

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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FACE TIME



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

Have You Surrendered to God?

Do you believe in the true God—the God of the Bible? If so, it is *vital* that you come to understand the *one basic attitude* that God looks for in people. What is it?

In this world's confused Christianity, many will tell you that God wants us, above all, to “accept Jesus.” However, you really need to ask yourself: “Which Jesus?” And what did Jesus Himself say was the most important attitude for a person to have?

Notice this statement by Jesus Christ: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Even in the Apostle Paul's day there were false ministers who were misrepresenting the genuine teachings of Christ: “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!” (2 Corinthians 11:4)! So perhaps you have heard a lot about “another Jesus” who merely requires lip service—but this is **not** the Jesus Christ of the Bible!

It is vital that we have faith in the *true* Christ who is revealed to us in the inspired words of the Holy Bible—**not** in the ideas and traditions of men! It is equally crucial that we **obey** Jesus Christ—and not just appropriate His name or accept Him with an empty human faith or temporary emotional whim.

The Apostle James, one of Jesus' own physical brothers, was inspired to warn us about empty, vain faith: “You believe that there is one God [the Father and Christ]. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?**” (James 2:19–20).

Even the **demons** believe in God and Christ! That is, they *know* that Jesus Christ was a real person who was crucified, and that God raised Him from the dead. They were there. They saw Christ's resurrection. They know! But strange as it may seem to some, just “believing” these things is **not** enough! The demons refuse to surrender their lives and wills to God and to **do** what He says!

What about you? Are you content to just “believe” that there is a God out there somewhere, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, died for you? Do you have an empty faith, or a *living* faith that compels you to surrender your life totally to God—to give your life to Him through the true Jesus Christ, and so be willing to **do what God says** no matter what? That is the kind of faith which is pleasing to God and which leads to eternal life in His Kingdom!

Jesus said: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matthew 16:24–25).

When a young man asked Jesus the way to eternal life, what did He reply? “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. **But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments**” (Matthew 19:17). Jesus was the “Light” God sent into the world to show us how to live. He was our example, yet carnal men have come up with dozens of excuses as to how or why the Ten Commandments were somehow done away.

In His inspired Scripture, God has clearly indicated that because our nations have turned away from Him and from His laws, He will need to give us loving **correction** in order to bring us back

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Jesus Christ Is Coming To RULE!

By Roderick C. Meredith

Atheists, agnostics and just plain scoffers certainly abound. But the Bible means what it says!

As a young man coming to Ambassador College in 1949, I heard Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong proclaim publically—again and again—that unless Britain and America would come to *genuine* repentance before the God of the Bible, quite a number of *specific events* would begin to happen:

- The British Empire would come to an **end**.
- The great “sea gates”—such as the Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Malacca, Singapore and the Panama Canal—would be removed from the control of the United States and the British-descended nations.
- Russian control over the East European nations would come to an **end**. Mr. Armstrong *specifically foresaw* the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of East and West Germany.
- British and American dominance over world events would **end**. For the Eternal God would “break” the pride of their power, **unless** they would turn to God and His ways in *genuine* repentance.

- A powerful European Union would arise—eventually coalescing into a genuine European Empire—the final prophesied revival of the Holy Roman Empire that controlled most of Europe for centuries.

My friends, these are all **major** developments that few if any “secular” prognosticators would have expected 50 (or even 30) years ago. They touch the lives of *hundreds of millions* of human beings. Yet, just as Mr. Armstrong foresaw, they have **all** been fulfilled, or are *in the process* of coming about! For there is a **real** God! And that great God—who *directly inspired* the Bible prophecies from which Mr. Armstrong gained his understanding—is *right now* beginning to intervene in world affairs more powerfully than in thousands of years—certainly since the time Jesus Christ was here on the earth!

Why? Because we are truly nearing the end of the first 6,000 years of human history, and are approaching the prophesied Millennium—Jesus Christ’s thousand-year rule as King of kings over physical human beings here on planet earth (Revelation 11:15; 20:4).

Sadly, the very nations God has blessed and used in modern times to forestall total world chaos—the nations that have sent out more Bibles and more missionaries than all other nations on earth combined—have today practically **rejected** the true God! Through our political and religious teachers, and our influential and pervasive media—such as television and the Internet—**most** are either actively or passively “going along” with the greatest anti-God movement in centuries! Millions *right now* are even beginning to accept the “marriage” of men to other men, and of women to other women! We often “look the other way” when we see the increasing millions of our fellow citizens openly living in relationships outside of marriage, which God **plainly** calls fornication. We see the glorification of drug addiction as a “lifestyle.”

In fact, we have passively allowed our nations’ politicians, educators and media leaders to “reinvent” the English language. So, fornication is *no longer* “fornication.” Rather it is now just “living together.” New ways to deviate from the natural use of the human body and emotions are constantly being added to the range of practices praised as “alternative lifestyles.”

Meanwhile, the continuing widespread execution of millions of unborn children is no longer called “murder.” Instead, advocates call it “exercising the woman’s right to choose.” Virtually nothing is said about the right of the other body inside the pregnant mother—about half of the time another woman, a little human being made in the image of God—who is deprived of her own “right to choose” staying alive!

As this so-called “progress” in human affairs becomes more pervasive, the great **God**—the Creator of heaven and earth—will at some point say: “**Enough!**” Then, the

horrifying wars, storms, drought, famine, disease epidemics and massive earthquakes that Jesus Christ specifically predicted (Luke 21:22–27; Matthew 24:6–7) will begin to strike **with never-before-seen intensity!**

As this Work of the living God has warned for many decades, the Creator who gives us life and breath **will** soon intervene in human affairs to **stop the rot!** He is not a “mean” God for doing this. Rather, our Creator will intervene in order to literally save man from destroying himself. As Jesus predicted, the soon-coming period of enormous wars and weather upsets will be so terrible that, “unless those days were shortened, **no flesh** would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

WHAT IS JUST AHEAD?

My friends I know that most of you—especially our older readers—have come to expect that America and Britain will “muddle through” each trial and test that comes along. But, on the authority of Scripture, I need to warn you that, very soon, it will *definitely be different!* For we are near the end of an age. God’s prophecies **will** come to pass! Please understand: Jesus specifically told true Christians, “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and **kill you**, and you will be **hated** by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another” (Matthew 24:9–10).

We are now about to enter into a time of **horrifying tribulation** surpassing anything the world has ever before experienced (Matthew 24:21). Even as I write, I have before me a shocking article from *Newsweek* magazine, describing in detail the sickening persecution and violence against professing Christians throughout the Islamic world. This secular publication

writes, “It is a rising genocide that ought to provoke global alarm.” The article goes on to describe *scores* of instances of horrifying violence: “In the month of January 2012 alone, Boko Haram was responsible for 54 deaths. In 2011 its members killed at least 510 people and burned down or destroyed more than 350 churches in 10 northern states. They use guns, gasoline, bombs and even machetes, shouting ‘Allahu akbar’ (‘God is great’) while launching attacks on unsuspecting citizens. They have attacked churches, a Christmas Day gathering (killing 42 Catholics), beer parlors, a town hall, beauty salons, and banks. They have so far focused on killing Christian clerics, politicians, students, policemen, and soldiers, as well as Muslim clerics who condemn their mayhem” (February 13, 2012).

Meanwhile, God is removing His protective hand from the American and British-descended peoples as they turn further and further away from the Ten Commandments. If you have not already done so, request your free copy of our booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, to learn more about this vital prophetic connection. In a prophecy that applies **directly** to American and British-descended nations today, God explains, “All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased. Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, *because your sins have increased*, I have done these things to you” (Jeremiah 30:14–15).

Because of “vile” practices and anti-God attitudes displayed throughout society, the American and British peoples will indeed be brought down, **unless** there is a national turning to God, in a way that has never been done before in modern times! As you who read this begin to see the

continuing fulfillment of these specific Bible prophecies all around you, then you need to understand that the *real* Jesus Christ of the Bible **must** return soon or this world will be destroyed.

Yes, the specific prophecies we have preached or written about for decades are *right now* beginning to occur. Even secularists see the increasing dangers. Citing “inadequate progress” on nuclear and climate issues, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* earlier this year moved its “Doomsday Clock” forward, to “five minutes to midnight.”

So, the time is drawing short for God’s true ministers to give a truly powerful **warning** to our peoples—and to the *whole world*—about what lies just ahead. We have a **huge** job to do! And Almighty God *certainly does intend* for His faithful servants to “warn” **all** of our fellow human beings about the soon-coming Great Tribulation. God tells us in His Word about this very thing and about the *sense of urgency* which we should have in delivering this message: “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Surely we did not know this,’ does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?” (Proverbs 24:11–12).

Again, as Jesus stated about this coming tribulation, “unless those days were shortened, **no flesh** would be saved.” The *real* Jesus Christ of the Bible **must** return, lest warring, carnal, God-rejecting nations erase all human life from this planet!

Consider that, apart from the major nations who have had atomic weapons in the past, *three other countries*—Israel, Pakistan and India—have amassed substantial stockpiles of atomic bombs, and are capable of delivering these warheads to the financial, industrial and political capitals of their likely enemies. Now

we behold a spectacle of a *fourth country*, Iran, which is barreling ahead with its nuclear weapons development—even at the risk of destroying its global trade and gutting its domestic economy. That nation seems **totally bent** on gaining atomic weapons. In response, many news analysts have been writing recently about the assumed “inevitability” of an Israeli attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities. For, as some Israeli leaders



have stated repeatedly, “It is not just a political option with us, it is a matter of our *very survival!*”

If Israel attacks Iran in the next few months—perhaps even before you receive this article—it may indeed cause a “firestorm” throughout the Middle East. This would certainly speed up the process of the European nations drawing together into the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire. It would speed up the unification of the Arab nations into what is called the “King of the South” (Daniel 11:40). And it would also speed up the very **end** of this present society.

THE END OF DEMOCRACY?

Speaking before Britain’s House of Commons in November 1947, Sir Winston Churchill said, “No one

pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the **worst** form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” Many of America’s early leaders *deeply understood* that not just any people, anywhere, could make democracy successful. In fact, our second President, John Adams, wrote to Massachusetts military officers in October 1798: “We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

However, overall, the American and British-descended peoples today do **not** fear God or follow “morality and true religion.” Few even **pretend** to study the Holy Bible to see what it actually says. And our nations are quickly removing even the most nominally Christian references and practices from the public square. Frankly, most media leaders and educators act as if they *despise* the God of the Bible and His teachings!

