

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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**Will the U.S. suffer
the fate of Rome?**

The Pursuit of Lasting Happiness

A wise and wealthy king—the wisest and wealthiest of his day—sought to find the secret to a happy life. He searched for it in wine, women, and song—and so much more. Comedians? Musicians? He could bring the most skilled before him at his whim. He immersed himself in books, gaining knowledge and wisdom, and he did not fail to learn by his observation of others. There was virtually nothing out of his reach in the physical realm. He said to himself,

“I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”; but surely, this also was vanity. I said of laughter—“Madness!”; and of mirth, “What does it accomplish?” I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives. I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.... I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.... Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor (Ecclesiastes 2:1–6, 8, 10).

If possessions and wealth can buy happiness, certainly this king must have been the happiest man who ever lived. But was he? Here is his answer: “Therefore I *hated* life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind” (Ecclesiastes 2:17). He no doubt enjoyed the accomplishments and thrills of life, but still saw that all were futile in the end.

But surely it would be different if *you* were in King Solomon’s shoes! Is this not what many think? We often hear people say that money won’t buy happiness, but they conduct their lives as if it will. Consider the popularity of state-run mega-lotteries—the bigger the prize, the more money invested by hordes of hopefuls.

People attempt to satisfy their every hunger and thirst, just as Solomon did, but in the end are left empty and thirsty. Some live to play golf. Others live for the weekend to support



their favorite team. Others love to “party hearty.” Still others accumulate wealth beyond what they could ever need. Then there are those who thirst for popularity or power. There is temporary pleasure in many things, but in the end, as Solomon observed in himself, no mortal pleasure

satisfies forever. And hanging over the head of us all is the inevitable grave!

Solomon is not the only Bible figure who saw the futility of mortal life. The prophet Isaiah observed that it is man’s nature to chase after the fleeting wind of happiness. To those who strive for happiness through acquisition and temporal pleasures, he counsels, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?” (Isaiah 55:1–2).

What is it that brings the happiness so many want—and that so many fail to find?

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Solomon pointed to a life of work that lets us enjoy the fruits of our labor and care for the well-being of others. “I know that nothing is better for [man] than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God” (Ecclesiastes 3:12–13). But this cannot be the complete answer, as eating, drinking, and rejoicing will all come to an end someday—which is the very lesson Solomon wanted to impart!

Solomon wrote from the perspective of the mortal man. If there is no life after death, then whether one is good or evil, wise or foolish, the same end still comes. “The wise man’s eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all. So I said in my heart, ‘As it happens to the fool, it also happens to me, and why was I then more wise?’ Then I said in my heart, ‘This also is vanity’” (Ecclesiastes 2:14–15).

Does this mean Solomon saw no hope beyond the grave? On the surface, that seems to be the case:

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.... 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 9:5–6, 10).

But Is Death the End?

Solomon understood something that too few realize: Our mortality is an important part of how God is working with us. “I said in my heart, ‘Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals.’ For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust” (Ecclesiastes 3:18–20).

Yes, God is testing each of us. He wants us to realize that life is temporary, but that—as Solomon clearly understood—it is not the end. “I said in my heart, ‘God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work’” (Ecclesiastes 3:17). We see this message repeated throughout the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon recognized that our conduct during this mortal life does matter. “Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him” (Ecclesiastes 8:12). And in one of the best-known passages, he counsels the next generation, “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; *but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment*” (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Solomon’s words are important. They cut to the heart of what we value. They contrast the choice of personal, selfish desire with the choice to look to something greater than the here and now. Isaiah addresses our need to act while there is time, and the importance of God’s grace for those wise ones who turn away from living only for today.

Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live.... Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:2–3, 6–7).

Solomon concludes his lesson with a warning that God judges our actions. “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14). Let us all heed that warning!



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Repeating Rome's Mistakes

By **Gerald E. Weston**

Canada's *National Post* carried this January 15, 2013 headline: "Lost without a map: Despite a globalized society, university students can't locate the Atlantic Ocean."

If this were the middle of Manitoba or Kansas (anyone know where those are?) they might have had an excuse, though a lame one—but these were students from Memorial University of Newfoundland, where the Atlantic Ocean could be seen from their dormitory windows.

Sociologist Judith Adler had a hunch that her university students lacked basic geographical knowledge and began testing the proposition. "I used to ask if they could identify France, England or Ireland—which is the background of a lot of students here, or Spain or Portugal, which is important for this part of the world, but I've stopped asking that." Over time, she simplified her questions. "I asked them to indicate where on the map South America is, where Africa is, and Antarctica, the Arctic, and to circle Europe, label Australia and show where Asia is and label the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and Mediterranean Sea—and I've become much simpler in what I have asked over the years," Ms. Adler says.

How did her students fare with her questions? "A sizeable proportion of the class would reliably have no idea where the Mediterranean is. Some students would circle Africa and indicate that it's Europe, and if asked to locate England and Ireland, they would put them in Africa. I have had students that aren't able to correctly label the Atlantic Ocean, even though we are on it."

Man-on-the-street interviews in the United States show that Americans are equally ignorant of the real world around them. One would like to think that the answers reported are cherry-picked from the most uninformed—and there is likely some truth to that—but it is doubtful that the questioners must go far to find them. Some confuse states with cities, and when they cannot name their nation's sitting vice president, one can only imagine what else they don't know. We now live in the richest information age in history, but also the most ignorant when it comes to understanding where we are, where we came from, and how we got here. Is there any wonder why we have so many "flat-earthers" amongst us?

The late Dr. Roderick C. Meredith made this astute observation: "The way to lower interest in a topic is to place the word *history* in the title." Sadly, history and geography are not subjects emphasized in most

schools today. Both began to be replaced more than a century ago by the innocuous-sounding *social studies*. But this was not the innocent change that a naïve public took it for at the time. While it is true that history can be manipulated, geography is much less subjective. Over the decades, geography has increasingly been neglected, and social *studies* morphed into social *issues* promoted by radical activists. Any history that *is* taught today is too often an agenda-driven rewrite of Western history.

Variations on the repeating-history theme appear alongside debates about attribution. Irish statesman Edmund Burke is often misquoted as having said, “Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it.” Spanish philosopher George Santayana is credited with the aphorism, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” while British statesman Winston Churchill wrote, “Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it” (“History Repeating,” *LiberalArts.VT.edu*, accessed December 20, 2022).

Does History Make Any Difference?

The fall of the Roman Empire is one of the most studied events of history, yet it is little understood by today’s generations. The demise of such a great empire

that its downfall had no single cause. Instead, it fell because of a series of internal and external forces that over decades pulled the fabric of the Empire apart, ending a power that had held sway for more than a thousand years.

Mass migration from outside the Empire is often cited as a primary cause. “One of the most obvious reasons for the downfall of Rome was the relentless and seemingly endless waves of migration and invasions from the Barbarian tribes that bordered Rome’s northern frontiers. In the early days of the empire, Roman legions were able to repel Barbarian tribes with relative ease, but this started to change towards the end of the 2nd century CE” (“7 Reasons Why Rome Fell,” *WorldAtlas.com*, November 8, 2022). A particularly destructive migration took place in the late fourth century AD when Eurasian Huns invaded Europe—driving Germanic tribes to seek refuge inside the borders of the Empire. “The Romans grudgingly allowed members of the Visigoth tribe to cross south of the Danube and into the safety of Roman territory” (“8 Reasons Why Rome Fell,” *History.com*, January 29, 2019).

The parallels between mass migration into the Roman Empire from the north and the literal invasion of illegal immigrants on the U.S. southern border ought to be a wake-up call, but politics is apparently more important than saving the country. In fiscal

year 2020 (October through September) there were 458,088 border encounters with undocumented migrants. These were people who were caught or who simply crossed illegally into the country and turned themselves in, claiming asylum. In 2021, this number rose to 1,734,686, and in 2022 to a staggering 2,378,944. In October, the first month of fiscal 2023

(the latest figures available at time of writing), there were 230,678 (“Southwest Land Border Encounters,” *CBP.gov*, November 14, 2022). And none of these figures take into account known “gotaways”—those who were caught on camera or by other means but were never apprehended—which are estimated at 599,000 for fiscal year 2022 alone (“Border officials count 599,000 ‘gotaway’ migrants in Fiscal Year 2022:

WHEN AMERICA FALLS—AS IT SURELY WILL, UNLESS IT CHANGES DIRECTION SOON—ANOTHER POWER WILL FILL THE VACUUM, AND IT MAY NOT BE SO BENEVOLENT.

has lessons for America in particular, and for the West in general, because one lesson of history is that power abhors a vacuum. When America falls—as it surely will, unless it changes direction soon—another power will fill the vacuum, and it may not be so benevolent. In fact, it *will not be*, according to Bible prophecy.

Whole books have been written about the collapse of the Roman Empire, and historians agree

source,” *FoxNews.com*, October 2, 2022). Then there are all the potential *unknown* border crossings.

This situation goes beyond politics. It strikes at the heart of the question of whether a country can survive with what is clearly an open-border policy.

History.com lists other reasons for Rome’s collapse: overexpansion and military overspending, government corruption and political instability, the spread of Christianity, and the loss of traditional values (*History.com*). One of those reasons may surprise you. How could *Christianity* be an empire killer? In a high school and college history book from an earlier age (first published in 1900), Philip Myers explains how nominal-yet-false Christianity contributed to the decline in birthrate and respect for the institution of the Roman family.

