

November-December 2001

# Tomorrow's World

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



**Terrorism: Why?**

See page 3



# Inside

## Feature Article



**Does God Heal TODAY? . . . . . 4**  
 Divine healing is a greatly neglected part of Christianity for most. It is rarely discussed in most mainstream churches, because Satan the Devil has *blinded* the vast majority of humanity—including most professing Christians! What does the Bible actually say about healing? We can understand divine healing—very clearly—from the inspired Word of God!



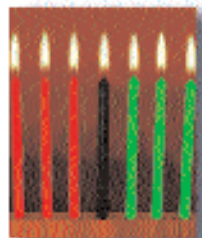
**The Way to Peace: The Missing Dimension . . . . . 10**  
 Why are people—and nations—unable to live together in peace? Why, in our modern, affluent, educated, technologically advanced 21st century is the search for peace—among nations and between individuals—such a difficult and seemingly unattainable goal? Is there something we have overlooked?



**What Is the Unpardonable Sin? . . . . . 14**  
 Have you ever wondered whether you have committed the unpardonable sin? Are you wracked with guilt or fear about your own spiritual condition, or the condition of loved ones? Just what is the “unpardonable sin”? If you are worried about this question, God’s Word can give you great comfort.



**What Is Real Religion? . . . . . 18**  
 The United States is a religious nation—at least that is what people tell the pollsters. Yet it is also beset with burgeoning moral problems. Divorce, pornography, abortion and violence have all increased dramatically in recent decades. Does the religion we practice *really* square with what the Bible teaches?



**Kwanzaa, Christmas and God’s Word . . . . . 24**  
 A December “harvest festival”—Kwanzaa—is gaining popularity in the United States, though some criticize its historicity and substance. But how many realize that God Himself proclaimed a “harvest festival” and that the most widely observed December festival—Christmas—is no more biblical than Kwanzaa?

**Personal . . . . . 3**  
**Questions & Answers . . . . . 9**  
**Prophecy Comes Alive . . . . . 22**  
**Letters to the Editor . . . . . 27**  
**TV/Radio Log . . . . . 31**

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

Tomorrow's World is published by the Living Church of God™, 16935 W. Bernardo Dr., Suite 260, San Diego, CA, 92127. ©2001 Living Church of God. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Canada subscriptions: Canada Post Agreement Number 1545396. Send change of address information and blocks of undeliverable copies to P.O. Box 1051, Fort Erie, ON L2A 6C7. Periodicals postage paid at San Diego, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Tomorrow's World*, P.O. Box 503077, San Diego, CA 92150.

\*Application pending. The symbol ™ appearing herein does not indicate trademark registration.

EDITOR IN CHIEF Roderick C. Meredith

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Richard F. Ames

EXECUTIVE EDITOR William Bowmer

MANAGING EDITOR Gary F. Ehman

REGIONAL EDITORS:

Charles Bryce (Canada)

Rod McNair (Philippines)

Bruce Tyler (Australia)

ART DIRECTOR Donna Prejean

PROOFREADERS:

Sandy Davis

Linda Ehman

NEWS BUREAU June Olsen

## Regional Offices

UNITED STATES:

P.O. Box 503077

SAN DIEGO, CA 92150-3077

PHONE: (858) 673-7470

FAX: (858) 673-0310

www.tomorrowsworld.org

AUSTRALIA:

GPO Box 772

CANBERRA, ACT 2601

PHONE: (07) 3841-8360

OR FREECALL: 1800-816-543

FAX: (07) 3841-8325

CANADA:

P.O. Box 27202

TORONTO, ONTARIO M9W 6L0

PHONE: (905) 671-3730

FAX: (905) 671-9599

NEW ZEALAND:

P.O. Box 2767

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PHONE/FAX: (09) 435-3592

PHILIPPINES:

MCPO Box 1774

MAKATI CITY 1257, PHILIPPINES

PHONE: 63-2-813-6538

FAX: 63-2-867-1569

SOUTH AFRICA:

P.O. Box 4271, LUIPAARDSVLEI, 1743

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PHONE: (27) 11-664-6036

UNITED KINGDOM:

P.O. Box 9092

MOTHERWELL, ML1 2YD SCOTLAND

PHONE/FAX: 44-1698-263-977

*Tomorrow's World* has no subscription price. Its free distribution is made possible by tithes and offerings of members of the Living Church of God, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers with us in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Contributions are gratefully acknowledged and may be tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and other countries.





## Terrorism: Why?

September 11, 2001 forever changed how the world sees the United States—and how the U.S. sees itself. For when terrorists crashed their hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, they caused **unprecedented** disaster—thousands upon thousands of deaths and injuries and billions of dollars in damage. U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) expressed the feelings of many when he commented: “This is the second Pearl Harbor.”

Many have been shocked and horrified, but few truly understand *why* terrorism is increasing within the U.S. We in this Work of the living God have been telling you, for *decades*, that God will **severely** chastise us if we do not come to *genuine repentance* and begin to obey His spiritual laws! We certainly empathize with those who suffer because of terrorist acts. But we also know that these tragedies are prophesied, and that God is using them for His own purposes, as shown in Scripture.

As we have explained in previous issues of this magazine, the British-descended and American peoples are descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel. Many do not understand this, but as each year unfolds this understanding will become more and more *important*. The American and British peoples have been given *awesome* physical blessings of national wealth and prosperity, because of the promise God gave to Abraham. To learn more about this key topic of Bible prophecy, please write for your **free** copy of our informative booklet, *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*

We need to understand a *dual* prophecy (Jeremiah 30:4–15), which had meaning in times past but which is primarily for *our time today*. God describes a coming captivity, or slavery, for the House of Israel—not just the House of Judah (the Jewish people)—and He is referring to a **future** event, since we know that Jeremiah was

written more than 100 years *after* the ten-tribed House of Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity.

Notice that God calls this period “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). Jacob’s name was changed to Israel; this passage is describing Israel’s trouble at the end of the age. The prophecy continues: “I will break his yoke [the yoke of slavery on Israel] from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them” (v. 8). Do you see that? “Foreigners” will **enslave** the modern descendants of Israel’s ten tribes before Christ returns! Yet God promises deliverance. “But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (v. 9). After Christ’s return, King David will be resurrected and will rule over all Israel and Judah. “Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,” says the LORD, “Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity” (v. 10).

Yes, God will save modern-day Israel—and Judah—but first He will give them a time of corrective punishment, to *shake them up* and prod them to *repent* of their sins. “For I am with you,” says the LORD, “to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you” (v. 11).

Terrorism is just one of many instruments that God will allow to be used for our correction. We are horrified and shaken by terrorist acts, but our nations *need* correction. For we have **turned away** from God and from His law. We have aborted millions of innocent babies. We are seeing ever-more-perverted sex in our “entertainment” and our personal lives. Drug abuse and drunkenness are commonplace. In every way, we are a *degenerate* people. More and more, the U.S. is

**Continued on page 30**





# Does

do not look to it as the real “authority” in their lives. They are content to follow the teachings and traditions of men—which are all too often diametrically contrary to the Bible. Then, also, many have seen the “tent meetings” put on by various “evangelists” where there is a lot of whooping and hollering and mass hysteria—and *precious little genuine healing!*

But, as always, we should ask: “What does the Bible actually say? Can we PROVE this matter of divine healing very clearly from the inspired Word of God?”

Yes. We certainly can! And the biblical proofs are more plain and pervasive than you have probably even imagined.

## Healing and the Gospel

Looking carefully at the ministry of Jesus Christ and the Apostles, it is clear that divine healing was a vital part of the preaching of the Gospel. The Gospel of Matthew tells us early on how Jesus began His ministry: “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23).

You will notice that Jesus constantly did three things in His ministry. He:

- (1) Preached the Gospel
- (2) Healed the sick
- (3) Cast out demons

By Roderick C. Meredith

*Have you considered this neglected aspect of true Christianity? What would the original Apostles do if they were alive today? What part would DIVINE HEALING have in their ministry?*

**T**he subject of divine healing is a greatly neglected part of Christianity for most people. It is rarely discussed in most mainstream churches.

Why? The primary reason for this neglect is that a very real Satan the Devil has *blinded* the vast majority of humanity—including most professing Christians! Today, most churchgoers do not really *study* the Bible. They

# God Heal TODAY?

Later, in Peter's home, Matthew taught more about the background of divine healing: "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses'" (Matthew 8:16-17). Here, Matthew explains that Jesus' healings were to fulfill the scripture in Isaiah which shows that Jesus—the Messiah—"bore our sicknesses." Matthew was here quoting the famous passage in Isaiah 53 which clearly described the role of the coming Messiah. He was to be "despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (v. 3). But then the inspired Isaiah tells us: "Surely our diseases He did bear, and our pains he carried; whereas we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded because of our transgressions, He was crushed because of our iniquities: the chastisement of our welfare was upon him, and with his stripes we were healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5; *The Holy Scriptures*).

The Jewish scholars who performed the above translation *do* know how to translate the Hebrew Bible! They correctly indicate that Jesus bore "our diseases." However, the vast majority of scholars indicate this also, as can be found in footnotes in the *New King James Version*, *Revised Standard Version* and other translations of the Bible. The *New International Version* renders it

"infirmities." The scholars *know* that the word translated as "griefs" is literally "sicknesses" in the original Hebrew language in which God inspired the book of Isaiah.

In Matthew 10, we find that Jesus gave His 12 leading disciples authority to heal and to cast out demons: "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease" (v. 1). But, many will say: "Wasn't this just for the 12 original Apostles and NOT for us today?"

No! In Luke 10:1-9, we read that Jesus gave "seventy others" this same authority to heal! Notice: "Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (vv. 8-9). And at the very end of His human life, Jesus gave what was obviously basic instruction for *all* of His faithful servants down through time. He commanded: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.... And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; *they will lay hands on the SICK, and they will recover*" (Mark 16:15, 17-18).

One of the "signs" of the true Church of God is "divine healing!" This was manifested throughout the ministry of Jesus and the original Apostles and the

"seventy others." Later, we find that the Apostle Paul, called to take the gospel to the gentiles, healed people frequently. Acts 14 tells us of one incident where Paul, seeing that a crippled man "had FAITH to be healed, said with a loud voice, 'Stand up straight on your feet!' And he leaped and walked" (vv. 9-10).

In Acts 8:1-7, we read that God's Church was scattered from Jerusalem, and that the disciples traveled throughout Palestine preaching and teaching Christ's message. One of them, Philip, had recently been ordained as a *deacon* (Acts 6:5). Yet—no doubt because he had a great deal of FAITH as did his fellow deacon, Stephen (v. 8)—Philip was used to HEAL the sick, *cast out demons* and perform *miracles*. Notice: "And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed" (Acts 8:6-7).

The above is very clear biblical PROOF that others—*not just the Apostles*—were used to heal the sick and cast out demons. Of course, it was through the power of Jesus Christ and in His "name"—*His authority*—that these miracles were performed. God's Word tells us: "Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday, today and FOREVER" (Hebrews 13:8). That power to heal is available to God's *faithful ministers* today just as it was to ALL of the Apostles, the "seventy others" and the other



faithful servants of God all during the Apostolic Age and ever since, for those who have FAITH in the Word of God!

