Rome's imposition of Latin patriarchs on the defeated Greeks spawned a legacy of hatred and mistrust between the Eastern and Western branches of "Christendom" that has lingered for more than 950 years.

However, in recent decades, Roman Catholic popes and Eastern Orthodox patriarchs have inched toward healing the Great Schism, meeting and praying together and contemplating what would have been previously unthinkable! The move toward reconciliation is also being driven by external forces: the rising threat from radical Islam, the decline of moral values in Western society and the efforts of Europe's political elite to exclude any semblance of Christianity from public life. Leaders in Rome and Constantinople realize that, unless they unite, they will sooner rather than later be sidelined into irrelevance by the rising forces of secularism.



Seen in this light, Pope Benedict's surprise invitation to Anglicans to return with dignity to the Roman Catholic fold is a vital step and may even be a prelude to reunification with the long-estranged Eastern Orthodox Christians—the other "lung" of the Church. We appear to be watching another significant turning point in history—one that was foretold long ago in the Bible.

End-Time Prophecies

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Apostle John was given a prophetic vision of events that will occur at the end of this age, just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth. In Revelation 13, John described two beasts. One pictures a powerful figure leading a European political organization that will emerge as the final revival of a system of government linked to the ancient Roman Empire (see Daniel 2:40-43). The other beast fore-

shadows the appearance of an influential religious figure, leading a church that promotes the legitimacy of the first beast (see Daniel 7:8, 15-25). Later, John pictures this religious organization as a "scarlet woman" with global influence, "riding" (influencing) the political beast that will arise in Europe (see Revelation 17). That woman is named: "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:5).

Protestants have long linked this symbolic representation to the Roman Catholic Church (see Halley's Bible Handbook, 24th ed.), with its many religious customs and traditions that hearken back to the religious mysteries of ancient Babylon (see The Two Babylons, Hislop). Interestingly, popes and Vatican diplomats have for decades encouraged and promoted the formation of a united Europe. Is it any surprise, then, that such an entity is emerging today from the ashes of the Roman Empire—just as the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation predicted?

The prophet Isaiah reveals additional details about the activities of this end-time religious organization. This "daughter of Babylon" will claim to be "a lady forever" (think here of Rome, "the eternal city"), and that "there is no one else besides me" (think of its claim to be the one true Church). It will assert, "I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children" (Isaiah 47:1-8)—it will take great pains to reclaim its "daughter" churches that have for a time separated in protest (Revelation 17:5).

> We are witnessing these prophecies coming alive today in the efforts of the Roman Church to bring other professing Christian churches back into the Catholic fold of the Mother Church! The Apostle Paul also records a prophecy that places this migration of onceprotesting daughters back to the Roman Church as part of a series of dramatic events that will occur just before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Scripture reveals that at the end of this age, many once-true Christians will abandon their faith and return to pagan

practices (1 Timothy 4:1). Some will re-enter a paganized form of false Christianity; others will abandon all pretense of Christianity. Even as true Christians are abandoning the faith once delivered, shock waves will run through the wider professing Christian community, as once-separated "daughters" of Rome reunite with their "mother." The first and second beasts, described above, will stir billions of human beings with a false religion that rebels against God's laws and the truth of Jesus Christ.

Ancient prophecies that foretold the return of protesting daughter churches back to the Mother Church, and the rebellion of millions against the teachings of the God of the Bible, are coming alive today in dramatic events that will precede the return of Jesus Christ to this earth and the end of this age! To learn more about this vital topic, please request your free copies of our booklets, Satan's Counterfeit Christianity and The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality? As we come nearer to the final prophesied time of great apostasy, you need to know the truth about the future of our world!

—Douglas S. Winnail



Mankind's Never-Ending Hope

Guy Laliberté, founder of the world-famous "Le Cirque du Soleil" circus troupe, made unusual use of his time last October as a "space tourist" aboard the International Space Station. On October 10, 2009, he produced from space an unprecedented worldwide performance, which he titled, "Moving Stars and Earth for Water."

The show was an amazing achievement of technology, coordinating participants in 14 countries with Laliberté in low earth orbit. Hundreds cooperated to bring about the event, which promoted the conservation of marshes, rivers and

lakes around the globe. Recent reports tell us that more than a billion people are suffering from hunger and lack of water. One of the biggest lakes in Africa—Lake Chad—is drying up; mountain glaciers in South America that provide water to entire populations are melting and disappearing. Water is a precious—and for many a disappearing—commodity. More and more people are finding themselves in a desperate struggle to find water, and the future for many is bleak.

During the show, Canadian singer Diane Dufresne presented a beautiful song. Its words, in part, were:

"Ne tuons pas la beauté du monde, Faisons de la terre un grand jardin, Pour ceux qui viendront après nous."

