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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

July-August 2016 | [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org)

**SATAN'S**  
**Alternative Universe**

## Are You Responsive to Jesus Christ?

**B**y the time you read this magazine, I trust that most of you have received the special “semi-annual” letter from our Editor in Chief, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith. Twice a year, he writes to *Tomorrow’s World* subscribers with special “insider” news about the Work and about what the living Jesus Christ is doing in our world as we approach the end of this present age. Despite so many Satanic attacks on long-held biblical values, true Christians can remain loyal and faithful to their Savior, responding to Him with love and obedience, made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus stated in John 10:27, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

In his semi-annual letter, Dr. Meredith offered *Tomorrow’s World* subscribers a special free DVD titled “Escape the Great Tribulation”—a compilation of three of our most powerful *Tomorrow’s World* telecasts. If you have not already returned the response card that came with the letter, I urge you to do so right now. Be responsive to what Jesus Christ is doing through His Church and His Work today!

### Look to Your Savior!

On whom do you rely for guidance in your life? Your Bible gives us inspiring promises you need to claim and trust. Jesus gave us this encouraging promise: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). And God Almighty gives us this promise in Hebrews 13:5, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Of course, our Father in heaven wants us to be responsive to Jesus Christ, our Savior, in every way. And what did Christ ask of us, His followers? He said: “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Watching the evil and confusion that is so widespread in the world around us, some may be given to depression, despair and discouragement. Humanly it seems as though there is no solution to the age-old problems of war, greed and human nature. But we as Christians know that the real answer is not

human in nature! Only the return of Jesus Christ, the coming King who will establish the Kingdom of God right here on planet Earth, will save human beings from total cosmocide.

Because we have that hope as Christians, we can avoid discouragement. God has given us hope, encouragement and practical ways to stay focused on our Christian responsibilities. Read my article, “Seven Keys for Peace of Mind” on page 10 of this issue to learn more.



Truly, for those who are not responsive to Jesus Christ, our present world is descending further and further into outright evil, with the widespread conscious rejection of all that was once held as sacred by those who profess Christ. Our Editor in Chief, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, has written a powerful article outlining the ways Satan is trying to lead this world astray. Read his informative article, “Satan’s Alternative Universe,” on page 5 of this magazine—and you will gain further understanding of just how vital it is that we resist Satan and remain responsive to Jesus Christ.

Remember, my friends, that “responsiveness” is a “two-way street.” As we respond to our Savior, He promises to respond to us. Christ is our High Priest, eager to intercede on our behalf with His Father (Hebrew 7:25). One way in which God responds to His servants’ prayers is by healing. Of course, in the ultimate sense all Christians will be “healed” when they are born into the Family of God as immortalized Spirit-beings. Yet we also know that God is fully able to heal us today, in our human bodies, according to

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His will. The very act of taking the Passover bread, each year, reminds us that our Savior's body was broken as a sacrifice, that He is the one "by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24; see Isaiah 53:5).

Do you need healing? Do you understand how and why God heals? *Tomorrow's World* writer Rod McNair has written a powerful article, "Why Does God Heal?" on page 19 of this issue. Read this encouraging article and you should gain a greater appreciation than ever before of the wonderful gift of divine healing.

### Repentance and Obedience

When we are healed, we are free of some physical ailment that was troubling us. But if we go right back to our old ways that caused that ailment in the first place, what good would healing be? God wants us to respond to Him by repenting—by turning away from our old, sinful ways.

Just what is repentance? The Greek word

**Our present world is descending further and further into outright evil and conscious rejection of all that was once held as sacred by those who profess Christ.**

translated "repent" is *metanoeo*, which means to "think differently." One must repent of—think differently about—one's sin. But what is sin? "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). The *King James Version* puts it plainly—"sin is the transgression of the law." When you transgress one of the Ten

Commandments, you have sinned. As the Apostle James wrote: "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:10–12).

When we repent of sin, we are deeply sorry for having transgressed God's law. We no longer have a hostile attitude toward God and His law of liberty. We

no longer have a carnal attitude that is enmity against the law of God (cf. Romans 8:7). After repentance, we want to be in harmony with God's law of love—the Ten Commandments. Repentance brings a deep change in our thinking, and a responsiveness to every word of God. As Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).



True repentance is not at all like the worldly sorrow that we often see in those who are caught in

their crimes or sins. The sorrow at "getting caught" is not the repentant sorrow that comes from realizing one's need to change and go the other way. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Notice the characteristics of godly sorrow: "For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter" (2 Corinthians 7:11).

If you are responsive to Jesus Christ—if you are sincerely striving to live by every word of God, and to bear the fruits of the Spirit in your life—you will have that godly repentance whenever you realize you are guilty of sin. Christians were saved from past sins by the blood of Christ; we are now being saved (2 Corinthians 2:15), and we "shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10).

My friends, I pray that you will be responsive to Jesus Christ, the world's coming King of kings and Lord of lords, in all that you think, say and do!

*Richard F. Ames*



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The devil and his demons offer a strange new world where good is evil and evil is good. Will you reject Satan's lies, or fall victim to his deceptions?

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**“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them”**

*2 Corinthians 4:3–4*

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# SATAN'S

## Alternative Universe

Long ago, the archangel Lucifer rebelled and became Satan, the “Adversary” of God. Ever since, this evil being has worked hard to destroy God’s creation however he can. He wants you to accept his lies as your reality. Will you fall victim to his evil plans for your destruction?

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By **Roderick C. Meredith**

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**V**ery few people understand the significance of the *massive* changes underway in our entire society. Not since the time of Sodom and Gomorrah have people generally been as confused in so many ways. This is *especially* so right now because of the massive *misuse* of technology. By gaining almost *total control* of the media, a very real Satan the Devil is able to “manipulate” the thinking, the attitudes and the actions of *billions* of human beings—*especially* the younger generation.

We who are now physically older and have had to *suffer* to learn many lessons of life *should have learned* **not** to jump on the bandwagon and go along with the latest sociological and psychological twists and turns orchestrated by Satan the Devil. For we have found—perhaps over decades—that many of these ideas simply *do not work*! When some confused young radio or TV announcer reads the prepared script saying that peoples’ civil rights are being violated if perverted young men cannot “declare” themselves as *women* and get to use the women’s restrooms and showers—alongside our young daughters and wives—we become **upset** because we know and deeply **understand** that these ideas are **totally wrong**. They simply “don’t work” and they **will not** bring about good results at all!

But, as more *billions* of young people are brought under the influence of Satan the Devil in so many of these “modern” situations, it is obvious that Satan is gaining control of our society more thoroughly than ever because of the *pervasive nature* of our **media**. For Satan can literally “bombard” people with these wrong ideas through television, through radio, through newspapers, through the Internet and so many other forms of media that many are “tuned into” *many times every day*.

Almighty God knew that this would occur. So, He directly explained to the early Christians how they “once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the **spirit** who *now works* in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

The Bible makes it clear that Satan the Devil is a powerful cherub who **rebelled** against the Creator and is now allowed by God to be the “god of this age,” who has “**blinded** [those] who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

The very Son of God, Jesus Christ, *fully realizing* that He and the Father have nevertheless “allowed” Satan to assume that office for the time being, told His disciples just days before He died: “I will no longer talk much with you, *for the ruler of this world is*





coming, and he has **nothing** in Me” (John 14:30). In order to let mankind realize *how far down* we would go apart from God, the true God is **allowing** Satan the Devil to set up an entire “alternative universe” in the way people think about many aspects of life. This affects not only their thinking, but their **actions** as well.

Therefore, since Hollywood portrays the sexual relationship between a man and a woman—**not** as part of a binding commitment in marriage—but as a “plaything” to be enjoyed any way confused humans want to use it, Satan has **destroyed** the deep sense of respect men and women ought to have about sex and all that it involves. Satan has manipulated the carnal producers, writers and directors of Hollywood films and television programs to portray—over and over—young men and women simply “living together” in various situations. Often, Satan uses the “situation comedy” vehicle to make it seem more “fun”—and to make anyone who would oppose such licentious behavior seem **dumb**.

Satan is, indeed, *very clever* about this. He is able to *manipulate* the way young people think—and the way **all** of us think if we are not careful!

### The Result of Satan's Way

Next, Satan tries to “blur the lines” between how we are supposed to live and operate as males and females in a decent society. Satan is now going to the extreme

of causing the “opinion makers” in Hollywood, in the media in general and even in politics to go along believing the idea that, somehow, men can “decide” to become women, women can “decide” to become men, and other kinds of absurd ideas. As reported on *CNSnews.com* (June 2, 2015):

“Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, said that transgenderism is a ‘mental disorder’ that merits treatment, that sex change is ‘biologically impossible,’ and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder.

“Dr. McHugh, the author of six books and at least 125 peer-reviewed medical articles, made his remarks in a recent commentary in the *Wall Street Journal*, where he explained that transgender surgery is not the solution for people who suffer a ‘disorder of “assumption”’—the notion that their maleness or femaleness is different than what nature assigned to them biologically.

“He also reported on a new study showing that the suicide rate among transgendered people who had reassignment surgery is 20 times higher than the suicide rate among non-transgender people.”

*Think!*

Jesus Christ said, “by their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:20). The “fruits”—the **results** of the homosexual lifestyle—are absolutely **awful**!

Virtually all authorities acknowledge that the rate of *premature death* for practicing homosexuals is much higher than for heterosexuals. These confused individuals are simply *cutting short* their lifespan by their perverted behavior. Statistics indicate that they have far more emotional difficulties than normal people. And Dr. McHugh’s comment about the death rate for transgender people being **twenty times higher** than normal people is staggering! Yet, under the influence of the invisible Satan the Devil, Hollywood, news reporters and even many of our legislators in Congress and elsewhere simply “go along” with this perverted lifestyle, and all kinds of other behaviors that bring *suffering, anguish* and premature **death**!

**Why?** Again, it is because of an *invisible force* that they *simply do not understand*. Since they have *rejected* the only true source of ultimate knowledge, the Bible, they are unwilling or unable to understand the fact that there is a **real** perverted spirit being heavily influencing *every aspect* of our present society. For Satan the Devil really is the “god” of this present age!

Somehow, Satan is able to make some women constantly “desire” to be like men. They are increasingly encouraged by each other, by the media and

again, Satan is able in this way to *upset* the normal order of things, to hurt the family structure, and to push people into areas that are *not normal* and do **not** bring genuine and permanent happiness for the majority of society. Thousands of little children are deprived of their own “mommy” at home taking care of them—and rearing in a proper manner the *next generation* of human beings made in the image of God.

### The Curse of Abortion

Another aspect of human existence Satan is attacking is the *value of human life*. Since sex is now a “fun thing”—to be enjoyed whether or *not* it produces “good fruit”—people are told that they do **not** need to “control” themselves in how they handle sex. Rather, they hear that they can go ahead and have children apart from wedlock, or whenever they want. *No one* tells them to stop! For this teaching of self-control would be a supposed “violation of women’s rights”!

