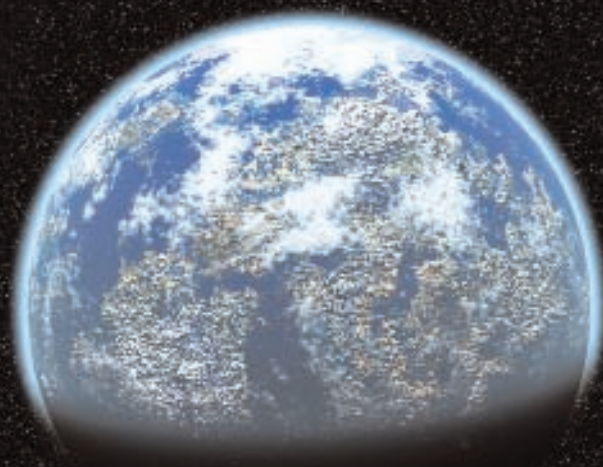


TOMORROW'S **WORLD**

November-December 2005

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**Will You Inherit
the Earth?**



Are You Zealous for the Truth?

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

Perhaps *the* major weakness in most people's approach to religion is their lukewarm and careless approach to Truth. In our time of "political correctness"—of *conforming* to this world's society with its approach of "no absolutes"—some of you may consider this very unimportant. But learning, teaching and practicing the full Truth is *enormously* important to the God of the Bible!

Are *you* interested in what the great **God** who inspired the Bible says about this vital topic?

We at *Tomorrow's World* want to teach you the **Truth**! Anything less than that is actually *dangerous*—believe it or not. The Jesus Christ of the Bible said: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and **truth**" (John 4:24). He said that if *you*, personally, wish to enter into eternal life, you must worship God in Truth!

What is the ultimate Truth about *why* we were born, the *purpose* of life and how to fulfill that supreme purpose? Jesus said: "Your word is **truth**" (John 17:17). Jesus Christ Himself said that the *Holy Bible*—God's word—is, in fact, the ultimate **Truth** from our Creator. He also told us: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4).

Throughout His ministry, Jesus constantly acknowledged as "Scripture"—as the inspired word of God—those books of the Bible that we today call the Old Testament. Referring to the Old Testament, He told the Jews: "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'You are gods'?' If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the *Scripture cannot be broken*)..." (John 10:34–35). So Jesus made it very clear that the Old and New Testaments—when correctly understood—do *not* contradict each other. For the New Testament is simply an expansion or "magnification" of the Old Testament (Isaiah 42:21, KJV).

Yet—perhaps without even realizing it—people today virtually "trash" the Bible in terms of what they actually *believe* and *practice* in their professed "Christian lives." Over the centuries, "mainstream Christianity" has devised countless **false** ideas, concepts and practices that are *totally contrary* to the clear teachings of the Bible! In nearly every issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine, we point this out clearly from the Bible itself. We sincerely want to help all of our readers learn the *full Truth* of what the Bible actually says. And we ask you to **prove** what we say—*right out of your own Bible*! For Truth is very important to

God! The Apostle Paul was inspired to describe a great false religious system—a system which would deceive the whole world—that was "already at work" when he wrote 2 Thessalonians 2:7. He wrote that this false religion would come "with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the **truth**, that they might be saved" (v. 10). Bible prophecy shows that this system will soon manifest itself with *great power* and essentially take over the professing Christian world! The stakes involved are *life and death*! *Please understand!*

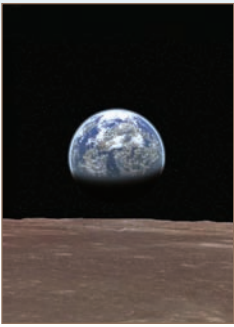
Using Paul's inspired phrase: Do you have the "*love of the truth*"?

God's word shows that most people will be swept away by "strong delusion, that they should believe the lie that they all may be condemned who did not believe the **Truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:11–12). Paul was also inspired to warn us, in the final book he wrote: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the **truth**, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 4:3–4).

That is a key reason why Paul earlier instructed Christians: "**Study** to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV). We all should genuinely **study** God's inspired word—*not* just carelessly read it, or merely read a few sentimental passages for comfort. We need to *get out* of our "comfort zone" and find out what our very **Creator** is telling us in His Instruction Manual—the Holy Bible!

A few years ago, *U.S. News & World Report* ran a very well-researched article on "Faith in America." After citing a number of studies and polls, the author noted: "Meanwhile, more than 3 in 4 Americans believe all religions have at least some elements of truth—even though few say they know much about religions other than their own. And nearly 70 percent think spiritual experiences are the most important part of religion. 'If one's religion is more about individual identity than doctrine or creed, it's a lot easier to be tolerant,' says Egon Mayer, a sociologist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

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A New Covenant?

By Roderick C. Meredith

On what values should society be based? Are the Ten Commandments merely “Ten Suggestions”?

Most “mainstream Christian” ministers and priests teach that Jesus Christ brought a New Covenant that somehow “does away” with the Ten Commandments. Yet even these religious leaders are confused among themselves. Some say that Christ did away with the law at the cross. Others teach that the

Apostle Paul brought a new “gospel of grace” that supplants God’s spiritual laws. Others say that the Ten Commandments are not binding, and are “spiritualized” away except for those specifically restated in the New Testament.

No wonder there is such great confusion. As Jesus warned: “Beware of false prophets, which come to you

in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?” (Matthew 7:15–16, KJV). Your Bible shows clearly that we live in a *deceived* world! “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth *the whole world*: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9, KJV).

In the midst of this confusion, Christians should realize that God blesses human beings—nations, families or individuals—to the degree that they choose to live by God’s basic spiritual law, and that they will receive curses and things will go wrong to the degree they disobey Him.

Does this surprise you? One of the *major* deficiencies in “mainstream Christianity” is its total misunderstanding of the Old and New Covenants. God Almighty knew in advance that many would misunderstand the Apostle Paul; He inspired the Apostle Peter to write the following warning:

“Consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to

their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures” (2 Peter 3:15–16). “Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of *lawless men* and fall from your secure position” (v. 17, *NIV*). Yes, Peter warned against false teachers who are “lawless men.”

Does the New Covenant Abolish Law?

The book of Hebrews addresses the New Covenant specifically, more so than any other book in the New Testament. We read: “But now He [Christ] has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” (Hebrews 8:6). The New Covenant is not established on different laws, but on better promises—the promised indwelling help of the Holy Spirit and the reward of eternal life!

Continuing: “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: ‘Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah’” (vv. 7–8).

Nothing is said about finding “fault” with God or His law. The fault was with a physical people who lacked the spiritual love and strength to obey God. This is essentially the same problem that the United States and British-descended nations face today.

“For this is the covenant [relationship with God] that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put *My laws* [divine, ethical standards of conduct] in their mind and write them on their hearts; and

I will be their God, and they shall be My people [a genuinely righteous, Christian nation]” (v. 10). This powerful New Testament verse makes it very clear that, far from “doing away” with God’s law, the New Covenant *validates* God’s laws by putting them right into the minds and hearts of true Christians!

How could it be otherwise?

Jesus Christ said: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17–19).

Jesus “magnified” God’s law (Isaiah 42:21, *KJV*). He taught that Christians are not to murder, and must *not* even harbor an attitude of hate (Matthew 5:21–24). Not only are Christians forbidden from practicing physical adultery; Jesus added a new dimension: “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (v. 28).

Our Savior magnified or enlarged God’s Ten Commandments and made them even more binding. Christians must keep the “spirit” or intent of the law as well as the letter! Jesus’ advice to any person seeking eternal life is: “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17).

After Jesus Christ died and was resurrected, He told His apostles: “Go therefore and make dis-

ciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe *all things* that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20).

Christ’s death did not end the need to “observe all things” that Jesus had commanded. Throughout the Gospel accounts, we find Jesus teaching, “Keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). So, how can human beings possibly reason around their Savior’s clear statements?

Did God “Start All Over”?

Some who want to “do away” with the Ten Commandments like to say that God virtually “started all over” in the New Testament. They reason that God’s laws, as revealed in the Old Testament, were crude and incomplete, and that God inspired the Apostle Paul to reveal a whole new concept of how to serve Him, which was not wedded to the old teachings of obedience to His laws and ways. Rather, their reasoning goes, one need only have “faith” in Christ and His shed blood in order to inherit eternal life.

This theory of “religious evolution” tries, in one master stroke, to negate the entire *way of life* that God had revealed to the patriarchs and prophets—which He had revealed through the Word, Jesus Christ, whom many fail to realize was the God of the Old Testament. It portrays the Old Testament as a collection of “interesting” stories, allegories and poetry by the primitive Hebrew people, whose concept of God was gradually developing. It considers the Old Testament histories as largely unreliable, the prophecies as uncertain—and the

revealed laws as certainly not binding on Christians today.

Yet, although liberal theologians accept this concept as truth, it is a damnable lie hatched by Satan! In fact, the Apostle Paul told the Gentile Christians at Ephesus: “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,” (Ephesians 2:19–20). True Christianity has a “foundation”—an undergirding upon which all else is built. That foundation includes the “prophets” of God—including Moses! God’s law came “through” Moses (not *from* him),

just as grace and truth came “through” Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh; who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands; that at that time 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 2:11–12). These Gentiles prior to their conversion had no hope, and were “without God” because they were aliens from Israel and “strangers from the covenants of promise.” Paul stressed that God’s “covenants” of old were very important! They helped people

become acquainted with God and His way of salvation!

Paul told Timothy, the young Jewish evangelist: “From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:15–16). Remember, the only “Scripture” Timothy had as a child was the Old Testament, which Paul said could make him “wise for salvation.”

God did *not* “start all over” in the New Testament! The entire way of life that the early Church understood and taught had its “roots”

What Is a “Covenant”?

Readers (and translators) of the New Testament sometimes have difficulty understanding the subtle distinction between the English words “covenant” and “testament.” These words are both used to translate the Greek word *diatheke*, which occurs 33 times in the New Testament. In classical Greek, *diatheke* was used to mean a will or a testament. But in the Greek Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), the Greek word *diatheke* is more than 300 times rendered as the equivalent of the Hebrew *berith*, which always translated into English as “covenant.”

“The essential distinction between the two meanings is that in a testament the testator expresses his will as to what shall be done after his death, especially in respect to his property; the covenant is an agreement between living persons as to what *shall be done by them while living*” (Ralph Earl, Th.D., *Word Meanings in the New Testament*, 1991, p. 277, quotes E. D. Burton, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*, p. 500).

Dr. Earl concludes his analysis of *diatheke* by stating: “We would agree with most commentators

that the only place [in the New Testament] where this word means ‘testament’ is Hebrews 9:16–17” (p. 426)!

In other words, scholars acknowledge that if we use our terminology accurately, the “New Testament” should more properly be called the “New Covenant”! And if we are consistent, we must admit that Jesus Christ’s instruction, “If you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments**” (Matthew 19:17), applies to all Christians today!

A “covenant” is simply an agreement between two living parties. So, now, let us understand what the Old Covenant involved. In Exodus 19:5, God proposed this Covenant with Israel: “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” God promised that, if Israel would accept, He would make the nation His special treasure and a kingdom of priests. Did Israel agree? “Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’ So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD” (v. 8).

In Exodus 20–24, God spelled out the terms and conditions of His Covenant. In Exodus 20 He restated and codified the Ten Commandments

firmly planted in the Hebrew Bible—and in the law of God.

When Jesus Christ, James or John spoke of God's law or of the "commandments," they were speaking about the Ten Commandments—often referring to them specifically, in almost the same breath, to make their points clear. "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law" (James 2:10–11).

