

AUGUST 1982

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

**DO YOU
KNOW YOUR
ENEMY?**

'The devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about...' (1 Peter 5:8)

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OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

AUGUST 1982

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COVER: Satan the devil is alive and well on planet earth. God's Word depicts him as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour — and he would especially like to devour true Christians! "Do You Know Your Enemy?", beginning on page 14, explains Satan's tactics and how to defend against him. Photo by Roland Rees.

Letters

Many called, but few chosen

I must mention the article in the April *Good News* by Raymond F. McNair, "What Did Christ Mean — 'Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen'?" After reading the article it will be much easier to explain this scripture to someone else. And just to make sure that I don't forget any of it I have put the scriptures in the back of my Bible for reference.

Bernita Hoard
Pittsford, Mich.

"How to Handle Conflict"

Thank you, Mr. [Neil] Earle, for your very timely and helpful article in the April, 1982, *GN*, "How to Handle Conflict." I guess it would be difficult to ascertain, but I believe you have set a record in the number of scriptural references used in an article of this particular length. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining — I'm bragging about your article. You made me haul out my Bible and look up the scriptures for myself because you didn't quote many of them. After I finished your article, I realized that I not only had read a very helpful and inspiring article, but that I had completed a rather comprehensive Bible study on the subject.

Hank Berger
Diana, Tex.

Articles appreciated

Please tell all of the writers on the *Good News* staff that there are people out here — such as me — who really appreciate with all their hearts the articles in the *GN* in recent months.

I particularly enjoyed "How to Handle Conflict" and "A Matter of Perspective" in the April issue. The latter reminds me of the saying, "Two men look out through the same bars: One sees the mud, and one the stars."

I am also thrilled that the *GN* is now being printed in German, French, Spanish and Dutch for those who cannot understand English.

Reader
Missouri

Good News exceptional

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how exceptional I thought the latest *Good News* was. I received it and started to read it and couldn't put it down. It was a great help and inspiration to me. I hope you keep up the good work.

Doris M. Agers
Lawton, Okla.

Just What Is a CO-WORKER?

*A personal explanation by
the founder and editor-in-chief*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

THE GOOD NEWS has been made available to many other than members of the Worldwide Church of God — in fact, a year's subscription is available free (no subscription price) to any interested enough to subscribe and read — although it is the official organ of the Church.

Many who are not members may have noticed we often use the term “co-worker,” and may wonder what we mean. Let me explain.

And let me first say that the Worldwide Church of God is nondenominational and nonproselyting. It does not solicit or urge people to become members, or to join.

In fact, one cannot “join” this Church. One enters only by being baptized by the Holy Spirit into this, God's Church. Of course we joyfully welcome all whom God through Christ baptizes into His Church.

The great commission

This Church has a very great worldwide Work to which we have been called — the great commission to proclaim Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God in all the world for a witness to all

nations (Matt. 24:14) just prior to Christ's glorious return as KING of kings and LORD of lords over all nations. And, second, to “feed the flock” and prepare Christ's Bride (the Church) for His soon coming (Rev. 19:7).

How is so vast an operation — so great a worldwide organization — financed? This Church is a tithe-paying Church. Its members observe God's command of tithing — and 10 percent of income is paid by members into the Church.

Beside this, many nonmembers voluntarily have become regular contributors of God's tithe or their freewill offerings. Roughly, about 75 percent to 80 percent of all income for the Church's operations comes from the tithes and offerings of members — the balance from co-workers or occasional contributors.

So what is a co-worker? Let me explain.

Voluntary contributions

First, we do not solicit the public for contributions or financial support. But if one voluntarily sends a contribution, it is recorded at our Data Processing Center as a “donor.”

But when one sends in contributions or tithes two or more times in two or three months, we send a letter explaining that we have assumed he or she wishes to become a regular contributor,

whom we designate as a “co-worker,” and co-workers receive a regular monthly letter from me personally, telling them of the progress of the Work, and often or frequently, as the need may be, reminding them to send in their tithe or offering.

However, the first letter to a new co-worker explains our policy saying that if we have misunderstood the donor's intention and he does not wish to receive these monthly letters, we would appreciate being so advised — and they will not be sent.

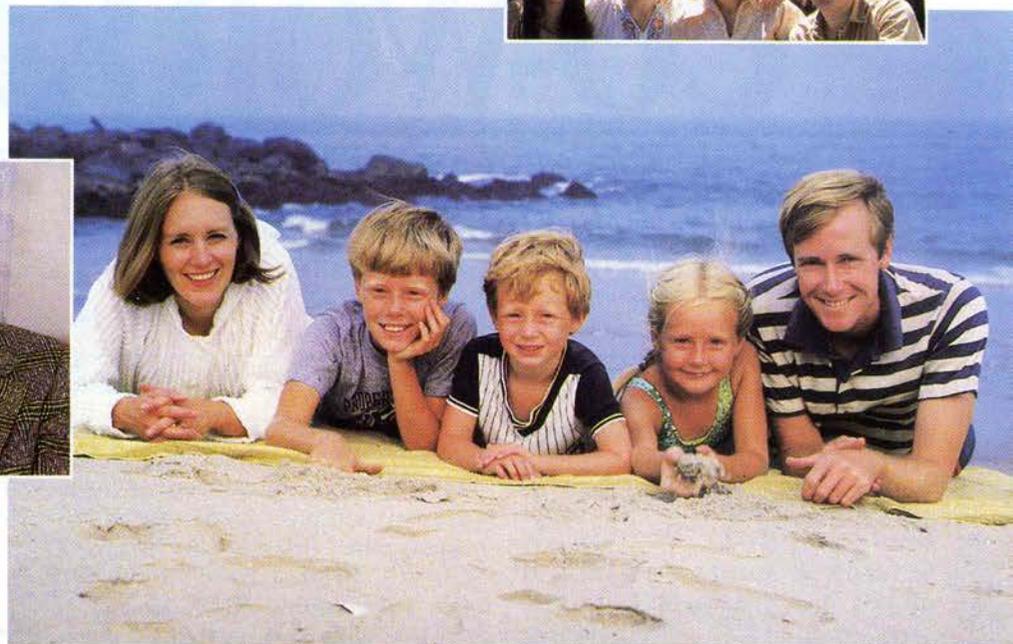
The monthly “co-worker letters” are sent alike to all members and co-workers.

This, we feel, is God's way. Moses sent a proclamation to the people of ancient Israel for a special offering for the building of the tabernacle — and the people responded over-generously. But he did not ask for offerings or contributions outside Israel, but “whosoever is of a willing heart” — that is, those who voluntarily desired (Ex. 35:5, 21-22).

That was the Church of the Old Testament, but it illustrates God's way in principle. Of course Israelites paid the 10 percent tithe. Moses' request was for a special offering.

This, then, explains our financial policy for the conduct of God's Work — based on the biblical example, principle and way. □

This Is the Life!



Real Abundant Living

*Do you know how to live fully — abundantly?
In this article you will learn how you may
taste the joys of real abundant living.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Why do religious people often seem to feel that their religious life must be one of giving up all the fun and the enjoyment of living — that in order to please God, they must endure a life of morbid gloom?

Sin to many of these people consists of things that many other people consider to be most desirable.

To them, sin is going contrary to a number of “don’ts.” “Don’t

smoke.” “Don’t dance.” “Don’t play cards.” “Don’t go to the theater.” “Don’t ever touch a drop of alcoholic beverage.” “Don’t do this!” “Don’t do that!”

What’s wrong with religion?

A prominent lawyer’s wife once said to me: “I couldn’t ever become a Christian. Why, if I had to give up smoking, dancing, card playing, the theater and all the pleasures of life, what would there be left to live for anyway?”

A world-famous philosopher,

editor and lecturer whom I knew — and who also had no use for religion — said that he did not desire to be repressed or to live a life of painful penance. “I desire,” he said, “to be radiant, cheerful, friendly and to meet people with a smile.”

Apparently he assumed that such a happy life could not be a religious life.

But strangely, none of these people **KNEW HOW TO LIVE.**

Very few have ever found or tasted the true abundant life.

Now the Creator, who gives you the breath that you breathe,

Photos: Good News; Ewing Galloway

does not desire for you to live an empty, depressed or an unhappy life.

You never please the Eternal by giving up happiness or anything that is good for you.

God wants you to be happy

God Almighty has never given you a single "don't," except those things that are going to harm you, tear you down, bring on unhappiness later.

Oh, of course, some of these things give you a thrill or a little kick out of life temporarily, but there is always a boomerang. They exact a great penalty later, and the price is too high. It isn't good business.

God forbids those things that are bad for us, the things that are going to bring on unhappiness and bring on a life of emptiness and gloom.

But never does God Almighty forbid one single thing that is for your happiness, your welfare, your real well-being.

I'm reminded of an elderly man who was of the "shouting kind" of religion. He rose up one time in a church meeting and he shouted out a question to those assembled. He said, "Brethren, are you enjoying it, or are you only enduring it?"

Some people endure a solemn, stiff and formal church service. And some, emotionally inclined, will go to the kind of church meeting where there is much shouting and much emotional response, merely to have a good time during the meeting. The rest of the week religion doesn't seem to have a great part in their lives.

Others feel that if they become, as they call it, "saved," they must forever after live a gloomy life of giving up everything that they formerly enjoyed, and that their solemn, unhappy lives will somehow please their Creator. Of course, that kind of religion is more or less a superstition!

Christ brought abundant living

Let's get this matter straight.

The founder of the Christian religion, Jesus Christ, said that He came to this earth for a purpose. "I am come," said Jesus, "that they might have LIFE, and *that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10). Jesus Christ came to bring us the "ABUNDANT LIFE." Do you know what that is?

God Almighty intended the real Christian life to be one of joy.

Do you know that if you have the real Christian life, if you have the Spirit of God within you, it's going to bring about this result? It's going to, as we say, "produce fruits."

Now what kind of fruits will be produced in a real Christian life? Not the morbid, unhappy life. Here is the fruit. Here is what will emanate from a real Christian life. It is found in Galatians 5, beginning with verse 22. "The fruit of the Spirit" — this is the Spirit of God. This is the Holy Spirit that God imparts only to those who are truly converted. "The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE" — first of all is love — and the second is "JOY." Joy is happiness, brimful and running over.

That doesn't sound like an unhappy, empty, morbid life, does it? Here's love that will just flow, spontaneously, out from you!