Notice this revealing incident which took place near the end of Paul's ministry—and the end of the Apostolic Age: “And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he *laid his hands* on him and HEALED him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed” (Acts 28:8–9). Note that Paul “laid his hands” on Publius as he healed him. This was a regular practice of God's true servants indicating,

among other things, that God works *through* human instruments.

We find that even Jesus “laid His hands” on sick people to heal them (Mark 6:5), and that when the 12 Apostles were sent out on a local mission, “they cast out many demons, and *anointed with oil* many who were sick, and healed them” (v. 13). It is important to note that the disciples “anointed with oil” the sick people. The oil itself did not heal; it was a “symbol” of the Holy Spirit—a reminder that through the POWER of the Holy Spirit, healing would take place.

The Apostles, like all faithful ministers since, usually *prayed*

for the sick, *laid hands* on them and also *anointed them with oil*. Sometimes *dramatic* miracles of healing occurred when God's servants just *commanded* the healing to take place, but “standard procedure” for the Apostles and elders included the “laying on of hands” and “anointing with oil.” The Apostle James gave an instruction clearly for *all time*: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14–15).

## What About Doctors and Medicine?

Mankind's best efforts are not “all bad” in and of themselves. Highly trained physicians and other health professionals certainly do help millions of people every day. *Let us NOT forget this fact!* Many health care professionals are loving and sincere in their efforts to serve their fellow man. They certainly ought to be appreciated and commended for this.

Jesus Himself stated: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick” (Matthew 9:12). In this verse, Jesus indicated that physicians certainly are able to help with sickness and disease. Some religious extremists believe that doctors and medicines are *intrinsically* evil. If that were the case, then the Son of God would NOT have made the above statement! And the Apostle Paul would NOT have written about “Luke the BELOVED physician” (Colossians 4:14).

Every true Christian needs to get his or her “balance” on this issue. Satan and *our own human reason* will often cause us to go from one extreme to another!

Reading the *entire Bible* carefully and honestly, you will find physicians among God's people, as was Luke. Even Jesus' parable of the “good Samaritan” shows that—in case of injury—it is important to bind up wounds and apply wine (or another antiseptic) to prevent cuts from becoming infected. Pediatricians can be very helpful with prenatal care and delivery. In the past, some “holy rollers” and tent campaign “healers” have completely neglected the above passages from the inspired Word of God, but in modern times most of society is ignoring God and going to *the other extreme!* Today, the vast majority of “educated” humanity looks to doctors, medicines, pills and potions alone as the SOURCE of healing—and the living GOD is left COMPLETELY OUT of the picture. This extreme, just like the other, is absolutely WRONG!

The Bible is the revelation of the mind of God to mankind—of that basic knowledge which mankind would otherwise be unable to learn or to understand. The Bible reveals the “mind” of God, and true Christians are told in Philippians 2:5: “Let this MIND be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” It is vital that every genuine Christian learn to “think like Jesus thinks” on this and *every subject!* Jesus Christ said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY Word of God” (Luke 4:4). Remember that the only “Word of God” available at that time was what we today call the “Old Testament.”



Why do professing ministers of Jesus Christ not practice this today? Why are so few professing Christians being *supernaturally HEALED*?

## Mankind is CONFUSED

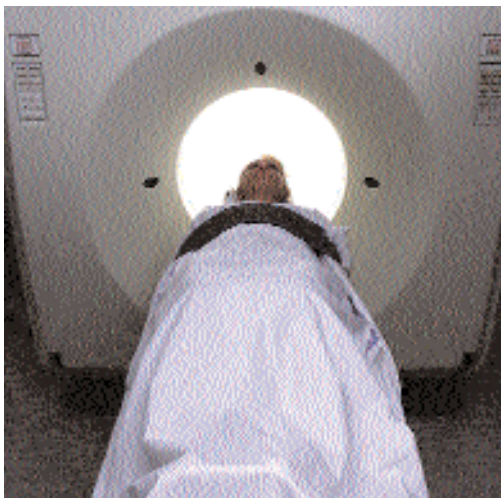
Satan the Devil has thoroughly BLINDED the vast majority of humanity—including many of you who read this! God's inspired Word describes Satan as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who DECEIVES the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). Later, God tells us that at Christ's return to earth, Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit, "so that he should deceive the nations no more" (Revelation 20:3).

As the "prince of the power of the air"—the invisible RULER over this earth (Ephesians 2:2)—Satan has influenced human society, and even most churches, to think of God as "unreal," as "far away" and NOT as a powerful Personality who can and does *intervene in human affairs* regularly! Frankly, Satan is glad to have us think of the Creator God as a vague, far-away entity. For if we *knew* that God was a very real, dynamic and POWERFUL Spirit Being who, IF we have faith, could and does directly *help* us, *bless* us and *HEAL* us of *every sickness* and of *every disease*, then we might actually begin to genuinely worship and OBEY that great God—and *DO what God says!* But this is the very *last thing* that Satan wants.

Satan the Devil wants to keep humans BLINDED to the "reality" of God so that we will not truly serve and obey Him and will not, therefore, be counted worthy to become kings and priests in Christ's soon-coming Kingdom

and REPLACE Satan and his demons in ruling over this earth (1 Corinthians 6:2–3; Revelation 2:26–27; 5:10).

Satan has influenced mankind to seek a DIFFERENT WAY of deliverance from sickness than looking to God. He has influenced man in this—as in *every way of life*—to look to his



own devices and his own human reason instead of seeking God's will and *His solutions*.

## Leaving God OUT

The story of King Asa is told in 2 Chronicles chapters 14 to 16. We find that God sent a prophet to tell this basically good king of Judah: "The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you SEEK Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you" (2 Chronicles 15:2). Note that God is not automatically "with you" all the time. He is "with" His servants "while you are with Him," and "IF you seek Him, He will be found by you."

HOW MANY professing "Christians" truly SEEK God's will regarding "healing?" The *truth* is that most of them have

never even *thought* about it, or been *taught* about it!

King Asa obviously did not consider that God was in the picture either! For although God had blessed him and delivered him in many ways, when Asa became seriously ill: "He did NOT seek the LORD but the physicians" (2 Chronicles 16:12).

The result? "So Asa rested with his fathers; he DIED in the forty-first year of his reign" (2 Chronicles 16:13).

The key point to remember is that Asa LEFT GOD OUT of the picture completely. In his sickness, Asa seemed to forget totally that the great Creator God—who had delivered him before—could do ANYTHING, and certainly can heal "*all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease*" (Matthew 4:23). So Asa DIED as a comparatively young man.

Then we read of the story of Ahaziah, king of Israel during the time of Elijah the prophet. Ahaziah had every reason to know that God was real and that He was the Healer, for Elijah had performed many signs and wonders that must have come to Ahaziah's attention.

But when Ahaziah was seriously injured, *what did he do?* "He sent messengers and said to them, 'Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury'" (2 Kings 1:2). God's faithful servant, Elijah, heard of this and sent word to Ahaziah: "Is it because there is NO GOD in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?" Now therefore, thus says the LORD: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.' So Elijah departed" (vv.

3–4). And verse 17 completes the rest of the story: “So Ahaziah DIED according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken.”

Obviously much of the problem lay in the fact that Ahaziah went NOT to the true God, but to Beelzebub, the god of Ekron. It is important to note that this Beelzebub was also the “god of medicine.” Indications are that Beelzebub’s adherents were given various potions or healing medicines along with their devotion to this pagan “god.”

Most religious scholars recognize that New Testament Christians are considered spiritual “Israelites” or spiritual “Jews” (Romans 2:28–29). Note Galatians 6:16, where Paul tells the Galatian Christians: “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the ISRAEL of God.” If Christ were to come among us today—in *this human society*—would He not tell us: “Is it because there is NO GOD in the CHURCH (spiritual ‘Israel’) that you are constantly going to human doctors and utterly FAIL to come to ME as your Healer?”

## Getting Our BALANCE

We need to get our *balance* on this vital subject. There are many things that doctors and dentists can—and often *should*—do for us. In circumstances such as traumatic injury, broken bones, internal bleeding and severe burns, there are many procedures that are necessary and right for doctors to perform.

Even in these cases of serious injury, however, it is vital for a Bible-believing Christian to heed the lesson of Ahaziah, for to genuine Christians *there IS a God in Israel!* So if we feel we must seek

man’s help—to have our bones set, have our wounds stitched up or have other repairs taken care of by a competent physician or chiropractor—we must at the *same time* ask for GOD’S intervention to cause the injury to heal properly. Even when we go to man for what our wisdom and understanding tells us that man can properly do, we must *still look to God our Father* to go ABOVE AND BEYOND what man can do—and ask Him to intervene directly when necessary. We should NEVER leave God “out of the picture!”

Each Christian has to make up his own mind as to how far he should go with man’s devices. As he or she grows in FAITH, the Christian will experience more and more divine “healings” from every kind of sickness and disease, for God is NOT limited! Yet Christians should not “judge” one another or *condemn* one another in this matter (Matthew 7:1). For *each individual* has the personal responsibility to “draw the line” and use medical help according to *his* understanding and *his* faith—not someone else’s. And as God’s Word tells us, “whatever is not from faith is SIN” (Romans 14:23).

At this juncture, it is important that we fully realize *where we are heading* as a society! Everyone who truly BELIEVES the Bible knows that Jesus Christ directly predicted that “pestilences”—DISEASE EPIDEMICS—would be one of the major signs heralding His second coming. Today, we are at a time in history when the spread of AIDS, the Ebola virus and now even “mad-cow disease” is a growing threat to vast numbers of human beings!

So far, there is NO CURE for these diseases. Only the true GOD can heal these plagues! And

as far back as 1997, United States Secretary of Defense William Cohen described the growing threat of biological and chemical weapons and the ways to deliver them. Secretary Cohen said this threat was “neither far-fetched nor far off.”

“The front lines are no longer overseas,’ Cohen said, releasing a report that said Americans could fall victim to such an attack, because criminal organizations and cults—as well as nation-states—could deploy such weapons. These weapons are ‘the poor man’s atomic bomb—cheaper, easier to produce and extremely deadly,’ the defense secretary said” (*North County Times*, November 26, 1997).

From the *San Diego Tribune* of November 29, 2000, we read that scientists are increasingly concerned about the probability of “germ warfare” aiding terrorism: “Scourges such as smallpox and anthrax are increasingly likely to fall into terrorists’ hands as Third World nations start germ warfare programs, a panel of scientists predicted yesterday.... The threat comes in part from nations such as Iran and Iraq, which ‘can’t challenge the U.S. head-on... so they need something else to shift the balance of power,’ Yale University political scientist Paul Bracken told a two-day symposium on responses to bioterrorism.”

So WHO will cure these deadly diseases if bioterrorists purposely spread them—further clogging our hospitals and emergency facilities with masses of frightened and desperate people? Again, we must NOT leave God out of the picture. More and more, as this age draws to a close,

**Continued on page 28**



# Questions & Answers

**Q** Is the “gospel” preached by modern Christianity the *same* gospel Jesus Christ preached and commissioned His New Testament Church to proclaim to the world?