The Apostle John exhorted believers: "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the

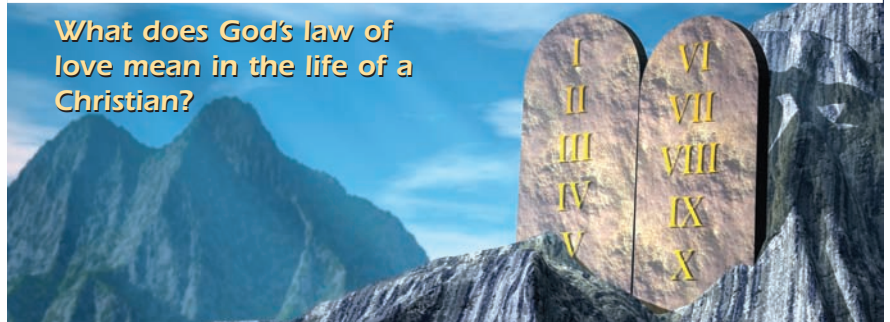
truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). The false teaching that God's spiritual law is "done away" under the New Covenant would simply "blow the minds" of the apostles and prophets who originally wrote about it!

The New Covenant Proposed

Christ came "to confirm the promises made to the fathers" (Romans 15:8). He outlined the terms and conditions of the New

The Ten Commandments

What does God's law of love mean in the life of a Christian?



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that Abraham, like all of God's servants, had known about and previously kept (Genesis 26:5). These commandments were spiritual laws. Therefore, they are the basis of every relationship God has ever had with human beings, and are the very foundation of holy, righteous character.

God also gave Israel many statutes and judgments that made up the ancient nation's actual civil law. The statutes and judgments were the "law of the land"—interpretations based directly on a "letter of the law" magnification of the Ten Commandments as applied to specific issues.

Abraham—the father of the faithful—understood and obeyed these statutes (Genesis 26:5). Moses stated: "I make known the statutes of God and His laws" (Exodus 18:16). This was *before* God thundered the Ten Commandments from the mountaintop—*before* the Sinai Covenant was made.

If we were to accept (for argument's sake) the classic Protestant and Catholic proposition that the Sinai Covenant ceased at the death of Christ, then how could these statutes and laws cease—laws that existed and were empowered before Sinai—by force of the Sinai Covenant's dissolution? *Nothing* in the Bible ever says that they were dissolved! After all, by the logic of this argu-

ment, the Sinai Covenant could not destroy what it did not bring into force!

The bottom line is that Israel agreed to enter into a covenant with God. This covenant was to be a way of life with blessings if they obeyed, or punishment and death if they disobeyed. The Israelites said: "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient" (Exodus 24:7). This was immediately after Moses had read to the people the "Book of the Covenant," which contained the Ten Commandments and the statutes and judgments that were to guide the people's daily conduct (v. 7).

Moses then sealed the Covenant by sprinkling blood on the people (v. 8). "As is evident elsewhere in the Bible, covenants were concluded in order to create quasi-familial relations. Parties bound by covenant regularly employed family terminology [The LORD would be their father (Jeremiah 31:9) and they would be His children (Isaiah 45:11)]. The role of blood was to create an artificial tie of consanguinity [blood relationship]" (*The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, "Blood," Vol. 1, 1992, p. 763). Now they were committed to obey God's laws and walk in His ways—knowing He would make them a "special treasure" above all nations of the earth if they did so—or terribly punish them if they did not.

Covenant, saying: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). As He explained: “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail” (Luke 16:16–17).

Remember, when the young man asked Him the way to eternal life, Jesus answered: “*keep the commandments*” (Matthew 19:17).

Which commandments? Did this forever include the animal sacrifices and ceremonial laws that God later added as a reminder of sin, after He had given the spiritual laws and principles of Exodus 20–24? Animal sacrifice and ceremonial laws were *not* part of the original Sinai Covenant. These were added later, after the covenant was enacted by blood (Exodus 24:8).

God clearly explains that He did not give Israel these things when the Old Covenant was made. As the prophet Jeremiah was inspired to write: “For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you’” (Jeremiah 7:22–23).

The author of Hebrews describes the physical ministry of the Levitical priesthood: “It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect

in regard to the conscience; concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation” (Hebrews 9:9–10).

Animal sacrifices, washings and the carnal ordinances of the Levitical priesthood were added later, as we have seen—and are *no longer* necessary for the “Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16), now that the sacrifice of Christ has been made and the Holy Spirit is available to spiritually cleanse converted Christians.

God has commanded all Israel to walk in His ways—in the spiritual law of the Ten Commandments, and in the statutes that He gave them. For God—Jesus Christ—*never* changes His underlying spiritual laws, which reflect His basic character. “For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob” (Malachi 3:6). And: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

After Jesus’ death and resurrection, God began to share the Holy Spirit with all those who would become the “firstfruits” (John 16:7). On the day of Pentecost, Peter exhorted the thousands of Jews gathered at the Temple of God: “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).

So, this promise was to “*all*”—even to those “afar off”—whom God would “call” in years to come (v. 39). Now, notice the *conditions* by which people may receive God’s Spirit and be partakers of the New Covenant. For what purpose did Peter say they were to repent and be baptized? “For the *remission* [forgiveness] of *sin*.”

These thousands of Jews (v. 41) who heard Peter knew, from their teaching in the synagogues, what sin was! Do *you* know? Scripture had taught them plainly that sin is a matter of disobeying God’s spiritual law—the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20; Psalm 119). As the Apostle John was inspired to write: “Sin is the transgression of the *law*” (1 John 3:4, *KJV*).

At baptism, a truly converted person enters into a genuine New Covenant relationship with God, and must *repent* of breaking God’s Ten Commandments. Sincere repentance means being *so sorry* that you will forsake your lawless way, then turn around and go the other way—the way of God’s law!

Clearly, then, at baptism, a *real Christian* makes a covenant with the Creator to quit sinning—to *stop* breaking God’s spiritual law! “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

A new Christian looks forward in *faith* to the promise that the Holy Spirit will empower the mind with love and strength to *obey* God’s law, “because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5, *NRSV*).

Of course, we will not keep the commandments perfectly in this physical life. However, we are exhorted to “*grow* in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). God expects us to walk in His commandments as a way of life! If we fall short, we are to repent and confess our sins to God, so we can continually be cleansed and forgiven (1 John 1:9–10).

Jesus said: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in

My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10). The Apostle Paul wrote: "I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ will *live His life* anew in the truly converted Christian. As Christ does *not* change (Hebrews 13:8), He will live in today's Christian the same *obedient* life He lived in the flesh 1,900 years ago while human!

Do you now *understand*? The New Covenant in *no way* does away with, or "waters down," even the *letter* of God's spiritual law. Rather, it empowers genuinely converted Christians, by God's Spirit, to obey that law in the *letter and* in the spirit. It enables Jesus Christ—through the Spirit—to *live His life* in Christians: "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts" (Hebrews 8:10; cf. Jeremiah 31:33). This prepares us for immortality in the Kingdom of God!

No, we *do not* thereby "earn" our own salvation! This is a false concept that has been foisted on the Protestant world for generations. It is a false, misguided attempt to reason around obedience to God and His laws! Eternal life is God's gift, but God will not give this precious gift to rebellious people who spurn His law and way of life. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). God will not give immortality to those who rebel against His law of love (1 John 5:3), who would

make themselves and others miserable throughout eternity. This also applies to Christians who, after receiving the Holy Spirit, later in life rebel against God and turn to a life of sin. As it is written:

"For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, since on their own they are crucifying again the Son of God and are holding him up to contempt. Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it repeatedly, and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and on the verge of being cursed; its end is to be burned over" (Hebrews 6:4–8, NRSV).

Our initial reconciliation to God, our overcoming and our ultimate salvation are *all* accomplished through God's mercy—and through the love and strength of Christ living *His* life in us through the Holy Spirit. But to receive that mercy, we must quit making excuses just so we can

"do our own thing." We must genuinely *surrender* to let Christ *rule* our lives (Luke 6:46).

If we do so, then when we are glorified—and can participate fully in the New Covenant at Christ's return—we will be "ready." For, as ancient Israel was "married" to Christ, so spiritual Israel (Galatians 6:16)—the Church of God—will be "married" to Christ at His second coming. "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7).

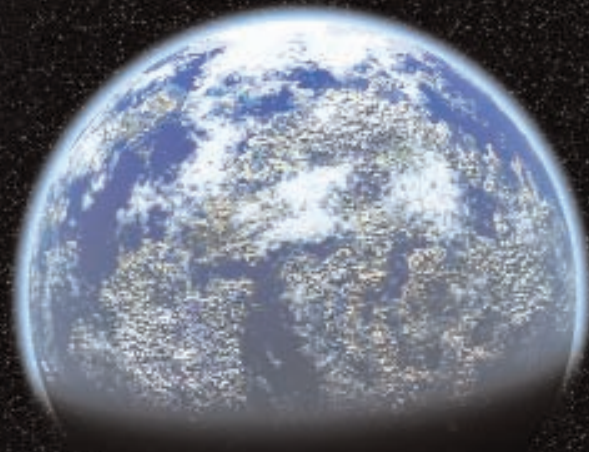
Converted members of God's Church—the affianced bride of Christ—will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, have overcome. They will have actively yielded to let God build within them His divine *character*. They will then truly be "one" with Christ and "one" with God the Father (John 17:20–21).

In this fashion, the purpose of the New Covenant will be *fulfilled*. Countless repentant and yielded human beings will eventually be imbued with the very nature of God the Father. At the resurrection, when Christ returns, they will be born, literally, into the very Family of God, and so fulfill the great *purpose* of human existence! How will you respond? ■

Restoring Apostolic Christianity

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Will You Inherit the Earth?

By Richard F. Ames

Jesus said that the meek will inherit the earth, but millions believe that they will go to heaven when they die. What does your Bible really say?

Millions—perhaps billions—believe that the bliss of heaven is the reward of the saved. This belief is shared not only by most who call themselves Christians, but also by members of many other religions around the world.

Christians believe in the words of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave some of His most basic and fundamental teachings in what is commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5–7). How did He begin His teaching? “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:3–5).

Notice carefully. Did Jesus say that the poor in spirit would go to heaven, while the meek would inherit the earth? No! He said that the poor in spirit would be blessed with the Kingdom *of* heaven. The Kingdom *of* heaven will come to earth when Christ returns! That is when the saved will be resurrected, and will inherit the Kingdom.

Jesus taught us to pray: “Your Kingdom come” (Matthew 6:10). Was He asking us to pray for something to come that is already here? If the Kingdom is here, then why has the world experienced such horrors as the two great World Wars of the last century, as well as the terrible genocides carried out against

Armenians, Jews, Cambodians and many others? Even today, one out of every eight nations is fighting a civil war (*The Economist*, May 22, 2003). Yes, the world *needs* God’s Kingdom to come!

Christ taught that there would be a Great Tribulation before His Kingdom would come. How severe would this tribulation be? He said: “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved” (Matthew 24:22). Thankfully, Christ promised to intervene, and by His Second Coming put an end to warring mankind’s efforts to destroy the earth. If you are watching world events carefully, you realize that unless God intervenes, current military trends would lead to total cosmocide—the annihilation of mankind. Ever since the first atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima in 1945, human beings have had the power to destroy themselves with an ease never before known in history. And technology has become more powerful since then! Left to themselves, warring nations would eventually destroy themselves.

My friends, the Kingdom of God is *not* already here! Jesus Christ is not yet exercising His rule over all the earth, or there would not be the chaos and devastation we now see. Christ must return to save all nations—spiritually and physically.