Another cause of the decline in population was the singular aversion that the better class of the Romans evinced to marriage. We meet during the period of the empire with a crowd of imperial edicts dealing with this subject. Penalties and bounties, deprivations and privileges, entreaties and expostulations are in turn resorted to by the perplexed emperors, in order to discourage celibacy and to foster a pure and healthy family life. But all was in vain. The marriage state continued to be held in great disesteem.... And Christianity instead of correcting the evil, rather made matters worse; for just now the teachings of the monks were persuading vast multitudes of the superior sanctity of the solitary or the monastic life, and thereby filling the deserts of Egypt and the monasteries of all lands with men who believed they could best live the higher [life] by freeing themselves of all family and social cares and duties (*Rome: Its Rise and Fall*, pp. 447–448).

America has few men running off into the desert to live a monastic life, but far too many working-age men are sitting on the sidelines instead of going to work. “The job market in the U.S. has remained hot this year despite the Federal Reserve’s best efforts to cool it down, and unemployment is at just 3.7 percent, close to a 50-year low. But part of the population has

been silently walking away from work for several decades—well before the COVID-19 pandemic began” (“Men are dropping out of the labor force because they’re upset about their social status, according to a new study,” *Fortune*, December 7, 2022).

Yes, even before COVID-19, participation in the labor market by men aged 25–54 was a troubling concern for policy makers—and their concern points directly to the health of the family. In 2019—during what has been described as the longest economic expansion in U.S. history, with historically low unemployment—Senator Mike Lee of Utah admitted:

“I’m concerned that if more men can’t find stable, steady work, the result is likely to be fewer marriages, in the first instance, and more divorces, in the second instance....” It’s also likely, he said, that as marriage rates fall, men will feel less of a need to be breadwinners and involved with their children, which in turn would lead to more unemployment and less stable family lives (“Why are men dropping out of the workforce despite a strong economy?,” *Deseret News*, November 23, 2019).

Manhattan Institute senior fellow Oren Cass agrees that there is a connection between, and a downward spiral developing with, work and the stability of the family unit. When one suffers, so does the other.

Work, he said, brings structure to each and life in general. It offers the mundane but essential disciplines of timeliness and reliability and hygiene as well as the more complex socialization of collaboration and paying attention to others. It requires people to interact and forges shared experiences and bonds. It promotes goal setting and long-term planning, Cass said.

“True, other pursuits can provide these kinds of benefits...” he said. “But sleeping, couch surfing or playing video games does not. And for out-of-work men in particular, such idle activities tend to fill up their time” (*Deseret News*).

Whatever the causes, low birthrates and disrespect for the institution of the family bring about the same result—a nation in decline. In modern America, Canada, Europe, Russia, and elsewhere, birthrates are at historic lows, well below replacement level, and there is a connection between low birthrates and unchecked illegal immigration.

Where Have All the Workers Gone?

“Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York called on Republicans Wednesday [November 16, 2022] to join in passing a pathway to citizenship for ‘all undocumented’ in the United States, citing the fact that Americans were ‘not reproducing’” (“Schumer Says US Needs More Immigration Because Americans Are ‘Not Reproducing,’” *DailyCaller.com*, November 16, 2022).

Why are Americans and others “not reproducing”? One obvious reason is unrestricted abortion, a major platform on which Sen. Schumer’s party proudly and arrogantly ran in the 2022 midterm elections. In the last 50 years, Americans have aborted tens of millions of their children. As *Tomorrow’s World* writer Wallace G. Smith reminded us in his January 2022 article “Seven Lies About Abortion,” the womb is unmistakably the most dangerous place for an innocent American child.

World Atlas lists seven causes for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire:

1. Migration and Barbarian Invasion
2. Corruption
3. Climate Change and Famine
4. Disloyal and Ineffective Militaries
5. Civil Wars
6. Economic Destitution
7. Weak Leadership

This same source then gives a summary:

The fall of the Western Roman Empire can teach humans many things about societal collapse and regression. Most shortcomings of a civilization in decline come from within rather than without. Incompetent leaders, government corruption, a weak economy, and social dissolution all contributed to the

downfall of Rome. Considering how deep and long-lasting these issues were for the Romans it is surprising that Rome did not fall sooner (*WorldAtlas.com*).

Do any of these problems sound familiar?

What about a weak economy? Surely that is not a problem for America! Or is it? That probably depends on whether one considers a national debt of \$31,000,000,000,000—that’s 31 *trillion* dollars—a problem. Add to this Americans’ personal debt, which is also out of control, especially since inflation set in—another self-inflicted wound. The government offered free money, which people were all too happy to receive.

Inflation caused by too much “free” money is more than an American problem. As Nicholas Clairmont wrote for *BigThink.com*, “History shows that both those who *do not* learn history and those who *do* learn history are doomed to repeat it.” He went on to explain, “According to Santayana’s philosophy, history repeats. The phrasing itself certainly is catchy. It’s a big one, not only because it is so common, but also because if it is true and if history, driven by human nature, is ugly (hint: it is), then this saying ought to guide our public and private policy” (“‘Those Who Do Not Learn History Are Doomed To Repeat It.’ Really?,” *BigThink.com*, July 31, 2013).

More importantly, this understanding ought to guide our public and private *behavior*, because our behavior ultimately influences government policy, especially in democracies. And this is where another lesson of history must be considered. As Clairmont wrote, it is not history that guides nations, but human nature—a fact that brings us to a different kind of history book.

Unlike the citizens of Roman Catholic countries where people were historically discouraged from reading the Bible for themselves, the British-descended and American peoples, at least until recent times, were generally encouraged to read from this greatest of all books. In its pages, humanity is given a choice. That choice is articulated in various ways at different times, but it is the same choice: “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life

REPEATING ROME'S MISTAKES CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

FIND THE JOY

There is a purpose for the pain.

Some time ago, I followed up with an old friend who had been battling a serious health challenge with some success, only to learn the devastating news that his condition had taken a turn for the worse. What had seemed to be a good course of treatment proved to be far less effective than expected. At that point, the prognosis was not good.

It was disappointing news—a real kick in the gut. It was the kind of news that one hopes never to hear, yet which comes all too often, especially in this time of so many health crises for people of all ages. With modern medical innovations, marvelous things are done today. And yet, the brutal fact is that there are terrible, terminal illnesses that cut short the lives of many people. This is a cruel reality, but when it is someone with whom we have a close relationship and great affection, it is shattering news that makes us cry out to God for His intervention and mercy. It makes us agonize over the questions of *Why? Why this person? Why now?* These are questions that individuals and families have asked for millennia when unexpected, life-threatening situations strike. We know that God heals—yet, at times, He refrains.

It is very sobering to contemplate one's life being cut short or the prospect of extended suffering until death gives release. It causes anxiety and stress. There are so many details to attend to, so many unfulfilled responsibilities, so many adventures unrealized.

In this situation, with the realization that time is limited, a person's priorities abruptly change. What was once important may suddenly be irrelevant. Unnecessary activities are set aside, and essential matters come sharply into focus. Time evaporates as one concentrates on medical visits, treatments, and therapies. Frustrating, debilitating, irritating, but required activities soak up the days and nights. Energy wanes. Interests fade.

This is a painful part of the human condition. In the book of Job, this sobering but realistic evaluation of the human experience is found: "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue" (Job 14:1–2). The Apostle Paul eloquently put suffering into perspective: "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.... Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:8, 16).

Embrace the Hope

But there is a hope often spoken of in Scripture.

God has a great plan of salvation for those who are

It is very sobering to contemplate one's life being cut short or the prospect of extended suffering until death gives release. It causes anxiety and stress.

seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness and who overcome until the end. They are promised eternal life, ruling under Jesus Christ as kings and priests in the Kingdom of God.

So, while terminal illnesses and other human tragedies do occur, Christians can look forward to the promise found in Revelation 21:3–4: "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.'"

This is why James, the brother of Christ, could say, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (James 1:2).

For more on a godly perspective of life and death and an overview of the amazing promises that are the hope of every Christian, order a free copy of *What Is the Meaning of Life?* or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. It is totally free of charge, but its information is priceless.

—J. Davy Crockett III

h Canada!

The Hope of a New World



The year was 1773, and a vessel was straggling its way across the Atlantic with 189 passengers in search of a better life. A voyage that was supposed to last just six weeks took almost twelve, and with the cramped, unsanitary living conditions on the vessel, 18

children were buried at sea. When the harried settlers eventually arrived at their destination, they did not find the large coastal farmland and year's worth of supplies they had been promised. The coast and inland region were covered with old-growth forest, which could take years to clear and convert into suitable farmland—and the basic requirements for shelter, as well as promised food supplies and necessary equipment, were simply not there.

One can easily imagine how hopeless such a situation might seem—and yet, it was a scenario that has played itself out many times in history. What can we learn from people such as these, who left everything behind in seeking a better future?

On Unfamiliar Shores

The ship was named the *Hector*, and the passengers were from the Scottish Highlands. In their homeland they had experienced increasing difficulties with the changing landscape of farms and farming practices surrounding agricultural land management. The Scottish Highland Clearances began in the mid-to-late-eighteenth century, when Scottish lairds, the traditional landowners, sought to implement agricultural changes in order to increase profits and settle debts. The tenants on these lands were in some cases evicted from properties that their families had occupied for centuries

and resettled into smaller holdings, resulting in financial hardship and understandable grievances.

On the other side of the Atlantic, North American businessmen employed recruitment officers who were tasked with finding willing participants to immigrate to various parts of the Thirteen Colonies (which later declared independence as the United States of America) and what became Canada. Between 1763-1775, approximately 21,000 Scots migrated to North America, with the majority settling in the Thirteen Colonies (J. M. Bumsted, "Scottish Emigration to the Maritimes 1770-1815: A New Look at an Old Theme," *Acadiensis*, 1981, vol. 10, no. 2, p. 65). Yet many, like the passengers of the *Hector*, preferred the more sparsely populated region of the Maritimes, settling in Pictou in what is now Nova Scotia, a community now declared "the birthplace of New Scotland."