**A** You may be surprised to learn that most professing Christians have never actually heard the true gospel of Jesus Christ! Many have heard a message *about* Christ, but very few have heard the wonderful *good news* He announced. The “religious leaders” of Jesus’ day *rejected* that gospel—and crucified Him for preaching it.

Jesus Christ tells us it is absolutely necessary to believe His gospel message to be saved (Mark 16:15–16). So what is the “gospel” Jesus brought, which would lead us into eternal life?

The message Jesus Christ proclaimed was the “gospel of the Kingdom of God” (Mark 1:14–15). “Gospel” is an old English word which means *good news*. Jesus Christ was sent by His Father (John 12:49–50; 14:24) to preach the good news of the coming “Kingdom of God” on earth.

The central message of the entire Bible is the coming Kingdom of God. God’s Kingdom will be a literal government ruling over the nations. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image, recorded in Daniel 2, makes that very clear.

But the Kingdom of God is *more* than just the government of God. When Jesus came preaching about the Kingdom of God, He was also talking about the *family* of God, and how humans, *through Him*, may be *born into it* (John 3:3, 5–6)! The *family* of God is presently composed of God the Father and God the Son (Christ) in heaven, and of Spirit-begotten sons and daughters on earth (2 Corinthians 6:18), not yet born of the Spirit.

God’s family is also a ruling family, and it is the Spirit-begotten children of God who will, at the first resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:50–53), be *born of God*. Jesus is the “*firstborn*” among many

*brethren* (Romans 8:29)—and God’s children will join Him to become part of that divine, ruling Kingdom! Notice: “Then the kingdom... shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. And all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27). Elsewhere we read: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6). What will happen after that? “And they shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5).

The plain truth of the Bible reveals that the “Kingdom of God” will be a literal government composed of spirit rulers who will rule over all nations *on earth* (Revelation 5:10). This is *the very good news*, or “gospel,” of the Kingdom of God—the gospel that Jesus preached!

The biblical record shows that the New Testament Church continued to proclaim Christ’s gospel as He had commissioned (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:3; 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31). God’s Church today is also faithfully proclaiming that same message to the world through the *Tomorrow’s World* telecasts and magazines and other literature. However, most who hear or read that message are not heeding it (Matthew 20:16).

In His Olivet prophecy, Jesus foretold that His gospel message of the Kingdom of God would be preached mainly as a “*witness*” to all nations at the end time (Matthew 24:14), because the Father is now choosing (John 6:44), through that announcement and His Spirit, only a relative *few* to prepare to rule with Christ when He returns. Those few, who will be made immortal at Christ’s return, are the “called, chosen and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

Those who have responded to God’s calling are doing their part in helping to spread the *good news* of the coming “Kingdom of God,” and are preparing to become literal *members* of that glorious, ruling family at Jesus Christ’s return!



# The Way to Peace: The Missing Dimension

By Douglas S. Winnail

ment of Africa. Central Asia simmers with strife and intrigue. Southeast Asia is embroiled in revolts and troubles. India and Pakistan bristle with atomic weapons. China and Taiwan confront each other with armed determination. Japan and Korea have a long history of strife. Bottled up hatreds explode in Northern Ireland. Central and South America are convulsed periodically by violent revolutionary movements. The United States is increasingly at odds with its European cousins, and the nations of Europe have a history of bloody, internal squabbles. Even in momentarily peaceful parts of the world, people worry about crime, abduction, rape, robbery, domestic violence and divorce. The *desire* for peace is universal, yet the quest for peace in the world is as *elusive* as the quest for real peace of mind.

We need to ask: *why*, in our modern, affluent, educated, technologically advanced 21st century is the search for peace—among nations and between individuals—such a difficult and seemingly unattainable goal? Is there something we do not

**H**ave you ever wondered why people and nations cannot live together in peace? World leaders search for peace. Religious people pray for peace. Conferences are held to promote peace. Yet the sobering daily reality for millions of people around the world remains: hatred, strife, violence, war, anxiety, misery and suffering! It is a global problem. The Middle East is a powder keg of hatred and violence. The Balkans have been a bloodbath again and again throughout history. Murder and mayhem scar much of the vast conti-



know or have overlooked? Are there key concepts we have not been taught—or do not understand? Is there a *missing dimension* that has eluded the wisest and most brilliant human minds? Incredible as it may seem today, the Bible *contains answers* to many of these vital questions. Scripture *reveals reasons* why the world is such a violent place and why the best efforts of human beings have failed to achieve the peace we so earnestly crave. The Bible outlines a role that you can play to change the course of history and help bring peace to this troubled world. Scripture also holds the key to finding real peace of mind. If you have the courage and the desire to make a difference, you can understand the *missing dimension* in the search for peace!

### **Blind Alleys—Endless Efforts**

Perhaps the best way to illustrate this missing dimension is to quickly review *human efforts* to achieve peace in the world. For thousands of years men have sought to establish peace through *military strength*. George Washington, the first President of the United States, reflected the wisdom of his day when he said that “to be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace”—yet his efforts did not produce a lasting peace. History indicates the cost of maintaining armed forces to protect territory or police the world eventually saps the strength of even the mightiest empires—witness Rome, Spain, France, Britain and America. Others have believed that “the path to peace is through the *crucible of war*,” yet that has also proven to be a flawed philosophy. Chinese leader Mao Tse Tung once remarked that “war can only be abolished through war—to get rid of the gun you must take up the gun.” Yet in spite of giving guns to hundreds of thousands, he never found the way to peace. World War I was to be the “war to end wars”—but it was only a prelude to World War II—the war fought “to make the world safe for democracy.” And the world is still not safe for democracy. Some today would *ban private ownership* of guns in an effort to eliminate hostilities and war. Overlooked is the fact that the misuse of *legal weapons by governments* has killed more than 170 million unarmed civilians during the 20th century (*NewsMax.com*, July 10, 2001).

Sincere individuals have sought peace through negotiation, arbitration and promoting resolutions for peace. In 1899 and 1907, world leaders met in

The Hague, Netherlands, to explore the way to peace. They established the International Court of Justice—a world court to arbitrate disputes among nations—and built an ornate and expensively appointed Peace Palace, which still operates, to house the court and its extensive library of international law. Yet all this effort did not prevent two World Wars, nor the many other conflicts that marred the 20th century. Global organizations like the League of Nations and the United Nations have failed to prevent war or eliminate conflicts. In August 2000, more than 1,000 religious leaders gathered in New York for the Millennium Peace Summit to talk about peace, yet the meeting was marked by boycotts and disputes among the participants (*Arizona Republic*, August 30, 2000).

Today it is popular to attribute the lack of peace to poverty, inequality, social injustice and environmental degradation. Yet some who are poor are more peaceful—and have more peace of mind—than many rich people. Attempts to legislate equality have engendered even more strife. Ordaining women to the ministry or priesthood has divided many churches. Promoting the social acceptance of homosexuality has fostered high-risk sexual behavior and undermined traditional morality. Making divorce easier has had a devastating impact on the stability of families. “Make love, not war”—the slogan of peace-loving hippies in the sixties—*sounded* intriguing, but was a prescription for promiscuity that contributed to the spread of sexually transmitted disease. After centuries of effort by some of the best minds on earth, the quest for peace is still a frustratingly elusive goal. Scripture reveals why.

### **Reason for Failure**

Many today consider the Bible no more than a collection of myths, stories and outdated ideas. Yet it claims to be the inspired Word of God, with information unavailable from any other source. And it shows a *definite contrast* between human *ideas* about peace and what the Creator of mankind *reveals* about the subject. Men have proclaimed that the way to peace is through the force of arms, yet Jesus Christ taught, “all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52). Human beings can generate a myriad of reasons for killing other human beings in the quest for peace, yet the Bible plainly states, “thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13, KJV). Civilized, cultured and educated indi-



viduals hold dialogues, plan conferences and draft resolutions to promote peace. Political leaders negotiate and governments legislate. Religious leaders preach and pray for peace. God, however, reveals that “the way of man is not in himself; *it is not in man* who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). The Bible, God’s instruction book for mankind, indicates that we need *divine guidance* to solve our problems. We need to follow His instructions, not our own reasoning.

Bible prophecy shows that the desire for peace will be great as the end of the age approaches (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11–15; 14:13–15). However, misguided human efforts to establish peace will be *futile*, and “the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly” (Isaiah 33:7). In a letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul explains the reason for this frustrating situation, noting that “**the way of peace they have not known**” (Romans 3:17). Paul was quoting the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, who wrote: “They have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way *shall not know peace*” (Isaiah 59:8). Jesus said that human beings do not know the way to peace because, “the things that make for your peace... they are *hidden from your eyes*” (Luke 19:42). Scripture reveals that human beings, seeking peace by following their own reasoning, are actually *blinded* from understanding the true way to peace! Yet that knowledge—of the true way to peace and the real cause of war and strife—is readily available to us *if we have eyes to see*.

## The Way to Peace

While the Bible recognizes the importance of using wisdom and diplomacy in avoiding conflict and promoting peace (Matthew 5:25), it outlines a very specific path to peace. God told the ancient nation of Israel “if you *walk* in my statutes and *keep* my commandments... I will give peace in the land” (Leviticus 26:3–6). The Bible reveals that *obedience* to God’s instructions is the *key* to peace. This theme runs throughout the Bible. David wrote in the

Psalms, “great peace have those who love Your law” (Psalm 119:165). Many believers today—especially professing Christians—talk about loving God, yet they *reason around* obeying His laws. You have heard the arguments: Christ did away with the law; the law is part of the Old Testament and no longer applies today, or that Christians are under grace and not law. These arguments simply overlook what Scripture plainly reveals—that the way to find peace of mind, and establish a real foundation for peace among nations, is to *learn and obey* the laws of God. Solomon, a ruler renowned for his God-given wisdom, advised: “My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you” (Proverbs 3:1–2). As a ruler, Solomon upheld God’s law, and urged others to keep it!



**German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer has sought to extend European involvement into the Middle East peace process, and recently met with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.** ©NewsCom Image

inspired to write: “Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:98, 105). David knew the value of God’s laws. Today we have *forgotten* what God has revealed, and we are groping around in the dark, exploring blind alleys in our never-ending search for peace. This is why the quest for peace has been such a difficult and frustrating endeavor. The way to peace will not be found through human reason, extensive dialogue or endless negotiations. Lasting peace—among nations and between individuals—comes from learning to live according to the way of life outlined in Scripture.

Modern critics have persuaded many to discount the value of the Bible as a trustworthy guide to human affairs. International law and attempts to promote peace today are based on human reason and the ideas of men. What God has revealed in the Bible about peace is *ignored*. Yet David was

## The Cause of War

While many intellectuals call poverty, injustice and inequality the *causes* of strife, violence and war, these are in fact only *symptoms*. The Bible addresses



the *real* source of mankind's inability to get along. James, the brother of Jesus, was inspired to write: "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:1-3). According to the word of God, strife comes from wanting to have our own way. Solomon wrote that contention is the result of pride, "but with the well-advised is wisdom" (Proverbs 13:10). Those who understand and live by the Bible can avoid much conflict and can make real progress toward peace.