Thankfully, He is coming soon to save the world physically. And He has a plan for the spiritual salvation

of humanity. He reveals that plan through the Holy Days, which Jesus and the Apostles observed—and which they taught the first Christians to observe. Most professing Christians know that the very first step in this plan to save humanity is the redemption God gives to repentant sinners, through the blood of Jesus Christ. But many do not realize that Jesus and the Apostles commemorated His sacrifice and His redemption of humanity by observing the New Testament Passover, with unleavened bread and wine. Christ and the Apostles kept this annual memorial, and instructed Christians to do the same.

Notice how the Apostle Paul emphasized Jesus' sacrifice: "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7). In the very next verse, Paul tells even the Gentiles to keep the Feast—the Festival of Unleavened Bread. You may find these terms unusual, but for those who want to follow Jesus Christ, they are vital—and full of hope and encouragement! Jesus never kept Christmas and Easter, nor did the Apostles or the Christians whom they taught. From the beginning, Christians have kept the *biblical* festivals, following the example of Jesus Himself. To learn more about the true biblical festivals picturing the steps in God's plan of salvation for mankind, please request your free copy of our informative booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*.

Where Is the Kingdom?

The Apostle John explained that God has called His servants and redeemed them "out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). What will be their destiny? Will they go to heaven? The Apostle John explains in the very next verse: "And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign *on the earth*" (Revelation 5:10).

God did not offer to save us so that we could rest idly in bliss in heaven. He calls us to become kings and priests, who will assist Jesus Christ—the King of kings—in establishing lasting peace on earth. This is why Jesus said that the meek—those who humbly follow Jesus rather than their own self-will—will inherit the earth. When we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we are praying for the coming of that Kingdom which will bring peace to all humanity, and in which faithful Christians will serve their beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, as kings and priests under His direction.

Over the years, some have taught that the church, on earth, is the Kingdom. Others believe that the Kingdom is in your heart. However, the Kingdom of God is a literal kingdom, whose King will be Jesus Christ!

What, exactly, is a kingdom? Every kingdom has four basic elements: a ruler, a territory, laws and subjects. But how does this apply to the Kingdom of God?

Who is the ruler of God's Kingdom? The Bible answers this question in many places. Notice what the Apostle John wrote: "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself" (Revelation 19:11–12). Jesus Christ, wearing many crowns, will return to earth as its conquering King!

Here is another description of Jesus' appearance at His Second Coming: "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:13–16).

Yes, the Ruler of the soon-coming Kingdom of God will be Jesus Christ Himself! Are you praying, "Your Kingdom come"? Are you eagerly anticipating Jesus' return to this earth? The Apostle John certainly was. John concluded the next-to-last verse in your Bible with his prayer and fervent hope: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

When Jesus Christ comes, His territory will be the whole earth! And His subjects will be all of humanity. Scripture describes that the whole world will learn the way to peace. People will come to worship their King, every year, in Jerusalem. The whole earth will learn to observe the same biblical Holy Days that Jesus and the Apostles observed. "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

Every nation on earth will worship the King—and will keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Many do not realize that the Holy Days are still filled with meaning for Christians today. The New Testament Church was founded on the day of the Feast of Pentecost, though many today have forgotten that Pentecost is one of the biblical Holy Days that God gave to His people. In the book of Acts, we read that throngs of people were gathered together to observe the Feast of Pentecost when the Apostles preached to them and converted thousands. The people were gathered together to observe the day because it was commanded in the Bible! As the *NIV Study Bible* states: "Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Dt

16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Ex 23:16) and the day of firstfruits (Nu 28:26)” (p. 1,645). True Christians today understand that the Feast of Pentecost commemorates that stage in God’s plan of salvation when He calls the “firstfruits” to salvation in this present age, preparing them to rule under Christ in the Millennium.

What is the “Gospel”?

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, came preaching a message that many may *think* they know, but that surprisingly few actually *understand*. What did Jesus preach? “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). Jesus taught that it was time to stop sinning, believe His message and prepare for the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

Have you repented? To “repent” means to acknowledge that you have sinned—transgressed the Ten Commandments, God’s law. It means not only to express sorrow, and repugnance at your sin, but to hate

bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20, ASV).

True Christianity is a way of life. Once you repent, believe the gospel and commit your life to Jesus Christ through baptism, He can live in you through the Holy Spirit. Then, you can grow as a Christian, and transform your life from a life of selfishness into one of service and love toward God and your fellow human beings. Those whom God is calling today are not being called merely for their own salvation; He is calling them to prepare to serve in His coming Kingdom as kings and priests, as we saw earlier. Their first opportunity to rule will come in the Millennium—the thousand-year period described in your Bible, when Jesus will rule a healed earth. As John wrote: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

From Where Will Christ Reign?

From where will Jesus reign on the earth? He will reign from Jerusalem. He says: “I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem” (Zechariah 8:3). In fact, when He reigns, Jerusalem will have another name. The very last verse in the book of Ezekiel states that “the name of the city from that day shall be: The LORD Is There” (Ezekiel 48:35). In Hebrew, that name is *Yahweh Shama*. From there, He will rule His Kingdom: “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9).

When Christ comes back to rule the earth, He and the glorified saints will rule over the nations—over physical human beings. Christ will teach the nations the way of life that produces peace. Today’s Christians—resurrected as spirit beings (the “firstfruits”)—will rule under His direction, as the kings and priests who will rule over cities and nations (see Luke 19:17; Revelation 2:26). These kings and priests will educate the world about God’s truth. Notice this inspiring scripture, describing those who will be taught God’s ways during the Millennium: “And though the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers” (Isaiah 30:20). *You* could be one of those teachers. And what will the glorified saints—the kings and priests—teach? “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left” (v. 21).

Four Elements of a Kingdom

- Ruler
- Territory
- Subjects
- Laws

that sin so much that you turn from it, and begin to live a new life without that sin. Repentance means that you commit—with God’s help—to change your life. What is sin? John wrote: “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). As another translation puts it, “sin is the transgression of the law” (v. 4, KJV).

You cannot *believe* the gospel unless you *understand* it! Many who *say* that they believe in Jesus Christ do not, in fact, believe—or act on—what He preached. Jesus asked: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). If you are truly a Christian, you will do what Jesus commanded. If you truly become a Christian, you will accept Jesus not in some abstract way as a “Savior” whom you do not obey, but as your Lord and Master whom you strive to obey, with the help of the Holy Spirit. As Paul wrote: “Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? And ye are not your own; for ye were

In the Millennium, the teachers will teach God's law. The prophet Isaiah gives us an inspiring foretaste of what will come. "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Humanity's often-contradictory and unjust laws will be no more. God's laws will be taught and administered from Jerusalem. And the Ten Commandments are the foundation of those laws. Remember, Jesus said: "But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments"—then He went on to list several of the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:17). Moreover, in His "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus actually *magnified* the Ten Commandments. He made them *more* comprehensive, and more binding, because Christians need to observe the Ten Commandments in the spirit, not just in the letter!

What will be the effect of God's government on this earth? "He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

When Christ returns, He will re-educate the whole world to the way of peace. "The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:7-9).

In Tomorrow's World, all nations will know the true God of heaven and earth—the God of your Bible—and He will bless those who keep His commandments, as He has always done. Notice this inspiring passage from the book of Deuteronomy, describing the blessings that come when we obey God's law. "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig cop-

per. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you" (Deuteronomy 8:6-10).

Your Glorious Future

Can you visualize your part in teaching the nations to observe God's commandments, and helping all people live the abundant life God promises them? If you are among the "meek"—one who seeks God's will rather than your own—God can use you to teach others His ways.

Our planet, even today, stands out like a jewel in the vastness of space. But a time is coming when God will purify the earth with fire, and renew it, before heaven will come to earth (2 Peter 3:10-13). As the Apostle John wrote: "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new'" (Revelation 21:2-5).

You can have a part in that awesome future. God calls His children His heirs, and "joint heirs with Christ" in Romans 8:17. As heirs of God, faithful Christians will not only inherit the earth—they will inherit the universe. We read: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us *all things*?" (Romans 8:32). Also: "You have put *all things* in subjection under his [mankind's] feet" (Hebrews 2:8).

In these last two verses, the Greek expression translated as "all things" is *ta panta*, which literally means "the all"—in other words, everything that is seen and unseen. Yes, faithful Christians will eventually inherit the whole universe! Today, many of us dream of traveling to the far reaches of the galaxy, and marvel at the beauty of the stars, nebulae and other awe-inspiring and beautiful features of our universe. The time is coming when today's faithful Christians will be able to travel across the universe at the speed of a thought!

Yes, God wants you to inherit the earth—and more! As He tells us: "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son" (Revelation 21:7). May God help us all to seek Him, and His Kingdom, that we may soon inherit the earth, the universe and all things! ■



A Different Gospel?

Today, many assume that the “gospel” is simply about Jesus—that He loves us and died for us, and that those who give their hearts to Him will go to heaven. This “good news” is

presumed to be the essence of Christianity. Yet this is *not* the same “gospel” that we find Jesus preaching in the Scriptures. In fact, the New Testament is replete with *prophetic warnings* about *false teachers* who would come preaching a “*different gospel*.”

Forgotten Warnings

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus warned His disciples: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15–20). Christ was speaking of smooth-talking ministers who would beguile their followers by preaching a false gospel. At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus again warned: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name... and will deceive many... For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:4–5, 24). Jesus foretold that a widespread religious deception, distorting His message, would be a key sign that the end of the age was near.

The Apostle Paul added another dimension to these warnings when he advised first century Christians not to be deceived by false teachers who preach “another Jesus whom we have not preached... or a *different gospel*” (2 Corinthians 11:1–4). Paul admonished the Galatians for “turning away so soon... to a *different gospel*” preached by those who wanted “to pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6–9). The Apostle Peter warned that “there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies... and many will follow their destructive ways... they will exploit you with deceptive words” (2 Peter 2:1–3).

Looking ahead to our time today, Paul issued this prophetic warning: “In the last days perilous times will come... men will... be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness but denying its power*... from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). Paul foresaw the rise of a false “Christianity” that would twist and deny the very teachings of Jesus Christ. If you compare the doctrines and teachings of “modern Christianity” with what is written in your Bible, you will find some startling differences!

Defining the Gospel

Many wrongly assume that when Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 of Christ’s life, death and resurrection, he was providing a complete definition of the gospel, rather than addressing a specific misunderstanding about the resurrection. In fact, however, we cannot understand the One who proclaimed the gospel unless we understand His message.

Many who recognize the need for Christ’s life, death and resurrection fail to understand *why* Christ lived, died and rose from the dead. The very first chapter of Mark records the thrust of Jesus’ preaching: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ... Jesus came to Galilee, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God*” (Mark 1:1, 14). In the book of Matthew, Jesus referred to His own death and resurrection (which is *part* of the gospel) only three times, yet He referred more than 30 times to the coming Kingdom of God (e.g. Matthew 4:17, 23; 5:3, 19; 6:33; 10:7; 24:14). Bible scholars admit that “there is clear agreement among the synoptic Gospels [Matthew, Mark, Luke] that the kingdom of God was the *principal theme* within Jesus’ message... the kingdom of God constituted a *primary focus* of Jesus’ theology” (*Oxford Companion to the Bible*, p. 408). The apostles continued that emphasis (see Acts 8:12; 28:23, 31)—but we rarely hear that message preached today.

