

May-June 2003

Tomorrow's World

...for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

A man in a dark suit and red tie is sitting at a desk, covering his face with his hands in a gesture of stress or anxiety. The background shows a window with blinds. The text 'Overcoming Your Anxieties' is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**Overcoming
Your Anxieties**

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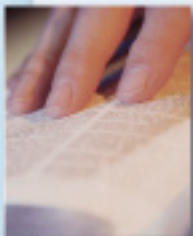
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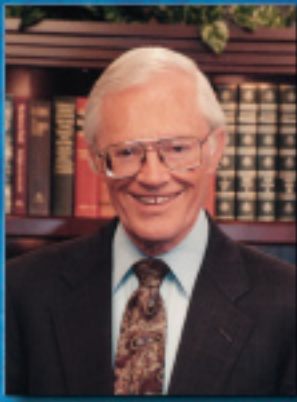
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All scripture references are from the *New King James Version* unless otherwise noted.



Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

Where Is the Truth?

As a young man, I was guided by God to a place where the full *Truth* was being taught. A quiet realization came over each of us in this place that we really did understand God's way for mankind. We knew that we were not perfect—not any “better” humanly than others—but that God had opened our minds to understand and to obey *what the Bible really said*. We began to understand the concept of getting back to the full Truth of the message and way of life that Jesus Christ and the original Apostles actually taught and lived. It was a *way of life*.

When new members came along, we would discuss with them—and with each other—how each of us “came into the Truth.” Understanding and practicing the full Truth of what the Bible said was the main theme of our little organization in those days.

Yet modern society rejects the idea of *absolute Truth*. This God-rejecting approach is not new. For it was the standard approach to unbiased reasoning exemplified 2,000 years ago by Pontius Pilate. In answering Pilate's question about His kingdom, Jesus said: “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all” (John 18:37–38). Though millions of professing Christians say they get their religion from the Bible, most will vigorously resent any clearly proven biblical Truth that contradicts what *their church, their society or their family* believes. Perhaps without realizing it they are echoing Stephen Decatur's words of human patriotism: “Our country *right or wrong!*”

But when you are dealing with a genuine Spirit Personality who is the supreme **God**—and your

eternal life is at stake—does this arrogant “my church right or wrong” approach to truth make any sense? Are we trying to force the omnipotent Creator to declare that all ideas and all religions are “equal”—even if they totally contradict what His inspired Word says?

The “key” is whether you and I *genuinely believe* that the book we call the Bible was *literally inspired* by the true **God**—the Lord and Giver of life. *If* you will sincerely accept this basic premise, then, yes, there is objective spiritual **Truth!** That powerful Truth can be clearly demonstrated from the pages of the Holy Bible. And you will find that the Bible does **not** contradict itself. And each challenge to this observation can be refuted objectively. Yet, for most professing Christians, the clear statement of Jesus Christ should be enough regarding the so-called “contradictions” in the Bible. For Jesus said: “The scripture **cannot** be broken” (John 10:35).

This is the **foundation** upon which the editors and writers of *Tomorrow's World* depend. *This* is the starting point of our thinking and our approach to any topic. The Bible really does have **authority**. In the Bible, “*God says what He means and means what He says.*” No “funny stuff” allowed. No “word games” to evade clear biblical instructions or examples!

In other words, we at *Tomorrow's World* literally believe what the Apostle Paul wrote: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

We know that when Jesus Christ said that man “shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4), the *only* written Word of God extant at that time was what we

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Will You Be Left Behind?

By Roderick C. Meredith

In one of the most brazen religious deceptions of modern times, Tim LaHaye in his *Left Behind* novels is trying to popularize the “rapture” theory. I say “theory” because this hodgepodge of misplaced and misapplied scriptures is still rejected by the vast majority of professing Christians. And, most importantly, it is totally unprovable—because it *directly contradicts* the Bible’s clear teachings about Christ’s Second Coming.

Also, this silly theory pictures a God who would carelessly bring about the purposeless deaths of untold thousands of people! You have perhaps seen bumper stickers on automobiles proclaiming: “In case of rapture, this car will be without a driver!” For the *Left Behind* novels describe Christians who are piloting planes or driving cars as suddenly “seized” away by God—resulting in the deaths of innocent passengers and bystanders all over the world.

What kind of God is that?

In his recent book, *Revelation Unveiled*, Tim LaHaye attempts to prove that the Bible teaches a “rapture.” LaHaye begins his “proof” by citing Revelation 4:1–2. But he quickly acknowledges: “The rapture of the church is not explicitly taught in Revelation 4” (p. 100). *Amen!*

Can we find, in that passage of Scripture, *any indication* of a “rapture”? No! Read it for yourself: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’ Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne” (Revelation 4:1–2).

This obviously describes the Apostle John being taken “in the spirit”—probably through a powerful *vision*—to the very throne of God in the third heaven. LaHaye somehow tries to reason that the Apostle John represents the Church—although the Bible never

remotely hints of any such representation! Rather, the Bible always represents the Church as a *woman*—the affianced bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:1–2; Ephesians 5:22–24).

LaHaye offers another argument for the rapture theory: “The absence of any mention of the Church in the rest of Revelation indicates that it is not on the earth during the Tribulation. There are sixteen references to the Church in Revelation 1–3, whereas chapters 6–18, which cover the Tribulation, do not mention the Church *once*” (*Revelation Unveiled*, p. 100). This is indeed a brazen statement, for the *entire chapter* of Revelation 12 is talking about the Church—and Revelation 19:7–9 clearly discusses the Church’s coming marriage to Jesus Christ, as we will discuss later.

Soon, LaHaye gets to the *primary* biblical passage on which all proponents of the rapture theory rely. He writes: “The Apostle Paul was the special writer God chose to reveal to the Church the **wonderful details** of the rapture, when all Christians, both the dead and the living, will be ‘caught up’ (or raptured) to heaven to be with Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17)” (p. 101; emphasis ours).

What “wonderful details” are given in these two verses that should prove the rapture theory? Let us *study* the entire context of this passage: “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in

Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

What Did Paul REALLY Say?

The Apostle Paul is here comforting the Thessalonian brethren about their fellow Christians who had recently “fallen asleep”—who had *died*. He said that God will bring with Him (with Christ) “those who sleep in Jesus.” He then said: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet** of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first” (v. 16). Revelation 8 and 9 clearly describe the “*trumpet plagues*” of God, and the awesome destruction they will cause over the entire earth. Then Revelation 11:15 tells us: “Then the seventh angel **sounded**: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” So Christ does **not** “sneak” back to earth to secretly “rapture” His saints away to heaven. Rather, He returns at the end of the most awesome, earth-shaking events in history—

events that are felt and seen by **everyone!**

Again, the Apostle Paul himself tells us regarding Christ’s Second Coming: “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**. For the **trumpet** will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52). So please get this one key fact straight: the saints of God—living or dead—are *not raised or changed* until **after** the powerful “last trumpet” has sounded. This basic fact alone completely **obliterates** the entire “rapture theory”!

Jesus Christ clearly describes, in Matthew 24:3–33, the *order of events* preceding His Second Coming. *Please read those verses very carefully!* First, Jesus describes the false prophets who would arise and *deceive* the “many” (v. 5). Then, He describes war, famine, pestilence and earthquakes that would follow. Does Jesus then tell us that His saints will escape all this? **No!** Rather, Jesus tells us: “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and *kill you*, and you will be **hated** by all nations for My name’s sake” (v. 9). *Many* true Christians will be martyred **before** Christ returns—**not** “raptured” off to heaven!

Then Jesus predicts the Great Tribulation, which is so awful that “all flesh” would perish unless God intervened (vv. 21–22). Then verse 29 tells us: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” The

awesome heavenly “signs” come next, and then the glorious return of Jesus Christ at the “great sound of a trumpet” (v. 31) as all the saints are gathered to Christ and join Him in descending to the Mount of Olives. “Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And *in that day* His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives” (Zechariah 14:3–4). Finally, Zechariah was inspired to tell us: “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one” (v. 9).

By carelessly *assuming* that the Apostle John represents the Church, by carefully *bypassing* the obvious and consistent meaning of the “last trumpet” and by using other devices, LaHaye is able to construct a platform from which to launch the “rapture theory.” But it is totally unbiblical and unprovable. Where, then, did this confused theory originate?

Origin of the Rapture Theory

Virtually all scholars acknowledge that the rapture theory was basically unknown and untaught until a man named John Nelson Darby came along. Darby was founder of the Plymouth Brethren Church. He described a system of biblical interpretation called “dispensationalism.” This unusual scheme theorized that God has different rules for different groups at various times in human history. Darby taught that God had a “law” for the Jews, but “grace” for the Church.

Later, Darby’s ideas were refined and made popular by C. I. Scofield, who authored the *Scofield Reference Bible*. From this

source, Protestant evangelicals became enamored with these teachings, even though they are so blatantly unscriptural.

In an effort to find earlier origins for the rapture theory, LaHaye cites a number of vague references that go back in time long before Darby. For instance, LaHaye quotes from the writings of one Pseudo-Ephrem, yet admits that it is difficult to know *who* this man really was or *when* he wrote. Here is the quote from “Pseudo-Ephrem” used in LaHaye’s book, *Revelation Unveiled*: “Why therefore do we not reject every care of earthly actions and prepare ourselves for the meeting of the Lord Christ, so that he may draw us from the confusion, which overwhelms all the world?... *All the saints and elect of God are gathered together before the tribulation, which is to come, and are taken to the Lord*, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins. [emphasis mine]” (p. 110).

Please note that this allegedly ancient quote mentions *no biblical reference* to validate these ideas, and certainly does not mention the word “rapture.” Another vague and even earlier quote LaHaye employs (p. 111) is from Victorinus, a Roman Catholic bishop, as early as 270AD. In a commentary on Revelation, Victorinus was discussing how God’s people might be delivered from the plagues brought on by the two witnesses, described in Revelation 11. LaHaye states: “In his commentary on Revelation, he compared the plagues of that period with the plagues of Leviticus and then said, ‘These shall be in the last time, when the church shall have gone out of the midst.’

Obviously Bishop Victorinus of Petau, a brilliant Bible scholar living in the third century, saw the church departing *before* the plagues during the time of God’s wrath, which from his commentary on Revelation 11 he took to be seven years. ‘(They) shall have gone out of the midst’ was his way of describing the Rapture of the Church.”

The Bible plainly teaches that people during the coming Great Tribulation will not go off to heaven. Rather,

What does this quote from an ancient writer tell us about the rapture theory?

Nothing.

This quote says absolutely **nothing** about a “rapture.” It only surmises that God’s people—somehow, some way—would have gone out of the “midst” of this dangerous situation. By *assuming* that this ancient writer was referring to the rapture, LaHaye manages to put words into the mouth of Bishop Victorinus!

But is there a genuine way of escape for God’s people during the coming Great Tribulation? What does the Bible itself clearly teach?

A Place of Safety

The Bible plainly teaches that God will provide a Place of Safety—“a place prepared by God” (Revelation 12:6)—for His people during the coming Great Tribulation. But this will **not** involve a secret “rapture,” and the faithful saints of God will **not** go off to heaven. Rather, God will *supernaturally* protect them in a *place right here on this earth*.

