Who Will Care for the Elderly?
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OUR COVER

Few understand the background of the state’s intervention into the area of care for the elderly and indigent. The rise of humanism and Protestantism opened doors to the state to administer—and raise taxes for—what was once the province of the church and family. And now a vast bureaucracy has emerged to administer today’s social taxes.

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What's Wrong With Government?

Leaders of the world, WAKE UP!—or face human extinction! The world, as 1985 comes upon us, is fraught with troubles and evils seemingly past human remedy. SURVIVAL is now our number one problem!

It appears now that if weapons of mass destruction do not soon erase mankind from the earth, the population explosion will!

There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. Too often people try to find solutions by dealing with effects. But until CAUSES are removed, the effects will not just go away. In the imperative search for causes we find six major facets that have made civilization what it is: government, business and industry, science and technology, modern education, organized labor, religion.

Where have these gone wrong?

Civilization is what its leaders have made it, and education is the alma mater of the leaders. They are largely what the educational system made them. Education has succumbed to intellectual materialism. Knowledge of the TRUE VALUES was jettisoned somewhere along the way. Humanity's problems are spiritual in nature and a materialistic knowledge cannot understand or solve them.

The United States has been concerned with a presidential election. So we take, now, a quick overview of government. What has government contributed either to the cause or the solution of present escalating evils?

Over the years I have been invited to personal conferences with numerous heads of state—kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers—and others high in government under them, in many other countries.

I have said often to them that there are only TWO WAYS or philosophies of life, broadly speaking. And these travel in opposite directions. One will produce peace, universal prosperity and well-being. The other will CAUSE precisely what we have in the world today!

I simplify these two basic motivations so even a child can understand. One is the way of “GET”—the other the way of “GIVE.”

“GET” is the way of self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy, jealousy, hostility, resentment of authority over one. “GIVE” is the way of outflowing LOVE—concern for the well-being of neighbor equal to self-concern. It is the way of helping, serving, sharing, of kindness, consideration, goodwill.

GOVERNMENT is that organized authority over the people to ensure by law and order to each the freedoms and liberties that do not infringe on the lawful rights and liberties of others.

But politicians govern in a world living the “GET” way of life. Government should produce a contented, happy, peaceful and prosperous society.

Politicians have grown up in this world addicted to the way of “GET.” It would indeed be naive to suppose they have not absorbed the “GET” motivation. Nothing in their educational training inculcated the “give” incentive. So it is normal that they have followed the old saying, “Jones pays the freight, give Jones what he wants.”

Now Jones wants to “GET” from government. And political candidates want to “GET” Jones’ votes. But Jones is divided in many group votes. What one faction may want to “GET” from government too often collides with another. The candidate often walks a tightrope, and to win both faction votes the candidate sometimes succumbs to making promises he can’t deliver.

If the public wants to (Continued on page 42)
The Queen's Visit

To Canada and Beyond

by Gene H. Hogberg

Queen Elizabeth II's autumn visit to Canada once again highlights the unique worldwide role played by Britain's monarchy.

Elizabeth II embarked on her latest Canadian visit—her 12th as sovereign—while riding the crest of popularity at home in Britain.

Polls taken in the last few years have confirmed that both the monarchy and its most visible symbol, the Queen, enjoy widespread favor and respect in the eyes of the British public.

Queen Elizabeth II, observers agree, has grown steadily in her office since February 6, 1952. That is the day she ascended the throne upon the death of her father, George VI. At age 25 Elizabeth II was the youngest monarch to ascend the throne since Queen Victoria and the same age as her great 16th century predecessor, Elizabeth I.

Why Popularity High

At the time of her 30th anniversary on the throne, the Times of London (February 1, 1982) remarked that "Elizabeth II has finally managed to transcend the lower atmosphere of mere reverence from her subjects into the rarer air of genuine affection."

The same Times profile of the Queen also carried the observation of Norman St. John Stevas, a Member of Parliament and noted observer of the monarchy. He said:

"The monarchy has become our only truly popular political institution at a time when the House of Commons has declined in public esteem and the [House of] Lords is a matter of controversy. The monarchy is, in real sense, underpinning the other two estates of the realm."

This is of no small consequence in a world that has seen some 30 monarchies vanish in half a century.

The Right Balance

There is no doubt that Elizabeth II, in her manner and decorum, has enhanced the image of the British Royal Family. The Queen has displayed unwavering standards of decency and stability.

While becoming more visible and accessible—her walkabouts and quarterly garden parties have increased her popularity—she has not succumbed to the temptation to become a popular just-plainfolks type of monarch as in some other constitutional democracies. She has kept her dignity, or as one authority on the Royal Family phrased it, "She treads the right line between accessibility and mystique."

Paul Johnson, a sometime critic of the monarchy, put it this way: "She does not bow to idiotic waves of public taste. She makes no attempt to be 'with it'... If we must have a monarch, it is good to have a queen who looks and behaves like one."

Elizabeth II has learned to walk the tightrope, said another observer, "by instinctively judging not how she personally would behave but how an anointed queen should act."

In his best-selling book Majesty, author Robert Lacey analyzed the Queen's overall approach to her office. "Being royal in her eyes," wrote Mr. Lacey, "is not a question of acting a role. It is being a role."

As a result, the Queen binds British people of all classes together.

Governments of different political leanings come and go—Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is the ninth Prime Minister to serve Elizabeth II. The Queen, standing above politics as head of state, provides a sense of stability and continuity. But the monarchy is by no...
means limited to maintaining social standards and providing the essence of nationhood.

Well-informed Adviser

The Queen has three specific rights—"the right to be consulted, the right to encourage and the right to warn." She actively exercises these rights, limited though they may appear to be, in Britain. Her Governors-General* do the same in other realms under her sovereignty.

In order to properly perform these functions, Elizabeth II keeps up-to-date on all matters of state in her far-flung realm.

Virtually every important paper that crosses the Prime Minister's desk passes before the Queen's eyes as well. The Prime Minister also consults the Queen on a wide range of issues privately once a week.

The Times of London profile, quoted earlier, said this about the Queen's grasp of world conditions: "Elizabeth II is a woman of great political astuteness. . . . Her experience is wider than any other head of state alive. . . . It is, in a way, a shame that the Queen cannot, by virtue of her position, make more use of her astonishing knowledge of domestic and world politics."

The Crown in Canada

Elizabeth II's influence extends far beyond the United Kingdom. Canada is a good example.

When the Queen visited selected locations in Canada beginning in late September, she was by no means visiting foreign territory, as she did in a state visit to Canada's southern neighbor, the United States, in 1983.

In Canada, Elizabeth II's official title is Queen of Canada. Her responsibilities there are incorporated in a unique, somewhat abstract entity, known as the Crown.

This instrument of state power, explains Frank MacKinnon in The Crown in Canada, "operates in mysterious and practical ways." More than anything else it is the Crown that distinguishes Canadian political life from that of republican United States.

The Crown, its proponents maintain, is also largely responsible for Canada having enjoyed a relatively trouble-free political history.

The Crown comprises the supreme executive power of Canada, positioned above the structure of government (Parliament and Prime Minister). It is, as author MacKinnon writes, "an institution at the summit of the state designed to limit the problems of wielding political power."

Its power is almost entirely exerted behind the scenes, quietly and confidentially. Even most Canadians are not aware of the day-to-day operations of the Crown. "Like an iceberg," says Mr. MacKinnon, "the Crown displays only its tip."

The Crown in Canada is composed of 12 key individuals—the Queen, the Governor-General and 10 Lieutenant Governors (one over each of Canada's 10 provinces).

Since the Queen resides in Britain, the Governor-General (since 1952 a Canadian citizen) exercises all the powers of the Queen, as her personal representative. He performs all the formal and ceremonial functions that the Queen would perform if she were present.

Among his duties the Governor-General summons, adjourns and dissolves Parliament, and signs many state documents.

On foreign trips, the Governor-General represents Canada. At home he accepts the accreditation of ambassadors from other countries appointed to Canada, as well as the high commissioners of Commonwealth countries.

The 10 Lieutenant Governors are as much representatives of the Queen in provincial government as the Governor-General is in the national government. This in large measure accounts for the sizable sovereignty possessed by Canada's 10 provinces—more authority and responsibility than is wielded by states within the United States. This has even helped preserve the unique French culture and language in Quebec.

Having this form of executive government and authority in no way compromises Canada's sovereignty as an independent nation.

Originally, with regard to Canadian matters, the sovereign (King or Queen as the case may have been) was advised by representatives of the British government. As Canada matured as a nation, Canadian advisers gradually took over, until the British government relinquished its role entirely.

The last vestiges of British control over Canadian affairs disappeared in 1982 with the "patriation" of Canada's constitution, composed in the main of the British North America Act of 1867. Until patriation, amendments to the BNA Act had to be approved by the British Parliament, upon advice of the Canadian government (which Westminster automatically did).

The Queen traveled to Canada in April 1982 to formally proclaim the Canadian constitution.

"To identify the Crown as the British Crown may have been correct and practical years ago," notes author MacKinnon, "when Canada's own support of her institutions and foreign relations was not strong enough. But times have changed, and the Crown now belongs to Canada and other members of the Commonwealth separately. . . . It is a shared symbol which we have made our own for practical reasons."

Simply put, the constitutional monarchy system, as it had developed over the centuries in Britain, was engrafted into Canada, as it were, where it is now as much Canadian as British. Moreover, Canada's independence was achieved peacefully, rather than by way of a revolution.

In the process, Canada, though a relatively new country (its confed-
Who Will Care for the Elderly?

by Ronald S. Toth

National governments are now faced with an ever-growing elderly population supported by fewer and fewer younger workers. What is the solution?

Life expectancy in 1900 was 47; today, 74. Everywhere within the Western industrialized nations life expectancy has increased.

But with the ever-increasing life span, a major problem is developing.

People hear about the population explosion. The teeming masses of Calcutta and Cairo. China, India and black African nations grapple with swelling populations.

But from the Ural Mountains to the British Isles, the United States, Canada and Japan, the birthrate is well below the 2.1 needed to maintain the national population. West Germany, for example, has a birthrate of only 1.4. The U.S., 1.8; Britain, 1.9; Canada, 1.8; and Japan, 1.8. These figures depict a very serious unforeseen trend.

The "Other" Population Explosion

As low birthrates continue to deplete the ranks of the young, and life expectancies continue to rise, industrial nations face a serious population expansion within the ranks of the elderly. Within Aus-

The Elderly in Other Societies

For too many elderly people in Western industrial cultures, old age has been turned into a heavy burden, a distressing ordeal.

By contrast, among some peoples and cultures, especially those in the Third World, the elderly have traditionally occupied a position of respect, as reflected in the following quotes. (Even in many of these areas, however, the situation is being, or may already have been, altered due largely to political changes and the influence of Western culture.)

Thailand: "The Phooyai of Thailand are the revered elders, to whom all important decisions must be referred. They take you each step of the way through life, and may even control the purse strings" (World Health, February/March 1982).

Southeast Asia: "In countries of WHO's South-East Asia Region, the elderly have traditionally enjoyed a privileged place.... They have been revered and their advice... sought on matters ranging from the sowing of the next crop, a marriage in the family or the settling of a village dispute, to prescribing a remedy for a stomach ache" (World Health, February/March 1982).
The Gathering Storm

Today, the lessening ratio of workers contributing to support ever-increasing senior citizen populations can be likened to a gathering storm. And the storm is fast approaching.

Within the United States the ranks of the very old—those in their 80s and beyond—are the fastest growing age group. The cost to care for them will increase by two thirds in the next 15 years. "By the year 2000," said Barbara B. Turrey of the U.S. Census Bureau, "more benefits will be provided to octogenarians than any other subgroup of the aged or for that matter, the general population."

Within the United States about three and a half workers support one pensioner. This ratio will drop to two and a half to one within the next decade. In West Germany the ratio now is two to one and demographers calculate the ratio as one to one by the end of this century. Japan has a ratio of 12 to one. This will plunge to around two to one by the year 2000.

What a dilemma! As fewer workers support more pensioners, governments are faced with two choices: either raise taxes to unthinkably high levels, or cut benefits to senior citizens.

Reports vary widely, but some believe young workers would be taxed up to 40 percent of their gross pay just to pay for old-age pensions. This rising burden on the working population will create a worker-to-senior-citizen generation gap as young people pay increasingly higher taxes. "The present system of old-age care will inevitably collapse," warns West German sociologist Peter von Ehr. "There is no way around it."

These programs are too politically sensitive to bear much cutting. Most pension and welfare payments are the only means of support for recipients and to cut back would bring hardships upon the elderly. As David Stockman, U.S. director of the Office of Management and Budget, admits, anyone hoping for any additional budget cuts is a "dreamer."

But the longer governments wait before correcting the funding of the inverted pyramid the bigger the problem becomes. The bigger the problem becomes, the more extreme the corrections have to be in order to be effective. The more extreme the plan, the less likely nations will be to adopt it.

As one Japanese official warned, "The system can function normally for the time being, but if changes are not made soon, it will go bankrupt in 20 years."

Whose Responsibility?

Governments with the best of intentions created old-age retirement programs. Governments also levied taxes for their programs. The State took to itself the responsibility, once exercised by religious institutions, of providing for the elderly. With increased availability of welfare and retirement programs came a lessening need for having children care for elderly parents. The government would provide what was needed.

Young people free from their responsibility...
show declining interest in the well-being of senior citizens. "There should be some government program" or "If we only had more money for this" is the attitude. The aged increasingly are seen as dependents rather than as individuals.

What government overlooked is that the law of God, summed up in the Ten Commandments, puts the responsibility not upon government but upon the next generation—the children—to care for elderly parents. "Honor your father and your mother..." is the command (Ex. 20:12, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

God's way is for the children to care for and assist their aged parents, who, in the meantime, should have provided for their own financial needs in their old age so children would not have that burden. "For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (II Cor. 12:14). It is not primarily a responsibility of politicians in government to care for the elderly!

The Neglected Solution

Man's government is inherently unable to deal effectively with the problem. This is not to speak disparagingly of governmental efforts to help aged populations. It is to say that the problem is too big for man to resolve fully.

Whenever a national leader proposes changing a social security-retirement system, the opposition creates such a political storm that no long-term, permanent solution can be enacted. Yet the permanent solution has been available to governments for a number of years. The book containing the solution probably sits upon government desks at this very moment.

The book is called the Holy Bible. Humans have neglected to observe that the Bible is a book containing sound economic information. There is not one single facet of life upon which the Bible does not touch and, in principle, tell people what to do. Personal and national finances are clearly explained within this revealed knowledge from God.

God's instruction is, "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children..." (Prov. 13:22). In today's mixed-up world this becomes, for many, almost impossible. Now the elderly have become overdependent upon governmental support, which younger taxpayers fund.

Governments have always reversed God's instruction. When social security-retirement programs were first created—some about a century ago—the government said in effect, "We will provide for your retirement."

People, believing the promises and hopes of socially concerned leaders, often stopped saving for their retirement. And governments, by gradual inflationary practices, further reduced people's incentive to save.

Now most elderly no longer depend upon their savings or their families for support. They must rely upon a surrogate family—government.

Governments during the Great Depression regarded social security-retirement taxes as a quick-fix measure to balance then-burgeoning budget deficits. They never (Continued on page 42)

Aborigine in Coober Pedy in Australia

Miami, Florida, facility serves elderly two free meals each week.

Human Behavior.

An Arab student in Lebanon: "'There is no greater disgrace than to abandon the old'" (The Family).

The Bedouin: "Among the Bedouin, young men are expected to defer to the older generation at all times" (ibid.).

The Raiput of India: "Raiput women must cover their heads with their saris when an elder enters the room" (ibid.).

Immigrants and minorities in the United States: "...students of immigrants point to the value of the extended family (or clan) in providing day care for children and ministering to the health needs of the elderly. Indeed, there are proportionately few blacks and Puerto Ricans in nursing homes" (Current April, 1977).

Japan: "The Japanese consider it their natural duty to care for and support an ill or feeble parent; throughout the Orient, to neglect a parent or to leave a parent in the care of strangers is to disgrace the family name" (The Adult Years).

China: "Chinese philosopher Lin Yutang wrote a few decades ago: 'How can one be thought wise unless one is thought to be old?'... There is no shame attached to the circumstance of one's being served by his children in the sunset of one's life... The symphony of life should end with a grand finale of peace and serenity and material comfort and spiritual contentment, and not with the crash of a broken drum or cracked cymbals'" (The Adult Years).

The affluent Western world has a lot to learn!

—Clayton Steep
Promises! Promises! Promises! Promises!

by Earl H. Williams

World leaders make promises to get elected, but once in office why can't they keep them?

"When I am in power, peace will prevail!" And the people prayed.

"When I am in office, prosperity will rain upon everyone!" And the people cheered on the campaign.

"When I am in control, the scales of equality and justice will balance for all!" And the people roared!

He won the victory—and later the people cried. So the story goes.