Instead, many hear that the “good news” (the gospel) is that we will go to heaven if we accept Jesus as our Savior. However, the Bible contradicts this teaching, plainly stating that “*no one has ascended to heaven* but He [Jesus] who came down from heaven” (John 3:13). Not even David went to heaven (Acts

2:29, 34; 13:36)! The true gospel, as explained in Scripture, reveals that the reward of the saints will be to reign on this earth as kings and priests, in God's coming Kingdom, under Jesus Christ (see Daniel 2:44; 7:27; Revelation 1:4-6; 5:10). Jesus told His twelve disciples that they would "sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:24-30). Jesus taught that Christians who bear much fruit will be given authority over cities in the Kingdom of God (Luke 19:11-19). Bible prophecies reveal that the saints will be *teachers* in the Kingdom of God, explaining to all mankind the laws of God and the way to peace (see Isaiah 30:20-21; Psalm 119:165). This re-educational process will begin in Jerusalem, and will spread over the entire earth (Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:6-9). The Bible calls this the "times of restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21).

Cause of Deception

But why do "mainstream Christian" churches fail to teach this exciting aspect of the true gospel? The answer is found in the *prophetic warnings* given by Jesus and the apostles, who foretold that false teachers would come with deceptive words and a *different gospel*. Historian Edward Gibbon described how the true gospel, with its message of the Kingdom of God, was changed: "The assurance of such a Millennium was carefully inculcated by... [those] who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostles.... But when the edifice of the church was almost completed, the temporary support was laid aside. The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length

rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism" (*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. 1, ch. 15).

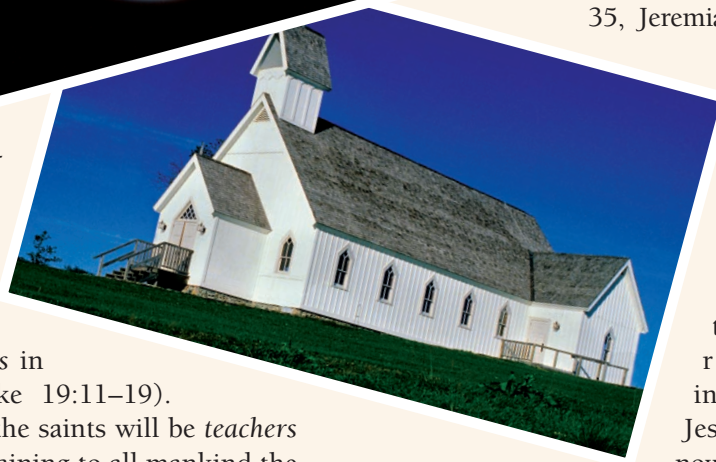
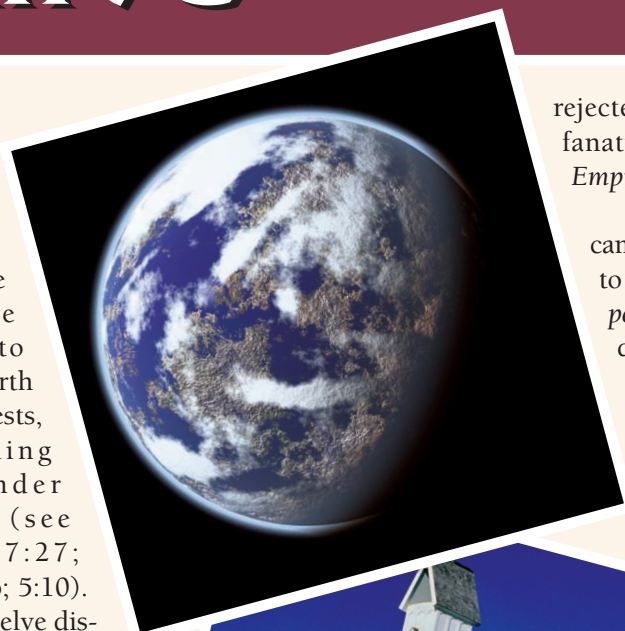
Gibbon's account is correct; false teachers came into the early Church and gradually began to teach a *different* gospel—emphasizing the *person* of Jesus, but altering His message and denying the literal meaning of scriptures about the Kingdom of God. These false teachers either ignored or attempted to explain away clear prophecies that describe the *good news* about what will take place in the coming Kingdom of God (see Isaiah 35, Jeremiah 33, Amos 9:11-15).

This is why we do not hear the *true gospel* being proclaimed today. In its place, "mainstream Christianity" teaches a "gospel" that has been corrupted by elements taken from pre-Christian religions—even the invented birthdate of Jesus Christ (supported nowhere in Scripture, nor ever observed by Christ or

His apostles) on December 25 is an anti-historical borrowing from sun-worshiping pre-Christian sects.

The New Testament writers explain that the widespread dissemination of a *different gospel* is the result of Satan's deliberate efforts, over the centuries, to deceive Christians. The Bible clearly teaches that there is a devil (Satan), and that he is a *liar* and the "father of lies" (John 8:44, KJV) "who deceives the *whole world*" (Revelation 12:9). The Apostle Paul taught that "if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds *the god of this age has blinded*, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Paul understood that even in the first century after Christ, many were already being misled into believing a different gospel. Bible prophecies indicate that *many* will continue to be deceived in the "last days"—but *you* do not need to be misled when you see the exciting prophecies of the Kingdom of God begin to *come alive*.

—Douglas S. Winnail





The Return of Religion

By Douglas S. Winnail

The global resurgence of religion has surprised modern secular leaders. Why is it happening? Where will it lead?

In the closing decades of the 20th century, religion re-emerged as a contentious issue in country after country. As Harvard University's Samuel Huntington observed: "The late 20th century has seen the global resurgence of religions around the world" (*The Clash of Civilizations*, p. 64). Karen Armstrong, a former nun and best-selling author, wrote: "One of the most startling developments of the late 20th century has been the emergence within every major religious tradition of a militant piety known as 'fundamentalism'... this religious resurgence has taken many observers by surprise" (*The Battle for God*, p. ix).

The new wave of religious activism is driven by serious believers of many faiths—Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and others—all of whom are adamantly opposed to many of the values commonly accepted by modern secular society. Though their specific beliefs differ, they share the ultimate goal of restructuring society on the basis of scriptural belief and practice.

French researcher Gilles Kepel, in his book *The Revenge of God*, has carefully documented this largely unexpected turn of events. The simultaneous appearance of fundamentalist religious movements on a global scale has major implications for the 21st century, which according to Huntington, "is dawning as a century of religion" (*Who Are We?*, p. 15). Mankind is witnessing a major shift in the course of human history, and is moving along a path foretold long ago in the pages of the Bible. Bible prophecies indicate

that even greater surprises will erupt on the world scene in the years just ahead!

False Assumptions

Secular leaders and scholars have been surprised by the resurgence of religion, because they put their faith in the assumption that modernization would lead to secularization and to the decline of religion. This idea—the so-called "secularization theory"—is widely accepted in academic and political circles. It assumes that as societies modernize and become more secular, religion will wither away as an archaic and useless branch of knowledge. Their assumption was that if religion became irrelevant, and human beings became more reasonable, they would dwell together in peace and happiness in a modernized world.

However, human history did not follow this "reasonable" path to a secular utopia. The closing decades of the 20th century "provide a massive falsification of the idea" that modernization and secularization will lead to a decline in religion. Instead, we are witnessing a massive upsurge in religion around the world (*The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Berger, p. 6). This resurgence of religion has also played a part in an increasing number of violent conflicts around the world. Secular intellectuals and elites have been shocked by this development, because it is proving that their fundamental assumptions about human beings and human society are absolutely wrong! The modern secular

notion that religion is archaic and irrelevant has caused many to overlook the importance of religion in human affairs. As a result, they have been taken by surprise by the return of religion. As Peter Berger, one of the world's leading sociologists of religion, wrote: "Those who neglect religion in their analysis of contemporary affairs do so at great peril" (Berger, p. 18). But what has spawned the modern revival of religion, and the spreading rejection of secular society?

Fundamental Reasons

Growing numbers of people around the globe are becoming disenchanted with the effect of secularism on our modern world—the fragmentation of society, the weakening of social cohesion, the absence of noble ideals worth pursuing, the lack of solid values, the social acceptance of what was formerly considered perversion, the spread of crime and the lack of effective punishment, the emptiness of consumerism and materialism, the breakdown of the "welfare state," the failure of communism, the chaos in schools and the breakdown of families (Kepel, p. 5).

Once-formidable ideologies have been found unsatisfactory and have even collapsed. Millions are abandoning the depressing philosophical wasteland of theories that consider human beings mere animals with no future beyond death, and no purpose in life other than to survive. In place of communism and consumerism, many are searching for "new sources of identity, new forms of stable community, and new sets of

moral precepts to provide them with a sense of meaning and purpose... **there is a quest for some higher explanations about man's purpose, about why we are here**" (*The Clash of Civilizations*, p. 97).

The final decades of the 20th century demonstrated dramatically that *man does not live by reason alone*, and that human beings need a transcendent purpose in life, solid moral guidelines and a clear sense of identity. Secular science and philosophy have not provided convincing answers to life's fundamental questions and basic human needs. As a result, we are seeing more and more of a rejection of the secular, and a return to the sacred, because people find in religion some compelling answers to the most important questions about human existence. This global resurgence of religion has a profound significance that few today even begin to recognize.

What Prophecy Reveals

More than 25 percent of the Bible is prophecy—much of which refers to the time of the end, leading up to Jesus Christ's return to this earth. Many prophecies reveal that the end of this age will be a time of great religious activity. Jesus told His disciples to *watch* for specific events that would indicate His return was near. One of those signs would be the appearance of many false teachers who would deceive *many* by showing "great signs and wonders" (Matthew 24:3–5, 24). Jesus also foretold that the *true gospel* of the Kingdom of God "will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Jesus was speaking of recognizable religious events that would arise on a global scale.

The Apostle Paul prophesied: "In the last days, perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness but denying its power*" (2



Timothy 3:1–3). Paul's words show that, at the end of the age, people will maintain a *façade* or an *appearance* of religion, but will deny truths and practices that God deems necessary to true biblical religion. Paul foretold that, at the time of the end, there will be a great "falling away" from true biblical religion, and that in its place a prominent religious figure of global stature will promote an ecumenical movement to bring all religions together (Revelation 17:17). This leader will *deceive millions* by exercising supernatural powers (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12).

The prophet Daniel calls this same religious leader a "little horn" who arises in the *latter days* to persecute true believers and dominate an end-time revival of the Roman Empire (see Daniel 7). This leader is prophesied to speak "pompous words"—certainly a fitting description of anyone who would take on such titles as "Vicar of Christ," "Most Holy

Father" and, in some circumstances, even *Sanctissimus Dominus Noster*—"Our Most Holy Lord."

The Apostle John depicts this end-time religious leader and his religious organization as a woman riding a beast—that "beast" being the revived Roman Empire (Revelation 17:3, 7). This woman, a great false church, is described as immensely rich, intimately involved with the world's governments—and as the "mother" of other churches. She is described as having deceived the world with her false doctrines (see Revelation 17; 18). John reveals that during the three-and-a-half-year period when this politico-religious system gains prominence, God will have two witnesses (Revelation 11:1–10) on the earth who will do miracles to counter the influence of this false system. The activities of these two witnesses will be felt worldwide, but far from being glad about their activities, the peoples of the world will rejoice when the two witnesses' ministry is brought to an end (Revelation 11:9–10).