Or, rendered into English:

"Let us not destroy the beauty of the Earth; But transform it into a big garden, For those who will come after us."

Dufresne sang of a beautiful hope, which men and women have long cherished. But will we be able to bring it about?

The Bible describes conditions before Jesus Christ's return. "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark" (Matthew 24:38). Just as in Noah's day, the nature of mankind will be vile; we read that "every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Indeed, were God not to intervene, the human race would eventually destroy itself (Matthew 24:22)!

Truly, unless human beings acknowledge the way society is now going, and turn and accept God and His way of life, not only will

humanity fail to find the beauty of which Dufresne sang; it will find only destruction.

But there is good news! Though human efforts will fail, this long-cherished dream will become a reality, brought about by a Source only a few now recognize. Jesus Christ, through whom God the Father created the Earth, will at His return bring peace and prosperity to planet Earth as never before! This is humanity's true hope, of a time when the desert will bloom as the

rose (Isaiah 35:2), the animals will be tame (Isaiah 11:8; 65:25), and the entire planet will become as a large and wonderful garden! Not only that, but there will be food for all, health for all, happiness and peace and joy for all. The blind will see and the deaf will hear. This is the hope revealed in the plan of God. Human beings' never-ending hope will finally become reality, through the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Would you like to learn more about this wonderful time prophesied soon to begin here on the Earth? Please contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) to request your free copy of our inspiring and encouraging booklet, The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like? You can also read it online or order a copy at our Web site, www.tomorrowsworld.org. Yes, there is hope for our future!

—Marc Arsenault



Unpardonable Sin? (Continued from page 18)

they will certainly be judged, as the wicked people of Sodom and

Gomorrah were judged when God poured out fire and brimstone upon them. But did these blinded people commit the unpardonable sin? Jesus spoke about those cities which should have repented at His disciples' preaching: "Assuredly, I say to vou, it will be more

tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!" (Matthew 10:15). Even the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will have their opportunity for salvation!

> Hope and **Encouragement**

God gave His promises to the patriarch Abraham, but on the surface it appeared that fulfillment of the promises was impossible. Notice what the Bible says about Abraham's attitude. "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, 'So shall thy seed be" (Romans 4:18, KJV).

Abraham "against hope, believed in hope" or as the New King James Version states it, Abraham "contrary to hope, in hope believed." I can identify with that. Before I became a Christian, I felt the same way. Your Bible is filled with God's promises to you. You can have an assurance, an expectation, and a hope for the future. There is not only hope, but promise—the promise of a new world, the Kingdom of God on

earth and the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. I learned of Jesus' promise to return to this earthand that He would establish lasting world peace. Paul went on to say:



"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

If you feel cut off from God, you can be reconciled. You can have hope. You can be brought near by the blood of Christ. If you want ministerial counsel, please call or write to the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 30 of this magazine. There is hope for you-and for billions of people on this earth. God wants all of mankind to respond to His love. He "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). You, too, can come to that knowledge of truth.

If you are committed to changing your life—if you are truly sorry for your sins and truly repent—you will be forgiven. A vital key to avoiding the unpardonable sin is always maintaining a repentant attitude. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We need to confess our sins to our God and Savior. Remember the tax collector whom Jesus said went home justified rather than the Pharisee? He prayed: "God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). May God help you to seek Him wholeheartedly, because He is able to forgive you your sins, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. If we maintain this repentant attitude, we can know that we have not committed, and will not commit, the unpardonable sin! ■

Twelve Keys to **Answered Prayer**



Will "Political Correctness" Destroy Us? (Continued from page 2)

ing specific prophesied events that have happened or are now beginning to happen. These events will especially affect the American and British-descended peoples, who are, in fact, the physical descendants of the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel." As our booklet entitled, The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy clearly explains, when God talks about end-time punishments on "Israel," these have to do with the American and British-descended peoples. If you have not yet taken time to write for and actually study this vital truth, be sure to call the Regional Office nearest you (listed below on this page) or write for your free copy of the above booklet right away! You can also read it online or order your own copy at www.tomorrowsworld.org!

One example of the Bible's end-time references to us today, as well as to the ancient House of Israel, is found in the book of Hosea. The prophet was inspired to write: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame" (Hosea 4:6-7). Because our nations' political, educational and religious leaders have persistently rejected the laws and teachings of the Bible, we are headed for tribulation beyond anything the world has ever seen! Yet this will be loving correction from the Creator, who hates to see us go down the wrong road and become enmeshed in vile practices that destroy the essence of human decency—as He views it.

Those who truly *believe* the inspired words of the Bible will indeed be increasingly persecuted and harassed in the next few years. Yet "politically correct" leaders will continually praise wicked men and women and wicked practices of all sorts. They will *gladly* forget the words of God, "Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but such as keep the law contend with them. Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all" (Proverbs 28:4–5). Such people certainly do not like to hear what the author of Proverbs states soon after that: "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (v. 9).