Promises, promises, promises. Why do most leaders fail to fulfill their campaign promises? Why are the hopes of the oppressed dashed? Is there any leader able to keep all of his or her promises?

Is there a true champion of the people, a leader who can guarantee peace, prosperity and justice? Where is a leader worthy of our trust? We will introduce you to this able leader in this article, but first, let's see why this world's leaders cannot keep all their promises.

Good Intentions, Bad Inclinations

Privation and oppression dominate the lives of most people in this world. Flesh-and-blood human beings struggle to survive. Daily their hearts pound, sometimes from fear of civil or personal violence, sometimes from gross injustices.

Pockets of hunger dot the world. In much of the Third World, those at the bottom of the social ladder catch fewer and fewer of the crumbs.

And what about justice? Well, justice is often administered by the golden rule. He who has the gold makes the rule. However, a sense of duty swells within the hearts of some men to change things. They desire to stop the violence and produce peace, to eradicate poverty and radiate prosperity, to break the yoke of injustice and balance the scales of justice.

Such are the noble intentions of men, but such are not the noble actions of human beings.

Some men even rise to power and begin following through on their intentions, sincerely trying to change the evils of the human scene. But the problems of war, poverty and injustice are problems of the human spirit, not of policies or programs. Man has conquered the edge of outer space, but he has failed to conquer the inner space of his own spirit. So a leader finds it impossible to keep all of his promises.

World leaders cannot deny the obvious lesson of nearly 6,000 years of human history as stated in Isaiah 59:8, "The way of peace they know not" (Authorized Ver-
sion). What world leader today knows the way to true peace, prosperity and justice?

And the only leader who could fulfill his promised hopes and dreams men rejected, and, as it were, voted against him. Who is that leader? How did humans vote against him?

The First Political Promises

Thousands of years ago, man was offered peace, prosperity and justice. This offer was made by two very different beings. One of them was honest and straightforward. He said there is a way that leads to all the things humans desired. He explained that they would have to overcome and give of themselves to accomplish it. It is not the quick and easy way, but it is the right and lasting way. He should know—he is the Creator God, who set all laws, spiritual or physical, in motion.

The other would-be leader looked good, and sounded good, but he was not good. Satan was his name and making promises was his game. He too offered a way to peace, prosperity and justice. His political platform was based on acquiring the knowledge of good and evil, a mixed bag of truth and error.

This idea looked good, but was rotten to the core. It represented the way of getting something for nothing.

Let us listen to Satan's political pitch. First, he directs some subtle mudslinging at his opponent. He slyly tries to undermine God's credibility by asking, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'"? (Gen. 3:1, Revised Authorized Version throughout, except where noted).

God, he implies, was denying them their rights. God was unfair and harsh.

In reality God never denied them access to any tree. However, God warned them of the consequences of creating one's own standards—determining good and evil for oneself—and commanded them not to take of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17).

Next, Satan slips in his political punch line by using the age-old ploy of promising something for nothing. Listen as he strings the first human family along: "'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it [the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil' " (Gen. 3:4-5).

Satan promised the first humans everything without their having to do anything. All they had to do was reach out and take. This way looked and sounded like a better deal compared with God's way of give and obedience to the Creator. Whom would they choose to be their leader? Which program would they choose to fulfill hopes and dreams?

Unfortunately, the woman let her desire of something for nothing get the best of her. And her poor husband, the weak fellow, did not have the fortitude to stand up for what he knew was right (I Tim. 2:14). Adam allowed the vote of his wife Eve for Satan to go uncontested (Gen. 3:6).

Satan, for that and other reasons, has been in office as world leader ever since (II Cor. 4:4), and we have experienced nothing but violence, poverty and injustice. Human leader after leader, promise after promise—all fail to bring peace, prosperity and justice.

Champion of the People

Where is the leader who can do more than just promise? Where is the leader who can guarantee peace, prosperity and justice? Believe me, he exists. The true champion of the people is about to emerge. Let me introduce you to him.

This Leader is uniquely qualified—he was born to rule. When asked about his destiny to rule, he said: "'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born . . . ' " (John 18:37).

You may be wondering about his motives—what does he want out of all of this? Nothing but the best for you and me. His whole purpose in life is to make us happy. He honestly and straightforwardly tells us his motives. "'The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly' " (John 10:10).

Who is this daring Champion of the people? It's Jesus Christ, born to be Lord of lords and King of kings! Jesus is the Messiah, the soon-coming Ruler who will do more than just promise peace, prosperity and justice—he will bring it all about! Nothing and no one will be able to stop his program.

Thousands of years ago, the prophet Isaiah declared: "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:7).

The Path to Peace

Will all nations readily accept his rulership?

Unfortunately not. The nations will fight Christ. The rulers of this world will not accept Christ's leadership because the only path to peace man knows is war. So Christ will give them war like they have never seen before. Truly a war to end all wars (Rev. 19:11-12).

But who are the real rulers of this world? Who are they that gather the kings and their nations to fight Christ? The apostle John gives the answer: "And I saw three
unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon... For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:13-14).

In the end Jesus Christ wins. Jesus Christ and his administration are ushered in while the incumbent and his administration (Satan and his demons) are banished (Rev. 20:1-3). Like in the board game Monopoly, Satan does not pass on his influence—he does not collect a single follower. The only thing he monopolizes is his miserable self.

Then and only then will humans know true and lasting peace. Then international disarmament will not be just a hope—but a reality. “He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” ( Isa. 2:4).

What age-old secret will Jesus Christ use to produce peace on earth and goodwill among men? That path to peace, that way to harmony, is the way of give. It is the way the first humans rejected nearly 6,000 years ago in the garden of Eden.

Jesus Christ and his administration, composed of human beings born again as spirit beings—the very sons of God—will teach people how to give rather than get. People will practice putting the welfare of their neighbor ahead of their own. They will learn that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Jesus Christ will use a revolutionary new technique in the pursuit of peace—heart transformations! For men to follow the give path to peace, their hearts and minds must be changed.

Jesus Christ declares: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezek. 36:26). The unfailing love of God will then be available to mankind (Rom. 5:5) and for the first time all the world will begin to live in peace.

Where is a leader worthy of our trust? Is there a true champion of the people, a leader who can guarantee peace, prosperity and justice?

The Path to Prosperity

Unshackled from the burdens of war, man under God will finally win the war on poverty. Human creativity and ingenuity will be unleashed on problems of hunger and poverty under the direction of God’s government.

The principle of self first will no longer be the rule of business. The cancer of greed that permeates our economic system will be cured with the medicine of loving your neighbor as you love yourself. Each person, each family, each nation will be striving to see how much it can give rather than get. The give way will transform this world from poverty to prosperity.

In the great society under the rule of the kingdom of God, each person will be able to prosper because the government of God will teach people how to prosper. The approach of teaching people how to fish instead of simply giving them a fish will be applied.

Everything from how to make a living to how to manage that living will be taught. The biblical principles of farming and finance when applied will cause the whole world to prosper. Since land is a vital key to prosperity, each family will be given roots in the land.

Ezekiel prophesied of this prosperous time: “The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited’” (Ezek. 36:34-35). That’s not just a promise—that’s a guarantee.

So with peace and prosperity well under way, what’s next? You guessed it—justice!

Justice for All

All men, and women, may not be created equal, but all should have an equal opportunity. Jesus Christ is the true Champion of justice—the Deliverer of the oppressed!

Is not this his purpose? “To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?” (Isa. 58:6).

Again, Christ’s give way will bring justice for all. Satan’s get way is the cause of the injustice and oppression we have today.

Jesus Christ is a Leader who cares for the people and a Ruler who is touched by the afflictions and the hurts of human beings. Jesus has been there. He, like most of us, was the victim of injustice: “He was oppressed and He was afflicted” (Isa. 53:7). Jesus understands.

Jesus Christ will administer justice fairly—he can’t be bribed. He does not care if you are rich or poor—right is right and wrong is wrong.

In God’s government there will be one law for all. “One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who sojourns among you” (Ex. 12:49).

In God’s government there will be perfect judgment. Why? you ask. Because he is able to know the hearts of men. No thought will be hidden from him. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool God any of the time.

There will be nothing to demonstrate for or strike for. Everyone will be happy knowing that equity and justice fill the earth. Yes, Jesus Christ will bring justice for all.

Very soon now the desire of the ages will come. Very soon now Jesus Christ will be sent to set up his kingdom. No more broken promises—no more dashed hopes. We will have a true Champion of the people—we will have the promises of peace, prosperity and justice fulfilled.

Why are we so sure? “I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it,” we are told (Ezek. 36:36).
"You ought to be able to write on being positive," said the editors of this magazine when the staff asked me to write this article.

"After all, you just got engaged!"

The fact is, right now I'm having difficulty being positive. Yes, I am engaged to be married in little less than two months. But I just found out this week that my only car—a 1966 Volvo—threw a rod into the block.

In other words, the mechanic says, I need a whole new engine.

Great news, particularly as every penny my fiancée and I have is devoted—to the wedding, honeymoon, apartment and so forth.

Life Does Get Tough

For most of us, life gets tough at one time or another. Each day a barrage of petty troubles—and some not so petty—lies in waiting, ready to explode upon us as soon as we get up in the morning. Devastating things can happen: personal unhappiness, family tragedy, business failure. These circumstances infect the mind, gnaw at the emotions and threaten to destroy the heart of a person.

Workers may begin a business day enthusiastically, but after brusque criticisms from colleagues, bosses or just fellow drivers on a crowded highway, the day degenerates, producing a negative frame of mind.

At home we read newspapers or watch television news filled with distressing stories about rapes, child abuse, theft and other crimes.

If that's not bad enough, we find areas of the worldwide economy in uncertain straits. Add to that the ever-present threat of nuclear war. Meanwhile, our bodies are growing older, the car more decrepit, the savings account thinner.

What a negative picture! Yet it need not be this way.

Life, of course, has its peaks and valleys. It's hard not to focus on troubles of the moment. There is, however, reason to be really positive!

And it doesn't involve a contrived, artificial, pie-in-the-sky frame of mind.

More than Positive Thinking

The common panacea for defeating negativism, according to some books and magazines, is to force your mind to think positively.

Just shut out the negative, they tout. You need only to realize how fortunate you are, that for the first time in all the difficult centuries of humankind you no longer need to work from early morning until late at night, six days a week, just to earn enough to keep food on the table.

This article, by contrast, points to something that supersedes the realm of merely telling yourself, "Everything is going to be all right," or, "You can solve all your problems on your own."

There is, fortunately, one true source of spiritual knowledge about everything pure, good, uplifting and positive. That is the Bible. It reveals knowledge essential for man. The Bible is an instruction book by our Maker. It teaches that the first man, Adam, rejected the laws of God that give purpose to life. Ever since, the human race has been engaged in the futile quest of trying to discover a way of life that will bring lasting peace and happiness.

If we analyze the contents of the Bible as the foundation of knowledge we find the example of King...
David, who, despite constant adversity, refused to despair and give up his faith in the Almighty God. Yet it wasn’t David’s faith—it was the faith of God in him!

Young David before he became king was often fleeing for his life, once eluding an army of 3,000 highly trained commandos commissioned to track him down and kill him (I Sam. 26). When in peril David didn’t talk himself into looking on the bright side. He relied on God for help because he knew God was with him.

And herein lies the key to being positive—having the faith of God. Without faith the natural mind will remain selfish and negative. Even when David made mistakes a totally loyal and faithful God stayed with him. Why? Because David was always sorry for his mistakes and sins. He always repented of his sins—and changed.

David was a positive thinker—God’s way. “I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved” (Ps. 16:8, Revised Authorized Version throughout). Notice the feeling and emotion David put into that statement—“I shall not be moved”!

David’s confidence in God rather than himself carried him over, around and through the mountainous obstacles in his life. Because he prayed often and thought about God’s laws continually (Ps. 55:17; 1:2), he thought positively. Yet that wasn’t all.

Life Must Have Purpose

David kept his mind focused on his purpose in life. He knew that humanity was put on earth eventually to become God’s very own sons, one day to rule over earth’s nations as ever-living spirit beings (Ps. 2:7-8). God revealed to David that if he chose to obey God, he could live forever (Ps. 23:6; 36:9; 89:28-29; 149:4);

Talk about motivation! No wonder David praised God so intensely. He realized God alone possesses by nature eternal life (Ps. 62:2, 5-7). And man can partake of that same nature! David’s afflictions and troubles, though harrowing and upsetting, were ameliorated by trust and confidence in God.

The Psalms aren’t just reserved, quiet chapters designed to rock you to sleep. They describe David’s heartfelt thoughts. In Psalm 27:3 David trusts God absolutely to deliver him. “Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident.”

We may have this same faith today to carry us through our daily problems and tests. Yet this faith cannot be conjured of oneself. It is strictly a gift from God (Eph. 2:8).

Let’s look at a New Testament example. The apostle Paul suffered more trials and tests than most of us ever will. Paul was beaten with rods and lashed with a cat-o’-nine-tails, stoned, imprisoned, lost at sea, shipwrecked, robbed and went without food and water (II Cor. 11:23-28).

Paul too had the vision. He, like David, knew his purpose in life. Hence, with God at the controls, he could confidently proclaim: “All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

True, Paul at times had difficulty being positive (Heb. 12:11), but he knew God would never forsake him (Heb. 13:5). “We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not for-
saken; struck down, but not destroyed” (II Cor. 4:8-9).

There is also a who's who of Bible personalities whose faith was alive! It's in Hebrews 11. They relied on God to shoulder their burdens. They realized that if God could be for them, then who could possibly be against them? (Rom. 8:31)

Where does that leave us? Just as God promised never to forsake David, Paul and others, he promises not to forsake us either, if we turn to him and live a different, positive, obedient life by the faith of our Savior, Jesus Christ.


Problems are necessary building blocks of life—even a life led by the Spirit of God. We read: “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 1:6-7). Trials, then, strengthen our character.

When we think life has dealt us a rotten hand, that the road is too rough, all the canty, pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps thinking in the world won't work—at least not for very long.

Without the premier purpose and direction in life—that we were created to become God—humans have only this uncertain, temporary life in which to place hope and confidence.

Through his Spirit, God transmits precious faith that enables one to rise above the threat of nuclear genocide, crime and other perils. To the righteous God pledges: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all” (Ps. 34:19).

“The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am’ ” (Isa. 58:8-9).

With such monumental promises from God, the true Christian can radiate a cheerful optimism even in adversity. Former U.S. President Gerald Ford touched on that optimism in a speech he made shortly after leaving office in 1976:

“It is not an easy transition, but with the help of one's family and friends and with the conviction that God works His own purposes in each of our lives, it is easier to see that leaving the White House is not the end of the world but simply the beginning of a new chapter in one's life.”

God has promised to provide faith from above that gives hope and encouragement even through the toughest of times. “He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint” (Isa. 40:29-31).

God Wants the Best for Us

God wishes that we live an abundant life of accomplishment and fulfillment (John 10:10), yet not without tests and trials.

I recall the faith expressed by my father. When I was about 14, he deeply desired to live in the country, a choice 40 acres of land in East Texas, with plenty of room to graze Hereford cattle and a pond to raise ducks.

At the time, we lived in tract housing in a small town, which, although pleasant, was a town, nevertheless. He longed for the country life. Somehow he knew God would provide and told me later he prayed earnestly for a promise found in Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Our family regularly visited "our" land. "Here's where we'll put a house," I remember my father saying confidently. "Over there we'll dig a well. We'll build our own sewage system."

The only problem—the land wasn't for sale. My father had to convince them to sell it. He trusted God in intense prayer. While the owner took weeks to decide, we loaded a truck with all our earthly possessions and stacked them under the largest pine tree on the land.

“Sometimes you have to step out in faith,” my father said.

Though the owner finally agreed to sell, I remember a delay in escrow came next. My father remained unflinching, looking to God. The following week my father moved a three-bedroom trailer onto the land, in faith that all the legal and financial proceedings would follow through.

He did build a well and sewer, and we raised cattle on that land for almost 10 years. Eventually the trailer was replaced with a brick house. My father's faith—given to him by his Creator—has proved inspirational to me many times since.

True Christians—those who possess God's Holy Spirit and live by every word of God—enjoy contentment and satisfaction. To them God gives powerful faith to find solutions to problems and to drive out fear, discouragement and worry. They radiate cheerfulness and smiles. They show love, sincerity, vigor, calm and goodwill toward others, instead of being self-conscious with so much overinterest in themselves.

Back to my Volvo. Faith alone will not replace my engine nor cause the sky to rain money. But Christ's faith does enable me to trust God absolutely for help. “But God is faithful, who will not allow you to be [tested] beyond what you are able, but with the [trial] will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

Since God cares for birds, animals and flowers, he promises to surely care for us if we obey him (Matt. 6:25-34).

If you truly believe God's written word—the Bible—obstacles won't dictate your attitude, for that living, practical faith will never fail you.

It would be easy to become discouraged and depressed—even give up—if one didn't have anything to live for, if one didn't believe God who guarantees that with him nothing will be impossible (Luke 1:37). 