These key prophetic chapters in Daniel and Revelation reveal that as we approach the end of the age, we will see *an increase in religious activity on this earth*. Bible prophecy indicates that many will be shocked when these long-prophesied religious events erupt on the world scene (Matthew 24:36–51; Revelation 13:3). Millions will be surprised because they assumed that the Bible only contained myths and fables and that its prophecies did not portend real events! The Bible indicates that the present resurgence of religion around the world today is *prophetically significant*—and that it is a prelude to

even greater religious activity that will mark the end of this age and the imminent return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

The European Exception

One major factor in the modern resurgence of religion is the widespread belief that the Messiah will soon appear. Hundreds of millions of professing Christians expect Jesus Christ to return soon. Many Orthodox Jews also expect their Messiah to appear in the very near future. Millions of Muslims also yearn for what they call “the advent of the hidden Imam, the Mahdi, who will conquer the world” and will dispense justice (Kepel, p. 28).

Many observers note that the situation in Western Europe is quite different; that the modern return to religion is occurring “virtually everywhere, apart from Western Europe” (*Who Are We?*, p. 15). Though it was the birthplace of the “Holy Roman Empire,” the Inquisition, the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation, Europe today is massively secular! On a typical Sunday in Western Europe (not counting Ireland), only about 20 percent of the population attends church. In Paris, the figure is less than 10 percent (Berger, p. 69). To many Europeans, the increasing rhetoric of religion in American politics seems silly and odd. But in light of the global resurgence of religion, “it is Europe rather than the United States that is the exception” (Berger, p. 76).

However, the situation in Europe is not as simple as it may seem. Although only about 20 percent in most Western European countries attend church, an average of 70 percent

(or more) in those countries believe in God—and the percentage is even higher in heavily Roman Catholic countries like Spain, Portugal, Italy and Ireland. British sociologist Grace Davie wrote that “we might more accurately say that Western Europeans are *unchurched* populations, rather than simply secular... believing without belonging” (Berger, p. 68). Although many modern secular Europeans act as if they are unaware or unappreciative of the important role religion has played in their past, “enough of the religiously inactive in Europe have retained a nominal attachment to their churches that the churches’ representative role is still possible” (Berger, pp. 80, 82). The return to religion in Western Europe could be triggered by the appearance of a powerful religious personality, or by a crisis threatening Western Europe. Significantly, Bible prophecy reveals that both of these situations will develop (Daniel 11:40; Revelation 13:11–18). Faced with an external threat, the nations of Europe could quickly rediscover feelings of unity and appreciation of their common Roman Catholic bonds (*Who Are We?*, pp. 18–20).

The Roman Catholic church and the papacy in Rome are acutely aware of Western Europe’s spiritual condition. They understand that political ideologies and economic regulations “are unlikely to sustain a nation for long” and that deeply felt religious beliefs are a much more potent glue to hold nations together (*ibid.* p. 19). This is why Pope John Paul II made numerous appeals for Europeans to “discover their [Roman Catholic] roots” and why he lobbied hard for Europe’s religious heritage to be mentioned in the European

Constitution. Although European intellectuals rejected religion in the Constitution, significant portions of the European public *rejected the Constitution*—54 percent in France, 62 percent in Holland. One poll showed that 83 percent of Germans would have rejected the Constitution if they had been allowed to vote (*The Times*, June 3, 2005). When several of Europe’s leading nations—including Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain—actively campaigned for a religious reference in the European Constitution, one cannot say that religion is dead in Europe!

Today, the Roman Catholic Church sees Europe as a “mission field” that is *ripe for harvest*. One of the main themes of Pope John Paul II’s pontificate was the need for a “second evangelization of Europe” (Kepel, p. 48). From a Roman Catholic perspective, Europeans’ current pursuit of secular, materialistic goals is bound to run aground on the rocks of reality as it has in other cultures around the world. The Roman Church is prepared to offer an alternative view of society in contrast to the shoddy, empty life under communism and the selfish pursuit of material things under western capitalism—with the long-term objective of creating “a society with Catholic foundations” (Kepel, p. 97). To this end, Poland (with its 95 percent Roman Catholic population) has served as a laboratory for the resurgence of faith in Eastern Europe, and a model for what the Vatican hopes will be a re-Catholicizing of Europe. Europe has been united under Catholicism before, as in the Middle Ages, and what has happened in Poland could easily spread across Europe, spurring a return to religion in those countries where the majority

of the population is now at least nominally Roman Catholic, including Spain (99 percent), Italy (98 percent), Portugal (97 percent), Austria (85 percent), France (81 percent) and Belgium (75 percent). Remember, Bible prophecy reveals that, just before the end of this age, ten European nations will ultimately surrender their sovereignty to a “beast” power that is ridden by a “woman” symbolizing a great false church (Revelation 17:1–3).

In Europe today, there is a sleeping religious giant that has yet to awaken—but when it does, it will surprise the world! Kepel observes that “nobody had foreseen” the birth of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the 1970s, and that “history *played a trick* on Western Foreign Offices” who were expecting a Marxist revolution in the Middle East; the experts were watching for the *wrong signs* (Kepel, p. 17). Samuel Huntington also notes that “few people anticipated the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the movement toward possible decomposition of the United Kingdom before they got underway... yet the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union... and September 11 remind us that *history is full of surprises*” (*Who Are We?*, p. 11). While modern Europe currently appears to be massively secular, Bible prophecies indicate that a major return to religion in Europe is just around the corner. However, Europe will not be the only focal point of increasing religious activity as the end of the age approaches.

Jerusalem

Throughout the last half of the 20th century, world attention

again and again turned to the Middle East—and specifically to the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is sacred to members of three major religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—who continue to fight over access to, and control of, the holy places sacred to their faiths. Bible prophecies indicate that Jerusalem will become a major focal point of world events as we approach the end of the age.

Today, Jerusalem is the tinderbox at the center of the Middle East conflict. In spite of numerous attempts to negotiate peace between competing political and religious factions, the issue of Jerusalem seems to defy a solution—an impasse that was prophesied long ago! The prophet Zechariah foretold that the city of Jerusalem would become like “a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it” (Zechariah 12:3). This prophecy shows that international efforts to negotiate a peace in Jerusalem will ultimately fail, despite the intervention of foreign powers.

Some Orthodox Jews even today are making preparations for the renewed offering of sacrifices in Jerusalem. Daniel foresaw that

the Jews’ sacrifices would indeed be restored at the time of the end, but that those sacrifices will be abruptly stopped by an occupying power (Daniel 8:9–11; 9:26–27). Jesus told His disciples that at the time of the end Jerusalem would be *surrounded by armies*, that a pagan idol or symbol would be set up in the temple and that Gentiles would occupy the city and take half of its citizens (the Jewish half) into captivity for three-and-a-half years (Luke 21:20–24; Matthew 24:15). While this is transpiring, the ministry of *God’s two witnesses* will also take place *in Jerusalem* (Revelation 11:1–8). All these prophecies indicate that religious activities in and around Jerusalem will become a focal point of international attention as we approach the end of the age.

This phenomenon that we are seeing today—the global resurgence of religion—is helping to set the stage for dramatic and prophetically significant events that will shape the future of the world in the years just ahead, while true Christians wait with anticipation for Jesus Christ to return and set up the Kingdom of God on this earth. Be sure that it does not take *you* by surprise! ■

Do You Believe the True Gospel?

As religious deception increases and the return of Jesus Christ grows nearer, can you be sure you are a true follower of Jesus Christ? Yes, you can!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **Do You Believe the True Gospel?**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site **www.tomorrowworld.org**.

Questions & Answers

Question: Does the Bible give any guidelines as to how Christians should observe Christmas?

Answer: Many are surprised to learn that there is neither biblical command nor example for Christians to commemorate the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth.

Not once does Scripture record a birthday celebration for or by Jesus Christ. Some wrongly assume that Matthew 2:1–2 is the first occasion of Christmas gift-giving, but in fact the “wise men” were paying homage to the “King of the Jews”—already a young child—not giving birthday gifts to a newborn infant.

It is instructive to note that the only “birthday parties” we find in Scripture are associated with unpleasant events. In Matthew 14, for example, King Herod's “birthday gift” was the decapitated head of John the Baptist. Even as late as 245AD, the noted scholar Origen “repudiated as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed.).

Scripture does, however, give us some hints about the date of Christ's birth, telling us that He was born when there were “shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). During the cold Judean winters, shepherds slept indoors. We also read that while Zacharias was serving at the Temple in the division of Abijah, an angel appeared to him and announced that he would have a son—John the Baptist (Luke 1:5–25, 57–58). The division of Abijah was the eighth to serve each year, and by calculating the dates forward we find that John the Baptist was born near Passover, in the spring, and Jesus was born six months later (Luke 1:24–26), which would place His birth in September or October—not on December 25!

Since Scripture does not establish a celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday, and makes it clear that He could not have been born on December 25, how did the custom of a December 25 “Christmas” originate? In Rome, December 25

was the date of the Saturnalia; it was also a “holy day” for worshipers of Mithra and Sol Invictus. As pagan “converts” changed the original teachings of Christianity to suit their old habits, they continued to observe a December 25 holiday, merely changing their object of worship.

But is there anything wrong with “Christianizing” the world's custom of birthday celebrations and applying it to our Savior? Scripture explains that we cannot worship the true God by abandoning His ways in favor of customs used in the worship of false gods (Deuteronomy 12:30–32). Notice: “Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not” (Jeremiah 10:2–4, KJV). God's people should not adopt heathen customs, such as the custom—described in these verses—of decorating a tree as part of a celebration. Does that custom remind you of one particular holiday, much beloved by the world?

Jesus Christ asked His followers: “But why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). In a world that becomes obsessed with “Christmas” festivities, it may be tempting to take part in what may seem like an “innocent” celebration, and it may be socially awkward to refuse. But, as Christians, we must refuse. Instead, we should follow Jesus' example and observe the actual Holy Days that God gave His people, which portray His plan of salvation for humanity. To learn more about these Holy Days, please write for a free copy of our booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*.



Does Character Really Matter?

By John H. Ogwyn

Character is in the news. Politicians are accusing each other of lying to their constituents. Businessmen are finding themselves in court, defending against charges of financial corruption. Religious leaders are under scrutiny for financial and personal sins that appear to violate the principles they preach. Sports fans are wondering which of their favorite athletes will next be found to have used illegal “performance-enhancing” drugs.

All of this raises the vital question: what is character, and how important a role should it play in public life? Is a leader’s private behavior even relevant to his or her public performance?

Within the last decade, the United States has seen one President impeached, and another accused of lying in order to drum up support for war. Congressmen who preached “family values” have endured messy public scandals revealing that they did not practice what they preached. Yet elected officials are not the only ones caught up in questions of character; even some of the reporters covering political

misconduct have themselves become caught up in scandals involving their own professional ethics.

In years past, there was a moral consensus in the U.S. and British-speaking nations regarding what constituted good character. Increasingly, however, we find that in our present day this moral consensus has largely broken down. Different segments of society hold widely diverging views as to what is acceptable behavior.

The example of the Boy Scouts of America illustrates how this moral consensus has changed over the course of the last century. The Scouting movement had its origin early in the 20th century through the efforts of British military leader Lord Baden-Powell. It was designed from the start as a character-building institution for boys. Scouting was intended to produce young men who were “trustworthy, loyal, kind, brave, clean and reverent.” Yet for several years the Boy Scouts were locked in a court battle over whether they had to accept acknowledged homosexuals as Scoutmasters. Can you imagine such an issue even being a controversy a generation ago? Societal agreement about what constitutes good moral character has become so eroded in the last few decades that it is hard to get a wide range of agreement on anything. It seems that tolerance is increasingly being touted as the chief, and perhaps only, virtue.

How can we even discuss the issue of character without a clear-cut definition of right and wrong? When all is said and done, does character really matter? Is there any overriding reason for the development of right character, beyond merely clearing up the scandals that grip our world and its institutions?