The first "fruit of the Spirit" of God is LOVE. Love will mean that your face is beaming. It's going to mean that you are really giving out. It's going to mean that you are radiant and happy. Love results in JOY, the second product of the Spirit of God. The third is "PEACE." Instead of going around quarreling, resentful, bitter, unhappy and arguing — that's not peace, that's a kind of war — you'll be at peace in your mind and with your neighbor, and with your God!

And the next is, in the King James Authorized Version of the Bible, "longsuffering," which in more modern English is "PATIENCE." Impatience makes more people unhappy than almost any-

thing else! If you can really learn the lesson of patience, you're learning one of the things that will make you happy, and make life worth living.

The next is "gentleness," and then "goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." That is the fruit of the Spirit. It will spontaneously spring forth from you. That, you will be emitting from yourself, radiating from yourself, all the time, if you are a real Christian.

But most people are not Christians

You read in Romans 8:9 that unless you have received, from *without*, the Holy Spirit of God, you are not any of Christ's! You are not a Christian.

There are millions of people who profess Christianity who are not Christians according to God's definition. They're not Christians at all!

Of course, in a Christian life, there are troubles. There are going to be even persecutions. Jesus Christ was persecuted. He said, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). That comes from *without*. That's something that comes from other people. That doesn't necessarily need to disturb you inwardly.

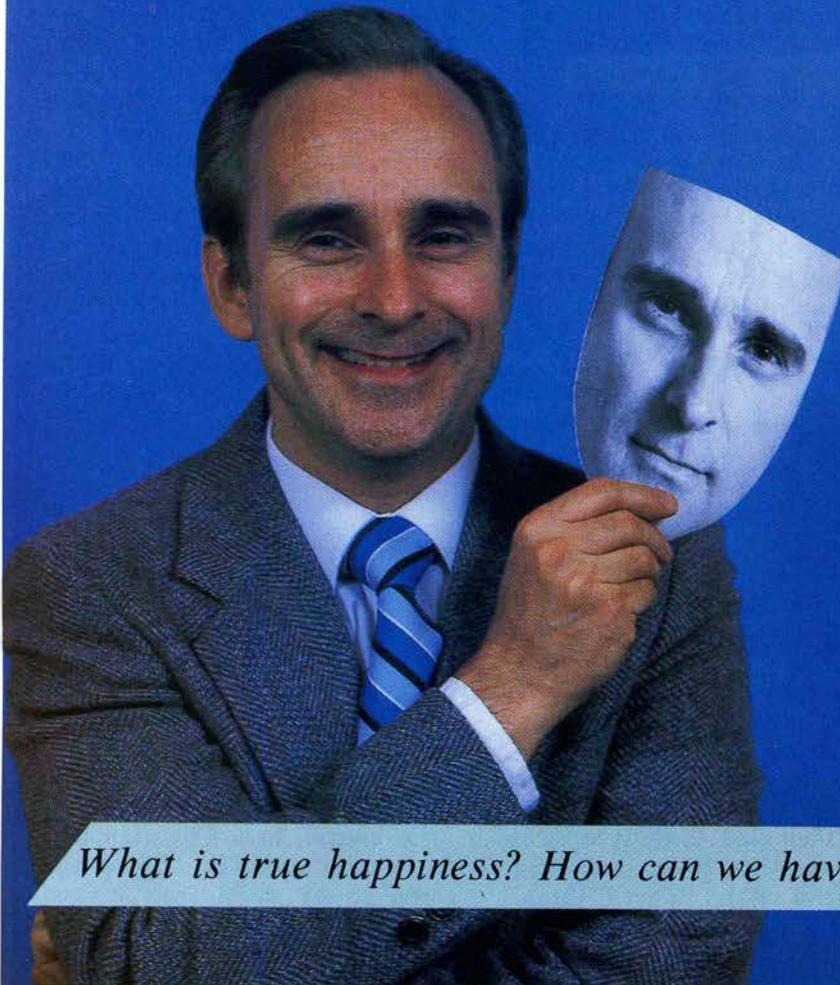
And the person who does have this inward peace, the person who has this joy and this love and this patience — and who has this tolerance for other people — isn't going to be too much disturbed because other people don't agree and perhaps persecute.

Yes, you're going to face problems and trials. Those things are good for us. They come upon us for a purpose — to help us develop character. And a real Christian understands. It doesn't make him unhappy.

We all have trials

We are going to have troubles, problems and trials just like everybody else. They come to test
(Continued on page 27)

HOW TO BE TRULY HAPPY



What is true happiness? How can we have it, now and in the future?

By Bernie Schnippert

Are you happy? Are you — really? Perhaps no other question penetrates past our superficial masks of contentment as this one does.

For, when asked if we are happy, we are forced to dig deep into our hearts, past our goals, our problems, our possessions, our hopes and our dreams, into the most private recesses of our being. Here, deep inside ourselves in places where we rarely let the searching eyes or ears of others travel, we hold the answer.

And that answer, while it may be a joyous “Yes!”, all too often is a somber “Sometimes” or a perplexed “I don’t know” or an embarrassed and depressed “No, I guess not.”

So, what about you? Are you happy? Do you have a right to

expect to be? And, if you should or can be happy, how should you go about it?

Just what should our attitude as Christians be toward this topic of “being happy”?

What happiness is not

It might seem that the place to begin explaining this important topic would be with a definition of the word *happiness*. But an understanding of what happiness is *not* will take us far indeed toward gaining a godly perspective of this subject.

Deep within the human heart lurks the erroneous belief that “If I just didn’t have these problems or these worries, then I’d be happy!” But freedom from problems or worries would not make you happy because happiness is not freedom from these things.

Realize this: A person cannot be truly happy unless he is fulfill-

ing the purpose for which God put him on this earth. And that purpose is not just to be happy as the world views happiness.

No, God put you here to go through trials and troubles and problems! Why? For the purpose of building within you the character necessary to enter His Kingdom. Trials and problems serve to help develop you into a very son of God! For more information about the purpose of life — about why you were put here — request our free booklet, *Why Were You Born?*

If you somehow escape all problems, you will also “escape” becoming a son of God, and that is not a satisfactory alternative.

No, happiness is not the opposite of problems — boredom is! And boredom is one of the biggest causes of unhappiness in the world today.

Neither does having wealth

Photo by Nathan Faulkner

mean happiness. Money can solve the problem of paying your light bill or the problem of buying groceries, but it cannot solve your marital problems, your problems of depression, your problems with your teenagers or your friends. In fact, many times money can cause a whole new set of problems that the person with meager means does not face.

As Christ said, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

We live in the *get* generation. But happiness is not something you can get for yourself by pursuing it or trying to grab it from someone else. Indeed, the very act of trying to get happiness for yourself drives it away because God designed life to work to our good only when we operate on the principle of giving rather than getting (Acts 20:35).

Happiness is not something you can get for yourself. It is something that comes to you automatically, but only when you obey the principles of life that produce it.

The pillars of happiness

Happiness can be viewed as a spiritual shelter in this stormy life. Like the stately ceiling of a fabulous building, it stands above and overshadows us while resting upon pillars that give it support.

The more of these pillars we employ, the more sturdily our happiness will stand. But if we neglect these pillars and allow them to fall into ruin, the roof of happiness they support will also tumble.

Viewed in this light, then, what is happiness? Happiness is the positive, serene state of mind that results automatically from living in accordance with the God-ordained laws and principles on which our lives and the world around us function.

Here are seven pillars of happiness that deserve our special attention.

The purpose of life

The first pillar is an understanding of why you were born

and of the true God who set that purpose in motion.

No matter how materially successful one may become — no matter how many possessions he may acquire or how intellectually developed he is — he will always flounder in life and not know true happiness until he knows the purpose of life.

True Christians have that knowledge and that hope, and therefore that happiness. As God's Word says, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Ps. 146:5). And elsewhere God says, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 144:15).

We are that people, if we are truly converted. We have the great God as our Lord. We know why we were born and where we are going. And we can know true happiness.

Family

The second pillar of happiness is a close, loving family.

God Almighty Himself knows that having a family is one of the greatest thrills that can be known. He has shown this truth in His desire for His own Family to be expanded to include a wife (the Church) and sons and daughters (the members of the Church, to be born into God's immortal, spiritual Family at Jesus Christ's re-

This world today does not benefit much from the happiness proper family relationships provide. Divorce, broken homes, family squabbles, husband-wife and parent-child conflicts are main sources of heartache in this society. But when functioning as a loving, caring unit, the family gives probably the greatest satisfaction and happiness of any physical institution.

The companionship and love of a strong family relationship not only picture God's future Family, in which God Himself will find great happiness, but serve as a

foundational pillar of happiness in our own life.

Achievement through work

The third pillar of happiness is a satisfying, challenging job, role or career in which you can give by contributing of yourself.

Solomon wrote: "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God" (Eccl. 2:24). Solomon saw the value of work. He understood that men and women were made to be productive and to give something to their society.

But be careful. Your job or other responsibilities in life will only give happiness if your efforts are aimed at contributing instead of taking. Any person who operates by pulling rugs out from under others, while seeking to build and build and build for himself in a selfish, coldhearted manner, will know only misery instead of happiness. For, as stated earlier, happiness is driven away by the *get* frame of mind but is increased by giving.

If your role or career is one in which you can give, then you can find happiness in it.

Of course, ideally, your career or job should also challenge you and give you physical satisfaction.

The very act of trying to get

happiness drives it away . . .

But what if you find yourself in a job that offers no satisfaction because you dislike it? First, make sure that the job is indeed what is at fault — that you are not dissatisfied merely because of your own wrong values.

But what if your job truly is at fault, and you find yourself unable for financial reasons or other constraints to change to a more satisfying job? Read on.

Character growth

The next pillar of happiness is that of growing in character.

Here we see the value of trials and tribulations. Trials and tribulations may strain us, but they nonetheless contain the germ of true happiness, for it is through these trials that we build character. And with character, we receive a dual blessing.

First, the very process of growing in character tends to give happiness and satisfaction. This is because God designed the character-building process to produce a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction — and happiness.

Second, building character is prerequisite to qualifying for the Kingdom of God. And the knowledge that the character we have built sets us in good stead for God's Kingdom, brings joy.

As the apostle Paul stated, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

The apostle Peter proclaimed, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice . . ." (I Pet. 4:12-13).

Good works

Doing good works is a powerful builder of happiness. Wise King Solomon wrote, "He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he" (Prov. 14:21).

Doing good works brings us happiness for more than one reason. When we do good works, we practice God's character, for God is the giver of every good gift (Jas. 1:17). When we imitate God, we gain the happiness that comes from being like God and living the way of outgoing concern.