People who continually "forsake" the laws of God as revealed in the Bible will not have their prayers heard by the true God of creation! They will not be blessed in the end. Although they will increase in power and influence for a few years, God's word shows that—in the end—they will not prevail.

In a *dual* prophecy clearly intended for our day as well as ancient Israel, the Eternal God told our forefathers, "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and *if you* **despise** *My statutes*, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you" (Leviticus 26:14–17).

Within the next several years, we will begin to see American and British Commonwealth forces being defeated and humiliated more than *at any other time* in history! Rebellion against God will be the **cause**. As these events unfold, may the Eternal God help **you** to understand.

As ultra-liberals and "politically correct" individuals increasingly take over our society and almost *totally dominate the media*—where so many people get their ideas—be sure that you and your family are **aware** of what is actually going on around you. Be **aware** that you are, in fact, near the **end** of this present age just before Christ's return. Be **aware** that although it *does* grow "darkest just before the dawn," Jesus Christ will soon come in great power to deliver His people and bring them into His everlasting Kingdom. After describing some of the terrible events just ahead, Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28).

So, there is great **hope** for the future! As God inspired the Psalmist to describe the Messiah's coming reign over the entire earth: "In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more" (Psalm 72:7).

Robert Meredith

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TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION LOG

INTERNATIONAL:

AUSTRALIA:
QLD Brisbane
SA Adelaide
SA Adelaide
VIC Melbourne
VIC Melbourne
BARBADOS:
St. Michael
CANADA:
BC Vancouver
BC Vancouver BC Vancouver
NS Halifax
JAMAICA:
Kingston
NEW ZEALAND:
Nationwide
PHILIPPINES:
Naga City
Naval
SOUTH AFRICA:
Cape Town
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:
Port of Spain
UK & NW EUROPE:
Gospel
WORD

	SUN 9:30 a.m. TUE 11:00 p.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
CBC 8	SUN 9:30 a.m.
CHNU	SUN 1:30 a.m. SUN 4:00 a.m. SUN 5:00 p.m. SUN 8:30 a.m.
TVJ	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Prime TV	SUN 8:00 a.m.
PBN 5 Bilinet 11	SUN 8:00 a.m. SUN 9:00 a.m.
СТУ	SUN 11:00 a.m.

CNC3-TV SUN 7:00 a.m.

Sky TV 590 MON 7:00 p.m Sky TV 771 MON 12:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES:

AK	Anchorage	KIMO	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Fairbanks	KATN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Juneau	KJUD	SUN 8:00 a.m.
AL	Birmingham	WPXH	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Dothan	WTVY	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Montgomery	WBMM	SUN 7:00 a.m.
AR	Fort Smith	KHBS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Jonesboro	KJOS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
ΑZ	Phoenix	KPPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
CA	Bakersfield	KGET	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Eureka	KUYU	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	San Bernardino	KPXN	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Monterey	KION	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Palm Springs	KESQ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Redding	KHSL	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Sacramento	KSPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
CO	Denver	KPXC	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Grand Junction	КЈСТ	SUN 7:00 a.m.
CT	Hartford	WHPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
FL	Gainesville	WCJB	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Jacksonville	WPXC	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Miami	WPXM	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Orlando	WOPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Panama City	WJHG	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Tampa	WXPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	W. Palm Beach	WPXP	THU 12:30 a.m.
GA	Albany	WBSK	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Atlanta	WPXA	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Augusta	WAGT	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Macon	WBMN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
HI	Kaneohe	KPXO	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Kailua-Kona	KLEI	WED 11:30 p.m.
IA	Cedar Rapids	KPXR	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Des Moines	KFPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Ottumwa	KWOT	SUN 7:00 a.m.
ID	Boise	KNIN	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Idaho Falls	KPIF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
IL	Bloomington	WHOI	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Chicago	WCPX	WED 11:30 p.m.