Attitudes Toward Character Development

In the more than two centuries since the U.S. was founded, there has been a great shift in public attitudes toward the importance of character development.

In 1790, the U.S.' first President, George Washington, wrote to his nephew that "a good *moral character* is the first essential in a man." Throughout the 19th century this emphasis persisted, and was reflected in most aspects of life, including child-rearing.

However, by the end of World War I the emphasis had shifted remarkably. Noted Harvard professor and criminologist James Q. Wilson called attention to this shift in his book, *On Character*. "In 1890, 1900, and 1910 one-third of the child-rearing articles published in a sample of articles from the *Ladies Home Journal*, *Women's Home Companion*, and *Good Housekeeping* were about character development; in 1920 only 3 percent were. Personality development had taken its place" (p. 3).

Why did this change occur? One key reason was the change in how human beings were viewed. No longer were men and women seen as having free choice; they were increasingly seen as merely the product of various external stimuli. Far-seeing educator and social commentator Richard Weaver noted: "The social philosophers of the nineteenth century found in Darwin powerful support for their thesis that human beings act always out of economic incentives, and it was they who completed the abolishment of freedom of the will. The great pageant of history thus became reducible to the economic endeavors of individuals and classes... Man created in the divine image... was replaced by man the wealth-seeking—and consuming—animal" (*Ideas Have Consequences*, p. 6).

New ideas about mankind and its nature had been the subject of philosophical speculation in both the 18th and 19th centuries, but did not really penetrate the popular mind until shortly after World War I. The writings of men like Sigmund Freud and John Dewey popularized a new view of human beings and of the factors that contribute to their proper development. The post-war atmosphere of the "roaring twenties," with its emphasis on being "modern," provided fertile soil in which these views thrived.

These new ideas had their origin in the philosophy of ethical optimism, which taught that "man has a natural moral sense which can be relied on not only to recognize virtue but to delight in it" (Weaver, pp. 79–80). This approach leads away from discipline and toward impulsive individualism. Weaver noted this trend and its outcome: "Egotism in work and art," he wrote, "is the flowering, after long growth, of a heresy about human destiny. Its abhorrence of discipline and form is usually grouped with the signs of 'progress.' It is progress for those who neither have a sense of direction nor want responsibility. Their heresy is that man's destiny in the world is not to per-

fect himself but to lean back in sensual enjoyment" (p. 91).

The Great Depression and World War II brought a temporary slowdown in the pace at which values changed. But by the 1960s and 1970s, the pace of change had picked up speed once again, as "baby boomers" reared amid post-war affluence brought their new perspectives to bear on society. Over the last generation or two, these new perspectives have seen many urban areas turned into battle zones, and much of public education turned into an environment that fosters violence and disrespect for authority. These trends are making themselves felt even in highly selective environments, and in institutions that have long prided themselves on high test scores and honor codes.

The Cheating Game

From grade school to graduate school, it seems that students everywhere are cheating. In its November 22, 1999 issue, *U.S. News & World Report* ran a feature story on the role that cheating plays in American culture. In a *USN&WR* poll, 84 percent of college students said that they need to cheat to get ahead in the world today. Ninety percent of college students do not think that cheaters will ever really pay the price for their actions.

The *USN&WR* article goes on to point out studies showing that students who cheat are likely to make cheating a way of life as adults. Why should we be surprised that the workplace is full of adults who have lied on a resumé to get a job, then continue to lie about any number of other matters on the job? And if they will lie, they will steal! Several years ago, a University of Southern California study estimated that employee theft costs retail stores about 16 billion dollars a day!

Recognizing the correlation between student cheating and future job performance, the U.S. Air Force Academy was shaken several years ago in the wake of a cheating scandal. The aftermath of the scandal led the academy to establish, in July 1993, a Center for Character Development. General Patrick Gamble, the cadet commandant at the academy, told the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* why this seemed to be necessary at the time: "The raw material is not coming in the door with the same values that our grandparents and parents taught us 30, 35 years ago."

Why not? Because character cannot exist in a moral vacuum! At the bedrock of right character has to be a clear-cut sense of right and wrong. Even most "religious" people—and their ministers—have long

since moved away from talking seriously about sin. Such talk is viewed as judgmental, and has been replaced by platitudes helping people to “accept themselves” and to “feel better about who they are.” The Bible has increasingly been ignored, and the result is the crisis of character with which we are confronted.

Character and Leadership

The Bible says much about government, leadership and right character. In fact, these topics are very much intertwined. Declaring that human beings are not by

The corruption and injustices so prevalent in our society are, to a great extent, the products of self-indulgent leaders. When leaders lack character, the institutions they guide will reflect it—and will suffer accordingly.

nature good, but rather are a mixture of good and evil, the Bible lays out in clear terms the distinction between right and wrong. It also defines the virtues that are necessary for those who would lead others—whether a husband leading his family or a ruler leading a nation.

When he appointed ancient Israel’s magistrates, Moses recorded the essential criteria for leaders. First, they were to be capable of doing the job. Ability alone, however, was far from enough. Yes, leaders needed to have intelligence, and be able to analyze situations and deal with people. However, another attribute was vital. In addition to having capacity, the leaders of the nation were to be those who feared God, who loved truth and hated covetousness (Exodus 18:21).

The fear of God lies at the starting point of good character. Because God is not real to most people, they feel emboldened to do whatever they believe that they can get away with. Proper fear of God means to hold Him and His ways in awe and reverence. It involves deep, abiding respect for the Creator and Judge of the universe. When an individual lives his life in the fear of his Lord, it means that he is deeply conscious of the reality of God, and seeks consciously to please God with his actions and attitudes.

Leaders who have this approach will not be for sale at any price! They will understand the profound meaning behind Jesus’ question: “What will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). Those who love truth and hate covetousness will pursue what is just and right, without seeking personal profit or advantage. Such leaders will not be swayed by opinion polls or potential financial gains when discerning which side of an issue to support, or what course of action to take.

In Proverbs 31, the king’s mother admonishes her son about the virtues that are essential in rulers. She reminds him to “waste not your strength on women, your love on these destroyers of a king” (v. 3, *Moffatt*). She admonishes him that it is not “for rulers to desire strong drink; lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and pervert the rights of all the afflicted” (vv. 4–5, RSV). How many leaders have failed because they lacked the character to say no to their lusts? Sexual immorality and alcohol abuse have destroyed the effectiveness of many. Lacking the character to rule themselves, they have sought instead to master and rule oth-

ers. The corruption and injustices so prevalent in our society are, to a great extent, the products of self-indulgent leaders. When leaders lack character, the institutions they guide will reflect it—and will suffer accordingly.

King David, near the end of his life and his long reign over Israel, gave final advice to his son (and to all rulers who would come after him). In 2 Samuel 23:3, he emphasized that those who rule over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. This is a matter of character, and right character begins with fear and awe of the great God. Living life in deep awe and awareness of the presence of God will lead to treating others fairly, without showing favoritism or taking advantage for personal benefit.

Producing Right Character

Right character is not simply a matter of *knowing* what is right; it requires *doing* what is right! We can identify three primary ingredients necessary to the development of good character. The first is *knowledge* of what is right and virtuous, the second is habitual *practice* of what is right and the third is *perseverance* in doing right—even when facing adversity. It is one thing to practice doing the right thing when it is convenient or even advantageous. It is quite another to do what is right in the midst of stresses and pressures to compromise or to give up. The Apostle Paul explains that “pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance [fortitude] develops maturity of character—that is approved faith and tried integrity...” (Romans 5:3–4, *Amplified Bible*).

(Continued on page 29)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was sure I would gain a lot when I requested your free literature from the Internet. And it really happened when I received a booklet and the magazine with the cover article "Abortion: A Modern Holocaust?" [March-April 2005]. It didn't take me more than a day to read the magazine and write you this letter. I am a medical student in Ethiopia, where abortion is not yet legalized. I had been having the view that abortion should be legalized. But now I have changed my mind after reading your magazine. The biblical evidence and the figures for the "reasons" for abortion have changed me much. Thank you very much, and God bless you!

E. G., Oromiya, Ethiopia

I just received my first copy of *Tomorrow's World*, and immediately absorbed every tidbit of information. I was truly touched by Charles E. Bryce's "A Legacy of Character" [May-June 2005]. Every article was surely a truth few care to hear. I myself am enthralled by current events and the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

B. O., Coal Township, PA

Thank you for sending me the reprint article "Is God Really a Trinity?" by John H. Ogwyn. It was very helpful. I shared the article with a couple of my friends, and they thought it to be more believable than believing in the Trinity. I appreciate your literature very much, as not too many people talk about prophecy these days. Everybody is just concerned about the present, and they miss out on seeing the real truth. Keep up the good work, informing us of the good news of things to come.

D. A., Niagara Falls, ON, Canada

I just received my May-June issue of *Tomorrow's World*. I want to thank Mr. Rod Reynolds for the fine article entitled, "Did Jesus Break The Sabbath?" The article was well-written and used convincing sources from the writings and research of Alfred Edersheim, coupled with the Mishna and other traditional Jewish sources to

make the very sound point that Jesus kept the law—including the Sabbath during His life. The article was very consistent with Scripture and the teaching and practices of the Jews, and clearly proved that Jesus did observe the Sabbath—albeit not with the additional burdens added by some Pharisees, but considering the Scripture, the very Word of God as His guide. A very good article, indeed.

D. H., Allen, TX

I just wanted to take a moment and let you know how much I appreciated and enjoyed John H. Ogwyn's article, "Evolution: Fact or Fiction?" [May-June 2005]. I was able to put some of your information to immediate use in the battle to get "Intelligent Design" introduced into the public schools here in Kansas. I hope we will see more articles on this important subject, because evolution is a false worldview that has been used to discredit the Bible and to turn many to unbelief.

A. W., Overland Park, KS

Having recently received my three booklets as requested, I am now requesting three more. I did not realize just how much depth there was to my last three. They certainly have given me much food for thought. *The Ten Commandments*, I have read three times, and will read many more times. These booklets are invaluable to me. They and the Bible are my constant source of knowledge.

J. N., Mannum, South Australia

Your *Bible Study Course* has been really uplifting. Completing it is almost like graduating from a school. I hope to continue to refer back to some of the lessons as I do more of my own study. Because of it, I am always able to give an answer in discussion. God has broadened my knowledge of Him and His plan. Thank you for organizing the *Bible Study Course*; the scriptures just jump off the page, and the historical references that you give help as well. Thank you for your service.

D. W. Tuscaloosa, AL

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

Tomorrow's Youth

“I want to be an individual... just like all my friends.”

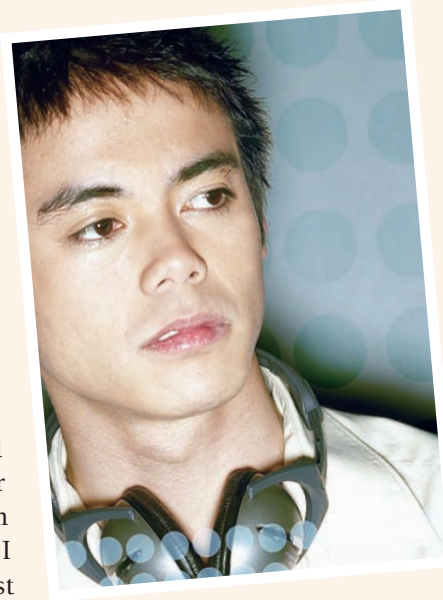
Forty-year-olds rarely think about whether they are *conformists* or *non-conformists*. Work and family have long since taken center stage; but at age 16 it is another story. Conformity vs. non-conformity is serious stuff as one tries to sort out such important questions as the meaning of life, and where one fits in the grand scheme of things.