Also, the act of giving sets in motion a series of domino-like events that bring good back upon ourselves:

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it

shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

What are your good works? Can you point to them? Can you sit down and make a list of them and get past one or two small items? If not, then perhaps you are not doing good works as you should and therefore cannot expect the happiness that comes from doing so.

Wisdom

Wisdom is the sixth pillar of happiness. Wisdom is the ability to know what path to choose to reach the right goal. Wisdom also implies character, since the knowledge of the right path or route to take in life has no lasting value without the character to take it.

Notice these poignant words from the wisest man who ever lived, Solomon: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding . . . Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her" (Prov. 3:13-18).

Happy is the person who finds wisdom — therefore, seek wisdom and be happy.

Active accomplishment

The seventh pillar of happiness is active accomplishment.

The human machine was made to be active, to produce, to accomplish. To the old maxim "to rest is to rust" we could add "to rest continually is to be bored and unhappy."

Too many people in this world work at building houses upon the sand, houses that will fall when the winds and rain of future catastrophes occur. But we as true Christians should be actively engaged in building upon the right foundation (Matt. 7:24-27).

And just as there is no wisdom in building upon sand, there is also no wisdom in not building at all. Merely knowing the proper foundation is not enough. We should try to busily build in every

aspect of our lives — our education, our physical bodies, our mental health, our homes, our yards and our physical goods. We should be the example of busy building activity — whether it be in activities of God's Church, of our families, of our homes or of our possessions.

The fact that we are not mesmerized by the materialistic things of this world — that we don't seek them as our primary goal — is no excuse to let our physical possessions fall into disrepair, or to live slovenly. No. We should be bursting with activity, constantly striving to build our minds, our bodies and whatever else constitutes our "house" upon the proper foundation, as an example to others and a physical aid to our happiness.

A warning

Please do not be misled. It is possible to get the wrong impression from reading an article like this one. It is possible to slip into thinking that being happy is the most important thing in the world. It is not. There is more to this physical life than being happy. Read that again: There is more to life than being happy!

Our purpose in life is reaching the Kingdom of God! Perhaps we might better say that there is more to life than being happy *now*. For our true goal in life is not necessarily to be completely happy now, but to seek happiness in the world tomorrow, in the Kingdom of God. We achieve that goal by going through whatever is necessary now.

So if you must suffer trials that make you sad, do not be dismayed. There is more to life than being happy. Happiness is a mere side effect, a temporary result of properly seeking our great goal of eternal life, when we will enjoy never-ending, blissful spiritual happiness.

Therefore, ask yourself, "Am I happy?" No matter what your answer is now, you can know for certain that, if you obey God's laws and reach the goal of God's Kingdom, someday you will be — truly! □

GREAT IS THE NAME OF OUR GOD

Do you always use God's name with proper reverence and respect? Here are guidelines everyone should know and use.

By Selmer L. Hegvold

Everyone wants life — happy, exciting, challenging life here and now, and the assurance that such abundant life will continue even beyond this physical existence.

How to have this kind of life was on the mind of the man who came and asked Jesus Christ, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16).

Jesus' stated purpose for being on earth was that mankind "might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). He answered: "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17).

Here Christ revealed the way to the happy, fulfilling life everyone desires, the way that will actually produce every good

result man could want: the way of obeying God's commandments.

Christ made clear in verses 18 and 19 which commandments He was talking about: "Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal . . ." Christ was talking about the Ten Commandments.

God's Ten Commandments are the foundation of the way leading to the full, abundant life we can enjoy now, while qualifying for real, eternal life in God's Kingdom.

The Third Commandment

Notice the third of God's Ten Commandments: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Ex. 20:7, Deut. 5:11).

The name of God has profound, wonderful significance. How that name is used in prayer, in conversation and in casual daily activities is of great concern to the Being who created and rules this entire universe!

Prayer is a profoundly effective tool with which we can achieve steady, strengthening spiritual growth from God. Casual or vain prayer can be compared to telephone messages spoken or sent over broken wires — they accomplish nothing.

Yet even sincere, heartfelt prayer could be in vain, if we have used God's holy name irreverently day in and day out.

Have our well-intentioned prayers gone unanswered? Is this a reason for a lack of blessings, prosperity and spiritual growth in our lives? Unless we approach God's heavenly throne in great awe and humility, we could be praying useless prayers.

And are awe, reverence and humility for God and His name to be reserved just for prayer? What about the rest of the day — the rest of the week — the rest of our lives?

Christ's own example

Christ was a perfect, living example to His disciples. They

watched and listened to Him and must have begun to perceive a great lack in themselves.

The more they considered their Master's manner of living — His humility among the people He taught and healed, and especially His approach to God in prayer — the more they realized how meaningless were the rote prayers of the influential religious leaders of their day.

As this conviction grew in their minds, they expressed their frustration to Jesus: "One of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1). And Jesus began to teach them the fundamentals of prayer that we can now read in the Bible.

But notice the importance Christ placed on God's name: "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, *Hallowed be thy name*" (verse 2).

The first thing we should do in prayer is to express our awe and respect for the great God to whom we are praying. God's name is so great that we must hallow it in our minds as we pray.

Can we comprehend God's transcendent glory, His majesty, His unlimited power? Unless we understand how great our Savior, the Son of God the Father in heaven, is, we stand in jeopardy of the very salvation we seek, and we could be shaming Jesus Christ Himself.

Moses and the burning bush

Even the very ground is sacred when occupied by God's divine person. God is so holy that no man can look on or at Him and live (Ex. 33:20).

When an astonished Moses saw a bush burning but not being consumed by the fire, he began to approach it, intending to examine it. But a powerful voice spoke out: "Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy

ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God" (Ex. 3:4-6).

Everything about God is holy — His person, His Word and each of the various names by which He has chosen to describe

public and private devotions! . . .

"Whatever the person himself may think or hope, however he may plead in his own behalf, and say he intends no evil, etc., if he in any of the above ways, or in any other way, takes the name of God in vain, God will not hold him guiltless — He will account him guilty and punish him for it"

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Ex. 20:7).

Himself. We should, like Moses, stand in awe of God and that which pertains to Him.

King David continually glorified God by extolling God's commandments (Ps. 119:97), and understood how special was God's name: "Holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments" (Ps. 111:9-10). David feared to use God's name in vain.

Notice how Adam Clarke, in his Bible commentary, expresses the importance of the Third Commandment:

"This precept not only forbids all false oaths, but all common swearing where the name of God is used, or where He is appealed to as a witness of the truth.

"It also necessarily forbids all light and irreverent mention of God, or any of His attributes . . . every prayer, ejaculation, etc., that is not accompanied with deep reverence and the genuine spirit of piety, is here condemned also.

"In how many thousands of instances is this commandment broken in the prayers, whether read or extempore, of inconsiderate, bold and presumptuous worshippers! And how few are there who do not break it, both in their

(Clarke's Commentary, Vol. I, p. 404).

God's name is reverend

The earliest biblical record we have of God is not found in Genesis, as most people might assume. It is recorded in the gospel of John.

Notice the names of God that John was inspired to use: "In the beginning was the *Word*, and the *Word* was with *God*, and the *Word* was *God*. The same was in the beginning with *God*. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. . . . And the *Word* was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the *Father*,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-4, 14).

The "Word" in the original Greek was *Logos*, meaning "Spokesman." The Word, none other than Jesus Christ, was the first begotten of the "Father" (God).

Nowhere does the Bible mention any other great, ruling personages of equal rank with the Logos and the Father. Only these two. And Christ said these two were one, two in one, forming the God Family into which we may be born (John 17:20-21).

The Father's name is holy and reverend (Ps. 111:9). For this reason no man should be called "Father" in a religious sense. As Christ commanded, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9).

Likewise, neither should any man take to himself the title "Reverend." Only God is reverend. His name alone is worthy of reverence. Using the title "Reverend" in any other way violates the Third Commandment by taking one of God's names in vain. God's true ministers do not do so.

On the other hand, some build entire religions around certain "sacred" names for God. They insist that salvation itself is based on special terms for God or pronunciations of God's name. This extreme is just as much in error as the common, obvious misuses of God's names. For more information on the "sacred names" question, write for our free reprint article, "What Is the Savior's Name?"

Your example to others

God predicts that we will have a real struggle on our hands to overcome ourselves and live His way (Matt. 7:13-14).

Life is much too difficult to cope with when we are apart from God. We discovered early in our Christian lives how much better things go when we turn to God in earnest prayer first.

If we can diligently control the language we use in our conversation and in our prayers to God, and avoid using irreverently any term that refers to God or to anything about Him, how pleasing we will be to God!

If we are truly converted, we are members of God's Church, called by God's name. Twelve places in the New Testament identify God's Church by the name *Church of God*, and Christ prayed, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are" (John 17:11).

Our example as servants of God is constantly under observation by those around us. How well do we hold up under that daily scrutiny? Can a Christian defile his godly calling by using crass or coarse expressions, even if such expressions do not directly cast aspersions on God's name? Bathroom terms, locker-room slang and "gutter language" do not become a servant of God.

Using such language in your vocabulary brings great discredit to the Church. Yet many have allowed such expressions to creep into regular usage. Let's not kid ourselves — we are not firmly within the Body of Christ if we are not controlling our language.

As Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). Any poor example we set lowers the opinion others have of God's Church and therefore God's name.

What about swearing?

The common, obvious misuses of God's names are evident to, and zealously avoided by, true Christians. We should be just as diligent to erase from our conversations and thoughts wrong words and phrases substituted for God's names, though these terms may be harder to recognize.

Perhaps some feel that certain spontaneous expressions of emotion or the use of colorful language is harmless. But God is not deceived by camouflaged wording. Such expressions simply take God's names carelessly — "in vain," uselessly.

Notice Christ's living advice to His followers about swearing: "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea;

Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matt. 5:34-37).

A simple yes or no should suffice to affirm or deny. Many people, unfortunately, have limited vocabularies and are prone to use various conversation fillers — meaningless words or phrases, slang or profanity — to make their statements sound complete. We simply lack adequate word power that would enable us to use proper, meaningful, effective expressions, so we fall back on weak terms that in many cases put us at odds with our God.

Our desire to please God should be strong incentive to develop our vocabularies and increase our personal word power. This doesn't mean we should try to use big, complicated words or sound like we are smarter than everyone else, but that we should learn to express ourselves clearly and effectively without using terms that are offensive to God.

Use God's name properly

When we realize how great God is, magnificent beyond anything we have understood before, and how broadly God's law covers every aspect of successful living today, we can see the tremendous impact of the Third Commandment. That third point of God's wonderful Ten Commandments clearly indicates an urgent need for us to revere and honor God, and especially His name, in everything we say, do and think.