Describing the traumatic events taking place just before the Great Tribulation, Jesus told His followers: “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:20–21). Jesus never spoke of a

Church of God—has to flee to the “wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.” You can easily prove to yourself that heaven is never called a “wilderness”! Rather, this passage of scripture is describing the flight of God’s true Church from the centralized areas of the Roman Empire—and from the persecutions of the *great false church*—to the “wilder-

Suddenly, inexplicably, an evil spirit will descend upon the area of the Beast Power in Europe and upon the leaders of the false church. Shortly, they will begin in earnest to plan the *destruction* of the United States, Canada and Britain! And they will swiftly begin to crack down on anyone who dares to preach the real Truth of the Bible. *This will be*

God will provide a Place of Safety—“a place prepared by God” (Revelation 12:6)—for His Great Tribulation. But this will not involve a secret “rapture,” and the faithful saints of God. Rather, God will *supernaturally* protect them in a *place right here on this earth*.

rapture, but rather of the “flight” of His people. Note that we should pray that this flight to safety would **not** occur on God’s Sabbath, for this coming flight will involve a degree of physical effort and stress—as did ancient Israel’s flight from Egypt. If a supernatural “rapture” were involved, there would be no concern about the Sabbath or about the danger of traveling during the winter. *That should be very clear.*

Later, Christ inspired the Apostle John to write in detail about the true Church being taken to a Place of Safety here on earth. *Please study Revelation 12 carefully so that no one will be able to confuse you about this matter!* In Revelation 12, Jesus reveals to John a vision of a “woman”—Israel—who brought forth the Messiah (vv. 1–2). Then Satan appears as a dragon, ready to “devour her Child as soon as it was born” (v. 4). Christ, the “male child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron” (v. 5) is then caught up to God’s throne in this powerful vision.

Next (v. 6) the “woman”—now, clearly, the New Testament

ness” area of the Italian and Swiss Alps from 554 until 1814AD! For, in the “day for a year” understanding of biblical prophecy (see Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34) this would involve a 1,260-year period extending from the rise of the Roman Emperor Justinian in 554 to the removal of the final Holy Roman Emperor, Napoleon, in 1814. It was during this 1,260-year period that true, Bible-believing Christians were in the greatest physical danger from this foul system which God calls “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Revelation 17:5).

The Great Tribulation Begins

Then, at the very time of the end, a spiritual war breaks out between Satan and his demons and the angels of God. This awesome spiritual war will probably take place within the next several years! Satan is defeated and is “cast to the earth... having great wrath, because he knows that he has a **short time**” (12:9–12).

the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

At this point, John writes that Satan “persecuted the woman”—now, clearly, the faithful New Testament Church of God (vv. 13–16). As in the typical fulfillment described in verse 6, the Church once again is guided by God to flee to a Place of Safety *here on earth*. For “the earth helped the woman, and swallowed up the flood which the Dragon (Satan, v. 9) had spewed out of his mouth” (v. 16).

Seeing the truly zealous Christians being taken to a Place of Safety where he can no longer get at them, Satan is “enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v. 17). So those weak, lukewarm Christians “left behind” at this point are *horribly persecuted* by Satan the Devil and his minions.

Some ministers attempt to apply verse 17 to the *Jewish people*. But this entire chapter is clearly talking about the “Israel of

God” (Galatians 6:16)—ancient Israel at first (Revelation 12:1–4), and then the faithful New Testament Church of God—which during the Dark Ages was led by God to **flee** from the Holy Roman Empire during many persecutions, including the Inquisition (v. 6). Beloved as they are, the Jews do **not** have and do **not** follow the “testimony” of Jesus Christ (v. 17). So this final “flight” to safety absolutely applies to *God’s true Church!*

Near the end of His ministry, Jesus Christ gave this vital instruction to His people: “*Watch* therefore and **pray** **always** that you may be counted worthy to **escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). *Very few* professing Christians are obeying this commandment from the Son of God! For most people attend churches where biblical prophecy is seldom discussed and certainly not understood. They do not know what to “watch” for—and may have no interest in doing so. Frankly, most churchgoers today do not know *how* to pray. And they certainly do not “cry out *day and night*” to God as Jesus said His “elect” would do (Luke 18:7). Rather, the majority of God’s own people are influenced—in this final, Laodicean age of the Church—to be “lukewarm.” And the living Jesus Christ speaks powerfully to this attitude: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will **vomit you out of My mouth**” (Revelation 3:15–16). Apparently, lukewarm, professing Christians will be cast right

into the middle of the Great Tribulation! (vv. 17–19). They have not been willing to present their bodies as a *living* sacrifice (Romans 12:1) and **fully surrender** to let Jesus Christ live His obedient life in them, so—as the Great Tribulation begins—God will **not** protect them and they will finally be forced to choose between *total* surrender to God or everlasting *death* in the Lake of Fire.

But God’s faithful, genuinely *obedient* children will be protected supernaturally in a place here on earth. God describes the *way of life* of His faithful people: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep** the **commandments** of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). Just as His true Church is described in Revelation 12:17 as a commandment-keeping Church, so God’s individual saints **obey** the Ten Commandments as a **way of life**—and they do **not** succumb to the siren song of so many ministers that God’s spiritual law was “done away” or “nailed to the cross.” The Bible is *extremely plain* on this!

So, if you wish the divine protection of Almighty God in the traumatic months and years just ahead, be assured that it does **not** lie in getting all hyped up about being suddenly “raptured” off to heaven at any moment. Rather, as God’s Word makes clear, our Creator will guide His faithful Church to know *when* and *where* to flee just before the Great Tribulation begins. They will be *supernaturally* protected in a place of God’s choosing *here on earth*. Then, *after* the Great Tribulation, the “last trumpet” will sound, “for the **trumpet** will sound, and the dead will be raised

incorruptible, and we shall be *changed*” (1 Corinthians 15:52; cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17).

There will be no “secret rapture” of the saints. The powerful trumpet blast of God will **shake** the earth before the saints of God arise! May God help you and your loved ones understand and be willing to **surrender** to the living Jesus Christ so that He may live His *obedient* life in you through the power of the Holy Spirit. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to tell us: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Through Christ *in you*, may you truly learn to walk with God and have the *genuine* protection which Almighty God clearly promises for His true saints. ☐

To Learn More...



The “rapture” is just one of many false doctrines commonly taught in the name of “Christianity.”

Have you been misled about Jesus Christ’s true message of hope for our world and its people? Please request our **FREE** booklet, ***Do You Believe the True Gospel?***, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site **www.tomorrowworld.org**.

Questions & Answers

Q Jesus promised one of the thieves crucified with Him: “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). What and where is “Paradise,” and did the thief go there with Jesus that day?

A The Bible shows that the dead are in the grave, awaiting the resurrection; they are *not* in heaven. The Apostle Peter said: “For David did not ascend into the heavens” (Acts 2:34). Christ said: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13).

Does this mean that the thief is in a special place called “Paradise” that is not “heaven”? No. The Bible clearly shows *where* Paradise is located. The Apostle Paul tells of a man who was taken in a vision to God’s throne—“how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Corinthians 12:1–4). Paradise is located in the presence of God’s throne—in heaven.

What is Paradise? Paradise means a “garden, pleasure ground: grove, park”—“a grand enclosure or preserve... shady and well watered... enclosed by walls” (*Thayer’s Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*).

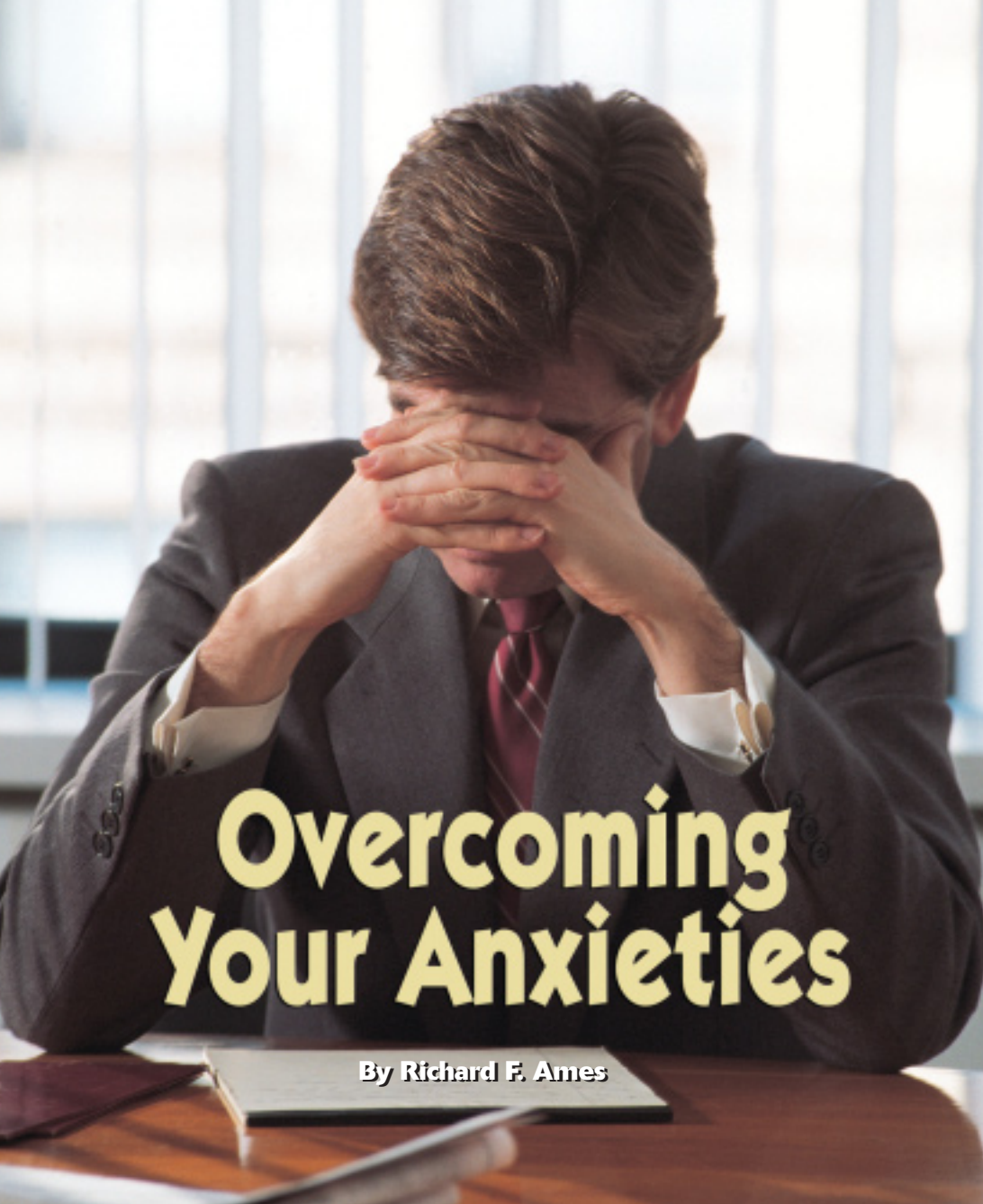
The Bible describes *what* Paradise is like. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). Now notice Revelation 22:1–2: “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the *throne of God* and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

These verses refer to “the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:2). The New Jerusalem, which will come out of heaven after the earth is made into a “new earth” (2 Peter 3:10–13; Revelation 21:1), will contain the Tree of Life. The Paradise of God, near or in the presence of His throne, is a park or garden that will ultimately be found on the new earth!

Did the thief go there *with Jesus* on the day of his death? Note that Jesus Himself did not go to Paradise, or heaven, on the day He died. As Paul wrote: “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). Christ was sealed in the tomb for three full days and three full nights. Notice what He told Mary when she came to the tomb, after Christ had risen: “Do not cling to Me, for I have *not yet* ascended to My Father... and your Father, and to My God and your God” (John 20:17).