Chiana WCN	CUN F.00
Chicago WGN Quincy WGEM	SUN 5:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
IN Fort Wayne WPTA	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Indianapolis WIPX	THU 12:30 a.m
KY Bowling Green WBKO	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Lexington WUPX	WED 11:30 p.n
LA Alexandria KBCA	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Lafayette KLWB	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Lake Charles WBLC Monroe KNOE	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
New Orleans WPXL	WED 11:30 p.n
MA Boston WBPX	THU 12:30 a.m
Vineyard Haven WDPX	THU 12:30 a.m
ME Bangor WABI	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPQ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
MI Alpena WBAE Detroit WPXD	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Detroit WPXD Grand Rapids WZPX	THU 12:30 a.m THU 12:30 a.m
Lansing WLAJ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP	SUN 8:00 a.m.
MN Duluth KDLH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Mankato KWYE	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Minneapolis KPXM	WED 11:30 p.n
Rochester KTTC MO Columbia KOMU	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KSXF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Kansas City KPXE	WED 11:30 p.n
Springfield KSFX	SUN 6:30 a.m.
MS Biloxi WBGP	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBI	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWD	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Hattiesburg WBH Meridian WTOK	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
MT Billings KTVQ	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Bozeman KXLF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWZB	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX NC Charlotte WAXN	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
Fayetteville WFPX	THU 12:30 a.m
Greensboro WGPX	THU 12:30 a.m
Greenville WEPX	THU 12:30 a.m
Greenville WNCT	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY	MON 7:30 p.m.
Jacksonville WPXU Raleigh WRPX	THU 12:30 a.m THU 12:30 a.m
ND Bismarck KWMK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
Fargo WDAY	SUN 7:00 a.m.
NE Lincoln KCWL	SUN 7:00 a.m.
North Platte KWPL	SUN 7:00 a.m.
NH Concord WPXG	THU 12:30 a.m
NY Reno KREN NY Albany WCWN	SUN 8:00 a.m. SUN 8:00 a.m.
Albany WYPX	THU 12:30 a.m
Binghamton WBNG	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Buffalo WPXJ	THU 12:30 a.m
Elmira WENY	SUN 8:00 a.m.
New York WPXN	THU 12:30 a.m
Syracuse WSPX	THU 12:30 a.m
OH Cleveland WVPX Lima WBOH	THU 12:30 a.m SUN 8:00 a.m.
OK Oklahoma City KOPX	WED 11:30 p.n
Tulsa KTPX	WED 11:30 p.n
OR Bend KTVZ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR	
	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL	SUN 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL Portland KPXG PA Erie WSEE	

	Philadelphia	WPPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Wilkes-Barre	WQPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
RI	Providence	WPXO	THU 12:30 a.m.
SC	Charleston	WCBD	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Myrtle Beach	WWMB	SUN 8:00 a.m.
SD	Rapid City	KWBH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
TN	lackson	WBJK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Knoxville	WPXK	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Memphis	WPXX	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Nashville	WNPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
TX	Abilene	KTXS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Amarillo	KVIH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Beaumont	KFDM	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Corpus Christi	KRIS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Dallas	KPXD	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Harlingen	KSFE	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Houston	KPXB	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Laredo	KGNS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lubbock	KLCW	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lufkin	KTRE	SUN 6:30 a.m.
	Midland	KWWT	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	San Antonio	KPXL	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Tyler	KLTY	SUN 6:30 a.m.
UT	Salt Lake City	KUPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
VA	Charlottesville	WVIR	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Norfolk	WPXV	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Roanoke	WPXR	THU 12:30 a.m.
WA	Seattle	KWPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Spokane	KGPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
wı	Eau Claire	WXOW	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Milwaukee	WPXE	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Wausau	WTPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
wv	Bluefield	WVVA	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Charleston	WLPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Clarksburg	WVFX	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Martinsburg	WWPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Parkersburg	WCWP	SUN 8:00 a.m.
WY	Casper	KGWC	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Casper	KTWO	SUN 10:00 a.m.
	Cheyenne	KGWN	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Cheyenne	KLWY	SUN 10:00 a.m.

Nationwide Cable

WGN—SUN 6:00 a.m. ET WORD—SUN 7:30 p.m. ET ION—THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT CW-PLUS—SUN 8:00 a.m. ET/PT

DirecTV

WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 a.m. ET WORD—CH 373, SUN 7:30 p.m. ET ION—THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT

Dish Network

WGN—CH 181, SUN 6:00 a.m. ET ION—Ch 216, THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT

Canada

VISION, Toronto—SUN 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m.; MON—FRI 3:00 a.m. ET ON, Toronto: *Grace Television*—Cable, THUR 2:30 p.m., SAT 5:00 p.m., SUN 4:00 p.m., WED 9:00 a.m. ET



WGN: SUN 6:00 a.m. ET **WORD:** SUN 7:30 p.m. ET

VISION, Canada: SUN 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m. ET: MON-FRI 3:00 a.m. ET

New Canadian Television Station:

BC, Victoria: CHEK SUN 11:00 a.m.

New South African Television Station: Cape Town, South Africa: CTV SUN 11:00 a.m.

New United Kingdom Television Station: London, UK: KICC-TV 590 SUN 8:00 a.m. GMT; TUE 4:30 p.m. GMT; FRI 3:30 p.m. GMT

New U.S.A. Television Stations:

OK, Oklahoma City: KOCB SUN 11:00 a.m.

IL, Peoria: WHOI SUN 7:00 a.m.

VA, Manassas: WPXW THU 12:30 a.m.