Though recruiters had deceived them about New World conditions, most passengers on the *Hector* chose to face the hardships of building new lives in Pictou rather than return to their native land. Their hope for the future in the New World surpassed their foreseeable struggles.

Most Americans are familiar with the *Mayflower*, which brought more than a hundred settlers to the coast of present-day Massachusetts in 1620 as the first of many waves of migrants. New England was established and developed by settlers who, in Europe, had experienced hardships such as famine, poverty, and unjust governance; they hoped that in their new home, they could right the wrongs of the society they'd left behind.

In much the same vein, the settlers who sailed on the *Hector* were the first wave of Scottish migrants to

develop and establish Nova Scotia—Latin for “New Scotland.” If you look at old maps of the region, you will see Newfoundland, New Scotland, and New England, not to mention the shrinking lands of New France. All these territories represented the efforts of people seeking a new and improved world—for better or worse.

Out of Hardship, a Legacy

People who are established, safe, settled, and content where they are living have little incentive to move, but war, poverty, famine, and disease can cause individuals, families, and, in some cases, entire communities to uproot and relocate. Some estimates suggest that more than 170,000 Gaelic settlers migrated to eastern Canada by 1870. Approximately five million Canadians claim Scottish heritage today (“Scottish Canadians,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, August 27, 2013). In the words of Ken McGoogan, author of the book *How the Scots Invented Canada*, “No matter where you enter the history of Canada—through exploration, politics, business, education, or literature—you find Scots and their descendants playing a leading role” (“How the Scots built: Canada,” *Scotsman.com*, April 25, 2016).

Fourteen of Canada’s 23 prime ministers—including its current prime minister, Justin Trudeau—are able to trace at least part of their heritage back to Scotland. Scots “dominated the fur trade, the timber trade, banking and railway management.” Scottish immigrants shaped their new nation in many ways: “The Bank of Montreal (1818) and the Canadian Pacific Railway (1881) are also successful businesses that were created by Scottish businessmen. Nearly 50 percent of the nation’s industrial leaders in the 1880s were of recent Scottish origins” (*The Canadian Encyclopedia*).



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia

The Scottish migrants sailing on the *Hector* to Pictou, Nova Scotia, lived through trials and suffering for the promises and hope of a better future and improved way of life. Those promises were sadly betrayed, and even the most determined and hardworking human beings cannot truly ensure that their descendants will live in peace and prosperity. But promises of a better future—a just and fair society where all pain and suffering will ultimately cease—are declared in the Bible.

Hope That Will Not Be Crushed

Migrants and the patterns of migration have shaped our world over millennia, but all established settlements, colonies, and countries have one question in common: how best to govern man. Over time and despite all our best efforts to institute fair laws, promote peace, and ensure stability, we are led by fallible and often corruptible men who bring to the “New World” the same faults as the old. Every nation that exists today suffers to various degrees from unrighteous government, and regardless of political efforts to bring about a “New World Order” or any other system of leadership, the only solution to our global struggle will be the return of Jesus Christ. Those who are led by God are waiting for *His* new world to come, and they have the hope of a future where effective solutions will finally undo the faults of our present day and age. The Apostle Peter lauded this hope when he wrote that “we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13).

Thankfully, the difficulties we experience, along with the trials or persecutions we might face under an unrighteous government, are temporary. The Apostle Paul compared our struggles in life to the hope given to us in God’s word, writing, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are *not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.... For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance” (Romans 8:18, 24–25).

There is a hope for the future, and the promises of God are sure. As hope in all else fades, let’s persevere toward the coming government of God, which will forever right the wrongs of today’s world.

—Jonathan Riley



Will We Heed the Warnings?

By **Douglas S. Winnail**

Most professing Christians have heard the biblical message that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world (John 3:16). However, many today seem to have forgotten that God “chastens” every son that He loves (Hebrews 12:5–7). The Bible is filled with examples showing how this warning has applied to both individuals and nations down through history.

Professing Christians widely believe that the Old Testament has been superseded by the New Testament and that we no longer need to be concerned about that portion of Scripture—except perhaps to read the book of Psalms for occasional inspiration and the book of Proverbs for advice. However, we are plainly told in the New Testament that “all these things [recorded in the Old Testament] happened to them as examples, and were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The clear implication of this verse is that if we forget or ignore these examples and this admonition, it will be to our peril—especially as the end of the age approaches.

We also live in an age when a great many critics claim that the Bible is not a divinely inspired book, saying it was only written by men and that no one can unfailingly predict the future. However, there is strong evidence to back up the Apostle Paul’s pointed claim that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of

God” (2 Timothy 3:16). God reveals through the prophet Isaiah that He alone can predict the future and then bring it to pass (Isaiah 46:8–11). Though many people own Bibles, few realize that nearly a third of the Bible is prophecy, that many of those prophecies are dual, and that many are focused on the end times in which we are living.

These prophecies contain important warnings about major world events that are going to strike specific peoples because they have forgotten or ignored vital lessons that their ancestors failed to learn.

Lessons from History

Today, many are told that the Bible is only a collection of myths and stories that are no longer relevant to the modern world. However, the truth is just the opposite (for details, see our informative booklet *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?*). The Bible is actually a carefully preserved record of, among other things, God’s dealings with the patriarch Abraham and his descendants. Because of Abraham’s obedience to God’s instructions, God promised Abraham and his offspring that they would be a special people chosen for an amazing purpose (Exodus 19:3–6). The Israelites were given God’s laws to set them apart from other nations in order for them to be lights—positive examples to the world. To confirm this, God made a covenant with the Israelites that if they obeyed His laws, they would inherit blessings promised to Abraham, but if they disobeyed, they would be punished (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28).

The sad story recorded in Scripture is that the Israelites began turning away from God soon after they came out of captivity in Egypt—setting up idols, worshipping foreign gods, complaining against Moses, and violating God’s laws. Eventually, most of the first generation of Israelites, whom God had delivered from captivity in Egypt, were forbidden to enter the promised land—and they died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:26–34). This punishment is recorded in Scripture as a lesson for their descendants.

After entering the promised land, Israel reached a certain peak under King David’s son Solomon. But they forgot the lesson they should have learned from their ancestors that God blessed their nation as they obeyed and followed His laws. Eventually, Israel divided into two feuding, sinning nations, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. God then sent both disobedient nations into captivity—Israel to Assyria and Judah to Babylon. As time went on, neither the nation of Israel nor the nation of Judah inherited the major promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of possessing the gates of their enemies (Genesis 22:17) and in the case of Joseph’s sons—Manasseh and Ephraim—becoming a great nation and a great company or commonwealth of nations (Genesis 48:8–20).

The Bible records how God supernaturally delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, made them His chosen people, and gave them His laws so they could be lights to the world. However, God punished them for violating and rejecting His laws and worshipping other gods. These important lessons were recorded as a warning for the modern descendants of the ancient Israelites.

Ancient Prophecies Apply Today

Thus we begin to see what the sins and punishments of the ancient Israelites have to do with us today. Historical sources reveal that the descendants of the biblical children of Israel are none other than the people of the modern United States of America, the British-descended peoples, and the peoples of other nations of northwestern Europe (see our booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*). These nations have been the recipients of blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But few understand that the continuance of the blessings these

nations enjoy is dependent on their obedience to the God who gave those blessings, just as it was for their forefathers.

More than 3,000 years ago, Moses warned the ancient Israelites, “For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands” (Deuteronomy 31:29). Today, in the Western world, nations that were founded on biblical principles of morality are actively promoting behaviors that the Bible condemns: divorce (Malachi 2:16), adultery and fornication (Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10), homosexuality and same-sex “marriage” (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26–27), drag queens (Deuteronomy 22:5), tattoos (Leviticus 19:28), and abortion—the killing of their own children (Exodus 20:13; Jeremiah 2:34). Prior to the 1960s, many of these evil behaviors were not just frowned upon; they were illegal. Most did not dare to do these things openly. But in recent decades, these behaviors have been promoted and celebrated—in active defiance of God’s laws.

The prophet Jeremiah, writing around 600 BC, pointed out that while pagan nations had not changed their gods over the centuries, the Israelites, despite God’s promised blessings, had embraced different and false gods, following in the footsteps of their ancient forefathers (Jeremiah 2:11–13). And this is just as true today. Rather than embracing and guarding their biblical heritage, the modern descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim (e.g. America, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand) have embraced “gods” of their own making, such as secularism, evolution, materialism, and atheism. Instead of using the Bible and the laws of God as a guide for behavior, these modern post-Christian nations now view the Bible as a “strange thing” (Hosea 8:12).

The prophet Hosea warned the Israelites that “because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” and convicted them of having “dealt treacherously with the LORD, for they have begotten pagan children” (Hosea 4:6; 5:7). Today, headlines report on the precipitous decline in professing Christianity in England and Wales (*Tele-*

graph, November 29, 2022) and the mass exodus from professing Christianity that is underway in America (*Grid News*, December 17, 2022). Studies also show that more than 40 percent of young adults have no religious affiliation—a stark contrast from colonial America 200 years ago, when more than 90 percent of people were professing Christians.

Jeremiah also warned the Israelites that because they have forsaken their God and perverted their way (2:17; 3:2), “I will certainly bring calamity


catalogue the last 500 years of Western civilization—a period during which Israel’s descendants dominated the world. In 2011, British historian Niall Ferguson wrote *Civilization: The West and the Rest* in which he commented that “we are living through the end of 500 years of Western ascendancy” (p. xv).

These authors are not alone in their assessments. In 2011, Patrick Buchanan, an advisor to three U.S. presidents, wrote *Suicide of a Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?* He warned that Amer-

ica is tearing itself apart. “America has taken on the aspect of a decadent society and a declining nation.... What once united us is dissolving. And this is true of Western civilization” (pp. vii, 7). This is

the world we are living in today, and Bible prophecies have been warning about the same dangers for several thousand years.