The PLAIN TRUTH
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of The World Tomorrow on TELEVISION and RADIO.

THE WORLD TOMORROW

January 1985
Five Basic Rules of Parenting

Part Three: THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHILD REARING

Previous installments in this series revealed what psychologists don't know about child rearing, what you can do to build strong family ties in the '80s, and how to grow healthy babies.

This installment takes you through the five basics every parent should know.

Do you know what they are?

Some parents practice none of these basic rules — they in fact aren't rearing their children. Others practice only two or three!

1. Love Your Children

No one needs and requires love more than do children. Parents can demonstrate that love and concern daily, whether for a newborn or a youth just turned 15.

Parents soon learn that physical requirements vary with a child's age, but they often forget that love is required continually. Affection, attention, outgoing concern are key ingredients in all relationships. Children most assuredly shrivel up and die inside — and sometimes literally, too — without these ingredients of love.

Most parents believe they love their children a great deal. Some, however, knowingly or unknowingly compete with their children; others live their lives vicariously through them. Others will not let go of their children and allow them to develop and mature.

The needs of children are ever changing. Love makes the growth transitions possible.

Loving parents produce loving children! A father who is overbearing cannot expect affectionate sons and daughters. The apostle Paul cautioned: "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (Col. 3:21, Revised Standard Version).

When a mother yells at her son, "You dummy! Why did you do that?", she is not only discouraging her son, she is encouraging a brother or sister to think of the child in a disrespectful manner.

Little babies and small children require affection, kisses, hugs and tenderness in order to grow and develop at a normal rate.

The effect of love on children — and adults, too — is as important as clothing and good food, sunshine and fresh air all put together.

Babies and children must have constant affection and encouragement to develop the right kind of confidence and sense of worth and the capacity to feel and express affection themselves. Even though this may seem obvious to some, it is, sadly, one of the most neglected areas of child rearing.

You parents must learn to hold, kiss, cuddle and encourage not only your babies but your younger children as well. The habit of touching, hugging and physically expressing affection to children is something one should never outgrow! Yet how many parents have been emotionally crippled in this respect?

Men, especially in the United States, too often have been taught to be the strong, silent types. By example and inference, males were taught that it is not proper for men to kiss and cuddle their young children — especially their boys.

Perhaps we do not realize that for centuries it has been customary for countless millions of fathers in the Middle East and in the Latin world to kiss and embrace even their grown sons on occasion!

You who are fathers and moth-
ers should learn to regularly hug and kiss your children. Take them in your arms and hug them when you have been away from them for a while. Play with them, teach them, read to them while they are sitting on your lap, and then hug them and kiss them again as you put them to bed.

Tell them: "Daddy and Mommy love you. We are proud of you. We are very glad to have a little boy (or girl) like you."

With such love and encouragement, your children will bloom before your eyes. For your love and assurance and the sense of security it provides will nourish them as surely as physical food.

And in doing all this, you will be building a deep bond of affection and trust that will make it much easier for your children to want to respond to your training and to please you even when you are not present to supervise them.

Always let your children know that you will love them and try to help them no matter what. You may disapprove or even correct them for the genuine mistakes they will certainly make. But that does not change the underlying love and affection you will always feel for them.

But what is love? Many have false concepts of love. They think love is to let their child do whatever he or she wants to do at the moment. This is not love—it's permissiveness, the antithesis of what the Bible calls love.

"Love," says God, "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). Jesus said God's law could be thus summarized: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39, Revised Authorized Version).

Your relationship to God will manifest itself to your children in numerous ways. You will show love and mercy, because God shows us love and mercy.

Demonstrating respect for your children is a basic quality of love. Demonstrating that respect is much easier when we realize that children—and other persons—are members of the God-created human family and are potentially members of the God family. That in turn helps children approach others in a similar way.

Parents need to realize that love does not negate firm discipline. There is a right time to discipline children. But parents should never allow themselves to go on a yelling, storming rampage. That is not discipline. Nor does it show self-discipline. Such wild, uncontrolled parental emotion will only produce disrespect in a child for his or her parents.

If you are to really love your children, you must learn to know them as individuals. When children know that you understand their feelings and wants, they are much more willing to respond positively to discipline.

Nothing frustrates children more than to be told to do something when they feel that parents don't understand. This does not mean catering to a child's demands or whims. It simply means listening so that children don't feel you have ignored their thoughts and feelings when you use your authority. This will lessen anger and resentment that could come back to haunt you.

In-focus listening requires eye contact, with physical contact if appropriate. Acknowledging that you understand a child (even if you disagree) is usually helpful. Many parents mistakenly do not accept the fact that a child may have a different opinion. Repeating a child's thoughts is a good way to ensure mutual understanding.

We all lose our tempers at times. When this happens don't be afraid to apologize after things have calmed down. It is possible to create a beautiful thing out of a bad experience. It's amazing how pleasant communications can become when a family member is big enough to apologize when wrong. You are teaching your children by example how to admit and handle their own mistakes.

The times of warmness and closeness that usually follow such episodes are among those special memories that children and parents never forget.

Showing care and concern for others is an additional value you can demonstrate and encourage in your children. Take an active interest in your children's activities and their friends. Take time to play with your children.

Caring is also reflected in the family members' affection for each other. Men who believe they should show an unemotional image to their children deceive themselves. Moms and dads who take their children up in their arms and express warm affection are laying the foundation for love, compassion and caring in their children.

2 Set the Right Example

Parental example is a critical factor in right child rearing. Nothing renders a parent's efforts in child rearing more ineffective than parental hypocrisy. Children cannot be expected to adopt standards their parents are unwilling to practice. Children and teenagers who smoke pot or take drugs will often point to their parents' addiction to alcohol, tobacco or prescription drugs. If children observe one spouse verbally attack, criticize or ridicule the other, they are likely to think this is the appropriate way to respond.
Children learn from example more than from words. They are natural mimics. A child's personality often mirrors that of parents. Mannerisms, habits, vocabulary and opinions will reflect those of the parents—for better or for worse!

Learning takes place through the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, tasting. Example is important in all aspects. The way we learn is through repetition, perception, association. Your children learn from the whole range of words you use, how you use them, the attitudes you express, the situations you explore and the information you share. Therefore, you would do well to evaluate what your example is teaching.

Take for instance a little boy and girl observed fighting and screaming at one another in the yard. The girl's mother came out to stop them. She asked why they were fighting. The explanation: “Oh, we weren't fighting; we were playing family. He's the father, and I'm the mother.” We may smile, but it's a sad commentary on the condition of many families these days.

Parents also need to set the right example in providing for their children. The children, after all, did not ask to come into this world. The parents, whether on purpose or accidentally, produced them. When a man and woman embark on such a course, they are obligating themselves to provide for the child until the child is grown.

If anyone does not provide for his own, including children, “he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (I Tim. 5:8, RAV).

Basic provisions that children need include wholesome, balanced food; appropriate, quality clothing; cheerful, well-kept living quarters; proper education; and wholesome entertainment.

Children will follow parents' examples more than parents' words.

Do you keep your word? Are you obedient to God? Do you respect law and those in authority? Do you say nice things to other people's faces and then speak critically of them in private? Do you claim to be one thing in public and then do just the opposite in private—even in your own home? You will be a successful parent only if you are a right example.

3 Take Time to Teach

Some persons just slap their children because it is so much easier than teaching or training.

God instructs you to teach your children. “And thou shalt teach them [God's commandments] diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deut. 6:7).

The Scriptures also admonish, “Train up a child in the way he should go...” (Prov. 22:6, RAV). Teach and train. What's the difference? They're similar but not exactly the same. Teaching involves gaining a child's undivided attention and taking time to give instruction about how to do something or how to act in various situations.

Training, however, is repeatedly and diligently guiding children to apply what you have taught until it becomes a part of their character. Training may involve such simple things as developing the habit of being clean or of washing hands before eating. It also involves developing the habit of respecting elders and the property of others.

Teaching and training require time, patience and repetition. Begin by setting the right example. Show principles and examples from the Bible. Use your own experiences and those of others to relate the proper way. Children, remember, learn by association. Often the best time to instruct a child is when he or she asks a question.

Most children, especially young children, love to be read interesting and exciting stories. Reading aloud as little as 10 minutes a day from sound educational materials more than teaches specific facts. It stimulates a young mind's mental, intellectual and language development.

Children need to be taught and trained in positive skills—for example, social and cultural manners. They must be taught how to develop their bodies and minds. Point out the positive results of right actions and the negative results of wrong actions in language your children will understand.

For example, children should be warned about the tragedies of illicit sex. Explain what is happening in the world around us because of vio-
day with your children. Talk to them, teach them, get to know them and let them get to know you.

Go places and do things with your children. You can attend cultural events or visit places of natural or man-made beauty. Teach them to appreciate and enjoy the finer things life has to offer. Go on family outings or camp-outs. Such activities will be memorable for them to appreciate and enjoy the finer things life has to offer. Go on family outings or camp-outs. Such activities will be memorable for them to appreciate and enjoy the finer things life has to offer.

The necessity of parental involvement cannot be overemphasized. Too many parents rely on others to fulfill this God-given responsibility.

4 Discipline Your Children

You may have seen it—a young mother, wrestling with her small children. She tries to be nice to them and reason with them. She even tries to bribe them with candy and other treats if they would only "be good."

But they seem to delight in throwing tantrums and embarrassing their mother in public. They seem totally uncontrollable.

Part of that mother's problem is that she—along with millions of other parents—has no definite plan or program in rearing children.

Much of this comes from parents having been led to believe that in rearing children your choice has to be either love or discipline.

That is utterly and tragically wrong!

In truth, the correct approach to child rearing involves both love AND discipline. They go hand in hand.

If your little child keeps running out in the street—laughing at you because you either can't or won't discipline for this foolishness, you may one day lose your child under the wheels of a passing automobile. And all the permissive sociologists and psychologists on earth won't be able to bring your child back to life! It is important to teach the meaning of "no" in advance of problems.

Little children, for their own welfare, must be taught to obey their parents. In any number of dangerous situations, it could spell the difference between life and death.

God's Word clearly admonishes to correct and discipline our children for wrong actions. However, discipline involves not only appropriate punishment for wrong behavior but rewards for right behavior (Prov. 22:15 and 29:15).

Unfortunately too many view discipline in a negative manner. They have seen so much child abuse that they reject the principle of proper discipline altogether. They adopt, instead, a destructively permissive stance in respect to their children's attitudes and actions.

Proper discipline for wrongdoing must never take the form of child abuse! Discipline for wrong acts or attitudes should never involve verbal insults or degrading put-downs. It also should never involve punching or slapping in the face, strapping with a heavy belt, twisting arms, boxing or pulling ears, pinching, kicking, or hitting about vital organs.

We speak out in the loudest terms against an adult losing his or her temper and striking a child in uncontrolled anger or rage.

The word discipline comes from a Latin word that literally means "instruction." That instruction must begin at a very young age.

A small sapling can easily be trained to grow in the right direction, but once that sapling becomes a mature tree, it is not possible to change it. In a similar way, children can be trained when young, but there comes a time when parents may no longer be able to teach a child.

God's instruction is "Chasten your son while there is hope..." (Prov. 19:18, RAV). And: "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Prov. 13:24, RAV). Administering discipline appropriately and promptly is important.

While children are young, teachable and pliable, they can be trained by proper instruction and correction. This includes approba-

child why the child is being corrected. If a warning is given as a child starts misbehaving, and discipline is administered if the child fails to heed, the child has the chance to avoid the punishment next time and so learn self-control, and the parent's word and warnings are reinforced.

Never injure a child. Do not lose your temper or strike the child on or about the head or any vital organ. But do spank hard enough so that the child sincerely responds (Continued on page 39)

The PLAIN TRUTH
What Has Christianity Done for You Lately?

by Clayton Steep

Many say they are Christians. But does today's Christianity give the answers to personal, social, health, even financial problems? Has it made your life happy, full of hope, free from worry and fear?

Make no mistake about it. When Jesus was on earth he taught a remarkable and different way of life. He described it as the way of “abundant” life (John 10:10)—life that is full of interest and accomplishment, overflowing with happiness and contentment, crowned with a sense of purpose and peace of mind. These are characteristics of real Christianity—the Christianity Jesus announced.

Why are so few experiencing that kind of Christianity today? Why is it that many who would answer “Christian” if asked which religion they belong to are frustrated, worry-filled, empty, unhappy? Whether they attend religious services regularly, rarely or not at all, for these vast numbers of professing Christians, the story is pretty much the same: They lack purpose in life. They don’t know why they are alive. They just “tough it out” from day to day. They are “hanging in there.”

But “hanging in” where? In an existence that is little more than an endless series of problems and disappointments interrupted only by whatever fleeting moments of escape entertainment, diversions, in some cases even drugs or alcohol can provide?

Is that what life is meant to be?

Not at all!

Plainly, what those people have viewed as Christianity has not given them the abundant life Jesus talked about. How can that be?

Many are greatly surprised when they learn that the Bible speaks of two kinds of “Christianity”—one that is genuine and one that is imitation. Would you know how to distinguish between the two? Let’s look at a few of the hallmarks of true Christianity—the way of life Jesus announced.

Peace of Mind

This is a troubled age. If there is one characteristic most people have in common today it is that they are troubled in heart, worried. They are anxious about their health or the health of their loved ones. They are fearful of being a crime or accident victim. They fret about their job, or about not having a job.

An increasingly complex society has created more things to worry about, rather than more opportunities for peace of mind. The stress and strain of having to cope daily with the unpleasant, the tedious, the ugly, the unknown, the threatening, the unpredictable takes its toll. It is killing people. If not driving them to suicide—an option statistics show to be tragically increasing even with children and adolescents—then it is taking lives through stress-related diseases.

The Bible foretold long ago that in the tumultuous times at the climax of this civilization we would witness “men’s hearts failing them for fear” (Luke 21:26). How different is Jesus’ instruction to his followers! “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

True Christianity produces peace of mind. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you,” Jesus declared (same verse). The religion Jesus founded is more than a list of beliefs. It is a total way of
life that produces, as its fruit, peace of mind, happiness, contentment.

How?

Listen to Jesus. First, Jesus declared that it is not sufficient to call him “Lord,” as many do. Making a “decision for Christ” and reciting the “sinner’s prayer” is not enough. “Why call ye me, Lord, as many do. Making a ‘decision for Christ’ and reciting the ‘sinner’s prayer’ is not enough. “Why call ye me, Lord, as many do. Making a ‘decision for Christ’ and reciting the ‘sinner’s prayer’ is not enough.

The Holy Spirit is the “spirit of love” (same verse). Yet there are supposed Christians who harbor grudges, who refuse to forgive, who spread gossip and engage in back-stabbing. Through the centuries Christians have even fought each other on battlefields, Christian killing Christian, both sides praying to the same source for divine help in doing away with their brethren. (Other religions have done similarly.) Where is the “spirit of love” in all that? If that’s Christianity, why should any non-Christian want a part of it?

The Holy Spirit is the “spirit . . . of a sound mind” (same verse). Yet the Western, supposedly Christian, societies are plagued with what amounts to an epidemic of mental problems. Confusion, psychoses, depression, hang-ups, complexes and scores of other manifestations of mental illness are rampant even among professing Christians. How can this be?

Instead, in some churches the emphasis is on temporarily arousing emotions during religious services. In other churches various forms of reality-denying “positive thinking” or “spiritual science” are promoted. In still others form and ceremony are stressed; little actual effort is made to address spiritual matters.

All this is very different from the biblical description of true spirituality. The characteristics of God’s Spirit are “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal. 5:22, Revised Standard Version). Is this what the Christianity you have known has made available to you as a definite force in your life?

Understanding the Bible

The Bible is the basis of the teaching of Jesus—a book of vital information concerning the meaning of life and the proper relationship with God. It contains instructions and guidelines for successful living. It is the Word of God—God’s message to his people.

How can it be, then, that so many professing Christians know so little about the Bible? Few make a serious effort to read it and fewer yet claim to understand it. To most it is dull reading; they get very little out of it. Those who have any real interest in the Bible at all would often rather read what some human beings have written about the Bible than the Bible itself.

Even theologians have a problem understanding the Scriptures. Obviously this is so, or there wouldn’t be so many different church denominations making contradictory declarations about what the Bible says! It is popular to play down the contradictions by claiming that most churches are united in spirit on the “essentials.” But when you get right down to what those “essentials” are on which they agree, they are limited and narrow indeed. The truth is, unity of view among the churches as to what the Bible says is wishful thinking, not reality.

Such statements as “we have our fellowship in Jesus, not in doctrine” are clever attempts to gloss over the fact that different denominations cannot agree on what God says. But God doesn’t speak with a double tongue. His one Holy Spirit cannot lead two churches to understand and teach the Bible differently.

Jesus declared truth in doctrine to be extremely important—so important that he stated that if a person doesn’t have doctrines right, it is possible to worship him in vain. Those are his words (Mark 7:7!)

