

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## Discovering Original Christianity



# Why Atheists?

*A personal message from the Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith*

A massive attack against Christianity has been waged during the last few decades. Millions of people have dropped out of “mainstream” churches, and many others are on the way out. Increasingly, educated people are turning away from religion and, seemingly, from God.

*Why?*

Why do untold thousands of young people enroll in colleges as believing church members, yet emerge a few years later as secular unbelievers, *unsure* of God’s existence or the Bible’s authority?

Understanding the genuine answers to these problems will greatly affect *your future*—and the life of our nations. We must not be afraid to confront the “ultimate questions” such as these!

First of all, our modern Western educational institutions increasingly promote the *theory of evolution*. Yet, more than most people realize, the premises flowing from evolutionary theory affect fields of study apart from the physical sciences. Unproven concepts are usually taken for granted when they are taught under the supposed aegis of “science.”

Yet most honest scientists freely admit that they have *no way* to disprove a “First Cause.” They have *no true way* to fill in the many “gaps” in evolutionary theory. And, from a religious perspective, they have *no way* to disprove the literally dozens of specific Bible prophecies that *have already come to pass*!

Perhaps without realizing it, today’s atheists basically “hide their heads in the sand” and simply **ignore** the awesome prophecies of the great God, as recorded in His inspired word! Yet they are *not being fully honest* intellectually, unless they admit into their minds the knowledge of the **great God** of creation, and how He *has* intervened in the past and even now *is* intervening in human affairs! The real God of the Bible spoke through the prophet Isaiah more than 2,500 years ago: “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9–10).

Many otherwise intelligent people are atheists or agnostics because they have “given up” on mainstream religion,

which has fabricated so *very many* untruths that it is no wonder educated people are turned off by such nonsense! Thousands of old-fashioned Bible-thumping preachers have thundered, “The Bible says that God created the earth 6,000 years ago. So we didn’t descend from monkeys and the scientists are all wrong!” But **does** the Bible, in fact, actually say that God created the earth 6,000 years ago? **No way!**

What the Bible does say is: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The words “in the beginning” do not give a specific time-frame! We in this Work of Christ have **always** proclaimed that the world *may* have been created billions of years ago. Yet scientists have often changed their theories about *how many* billions—tossing around billions of years like they would toss around tennis balls. For, in truth, they *do not know!* They are simply giving us “educated guesses.” However, from what we know about this planet and its development, it does appear that our planet came into existence billions of years ago.

*But how?* Again, the scientists have no real way to prove or disprove a “First Cause.” But, being human, they are often turned off by preachers’ silly ideas—which they do not recognize as unbiblical because most scientists do not “search the scriptures” with an **open mind** to see *what God actually does say*. The typical scientist, like the average American citizen, is a *biblical illiterate*.

Dr. Stephen Prothero, Chair of the Department of Religion at Boston University, commented: “More than 90 percent of federal legislators call themselves Christians, making Congress more Christian than the United States itself.... Yet U.S. citizens know almost nothing about the Bible. Although most regard it as the word of God, few read it anymore. Even evangelicals from the Bible Belt seem more focused on loving Jesus than on learning what he had to say.... Surveys that are more scientific have found that only one of three U.S. citizens is able to name the four Gospels, and one of 10 think that Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife. No wonder pollster George Gallup has concluded that the United States is ‘a nation of biblical illiterates’” (*Charlotte Observer*, March 18, 2007).

Many atheists and agnostics claim that they cannot believe in a God who “allows so much suffering” in the

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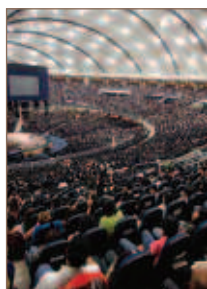


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What people call “Christianity” today bears almost no resemblance to the faith and practice of Jesus Christ and His apostles. But you can live by what Christ taught, and receive the blessings He intends for you, if you know how!

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A magnifying glass is positioned over an open book. The lens is focused on the text, which includes phrases like "magnify the LORD with", "me, and let us ex", "together.", "ought the LORD", "ard me,", "delivered me from", "fears.", "looked to", "he LORD heard him,", "The righteous cry of", and "the LORD hea". The title "Discovering Original Christianity" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters with a slight shadow effect. Below the title, the author's name "By Roderick C. Meredith" is written in a smaller, yellow font.

# Discovering Original Christianity

By Roderick C. Meredith

What happened to the original Christianity of Jesus and His apostles? It has almost completely disappeared from the earth, but it **does** exist—and **you can** discover it!

If Jesus of Nazareth were to return to planet Earth today, would He recognize the religion that is using His name? Would He be shocked to find that people claiming to be His followers have been waging war against each other almost continually for the last 1,900 years? Most of His professed followers today believe totally contrary doctrines to what He taught, and observe different days of worship, following totally different customs. Most have a completely different concept of God and of His purpose than Jesus and His original apostles did.

Jesus might wonder, “Why are they putting My name on all this stuff?”

Most genuine religious scholars recognize that vast changes have transformed professing Christianity into something radically different from the beliefs and practices of Jesus and His apostles! Respected mainline Protestant scholar Jesse Lyman Hurlbut described what he called an “age of shadows” separating the original Church from what came later: “For fifty years after St. Paul’s life a curtain hangs over the church,

through which we strive vainly to look; and when at last it rises, about 120AD with the writings of the earliest church-fathers, we find a church in many aspects very different from that in the days of St. Peter and St. Paul” (*Story of the Christian Church*, p. 41).

If the leaders of the “age of shadows” to which Hurlbut referred were filled with and led by God’s Spirit, then why would the church suddenly be “very different”? For the Bible tells us that Christ is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Yet the professing Christian church today is not even remotely the same as the one Jesus founded.

Describing the time period after all the original apostles and their successors had died out, Hurlbut writes: “The services of worship increased in splendor, but were less spiritual and hearty than those of former times. The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and of worship. About 405AD images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as

memorials, then in succession revered, adored, and worshiped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana; the Lord's Supper became a sacrifice in place of a memorial; and the elder evolved from a preacher into a priest" (p. 79).

Pre-Christian festivals were turned into "church" festivals because, just as God had predicted, evil men and false leaders would take over most of the church! Remember this inspired warning the Apostle Paul gave the Ephesian elders: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29–31).

When Paul realized the scope of the coming apostasy—which would eventually reach most of the church—it hit him emotionally. He then "did not cease to warn every one night and day with tears"! Yet very few people today are concerned enough even to *think* of shedding tears over that massive change!

## HOW Could It Happen?

This massive apostasy occurred because men and women back then, just like today, did not zealously prove to themselves where God's Truth was being taught. That is why the Living Christ corrected those Christians living near the end of the Apostolic Era: "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly

and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent" (Revelation 2:4–5).

What about today? How can we account for the hundreds upon hundreds of denominations and sects all calling themselves "Christian"? All of them have different ideas, traditions and approaches, yet they claim to follow the same Jesus Christ!

Part of the answer is the fact that extremely few professing Christians really study Scripture, so they do not "prove" what they believe by carefully researching it in the Bible! They may enthusiastically study books and articles on health, on self-improvement, or on investing and making more money, but somehow it does not occur to them to thoroughly study the most vital subjects of all: "Is there a real God? If so, what is His purpose in creating human beings? And how can we fulfill that purpose?" Yet the Bible commands, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, *KJV*).

Most people have just "accepted" the religion passed down through their family. Have *you* just "gone along" with the beliefs and the traditions you were taught as a child?

*Los Angeles Times* religion writer Teresa Watanabe reported: "According to one religious research firm, two-thirds of Americans don't regularly read the Bible or know the names of the Four Gospels. More than half of Americans surveyed can't name even five of the Ten Commandments. And the majority

say they find the Good Book irrelevant.... 'We still hold the Bible in high regard, but in terms of actually spending the time reading it, studying it and applying it—that is a thing of the past,' said [religious pollster] George Barna. The reasons cited range from changes in American culture to the intrinsic difficulty of the text itself. Now religious organizations are making a major effort to jazz up the ancient Scripture's doddering image. Bible publishers are producing a dizzying array of products, with translations and editions pitched to every conceivable niche market, to convince people that the book is neither arcane nor irrelevant" (*Los Angeles Times*, July 23, 1999).

Of course, the real underlying cause of this massive religious apostasy is that this is Satan's world and that he has totally deceived the vast majority of humanity. In the comfortable surroundings of our western civilization, most of us in North America and Europe fail to realize that the overwhelming majority of human beings have *never* believed in any form of "Christianity"—let alone the real Christianity of Christ and His apostles!

If you will study and believe your own Bible, you will find that Satan the devil is described as the one "who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). You will also find Satan referred to as "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). For Satan "broadcasts" a selfish, rebellious attitude throughout this earth. He is the one who is influencing



deceived men into injecting enormous amounts of licentious sex, violence and a general spirit of disrespect and lawlessness into the so-called “entertainment” you and your children see or hear on television, at the movies, on the radio or when playing various kinds of perverted computer games which simulate almost indescribable acts of perversion or violence. Do you know who is really laughing at all this “fun stuff”? Satan is!

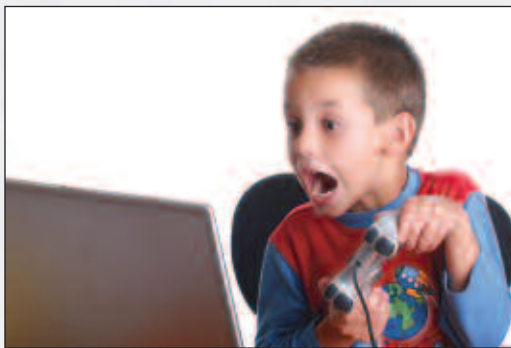
For by perverting mankind’s normal interest in sex and excitement, and by cleverly injecting sick humor into so many “situation comedies,” Satan is able to cleverly mislead humanity into abusing itself, degrading itself—and ultimately destroying itself—if God does not intervene at the last minute to stop it (Matthew 24:21–22). Satan is truly the “god” of this present world! The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 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 4:3–4).

Most important of all, Satan has injected into mainstream “Christianity” a whole series of totally false ideas about the origin and destiny of man, of what God is like, of what God’s awesome purpose is, and how we are to achieve that great purpose. Satan has “covered up” the truth. Additionally, Satan has confused people about prophecy so much that most professing Christians and even most

professing Christian ministers and priests simply throw up their hands and almost totally neglect biblical prophecy. Yet our Creator devotes about one-fourth of the entire Bible to the “sure word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19, *KJV*).

### Key Facts to Consider

The first point to consider, then, is that mankind has been truly deceived. We see that we have gone “way off the track” when we compare modern professing



Christianity with the religion of Jesus and the apostles. As one noted professor of religion wrote: “If by any chance Christ Himself had

been taken by His later followers as the model and pattern of the new way, and a serious attempt had been made to set up His life and teaching as the standard and norm for the church, Christianity would have been something vastly different from what it became. Then ‘heresy’ would have been, as it is not now, deviation from His way, His teaching, His Spirit, His kingdom” (Rufus M. Jones, *The Church’s Debt to Heretics*, pp. 15–16).

The truth is clear. Modern “Christianity” has become vastly different from the Christianity of Christ!

Some might say, “So what?” But this is no small matter we are talking about. Frankly, we are talking about the way to eternal life on the one hand, or eternal death on the other (Romans 6:23). And if you do not have the Christianity of Christ, you have no Christianity whatsoever!

Jesus Himself warned, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21–23). It is important to realize what Christ will say to those failing to do the “will” of the Father: “I never knew you.” In plain language, these deceived churchgoers will be told that they were, in fact, never acquainted with the Christ they claim to serve. They were never really converted. They were never really “Christian”!

Jesus said, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). A “lord” or “master” is someone you obey. But most professing Christian ministers and their followers do not want to follow the clear teachings and examples of Jesus and the apostles. And most of them do not even bother to study the Bible deeply to find what those teachings and examples are!

### Discovering Original Christianity

The key issue, then, is our desire and willingness to get back to the true Christian faith, “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Are you willing to genuinely try to follow the Christianity of Jesus Christ? Or would you rather ignore Christ’s words and “take a chance” with your relationship with God and your quest for eternal life?

The “little flock” (Luke 12:32)—the true Church of God—has always understood the need to pattern itself after the teachings

and examples of Christ and the apostles. Although very few have seriously attempted to follow this pattern, many scholars and religious historians have understood the concept of the “Jerusalem Church of God.” This is a vital concept to understand if we are sincerely interested in contending “for the faith once delivered.”

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write to the Thessalonians, “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 2:14). The book of

Acts makes it clear that, for many decades, the earthly “headquarters” Church of God was the Jerusalem Church. It was Jerusalem where the Holy Spirit

was originally poured out on the true Christians (Acts 2). It was Jerusalem where Peter, James and John carried on most of their ministry for many years (Acts 4:1–4; 8:1; 11:1–2). Later, Paul and Barnabas came to the Jerusalem leadership to settle the major question of circumcision for the Gentiles and related questions (Acts 15:4). As renowned historian Edward Gibbon wrote: “The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ. It was natural that the primitive tradition of a church which was founded only forty days after the death of Christ, and was governed almost as many years under the immediate inspection of his apostle, should be received as the standard of orthodoxy. The distant churches very frequently appealed to the authority of their venerable Parent” (*The Decline*



and Fall of the Roman Empire, chapter 15, section 1, p. 389).

After the major Jerusalem conference noted above, Paul and Silas traveled through Asia Minor visiting the churches: “And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem” (Acts 16:4).

### Paul Looked to Jerusalem

Clearly, the original Apostles and the Jerusalem Church of God set the inspired pattern for true

Christianity, not just for that time, but for all time!

Contrary to the heretical

Protestant idea that God later

used the Apostle Paul to “reinvent” Christianity, the real Apostle Paul of the Bible constantly showed deep respect for the original apostles, and deferred to the Jerusalem leadership in all major matters! And it was the Apostle Paul who wrote to the primarily Gentile church at Corinth: “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (1 Corinthians 7:19).