What did Christ *really* say to the thief? Many readers are misled by improper punctuation in the English-language translation of the inspired Greek text. Most English-language translations wrongly place a comma between “you” and “today.” As one commentary explains: “The interpretation of this verse depends entirely on punctuation, which rests wholly on human authority, the Greek manuscripts having no punctuation of any kind till the ninth century, and then it is only a dot (middle of the line) separating each word” (*Companion Bible*, Appendix §173).

Punctuated correctly in English, this verse should read: “Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with me in Paradise.” In Luke 23:43, Jesus was not making a promise that He failed to keep; He was stressing that when Paradise comes, the thief will be there with Him!



Overcoming Your Anxieties

By Richard F. Ames

We live in a dangerous world. Millions of people are fearful, worried and anxious. As Time magazine reported: “Now more than ever we are worrying ourselves sick.” Can you overcome your anxieties?

The stress of everyday life can kill us. We commute in congested traffic, we interact with carnal, argumentative people and we face many financial, social and personal problems. And then add to those stresses our fears of the terrors besetting our cities and our nations!

How many of us are “worrying ourselves sick”? One magazine article observed: “There is certainly a lot of anxiety going around. Anxiety disorder—which is what health experts call any anxiety that persists to the point that it interferes with ones life—is the most common mental illness in the U.S. In its various forms, ranging from very specific phobias to generalized anxiety disorder, it afflicts 19 million Americans” (“Understanding Anxiety,” *Time*, June 10, 2002, p. 48).

How worried and anxious are you? What can you do to have peace of mind? What can you do to overcome your anxieties? Here are seven “keys” to overcoming your anxieties.

Key 1: Prepare for The Prophesied Future

This principle is so important that wise King Solomon stated it twice in Proverbs: “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3; 27:12).

We need to face the real dangers increasingly threatening our world, and we need to take appropriate action. We need to arm ourselves with knowledge

of today's many dangers, and face reality. Too many people today choose to hide from reality, and escape into entertainment, drug and alcohol abuse and other illicit behaviors.

Proper preparation for the prophesied future will help you overcome your anxieties. Jesus told us to understand prophetic events. After describing the signs that would precede His return, Jesus gave an encouraging admonition: "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:31–33).

Jesus said that we should be alert to prophetic events, so that we will "know that the kingdom of God is near." He did not say these prophetic signs would help us *guess* that the kingdom of God is near. Jesus said that we can *know* when the kingdom of God is near. He gave us this warning in Luke 21:34: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life" (Luke 21:34). Other translations render this phrase "the worries of this life" (NRSV) or "the anxieties of life" (NIV).

Jesus warns us not to let that day come upon us unexpectedly. "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (vv. 35–36).

We need to be alert to world events, and to the prophesied signs about which Jesus spoke. God will judge the nations during the prophesied Day of the Lord, mentioned in more than 30 prophecies throughout the Bible. God made it very clear to ancient Israel that there are blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. Our degenerating and increasingly immoral Western nations will pay a severe penalty. Here is what God warned: "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you; I will even appoint *terror* over you" (Leviticus 26:14–16).

Could this be happening to us now? Many feel that the world is becoming, as the respected *Economist* magazine proclaimed on its October 19,

2002 cover, "A world of terror." Is there any part of the world that can feel safe from terrorism? Terrorism today can be found in every corner of our world. Even in the once-protected United States, a pair of snipers last fall left millions in the Washington, DC area afraid whenever they had to leave their homes. Just two men brought such great terror to millions. Multiply this by the thousands of terror incidents around the world each year, and one begins to realize that the *Economist* was right: we now live in a *world* of terror.

We must face the realities of these prophesied end-times. As Jesus said, do not "let your hearts be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life" (Luke 21:34, NIV). But He said: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

The terrors of our world add to our personal fears. But there is the hope and good news of Jesus Christ's return, to rule God's coming kingdom on earth for a thousand years. If we feel uncertainty and ignorance, this may lead to confusion and depression. But Jesus gave us this encouragement: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Yes, you *can* be free from uncertainty. You *can* know the future!

Key 2: Know Your Priorities

The Bible makes plain what our priorities in life should be. We should be praying, as Jesus taught: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Are you seeking God's will? Or are you seeking the world? As the Apostle James wrote: "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Millions follow the latest "trends" or "fads" and conform to the world. They are not seeking to fulfill their very purpose in life. In fact, they do not even know what that purpose is! What did Jesus say is the greatest priority? He said: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

Once you have committed yourself to seeking the Kingdom of God, then you can have peace of mind. You can overcome your worries, phobias, and

anxieties. But if you are double-minded—if you have one foot in the world, and one foot trying to walk the way of the Bible—you will get nowhere! Jesus spoke about this double-mindedness: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

Are you trying to serve two masters? That double-minded approach only encourages anxiety. Jesus continues: “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (vv. 31–33). That is your calling! Seeking the important things will help you grow in faith. And faith is an antidote for worry!

The importance of priorities was a theme of the 1974 best-selling book *How to Get Control of Your*

We need to confess our sins in prayer. Be open and honest with God. As the Apostle John wrote: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We need to acknowledge our fears, worries, and our sins. If we genuinely repent of our sins, God will forgive us. We can be free of the anxieties and worry, associated with guilt! Christians *can* have peace of mind!

God lets us experience life, to learn from our own mistakes and experiences. The Apostle Peter explains that a time of judgment is coming, when we will be held accountable for our lifestyles and our attitudes: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

Are your priorities God’s priorities? Are you living by the priorities God has given in His Bible reveals priorities that can give you a real purpose in life. When you follow its

Time and Your Life. Author Alan Lakein suggested that we each ask ourselves three simple questions: What are my lifetime goals? How will I spend the next three years? And if I knew now that I would be struck dead by lightning six months from today, how would I live until then?

These questions—especially the last—should help you distinguish between the most important and least important priorities in your life. Are your priorities God’s priorities? Are you living by the priorities God has given in His “instruction manual”—the Bible? The Bible reveals priorities that can give you a real purpose in life. When you follow its instructions, you *can* find peace of mind.

Key 3: Repent of Your Sins

When we sin, and we know we have sinned, we feel guilty. We expect that something terrible is going to happen to us, and, lo and behold, something terrible does happen to us. The patriarch Job said: “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me” (Job 3:25). Some have called this a “self-fulfilling prophecy.”

because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:10–12).

We need to examine our conduct. We need to repent, which means to change our conduct and our way of thinking. Repentance means to turn around and go the other way. It means to acknowledge our sins before God, and ask His forgiveness. It means we must commit ourselves to obey God’s righteousness, and to accept the sacrifice of Christ to pay for our sins. One who has genuinely repented, and has been baptized, demonstrating acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice, can begin a new life. The Apostle Paul described the meaning of baptism. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1–2).

Millions of professing Christians believe that once you are under grace, you no longer need to keep God’s Ten Commandments. In other words, you can continue in sin, you can transgress God’s righteous and holy law, because you are under grace. But what did Paul say? “Certainly not!” Or as it states in the KJV: “God forbid!” Paul then describes the depth

of commitment we bring to our baptism: “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (vv. 3–4). This is the fruit of true repentance!

Key 4: Pray About Everything That Worries You

What was Paul’s solution for anxiety? How did he advise us to cope with worry and fearful concern? He wrote: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). In other words, share your worries, your fears and your concerns with God in prayer!

Tell God the details of your problems. King David did that many times. You can read his complaints, frustrations and personal feelings in his

in His “instruction manual”—the Bible? The instructions, you *can* find peace of mind.

prayers, recorded in the Psalms. Twenty-six times in the Psalms, David pleaded with God: “Deliver me!” One such prayer is as follows: “Deliver me from my enemies, O God; defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men” (Psalm 59:1–2).

Like David, we should express our intimate thoughts to God. Another key to overcoming our anxieties is to pray with thanksgiving! We should thank God for all our blessings. When we count our blessings—when we thank God for all the blessings we have experienced and will experience in our lives—there is a wonderful result: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

You *can* have peace of mind—the very peace of God. But God expects that you will take action. He expects that you will follow His instruction to share your concerns with Him in prayer. And he expects you to request His help, aid and deliverance—and to pray with an attitude of thanksgiving. Thank God that He is willing to help you overcome your anxieties, and that He is willing to give you peace of mind.

Apply these principles for sound-mindedness and peace, and you can have the abundant life that God desires for you. Jesus said: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). True Christians can have an abundant life. They can rejoice, in spite of life’s trials. Christians will always endure difficult times. But God gives us the spiritual faith and confidence to face our trials. Writing to the Philippian Christians, Paul uses the word “rejoice” ten times in eight verses in this epistle! Notice his exhortation: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). Our confidence, our peace of mind, is in the Lord, not in ourselves! When we have surrendered our lives to our Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ, we can have joy and peace. In fact, Paul addresses this common problem of anxiety. He tells us in Philippians 4:6: “Be anxious for nothing” (v. 6). Or, as it tells us in the *NIV*: “Do not be anxious about anything.” Does that sound impossible? Notice that it does not say: “Do not be concerned about anything.” One dictionary definition of anxiety is: “fearful concern or interest.” Anxiety is also defined as “painful or apprehensive uneasiness of mind usually over an impending or anticipated ill” (*Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*). We need a normal, natural concern, but not a “fearful concern.”

Key 5: Exercise Faith

Hebrews 11 is often called the “faith chapter.” It lists the heroes and heroines of faith, and defines faith for us: “Now faith is the substance of things

To Learn More...



Prayer is a fundamental tool for overcoming anxiety. How can you be sure that God will answer your prayers? Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

How can you exercise faith? Faith is an assurance and a confidence. Abraham, though very old, believed God’s promise that he would be a father of many nations. “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God” (Romans 4:20). Abraham was “fully convinced that what He [God] had promised He was also able to perform. Therefore, ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness’” (vv. 21–22).

God was *real* to Abraham, who *knew* that He was *more than able* to fulfill His promises. If we have faith, we will ask the question: “What has God promised me?” Then, when we read the Bible, we find hundreds of promises that God can fulfill for us—if we believe that God is able to fulfill those promises.

Correcting His listeners who worried too much about their physical needs, Jesus said: “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:28–30).

God expects us to exercise faith. He expects us to trust Him and to follow His instructions. Christ and the Apostles set an example of faithful living. When we follow their example, we can overcome our anxieties. As Paul wrote: “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

Faith is an antidote for worry! Seeking first the important things in life will help you grow in faith! God is able to accomplish far more than humans know or can even imagine. One of my favorite verses explains this point: “Now to Him who is able to do

exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20–21).

God is “able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.” He wants us to be close to Him. He wants us to share with Him our worries, fears and concerns. And God wants us to ask Him for help! Be bold. Ask God to help you, as He has promised: “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

Believe God’s promises, and you will find peace. “But with-

out faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The key here is to seek God diligently! We seek Him by praying to Him, every day. We seek Him by reading our Bibles, every day. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Key 6: Fear God

Many in mainstream Christianity call the fear of God “primitive.” They equate fearing God to the obedience of superstitious pagans falling before their false gods. But the biblical fear of God is a deep reverence and respect for the Creator. It is our awe at God’s majesty and greatness. It is a response to the reality of God. When you choose to fear God, you will not fear

Phobias from A to Z:

Acrophobia	–	fear of heights
Bibliophobia	–	fear of books
Claustrophobia	–	fear of confined spaces
Dipsophobia	–	fear of drinking
Ergophobia	–	fear of work
Felinophobia	–	fear of cats
Geliophobia	–	fear of laughter
Homilophobia	–	fear of sermons
Ichthyophobia	–	fear of fish
Koniophobia	–	fear of dust
Lalophobia	–	fear of speaking
Myctophobia	–	fear of darkness
Necrophobia	–	fear of death
Olfactophobia	–	fear of odors
Pantophobia	–	fear of everything
Rhytiphobia	–	fear of getting wrinkles
Suriphobia	–	fear of mice
Technophobia	–	fear of technology
Verbophobia	–	fear of words
Xenophobia	–	fear of foreigners
Zoophobia	–	fear of animals

– from www.phobialist.com

man. Remember that the fear of God, and the love of God, are *not* mutually exclusive. Many professing Christians think that you can have only one *or* the other. That is *not* what your Bible says. Both qualities are required in our relationship with God. “And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to *fear* the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to *love him*, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12–13).