The path to lasting peace requires an understanding of human behavior that goes beyond what psychologists can discover. The Apostle Paul explained that "the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). He is describing here the workings of the physical human mind not influenced by God's Holy Spirit. That human mind may believe in God, and may even claim to love God, but it will argue and come up with reasons why it is not necessary to obey the plain, simple instructions of the Bible. This is caused by Satan's influence

(2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9). For peace to become a reality in the world, this fundamental aspect of human behavior must be changed. We must learn to think differently, and be guided by the Word of God.

Critics may scoff at this suggestion, but perceptive individuals have come to the same conclusion. Former U. S. President Ronald Reagan once stated that "lasting peace *cannot* be secured through the strength of arms alone." At the conclusion of World War II, General Douglas MacArthur made a profound observation in a radio broadcast to the American people: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations... Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn have failed... We have had our last chance. If we do not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem is basically *theological* and involves a *spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character*... it must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh" (*Reminiscences*, p. 276). General MacArthur's comments are echoed in the constitu-

**Continued on page 26**



The Peace Palace is located in The Hague—the political and royal capital city of the Netherlands. This imposing Gothic structure was built in 1913 with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish philanthropist who made his fortune in America. Its exquisite furnishings were donated by nations from around the world. Builders created a veritable "temple" of peace, featuring inlaid floors in marbled corridors lined with sculptures, council chambers ornamented with carved wood paneling, large and symbolic paintings and tapestries, stained glass and gilded crystal chandeliers.

The promoters of The Hague Peace Conference hoped that negotiation and arbitration would be able to resolve conflicts and prevent war. They hoped to promote a culture of peace by promoting justice, education, arts and sciences. The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century carries on many of the same themes. In May of 1999, 10,000 representatives from 100 countries (the largest international peace conference in history) met in The Hague to discuss ways to abolish war and promote peace. Regrettably, as the search for peace goes on, wars continue—because a vital missing dimension is overlooked.



# What Is the Unp

*Bible students are aware of the term “the unpardonable sin”—but just what is it? Could you have committed this sin? Perhaps you are fearful, thinking that you have committed this terrible transgression! The good news is that, if you are seriously worried, there is great hope for you!*

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

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

Does your conscience bother you? Scripture explains that those who have actu-

ally committed the unpardonable sin have *seared* their consciences, and are totally consumed with rebellion against God. They are *not worried* about committing the ultimate transgression. They may be fearful of their ultimate punishment, but they are not equivocating over their unswerving dedication to wickedness and evil.

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

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

Blasphemy, according to *Webster’s Dictionary*, is “to speak impiously or irreverently of (God or sacred things)” or “to speak evil of, slander; abuse.” A parallel gospel account gives us a powerful example. “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He [Jesus] healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’” (Matthew 12:22–23).

The crowds recognized that the prophesied Messiah, the Son of David, would be able to accomplish this miracle, but the Pharisees falsely asserted



# Unpardonable Sin?

By Richard F. Ames

that Jesus used the power of Satan. “Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons’” (Matthew 12:24).

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

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

Willful sin is a fully conscious and determined act and attitude to never repent of sin. The willful sinner is intractable. He or she has a conscience seared to do evil. This kind of sinner will

never even entertain the thought of repenting and desiring to return to God’s way of life (cf. 1 Timothy 4:2). The incorrigibly wicked are not blinded like the rest of the world; they have “knowledge of the truth.” They know the effect of Christ’s sacrifice, yet they profane it. Such ones face “a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:27–29).

Yes, there will be a fiery judgment—a lake of fire for those who persist in sinning willfully and who insult the Spirit of grace. Scripture also gives a warning to all who, as Christians, have been “partakers of the Holy Spirit.” Remember that God gives the Holy Spirit to those “who obey Him” (Acts 5:32). If Christians *willfully* turn back to evil—if they fall away and turn to an attitude

of disobedience—Scripture teaches that it is impossible to “renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6).

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

Are the billions of non-Christians who have lived and died—perhaps your friends and relatives who were never converted—all lost? Did they all commit the unpardonable sin? The good news is that there *is* hope for them. God allows *many* to be *blinded* to the truth in this age, so they will not commit the unpar-



donable sin. Notice what the Apostle Paul writes about those who are unconverted—those who are disobedient. “For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all” (Romans 11:32).

## How Can Christians Avoid the Unpardonable Sin?

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

There are two basic ways a converted person can lose the Holy Spirit and commit the unpardonable sin. As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote years ago, one is “by deliberate choice” and the other is “by continued neglect” (*What Do You Mean, ‘The Unpardonable Sin’?*, 1972).

Amazing as it seems, some choose to commit the unpardonable sin. They choose to harden their hearts and minds against their God and Savior. The Bible makes it clear that God gave human beings free moral agency (Deuteronomy 30:19). God does not force us to choose His way of life. In fact, it is by our daily choices that God intends for us to grow in the very grace and knowledge of Christ. God, through His servant Moses, instructed the Israelites before they were to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death,

blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days” (Deuteronomy 30:19–20).



**Hurt feelings often lead to resentment, hate and bitterness. We must always be on guard against such feelings. “Choose life,” says Scripture (Deuteronomy 30:19). We all have the chance to choose life and love, rather than death and disobedience. ©ArtToday**

We all have the opportunity to choose life and love, rather than death and disobedience. But how can anyone deliberately and permanently decide to go the wrong way into rebellion? Here is what Mr. Armstrong wrote concerning that deliberate choice: “This may come from wrong reasoning; from wrong desire thought out to a final fixed, permanent decision as to his way of life; or, from allowing resentment in his heart toward either God or some person who may have wronged him. To allow resent-

ment to embitter him, until he comes to change his whole life course, turning from God” (*What Do You Mean, ‘The Unpardonable Sin’?*, 1972, p. 34).

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

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

To a carnal mind, that approach sounds naive and foolish. But following those instructions to pray for our enemies can keep us from the poison of bitterness. Yes, this is a revolutionary way of life. It is the antithesis of today’s selfish, covetous, me-first philosophy. But it is the way of life taught by the Son of God, and the way of life everyone in the Millennium—Christ’s future 1,000-year rule on earth—will learn. Try it! Actually get down on your knees, and pray for the wel-



fare of someone you may even hate. You will be surprised at the relief of stress you will experience. Our attitude and approach toward others is extremely important.

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

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

Here is another warning to avoid bitterness. Notice the prescription: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness.” Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). He said: “Do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Will you take His challenge? Will you humble yourself before God and pray for your enemies? This will go a long way toward overcoming any root of bitterness you may have.

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

This world has such a pull on our interests that we can be dis-

tracted from our spiritual priorities. What is your personal goal in life? Jesus said: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). That should be our goal in life, according to our Savior! Neglecting our spiritual priorities leads to spiritual weakness, but God’s Spirit is the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. The Apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

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

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

One of the most comforting and encouraging truths of the Bible is that billions of people—

**Continued on page 25**

## To Learn More...



Many who call themselves Christians believe that God will save just a handful of human beings, and will condemn most—indeed the vast majority—to eternal hellfire. Is God trying and failing to save all of humankind? Is He a sadist who plans an eternity of suffering for most of the people He has created? The truth may surprise and encourage you, and it is found plainly in the pages of your Bible. The Bible is a source of hope for mankind, revealing God’s actual plan—and His reason for creating you! Please request our FREE booklet *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).





# What Is Real Religion?

By John H. Ogwyn

**A**merica is a religious nation. At least that is what people tell the pollsters. Over 95 percent of the population professes a belief in God. In addition, nine out of ten households own at least one Bible. The overwhelming majority—87 percent in a *Newsweek* poll—believes that God answers prayer, and about half of the population claims to pray on a regular basis.

Religion is also big business. Americans contribute billions of dollars to churches and religious ministries. There are churches throughout the land. Late night radio and Sunday morning television are crowded with preachers and ministries coming in a wide variety of shapes and sizes.

Whatever you are looking for, it is out there! Whether you seek incense and ritual, or rock music complete with drums and electric guitars, there is a church that offers it. From stiff and formal to spontaneous and emotionally charged, there is a church to suit every taste and every emphasis—from “social action” to “soul-winning.”

Yet America, while seemingly awash in religion, is also beset with burgeoning moral prob-

lems. Divorce, pornography, abortion and violence have all increased to an unprecedented degree during recent decades. Though politicians regularly invoke God and religion, political scandals abound. There appears to be a great contrast between what the nation professes and what it practices.

What kind of religion is truly acceptable to God? What is He really looking for in the lives of those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ? For centuries, our entire Western world has historically *claimed* to be Christian—and has, in fact, been exporting various forms of Christianity to the rest of the world. We should ask ourselves, however, to what extent the Christianity so common in our modern world *really* squares with what the Bible says.

In the Sermon on the Mount, given near the beginning of His ministry, Jesus Christ of Nazareth outlined what He expected of His followers. The claims He made on those who would be His disciples were truly radical. Jesus’ pronouncements flew directly in the face of what passed for religion in His day—and they *still* fly in the face of what passes for religion in *our* day! But what demands



did Jesus of Nazareth actually make upon His followers—and how do they apply to our lives today?

### Three Pillars of Jewish Religion

Being viewed as “religious” in first-century Judea required the practice of what were considered the three pillars of piety—prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount, Christ described what really leads to true happiness and blessedness. Next, He focused on explaining the spirit of the law to His hearers. Building on these topics, Jesus Christ then addressed the heart and core of “being religious.”

In Matthew 6:1–18, Jesus made plain that it is not just *what you do* that matters, but rather the attitude and motive *behind* what you do. Jesus took for granted that His disciples *would* pray, fast and give alms. After all, He said, “*when* you do a charitable deed” (v. 2), “*when* you pray” (v. 5) and “*when* you fast” (v. 16)—not *if*. His point was that the *manner* in which they did these acts was crucial.

Christ called those who practiced their religion to impress others “hypocrites.” This English term derives from a Greek word that originally referred to actors on the stage. Jesus likened certain “religious” people of His day to those who simply played a part. Their religion was not a matter of personal piety, but rather of ostentatious display.

Christ emphasized that we are to live our lives before *God*, being deeply conscious of *His* watchful presence. When we seek to call public attention to our religious devotion or to our prayers, we are seeking the praise of men, not really worshiping God. So why do people do this? Simply because God is not very real to most people!

Note the attitude of many religious people in 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). The invisible God seemed far off and remote to these religious people. Sadly, He seems the same way to most today.

Christ emphasized to His disciples that prayer was private and personal communion with God, meant to be done from the *heart*, not according to rote and ritual. Ironically, many professing Christians have made the very words that Christ gave to His disciples as an *outline* for prayer (Matthew 6:9–13) into something rattled off by rote. Yet Christ gave the “Lord’s Prayer,” as it has

come to be known, in the very context of exhorting His hearers: “But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (v. 7). Christ was giving them instructions about *how* they should pray—not *what* words they should continually repeat, while praying.

He was not trying to convey that private prayer should never be lengthy, as some might interpret this passage. Christ Himself prayed at length on various occasions (cf. Luke 6:12). He simply wanted His followers to avoid meaningless, repetitive prayers. Our Father knows the needs of His children, yet He wants us to learn to ask Him for these needs in confidence and trust.