Noted historian Carl von Weizsacker wrote in 1895: “Paul was far from confining his interest to the Gentile Christian Church which he had himself founded. His thoughts were much too lofty to leave Jewish Christianity to itself. He toiled not merely for his own work, but for the Church of God... the whole Church. He never forgot for a moment the true birthplace of the gospel. And for him the Christians in Jerusalem were always the

[saints].... He did not however merely entertain a grand policy of ecclesiastical union, but his first and constant thought was that the primitive Church was the foremost divine institution under the Gospel.... In the early Apostles he saw... the Apostles of the Lord. From them the testimony of the Resurrection emanated (1 Corinthians 15:1 ff.). They were ever the Apostles, whom God had placed at the head of His Church, the first of those divinely commissioned men who held the leading office in the Body of Christ” (*The Apostolic Age of the Christian Church*, pp. 12–13).

Later in Paul’s ministry, he traveled again to Jerusalem: “And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present” (Acts 21:17–18). Notice that Paul presented himself to James, the Lord’s brother, who by now was undoubtedly the chief apostle at Jerusalem—Peter probably having gone to the “lost sheep” of the house of Israel in northwest Europe and the British Isles.

After rejoicing in the good news Paul brought about God’s Work among the Gentiles, the Jerusalem leadership told Paul, “You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law” (v. 20). The term “myriad” literally means “tens of thousands.” So as not to confuse or discourage these many Jewish Christians, the Jerusalem Church asked Paul to go through an offering ceremony to publicly demonstrate that he was not teaching in any way against God’s law. As the Jerusalem leaders explained to Paul, “Take these men along and be purified with them and pay all the expenses connected with the shaving of their heads. This will let everyone know there is no truth in the reports they have

heard about you and that you still regularly observe the Law” (v. 24, *Jerusalem Bible*).

If Paul had in any way been teaching against God’s law—especially the spiritual law known as the “Ten Commandments”—he most certainly would not have gone through this ceremony of the Law of Moses! That particular ceremony, probably a thank offering at the conclusion of the Nazarite vow, was not necessary for a New Testament Christian. But neither was it sinful! Paul’s deep respect for God’s law, for the original mother Church and for the pattern of obedience to God’s law, all guided his decision to participate in this ceremony. Through this, God shows us that Paul’s approach was of obedience to law, not of trying to do away with or “reason around” God’s spiritual laws—as so many Protestant theologians teach!

Describing the common practice of the early Christians, church scholar Samuele Bacchiocchi noted this comment from historian W. D. Davies: “Everywhere, especially in the East of the Roman Empire, there would be Jewish Christians whose outward way of life would not be markedly different from that of the Jews. They took for granted that the gospel was continuous with [the religion of Moses]; for them the New Covenant, which Jesus had set up at the Last Supper with His disciples... did not mean that the covenant made between God and Israel was no longer in force. They still observed the feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles; they also continued to be circumcised, to keep the weekly Sabbath and the Mosaic regulations concerning food. According to some scholars, they must have been so strong that right up to the fall of Jerusalem in AD70 they were the dominant element in the Christian movement [Judeo-chris-

*tianisme*, “Paul and Jewish Christianity,” 1972, p. 72]” (*From Sabbath to Sunday*, p. 151).

So, for about the first 40 years of Christianity, guided by the Holy Spirit, the “dominant element” in the Church of God still followed Christ’s example of keeping the weekly and annual Sabbaths commanded by God. They were still following the example set by the Jerusalem Church of God!

Who dared to change all of that?

As we have seen, it was not the Apostle Paul. It was certainly not any of the original twelve apostles. Rather, as the time period—which is fittingly called the “Dark Ages”—began to get underway, misguided Catholic bishops and popes began to change virtually everything that had made the Christian religion totally different from the pagan cults of the Roman Empire.

It is important that all our readers fully recognize that those of us in this Work are all dedicated to the task of restoring original Christianity! As you read our articles and booklets, and as you view the *Tomorrow’s World* program, it is vital that you recognize where we are coming from. For we strive to preach and teach the same message which Jesus and the early apostles did. We try to practice—in all of

its spiritual aspects—the way of life Jesus and the apostles lived and taught. Also, guided by God’s Spirit, we will preach the inspired prophecies of the Bible—and warn those willing to listen about *what lies ahead*. If *your mind* is open and you wish to learn more about the original Christianity of Christ and the apostles, then write us or call us and request your *free* copy of our eye-opening booklet, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. For you need to understand the *Truth* of genuine Christianity—and to *act* on that Truth!

As the time of God’s intervention in human affairs and the soon-coming Great Tribulation approaches, it is absolutely vital that you and your loved ones make sure that you truly belong to Jesus Christ—the true Christ of the Bible. That you are worshiping God “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). And that you are part of the true Church of God, which teaches and practices original Christianity—the Christianity of Jesus and His apostles. If you would like to learn more, or even to meet at your convenience with a representative of that true Church, please call or write to our regional office nearest you, listed on page 30 of this magazine. “He who has an ear, let him hear...” (Revelation 3:13). ■

## Restoring Apostolic Christianity

Jesus Christ and His apostles taught a way of life that few today understand—or even recognize. But you can reap the blessings of God’s way, if you learn how to put Christ’s original Christianity into practice in your life!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **Restoring Apostolic Christianity**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site **[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org)**.



# Questions & Answers

**Question:** I have come to realize that I have spent my whole life sinning against God. I am having trouble believing that He could ever forgive all the terrible things I have done. Is there any hope for me?

**Answer:** Yes, there is hope! You can accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, turning to Him in heartfelt repentance, and He will forgive your sins and give you the ability to obey Him and live the joyous and abundant life He wants for you.

It is not a question of your being “good enough” to receive God’s call. It is God, not you, who is responsible for your calling. Scripture makes it plain that unless God is calling you, you cannot “will” yourself to be drawn toward Him. Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44). Why, then, do so few people actually come to their Savior? Does this mean God is a “failure”? No! The amazing truth is that God is not trying to “save everyone now”—most people are simply receiving a warning, and are being prepared for the Great White Throne Judgment, at which they will receive their first opportunity to understand God’s Truth, and to repent, accept Christ’s sacrifice, and obey Him. To learn more about this little-understood aspect of Bible truth, please read our booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* You may read it online at our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org), or contact the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) to request a free printed copy.

However, if you are reading this, you need to consider the likelihood that God is calling you now. There is no such thing as a “second chance”—and if God is offering you the opportunity to become one of His “firstfruits” (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4), you need to take that opportunity with all seriousness. What, then, should you do?

To be forgiven, you must first acknowledge your sins and confess them to God. Repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. Then, with the help of God’s Spirit, you must continually commit yourself to stop sinning, and must strive to live in obedience to God’s laws. Realizing that you are a sinner, and that you need to turn from your sins, is a vital step. God wants to forgive us, if we repent and turn to Him. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive our-

selves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:8–10).

Are you too great a sinner to be forgiven? Before God called Saul to conversion, he had bitterly persecuted God’s people. “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison” (Acts 8:3). He even participated in the murder of a deacon in the New Testament Church. “And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” (Acts 7:58–59). Yet God still called Saul into His service, and he became the Apostle Paul! Read the amazing story in Acts 22:1–21.

Why would God call such a sinner as Paul to become His minister? Paul explained this in a letter to the young evangelist Timothy. “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man.... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life” (1 Timothy 1:12–16).

Yes, God called Saul, that very great sinner, so He could show us that we, too, can be saved if we repent, strive to obey our Savior, and allow Him to use us as His obedient servants. If God would call Saul, is it any less likely that He is calling you? To learn more about this vital subject, please read our booklet, *Christian Baptism: Its True Meaning*. You may read it online at our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org), or contact the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) to request a free printed copy.



# What Should the Church Be Doing?

By Rod McNair

**At the dawn of the 21st century, does the Church still have a purpose? Can you have a part in it?**

**M**ainstream “Christianity” is in an identity crisis! Many who consider themselves Christians are uncertain about their church’s purpose, and about its role in their lives. Some yearn for the comfortable traditions of the past. Others seek a more “authentic” experience. Some just search for healing and comfort. But what is the purpose of the church?

Many people, disillusioned with “organized religion” altogether, are looking elsewhere for answers. For them, religion has become largely irrelevant, because *their church has no meaningful identity or role*. Researchers James Patterson and Peter Kim concluded that Americans in virtually every region of the nation, “simply do not turn to God or religion to help them decide about the seminal or moral issues of the day” (*The Day America Told the Truth*, p. 199).

Why are churches in such a confused state? What is the purpose of the church in

the first place? And what should your church be doing today?

## **Follow Jesus Christ**

When Christ walked the earth, He left no doubt as to what His Church **should do** and **would do**. He built it and said it would exist until His return (Matthew 16:18). *But what was the role of that Church?*

Jesus Himself gave the answer. Notice what He was doing when He began His ministry. “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel!’” (Mark 1:14–15). Jesus was announcing the good news of His kingdom, and was preaching repentance, belief in the gospel, and conversion.

Does your church do what Christ was doing? It should! Does it involve you in the

work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God? Are you experiencing true repentance and conversion? If not, *why not?*

## Announce God's Coming Kingdom

When Christ began to preach the gospel (“good news”) of the Kingdom of God, He was foretelling His own literal reign on earth. The saints’ reign under the Messiah was understood and foretold by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 2:44; 7:18). Not only did Jesus’ listeners accept this as a fact; most of His disciples were so enthused that they believed this Kingdom would be established immediately (Acts 1:6; Luke 19:11). Yet, in our day, this prophesied truth of Christ’s millennial reign is unknown to most professing Christians.

It was not always so. Early Christians *were very focused* on the hope of Christ’s return, *and were excited about it!* But they gradually lost their way, as historian Edward Gibbon explained: “In the primitive church... it was universally believed that the end of the world, and the kingdom of heaven, were at hand.... The doctrine of Christ’s reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism” (*Christianity and the Decline of Rome by Edward Gibbon*, ed. Sloan, pp. 105–106).

As belief in Christ’s millennial reign waned over the centuries, many turned instead to the idea that the church itself would transform the world. This led to an emphasis on various kinds of *social activism* in the hope of bringing about a better world.

We have seen this trend in modern times. After the Second Vatican Council, Roman Catholic

theologians in the 1960s developed what came to be called liberation theology, which focused on social transformation rather than personal conversion. Author Robin Keeley notes that in liberation theology, “service to the poor is understood as understanding their plight, defending their rights and organizing them for social activism” (*The Quiet Revolution*, p. 226).

Christ healed the sick, raised the dead and relieved the oppressed, as we read in the gospels. He taught His disciples to do the same (Luke 10:9). But notice that His mission was not merely to heal; it was to announce the coming Kingdom of God (v. 10–11).

When Jesus read Isaiah’s prophecy in the synagogue, He stopped in the middle of the passage. By doing so, He showed that the final fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy would occur in the Millennium, when the Kingdom of God had been established on planet Earth. In that prophecy, Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would proclaim “the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.... And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations” (Isaiah 61:2, 4). Isaiah wrote of Christ’s return, and of the rebuilding process that will take place *after* He has set up His Kingdom on earth!

That time is yet to come! Jesus Christ’s millennial reign will usher in an *unprecedented* degree of prosperity, with comfort and aid for those who have been oppressed and downtrodden. Isaiah foretells a wonderful age of equality and fairness, when he says regarding the coming Messiah: “But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth” (Isaiah 11:4).

Christ told His disciples to go into all the world to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15). He knew that most would not respond, and would simply receive the message as a witness of what was to come. But He also called His disciples to baptize those who would repent and would *heed* His message (Matthew 28:19–20).

Many Christians today, when looking at the biblical descriptions of the Millennium, conclude that it is their responsibility to become not just socially active, but also politically active, so they can advance the moral and societal issues they believe would help bring millennial conditions on Earth. But did Jesus Christ actually desire that His people would try to “fix” this world? Or was His priority to *proclaim and prepare for the next age*, through propagating the good news of His Kingdom (Matthew 24:14)? Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36), and the Apostle Paul described himself as an “ambassador for Christ” for that coming Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20). Indeed, God’s true Church will not be entangled with the politics of this present evil world, *but rather will be busy proclaiming the coming one!*

Yes, there will always be people who strive to influence kings and nations in the name of their religion. Bible prophecy even reveals that a great false church will entangle itself with an anti-God political entity and bring all humanity to the brink of extinction! “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication...” (Revelation 17:1–2). This “harlot”—or false church—will be part of a system that makes “war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who

are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14). This conflict will bring about a horrific time of war the Bible calls the “Day of the Lord,” which will come very close to extinguishing all life on Earth. However, Jesus Christ will return before all mankind is destroyed (Matthew 24:21–22).

Christ certainly wants us to love our neighbors (Matthew 19:19), and to do good to all people as we are able and have opportunity (Galatians 6:10). But the mission of the Church is to do the Work of

God, not to transform this world now. The Church Jesus Christ founded will follow His example by proclaiming the true gospel to the world. It will not be distracted by a false gospel of political or social activism, because it will be busy *proclaiming the good news of His coming Kingdom!*

An additional reason why most churches today do not understand Christ’s coming Kingdom is that they have forsaken the biblical Holy Days, which Jesus Christ and His apostles kept. Because those Holy Days picture God’s plan for humanity—including Christ’s return to rule His Kingdom—only the Church that observes and understands those Holy Days can truly understand the full meaning of Christ’s coming. His Church observes the Feast of Trumpets, which foreshadows His triumphant return at the last trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Even in the end-time, God’s Church will be keeping not only those “annual Sabbaths,” but also the seventh-day Sabbath, which

foreshadows the *millennial Sabbath* in the 7,000-year plan of God (Hebrews 4:8–10). Most today who call themselves Christians believe that these Sabbaths were somehow “done away”—though neither Christ nor His apostles did away with them. In fact, Scripture shows that after Christ’s return, the whole world will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16).

## Preach Faith and Repentance



Christ not only preached the coming Kingdom of God, He also urged His listeners to “repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:14–15). His message of repentance had been foreshadowed by John the Baptist’s (Matthew 3:2). The Apostle Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost also emphasized the importance of repentance from sin (Acts 2:38).