God warned our forefathers that if they were to “**despise** My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it” (Leviticus 26:15–16). So, we should not be surprised that we have experienced “terrorist” attacks and many other disturbances. And horrible “wasting diseases” such as **cancer** and **AIDS** are increasingly taking away the health, the vitality

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Questions & Answers

Question: God tells His people to avoid imitating pagan practices. Yet I see that most professing Christians describe their denominations, and the buildings in which they worship, as “churches.” Since “Circe” (Greek *Kirke*, meaning “falcon”) is the name of a Greek goddess, how can it be associated with Christian worship?

Answer: Who was Circe? In various accounts in Greek mythology, she was “a sorceress, the daughter of Helios, the sun god, and the ocean nymph Perse” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, “Circe”). Made noteworthy mostly by her appearance in Homer’s *The Odyssey*, Circe is otherwise a relatively minor mythological figure.

Circe’s association with the “sun god” has led some few people to connect the English word “church” and its antecedents with her name as one more example of how pagan sun worship has infiltrated “mainstream Christianity”. But other than the coincidence of spelling between Circe’s name and the antecedents of “church” at various times, no evidence exists to prove a connection. This is not like the well-documented connection between the Anglo-Saxon fertility goddess Oestre (the religious equivalent of the Middle Eastern goddesses Astarte and Ishtar) and the name Easter. There one can trace the historical and at least some of the linguistic connections. There are **none** between “Circe” and “church.”

It is true that “church” can be traced to an Old English word that is sometimes spelled *circe* (in some historical sources it is spelled *cirice*). Any of the better dictionaries having etymological references will give this information in whole or in part. However, some people then make a leap which the dictionaries do not: they connect the Old English *cir(i)ce* with the Circe or Kirkē of classical mythology.

Using several references on the subject (*The Oxford Unabridged Dictionary*, *The American Heritage Dictionary*, and *The Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*), we can trace the development of “church” and its parallels in other languages. The ultimate source is probably the early Christian Greek phrase *kyri(a)kon (doma)*, “the Lord’s (house)”. The Greek *kyriakon* (literally “of the Lord”) was used of houses of Christian worship since about 300AD, especially in the East, though it was less common in this sense than *ekklesia* or *basilike*. This word is an example of direct

Greek-to-Germanic borrowing of Christian words by the Goths; it was probably used by West Germanic people in their pre-Christian period. The word was also borrowed into Slavic from Germanic (cf. Old Slavic *criky*, Russian *cerkov*). Romance and Celtic languages use variants of the Latin form *ecclesia*, found in the Latin Vulgate version.

Since English is a Germanic language, it is not surprising that *kyriakon* carried over directly from Greek via Germanic. It was used in English before 900AD. In Old English it appears as *cir(i)ce*; in Middle English, as *chir(i)che*; in Modern English, as *church* (there was a parallel mutation of vowels in what became our word *bury*). Thus *church* is akin to the Dutch *kerk*, the German *Kirche*, the Old Norse *kirkja*, and the Scottisk *kirk*. All these came from Greek via Germanic. But these words (like their original Greek source) meant the place of assembly, rather than the assembly itself as the biblical *ekklesia* does. William Tyndale’s New Testament uses “robbers of churches” only in Acts 19:37, and then only in reference to those who commit sacrilege against pagan temples (the Greek word translated “robbers of churches” is the plural of *hierosulos*). Consistently, he translates *ekklesia* as “congregation,” regardless of context.

Given how *kyriakon* developed into *church* and its parallels in other languages, it was inevitable that some coincidence with Circe or Kirke would arise in terms of spelling. However, it takes more than coincidence to derive the word “church” from a minor figure in Greek mythology, whether connected to a major mythological sun god or not. Such a hypothetical connection is without concrete support, and goes against other lines of real evidence. God nowhere commands the use of one particular language as sacred for His people today, nor does He forbid the use of the “vernacular” for expressing concepts such as *ekklesia*, *kyriakon*, or even the names of God Himself.

Oh Canada!

The Longest Undefended Border

Standing on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, just west of Cornwall, Ontario, one is awestruck by the vistas of lush pastures and farms. Remarkably, one can traverse nearly 1,000 miles eastward and 3,000 miles westward from there and find similar peaceful scenes, on an international border with no sign of soldiers—the longest undefended border on the planet.

It was not always this way. At various points along the border, old fortresses and monuments to battles are seen—mute witness to a less peaceful era, when thousands died in order to defend their homes from invaders.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of a largely forgotten, but very bitter war between the United States and the British territory that would become Canada. Many historians describe it as a useless war, one fought over reasons not even mentioned in the treaty that ended it. Though its story has interested many, few realize that the outcome was guided by an unseen hand working to fulfill an ancient prophecy.

By 1812, Canada was populated by citizens of French descent, various native tribes, and more than 100,000 English-speaking “Loyalists” who had fled north from the 13 American colonies, after choosing not to support a rebellion against the British government.

Britain in 1812 was embroiled in a series of global conflicts known as the Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815). Britain, along with allies Prussia and Portugal, was hard-pressed. Its major line of defence was a 978-ship Royal Navy, with which it enforced a near-total economic blockade of France. The British Cabinet in 1806 issued an Order in Council establishing a full blockade of European ports. As former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described it, “The British blockade wrapped the French Empire and Napoleon’s Europe in a clammy shroud. No trade, no coffee, no sugar, no contact with the East, or with the Americans!”

(*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Vol. 3, p. 314).

Napoleon retaliated with the “Berlin Decrees”—shutting out all British products from Europe, causing losses for many British and American merchants. Americans challenged the British decision as a violation of freedom of the seas, and continued to conduct commerce with French-controlled Europe. In response, the British seized American ships on the high seas, identified men who had left the Royal Navy to serve on U.S. ships (where conditions were considered better), and pressed them back into service in the Royal Navy. It was this action that provided some in the U.S. Congress with the motivation for war.

Britain wanted to avoid an additional war. Under pressure from

its merchants, Britain’s Cabinet repealed the offending Orders of Council two days before the U.S. Congress declared war on June 18, 1812. Yet, even after U.S. lawmakers learned of the repeal, no order to stop the war was given.



THE INVASION OF CANADA

Canadian historian Pierre Berton shares a common perspective that the U.S. Congress’s real motivation was to acquire Canada and First Nation (“American Indian”) lands to the west (*The Invasion of Canada*, p. 27). Doing so would enable a westward expansion of settlement. Indian tribes were uniting under the dynamic leadership of the Shawnee leader Tecumseh. The native population of the region was fighting to retain its ancestral land. Tecumseh allied his confederacy with the British once the war began, and became a decisive factor in the war’s outcome, only to be betrayed in the treaty negotiations.

Although invading U.S. forces greatly outnumbered the Canadian opponents, in some cases by 10 to 1 (e.g. the Battle of Chrysler’s Farm in 1813), it was usually the Canadians who were victorious. American forces found



British regulars, English and French-Canadian militias and Indian allies standing solidly together. Every American intrusion into Canada ended in failure, despite the numbers. Yet when experienced British troops—men who had taken part in the destruction of Napoleon’s “Grande Armée”—crossed into the U.S. for battle, their efforts, too, ended in failure, even against inexperienced American forces.

On the lakes and sea, Britain’s Royal Navy—widely seen as invincible at the time—struggled to overcome opposition by a smaller American naval fleet. In 1813 alone, American ships inflicted more damage on the Royal Navy than the French and Spanish had managed in two decades (Churchill, p. 361). Each side seemed able to mount a successful defence, but unable to invade the other—regardless of the odds.

As war raged on, negotiators from Britain and the U.S. had been meeting for months in the Belgian town of Ghent. Finally, in December 1814, they signed a treaty. Ironically, the Treaty of Ghent fails to address any of the supposed initial reasons for the war. It gave the U.S. none of its original stated objectives. However it returned to the U.S. all territory to the west that had been captured by Britain. It established a British-American commission to decide border issues, leading to a peaceful determination of an undefended U.S.-Canada border in 1818. In addition, a reciprocal commercial treaty allowed the U.S. to hold “most favoured nation” status in worldwide trade with the British Empire, implying protection of the Royal Navy.

The Treaty of Ghent also set the stage for further developments, such as the Monroe Doctrine, which historians agree took for granted the support of the Royal Navy in enforcing American claims to Western Hemisphere land.

Churchill ends his comments on the War of 1812 as follows: “The results of the peace were solid and enduring. The war was a turning point in the history of Canada. Canadians took pride in the part they had played in defending their country, and their growing national sentiment was strengthened...henceforward the world was to see a three-thousand-mile international frontier between Canada and the United States undefended by men or guns.

On the oceans the British Navy ruled supreme for a century to come, and behind this shield the United States were free to fulfill their continental destiny” (*ibid.*, p. 367).

GUIDED BY GOD

From Scripture, we find that two nations, millennia ago, were destined to rise to prominence on the world stage, fulfilling promises made to biblical patriarchs. “And God said to him, ‘Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.... Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body’” (Genesis 35:10–11). The modern descendants of Jacob’s grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh—the British-descended nations and the United States—were to reap blessings prophesied in Scripture. God reveals in Genesis 49:22–26 a series of prophetic statements about the wealth, power and territory that were to be delivered into the hands of the descendants of Joseph, their boundaries set by God and no power on earth able to undo what God determined (Deuteronomy 32:8–9).

To learn more about these prophecies and their importance to the English-speaking peoples of our day, please request our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. Understanding these ancient prophecies will help you understand the fulfillment of prophecy in these end-times.

June 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the start of the War of 1812—the last war between Canada and the United States. Historian Berton astutely observes: “Thus the war that was supposed to attach the British North American colonies to the United States accomplished exactly the opposite. It ensured Canada would never become a part of the Union to the south...The Canadian ‘way’... has its roots in the invasion of 1812–1814, the last American invasion of Canada” (*ibid.*, p. 27).

Truly, the Almighty had determined the outcome of the War of 1812.

—Stuart Wachowicz



FACE TIME

By Rod McNair

As society goes virtual, it is more important than ever to invest in face-to-face relationships.

After a long workday, I gratefully sat down in a comfortable chair and began to peruse a newspaper article. One of my small daughters climbed into my lap and excitedly began to relate her day's adventures. I responded absent-mindedly, but my eyes never left the page. In the next moment she stopped, grabbed my cheeks in her little hands, and pulled my face towards hers, with an imploring, "Daddy?"

As she looked into my eyes, I saw what I had missed just moments before. She did not just want me to mindlessly listen and answer her; she wanted me to communicate face-to-face. I learned a valuable lesson that day from my daughter.

The connection we gain through face-to-face interaction is profound. Reading each other's expressions, we gain valuable clues about others' emotional state:

whether they are happy, sad, or content. We grow to understand nonverbal cues that convey meaning. We gather information about whether a person is confused, perplexed or angry. We detect hints of amusement and shared humor. We sense whether a person seems to be trusting, open and honest, or reticent and guarded. We gain all this through communicating face-to-face.