How about you? Has today’s Christianity made the Bible clear and understandable to you? Can you read it on your own and grasp its meaning? Can you substantiate your beliefs from the Bible?

What is Sin?

While most denominations in Christendom teach that Christians should avoid sin, who can explain exactly what sin is?

Some say sin is merely going against one’s conscience. But that’s no definition, because everybody’s conscience is different. What seems wrong to one person may seem
right to another. If it doesn’t bother a murderer’s conscience to kill, does that make murder acceptable? Surely no one believes that.

Others say sin is whatever does not “show love” to God or neighbor and that’s as specific as they can define it. But here again each individual is left to decide for himself what does and what does not constitute “love” to God and neighbor. That’s not a workable, dependable standard or guide for conduct.

Still others would have you believe sin is mostly dancing, playing cards and drinking liquor. But based on what authority do they make such a claim? There are even some who seek to solve the problem by saying sin and evil don’t really exist in the first place. What confusion!

These are all human efforts to define sin. When it gets right down to it, though, it doesn’t matter what humans say sin is. What matters is how God looks at the subject and what he says sin is. How does God define sin? After all, Christians cannot put sin out of their lives, as they are expected to do (Heb. 12:1), if they are not taught God’s definition.

“Sin is,” the Bible declares, “the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). That is the real Bible definition of sin, plainly and clearly stated, yet ignored by most church denominations. Sin is the breaking of God’s law as detailed in the Ten Commandments and other biblical precepts (verse 24). But the reason most church denominations cannot use the biblical definition of sin—that sin is the breaking of God’s law—is that they claim God’s law is no longer in force, that it is no longer necessary to obey it. They especially do not like the Fourth Commandment about keeping the Sabbath.

How different from what the New Testament teaches!

Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

The apostle Paul wrote that “not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Rom. 2:13).

The apostle James wrote that “faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:20).

The apostle John wrote, “He that saith, I know him [God], and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4).

God must consider the matter extremely important to have inspired and preserved such strong language! The question is, Why then don’t most church denominations consider it equally important?

What about the Christianity you are familiar with? Has it enabled you to identify what is and what is not sin? Has it helped you understand the Bible? Is it supplying you the answers to your day-to-day problems? Is it showing you how to receive answers when you pray?

The religion Jesus founded is more than a list of beliefs. It is a way of life that produces peace of mind, happiness, contentment.

Does it give you real hope, confidence, peace of mind? Does it answer the big questions: Why are you alive? What does the future hold for you? How should you prepare for it?

Exactly what is it doing for you?

Filling the Void

What could be more important than to find out what true Christianity, according to the Bible, is all about? To help you discover the answer we have made available for the asking a selection of eye-opening publications:

Over the years we have sent out hundreds of thousands of copies of the booklet The Seven Laws of Success. The formula for success on the job, in business, in the home, as well as in personal living, consists of seven basic laws. This information, based on sound biblical principles, cannot be sold. It is priceless. We are giving it away gratis because we are interested in helping people lead more satisfying, productive lives.

You don’t have to be bothered by doubts, fears and anxieties. The Bible reveals a definite step-by-step plan to rid yourself of mental turmoil. Why has so-called Christianity neglected to make this plan known? Learn about it by asking for the reprint article “You Can Conquer Your Fears.”

Financial problems? Our free booklets Managing Your Personal Finances and How to End Your Financial Worries contain the sure solution. They show what the Bible says about your finances and give practical information on planning and budgeting. Believe us when we state that you cannot afford to be without this information.

Who, these days, does not desire better health? True Christianity is a way of life concerned with the total person. Accordingly, it places the proper emphasis on living in harmony with the divinely ordained laws governing health. Many of these laws are explained in the booklet Principles of Healthful Living.

Strangely enough, the Christianity of the world pays little attention to the immutable spiritual laws that govern a person’s relationship with his neighbor and his Creator. God gave to mankind a set of rules—known commonly as the Ten Commandments—that are absolutely vital to human happiness here and in the life to come. When was the last time you heard each one of them thoroughly explained? Do you even know what they are? You need this information more than you realize. Write for the booklet The Ten Commandments.

When you read the Bible, do you have a problem understanding what you are reading? Then the free Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course was designed just for you. In the privacy of your own home, it takes you step by step through an exciting study of the Scriptures. You don’t need a college education to join the more than one million people who have requested this course.

True Christianity, as Jesus meant it to be, will change your entire life. Why not learn more about it?
Cocaine use has reached epidemic proportions. Millions worldwide are catching...

A GREAT human tragedy is in the making!

For the second time within a century, cocaine—the white powder crystallized from coca leaves—has exploded into a major social and public health crisis in human affairs.

Untold millions, especially young people, will be affected between now and the peak of this drug disaster expected in two or three years.

Early Drug Experiments

The first popularizing of the drug began in the 1880s. The psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud experimented with cocaine. He praised it for the euphoric feelings of vigor, sense of power and confidence it gave him. Other prominent physicians and popular personalities promoted it. (Later, Freud publicly admitted cocaine injections produced rapid physical and mental deterioration, paranoia and hallucinations.)

By the turn of the century, cocaine's aura of innocence was gone. What was the effect on the many who had indulged? In 1924, Dr. Louis Lewin wrote: "I have seen among men of science frightful symptoms due to the craving for cocaine. Those who believe they can enter the temple of happiness through this gate of pleasure purchase their momentary delights at the cost of body and soul. They speedily pass through the gate of unhappiness into the night of the abyss." (Cocaine Papers—Sigmund Freud, by R. Byck, 1974.)

Early in this century, after numerous cocaine tragedies, the drug was prohibited by law in many nations, except for medical use. Various other addicting opiate drugs were also prohibited.

But humanity, inundated by the do-your-own-thing philosophy and drug culture of the post-World War II era, failed to remember the tragic drug errors of the past, or even recent human experience.

Again in the last few decades, cocaine use—as also marijuana—has followed the pattern of the earlier introduction. Cocaine has been widely proclaimed to be a relatively safe recreational drug in moderate use, even by some medical and scientific personnel.

Cocaine* (in street terms also called coke, snow, flake or toot) is most commonly snorted through the nostrils to achieve a euphoric high, but it can also be eaten, smoked or injected.

Until recent months, cocaine advocates told us (and some still do) that coke is a relatively risk-free drug. "A snort in each nostril and you're up and away for 30 min-

*Cocaine comes from the coca plant, not to be confused with cocoa from the cocoa bean.
utes or so. No hang-over. No physical addiction. No lung cancer. No holes in the arm or burned out cells in the brain," they said. Instead users were guaranteed drive, sparkle, energy.

But the truth is far different! Only in recent months have many health officials and scores of thousands of users been forced to face up to the true deceptive and enslaving nature of cocaine. This is a drug that causes a craving dependency and addiction more severe than heroin and other addicting drugs.

**Grave New Addiction**

Cocaine is now regarded by many drug experts as the most subtle and dangerous drug ever to enslave and destroy human lives!

"It [cocaine] probably produces the most tenacious dependency of all the chemicals on this planet that you can give the human brain," says Ron Siegel, a University of California at Los Angeles psychopharmacologist and one of the nation's leading cocaine researchers.

Cocaine is now considered by Dr. Siegel and many other drug experts as the most addictive of drugs in terms of its psychological and, in many advanced cases, physical grip on hooked users.

Dr. Mark S. Gold, medical director of the National Cocaine Hotline, strongly refutes the common erroneous belief that cocaine is nonaddicting and nonthreatening to life and health.

Says Dr. Gold, "The popular view today is that cocaine is a chic safe drug, unlike heroin, that can be used without fear of addiction. But callers to our help line tell us they cannot stop even though they recognize that it is destroying their lives.

Contrary to popular belief among many users, cocaine is a killer, says Dr. Gold. Death can occur rapidly from convulsions, lung failure, stroke and even drowning in one's own internal secretions. "What's so devastating...is that we have found that there is a huge chunk of high functioning people who are getting into something they don't understand," says Dr. Gold. "They have acquired through repeated use a lifelong, debilitating, chronic illness for which there is treatment through remission and abstinence, but no known cure."

What has deceived many cocaine users is that in early stages of repeated use when one is deprived of the drug it does not cause the classic withdrawal symptoms of many addictive drugs—cramps, nausea or convulsions.

However, as the cocaine habit grows, the psychological addiction becomes so strong, the user's ability becomes so minimal, that the resulting damaging addictive cravings are equal to or worse than those caused by heroin or other addictive drugs. In long-term heavy users, classic physical withdrawal symptoms do occur.

Cocaine is now known to cause fatal convulsions, respiratory failure and cardiac collapse, even at moderate doses, in new or seasoned users. At high levels of use, or dependency levels, cocaine can induce psychosis and paranoia and suicidal desperation. Addiction and death can come from any method of use, but the danger is greatest with smoking (free-basing) or injection.

**New Army of Addicts**

In recent years cocaine first became the popular drug-of-choice in upper and more affluent middle-class society—among doctors, lawyers, accountants, architects, entertainers, athletes and others with comfortable incomes.

Until recently, high cost (formally more than $100 a gram) was a factor in limiting its use. It was a status drug only the near-rich and successful could afford. It was called the champagne of drugs because it was believed to be physically nonaddictive and harmless to health in moderate use.

Cocaine appealed to active and progressive middle- and upper-class moods and values. In sporadic use it didn't have the depressant or sedating effects of marijuana, the popular drug of the turned-off, dropped-out generation of rebellious youths. Nor the characteristics of heroin or hallucinogens, the opiates of social losers.

Cocaine was a stimulant that brought almost instant euphoria from a simple snort or two through the nose, an intense feeling of energy, power and control. It seemed to magically create euphoric feelings of creativity, confidence, invincibility and also in some users give heightened erotic excitement.

Cocaine seemed the ideal drug to tune you into what is supposed to make success and happiness in modern affluent society. It seemed as if highly esteemed qualities of stamina, emotion and character could be achieved through the use of a harmless white powder used moderately.

Cocaine's effects lasted only from five to 30 minutes, sometimes a little longer, rather than hours like many other street or medical drugs. The initial short-term euphoria seemed something one could control. Many therefore reasoned, if for five minutes why not forever?

Snorters started out using cocaine recreationally at parties, celebrations, or privately for its quick euphoric "rush." Others started to use it occupationally—to keep up alertness, energy levels and "creativity" in their jobs. They felt they had to have something extra to give them an edge in competition with others in demanding or high-pressure jobs.

But the short-term euphoric lift from a few brief snorts, the feeling of being confident and on the top of things, is quickly over. This high is often followed by a letdown and depression that can only be relieved by more snorts of cocaine. The stronger the stimulation the more pronounced the crash.

Once succumbing to the desire for continued euphoric high feelings, users wanted them more and more. Said one initiate, "After one hit of cocaine I feel like a new man. The only problem is, the first thing the new man wants is another hit."

Many cocaine users believe as long as they use coke they will have superlative sexual experiences. The facts are, repeated cocaine use eventually causes sexual dysfunction and impotence and other serious health problems.

**Growing Female Addiction**

In many Western nations, women are the largest users of licit drugs for personal and health reasons. Middle-class women haven't been,
From Trickle to Torrent

"It's greed," said a senior U.S. government drug enforcement agent. "Cocaine is... polluting all levels of society, from the lower classes to the very affluent."

It is also lust. Lust in the user—greed in the drug merchants and producers.

Even though nonmedical cocaine production is illegal in the South American nations where it grows best, such production is estimated by some authorities to account for large segments of the monetary value of these nations' exports. The value of Bolivia's illicit cocaine is estimated to surpass the value of the country's largest legal industry, tin. Colombia's cocaine exports are worth half the sale of its coffee crop. Peru's cocaine trade is thought to be worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports.

The government of Colombia renewed war on the nation's major drug producers. But many feel that drug production is so lucrative and weaved into the fabric of the nation's economy that the government's legitimate fund to support such endeavors is inadequate. Other authorities now estimate that drug production is so profitable that it is estimated that the country's largest legal industry, tin, is worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports. The value of Bolivia's illicit cocaine is estimated to surpass the value of the country's largest legal industry, tin. Colombia's cocaine exports are worth half the sale of its coffee crop. Peru's cocaine trade is thought to be worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports. The government of Colombia renewed war on the nation's major drug producers. But many feel that drug production is so lucrative and weaved into the fabric of the nation's economy that the government's legitimate fund to support such endeavors is inadequate. Other authorities now estimate that drug production is so profitable that it is estimated that the country's largest legal industry, tin, is worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports. The value of Bolivia's illicit cocaine is estimated to surpass the value of the country's largest legal industry, tin. Colombia's cocaine exports are worth half the sale of its coffee crop. Peru's cocaine trade is thought to be worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports. The government of Colombia renewed war on the nation's major drug producers. But many feel that drug production is so lucrative and weaved into the fabric of the nation's economy that the government's legitimate fund to support such endeavors is inadequate. Other authorities now estimate that drug production is so profitable that it is estimated that the country's largest legal industry, tin, is worth more than any of the country's legitimate exports. The value of Bolivia's illicit cocaine is estimated to surpass the value of the country's largest legal industry, tin.

Road to Financial Disaster

Accounts of financial ruination among successful people hooked on cocaine are numerous. Many middle-class and millionaire addicts have been reduced to ruin.

One middle-class woman secretely drew out thousands of dollars from the children's college educational fund to support her craving for cocaine, nearly ruining the children's educational opportunities. An upper-middle-class businessman spent $1,200 a week on cocaine, but lost his business after five months. "I started having a lot of problems with people, yelling at customers.... I was taking my profits, selling my merchandise, selling my equipment, selling everything to buy coke. I've literally blown a fortune."

One rock star squandered millions of dollars on cocaine. It was "all smoked up," said a friend. A movie starlet spent a million dollars on cocaine before breaking her habit. By the time she sought help her...
body was wasted to less than a hundred pounds.

Another hooked female co-star of a popular TV situation comedy couldn't remember her lines or stand throughout a simple scene. She became like a cadaver and had to be fired.

Soaring Treatment Demand

So rapid has the cocaine catastrophe exploded on the modern scene in the United States that a 24-hour National Cocaine Hotline service has been set up to provide information, advice and treatment referrals for what is described as an out-of-control drug problem. The toll free number is 800-COCAINE (or 800-262-2463).

Since its inception a year and a half ago, the National Cocaine Hotline has received between 500 and 1,000 calls for help a day. Public and private treatment agencies are also being deluged with desperate requests for information and help with cocaine problems.

Adulterants and Disease

Virtually all street cocaine is not pure. It is cut and adulterated many times over as it passes from dealer to dealer in order to increase profits. A user cannot possibly know what he or she is taking without elaborate tests. Dealer-users on the street often themselves cut their supplies (with who knows what) in order to finance their own drug habit. Frequently used to cut cocaine concentration is the simple sugar lactose.

Also commonly used as cheaper adulterants are lidocaine, procaine, caffeine, amphetamines (pep pills) and other drugs that give sensations similar to cocaine, but which can cause their own specific damages to human tissues and organs. "Injecting street cocaine is absolutely crazy," wrote one cocaine connoisseur.

The chronic cocaine sniffer is easy prey for bacterial infections in the nose and throat. This is because the cilia, the tiny hairlike filaments of the nose and respiratory organs, are paralyzed, inhibiting the proper flow of protective mucus to membranes. Many coke users seem to have perpetual colds, nagging infections or respiratory problems.

Cocaine also constricts the blood vessels that supply oxygen to living tissues. This constriction commonly causes an ulcer that wears through the cartilage between the nostrils, causing a large hole. Without cartilage the nose becomes mishapen. Sometimes the nose bridge of a coke addict becomes so weakened it collapses under pressure and has to be restored surgically.

Cocaine increases the heart and blood pressure. Persons with heart problems or high blood pressure, especially those who don't realize they have such conditions, could kill themselves by using cocaine. Coke races the metabolism. It rapidly burns energy and depletes critical vitamin and mineral reserves.

Heavy cocaine users risk cardiac arrest or convulsions, the latter a form of internal suffocation, because the victim cannot breathe fast enough to replace the oxygen being used up by the body.

Cocaine addicts often desperately try to reduce the comedown crash after use of the drug. Some combine it with sedating drugs like heroin (called speed-balling). This roller-coaster effect was the ride that killed John Belushi, the well-known American actor. Others try to escape the grip of cocaine by using alcohol or other drugs, but instead become hooked on them.

Mixing cocaine with alcohol is particularly dangerous. Police report some heavy drinkers use cocaine to keep awake while they drive home. Unfortunately the coke often wears off midway home, causing the high alcohol content of the blood to suddenly produce a blackout and an accident.

Don't Make Others' Mistake

There is a reason why drug tragedy after drug tragedy hits our modern world! We live in a drug-inundated world. We have been bombarded by modern advertising, taught by social, perhaps even parental and peer examples to look to drugs to solve our mental and personal distresses. We have been led to believe that somewhere there is a magical pill or powder that will relieve us of all our pain and discomfort and make us happy again.