Even so, many churches today have become disoriented on the issues of sin, repentance, and faith. Writer Mike Regele explains that in the 1980s, Christianity in America underwent a significant shift *away from morality and the acknowledgment of sin, and toward a false gospel of “personal growth.”* “[In the 1980s], the awakening was over, and the inner-directed age of therapy was center stage. Sermons on the depth of one’s moral and spiritual depravity simply did not feel very good. In inner-directed eras, people want to feel good about themselves” (*Death of the Church*, p. 39).

That false “feel-good” message is not from Jesus Christ! He did

not bring “smooth” words when He came to Earth (Isaiah 30:10). He brought a strong message, designed to convict His listeners of sin and motivate them to change!

Read carefully what Christ told His listeners in Matthew 5, in what is often called the “Sermon on the Mount.” People sometimes mistake His words for some kind of sentiment that weakens or does away with the need to repent and to obey God’s law, but the truth is quite the opposite. Christ said that He came *not to destroy the Law*, but to fulfill it (v. 17). He said that *not one part of the Law would fail* (v. 18). He condemned those who would break *even the least of the commandments* (v. 19). He cautioned His followers that *their righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees*, but without the Pharisees’ hypocrisy (v. 20). He taught not only that murder is wrong, but also that *the spirit of murder* is worthy of the death penalty (v. 22). And He taught not only that adultery is wrong, but also that *even the thought to commit adultery* merits the penalty of death (v. 28).

Please do not misunderstand. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins (1 Peter 1:18–19; Revelation 12:10–11), and we cannot “earn” salvation—it is a gift from God (Romans 6:23). *But why would Jesus preach “repentance” with belief unless turning from sin is compulsory for true Christians today?* Will Jesus Christ grant eternal life to anyone who is living in rebellion to Him and His Laws? Christ Himself said that if we want to enter eternal life, we are to “keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). *Those commandments include keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and the seven annual Holy Days*, which most professing Christians today reject.

Even secular observers recognize that a “Christian” message solely about personal growth, without a

*deep acknowledgement of sin and a turn towards repentance and belief, simply has no spiritual substance. "It is curious that one of the countervailing criticisms of the past twenty years has been the increasing privatization of personal faith.... A near obsession with personal growth within faith traditions is maintained under the banner of 'getting to know God.' We wonder if perhaps it is not just a way to justify another manifestation of self-indulgence, a behavior pattern completely consistent with the 'mood' of the inner-directed era" (Regele, p. 40).*

Jesus was concerned about healing and helping those who were broken and hurting. He healed the broken-hearted, and released the oppressed (Luke 4:18). He healed the sick (Luke 7:22). He came to ease the burdens of those under the yoke (Matthew 11:28–29). But He did not bring a gospel of "self-indulgence" or "rebellion against law." He taught true liberty under the "law of liberty" (James 1:25).

Are you truly conforming your life to Christ's message? Are you asking God to lead you to repentance (Romans 2:4; Luke 5:32)? Are you bringing forth "fruits worthy of repentance" in your life (Matthew 3:8)? Preaching repentance and belief is part of the true mission Christ carried out—and that He also entrusted to His Church.

### **The True Commission—Or Passing Fads?**

Well into the first decade of the twenty-first century, many churches find themselves scrambling to find meaning and purpose. When churches ask their congregants for feedback on their "church experience," they receive a dizzying array of conflicting responses, as author Brian McLaren observes. "Complaints range from sensible to

incoherent to mutually exclusive: It's too boring. It's too entertainment-oriented. It's too shallow. It's too deep. It's too intellectual. It's too emotional. It's too contemporary. It's too traditional. It's too passive. It's too active. It's too demanding. It's too easy" (*The Church on the Other Side*, p. 43).

"Mega-churches" now cater to those seeking an energetic mixture of fellowship and self-help programs with a casual atmosphere. Yet some are already beginning to see that these institutions may attract numbers—but may not attract true disciples. Columbus, Ohio, radio commentator Bob Burney reflected on this phenomenon in his column at [www.townhall.com](http://www.townhall.com): "If you simply want a crowd, the 'seeker sensitive' model produces results. If you want solid, sincere, mature followers of Christ, it's a bust" ("A Shocking 'Confession' from Willow Creek Community Church," October 30, 2007).

At the same time, fragmented "mini-churches" are proliferating at an astounding rate. According to researcher Mark J. Penn, there are almost 10,000 unique religions around the globe, with two or three new ones born each day. Most are fringe movements splintering off from larger organizations. "Americans may be witnessing the rise of mega-churches—

those sprawling God-o-plexes that offer everything from liturgical enlightenment to teen rafting trips—but worldwide, the opposite is true. What's flourishing is Mini-Churches: small, and seemingly faddish, new groups of intensely devoted followers" (*Microtrends*, p. 312). As new religious organizations splinter and proliferate, confusion grows about the meaning and purpose of the Church.

Thankfully, you do not need to be confused about the role of God's true Church today. In our time of rapid change, you can be sure that the *true Church which Jesus Christ built* will faithfully be doing what He did, until His return (Revelation 1:7). It will not be blown off course by social fads and trendy distractions, nor by corrosive heresies. It will be proclaiming to the world the good news of Jesus Christ's coming Kingdom (Matthew 24:14). And it will be blowing a bold "warning trumpet" of repentance and spiritual change. As Isaiah wrote: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

This is what the Church that Christ built will be doing, even in the twenty-first century, just as it did from the beginning. *Are you a part of that Church?* ■

## **What Is a True Christian?**

**Are you receiving the blessings God wants you to receive? Are you living His way, experiencing the joy and fulfillment that He wants you to have?**

**Write for our FREE booklet, *What Is a True Christian?*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).**

# Prophecy Comes Alive

## Jerusalem's Amazing Future!

Many cities around the world are from time to time the focus of violent conflicts. But the city of Jerusalem—especially its Temple Mount—is again and again at the center of world attention. This is no surprise to anyone familiar with Bible prophecy. Dozens of prophecies indicate that the city of Jerusalem will dominate news headlines just before Jesus Christ's return and the end of this age.

### **Dominated, Divided, Devastated**

In recent years, seemingly endless political negotiations have been launched in pursuit of Middle East peace. Yet success has eluded every effort, just as the Bible predicted! God inspired the prophet Zechariah to write, more than 2,500 years ago, that “it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces” (Zechariah 12:3). For nearly a century, Jerusalem has fulfilled this prophecy. Britain, Israel and the United States have all tried—and failed—to bring peace to this troubled city and its region. Now the Europeans, the Russians, the United Nations and even the Vatican want to try to solve this age-old problem. According to Bible prophecy, *all* who try will fail—until Christ returns!

Zechariah recorded another end-time prophecy. “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming... I will gather *all* the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. *Half* of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zechariah 14:1–2). This prophecy appears to be on the verge of fulfillment. Jerusalem was devastated by the Babylonians in the seventh century BC, and by the Romans in 70AD. Later the Arabs, and then the Ottoman Turks, controlled the city. However, the prophesied end-time conquest and devastation will come at the hands of “all the nations.” In previous sieges, the *entire* city was conquered and laid waste, but in the last days *only half* the city will be conquered. This could well be the *Jewish half*, if the other half—East Jerusalem—becomes the recognized capital of a full Palestinian state, as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has proposed.

Abbas, like most Palestinians, wants Arab-dominated East Jerusalem—which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle

East war and has annexed in spite of international objections—to be the officially recognized capital of a Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has tried to focus on other less contentious issues when negotiating with Palestinian leaders; as a spokesman for Olmert's Kadima party noted, “The issue of Jerusalem is very sensitive and in this regard it is preferable to begin with issues that have a chance of achieving understanding rather than starting with issues where the disagreements initially are large.” However, negotiations over the status of Jerusalem cannot be avoided indefinitely. As those negotiations proceed, it will become more and more obvious that conditions are developing in Jerusalem which could see key Bible prophecies fulfilled in the near future.



Jeremiah records another of God's prophetic warnings to the people of Jerusalem, “I will hand them over to trouble, to *all kingdoms of the earth*” (Jeremiah 15:4). Jerusalem has been dominated by individual nations at different times, but never by *all* the kingdoms of the earth. However, if United Nations observers and peacekeepers enter the picture, this prophecy will be fulfilled in a remarkable way. The Bible also reveals that Jerusalem's future devastation will come *suddenly* at the hands of a *multitude* of nations (Jeremiah 6:26; 15:8; Isaiah 29:5; 30:13). Recent decades' developments in high-tech warfare, and anti-Israel hatreds inflamed by Arab nations and their allies, add ominous relevance to this prophecy.

### **Jerusalem Trampled**

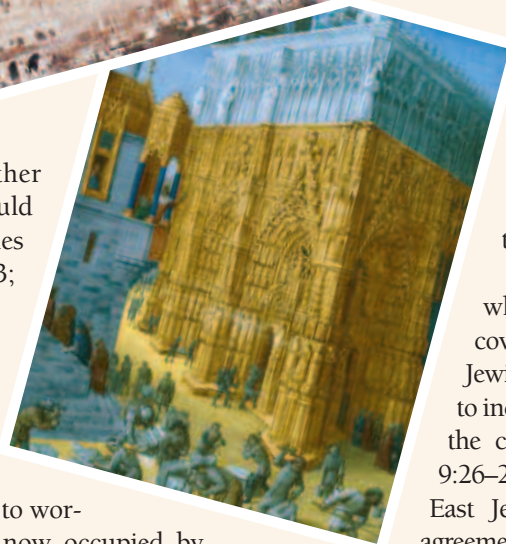
Jesus Christ revealed an even greater significance of these Old Testament prophecies. When Jesus' disciples asked Him, “what will be the sign of Your [second] coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3), He told them to watch for one particular development involving Jerusalem: “When you see Jerusalem *surrounded by armies*, then know that its *desolation* is near” (Luke 21:20). Christ went on to reveal that “Jerusalem will be *trampled by Gentiles* until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24). The Bible indicates that this end-time Gentile domination of Jerusalem will last for 42

months — three-and-a-half years (see Revelation 11:2). Since 1948, the UN agenda has included an intention to place Jerusalem under international administration. This idea is gaining credence today, and variations of it have even been offered by popes and U.S. diplomats.

In conjunction with numerous other prophesied end-time events, this should alert us to the *real significance* of the times in which we live (see Matthew 16:3; 24:32–34)!

The Temple Mount is a *focal point* of religious interest in Jerusalem for three major religions. Though it was once the site of Solomon’s temple and of the Herodian temple during Jesus’ human lifetime, Jews are now forbidden to worship on the Temple Mount, which is now occupied by Islam’s Dome of the Rock! The Temple Mount has been called “the most volatile spot on the face of the earth.” Bible prophecy indicates that significant events will occur on the Temple Mount just before Jesus Christ’s return. These events will be a *warning*—for those who have eyes to see—that *the end of this present age is near!*

Biblical prophecies describe two prominent individuals appearing on the world stage in the end times (see Revelation 20:10). One is a powerful and persuasive political figure called the Beast (see Revelation 13:1–10; 17:12–13). The other is a highly influential religious figure known as the false prophet or man of sin (see Revelation 13:11–18; 2 Thessalonians 2). The Bible reveals that they will focus their attention on Jerusalem—and on the Temple Mount in particular. These two Satan-inspired leaders will orchestrate *two distinct events* repeatedly mentioned in Scripture. They will cause the daily sacrifices to cease, and they will defile the temple sanctuary (see Daniel 8:11–12; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). These two distinct actions will take place in Jerusalem just before Christ’s return (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14). However, before the daily sacrifices can be stopped, they must *begin!* And before a sanctuary can be defiled, it must be *established!* These two events will also be extremely significant.



## Fulfillment Underway?

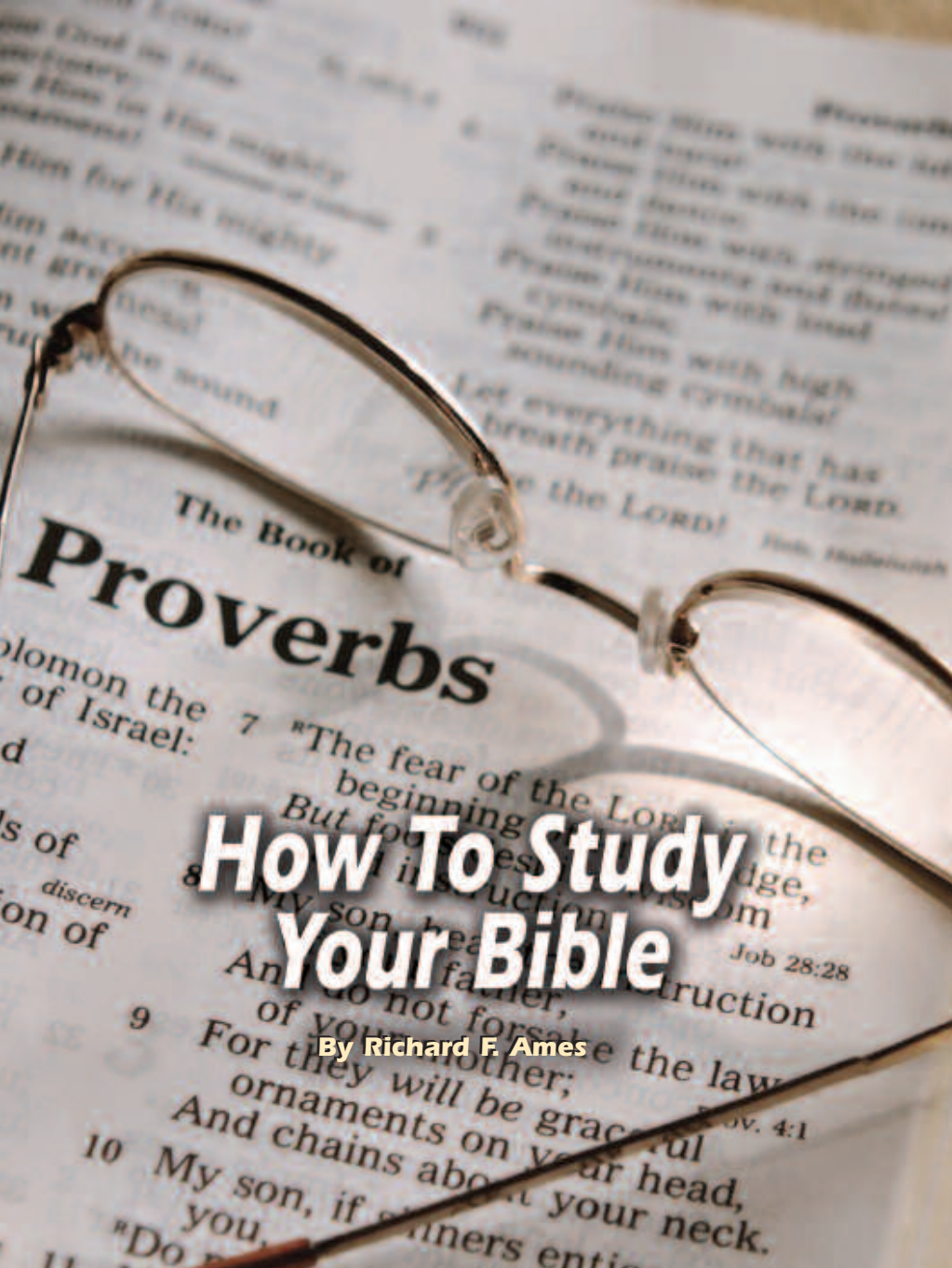
Remarkable as it may seem to secular minds today, plans are well underway in Jerusalem that may lead to the fulfillment of these ancient prophecies. Since 1967, Jewish scholars have been studying the location of previous temples on the Temple Mount, selecting and training priests and preparing the vessels necessary to reinstitute the daily sacrifices previously carried out in the temple. All that is needed is a place to erect a sanctuary, and permission to begin the sacrifices—which the Bible indicates *will happen* just before the end of this present age!