In Matthew 6:12–15, Christ highlights the importance of asking God for forgiveness. He emphasized that in order to receive forgiveness for ourselves, we must also give it to others. Of course, our forgiving others does not somehow *earn* God’s forgiveness for us. Rather, it is evidence of the humble and contrite heart that God requires of those who receive His mercy.

### First Things First

We live in a world where myriads of “things” compete for our attention and our affection every day. Demands are made on our time from seemingly every corner. In this day of cellular phones and pocket pagers, fewer and fewer seem ever to really “get away from it all.” Whether driving down the road in an automobile or eating in a restaurant, people are often trying to do two or more things at once.

In our materialistic age, advertising tries to lure us to “have it all.” Whatever we already have, there is probably a new and improved model that, as the ads tell us, we cannot afford to be without.

The multiplication of two-career households has radically changed the American family in recent decades. Increasing numbers of couples are either forgoing having children altogether, or are limiting themselves to one child. Day care centers have become a major industry. Consequences of our society’s materialistic, hedonistic perspective are increasingly evident in the horrendous problems of our youth. How are we affected by these societal attitudes? Sadly, priorities in the lives of most professing Christians show very little difference from the rest of society.

Yet if we take seriously the pronouncements of Jesus Christ Himself, it is obvious that He judged materialism harshly. The Bible nowhere condemns wealth in and of itself; in fact, various men of God in



both the Old and New Testaments are described as wealthy. Abraham had great herds and flocks, and Philemon had a home large enough to serve as a meeting place for the entire Colossian church. It is a matter of priorities. Wealth, and its pursuit, becomes a problem when it consumes our primary energy and effort—when we are putting material things before God. This is a very real danger in our materialistic society. Christ explained that no one can serve two different masters (6:24). Attempting to do so will involve us in a struggle with conflicting loyalties, so Christ told His followers that they could not be servants to both God and money.

God should always come before everything else. This is a foreign concept to our secular world, for though most people are in favor of religion, they often compartmentalize it as just one small area of their lives. The true religion of the Bible, however, is an entire way of life that should determine all of our other priorities, whether in the realm of family, employment or even entertainment.

Perhaps the most fundamental principle of the Bible is that no one ever truly gets ahead by putting God last. Christ said: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [your needs] shall be added to you” (v. 33). God knows that we have physical needs—and He will certainly provide for them. After all, He is the One who designed us as physical creatures. Christ continued: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (v. 34, NIV). If we are truly walking with God in all our ways, worry and anxiety will be put away. We will be developing a firm reliance upon and confidence in God in all aspects of our lives. This is the result of putting first things first.

## Judging and Asking

What did Jesus mean in Matthew 7:1 when He instructed His hearers not to judge? After all, every time we make a choice we render a judgment. From the time we rise in the morning until we go to bed at night, we are confronted with choices and decisions to make.

Contemporary Western society prides itself on being very non-judgmental. Behaviors once defined as deviant or perverse are now considered acceptable alternative lifestyles. For example, in many schools, this approach is being actively promoted to young children. Elementary schools have used books such as *Heather Has Two Mommies* to present homosexuality as “normal.” Many have roundly condemned the Boy Scouts for their supposed intolerance and judgmental attitude. Why? Because they refuse to put homosexual men in charge of groups of young adolescent boys to take them into the woods on camping trips! Is this what Jesus had in mind when He instructed His followers not to judge?



**Pro-homosexual activists in Newport Beach, CA, rally in opposition to a Boy Scout expansion project funded by their county government. ©NewsCom Image**

The Greek verb rendered “judge” here, *krino*, has a wide range of definitions. It can mean “to make a judicial ruling” or “to condemn” or “to discern.” As *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* explains, Christ was not forbidding “all judging of any kind, for the moral distinctions drawn in

the Sermon on the Mount require that decisive judgments be made. Jesus himself goes on to speak of some people as dogs and pigs (v. 6) and to warn against false prophets (vv. 15–20)” (vol. 8, p. 183).

Rather, in Matthew 7 Jesus is exhorting His disciples not to be judgmental and condemning when dealing with people. We are not to have a negative, critical, “holier-than-thou” attitude toward others. One who takes it upon himself to stand in judgment of the hearts of others is usurping the place of God, the Judge of all mankind. Christ says that such a person will be called into account, and judged, by the very One whose role he usurps!

Christ taught that before we can take the “speck” out of someone else’s eye, we must first get rid of the “log” in our own eye (Matthew 7:3–5). How can we help others by pointing out some small mistake or fault when we are a thousand times more guilty—and are thus blaring forth our hypocrisy? Rather than pointing the finger at everyone else, we need to go to God and ask Him to reveal to us our own faults, so that we can change. Then we can effectively serve others, helping them to overcome their weaknesses.

We must come to see that God is very real and really does answer prayer. Christ told His disciples to



ask, seek and knock (v. 7)—and said that God would be there to provide. Even human fathers, with natural human selfishness, would never dream of giving something hurtful when their children were hungry and asked for food (vv. 9–10). Christ emphasized how much more willing our Heavenly Father is to give good gifts to His children when they ask (v. 11), for God’s way is a way of *give*—of *love* and *outflowing concern*.

God’s way must become *our* way. “So in everything,” Jesus said, “**do to others what you would have them do to you**, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (v. 12, *NIV*). Known as the Golden Rule, this familiar statement helps to summarize all that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Here He showed the true direction to which all of the instructions of the Old Testament pointed. Interestingly, the rabbis of Christ’s day taught this principle in its negative form. Quoting a statement by Rabbi Hillel, dating from around 20AD, the Talmud states: “What is hateful to you, do not to anyone else” (b Shabbath 31a). But by stating it in the *positive* form as He did, Jesus included sins of *omission* as well as *commission*.

## Two Paths, Two Trees and Two Houses

In the conclusion to His teaching on the Mount, Christ drew a series of contrasts. If we are truly to be disciples of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, then we must learn to make right choices while rejecting wrong ones. From the days of our first parents, Adam and Eve, God has intended that mankind confront contrasting choices—and thereby learn to choose what is right.

Jesus depicted the pathway that leads to eternal life as a narrow way walked by comparatively few. He contrasted it with the wide and popular pathway where the many are to be found. Those who follow in the footsteps of the Messiah will find that the path is often difficult and fraught with peril (Matthew 7:13–14). As the Apostle Paul explained, the pathway that leads into the entrance of the Kingdom passes through many hardships (Acts 14:22). It is also the pathway of righteousness and is illuminated by the lamp of God’s Word (Psalm 119:105).

Jesus drew a contrast between two trees. One yielded good fruit and the other yielded bad. The fruit each tree produced testified to the kind of tree it was. Christ told His listeners that they would encounter false prophets, but that they could discern the true from the false by examining the fruit they

produced (Matthew 7:15–20). False prophets would, of course, claim to be true ones—but the evidence of their life and teaching would belie their claims.

Simply paying *lip service* to Jesus Christ as “Lord” (v. 21)—as our present society does—is not enough. The word “lord” means *owner* or *master*. If Christ is *truly* our Lord and Master, we will be *following His instructions*. Asked about the way to eternal life, Christ told his followers that they should keep His Father’s commandments (Matthew 19:17). God’s commandments reflect His will, and only those who actually *submit to* and *practice* His will can enter His Kingdom. Those who claim to profess Christ with their mouths, but whose message and actions proclaim them as workers of lawlessness, will find themselves denied entrance into the Kingdom that Jesus Christ came announcing (7:21).

Christ’s final teaching in the Sermon on the Mount involved a contrast between two houses. One was built on solid rock and the other was built on sand. When storms came, one house remained standing and the other collapsed—“and great was its fall” (vv. 24–27). No building can be more substantial than the *foundation* upon which it is built. Jesus likened those who listened to His words, and proceeded to put them into practice in their lives, to the man who built his house upon rock—who built upon a solid, sure foundation.

It is not enough to merely hear the Truth, to know it academically or even to acknowledge that it is true. **The Truth of God is something that must be practiced in our everyday lives.** Jesus the Messiah came with a powerful message that directed His followers toward radical transformation of their own lives—including their priorities and even their innermost thoughts, attitudes and motives. His listeners stood amazed, for He did not teach them in the way that they were accustomed. Rather, “He taught them as one having authority” (v. 29). Indeed, He did have *absolute* authority, as He was *Immanuel*—God with us.

Now, almost 2,000 years later, the teachings of Jesus *still* have authority. His words are indeed the very words of life (John 6:63). In the Sermon on the Mount, the Messiah outlined His teachings to those who aspired to inherit the Kingdom that He came proclaiming. If we wish to inherit that Kingdom, then it is also imperative that each of us personally takes those same words to heart. We must put them into practice in our own lives—today and always. That is what *real* religion is all about! EW





## Significant Religious Trends

Quietly—yet steadily—developments in the world of religion are demonstrating that Bible prophecies are coming alive today. Most people remain unaware, busily pursuing their private lives, while around them occur *significant* religious trends that were predicted to occur just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth. Without the aid of Bible prophecy, the modern news media fails to understand the real significance of these trends. We cannot afford to ignore—or be unaware of—these critical events.

A recent European newspaper article proclaimed: “Catholics *flock* back to church... the Catholic church is *making a comeback*... mass attendance is on the rise for the first time in almost four decades... middle-aged parishioners, who appear to have abandoned religious practice, are now returning to the fold... college students also appear to be finding God: 6,000 attend mass” at a university in Dublin (*The Sunday Times*, May 6, 2001). An Irish priest comments: “I don’t know why it is, but it is happening... [people] want a little more than just the [material] satisfaction of the Celtic tiger” (Ibid). This parallels what is happening in Britain, where the percentage of Catholics in the population has increased from 2 percent in 1700 to 6 percent in 1900 to 10 percent today. One writer cites these and other figures as “evidence of a genuine Catholic revival” (*Daily Telegraph*, July 1, 1999).

This comes on the heels of a recent Vatican announcement which called the Roman Catholic church the *only true church* and asserted that the Protestant churches, which broke away during the Reformation, are *defective* doctrinally and are “not churches in the proper sense” (*BBC News*, September 5, 2000). On the world scene, the Pope is increasingly viewed as the spiritual spokesman for humanity—even by many Protestants.

News sources report another growing trend. A recent study discovered that “a third of young evangelical Christians believe in living together before mar-

riage” (*The London Times*, May 5, 2001). This finding shocked Protestant church leaders and revealed a thorny dilemma—“either they emphasize biblical teaching on sexual morality, which risks driving more young people away, or they *compromise* their traditional teaching, which may alienate the older generations” (Ibid). In contrast to the increasingly firm Catholic positions on moral and theological issues, “one Church of England report has already recommended that the phrase ‘living in sin’ should *be abandoned*” (Ibid). A study of evangelical young people revealed that many considered it *acceptable to steal* small items and said that it was sometimes *necessary to lie*. This lack of morality among professing Christians parallels the increasingly liberal teachings of their religious leaders.

Ironically, as mainline Protestant denominations liberalize their doctrines to accommodate popular ideas, their *church attendance continues to fall!* One British bishop described his church as “irrelevant, dull and... so committee-bound that it was hardly likely ever to inspire or convert anyone” (*The London Times*, December 22, 1998). There is growing concern that Anglican Church leaders can believe anything they want. Another article comments that secular, materialistic and ungodly trends in England are so apparent that “missionaries from South America and Africa are heading to *Britain* to save our souls in a reversal of traditional roles” (*The Sunday Times*, July 1, 2001).