So, with this understanding, women are “free” to have illicit and careless sex, and then **murder** the little human being that is conceived as a result of their irresponsible actions. That murdered child is often also a woman—what about her “woman’s rights”? As usual, Satan the Devil through the media—and even through **false ministers** who pose as ministers of Jesus Christ—constantly encourages people to go ahead

and “have their fun” and believe there will be **no penalty** involved. So, instead of being a *mother*, a woman becomes a *murderess*!

Again, countless articles and reports are coming out showing the *deep psychological scars* borne by thousands of these women, who were talked into this practice of *child murder* by so-called “authorities”!

Such confused young women become

willing victims to the perverted reasoning of psychologists, sociologists and others who tell them that a fetus—the beginnings of a *human being* in their own body—is **not** “human.” They are told that somehow this is just a piece of garbage that they can “get rid of” and forget about the consequences.

Yet, **if** we learn that the Bible *really is* the “mind of God in print”—that it *really is* the very **Word** or Message proceeding from the Creator—then we need

**ALTERNATIVE** CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

## SATAN UPSETS THE NORMAL ORDER OF THINGS, TO HURT THE FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND TO PUSH PEOPLE INTO AREAS THAT ARE NOT NORMAL...

other forces to constantly push and shove themselves forward and try to do things for which they are not physically or emotionally prepared. So we have a few women virtually “hell bent” to push themselves into becoming Navy Seals, Army Rangers and other stressful military positions that require *unusual* strengths and ability, for which women are not naturally equipped.

All of this, of course, takes them **out** of the home and *away* from their husbands and their children. So,



# h Canada!

## The Man Who Mapped Canada



**In 1786, a 16-year-old apprentice** took part in his first trip to the vast, little-known interior of northwestern North America. The young man was David Thompson. This year is the 230th anniversary of the start of a fateful journey that would result in the shaping of western Canada and the mapping of its border with the United States. Yet within the story of Thompson's journey lies another tale that should encourage and inspire.

Thompson had spent two years working in remote posts along the shore of Hudson Bay, after being apprenticed to the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) upon completion of his education at the Grey Coat Charity School near Westminster Abbey, in London. His father had died when David was only two, after which the family fell into poverty. The Grey Coat Charity School provided an excellent education for young boys of little means, with promising students trained to become navigators and eventual midshipmen in the Royal Navy. Young David showed significant aptitude for geometry, trigonometry, algebra and navigation; hence at age 14 he was apprenticed and sent to what now is northern Canada, never to see his homeland again.

His ship, the *Prince Rupert*, set sail in May, 1784, arriving at Churchill on Hudson Bay later that year. It was a world very different than anything he had known in England, yet even in a state of loneliness and dealing with the unfamiliarity of an often hostile new land, David applied himself to whatever task he was given.

### Embarking on a Career

As part of an exploration party that would travel more than a thousand miles inland, up the North Saskatche-

wan River, Thompson traveled from Churchill to Manchester House where the party was to winter in 1787. Then he traveled by canoe and on foot another 400 miles to winter with the Piegan tribe near modern Calgary. Thompson began to get a sense of the vastness of the land in which he was to work. On his return to Manchester House in December of 1788 he suffered a very serious fall, breaking his leg while hundreds of miles from any medical help. The party managed to transport the injured Thompson back to Cumberland House in northern Saskatchewan, but for months his survival was in question. It took a year for him to recover, and the injury left him with a permanent limp. While recovering, Thompson met Philip Turnor, the Chief Surveyor for HBC. Turnor was an outstanding teacher and Thompson seemed to grasp the concepts of surveying and astronomical observation with ease.

Turnor, himself one of the greatest surveyors of his day, was deeply impressed with Thompson's ability and character, and wrote to the London Committee of the HBC in 1790 that, "should he ever recover his strength far enough to be capable of undertaking expeditions I think your Honours may rely on his reports of the situation of any place he may visit" (*Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America*, Sasquatch Books: Seattle, 1994, p. 35).

In September 1792, at age 22, Thompson, equipped with a basic set of survey instruments, set forth from York Factory on Hudson Bay, assigned to find shorter routes for fur traders. In the years between 1792 and 1812, Thompson travelled 55,000 miles, often alone and in arduous conditions, and succeeded in accurately surveying 1,900,000 square miles of previously uncharted



territory, a zone equal to one half the area of the United States. The precision of his measurements was not exceeded until the period of aircraft and satellite mapping.

### A Man of Honor and Duty

Thompson became known throughout the territory, to natives and Europeans alike, as a man of integrity and honour. He always kept his word, diligently discharging his duties to the HBC and later the North West Company, but especially to his wife and family. In June 1799, he married Charlotte Small, a young lady of part Native American ancestry. At a time when European traders frequently took “country wives” whom they often abused and routinely abandoned upon returning east, Thompson was different; he deeply loved and respected Charlotte. They traveled more than 20,000 kilometers together by foot, canoe and horseback. He appreciated and benefited from her survival and language skills, as she was fluent in Cree, English and French. They were truly a team. Remaining faithfully married for 58 years, they had 13 children. Today they are buried together at Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal.

In 1817, this most brilliant cartographer was commissioned by the International Boundary Commission to survey and establish a large part of the boundary between Canada and the United States. The opinion of the head of the Commission said much about Thompson: “A gentleman, whom for his rectitude of heart, honesty of disposition, integrity of character and abilities in his profession I shall ever hold in the highest estimation” (*A Good and Wise Measure*, F. Carroll, p. 99).

Thompson’s work still astounds modern cartographers. With primitive instruments, operating in brutally

**Thompson became known throughout the territory, to natives and immigrants alike, as a man of integrity and honour. He always kept his word, diligently discharging his duties...**

harsh and dangerous conditions, he was able to map a huge portion of the North American wilderness with great precision, while still managing to conduct a fur trade with many different aboriginal nations. Later in life he ran into financial difficulties, and the Foreign Office reneged on a promise to fully reimburse him for a completed atlas, which Thompson had prepared and delivered.

While the end of his life was a financial struggle, with failing eyesight, the love he and Charlotte had for each other remained constant for more than half a century. David died in February of 1857 at the age of 87, and Charlotte lived for just three months afterward.

### An Often-Neglected Lesson

While the world may remember David Thompson as the greatest land geographer in history, we might take time to reflect on the uplifting joy that David and Charlotte drew from years of faithfulness to each other. Their love and service to one another gave them a happiness, even in times of difficulty. This is a closeness that has been eroded in our modern, Western world, as marriage is mocked and the role of wife is pilloried in the press and entertainment media. David and Charlotte were able to benefit from that which God had ordained for mankind through the institution of marriage; their love encouraged and motivated each other to continue to achieve great things, and to have a happiness that is apart from anything money can provide.

David Thompson may be known for his astonishing prowess as a cartographer, but we should not ignore the rest of his legacy. He and Charlotte were a real team, and an example of the faithfulness and working together for each other’s interest that God had in mind when He invented the institution of marriage. If you would like to learn more, please write for our free booklet: *God’s Plan for Happy Marriage*.

—Stuart Wachowicz



Canadian postage stamp in Thompson’s honor, issued in June 1957



## SEVEN KEYS FOR **PEACE OF MIND**

By **Richard F. Ames**

**M**illions, if not billions, of human beings are under such stress that they experience anxiety, phobias, and depression. They are miserable and unhappy. They are not experiencing peace of mind. What about you?

The high cost of living challenges our families. Can we pay our unpaid bills? Every day, millions face a frustrating and stressful commute in congested traffic. Machinery noise in our neighborhoods and workplaces can be nerve-wracking. Then we may have conflicts and arguments with family members, or co-workers. Physical ailments and headaches can frustrate us and stress us even more.

Millions of people around the world pay for expensive drugs to help calm their mental anxieties. But, as we will see, God gives us—absolutely free—a variety of strategies to address and overcome life's frustrations!

### **Can You Cope?**

How many people find it difficult to cope with everyday stress? Do you find it difficult to find peace of mind and tranquility? The American Psychological Association gave this report in February 2015: "Forty-two percent of adults say they are not doing enough or are not sure whether they are doing enough to manage their stress. One in five Americans (20 percent) say they never engage in an activity to help relieve or manage their stress" ("Stress in America: Paying with Our Health," p. 9).

How serious is the problem? The APA report continues: "Many Americans say their stress levels have either stayed the same (53 percent) or increased (29 percent) in the past year. Only 18 percent of Americans say their stress has decreased in the past year. The most commonly reported sources of stress include money (64 percent report that this is a very or somewhat significant source of stress), work (60 percent), the economy (49 percent), family responsi-



bilities (47 percent) and personal health concerns (46 percent)” (*ibid.*).

How do people cope? The report continues: “The most commonly reported stress management techniques include listening to music (44 percent), exercising/walking (43 percent), watching television for more than two hours per day (40 percent) and surfing the Internet/going online (38 percent)” (*ibid.*).

The right kinds of music can indeed soothe our stress for some time, and your Bible praises the value of physical exercise. But are there big-picture strategies to consider that will help today’s Christians find long-term peace of mind in the midst of so many short-term ongoing stresses? In this article, we will consider seven vital keys for obtaining and maintaining peace of mind.

### **Key 1: Take Part in the Great Commission!**

Your Bible gives a mission to every human being on earth. It should be the number-one goal in your life. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, gives us a major key to tranquility and peace of mind: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

The Kingdom of God is coming soon to this earth! Are you praying daily, as Jesus taught us, “Your Kingdom come”? When we see all the evils imploding upon the world around us, we yearn for the Kingdom to come. Do you have that as your mission? Notice what Jesus said in the next verse. When you seek a cause greater than yourself, you can find peace of mind. “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (v. 34).

In this sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus emphasized the need for faith! We need to live each day by the faith of Jesus Christ!

Before Jesus’ ascension to heaven, He gave His disciples what is called “The Great Commission,” proclaiming: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:18–20).

Jesus also proclaimed the Great Commission in this way: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel

to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned [judged]” (Mark 16:14–15).

Yes, Jesus came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. You can read about that in Mark 1:15–16. Do your part to support that great mission. Seek to have a cause greater than yourself!

### **Key 2: Pray About Your Worries**

One challenge common to most people is the stress of managing our finances. The American Psychological Association report mentioned earlier in this article stated this: “Stress about money and finances appears to have a significant impact on Americans’ lives. Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of adults report feeling stressed about money at least some of the time and nearly one-quarter say that they experience extreme stress about money.... In some cases, people are even putting their health care needs on hold because of financial concerns.”

Sometimes we feel stress because we will not share our burdens with anyone else. Alone with our troubles, we compound the worry. But there is someone with whom you can share your worries about finances, relationships, work or anything else that troubles you! God wants you to share your anxieties with Him! Notice this wonderful promise: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7).