Daniel writes of a coming leader who will *deceitfully* enter into a covenant (Daniel 11:31–32) with the Jewish people—a covenant that appears to include the resumption of sacrifices and the construction of a sanctuary (Daniel 9:26–27), perhaps in exchange for ceding East Jerusalem to the Palestinians. This agreement, however, will be abruptly broken after three years (*ibid.*)—probably in an effort

to enforce religious uniformity. The rebuilt sanctuary will then be defiled in some way (*ibid.*). Antiochus Epiphanes’ actions in 168BC can be understood as a prototype of end-time events. Antiochus attempted to exterminate the Jewish religion by placing a pagan idol in the temple and offering swine’s blood on the altar. Scripture describes the coming false prophet taking similar actions. He is described as one who actively *opposes* biblical religion and “*sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). These long-foretold activities will take place in Jerusalem just before Christ’s Second Coming. Millions, unaware of these events’ true significance, will be deceived. However, this deception will end, Jerusalem will be liberated and peace will finally be established when Jesus Christ returns to establish the kingdom of God (Zechariah 12:7–9; 14:3–11).

You can avoid being misled by these momentous events if you understand what the Bible clearly reveals about the end times. Study your Bible, watch world events, request our free booklet *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?* if you have not done so already—and keep reading *Tomorrow’s World*, where you will see *prophecy come alive!*

—Douglas S. Winnail



# How To Study Your Bible

By Richard F. Ames

**You probably own a Bible. But have you truly studied it? If you do not know how to study your Bible, it will remain a mystery to you, and you will miss out on the most exciting, mind-expanding information and knowledge the world has ever known!**

**M**ore than 100 million Bibles are sold annually around the world. But does anyone really understand the Bible? Can you understand it? In this article, we will discuss seven simple yet vital principles to help you in studying this amazing book.

If you are a long-time reader of *Tomorrow's World*, you probably read the Bible often. But how many others do? The Barna Research Group reported that, in 2005, just 45 percent of Americans read the Bible in a typical week. Bible reading has declined in recent decades. When a nation reads the word of God,

and practices its precepts, it will prosper. But great neglect of the Bible and its teachings will continue to produce moral decline—and eventual national destruction.

Daniel Webster, the great American statesman, gave this warning about his nation's future: "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" (*Halley's Bible Handbook*, p. 18).

We in the western world need to take Webster's warning very seriously. We need to study the Bible, and to live by it. As Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God'" (Luke 4:4). Only obedience to, and a love of, God's word can lead to moral and national prosperity.

Do you love the Bible? Ancient King David loved the scriptures that were available to him. He said, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). We all need that lamp and light!

How can studying God's word benefit you? First of all, we need to understand that the Bible is the most important book in the world! It reveals the true meaning and purpose of life. It gives principles for true success, fulfillment and happiness. It explains why our world is in such confusion and danger. Its prophecies reveal the future,



including the soon-coming Kingdom of God on this earth. It tells us how to prepare for the great events to come. Scripture teaches us how to get along with our neighbors in a godly way. And it reveals the way to life beyond death—eternal life.

We cannot afford to live without the incredible spiritual truths and benefits the Bible has to offer. A Gallup Poll found that 82 percent of those surveyed in the United States call the Bible the “actual” or “inspired” word of God. Only 68 percent of Canadians shared these views.

But even among those who say they believe the Bible, their knowledge of its content leaves much to be desired. We might expect that religious people would know the first four books of the New Testament. But another Gallup Poll reported that 63 percent of Americans could not name all four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Commentator Gary M. Burge emphasizes the vital role Scripture must play in helping us discern truth from error. In a *Christianity Today* article, he reminded us: “To disregard this resource—to neglect the Bible—is to remove the chief authority on which our faith is built. We are left vulnerable, unable to check the teachings of those who invite us to follow” (“The Greatest Story Never Read,” August 9, 1999).

We need to be grounded in sound, foundational truths! We do not dare “remove the chief authority on which our faith is built.” The solution to the problem is obvious. We must read the Bible!

When was the last time you opened your Bible? If you are a frequent reader of this magazine, it might have been just a few minutes ago. But according to the above-mentioned Gallup Poll, 41 percent of Americans said that they rarely or never read the Bible! Only 16

percent said that they read the Bible every day. But we all should read the Bible daily. Bible truths and Bible knowledge contribute to sound-mindedness—and the world needs men, women, and children of wholesome character and sound mental health!

The Bible is a storehouse of valuable treasure. How can we reap the treasures contained in this amazing book? Regarding true knowledge, the Bible promises us, “If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:4–6).

In this article, we will consider seven basic principles for Bible study. They will help you gain God’s wisdom. You can grasp more clearly the amazing plan the Creator God has for all humanity, if you use these keys to unlock vital truths of the Bible, which relatively few understand.

### **Principle 1: The Bible Is a Complete Book**

Many cannot truly understand the Bible because they throw out its first 39 books—the Old Testament. Yet, when Jesus quoted scripture, He quoted the Old Testament. In the wilderness, during His tremendous spiritual battle with Satan the devil, Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 when He said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’” (Luke 4:4). That profound truth is absolutely foundational to people’s happiness—and their eternal life!

The Apostle Paul, writing to the young Timothy, spoke of the genuine faith that he saw in Timothy’s grandmother Lois and in his mother

Eunice. These two virtuous women had taught Timothy the scriptures from his childhood. And what were those scriptures? The first 39 books of the Bible! The New Testament had not yet been written. As Paul reminded Timothy, “from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). Timothy was able to understand salvation through the Old Testament scriptures, and through accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior.

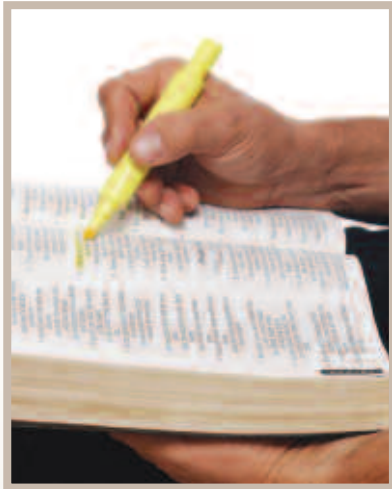
The Bible is a complete book. It begins in the book of Genesis and ends with the book of Revelation. In fact, God warns: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18–19). Be wary of anyone who tells you that some other book is “a hidden part of the Bible” or is “necessary for understanding the Bible.”

Never forget that when Jesus taught us the two great commandments, He quoted them from the Old Testament! The first great commandment, that we must love God with all our heart, soul and strength, is written in Deuteronomy 6:5. The second great commandment, that you shall love your neighbor as yourself, is from Leviticus 19:18. Jesus was not making up something new when He gave these commandments; they are Old Testament precepts, and are commandments of God!

Truly, we cannot understand God’s plan unless we study the

whole Bible as the word of God. To understand the Bible, we must read both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Bible is God's gift to all humanity. Do we really treasure it as we should? If we do, we really need to study the Bible regularly. U.S. President Abraham Lincoln made this statement about the Bible: "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book" (*Halley's Bible Handbook*, p. 18).



## Principle 2: The Bible Is Always Relevant

Some people believe that since the Bible was completed about 1,900 years ago, it cannot be relevant for us today. *That belief is wrong!* As this magazine has demonstrated in dozens of articles over the years, not only is the Bible relevant for us today, but its prophecies also reveal humanity's future and our amazing destiny. The good news is that human beings will not completely destroy themselves. Jesus Christ will return at the most dangerous point in human history to save us from ourselves. Yes, we look forward to the end of this "present evil world"—the end of this age and the beginning of a new age, which we in this magazine call "Tomorrow's World." Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). The gospel of the Kingdom of God is always relevant!

The Gallup organization discovered that 65 percent of Americans agree that the Bible "answers all or most of the basic questions of life." Yes, the Bible is relevant—it does answer life's most basic questions!

A Barna Research Online study found, "Among households which own a Bible, the typical count is three Bibles per household." And, "almost every household in America (92 percent) owns at least one copy of the Christian Bible. This includes most homes in which the adults are

not practicing Christians as well as the homes of hundreds of thousands of atheists."

If there are any atheists reading this article, I challenge you to open your Bible, if you have one, and simply read it! I think you will be amazed at the plain and solid precepts for successful living that you will find. Do you doubt Jesus Christ? Just start reading the book of Matthew, then read the other three accounts of His life on planet Earth (Mark, Luke and John). Read their eyewitness testimony and evidence with an open mind. And if you live in one of those households with three Bibles or more, encourage every member of your family to read the Bible. It can profoundly change your life for the better!

## Principle 3: The Bible Interprets the Bible

We have discussed this principle in previous articles, and it is vital. Depending on how you count it, between one-fourth and one-

third of your Bible is prophecy. But how can you understand the symbolic language it often uses? For example, the books of Daniel and Revelation are rich with mysterious imagery that very few today understand. But if you understand this vital principle, that the Bible interprets itself, you can understand it!

In previous articles, we have discussed examples of symbolism in the book of Revelation. Notice the stars mentioned in Revelation 1:20; these symbolize the angels of the seven churches. The seven lampstands symbolize the seven churches. In Revelation 17, we read that the Apostle John saw, in vision, a beast ridden by a harlot. John wrote, "And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns" (v. 3). She is called, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (v. 5). Verse 6 declares that this woman persecutes true Christians.

How are we to understand all this? The verses that follow give us the meaning of the symbols. Verse 12, for example, reveals the meaning of the ten horns of the beast: "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast." And verse 18 tells us: "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." What city is that? To learn more about this amazing prophecy and its relevance for our day, please request a free copy of our booklet, *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor, or Soon-Coming Reality?* Write to the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine), or go online to [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) to read the booklet online or request that a free copy be mailed to you.

Sometimes the Bible will use a symbolic word, but perhaps the explanation is not right there in a following verse. When this occurs, remember a fourth principle:

#### **Principle 4: Study All the Scriptures on a Topic**

Bible students—and teachers—who fail to apply this principle often end up believing false and misleading doctrines. Take, for example, the controversy often described as “law *or* grace.” Does God’s grace mean that a Christian can live a life of rampant sin and blatantly disobey his Savior? Of course not! As Jesus said, “But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). Jesus then went on to mention several of the Ten Commandments.

Remember, the Bible does not contradict itself. Jesus said, “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). God’s grace does not give us permission to transgress God’s law. The Apostle Jude warned about false teachers who would “change the grace of our God into a license for immorality” (Jude 4, NIV). As the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* states, “Paul clarified that God’s grace brings liberty *from* sin and *not* liberty *to* sin.” (“Antinomianism,” Vol. 1, p. 263). You can read this for yourself in Romans 6:1–2.

Some careless Bible students wrongly take Ephesians 2:15 to mean that God’s Ten Commandments and His moral law are done away for Christians. That verse reads: “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances.” But if we look closely at that verse, we see that the word translated as “ordinances”—which is *dogma*, in the Greek—refers to the man-made

laws which many Jews of Jesus’ day had used to cause division between themselves and Gentiles. The principle is to study all the Bible’s references on a topic, so we can be sure we understand it. Notice what the authors of the *NIV Study Bible* have written about that verse. “Since Mt. 5:17 and Ro. 3:31 teach that God’s moral standard expressed in the Old Testament law *is not changed* by the coming of Christ, what is abolished here is probably the effect of the specific ‘commandments and regulations’ in separating Jews from Gentiles, whose nonobservance of the Jewish law renders them ritually unclean.”

Remember our first principle of Bible study: “The Bible Is a Complete Book.” The *NIV Study Bible* commentary is consistent with this principle, recognizing that Christ fulfilled—rather than abolished—the same law that He, as the God of the Old Testament, had proclaimed (Exodus 20; 1 Corinthians 10:1–5).

Study the scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments of your Bible. Then, to be sure you have a clear grasp of Bible truths, be sure you have understood all the scriptures on the topic you are studying. When you do that diligently and honestly, you will often find that the “mainstream” teaching on a topic does not match what the Bible actually says.

#### **Principle 5: Understand the Context**

When you study all the scriptures on a topic, go a little further. Read all the scriptures around a verse you are studying. For exam-

ple, some mistakenly believe that the Jerusalem Conference in Acts 15 abolished the Ten Commandments for the Gentiles. But notice the Apostle James’ decision: “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood” (Acts 15:20).