The story of Protestant decline is the same in America and other countries. At a recent conference of the Presbyterian church, liberals’ attempts to ordain practicing homosexuals and question whether belief in Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation (see John 14:6; Acts 4:12) sent shockwaves through a denomination long considered a bastion of conservative Christian theology. One delegate commented that “the homosexual and christological debates have diminished the church’s ability to minister” (2001, *WorldNetDaily.com*). Another observed: “This is the end of the church as we know it” (Ibid). Conservative members of mainline denomina-





tions have threatened to leave if fundamental teachings of the Bible are willfully discarded.

But what does all this mean? What is so significant about the Roman Catholic revival and Protestant decline? Simply this—Jesus told His disciples to *watch for specific signs* that would announce that His return was near (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). Religious deception figures prominently in those signs. The Apostle Paul describes two more events that will precede the return of Christ—a *great falling away* and the appearance of a false, but highly influential, religious leader on the world stage (2 Thessalonians 2:1–4). The phrase “falling away” comes from the Greek word *apostasia* which means “a deliberate abandonment of a former professed position” or a great rebellion against, or general rejection of, the truth of Scripture and the laws of God (see *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*). This is exactly what we are seeing today in the world, as secular materialism replaces spirituality and liberalism undermines traditional moral teachings. This apostasy is also evident in the perverted teachings and compromised theology promoted by liberal theologians. These developments are described in numerous prophecies about the end of the age (see 1 Timothy 3; 4; 2 Peter 2:1–14).

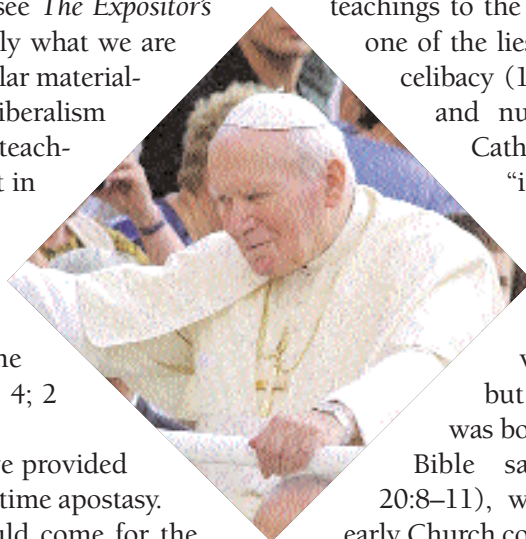
Old Testament prophets have provided even more details about this end-time apostasy. Isaiah *warned* that the time would come for the nations of Israel when “children are their oppressors, and women rule over them... those who lead you cause you to err” (Isaiah 3:12). Today, theologians advocate the ordination of women in the name of equality, and the acceptance of homosexuality, easy divorce and cohabitation in the name of tolerance, even though these practices are contrary to Scripture. Liberal theologians assert that the biblical laws prohibiting these practices are intolerant, judgmental and old fashioned. Jeremiah prophesied: “Woe to the shep-

herds who *destroy and scatter* the sheep of My pasture... who prophesy *lies* in my name” (Jeremiah 23:1, 25). Jeremiah predicted that the time will come when people will *refuse* to walk in the “old paths” (6:16). They will lie, steal, kill, commit adultery and practice idolatry—yet *claim* they are still God’s people (7:8–10). Jeremiah wrote that because of misguided teachings of religious leaders, “*all their flocks shall be scattered*” (10:21). Jeremiah even pinpointed the time of his prophecies, writing that “*in the latter days you will understand it perfectly*” (23:20). These events are happening today!

Some may wonder whether the Catholic revival is a positive development, and may even wonder whether the Catholic church is what it says it is—the one true Church. The answer emerges when one compares its teachings to the Bible. The Apostle Paul wrote that one of the lies promoted at the end of the age is celibacy (1 Timothy 4:3). Celibacy for priests and nuns is a distinguishing factor of Catholic teaching—yet the Bible states, “it is *not good* for a man [or a woman] to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). The Apostle Peter was married (Mark 1:29–31; 1 Corinthians 9:5). Mary was *not* a perpetual virgin as Catholic theology teaches, but had additional children after Jesus was born (Matthew 12:47; 13:55–56). The Bible sanctifies the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8–11), which Jesus, the Apostles and the early Church continued to observe (Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2), yet the Pope urges his flock to keep Sunday sacred (*The London Times*, July 6, 1998). The list goes on. The Roman Catholic revival is just another aspect of the great *apostasy* or falling away from true biblical teaching, and it is destined to continue—especially in Europe—to the end of this age (see Revelation 13; 17).

*Significant* religious trends are developing that will affect the course of history in the near future. Prophecy is *coming alive* in the news today!

—Douglas S. Winnail





# Kwanzaa, Christmas and God's Word

During December, billions around the world will turn their attention to annual festivals of their faiths. Jews will observe Hanukkah and Muslims will mark the end of Ramadan, while billions of professing Christians will keep Christmas. Alongside these festivals, a growing number of African-Americans celebrate, from December 26 to January 1, a festival they call Kwanzaa, derived from African harvest celebrations.

Last year, President Bill Clinton issued a formal White House proclamation describing Kwanzaa as a tool to help African-Americans preserve “what we value of our past.” The President praised Kwanzaa for its “focus on the values that have sustained African-Americans through the centuries.”

Yet Kwanzaa did not exist before 1966, when it was invented by African-American activist Dr. Maulana Karenga. Commentators seized on the President's statements, mocking him for supporting this recently manufactured holiday; columnist Ann Coulter wrote that “it is as if David Duke invented a holiday called ‘Anglica’ and the President of the United States issued a proclamation honoring the synthetic holiday” (“Kwanzaa: Holiday from the FBI,” *Town Hall*, January 1, 2001).

Coulter and others mock Kwanzaa's “synthetic” origins. Yet many do not realize that Christmas is just as synthetic as is Kwanzaa. Religious scholars acknowledge that Jesus Christ was not born on December 25. Neither Christ nor the Apostles celebrated His birth and, for generations afterward, His birthday was neither known to nor

celebrated by professing Christians. “The [Church] Fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries, such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Epiphanius, contended that Christmas was a copy of a pagan celebration” (“Christianity,” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Vol. III, p. 499).

Only in the 4th century AD did professing Christians throughout the Roman Empire set aside December 25—a day holy to worshipers of Mithras and Sol Invictus—to celebrate Christ's birth. An almanac from Rome notes a December 25, 336AD observance of Christmas, though other cities resisted this innovation for decades more. Correspondence by Cyril of Jerusalem (ca. 348–386AD) shows that as late as 385AD, the Church in Jerusalem was not keeping this Christmas celebration. Kwanzaa-keepers today are doing just what Christmas-keepers did long ago—using, for spiritual purposes of their own devising, a time of celebration already honored by civil society.

Most who celebrate Kwanzaa do not realize that God Himself gave mankind a “harvest festival” to observe. Millions of Jews, along with the thousands of genuine Christians following the example of Jesus Christ and His disciples, celebrate the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, which occurs in the autumn of each year.

Unlike Christmas or Kwanzaa, the date of the Feast of Tabernacles comes from Scripture (Leviticus 23:34). The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the “Feast of Ingathering” is, like Kwanzaa, a “harvest festival” (Exodus 23:16; 34:22)—but it carries a deeper and

God-given meaning. God uses the Feast of Tabernacles to teach Christians about the future Kingdom of God on earth, during which Jesus Christ, born to be a king (Luke 1:32–33), will rule all nations (Revelation 11:15). Under Christ's coming millennial rule, all of mankind will keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16–17).

During the Feast of Tabernacles, God's people reside in temporary dwellings as a reminder that we are all strangers and pilgrims on this earth (Hebrews 11:13). They rejoice that under Christ's soon-coming rule, the world will be at peace and His “harvest” will encompass all nations, not just the “first-fruits” He is calling today.

Billions keeping Kwanzaa and Christmas are missing out on the inspiring truth that God has given us through His Word. His annual Holy Days reveal His plan for humanity with a depth not known to those who instead keep their own man-made holidays.

—William Bowmer

## To Learn More...

God's Holy Days teach lessons unknown to most professing Christians. The Holy Days reveal God's plan for humanity, and offer hope and understanding to a world in desperate need. Please request our *FREE* booklet *The Holy Days—God's Master Plan* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).



## WHAT IS THE UNPARDONABLE SIN? (continued from page 17)

individuals whom some Christians have condemned or considered lost forever—were actually blinded spiritually. They were carnal, they were even wicked, but they never heard or understood the true gospel. Yes, they will certainly be judged, as the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged when God poured out fire and brimstone upon them. But did these blinded people commit the unpardonable sin? Jesus spoke about those cities which should have repented at His disciples' preaching: "Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!" (Matthew 10:15). Even the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will have their chance for salvation!

### Hope and Encouragement

Years ago, depressed by the "Cold War" between the Soviet Union and the United States, I could only see nuclear war on the horizon and the inevitable destruction of the earth. I felt lost in a world without God. I was without any real hope. But I believe God's Spirit led me to have some hope when none could be seen. We can believe what we do not see, if we look beyond the physical realm to the spiritual promises recorded in the Bible.

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

I can identify with that expression. I felt the same way. Abraham "against hope, believed in hope" or as the *New King James Version* states it, Abraham "contrary to hope, in hope believed." The Bible is filled with God's promises to you. You can have an assurance, an expectation, and a hope for the future.

The gentiles in Ephesus were without hope. But notice what the Apostle Paul wrote to them, describing their former spiritual condition. "You were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

I felt that way at one time in my life. But I thank God that He called me to understand there is hope. There is not only hope, but promise—the promise of a new world, the Kingdom of God on earth and the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. I learned of Jesus' promise to return to this earth—and that He would establish lasting world peace. Paul went on to say: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off, have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

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

If you become a Christian, you will be forgiven. You will have all your sins blotted out by the blood of Christ. You will begin to walk in the way of the Bible. You will want to follow and obey your Savior and His instructions. But Christians sin. We give in to temptation from time to time. The Apostle Paul struggled with his human nature, and even wrote: "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God; through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin" (Romans 7:24–25). Yet Paul wrote in the very next verse an encouraging truth. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

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

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



## THE WAY TO PEACE (continued from page 13)

tion of UNESCO, a United Nations agency that declares: “Since wars begin *in the minds* of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” These statements agree with the Bible, and make no mention of poverty, injustice or inequality as the cause of strife. But just *how* will this crucial transformation of human character occur?

### How Peace Will Come

Scripture clearly indicates that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth (John 14:1–3; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7) to establish His kingdom that will rule over the nations (Revelation 11:15–17; Daniel 2:44–45). This is what the gospel is about (see Mark 1:14–15). Prophecy indicates that the Messiah will return “to give light to those who sit in darkness and... *guide our feet into the way of peace*” (Luke 1:79). Jesus Christ is called the “Prince of Peace” and we are told that “of the increase of His government *and peace* there will be no end” (Isaiah 9:6–7). Walking through the Peace Palace in the Netherlands, one notices that the goddess of Justice figures prominently in the symbolism of tapestries and sculptures, while a statue representing Jesus has been located inconspicuously to avoid offending non-Christians. This illustrates the perverse human tendency to place *hope* in idols and human reason rather than believe and follow the teachings of the One who will actually *bring peace* to this earth!