God requires that we both love Him *and* fear Him. Read through the books of Psalms and Proverbs. The blessings and benefits of a godly fear will amaze you! Notice: “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge” (Proverbs 14:26). True faith and “strong confidence” come from God.

The very reason we do not have world peace is the lack of godly fear. Paul, quoting Isaiah, makes that very plain. “Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:15–18).

How many people have you known who are arrogant and have no godly fear? Our world needs genuine, humble Christians who *revere* the true God. We need to follow the example of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He had a godly fear. You can read about that in Isaiah 11:1–3. Godly fear gives us peace and confidence. As Jesus warned: “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Now notice what follows: “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (vv. 29–31).

As you regularly read the Bible, you will discover many examples of God’s intervention, and His deliverance of His people. We live in a secular and faithless world. But you can overcome your anxieties and your fears, when you exercise faith, and nurture a godly fear.

God knows your fears. Jesus said that your Father in Heaven knows you intimately. As Jesus said: “Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Luke 12:7, NIV). God cares for you. He will give you the faith and confidence you need to overcome your fears and worries. And He will give you His Holy Spirit.

Key 7: Ask God for the Holy Spirit

God’s Holy Spirit is the spirit of love and of power. He gives us that gift after we repent and are baptized. Peter spoke to thousands on the day of Pentecost, when the New Testament Church began. “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38).

The most powerful strategy for overcoming your fears and anxieties is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. God will give you that free gift after genuine repentance and baptism, as Peter said. After baptism the minister proceeds with the laying on of hands. Paul comments: “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (2 Timothy 1:6). We need the Holy Spirit. How does Paul describe the Holy Spirit? “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (v. 7).

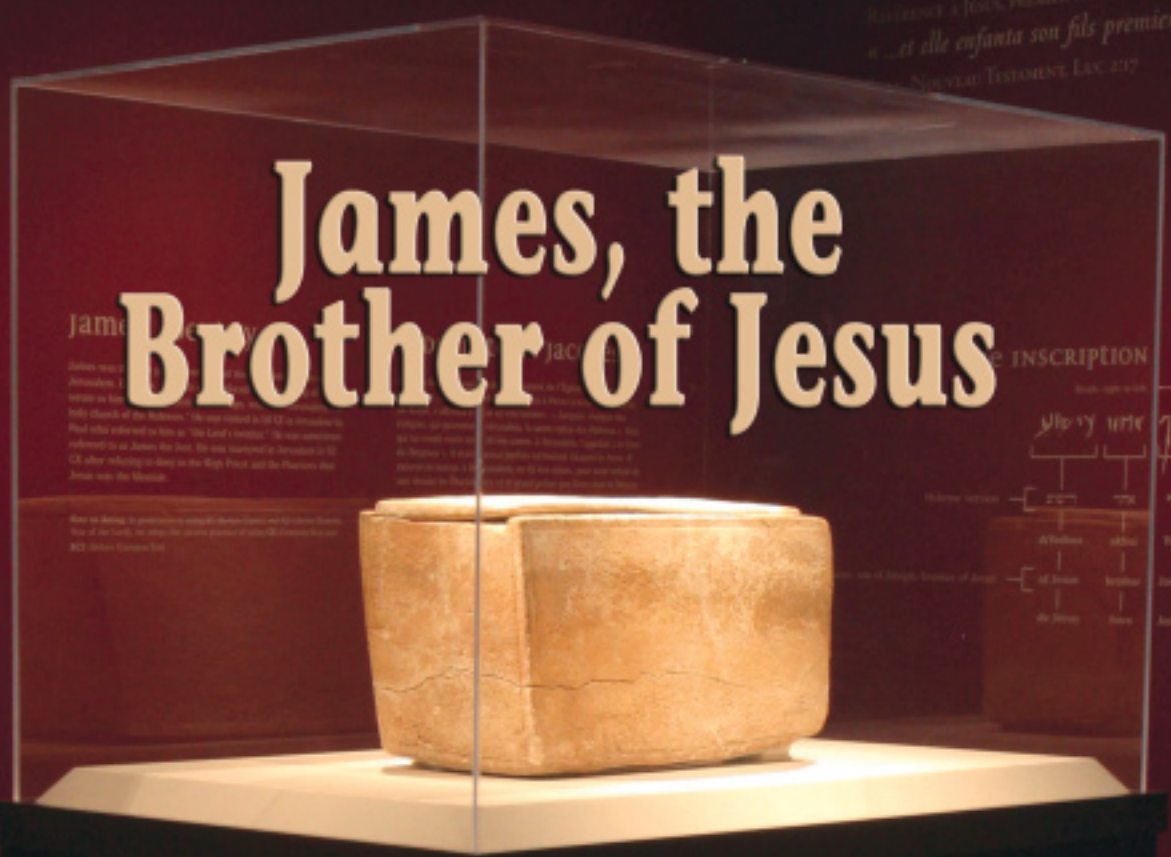
God’s spirit in you will help you overcome your fears. As John wrote: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). God will give you the gift of His love that casts out fear. That is the gift of divine love through the Holy Spirit.

As we prepare for the Messiah’s return to earth, we will face many trials and challenges in a world gone mad. But Scripture gives us the true keys to overcoming anxieties, and facing the future with faith. May God grant you the abundant peace He promises to those who wholeheartedly seek and trust Him! ☐

To Learn More...



God’s Holy Spirit, working in the life of a baptized Christian, is the most vital key for overcoming anxiety. Please request our **FREE** booklet, ***Should You Be Baptized?***, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.



By John H. Ogwyn

In the fall of 2002, a startling story with important religious significance hit the secular news wires. Scholars were claiming that the ossuary (burial box) of James, the brother of Jesus Christ, had been discovered in the Jerusalem area. Major network news programs and news magazines alike carried the story, based upon information contained in the November-December 2002 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

The discoverer of the box, and the author of the *BAR* article, was Dr. Andre Lemaire, a professor who directs the Hebrew and Aramaic philology and epigraphy section at

the Sorbonne in Paris. One of the world's foremost specialists in ancient inscriptions, Lemaire has published more than 400 articles and papers. When someone of his reputation makes a startling claim, people sit up and take notice. For six months in 2002, Lemaire was at the Institute for Advanced Study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he met a private collector who had an ossuary dated to the first century AD. When Dr. Lemaire examined the box and read the inscription, he was startled by its possible implications, and he began a scholarly investigation to discover whether the box was authentic.

Ossuaries like the one Lemaire found were used in the Jerusalem area from about 20BC until the Roman assault on the city in 70AD. Burials in the Jerusalem area normally took place in limestone caves carved into the hillsides. Wrapped in a linen burial shroud, the body of the deceased was placed on a ledge in a family burial cave. About a year later, family members returned and placed the then-skeletal remains in an ossuary. The box was inscribed with the name of the deceased, and stacked with similar boxes containing skeletal remains of other family members who had previously been interred

in the cave. This is what is meant by the common Old Testament phrase that a person after death “rested with his fathers” (1 Kings 11:21, 43). The same burial cave often kept the bones of generations of the same family.

What made Dr. Lemaire and others conclude that this particular ossuary had once contained the bones of a family member of Jesus Christ? To begin with, the inscription on the side read: “James the son of Joseph the brother of Jesus.” Inscriptions normally used the formula “x the son of y.” A brother would be mentioned only rarely, when that brother was of unusual prominence. Since the Bible speaks of a James who was the son of Joseph and brother of Jesus Christ, and we know that this James died in Jerusalem in 62AD—when such ossuaries were in common use—the question immediately arose: was *this* ossuary linked to *that* prominent James?

One of the first steps to be taken was to determine the age of the box and the inscription upon it. Was it a fake? The box was brought to the Geological Survey of Israel for their study to help establish its authenticity. Specialists from the Israeli government examined the box and the inscription with binocular magnifying lenses, and examined samples from it with a scanning electron microscope. In a letter to *BAR* editor Hershel Shanks, Drs. Amnon Rosefeld and Shimon Ilani, from the Israeli state ministry for Geological Survey, stated: “No sign of the use of a modern tool or instrument was found. No evidence that might detract from the authenticity of the patina [the thin covering of the surface caused by age] and the inscription was found.”

A forger adding the inscription would have had to be able to

imitate Aramaic letter forms, and to avoid any errors in first century usage. Before publishing the article outlining their discovery, the editors of *BAR* showed it to Joseph Fitzmyer, a former professor at Catholic University of America, who is considered one of the world’s foremost experts in first-century Aramaic. Fitzmyer was convinced that the inscription was genuine.

Since the publication of the article in *BAR*, other scholars have disputed the integrity of the inscription and discounted the ossuary’s connection to the James of the New Testament. Most of these disputants, however, have only seen pictures of the inscription, and have not examined it in the way that Dr. Lemaire and those involved with him were able. Still, there is probably no way to indisputably determine whether this particular box was truly the repository of the bones of James, who was called “the Lord’s brother” in the New Testament.

What, then, is the real importance of this find? Read on.

Of far greater importance than arguments about whether this particular box was the final resting place of Jesus’ brother James, is the attention that the discovery focused on a subject about which most professing Christians are utterly ignorant. That subject, when properly understood, has far-reaching implications for all who would call themselves Christian in today’s world. *U.S. News & World Report* addressed the subject: “As leader of the mother church in Jerusalem, James was the key proponent of a brand of Christianity that retained strong ties to Judaism.... These ‘Jerusalem Christians’ continued to worship in the temple and carefully observed the law of Moses, practic-

ing a form of the religion, says James D. G. Dunn, professor of divinity at the University of Durham, England, that ‘we today would scarcely recognize—Jewish Christianity’” (“A Discovery and a Debate,” Nov. 4, 2002, p. 50).

Dunn acknowledges that the kind of Christianity practiced by James was *very different* from what is called Christianity today. The question that we must answer is: **Who had it right?** Was James *wrong* in his understanding of how Christianity ought to be practiced? What does the New Testament tell us about James, and the role that he played in the early Church?

The Role of James and the Jerusalem Church

The majority of professing Christians have been taught that Jesus Christ never had brothers and sisters. They have been wrongly taught that Mary was a perpetual virgin, though the Bible clearly teaches the very opposite! It is certainly correct that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was supernaturally conceived in her through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:31, 34–35). In fact, God even sent an angel to explain this to her espoused husband, Joseph, who was obviously shaken upon learning that Mary was pregnant (Matthew 1:19–20). Notice the plain scriptural statement that Joseph “took Mary home to be his wife, but had no intercourse with her *until* her son was born. And he named the child Jesus” (vv. 24–25, *NEB*). Mary was a virgin at the time of Jesus’ conception and birth, but after that, she and Joseph had a normal marital relationship and she gave birth to other children who were the fruit of their union. Notice the comments of the townspeople in Nazareth

where Jesus had grown up. He had come preaching powerfully, and they were astonished. “Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where did this Man get all these things?” (Matthew 13:54–56). Clearly, Jesus had brothers and sisters—and the people in His hometown were well aware of them.