Today, many people sense that something is seriously wrong in the world, but they do not understand that Bible prophecies have long warned that a time of trouble would come for the Israelite-descended nations in the latter days (see Jeremiah 30) because they would turn away from God and reap what they have sown (Jeremiah 2:17–19). In fact, they have sown “the wind,” and they will “reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7). Jesus warned that His followers should watch for the emergence of world conditions that will fulfill these ancient prophecies just before His promised return (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

The handwriting is on the wall for the modern descendants of ancient Israel. We need to remember that God is a God of love and that He has a plan for all people. But God also chastens those whom He loves, to teach them that blessings come from obedience to His laws, while ignoring the warnings that God provides brings the serious consequences of disobedience. The question we each need to ask is, will we heed those important warnings, or will we repeat the mistakes of our ancestors? 

MODERN ISRAELITES HAVE EMBRACED “GODS” OF THEIR OWN MAKING, SUCH AS SECULARISM, EVOLUTION, MATERIALISM, AND ATHEISM.

on this this people—the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it” (6:18–19), and that calamity will come “suddenly” (6:26). Moses warned the ancient Israelites that if they would not listen to the voice of their God they would experience a national decline and go into captivity in a manner that would astonish the world (Deuteronomy 28:15, 37–48). This is what lies ahead for modern Israelite nations that have forgotten God and their true national identities.

Secular Historians Agree

It is also sobering to notice that secular historians are writing about the same things that these ancient prophecies have long foretold. Nearly 30 years ago, in 1994, researcher Jim Nelson Black recognized what was happening, writing in *When Nations Die* about ten warning signs of America’s culture in crisis, foreseeing that America was going down the same road of cultural decline as ancient Greece and Rome. In 1996, Harvard professor Samuel Huntington wrote *Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* in which he described the decline of the West and the rise of other nations. In 2000, the European historian Jacques Barzun wrote *From Dawn to Decadence* to

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the teaching of an antichrist, and should we be watching for it now?

Question: What did the Apostle John mean when he warned that “many antichrists have come”? What is an antichrist?

Answer: To understand the term *antichrist*—which is found only in 1 John and 2 John—it is helpful to

Despite the apostles’ ministry, a proliferation of false teachings arose. These included the Gnostic denial that Jesus came in the flesh as the only begotten Son of God. The Gnostic heresy taught that Christ only seemed to take human form.

examine the scriptures that use it. The phrase “many antichrists” occurs in 1 John 2:18: “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now *many antichrists* have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

The Greek word that is translated *antichrist* here means “against Christ” or “in place of Christ,” or refers to a false Christ who “opposes” the true Christ. John warned that many opponents of the true Christ and His message had *already* come. Some had even infiltrated God’s true Church. John continued, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that

they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us” (v. 19). John goes on to confirm this, providing more details.

A Deceiver and an Antichrist

Notice what John wrote in the very next epistle: “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2 John 7). Here, John describes an antichrist as a *deceiver*.

Despite the apostles’ ministry, a proliferation of false teachings arose. These included the Gnostic denial that Jesus came in the flesh as the only begotten Son of God. The Gnostic heresy taught that Christ

only *seemed* to take human form (Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction*, 1975, p. 870). Gnostic teachers, therefore, were among many antichrists who rejected Christ’s coming in the flesh as the incarnate Son of God—a rejection that waters down Christ’s sacrifice and inadequately defines sin—turning grace into license to sin (Jude 4). John sought to combat these false ideas and to strengthen God’s people in the truth.


And note carefully: He wrote of deceivers who denied Christ “*as coming* in the flesh.” This may in part refer to Christ’s first coming in the flesh, but there is an important additional meaning.

The *Williams New Testament* clarifies 2 John 7 by rendering it “*continues to come*.” In other words, Jesus Christ not only *had come* in the flesh to become the perfect sacrifice for sin, but He *is continuing* to come in the flesh of Christians by living His life in us. We read, “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us” (1 John 3:24).

Jesus Christ abides or lives in us through His Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20). He stated, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” (John 14:23).

The Spirit of Lawlessness

In stark contrast, the spirit of antichrist “does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” (1 John 4:2–3). This lying spirit denies the reality of Christ’s first coming, and the wonderful truth that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ can live His life in us—the very same life He lived when He was on earth—a life of obedience to the law of God! Therefore, an antichrist is one who is against Christ—against His law and against His way of life.

This spirit of antichrist or lawlessness, so common today, was already widespread in the Apostle Paul’s day: “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work” (2 Thessalonians 2:7). For more information, you can request a free copy of *Who or What Is the Antichrist?* or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. 



The Best a Man Can Do

By **Rod McNair**

Not long ago, I attended my daughter's college commencement. It was an exciting day for students who had worked very hard to finish their studies, and it was gratifying to think about the hard work and determination it took for each of those graduates just to be there.

The valedictory address was given by a young man who told a remarkable story of challenges and obstacles he had overcome. It was quite touching. He was there with his wife and his young daughter, and I couldn't help but feel admiration for this man and what he was already making of his life.

Toward the end of his talk, he spoke of the women in his life—his mother, his daughter, his wife—and how important they were to him. But then his speech took a perplexing turn. Addressing the men in the audience, he said, “Really, the best thing we can do for the women in our lives is just get out of the way.”

I thought to myself, *Wow, what a shocking statement!* Of any advice he could give to a generation of young men, is that the best he could offer? I thought of the thousands of men in the audience, and I asked myself, *Is this going to inspire them to dream great dreams, to be builders of society, and to strive to serve and give of themselves to their families?*

I walked away from that address shaking my head. Not because I'm against men learning to honor, respect, and admire the women in their lives, and to give them the support and the room to be their very best—no, quite the contrary. Rather, I was disappointed that the opportunity had been missed to show both men and women that they can *help* each other. A marriage partnership takes teamwork and sacrifice from both the husband and the wife.

So, what *is* the best a man can do? The answer can be found by understanding a man's real purpose—and that purpose is revealed in the Bible.

God made men to be men. He made women to be women. He put us in families and—for many of us—in marriages. And He gave men instructions on how to make their relationships work. So, what's the best a man can do to achieve his God-given potential? In this brief article, we'll consider three vital points.

Point One: Love and Honor Your Wife

“Every married man knows that he should do that,” you might say. But stop and think for a moment. When we look around and see so many unhappy marriages and so many divorces, maybe such love isn't as commonly sought after as some might assume. And maybe we don't properly understand what it means to love and honor our wives. This is an important subject for married men, as well as for those who aren't yet married, who want to have the happiest marriage possible sometime in the future.

Just look at the statistics. In the United States, marriages made in the 1950s had a 25-percent likelihood of ending in divorce within 25 years; marriages begun in the 1970s had a 50-percent probability of ending in divorce within that same length of time. That's an American tragedy.

But it's not just in the United States where so many marriages are failing. A similar trend is occurring in many other nations. For example, in England and Wales, 35 percent of all marriages that began in the year 2000 failed by 2017. This is not just an American problem, nor is it just in the British Isles. Indeed, *Psychology Today* reported in 2019 that between 1970 and 2008, the divorce rate *around the world* more than doubled. Their article was titled, “Divorce Rates Around the World: A Love Story,” but it is the story of *broken* love, a painful and heartrending disaster.

So, what is wrong with marriages today? Maybe men don't know what “love your wife” really means. Many have overlooked the fact that the Bible gives practical and direct advice to men about love and marriage. Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote: “Hus-

bands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it” (Ephesians 5:28–29).

Paul is saying that if you’re married, you need to treat your wife as you would treat yourself. Talk with her. Be aware of her needs. Be patient and thoughtful even when she’s down or upset. That’s what love is. It’s not just a passing feeling or romantic notion; it’s a commitment to care for another human being as you’d care for yourself, in good times or bad, and is echoed in the Apostle Peter’s similar instruction: “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).

Protect the Weaker Vessel

Some might take issue with Peter for saying that women are the weaker vessel, but it’s really not hard to understand. Last year, the world of competitive swimming acknowledged this simple fact in response to a man who’d begun to swim in college events as a transgender “female,” and had in the process gone from a mediocre male competitor to a record-breaker in women’s events. Setting its policy that transgender “women” should not compete against female swimmers, the World Swimming Coaches Association stated what should be obvious: “The average differences in strength, stamina, and physique between the sexes is significant” (“Position Statement on Transgender Swimming,” *WSCACoach.org*). There are exceptions, of course, but by and large, this is true.

So why did God create men to be bigger and stronger? To dominate women? To crush them, physically or emotionally? *No*. Rather, it was God’s intention that a man learn to care for, nourish, and protect the woman to whom he has committed his life.

Such commitment was once taken for granted in Western civilization. “Women and children first!” became the unwritten-but-firm rule in disasters at sea. This policy came to be called the “Birkenhead Drill” after its famous application in the 1852 sinking and evacuation of the Royal Navy ship *HMS Birkenhead*, where the ship’s captain had insisted that places on the lifeboats be given first to the women and children aboard.

Similarly, when the *RMS Titanic* sank, many men gave up their places on lifeboats to their wives and children—and went on to die in the icy waters of the north Atlantic. It is easy to wonder whether we as a society have reached the point where today’s men would feel no sense of responsibility to protect women in an emergency such as that. Is that who we are?

Indeed, where should men find the values that teach them to make sacrifices—like giving up a spot in a lifeboat—as well as to stay engaged and committed when their wives need comfort and care? The answer is found in a second challenge for men to be their best.