Drug after drug—illicit but also frequently licit—is ballyhooed as an effective way to cope with life—only to turn out after a period of use to be something that injures, afflicts with undesirable or tragic side effects, or even kills.

There is a time in our world when certain medical drugs save lives. But we all need to be educated to a professionally known maxim about all drugs: There is no such thing as an absolutely safe drug. All drugs carry with them undesirable risks and dangers as well as desirable features.

Even the most skillfully trained medical practitioner knows he must balance desired reactions noted for any drug against potential adverse side effects of the drug. Because of differences and changes in human metabolism, the best medical drug treatment is as much experimentation and guesswork as a science.

Imagine, then, the horrible consequences when millions carelessly assume they can pop, inject or inhale any chemical or drug into their bodies just because others are doing it, and it is the popular thing to do.

Almost all drug abusers or addicts started out reasoning, "I can handle it. I'm more clever than the others." But once they get hooked, they commonly lament, "It got heavier and heavier and I didn't know I was hooked until it was too late!"

Cocaine use will not make anyone truly or lastingly successful. It will only make drug dealers and smugglers temporarily rich as it deceives, maims, kills and destroys thousands of users' lives.

Teenagers are not the only ones pressured to join the drug-taking scene by peers. With a flood of drugs of so many different kinds available, everyone, including the most successful social or business person, has to be well informed to avoid the pit of careless drug experimentation.

Anyone who has carefully researched the true effects of any drug discovers the tragic consequences that befall many experimental drug takers.

Isn't it time to make sure you're not becoming careless about any drug? Don't unwittingly become a tragic statistic in the cocaine catastrophe or any other drug catastrophe!
WHAT IS MAN?
What Makes Him Unique?

by Richard H. Sedliacik

Man is the most complex, truly unique physical mechanism ever designed and made.

With such a marvelous mind and body, we might expect it was only natural that our Maker send along his “Instruction Book”—just as a manufacturer sends along with the instrument or device he manufactures an instruction book describing what his product is designed to do.

That Instruction Book God did send. It reveals the missing dimension in knowledge—the incredible human potential.

God’s Instruction Book

This Instruction Book tells us what we are, why we are, where we are going, and the way to get there! We call it the Holy Bible.

It reveals that God first created angels—composed of spirit, though lesser than God and lacking in ultimate creative power. It reveals that the physical universe, including the earth, was next brought into existence. A third of the angels were then placed here on earth. They were put under the rule of the government of God, which was administered on earth by the great archangel known as Lucifer.

Under the government of God—which is in reality the administration of God’s way of outgoing love as spelled out by the Ten Commandments—the earth was initially filled with peace, happiness, joy and wonderful accomplishment. But ultimately, Lucifer led the angels under him into rebellion. The government of God was rejected, no longer enforced. As a result, the earth became waste and empty, in confusion and darkness (Gen. 1:2). Later, in six literal days God renewed the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30). He made physical life forms—the flora and then the fauna. These life forms were created without reasoning, decision-making processes, and without ethical or moral capabilities—except for man, God’s masterpiece of creative workmanship.

What Man Is

In the foundation of knowledge, God’s Instruction Book for man, the Creator God reveals much knowledge about man himself that is totally beyond man’s ability to discover for himself—including the knowledge and understanding of what man is, why he was made that way, and what he is ultimately to become.

God created the first man. And he tells us how he made him so there would be no doubt as to what we really are. The first man was made from and therefore composed of earth—the dust of the ground! (Gen. 2:7). It was the whole man—“thou”—that was composed of the dust of the ground (Gen. 3:19).

After God had formed the man—made all the cells in his body—God imparted to him physical life (Gen. 2:7). God blew into the man’s lungs, through the nostrils, air—“the breath of life”—containing oxygen, and the man began to live! Notice that the verse does not say God breathed an immortal soul into the man.

The source of physical life in man and all animals is the same. Not once in the Bible does the “breath of life” even remotely refer to an “immortal soul” or life apart from the physical body. Otherwise animals, birds and even insects—gnats, fleas, mosquitoes—have immortal souls, for they all have the same “breath of life” (Gen. 7:21-22).

When God breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of the first man, he became “a living soul” (Gen. 2:7).

Man does not have a soul—man is a “soul!” (See the relating article in the previous issue of The Plain Truth for an in-depth explanation.)

Since man is a soul, and the soul is mortal—then man is mortal, subject to death. That is why the Scriptures call human beings “mortal man” (Job 4:17).

When an animal dies, it is dead. When man dies, he is completely dead, too. All men and animals alike go to the same place at death (Eccl. 3:20). Why? Because they all have the same temporary source of life—air. After death, all men
and animals become dust once again.

**Why Created Mortal**

Past issues of *The Plain Truth* have revealed that the government of God ceased to be administered on this earth after the rebellion of Lucifer (now Satan) and one third of the angels. Later, God created the first human, Adam, with the potential of qualifying to replace Satan as ruler of the earth, thus restoring the government and way of God to this earth. But to qualify as successor to Satan, the human successor had to reject Satan’s way and voluntarily come under the government of God.

God’s master plan for accomplishing his purpose for the human race took form and shape even before man was made. God planned that if mortal man sinned by rejecting God’s government—as all but Jesus have—God would make it possible for him to repent—to turn from sinning, to be reconciled to God and to live God’s way of life, finally to be born of God as members of his eternal family!

Repentance is turning from the way of Satan to the government of God. It is accepting God’s rule over our lives through his law of love. It is accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and coming King—the “second Adam” who qualified (where the first Adam failed) to reestablish the government of God on the earth by overcoming Satan. Those who are to reign with Christ must likewise reject Satan’s way, overcome that way day by day, and actually live by God’s law of love. If they continue in this way, they will be born of God—become immortal spirit at the first resurrection (I Cor. 15:42-54; John 3:3-8).

But those who will not repent and accept Christ’s sacrifice in payment for their sins—those who refuse to turn from Satan’s way and refuse to come under the government of God in their lives—will ultimately perish (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15; Mal. 4:1-3).

God wants every human being who has ever lived to have the opportunity to repent and live forever (II Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2:4). But God will not force anyone to choose life. For those who refuse to follow God’s way to eternal life there will be the “second death”—the fate of all unrepentant sinners. They will cease to exist forever. They will be as if they had never been!

We can now see that God chose to make man first out of physical matter instead of spirit for an important reason. Before the creation of man, he had made angels out of immortal spirit—not mortal flesh and blood, subject to death. And one third of these angels sinned by rebelling against the government of God. But the punishment of sinning angels is not death.

**Angels Were Created Different**

Angels are composed of spirit and therefore cannot die. Since one third of the angels chose the way of sin, their punishment will last for eternity. Their sins have resulted in eternal hopelessness and frustration, their minds being filled with resentment, bitterness and rebellion. Happiness and joy have left them forever!

But for man, God planned in advance that if man, composed of matter, sinned and refused to repent, he would die—he would be as though he had not been. God will not allow any incorrigible human being to live forever in mental anguish and torment like the fallen angels. This plan reflects God’s great mercy toward mortal man!

When called by God and made to realize that he has sinned, man can repent—turn from his sin to God’s way. And once his course is changed, with God’s help he can pursue a life of obedience to God. He can grow in spiritual knowledge and develop the character of God—overcome wrong habits, weaknesses and faults. And this is all done through the free will and choice of each human mind.

Only man, of all God’s physical creatures, has the seemingly miraculous ability to think, reason, plan and design, come to conclusions based on acquired knowledge. Animals cannot comprehend the concepts of good and evil. They don’t repent.

Have you ever wondered why? Have you ever thought about the vast difference between animal brain and human mind, and what could possibly account for it?

**Animal Brain vs. Human Mind**

There is a great, uncrossable gulf between animal brain and human mind. The evolutionary theory assumes that humans are animals. But one thing evolution can never explain is the total difference between animal brain equipped with instinct, and the human mind with creative reasoning powers of intellect and devoid of instinct in the strict sense that animals possess it.

Some animals have physical brains as large or larger than man’s brain, and with similar cerebral cortex complexity—but none has the powers of intellect, logic, self-consciousness and creativity.

The physical brain of a dolphin, whale or elephant is larger than the human brain, while a chimp’s is slightly smaller. Qualitatively the difference between them and the human brain is very little—not enough to remotely account for the vastly superior intelligence and output of the human brain. The gap between animal brain and human mind is incredibly vast!

When God molded Adam out of the dust of the ground, he was made in the “likeness”—the outward form and shape—of God himself (Gen. 1:26). God did not make any of the other creatures to be a clay replica of himself. This unique form and shape was given to man alone. This is because man was created with the potential to become God!

Each animal was created with a brain suited for its particular animal kind. But animals do not have
the potential of mind and character that God gave only to man. No animal was ever given the gift of mind power—ability to think, to reason, to make choices and decisions—as was man!

**It is this very special attribute of mind and character that separates men from animals!**

Animals possess what we call instinct. Their brains are programed, so to speak, by God with particular instinctive aptitudes to live and perform in a certain way. They follow instinctive habit patterns in their feeding, nesting, migration and reproduction. Thus beavers build dams, birds build nests. These aptitudes are inherited—they are not the result of logical, cognitive or thinking processes.

For example, millions of birds flock south each year as winter approaches in the Northern Hemisphere. They don't stop to reason why, they don't ask themselves whether they should, they don't plan ahead an itinerary for the trip. At a given internal signal—like the preset alarm of a clock—they leave their summer feeding grounds in the north and travel hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles south. Scientists don't fully understand why—they merely observe the operation of this animal instinct.

Each species or kind of bird builds a different type of nest, feeds on specific kinds of foods, and migrates at different times to various destinations. But none of these actions is planned in advance by the birds as humans would. Birds merely have the capability and proclivity to do that which Almighty God built into the instinct of each at creation.

But man's mind is vastly different from animal instinct. Man is able to devise various ways to do any one thing or to achieve a predetermined goal. Man can acquire knowledge and reason from it. He can draw conclusions, make decisions, will to act according to a thought-out plan.

Man can design and build different types of houses, using different designs and different building materials. Some houses are built of wood, some of brick or stone, and some people living near the North Pole even live in ice houses called igloos. Humans also eat different foods, prepared in many different ways.

We may live entirely different lifestyles from one another. And if a man wants to change his way of life—he can! Man is not subject to instinct. He is not governed by a set of predetermined habit patterns as animals are.

Man can choose—he has free moral agency. He can devise codes of conduct and exercise self-discipline. Man can originate ideas and evaluate knowledge because he has a mind that is patterned after God's own mind! Man can devise, plan and bring his plans to fruition because he has been given some of the very creative powers of God.

Man alone can wonder, "Why was I born? What is life? What is death? Is there a purpose in human existence?" Man, unlike the animals, not only "knows" how to do certain things, but he also KNOWS that he knows—that is, he is aware that he has knowledge. He is conscious of the fact. He is self-conscious, aware of his own existence as a unique being.

These attributes of mind and character make man God's unique physical creation. God has shared some of his own qualities with man. And God expects man to develop and become conformed to the spiritual "image" of God's perfect mind and holy character (Matt. 5:48)—just as man now is formed in the physical "image" of God.

**"Human" Spirit Makes the Difference!**

Man was created to have a special relationship with God that animals are utterly unable to have. Man was made in the likeness of the God kind. He was made in God's image so that he might one day be born into God's divine family!

God's purpose in making mortal man after his own likeness demanded mind power in man patterned after God's own mind. That is why the most remarkable thing about man is his mind.

What is it then that separates humankind from the animal kingdom? What gives man this God-plane power of intellect?

It all boils down to a nonphysical component in the human brain that does not exist in animal brain. It is this nonphysical component that makes man so vastly different from animals. It is what makes man truly unique!

Man does not have an immortal soul within him that enables him to live on apart from his body after death (remember man is a mortal soul). But the Bible nevertheless does speak of a "spirit in man" (Job 32:8, 18; Zech. 12:1; I Cor. 2:11).

Many passages of Scripture show that there is a "spirit in man! This spirit is not the man—it is something that is IN the man. Joined with the physical brain of the man, it forms human mind. It imparts to man's brain his unique powers of intellect and personality—the ability to think rationally and make free will decisions. It imparts the ability to learn mathematics, languages or other types of knowledge such as music, art, carpentry, flying.

But that's all. The spirit that is IN man has no consciousness of itself. It is not an "immortal soul." This spirit is not the "man."

The spirit that is IN man can be called "human" spirit, for it is in each human, even though it is spirit essence and not matter. It is not a "ghost," spirit being or the Holy Spirit. It is not the man, but spirit essence in the man. It is not a soul—the physical human is a soul.

The human spirit does not supply human life—the human life is in the physical blood, oxidized by the breath of life (Lev. 17:11).

But the spirit in man does impart the power of intellect to the human brain. This nonphysical component in the human brain is spirit essence, just as in the
material world air is a gaseous essence. This “human” spirit cannot see. The physical brain sees through the eyes.

The human spirit in a person cannot hear. The brain hears through the ears.

This human spirit cannot think. The brain thinks—although the spirit imparts the power to think far above the level of brute animals’ brain function. Without such spirit animals cannot do original thinking.

Whatever knowledge enters the brain through the five senses is instantly stored (memorized) in the “human” spirit within the person, much like a computer stores information. It enables the brain to have instant recall of stored-up knowledge in the spirit, thus enabling the brain to utilize bits of related knowledge in the process of thinking and reasoning.

The human spirit imparts the power of intellect to the physical brain in two ways: 1) it gives the brain instant recall of whatever the brain calls for in the knowledge stored in this memory; 2) it supplies the brain whatever energy is needed to cause it to think—that is, to put the pieces of information stored in the spirit together in the process we call “thinking,” “reasoning” and “drawing conclusions.” The human spirit also is the means God has instilled to make possible a personal relationship between human man and divine God.

The truth about the “spirit in man” is so important that Satan, the archdeceiver, twisted and perverted it long ago. He clouded the minds of men and led them into believing his “big lie” as far back in time as the first human beings in the garden of Eden.

Here was the origin of the “immortality of the soul” teaching so prevalent today! Satan told the first woman she would “not surely die” (Gen. 3:4). In other words, she had an “immortal soul” that would live forever. Eve believed this lie. And most of the world today continues to believe some variation of that ancient “big lie”!

A Second Spirit Needed

Man has the intellectual capacity to design spaceships to take him to the moon and back, to invent the computer and to do other marvelous exploits in the physical, material realm. Yet during man’s nearly 6,000 years on earth, he has proved that he cannot solve his problems with fellowman.

Why has this been so? Because man’s real problems are spiritual in nature and the natural man simply cannot solve spiritual problems. In producing the computer or in flying to the moon, he is dealing with physical matter that he can understand because of the human spirit within him. But he cannot solve problems with fellow humans because this involves knowledge and understanding of spiritual principles, which he cannot comprehend without the addition of another spiritual element to his mind!

Man was made to need another spirit—the Holy Spirit of God! Just as a human could not know the things of human knowledge except by the human spirit within him, so he cannot know the things of God—spiritual knowledge—except by the addition of the Spirit of God (I Cor. 2:9-11, 14).

Just as surely as no animal brain—such as a cow’s, for example—can comprehend or understand human affairs without the human spirit, so no human mind can have comprehension of spiritual truths on the divine plane without the Holy Spirit!

Even the greatest scientific and philosophical minds simply cannot come to know and understand spiritual truths with their natural minds. They are “foolishness” to them. The natural man with his human spirit is limited to material knowledge.

Spiritual things cannot be seen with the eye, heard with the ear, felt with the hands, tasted or smelled. The human mind, which can receive knowledge only through the physical senses, can never really comprehend spiritual concepts and principles without the Holy Spirit of God. A person can come to know that which is spiritual only through God’s Holy Spirit, which works with the human spirit in the mind. That is the only way the human mind can receive and comprehend the knowledge of and attain God’s great purpose for man’s existence!

Man was created incomplete. He was made to need another spirit—the Holy Spirit of God.

How can one receive the Holy Spirit? Through Christ, the second Adam, we can receive God’s gift of his Holy Spirit. Upon repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, whose death paid the penalty for sin in our stead, we may be reconciled to God and receive the Holy Spirit of God, which is added to our human spirit (Acts 2:38; John 7:38-39). Thus we become the begotten children of God (I Pet. 1:3; Rom. 8:14-17).

The human spirit in man and the Holy Spirit of God join to make a begotten child of God, just as the male sperm cell and the female ovum or egg cell join to make a begotten human, but not yet developed or ready to be born as a human being.

God’s Holy Spirit, when it combines with the human spirit in the human mind, does two things: 1) it begets the human with divine, eternal life later to be born into the God family as a divine being, then composed wholly of spirit; 2) it imparts to the mind the ability to comprehend spiritual knowledge—to understand the things of God.

The first human beings were freely offered this second and much-needed Spirit. Of the two symbolic trees in the garden in Eden, the “tree of life” represented God’s Holy Spirit. To have taken the fruit of that tree would have been to receive God’s Holy Spirit, which would have joined with their human spirits, impregnating them as begotten (not yet born) children of God.