When we do — when we come to God in complete agreement with the third of God's great commandments — we will experience tremendous results. When we wholeheartedly obey this and God's other laws, we will have discovered the powerful, fundamental keys to happy, abundant living, now and in the future.

Let's strive to put a watch on our tongues in the future and remember Christ's words of encouragement: "And I know that his commandment is life everlasting" (John 12:50)! □



What is the name of the true Church? Does it have a definite title?

The Bible reveals the name of God's Church in 12 different places; 12 is God's number for organizational beginnings.

In five scriptural passages where the true name of the Church appears, the entire Body of Christ — the Church as a whole, including all individual members — is indicated:

1) "Feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28).

2) "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (I Cor. 10:32).

3) "Or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not?" (I Cor. 11:22).

4) "Because I persecuted the church of God" (I Cor. 15:9).

5) "Beyond measure I persecuted the church of God" (Gal. 1:13).

Where one specific congregation is mentioned, the true Church is also called "the Church of God." Usually the term is used in connection with the place or location of the specific congregation:

6) "The church of God which is at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2).

7) "The church of God which is at Corinth" (II Cor. 1:1).

8) "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Tim. 3:5).

9) "Behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (I Tim. 3:15).

In speaking of the congregations collectively — not as one general Body, but as the total of all congregations — the Bible name is again "the Church of God." Here are the final three verses:

10) "We have no such custom, neither the churches of God" (I Cor. 11:16).

11) "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 2:14).

12) "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God" (II Thess. 1:4).

Since Christ is the Head of the Church (Eph. 5:23), Paul also called the various congregations "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16). But the actual name is "The Church of God."

In some New Testament instances, a descriptive adjective is added to the name, as in the case of the Church of God at Corinth or the churches of God in Judaea, to show the location of the Church.

Today, the name of God's true Church is "The Worldwide Church of God." This denotes the worldwide scope of God's modern-day Church.

Would you please explain Matthew 11:12? What, exactly, did Jesus Christ mean when He said "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Two possible explanations exist.

One apparent explanation is that violent men, especially the scribes and Pharisees, were persecuting those who were seeking to enter God's Kingdom. At that time, the persecution was most violent against Jesus Christ and John the Baptist, the personal representatives of God's Kingdom at that time.

Jesus and John were emissaries from the Father, sent to bear witness of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. Both were ridiculed, threatened, persecuted and finally murdered.

They suffered violence at the hands of untoward, unconverted men who did everything possible to keep anyone from entering the Kingdom of God (see Matthew 23:13).

Another possible explanation is that only those who strive violent-

ly will enter God's Kingdom.

In other words, only those who are energetically driving themselves to qualify for God's gift of eternal life.

The Goodspeed translation renders this verse, "Men have been taking the Kingdom of Heaven by storm and impetuously crowding into it." Now compare Matthew 11:12 with Luke 16:16, which states, "Since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it."

Both of the above explanations are in agreement with the text in Matthew 11:12 and with the rest of the Bible.

What is the meaning of Leviticus 19:27 and 21:5? Do these passages imply that it is wrong to shave or cut one's hair?

Notice a modern rendering of these verses in an American translation by Goodspeed.

Leviticus 19:27, in the Goodspeed version, says: "You must not shave around your temples, nor do away with the corners of your beard."

And this is how the Goodspeed translates Leviticus 21:5: "They must not shave part of their heads bald, nor shave off the corners of their beards, nor make incisions in their bodies."

It was the ceremonial custom of the heathen peoples to shape and trim their beards and hair in special shapes to honor a particular pagan deity — the sun god.

For example, the ancient Egyptians cropped their dark locks short or shaved with great care, so that what remained on the crown of the head appeared in the form of a circle surrounding the head (the "halo" symbol was derived from this), while the beard was dressed in a square form. Or a round bald spot might be shaved on the head.

Shaving your head and cutting your hair for normal good grooming are something entirely different from these pagan ceremonial customs and not at all condemned in the Scriptures. □

You may have heard the term "planned obsolescence."

People often use this term to describe products that, seemingly by design, outlive their usefulness within a given period of time.

We've all had experiences with manufactured goods, such as automobiles or appliances, that function for only a short time and then cease to work.

Consider, for instance, the car that breaks down even before it is completely paid for. It's as if the manufacturer wants you to be forced to buy another!

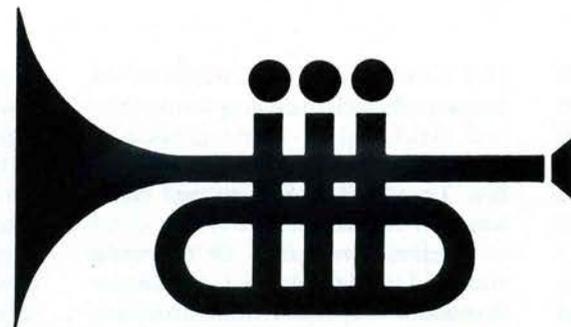
Is God's law outdated?

It's unfortunate, but some who consider themselves Christians are under the impression that God uses "planned obsolescence" when it comes to His law and His plan for mankind!

Millions believe that Christ's crucifixion "did away with" the need to keep God's commandments, including God's Holy Days, which outline His plan.

It's true that God no longer requires certain acts of His people. For example, Christ's sacrifice eliminated the need for God's people to perform animal sacrifices (Heb. 10:1-6).

But man has taken it upon himself to declare obsolete other areas of God's instructions that God definitely has not (Mark 7:6-9). Christ Himself said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:17-18).



The Feast of Trumpets and YOUR Future

By George Kackos

Most of Christianity believes that God's Holy Days, including the Feast of Trumpets, were "done away with" — that they have no relevance today. But nothing could be further from the truth!

God's law, including those instructions that concern God's Holy Days, is in force today.

One of the festivals God commands us to keep is the Feast of Trumpets, which this year falls on September 18. Most professing Christians have not even heard of it. They have been blinded to this important Festival of God, though the Feast of Trumpets is designed to have important meaning for us in the 20th century.

Christ's death did not at all do

away with the need for us to keep the Feast of Trumpets today. This Holy Day of God is relevant now, and very much so.

Origin of the Feast of Trumpets

God first introduced the Feast of Trumpets to ancient Israel after the dramatic Exodus from Egypt, commanding them to keep this day as a Sabbath, a holy convocation (Lev. 23:23-25).

Notice that the Israelites were to mark this particular day as a memorial of the meaning trumpets had for their nation, both physically and symbolically.

God instructed them to use silver trumpets to gather the tribes for assemblies and to signal when it was time to move during their migration to the promised land. The Israelites were to blow the trumpets when they were preparing to attack or to defend against an attack. Moreover, trumpets were blown during God's festivals and at the beginning of each month. Each

use of the trumpets gave added meaning to the festivals as the Israelites understood them (Num. 10:1-10).

Since the Israelites, awestruck and trembling, had already experienced God's tremendous use of a blaring

trumpet when God gave them the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:19), they were familiar with the use of trumpets in correlation with momentous events in their lives!

God continued to associate trumpet blasts with important events after that era as well — and He does so for us today.

The warning message for today

The Bible shows that during Israel's later history, which was

heavily punctuated with conflicts and rebellion, trumpets continued to be used as warning devices, to call to arms or as preludes to important messages — always to mark an event of tremendous import to the whole nation.

God used the prophets, among them Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and Joel, to warn Israel about punishments He would bring upon them for their constant rebellion against His laws. These prophets were to use their voices like trumpets to blare their warnings to God's people.

Notice, for example, God's instruction to Isaiah: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1). See also Hosea 5:8 and Joel 2:1.

Portions of the prophets' warnings were fulfilled, in type, by ancient Israel's captivity. Yet many of these prophecies are dual, having both ancient and modern fulfillments. Such is the case with the message of the prophet Ezekiel.

God set Ezekiel as a watchman to Israel. Ezekiel, through his message, symbolically blew a trumpet of warning to God's people (Ezek. 33:1-7).

Ezekiel's warning, however, did not reach the house of Israel, because they had already gone into captivity! Ezekiel's visions of Israel's impending destruction were given "in the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity" (Ezek. 1:2). Jehoiachin went into captivity in 597 B.C., or about 125 years after the removal, to Assyria, of the last of the northern tribes, which occurred from 721-718 B.C.

If Ezekiel's message did not reach ancient Israel — *could not* have reached them — for whom was it intended?

God's warning through Ezekiel was intended for the modern descendants of the ancient Israel — the peoples of the United States, Britain and, in general, northwestern Europe today!

For more information on who

the modern descendants of ancient Israel are, and how they are identified in Bible prophecy, write for a free copy of our booklet, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Ezekiel's message *is* reaching the modern Israelites. God has set a modern-day watchman to thunder to our peoples the impending consequences of their sins. That watchman is Christ's present-day apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, and this Work.



The trumpets of Revelation

The book of Revelation outlines God's future use of trumpets. This message is for the entire world, and concerns events before and including the return of Jesus Christ, who will soon return to rule this earth with God's government.

This message about God's end-time use of trumpets begins with the opening, in heaven, of Revelation's seventh seal (Rev. 8:1-2). Seven angels are given seven trumpets to blow. The blowing of these trumpets represents God's intervention in world affairs just

after the world has endured Satan's wrath and the heavenly signs (Rev. 6:9-14).

Notice what happens when the first four trumpets are blown: At the sound of the first trumpet supernatural fire will burn the grass and one third of the earth's trees. At the sound of the second trumpet God will kill a third of all sea life. People will no longer freely sail the oceans. Dead, bloated, stinking carcasses of sea creatures will abound.

After this, a third trumpet is blown and a third of the earth's fresh water will turn bitter. The result? The death of many humans. Finally a fourth trumpet is blown, and one third of the light from the sun, moon and stars will be eliminated (verses 7-12).

These terrible plagues are released on the earth by an angry, righteous God, who will be forced to shake carnal, rebellious humanity to its senses!

We come now to the final three trumpet plagues or "woes" (Rev. 8:13).

When the fifth trumpet is blown, the bottomless pit is opened (Rev. 9:1-11). What emerges is the beast power described in Revelation 17:8-14, the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. This beast will have ensnared the world in its satanically inspired, Babylonish religious and political system.

If you have not already done so, why not request a copy of our informative booklet, *Who Is the Beast?* It's absolutely free.

Horrible weapons, symbolized by locusts, are unleashed. They have the power to torment men for five months, perhaps through the use of chemical, biological or radiological weaponry. The beast power will use these weapons on the nations to the northeast of Palestine (Dan. 11:44).