The most honest and informative comment I ever heard on this subject came from a sincere young man who said, “I want to be an individual... just like all my friends.” How could anyone state more simply and succinctly the inner struggle and frustration of youth? There is both the desire to find one’s own identity, and at the same time a desire to conform—or, put more properly, not to be an outcast for being different from one’s peers.

Junior high and high school can be difficult and sometimes cruel years. One would think that those who have negotiated that contradictory and stressful stage in life would do all they could to assist those who follow, but such is not the case. Sadly, some who know better are actively making it more difficult, in order to gain wealth and prestige.

Following World War II, advertisers discovered a growing and largely untapped economic gold mine—their children. To put it more precisely: *everyone else’s* children. All they needed to do was find a means of separating young people from their money. What better way to fleece this market than through music, and tapping into youthful desire to become independent, to conform to one’s peers and to find love?

At first, the music was dressed in a tuxedo. While parents did not always like Elvis’ sound or



his gyrating pelvis, at least the uniform was generally clean cut. But as time progressed, this changed. The Beatles arrived in North America with a new sound and a new hairstyle that shocked the WWII generation. By today’s standards, John, Paul, George and Ringo appeared pretty clean cut, but to the former GI’s who fought in Europe and Asia this seemed like a new “feminized” look for boys.

Every few years, a new class of youth chose a more degenerate look and sound to take up as “their own.” Buddy Holly, Johnny Mathis, Blue Hawaii and Jailhouse Rock were replaced by the harsh sounds of Mick Jagger, AC/DC, and more recently by rap and hip-hop. With each new gimmick that shocked the older generation, more money rolled in.

The intent has always been the same: shock parents, and make young people think it is their own special expression. What has changed is how explicit and vile it has all become. And a 2001 PBS *Frontline* special, “Merchants of Cool,” illustrated that it will only grow worse. Correspondent Douglas Rushkoff described how Viacom, Disney, AOL/Time Warner, Universal Vivendi and Rupert Murdoch’s Newscorp control an overwhelming degree of what is recognized as youth culture today. Together, these five massive media giants “look at the teen market as part of this massive empire that they’re colonizing. You should look at it like the British Empire or the French Empire in the 19th century. Teens are like Africa. You know, that’s this range that they’re going to take over, and their weaponry are films, music, books, CDs, Internet access, clothing, amusement parks, sports teams. That’s all this weaponry they have to make money off of this market.” In short, these conglomerates

control the looks, sounds and attitudes of today's youth, and their sole concern is *market share*: Youth "want to be cool. They are impressionable, and they have the cash. They are corporate America's \$150 billion dream."

Take MTV as just one example. "Everything on MTV is a commercial," explained University of Illinois communications professor Robert McChesney. "That's all that MTV is. Sometimes it's an explicit advertisement paid for by a company to sell a product. Sometimes it's going to be a video for a music company there to sell music. Sometimes it's going to be the set that's filled with trendy clothes and stuff there to sell a look that will include products on that set. Sometimes it will be a show about an upcoming movie paid for by the studio, though you don't know it, to hype a movie that's coming out from Hollywood. But everything's an infomercial. There is no non-commercial part of MTV" (*ibid.*). How can a 16-year-old comprehend this manipulation? What about a 13-year-old?

Young people certainly do not like being manipulated by pot-bellied 50- and 60-year-old advertising executives. That is what makes this sordid business so tricky, but you do not become Rupert Murdoch or AOL/Time Warner by lacking savvy. Marketers are very clever in how they go about the task. Sell "cool," but never make it look like a cheesy advertisement. Make it look as if it were spontaneously driven by young people themselves.

Young people are not stupid. In fact, most are quite bright. The problem is that few have enough experience to fully understand that very smart middle-aged men and women have infiltrated their world and are carefully crafting a new image to sell to them, for the

purpose of taking their money. These strangers do not have the slightest concern for their well-being—and if it means separating them from parents who have cared for them, and loved them through the most difficult of times, so be it! Part of their toolbox is to paint parents as old-fashioned and out-of-touch with their children's concerns, compared to the carefully created idols who supposedly "understand" them. Their message to teens is that people they do not know, and who have given them nothing, should be idolized above the ones who love them the most. Does this make sense? Of course not!

If you are a teen, the fact that you are reading this indicates that you may have a level of maturity other teens do not have. You recognize the difference between those who love you—your parents—and the marketers who only want to exploit you. Do not

be afraid to be an individual! Do not be afraid to say "No!" Remember: "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" (Proverbs 24:10).

Most teens want to be thought of as mature. One sign of real maturity is having a long-term view of life—recognizing that there is a tomorrow. A mature person will appreciate what the Apostle John wrote about conforming to the world's expectations—not just in outer attire, but also in the inner person. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15–17).

Some people think that teens cannot live up to this. Marketers are selling the idea that you should be an individual, just like all your friends. Will you send them the message that *you are not buying*?

—Gerald Weston



Hurricane Katrina: A Wake-Up Call

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, life has certainly changed for many of us. My brother and I experienced Hurricane Katrina while visiting family and friends in Mississippi last August. My cousin's home in New Orleans was flooded; my mother's home in Jackson, Mississippi was spared but was without power for more than a week. A tree landed on the roof of my grandfather's home out in the country just north of Clinton, Mississippi.

Stores were closed, no gasoline was available, and all were very concerned about those living closer to the areas worst affected. This was a disaster of a scope that the United States had never before experienced. An entire city of a half-million people was devastated, left almost uninhabited, and more than likely will not be active again for a long, long time. Other cities along the Gulf Coast, too,

supplies were quickly depleted. Area police guarded the gasoline stations where lines were long until the storage tanks were drained empty. Prices skyrocketed as supplies diminished. The heat skyrocketed, too, as we endured summer temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit—with 90 percent humidity, no electricity and no air conditioning. It was all very sobering. We could only begin to imagine what it must have been like to the south of us in Gulfport and New Orleans. Within a day, life in the path of Katrina changed the lives of more than 1.5 million people!

My brother and I stayed for a few days to take care of our family, then headed back to our homes in Wyoming. As we headed home, we thanked the folks we met for being there to provide services that we sometimes take for granted. We knew that many we left behind

Whatever else you may do, be sure to plan for the disasters that may affect you in the future. Make physical plans—set aside emergency supplies and create a disaster plan for your family—but do not neglect your spiritual plans.

were entirely wiped out. More than 1.5 million people were displaced by Katrina, which spanned the size of Great Britain across the southern Mississippi River country.

Emergency crews came from all over the nation to help the devastated region recover. Though many were spared, hundreds of lives were lost, and it has made many realize—perhaps for the first time—that we are indeed mortal and that our human strength is completely powerless over the forces of nature.

Watching the storm from my front porch was an experience I will never forget. The power of the wind-driven rain and tornado-like activity was awesome. Trees were falling all around us. Huge limbs were crashing to the ground, breaking power lines and smashing into homes. We could not watch the television news, as there was no power; we could only imagine what damage was being inflicted elsewhere.

But it was only when the storm finally stopped, and the winds ceased, that we truly realized what trouble lay ahead. We could buy ice and some food from the one neighborhood grocery store that was open, but its

were in for a very difficult time. Thankfully, though we saw the price of gasoline rise sharply, we had enough fuel to breach the storm-ravaged area and make it back to parts of civilization that were still working.

Whatever else you may do, be sure to plan for the disasters that may affect you in the future. Make physical plans—set aside emergency supplies and create a disaster plan for your family—but do not neglect your spiritual plans. Be sure you have the spiritual resources to withstand the spiritual disasters that lie ahead. Jesus Christ warned that at the end of the age, there will be both spiritual and physical disasters that will test His people in ways they have never before been tested.

Thousands in New Orleans were told to flee the danger, but would not heed the warning. As a result, they were trapped, and many died. I can imagine a time yet future when another call will come to flee danger, yet many will not heed it. This storm was a wake-up call for all of us. Are you prepared? If not, begin today!

—Ben Whitfield

Does Character Really Matter? (Continued from page 24)

It is the struggle against adversity that deepens and solidifies our character. If we learn to make right choices even when those choices seem to be to our immediate detriment, we are developing the long-term view that lies at the heart of right character. This view is based upon an understanding of the ultimate reason why right character is so important.

The Apostle John explained the great transcendent purpose behind character development. He wrote: “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God... Beloved, now we are children of God... but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:1–3). When we recognize the great purpose that God has for us, we have every reason to seek to purify ourselves and to cooperate actively with God in the development of His holy, righteous character within us. We understand that when Jesus Christ returns to this earth in power and glory, we are to be glorified with Him, as members of His family. After all, God is bringing *many* sons unto glory (Hebrews 2:10).

God’s very purpose for placing mankind upon this earth, created in His own image, is that we might some day be born into His very family as real sons and daughters (Romans 8:16–19; 2 Corinthians 6:17–18). Does this sound strange or even blasphemous to you? Regardless of how it may sound, it is the plain and simple truth straight from your Bible! True Christians are to be shaped and molded to conform to the very

character of Jesus Christ Himself, for Christ is accounted as the first-born among many brethren (Romans 8:29).

The returned Christ is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Who are the kings that will reign under Him? Revelation 20:6 and other scriptures make plain that it is the resurrected saints who will literally rule over the cities and kingdoms of this earth.

The Christian life is meant to prepare us for our ultimate destiny. At the resurrection, we are to be born into the universe-ruling family of God. To prepare us for that destiny, God reveals in Scripture the laws and principles that distinguish good from evil. Only through God’s revelation can we truly know what is right and what is wrong. God offers all of mankind forgiveness for past sins upon coming to Him through Jesus Christ in a spirit of faith and repentance. He then offers us His Holy Spirit so that we may share in His very nature (2 Peter 1:4). Through that Spirit, He actually begins to inscribe His laws into our minds and hearts (Hebrews 8:10). We are admonished to be followers—imitators—of Jesus Christ in our daily lives (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Right knowledge, and the habitual practice of that right

knowledge, are the first two steps toward developing righteous character. Then comes the third ingredient necessary to “set” our character—the trials and adversities of life. The Apostle Paul put our trials into perspective when he explained: “Our troubles are slight and short-lived; and their outcome an eternal glory which outweighs them far” (2 Corinthians 4:17, *NEB*). When we actually demonstrate our willingness to suffer for righteousness’ sake as Jesus Christ did, God sees that we value eternal life with Him far more than we value anything this present world has to offer.

Individually and collectively, we are in the throes of a character crisis that no human legislation can solve. Most of mankind has forgotten its Maker, and utterly disregarded His “instruction manual” for human life. In our materialistic and self-indulgent age, people are taking the soft and easy path, avoiding suffering and hardship at all costs. “Values” are seen as financial measurements, rather than principles of right and wrong, or justice and injustice. But if each of us will come to understand the great purpose God is working out here on earth, we will come to understand why character really matters—and why it matters not only now, but *forever!* ■

What Is a True Christian?

When Christ lives His life in us, our lives—and the world around us—will change.

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

Are You Zealous for the Truth?

(Continued from page 2)

Gallup says that the high degree of religious tolerance reflects, in part, ‘not only a lack of knowledge of other religions but an ignorance of one’s own faith.’ In some polls, he says, ‘you have Christians saying, “Yes, Jesus is the only way” and also, “Yes, there are many paths to God.” It’s not that Americans don’t believe anything; *they believe everything*’” (May 6, 2002).