When the Apostles specified these four prohibitions, did that free the Gentiles to sin in other ways? Could they transgress the commandment that says, “You shall

not kill”? Or that, “You shall not have other gods before the true God”? Of course not! The Apostles in no way repealed the moral law of God. To understand this, we need to read and understand the context of these verses. What



was the main question in dispute? “And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved’” (Acts 15:1).

The issue in Acts 15 was circumcision. The Jerusalem Conference decided that Gentiles did not need to be circumcised in order to be saved. The Apostle Paul later wrote to the Corinthian Gentiles, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (1 Corinthians 7:19).

Does this challenge your preconceived ideas about this verse and

its meaning? Too often, preachers avoid sound explanation of Scripture in order to focus on emotional and devotional perspectives that are incomplete. As commentator Burge wrote in his above-mentioned *Christianity Today* article, “Historical exegesis is fast becoming a lost art in the pulpit. Rather than explaining the historical setting of the passage, texts become springboards for devotional reflection. Biblical passages are taken out of context as the preacher searches for those stories that evoke the responses or attitudes desired.”

Be sure to understand the context by reading all the scriptures around whatever verses you are studying. Apply this principle, and you can avoid the pitfall Burge describes.

### **Principle 6: Prove All Things**

We often challenge our readers to open their Bibles and check up on what we write. Do not take for granted what we publish in this magazine. Read it in your own Bible. Christians are admonished: “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Or: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (KJV).

Notice the attitude of the Bereans, who are commended for their positive, investigative attitude in reading the scriptures. “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the

Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

One way of testing, or proving, is to practice the principles and precepts of the Bible. Jesus emphasized that we must live by the Bible, by “every word of God.” He said, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). You can prove and test the Bible by practicing its instructions. That is how you can have a good understanding. We read: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good

understanding have all those who do His commandments” (Psalm 111:10). Perhaps you have heard teachers talk about “learning by doing”? This principle also applies in your Christian life.

### **Principle 7: Pray for Understanding**

This principle is the foundation on which the first six principles rest. The Bible emphasizes that we need a teachable attitude.

Ancient King David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Notice David’s teachable attitude in praying for understanding. “Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:4–5).

Remember to pray for understanding as you read and study your Bible. Pray for guidance. God blesses those who respect the scriptures and reverence His holy word. Almighty God states, “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word” (Isaiah 66:2).

The Bible is the most important book in the world. If you have neglected reading the Bible, now is the time to change. Read it daily. If your attitude is right, you will be greatly blessed and your life will be changed. As Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

The Bible is not only a book for today, but it is also the book of the future! As Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Luke 21:33). Thank God that He has shared with us His awesome spiritual truth, and the very purpose of life. ■



## **The Bible: Fact or Fiction?**

Have you proved for yourself that the Bible is God’s inspired word, and that it can change your life? You need to understand this most important book—God’s “Instruction Manual” for your life!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **The Bible: Fact or Fiction?**, or download it from the **Booklets** section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the several booklets I have already received in recent weeks, I am indeed grateful. In a short space of time I have learned more than I learned from the sermons I have listened to during my many years of church attendance.

E. M., Hamilton, New Zealand

I found your Web site by accident... but it was not by accident, because I am trying to seek the Kingdom of God for the first time in my life and I realize that keeping the Ten Commandments is essential to my faith. It is such an awesome Web site, and I thank all of you who are responsible for it.

L. W., Northridge, CA

I have enjoyed the booklets you have sent. They are very informative and sometimes scary because of the times that we live in. I enjoy your magazine because I have reread it a few times. The booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* is very informative, and I wonder how many people are aware what is going on around them.

R. S., Tulsa, OK

I am now studying the booklet *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled!* I am 74 years old and have been to church a lot in my life, but have never had the teaching about Revelation that this book has given. I am so grateful for this book and the peace of mind this new knowledge has given me. I am continuing to study. I want to know the real truth.

Y. H., Wilmington, NC

Thank you for the magazines, the many booklets and the *Bible Study Course* you have sent me. These have been of immense help in understanding the Bible. They have unlocked many passages that I wondered about. Also, I've wondered for a long time why the United States

was not mentioned for the end-time. Your message has cleared this up for me. Thank you so much. Keep up the good work.

R. T., Jasper, AR

Since I have been reading your literature and using the *Bible Study Course* in conjunction with the Holy Bible, I can honestly say that I have a very good understanding of what things mean. As you are aware, people today don't use the same language as in the Holy Bible, but your literature puts it in plain everyday English so that we can understand what's happening in the world today as related to the Holy Scriptures. You have changed my way of thinking and my way of living.

D. R., Belton, TX

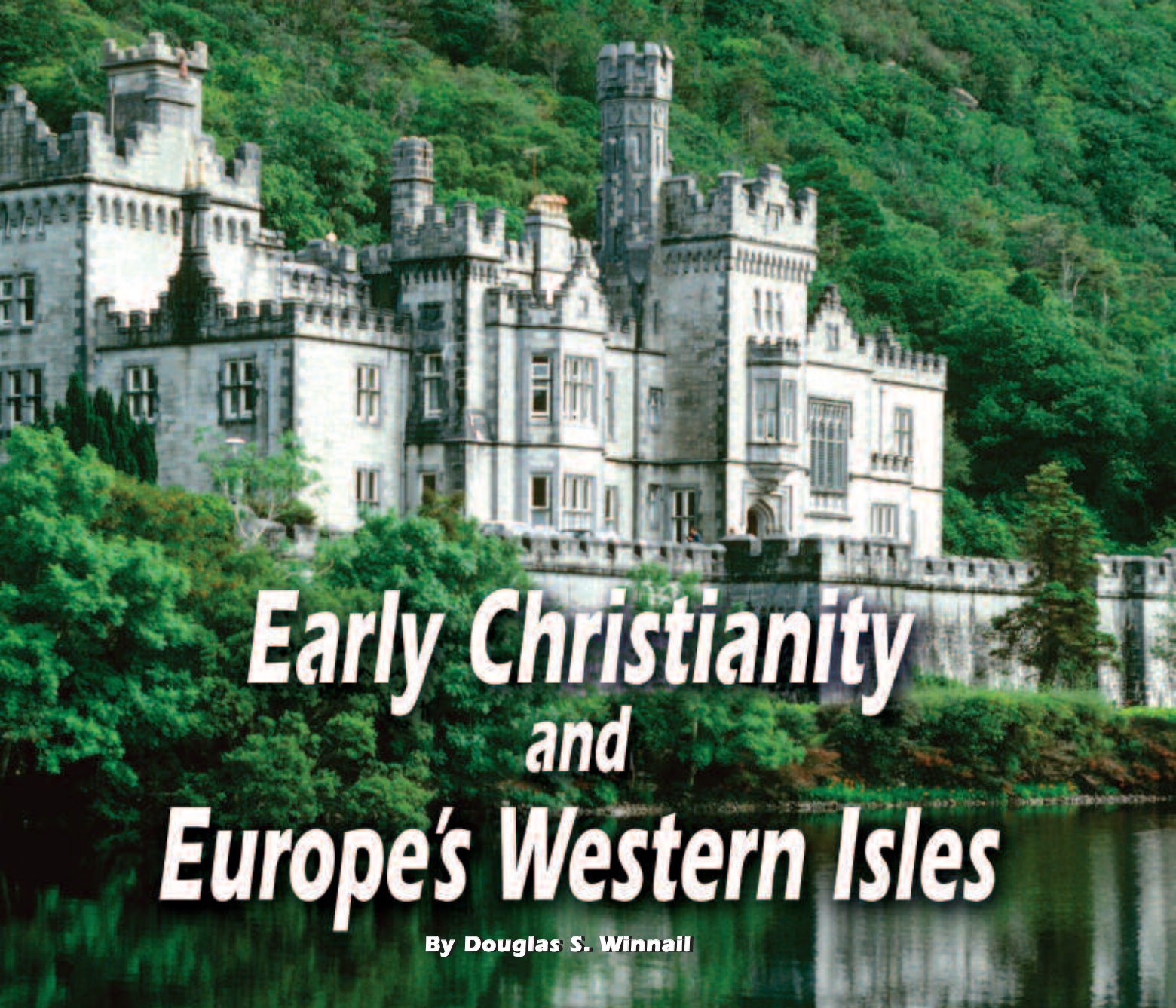
I no longer feel alone! Many years ago, I left the church I was raised in, knowing deep in my heart that the Truth was not contained therein. At the time, I believed that I would find utopia in one of the Protestant churches. I tried them all and none taught the Truth of Jesus Christ. After reading many of the pamphlets online from *Tomorrow's World*, I am elated beyond words! I want to learn more, and more, and more! I want to know what I should be doing right now, and tomorrow, and every tomorrow. I will continue to read more of the pamphlets, along with intense study of God's word, the Bible.

C. P., Linwood, NJ

I just received the November-December 2007 issue, and was so comforted by the truth of God's word. Yes, I am bold enough to obey God's truth regardless of what family or friends may say. To read the "Christmas: Harmful to Children?" article really puts it on the line. I have been guilty of teaching it to my children. Now I have grandchildren and am not making the same mistake. I cannot tell you how treasured the issues of *Tomorrow's World* are to me.

T. S., New Port Richey, FL

**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](mailto:letters@tomorrowsworld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.**



# *Early Christianity and Europe's Western Isles*

**By Douglas S. Winnail**

**How did Christianity first come to Europe's western isles? What happened to the true gospel? Why does that history matter today?**

**F**ew understand the amazing religious drama that has played out over the centuries in Britain, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Key parts of the story have been lost, forgotten or hidden. But the coming of true Christianity to Europe's western isles is a remarkable story, holding vital lessons for us today.

The true history of Christianity in Europe's western isles also sheds light on a deadly serious contest that is moving toward a climax, involving not only human beings but also powerful spiritual forces. When you discover what happened, you can begin to understand where current events are leading—events that are destined to affect the entire world in the not-too-

distant future. If we ignore the lessons of the past, our modern generations will reap dire consequences!

## **Assertions and Assumptions**

When we begin to explore the history of early Christianity in Europe's western isles, one of the first discoveries we make is that modern scholars' typical assumptions disagree with the clear record of history, as preserved both in the Bible and in secular sources. Richard Fletcher, a historian at the University of York, is typical in his mistaken belief that "the impression given by Luke [in the book of Acts] of an orderly and

controlled diffusion... is misleading... it is reasonably clear that Christianity spread east and west both quickly and anarchically, without overt strategy or leadership" (*The Conversion of Europe*, p. 14). Catholic theologians John Walsh and Thomas Bradley write: "Christianity entered Ireland, presumably in the fourth and fifth centuries, by a slow and unplanned infiltration" (*The Story of the Irish Church*, p. 1). These assertions by Fletcher, Walsh and Bradley ignore plain facts of Scripture and history.

The Bible reveals that God does not operate in a capricious and haphazard manner. The Apostle Paul wrote: "God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (1 Corinthians 14:33). To spread the gospel, Jesus called and trained twelve disciples (Luke 6:12–16). They were to go first to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and later to the Gentiles (Matthew 10:5–6, 18). Paul was sent to the Gentiles and the children of Israel, while Peter was sent primarily to the Jews—of Judea and also of the "dispersion" (Acts 9:15; Galatians 2:7–8). When Philip preached in Samaria, he coordinated his activities with the headquarters church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:5–14). The Apostle Paul followed this same pattern (Galatians 1:18–19; 2:1–2). The book of Acts shows that God guided the spread of the gospel by supernatural means (Acts 10; 13:1–2; 16:6–10), and that He provided the strategy and leadership that directed the spread of early Christianity.

Later, the Apostle Paul sent preachers and teachers to specific areas: Tychicus to Ephesus, Crescens to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia and Crete (Ephesians 6:21–22; 2 Timothy 4:10; Titus 1:5). This harmonizes with what later histories record about the

apostles' organized movements. Early church historian Eusebius wrote: "Thomas... was chosen for Parthia, Andrew for Scythia, John for Asia" (*Ecclesiastical History*, Bk. 3, chap. 1). Cressy, an Oxford graduate and Benedictine monk in the 17th century, wrote that the apostles divided by lot the regions of the world, for preaching the gospel (*Church History of Brittany*, vol. 4, Bk. 1, chap. 6). Fragmented bits of Church history may lead to the mistaken idea that Christianity spread in a chaotic fashion, but the complete record of the Bible and history reveal something very different.

### Evidence Ignored

Regrettably, modern secular scholars often convey an erroneous impression of what can be known about the apostles' travel, and about the arrival of true Christianity in Europe's western isles. Clement, the fourth bishop of the church in Rome, wrote in the late first century that the Apostle Paul, "after preaching in the east and west... taught righteousness to the whole world, and came to the extreme limit of the west" (*Epistle to the Corinthians*, chap. 5, in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 9, p. 231). Some think Clement's phrase "the extreme limit of the west" refers to Rome, while others believe it refers to Spain or Britain. Yet any map of the Roman Empire in the first century shows that *the Britannic Isles*—not Rome or Spain—represent the extremity of the west. Gildas, a sixth century British monk, observed that "the island of Britain

lies virtually at the end of the world, towards the west and north-west" (*The Ruin of Britain*, Bk. 3, chap. 1, Winterbottom, ed., p. 16).

Tertullian, bishop of Carthage in the second century, wrote: "The regions of Britain which have never been penetrated by the Romans [southwest England, Wales and Scotland] have received the religion of Christ" (*Def. Fidei*, p. 179). Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea in the early 300s, records that "the apostles passed beyond the ocean to the Isles called the British Isles" (*Demonstratio Evangelica*, Bk. 3, chap. 5). Eusebius had access to a substantial library at Caesarea, which contained sources that have since been lost. Theodoret, bishop of Cyprus in Syria (circa 430AD) states that "Paul, liberated from his first captivity at Rome, preached the Gospel to the Britons and others in the West... and the Cymry [the Welsh]" (*D. Civ. Gracae Off.*, Bk. 9). Around 300AD, Dorotheous,

bishop of Tyre, stated that "Aristobulus, whom Paul saluted [Romans 16:10] was bishop of Britain" and that Simon Zelotes also came to Britain (*Synopsis de Apostol.*, Synops. 9, 23). Gildas says that the coming of Christianity to Britain "happened first, as we know, in the last years of the emperor Tiberius [14–37AD]" (*The Ruin of Britain*, p. 18). This means that Christianity arrived in Britain no later than 37AD—less than a decade after Christ's crucifixion. Gildas also recognizes the Britons as God's "later-day Israel" (*ibid.*, p. 28).