While James and the others were not disciples during the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He appeared to James after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:4–7). In 1 Corinthians 9:5, Paul describes the “brethren of the Lord” as ministers who were active in spreading the gospel. Clearly, after the resurrection, Christ’s family was converted (Acts 1:14). They now knew that the One with whom they had grown up, their older brother, was in fact the Son of God. From early in the history of the New Testament Church, James the Lord’s brother had a leading role. He is described in Acts 15 as being the one who presided over the Jerusalem Church, and the important Church council that was held there. In Galatians 2:9, Paul mentions him as one of the three “pillars” of the Church along with Peter and John. When Paul came back to Jerusalem, Luke states that he “went in with us to James, and all the elders were present” (Acts 21:18).

James and his younger brother Jude wrote the books of the New Testament that bear their names. Jude, identifying himself in the first verse as James’ brother, goes on to give a vital exhortation: “I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all deliv-

ered to the saints” (Jude 3). The faith **once for all delivered**? Think about the implications of that statement. Did James and Jude understand the message that Jesus Christ delivered to the world? Did they know what He taught and practiced? If the form of Christianity acknowledged in today’s world differs drastically from that practiced by James and Jude, as Dunn (noted above) and others have observed, then *who* had it right? Whose form of Christianity is true to that which was once for all delivered by Jesus Christ, the very founder of Christianity?

Jude went on to explain that, even in his day, what was called Christianity was beginning to follow very divergent paths. How was this possible? “For certain men have crept in unnoticed... ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness” (Jude 4). *Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary* defines licentiousness as being “unrestrained by law.” Even in the first century, some were distorting the meaning of grace to imply that God’s law was no longer binding upon Christians. Jude made plain to his readers that they were to exert great effort to hold on to the message that Jesus Christ had once for all delivered.

Was Paul’s Christianity Different From James’?

The popular explanation given in theological circles is that the Apostle Paul taught a version of Christianity tailored to gentiles, and that this was different from the form practiced in Judea and Jerusalem. Clearly, what is popularly called Christianity in our modern world is a form that traces its roots to Rome rather than to Jerusalem, as many scholars read-

ily admit. However, the question we need to pose is whether or not Roman Christianity really had its origins with Paul.

Think about it! Jesus taught and trained men who spent literally hundreds of hours with Him. They witnessed His conduct in countless situations, they heard His public teaching, they had opportunity to ask Him to explain points that were unclear to them. In addition, they saw His miracles and they had many hours of personal conversation with Him. But who had spent more hours with Him than had James and Jude, the brothers of Jesus? Who knew more clearly the kind of life that He lived and the customs and practices that He observed? Does it make sense that Jesus would set a particular example all his life, tell those that He had trained to teach all that He had taught them to *all* nations (Matthew 28:20), then a few years later bring in Paul and have him start teaching very different doctrines? *Absolutely ridiculous!*

In fact, Paul made no such claim. He emphasized that there is only one true gospel (Galatians 1:6–7) and one true faith (Ephesians 4:5). This one faith to which Paul referred was clearly that which Jude declared had been once for all delivered to the saints. Not only did the Apostle Paul *not* teach against the law of God, he personally *kept the law* and taught his converts to follow his personal example (1 Corinthians 11:1). Notice what Paul told the elders of the Jewish community who came to visit him when he was under house arrest in Rome. He declared, “I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans” (Acts 28:17). If Paul had

disregarded the Sabbath, the laws of clean and unclean meats, and other biblical injunctions, he could not have made such a statement.

However, false claims were being made about Paul's teachings even during his lifetime. When he arrived back in Jerusalem in 56AD, after his third evangelistic journey, he went to meet with James the Lord's brother and other leaders of the Jerusalem Church. After listening to the news of Paul's recent travels and the growth in the Work in the areas that he oversaw, James told Paul what had been happening in the Jerusalem area. He brought

to his attention that there had been thousands of additional Jewish converts and that they were all "zealous for the law" (Acts 21:20). However there were ugly rumors being spread about Paul, that he taught the Jews living in the diaspora "to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs" (v. 21). James knew that the rumor was false, and came up with a plan that he thought would convince the Jews in Jerusalem that Paul took all of the details of God's law very seriously. Clearly, James and Paul were not at odds over doc-

trine, but had a relationship based upon mutual affection and respect.

Most people completely overlook the fact that nearly all of Paul's early gentile converts came from a group called "God-fearers." These were gentiles who regularly attended the synagogue and listened to the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures. They were already familiar with the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and were observing them. The "God-fearers" were not circumcised, however, and would have been unable to come into the inner courts of the Jerusalem temple and to participate in the rituals

The James Ossuary: Is It Genuine?

Since the discovery of the "James ossuary" was announced last fall, its authenticity has been the subject of much scholarly debate. At this point, virtually all acknowledge that the ossuary itself is authentic—that it dates to the first century AD and that it was an actual ossuary used in the Jerusalem area. But disagreements about the inscription persist: is it genuine, or is it at least partly a forgery?

Perhaps the most vocal critic of the inscription's authenticity is Dr. Rochelle Altman. Studying photographs of the inscription, she has come to the conclusion that a key part of the inscription is forged—added at a later date than the rest of the inscription.



Writing in the online Web magazine *Jewsweek*, Altman described her finding that half of the ossuary inscription appears to be written in one script, and half in a different script. She believes that the phrase "James the son of Joseph" is the original inscription, dated from the first century AD, but that the phrase "the brother of Jesus" was added a century or two later by another hand. Altman believes that the first half of the inscription is properly executed, and represents a much higher degree of literacy than the second half. She disputes the Aramaic spelling of "brother" and "Jesus" and asserts that the second half of the text is excised, rather than incised (meaning that the surface around the letters was cut away, instead of the letters being chiseled into the surface). Noting that frames were normally left around excised texts to protect them from alteration, Altman asserts that the frame must later have been cut away from the original to make room for the added text.

In the January-February 2003 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, editor Hershel Shanks reacted to Altman's theory: "The person who is most certain and vociferous in claiming that different hands were responsible for the first and second parts of the inscription is also certain that the inscription is excised, rather incised... It is difficult to understand how she could be so certain when she has never seen the ossuary itself. The experts who have seen the ossuary and studied the inscriptions continue to maintain that the inscription is plainly engraved—incised, not excised" (p. 25).

Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions and archaeology at California State University, Long Beach, typified many scholars' ambivalence when he wrote: "This box is just too pat, too perfect. In issues of antiquities verification, this is always a warning sign."

Ultimately, as Uzi Dahari of Israel's Antiquities Authority put it: "There are so many questions that will never have an answer, so that no one will ever be able to say for sure that this is the ossuary of the brother of Jesus."

Scholars may never be satisfied that they have found James' final resting place in death. Christians, however, can find—in the pages of the Bible—a world of information about his life, his teachings and his example for us today.

—John H. Ogwyn

there. Notice the account given in Acts 13 when Paul first came to Antioch of Pisidia, part of the Roman province of Galatia. He spoke to the local synagogue. His audience consisted (v. 16) both of Jews by nationality (“men of Israel”), and of devout gentiles among them (“you who fear God”). After his address, many of the gentiles present asked that he speak further to them “the next Sabbath” (Acts 13:42). A similar account is given in Acts 18:4, where we are told that Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. The devout gentiles who first heard the gospel message were those who had already forsaken pagan idolatry and were assembling with the Jews every Sabbath to hear the Hebrew Scriptures read so that they might learn more about the God of Israel.

Many misunderstand Paul’s teaching regarding justification. Most are unaware that Paul based his teachings about “justification by faith” not on some new revelation by Jesus, but rather on the Torah—the first five books of the Bible. Throughout Romans and Galatians, the books where he most thoroughly discussed justification, Paul took his readers back to the story of Abraham recorded in the book of Genesis, the very first book of the Torah. He explained that faith was the basis of Abraham’s relationship with God, the means by which he was justified and became righteous (Romans 4:3). Clearly then, it must also be the basis of our relationship with God. Paul was discussing a *living faith*—a faith that produces surrender and obedience in our lives, just as it did in Abraham’s. James also discussed living faith in the book that bears his name, and

also used Abraham’s example to prove his point (James 2:19–23). Paul’s explanation of how to be in harmony with God is as old as the book of Genesis—and is completely in harmony with the teachings of James, Peter, John and Jude.

What Happened to Christianity?

How, then, did a form of Christianity develop at Rome that was so different from that of the Jerusalem Church? The answer lies in a series of dramatic events that took place from 62 to 70AD. They set the stage for a second-century church that called itself Christian, yet would have been almost unrecognizable to James, Peter and Paul.

It was in 62AD, about a year after Paul’s release from Roman imprisonment, that James the brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem Church was stoned to death at the instigation of the Jewish high priest. Tradition has suggested that about five years later, during the closing months of Nero’s reign, first Paul and then Peter were executed. Soon thereafter, a war broke out in Judea. The Jerusalem Church fled the area in the summer of 69AD, and about a year later the Roman legions breached Jerusalem’s walls, burned the Temple and razed the city. Anti-Jewish sentiment spread across the Roman Empire and grew worse over the decades that led up to the second Jewish revolt approximately 65 years later. Utter confusion began to spread through the Christian community during the closing decades of the first century.

In the closing months of Peter’s life, he had warned that certain ones whom he labeled spiritually unstable had begun to distort Paul’s writings (2 Peter

3:15–16). These are the same ones whom Jude referred to a short time earlier to have crept in unnoticed. These false teachers had begun to distort the meaning of grace by teaching against the necessity of obeying God’s law. Influenced by such teachings, and influenced by an anti-Jewish political atmosphere, it was only a matter of time before gentiles in Rome began to jettison practices that they associated with Jews. What began in Rome eventually became the norm, especially after the fourth-century alliance between Roman Emperor Constantine and the bishop of Rome.

Noted historian Will Durant, in his book *Caesar and Christ*, describes the path of development taken by the Church of Rome, as distinct from the Jerusalem Church. He acknowledged that while the Roman church derived ethics from Judea, it derived its theology from Greece and its organization from Rome (p. 618). In addition, pagan Rome bequeathed many other features: ecclesiastical structure, the title and vestments of the *pontifex maximus*, the worship of the Great Mother, old festivals, along with pageantry and ceremony “passed like maternal blood into the new religion” (p. 672). Many modern theologians readily admit that, by its doctrine and trappings, most of present-day “Christianity” shows itself to be far more the heir of the Roman Church, rather than of the Church of God known to James and the early Jerusalem Christians.

What about *you*? Are you content with traditions of men or will you earnestly contend for the faith that was once for all delivered—the one practiced by James, the Apostles and the Jerusalem Church? ^[TW]

Letters to the Editor

TOMORROW'S WORLD

I've received a first copy of your *Tomorrow's World* magazine for which I thank you tremendously. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to review your ideas and thoughts along these lines. You are giving me much to think about. I don't feel it was an accident tuning into your broadcast one recent Sunday morning.

C. F., Omaha, NE

It was, and is, a delight for me to receive God's gift from His Word and through the literature from the *Tomorrow's World* program and the work that is going on to prepare us for God's soon-coming Kingdom. Thanks so much for the blessings I receive from all of your efforts.

R. S., Hawesville, KY

I can't tell you how much my husband and I derive from your articles in *Tomorrow's World*. We have been searching the scriptures for years and were convinced that no church was set up the way Christ intended. We were so frustrated that we quit going to church and instead our home became our church. Your booklet on the Sabbath was an eye opener. I have never felt right about Christmas and now I know why. Needless to say, we won't be celebrating Christmas anymore. The articles you write are truthful and my husband and I praise God for you.