Human beings have been interpreting facial expressions since the beginning of time. The Bible records that when God confronted Cain about his disobedience, Cain's "countenance fell" (Genesis 4:5). Cain's emotion was easy to read—it was written all over his face! When Nehemiah, serving as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, could not mask his grief for the plight of his people suffering in Jerusalem, the king asked, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but

sorrow of heart” (Nehemiah 2:2). We read, “As in water face reflects face, so a man’s heart reveals the man” (Proverbs 27:19). Our faces are the communication link through which our most personal relationships are sustained. Face-to-face contact is an invaluable tool for building and sustaining healthy, meaningful and rewarding relationships.

Sadly, in our modern world, real face time is becoming a lost commodity. As electronic communication is becoming faster and less expensive, genuine personal interaction is becoming more rare—and we are paying the price in weakened and damaged relationships. A recent study found that heavy media use—especially “multitasking”—can hurt social and emotional development in preteen girls. The study found that “heavy digital multitasking and more time spent in front of screens correlated with poor emotional and social health—including low social confidence, not feeling normal, having more friends whom parents perceive as poor influence and even sleeping less” (“Study: Face Time Benefits Teens,” *Wall Street Journal*, January 31, 2012).

What is the remedy? According to the study’s co-author, Dr. Clifford Naas of Stanford University, the answer lies in simple, old-fashioned **face-to-face conversations**. Dr. Naas notes: “You used to hear all the time ‘Look at me when I talk to you,’ but now everyone is looking at their devices instead... The most important message is that face-to-face communication is just enormously important and there has been a dramatic decline in that, among kids and among families” (*ibid.*).

Young people are not the only ones who find it tempting to let digital media crowd out face-to-face interactions in their lives. Adults are vulnerable as well. Plenty of adults spend substantial amounts of time in front of a computer, smartphone, tablet or other high-tech gadget. These

tools give us unprecedented access to constant entertainment and instant communication, and they have a valid place in our lives (see “The Two Faces of Technology” on page 24 of this issue). But, are we the masters of our tools, or are we their slaves (Romans 6:16)? If you are not sure, ask yourself whether you felt “separation anxiety” the last time you were away from your phone or computer for any length of time. And if you have not been away from them, you probably have your answer right there!

As communication technology grows more sophisticated, it becomes ever easier to use it to avoid almost any human interaction at all. Yes, there are times when a carefully written message may be preferable to a spoken outpouring. Yet, in so many of our interactions, the rewards of “the personal touch” are worth the effort. In her book, *Face to Face*, communication consultant Susan Roane puts it this way: “When we use technology to avoid human interaction, we may save time, but we lose out on the opportunity to build rapport, trust and connections, as well as the unexpected benefits that happen in the face to face space” (p. xvii).

Would you like your relationships to be more genuine and meaningful? Do you seek a greater sense of wellbeing? Consider the importance of making *face time* a priority in three major facets of your life: with your family, your spiritual brethren—and with God Himself.

FAMILY FACE TIME

Think about the atmosphere in your home. Analyze your interaction with your spouse and children. Do you really talk to one another? More importantly, do you listen to each other? It is easy to shortchange real communication in our hassled and hurried lives. Laptops and smartphones become the ever-present

and “always-on” accessory—thieves that snatch away the already-too-few moments with our loved ones.

A recent *Boston Globe* article pointed out that more and more children are asking their parents to cut back on smartphone and computer use at home (“Dad, can you put away the laptop?,” March 8, 2012). Some studies have found that the average working person spends less than 30 seconds a day in meaningful communication with his or her children. That is not enough! If that is all the time we are spending with our children in real conversation, then we (and they) are headed for serious problems.

Make the commitment to invest in your face-to-face relationships! Communicate with your spouse every day. Share yourself. Talk about your ups and downs. Be encouraging. Try using a “soft answer” to defuse anger (Proverbs 15:1). Be willing to give a little. After all, Jesus said it is “more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Seek to understand your spouse. Put down the phone and shut off the laptop and you may be astonished to discover how your marriage will flourish as never before!

Moses commanded the children of Israel to have ongoing, continual communication with their children: “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).

This is a mandate to true Christian parents to pass on the Truth to their children at every opportunity. But think about what this verse also implies beyond just the Truth; there should also be lots of general conversation happening all the time between family members. One of the best places to start is at the dinner table. **Strive to eat at least one meal**

each day together as a family. During mealtime, turn off the television. Put away the newspaper. Ban mobile phones from the table. Ask questions and encourage everyone to participate, with no one left out. Do not let your family members drift apart. Start to re-engage them by having regular meals together, as much as possible.

While listening, family members need to look at each other—face to face! Giving undivided attention is especially important for a parent's relationship with children. Physician Ross Campbell writes: "Focused attention means giving your teenager full, undivided attention in such a way that he feels truly loved, that he knows he is so valuable in his own right that he warrants your watchfulness, appreciation, and uncompromising regard" (*How To Really Love Your Teenager*, p. 31). Dinnertime conversations can become the foundation for renewed communication and cooperation in your family.

FACE TIME WITH BRETHREN

Is face-to-face contact only important for marriage and family? Of course not! Even in business, politics and sports, successful leaders understand the importance of face-to-face contact. Duke University's coach Mike Krzyzewski, the all-time winningest coach in American college basketball, told *CNBC.com* writer Michelle Lodge that face time is vital for unifying any group: "How do you make five guys on the court play like one?... You do that with constant communication. Face-to-face is the best way to communicate, where people can look each other in the eye and, when you have that opportunity, always to tell each other the truth and [as a result] an element of trust is developed... It's all about developing trusting relationships" ("Face-to-

Face Communication Key to Success: Duke's Coach K," October 20, 2010).

Does God want that type of trusting, loving and brotherly relationship among His people? Of course! When Jesus Christ called His disciples, He challenged them to become a close, unified group, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 17:20–23). God wants genuine Christians to develop into a close spiritual family. Especially as the end of the age draws near, God puts a high premium on true Christian fellowship. Notice what the prophet Malachi recorded: "Then those who



feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name" (Malachi 3:16).

If we understand what God is saying, it is vitally important that we have face-to-face contact not just with our own families, but with others whom God has called as well! Deep, spiritual conversations with true Christians are richly rewarding. Sharing our trials and problems with brethren we trust makes our burdens lighter. Even just chatting gives us a chance to get to know one another. We find out what is going on in each other's lives, and we cease to be strangers.

The purpose of personal fellowship is not just to give churchgoers another thing to do. It is

actually a crucial part of our spiritual relationship with genuine Christians. Jesus Christ foretold that many at the time of the end would lose their zeal for close, brotherly relationships, warning that "because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). The Apostle Paul echoed Christ's words, saying that even some of God's people would falter from true worship and fellowship. He charges us to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24–25). God's people are to encourage and lift one another up. Personal, face-to-face fellowship plays a crucial part.

What about you? How much face-to-face contact do you have with your spiritual family? God's Church is one body, made up of many members. "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12). The result is that "we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:5). But how does this unity occur?

Many of you *Tomorrow's World* readers are coming to understand truths you never heard before. And many of you are faithfully following the example of the Bereans, who "received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). We want you to check up on us, too, and prove for yourself that what this magazine teaches squares with your Bible. As you do so, you will grow spiritually in your walk with God, as you learn to follow Him more closely based on His own teachings from Scripture.

As you grow, you will naturally ask yourself: "Do I need 'face time'

with other true Christians?” When God calls people into His Truth, He places them in the body of Christ as it pleases Him (John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 12:18). Part of drawing closer to God involves coming together in fellowship with others of like mind, who have made the same commitment! They will want to get to know others of God’s people face-to-face!

SEEK GOD’S FACE

Our most important personal contact is with God Himself. He is the One we want and need “face time” with the most. Notice Aaron’s blessing on Israel, as instructed by Moses: “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24–26). We all want God to look on us with favor! We all want His protection, His guidance and providence. We want God’s face to shine on us, as a loving and devoted father’s face beams when he looks at and is pleased by his own children.

The question is, if we want Him to look on us favorably, how much are we seeking His face as well? Consider ancient King David’s powerful words: “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully... This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face” (Psalm 24:3–4, 6).

Are you “seeking God’s face”? How do we do that? We cannot see His face literally, like Moses did. God spoke to Moses “face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:11). But, since you and I cannot see God with our physical eyes, how do we do it? We seek God by walking with Him daily and going

to Him in heartfelt prayer. We seek His face by really talking to Him and giving Him our full attention. No one likes talking to people who are at the same time texting on their phones or checking their social media updates. Why would God not feel the same about half-hearted or distracted prayers? We cannot multitask with God! If we are doing that, we are not really obeying the great command to *really put God first*. Jesus Christ described the “great commandment” as: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37–38). Are we doing that?

Sometimes we have difficulty seeking God’s face because our sins are blocking our vision. The prophet Isaiah explained, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1–2). When we sin, our shame and fear can make it difficult for us to go to God. We do not want to look at Him when we know we have disappointed Him. We sometimes doubt that He would accept us in

our present state. Yet that is precisely when we need to earnestly repent and seek Him without delay! 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). This enables us to once again go to our loving Father, and renew a face-to-face relationship.

Though we cannot see God, we know He is there—the whole universe testifies to His existence (Psalm 19:1)! And at Christ’s return, His resurrected saints will be made Spirit beings and will be able to see God in full glory! John wrote of this awesome future: “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2–3).

As the close of the age draws near, as distractions multiply and the speed of life increases, do not neglect real, tangible, face-to-face time. Make sure you are committed to close personal contact with family, brethren, and most of all, your loving Heavenly Father. ■

WHAT IS A TRUE CHRISTIAN?



Living God’s way brings blessings in a Christian’s life. You can experience joy, peace and happiness as never before if you follow the teachings of Jesus Christ!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, ***What Is a True Christian?***, or download it from the **Booklets** section of our **Web site** www.TomorrowsWorld.org

LONDON CA

Sixty Years a Monarch

Throughout 2012, the United Kingdom is celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. This much-loved monarch has now been 60 years on the throne, during which time the world around her has changed immeasurably. This celebration thus provides an apt and appropriate occasion to cast a backward look at “Queen and Country”—and to assess the state of the monarchy and nation.

DAUGHTER OF AN ACCIDENTAL KING

It was the surprise abdication of Elizabeth’s uncle, King Edward VIII, that brought King George VI to the throne, putting Elizabeth next in line. But if George might be termed “the accidental King,” it hardly seems accidental that Elizabeth has served as Queen for so long, receiving such wide respect.