This attack will result in a counterattack. The sixth angel sounds and an army from east of the Euphrates River — an army of 200 million men! — emerges, wielding more frightening weap-

ons. This conflict will destroy one third of mankind (Rev. 9:13-19, Isa. 13:4-10)!

And yet, as unbelievable as it may seem, mankind still will not repent (Rev. 9:20-21). The third “woe” — God’s final trumpet plague — is yet to occur.

The seventh trumpet

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

Jesus Christ will return in power and resplendent glory to seize control of this world (Rev. 19:11-21). The saints will be resurrected to eternal life to rule with Christ (I Cor. 15:51-52, Rev. 5:10).

But it will take the seven last plagues, which compose the seventh trumpet, to complete the job of bringing mankind under the control of God.

These final plagues are described in Revelation 16. First, painful sores will appear on those still subservient to the beast (verse 2). The second and third plagues turn the seas, rivers and springs of water into blood (verses 3-7).

The fourth plague turns the normally life-giving sun into a life-destroying power as the sun heats the earth to incredible temperatures. This fourth plague will still not bring mankind to repentance (verses 8-9). The fifth plague plunges the beast’s realm into darkness (verses 10-11.)

With these nightmarish plagues completed, mankind will be united to fight Christ at His return. Satan the devil, working through the beast (the end-time military leader) and the false prophet (religious leader) will gather the “kings of the east” to join the armies that remain from the devastated beast power. The gathering location will be Armageddon (verses 12-16), the site of ancient Megiddo, in the valley of Jezreel about 20 miles

south of the modern port of Haifa. Many wars have been fought at this site.

But the combined efforts of these Satan-inspired powers will be to no avail. The seventh and last plague will seal their fate. The mightiest earthquake in history will occur. Dormant volcanoes will erupt. Hailstones weighing 100 pounds (the modern equivalent of a “talent”) will fall from the skies (verses 17-21).

Christ’s climactic battle with



these armies will occur at Jerusalem: “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

“Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of

Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zech. 14:1-4).

God’s government will be established. Those of us who qualify to be born into the Family of God will start the process of reconstructing the world — the right way, this time — through the remaining human beings.

A trumpet will be blown to gather Israel from the places in which they have been captive. The Israelites will be brought to the land of Israel to live and worship God (Isa. 27:12-13).

A new age will dawn upon mankind — an age filled with happiness, abundance and true peace, which the world has not known since creation.

Meaning of this Feast

The meaning, then, of the Feast of Trumpets, which pictures Christ’s return to establish God’s Kingdom on earth, is revealed by the various uses of trumpets throughout the Bible.

Old Covenant Israel had a limited, physical understanding of the Feast of Trumpets. But the Philadelphia era of God’s Church understands, through God’s Word, and with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, its commission to offer this dying world this tremendous news about the future. We are to provide the trumpet blast that gives the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this world.

The Feast of Trumpets is not obsolete at all. God has placed great meaning in it. We need to rehearse that meaning each year by keeping this Festival.

By doing so, we show our obedience to God’s Word. We proclaim our belief in God’s warning messages, the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the saints. In addition, we prepare ourselves for the Family of God.

Truly, God has been gracious to give us this Festival! □

Do You Know Your Enemy?

The Bible depicts Satan the devil as a roaring lion. Do you understand Satan's tactics and know how to defend yourself against this evil, devouring force?

By Malcolm Tofts

I received a shock when I drove around the bend in the dusty African road. There, straddling my path, was a lion!

You may not find anything about such a situation in your driver's manual, but it's best to give way to lions. It's not worth arguing the toss with the brutes. So I braked my car to a stop and waited.

The big, powerful cat was clearly agitated about something, and was glaring at the source of his annoyance. Actually, the object of his irritation was worrying me, too. You see, he was glaring at me. It wasn't even my car the lion was watching. He was looking angrily through the wind-screen at me. I froze. My legs turned to jelly.

I don't like zoos much. I enjoy wide-open spaces myself, and get distressed at seeing animals caged. But right then it wouldn't have bothered me one bit to have seen bars between that brute and me. Wild lions emanate a ferocious quality that caged lions lack. It's one thing to see a lion in a cage. It's another to be 40 feet from one in the open.

For a long moment, heat waves danced across the ground between us. I consoled myself by thinking that I had not heard of a

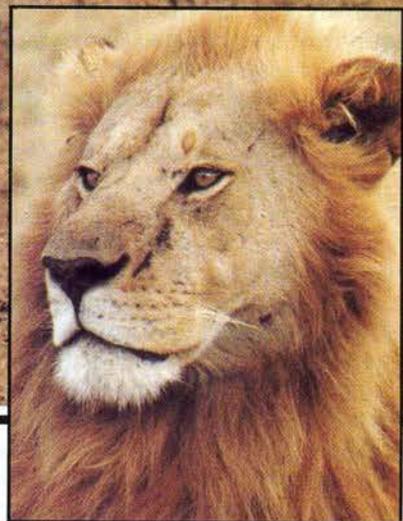
lion attacking a car. Then, suddenly, the tense silence was shattered by a reverberating, deep, throaty roar. The sound died away, leaving the land — and me — shaken and subdued.

Just my luck, I thought to myself. I've probably met the most bad-tempered creature on the African continent. Today, he's probably missed a kill, stepped on a porcupine, been stung by a swarm of bees and had a fight with his mate. No doubt he's determined to attack the first thing that moves. I know that lions don't attack cars. But does this lion know that?

As perspiration trickled down my face, the blazing sun sparkled off the lion's cruel, amber eyes and the razor-sharp teeth he generously displayed to me.

I've seen lions in films. But a film image can't convey what it's like to have 400 pounds of angry muscle, teeth and claw coming your way. A moment like that is wonderful for helping you concentrate. I've heard how people in danger can have their whole lives flash before them. But I am a pragmatic person, and in a second or two I was hastily figuring all the angles.

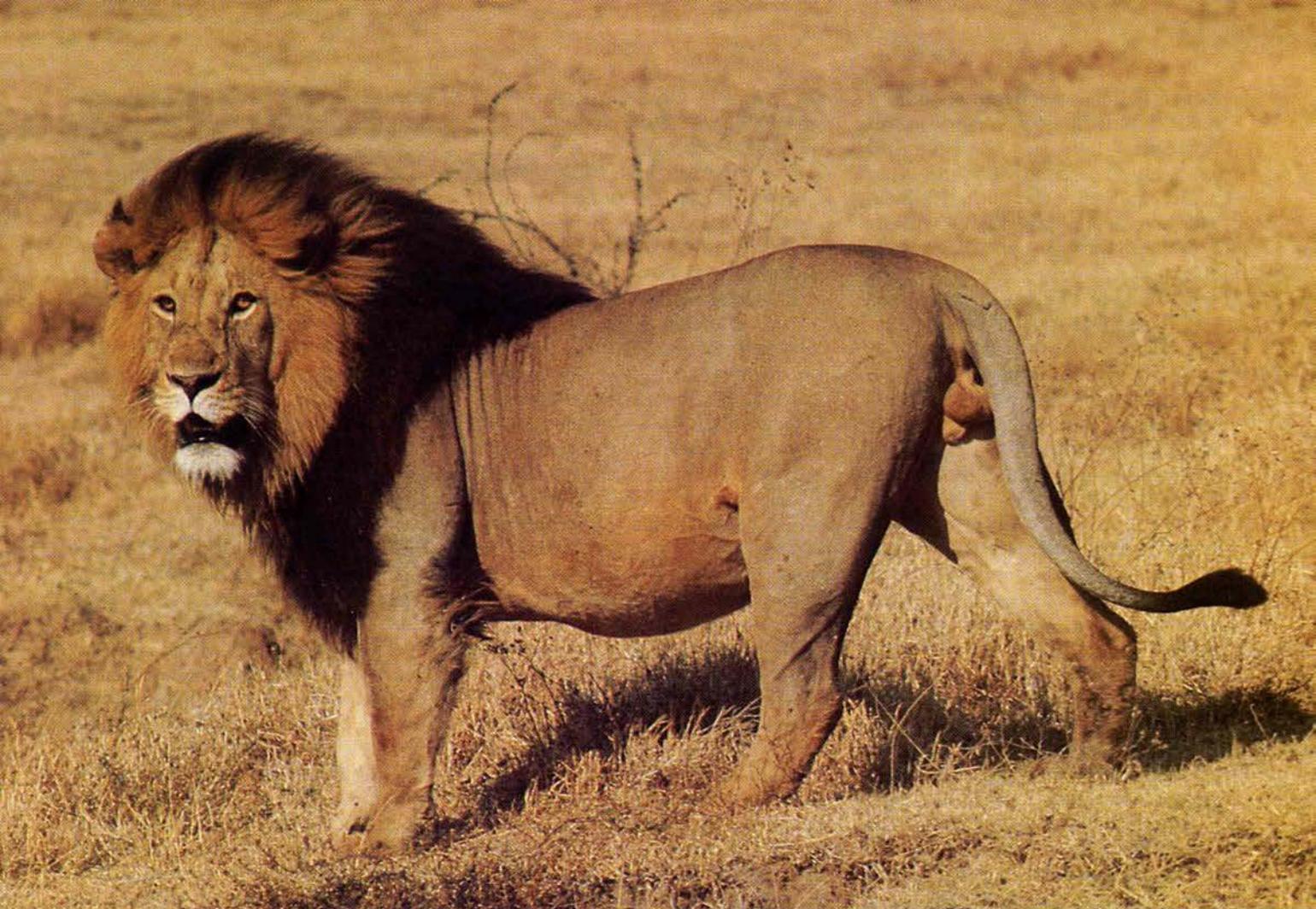
What would I do if the cat charged? I would be the endangered species. It would be good to get to someplace else, and fast. But I couldn't swerve off the road



because of the rocks and trees. Nor could I quickly back along the winding road and, in any case, backing up might only trigger his chasing instinct.

Once his powerful muscles exploded into acceleration I would have about two seconds left. I slammed my car into low gear and hovered my foot above the accelerator. I was going to resist. If the charge came I was going to charge right back.

It would have been a strange spectacle — two clouds of dust at either end of a short stretch of road, rushing toward each other like knights at a jousting tournament. At one end would be the lion, roaring and charging. At the other would be me in my car, accelerating and blaring the horn for good measure.



If the lion's nerve failed him, he'd mistime his leap and I'd nail him with the business end of my automobile. If not, I had one hand on the handle of the driving door. If the lion did get inside the car, I intended to leave for the nearest tree.

I was going to do everything humanly possible to survive. I was going to put up a terrific fight for life.