Point Two: Fear God and Keep His Commandments

About 3,000 years ago, there lived a very wise king. In fact, his reputation for wisdom spread far and wide. We have many of his teachings preserved in the Bible. His name was Solomon, and he gave this plain and powerful advice: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

“Man” here means “mankind”—both men and women, all of humanity. But let’s for a moment ask what would happen if every *man* were doing this today. How would their actions change the world for women?

First of all, if all men feared God, there would be no crime. There would be no domestic abuse. Women could walk down a dark and abandoned alley without fear of violence.

We should understand that by “fear God,” God isn’t expecting us to feel frightened or terrified of Him—He simply wants us to acknowledge His awe-inspiring power and wisdom and give Him the obedience not only that He deserves, but that will keep us safe and secure. We should understand that, as our Creator, He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what we need and what will really make us happy in the long run.

And the “commandments” He asks us to keep? Those are the Ten Commandments, as found in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. Though they often get a “bad rap” today, mischaracterized as harsh, demanding dictates from an unloving and uncaring God, the truth is that they teach us how to *love*. Consider the simplicity of the Seventh Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).

“Adultery” is a word we don’t often hear in today’s society, though its practice is widespread. It simply means having sexual relations with someone to whom you are not married. If men took this simple command as seriously as it deserves to be taken, women would be safe in the knowledge that their marriages would be secure.

Jesus Expanded the Commandment

And there is a further step, as taught by Jesus Christ, who explained that in addition to physical adultery there is also adultery of the heart: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit

adultery,’ in movies, and on the Internet? What a different world this would be.

Men, as you are reading this, think about your relationships. If you have a porn problem, get help. You can and *must* overcome it. Porn is sin—and sin destroys trust. Sin tears apart marriages. Yes, God does forgive, and He *will* forgive—if we repent. But we first must admit that we’ve sinned, and we must have a *deep* desire to overcome it with God’s help.

As men, let’s aspire to do more than just “get out of the way” of the women in our lives. How about giving our lives to God? How about committing to keep His laws, so that our wives and our families will be

blessed? If we do this, our relationships will grow. The women in our lives will gain greater trust in us. We’ll be happier and they’ll be happier. As men learn to become their best, women will reap the rewards just as much as their men.

Several years ago, a well-known men’s skin-care products company set off a firestorm with an advertising campaign titled, “The Best a Man Can Be.” The narrative was that most

men are bullies who need to become softer. But, as we’ve seen, what’s really needed is that men become stronger in the values that truly sustain their relationships with women—not that they become bullies or caricatures, but that they embody the best of what God wants us to be. And this brings us to a third vital key to being our best as men.

Point Three: Commit to Becoming Like Christ

Two thousand years ago, there was a man named Jesus who walked this earth and was called the Christ. Many in our secular, humanistic culture of today don’t want to hear about Him, but He was the ultimate man. He was the standard. In fact, He was God in the flesh. He had been at the throne of the Father for all eternity past, and He emptied Himself of His divinity. Paul writes of Jesus Christ, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. But He emptied Himself, taking upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in the form of a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6–8, *Modern English Version*).

IF MEN TOOK THIS SIMPLE COMMAND SERIOUSLY, WOMEN WOULD BE SAFE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR MARRIAGES WOULD BE SECURE.

adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27).

Pornography is a curse in our Western nations. And it’s not just a curse for men—women get hooked, too. Sociologists at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting in 2016 startled their colleagues with research documenting that while men who started watching pornography doubled their chances of divorce, women watching pornography saw their divorce rate tripled (“Divorce rates double when people start watching porn,” *Science.org*, 2016). This finding calls to mind the findings of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, who at a 2002 meeting found that an “obsessive interest in Internet pornography” was a significant factor in 56 percent of their divorce cases the prior year” (“National Review: Getting Serious On Pornography,” *NPR.org*, 2010).

So, stop and think this through. What if men were taught, from a young age, that it’s not only wrong to commit fornication and adultery, but it’s wrong even to harbor lustful thoughts toward a woman? What if our culture would support parents’ efforts to protect their children from inappropriate images in the me-

He had been at the throne of God, with the Father. He gave that up for us—to become flesh and blood, to walk with us. He humbled Himself.

But He wasn't a weakling. There is a common misconception of Jesus Christ as being a sort of effeminate individual who was soft and weak. Perhaps it's because many pictures portray Him that way. But think about it: He was a carpenter. He was a builder. And back then, there were no power tools. His hands were strong and accustomed to work.

Again, the fact that Jesus Christ genuinely cared for the interests of others did *not* make Him weak. In fact, here's an example of the type of man He was: "Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves" (Matthew 21:12).

Jesus Christ wasn't a bully—but He also wasn't afraid of taking strong action when it was required. The temple was the house of God. When He found crooks there taking advantage of and cheating the people, He stopped them and threw them out. Notice what Paul wrote to the brethren in Ephesus: "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

If you're a man who cares about your family and your wife, commit to becoming like Christ. If you want to make a difference in your world and build something worthwhile, become like Christ. If you want to set a strong and solid example for others to follow, *become like Christ*. He is our standard. He is the measure. He sets the pace. That's what this world needs more of, and that's what women need: men like Christ.

Honor Women as Jesus Did

One of the most touching and powerful passages in the Bible is found at the end of Christ's life:

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said

to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home (John 19:25–27).


Jesus loved the whole world—every human being. That's why He gave His life. That's why He allowed men to kill Him: so you and I could have a way out of sin.

But even as He was hanging there, in His last moments, He did not forget the woman who had given birth to Him and reared Him. He ensured that His mother would be cared for, just before He died—a last act of a dynamic, powerful, caring man.

Don't give in to the cynical view of today—the idea that the Bible puts down women and tells men to do so. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible holds men accountable for treating women well, and it challenges them to do so with God's help. If you are a man, think about your life. Think about how you treat others. Think about how you interact with women—especially your wife, if you are married. Are you living up to the standard of Jesus Christ? If you're a father of young boys, it's your responsibility to teach each one of them how to be a real man—not just a macho reflection of a movie hero, but a *real* man, like Jesus Christ. We must teach our boys to *honor* and *respect* women, not just "get out of their way."

What if you're a woman? What about the men in your life? If you have a husband, respect him. Value him. Appreciate what he does for you. Tell him you are thankful for how he sacrifices for you. And raise your boys to be valiant and faithful men themselves, who respect women and value their own masculinity.

We are living in difficult times. But God is looking for men—and women—who can rise to the challenge. We read that "the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Men, getting out of the way isn't the answer. Rather, it obscures the fundamental point: We must stop living Satan's way and live by Christ's example—and, in doing so, become what God wants us to be, for the sake of the women in our lives. 

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THERE IT WAS, **RIGHT BEHIND ME**

Sometimes, others see us more clearly than we see ourselves.

In the dark hours of the morning, I found myself trying to wake up a bit more as I placed my personal effects into the cubbyhole of our local gym. Only a few other people were there so early in the morning, so I was looking forward to some pleasant and meditative isolation. Or so I thought.

As I reached to the shelf, I glanced up and saw the screen for a security camera pointed right at my back. It was then that I saw it, coming out of nowhere, right behind me.

It was my bald spot.

Well, maybe it was not yet a full-fledged bald spot. Maybe the grass was just a bit thinner on that patch of the lawn. But more and more, when I catch a rare glimpse, it looks like a very good place for the kids to dig in the dirt unobstructed.

Yep, a bald spot.

Not that I mind so much. My grandfathers' hair-lines had warned me that the day would come. I have consoled myself with thoughts of decreased hair maintenance, planning all I can do in the extra hours gained each day. But I digress.

It occurred to me that although I have only seen it a couple of times, my wife has seen it often—as have my children, and my neighbors, and anyone else who has recently seen the back of my head. Then it struck me: Here is something that is always with me, but even though others can see it easily, it is almost impossible for me to see without help—angled mirrors, security cameras, and the like. I was reminded of a Bible verse: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

What You Can't See

No, we do not all have literal bald spots. But we all have things others can see about us better than we can see ourselves. Our own flaws can remain almost invisible to us. Think of the guy who, when told he has a bad temper, yells angrily in response, “I do *not*!”

How do you react when another person points out some flaw in your character or behavior? We may be quick to say that the other person is “too sensitive”

or “doesn’t understand” the situation. Sometimes our critics can be wrong. But is there a way—a truly objective way—to know when they are right? Is there a perfect mirror that can help us see the “bald spots” in our lives?

There is! God’s word and His law can help us see what we normally cannot, as long as we are willing to

How do you react when another person points out some flaw in your character or behavior? We may be quick to say that the other person is “too sensitive” or “doesn’t understand” the situation. Sometimes our critics can be wrong. But is there a way—a truly objective way—to know when they are right?

act on what He shows us. We read that “if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:23–25). God’s word can dispel the illusion cast by our self-deceiving heart, for “the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Maybe you cannot see it, but that does not mean it is not there—just like the little bald spot on my head. Never let your spiritual bald spot catch you off guard! If you would like help in using the wonderful mirror of God’s word to show you how to improve your life, please request your free copy of *The Ten Commandments* and *What Is a True Christian?*, or read them online at TomorrowsWorld.org. With God’s help, you may even be able to mend your “bald spot”!

—Wallace G. Smith



Be Mindful of Your Mind

By **Jonathan McNair**

How do you expect to be remembered? What would you like your reputation to be? Human infants think only of their own wants and needs. But as we grow into our teen years and beyond, we become more concerned about what others think of us—and rightly so. We read, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).

However, our reputation is not built by wishes. Rather, it is established by our actions and our words. The decisions we make—regarding what we do and say, what we laugh at, how we spend our time, and with whom we spend it—all reflect who we are. But what determines those decisions? How do we make them? Do we have any control over them?

How Is Your Mind Made Up?