William Shawcross, the distinguished biographer and broadcaster, has noted that Elizabeth’s qualities have seemed to equip her so ideally to serve as an outstanding monarch. Seen as serious-minded and self-disciplined, she also displays humility and self-deprecation. She has shown an evident love, procedure and order. She has been consistent, conscientious and persevering. Her natural air of authority is enhanced by an intrinsic charm and unselfishness. Above all, she is respected for her deep and abiding sense of duty and service.

When she was but 21 years old, Elizabeth made what she called “a solemn act of dedication” that would frame her entire life. In a speech to the Commonwealth whilst on a tour of South Africa, she explained: “It is very simple. I declare before you that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial Commonwealth to which we all belong” (*Queen and Country*, Shawcross, pp. 31–32).

During her coronation service on June 2, 1953, she vowed upon the Bible to uphold all her promises, to

judge with law, justice and mercy, to maintain the laws of God and to preserve the Church of England. Over the years, the Queen has indeed dedicated herself to these *ideals*, this *duty* and the fulfillment of this *purpose*. Scarcely, it would seem, has she put a foot wrong in the discharge of her duties.



A BELOVED INSTITUTION

As Head of State and Constitutional Monarch, the Queen has commanded the allegiance of twelve Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom. As Head of the Commonwealth, she has exercised great personal influence over its development—nurturing and unifying its present 53 member nations, which have grown remarkably from the eight that were members at the start of her reign. She has represented Britain to twelve Presidents of the United States, stretching back to Harry Truman, and to most other nations around the world. For Britons, the Queen has been one constant when all around was changing. Everywhere she went, she “captured the hearts of all of us,” as President Truman put it. It has been easy to fall in love with her warm, wise, friendly and humble ways, while representing the oldest continuing European institution of any kind, save the Papacy. Truly she has become a world figure of unsurpassed experience and authority. As Shawcross observed, “Over the half century of her reign, change has been phenomenal, almost revolutionary. In all that time, one might say, the only constant has been the Queen” (*ibid.*, p. 68). Despite ruling in times of great turmoil, Elizabeth’s stoic presence has been for Britain “the centre that held” (*ibid.*, p. 234).

Shawcross eloquently summed up the Queen’s reign a decade ago, at the time of her Golden Jubilee: “Britain has been enormously fortunate in having... a head of state who has performed her job with the devotion, honour, discretion and constancy of the Queen. The debt she is

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owed is incalculable but huge... It is an extraordinary achievement which should be celebrated, honoured and cherished" (*ibid.*, pp. 227, 237). Ten years on, his words still ring true. Indeed, what has epitomized the Queen has been her *sterling character*, and her continuing commitment to *duty and service*.

Regrettably, the same cannot be said about the character of the nation she serves. What has happened to the United Kingdom over the 60 years of her reign has been truly shocking.

THE COLLAPSE OF NATIONAL CHARACTER

In the years following World War II, grateful for a national deliverance that had at one point seemed quite unlikely, Britain experienced a revival in professing Christian belief. Anglican churches were filled, and religious activity blossomed. The Church of England was strong, and a vigorous reassertion of traditional values—including sexual restraint, thrift, and the importance of *duty and service*—took place.

However, with the arrival of the “swinging ’60s” came an organized and highly successful assault on belief in God, traditional Christian values, and the Church of England itself. The forces of liberalism, atheism and human rationalism gained ground, while the institutions of marriage and family progressively collapsed. “Sexual liberation” took over, and almost anything became acceptable in the theatre, movies and television.

As a result, the Church of England has become increasingly irrelevant to succeeding generations. Atheism, materialism and Islam have rapidly moved into the resulting void. Meanwhile, Britain has progressively lost sovereignty as it has become more and more enmeshed in the push toward a European Union. And, latterly, chronic financial mismanagement has mired the country in massive debts and brought it to the brink of insolvency. Above all, the values of *duty and service* have been all but forgotten in the rush towards self-satisfaction and personal fulfillment.

This sad demise of a once great nation, and the shrinking of its international influence, is part of a

worldwide malaise prophesied by the Bible. A supreme, existential crisis approaches in which Britain’s very existence as a civilized society is threatened. God foresaw this long ago, and inspired the Apostle Paul to comment thus in a letter to the young evangelist Timothy: “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

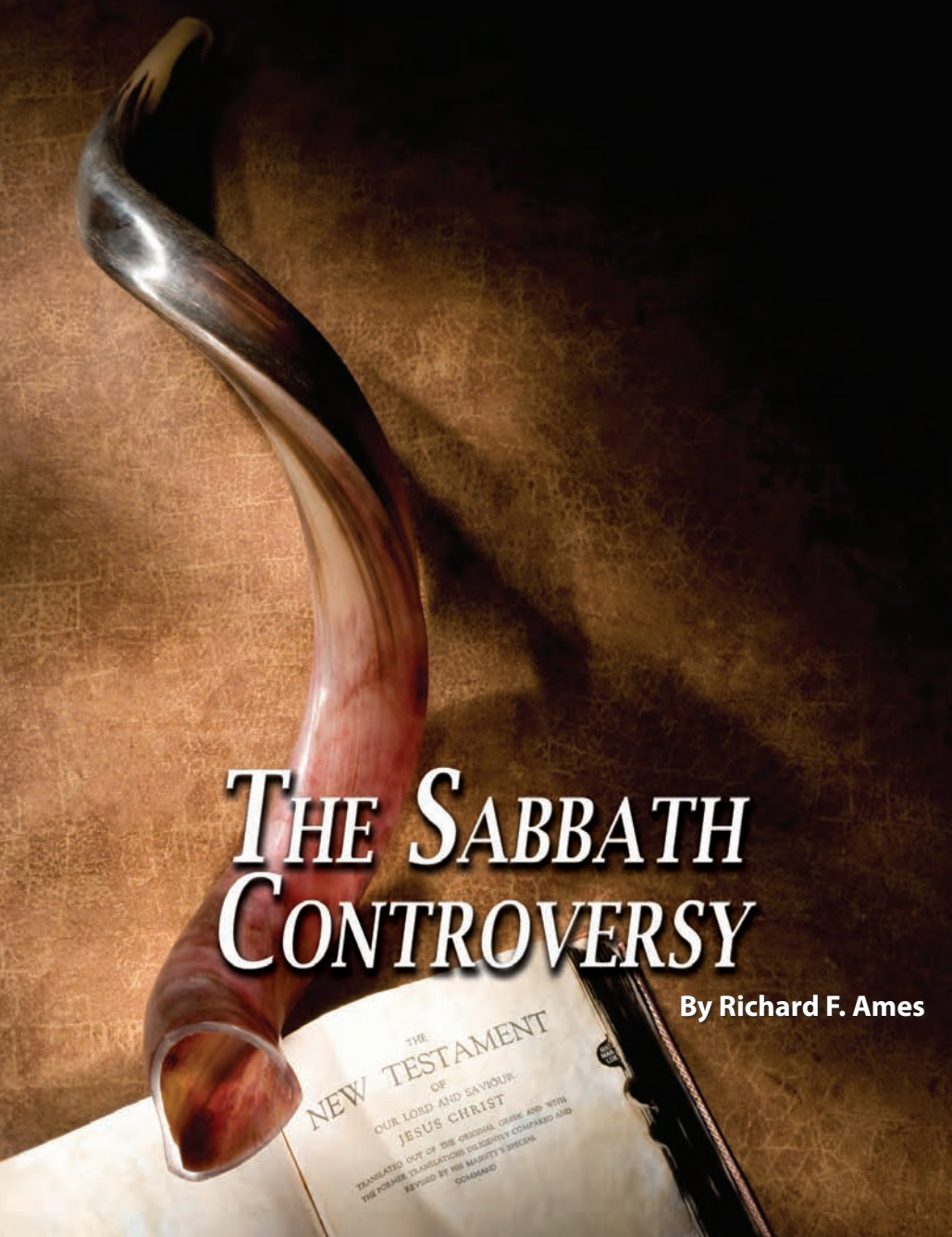
LESSONS TO LEARN

One lesson of this Jubilee, as we praise and honor a remarkable monarch, is to mourn the loss of the very values for which she stands. We have reached a lamentable state in which the nation’s loss of faith and vision leaves it chronically weakened morally, economically, socially and spiritually. What remains is startlingly reminiscent of what the Queen warned against in a famous December 1982 address: unthinking people who “carelessly throw away ageless ideals”—such as religion, personal and public morality, honesty and self-restraint (*ibid.*, p. 197).

Thankfully, it is not too late for Britons to recapture the true values of *duty and service to God*. However, to arrest Britain’s national moral decline will require coming to a crisis point of major change—a personal and national *repentance*. Those who *really* want to honor the Queen during this Jubilee should be working to bring back honor and respect *for God*, and for the moral standards He requires of us. This just might bring God’s abundant blessings and restore a better moral and spiritual course.

To learn about the way of life we should be living, and more about Britain’s prophetic future, simply request our free booklets, *Restoring Original Christianity* and *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

—John Meakin



THE SABBATH CONTROVERSY

By Richard F. Ames

*Does it matter which day you call your Sabbath?
What does Scripture say?*

The world's religions set aside different days as holidays and times of worship. While most of the world's 2.1 billion professing Christians worship on Sunday, 1.3 billion Muslims keep Friday as their weekly day of worship. Millions of Jews observe the Sabbath—their day of rest and worship—from sunset on Friday through sunset on Saturday.

Does it matter which days we observe? And does God care **when** we worship Him, as long as we **do** worship Him? Most professing Christians just accept whatever their parents or church taught them as tradition. Until I was a young adult, that is what I did, too. When I was a young boy, I asked my mother, “Why do we keep Sunday, when the fourth commandment in the Bible teaches us to keep the Sabbath, the seventh day?” She gave me some vague answer, which I accepted at the time. But can *you* answer that question? Which day is the Christian Sabbath?

Where do today's professing Christians get the idea that Sunday is the Christian day of worship? You may be shocked to learn that some religious sects teach that their church's tradition carries more authority than the Bible! Notice this statement from Anglican theologian Isaac William: “Where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church, has enjoined it” (*Plain Sermons on the Catechism*, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

Is William right? Does the Bible—the word of God—carry less weight than church tradition? What example did Jesus Christ set? Notice what the Bible says about Jesus' own practice at the start of His ministry. “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read” (Luke 4:16).

Yes, it was Jesus' regular custom to worship on the Sabbath! What day of the week was that? Since the time of Jesus, and centuries before, the Jewish community has very carefully documented its observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, from sunset Friday through sunset Saturday. We know from thousands of carefully kept records that the seven-day cycle of the week has not been broken since Jesus' time. Those who worship on the seventh day today are worshipping on the same day Jesus did!