A. H., Branson, MO

Your article of blatant Harry Potter bashing entitled "Dangers of the Occult" (September-October 2002) sickened me. Your references to it as "occult" are detestably wrong. They are books and they are kids' imaginations. Maybe

you've forgotten what it was like to believe in things like Santa Claus or monsters under your bed, but these things were a part of growing up. Let kids be kids! There is no spike in Satanism due to the books and you should be ashamed that you are tainting our children's mind with this fear of nothing. Although I'm only 16 years old, I have read the books and if you think that these are dangerous tools of the Devil then you desperately need to relax. You yourself have been blinded by the Devil, spreading fear of him instead of the love of Jesus.

D. R., Oklahoma City, OK

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

I just wanted to thank you very much for such a terrific study of the Bible. I especially enjoy searching through the Bible to find the answers because it greatly helps me to memorize where the various books are located. Thanks again.

D. N., York, PA

Editor's Note: If you would like to receive the Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course absolutely FREE and with no obligation, just return the insert card in this magazine, or write to the regional office address nearest you (listed on page 2).

I would like to thank you for taking the time to produce the *Bible Study Course* and sending it to me. It has been very enlightening, and I'm looking forward to going on with the course. I would also like to thank you for the literature. They are very informative little booklets. Thank you so much for getting the Truth out there.

J. L., Yankton, SD

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



The True Gospel Restored!

Most professing Christian churches today *believe* they are following the instructions of Jesus to “go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15). Many sincere efforts have been made to preach a gospel of grace—God loves everyone, Jesus died to save sinners and by accepting Jesus as your savior you go to heaven. However, what most professing Christians do not realize is that they have accepted and are promoting a *different gospel* than Jesus and the Apostles proclaimed! Bible prophecies reveal the gospel of Jesus would be *corrupted*, the world would be deceived into believing a *false gospel*, but the *true gospel* would be *restored* and *proclaimed* just before the return of Jesus Christ. Those prophecies are *coming alive* today!

The True Gospel

It is eye-opening to compare the gospel Jesus proclaimed with the gospel preached in churches today. Jesus *did not* go around asking people to “give their hearts to the Lord” and say a short prayer so they could be saved. Numerous scriptures clearly record the same message—that “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the *kingdom of God*, and saying... *the kingdom of God* is at hand. *Repent*, and *believe* the gospel” (Mark 1:14–15; Matthew 4:17, 23). In the book of Matthew Jesus refers to His coming death and resurrection *only three times*, yet He refers to the coming kingdom of God *more than 30 times*! Mark and Luke record a similar emphasis. When Jesus commissioned His disciples, “He sent them to preach the *kingdom of God*” (Luke 9:2). Jesus taught, those who are converted, who become humble and teachable, will be “the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:1–5). Jesus promised the Apostles they would “sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” in the coming kingdom (Matthew 19:23–30). When Christ appeared to His disciples

after the resurrection, the *kingdom of God* was the *main topic* of discussion (Acts 1:1–7).

The Apostles proclaimed the same message. When Philip went to Samaria, “he preached the things concerning the *kingdom of God* and the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 8:12). At the end of his ministry Paul was still “preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 28:23, 31). The Apostle John explains that believers will be “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” with Christ during the millennium (Revelation 1:4–8; 5:10; 20:4–6). The Bible states that, apart from Jesus, “*no one* has ascended to heaven” (John 3:13), not even King David (Acts 2:29–34; 13:36). We need to ask, *why is this gospel* not being preached today? What happened to the message that Jesus and His Apostles proclaimed?

A Different Gospel

Jesus warned, “*beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing*”—appearing as Christian teachers yet spreading *erroneous ideas* (Matthew 7:15–19). He also predicted at the end of the age “*many will come in my name... and will deceive many*” (Matthew 24:3–5, 11). The Apostle Paul admonished elders in Ephesus, “after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock... from among your own selves men will rise up, speaking *perverse* [misleading] things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:28–31). Paul warned the Corinthians not to be deceived by people preaching “*another Jesus... a different spirit... [and] a different gospel*” (2 Corinthians 11:1–4). Yet the corruption of the true gospel began during the days of the Apostles!

In a letter to the Church in Galatia, written circa 52AD, Paul states, “I *marvel* that you are turning away so soon... to a *different gospel*... there are some who



trouble you and want to *pervert* the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6–7). In this instance, false teachers were insisting that a man had to be circumcised to become a Christian—which was not true (Galatians 2:3–5; 5:1–15). In these chapters Paul also states no one is justified by following “the works of the law” (ritualistic washings, etc., see *Biblical Archeological Review*, November-December 1994). However, false teachers later twisted these verses teaching it was *not necessary* for Christians to obey the Ten Commandments or keep the biblical Sabbath or Holy Days because these laws were a curse! Yet Jesus *kept* the commandments, the Sabbath and Holy Days and *taught that we should, too* (Matthew 19:16–22; John 14:15; Luke 2:41–42; 4:16; John 7:8–10). His disciples followed and taught the *same* things (see Acts 13:42–44; 17:2; 18:21; Romans 2:13; 1 Corinthians 5:8).

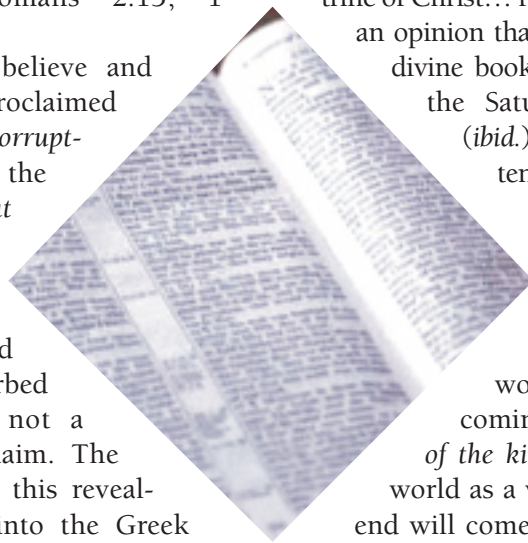
Contrary to what many believe and teach today, the true gospel proclaimed by Jesus and His Apostles was *corrupted* in the early centuries of the Church, and a *false gospel about Jesus* was palmed off on an unsuspecting world. What passes for mainstream Christianity today is a twisted version of the gospel that absorbed many pagan ideas. This is not a groundless or irresponsible claim. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* makes this revealing statement, “transplanted into the Greek world-view, inevitably the Christian teaching was *modified*—indeed *transformed*... Messianic hopes were *forgotten*... the notion of the kingdom of Christ on earth... all but *disappeared*, remaining only as the faith of obscure groups... the way of salvation was *modified*, so too was the idea of salvation... especially after the Roman Empire adopted salvation Christianity... salvation henceforth is not the descent of the New Jerusalem out of heaven, but the ascent of the saints to heaven, for the individual it is

not the resurrection of the physical body, but the immortality of the soul” (“Christianity,” 11th ed.).

Historian Edward Gibbon makes a similar observation. He writes that the doctrine of the millennium—the earthly reign of Christ and the saints in the kingdom of God—was carefully taught by early Church theologians and “appears to have been the *reigning sentiment* of the orthodox believers”—yet this fundamental teaching was discarded (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 15). He states, “The doctrine of Christ’s reign upon earth was 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” (*ibid.*). That is what happened to the true gospel! Gibbon also records that the early Church “united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ... rejected the immortality of the soul as an opinion that received no countenance from the divine book” and *abhorred* pagan customs like the Saturnalia—now kept as Christmas (*ibid.*)—yet these are now viewed as basic tenets of mainstream Christianity!

The Bible reveals that several key events will occur just before the end of this age. Significantly, Jesus stated that the proclaiming of the true gospel would prepare the way for His second coming. He prophesied that “*this gospel of the kingdom* will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). The magazine you are holding in your hands is a part of that continuing witness—a witness that for more than half a century has proclaimed the true gospel in print to millions around the world. The *Tomorrow’s World* telecast and the www.tomorrowworld.org Web site are also key aspects of that prophesied witness. To discover more about this vital subject, request our free booklet *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* These important prophecies are *coming alive today!*

—Douglas S. Winnail



Why Were You Born?



Does human life have a purpose?

By Douglas S. Winnail

Perhaps the most profound question you could ever ask concerns the purpose of human existence: *why* are you here on this earth? For thousands of years, philosophers have speculated and religions have offered varied and *conflicting* answers. One thing is *sure*—whatever answer you accept will have sweeping implications for every aspect of your life. It will determine your most fundamental beliefs and values. It will influence choices you make, goals you set, how you use your time and talents and how you treat people—in essence, how you live your life.

For some, the question of life's purpose is a nagging and perplexing dilemma—the troubles, trauma, evils, inequities and frustrations of life make no sense to

them, and may lead to despair and even suicide. Others simply adopt the prevailing religious or philosophical ideas of their peer group. Amazingly, most people—even most philosophers, scientists and theologians—have no real understanding of the true purpose of life. Many people find their lives so busy—filled with routine and trivia—that they seldom take time to ponder the most important questions they could ever ask: Why do we exist? What is the real purpose of human life?

Multiple Empty Choices

Anyone who sets out to discover the real purpose of life must penetrate an incredible muddle of conflicting ideas. Today it is widely assumed that the main goal of

life is simply the *freedom to pursue whatever makes you happy*. Millions have followed the “Pied Piper” of personal pleasure to experiment with drugs, all kinds of illicit sexual activities, easy couplings and divorces, affairs, trips, parties and the acquisition of material things—only to find that physical things and physical experiences *fail* to bring any lasting satisfaction or provide real meaning in life. Some of the richest and most famous people in the world have led the most empty, lonely and frustrating lives, because they had forgotten—or never knew—important advice that could have brought them happiness.

Thousands of years ago, one of the wisest men who ever lived offered sage advice to anyone who would listen. Solomon, the ancient

king of Israel, records in the book of Ecclesiastes the results of his search to find the purpose of life and the real source of happiness. He sought to do *everything*—exploring the proverbial wine, women and song—collecting 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1–11)! He built palaces, acquired great wealth, and his fame spread to neighboring kingdoms. Yet he realized that, in the end, we all die and cannot take anything with us. This led him into depression, and into contemplating suicide. He records that “all was vanity and a grasping for the wind... therefore I *hated* life” (Ecclesiastes 2:11, 17–20). Solomon learned that seeking physical experiences and acquiring possessions *does not* bring real fulfillment—that there is a *greater purpose* for human life. However, this important lesson has gone unheeded on a grand scale! Today many still believe the lie that “he who dies with the most toys wins.”

Down through the ages, religions and philosophies have offered an incredible array of ideas about the ultimate purpose of life. Professing “Christians” commonly assume that “good people” or “the saved” go to heaven, even though the Bible clearly states that “*no one has ascended to heaven*, except He who came down from heaven” (John 3:13; see also Acts 2:29–34; 13:36). Many believe that in heaven we will sit on clouds and play harps, walk on streets of gold, or simply stand around and behold forever the “beatific vision” of God. Native Americans have anticipated entering a “happy hunting ground” in the sky. Buddhists strive to attain *nirvana*—in which the soul is absorbed into the divine and becomes one with the universe, dissolving the soul’s exist-

tence as an individual entity. Hindus believe that human life is a series of reincarnations. Muslims are told if they die as martyrs they will wake up in paradise surrounded by dozens of young virgins. The Vikings believed that the souls of departed heroes slain in battle would dwell in *Valhalla*—the palace of immortality—where they would go on fighting and feasting forever.