All the money in the world cannot buy you happiness. But God wants to freely give you that very special and priceless gift: peace of mind. What an incredible promise God is giving you. Be plain and open and heartfelt in sharing your problems in prayer. Ancient King David was very open and even forward in his urgent complaints and prayers. He cried out: “Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!” (Psalm 30:10). This is just one of many requests for God’s mercy found throughout the Bible. Notice that God is called the “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” in 2 Corinthians 1:3.

Share your anxieties with God in prayer. Suggest solutions to your problems. Thank God for the privilege of coming before His throne of grace. Look for-

ward to His promise that He will give you “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.”

### Key 3: Seek Wise Counsel

The book of Proverbs contains some of the greatest and wisest counsel available to us as Christians—counsel from God Himself. God Almighty tells us: “Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice” (Proverbs 8:14–15).

Your Bible gives wise counsel. I appreciate the practice of reading one of the 31 chapters of Proverbs each day of the month. Proverbs is filled with fresh wisdom that will take on new meaning and relevance as your circumstances change from day to day, month to month and year to year.

How valuable is the book of Proverbs? God inspired the book of Proverbs with this encouraging introduction: “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young

There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’s counsel—that will stand” (Proverbs 19:20–21).

When you read the book of Acts, you find that the early New Testament Church was unified as a spiritual family. We need one another, and we need one another’s help. Seek counsel from those who have true wisdom; long-time faithful and genuine Christians who have strong biblically based character. “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).

Seek God’s counsel by reading your Bible every day, and seek out wise counsellors who have demonstrated stability and biblically based character.

### Key 4: Do Not Neglect Physical Exercise

Hundreds, if not thousands of health reports and studies show the benefit of physical exercise as a tool for reducing stress. Years ago, I wrote in my personal book of life-lessons, “When depressed, go out and jog or run.”

The Mayo Clinic gives this advice: “Exercise in almost any form can act as a stress reliever. Being active can boost your feel-good endorphins and distract you from daily worries.... If you’re not an athlete or even if you’re out of shape, you can still make a little exercise go a long way toward stress management. Discover the connection between exercise and stress relief—and why exercise should be part of your stress management plan” (“Exercise and stress: Get moving to manage stress,” *MayoClinic.org*, 2016).

For those of us in our senior years, walking can be one of the best exercises. No, we may not be able to walk at the same pace as when we were 50 years younger, but we should do what we can within our limits. I was personally inspired last year when I learned that a 92-year-old lady who lives near our Charlotte office had set a world record as the oldest woman ever to complete a marathon. Her finishing time of 7:24:36 may not have been so impressive to the runners 70 years her junior, but her example should remind us to prod ourselves to do what we can.

This is even a biblical principle. The Apostle Paul, in making a larger spiritual point, nevertheless

## ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD CANNOT BUY YOU HAPPINESS. BUT GOD WANTS TO FREELY GIVE YOU THAT VERY SPECIAL AND PRICELESS GIFT: PEACE OF MIND

man knowledge and discretion—a wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:1–7).

Are you willing to seek counsel to help face your stresses and challenges? Here is a verse from Proverbs that gives us wisdom: “Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established” (Proverbs 15:22). And consider one more admonition: “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.



praised the value of physical exercise when he wrote: “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8). Spiritual exercise will lead to eternal benefit, but we should not neglect the temporal benefit of physical exercise.

### Key 5: Maintain a Positive Mind

We all experience stress in our modern, fast-paced, information-overload world. How can we cope? We must clearly understand that, to an important degree, our mental health is a matter of choice. You can choose to maintain a positive and tranquil mind.

You may have read some of the many “quotable quotes” about exercising a positive attitude. My wife gave me a framed picture of lightning bolts with the title “The Power of Attitude.” Listen to this helpful principle as given by its anonymous author: “Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst... a spark that creates extraordinary results.”

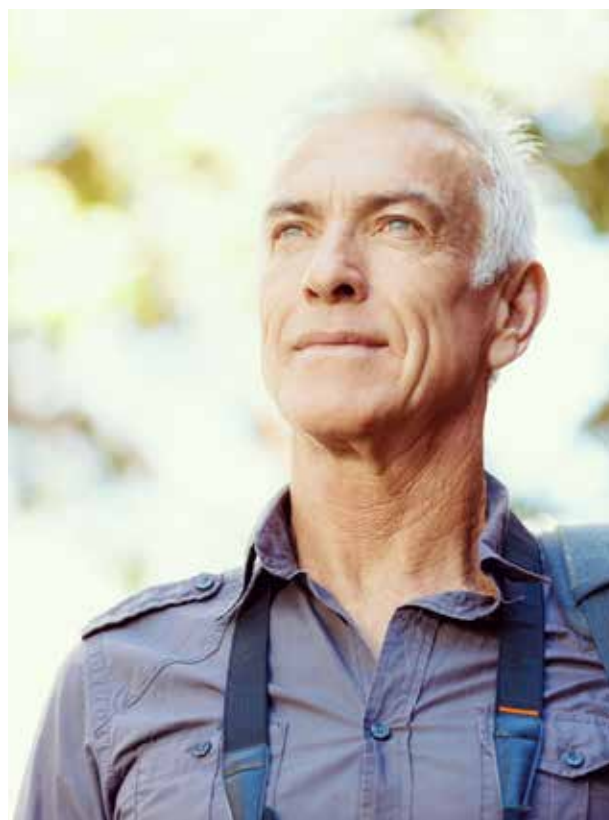
Have you made a conscious choice to maintain a positive attitude? The Apostle James reinforces that principle. He gives us positive advice to help us face stress, trials and problems. What are we to think when we face trials? We read: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (James 1:2). The trial certainly may be painful, but you view the process with joy. Why? Because “the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (vv. 3–4).

You can have a positive attitude, knowing that your character and patience are being strengthened. How many times have I told myself when facing a stressful situation:



“Maintain a positive and tranquil mind”? God then helps me through the trial. It

is also helpful to learn to smile and have a sense of humor, and to be ready to pray at an instant’s notice. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by



prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7).

### Key 6: Count Your Blessings

One way to help maintain a positive frame of mind is to remind yourself of the many blessings God has given you. Is your life perfect? Do you have every success you have hoped for? Probably not. But if you focus instead on the many blessings you do have, you may come to see that the life you have is perfect for you right now, and that you can be grateful for the circumstances God is using to help you develop His very character in your own life.

When you pray (see Key 2), counting your blessings is a vital part of your contact with God. Just as you can overcome worries by sharing your anxieties with your Creator, you can strengthen your positive attitude by thanking Him for your many blessings. We read: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in every-

thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18).

Some of you may be familiar with the old nineteenth-century hymn, "Count Your Blessings." Here are some of the words: "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

Count your blessings and express heartfelt gratitude to God. What are you thankful for? Do you thank God for the awesome revelation of His truth, the Holy Bible? Do you thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your sins? Remember how John the Baptist referred to the Messiah: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Thank God that He can take away your sins if you repent and accept Jesus as your Savior.

### Key 7: Claim God's Promises


The Apostle Paul writes, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Your Bible is a gold mine of God's promises to you. You just need to go in prayer to the throne of grace in heaven and claim those promises.

But to claim God's promises, you need the faith to claim them. God has given this promise: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). As you humbly and earnestly read your Bible, the word of God, He will give you more faith. That's just one of His many, many promises to you. "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2–4).

Your Bible records hundreds of promises God wants you to acknowledge, embrace and claim! Yes, He has given us "exceedingly great and precious promises"!



Jesus reminded us to choose the spiritual over the material. He made it plain just how much God loves us; He can easily provide all our physical needs. But to receive this blessing, we must first seek God's Kingdom, and then all our material needs will be provided. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [all our physical and material needs] shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

When you apply these biblical keys in your life, you will be able to meet the challenges that face us all. God has promised that if we practice true Christianity in all that we do, we can have a peace of mind that "surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). In this world of turmoil, stress and danger, you need God's peace of mind. Be sure to apply all seven of these keys for peace of mind! 

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

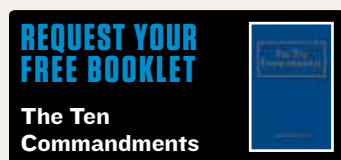
## Jesus Christ did not abolish the Ten Commandments; He magnified them!

**Question:** Jesus Christ said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34). Does this new commandment replace the Ten Commandments?

**Answer:** Sadly, even many who call themselves Christians believe that Jesus’ “new commandment” *replaces* the Ten Commandments, which He had kept and taught throughout His ministry. However, if we examine Jesus’ teaching, we will understand the truth of the matter.

It is vital to notice that, in His “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus very plainly told His followers that the Ten Commandments still matter: “Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:17–18).

What did Jesus mean when He said that He came to “fulfill” the Law? Does “fulfill” mean “eliminate”? No! Jesus’ new commandment filled the Law to



the full, revealing a spiritual magnification His disciples had not known before.

Notice that in the next

few verses, Jesus expounded the spiritual intent of God’s commandments. Murder is a sin, but hatred is the spirit of murder, and is also a sin. Adultery is a sin, but so is lust—the desire to commit adultery (Matthew 5:20–28). So, we can see that Jesus did not do away with the Ten Commandments; He affirmed them as an integral part of Christianity. Indeed, as He told us, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17).

When Jesus gave the commandment to “love one another,” was He giving a new commandment? Many are surprised to discover that the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” comes from the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:18).

So, what was new about Jesus’ command to love one another? Notice that after Christ had told the

disciples to love one another, He emphasized a new dimension—they were to love one another “as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

What made Jesus’ love different? The source of Jesus’ love was the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), which Christ promised would be given to the disciples after His death and resurrection (John 14:16–17). That same night, Jesus commanded His disciples to “abide in My love” (John 15:10). The divine love of God would soon be in them to help them follow Christ’s example. Until Christ offered the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples could only love one another with human love. With the Holy Spirit, Christians can love one another with the very love of God. By this love, true Christians can be recognized. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

**Throughout His life on earth, Jesus Christ demonstrated how God’s love actually works. Even at the moment of His death, Christ expressed total love for His enemies.**

Throughout His life on earth, Jesus Christ demonstrated how God’s love actually works. Even at the moment of His death, Christ expressed total love for His enemies, when He prayed, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). Just moments before He spoke His “new commandment”—during His final Passover meal before His crucifixion—Christ had established the

foot-washing ceremony, which reminds Christians to lead lives of humility, service and love. Jesus constantly lived a life of obedience to the spiritual intent and purpose of God’s laws. Christ’s love, obedience and faith toward His Father encompassed the first four of the Ten Commandments. His love, service and outflowing concern for others encompassed the last six of the Ten Commandments.

Indeed, as the Apostle Paul explained, God’s law (as outlined in the Ten Commandments) leads directly to Christ and His love (Romans 10:4). For a true Christian, God’s law and His love are inseparable!

## Begotten or Cloned?



**D**olly—arguably the most famous sheep in world history—was born 20 years ago, on July 5, 1996. She was the first mammal ever to be cloned as an exact genetic copy of her mother, and born healthy. The scientific community and news headlines hailed the breakthrough and postulated that now human cloning would rapidly follow. Is that prospect something humankind should be *sheepish* about when we consider the potential dangers, or does it offer a solution to human mortality?