Ask yourself: did Jesus set His example of keeping the Sabbath, and all the biblical precepts, so that we would not need to? Shockingly, this is what many preachers teach today! But did Jesus even once tell His followers to ignore His example? No! Not only did Jesus keep the commandments, He instructed others to keep them as well, saying, “if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). Jesus’ answer clearly showed He was speaking of the Ten Commandments.

PAUL’S EXAMPLE

We have seen that it was Jesus’ practice to observe the Sabbath. Did the Apostle Paul—the “apostle to the Gentiles”—observe the Sabbath, or did he set an example showing that Gentile Christians need not do so? Remember, Paul was trained as a Pharisee, and knew Scripture very well. When Paul was in Greece, in the city of Thessalonica, he preached for three Sabbaths in a row to the Jews in the synagogue. Notice that this was Paul’s custom—he regularly preached on the Sabbath. “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ’” (Acts 17:2–3).

So, we see that Paul regularly preached to the Jews on the Sabbath. But did he also speak to the Gentiles on the Sabbath? Notice what he did in the Gentile city of Corinth, in Greece. “And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 18:4)! Yes, Paul preached to the Gentiles on the Sabbath!

If Paul expected Christians to keep a Sunday observance instead of

the seventh-day Sabbath, we might expect him to speak to Christians—at the very least, to the Gentiles—on Sunday. Is that what your Bible shows he did? Notice Paul’s example in Antioch, in what is today the nation of Turkey. What happened after Paul’s usual Sabbath sermon to both Jews and devout Gentiles in the synagogue? “So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath” (Acts 13:42).

If Jesus or the apostles had changed the commanded day of worship to Sunday, here was a perfect opportunity for Paul to tell the Gentiles, “No, you don’t have to wait until next Saturday, we Christians now worship on Sunday. Meet with us tomorrow!” *But he did not do that!* What does your Bible say? “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God” (Acts 13:44). Paul taught the Gentile Christians on the Sabbath! He also commanded the Gentile Corinthians to follow his example. Remember Paul’s instruction, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Or, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (NIV). Yes, Paul, Jesus, and the apostles set an example for all Christians in observing the Sabbath!

WHY THE CHANGE?

Since the example of Christ and the apostles is clear, we may wonder: when did “mainstream” Christianity begin to observe Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath as a day of rest? Notice: “Tertullian (202AD) is the first writer who expressly mentions the Sunday rest: ‘We, however (just as tradition has taught us), on the day of the Lord’s Resurrection ought to guard not only against kneeling, but every posture and office of solicitude, deferring

even our businesses lest we give any place to the devil’” (article: “Sunday,” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*). That was not until 202AD, more than 170 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

But was Sunday in fact the day of Christ’s resurrection? No! Notice the gospel account. When Mary Magdalene came to Jesus’ tomb on Sunday morning, she found it empty. She came while it was still dark (John 20:1), and Jesus was already gone! He had been buried just before sunset on Wednesday, right before the start of the High Holy Day beginning the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Christ had emphasized the key sign of His Messiahship as follows: “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 nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:39–40). Christ promised to be in the tomb for 72 hours, meaning that He was resurrected shortly before sunset on Saturday!

The Roman emperor Constantine, however, had been a pagan sun-worshiper. During his rule, in the fourth century AD, he enforced Sunday worship throughout his empire. He gave the following edict in 321AD: “On the venerable day of the Sun let all magistrates and people ... rest” (article: “Sunday Legislation,” *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*).

Disobedience to the emperor’s command could mean death to Sabbath-keeping Christians. Just decades later, the Roman church then passed a startling decree at the Council of Laodicea. It declared: “Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must

work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be judaizing [keeping God's Sabbath], let them be declared anathema from Christ" (*A History of the Councils of the Church*, p. 316). Christian Sabbath-keepers were labeled as heretics.

Both the government and the church moved against Christian Sabbath-keepers. Yet the true Christianity of the first century—which never stopped following Christ's example of keeping the fourth commandment—has continued to this day, in spite of persecutions over the centuries. Many in the United States today forget that many of the first American settlers crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the 17th century in search of religious freedom in the colonies of North America. Thousands came to Rhode Island to take advantage of its royal charter, granted in 1663 by King Charles II of England, which guaranteed religious freedom in the colony. To this day, that charter remains on display in the Providence, Rhode Island statehouse.

Seventh-day Sabbath-keepers were among those who came to Rhode Island seeking religious freedom. Stephen Mumford and his wife, who came to Newport, Rhode Island in 1665, were the first Christian Sabbath-keepers documented to have settled in Rhode Island. Others followed, and by 1729 their group had expanded so much it needed a larger meeting hall. That hall, built in 1729, is still being preserved by the Newport Historical Society.

If you are ever in Newport, Rhode Island, you may want to visit that historic building. Inside the hall is a raised pulpit. Behind the pulpit are two large plaques, inscribed with the Ten Commandments. At the bottom

of the second plaque is the Apostle Paul's bold statement, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31, KJV). Yes, these New Testament Christians affirmed their allegiance to Christ's statement, "But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." These



Christians correctly understood that Jesus' teachings insisted that His followers observe and obey the Ten Commandments!

Sabbatarian church records, preserved in the Newport Historical Museum, contain members' names and contributions. Significantly the church describes itself in those records as "keeping the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, and in particular the Lord's Seventh-Day Sabbath."

Some seventh-day Sabbath-keepers were prominent citizens of Rhode Island in the 18th century. Two of the colony's governors—Richard Ward and his son Samuel—were seventh-day Sabbath-keepers. Even the first president of Brown University—James Manning—was a Sabbatarian!

THE SABBATH BEFORE MOSES?

Some today believe Sabbath observance was instituted as a Jewish custom at Mount Sinai, when Moses

received the tablets containing the Ten Commandments. Is this so? No! Notice how your Bible describes what is called "creation week." We read that God created man and woman on the sixth day. What then happened on the seventh day? "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:1-3).

Yes, the seventh-day Sabbath is a memorial of the creation—and it points to the true God and true Creator of the universe. It had meaning from the very creation, and it

still has deep meaning for Christians today, who recognize the seventh-day Sabbath as a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ's thousand-year reign on planet Earth during the Millennium.

What did Jesus claim about His relationship to the Sabbath? Did He say He was Lord over Sunday—that Sunday was the Lord's day? No! Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28). If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, what day is the Lord's day? Sunday? No! The Sabbath is the Lord's Day—Jesus Himself said so! In fact, the expression "Lord's Day" appears only once in the Bible, in Revelation 1:10. There, it refers to the prophetic period known as the Day of the Lord, which leads up to the Second Coming of Christ. It does not refer to a day of the week.

The book of Hebrews depicts the Sabbath as a foreshadowing of

Continued on page 23



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *Tomorrow's World*, could you please send me info. Can I do the Bible studies through the mail? I am nine years old and I would like to learn more about God.

J. H., Tarentum, PA

Editor's Note: The *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* is available by mail or online. You even have the option of receiving the printed lessons by mail, while taking the tests online. To learn more, or to enroll in the mail or online versions of the Course, go to TWBibleCourse.org. Quite a few parents have told us that they use the Bible Study Course as part of their children's home-school education, or as a supplement to what their children are learning in another school setting.

Just a note of appreciation for the *Tomorrow's World* magazine which I have been receiving for some time now. I have learned a lot from reading them and I also understand a lot of what I have read and really enjoy the things I have gathered from the booklets. It has changed my life and I do read my Bible more often.

M. S., St. George, Barbados

I thank my God for remembering you all and thank you for the entire work you are doing in spreading the Gospel to the world and warning them about the forthcoming judgment. After borrowing from my friend a booklet entitled, *Successful Parenting*, I have learned so many things and I am now living successfully with my family because I am following the guidelines from that booklet.

J. K., Ololunga, Kenya

I have just read Dr. Roderick C. Meredith's article on the *Tomorrow's World* website, "Violence Against Women." I just want to say what a great article it is. As you wrote, violence towards women is one issue that is most often overlooked, and sadly, it really, honestly is. It is such a sad and ugly occurrence that happens too much in this world, even in seemingly safe countries where I live, such as New Zealand. Thank you for using scripture to back your words. I actually got a bit emotional, and I would also like to say thank you to Mr. Wyatt Ciesielka for the article on "Misogyny." And I would also like to say thank you to everyone involved in *Tomorrow's World*. I always look

forward to reading the magazines and the commentary on the website. I'm reading articles with substance, and reading about what really matters.

T. F., Auckland, New Zealand

You have been sending me your magazine for many years, without me sending you a dime. I am so overwhelmed with the value of this precious magazine that I want to share it with all my family and friends. Thank you so much for keeping me on your list all of these years. There really is hope in this world, isn't there?

H. G., Twin Falls, ID

Just a short note to let you all know how much I appreciate the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* and the magazine and also the booklets. I have learned more in these past months than I have in all my life just going to church and reading the Bible. Your magazine articles help put into context what's going on in the world in light of God's word and your *Bible Study Course* helps make the word of God easier to understand. Most all of you are helping me to restructure my life and making the little aggravations of daily life more tolerable. It's made me realize my purpose in life, why I am here and where I am going. In short since I started this Bible course it has entirely changed my outlook on life. I can't thank you enough!

D. G., Augusta, GA

Thank you very much for sending me your eye-opening literature! Being from Germany it is especially of great interest to see where Germany comes into the final end of time tribulation.

H. L., Magalia, CA

I can't begin to find the words to express my gratitude. I have been reading the *Tomorrow's World* magazine for about two years now along with some of your booklets from your website. Things are getting clearer every day. I feel so grateful and humbled by what I read and learn. To think that God would love us so much to do all that He does for us, warms me so much. Thank you for all that you do. You are truly a blessing from God.

S. B., Duvall, WA

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.

PROPHECY Co

The Demise of the West

For the last few centuries, nations in Europe and North America dominated the world and exported their “Christian” culture around the globe. Yet, in recent years—and accelerating in this 21st century—these once-powerful countries have begun to *crumble from within!*

Nations that had taken for granted a common culture, history and values have been challenged by huge waves of immigration bringing ideas and practices that challenge the assumptions and the dominance of their host cultures. Across Europe and the Americas, this trend is increasing. Yet, few today realize that Bible prophecies *foretold* that this would happen and *reveal why*. These ancient prophecies are *coming alive today!*



CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS

The philosopher George Santayana famously said, “Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are bound to repeat them.” Today, most people perceive isolated events that cause problems, but only a few recognize the “big picture”! More than 200 years ago, the distinguished English historian Edward Gibbon pointed out key causes of the demise of the ancient Roman Empire: a love of pomp and luxury, a growing gap between rich and poor, an obsession with sex, freakishness in art and an increasing desire to receive government payments and live at state expense. In the last half-century, these same phenomena have become increasingly visible in the Western nations.