You have heard people say, “Make up your mind.” Or you may sometimes try to “change someone’s mind.” So, how does the mind change, and how is it “made up” in the first place? There are three basic building blocks to it. The first is knowledge, the second is experience, and the third consists of our emotions or feelings.

As our bodies grow beyond infancy, we are changing in ways other than the physical. As we begin to crawl, walk, and then run, our minds are also changing. We are learning about the world around us and how we fit into it. As we grow, the people around us influence how our minds become “wired.” Our par-

ents tell us that the sky is blue and that grass is green, so our minds form the concept of color. We learn that our neighbor is hungry and lost her job, and we see our parents bring her a bag of groceries—so we learn the concept of compassion.

Parents playing their God-given role are key to our earliest growth. God knows this: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). God wants parents to guide their children into right ways of thinking by teaching them the principles of life; we see that He commanded the ancient Israelites to teach His ways to their children: “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

However, parents are not the only ones who influence our minds. From our earliest childhood, we are influenced by friends and playmates, by teachers, and by the media. Our minds use the knowledge that we collect from these different sources to create ideas and impressions that help us understand our world and our place in it. We compare what we have heard and read with what we have experienced firsthand.

We eat a lemon and learn what “sour” is. From that point on, we understand what something “sour” will taste like. Perhaps a parent says, “Don’t touch the stove, it’s hot!” We hear the words—and, if we are compelled to experiment anyway, the experience of touching a hot stove will be seared into our mind from that day onward!

Our mind is also shaped by our emotions. God has placed in human minds the ability to experience a range of feelings that affect how we think. We learn what it feels like to be excited, frustrated, joyful, and angry. We learn to feel pleasure when our taste buds are tantalized by ice cream. We learn about anger when someone steals our valued possessions. And we learn about sadness when we are separated from friends and loved ones. All of these emotions—and how we exercise them in daily life—profoundly affect our mental development.

Minding Your Choices

As we transition from youth into adulthood, we begin to develop more independence. We begin to think for ourselves and make up our own minds. We decide what clothes to wear each day, how to spend our time, and which friends to spend time with. Those decisions reflect our ability to apply facts, experience, and even past emotions to current situations. As we grow and our parents see us exercise good judgment, they gain greater confidence in us and feel able to give us more independence and responsibility. If parents have done their job well and we have been receptive, we will emerge into adulthood with our minds trained to face new and different situations.

One vital lesson we learn is that we must be sure that the influences shaping our minds are coming from those who are of “like mind”—and who have our best interests at heart. As the prophet Amos wrote, “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

Eventually, as adults, we face challenges that are bigger than what clothes to wear or what to do with our free time. We make decisions about career and marriage. We face decisions about our fundamental beliefs in God and the meaning of human life. We come to decisions about applying God’s law in our daily lives. And we may consider the importance of making a permanent commitment to God through baptism. How we handle these choices ultimately reflects the state of our minds.


The Mind of God

If you desire to serve God with understanding and you feel that your mind is being opened to God’s plan for you, you should be mindful of the likelihood that

God is calling you. As vital as the human mind is in our daily lives, those whom God calls will come to realize that without the Holy Spirit, the human mind by itself is not adequate for handling the challenges of Christian life.

From the beginning of human history, mankind has again and again demonstrated that the human mind by itself is not up to the challenge of establishing peace and prosperity on earth, and in fact is at odds with God. We can humanly manage many of the simple physical decisions we need to make, but for the biggest challenges, we absolutely need the mind of God—which is revealed to us through His word, the Holy Bible. The mind of God brings love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). These are all attributes that bring true happiness and contentment, and they are attributes of a mind that is in harmony with the mind of God. The sooner we can develop a mind in harmony with God’s word, the sooner we will develop a way of thinking that will lead to a good life.

Who you are, and what you do, is a direct result of what you put into your mind. What knowledge, experiences, and emotions fill *your* mind? Do you read and think about God’s words? Do you make decisions that let you experience the joy of living God’s way? Do you ask God to guide your thoughts and feelings, or are you like a puppet on the string of the passing human emotions that course through your mind? If God is calling you, He wants you to have His Holy Spirit within you to help guide your mind. Contact one of our Regional Offices (listed on page 4 of this magazine) and you’ll find our representatives eager to talk further about baptism and Christian life.

Choose to be mindful of your mind. 

and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The Bible is fundamentally a history book. It shows the instructions given by a loving Creator, it records how mankind has rejected those instructions, and it illustrates the tragic results of that rejection. It also reveals history in advance—what most people think of as prophecy. The prophets themselves remind us of God’s beneficial interventions on behalf of His obedient people, but also

was apparently long enough for the people to start pressuring Aaron, the one left in charge in Moses’ absence, to make a golden calf idol and hold a licentious festival to celebrate it. In the aftermath, God commanded Moses, “Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin” (Exodus 32:34).

Author Dennis Prager makes this observation about this verse and our limited understanding of

the God of the Bible: “In modern times, with its psychological and therapeutic mindset, many people tend to think of God as a loving therapist Who is always there to listen, to understand, and most importantly, not to judge us. [And here is the historical lesson:] This verse reminds us that above all, the God of the Torah is a moral

THE BIBLE IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT HISTORY BOOK EVER WRITTEN, AND FAR TOO MANY IN THIS GENERATION ARE DEVOID OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

reveal the results of their disobedience. One of the Bible’s clear lessons is that when people hurt badly enough, they often turn to God for relief—only to turn back to their old ways once relief comes. This is like the proverbial soldier’s prayer in the foxhole, forgotten once the crisis passes.


Will this generation of Americans, Britons, Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders learn from the past? What about the French, Belgians, Dutch, and Swiss? It is difficult to see how any of these nations can learn from the past when their peoples don’t know the past. Perhaps only the Jews know their past, who they are, and where they came from. Yet even they, as Clairmont suggests, seem likely to repeat their painful history.

Another All-Important History Lesson

One history lesson found in the pages of the Bible is that of the ancient Israelites’ golden calf. After God brought a slave people out of bondage by great and powerful miracles that could not be rationally explained away, they turned right back into idolatry when Moses was away for a mere 40 days. This

judge. He demands certain behavior, and holds people accountable when they fail to live accordingly” (*The Rational Bible: Exodus*, p. 454).

The Bible is the greatest and most important history book ever written, but as with history in general, far too many in this generation are devoid of historical perspective. Winston Churchill summed it up in one sentence: “Want of foresight, unwillingness to act when action would be simple and effective, lack of clear thinking, confusion of counsel until the emergency comes, until self-preservation strikes its jarring gong, these are the features which constitute the endless repetition of history” (*Winston S. Churchill, His Complete Speeches, 1897–1963*, ed. Robert Rhodes James, vol. 6, p. 5592).

The British-descended and American peoples have forgotten who they are, and they are repeating the grave mistakes of the past. To learn about the history of these peoples, order a free copy of one of the most remarkable works we have ever published, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It is—and don’t let this word scare you off—*history* you need to know. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

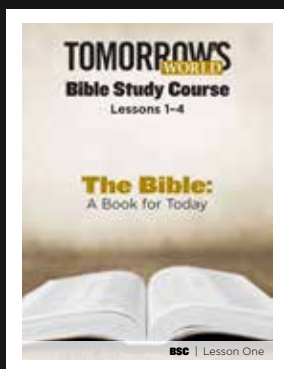
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Teaching Humor

Some have claimed that laughter is the best medicine. Did you know that scientists have put that phrase to the test and examined the effects of humor and laughter on the human body? The Mayo Clinic reports that laughter-related stress relief brings both short- and long-term benefits. In the short term, laughter stimulates vital organs, lowers blood pressure, and aids circulation and muscle relaxation. Beyond that, the release of stress through laughter can improve our immune system, relieve our pain, and improve our overall mood (“Stress relief from laughter? It’s no joke,” *MayoClinic.org*, July 29, 2021).

It is encouraging to see science promote something as enjoyable as laughter. So, what does the Bible have to say? How should parents approach laughter and humor with their children?

Young children often are sources of humor and laughter for their families (and themselves!) as they explore the world, make new discoveries, and play with unlimited imaginations. My daughter once decided she would be our waitress for dinner and politely asked me what I wanted to drink. Delighted to have her take my order, I asked for a coffee. You can imagine my surprise—and amusement—when my daughter mustered all her five-year-old seriousness to inform me that her pretend kitchen had no coffee and I would need to make another selection.

As children advance into their teenage years, their humor matures, as well. Instead of simply imagining silly scenarios, they now want to tell their own jokes, create their own humor, and earn their own laughs. Of course, this is not inherently sinful, but the Bible reveals

that not all humor is created equal. How many of us have a story about our teenager (or ourselves) getting in trouble because they were trying to be funny?

This is nothing new and is a normal part of the child’s maturation process and the parenting experience. The Bible reveals that certain types of humor should be pruned out of the lives of Christians and their children. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes several behaviors that should “not even be named among you,” which include “coarse jesting” (vv. 3–4). The Greek word translated “coarse” can also be translated as “obscene,” “vulgar,” or “suggestive.” Godly teenagers know that although being rude, cursing, or telling sexual jokes often draws laughter from their peers, they must resist the temptation.

This is not to say that teens are the only culprits; they frequently see this type of humor modeled in the movies adults produce, the jokes professional comedians tell, and sometimes even in vulgarity from political leaders. But the Bible is clear: We should correct our children if they use this type of humor. Moreover, we ourselves, as parents and adults, should repent if we sin by indulging in it.

Harmful Humor

The Bible reveals several other traps involving humor, such as treating it as a “get-out-of-jail-free card.” Proverbs 26:18–19 says, “Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, ‘I was only joking!’” These verses provide strong warnings against practical jokes or other deceptions that are done in the name of comedy, letting us know that when a joke or jest is made at some-

one else's expense, it is not godly humor. Unfortunately, this negative, sniping, deceptive, insulting humor is frequently the easiest to learn and the most often modeled by society at large.