God’s method for promoting peace “in the latter days” is also described in the Bible. Isaiah prophesied: “For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall 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 any more*” (Isaiah 2:3–4). Referring to the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, humbled by a period of captivity at the end of this age, God says that “I will give them one heart, and I will put a *new spirit* within them... that they may walk in My statutes and keep my judgments” (Ezekiel 11:19–20). This is *how* the fundamental change in human character that General MacArthur and others have seen as the prerequisite for world peace will begin to occur.

But just what does the subject of world peace have to do with you? What can you do to change the course of history in ways that even President Reagan and General MacArthur could not? When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, “the kingdom [of God] and dominion [rulership], and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven *shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High*” (Daniel 7:27). The saints are those God is calling now to understand His plan and purpose, and who are willing to come out of this world and learn to live according to the laws of God (see 1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:38–40). Their reward will be to *reign on this earth* under Jesus Christ as kings and priests—civil and spiritual leaders (Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 11:18). Working as a team with and under Jesus Christ, the saints will be the *teachers* who will explain the laws of God to mankind, saying, “this is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:20–21). Because of their efforts, the real foundation for lasting peace will be established.

You can *prepare now* for important responsibilities in the coming kingdom of God. Learn the lessons of history. Study what the Bible reveals about the way to peace. Learn to live by the laws of God found in the Bible. Read the book of Proverbs, and begin to apply the principles that resolve conflicts and promote peace. Think about how these principles can be used to solve problems in the world today. Develop the skills of a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9) so you will be able to assist Jesus Christ when He returns to restore peace to this troubled world. <sup>[TW]</sup>

### To Learn More...



Not only will the missing dimension in life bring peace among the nations, it can also bring a Christian true peace of mind. When we understand the real purpose of human life, we gain a deeper understanding of our world, and of ourselves. Please request our FREE booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org)



# Letters to the Editor

## **TOMORROW'S WORLD**

Thank you for the May-June 2001 issue of *Tomorrow's World*. I really enjoyed reading it, and it has increased my understanding of some biblical issues, especially "Bible Principles of Health" and "Principles of Bible Study." The magazine is indeed a very rich, informative, educational and spiritual eye-opener.

G. K., Jamaica, NY

Thanks so much for your continuing to send the life-changing magazine *Tomorrow's World*. It has built me up in my search for perfection. Since we accepted the Sabbath teachings and you started mailing us the magazine, our lives have never been the same again. We have learned much and we are growing.

M. P., Libreville, Gabon

Thank you for sending me the latest *Tomorrow's World*. The article "Do You Ever SEEK God?" was not only very timely, but very appropriate, now that the world is in such turmoil from man-made problems. Please keep thundering the message of the Gospel around the world.

S.P., San Diego, Ca

Thank you so much for my first copy of *Tomorrow's World* and the booklet *The Beast of Revelation*. I find the magazine so interesting, like the old *Plain Truth*. Again, my deepest thanks and appreciation for helping nourish our spiritual lives.

N.C., Bogota, NJ

I was glancing through the July-August issue of *Tomorrow's World*, and came to read a section of the article "Islam in History and Prophecy." I found it interesting, so I started from the beginning and read the whole article. Please send me a

copy of the booklet offered in the article, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?*

B.W., Cade, LA

## **BIBLE STUDY COURSE**

I enjoy reading all the booklets, *Tomorrow's World* magazine and the *Bible Study Course*. All the publications printed and distributed by your organization are up-to-date and excellent material. Since receiving your publications, I have increased my knowledge and understanding of the Holy Bible. Once I pick up the magazine, I hate to put it down until I read every article. Your *Bible Study Course* is the best I have had the opportunity to study. Please keep up the good work.

C. S., Copperas Cove, TX

I am on Lesson Nine in the *Bible Study Course*. This is my first Bible study course, and at 82 years old it hasn't been that easy for me, but I'm learning. My eyes have been opened now to see many things that I never knew. Maybe by the time I finish the *Bible Study Course*, I will understand so many things that have been a mystery to me. I thank you for the wonderful work you are doing.

V. C., Madison Heights, MI

## **RESTORING APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY**

I have just finished reading your booklet *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. It was very well done. What made it so educational was the fact that you quote so many respected historians. For many years I have believed that faith based on historical fact is the foundation to sustaining one's faith. Very well done; this booklet is a must for anyone searching for the truth.

L.V., Valley City, ND

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



## DOES GOD HEAL TODAY? (continued from page 8)

true Christians must learn to look to God as their ultimate Protector, Deliverer and Healer! This is a vital part of returning to “Apostolic Christianity”—of contending earnestly “for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

### What IS Divine Healing?

Many articles have come out in recent years, describing how enlightened doctors and hospitals are cooperating now more than ever with ministers and “prayer partners” to aid in the healing process. Some of this is probably helpful. But, sadly, most of the emphasis is on the psychosomatic benefit of people having a “positive attitude”—of being “encouraged” or “hopeful.” The emphasis is NOT upon an all-powerful GOD who *directly intervenes* and supernaturally “heals” sickness and disease!

Yet supernatural healing is *exactly* what the Bible describes as taking place in New Testament times. Please read carefully the inspired account in Mark 2:1–12 of Jesus healing a paralytic man. “When Jesus saw their FAITH, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your SINS are forgiven you’” (v. 5). Sensing that his hearers were hostile to this concept, Jesus said: “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house’” (vv. 9–11).

Then: “IMMEDIATELY he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’” (v. 12).

This was NOT some “gradual” recovery that took place with the aid of doctors, drugs and blood transfusions. No, indeed. God intervened and removed the PENALTY of physical mistakes, sins and carelessness that are



nearly always the CAUSE of sickness and disease. Remember, as we saw earlier, that Isaiah 53:4 tells us that Jesus has borne our SICKNESSES.

Just before Jesus was crucified, Pilate caused Jesus to be beaten horribly by the Roman “scourging” usually administered to a condemned man. This brutal whipping was usually done with a leather whip, into which were fastened embedded shards of glass or metal, designed to tear the skin and induce severe bleeding and excruciating pain. Many men DIED just from this beating alone! That is WHY Isaiah said: “By His stripes we are HEALED” (v. 5).

Most professing Christians observe what they call the Eucharist or the “Lord’s Supper.” This service is actually a corruption of the biblical festival called

“Passover.” Describing the importance of FAITH and humility as one takes the emblems of bread and wine at the Passover, the Apostle Paul warned: “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep [have died]” (1 Corinthians 11:28–30).

In the Corinthian church, many were “weak” or “sickly” because they had not learned to discern the real *meaning* of the bread and wine—that our Savior suffered the terrible “scourging” that we might be HEALED. The broken bread symbolizes Christ’s body, “broken” for our physical healing. The wine symbolizes His shed blood given in payment for our *spiritual* sins!

That is WHY—as Mark 2:1–12 and Matthew 9:1–8 bring out—Jesus’ healing of the paralytic man was described as the forgiveness of “sin”! Physical *healing* and spiritual *forgiveness* are tied together in the Bible. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, SUFFERED terribly so that both would be possible. God’s Word also describes this principle: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who FORGIVES all your iniquities, Who HEALS all your diseases” (Psalm 103:1–3).

We cannot take the biblical Passover properly without looking to Christ as our HEALER, for He paid the penalty of our physical carelessness and transgressions of the physical laws of



health just as surely as He paid the penalty of spiritual SIN. As Psalm 103 indicates, both physical healing and spiritual forgiveness are “benefits” offered by a loving God. But a deceived mankind has usually been persuaded to accept one of these benefits and *totally neglect* the other!

## Living FAITH Required

Throughout His ministry, Jesus often told individuals who wanted to be healed: “According to your FAITH let it be to you” (Matthew 9:29). When several men were so faithful and zealous that they “uncovered the roof” of a room so the paralytic man could reach Jesus and be healed, God’s Word tells us: “When Jesus saw their FAITH, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you’” (Mark 2:5)—and the man was HEALED right in front of their eyes!

As the prophesied END of this age draws near, we must all focus our minds on the REALITY of the great GOD who gives us life and breath. We need to BELIEVE His inspired Word, the Holy Bible. We need to believe HIM! We need to understand that *God is NOT a liar!* When He promises us something in His Word, He will *back it up* by powerful ACTION—if we will just believe!

God tells us: “But without FAITH it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

The above is a STRONG statement! You and I CANNOT please the true God until we learn to BELIEVE Him—to *rely totally* on what He says in His inspired Word!

To help each of you to build the living FAITH we all need so much, I would heartily recommend that you call us or write us to request two very helpful and meaningful booklets: *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* and *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer*. These booklets will be sent absolutely free upon your request. If you will really *study* them and *look up* the scriptural references given, they will help you to become more fully aware of the REALITY of the true God, and how to receive *genuine answers* to your prayers.

A number of years ago, one of my college students—a young married man—was missing one day from Freshman Bible Class. Right after the class was dismissed, he met me in the lobby of the building and was obviously very anxious and worried about something. “What’s wrong?” I asked him.

“It’s my little daughter,” he blurted out. “The doctor has tested her blood and found that she has the fatal variety of spinal meningitis! He does not give her very long to live. Her fever is going up and she is having convulsions from time to time. Please come out and anoint her and pray for her!”

I quickly grabbed a nearby phone and asked my secretary to cancel appointments I had for the next couple of hours. Then I got in my car and followed this young man to his home. The doctor had dropped by earlier, but said that nothing could be done for the little child at this late stage.

When I arrived, the mother had been crying and the little girl lay there, still awake, but weak with fever of over 100 degrees. Feeling deeply the seriousness of the situation, I knelt with her parents by the little girl’s bedside, anointed her forehead with a drop

of oil from a little bottle of olive oil I always carry, and I beseeched our God and Father to completely HEAL her and to apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and make her totally well—and SOON.

Knowing that, humanly speaking, *death* was very near, I poured out my heart and prayed to God very earnestly—claiming His PROMISE to heal and *beseeching Him* to have mercy on this little child whose life was just really beginning. Then, after encouraging the parents to BELIEVE God, I left and returned to my other duties. But I kept on praying about this matter in my mind for the rest of the day and again in my evening prayer before going to bed. Late the next morning, I received the call I had been waiting for! The child’s mother told me that the little girl lapsed into a deep and peaceful sleep soon after I anointed her. Later in the day she awakened and was hungry—*genuinely hungry* for the first time in days. *The fever was gone! No more convulsions.* Then she went to sleep again and slept for many hours until late the next morning.

“Now,” her mother said, “she is up, feeling good and playing with her dolls as if nothing had ever happened.” This child had been quickly and supernaturally HEALED by the *living* Christ who had paid the penalty of sickness and disease in her stead!

I could write at length about the woman I knew who received an “anointed cloth” (see Acts 19:11–12) and her withered arm was *totally* healed. I could write about a lady with breast cancer who was “given up” by the doctors and yet was HEALED just when it seemed to be “too late.”