Since most ideas about the purpose of life are *unprovable* by scientific methods, many today view them with skepticism. Some secular and evolution-minded scientists go to the opposite extreme, asserting that there is no discernable purpose for human life, and that the human body is nothing more than a bag of DNA that exists only for the purpose of perpetuating the species. For decades, academic textbooks have stated that teleology (doctrine of purpose) is outside the proper domain of science and that science, therefore, has nothing to say on the matter. However, this has not stopped outspoken members of the scientific community from making grand pronouncements. Today, many assume that if science cannot provide any answers about the purpose of life, nothing can be known for sure about the subject. This, as we will see, is a false assumption that has contributed to widespread ignorance about the purpose of life. But *why* are there so many different and conflicting ideas about the meaning of human existence? Why have so many *failed* to grasp the real purpose of life?

Ignorance Prophesied

The Bible, a book our modern world seems reluctant to believe, reveals why so many have no idea

about the true purpose of life. The Apostle John was inspired to write about a powerful spirit being, “called the devil and Satan, *who deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9). When we look, from a global perspective, at the divergent ideas about the purpose of life, this fundamental biblical key is the only explanation that makes any sense. As we discover the true purpose of life, which God reveals in the Bible, it will become even more obvious how thoroughly this world has been deceived.

The Bible not only documents the *cause* of our deception, it *predicted* that deception in a series of prophecies! Satan’s malicious activities began shortly after the creation of Adam and Eve. The devil *deceived* our first parents into ignoring God’s instructions, and into seeking for themselves the true source of knowledge (see Genesis 3:13, 22–24). As a result of their disobedience, they were cut off from the Source that reveals the true purpose of life. Later, when the foolish king of Israel, Jeroboam, established his own religion and rejected God’s Holy Days (which picture the plan of God for mankind—for more information please request our free booklet, *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*) he deprived his people of the real source of knowledge about life’s purpose.

When Jesus Christ came to this earth, He warned repeatedly that false teachers would appear—claiming to be Christians—and would *deceive many* (see Matthew 7:15–20; 24:5, 11, 24). The Apostle Paul made similar predictions, warning that false teachers would rise up even from within the church to mislead people, and that *many* would follow their

fables and deceptive teachings (see Acts 20:28–31; 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 4:1–5).

Jesus told His chosen disciples that He had given them a *special understanding* of “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” that had “not been given” to the rest of mankind (Matthew 13:11). Christ told His disciples that “many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you

did not glorify Him as God... but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were *darkened*. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... [and] exchanged the truth of God for the lie” (Romans 1:21–25). This is why so little is known about the real purpose of life. Human beings have ignored or misunderstood what God has revealed through His Word. As a

highly significant responsibilities related to our ultimate purpose.

Job, held by ancient tradition to have been a king in Edom (see *Halley’s Bible Handbook*), knew that there is a *great purpose* for human life. He asked and then answered a rhetorical question: “If a man dies will he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait [in the grave], till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; *You shall desire the work of Your hands*” (Job 14:10–15). Job knew that he would sleep in the grave until the time when God would use him for an *ultimate purpose*. The prophet Daniel reveals that at the end of this age “the God in heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... then the kingdom and dominion... shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 2:44–45; 7:27).

Jesus emphasized this same theme in the New Testament. He urged His disciples to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” instead of focusing exclusively on physical things (Matthew 6:33). He told his chosen Apostles that they were destined to “sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28). Paul reveals that when we become Christians and choose to follow Jesus’ teachings, we become “*children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*” (Romans 8:16–17). Paul is saying that children grow up to be like their parents, so Christians will eventually *share* what Jesus Christ will inherit. Paul reveals that the physical Jesus inherited immortality at His resurrection from the dead (1 Timothy 6:15–16), and became “the *firstfruits* of those

The real purpose of human life has to do with God’s coming kingdom—a *mystery* to most of humanity.

see, and did not see it” (v. 17). The real purpose of human life, as we will discover, has to do with this coming kingdom—a *mystery* to most of humanity.

Paul’s writings echo Jesus’ words. Paul comments: “But we speak the wisdom of God in a *mystery*, the hidden wisdom which God ordained [predetermined] before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers [leaders and teachers] of this age knew... but God has *revealed* them [these things] to us through His Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:7–10). Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). The Bible plainly reveals that even the wisest mortals have been unable to discover on their own the real purpose of life. That ultimate purpose must be *revealed*—by God Himself!

Paul chided the supposedly knowledgeable Romans, pointing out that God has made the truth available to human beings, yet “although they knew God, they

result, most people on earth have been *deceived* into believing fables about the purpose of human existence—or into believing that it is impossible to know why we exist. However, *real* answers *do* exist, and they *can* be found!

A Mystery Revealed

The Bible explains *why* you were born! This basic theme runs from the beginning to the end—from Genesis to Revelation. Scripture explains that human beings were created (as male and female) *in the image* of God and commanded to “be fruitful and multiply” and to “have dominion” over the earth (Genesis 1:26–31). From the Bible we learn that we are *not* mere animals—our ancestors were *not* ape-like primates. Rather, God Himself is the “common ancestor” of all human beings. God created men and women for a purpose: to marry, establish families and learn to work together to rule our families and the earth as *stewards* of God’s creation (Genesis 2:15–25). These are

who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20–25). Those who follow Christ’s teachings will *inherit eternal life* when He returns to establish His kingdom on earth (1 Corinthians 15:50–54). This is part of the “mystery” of life’s purpose that the world does not fully understand (v. 51).

Writing to the Hebrews, Paul explained more about the real purpose for human life. He wrote that God “has not put the *world to come*... in subjection to angels” but that He made mankind “a little lower than the angels... and set him over the works of Your hands. You have set *all things* in subjection under his feet” (Hebrews 2:5–8). Human beings’ ultimate purpose will be fulfilled in the future (verse 9). John ties this all together in the book of Revelation, writing that God has “made us [to become] kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on this earth*” (Revelation 5:10; see also 1:5–6). He shows that those called to be saints [Christians] “shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4–6). This is the future to which Daniel’s prophecies referred!

God has revealed in the Bible that He created human beings in His image, to become part of His divine family and eventually reign on this earth with Jesus Christ. That is the ultimate and incredible purpose for human life. When we consider the speculations of philosophers, and the wildly varied ideas of man-made religions, they all pale into insignificance when compared to the real truth. Only when we understand the true purpose of human life does the extent of Satan’s great deception become obvious. The world

has been deceived about the real purpose of life.


The Pathway

But how can we attain this incredible future? What must we do to qualify for the kingdom of God? Many professing Christians believe that we must do nothing—just accept that Jesus died for us and believe that He is the Son of God, and we will instantly be given eternal life! However, the Bible tells a different story. Scripture reveals that God is *only calling a few* in this age to understand the ultimate purpose of life (John 6:44, 65–66; Matthew 13:10–17). The rest of mankind will be given this opportunity in the future, during the 1,000-year reign of Christ and the saints on earth, and during the judgment period at the end of the Millennium (Revelation 20:5, 11–15). Those who are called in this age must *repent* (Acts 2:38), and begin to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4). This includes learning to live by the Ten Commandments—in the letter and in the spiritual intent (Matthew 19:16–22). Solomon arrived at an identical conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Abraham was rewarded for the same reason (Genesis 26:5). Scripture indicates very clearly that God’s method and purpose do not change (Malachi 3:6).

When a person repents and is baptized, and begins to obey God’s commandments, He gives that person the Holy Spirit—a spiritual power that enables growth in spiritual understanding and character (Acts 5:32; 1 Corinthians 2:10–16). God does not automatically do everything for us—we have our

part to play in the process (2 Timothy 1:6–7; 2 Peter 3:18). Those called now to understand the plan and purpose of God, who learn to apply the laws of God, will become teachers in the coming kingdom of God (Isaiah 30:20–21). As the civil and religious leaders (kings and priests) they will reign with Jesus Christ and bring about a “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:19–21). This will occur when the laws of God are proclaimed from Jerusalem by a world government set up at Christ’s return (Isaiah 2:2–4; 9:6–7; Revelation 11:15–19). This is *why* we were created—to qualify to become a member of the God Family and participate in this soon-coming government of God that will change forever the course of human history. This is the *real* purpose for human life that is plainly revealed in the Bible. This is the *gospel*. This is *why* you were born. And this is what has been hidden by the philosophical speculations and religious fables that Satan has used to deceive the world. w

To Learn More...



Do you wonder about the future God has planned for you throughout eternity? Is there something more to life than what you have previously been taught? Please request our **FREE** booklet, **Your Ultimate Destiny**, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

What Does the Bible Really Say?

We have all heard the phrase: “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” We have also heard: “Spare the rod, spoil the child.” Many people think that these are instructions from the Bible. But, in fact, you will not find these phrases *anywhere* in God’s Word!

Cleanliness is, of course, a wise practice. And children should, of course, receive firm and loving discipline. But those phrases are not biblical admonitions! Too often, people assume that something is in the Bible, when it

Acts 12:4, in the *King James Version* of the Bible, says: “And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.” But the Greek word that the *KJV* wrongly translates as “Easter” is *pascha*—which means the Passover! Every other reputable translation, including the *New King James Version*, translates *pascha* correctly as “Passover.” Easter is *not* in your Bible! Jesus Christ

“lived three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:39–40).

How can we possibly count three days and three nights between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning? It is impossible! One cannot even count three partial days and three partial nights in that time! When you really study the Bible, you see that Jesus was put to death on a Wednesday, just before an “annual Sabbath”—the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread—and resurrected exactly three days and three nights later, as He promised, on Saturday shortly before sunset. To learn more about this vital truth, please write for a free copy of our booklet, *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*.

We need to find out for ourselves what the Bible really says, and not just believe the stories other people tell us. We need to follow the example of the Bereans who, Scripture says, “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures *daily* whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

We cannot believe the Truth unless we know what is true. And we cannot really know what is true unless we investigate it for ourselves—seeing it with our own eyes, and reading it from our own Bibles, as we follow Paul’s admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “Test all things; hold fast what is good.”

—Charles E. Bryce

Too often, people assume that something is in the Bible, when it is not—or that something is not in the Bible, when it is!

is not—or that something is not in the Bible, when it is!

The Apostle Paul admonished Christians: “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). When we hear someone preaching from the Bible, how can we be sure that what they are preaching is true? We must check the Bible ourselves, to find out what it actually says, if we really want to know the Truth in God’s Word.

One of the most misquoted subjects in the Bible is the subject of Easter. Millions who call themselves Christians believe that Easter is in the Bible, and that it is one of the most important events on the Christian calendar. Yet Easter is *not* in the Bible!

and His followers kept the Passover each year, as He had commanded them, but did not observe “Easter”—a pagan festival later adapted as a (false) Christian practice.

Another common misunderstanding is that Jesus Christ was crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday. Billions believe this! But you cannot find this in your Bible! Look at one important passage that can make this point clear. Asked for a sign of His Messiahship, Jesus said: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three

WHERE IS THE TRUTH? (continued from page 3)

call the Old Testament. So as Christ magnified and built upon the foundation of the Old Testament in His inspired teachings, we feel bound to obey these teachings as best we can through the help of the Holy Spirit. We also feel bound to follow the clear examples of Christ and the original Apostles in the way that they served and worshiped God.

“But don’t all Christian churches believe that same approach to religious Truth?” you may ask.

No! *They absolutely do not.* Most churches very “loosely” interpret the Bible—and mix in with its teachings much human “tradition,” and ideas and practices that are *totally opposite* those of Christ and original Christianity. Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants alike do this. All serious scholars and students of religion realize and acknowledge this. As Jesse Lyman Hurlbut—a “mainstream” religious writer—acknowledged in his book, *The Story of the Christian Church*: “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 rises, about 120 A.D. 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” (p. 41; emphasis ours).