Another warning that the Bible gives us is that laughter is *not* always joyous and medicinal. Sometimes it can be mocking and derisive. Proverbs 29:9 warns that "whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace." While our children might not be the one making the joke, do they laugh along with the fool? If one of their friends insults or "pranks" someone, do our teens encourage the insulting jest, deception, or prank by laughing at the brunt of the joke? If "I was only joking" can be used as an excuse for ungodly humor, how much more can our teens be tempted by the excuse "I was only laughing"? Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that "death and life are in the power of the tongue," and this certainly applies to humor.

To be sure, friends of all ages like to tease one another. Sometimes, it can be done playfully and tastefully, in such a way that the friendship is not damaged. Nevertheless, we often know the difference between good-natured joking among friends and mean-spirited insults meant to provoke laughter at someone else's expense. Most teens know this difference, too—especially if they have adults pointing out the differences between good, edifying humor and pranks and insults that only serve to embarrass, hurt, or even provoke someone. Effective comedy does *not* have to be at anyone's expense.

Parents as Models of Good Humor

Considering both the benefits and the warnings associated with laughter and humor, parents should endeavor to set the right example. Most parents would love to see their children experience the stress-reducing benefits of laughter while avoiding ungodly humor that the Bible warns against. Parents should aim to set the right example in this. Enough fathers have tried their hand at humor that "dad jokes" have become a common expression for corny humor that makes children groan instead of laugh. Thankfully, many dad jokes are just silly and do not fall into coarse jesting.

Fathers should also be mindful of how they treat their wives. Do husbands make sure that their children know they love and respect their wives first and foremost? If a husband is not careful, the teasing and

joking can come across as demeaning or disrespectful of his wife, and that is a dangerous example to set in front of their children. And this applies to wives, too, who should not model humor that is disrespectful of their husband. The display of humor between husband and wife should help children learn what joking is

Parents must also correct children whose humor crosses the line. Many may make the mistake of assuming that all laughter is good laughter, and they need instruction to know the difference. We cannot assume that our children instinctively know that difference, even if it seems obvious to us.

appropriate and what is not. Obviously, fathers and mothers should also mind their examples when they joke *with* their children as well, and always be kind.

Parents must also correct children whose humor crosses the line. Many may make the mistake of assuming that *all* laughter is good laughter, and they need instruction to know the difference. We cannot assume that our children instinctively know that difference, even if it seems obvious to us.

Finally, parents must be willing to apologize if they get it wrong. There can be times when words sound a lot funnier in our head—and a lot more insulting when we hear them out loud. There are also times when we believe everyone is laughing together, only to discover that the joke came

across as an insult to someone. When that happens, we must own our mistake and apologize. This sends a strong message to our children of how to fix the situation when they make an error in judgment.

Humor can be one of the great joys that we share with family and friends. It has many benefits and frequently draws people together when we use it in a godly manner. Indeed, "a merry heart does good, like medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). But laughter is not guaranteed to always have this effect. Let's take the challenge of instructing our children in proper humor by setting the right example and heeding the admonitions of the Scriptures.

—Mark Sandor

United States Enshrines Perversion

On December 14, 2022, American President Joe Biden signed a piece of legislation—the Respect for Marriage Act (RFMA)—that seeks to protect same-sex “marriage” in the United States. In his celebratory remarks, the president declared, “This law and the love it defends strike a blow against hate in all its forms” (*Los Angeles Times*, December 13, 2022). The signing of the new law was marked by a celebration at the White House.

More than 70 percent of adults in the U.S. now favor same-sex “marriage.” We are witnessing a turning point in the history of Western civilization. Just 26 years ago in 1996, the American congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which legally defined marriage as union between one man and one woman, as God states in the Scriptures (Genesis 2:21–25). The Bible also labels homosexuality a serious sin (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Timothy 1:9–10; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10). Yet today, the so-called “Respect for Marriage Act” disrespects marriage by rejecting these biblical instructions.

However, few in our modern secular society grasp the prophetic significance of this major turning point. Jesus said that conditions at the end of the age would be like those in ancient Sodom (Luke 17:28–30), a city God destroyed for many sins, including the abomination of homosexuality

(Jude 7; Ezekiel 16:49–50). The Apostle Paul warned that there would be a great rebellion against God just before the return of Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Moses warned the Israelite-descended peoples that in the “latter days” they would become utterly corrupt—calling good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20)—and would bring upon themselves the wrath of God (Deuteronomy 31:29).

Quantified Benefits of Happy Marriage

While many Western societies are rejecting traditional marriage, science continues to prove its value. *WebMD.com* reported in November on a new study from the Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Connecticut, that has demonstrated that, among those under age 55 who experience a heart attack, those with happy marriages had a better recovery, while “those who had the most stressful marriages were more likely to have more frequent chest pain or be readmitted to hospital in the year following their heart attack.” When compared to people in many other categories, those with unhappy marriages had the worst recovery from heart attack of any group. Those reporting moderate to severe marital stress were 67 percent more likely to report chest pain and nearly 50 percent more likely to be readmitted to the hospital (*Independent*, November 1, 2022).

Results from another recent study, this time from Michigan State University, discovered that the primarily female hormone oxytocin may actually help regenerate heart cells (*Independent*, September 30, 2022). Oxytocin, sometimes referred to as the “love chemical,” is produced when two people show affection towards each other. It is also released when a mother breastfeeds her baby and during labor. Scientists are learning that exposure to the chemical may increase healing after a heart attack—and this hormone is more prevalent in those with happy marriages.

God is the author of marriage, and He designed it to bring physical and emotional blessings. Those blessings come when a husband and wife work together to have a happy, godly marriage.

Decline of Professing Christianity in England and Wales

According to a recent study from the UK Office for National Statistics, “For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2 percent, 27.5 million people) described themselves as ‘Christian.’” This is a 13 percent drop since 2011. The next most common response category (37 percent) was “no religion.” This has prompted some to suggest that England is one of the least religious countries in the world (*Telegraph*, November 29, 2022). While the percent-

age of those who identify as “Christian” has dropped precipitously since 2000, those who identify as Muslim and Hindu have increased. Also, according to the same study, Satanism and devil worship is on the rise as well.

England and Wales are not alone. Similar declines in numbers of those claiming to be “Christian” are occurring in the United States, Australia, Canada, and many other Western nations—and this should be no surprise. As the people of these nations continue to move further and further away from the principles taught by God’s word, the result is a society in moral free fall.

Bible prophecy reveals that at the end of the age, Israelite-descended nations of the West will reject biblical morality and become utterly corrupt (Deuteronomy 31:29)—they will forget God and reap serious consequences as their own actions punish them (Hosea 4:6; Jeremiah 2:19).

The Power of Purpose

For years researchers have known that living life with a sense of purpose and meaning helps people live longer, happier lives (*Medical News Today*, November 21, 2022). A new study of over 13,000 people 50 years old and older clarifies the power of this effect even more. According to the study results, “those with the strongest sense of purpose lowered their risk of death by 15.2 percent compared to people with the least sense of purpose.”

Moreover, Boston University researchers report that “having a purpose lowers the risk of all causes of mortality [that is, death by any cause], regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity,” meaning that the benefits of living life with a sense of purpose are available to everyone! The longevity benefits of having a sense of purpose were more pronounced among women, decreasing their all-cause mortality rate by 34 percent, versus a 20 percent drop for men.

People with a greater sense of purpose tend to be less bothered by stress and less worried. They also tend to engage in other health-promoting behaviors, such as regular physical activity.

In the light of modern research, it is interesting to note what the Bible reveals about a sense of purpose. Jesus Christ taught that we should “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). King David wrote in a song to his Maker, “Great

peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble” (Psalm 119:165). Understanding the ultimate purpose for mankind enables us to look beyond the stresses of today: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

Starvation in Somalia

According to the United Nations, one child is admitted to the hospital or clinic for treatment of severe malnutrition every minute of every day, on average (*Deutsche Welle*, November 22, 2022). In Somalia, where almost half the population “urgently needs food,” many cases arriving at the clinics are children in the last stages of starvation and some are beyond medical help. Experts blame climate change and Islamist extremists for the increasingly dire situation.

Somalia is experiencing its worst drought in 40 years,

and more than 7 million people need food aid. Drought and conflict have displaced 1.6 million people. More than half a million children are acutely malnourished, which means that if they don’t eat soon, they will die. Tragically, no food aid can even enter some regions of the country because of armed conflict in them. And al-Shabab, the extremist group responsible for the conflict, does not seem interested in helping the starving people.

Today, the world is filled with strife, suffering, and starvation. It is rife with leaders who seize power caring only about themselves and not about those whose lives are in their hands. However, the trauma and selfishness of this present age is prophesied to end in the not-too-distant future. Jesus Christ is going to return as the King of kings to set up His lasting and abundant kingdom over the earth, and the suffering and starvation of today’s world will become a thing of the past (Psalm 72).

People Are Losing Patience

A recent U.S. study of more than 1,900 people highlights what many already know about society today—people are becoming more and more impatient. Jay Baer in cooperation with *StatSocial* released “Time to Win: The 2022 Consumer Patience Study.” The study found that consumers expect results quickly and are increasingly disappointed if they have to wait.

The study found that older consumers were more patient than younger ones. While Baby Boomers had the lowest expectations for quick responses, those of Gen Z (born in the late 1990s to early 2000s) had the highest expectations that businesses would respond quickly. The survey also revealed that men are less patient with businesses than women, and 64 percent of respondents said speed and responsiveness is “just as important” as price. According to the report authors, “Despite companies investing in a lot of online and offline signage and mea-culpas, pleading for patience, customers largely are unsympathetic to these delays. Eighty-three percent of customers expect businesses to respond as fast or faster than before the pandemic.”