The lion started pacing back and forth in front of me, scrutinizing the menu and trembling with the desire to attack.

A lion normally begins its charge from about 40 feet — just the distance that separated this lion and me. The moment before its charge begins, a lion raises its tail and flicks it back and forth. The lion is then set to kill.

As the animal's tail began to move I began to pray. As the lion's tail rose so did my fervency. In terms of sincerity that was one

of my best prayers. I know we all have to go sooner or later, but I wanted it to be later rather than sooner. Besides, there's something about being eaten alive that could ruin one's day.

To my great relief, after some more growling and snarling and glaring, the lion lowered its tail and, with a final, mean growl, slunk away. Thus I lived to tell you the story.

Know your enemy

The apostle Peter likened Satan to a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8). Peter's contemporaries knew what he meant, as there were wild lions in Palestine at that time.

But most of us in the 20th century have been cut off from the land and nature. Unless our study is diligent, therefore, we can lose much of the Bible imagery that is built around nature. The apostle Paul said he was not ignorant of

Satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11). Are we?

You may have heard the saying, "Know your enemy." When you know your enemy, it is easier to defeat him. We need to know how our adversary Satan operates so we can guard against him.

Here are several ways in which Satan resembles a roaring lion.

Camouflage

Lions are wonderfully camouflaged. They blend perfectly into the bush. Their amber eyes and golden bodies merge into the undergrowth so they can sneak up on their quarry. Soldiers use a similar tactic when they don camouflage uniforms.

Is it any wonder that Satan, the father of warfare, uses the same technique? The devil has the perfect camouflage. He is invisible. And what's more, many people don't even believe he exists. One of the devil's most clever tricks is

Photos by Ric Erigenbright

to persuade someone that he isn't real. Then he can roam undetected, wreaking havoc and destruction.

But as Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has said on many occasions, there is a cause for every effect. Look about you at this world. There is a cause for all the evil. The Bible tells us that cause.

Genesis 1:2 tells of a time, before the creation of Adam, when the world was "without form, and void." Did God bungle the job of making this globe? Of course not. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). So what happened to put the world into that sorry state? Read Ezekiel 28:12-17.

The archangel Lucifer, later renamed Satan, was given control over a beautiful earth. But in a display of astounding arrogance he sought to take to himself the supreme position of authority in heaven. He was overcome by his pride (interestingly, we refer to a "pride" of lions).

But pride comes before a fall (Prov. 16:18). Satan apparently really believed he could knock God off God's throne. With all God's talk about serving and caring for others, maybe Satan reasoned that the Ancient of Days was soft and senile and would be a pushover.

Perhaps, before this rebellion, there had not been a reason for God to get angry. But Satan learned a lesson. El Shaddai, the Almighty God, blasted Satan back to earth (Luke 10:18). Before Satan's rebellion there's no mention that Satan had a fear of God. But since the rebellion Satan and his demons are in fear and trembling (Jas. 2:19).

Satan is here on this earth now, and he knows his time is short (Rev. 12:12).

Despite his camouflage of invisibility, Satan is a real being. Don't be deceived. Satan is alive and well on planet earth.

Lions look cuddly

The facial expressions of these big cats are normally mild and pleasant — seemingly full of

warmth and gentleness. In photographs lions often appear sweet, cuddly and playful.

But realize this: Lions cannot be trusted. You may have read of stories of people who, while visiting animal parks, lowered their auto windows to pat lions and lost their arms. People who have befriended these creatures have ended their lives locked in a lion's jaws.

Lion handlers know that working with lions is always risky. Lions can turn on their handlers at any moment. Even when they appear docile, lions may attack.

Likewise, Satan doesn't always appear as a ferocious beast. His ferocious nature may only display itself when he is going in for the kill. He and his grisly gang of wicked cohorts like to palm themselves off as angels of light (II Cor. 11:14).

Satan likes his part of the bush — this world — to look attractive and appealing. And this world — its cares, its entertainments, its pursuits — can certainly look enticing and enjoyable. But remember: Beneath the pleasant and friendly exterior are the instincts of a furious beast ready to bite and kill and gorge itself on its victims. Satan wants us to snuggle close to his lair so he can catch us off guard.

Territoriality

A pride of lions has its own territory, a specific area in which it lives and hunts. A pride will roam to and fro through this area, looking for kills.

Satan also has his killing ground. He was cast down to this world and is confined here. This is his turf. Anywhere on this planet is lion territory, spiritually. Every nation is Satan's killing ground. And just as lions hunt in packs, so Satan leads a host seeking what suffering they can cause (Mark 5:1-13, Jude 13).

In Bible imagery the governments of this world are likened to beasts (Dan. 7:17). Just as the lion is referred to as the "king of the beasts," so Satan is able to influence and lead, within the

limits God allows, all human governments. He can raise to the ruler's chair the very dregs of mankind. The devil, as "king of the beasts," can play national governments like puppets.

This world's ideologies and philosophies all show a satanic influence. Cutthroat competition in the marketplace, the struggle to "get while the getting is good," national and individual jealousies and rivalries — all stem from Satan, the king of the beasts. To put it another way, Satan is the god of this world, as surprising as that may seem (II Cor. 4:4).

Lions love darkness

The prey animals, over a long distance, can usually outrun a lion. During daylight the prey spot the lion and run away before the lion gets close enough to begin its charge. So most daylight hunting attempts by lions fail.

Darkness gives the lion an added advantage over his quarry; this advantage often tips the scale in his favor. So lions, in general, prefer to hunt at night.

Similarly, Satan is sometimes called the prince of darkness. He also likes to stalk at night. To avoid his attacks we need to stay in spiritual daylight. Jesus Christ said, "I am the light" (John 8:12). When we are close to that light source Satan will not be able to take us. But what if we wander away from the light?

The African bush is a hard land. At night, without light, even the most heavily armed man stands little chance against a marauding lion.

In the same way, no matter how much knowledge or ability we think we have, no matter how strong we feel we are, if we are wandering around in darkness we are easy pickings for Satan. Without light we will not break the charge.

Method of kill

A male lion usually weighs from 350 to 400 pounds; some reach 500 pounds. Males are usually about 9 feet long from nose to tail and stand about 3½

feet tall. Females are slightly lighter and smaller. Lions have 30 teeth and sharp claws to match. At night they prowl proudly across their domain, seeking prey. The male is dominant and guards the territory, but the female usually makes the kill.

Lions pad softly along, silently surveying their prospective victims. Their amber eyes see well in the dark as they patiently approach prey. And they have an uncanny knack of appearing on the scene when least expected.

They prefer large victims to small ones but will go for both. Zebra, buffalo and waterhog are among their favorites. And they will single out the weakest animals in herds. A zebra with a limp is in great danger.

If the victim raises its head, the lion will freeze in his tracks. He has to wait patiently, though he may be dribbling with greed. Then, when the animal being stalked is again unwary, the lion creeps forward, its body hugging the ground. It has to get close to its prey.

A lion can travel at tremendous speeds over short distances (lions have been timed at crossing 100 feet in just over three seconds, from a standing start). But a lion can't maintain that speed for long. Consequently it must move, undetected, close to its prey, or healthy animals will outrun it.

From about 40 feet the lion explodes into action. Its tail goes up, it lets out a paralyzing roar and it begins an incredibly fast rush. It hurls itself onto the prey, inflicting deep gashes and wounds. It will bite and claw and cuff the thrashing victim, often appearing to play with it.

The victim's death does not come quickly. A killing may take 10 minutes or more. The lion straddles the animal, biting into its hide and ripping away chunks of flesh. Then the lion goes for the throat. Its steel-like jaws clamp down hard on the neck, choking off the air supply and strangling their victim. Then they drag the carcass away to gorge greedily on it.

It's rare for a man without help to survive a lion attack. But because it takes time for the brute to go for the throat, there is time to shout for aid. Someone who can drive off the beast may be nearby. If assistance comes quickly enough, there is hope. Victims of lion attacks need medical attention immediately.

The lessons here are clear. Satan stalks stealthily through spiritual nighttime, using cunning and deception to get close to his prey (Rev. 12:9, 13:14, 20:3). He tries to catch us off guard. Like a lion, Satan is willing to attack anything but prefers large game to small and prefers the weak to the strong.

In other words, the members of God's Church are especially appetizing. Their part in God's plan makes them big game. And a member who has some besetting spiritual weakness is like a zebra with a limp.

But if any of us do stumble and are attacked by a spiritual lion, there may still be time to cry out to God for help. God is far stronger than Satan. Satan may roar but God thunders. God can pull Satan off you. Then you need expert help — the balm of God's Spirit — to heal the awful wounds from the mauling.

But isn't it much better not to put yourself into a situation where Satan can dig his fangs into you?

The lion put down

From time to time some lion may taste human flesh and develop a liking for it. Such a beast has to be tracked and destroyed. But tracking down a lion requires an expert with superior weapons. Once the lion is destroyed, the local people celebrate at being rid of the beast.

Satan is a man-eater. He will destroy any

man who puts himself in a position to be taken. And the Bible tells us that Satan's destructive activities will increase at the time of the end — the time in which we are living (Rev. 12:12)!

So Satan needs putting down. And that is precisely what is going to happen. Satanic influence will be stopped and removed from the world — if need be, blasted off every part of this planet. Christ will leave no corner for Satan and his cunning cohorts to skulk in. The devil's ultimate downfall is prophesied in the Bible — Satan's fate is already sealed.

Revelation 20:1-3 prophesies of the time when a mighty angel will stop Satan in his tracks — will bind him with a great chain. This will occur just after Christ returns to rule the earth. Satan will be caged to prevent him from causing further damage.

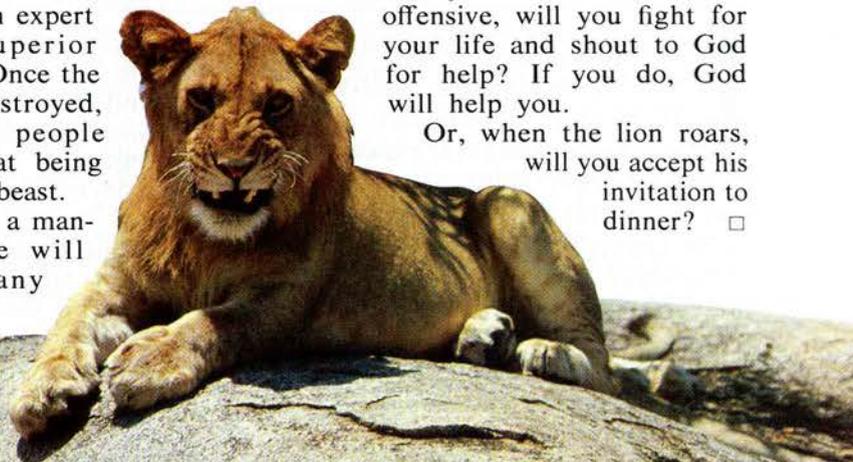
This putting away of Satan — his binding and banishment to the bottomless pit — is pictured by the Day of Atonement, one of God's seven annual Holy Days. God's Holy Days picture what is to happen from now until the end of this age and afterward. For more information on these Holy Days, why not request our free booklet, *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?*

Yes, one day we will be rid of the beast. But in the meantime we have to be vigilant.