The ethical dilemma of this possible next step caused many to pause for thought, both at the moral implications and the impact on future generations. What can we learn looking back, 20 years on from the creation of Dolly?

Dolly's birth is considered one of the most significant scientific breakthroughs ever, with its key goal of developing new methods to genetically modify animals. Dolly technically had three mothers; one to provide the DNA, one the egg and one as a surrogate to carry the embryo. Biologists used a process called "somatic cell nuclear transfer" to create a viable embryo from a body (somatic) cell and an egg cell using a technique called *reproductive cloning*. Dolly's birth at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland was a well-kept secret until February 1997 when she was announced to the world.

As a media celebrity, Dolly had a productive life. She was mother to six lambs—first a single birth, then twins, followed by triplets. She developed arthritis in later life and died in February 2003 of progressive lung disease, which is fairly common to sheep kept indoors. Dolly was not allowed to run free outside for fear she

would be "sheep-napped." There was some unfounded speculation that Dolly died prematurely after six years because her source DNA was already six years old when she was cloned. Dolly was the only lamb that survived to adulthood out of 277 cloning attempts, a success ratio that has improved dramatically in the last two decades as cloning techniques have grown more efficient.

### The Ethics of Cloning?

The main debate since Dolly was born has involved the ethics of potential human cloning—a process that has been initiated with embryos using the same process as Dolly, but not yet carried through to birth. The high failure rate puts off many scientists for moral reasons. They consider the 1 percent chance of success for a viable human with poor health too high a price to pay. Yet the field of cloning is moving ahead at an ever-increasing rate—another example of mankind's ability to expand knowledge, unique among all created beings (Daniel 12:4; Genesis 11:6). How can we expect lawmakers to stay on top of regulating this dangerous and morally fraught field?

Despite the concerns, some scientists see cloning as a beneficial tool, even as a potential way to prolong human life. This should not surprise us; after all, those inquisitive scientists are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) with fruitful and active minds eager to explore scientific possibilities, even if beyond our human capacity or morality to govern. These scientists envision cloning ourselves in later life and then somehow transferring by *brain mapping* our memories and experiences into a younger copy ("Obama proposes



Dolly (1996-2003)

brain mapping project," *BBC.com*, April 2, 2013). Then the "younger you" could live a lifetime before doing it all over again, with backup copies of yourself in the deep freeze.

The UK has been at the pioneering frontier of genomic research in recent years. In February 2015 the UK legalized the creation of human embryos with three biological parents. When mothers who have a known genetic condition undergo in-vitro fertilization treatment, they can have part of their mitochondrial genetic code replaced by a third person's, so the child is born healthy. Yet even though just 0.1 percent of the baby's genetic code comes from other than the biological mother and father, this effectively means the child is the genetic offspring of three parents!

In November 2015 *New Scientist* magazine reported that the new and rapidly advancing science of gene editing had been used to save Layla, a one-year-old leukemia patient from London. Doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital used genetically modified immune cells from a donor to kill the cancerous cells in Layla's bone marrow.

### "Editing" Human Embryos?

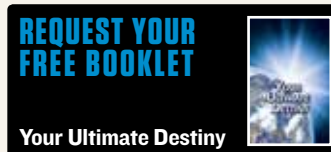
In January 2016 the UK government became the first to consider—and, momentarily, approve—gene editing on human embryos up to seven days old, which would later be destroyed. This technology is so new that governments, policy makers and ethicists are struggling to keep up with how to regulate it. The first-ever summit on Genome Editing took place in December 2015 in Washington, DC. The powerful gene-editing technology known as CRISPR-Cas9 is said to offer huge promise to advance science and treat disease. However, according to the Web site of Innovative Genomics Initiative

(an initiative set up to enhance genome editing): *"These technologies also raise concerns and present complex challenges, particularly because of their potential to be used to make genetic changes that could be passed on to future generations, thereby modifying the human germline."* Your germline is the genetic information you pass on to your children, grandchildren and beyond. Will we clone ourselves and risk introducing a dangerous genetic mutation of our own creation into the human genome?

The Creator God designed us to have two parents (Genesis 1:27, 28) with half our DNA coming from each. The process of reproduction introduces randomness and provides endless possibilities for the new life at conception. We are certainly "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Cloning, on the other hand, is an exact copy of the original DNA from one parent, which is not how God designed reproduction to work. It was never God's intent for man to be created by cloning from pre-existing DNA.

### God Is Reproducing Himself!

As humans we are mortal (Hebrews 9:27). Without Christ we would face ultimate death as a result of sin, which we have all committed (Romans 5:12; 6:23). Scripture reveals how, amazingly, God intends to re-



produce Himself. It requires our voluntary submission, repentance and baptism to receive, in essence, God's DNA.

The Apostle John tells us that one who has been begotten (*gennao*, commonly mistranslated as "born") of God, having received God's Spirit—the very "seed" (Greek *sperma*) of God—will not practice sin (1 John 3:9). Yes, when a repentant individual is baptised and then receives the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands by Christ's ministry, the conception of a new creation has taken place (Acts 8:14-17)!

God wants us to become part of His family, a process He initiates by begetting us with His Holy Spirit; His seed. He designed the miraculous process by which we reproduce physically. Mankind is already taking the difficult and potentially dangerous steps to clone itself, as current research far surpasses the milestone of Dolly. But cloning is *not* the solution to our mortality—God is offering us immortality in His own, perfect way.

—Simon R.D. Roberts





# Why Does God *Heal*?

*If you need healing, this may be the most important question you ever ask!*

In the midst of a crisis, we often ask, “Where is God?” We wonder, “Why is He allowing me to suffer?” or, even “Why did He allow my loved one to die?” Such questions may run through our minds in stressful and despairing moments when we face sickness, pain and even the possibility of death.

But maybe we are asking the wrong questions. Instead of judging God for not intervening quickly, we should be asking a different question. If we need God’s healing right now, we should ask the fundamental question:

**Why does God heal? *Read on for the answer!***

**T**o understand healing, we must understand the “big picture” perspective about sickness and death. What is God’s perspective on human life? First of all, human life is very short! Contrast that with God’s life, and the difference in perspective is enormous! The prophet Isaiah explained, “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy” (Isaiah 57:15). God has been alive from eternity past, and He will live on forever into the future. This is difficult for our minds to grasp! Furthermore, He is preparing us to share in that never-ending life with Him, through the resurrection of the dead (John 5:24). We have an amazing future that, from our current perspective, we can only begin to comprehend!

### **From Here to Eternity**

Reflecting on the brevity of human life, King David observed, “My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away as grass” (Psalm 102:11). And yet, our brief life is leading to a great and marvelous future: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Sometimes God mercifully lets a man or woman die—even a righteous person—to be spared coming times of trouble. This is also an important perspective to grasp. “The righteous perishes, and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from evil” (Isaiah 57:1). This is God’s perspective.

### **Because He Is Merciful**

Even so, our God is a merciful and compassionate Father who knows our frame, our physical weakness and our frailty (Psalm 103:14). Jesus Christ Himself came so that we might have life, and “have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). When He gave His life for our sins, He also offered His body to be wounded for our sicknesses—for our healing (1 Peter 2:24). We read that when Jesus saw the multitudes following Him, He “was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).

Some believe that looking to God for healing is for less-educated Christians, and that miraculous

healing was just “for a more primitive age,” less sophisticated than ours (*Healing*, Francis McNutt, pp. 17, 20). However, nothing could be further from the truth! Divine healing is for God’s faithful people in all ages. Notice what David said: “Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive... The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed” (Psalm 41:1–3).

God heals because He loves us and looks on us with mercy, as we look to Him in faith and obey Him. Like any loving Father, He derives great joy from granting His children gifts that are good for them. But God also has other reasons for healing. What are they?

### **Because We Ask in Faith and Obedience**

When we need healing, do we do the obvious? Do we go to God and ask God for it? Jesus Christ told His disciples to “ask, seek, and knock” for the things they needed from their Father. He explained, “If you





then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11).

The principle is: we need to ask! God wants us to come to Him, to lay out our requests before Him and ask for relief. Yet, as authors James and Carol Garlow

dell said "a big turning point in my de-conversion was that there are no legitimate studies showing that prayer worked" ("Losing his religion, finding peace," *Charlotte Observer*, March 7, 2009).

Prayer does not work? From whose perspective? Is prayer just about getting what we want—or is it about seeking God's will rather than our own? Although

## PRAYER DOES NOT WORK? FROM WHOSE PERSPECTIVE? IS PRAYER JUST ABOUT GETTING WHAT WE WANT—OR IS IT ABOUT SEEKING GOD'S WILL RATHER THAN OUR OWN?

point out, "Ironically, it is when we most need God's healing power that we may have the hardest time asking for it" (*God Still Heals*, p. 20).

Why are we sometimes afraid to ask? Sometimes we feel distant from God, ashamed of our sins. Sometimes we may feel unworthy to receive God's awesome blessings. But we must not let anything hold us back from humbly going to God to ask for healing. If you are in need of healing, go to God and cry out to Him! Repent of your sins and ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to help you obey Him more fully. Let Him know that you are serious about your request. And do not give up! Learn from the example Christ gave of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–7).

The prophet Hosea chastised the disobedient nation of Ephraim for making an outward show of religiosity but not really praying from the heart! "They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail on their beds" (Hosea 7:14, *NIV*). If we desperately need answers to our prayers, are we really making a heartfelt effort to draw closer to God?

Asking God in faith also means accepting His answer—whatever it may be. Some people assume that if God does not grant their requests, He has not answered their prayers. Reporter William Lobdell is the author of *Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America—And Found Unexpected Peace*. The book details his journey from unbelief to mainstream Christianity, then back to atheism. When interviewed about his book, Mr. Lob-

the Apostle Paul begged God three times to heal him of a "thorn in the flesh," God appears to have answered, "No!" Did Paul respond by "losing his religion"? Not at all! He accepted, in faith, that God's will was paramount. "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in

needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

David was a man of God who prayed fervently and repeatedly asked for God's deliverance. He cried out to God, "Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake! For in death there is no remembrance of You; in the grave who will give You thanks?" (Psalm 6:4–5). What was David really saying? He was conveying to God, "I want more time to live Your way of life, God. I want more time to do Your work. I want more time to submit to Your will in my life!" When we ask God for healing and deliverance, is this what we are really seeking? Or are we just asking Him to make our pain go away?

The Apostle James explained the role of God's ministers in our healing. When we need divine heal-

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ing, Scripture commands us to call for His ministry and ask to be anointed. "Is anyone among you sick? Let

him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (James 5:14–15). There is nothing "magic" about the minister himself, nor the oil he uses in the anointing. It is God who performs the healing, whether the minister physically lays hands on the sick individual or whether he follows the Apostle Paul's

pattern of sending an anointed cloth (Acts 19:11-12).. If you seek God's healing, do not fail to approach God's true ministers for counseling and anointing.