Scholars in previous centuries did accept these early reports as



Four centuries before Patrick's arrival, Christianity had already reached Ireland! (Zuma Press)

trustworthy accounts of history. James Ussher, Archbishop of Ireland and one of the greatest scholars of the 17th century, presented considerable evidence that James, Simon Zelotes, Simon Peter, the Apostle Paul and others brought Christianity to Europe's western isles in the first century (*The Whole Works of James Ussher*, vol. 5, chap. 1, Erlington). Robert Parsons, an English Jesuit and Oxford scholar, asserted in his 17th century work *The Three Conversions of England* that the apostles first brought Christianity to the island, and that "the Christian religion began in Britain within fifty years of Christ's Ascension" (p. 14). Modern scholars are *ignoring the evidence* when they claim that the spread of Christianity to Europe's western isles "left no narrative trace" and that it has been "lost beyond recovery."

## Facts vs. Fables

But what happened to the true gospel, which the Apostles brought to Europe's western isles in the first century? How do the above-mentioned reports jibe with widely accepted traditions that Patrick converted the Irish in the fifth century, and that Augustine brought Christianity to England in the seventh century?

On these points, reputable scholars make some surprising admissions. Irish Catholic historians relate that "traditionally... Saint Patrick has been credited with converting the entire Irish race from paganism in the very

short period between 432 and 461... *however, we have to admit that there were certainly Christians in Ireland before Patrick arrived...* and that the saint worked as an evangelist only in part of the island [the north]" (Walsh and Bradley, p.



**The Church in England, which had been following the teachings of Christ's apostles for six centuries, at first rejected the strange doctrines Augustine brought!** (KPA Photo Archive)

1). Irish writer Liam de Paor wrote that "Ireland was not converted by one man [Patrick]... it may be that Christianity reached the west country [of Britain] and the southern Irish sea *virtually independent of the Roman system*, at a very early date... centuries before Patrick" (Paor, pp. 21, 23). There are traditions that the Apostle James preached the gospel in Ireland before returning to Jerusalem, where he was martyred (see MacManus, *The Story of the Irish Race*, p. 103). Indeed, many historical sources confirm that the apostles brought true Christianity to Ireland four centuries before Patrick's visit. The story that Patrick was the first to bring Christianity to Ireland is a fable!

Traditions surrounding Augustine also look very different when we know the facts of history. Bede, an Anglo-Saxon monk living in northeast England in the 700s, wrote what has been called the primary sourcebook for this period: *The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*. Bede was a highly respected scholar, but he has also been called a "medieval spin doctor" because he tended to gloss over

subjects that did not fit the story he was telling. As a Saxon, he glorified the Saxons and put down the Britons. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of Roman Catholicism. He writes nothing of the apostles coming to Britain and Ireland, only briefly mentions Christians preceding Augustine in early Britain, and instead focuses on Augustine as if he were the "bringer of the true faith" to the English nation.

However, when we read Bede's account carefully, it becomes obvious that British bishops *already functioning on the island* would have nothing to do with Augustine or the religion he represented! They would not accept the Roman Catholic observance of Easter, or their method of baptism, or the notion that Rome could give Augustine the authority to become Archbishop of England. Augustine told the British bishops: "You act in many particulars contrary to our custom, or rather the custom of the universal church" (Bede, Bk. 2, chap. 2). Bede describes what he calls the "errors of the Britons" and writes that the "Scots in no way differ from the Britons in their behavior" (*ibid.*, chap. 4). Describing why the Scottish bishops, at a confrontation at Witby in 664AD, refused to adopt the Roman Easter, Bede reports that these bishops followed an ancient practice—"the same which St. John the Evangelist, the disciple of our Lord, with all the churches over which he presided, is recorded to have observed" (*ibid.*, chap. 25).

Bede's account reveals that the Scottish bishops were actually observing the biblical Passover (at the beginning of Nisan 14, shortly after sunset) and Days of Unleavened Bread (see Leviticus 23:4-8). Bede countered the Scots' appeal to scriptural practice and apostolic tradition with a reference to then-current customs of the Roman Church, and



with ridicule that “the Picts and the Britons, who foolishly, in these two remote islands of the world... oppose all the rest of the universe” (*ibid.*, Bk. 2, chap. 25). Yet this same battle had raged several centuries earlier in Asia Minor, when a Roman bishop had excommunicated the followers of John (called Quartodecimans) for observing the Passover on Nisan 14 instead of the Roman Easter. Following the confrontation at Whitby, the remnants of apostolic Christianity retreated to Scotland, Wales and southwest England, while the Saxons and eventually more Britons embraced Roman Catholicism. In Europe’s western isles, the original teachings of Christianity were pushed aside by a different gospel emanating from Rome.

## How Truth Was Lost

But why has the truth about the first arrival of Christianity in Europe’s western isles—and the fate of the true gospel there—been obscured and forgotten? Why are so many clear historical records brushed aside? There are a number of reasons. The Bible reveals that true Christianity is in a struggle with evil spiritual forces: Satan, his demons and whomever they can influence (Ephesians 6:10–12). Secular historians and liberal theologians do not take this spiritual dimension seriously, yet it explains much of what has happened to the true gospel. Satan, as the adversary of God (Isaiah 14:12–15), has sought to disrupt and derail God’s plan from the very beginning. Satan was behind the efforts to kill Jesus and end His ministry (Matthew 2:1–18; Matthew 26:1–5; John 8:37–44; John 13:2). Satan also attempts to subvert true Christianity by promoting the spread of heretical and subtly misleading ideas (see Acts 20:29–30; 2 Peter 2:1–3).

Faulty human reasoning also played a role in obscuring the true gospel. The Bible explains, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Over the centuries, some thought it reasonable to let former pagans continue their favorite religious practices, as long as they did so in a different spirit, because this might help them accept “Christianity.”

This is why the pagan celebrations of Christmas, Easter, saints’ days, as well as their image worship and prayers for the dead, were endorsed by the Roman church. Yet the Bible actually condemns these practices (see Exodus 20:1–7; Deuteronomy 12:29–32; Jeremiah 10:1–5). As such customs were grafted into the church, true Christianity was eventually displaced by pagan practices.

Human prejudice also played a part in obscuring the truth. After the first-century Jewish revolt against Roman authority, religious practices that appeared Jewish—Sabbath observance, keeping the biblical Holy Days and following biblical dietary laws—became objects of scorn and revulsion, even though they were practiced by Jesus, His disciples and the early Church (see Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; 18:21). It took centuries of determined effort to stamp out these teachings, as we see from the

Quartodeciman controversies in Asia Minor and England. Today, scholars are quick to use Archbishop Ussher’s incorrect calculation that the Earth was created in 4004BC as an excuse to ridicule and discredit his other writings, including his sound history which collected evidence showing how the apostles brought the gospel to Europe’s western isles in the first century.

There is another reason why the truths about the first arrival of Christianity in the West, and about true Apostolic

Christianity, have been obscured and forgotten. As historian Fletcher deftly observes, “history is written by the winners” (Fletcher, p. 75). He explains that in the theological disputes that raged over the centuries, individuals or groups who wound up on the losing side—whether right or wrong—were “systematically vilified, their writings hunted down and destroyed” (*ibid.*)—which is exactly what happened in Britain and Ireland. The British bishops who opposed Augustine and the teachings of the Roman church were labeled “perfidious [treacherous] men” and hundreds were murdered (Bede, Bk. 2, chap. 2). Today, Bede’s biased history is widely available in English, yet Ussher’s text—long recognized as “the most exact account” of the planting of Christianity in Britain—

(Continued on page 29)



**Carvings on the ancient Kells Cross show ancient Celtic and Druidic beliefs being fused into a new form of “Christianity” practiced by the Irish. (Photo by Robert Welch/Sean Sexton/Getty Images)**

# Tomorrow's Youth

## Break the Pattern of Violence!

Four young men are scheduled to go on trial this April, charged with the murder of 24-year-old Sean Taylor, a star National Football League safety who played for the Washington Redskins. Prosecutors say that the four assailants, ages 17 to 20, broke into Taylor's house in a Miami, Florida suburb on November 26, 2007, thinking no one was home. When the burglars found Taylor in his bedroom, one fired the shot that killed him.

Taylor was widely considered one of his league's top players, so his death was certainly a tragedy for his team. But a far greater tragedy is that he left behind an 18-month-old daughter, who was in the bedroom when her father was shot.

This is a sad story, but the reason it made front-page news is that the victim was a famous athlete. Many other murders took place that same day, all around the world. Young people are the victims of, and the perpetrators of, many violent crimes that can occur at any moment. We live in a violent world, as Sean Taylor's murder reminds us.

### A History of Violence

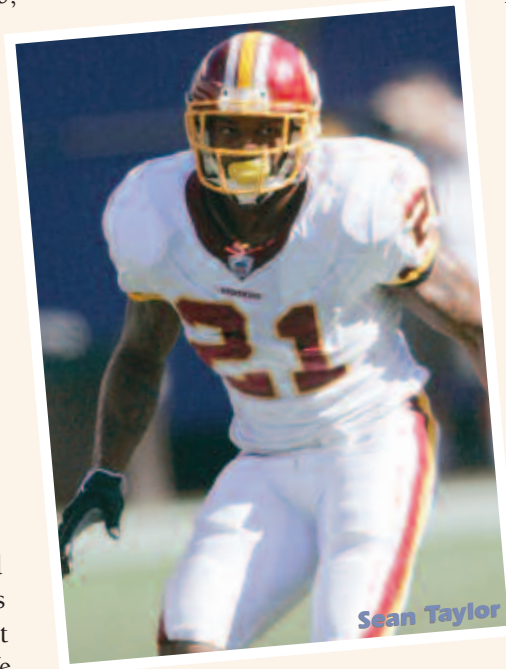
Violence involving young people is nothing new. In fact, the Bible's first recorded murder occurred between Adam and Eve's sons, when Cain slew Abel (Genesis 4:8). That fatal blow began a legacy of aggression for the human family that has continued ever since. For too many, violence is a *way of life*—whether in the case of a power-seeking despot or a gun-toting neighborhood thug.

It is impossible to know how many billions throughout history have suffered because of violence. It is safe to say that wherever there have been people living together, there has been violence. Human beings often resort to violence as a “shortcut” to handle a problem that could better be dealt with in another way. It can seem much easier just to punch someone—or to pull out a gun—than to sit down and try to work out differences.

One biblical writer asked, “What causes fights and quarrels among you?” *That is a very good question!*

Here is his answer: “Aren't they caused by the selfish desires that fight to control you?” (James 4:1, *God's Word* translation). The writer then describes acts of violence, such as murder, as the result of not controlling selfish desires.

The story of Sean Taylor's death serves as a sad example of how this happens. The *Miami Herald* reported that the thieves chose to rob Taylor's house because of his wealth. Photos of thick wads of cash were displayed on the MySpace profile of one alleged perpetrator, with the caption “dis how i sleep after a good day” next to a photo of the young man lying on a bed covered in money. Clearly, “selfish desires” were at the heart of this crime that ended in murder.



### Our Violence-Loving Society

One unique aspect of our modern society is its proliferation of violent entertainment. Of course, other societies have reveled in violent amusements, as did the ancient Romans in their Coliseum. However, such entertainment is now widely available, in many more forms, than ever before.

Sociologists have estimated that by the time the average U.S. child starts elementary school, he or she will have seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television. A quick scan through any list of recently released “action movies” reflects society's lust for violent entertainment through disturbing sci-fi films, graphic slasher flicks and gruesomely realistic thrillers that feature gratuitous violence. This is in addition to many young people's steady musical diet of anger-filled hip-hop and rap music, featuring performers who are living—and sometimes dying—a violent life.

Young people—and old—can engage in violence through video games, which are becoming more realistic every year. Some home gaming systems now use

controllers that let players “act out” a game’s physical action. In games with a violent storyline, one can actually perform the motions of stabbing or choking an opponent. If this sounds bad, consider also the emotional connection a player feels when “playing” such a character’s role.

The debate on whether violence in the media affects people has raged for years. But there is evidence that it does have a negative affect. Researcher L. Rowell Huesmann and his colleagues followed 329 subjects over 15 years, and found that those who were exposed to violent television shows as children were much more likely later to be convicted of a crime. Girls who watched more than an average amount of violence tended to throw things at their husbands. Boys who grew up watching violent television shows were more likely to be violent with their wives. The researchers concluded: “Every violent TV show increases a little bit the likelihood of a child growing up to behave more aggressively” (*Developmental Psychology*, Vol. 39, No. 2, p. 218).

### **Sad Consequences**

Attorney Sawyer Smith, who is representing two of the young men accused in Taylor’s murder, described to *Washington Post* reporter Matt Sedensky his clients’ feelings about their upcoming trial: “They’re terrified. These are young boys who are absolutely terrified about the position in which they find themselves.” John Evans, the lawyer for another of the accused, said of his client, “He’s in a position, dressed in the orange jumpsuit over there in the county jail, thinking about his life and thinking about his future. You

can only imagine the things going through his mind now.”

The results of this one violent act are sadness, loss and regret. For the family, friends and teammates of Sean Taylor, a tremendous feeling of sadness at the loss of someone so young who had a bright future ahead of him. For those charged with his murder, regret at the situation they now face. Because of this violent act, many lives will never be the same. But if the accused had been “thinking about his life and thinking about his future” *before* the act, Sean Taylor might still be alive.