But by taking of the fruit of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” our first parents rejected God’s Spirit, which would have begotten the very life of God in them and would have enabled them to understand revealed spiritual knowledge. Thus they cut themselves and their descendants off from access to God’s Spirit. They limited themselves and the human race to material knowledge and understanding (Gen. 3:22-24), except for those whom God would...
Did God Set Fire to York Cathedral?

EARLY in the morning of July 9, 1984, York Cathedral caught fire. The wooden vaulted roof of the south transept was destroyed. The interior suffered extensive damage.

Only the determined efforts of more than 100 fire fighters saved one of Europe’s largest Gothic cathedrals from being consumed. The official explanation was that a freak bolt of lightning touched off the fire. But many in England are not so sure—not so much about the lightning but its being accidental.

Only three days before the blaze, Dr. David Jenkins was consecrated Bishop of Durham in the cathedral. Dr. Jenkins had been the center of much controversy in the Church of England. He had made public statements that left many wondering if he really believed in some of the fundamental tenets of his faith—especially the virgin birth of Christ and his resurrection from the grave.

Dr. Jenkins was entitled to his doubts, said the critics, but he was not entitled to be a bishop. Nevertheless he was ordained in an impressive ceremony in the cathedral by the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Habgood.

On the Sunday evening following the ordination, the Archbishop preached in defense of Professor Jenkins’ appointment. A few hours later, lightning struck the cathedral! And that, thought some, was not just a coincidence. They saw it rather as evidence of divine displeasure.

As the London Times pointed out in an editorial the next day: “A bolt from heaven the very night after the Archbishop preached in defence of his Durham appointment before the assembled synod: It is hard not to be reminded of Elijah and the priests of Baal.”

Most people in England were sorry about the fire. The cathedral—any cathedral, even if it doesn’t represent “your church”—is an impressive building and a national treasure. York Minster (that is the cathedral’s official name) took more than two and a half centuries to build. It was shocking to see it so badly damaged in a single night.

But not many in England really believed that God had anything to do with it. If they thought about it at all, they dismissed that notion as superstition. It was, after all, not the kind of thing that God does these days, is it?

Back in “Bible times” a jealous God used to rain down fire and brimstone from heaven when his people got out of line. Maybe in the Middle Ages he was active with plague and pestilence. But in sophisticated, modern Britain, God (even if he does still exist) just doesn’t do things like that.

A Service in the Cathedral

I visited York Minster a few weeks after the fire. It
was open and most of the mess had been cleaned up. A temporary roof protected the ruined south transept and repairs were already in progress. I arrived early in the morning before the tourist crowds. The cathedral looked deserted, but I could hear a service in progress in the Lady Chapel at the eastern end of the huge building.

A Book of Common Prayer that I found on a bench informed me that this day was the Feast of the Transfiguration, one of the “festivals or greater holy days” of the church calendar.

I took a seat among the congregation. Actually, among isn’t quite the right word because apart from the celebrant and his acolyte, and two nuns who had assisted in preparing the service, only two other people were present—an elderly clergyman and a middle-aged woman. Four more came in late and left immediately after receiving communion.

This pathetic little congregation was lost in the vastness of the great church. They seemed more like a group of clandestine believers meeting furtively in some repressive nation where religion is banned. But this is England, a so-called Christian country. And York Minster is the main center of worship for all the northern dioceses. And this day was listed as a

But then, nothing about that service seemed particularly relevant to the spiritual needs of Britain today.

The Decline of Religion
Since the end of the Second World War the British have abandoned religion in general, and the Church of England in particular. The Church of England has been, since the days of Henry VIII, the established church of the nation. In theory half the population belong to it, but less than 2 percent attend its services regularly. Even at Christmas and Easter only about 5 percent show up for communion services.

Although many still consider it the church’s job to marry and bury them, baptisms have fallen off drastically in recent years. One fifth of the clergy are approaching retirement age, and the church is failing to attract qualified new blood into the ministry. Some Anglican clergymen, frustrated at the mounting irrelevance of their profession, have begun to ask, What exactly is the Church of England for?

In an effort to become more appealing to the masses the church has compromised its traditional conservative position on such issues as divorce, homosexuality and women clergy. It hasn’t worked—England’s largely agnostic population is not impressed, or (what should be even more devastating to the church’s morale) isn’t even interested. And yet the established church still sees itself as the nation’s spiritual guardian.

“...and the Church of England,” wrote the English essayist Henry Fielding in the 18th century. Fielding, of course, had his tongue very firmly in cheek, mocking the ecclesiastical smugness of his day.

Leading churchmen dismissed as nonsense the notion that God would set fire to a cathedral just because a doubting bishop was ordained there. Ironically, they are probably right. God almost certainly did not send a bolt of lightning to set fire to the roof of York Cathedral last July. But not because he doesn’t “do things like that now” and not because he no longer cares what a bishop believes. And certainly not because he is, after all, still satisfied with the religious status quo of the nation.

Britain has become a spiritual wilderness, and it does need a jolt.

Most churches today have failed miserably in
understanding and teaching the truth. In their ignorance, compounded with complacency and a spirit of compromise, they have fallen into the condition that Jesus anticipated in Mark 7:6-7.

"This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Revised Authorized Version).

Is God Concerned for Britain?

But has God lost interest in Britain as the island's inhabitants are losing interest in him? The answer to this question should astonish our British readers. This battered but still proud nation is still a very special concern to Almighty God. He remembers something about the British that they either don't know, or if they do know it, tend to dismiss as ridiculous.

*God has not forgotten who they really are.*

Above the heads of the congregation in that rather inconsequential service in York Cathedral was a magnificent stained glass window, one of the largest in the world. Its many panels portrayed scenes from the Hebrew Bible.

One of the panels pictured the patriarch Jacob blessing his 12 sons. The morning sun streamed through that beautiful window, filling the Lady Chapel with light. Light perhaps, but not understanding.

In the biblical account of this event, Jacob, who had been renamed Israel, passed on the promises that he had inherited from his forefathers Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 49). He had already bequeathed his name "Israel" on Ephraim and Manasseh, the children of his favorite son Joseph (Gen. 48:16). Ephraim was to become a multitude of nations and Manasseh a single great nation (verses 17-20). This promise of national greatness was unconditional—a promise from God that would be fulfilled come what may.

Now believe it or not (and I realize not all readers do), the descendants of these two grandsons of Jacob have become the dominant people making up the modern nations of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America. God kept his promise even though these nations have lost the knowledge of their origins. God has blessed the United States and the British nations more than any other nations have ever been blessed.

But with those blessings came a responsibility. Modern Ephraim and Manasseh should have been God's model nations, setting the world an example of a right way of life. This they have failed to do. And so, also as he promised, God has begun to strip his blessings away. Britain is already deep in decline, its former greatness a memory, its industry limping, its people becoming ever more frustrated and disillusioned.

Greatness to Be Restored

Toward the end of the service that morning in York Minster the clergyman read a prayer with a plea to "restore the triumphs of Jacob." I wonder how many realize the significance of that?

It is exactly what God is intending to do. He will eventually restore the preeminent position of the descendants of Jacob. But not before they have suffered the worst national catastrophe that has befallen any nation anywhere. That was essentially the good news-bad news message of the prophets that God once sent to the people of ancient Israel. That message was also intended for their 20th century descendants. So why doesn't the established church of the nation teach it?

It is time the British people were told the real reason for their decline—from the greatest empire the world has ever seen to a down-at-heel, second-rate power struggling to make ends meet.

It isn't just bad luck or the ebb and flow of history. The same God who blessed the British is stripping them of their greatness because of their national sins. He must deal with them just as he dealt with their forefathers in ancient Israel. Then and only then can he "restore the triumphs of Jacob."

That has been the consistent message of this magazine for more than 50 years.

That—not a bolt of lightning on a cathedral roof—is God's message for Britain today. —John Halford
"Lead us not into temptation"?

by Clayton Steep

Does God lead humans into temptation? If not, why pray that God won't? This question has perplexed many, including theologians.

In James 1:13 we read: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man."

But in Genesis 22:1 we also read, "And it came to pass that God did tempt Abraham...." Here is certainly an apparent contradiction! Does God ever tempt one to do evil? If not, why pray, "Lead us not into temptation"?

And what about the verse that says, "... count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations"? (Jas. 1:2).

How are these apparently contradictory scriptures to be understood?

Sore Trial

The word temptation is a very unfortunate translation that occurs in older English versions of the Bible. In modern usage, temptation has the meaning of enticement to do evil. But that is not the primary intent of either the Hebrew or Greek words. In most instances a better translation into English is "hard test" or "sore trial."

We see this, for example, in Revelation 3:10, where the word in question appears. Speaking of the coming period of worldwide distress, Jesus makes a promise to those who obey him: "I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Here the word temptation is better translated "sore trial" or "tribulation."

Likewise, the request "Lead us not into temptation" should be rendered "Lead [or bring] us not into sore trial."

But what did Christ mean by that?

Jesus himself, the night before his crucifixion, gave us an example of what he meant by "lead us not into sore trial." He was aware of the intense suffering he was about to undergo. He could see it coming. He realized that if he failed during the trials of the next twelve hours or so, God's whole plan for the redemption of mankind would fail also.

Jesus was deeply troubled. He prayed: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup [of suffering] pass from me [in other words, "Lead me not into sore trial!"]... nevertheless," he added, "not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). Yes, as Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:10, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Maybe there was some other way of working out God's plan of redemption. Jesus asked, if so, to be spared being brought into the grievously sore test just ahead—but only if it was God's will.

It was not.

It is not always God's will to keep us out of sore trial either. Sometimes we become lax in doing our part to develop righteous character, and we need a hard test to bring us to our senses. God may allow us to experience trials to get us back "on the track."

Our Part

A Christian is one who asks to be led by God each day, for the Eternal says, "I am the Lord thy God which... leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go" (Isa. 48:17). When we see a trial looming on the horizon, rather than being overcome with anxiety about it, we can ask God, if it is his will, to lead us past it, around it, over it, any other direction but into it! If we are alert and close to God, we may be delivered from the trial before we become completely involved in it. "Watch [be alert!] and pray," Jesus urged his disciples, "that ye enter not into temptation [sore trial]" (Matt. 26:41).

Jesus' entire prayer outline as given in Matthew 6:9-13 is based on the premise that those praying are doing their part to fulfill God's plan. The request, "Give us this day our daily bread" (verse 11), assumes the requester is doing what he can to produce and earn
his daily bread. He is not just sitting still, waiting for the bread to somehow be handed to him. Receiving forgiveness of sins (verse 12) also depends upon whether we do our part—forgiving others. Similarly, the petition "Lead us not into sore trial" assumes the person praying is diligently straightening out his own life so God might not have to straighten it out for him.

When God allows sore trials to come upon us it is for our own good—to wake us up, to teach us lessons. If we are learning those lessons by ourselves, we are much further ahead. Notice how the verb form of the same word we are translating "sore trial" is used in II Corinthians 13:5: "Examine [test! try!] yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." Then God won't have to do it for you!

Jeremiah recognized that God does find it necessary to try his people. He prayed, "O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing" (Jer. 10:24). In other words, he asked to be corrected, but preferably without being brought into overly severe trial.

The Bible refers to hard trials as "fiery trials" (I Pet. 4:12). Being sorely tried is not naturally enjoyable. As Peter wrote to Christians: "... now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations [sore trials]" (I Pet. 1:6). However, he points out in the next verse, the results of being sorely tried are "more precious than gold."

Though we may be severely tried, we have the promise that "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted [tried] above that ye are able; but will with the temptation [sore trial] also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

"All things work together for good to them that love God," the Bible asserts (Rom. 8:28). Realizing that God's will is always best, James exhorted: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [sore trials]" (Jas. 1:2).

When Trials Involve Temptations

Many have wondered about Genesis 22:1, which says, "And it came to pass... that God did tempt Abraham." What follows is the familiar account of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar in obedience to God's instructions. God wanted to test Abraham's faith. There was no question of deceit here, for we have already seen that "God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man [with evil]" (Jas. 1:13).

A better rendering of Genesis 22:1 is, "And it came to pass... that God did prove [or sorely try] Abraham."

Sometimes, however, temptation to do evil does become a part of our lives. This is illustrated by what happened to ancient Israel. God had told them to "remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove ["sorely try"]—same word wrongly translated "tempt" in Genesis 22:1 thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no" (Deut. 8:2).

Here again God was doing the testing. But this time sin was involved, for the Israelites rebelled against their Creator. They yielded to temptation to sin. Where did the temptation come from? From God? No. God does not tempt to do evil. Where then? From their own lusts, because "every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin..." (Jas. 1:14-15).

God did not test them with more than they could have withstood—if they had been willing to do their part.

To make matters worse, human lusts are constantly stirred up by Satan and his influence. He is called the "tempter" (Matt. 4:3). He tempts to do evil (Mark 1:13). This brings us to another facet of the meaning of Jesus' teaching.

"Lead us not into sore trial" is immediately followed by "but deliver us from evil," or as it can be translated, "but deliver us from the evil one." As Jesus was instructing his disciples how to pray, it was fresh in his mind that he himself had recently been led into hard testing when the devil tried, literally, to tempt him to do evil. "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted [sorely tried] of the devil" (Matt. 4:1).

Here again sore trial included temptation to do evil. But the temptation was of the devil, not of God.

In this fateful encounter with Satan, the ruler of the present world, Jesus prevailed. He overcame Satan, thus qualifying to be King over the earth.

We must overcome Satan too, though God does not permit the devil to try us as severely as he tried Jesus. Whenever we do not resist Satan (Jas. 4:7), we provide opportunity for him to tempt us (I Cor. 7:5). It is even possible for a church member to so neglect putting sin out of his life that, to wake him up, God will give him over to Satan for some sore trying. That's what the apostle Paul referred to when he instructed the church at Corinth under his charge to "deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (I Cor. 5:5).

We should pray that we do not have to be tried in that way.

God is working out his purpose in our lives. He tests and tries us as needed to develop righteous character in us. The more perfect God's Spirit in us enables us to become, the fewer trials will be necessary. When we pray, "Lead us not into sore trial, but deliver us from evil," we are asking God to perfect us and bring us to the place where such trials are not needed. □
What's Your BIBLE IQ?

by Richard H. Sedliacik

What is the Bible? Why was it written? And to whom? Why do so few really understand the Bible?
Read this eye-opening article for the surprising answers!

You would be shocked to know the “Bible IQ” of most professing Christians.

A survey conducted by a Bible society found that 98 percent of all American homes contain at least one Bible. Yet, another survey showed that the vast majority of those who claim to be Christians are “Bible illiterates”!

Biblical ignorance is considered “respectable” today. “It is one of the curious phenomena of modern times,” comments J.B. Phillips in The Young Church in Action, “that it is considered perfectly respectable to be abysmally ignorant of the Christian faith.

“Paradoxically, men and women who would be deeply ashamed of having their ignorance exposed in matters of poetry, music, or painting, for example, are not in the least perturbed to be found ignorant of the New Testament” (page 6).

And so the Bible has become little more than an obsolete book in which millions claim to believe, but very few actually read, study or understand!

Do Theologians Understand?

What are some of the underlying reasons for such widespread biblical ignorance and lack of understanding?

You might expect that atheists and agnostics would not understand the purpose of the Bible and what it says. But most would be surprised to learn that many of today’s ministers and theologians themselves don’t understand the significance of the Book they profess to understand! They have assumed as true the erroneous hypotheses and theories taught today in important seminaries and schools of theology.

Typical of what leading theologians and biblical scholars are saying today is the following comment from a minister of a major church denomination:

“No mainstream Christian church accepts the Bible as the literal interpretation of the Word of God. Some of it is folklore, some legend, some tribal history.”

Another theologian summed up the modern trend this way: “We must take the Bible seriously; but not literally.”

No wonder the ordinary layman has little or no interest in the Bible.

Unfortunately, most people have taken for granted what other people, such as the leading “authorities” above, have said about the Bible!

Most people—including church laymen and many in the clergy—have not taken the time to really look into the Bible and study it for themselves! They simply have never proved what they accept as “truth.”

What the Bible Is

Believe it or not, the Bible was written for our day, this age—this generation! The Bible is the most up-to-date book you can read today.

In the pages of what author Bruce Barton referred to in a book title as The Book Nobody Knows are revealed the causes of all of today’s ills—the social problems, the economic problems and even the threat of nuclear annihilation hanging over humanity today.

The Bible shows where world events are leading, and what the final outcome will be.

The Bible is God’s revelation of basic knowledge—knowledge of laws and principles that humans are unable to discover for themselves—knowledge that is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the human mind.

The laws of physics, for example,
are not directly revealed in the Bible. God equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover these laws for himself. But man has not been able to discover with assurance what he is and why he was put here on earth—whether there is a real purpose for human life, and what that purpose is.