### **To Reveal Himself to an Unbelieving Generation**

In recent decades, many people in our Western nations have lost interest in God, and some have simply lost track of Him. A recent Associated Press article described this disturbing trend: "Between 2007 and 2014, when Pew conducted two major surveys of U.S. religious life, Americans who described themselves as atheist, agnostic or of no particular faith grew from 16 percent to nearly 23 percent. At the same time, Christians dropped from about 78 percent to just under 71 percent of the population. Protestants now comprise 46.5 percent of what was once a predominantly Protestant country" (Zoll, Rachel, "Study: More Americans Say They Have No Religion," *Herald & Review*, May 16, 2015). The researchers state that the findings "'point to substantive changes' among the religiously unaffiliated, not just a shift in how people describe themselves" and that their unbelief has led to increasing efforts to "keep religion out of public life."

And yet, in ancient times, God performed miracles

of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you" (Exodus 15:26).

Perhaps you have experienced a time in your life—a crucial turning point—when God dramatically healed you or protected you from a terrible accident. An event like this is often the starting point of many people's calling. There is nothing like a supernatural healing to let us know God is involved in our life. It gets our attention!

If God has healed you in the past, be grateful. Give thanks to God, and think about why God healed you. He may be calling you out of an unbelieving generation into a closer and more obedient relationship with Him (John 6:44).

### **To Highlight His Work**

When Jesus Christ was on this earth, He performed astounding miracles. One reason He performed His dramatic healings was to identify His mission, and to call attention to His Work of preaching the Gospel. When John's disciples came to Christ and asked if He was the Messiah, notice how He responded: "And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them'" (Luke 7:21-22).

Bible prophecy shows that false ministers in the time of the end will perform deceptive miracles (Matthew 24:24). Scripture prophesies the appearance of a "lawless one" who will perform satanic "lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9) and deceive those who have not really come to a love of the truth (v. 10). This evil figure will be able to perform "great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men" (Revelation 13:13).

And yet, Christ told His disciples that they would be empowered to perform true miracles of God—including that of healing the sick (Mark 16:18). These miracles are in the context of preaching the Gospel and preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ to earth. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature... And these signs will fol-

## **HOW WILL YOU BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "LYING WONDERS" AND THE MIRACLES OF GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS?**

such as divine healing to reveal who He was! When God released Israel from slavery in Egypt, He had to re-introduce Himself—and His power—to an unbelieving and skeptical nation. In addition to revealing His Sabbath, His Holy Days and His commandments, God revealed Himself through miraculous acts of healing.

When Moses and the Israelites arrived at Marah, they found the waters bitter and undrinkable. But God healed those waters, and told the people, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none



low those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:15–18).

How will you be able to tell the difference between “lying wonders” and the miracles of God’s faithful servants? God’s authentic miracles highlight the Work proclaiming the true Gospel. They validate the truth of the Bible, and show the fruit—the blessing—of obedience to God’s law. As Isaiah wrote, “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20). Do not let yourself be fooled by “miracles” that seek to deny the plain truth Jesus Christ taught, as recorded in your Bible!

### To Test His Children

Can healing be a test? If you think about it, great blessings can sometimes become unexpected tests. In the case of divine healing, our trial and test may not end when we are healed. After God makes us well,


we should ask ourselves: has our life changed? If we made promises to God when we were suffering, have we kept those promises and brought lasting change to our life? Or, once God has delivered us from our pain, have we gone right back to our old actions and attitudes?

Perhaps you have seen it yourself. Someone is dramatically healed of serious illness, then after a few months or years of health drifts away from God’s way of life, or even from God Himself. What is the lesson? Physical healing does not guarantee spiritual growth. And yet, spiritual growth and depth is ultimately God’s purpose in all those He calls.

When Jesus passed through Samaria and Galilee, He entered a village where ten lepers lived. As He came near, they cried out for mercy. They asked for deliverance from their dread disease. In response, Jesus answered, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God” (Luke 17:14–15).

Imagine! After being afflicted with this terrible and incurable disease, all ten were suddenly and miraculously set free. Their life suddenly and dramatically changed for the better! But only one of the ten lepers even bothered to turn around and thank God for his healing. What about us? How quickly do we forget our anguish and turmoil—and the promises we have made to God—once we are delivered from a trial? And yet how important it is to show gratitude and honor to God, and renewed commitment and obedience, when He grants us blessings—including divine healing.

So, why does God heal? To reveal Himself, to highlight His Work, and to test His people. He heals because His sons and daughters ask Him in faith and obedience, and He heals out of His mercy and unlimited lovingkindness.

Do you need divine healing? If you do, be sure not to blame God. Instead, look to Him with gratitude for His whole plan, knowing that He can and does bring about His will in your life, as you look to Him with faith and obedience. 

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# Face-to-Face

**T**he ever-increasing use of social networking and electronic devices continues to raise concerns, not about *how much* we are communicating with each other, but *how* we are communicating with each other, and how our chosen forms of communication may be reducing the quality of our relationships.

Several years ago, in an interview with Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols, expressed concern about social changes that "[threaten] to undermine communities." Nichols said "relationships are already being weakened by the decline in face-to-face meetings and conversations over the phone," and expressed his worry "that an excessive use or an almost exclusive use of text and e-mails means that as a society we're losing some of the ability to build interpersonal communication that's necessary for living together and building a community. We're losing social skills, the human interaction skills, how to read a person's mood, to read their body language, how to be patient until the moment is right to make or press a point. Too much exclusive use of electronic information dehumanizes what is a very, very important part of community life and living together" ("Facebook and MySpace can lead children to commit suicide, warns Archbishop Nichols," August 1, 2009).

The archbishop's comments led to a fiery response from a *Telegraph* editorialist, which generated a firestorm of online commentary from readers. Sadly, any intelligent discussion of the problem became lost in a string of online comments that descended into attacks on religion itself.

## Helping or Hurting?

But was there any merit to what the archbishop was suggesting? Surely the debate over the merits of social networking, texting, tweeting and the like could go on and on, with valid arguments on both sides of the issue. Is it helping us, or is it hurting us as communicators, as individuals, and as members of the human community?

In late April 2016, many were shocked by the podcast *Just Not Sports'* "Mean Tweet" video, "Men Break Down Reading Mean Tweets to Female Sports Reporters." Millions watched the video of male sports fans reading real comments about sports reporters Sarah Spain and Julie DiCaro to their face. The men who were asked to read the tweets had no idea what they would be reading when they sat down to film. Their discomfort at reading vicious and hateful statements was more than obvious.

*Just Not Sports'* co-host Brad Burke commented, "What we saw was a visceral reaction that reminds us, it's one thing to write these words onscreen, but it's another thing to say it aloud to someone's face." The video ends with the statement: "We wouldn't say it to their faces. So let's not type it." In other words, face-to-face makes a difference in how we communicate—how we interact with each other, not as machines, but as living, breathing human beings.

When my daughter spent 15 months living 9,000 miles away from home, Skype gave us a free means to see each other and to talk. It was a valuable link that kept us as close as possible under those circumstances. Many use Facebook and Twitter to keep in touch, share ideas and encourage each other. When I worked in the Philippines, texting was an essential form of communi-

cation with those who rely on the relatively inexpensive tool because of their limited means.

On the other hand, I was reminded a few years ago that technology has inadvertently created habits that may *not* be helping us. A friend of mine was on his way to a business meeting, and on the way stopped to grab a cup of coffee. While in the coffee shop, he saw a co-worker sitting in front of his laptop, having an online chat with a friend. When asked where his chat partner was located at the moment, he pointed to someone sitting right on the other side of the coffee shop! When my friend asked why he did not simply go over and talk directly to the man, he was met with an incredulous stare! Imagine—talking face-to-face, rather than chatting online! Who would think of such a thing?!

Recent studies have shown that even though young people today have more means than ever before to keep in touch with each other, they are feeling greater loneliness. Are you? Could too much online or texting interaction and not enough face-to-face interaction



have something to do with this? Again, the debate could go on and on, because there are a number of factors that ultimately contribute to the problem. Among

**These scriptures emphasize the significance of interacting face-to-face—that it is something to be desired and engaged in; that it matters**

young people, including my own children, there seems to be nothing more important than the opportunity to spend time together with each other, face-to-face. So regardless of the arguments for or against online social networking, maybe there still is something significant and needful about interacting face-to-face.

#### **Face-to-Face Matters**

Only Jesus Christ has seen God the Father face-to-face (John 1:18). Yet the biblical leader Moses had the privilege of talking

face-to-face with the pre-incarnate Word, the Logos, who became Jesus Christ (Exodus 33:11). Abraham shared this privilege as well (Genesis 18:1). The Apostle Paul longed to see the Father face-to-face (2 Corinthians 5:8). The ancient prophet Isaiah foretold how the descendants of Israel will interact with divine teachers face-to-face (Isaiah 30:20). In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we are told that part of our destiny is to “see [God’s] face” (Revelation 22:4). These scriptures emphasize the significance of interacting face-to-face—that it is something to be desired and engaged in—that it matters.

Regardless of whether we are avid users of online social networking, or have little or nothing to do with it at all, we should never lose the art of effectively communicating face-to-face. It is critical that we maintain a healthy desire for face-to-face interaction, and the ability to effectively and confidently communicate face-to-face, rather than relying largely on electronic means. There is so much to be gained by not only hearing another person’s voice, but by seeing their expression and body language, looking into their eyes, and being present with them in close proximity. Our communication and our relationships are enriched when we utilize all the tools our Creator gave us to connect effectively with each other.

—Bob Rodzaj

to understand **God's** will on this topic! According to your Bible, Almighty God spoke these words to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).

What if Jeremiah's mother had been taught that he was just "waste material" that could be thrown in the trash rather than one who had been "known" as a human being by the Creator and was *already sanctified* or "set apart" as a **prophet** of Almighty God?

Again, God inspired the Apostle Paul to describe how God "...separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace" (Galatians 1:15). Therefore, Almighty God chose and set apart the great apostle even from within his mother's womb. He was **not** thrown in a garbage can as someone's human refuse! Can we even begin to understand the **wretchedness** of our entire society when over **50 million** innocent human beings have been **murdered** in this way because of our modern sin of **abortion**?

### Our Massive Covetousness

Often, we do not look "behind the curtain" and realize that some of these sins already mentioned are promul-

## GOD'S LAWS ARE LIKE THE LAW OF GRAVITY. THEY ALWAYS WORK!

gated at least *partly* because of human greed and the desire to *make money*. How *much* more money can a doctor make by charging women hundreds of dollars to murder their babies? How much more money can the *media* make by promulgating the homosexual lifestyle rather than showing its evils and **stopping** it before it takes over our entire society?