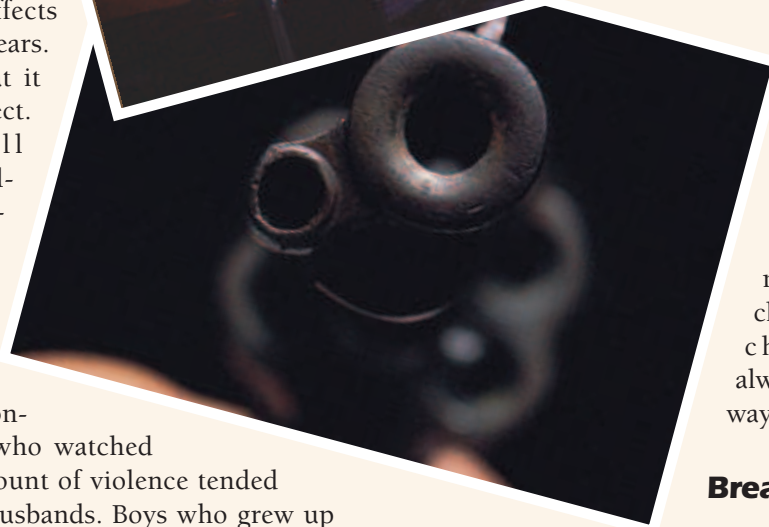
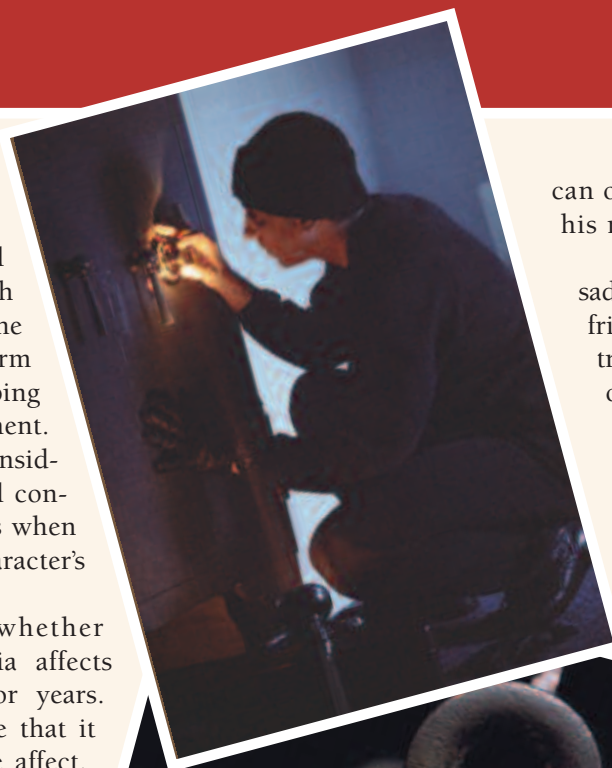
*That is the way of violence!* Before anyone can think, the deed is done—and it cannot be *undone*. At the time it may seem like a good choice, maybe the *only* choice. But almost always, there is another way!

### **Break the Pattern!**

As long as people fail to control their selfish desires, violence will continue. *Anyone* can break this pattern, but first there must be a change on the *inside*. Jesus Christ said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19). So, how can we change our hearts? One answer is given in James 4:8: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” The closer you grow to God, the more your heart will change.

The good news is that our world will not always be filled with violence. The time will come, in God’s Kingdom, when swords will be beaten into plowshares, and there will be no more war (Isaiah 2:4). For now, however, if you find your life filled with violence, you *can* ask God to deliver you from that way of life. *That choice is up to you!*

—Phil Sena



# Eight Words That Will Improve Your Life

There are eight little words, used in four simple phrases, that can help solve most of the interpersonal problems we encounter every day. They can end arguments, settle disputes and even bring peace. Sadly, most people are too proud to use them as often as they should, so they continue to suffer from needless strife and turmoil.

Two of the four phrases contain two words; two have three words. Two words are repeated. Before you read on, see if you can put these eight words together into four short phrases that can help bring an end to our conflicts with other people: *I, me, you, am, forgive, love, sorry, thank*.

Did you come up with the four phrases that can help bring peace? What are they?

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). People with independent or self-reliant attitudes can find it hard to express gratitude. They do not like to acknowledge their need for help, and sometimes even resent others’ kindness toward them. Parents have often seen their little children exhibit the immature attitude, “I wanted to do it myself!” As adults, we should understand that people need each other, and we should express appreciation for others’ kindnesses. We ought to be grateful, even when people care enough to correct us (Proverbs 15:5). The first phrase we should always be ready to use is: “Thank you.”

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well” (James 2:8). In our Western society, it can seem a little weird or uncomfortable to tell someone other than a close family member that he or she is loved. Satan has so distorted our view of natural affection and friendship that even in many marriages today, these words are rarely

expressed. Yet God commands us even to love those who may hate us. “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” (Matthew 5:44). When we show through our actions that we care

about another’s welfare, even if we do not speak the words, we are in effect saying: “I love you.”

Pride often stops us from expressing remorse. People do not like to admit that they are wrong. But if we stubbornly deny our mistakes—and fail to apologize to those we have hurt—we will only fortify their resentment. “A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle” (Proverbs 18:19). One of the best ways to

“pour oil on troubled waters” is to say, sincerely: “I am sorry.”

We know we are supposed to forgive others, but how often does our pride stop us from realizing our own need for forgiveness? “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits” (Proverbs 16:2). When we think of ourselves as righteous, we are not considering our need to be forgiven. “For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body” (James 3:2). When we stumble, it takes humility to go to those we have hurt, and to ask them: “Forgive me.”

Using these words, when appropriate, is a symptom of Christ living in us. “Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:18). We will improve our relationships when we string together—and use whenever we can—the words that form these phrases: “Thank you,” “I love you,” “I am sorry,” and “Forgive me.”

—Don Davis

<b>I</b>	<b>me</b>
<b>you</b>	<b>am</b>
<b>forgive</b>	<b>love</b>
<b>sorry</b>	<b>thank</b>
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	

## Early Christianity (Continued from page 25)

is found almost exclusively in Latin, if it can be found at all. It is no wonder that fundamental truths have been forgotten.

### Does It Matter Today?

We can learn important lessons from the epic struggle that occurred in Europe's western isles. True Christianity spread westward for a reason. The Apostles traveled to the isles in the sea because Jesus commissioned them to go to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6). The Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples are Israelites who, over many centuries, migrated from their ancient homeland in the Middle East to these islands, where they inherited specific blessings promised to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (for more on this vital key to prophecy, please request our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*).

However, with those blessings came God-given responsibilities and warnings! God chose the Israelites to be examples of a way of life that other nations would notice and want to follow (Deuteronomy 4:1–10). The Israelites were to teach their children God's way of life, and were not to compromise any of His instructions. They were warned not to forget God, nor His laws and instructions, lest they reap serious consequences (Deuteronomy 4:15–28). Yet the modern descendants of ancient Israel have for the most part forgotten the truth, and have chosen to believe in fables (2 Timothy 4:4). In recent decades, secular scholars have tended to dismiss what history records and what the Bible reveals. Instead, they obscure

the truth of history and promote misleading ideas about how Christianity came to Europe's western isles (2 Peter 2:1–3; 3:1–9). As a result, the peoples of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales simply *do not know the truth about their own identity and their own history!*

Corrupted by pagan ideas, and cut off from a sound biblical base, it is no wonder that organized religion in Britain and Ireland—as in many other Israelite countries—is floundering and in decline. Most today have forgotten—or do not even know—the true God, and are turning to substitutes in the occult or the "cult of self." The British, especially, have lost their God-given sense of mission, and are pursuing personal pleasures. The United States and Britain, instead of protecting and proclaiming the truth of God to the world, are consuming and exporting the corrupting values of violence, greed and licentious sex through the media and personal example. In doing so, they are fulfilling Moses' ancient prophecies that "after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him

to anger through the work of your hands" (Deuteronomy 31:29).

Unless we drastically change our present course, we will reap the results of our hedonistic behavior. Long ago, God warned the people of Israel: "If you do not obey Me... I will even appoint terror over you... I will set my face against you... I will break the pride of your power... I will bring a sword against you... I will lay your cities waste... the LORD will scatter you among the peoples... where the LORD will drive you... in the latter days" (Leviticus 26:14–33; Deuteronomy 4:23–30).

These prophecies are even more sobering because *they are dual*. Not only did they apply to ancient Israel; *they also apply to ancient Israel's descendants today*—found in major part among the British-descended nations of the world.

The lessons of history and the prophecies of the Bible are not just details about the past; they are vitally relevant to our times today. Before it is too late, we need to rediscover what has been lost, obscured and forgotten. Jesus Christ came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God; for our own good and the good of our nations, we need to obey His command to "repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14–15). ■

### The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy

Christianity has been in Great Britain far longer than most people today realize. But did you know that Great Britain is also mentioned in your Bible, and plays a vital role in end-time prophecy?

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

## Why Atheists? (Continued from page 2)

world. “Where was God during the Holocaust?” they will ask.

Okay, where *was* God? Bible students understand that He was on His throne in heaven, basically keeping His “hands off” the human race—keeping to His plan to allow human beings to *go their own way* for 6,000 years, after which He will send Jesus Christ back to this earth for a Millennial Sabbath of 1,000 years of *peace* and *understanding* (Revelation 20:6).

To the multitudes of His day, Jesus Christ spoke in parables. *Only* to the “inner circle” of His disciples did He reveal the full meaning of those parables. Christ allowed the multitudes to go on in their *blindness* (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). He told His disciples, “Unto *you* it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and *hearing they may hear, and not understand*; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them” (Mark 4:11–12, KJV). So Jesus was *not even trying* to “save” everyone then, as so many have supposed. The great God is merely “allowing” mankind to go its *own way* for 6,000 years, to learn the **lesson** that man’s ways—apart from God—lead to confusion, misery, suffering and *death*! God is not trying to “call” everyone *at this time*. That is why Jesus Christ also said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44, KJV).

God allows all of us “free moral agency.” He does *not* “make” us do His will. *If* He did, atheists would complain that “God is not fair” because He would not allow them to experiment with their desires and lusts to misuse science, sex, drugs and to engage in so many activities that lead to hate, confusion, broken homes and war!

But the atheists and agnostics *cannot have it both ways!*

Remember, God has allotted mankind six thousand years to write the lessons of life through human suffering and despair. Then, He will send the living Jesus Christ back to earth as King of kings (Revelation 11:15). *At that time*, God will open the eyes of *all* human beings, and they will be taught the way of God—the way of *peace, prosperity* and *joy* based on His great spiritual law, the Ten Commandments (Micah 4:1–4).

But what about the dead whom God never “called”—and who *never* had a genuine opportunity to learn of God’s plan and the real meaning of life? Most of these people suffered and died, through the ages, without even hearing the name “Jesus Christ.” Is all of their suffering *in vain*? If there is a real and merciful God, will He not give these billions of human beings a *genuine* opportunity to know God and learn the way of their Creator?

As Jesus indicated, the *truth* is that God is **not** attempting to call most people to understanding *during this age*. That is why God inspired the Apostle John to describe Satan as “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, *who deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9). Satan truly is “in charge” of this confused world, at this time. Describing Satan, Jesus said, “the **ruler** of this world is coming, and he has *nothing in Me*” (John 14:30).

How wonderful it is to realize that the **billions** of individuals who never understood about God or their purpose for life **will** be resurrected in a “day of judgment” described in your Bible. It is *not* “a day of **condemnation**,” but rather a period of testing for people who will have their eyes opened for the *very first time*. That is why Jesus said to the people of His generation, “Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment” than for those who understood and rejected His message (Matthew 10:15).

Meanwhile, although they are terribly deceived, the atheists and agnostics **do**—*in one sense*—have a point. They have been confronted with a world of confusion, anguish and seemingly pointless suffering. And they have also been confronted with a *false Christianity*, which does **not** have genuine answers to the questions of life. But *you* who read this magazine can find the Truth, if you are willing to put forth the effort to *study* with an open mind. As Jesus said: “And you shall know the **truth**, and the *truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). To fully understand God’s awesome **purpose** in all of this, be sure to call us or write us to request *your* copy of one of the deepest, most thought-provoking and enlightening booklets you will ever read. Just request your absolutely **free** copy of our booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* It will truly *open your eyes!*



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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

## Television and Radio Log

### INTERNATIONAL:

#### —AUSTRALIA

NSW, Sydney: TVS—Ch 31, SUN 6:00 am  
 QLD, Brisbane: Briz 31-Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
 SA, Adelaide: Access—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 am; THUR 8:30 pm  
 VIC, Melbourne: MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 am  
 WA, Perth: Access 31—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

#### —BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

#### —JAMAICA

Kingston: TVJ—Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 9:00 am

#### —NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:00 am

#### —PHILIPPINES

Naga City: PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am  
 Naga City: Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am

#### —SOUTH AFRICA

Randburg: CSN—SUN 5:30 pm

#### —TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad, Port of Spain: CCN—Ch 6, SAT 3:30 pm

#### —UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE

United Kingdom: LoveWorld: SKY—Ch 768,  
 Daily—Please check local listing for times

United Kingdom: WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 771, FRI 6:30 am