Man has not been able, by himself, to discover the way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being and real success. This world's colleges and universities teach students how to earn a living—but they invariably fail to teach them how to live. But the Bible does!

Perhaps you have not thought of it this way before, but the Bible is God's "Instruction Manual" that shows his supreme physical creation how to live. Only in the Bible can one find this necessary basic knowledge. Only in the Bible is the basis of true education to be found!

The Bible is the FOUNDATION of knowledge. It gives the true approach to the acquisition of knowledge in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology and the health sciences. It reveals basic principles concerning business, commerce, science, the arts, law, government, philosophy and religion.

The Bible also explains the meaning of the chaotic times in which we live. And it shows us how peace, prosperity, success and happiness are coming to all the world—in our lifetime!

Yet, ironically, this "Book of all books" is one of the least known, least understood of all books. Why?

Simply because when most people try to read the Bible, they can't understand it. Consequently, they assume it is out-of-date and irrelevant in our modern age.

People could begin to understand the Bible—if they were really willing to let it teach them and if they would accept it for what it says. The Bible is plain and simple. It means exactly what it says. If we take it as it is—letting it interpret itself—it makes real sense!

You Can Understand It

For three decades now, the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course has been helping hundreds of thousands to become "biblical literates." This unique course of biblical understanding has led more than one and one-half million students in almost every nation on earth to a greater knowledge and understanding of the most-misunderstood book in the world.

This course is a totally different method of Bible study. It makes the Bible easy to understand and shows how the Bible is relevant to the space age! It is dynamic, down-to-earth. It pulls no punches. It tells the truth straight from the Bible. You've not seen any course like it before!

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course is designed to guide you through a systematic study of your own Bible, which is the only textbook you will need. It is not a study of men's ideas about the Bible, but a study of the Bible itself.

Major subjects of vital interest to you today are thoroughly gone into and made clear with each 16-page, monthly lesson. Each lesson directs you step-by-step to the plain, simple answers in your own Bible!

This course helps you find the answers to the really big questions of life you have always wondered about. It shows the meaning behind today's world problems, and it helps you to understand the very purpose for your existence—the reason you were born.

Students from all walks of life are enrolled in the course—including ministers of religion—and are enthusiastically discovering new truth in their Bibles with the guidance of each lesson.

They are learning that there is hope for the future—that there are solutions to the seemingly unsolvable problems of today. They are learning to understand Bible prophecy and the principles that lead to success, financial security and a happy, abundant life.

What Our Students Say

But perhaps you might think that a college correspondence course would be too difficult for you, that you wouldn't understand it, or that you're too old to study.

If you think that way, you could be wrong. This course is designed for people of all ages—including you! And it makes studying the Bible enjoyable, rewarding—the experience of a lifetime for individual or family.

Thousands of our Bible correspondence course students have written to the editor expressing sincere appreciation for the lessons. We'd like to share some of those letters with you, showing how our students are actually understanding their Bibles for the first time, and finding that it is relevant to their own lives here and now. Notice the following letter:

I wish to express my thanks for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. It is truly amazing how alive and exciting the Holy Bible is. I have never known how up-to-date the Bible is, nor how relevant the prophetic events are to our twentieth-century world. Thank you so much for enlightening me about God's inspired Word; I needed this understanding so very much.

D.J.

Richmond, Virginia

Read what these two students
discovered with the aid of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course:

Your Bible correspondence course is the most rewarding and remarkable course that has ever been put together. I am learning more about my Bible and how to understand it since I started, than I have ever learned from reading the Bible myself, or from any minister I have ever heard or talked to.

B.H. Quincy, Illinois

I am up to Lesson 3 of your correspondence course, and am amazed at what I have discovered in the Bible. Your method of study makes it easy to learn. I, like most people, thought the Bible would be hard to understand, but it really isn't. I would highly recommend this course to anyone.

D.O. McKenzie, Tennessee

The following student was like the man who tried to read the Bible upside down with dark glasses—until he enrolled in the course:

For quite some time I have been reading and trying to understand what the Bible was all about. I couldn't for the life of me make heads or tails of it. That is until this past year with the help of your Bible correspondence course. I must honestly say this has just got to be the most simple and understanding way to learn the meaning of God's Word. I could possibly have stumbled through the Bible for the rest of my life and still not understood what it was all about. You have opened my eyes, my mind and my life.

C.O. Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania

Even with a doctor's degree in divinity, this student learned additional fundamental knowledge essential to understanding the purpose of life from the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course:

I graduated from three Bible schools and have a doctor's degree in divinity, but I have learned more from your correspondence course than anywhere else. You make it so plain to understand with the scripture verses to back up what you have written. It is just beautiful and I'm so thankful for it.

R.M. Vanceboro, North Carolina

A well-pleased Canadian wrote the following letter:

Before hearing the World Tomorrow broadcast I had many unanswered questions that were so big that a psychiatrist was unwilling to answer them. The only answer I received from him was that I should take a trip to Europe, go hunting, roam the countryside to get close to nature, take up sailboating, get married, etc. This didn't answer any of my questions.

Through the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course I have received direct and workable answers to all my questions. I am now learning the real purpose in life and receiving blessings beyond my wildest dreams.

Vancouver, B.C.

Notice what happened to this student's understanding after just four lessons:

I have just completed my first four lessons of the correspondence course. Suddenly I realized the amazing change in my understanding of the Bible as I recalled the days before I ever requested the course. It has helped move me out of complete misunderstanding, myth, guesswork and bewilderment, and into a clear and ever-revealing knowledge of the Bible.

Edward M. Hanford, California

A well-educated student wrote this letter:

Since I had the advantage of a good deal of this world's education, I feel qualified to make this next statement. Although the correspondence course is written so that anyone who can read can easily do the work, in quality and thoroughness of instruction, it is easily the equivalent of courses given for college credit by the better colleges and universities. It is really superior.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Many are surprised to find that limited schooling is no barrier to studying the Bible with these lessons, as this student, a high-school dropout, discovered:

Please tell people they don't have to have a high school education to take the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. I didn't finish high school and that kept me from writing for it for a long time. Now there isn't enough money to buy the lessons from me that I have received.

Tavares, Florida

You, too, can begin to share these same experiences. You can begin to understand the knowledge that really counts.

The only qualification necessary for taking this course is the ability to read. As the last student said, no prior college training or other advanced education is necessary at all.

These monthly lessons are plainly and interestingly written. And there are no assignments to send in—just a test after every fourth lesson so that you can check your own progress as you continue your studies. New lessons are being added from time to time to this open-ended course.

Remember, there is no tuition cost or obligation to you. Your lessons have already been paid for by others who are voluntarily helping to send this vital knowledge to all who request it. The course is absolutely free.

Will you let the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course make the Bible 100 percent relevant to your life today? You can begin by checking the correspondence course box on the enclosed literature request card and returning it as instructed.

Or you can call our toll-free number (see inside front cover) and ask to be enrolled.

Do it right now and you won't forget. You'll be glad you took advantage of what so many have called "an opportunity of a lifetime"!

The PLAIN TRUTH
Parenting  

(Continued from page 18)

and is sorry for his or her misconduct. In some nations this biblical admonition is forbidden by law and parents will have to conduct themselves judiciously.

Then, after the worst of the crying subsides, take your child lovingly in your arms. Tell your child you love him or her, that you had to spank so that he would be a good boy or that she would be a good girl, and that you hope the child will learn to do better and grow up to be a fine, upright man or woman.

When this is done correctly and consistently, the child, about this time, will be hugging you back, realizing and agreeing that he or she needed the spanking, and feeling more secure in your love and your genuine concern than before the spanking. For you will have broken through an emotional barrier with your child by the kind of proper discipline just described.

Somehow, after spankings are done in love, children are enabled to respond better to their parents in a deep, trusting manner. They will know from experience that when their youthful tensions and self-will are expressed in outward rebellion, they get spanked.

But your child will see that spankings are done in love and for his or her good. That tensions leading to bad attitudes are actually relieved by spanking and subsequent tears. And that you and your child actually feel closer emotionally after sharing this intimate, loving experience of helping a young child get control of himself or herself and grow up.

As the properly reared child grows into puberty and the teenage years, spanking will be done less and less. Your child will be grounded early in his or her life—that you the parent are in charge, that discipline must and will be carried out for the child's good if wrong attitudes or rebellious, disrespectful behavior occur.

Discipline can take many forms. One of the most effective, especially for older children, is the withholding of privileges. Banning use of television for a certain period, for example, or withdrawing permission to play with a friend, to go to a movie or to use the family automobile can be effective.

In most cases it is better to withdraw privileges for relatively short periods (a few days or a week or two depending on the age of the child). Long periods—especially with young children—are usually ineffective. Giving children a chance to have the privilege reinstated by the correct behavior can help underline the lesson being learned.

Making a child of any age realize the consequences of his wrong action or attitude is a form of punishment in itself. Suppose, for example, a young boy throws a rock and injures his little sister or brother. The parent may then give the offending child the opportunity to “care for” the wound.

Make him sit beside the injured child and hold a cold cloth against the wound. Or have him administer the adhesive bandage. Let him “suffer” (see I Corinthians 12:26) with the injured child a little, and he will soon feel remorse over what he has done!

Children must be made to realize that wrong actions hurt other people. Undesirable conduct is such because it hurts everyone involved—including those who perpetrate it.

Remember, too, that any correction should fit the infraction, and that children vary in temperament and aptitude. Use wisdom and discretion, and make sure all disciplining is done out of proper concern for the child.

Parents should always seek to explain their actions to the child who is receiving correction. A child must be made to realize why he or she is being disciplined. He or she should understand the justice of that correction. Don’t overdiscipline for a minor infraction. Don’t underdiscipline for a major one.

Correction should be greater, for example, for stubbornness, tantrums and wrong attitudes than for careless oversight or an accident that did not involve a wrong attitude. And remember, discipline should never be revenge! Vindictive parents are ineffective.

Poor child rearing produces maladjusted, unfulfilled, insecure children. Proper child rearing bears the good fruit of bright, responsive, well-adjusted, happy children. Remember, proper child rearing is built upon the bedrock of these critical principles: love and open affection; right parental example; intelligent, balanced teaching; and effective, appropriate discipline.

How many parents today know that God has ordained government in the family unit? How many know God holds fathers responsible for properly leading, guiding and providing for their families?

This husband-father leadership in no way demeanes a mother’s role. Mothers often carry more of the day-to-day load of teaching and training of children, especially when they are young. But God holds fathers accountable to see to it that the home is being guided by God’s child-rearing instructions.

Of course, if a husband isn’t physically present because of death, divorce or desertion, the mother has to do the best job possible. A forthcoming installment will cover instructions for single parents.

God’s instructions on family government are clear. “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church: . . . Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (Eph. 5:23-24, RAV).

That doesn’t mean a father can rule his family in a dictatorial, selfish, inconsiderate manner. God’s Word commands, “Husbands, love your wives [and families, we could add], even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25).

Ephesians 6:4 also emphasizes parental responsibilities: “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (RAV). How contrary to today’s practices!

Next month we cover preschool years as preparation for life.
WHAT IS MAN?
(Continued from page 30)

specially call (John 6:44) and give his Spirit.

The Spirit-begotten Christian now has, conditionally, the presence of eternal life within him (or her) through a portion of the Spirit from the Father. But this does not mean he is an immortal spirit being. He is not yet composed of God's Spirit. He is now an "heir" of God (Rom. 8:16-17)—not yet an inheritor or a possessor, not yet "born again." But, if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, God will, at Christ's return to earth as King of kings, give us immortality by his Spirit that dwells in us (Rom. 8:11).

Now just as in human reproduction the impregnated embryo, which later becomes a fetus, is not yet born, but must be nourished for a period of time through the human mother, so the begotten Christian is not yet born into the God family. The divine life has merely been begotten. It must now grow.

Why We Must Grow Spiritually

Included in God's purpose for creating man is the development of righteous, spiritual character within him. Notice again what God said in Genesis 1:26: "Let us make man in our image..." The original Hebrew here indicates far more than merely the form and shape of God—his outward likeness. "Image" also refers to mind and character! God intended for man—to whom he gave the gift of a thinking, reasoning mind—to ultimately have the very mind and character of GOD!

God's purpose in creating man is to reproduce himself with the perfect spiritual character only God possesses. Man was therefore created in God's own image and likeness, his own form and shape with a mind similar to his, so God could begin to develop the very character of God in him.

Just as the human body and brain gradually begin to form during the gestation period in human reproduction, the righteous and holy character of God must begin to form and grow once one is begotten by God's Spirit (II Pet. 3:18; I Pet. 2:1-2).

Obviously, one cannot become absolutely perfect in character until the resurrection, when God will complete the process by giving each begotten human a new, perfect spirit body with perfect—sinless (I John 3:2, 9)—nature that will be like Christ's and the Father's. But in the meantime, God wants his Spirit-begot children to grow in his spiritual character daily by obeying his commandments and overcoming and rooting sin out of their lives—growing toward that spiritual perfection!

Such perfect, holy and righteous character cannot be created by fiat. It must be developed, and that requires time and experience. God gives mortal man time in which to learn that only God's way of life brings real peace, happiness and a joyful, abundant life. Men will have learned that sin causes only headache, misery, suffering and death. Those whom God calls will have seen the results of Satan's way of life and rejected it, and will have been developing, with the help of God's Spirit, God's own holy, righteous character until their change to sinless immortal life!

We become spiritual "embryos" when, upon receipt of the Holy Spirit, we are begotten of God. And to grow spiritually, we must take in spiritual nourishment. Just as the embryo in a mother's womb must be nourished with life-giving food through the placenta, so we must be nourished by the Word of God. "The words that I speak unto you," said Jesus, "they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Those words are recorded in the Bible—and Jesus said we are to live by every word of God (Matt. 4:4). We drink in these life-giving words from the Bible through reading, studying and meditating (thinking) on what we read.

Spiritual character development requires time and comes largely by experience—by putting the Word of God into practice in our daily lives. One builds the righteous character of God as one comes to discern, through God's revelation in the Holy Bible, right from wrong—the true values from the false—truth from error, then chooses the right and rejects the wrong and, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, resists the wrong and does the right.

This growing in spiritual knowledge and spiritual character is a gradual process that continues the rest of one's life.

In addition to Bible study, earnest prayer is absolutely necessary. You absorb spiritual nourishment through personal, daily contact with God. When you study the Bible, God is talking to you. When you pray, you are talking to him. You get to really know God in this manner, just as you become better acquainted with people by conversation.

God's Church is the spiritual "mother" of all who have been begotten by God's Holy Spirit. God has set his called and chosen ministers in his Church to "feed the flock" so the individual members may grow spiritually (Acts 20:28). Christ has given his ministers the responsibility to instruct, teach and counsel the members of the Church (Eph. 4:11-15). So just as a human mother feeds her begotten child within her womb through the placenta and umbilical cord, God's children are nourished with spiritual food within the true Church.

And as the human mother carries her unborn baby in that part of her body where she can protect it from physical harm, the function of God's Church is to also protect the begotten children of God from spiritual harm—the false doctrines of false ministers who appear as Christ's representatives, but who actually represent Satan and his way (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Finally, when resurrected from the dead or changed from mortal flesh to immortal spirit at Christ's return, the incredible human potential will have blossomed into reality for those who were called by God and begotten by his Holy Spirit. We will have been born into the divine family of God possessing the fullness of the very character of God!

Now we see clearly the great purpose the Creator God had in making man unique among all his physical creations. Mortal man has within his reach the glorious reality of attaining to the resurrection of the dead, and receiving immortality—forever being a part of the universe-ruling family of God.
Canada
(Continued from page 3)

eration dates to 1867), inherited a
governmental system developed
over centuries of transformation,
honed by the trial-and-error meth-
od. Canadians did not have to
invent a political process of their
own, as have many nations in the
post-World War II breakup of the
colonial empires.

Advice with Authority
While coups and revolutions con-
tinue to wrack the globe on a regu-
lar basis, Canada witnessed a
smooth transition of political
power, with the recent September
4 election victory of the Progressive
Conservative Party, headed by
Brian Mulroney.

Crown supporters claim the sys-
tem works because there is a clear
delineation between those who hold
political power and those who wield
it. Power in Canada resides in the
Crown, whereas elected officials
forming the government (at the
behest of the Governor-General)
are responsible for wielding the
power, while in office, as temporary
trustees of it.

Should difficulties arise, the
Governor-General has the right “to
remove from his office, or to sus-
pend from the exercise of the same,
any person exercising any office
within Canada.” Each Lieutenant
Governor has a similar power within
his province.

While such drastic measures sel-
dom take place, the very powers
retained by the Crown encourage
moderation in the wielding of
power by the politicians, “a deter-
rrent to overheated government,”
comments Mr. MacKinnon. The
offices of Governor-General and
Lieutenant Governors thus act, he
continues, as “constitutional fire
extinguishers.”