It is vital for all of you readers to fully realize how often leaders in the media—especially in advertising and sales—shamelessly "leap" onto any modern trend they think will begin to take over society, and bring in profit! Not being aware of God—**always** leaving God out of the picture—they are willing to go along with virtually *anything* that Satan the Devil comes up with in his "Alternative Universe"! Yet for those of us who believe the Bible, God Almighty warns: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare,

and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:9–10).

Truly, when people fall into these temptations and lusts, their end will be—as the above scripture indicates—"destruction and perdition." Remember, it is not just "having" money that is evil, but the "**love**" of money, which becomes not "the" root, but **a** root of "*all kinds of evil*." God certainly knew what He was talking about, and we see this unfolding before our very eyes as so many major companies are quick to "boycott" the state of North Carolina for passing a law telling young men to go to the bathroom according to their genuine *biological identity*—**not** some "preferred" identity they come up with in order to use the women's restroom!

Yet, **all** of us need to think about the situation of our human lust and willingness to "compromise" in order to make money. For truly, money has become a major issue in modern times and people are willing to "sell themselves" to Satan the Devil in many ways in order to "get ahead" by making more money. What most people fail to realize is that the **end** of all of this is **death**.

Through "compromising" with the right way of life in the short run, people sometimes "seem" to get ahead and be happier. Yet God's laws are like the *law of gravity*. They **always** work. You will **always** suffer when you break the Ten Commandments! Therefore, God's inspired Word tells us: "There is a way that **seems** right to a man, but its end is the way of **death**" (Proverbs 14:12). Even now, as I write this, more and more articles and informative pieces are coming out in the media describing various **perversions** that are continually "taking over" various parts of our present society—"Satan's Alternative Universe" as it has become! Even as I write this, I am looking at an article from a recent issue of the *Christianity Today* magazine—a basically respected and solid "mainstream" publication that does not indulge in outrageous claims or attacks. As author Hazel Torres describes:

"As defined by Christian author and academician Timothy George, sola-





my 'is the marriage of someone to one's own self—the his- or hersness of it is not relevant, although it seems to be mostly women who are doing it.'

"Although this weird 'marital arrangement' has purportedly been in existence for more than 20 years now, it has not gained much following—until recently....

"But since last year, at least four women have already married themselves to themselves—in lavish ceremonies that resemble marriage between a man and a man.

"Last January, the *Houston Chronicle* reported that Yasmin Eleby 'married herself at the Houston Museum of African American Culture ... in a lavish ceremony with 10 bridesmaids in attendance, plus family and other guests on hand to celebrate the event' (February 3, 2016)."

All of the above is a reaffirmation of the Apostle Paul's **warning** about the philosophers and "great thinkers" of his day:

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting" (Romans 1:26–28).

Our present society—which is becoming "Satan's Alternative Universe"—is following the same pattern, as human beings do "**not** like to retain God in their knowledge." We are ending up with "debased" minds and an entire debased human society leading to suffering, anguish and premature **death** for increasing millions of people. It is all because people are not willing to **believe** that God is **real**. They are not willing to do what God clearly says in His inspired Word. So, God will soon intervene in human affairs as *never before* in history and send Christ back to this earth to establish a society where He will put His **law** within the hearts and minds of **all** human beings (Jeremiah 31:31–33).

This entire subject is so vast, my friends, that I am going to stop at this point. But, I plan to prepare an *entire booklet* about this vital subject, which we will announce later. I hope you will read and *study* this booklet to help you fully grasp the "mind of Satan" and how it is, in fact, taking over *your society* and the entire world around **you**.

May God help all of us who are willing to "wake up" and come **out** of this present society, which is certainly a modern "Babylon"! The Eternal God commands *everyone* who wants to have eternal life in His Kingdom: "**Come out** of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her **plagues**. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4–5). <sup>TW</sup>

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# TURNING POINTS *in* WORLD HISTORY



## The Rise of World Religions

**W**hy is the world filled with different religions? What is the source of these divergent views that have persisted down through the ages? The Bible offers an informative perspective that is largely ignored today, providing unique answers to these puzzling questions.

God guides the course of history to accomplish His purposes. “He makes nations great, and destroys them” (Job 12:23). It was amidst the sudden end of the Bronze Age about 1200bc—one of the most cataclysmic turning points in history—that God arranged the emergence of the nation of Israel as a light to the ancient pagan world. However, the Israelites forgot God, ignored His laws and followed other gods (Jeremiah 5:19; 9:13). As a result, between 722–586bc, the ten northern tribes were carried into captivity by Assyria and the two southern tribes by Babylon—and their “light” went out. Yet, it was no coincidence that the demise of these *chosen people* occurred during another major turning point in history, one which involved the rise of world religions.

### The Axial Age

This turning point occurred during the middle centuries of the first millennium bc (900–200bc) and has been called by some historians “the Axial Age.” This “pivotal” period witnessed a remarkable burst of intellectual activity that “became a major source of most of our present day faith traditions” (see “The Axial Age,” [ReligiousTolerance.org](#)). The Axial Age saw the emergence of noted philosophers in Greece, the spread of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism in India, Zoroastrianism in Persia, Judaism in Palestine and Confucianism and Daoism in ancient China (“The Axial Age: 5 Fast Facts,”

[Britannica.com](#)). These divergent belief systems that “exhibited surprising similarity with respect to their ultimate concerns” about the meaning of life, good and evil, and what happens after death, seemed to arise in separate parts of the world about the same time (*ibid.*). Noted British author Karen Armstrong describes this period in human history as a time when “spiritual and philosophical geniuses pioneered an entirely new kind of human existence” (*The Great Transformation*, p. xii).

Historians do not really know what caused the burst of spiritual activity during the Axial Age that gave birth to religious and philosophical systems still dominant in our world today. Karen Armstrong suggests it was a reaction to the unprecedented violence of the age. Others suggest the rise of similar ideas at the same time was due to the spread of commerce, urban life, global trade and increasing affluence (see “Axial Age,” [NewWorldEncyclopedia.org](#)). Still others conclude: “The closely timed changes in China, India, Palestine and Greece—countries that are widely separated from each other—seems too remarkable to be dismissed as accidental” (*ibid.*). In fact, some suggest this period—when men attempted to find answers to life’s great questions—was actually a time of “divine intervention” and “a period during which God... revealed moral truths to humanity,” which “implies a knowing directive force behind the unfolding of history” (*ibid.*). But, was God actually revealing spiritual truths to the world through these diverse and competing faith traditions?

### Divergent Beliefs

A closer look at Axial Age thinkers is informative. Instead of being led by God to discover universal spiritual



truths, each sage followed his own mind and path seeking answers to life's great questions (*The Great Transformation*, p. xvii)—and those answers often *contradicted* each other (see “Roots of Faith,” *NYTimes.com*, April 30, 2006). Confucius collected wise sayings from ancestors and made no mention of godly inspiration. Greek philosophers trusted the rational human mind aided by mystical insights from oracles.

While meditating under a tree, the Buddha concluded that the cause of suffering was human desire and the highest purpose was to extinguish all desire—and that failure to do so would lead to rebirth in a human, angelic or animal state depending on how one had conducted his life. Nothing like this appears in the belief systems of Confucius or the Greeks. Indeed, little religion in the Axial Age—outside of Judaism which emerged at the same time in Palestine—bears any resemblance to biblical monotheism or the meaning of life revealed in the Bible.

Karen Armstrong observes, “most of the Axial Age philosophers had no interest at all in doctrine... What mattered most was not what you believed, but how you behaved... If people behaved with kindness and generosity to their fellows, they could save the world” (*The Great Transformation*, pp. xiii-xiv). Sadly, the mental endeavors of “spiritual and philosophical geniuses” in the Axial Age left us a heritage of competing worldviews and a confusing array of ideas about the purpose of life. Would this be the work of an all-wise God?



Vishnu, Buddha, Socrates and Confucius (clockwise from top left) represent some of mankind's attempts to find wisdom without the God of the Bible.

## Another Source

Today, many historians and theologians discount the historical relevance of the Bible. At best they see it as one more competitor to Confucius, Buddha and Greek philosophy. Yet, the Scriptures provide a *theological perspective* on history that is unavailable from any other source. In the Bible, key elements in history are recorded from God's perspective. In stark contrast to the spirit of the Axial Age that looked to human reason, the Bible warns us to “lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Scholars of comparative religion may speculate that God was revealing universal truths during the Axial Age to thinkers searching for answers within their own minds, but the Scriptures state that the Word of God is the source of truth (Psalm 119:142, 160; John 17:17).

Furthermore, in light of conflicting ideas about the purpose of life emanating from competing worldviews that arose during the Axial Age, the Bible records the principle that “God is not the author of confusion but

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of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33)—which indicates that God is not behind the chaotic divergence of religious and philosophical systems dominating our world today.

The Bible reveals there is another source that is largely ignored today, stating that “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19), a powerful spirit being called Satan, who is referred to multiple times as the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30) and the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4) who has blinded and deceived the peoples of this world (Revelation 12:9). The man-made religions we see around us today are the products of this same world. Israel had been an example to the world (Deuteronomy 4:6). So, looking at the grand sweep of history, it appears that Satan took advantage of the demise of ancient Israel to create and spread alternative religious and philosophical systems, pointing people *away from* the revealed spiritual truths in the Bible. The rise of world religions and the religious confusion we see today are the lingering gifts of the Axial Age—a major turning point in world history. Yet the Israelites—God's chosen people—would continue to play a central role in history's turning points, as we will see in this column in the next issue of this magazine.

—Douglas S. Winnail



# A LIFE WELL SPENT

## Do not settle for a false hope when the Bible offers so much more!

I suppose it is a sign of growing older when one falls into the habit of reading the obituary pages in the newspaper. Especially if you have been in one place for a very long time, you find the names of friends, neighbors and business associates written up on those pages. It is a sobering reminder of our mortality.

During a trip back to my home state a few years ago, I was saddened to find the photo and name of an old friend and former business associate. He had died of an extended illness, fairly common in older folks. The write-up described his accomplishments as a student, military veteran and well-known expert in the field of insurance. It went on to detail his love of baseball and other outdoor interests. It also recounted his exemplary love and devotion to his family.

This fine man was a very active member in his church, serving as a deacon and in various positions of responsibility within his denomination. He had many friends. Attending the funeral, I was not surprised to see the large chapel filled to overflowing with his many friends and business associates. Two presiding ministers offered touching and meaningful eulogies about my old friend, stating that his was, “A life well spent.” They ended the service with a long prayer asking for solace and comfort for the family.

### Something Missing?

Sadly, the words they spoke were not truly comforting at all. You see, the ministers may have been very sincere, but they got it all wrong! More than once they stated that the deceased “is in a better place” and that

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“he is with the Lord in heaven” looking down on the proceedings. Yet they offered no Scriptural evidence to back

up their claims—*nor did they mention the resurrection of the dead even once!*

How could trained ministers, having studied the Bible as the word of God, get it so wrong? How could they miss the plain message of the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments? Jesus Christ gave the plain answer when speaking to the religious leaders of His day: “He

said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition’” (Mark 7:9).