A current example of “mainstream” religion’s approach to Truth is found in the recent book by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Garry Wills. In his latest book, *Why I Am a Catholic*, he states the following: “Abusing young innocence is not only a crime, but a particularly vile crime. And the long and energetic effort of the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy to cover up cases of priestly pedophilia is a crime added to a crime. Are the church authorities who did this moral monsters? What could have been their motive?... First, the papacy is a deeply flawed institution. Saying so is considered by some Catholics to be disloyal. Apparently they believe that the only real Catholic is one able and willing to deny a long history of abuses and corruption.... But, one may object, if the papacy is not the supreme and unerring teacher of eternal truths, what is its principle of continuity through all the disjunctions and dead ends of its past? The papacy, in fact, is the sacrament of the unity of the church. The church gathers around the papacy, and supplies the resources for its rebirth and continued life. And,

gathered there, the Catholic Church has been highly successful in preserving the great truths of its creed.”

Note, especially, Mr. Wills’ last phrase: “the great truths of its creed.”

As with most fundamental errors, Garry Wills’ failure to understand the Truth is based upon a fundamental premise *carelessly assumed and taken for granted!* In his case, it has apparently not occurred to Mr. Wills to question the unbiblical teachings of his church regarding the papacy, the *worship* of the Virgin Mary, the entire concept of “penance” rather than genuine *repentance*, and a whole host of doctrines, practices and beliefs which stand in **total contradiction** to everything Jesus Christ and the Apostles taught and did.

Of course, the Catholic theology is at least somewhat consistent in all of this, because it teaches the doctrine of “papal infallibility”—which in effect presumes that this church somehow has the “right” to change biblical doctrines and practices as it goes along.

But millions of Protestants *carelessly assume* that their churches and their theology have been based upon what the Bible actually says. *They could not be more wrong!* For, as the above quotation from Hurlbut clearly points out, “mainstream” Christianity—Protestant and Catholic alike—has **vastly** deviated from the original teachings and practices of Christ and His Apostles. The original Protestant “reformer,” Martin Luther, was ordained a Catholic priest. All his life he had been trained as a Catholic. So he *assumed* that the selling of papal “indulgences” and other immoral practices he observed were merely the result of “the true church gone off track.” Luther at first attempted to get the church back “on track,” until events induced him to start a different religious movement. Even then, he *assumed* that most Catholic doctrines were correct, such as the substitution of the “Day of the Sun” for God’s Sabbath, the celebration of pagan holidays instead of God’s Holy Days, the adoption of the “Trinity” idea from paganism, and—most important of all—the fundamental idea that the great spiritual law of the Creator, the Ten Commandments, did not need to be kept and obeyed fully.

That is **why**, for instance, Martin Luther countenanced the **wholesale slaughter** of the German peasants who eventually “went too far” in opposing the oppressive German princes who

were also supporting Luther's movement. *This is a fact of history!*

Henry Vedder, in his highly respected work, *A Short History of the Baptists*, quotes the writings of Martin Luther directed against a peasant uprising: "Rebellion is not a vile murder, but like a great fire that kindles and devastates a country; hence uproar carries with it a land full of murder, bloodshed, makes widows and orphans, and destroys everything, like the greatest calamity. Therefore *whosoever can* should *smite, strangle, and stab*, secretly or publicly, and should remember that there is nothing more poisonous, pernicious, and devilish than a rebellious man. Just as when one must slay a mad dog; fight him not and he will fight you, and a whole country with you.... *Such wonderful times are these that a prince can more easily win heaven by shedding blood than others with prayers*" (pp. 173–174; emphasis ours).

Well may we ask ourselves: "If these are the words of a reformer sent from God, then *what* is the measure of *true religion*?" Are these the words of a man directed by the Holy Spirit of God? Was the risen Christ using *this* man to purify His "little flock?"

Scholar after scholar acknowledges that "the Church"—meaning the mainstream development of professing Christianity—has **never** seriously attempted to follow the literal example of Christ and the Apostles. As Professor Rufus M. Jones points out in his landmark book, *The Church's Debt to Heretics*: "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.... What we may properly call 'Galilean Christianity' had a short life, though there have been notable attempts to revive it and make it live again, and here and there spiritual prophets have insisted that anything else other than this simple Galilean religion is 'heresy'; but the main line of historic development has taken a *different course* and has marked the emphasis very differently" (pp. 15–16; emphasis ours).

According to the Bible, Jesus Christ was the "light" that God sent into the world. Christians are supposed to *follow that light!* The Apostle Peter wrote that Christ left us "*an example that you should follow His steps*" (1 Peter 2:21). The Apostle Paul instructed the Church: "*Imitate me*, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). And the beloved Apostle John tells us: "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked*" (1 John 2:4–6). In His teachings and in His perfect example, Jesus Christ exemplified the *Truth*. Jesus said: "I *am* the way, the *truth* and the *life*. No one can come to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

If you are genuinely interested in finding the "little flock"—the true Church of God that Jesus founded—please get in touch with us. If you are interested in finding an organization that truly seeks to find and to live by the Truth, then *take the time* to write for and *study* the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*.

Without fear or favor we will pursue the Truth. We will no doubt be severely persecuted in years to come for this. But following the ultimate Truth will bring us genuine blessings and peace of mind in this life—and *eternal life* in tomorrow's world. Jesus said: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **free**" (John 8:32).

Each of us can be "free" from human tradition and error. And we can be "free" from the frustration and emptiness and sense of guilt resulting from the shackles of sin and superstition if we have the courage to accept and to live by the full Truth. Do **not** be afraid of Truth! For as this deceived and violent civilization comes to an end, and Christ's Kingdom is established over *all the earth*, those who have been willing to follow the real Truth will be blessed above all men.



Tomorrow's World

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Perth: CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

—CANADA

ON, Toronto: Vision—SUN 3:30 am; SUN 5:30 pm

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

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

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AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 7:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, MON 9:00 pm
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73, SAT 4:30 pm; SUN 11:30 am
CA, Anaheim: Adelphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Buena Park: Adelphia—Ch 55, SUN 5:00 pm
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CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 11:30 am & 8:30 pm
CA, Los Angeles: KDOC—Ch 56, SAT 7:00 am
CA, Modesto: AT&T—Ch 2, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, Oceanside: KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm
CA, Sacramento: RCCV—Ch 75, MON 5:30 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Access TV—Ch 29, SUN 10:30 am
CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm
CA, Sonora: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Enfield: Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 6:30 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
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GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Hilo: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Honolulu: Oloelo—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
HI, Kailua-Kona: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Kauai: Ho'ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm
HI, Lanai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Maui: Akaku—Ch 44, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Molokai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am

IA, Dubuque: TCI of Iowa—Ch 16, THUR 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm
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IL, Peoria: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
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IN, Lafayette: Insight—Ch 13 & 16, MON 8:30 pm; WED 8:30 pm
KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
KS, Parsons: Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm
KY, Paducah: Public Cable—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm
KY, Williamstown: Insight—Ch 20, WED
KY, Williamstown: Access—Ch 16, MON 12:30 pm; TUE 12:30 pm
LA, Baton Rouge: KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 11:00 am
LA, Lafayette: KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am
LA, Monroe: Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am
MA, Belchertown: BCTV—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 pm
MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Baltimore: TCI—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm; WED 4:00 pm
MD, Rockville: Comcast—Ch 19, THUR 5:00 pm
MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm
MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm
MN, Roseville: CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 am & 11:30 am
MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm
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MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
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MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 11, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm
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NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm
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NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 26, MON 10:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
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NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Batavia: Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm
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NY, Port Jefferson: TCI—Ch 20, SUN 9:30 pm
NY, Queens: QPTV—Ch 35, TUE 1:30 pm; SAT 4:00 pm
NY, Riverhead: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 4:30 pm
NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 12:00 pm
NY, Schenectady: Community TV—Ch 16, MON 8:30 am
NY, Utica: Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm
OH, Cambridge: AVC—Ch 2, TUE 7:00 pm
OH, Dayton: Access TV—Ch 12, Check Local Listing

OH, Tipp City: KIT—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
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OK, Tulsa: KTFO—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am
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PA, Johnstown: Charter—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm
PA, Philadelphia: Urban—Ch 5, THUR 9:00 pm; SUN 5:30 pm
PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm
RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 am
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TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, SUN 10:30 am
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TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm
TX, Tyler: KLTV—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Roanoke: WDRL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am
VA, Virginia Beach: Cox—Ch 71 & 74, SAT 8:30 am
VT, Barre: Charter—Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm
VT, Middlebury: Adelphia—Ch 15, SUN 10:30 am; MON 9:30 am; THUR 5:00 pm
VT, Montpelier: Adelphia—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm; WED 3:00 pm
VT, Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 1:30 am, 9:30 am, 4:30 pm; MON 1:30 pm
VT, Springfield: SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:30 pm
WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm
WA, Seattle: TCI—Ch 29, FRI 5:30 pm
WA, Spokane: AT&T—Ch 14, MON 8:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: Clark/Vancouver—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am
WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am
WY, Casper: KTWQ—Ch 2, SUN 6:30 am

RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina, Bahia Blanca: Vida—101.3 FM, WED 10:00 am; THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm
Argentina, Centenario: FADAY—95.1 FM, MON, WED & FRI 12:00 pm
Argentina, Centenario: Saitueque—88.5 FM, SUN 8:00 am
Argentina, Centenario: Vida—98.1 FM, SAT 1:00 pm
Argentina, Neuquen: Libertad—105.1 FM, SUN 8:00 pm
Chile, San Carlos: Radio Emmanuel—107.3 FM, WED & SAT 10:00 pm
Chile, San Carlos: Radio Aurturo—1280 AM, SUN 9:00 am & 9:00 pm
Chile, Santiago: Radio Vida—102.9 FM, Daily 7:30 pm
Chile, Santiago: Radio Sinai—98.9 FM, MON-SAT 8:00 pm
Costa Rica, San Jose: 93.5 FM & 670 AM, SUN 5:00 pm
Martinique: Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am
Martinique: Radio Campêche—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am
Mexico, Mexico City: XEEST—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am
Philippines, Cebu City: DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am
Philippines, Manila: DWBL—1242 AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm
Philippines, Ozamiz City: DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am
Republic of South Africa: Radio Kingfisher—103.8 FM, SUN 7:00 pm
Republic of South Africa, Western Cape: Radio Tygerburg—104 FM, THUR 7:30 pm

• Television Superstations

—CANADA (nationwide)
ON, Toronto: VISION—SUN 3:30 am & 5:30 pm (ET)
 —IL, Chicago: WGN—National Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)

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TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS:

WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET

VISION: Canada: SUN 3:30 am & SUN 5:30 pm ET

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

KY, Latonia: PEG 17—Ch 17, SUN, 12:30 pm, WED 5:30 pm

KY, Williamstown: Insight—Ch 20, WED, Check Local Listing

KY, Williamstown: Access—Ch 16, MON 12:30 pm; TUE 12:30 pm

OH, Cincinnati: Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, Check Local Listing

OH, Dayton: Access TV—Ch 12, Check Local Listing

OH, Troy: TBN—Ch 9, THUR 7:00 pm

VT, Middlebury: Adelpia—Ch 15, SUN 10:30 am; MON 9:30 am; THUR 5:00 pm

VT, Springfield: SAPA-TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm

WY, Casper: KTWO—Ch 2, SUN 6:30 am

JAMAICA

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



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