Also, I could write about the recent healing of a man who had



visited Africa and had contracted a form of hepatitis C which is often fatal. Briefly, without telling the entire story, here is part of his letter expressing thanks for God's intervention:

“Dear Dr. Meredith,

I have good news. As you recall, my previous blood test was unable to measure my viral load due to not enough virus. My most recent test shows that I no longer have hepatitis C. My liver enzymes are within acceptable ranges... I thank God and pray that I

can use the rest of my life to His service and glory... I again thank you for your prayer of faith.”

These are not sentimental stories; they are facts. I want all of you *Tomorrow's World* readers to know that I am *very aware* that many people give seemingly amazing but unprovable “testimonies” claiming that they were healed. But the incidents cited above were *genuine* healings—the divine intervention of the God of creation in response to faithful prayer.

God's Word is what we should and must rely on! God tells us:

“The prayer of faith WILL save the sick” (James 5:15). May God help each of you to *study* this subject in your own Bible. May He inspire you to cry out to Him for the courage and the FAITH you need to please Him. And even if you seek appropriate attention from health care professionals from time to time, may each of you learn to *always involve* GOD in the process. Learn to GROW in understanding and in faith. Learn to have FAITH that the living God can do what man is unable to do. For God—and He *alone*—is our ultimate Healer. TW

---

## **TERRORISM: WHY?** *(continued from page 3)*

turning away from God, and bringing shame on His name. Yet still on its currency are the words: “In God We Trust.” **Shame** on us! God says: “But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished” (v. 11).

God *will* have to correct us! Terrorist activities will be among the many events leading to a final attack upon—and the eventual captivity of—the American and British-descended peoples, who will be cast into literal slavery. Only then will they return to their God, weeping in repentance.

What will happen as conditions worsen in the U.S.? Scripture tells the modern-day Israelites that “all your lovers have forgotten you” (v. 14). The word used here for “lovers” is often translated as “allies.” The U.S. will be **forsaken** by its allies, and will be wounded “with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one” (v. 14).

Over the next few years, the U.S. can expect to see not just terrorism, but famine, natural disasters and disease epidemics (Matthew 24:7). *Where* will Americans turn for healing? Will they look only to

doctors, whose treatments grow more ineffective with each new disease and each new strain of drug-resistant virus? Or will they look to God? As the reality of America's suffering “hits home” for many for the first time, we need to ask ourselves: “Does God Heal TODAY?” Please *study* this “feature article” beginning on page 4 of this issue—and be prepared to look to God for healing, while mankind's best attempts at healing become ever more futile as we approach the end of this age.

Why has God allowed terrorism to strike the U.S.? “Because of the *multitude* of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you” (v. 15). “These things” are not merely the work of any one group of terrorists. For God will use *many* different people, nations and circumstances to get His people's attention. To fully understand the meaning of the traumatic times we are now entering, you *need* to be in touch with the Work that Jesus Christ has raised up in these latter days. This Work may be your only source of real understanding. So keep watching world events and reading your Bible. “Watch and pray,” Jesus said (Mark 13:33). Ask God for understanding. And ask God for courage—real courage—and the faith to act on the Truth.





# Tomorrow's World

## Television and Radio Log

### INTERNATIONAL:

#### —AUSTRALIA

**Adelaide:** ACE—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am, THUR 8:30 pm  
**Brisbane:** BRIZ—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
**Melbourne:** MCTC—Ch 31, TUE 11:00 pm  
**Perth:** CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

#### —GUYANA

**Georgetown:** CNS TV—Ch 6, SUN 2:30 pm

#### —JAMAICA

**Kingston:** CVM TV—Ch 4, 8 & 9, SUN 7:00 am

#### —PHILIPPINES

**Bansalan:** Metro Cable—Ch 31, SAT 10:00 am  
**Borongan:** Borongan Cable—Ch 17, SAT 3:00 pm  
**Kidapawan Mindanao:** Kidapawan Cable—Ch 19, SAT 8:30 am  
**Naval, Leyte:** Naval Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am  
**Nabunturan:** Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am  
**Maasin City:** Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SUN 12:00 pm  
**Naval Biliran:** Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 10:00 am  
**Ormoc City:** Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 12:00 pm  
**Sogod Leyte:** Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SUN 12:00 pm

#### —TRINIDAD

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

### UNITED STATES:

**AL, Birmingham:** Cable—Ch 4, WED 1:30 pm  
**AL, Troy:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 8:30 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am  
**AZ, Phoenix:** Access—Ch 22, TUE 11:30 am  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73, SAT 4:30 pm; SUN 11:30 am  
**CA, Anaheim:** Adelphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm  
**CA, Buena Park:** Adelphia—Ch 55, SUN 5:00 pm  
**CA, Eureka:** Cox—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm  
**CA, Garden Grove:** Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am  
**CA, Modesto:** AT&T—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm  
**CA, Norwalk:** Public Access—Ch 55, THUR 5:00 pm  
**CA, Oceanside:** KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCCTV—Ch 75, WED 7:00 pm  
**CA, San Andreas:** MediaOne—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 24 THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Francisco:** Community TV—Ch 29 THUR 5:00 pm  
**CA, Sonora:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Enfield:** Cox—Ch 15, THUR 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm  
**CT, Naugatuck:** Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
**FL, Gainesville:** Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm  
**FL, Ocala:** Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Tampa:** Time Warner—Ch 19 & 20, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:00 pm  
**GA, Atlanta:** AIB—Cable, THUR 6:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am  
**GA, Macon:** Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm  
**HI, Hilo:** Na Leo—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm  
**HI, Honolulu:** OIelo—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm  
**HI, Kailua-Kona:** Na Leo—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm  
**HI, Kauai:** Ho'i'ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm  
**HI, Lanai:** Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 8:30 pm  
**HI, Maui:** Akaku—Ch 44, SAT 9:30 pm  
**HI, Molokai:** Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13 WED 8:30 pm

**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Dubuque:** TCI of Iowa—Ch 45, THUR 7:30 pm; MON 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am  
**IA, Waterloo:** Cable—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm  
**ID, Pocatello:** Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm  
**IL, Bloomington:** AT&T—Ch 10, SUN 8:30 am; MON 9:00 pm  
**IL, Chicago:** WGN—Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
**IL, Springfield:** TCI—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm  
**IN, Anderson:** Insight—Ch 3, WED 9:30 pm  
**IN, Lafayette:** Insight—Ch 16, TUE 8:30 pm  
**KS, Chanute:** Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
**KS, Parsons:** Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm  
**KY, Paducah:** Public Cable—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm  
**LA, Lafayette:** KATC—Ch 3, SUN 7:30 am  
**LA, Monroe:** Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MD, Baltimore:** TCI—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm, WED 4:00 pm  
**MD, Westminster:** Adelphia—Ch 19, TUE 10:30 am, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
**MN, Duluth:** Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** MTN—Ch 67/58, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am  
**MN, St. Paul:** SPNN—Ch 34, SUN 8:30 pm  
**MO, Joplin:** KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 6:00 am  
**MO, Springfield:** KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Louis:** Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** Time Warner—Ch 11, WED 12:00 am & 4:00 pm  
**MT, Billings:** BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am & 7:30 pm  
**MT, Butte:** BSC—Cable, Daily 7:30 pm & 8:30 pm  
**MT, Great Falls:** BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am  
**MT, Great Falls:** Public Access TV—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm  
**MT, Helena:** BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am  
**MT, Kalispell:** BSC—Cable, Daily 5:00 am  
**MT, Missoula:** BSC—Cable, SUN 9:30 am & 9:30 pm; WED 9:30 pm  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm  
**ND, Bismarck:** CATV—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm  
**NE, Omaha:** KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am  
**NH, Hanover:** CATV—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am  
**NJ, East Windsor:** Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm  
**NJ, Oakland:** Cablevision—Ch 71 & 72, SUN 6:30 pm  
**NM, Albuquerque:** CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm  
**NY, Carson City:** Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm  
**NY, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**NY, Reno/Sparks:** SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, WED 6:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brooklyn:** BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm  
**NY, Canandaigua:** FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:30 am  
**NY, Delmar:** TV 18—Ch 18, WED 3:00 pm  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 70, FRI 10:30 pm  
**NY, Irondequoit:** ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:00 pm, TUE 9:30 am & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Ithaca:** Pegasys—Ch 13 & 78, SUN 8:00 pm, TUE

7:00 pm, WED 4:30 pm  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Port Jefferson:** TCI—Ch 1/99 FRI 10:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** QPTV—Ch 35, check local listing  
**NY, Riverhead:** Cablevision—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 7:00 pm  
**NY, Schenectady:** Community TV—Ch 16, MON 8:30 am  
**NY, Utica:** Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm  
**OK, Tulsa:** KTFO—Ch 41 SAT 12:30 am  
**OR, Beaverton:** Community Access—Ch 51, SAT 1:00 am SUN 7:00 pm; TUES 11:30 pm; FRI 5:00 pm  
**OR, Portland:** MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
**PA, Sayre:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI, 5:00 pm  
**RI, Providence:** WPXQ—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 am  
**TX, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm  
**TX, Corpus Christi:** TCI—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Dallas:** Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTU—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**VA, Chesterfield:** Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
**VA, Fredericksburg:** COX—Ch 25, MON 8:00 pm  
**VT, Barre:** Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm  
**VT, Montpelier:** Adelphia—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm; WED 3:00 pm  
**WA, Kennewick:** Charter—Ch 13, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
**WA, Seattle:** TCI—Ch 29, SAT 7:00 pm  
**WA, Vancouver:** Clark/Vancouver—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am

### RADIO STATIONS:

**Argentina, Ameghino:**—94.9 FM, SAT 1:00 pm  
**Martinique, Radio Banlieue-Relax:**—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am  
**Martinique, Radio Campêche:**—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am  
**Martinique, Radio St. Pierre:**—88.7 FM, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am  
**Martinique, St. Luce,** 98.3 FM  
**Mexico, Mexico City, XEEST:**—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am  
**Northern Ireland, Portadown,** Radio Star—981 AM & 101.2 FM, THUR 9:00 pm  
**Philippines, Manila,** DWBL—1242 kHz AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm  
**Philippines, Ozamiz City,** DXOC—1494 kHz AM, SUN 5:00 am

### • Television Superstations

- CANADA (nationwide)  
**ON, Toronto:** VISION—SUN 3:30 am & 5:30 pm (ET)
- NEW ZEALAND (nationwide)  
**Auckland:** PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am
- IL, Chicago: WGN—National Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)



Join us weekly for

# Tomorrow's World

[www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org)

## TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS:

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

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

**PRIME TELEVISION:** New Zealand, Auckland: SUN 8:30 am

## NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

**LA, Lafayette:** KATC—Ch 3, SUN 7:30 am

**MO, St. Louis:** AT&T—Ch 3, THU 6:00 pm

**NC, Greensboro:** GCTV—Ch 8, SUN 11:30 pm; WED 11:30 pm

**TX, Lufkin:** KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am



## FREE Bible Study Course

The Bible is full of detailed prophecy that can help you understand your future—and the future of the world. It reveals God's plan for you, and how you can live a happy and successful life. To enroll in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*, absolutely **FREE**, please return the subscription card in this issue, or write to the regional office nearest you.