Traditions having nothing to do with what the Bible teaches have been adopted by most “mainstream” churches through the centuries. For countless millions, these invented ideas have replaced the plain teachings of the Bible. Lacking the truth of Scripture, most professing Christians today have lost their understanding of the purpose of human life and the reward of the “saved.”

### Awaiting the Resurrection

Put simply, the hope of the early Christians was the **resurrection of the dead**. There are many plain references to this in both the Old and New Testaments.

**How could  
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The Apostle Paul gave this defense before Felix, the governor: “I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15). He also wrote, concerning the death of man: “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:50–52). The change he referred to occurs at the resurrection of the dead.

God has a plan, and it is revealed in the annual Holy Days that He has commanded to be observed. You can read about these Holy Days in Leviticus 23. Jesus kept them, the early Church kept them and God’s Church today still observes these special days that reveal an understanding of the marvelous plan that God is working out on this earth. You can have this understanding, too. It is vital, if your life is to have real meaning, and for you to know what lies ahead for those whom God is calling in this age.

—J. Davy Crockett, III

# LETTERS TO TW

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Please remove me from your mailing list. In your Jan-Feb magazine, "The Value of Competitive Sports" is so far from God's truth. Today's NCAA and the sin of professional athletics is premised on pride and arrogance which God hates and calls evil. There is nothing wrong with playing sports to stay in shape, but to stay in shape to play the sport is sin. Just like learning boxing to defend yourself and your family is honorable; to box to beat-up someone else for money is wrong! This is not the only time I have found your stories promoting the acting like the world rather than honoring God in this world.

D.P., Newport News, Virginia

**Editor's Note:** *We urge you to go back and re-read the article. God Himself wrestled with Jacob (Genesis 32:22-31), so it would be ridiculous to condemn wrestling as an activity. Yet we know that much "professional wrestling" today is more theater than sport. Nowhere did the article endorse or condemn a specific athletic group or league. Of course there is sin in the NCAA and in professional athletics; anywhere there is human nature there will be sin. There is, however, nothing inherently sinful in staying in shape to play a sport. Sin enters when it becomes a matter of pride or of exploiting others for our benefit. It is worth noticing that Jesus Christ did not pray that Christians be taken out of the world; rather He prayed that they, as individuals who are not of the world, would be protected from Satan (John 17:15-16). As such, there is room to participate in sports with a proper Christian attitude.*

I enjoy your magazines so much. It is like hearing a good sermon. I am a shut-in and have to depend on TV to have church, but I can't get you anymore and I miss

you so much. My eye-sight is very bad, and my reading is limited, but I read some every day in my Bible, and read the literature you send me. Thank you so much for your writings.

D.T., Mississippi

**Editor's Note:** *If you do not have access to a TV station airing the Tomorrow's World telecast, but you do have a computer with an Internet connection, you can watch the telecast online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org).*

I am a Christian who has a great interest in listening to the world news concerning the Middle East crisis and also, reading Bible prophecies in the Book of Daniel and Revelation. I was given a booklet to read by a friend of mine entitled *The Middle East in Prophecy*. I was very pleased to get it and to read it. I found the book to be of great value because I have learned a lot of great and mighty truths I have not known before. Your book has given me new hope and truth. Thank you and may our good Lord bless *Tomorrow's World* richly and in fullness.

D.K., Kavieng, NIP, Papua New Guinea

I am so thankful for your programme. It has helped me to understand God's Word when I was truly seeking God's guidance. But what saddens me so much is that many family members do not even believe God's existence. And hard as I try, I fail to get through to them. That is why I would like to request your CD *Does God Exist?* because you explain things so clearly. May God help you to continue in your helping people to know God.

G.C., Safety Beach, VIC, Australia

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# THE Works OF HIS HANDS

## The Tireless Human Heart

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**I**t is not very large—in fact, it is only a little larger than your closed fist. Yet its small size belies the unique and vital role it plays in your life. Indeed, without it you would have no life at all! Hour by hour, minute by minute and even second by second, you depend on it utterly, yet unless there is something *wrong* with it we often fail to give it a second thought.

What is it? It is the *human heart*—a biological marvel of God’s creation that would be the pride of any engineer on the planet. Consider just a few of the reasons we should appreciate this masterwork of our Creator, this miracle that stays quietly and constantly beating within our chests.

One of the heart’s main purposes is to keep blood coursing through our bodies, collecting from our lungs the much-needed oxygen it distributes throughout the body. To do this, the *one* heart has to receive blood simultaneously from *two* different sources—the lungs and the body—and send it back out in *two* different directions. The ingeniously designed and deceptively simple structure of the heart makes this feat possible.

In the first step, the heart receives blood in its top two chambers: the *atria*. The *right atrium* fills with “used” oxygen-depleted blood from the body, while the *left atrium* fills with “fresh” oxygen-rich blood from the lungs. With a squeeze, the atria send their individual contents to two larger, muscular *ventricles* below them. Then, with a second squeeze, the *right ventricle* sends the “used” blood to the lungs for a fresh load of oxygen, while the *left ventricle* simultaneously sends its “fresh” blood to the rest of the hungry body.

As marvelous as these muscular chambers may be, they could not do their job without the *four one-way*

*valves* that open and close at just the right times to keep blood flowing in the right direction. In fact, it is the perfectly timed closing of these valves—in synchronized pairs—that creates the familiar “*lub-dub*” sound of your heartbeat. “*Lub*”—two valves below the atria slam shut as the ventricles send blood into the body. “*Dub*”—those atrial valves reopen while the other pair slam shut so the ventricles can be filled again.

“*Lub-dub... lub-dub... lub-dub...*” That simple sound emanating from your chest represents an intricately designed dance of muscle, nerve and valve that keeps you alive, every second of every day!

### Working Hard for Life!

And when did this dance begin? Your heart began to beat only *three weeks after your conception*, when you were the size of a mere poppy seed! Even before you had a *brain*, your heart was already working hard at the job it will perform for the rest of your life.

With that in mind, try this: quickly squeeze your hand into a tight fist and then open it back again, over and over, at a rate of 70 times per minute. How long does it take before your hand and arm muscles are tired and weary?

Consider, by comparison, that the heart works *continuously*, resting only during the tiny fraction of a second between each heartbeat. In order to accomplish this (literally) tireless task, God equips the heart with specialized *cardiac muscles* that contain 15 to 30 times more “energy generators” (mitochondria) by volume than your other muscles.

As a result of all this work, the heart racks up some impressive statistics! For someone who lives to be 75



years old, the average heart's work will comprise more than 2.7 *billion* heartbeats! Even in a single day, most hearts will beat around 100,000 times. Over those 75 years, a heart will pump more than a million barrels of blood—enough to fill two to four long-range oil tankers!

And yet, as impressive as all this is, the heart must be *more* than a mere “pump” to keep us alive. It must

**Your heart began to beat only three weeks after your conception, when you were the size of a mere poppy seed!**

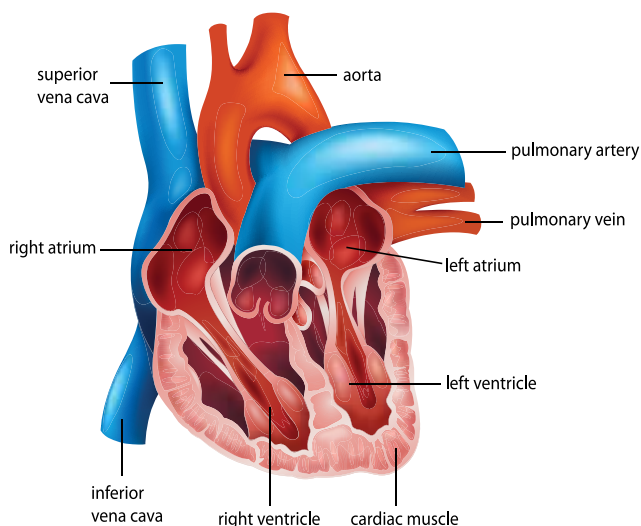
“know” the needs of our body at any given moment and be able to instantly respond with a change in pace—with extreme precision and accuracy—to meet those needs. If it did not, even the simple act of *standing up* would cause disorientation and even fainting!

So, how does the heart “know” what you are doing? To “decide” what our heart rate should be at any given moment, it must intelligently process information simultaneously from three sources: the brain, the hormone levels in

our blood and the heart's very own *internal* nervous system—with its own collection of around 40,000 neurons, much like the brain's own neurons!

Along with its own unique nervous system, the heart has its own internal *power source*! Specialized bundles of neurons in the heart both *generate* each electrical impulse that makes the muscles contract and also *regulate* that impulse, ensuring that its trip through

## Anatomy of the Human Heart



the muscles is delayed halfway through for a *precise fraction of a second* that keep the atria and ventricles in sync, one beating after the other.

## More Mysteries of the Heart

While all of this may sound like we fully *understand* the human heart—and it is one of the most intensely studied organs in the entire body—this marvel of God's creation still holds so many mysteries.

For example, in April 2016 scientists from the University of Waterloo announced that there seems to be some sort of correlation between individuals' heart rates and their wisdom. They found that individuals



whose heart rates experienced wider variation were also more likely to display less-biased judgments from a

third-person point of view.

Why would one's heart rate be related in *any* way to wisdom in perception and judgment?

One is tempted to consider Bible verses such as Proverbs 2:10-11: “When wisdom **enters your heart** and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you....”

The more we reflect on this wonderful marvel beating in our chests, the more it might make sense that God would use it to symbolize the very center of our emotion, sentiment and care—the center of our *life*. Furthermore, just as it is so vital to maintain a healthy *physical* heart for good health and a long and vibrant life, so too does God tell us: “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life” (Proverbs 4:23, NLT).

A biomechanical pump of ingenious design and an information-processing machine of virtually instant response and astonishing precision—our lives *depend* on this marvelously coordinated, highly “intelligent” system doing its job without fail, every day of our lives.

When you need a reminder of the greatness of God and how His love for us is displayed through His design, consider placing your fingers on your wrist or neck and feeling your pulse for a few moments—listening to the rhythmic hymn our heart continually sings to its remarkable Designer. And let every beat you feel remind you that you truly are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14)!

—Wallace Smith

# A PROMISE OF REST

## A time is coming when the “new normal” will be world peace!

A little more than 65 years ago, in his April 1951 farewell address to the United States Congress, General Douglas MacArthur grimly stated his thoughts about the global conflicts in which he had played a major role. Speaking as a life-long military man—a senior leader at some of modern history’s fiercest battles—he put the entire weight of his experience into his observation that, although mankind has from the beginning of time sought peace, all efforts for international peace have ultimately failed. Chillingly, he warned: “If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door.”