Other historians and analysts have generated similar lists, noting the parallel conditions that lead to national decline. Jim Nelson Black, in a book entitled *When Nations Die*, describes trends found in empires that declined and disappeared from the world stage: increasing lawlessness, loss of economic discipline (rising debt), increasing bureaucracy, decline in the quality of education, decay of religious belief,

increasing materialism, rising immorality (pornography, sex outside of traditional marriage), weakening cultural foundations, disrespect of government, the devaluation of human life (abortion, euthanasia, violent crime) and loss of respect for traditional values and institutions. Tragically, *all these trends* have appeared and spread during the last 50 years in the “Christian” nations of the West.

Drawing a lesson from history, commentator Russell Kirk observed, “No nation endures forever: of those that have vanished... most have expired due to *internal decay*” (*America’s British Culture*, p. 90). Samuel Huntington, a noted Harvard University historian, discussed stages that civilizations go through and progressive signs of decay, “when

the civilization, no longer able to defend itself, because it is no longer willing to defend itself, lies open to barbarian invaders” (*The Clash of Civilizations*, p. 303). Sadly, this describes the conditions in many Western nations today!

EMERGING THREATS

The historically “Christian” nations of the West face growing threats from *within* and *without*. For more than a century, the secularist threat from *within* has been chipping away at fundamental biblical values, and in recent decades this attack has been particularly successful among intellectuals and academics, who regularly mock the idea that God exists and intervenes in human affairs. Scholars and critics openly challenge the long-held notion that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Today, biblical ideas about marriage, gender roles and moral values are increasingly rejected as “old-fashioned” and “outmoded.” Yet it is these same “outmoded” ideas that have undergirded the foundations of Western civilization for centuries.



TIMES ALIVE

Huntington asserts that this rejection “means the end of the United States of America as we have known it. It also means effectively the end of Western civilization” (*ibid.*, pp. 306–307). Sadly, very few today seem to grasp this fact!

Western civilization also faces external threats to its continued health and dominance. One major challenge is the re-emergence of Islam as a force to be reckoned with. The stated goal of many radical Islamists is the destruction of the corrupt “Christian” West and the establishment of a Caliphate based on the Koran and sharia law. This poses a direct challenge to the basic biblical values of Western civilization. Muslims blame Jews and Christians for “corrupting” the Scriptures that God originally gave them. Islam considers Jesus Christ a prophet, not the divine Son of God. Sharia proponents reject democratic governance that allows modern preferences to overrule centuries-old traditions of Muslim jurists. Under strict Islamic law, non-believers who do not convert to Islam must pay a tax to maintain second-class status in society, or else face death.

Though for several hundred years the armies of Islam sought unsuccessfully to conquer all of Europe—reaching into Spain to the west and the gates of Vienna to the east—a new attack is underway, this time carried out through immigration and birth rates. Families with centuries of ancestry in Europe are seeing their birth rates drop below replacement levels, yet their countries are experiencing growth because of Muslim immigrants who come to Europe and rear large families. Watch for intensifying polarization of Europe, as Muslims gain increasing political power in formerly “Christian”-dominated nations. The time may soon come when a backlash against immigrants brings greater unity among European countries “re-claiming” their Roman Catholic heritage as a bulwark against Islam, which in turn would inflame hostilities with Muslim nations to the south and east of Europe.

The rising economic and military power of China, India and other countries that formerly were not “players” on the world geopolitical scene is coming at a time when the formerly dominant power of the U.S. and Great Britain is fading. Additionally, the major Western powers are increasingly dependent on economic loans and energy supplies from foreign nations. This does not

bode well for nations that are also *crumbling from within!* But, *why* is this happening to the “Christian” nations of the West today?

ANCIENT PROPHECIES

The Bible reveals that God made a covenant with the ancient twelve-tribed nation of Israel. The modern nations of America, Canada and Great Britain, as well as the northwest European countries, are descended from the ancient Israelites (for more on this topic, read our booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*). The terms of the covenant were simple: obey God and His laws and be blessed, or disobey God and His laws and suffer the consequences (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28). God gave His laws to His chosen people, so they could be an example to the world (Deuteronomy 4:1–9; 7:6–11). Sadly, despite warnings from God’s prophets, the Israelites turned away from His laws and instead followed the practices of pagan nations around them—suffering terrible punishments as a result.

Few today realize that many of the prophecies in the Bible are *dual*—that there was an initial fulfillment in ancient times, but the ultimate fulfillment of these prophecies will be in the *last days* just before the return of Jesus Christ. Long ago, God instructed Moses to warn the Israelites that if they “do not obey Me... if you despise My statutes... I will even appoint terror over you... *Those who hate you shall reign over you... I will break the pride of your power*” (Leviticus 26:14–19) and that “if you do not obey the voice of the LORD... cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.... *The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.* He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you... until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 28:15–45). Our nations are *witnessing* these prophecies *coming alive today*—because the modern Israelite nations have turned away from the God of the Bible!

—Douglas S. Winnail

THE “SECOND MOUSE”

The well-known cliché, “The early bird gets the worm” is often followed by another time-worn truism, “The second mouse gets the cheese.” While we chuckle at these mental word pictures, they do contain a grain of truth that applies to everyone.

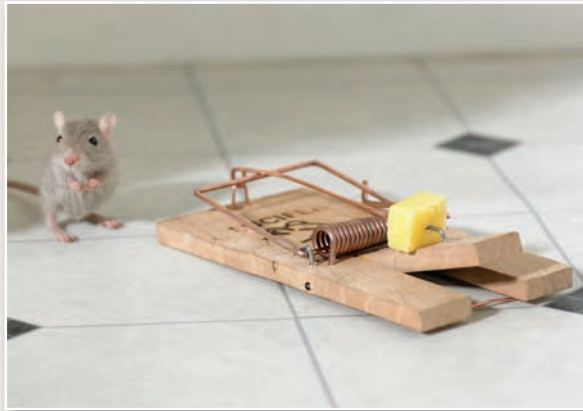
Physically speaking, we know that promptness and diligence pay off, over time, with increased productivity and with opportunities that the less diligent or lazy person misses out on. We also know, though the “second mouse” may not grasp it, that timing is very important. Avoiding unnecessary risk lets us enjoy the cheese after the danger has passed—rather than being in the position of the first mouse, who tripped the trap.

Do the mice provide lessons for us as human beings? We may not be after the morsel of cheese, but the principle is the same. Avoid the obvious dangers in life, and do not take careless risks that may bring dire consequences. Also, be ever vigilant for opportunities that others may overlook. The writer of the book of Proverbs, in your Bible, covered these subjects extensively for our attention. For example, “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3). The wisdom in this book is very plain. Further, we read: “He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die” (Proverbs 19:16).

We should always be alert so that bad decisions do not entrap us, and so we do not face dire consequences from hasty actions that we did not consider carefully enough. A moment’s carelessness can cause a lifetime of grief. The importance of keeping our eyes open—being aware of what is going on—is a familiar theme throughout the Bible. Consider: “Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established” (Proverbs 4:25–26). Coaches in any sport will constantly tell their players, “Keep

your head in the game.” This admonition, echoed often in Scripture, calling us to a mindset of acute awareness, is certainly important in the “game of life” as well.

Ancient King Solomon also wrote a famous and eloquent passage about timing, revealing the importance of remaining in harmony not only with the seasons of the year, but also the seasons of our lives. He begins: “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Solomon goes on in this passage to give examples of real-life issues affected by timing. “A time to weep, and a time to laugh... a time to keep, and a time to throw away... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (vv. 4, 6–7).



We can see that Solomon, in giving this

timeless advice, had a profound understanding of the importance of time and timing. As physical human beings, you and I have been allotted by our Creator a span of time in which to gain experience and build in our lives God’s holy and righteous character, to prepare for the eternal phase of His great plan, as revealed by the annual Holy Days as we cycle through them each year.

Satan is busy setting “mouse traps” to catch an unsuspecting populace as he attempts to thwart God’s plan. What will you be doing to avoid those traps? Will you be caught in a trap? Or will you be alert and diligent, so that you—like the “second mouse”—will obtain the reward a loving God is offering to all those human beings who will accept and obey Him?

To learn more about how you can be the “early bird” and the “second mouse,” read our free booklets, *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan* and *What Is a True Christian?* They will help you understand what God is doing in your life, and what you can do to secure the eternal reward He wants you to have.

—J. Davy Crockett, III

The Sabbath Controversy

Continued from page 18

the earth's millennial rest, as well as a memorial of God's rest at creation. Regarding the ancient Israelites' disobedience on their way to the promised land, we read, "For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:8-9). The original Greek word for "rest" in verse 9 is *sabbatismos*, which means "a Sabbath-keeping" (see *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*). Both the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New International Version* translate verse 9 as "a Sabbath rest."

Yes, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, even to this day! But is it merely a symbolic rest, or is it a literal Sabbath rest? If you have access to a copy of the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, you can see for yourself that in other contexts, including secular Greek writings not dependent on this verse from Hebrews, that *sabbatismos* plainly and literally means "Sabbath observance" or "Sabbath celebration." There is no question that this verse is a New Testament statement about a literal Christian observance of the Sabbath!

If Christians are to cease from their works, just as God ceased from His (Hebrews 4:10), we must ask: how did God cease from His works? Scripture gives us the answer: "For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works'" (Hebrews 4:4).

There is no guessing here! New Testament Christians are supposed to rest just as God rested—on the seventh day! Both the Old Testament and the New Testament give Christians the clear example and instruction to keep the Sabbath day

holy! If you consider the Bible your authority, rather than some church tradition that claims to overrule the Bible, you have no other choice! So, what is your authority?

SCRIPTURE OR TRADITION?

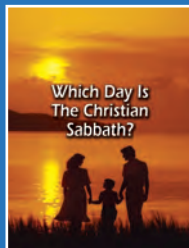
Earlier in this article, we read one Anglican theologian's plain admission that it was church tradition, rather than Scripture, which brought about a Sunday observance in place of the seventh-day Sabbath. Other theologians concur. Noted Roman Catholic theologian James Cardinal Gibbons wrote, in his book *Faith of Our Fathers*, the following bold statement: "But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Gibbons admits that if the Bible is your authority, you have no basis for observing Sunday. Scripture, as he writes, enforces "the religious observance of Saturday." Gibbons acknowledges that it was the Council of Laodicea in the fourth century AD—not the pages of your Bible—that caused the professing Christian world to change from the seventh-day Sabbath to a Sunday observance.