Occasionally, when I perceive Satan attacking me, I remember that lion straddling my path in Africa. It was a time to resist stoutly and pray fervently.

When you sense Satan on the offensive, will you fight for your life and shout to God for help? If you do, God will help you.

Or, when the lion roars, will you accept his invitation to dinner? □





A JOYOUS MARRIAGE

Putting All the Pieces Together

Broken marital relationships are becoming the rule rather than the exception. Here are seven areas in which you can strengthen and improve your own marriage.

By Richard Rice

It's tragic, but it's true! Many marriages today are in deep trouble!

Like jigsaw-puzzle pieces that seemingly defy solution, many marital troubles appear to be beyond resolving.

Personal problems, financial pressures, child-rearing difficulties, society's decreasing respect for marriage itself — these and other factors are contributing to

more and more marital failures and breakups.

In the United States, close to one in two marriages now ends in divorce, and the number of divorces is increasing in other countries.

The following letter illustrates the sorrow of this worldwide problem of marital decay.

"Dear Mr. Rice,

"I am writing to you as a last resort to save my marriage. I

don't know what has happened to the beautiful romance that Jim and I once shared. We laughed a lot, did things together and spent many evenings after dinner just sitting and talking at the table.

"We were so much in love for the first few years of our marriage, but something has happened to us.

"We were married in the Church about nine years ago, and have three beautiful young chil-

Photo by Warren Watson

dren. I desperately want them to grow up in a happy home — and ours sure isn't.

"As I now think about it, this frightful change in our relationship began happening about five years ago and our marriage has steadily gone from bad to worse. Our attitudes toward each other today, compared to what they were then, are as different as light is from darkness.

"By the time Jim gets home from work every night, I am completely worn out from cleaning, working, cooking, changing diapers, settling squabbles and all the dozens of chores that mothers must tend to.

"Jim is also tired when he gets home and just wants to relax, have a beer and read the paper. I'd like for him to entertain the children for a while so I can prepare dinner, but they get on his nerves and he yells at them. Then I get mad and yell at Jim.

"The only time Jim ever kisses me or shows any affection is when he wants to go to bed, and that really turns me off. I can't remember the last time he told me he loved me.

"We hardly ever go out anymore, and just don't seem to have any common interests except the children, and even here we can't agree on how they should be trained.

"Every time we try to discuss the problem, we just end up blaming each other. Jim gets mad and I start to cry. This makes him even madder. Yesterday, he finally asked for a divorce.

"Is there any hope for our marriage? I really don't want a divorce, but I can't go on living like this. Can you help us?

Sincerely,
A Troubled Wife"

There are specific reasons why marriages crumble. But there is a cause for every effect. Just as there are causes for marital diffi-

culties, there are steps you and I can take to promote joy and harmony in our marriages.

Here are seven areas in which we can concentrate our efforts to build the kind of happiness God meant every marriage to have.

Keep God at the center

The power to really love another human being with an enduring love comes from God's Spirit (Rom. 5:5). When we walk in fellowship with our Father the great God, He gives us a love with which we can love even our enemies (I John 2:5, Matt. 5:43-44). How much more, then, should we love our friends, and, most important, our own wife or husband and our children?

One reason for fighting and bickering is lack of prayer and Bible study. Frequent communion with God is vital in tapping that great reservoir of love that can smooth out any rough spots in human relationships.

The husband who will get on his knees and ask for God's help to love his family — who will root out selfishness and think of others first — will, through his God-guided actions, inspire his wife and children to return love and affection to him.

Similarly, a wife who does her part — who keeps close to God and acts on what God leads her to do — will inspire her husband.

The action of God's Spirit in a family builds a marvelous, beautiful unity. The absence of God's Spirit leads to a breakdown in character and respect.

Praying together can be a wonderful exercise for you and your mate. Your children can also spend time in prayer with you. Teach them how to pray and ask God to keep you all happy together, to guide your actions and to give you a right attitude, so your marriage and family will always remain strong.

Keep God in your marriage, making Him an integral part of your relationship.

Guard against worldly influences

Years ago marriage was held in

a much higher position of respect in society. Divorce was virtually unheard of and premarital sexual activity was taboo. Today, in sharp contrast, adultery, divorce, sexual promiscuity and pornography are rampant.

A raging devil is pumping his perverse ideas into homes and marriages through the media of radio, television, movies and printed materials. The media also influence us — negatively — with a deluge of advertisements from merchants who use subtle techniques to convince us that their product is not only the best, but also a necessity. Many fall for such strategies to the point of buying what they cannot afford, and end up in serious debt.

The inevitable anxiety and stress in such a situation often spawn bitter conflict. Each mate points an accusing finger at the other. The wife thinks the husband is not providing well enough, and perhaps this is the case. The children are unhappy because they have to wear hand-me-downs, don't have nice toys and lack recreational and educational opportunities.

Is it any wonder that one Brigham Young University survey concluded, "The couple that stays out of debt is more likely to stay together"?

Respect God-ordained roles

God ordained specific roles for marriage partners that, if performed responsibly, upbuild and strengthen marriage.

Ephesians 5:25 states, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." This admonition is a basic precept of Christian family structure.

God places great responsibility on the man, because he is the leader. He should be showing the way, setting the example, serving his family and looking out for their interests. When he has done these things first, the love his wife and children should have for him will naturally follow.

This is the precedent that Jesus Christ set, and that He is still practicing today. He not only

gave His life for us, but is now looking out for our needs and blessing us in manifold ways.

If you as a husband will follow this instruction and view your position as head of the family as an opportunity to love and serve, you'll find that your wife will reciprocate and do everything she can to help you.

The other part of God's instruction about the functions of marital partners is found in verse 22: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

The word *submit* means to respond, to uphold your husband and to honor him. It is another way of saying to love him. It means showing concern for him, responding to his needs and encouraging him to face life's challenges and be a success.

You as a wife should want to do these things because your husband loves you, strengthens you, complements you and gives you all he has to offer — his time, energy, thoughts, spiritual help and encouragement — his life.

Keep your first love

When young people are dating, they are very careful to "put their best foot forward." They will dress nicely, make sure they are clean and neat and always show courtesy.

But once into marriage, when the radiance of that first love wanes and those excited feelings of newness and romance start to fade, standards begin to slip and lethargy creeps in.

When husband and wife let down on their appearance, become slovenly and neglect personal standards, their marriage will start suffering. What was once exciting adventure for both partners becomes dull routine.

The husband begins to take his wife for granted — she may no longer seem to be the lovely, romantic, desirable girl he courted. His compliments get farther apart, and he doesn't fully appreciate the effort she puts into the responsibilities she handles. He may not even notice the nice little things she does for him.

The wife becomes disenchanted with her job as housewife and homemaker. The man who was once her "Prince Charming" begins to lose his charm. She may reminisce on those relatively carefree, fun-filled days before marriage and, when she compares, her present life may seem like imprisonment.

In such a situation, an atmosphere of hostility easily develops.

God is the author of marriage. Maintaining personal standards not only shows respect for your partner, but also for Him. Your marriage relationship will greatly benefit if you will always be courteous, thoughtful and well-mannered. Seek to please each other in areas of dress and grooming. Continue to show appreciation for one another. Try to be more affectionate, grateful and understanding.

Communicate

Waiting until emotions have built up steam usually leads to an explosion. If something is really bothering you, get it out in the open and talk about it.

A basic key to marital harmony — and a source of many marital problems — is communication.

Never get angry at the same time. When you and your mate disagree, keep your temper under control. Curb your own anger. Let the other "blow off steam" if need be. One of you should always remain calm when the other is upset. Self-control helps greatly in coming to a peaceful solution.

Choose the right moment to discuss your feelings. For example, the wife shouldn't bring up irritations when her husband comes home tired, exhausted or worried, or when he is feeling pressure from other areas. He probably will not be able to listen with attention and patience. Wait to bring up problems or differences until he's more relaxed and in the right mood.

Really listen to what your mate is saying. God does not change, but we human beings are creatures of temperament. We need

to be aware of our mates' mood changes and not misread them. If you find your mate is having the "blues," don't pry, but be sympathetic and willing to listen if he or she wants to talk.

Likewise, if your mate is irritated by something you are doing, listen patiently to the complaint. Listen with your heart and mind as well as your ears and show that you are willing to resolve the situation.

Don't retaliate or point the finger of blame. Justifying oneself does not solve the problem, nor does accusing the other. Rather, admit where you may be wrong and express a desire to correct your mistakes and make peace. Then follow up with a determined effort to change.

A major key to promoting marital harmony is found in Christ's instruction in Matthew 7:12: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

And remember, the standards with which you deal with or judge your mate are the same standards by which you yourself will be judged (verse 2).

Stimulate each other

Mental stimulation is a powerful tool to keep a marriage exciting and healthy. Husbands and wives will experience some of their happiest moments when they talk about ideas and concepts they have been thinking about and want to share with someone else.

This sharing of ideas is different from solving conflicts or resolving differences. It has to do with hearty exchanges on a wide range of uplifting and educational subjects.

In order to be stimulating to each other in this manner, couples would do well to read widely and to keep their minds attuned to what is happening in the world. Be aware of news and social trends. Become knowledgeable on a wide variety of subjects.

Share your thoughts with each other and ask for feedback. These scintillating conversations will truly endear you to your mate and

(Continued on page 29)

MINISTUDY

How Christ Will Rule the World Tomorrow

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

The Good News, in conjunction with the Correspondence Course Department, presents brief excursions into the study of the Bible, delving into topics relevant to the development of future members of the God Family. Bible study is one means by which Christians are renewed daily (II Cor. 4:16), so let's refresh ourselves with more of the precious truths of God's Word!

Instructions: The format of these ministudies is similar to that of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Look up and *read in your Bible* the scripture references given in answer to the questions. Comments following the questions elaborate on the scriptures just read. That's all there is to it! (These studies are based on the King James Version of the Bible, unless otherwise stated.)