The Gospel Channel: Sky—Ch 770, FRI 4:00 pm

#### —EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST:

Europe, North Africa, Middle East: Hotbird 6 FRI 6:30 am UTC

### UNITED STATES:

AK, Anchorage: GCI—Ch 18, SAT 10:00 pm  
 AL, Birmingham: Bright House—Ch 4, TUE 2:30 pm  
 AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
 AR, Fayetteville: KNWA—Ch 51, SUN 6:30 am  
 AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
 AR, Fort Smith: NFTA—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am  
 AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SUN 9:30 am  
 AZ, Lake Havasu City: KLUH—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am  
 AZ, Phoenix: KAZT—Multi, SUN 11:30 am  
 AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
 AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73/98, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 7:30 pm  
 CA, Chatsworth: Time Warner—Ch 34, SUN 9:00 pm  
 CA, Eureka: Sudden Link Cable—Ch 12, SUN 8:00 pm  
 CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
 CA, Glendora: Adelphia—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm  
 CA, Los Angeles: KPXN—Ch 30, WED 5:30 pm  
 CA, Livermore: Comcast—Ch 26, THUR 2:30 pm  
 CA, Modesto: Community Media—Ch 8, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm  
 CA, North Orange County: Time Warner—Ch 95/97/98 SUN 3:30 pm  
 CA, Redding: RCAC—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am  
 CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 20/96, MON 5:30 pm  
 CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
 CA, San Diego: Cox Media—Ch 4, SUN 8:30 am  
 CA, San Diego: Time Warner—Ch 19, SUN 6:00 pm  
 CA, San Francisco: Access—Multi, TUE 6:00 pm  
 CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm  
 CA, Sonoma: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
 CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
 CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
 FL, Davie: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:00 am  
 FL, Ft. Lauderdale: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:30 am  
 FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm  
 FL, Hialeah/Coral Gables: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 pm  
 FL, Jacksonville: WTEV—Ch 47, SUN 7:00 am  
 FL, Key West: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:30 am  
 FL, Margate/Sunrise/Plantation: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm  
 FL, Miramar: Comcast—Ch 198/76 SUN 7:30 am  
 FL, North Dade: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 am  
 FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
 FL, Panama City: GBN—Multi, TUE 7:30 am  
 FL, Pensacola: WPAN—Ch 53, SUN 7:30 am  
 FL, Pompano: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:30 pm  
 FL, South Broward: Comcast—Ch 79, SUN 8:00 am  
 FL, Tallahassee: WTWC—Ch 40, SUN 7:30 am  
 FL, Tampa: WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am  
 GA, Atlanta: PTY—Ch 24, FRI 2:00 pm  
 GA, Atlanta: WATC—Multi—SUN 9:30 am  
 GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am  
 GA, Savannah: Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am  
 IA, Davenport: Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am  
 IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am;  
 SUN 11:00 am  
 IA, Dubuque: MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm;  
 MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm  
 ID, Boise: THTV—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am  
 IL, Chicago: WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am  
 IL, Moline: MediaCom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm  
 IL, Peoria: Insight, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
 IL, Springfield: Insight—Ch 4, TUE 10:00 pm  
 IN, Bloomington: CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm  
 IN, Fort Wayne: Comcast—Ch 57, SUN 3:00 pm  
 IN, Chanhute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
 KS, Salina: Community TV—Ch 21, MON & TUE 8:55 pm,  
 WED 6:00 pm, THUR 6:00 am, FRI 9:30 pm, SAT 2:30 am  
 LA, Latonia: PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am  
 KY, Lexington: Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
 KY, Lexington: WUPX—Ch 67, FRI 1:30 pm  
 KY, Louisville: Insight—Ch 2, SAT 12:00 am

Louisville: WBNA—Ch 21, SUN 5:30 pm  
 KY, Baton Rouge: KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am  
 LA, Lafayette: KLWB—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am  
 LA, New Orleans: WHNO—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am  
 LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
 MA, Boston: WBXP—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am  
 MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm,  
 WED 9:00 am  
 MA, Everett: Community TV—Ch 3, TUE 1:00 pm  
 MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
 MA, North Adams: NBCTC—Ch 15, WED 8:00 pm  
 MD, Baltimore: Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 9:00 am  
 MD, Rockville: Community TV—Ch 19, SAT 5:30 pm  
 MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
 ME, Auburn: GFIV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm  
 ME, Brunswick: Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am  
 ME, Detroit: Comcast—Multi, SUN 7:30 am  
 MI, Kalamazoo: CACTV—Ch 9, 20-22, 95, SUN 11:30 am;  
 MON, WED, FRI 5:00 pm  
 MI, Everett: Access—Ch 19, 20, FRI 10:30 am, TUE 2:00 pm  
 MI, Saginaw: Charter Media—Ch 16, THUR 2:00 pm  
 MI, Traverse City: TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm  
 MN, Bird Island: BICC—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm, WED 6:30 pm  
 MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
 MN, Hutchinson: HCYN—Ch 10, FRI 4:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm  
 MN, Minneapolis: Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 am, SUN 8:30 am  
 MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
 MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm;  
 SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
 MN, Roseville: CIV—Ch 21, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm  
 MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm  
 MO, Joplin: KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am  
 MO, Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am  
 MO, Kansas City: Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm  
 MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
 MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
 MO, St. Louis: WRBU—Ch 46, SUN 7:30 am  
 MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
 MS, Jackson: WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am  
 NC, Burlington: Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm  
 NC, Charlotte: WAXN—Ch 64, SUN 7:00 am  
 NC, Charlotte: WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm  
 NC, Greensboro: GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 10:30 pm  
 NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, MON 10:00 pm  
 NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm;  
 MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm;  
 FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm  
 NJ, Audubon: Comcast—Ch 2, WED 6:30 pm  
 NJ, Camden: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:00 am  
 NJ, Cape May: Comcast—Ch 9, SUN 11:00 am  
 NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm  
 NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm; SAT 11:30 am  
 NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 16, MON 11:00 pm  
 NJ, Union: Comcast—Ch 27/81/93, SAT 5:00 pm; SUN 6:00 pm  
 NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm  
 NM, Rio Rancho: Cable One—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
 NV, Carson City: SMCAT—Ch 10, SUN 6:00 pm  
 NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 16, SAT 4:30 am  
 & 4:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm  
 NV, Reno/Sparks: SMCAT—Ch 30/16, FRI 6:30 am  
 NY, Albany/Troy: Time Warner—Ch 18, THUR 5:00 pm  
 NY, Amsterdam: Public Access—Ch 16, TUE 6:00 pm  
 NY, Batavia: Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
 NY, Binghamton: Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm  
 NY, Brookhaven: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
 NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 35/68, SUN 7:30 pm  
 NY, Buffalo: WUTV—Ch 29, SUN 7:00 am  
 NY, Canandaigua: FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am  
 NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
 NY, Fairport: FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm  
 NY, Glens Falls: Time Warner—Ch 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm  
 NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am  
 NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm;  
 WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm  
 NY, Ithaca: Pegsys—Ch 13, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 7:30 am & 1:30 pm  
 NY, Manhattan: MNN—Ch 57/85, SAT 7:00 pm  
 NY, New York: WRNN—Ch 62, SAT 11:30 pm  
 NY, Niagara Falls: Community TV—Ch 20, MON 6:00 am  
 NY, Oneida: Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
 NY, Oneonta: Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
 NY, Queens: OPTV—Ch 34/35, SAT 3:30 pm; TUE 9:30 pm  
 NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 6:30 am; SUN 11:30 am  
 NY, Rockland County: Cablevision—Ch 76, SAT 12:30 pm  
 NY, West Seneca: Adelphia—Ch 20, MON 11:35 pm  
 NY, Staten Island: CIV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm  
 NY, Syracuse: Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm  
 NY, Utica: Time Warner—Ch 99, MON 9:00 pm  
 NY, Wappingers Falls: Cablevision—Ch 21, FRI 10:00 pm  
 NY, Watertown: Time Warner—Ch 99, SUN 10:00 am & 6:00 pm;  
 MON 7:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm  
 NY, Webster: WCA—Ch 12, SUN 9:00 am  
 NY, Woodbury: Cablevision—Ch 115, SUN 10:30 am  
 OH, Centerville: MVEC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm  
 OH, Cincinnati: Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, TUE 1:00 pm;  
 THUR 8:30 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
 OH, Dayton: DSTV—Ch 12, FRI 9:00 am; SUN 11:00 pm  
 OH, Fairborn: CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm  
 OH, Tulsa: KMYT—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 pm  
 OR, Ashland: RVTY—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm  
 OR, Oregon City: WFTV—Ch 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am;  
 SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm

OR, Portland: MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
 PA, Allentown/Bethlehem: TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm  
 PA, Johnstown: Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, SUN 8:30 am  
 PA, Lehigh: BRCTV—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 am  
 PA, Reading: BCTV—Ch 13/19, THUR 11:00 pm  
 PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm  
 PA, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre: FOX5 & WOLF—Multi Channels,  
 THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am  
 RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am  
 TN, Chattanooga: WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
 TN, Knoxville: WVLR—Ch 48, SUN 7:30 am  
 TN, La Follette: WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm  
 TN, Memphis: WPYI—Ch 24, SAT 6:30 am  
 TN, Nashville: WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am  
 TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm  
 TX, Bryan: KYLE—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
 TX, Dallas: iMedia Network—Ch 99/74, SAT 1:00 pm;  
 SUN 11:00 am  
 TX, Houston: TVMAX—Cable, SUN 9:00 am  
 TX, Lufkin: KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
 TX, Midland: KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am  
 TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
 TX, Tyler: KLTU—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
 TX, Waco: KWKT—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am  
 VA, Charlottesville: Adelphia—Ch 13, MON 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm  
 VA, Charleston: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
 VA, Fairfax: FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm  
 VA, Norfolk: WSKY—Ch 4, SUN 9:00 am  
 VA, Roanoke: WDRB—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am  
 VA, Virginia Beach: Cox—Ch 99 & 74, SAT 8:30 am  
 VA, Bennington: CATV—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm  
 VT, Burlington: Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 11:30 am &  
 FRI 12:00 pm  
 VT, Montpelier: Community Access—Ch 15, SUN 9:30 am  
 VT, Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am,  
 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm  
 VT, Springfield: SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm  
 WA, Everett: Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm  
 WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
 WA, Seattle: Community Access—Ch 29, SAT 9:30 am  
 WA, Vancouver: FVCT—Ch 11, SUN 11:30 am  
 WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
 WV, Charleston: WLXP—Ch 29, TUE 7:00 am  
 WY, Casper: KITWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am  
 WY, Cheyenne: KLVY—Ch 27, SUN 10:00 am

### RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina, Bahia Blanca: Vida—107.7 FM, MON 8:00 pm;  
 THUR 12:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm  
 Argentina, Buenos Aires: Radio General San Martin—610 AM,  
 SUN 10:00 am  
 Chile, Santiago: Radio Arco Iris—105.3 FM, MON, WED, FRI at  
 12:00 am & 1:00 am  
 Costa Rica, San Jose: Radio La Gigante—800 AM, SUN 8:00 am  
 Guadeloupe, Kili FM—99.4 FM, MON-FRI 6:15 am  
 Guyana, Georgetown: NCN—560 AM, TUE 7:30 pm  
 Mexico, Monterrey: XEHR-1140 AM, SAT 4:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
 Peru, Lima: Radio Huaytapallana-94.6 FM, MON 4:00 pm & 5:00 pm  
 Peru, Lima: Radio Santa Anita-103 FM, SUN 9:00 am, MON-SAT 9:00 pm  
 Peru, Cero de Pasco: 97.7 FM, AM 759, SUN 7:00 pm,  
 MON-FRI 9:00 pm  
 Philippines, Cebu City: DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
 Philippines, Baguio City: DZBS—1368 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
 Philippines, Davao City: DXUM—See Local Listing  
 Philippines, Ozamiz City: DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am  
 USA, La Follette, TN: WLAF—1450 AM, SAT 3:00 pm

- **Nationwide Cable**  
 WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—FRI 1:30 am ET
- **DirecTV**  
 WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET  
 WORD—CH 373, FRI 1:30 am ET
- **Canada**  
 VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am;  
 MON-FRI 3:00 am ET  
 ON, Toronto: *The Christian Channel*—Cable,  
 SUN 4:00 pm ET, WED 12:00 ET

# TOMORROW'S WORLD *Television and Radio Log*

**WGN:** SUN 6:00 am ET

**WORD:** FRI 1:30 am ET

**VISION,** Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am ET; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET

## NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATIONS:

**NY, Buffalo:** WUTV—CH 29, SUN 7:00 am

## NEW UNITED KINGDOM SATELLITE NETWORK:

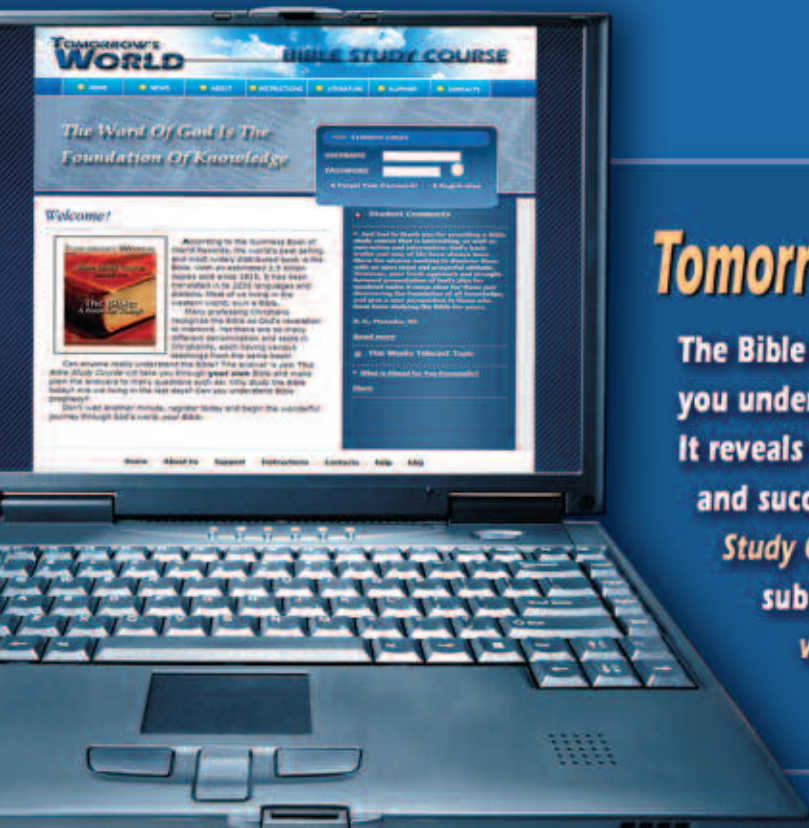
**United Kingdom:** LoveWorld: SKY-CH 768, Daily: check local listing

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:

**Republic of South Africa:** LoveWorld: SUN & WED 1:00 pm

**Bolivia, Cochabamba:** Radio Estrella—93.1 FM, SAT & SUN 8:30 am, THUR 8:30 pm

**Mexico, Mexico City:** Sterio Latina—105.6 FM, SAT 7:00 pm



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