Similarly, prominent Southern Baptist minister Harold Lindsell, a former editor of *Christianity Today* magazine, wrote: "There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day" ("Consider the Case for Quiet Saturdays," *Christianity Today*, November 5, 1976, p. 42).

What should you do? You need to study your Bible and decide whether you will live by "every word of God" as Jesus admonished us in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4. Jesus said He is Lord of the Sabbath. He observed the seventh-day Sabbath regularly, and He did not break the law. As He said, "I have kept My Father's commandments" (John 15:10). Will you follow the example of Jesus Christ and the instructions of your Bible? Or will you oppose them, in order to follow the tradition of men?

In God's Kingdom, everyone will keep the seventh-day Sabbath (Isaiah 66:22-23). What a wonderful world that will be. But, even today, Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). And He has not changed. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). True Christians, in their lives today, seek to follow the example He set. What will you do? ■

WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH?



God has set aside the time from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday as a special holy time to rest from our works, and to turn our attention to our Creator. Following God's instruction can bring indescribable joy and peace to your life!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.TomorrowsWorld.org.

TOMORROW'S

The Two Faces of Technology

Researchers in recent years have observed that young people are spending large amounts of their time using electronic media—to a degree unprecedented in prior generations. Some estimates put young people's daily use of electronic media in the 7–8 hour range (“Young people spend 7 hours, 38 minutes a day on TV, video games, computer,” *Los Angeles Times*, January 28, 2010). One survey found that 38 percent of students could not wait ten minutes without switching on some sort of electronic device.

Sadly, these devices often transmit destructive and dangerous values to their users. Consider that some of the most popular video games have titles like, “Grand Theft Auto,” “Modern Warfare,” “Mortal Kombat,” “Street Fighter” and “Resident Evil.” Some studies suggest that video games can increase aggression and reduce students’ ability to concentrate on schoolwork. And because these games are more popular with young men than young women, some blame them for the growing disparity in academic achievement between men and women.

For older people who grew up in a world where “face time” was the norm (see our article “Face Time” on page 10 of this issue), the phenomenon of “texting” can be mystifying. While texting is not unique to young people, they use it far more than adults. Market research firm Lab 42 reported, “71 percent of teens prefer texting to talking and 45 percent of teens sends at least 30 text messages a day.” Girls are more likely to text. While the average adult over 18 texts 10 times a day, and boys 14–17 text 30 times per day, girls 14–17 send 100 texts per day, according to the Lab 42 study.

Shockingly, texting sometimes turns into “sexting.” Estimates suggest that 15 percent of teens have received a sexually suggestive multimedia message showing someone nude or nearly nude. In their popular duet, “Dirty Picture,” Keshha and Taio Cruz sing “take a dirty picture for me,” as if this would be a normal part of romantic courtship. A 2010 Super Bowl advertisement showed actress Megan Fox in a bubble bath, taking a cell phone picture of herself and thinking about sending it while two men gawk. No wonder teens now think of “sexting” as normal and even “cool.”

Apart from sexual messaging, no review of the risks of contemporary media use would be complete without considering the scourge of pornography. The worldwide “Internet porn” industry has been estimated as pulling in \$4.9 billion per year in profits. About 12 percent of all Web sites are pornographic, and 25 percent of all search engine requests are pornography-related. As many as 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites, and their first exposure often came early—93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls were exposed to online pornography during adolescence.

Yes, technology plays a role in doing great harm to our modern society in general, and to young people in particular. Yet there is another face to technology.

Because of modern technology, my children can speak with their grandparents on the telephone, though they live miles away. Through modern technology, many of us, through a simple Google search, can view photographs of the most beautiful locations on earth. We can view the splendor of distant galaxies and the innermost workings of the smallest cells. Like a king at





court, we can summon the finest musicians in the land and listen to them perform—in stereo. And we can fly through the air, faster than any bird in the sky.

In countless ways, our world is made better by “technology.” Consider Jesus Christ’s instruction to His disciples to “Watch” world events (Luke 21:36). Through the Internet, television, printed media and radio, we are able to grasp the scope of world affairs as no other humans before us. Prophecies written in the pages of the Bible come alive for us through the tools of modern technology. And that same technology allows us to preach the Good News recorded in those pages. We can follow Christ’s instructions today in ways that the first-century apostles could not have imagined (Matthew 24:14).

Since technology can be used both for good and for evil, what should we do? We read in Scripture that “the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6). So, here are some biblically based principles to help us use technology with wisdom:

Set Rules. It is parents’ responsibility to make rules. Parents are commanded to teach and train their children (Deuteronomy 6:7), which involves setting boundaries. Rules should reflect individual family values, which should reflect God’s values. Our family technology rules should include where we allow Internet access, when we allow computer access, and how much time—on the computer, the game console, or the phone (whether texting or talking)—is appropriate. For example, a family rule might be that we do not “plug in” to a headset when we are together with other family members. Another might be that Internet access is only allowed in common family areas. Another helpful rule might be that all of a child’s passwords (to social media sites, e-mail accounts, computer logins and mobile phones, etc.) be known to the parents. Children will develop a relationship of trust with parents as they demonstrate their wisdom in communicating with others, and parents will not want to “micro-manage” a responsible

young person’s communication. But if your children demanded the “privacy” to walk into an unknown dark alley unattended, would you let them do so unless they had shown themselves well able to fend for themselves? Parents need to be unafraid to exercise balanced parental responsibility.

Resist Peer Pressure. This point is for parents. Adults can be pressured into adopting technology of the wrong type, and for the wrong reasons. Our own use of technology may be part of the problem. Do we really need large-screen TVs in the living room and the bedroom? Do our children really need private TVs in their bedrooms? And are we ourselves becoming so entranced by the latest smartphone or tablet, the latest cable TV plan or movie streaming service, that we pay less attention to our children than we should? Our children need our face-to-face time, and they notice our example. Consider Christ’s admonition: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Consider Cause and Effect. “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3). Our actions have consequences. Do we want video games to occupy hours of our children’s time? No! Then, is it wise to buy a game console for our children? Do we want our sons to become addicted to pornography? Of course not! Then should we set them up with a computer they can use in the privacy of their bedrooms late at night? Do we care if our daughters receive “sexting” messages? Absolutely! So we should be able to monitor their smartphone use when necessary. Parents need to remember that technology is not a “right” that our children can demand. As parents, we must recognize that oversight of our children is our responsibility, as part of our parental duty.

Technology has two faces. The inventions of man can be used for good or evil. May God give us the wisdom to choose the good and reject the evil.

—Jonathan McNair

Jesus Christ Is Coming to RULE!

Continued from page 6

and the very lives of millions of our people.

The powerful prophetic warning given in Leviticus 26 continues: “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze” (vv. 18–19). So, national degradation and humiliation, coupled with drought, famine and food shortages are in our future—along with disease epidemics (Matthew 24:7). Therefore, it is imperative that we turn to God and pray that a **truly Christian** government, ruled by Jesus Christ Himself, may soon be established on earth to bring the entire world a degree of peace, prosperity and joy it has never experienced.

How can this occur?

To those of you who have never understood the Bible, this may sound simplistic. But establishing *right government* on this earth is what the true gospel of Jesus Christ was all about! The Apostle Peter preached this plainly to the early Christians: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive *until the times of restoration of all things*, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19–21).

A time of “restoration” will soon come to this earth! From the prophecies of Daniel—who described the four world-ruling kingdoms and then the Kingdom of God that will “**never** be destroyed” (Daniel 2:36–44)—to the prophecies of Revelation, God’s Kingdom is foretold in detail

from one end of the Bible to the other.

The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write, “Now it shall come to pass *in the latter days* that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains [great nations], and shall be exalted above the hills [smaller nations]; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we



shall walk in His paths.’ *For out of Zion shall go forth the law*, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2–4).

GOD WILL RULE!

So, a genuine “kingdom”—or **government**—will be established in the “latter days” *on this earth*. It will be based upon the law of God going

forth from Jerusalem. It will have as its Ruler the King of kings—Jesus Christ.

Scripture describes what will happen at the end of the prophesied “trumpet” plagues: “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!’” (Revelation 11:15). Jesus Christ—the King of kings—will be assisted by many other kings, the *true saints* of God who, as faithful Christians in this present age, were willing to actually **believe** and act on what God says!

As God promises, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). So, those of us who are willing to **believe** our God and our Creator—and actually **do** what He says—have ahead of us an awesome future, assisting Jesus Christ in *ruling* and bringing **peace** to this war-torn world!

The inspired Song of the Saints, in Revelation 5:10, reveals that God—in His awesome Plan—will have “*made us kings and priests* to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth*.” Notice that God’s Kingdom is to be set up *on this earth*—not up in heaven! Note also that it is going to be very difficult for liberal ministers to continue prattling away with their teaching that all of these specific prophecies are “poetic” or “metaphors,” and therefore do **not** mean what they actually say about a coming world government!

Wake up!

The “true saints”—those who will actually be granted to **rule** in Jesus Christ’s soon-coming

government—are clearly described over and over in your Bible in this way: “Here is the patience of the saints; *here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*” (Revelation 14:12). The Ten Commandments of God are **not** “nailed to the cross.” Rather, the record of *our sins* was nailed to the cross by Jesus Christ our Savior. Surrendering to let Him live His life within us (Galatians 2:20) through the Holy Spirit—and therefore having the power to truly **obey** His commandments—will mark the Christian character of those who will be qualified to assist Christ in bringing this entire **way of life** to the earth in God’s coming Kingdom!

Describing Jesus Christ’s coming rule over this earth, Psalm 72 tells us, “He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:2–4).

So God’s coming government will involve a great deal of genuine understanding and **mercy** for those in need. As verses 12–14 explain, “For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight.”

After Christ descends to the Mount of Olives in magnificent glory, the nations will be taught to obey their Creator: “Yes, *all kings* shall fall down before Him; *all nations* shall serve Him” (v. 11). Through genuine obedience to the Creator, “There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on

the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth” (v. 16).

Those of us truly preparing to be part of that coming **world government** need to learn how to “judge fairly” and think through our decisions in every part of our lives, even now. For the Apostle Paul was inspired to tell the Christians of his time, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

Many of Jesus’ parables clearly indicate that true Christians should be preparing to **rule** over cities and nations under Jesus Christ. When the “nobleman” of Jesus’ parable in Luke 19:11–27 returns, this person—who typified the returning Jesus Christ—tells his faithful servant, “*Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities*” (v. 17). Again the “reward” of the true Christian is **not** to float around heaven all day with nothing to do! Rather it is looking forward to

assisting Christ in **ruling** over cities and nations *on this earth*.

It is *that kind* of government for which this world literally “cries out!” It will bring *peace* and *joy* far beyond what planet Earth has ever experienced. Remember, were it not for the intervention of the true God of the Bible, *cosmocide* would indeed wipe out the peoples of this earth.