The best recent example of such
latent power was displayed nine
years ago not in Canada, but in
Australia. On November 11, 1975,
Governor-General Sir John Kerr
dismissed Prime Minister Gough
Whitlam after the latter refused to
call new elections in the wake of a
parliamentary deadlock. In Whit-
lam’s place, the Governor-General
called upon opposition leader Mal-
colm Fraser to form a govern-
ment.

Many Australians were shocked
to learn how much power was
actually invested in the Queen’s top
representative.

Another Prime Minister of Aus-
tralia, Robert Menzies, once ex-
tolled the value of the Crown in
this manner:

“The Queen is seen in all the
countries within her allegiance as
the fountain of honour, the protec-
tor of the law, the centre of a Par-
liamentary system in which she
makes and proclaims statutes ‘by
and with the consent’ of Parlia-
ment. . . . The Crown remains the
centre of our democracy; a fixed
point in the whirl of circum-
stance.”

The display of power seen in the
Whitlam affair is the exception to
the rule. The power of the Crown is
most often dispensed behind the
scenes in an atmosphere of trust.
The successful Governor-General is
one who, like the Queen herself, is
respected by a Prime Minister and
who can give discreet, tactful
advice and counsel.

Contrast with Other Forms
Human history is replete with
tragic abuses of political power.
Certainly the absolute monarchies
in the past have been as guilty as
modern forms of government
today. Because of this, modern
monarchies are generally limited
by constitutional safeguards and
forced to exert power cautiously.

Those who uphold the operations
of the monarchy and the Crown
today point to the relative success
of nations utilizing this system of
executive power.

In contrast, many countries in
the Commonwealth that, in the
independence process, have re-
placed the Queen with their own
head of state, such as a president,
have witnessed a tragic chronol-
ygy of coups, rebellions, civil wars
and one-party dictatorships. Indig-
enuous heads of state have general-
ly lacked the power and prestige
to ward off abuses of political
power.

At the same time non-Common-
wealth Western democracies have
occasionally been confronted with
presidents who have proven to be
more monarchial than constitution-
al monarchs.

In this generation the United
States experienced what Arthur M.
Schlesinger, American author and
educator, called the “Imperial
Presidency.” In France, the office
of head of state, strengthened by
the late Charles de Gaulle, has
been referred to by the French
magazine Le Monde as a “monar-
que-president.”

The Crown system has also
tended to defuse the emergence of
dangerous nationalism, since patriot-
ic feelings are focused on the State
itself or its nonpolitical head rather
than a government or a party.

One thinks of the extreme exa-
ample of Adolf Hitler being able to
get the German army to swear alle-
giance to him personally. This
could not happen in Canada, where
the Queen, not the Prime Minister,
is commander in chief of the mili-
tary.

The Crown, writes Mr. MacKin-
non, “acts as the repository for the
decorative and emotional functions
which are inevitable in any state.
These functions have to be placed
somewhere, and experience indi-
cates that the less politicians can
use them the better and more safely
are performed. . . . It also reminds
them [the politicians] that they are
servants of the state, not its master.”

Canadians have often joked that
their politics seem dull in compari-
son with other countries. But this
relative dullness is primarily the
result of a system employing safe-
guards against those who would
let power go to their heads, to the
detriment of the whole society.

“To this situation,” concluded
Mr. MacKinnon in his book, “the
Crown and its twelve representa-
tives . . . provide compensations for
human nature to help make democ-
racy work.”

Alter Human Nature
The modern-day role of the
Queen and the Crown has indeed
evolved into a system of ruling
fairly, while curbing the appetites
of those who would selfishly strive
for more power than they should
have. But the system is far from
perfect.

That is why the Bible foretells of
the time—just ahead of us—when a King of kings will rule with perfection, not just a handful of nations, but the entirety of the earth.

This King will rule with total fairness, righteousness and power (Isa. 11:3-5). Unlike human beings he will never be tempted to abuse his office. This coming government will not have to be based upon compromise or checks and balances, or the need to provide “compensation for human nature.”

This government is, in fact, the government of Almighty God. It is headed by the Supreme Creator who has appointed Jesus Christ as his Chief Executive. Its other rulers will also have divine nature.

The ruling Christ will be joined in this future world government by “kings and priests” (Rev. 5:10). These individuals, through the very power and Spirit of God, will have overcome in their lifetimes their prideful, selfish natures and have become obedient to the will of God. They will have qualified to exercise “power over the nations” (Rev. 2:26).

And in this kingdom too, “my servant David”—the ancient king of Israel—will be resurrected to high office (Ezek. 34:23, 24).

Christ himself will sit upon “the throne of his father David” (Luke 1:32), completing a remarkable cycle of rulership that has intimately involved the very throne of the British Royal Family for almost 3,000 years. Write for editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong’s exciting book The United States and Britain in Prophecy to understand this remarkable story.

In the world tomorrow, this Royal Family of spirit beings will extend the government of God out from Jerusalem to encompass eventually every inhabited corner of the earth. It will be the Crown and chief executive power over all other nations and kingdoms (Rev. 11:15). As the British Crown does today on a lesser scale, it will pass along its experience and proven success from one nation to the next, “till He”—the Messiah Jesus Christ—“has established justice in the earth” (Isa. 42:4, Revised Authorized Version).

Even the glory of the British Empire at its zenith of power will pale into insignificance by comparison.

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**PERSONAL**
*(Continued from page 1)*

“GET” from government, we must not suppose political candidates do not covet power. So in government we have the merry-go-round of people trying to “GET” from government, and politicians using every strategy to “GET” or retain power!

What, after all, has government contributed to the present state of society—the nation and the world? Government has not corrected or changed the human nature way of “GET,” but operated with it. And every evil dragging this sick world toward cosmocide has been CAUSED by the “GET” nature in man! We call it human nature.

But we need government. The alternative would be anarchy!

Governments of nations over the world do work for PEACE—even fight and war for PEACE! And we still have wars. I know that the responsibility of the chief office in government weighs heavily on men in such high office. I have talked with many heads of state who admit privately that they face problems beyond human power to solve.

Some world leaders have said humanity’s only hope lies in a single world government over all nations, with only one military force. Yet in the same breath they admit the impossibility of man to produce it.

An editorial some time ago in U.S. News & World Report stated it a different way—that it would now seem the only hope for human survival lies in the intervention of a “strong hand from somewhere”!

The Plain Truth announces, believe it or not, both these solutions will happen in our lifetime. MANKIND won’t change human nature, nor set up the world government—doesn’t even have to believe it—but IT WILL HAPPEN TO US! And in this generation we shall see a new WORLD TOMORROW, with universal well-being for all.

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**Elderly?**
*(Continued from page 6)*

anticipated life expectancy would ever average 74 years. The system initially seemed to work because more workers paid in than retirees withdrew. Now this has changed.

Many people today, believing they will be supported by the welfare-retirement programs, expect the government to support them. They are no longer regarded as a safety net only for those in need. These programs are looked upon as a right.

Young people, believing parents would be supported by welfare-retirement programs, now expect governments to support their elderly populations.

A recent example demonstrates this point. One family committed their slightly senile parent to an old-age home. In order to avoid payment the family members gave false names and addresses so they could not be traced. The parent—who gave them life, who cared for them, helped them when they were sick, supported them when they were young—is now left all alone. “I have my own life to live” is the selfish attitude.

God foretold this pathetic attitude as a major trait for this age: “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves ... disobedient to parents” (II Tim. 3:1-2).

Humans in their ignorance have supplanted God’s command to respect aged parents. “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:32). God himself is, in fact, revealed in the Bible as the “Ancient of Days” in the book of Daniel.

Thankfully, God will soon supernaturally intervene and establish his government on this earth and enforce his laws (Dan. 2:44-45).

The returned Jesus Christ will rule the nations with mercy and with justice for all (Isa. 61:1-3).
When Big Banks Totter

The Orwellian year 1984 ends not with a world dominated by socialistic countries, but with a Western Hemisphere filled with jittery capitalists. And it is all so strange.

Rising shakily from deep recession, the United States' economy hit full stride by early spring with surprisingly high employment and production figures.

Despite an enormous federal deficit, the economy gained by doomsaying economists and financial forecasters whose faces reddened with embarrassment. But the 1982-83 worldwide recession took its toll.

Officials of the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) told The Plain Truth that bankruptcy caused an average of one bank a week to close its doors permanently, in 1983 and 1984 in the United States.

Near the beginning of the recession Penn Square Bank in Oklahoma tottered on the edge of bankruptcy. Amid shaky and questionable banking practices (mostly concerning energy-related loans), the large state bank finally slipped over the edge and the financial cadaver was carved up by officials of the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve System. Continental Illinois Bank of Chicago absorbed about US$1 billion of Penn Square's loans.

Government officials weakly asserted that the affair proved that the Federal Reserve safety net would work. But the debacle rocked the banking world. To those only vaguely familiar with high finance, the phrase "sound as a bank" began to take on a new, derogatory meaning.

Then the impossible happened. In May, the aforementioned Continental Illinois Bank in Chicago—one of the largest—was reported to be in trouble. Within hours, a spectacle not seen since the days of the Great Depression ensued. For the next three months, depositors drained away an incredible US$10 billion from Continental's $30 billion in deposits. To stem the financial hemorrhage, the U.S. government and private banks rushed in with an unprecedented loan of $7.5 billion, dwarfing the controversial $1.2 billion Chrysler bailout loan of 1979.

The situation slowly stabilized. Since a private buyer could not be found, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures deposits in a federally chartered institution to $100,000, agreed to absorb more than $4.5 billion of Continental's loans (about 8 percent of Continental's loans were classified as "nonperforming"). They also announced that the FDIC will hold more than 80 percent of Continental's common stock, thus giving the agency full control over Continental's future.

U.S. Federal Reserve and FDIC officials interviewed by The Plain Truth claim that the U.S. banking system is still reasonably healthy. One official pointed out that "over 90 percent of the 14,800 [banking] institutions have very healthy ratings and are well managed." But the same official admitted that the Continental affair bordered on "catastrophe."

Safe Nuclear Storage?

The National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere has proposed that the United States reconsider dumping low-level radioactive wastes into the oceans.

Most U.S. nuclear garbage is stored on land. Ocean dumping, however, is less costly. The committee believes that, if carried out properly, ocean dumping is no more dangerous than land storage.

For several countries—including Britain, Switzerland and Belgium—ocean dumping of radioactive material has been a familiar task. Britain's Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant pours 1.2 million gallons of mildly radioactive water into the Irish Sea every weekday. Windscale discharges more nuclear waste into the ocean than any other plant in the world.

Whether ocean dumping poses a serious threat to human health is a topic of continuing debate.
With the advent of nuclear power plants, governments had hoped that the answers for safe storage would come long before radioactive fuel was spent and ready for disposal. Governments and researchers are still groping anxiously for safe and socially acceptable ways to discard the huge volumes of nuclear garbage.

West Europeans have been tempted by China's offer to store spent nuclear fuel in China's vast deserts. The proposals would permit European countries to escape the safety hazards and political problems of local storage. China's proposals, though costly, are less expensive than European storage projects.

Europe, however, is not certain how to guarantee that China would not choose to convert the plutonium wastes into nuclear weapons for defense at a later date.

A few months ago, a seal was seen swimming in the Thames near the Houses of Parliament. It caused a nationwide stir in Britain. This was the first seal sighted in the River Thames in 150 years. The presence of the

"Seal" of Approval on River Thames Reclamation

In the 1950s, Britain's River Thames was considered to be biologically dead. The water's oxygen level was essentially zero—a lifeless legacy of the Industrial Revolution.

From the end of the 18th through the mid-20th century, industrial and population pressures overwhelmed the Thames' freshwater and tidal ecosystem. The river became more akin to a sewer than a wellspring of inspiration for the bards and poets who once sang its praises.

In the early 1960s, legislation was introduced that allowed the Port of London Authority to regulate industrial and sewage discharge into the river. Strict laws and enforcement have paid off.

An interlinking system of more than 450 processing plants treats 126.2 million cubic feet (3.786 million cubic meters) of sewage each day. Water that once removed paint from boat hulls now teems with life. The water oxygen level of the Thames is 98 percent of normal levels and the river now supports more than 100 species of fish. Swimming and angling have returned to the river once again.

Water treatment facilities, Hampton, West London

flippered guest feeding on River Thames' fish seemed to be the final approval for all the hard work to reclaim the historic river from two and a half centuries of pollution.

other continents have stabilized their birthrates, an annual increase of 4 percent is not uncommon for some African nations. Under the present system, this poses an insurmountable task for farmers. Since 1970, the per capita food production has fallen more than 11 percent. At the same time, the volume of food imports has doubled.

Natural disasters, unfavorable climate, social unrest, government corruption and even self-destructive government policies have all been blamed for the food crisis.

Women in Kenya now give birth to an average of eight children in their lifetime. In contrast, the fertility rate of Western Europe is 1.6; United States, 1.8; Soviet Union, 2.4.

While many nations in

Britain's Windscale plant: public service or environmental disaster?

Why Overpopulation Threatens Africa

The vast continent of Africa, with a population of about 500 million, may seem underpopulated. But its growth rate is alarming because it is coupled with inadequate food production. The United Nations has already noted 24 countries troubled by severe food shortages.

Widespread drought has left numerous African countries hopelessly dependent upon foreign relief. An estimated 170,000 people have died because of starvation during Mozambique's three-year drought, according to international relief coordinators.

Famine in the Sahel region of west-central Africa prompted a request for one million tons of food for the eight drought-stricken nations in that area. "Africa is failing desperately to cope with the problem of feeding its people," warns Edouard Saouma, director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Africa faces certain calamity unless measures are taken to encourage a major drop in fertility rates. Women in Kenya now give birth to an average of eight children in their lifetime. In contrast, the fertility rate of Western Europe is 1.6; United States, 1.8; Soviet Union, 2.4.

While many nations in
Next Frontier: Thinking Machines

"Stop, will you—stop, Dave!" But Dave continued to pull out Hal the computer's memory blocks one by one. "Stop, Dave. I'm afraid. My mind is going, I can feel it. I can feel it...."

When the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey appeared in 1968, the concept of a self-conscious, "intelligent" computer called Hal became frightfully realistic. In a recently released sequel, 2010, Hal is back controlling the starship Discovery on a "daring romp through the solar system."

Is a computer with artificial intelligence like Hal really possible? Computer scientists say yes. Their next frontier of research is a new breed of supercomputers that would surpass today's machines a thousand times over, so smart that they can outthink humans.

While such prospects are met with some concern by nonscientists, scientists in several nations are already plodding toward the goal of artificial intelligence: computers that can reason as people do, learn from experience and communicate in human language.

Says Patrick H. Winston, director of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory: "It's like being at Kitty Hawk when the Wright brothers' plane took off."

Today's expert computers store, retrieve and manipulate vast amounts of information on databases. Artificial intelligence, by contrast, will imbue computers with "common sense," teach them to understand languages and make them learn from experience by processing knowledge based on logic, not arithmetic.

Hong Kong: Union Jack to Come Down in 1997

Britain has concluded almost two years of talks with the People's Republic of China regarding Hong Kong. An outpost of Britain's worldwide empire for more than a century, Hong Kong is slated to become a special administrative region of China in 1997. In effect, Britain will give up the colony in that year, when its lease on the territory expires. The end of British rule in Hong Kong is illustrative of the rising importance of China and the already diminished role of the British in world affairs.

The 50-year agreement calls for China to preserve Hong Kong's British-based legal system. Hong Kong, third largest financial center in the world after New York and London, purportedly will retain its free-market economy and have financial autonomy. The arrangements are that it will remain a duty-free port, retain its own trading status, keep its convertible currency. Free movement of capital is to continue in and out of Hong Kong. China will control foreign and defense policies.

Cocaine Users Confess Helplessness

Various samplings of callers to the National Cocaine Hotline found:

- 96% of users had intense cravings for the drug
- 91% suffered medical problems from cocaine use (including chronic headaches, nosebleeds, sinus problems, difficulty swallowing and diminished sexual libido)
- 73% preferred cocaine to food
- 52% were afraid their work would suffer if they stopped using it
- 85% could not turn down cocaine when available to them

Another survey of women callers found:

- 35% had spent all their money and were without financial resources
- 33% were dealing in drugs to support habit
- 24% had stolen from work, family or friends

Which country will be first to develop fifth generation computers? If the new wealth of nations is indeed knowledge, international computer supremacy will give that country an unequivocal advantage in technology, science, business, economics, industry—and warfare.
Why Were You Born?

Why are you here? Is human existence merely a freak accident in a meaningless universe, or does your life have a solid, identifiable purpose—a meaning you may not have realized?

Today the number one problem humanity faces is that of survival! Yet few seem to understand that the answer to the question “Why were you born?” has everything to do with the accelerating and life-threatening evils facing the world!

The startling answer to today's paradox of scientific and technological progress and accelerating evils is made plain in an astounding booklet that explains what your destiny is. We offer this booklet on this much-misunderstood subject of the human potential absolutely free for the asking. You may have the booklet—entitled Why Were You Born?—simply by requesting your copy.

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