Mankind has not yet devised that system, and we find ourselves today in a world at war. Conflicts rage across many parts of the globe, from insurgency and guerrilla combat in the developing world, to full scale war and nationwide uprisings in the Middle East, a few of which have involved some of the mightiest governments in the world. According to the online military data Web site *GlobalSecurity.org*, there are currently more than 50 ongoing wars and conflicts of various sizes. Many of these, such as the Syrian civil war and the ongoing difficulties in the Ukraine, have made headlines. Others have been in and out of the news for years, like North Korea’s continuing hostilities toward its neighbors, and have been simmering pots of violence that have brewed for decades.

Untold amounts of money and resources are poured down the fiery maw of war, and this great cost is overshadowed by the vast butcher’s bill of human life that is shoveled into this furnace—with the price too often paid by far more civilians than soldiers.

### Is War Normal?

What is going on in the world? Is all this fighting the “normal” condition of human life? What is the solution, and is there hope on the horizon for an end to it all—an end that the world can actually look forward

to, rather than the all-too-real possibility of nuclear or biological disaster?

When we turn to the Bible, we see an answer to every question. The inspired word of God tells us what has happened, what is happening, and what is to come.

The Apostle James was inspired to admonish an audience living in a similar age of violence, and his warnings were clear and sharp: violence and war are the results of wrong desire, and wrong motives (James 4:1). We are warned that our own hearts deceive us, from individuals to mighty empires (Jeremiah 17:9), and sadly enough it is all too often true that our greatest wars are covered by the greatest excuses. At the same time, however, we know that God sees through even the best of human reasoning, because He alone knows our hearts (Jeremiah 17:10). The prophet Isaiah was inspired anciently to write what even the great “man-of-war” Douglas MacArthur was able to recognize in recent history, that the “way of peace” is not known to man (Isaiah 59:8).

### God’s Plan for Peace

God knows that the way of peace is not through the governments of this age, their policies, nor through the revolutions and philosophies of men. No matter the cause, no matter how noble or desperate the reasons, all that we do only adds volumes to an encyclopedic history of violence. Questions of right and wrong are lost in the reciprocal shedding of blood. We need something greater than human beings can provide for themselves. That is why God long ago set in motion a great plan to redeem mankind from the works of war and strife, and to bring about a time of divine rule on this earth, under Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints, when planet Earth will finally learn the ways of peace, not war. Then, the whole world will receive God’s promise of rest (Hebrews 4:1).

—William L. Williams



# TOMORROW'S WORLD

## TELEVISION LOG



### AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7Two SU 7:00 a.m.

### BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 9:30 a.m.

### JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.



### CANADA

#### Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SU 5:30 p.m.  
MO-FR 3:00 a.m.

CHCH SU 8:30 a.m.

### UNITED STATES

#### Nationwide Networks (Eastern time)

Angel One SU 8:00 p.m.  
WE 7:00 p.m.  
TH 9:00 a.m.

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

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WORD Network SU 7:30 p.m.  
WE 1:00 a.m.  
FR 7:00 p.m.

#### DISH Network\* (All times Eastern)

Angel One Ch. 262 SU 8:00 p.m.  
WE 7:00 p.m.  
TH 9:00 a.m.

Impact Ch. 9397 SU 11:00 p.m.

#### DIRECTV\* (All times Eastern)

WORD Ch. 373 SU 7:30 p.m.  
WE 1:00 a.m.  
FR 7:00 p.m.

#### WGN Network

Cable SU 6:00 a.m. ET/PT  
DISH Network Ch. 239  
DIRECTV Ch. 307

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[TomorrowsWorld.org/tvr-log](http://TomorrowsWorld.org/tvr-log)

<b>AK</b> Anchorage Anchorage Fairbanks Juneau	GCI KYUR KATN KJUD	SA 10:00 p.m. SU 6:00 a.m. SU 6:00 a.m. SU 6:00 a.m.
<b>AL</b> Dothan Montgomery	WTVY WBMM	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
<b>AR</b> Fort Smith	KHBS	SU 7:00 a.m.
<b>AZ</b> Prescott Prescott	Community Community	SU 12:30 p.m. SA 5:30 p.m.
<b>CA</b> Bakersfield Chico Eureka Monterey Orange County Palm Springs Palm Springs Sacramento Salinas	KGET KHSL KUVU-LP KION Time Warner KCWQ KCWQ-LP RCCTV KION	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. MO 5:00 p.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. MO 5:30 p.m. SU 8:00 a.m.

San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Francisco

CO Grand Junc.

CT Naugatuck  
New Haven

FL Gainesville  
Jacksonville  
Panama City

GA Augusta  
Macon  
Macon  
Macon

IA Des Moines  
Dubuque  
Dubuque  
Dubuque

ID Boise  
Idaho Falls

IL Chicago  
Chicago  
Moline  
Peoria  
Quincy  
Springfield  
Springfield  
Springfield

IN Fort Wayne

KS Parsons  
Salina  
Salina  
Salina  
Salina

KY Bowling Green  
Latonia  
Latonia  
Lexington

LA Alexandria  
Baton Rouge  
Lafayette  
Monroe

MA Malden  
North Adams

MD Baltimore  
Westminster  
Westminster

ME Bangor  
Brunswick  
Brunswick  
Presque Isle

MI Alpena  
Detroit  
Kalamazoo  
Kalamazoo  
Lansing  
Marquette

MN Cloquet  
Duluth  
Duluth  
Duluth

### KENYA

Nationwide Family Media TV MO/WE 7:30 p.m.

### NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide Prime TV SU 8:30 a.m.

### SOUTH AFRICA

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

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Port of Spain CNC3-TV SU 7:00 a.m.

KCOX SU 7:30 a.m.  
Access WE 8:00 p.m.  
KBCW SU 6:30 a.m.

KJCT SU 7:00 a.m.

Tele-Media MO 9:30 p.m.  
WZME SU 11:00 p.m.

WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.

WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.

WJHG SU 7:00 a.m.

WAGT SU 8:00 a.m.

Cox SU 5:00 p.m.

Cox TU 7:30 a.m.

Cox FR 2:00 p.m.

KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

Mediacom MO 3:30 p.m.

Mediacom MO 7:30 p.m.

Mediacom TU 10:00 a.m.\*

KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.

KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

CANTV Various\*

WJYS FR 10:00 a.m.

Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.

WJYS SU 7:00 a.m.

WJYS SU 7:00 a.m.

WJYS TU 5:00 a.m.

WJYS TU 1:00 p.m.

WJYS TU 10:00 p.m.

Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

TWPAR WE 7:00 p.m.

SCAT TH 5:00 p.m.

SCAT FR 5:00 p.m.

SCAT SA 9:00 a.m.

SCAT SU 7:00 p.m.

WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.

PEG WE 5:30 p.m.

PEG TH 12:00 a.m.

Insight Various\*

KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.

WGBM SU 9:00 a.m.

KATC SU 7:00 a.m.

KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

Access SU 11:00 a.m.

NBCT WE 8:00 p.m.

Community SU 9:00 a.m.

Adelphia TH 10:00 a.m.

Adelphia FR 10:00 a.m.

WABI SU 8:00 a.m.

TV3 SA 8:30 a.m.

TV3 SU 6:30 a.m.

WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

Minneapolis MCN  
Minneapolis MCN  
Minneapolis MTN  
Minneapolis NWCT  
Minneapolis NWCT  
Minneapolis NWCT  
Rochester KTTC  
Rochester CTV  
Roseville CTV  
Roseville CTV  
Roseville CTV  
St. Paul Nhd. Network

MO Columbia KOMU

Joplin KFJX

Kansas City KCWE

WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.

WCBT SU 7:00 a.m.

WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.

Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.

Time Warner WE 4:00 p.m.

WTOK SU 7:00 a.m.

KTVO SU 7:00 a.m.

KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.

KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.

KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.

KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.

KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.

KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.

WNCI SU 8:00 a.m.

WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.

WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.

TH 7:00 p.m.

CATV8 FR 7:00 a.m.

CATV8 FR 1:00 a.m.

MO 12:00 a.m.

MO 12:00 p.m.

SU 3:00 p.m.

SU 2:00 p.m.

TU 5:30 p.m.

FR 7:30 p.m.

WE 10:00 p.m.

FR 8:00 p.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 4:30 p.m.

MO 4:30 p.m.

SU 11:30 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 4:30 p.m.

SA 7:00 p.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 5:00 a.m.

TU 10:00 a.m.\*

### UK & NW EUROPE

CBS Action Freeview 64 SU 8:30 a.m.

CBS Action Sky TV 148 SU 8:30 a.m.

CBS Drama Freeview 74 SA 7:30 a.m.

CBS Drama Sky TV 149 SA 7:30 a.m.

CBS Reality Freeview 66 SU 7:30 a.m.

CBS Reality Sky TV 146 SU 7:30 a.m.

Gospel Sky TV 587 MO 7:00 p.m.

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WE 6:00 a.m.

Sky TV 590 MO 12:30 a.m.

Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.

OK Oklahoma City KAUT SU 8:30 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.

Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.

Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.

Oregon City Access WFTV SU 8:00 a.m.

Oregon City Access WFTV SA 8:00 a.m.

Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Allentown SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.

Bethlehem SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.

Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.

Johnstown Atl. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.

Scranton FOX TH 5:00 a.m.

Scranton FOX SA 5:00 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBT SU 8:00 a.m.

Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SD Rapid City KWBH SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.

Knoxville WBXX SU 7:30 a.m.

Knoxville WKXN SU 6:00 p.m.

La Follette Comcast-WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.

Nashville WZTV SU 6:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.

Amarillo KVH SU 7:00 a.m.

Beaumont KBTB SU 7:00 a.m.

Beaumont KFDL SU 7:00 a.m.

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

Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lufkin KTRF SU 7:00 a.m.

McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.

Midland KWES SU 7:00 a.m.

Odesa KWES SU 7:00 a.m.

Tyler KLTV SU 6:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville Comcast Cable MO 8:00 a.m.

Charlottesville WTVR SU 8:00 a.m.

Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.

Fairfax Public Access MO 12:00 p.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 8:00 a.m.\*

Bennington CAT SA 4:30 a.m.

Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.

Burlington Access

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## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### **Seven Keys for Peace of Mind**

Scripture gives powerful prescriptions for overcoming stress and fear in our lives.

July 21-27

### **A Brazen New World**

Long-cherished norms and values are being cast aside all around us. What can be done?

July 28-August 3

### **Five Prophecies for Your Future!**

Vital truths from Scripture can change your life forever!

August 4-10

### **The Mysterious Day of the Lord**

The book of Revelation tells of a momentous time just ahead. What will it mean for you?

August 11-17

### **Is There Any Hope for Mankind?**

Are war, poverty, strife and pain inevitable? What does the Bible say about our future?

August 18-24

### **Easter: The Untold Story**

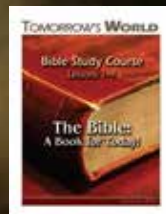
What is the history behind bunny rabbits and colored eggs? What should it mean to you?

August 25-31

Schedule subject to change



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