So, those of us who are willing to believe what the Bible actually says should be learning to prepare ourselves *right now* for that coming world government. We need to *totally surrender* to the living Christ of the Bible and let Him genuinely *live* His life within us through the Holy Spirit. We need to **study** the prophecies I have referred to, and many more. I urge all of you who are beginning to understand to enroll in our *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* to *really learn* the details of God’s magnificent plan. Your enrollment and participation is absolutely **free** and without obligation. May God help all of us look forward to the fulfillment of the truly Good News which Jesus Christ and His servants talked about—the coming *world government* under Jesus Christ as King of kings. ■

THE WORLD AHEAD: WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?



Christ’s coming government is real, and it will bring the real changes this world needs. Today’s Christians will play a vital role in that government. Are you preparing?

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.TomorrowsWorld.org.



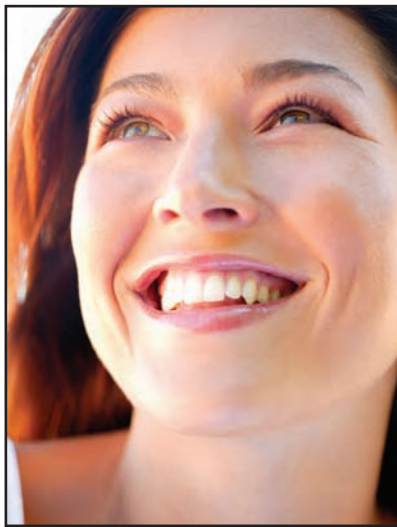
WATCH AND W

“The LORD Will Uphold”

The world is in turmoil. In the face of continuing dire *global* news, and perhaps even hard *personal* trials, do you worry that you lack the strength to confidently—even joyfully—face the days ahead?

Depression and anxiety are very real problems. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control, one in ten adults in the United States suffers from depression. According to a recent World Health Organization study, nearly a million people each year commit suicide worldwide, and the suicide rate has increased by 60 percent in the last 45 years.

Christians, however, are to be full of joy (Galatians 5:22), peace (Psalms 119:165) and confidence, “which has a great reward” (Hebrews 10:35). Yet there are many reasons why people despair. Some suffer from physiological conditions. Others have been victims of trauma. Some are paralyzed by the regret of sin. Still others are simply overwhelmed by life’s trials. What about you? How can you have joy and confidence in the years ahead?



is God’s pleasure to complete the work that He has begun in us (Luke 12:32). Regardless of our imperfections—regardless of the calamities that are devouring the world around us—we can have the strength to prevail! If God

has called us (John 6:44), and if we have answered His call (Acts 2:36–39), we will be diligently and repentantly seeking Him (2 Peter 3:18). And we can know that “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We can choose to forsake Him, and can even reject Christ’s sacrifice for us (Hebrews 6:6). But His will is *never* to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)!

Do you ever doubt that you are “good enough” for God to uphold you through *really* perilous times? If so, consider the ancient and often-forgotten example of a man who lived through the destruction of his nation. This man was far from perfect, yet God

upheld him *for His purpose!*

AN IMPERFECT EXAMPLE

Jehoiachin lived thousands of years ago in ancient Judah. As a young king, he did “evil” during his reign (2 Kings 24:8–9). Yet, God upheld him to serve His purpose. In fact, Jehoiachin’s name means “The LORD will uphold.” And God would indeed be faithful to “uphold” Jehoiachin, making him a powerful example for us today.

Jehoiachin lived during calamitous times. His nation was turning further away from God. Sadly, the Western world today is continuing to move further away from a deep respect and awe of the Creator and His true ways. As the Bible repeatedly warns, God will bless people and nations who love and obey Him, and will curse those who continuously reject Him (cf. Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28).

Jehoiachin also lived during a time when his nation was on the edge of economic collapse. Similarly, today,

SCRIPTURAL ADMONITION

Christians, having the Holy Spirit dwelling within, should not have a spirit of “fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). Additionally, Jesus Christ tells us to *not* worry about our lives, but instead to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:25–33). Many are familiar with these admonitions, yet still *doubt* that they have the strength to endure and to prevail! Often, this doubt is the result of not feeling “good enough” for God to uphold us.

Certainly, where there is sin in our lives, we need to repent of it (Matthew 3:8; Revelation 2:22). Yet even the most righteous person still falls far short of perfection (Romans 3:23). Christians need to have confidence that, although we will all remain imperfect in this lifetime, it

influential economists warn that our world remains on the brink of economic meltdown, and the U.S. remains at risk of falling into another and potentially *more damaging* recession (*CNNMoney*, February 24, 2012).

Jehoiachin saw his nation face overwhelming military challenges. Today, the Western world faces growing threats on many fronts. For example, the U.S. Army general who runs the Defense Intelligence Agency has warned that China is preparing for space wars, and is developing technology to destroy U.S. navigation, communications and intelligence satellites (*The Washington Free Beacon*, February 23, 2012). And NASA recently announced that hackers broke into its computer systems 13 times last year, including one attack in which “hackers working through a Chinese-based IP address broke into the network of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” and temporarily “gained full system access” to “mission-critical” JPL computers (*Reuters*, March 2, 2012)! Meanwhile, because of budget strains, Britain is exploring the prospect of storing large parts of its tank force in Germany—a continuing fulfillment of Hosea 7:11 in which modern Ephraim (Britain) is portrayed as a “silly dove” putting her trust in foreign powers (including “Assyria,” identified in prophecy as modern-day Germany)!

Jehoiachin inherited a kingdom in revolt. He would rule Judah only briefly—from 598–597BC—and he would soon be overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar’s mighty Babylonian army (2 Kings 24:8; 2 Chronicles 36:9–10). Jehoiachin would lose his throne and his nation. His nation’s economy would collapse. His kingdom would be destroyed, and his people would be slaughtered. He and his family would be taken captive to Babylon, where torture or even execution could await them. For Jehoiachin, all may have seemed hopeless. Yet, his name meant, “The LORD will uphold”—and the LORD **did** uphold Jehoiachin *for His purpose!*

According to the *Babylonian Chronicle*, Nebuchadnezzar’s armies entered Palestine in December of 598BC, and they captured Jerusalem on March 16, 597BC. The Babylonians plundered the city, and took Jehoiachin and his family captive. Nebuchadnezzar

placed Jehoiachin’s uncle, Mattaniah, on the throne of Jerusalem—renaming him Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:12–17).

Despite this turmoil, and even during a time of national collapse and captivity, God *upheld* imperfect Jehoiachin. The *Babylonian Chronicle* refers to Jehoiachin as “Yaukin” and records special rations of expensive food provided to him and to his family. And of far greater importance—as is reflected by the fact that Ezekiel dates his writings from the year of Jehoiachin’s exile and *not* of Mattaniah’s ascension—God ensured that Jehoiachin would continue in royal status as the *legitimate* heir to the throne of Judah!

Why did God uphold Jehoiachin in all these ways? He was fulfilling *His* purpose, as the Messiah was to come through the line of Jehoiachin. Notice, it is Jehoiachin and his descendants who are listed in Matthew’s genealogy as the ancestors of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:11–12)! Herein lies the lesson. God will “uphold” those whom He chooses.

HAVE COURAGE!

One lesson from Jehoiachin’s life is that God has the power to uphold us for His purpose, regardless of dangers or trials we may face! Jehoiachin was an *imperfect* man, yet God upheld him for *His* purpose. Today, God calls imperfect people to receive His Holy Spirit, after repentance and baptism, to overcome human nature and to put on the “new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). Christians show God their love for Him through their obedience to Him (1 John 5:3).

Prophecy reveals that the modern Western nations will endure societal trials of increasing severity. Increased personal trials will also come. Yet, no matter the challenge Christians may face, *we can endure*, because we have access to *unimaginable strength*—the strength of the LORD God who upholds those whom He has called for His purpose! If God would uphold Jehoiachin for His purpose, then He surely will uphold those in whom He works to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13)!

—Wyatt Ciesielka

Have You Surrendered to God?

Continued from page 2

to Him. God warned our forefathers that if our peoples turned aside and began to “act corruptly” and to “do evil” in His sight, then He would intervene to **shake** us to our senses (Deuteronomy 4:23–25). “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you” (vv. 26–27). God said that we would be left “few” in number and would become completely idolatrous until we were truly humbled and would begin to **seek** Him with all of our hearts (vv. 28–29).

And when would all of this take place? “When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice” (v. 30).

We are certainly now in these “latter days.” Mankind is now capable of destroying all human life on this planet, as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24. We are now extremely corrupt, just as the Apostle Paul predicted for the latter days in 2 Timothy 3:1–5: “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come” (v. 1). And so a number of factors seem to be coming together to bring about the final humbling and chastening of our peoples. In a “dual” prophecy—applicable before Israel’s first captivity and now again at the time of the end—God stated: “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze” (Leviticus 26:18–19).

That is one reason for the existence of this magazine. We want to warn all our readers about the dangers ahead, and to help those God calls to live His Way and recapture in their own lives the original Christianity of Jesus and His apostles—the only true Christianity, and the Way that will bring blessings and joy, even in the midst of our troubled world.

We have had many articles in *Tomorrow’s World* giving **proof** that true Christianity involves obeying the Ten Commandments! So you must decide whether you

will obey the God of the Bible or the religions of this world. It is just that simple.

Simple? It *should* be simple, but the human mind plays devious tricks on us. For we do not want to be looked down on or ostracized by our fellow men, our family, our lodge or our club.

Many of us are like the Jews of Jesus’ day: “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43). If you find something in God’s teachings that may cause you to lose favor with others, will you pull back, disregard it and, consequently, disobey? Perhaps you say, “It doesn’t make any difference.”

Think about this: “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who **trembles** at My word” (Isaiah 66:2).

A genuine Christian must remember that he is **not** his own. He is bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ! So it naturally follows that he will strive to *obey* God fully. A true Christian knows that Christ really is his “Lord,” his actual “Boss”! *This* is the attitude God is looking for: **total surrender** to Him. This is the attitude that will show God that—unlike unfaithful Satan and his disobedient demons—you and I will always be **loyal**, having active faith to *do* what God says.

Ask God for the attitude of total surrender to Him. Take time to learn His ways by studying the Bible. Remember to *do* what Scripture says. Read carefully our booklets and the articles in *Tomorrow’s World*. Thoughtfully, compare what we teach with your Bible. Do not worry about “what other people think.” Learn to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV).

Then, with God’s guidance through His Spirit, you will allow Him to build within you that one basic attitude of obedience to Christ’s words which, if continued, will ensure your place in the everlasting Kingdom of God.



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