Instead of drifting into that kind of confusion, we should be **zealous** in truly exerting ourselves to find out *what the Bible actually says*. In every part of your life, please remember this key principle: “Whatever your hand finds to do, *do it with your might*; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Remember how God’s word commended the Berean Christians for really **studying** and **proving** the Truth for themselves by *diligent Bible study*: “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Please ask yourself: “How many hours a week do I personally spend watching television—the ‘boob tube’?” Then ask: “How many hours a week do I spend actually *studying* the Holy Bible—the inspired revelation and Instruction Manual from my Creator?” Your honest answer to these important questions will probably be very instructive!

The point is that our Creator expects us to be **zealous** in seeking the Truth! For *your own sake*, please do **not** carelessly assume that “all religions are the same” or that “the majority is always right.” **Think!** If the majority is always right, then we should

not be Christians of any type, because about two-thirds of all human beings do not even *call themselves* “Christian.”

That is why Jesus Christ said: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13–14). That is why the Apostle Paul wrote: “**Prove** all things; hold fast that which is god” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, *KJV*).

My friends, we must become *even more* excited about learning the true way to eternal life than about who won the latest football game or popularity contest! This may seem obvious, but *very few* people have their priorities straight—even when their eternal life is involved.

We must *all* learn to be **zealous**—to be diligent—in seeking God, and in searching out and acting on the Truth. In his last letter, the Apostle Peter wrote: “Therefore, brethren, be even more **diligent** to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10–11).

Why do you believe the things you believe? Is it because you *honestly* and **zealously** studied the Bible with an open mind to find out the revealed Truth? From this day on, may God help *you* to do just that. As this present society around us begins to disintegrate, and as the powerful prophetic events predicted in the Bible begin to unfold with increasing speed, *you owe it to yourself* and your loved ones to **study** and to genuinely **prove** to yourself the basic issues of life. Learn to be **zealous** for those things that really count!



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TOMORROW'S WORLD Television and Radio Log

INTERNATIONAL:

—AUSTRALIA

NSW, Sydney: Nine Network—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
NSW, Willoughby: Nine Network—SUN 5:00 am
QLD, Brisbane: Nine Network—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
 Briz31-Ch31, SUN 11:00 pm
SA, Adelaide: Nine Network—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
VIC, Melbourne: Nine Network—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
 MTC - Ch 31, SUN 11:30 pm
WA, Perth: Access 31—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

—CANADA

ON, Toronto: Vision—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET
ON, Toronto: Christian Channel—Ch Cable, SUN 9:30 am; SUN 8:00 pm

—JAMAICA

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

—NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am

—PHILIPPINES

Bansalan: Bansalan Cable—Ch 10, SAT 10:00 am
Borongan: Borongan Cable—Ch 4, SAT 3:00 pm
Camiguin: Cable TV—Ch 21, SUN 8:00 am
Kidapawan: Metro Cable—Ch 19, SAT 8:30 am
Nabunturan: Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am
Naga City: PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am
Maasin City: Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SAT 10:00 am
Ormoc City: Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 12:00 pm
Sogod: Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SAT 12:00 pm

—SOUTH AFRICA

Randburg: CSN—Ch Multi, SUN 5:30 pm

—TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

—UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE

United Kindom: SKY-TV—Ch 678, SUN 10:00 am;
 MON-FRI 1:30 am UTC

—EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST:

Europe, North Africa, Middle East: Hotbird 6—Ch 811,
 SUN 10:00 am; MON-FRI 1:30 am UTC

UNITED STATES:

AK, Anchorage: GCI—Ch 16, SAT 10:00 pm
AL, Birmingham: Bright House—Ch 4, THUR 2:30 pm
AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: KNWA—Ch 51, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Fort Smith: KFTA—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
AZ, Lake Havasu City: KLHU—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, FRI 4:00 pm
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73, SAT 2:00 pm; SUN 11:30 am
CA, Eureka: Cox—Ch 10, MON 8:00 pm
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am
 & 6:30 pm
CA, Glendora: Adelphia—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm
CA, Modesto: Access—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, North Orange County: Adelphia—Ch 95/97/98, SUN 3:30 pm
CA, Orange County: Cox—Ch 96, SUN 2:00 am
CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 19, MON 5:30 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Access TV—Ch 29, THUR 7:30 pm
CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm
CA, Sonora: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CO, Denver: Comcast—Ch 15, SUN 9:00 am
CO, Fort Collins: Comcast—Ch 68, SUN 9:00 am
CO, Greeley: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 9:00 am
CO, Loveland: Comcast—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am
CO, Pueblo: Comcast—Ch 96, SUN 9:00 am
CT, Enfield: Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 6:30 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
FL, Tampa: WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am

GA, Atlanta: AIB—Cable, THUR 9:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am
GA, Atlanta: PTV—Ch 24, FRI 2:00 pm
GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm;
 TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Lihue: Ho'Ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm
IA, Davenport: Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am
IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am;
 SUN 11:00 am
IA, Dubuque: TCI of Iowa—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm;
 MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 pm; WED 2:00 pm
ID, Boise: TVTV—Ch 11, SAT 10:00 pm; SUN 12:00 pm
ID, Pocatello: Vision—Ch 12, WED 2:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
IL, Bloomington: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 1:00 pm;
 MON 10:00 pm
IL, Chicago: WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
IL, Moline: MediaCom—Ch 75, MON-WED 2:00 pm; THUR
 6:00 pm; FRI 3:00 pm; SAT & SUN 2:00 pm
IL, Peoria: KY, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IN, Bloomington: CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 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, Latonia: PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am
KY, Lexington: Ch 14, Check Local Listing
KY, Louisville: Insight—Ch 16, SAT 12:00 am
KY, Paducah: Public Access—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm
LA, Baton Rouge: KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am
LA, Lafayette: KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am
LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Rockville: Community TV—Ch 19, THUR 5:00 pm
MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
ME, Auburn: GFTV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm
ME, Brunswick: Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am
MI, Southfield: Comcast—Ch 7, SUN 7:30 am
MI, Traverse City: TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm
MN, Bird Island: BICC—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm, WED 6:30 pm
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Hutchinson: HCVN—Ch 10, FRI 4:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 pm
MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm
MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm;
 SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm
MN, Roseville: CTV—Ch 15, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm
MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm
MO, Joplin: KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am
MO, Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am
MO, Kansas City: Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm
MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
MO, St. Charles: Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am
NC, Burlington: Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm
NC, Charlotte: INSP—Ch Multi, SAT 1:00 am
NC, Charlotte: WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm
NC, Greensboro: GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 8:00 pm
NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm
NE, Omaha: KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm;
 MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm;
 FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm
NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 76, SUN 11:30 am; Thur 5:00 pm
NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 26, MON 10:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCCC27—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:30
 am & 3:30 pm; SUN 3:30 am & 3:30 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 8:30 pm
NY, Albany: Time Warner—Ch 18, THUR 5:00 pm
NY, Batavia: Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm
NY, Binghamton: Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm
NY, Brookhaven: Cablevision—Ch 20, SAT 9:00 am
NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Canandaigua: FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am
NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am
NY, Fairport: FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 am
NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 20, SAT 9:00 am
NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm;
 WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm
NY, Ithaca: Pegasys—Ch 13, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 7:30 am & 1:30 pm
NY, Manhattan: MNN—Ch 67/110, FRI 11:00 am
NY, Oneida: Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
NY, Oneonta: Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm
NY, Queens: OPTV—Ch 34/35, SUN 1:00 pm; TUE 6:30 pm
NY, Riverhead: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 4:30 pm
NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 9:30 am; SAT 10:00 am
NY, Staten Island: CITY—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm

NY, Syracuse: Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Utica: Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm
NY, Woodbury: Cablevision—Ch 20, WED 5:00 am
OH, Centerville: MVCC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm
OH, Cincinnati: Media Bridges—Ch 8 & 24, SUN 12:00 am;
 TUE 12:30 pm
OH, Dayton: DSTV—Ch 12, SAT 3:30 AM; TUE 11:00 am
OH, Fairborn: CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm
OK, Tulsa: KTFO—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am
OR, Ashland: RVTV—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm
OR, Portland: WCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm
PA, Johnstown: Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm
PA, Philadelphia: Urban—Ch 5, THUR 9:00 pm; SUN 5:30 pm
PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm
RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am
SC, North Charleston: Comcast—Ch 78, SUN 8:00 & 12:00 am
TN, Chattanooga: WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am
TN, Knoxville: WVLT—Ch 8, SUN 6:30 am
TN, La Follette: WFLA—Ch 12, TUE 10:30 pm
TN, Memphis: WPTY—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am
TN, Nashville: WTV—Ch 17, SUN 7:00 am
TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: Time Warner—Ch 10, SUN 10:30 am;
 WED 8:30 am
TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, SAT 1:00 pm;
 SUN 11:00 am
TX, Dallas: KFWD-TV—Ch 52, SUN 8:00 am
TX, Houston: KTRB—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRF—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Midland: KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am
TX, San Antonio: Time Warner—Ch 20, SAT 9:00 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm
TX, Tyler: KLTV—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am
VA, Charlottesville: Adelphia—Ch 13, MON 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Fairfax: FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm
VA, Roanoke: WRDL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am
VA, Virginia Beach: Cox—Ch 71 & 74, SAT 8:30 am
VT, Bennington: CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 am;
 THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm
VT, Manchester: Adelphia—Ch 15, FRI 11:00 pm; SAT 11:00 am;
 SUN 11:00 am; MON 11:00 am; TUE 11:00 am
VT, Montpelier: Community Access—Ch 15, TUE 8:30 pm;
 WED 2:30 pm
VT, Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 2:00 am &
 9:00 am & 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am & 1:00 pm
VT, Springfield: SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm
WA, Everett: Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm
WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm
WA, Seattle: TCI—Ch 29, SUN 9:00 am
WA, Spokane: AT&T—Ch 14, MON 8:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: FVCT—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 am
WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am
WY, Casper: KTWQ—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am
WY, Cheyenne: KLWY—Ch 27, SUN 6:00 am

RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina, Bahia Blanca: Vida—107.7 FM, WED 10:00 am;
 THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm
Argentina, Buenos Aires: La Nueva Radio—650 AM, SUN 8:30 am;
 WED 12:00 pm
Argentina, Rio Grande: Radio FM Aire Libre—96.3 FM, SAT 8:00 pm
Colombia, Medellin: 1350 AM, SAT 10:30 am
Costa Rica, San Jose: Radio La Gigante—800 AM, SUN 8:00 am
Grand Canary Islands: Radio Emisora—93.6 FM, SAT 10:30 am
Martinique: Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am
Peru, Lima: Radio Altura—97.7 FM, SAT 7:00 am; SUN 1:00 pm
Philippines, Cebu City: DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am
Philippines, Davao City: DXUM—See Local Listing
Philippines, Manila: DWBL—1242 AM, THUR 10:30 pm;
 SUN 3:30 pm
Philippines, Ozamiz City: DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am
USA, La Follette, TN: WFLA—1450 AM, SAT 3:00 pm

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

• **Nationwide Cable**
 WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET
 INSPIRATION NETWORK—SAT 1:00 am ET

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WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET

INSPIRATION NETWORK: SAT 1:00 am ET

VISION, Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON–FRI 3:00 am ET

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

CA, Orange County: Cox Cable—Ch 96, SUN 2:00 am

CO, Loveland: Comcast—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am

MI, Southfield: Comcast—Ch 7, SUN 7:30 am

NC, Charlotte: WHKY—Ch 14, MON 7:30 pm

NY, Albany: Time Warner—Ch 18, THUR 5:00 pm

OR, Ashland: RVTV—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm

TX, Dallas: KFWD-TV—Ch 52, SUN 8:00 am

CANADA

ON, Toronto: Christian Channel—Cable, SUN 9:30 am & 8:00 pm

PHILIPPINES

Philippines, Naga City: PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, Randburg: CSN—Multi, SUN 5:30 pm



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