Growth of an “I want it now” attitude is very much a symptom of the selfish “Me first” attitudes prophesied to grow at the end of the age (2 Timothy 3:1–5). In contrast to modern attitudes, the pages of the Bible consistently warn of the consequences of impatience and haste (Proverbs 14:29; 29:20) and highlight the importance of being patient (Ecclesiastes 7:8; James 5:7–8). As we begin to understand the prophetic significance of growing modern mindsets, we can move in a different direction and seek the benefits of patience. TW



LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



You have comforted me for years and shown me the way and admonished me when necessary. I admire your bold stance for God. You are a bright light in dark America!

—Subscriber in Ohio

I am very grateful for this generous gift, *Germany in Prophecy*. The signs as written in God's word are certainly coming to the fore. Looking forward to reading this book and enjoying it as I enjoy *Tomorrow's World*!

—Subscriber in New South Wales, Australia

I appreciate your offer of the DVD to learn more of the [biblical holy days]. I have talked to clergy in the past about this subject and not received any meaningful responses. I point to Zechariah 14:16. We will be observing at least one holy day, the Feast of Tabernacles, during the millennial Kingdom, so it seems logical to me that maybe we should be observing them now. I look forward to watching the DVD and learning more. Please accept my donation for the important work you are doing.

—Subscriber in Arizona

This magazine is not only religious but also informative and interesting. It is true—misinformation and disinformation distress the nation. I am thankful for your wonderful publications. Everyone must read such magazines. It is hoped every magazine will be appreciated by everyone. Keep up the important work of spreading the good news. I was personally very grateful for this magazine. I had scarcely received the magazine

when my friend came. After reading the magazine I gave it to him. Many thanks for your enjoyable and helpful magazine.

—Subscriber in Pakistan

To everyone at *Tomorrow's World*, just want to tell all you what a very good job that you are doing. Yes, I do get your booklets and try to read them as much as I can. I look up in the Bible all the scriptures from your booklets. It very much helps me understand what I am reading. I am not too book smart. I know if I ask God for wisdom to understand He almost all the time helps me. In reading your letters to me I see that you call me a coworker. Well, thank you for that. I'm sure God has brought me to your church and cause. I truly love all of you.

—Subscriber in West Virginia

I have received my magazine of *Tomorrow's World* "Why Human Life Has Value" [October–November 2022 issue] via the post office. I really appreciate your work in posting this magazine. It's a very inspirational magazine with perfect insights. I believe I would be transformed inwardly by this magazine you provide.

—Subscriber in Papua New Guinea

I have been getting your magazine for years. Now I am moving and want to give you my new address. I also want to give you a donation for all your great work on this magazine. I love it and read it every day, plus the Bible. Thank you *very much*!

—Subscriber in Florida

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine, or send email to Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7TWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Nationwide SCIO SU 7:30 a.m.

BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 2:00 p.m.

ISRAEL

Nationwide HBL SU 7:30 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 SU 5:00 a.m.
Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 SU 6:00 a.m.

PHILIPPINES

Nationwide TV5 MO 11:30 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide CTV/SA SU 11:00 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 8:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 SU 11:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 a.m.
Sky TV 590 FR 12:00 a.m.



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SA 3:30 a.m.

FAITH TV SU 5:30 p.m.
MO-FR 10:30 p.m.
TU 5:00 p.m.
MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

CHNU SU 7:30 a.m.
CTV (Maritimes) SU 1:30 p.m.
CTV (Alberta)

V-Télé (en français) SU 6:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Buzzr SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

Circle TV SU 8:00 a.m.

Comet TV Network SU 7:30 a.m.

The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 11:00 p.m.
MO 10:30 p.m.
SA 11:00 a.m.

NewsNation (formerly WGN) SU 6:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

The Walk TV SU 10:30 a.m.

Z Living SU 8:30 a.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 268 SU 11:00 p.m.
MO 10:30 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

Word Ch. 373 SU 6:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date listings, please go to
TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in

AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 7:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WTVY (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Huntsville WHDF SU 7:30 a.m.
Huntsville WZDX SU 9:30 a.m.
Montgomery WBMM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Opelika WLIZ SU 7:30 a.m.

AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KXNW SU 8:30 a.m.
Fort Smith KXNW SU 10:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.
Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.
Yuma KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
El Centro KECY (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Eureka KECA-LD/KVIQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento Sacramento Faith TV SU 3:30 p.m.
Salinas KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
San Francisco BAVC (Public Access) WE 8:00 a.m.
San Luis Obispo KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Santa Barbara KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Santa Maria KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

CO Colorado Springs KXTU SU 10:30 a.m.
Grand Junction KJCT (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Hartford WWLP (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

DC Washington DC WDCA SU 7:30 a.m.

DE Harrington WMDT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

FL Ft. Lauderdale WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
Gainesville WCJB SU 6:00 a.m.
Gainesville WCJB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.
Miami WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WJHG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Tallahassee WTLF SU 8:00 a.m.
Tampa Bay WTOG SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WALB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Albany WALB SU 11:00 a.m.
Atlanta WATL SU 10:00 a.m.
Augusta WAGT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Augusta WFXG SU 8:30 a.m.
Columbus WLTX SU 7:30 a.m.
Thomasville WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

ID Boise KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago MJWS SU 8:00 a.m.
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.
Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAP WE 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.
Latonia PEG TH 10:00 p.m.
Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Lexington Insight Various
Louisville WBNA SU 9:30 a.m.

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Alexandria KLAX SU 9:30 a.m.
Baton Rouge WBRZ SU 10:00 a.m.
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
Lake Charles KVHP SU 9:30 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
New Orleans WNOL SU 7:00 a.m.
Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.
West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPO SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 11:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet KDLH (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDLH SU 7:00 a.m.

Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Louis KPLR SU 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBT SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Jackson Spectrum SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Spectrum SU 4:00 p.m.
Meridian WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
Greenville WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.
Raleigh WRAZ SU 7:30 a.m.

ND Bismarck KXMA (CW2) SU 7:00 a.m.
Fargo KJXB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

NM Albuquerque KBWB SU 8:00 a.m.
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 p.m.
Albuquerque KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.
Santa Fe KCHF MO 7:30 a.m.
Santa Fe KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany-Troy Spectrum MO 3:00 p.m.
Binghamton Spectrum WE 10:00 p.m.
Binghamton Spectrum FR 8:00 p.m.
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brooklyn BCAT MO 4:30 p.m.
Canandaigua Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.
Riverhead Cablevision SU 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Toledo BBCA SU 7:30 a.m.
Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Ada KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.
Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Tulsa KQCW SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown Attn. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.
Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.
Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.
Greenville WGGS SU 11:30 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SD Rapid City KCLO (ION/CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 9:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

WE 12:00 p.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 8:30 a.m.

SU 7:30 a.m.

SU 6:30 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 10:00 a.m.

WE 4:00 p.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 7:30 p.m.

SU 7:30 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

MO 3:00 p.m.

WE 10:00 p.m.

FR 8:00 p.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 4:30 p.m.

SU 11:30 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

TH 2:00 p.m.

TH 7:00 p.m.

MO 11:00 p.m.

TU 4:30 p.m.

SU 7:00 p.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 9:00 a.m.

TU 8:30 a.m.

TU 12:00 p.m.

SU 7:30 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

Sioux Falls KFSY SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.

Knoxville WKNN SU 7:30 a.m.

Knoxville WKNN SU 6:00 p.m.

Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Amarillo KVH SU 7:00 a.m.

Amarillo KVH SU 7:00 a.m.

Austin KEYE SU 11:00 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 9:30 a.m.

Corpus Christi KIII SU 7:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.

Dallas KDFA SU 8:30 a.m.

Laredo KXLX SU 7:00 a.m.

Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lufkin KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.

McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.

Midland KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.

Odessa KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.

San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.

San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.

San Antonio KZTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Sherman KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.

Tyler KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.

Tyler KYTX SU 7:00 a.m.

Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.

Victoria KVCT SU 7:00 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.

Charlottesville ADELVA WE 6:30 p.m.

Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.

Fairfax Public Access MO 5:30 p.m.

Fairfax Public Access FR 1:00 a.m.

Fairfax Public Access SA 10:00 a.m.

Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.

Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.

Bennington CAT WE 12:00 a.m.

Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.

Bennington CAT TH 12:00 a.m.

Bennington CAT SA 4:30 a.m.

Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.

Burlington Access WE 2:30 a.m.

Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.

WA Everett KSTW SU 6:00 a.m.

Kennewick Spectrum SU 8:00 a.m.

Pasco Spectrum SU 8:00 a.m.

Richland Spectrum SU 8:00 a.m.

Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.

WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

La Crosse WECW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Wausau WSAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Wittenberg WZAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Charleston WQCV SU 7:00 a.m.

Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

Parkersburg WOVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Wheeling WBWO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Cheyenne KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Laramie KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Seven Keys to Understanding Prophecy

You can make sense of the Bible's mysterious symbols and images if you use these vital keys!
January 26–February 1

The Best a Man Can Do?

How does God define masculinity? What should men aspire to be? The truth may surprise you!
February 2–8

Welcome to the Millennium!

Our troubled planet will very soon experience untold peace and prosperity as never before!
February 9–15

Have You Taken the Mark of the Beast?

Your Bible warns us of a mysterious and dangerous mark that true Christians must not accept!
February 16–22

Will You Inherit Heaven or the Earth?

God has an amazing reward awaiting those who will stay faithful to their Savior, Jesus Christ!
February 23–March 1

The Coming Four Horsemen

Will you recognize these mysterious prophesied figures when they burst onto the world scene?
March 2–8

Schedule subject to change

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