Great statesmen and leading scientists have openly stated that man's only hope for world peace lies in world government — one universal government wielding supreme power and authority over all nations.

But these same leaders also admit that the nations could never bring about a world-ruling government. Agreement on who would rule and how would be utterly impossible.

Yet Bible prophecy tells us that world government will soon be established. Jesus Christ is coming again to restore and administer the government of God on earth. And a veritable utopia will result!

Exactly how will God create and maintain world peace once Christ returns? This study will answer that question, as we review several basic scriptures describing what Christ's government will be like in the world tomorrow.

1. Where did Jesus Christ go after His resurrection? Acts 1:11, Rev. 12:5. Will He come again? John 14:3, Acts 1:11.

2. How long will Christ remain in heaven before He returns to earth? Acts 3:20-21.

Will He come with great power and glory? Matt. 24:30, Rev. 19:11-16. How will Christ begin to rule the earth? Rev. 19:15.

The glorified Christ is coming to restore the rule of the government of God over all the earth. God's government was taken away from the earth when the archangel Lucifer (now Satan), whom God had made ruler over our planet, rebelled. Satan attempted to dethrone and replace God as ruler of the entire universe (Isa. 14:12-14).

In previous ministudies we covered the dramatic return of Jesus Christ and the awesome, earth-shaking events of the "Day of the Lord," which will precede Christ's return. We learned that earth's inhabitants will refuse to yield to Christ's authority when He returns. Therefore Christ will have to powerfully subdue the world and force mankind, at first, to submit to His rule.

Christ will use a "rod of iron," symbolizing absolute authority. He will rule with power, not hesitating to use it when necessary. Men, influenced by their old habits and attitudes formed in this present evil world of the devil (II Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2), will have to be forced to learn the positive fruits of living God's way.

3. Will Christ rule supreme in the coming government of God? Rev. 19:16. Where will His throne — His headquarters — be? Jer. 3:17.

The coming government of God will not be a democracy. Government will be from the top down, with Christ reigning supreme. From His headquarters at Jerusalem, Christ's rule will spread over the entire earth.

4. Will the born-again sons of God — those Christians who voluntarily came under the government of God in His Church and proved their loyalty to God during their mortal lives — assist Christ by reigning with Him in the world tomorrow? Rev. 2:26-27, 3:21, 5:10, 20:4. What did God inspire Daniel to prophesy?

MINISTRY

Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27. Will many also be rulers over cities? Luke 19:16-19.

5. How will these immortal spirit rulers serve the people? Rev. 1:6, 5:10, I Cor. 6:2.

In the United States today, the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are separate. Then there is the teaching field, which, in democratic countries, is separate from (though in most cases overseen by) the government.

In God's coming Kingdom on earth, however, these four functions will be united. The God Family establishes the laws (the legislative function). The God Family will enforce the laws (the executive function). It will also interpret those laws and judge cases concerning them (the judicial function). And the God Family will be responsible for the educational function — it will faithfully teach the people God's law, which is the way to peace, prosperity and happiness.

Each divine ruler will serve his subjects in genuine love and concern (I John 4:16), never acting selfishly.

6. How much power will each ruler exercise, under Christ, in his own area? Rev. 2:26-27.

Absolute and definite authority will exist on the spot in all parts of the world. Yet all governmental policies will be based on the pattern laid down from world headquarters by Christ Himself, and each ruler under Christ will be responsible directly to Christ. God's government will be perfectly organized, devoid of useless red tape and excess-baggage bureaucracies.

7. Will this divine government be permanent? Dan. 7:14, 18.

No time or money will be wasted on campaigning and elections. There will be no politicians to cater to special, organized groups or classes to get votes. In the world tomorrow God will appoint His resurrected saints as the rulers and educators, and no lobbyists or other pressure groups will be able to unduly influence or corrupt them.

There will be no insurrections, no rebellions — God can't be overthrown. Satan's failed coup proved that! Nor will any member of the God Family ever turn into another adversary (I John 3:9).

8. Will the nations finally begin to seek Christ and ask for instruction in God's way of life? Mic. 4:1-2. Will people learn the way to peaceful productivity? Verse 3.

Notice again that in God's pattern for world rule, religion and government are not separate. In addition to ruling as supreme king over all the nations, Christ will also be supreme educator.

To bring mankind to repentance, Christ will reeducate the world in His way of life — the way of God's law of love — so people may, of their own free will, decide to follow His way to physical and spiritual blessings.

9. What will happen to those nations that refuse to be reeducated in God's way? Zech. 14:16-17. And if they still won't obey? Verses 18-19.

Christ will start immediately to reeducate the people of the world through His Holy Days. The world will come to know that Christ is the Lord, and that God's master plan teaches the way to physical blessings and spiritual salvation. Those who stubbornly refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles will suffer from drought and plagues until they submit to God and keep the Feast.

10. Will God's spirit teachers take a personal part in bringing about complete comprehension of God's law, and in directing people to take right action? Isa. 30:20-21.

God's spirit-born children will be able to appear suddenly or speak as if from nowhere — lawbreakers will freeze in the act and potential crimes will be prevented. Thus, with proper guidance from Christ and with Satan's sinful influence restrained (Rev. 20:1-3), violence and crime will be stamped out.

11. How successful will the priest-teachers be in teaching the knowledge of God's way to the world? Jer. 31:34, Hab. 2:14, Isa. 11:9. As a result, will the Millennium become like one continual Feast of Tabernacles — one great feast of rejoicing? Isa. 25:6-7.

During the Millennium no religious confusion will exist because Satan will have been restrained at Christ's coming. Humans will then be teachable — their eyes will be opened to God's revealed truth.

People will begin to live God's way of love — the way of giving and outgoing concern for others — the way of true values — the way of peace, of happiness, of well-being, of joy and, ultimately, spiritual salvation.

Next month we'll study conditions on earth after all nations have been reeducated to God's way of life. We'll learn what utopia will really be like! □

sharing...

MONEY PROBLEMS?

By Brian D.L.R. Smith

Most of us, it seems, would like to have more money. From the poorest of us to the richest, we all “need” that extra hundred, thousand or million that will “get us straight.” Yet even when we do have extra money, it doesn’t seem to solve our problems. Why?

Perhaps we are extremely cost conscious, carefully guarding every last coin. Yet somehow prosperity always eludes us.

But does a penny-pinching, miserly approach really work? Can we achieve financial stability and success by trying to get as much as we can and giving away as little as possible?

No! If this is our approach, it’s no wonder we do not make any progress toward prosperity, because this selfish way of life is directly against the law!

What law? The law that says: “Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6:38, Revised Standard Version throughout).

In other words, if we give, all that we give will be given back to us, and with interest! Impossible?

I have a friend who, as far as I am aware, knows nothing of this biblical

law of generosity. Yet he was practicing the law, in principle, for years before I became aware of this Bible statement. I was struck by his practice of “leaving something in a deal for the next person.” He would, if anything, slightly underprice things he offered for sale.

About 10 years ago he came across a run-down property — some land for sale at a particularly low price. He bought the property and renovated the house on the land. He then resold the house, along with a space for a garden, at a price that recovered his initial outlay and costs.

The rest of the land, some 65 acres, became the basis of a high-quality golf and country club, which has produced quite a profit! Generosity certainly paid off for this man.

The most truly successful people in the world have been the most generous.

King Solomon is reputed to have been the richest man who ever lived. He said: “He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed” and “One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give,

and only suffers want” (Prov. 22:9, 11:24).

Which way of life are you following?

We need to change our way of thinking and living to one of helping others and being generous, whether it’s with money, time, comfort, love or work. As Solomon said, here is our responsibility: “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it” (Prov. 3:27).

Of course, there is no guarantee we’ll be as rich as Solomon was, but there is a guarantee we’ll be richer than we are now: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work... You will be enriched in every way for great generosity” (II Cor. 9:6-11).

Can you resist trying this law? There is no need to remain in ignorance. Gravity, centrifugal force and other laws exist whether

we know about them or not. So does the law of giving and receiving. □

Photo by Warren Watson



STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT



Chapter 10

Jesus Stills a Storm

By Shirley King Johnson

For a second time, Jesus toured all the villages of Galilee. Recognized wherever He went, He announced to the assembled crowds that God's government was going to be restored to the earth. He also healed the sick and cast out demons from those who were demon possessed. Demons are evil angels who are under Satan the devil's domination.

The 12 disciples wondered how Jesus

managed to keep up such a pace. All this activity exhausted them! And yet Jesus was known to rise well before dawn to find places to pray privately.

Jesus' many followers contributed goods and money to His work (Luke 8:1-3). This aid provided for Jesus' and the disciples'

Gale-force winds and turbulent waves violently shook the boat carrying Jesus and His disciples across Galilee. While Jesus slept soundly, the disciples grew more and more fearful.

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needs, including food and lodging during their travels.

Mary comes to see Jesus

Mary, Jesus' mother, went down to Capernaum to see Jesus when He returned from His tour. As Mary and her younger sons neared the house, they saw that a multitude of people, waiting to get in, had gathered in the street outside. Mary and Jesus' half brothers managed to press their way to the open door.

Mary heard Jesus' voice as Jesus spoke to the crowd seated before Him in the courtyard. Surely if He knew that she had come, He would want to see her, she thought to herself.

A group of scribes and Pharisees had just accused Jesus of using satanic powers to accomplish His healings.

“Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven,” Jesus warned in an angry tone. The disciples had often heard Jesus say that the Holy Spirit is the power of God. To blaspheme that Spirit is to speak in derision of it. And the Pharisees did just that when they said Satan's power, and not the Holy Spirit, performed Christ's healings and cast out demons. “Rabbi, give us a sign!” called out a scribe (Matt. 12:38). He wanted to see another miracle.

“You will be given no sign,” Jesus replied, “except one.”

Silence fell. Some leaned closer to hear Jesus' next words. “Jonah was in the belly of a fish three days and three nights, and the Son of man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Jesus continued to talk to the crowd, mentioning the Queen of Sheba's visit to hear Solomon's wisdom. The Pharisees

should have realized that they were in the presence of someone greater than Solomon! Jesus went on to comment on demons. Someone in the crowd noticed that Mary and Jesus' brothers were present, waiting to see Jesus. The listener stepped up to Jesus. “Sir,” he said, “your mother's here, and your brothers. They want to see you.”

Jesus took this opportunity to emphasize that the Family of God takes precedence over human families. “Who are really my brothers, sisters and mother?” He asked. “My brothers, sisters and mother are those who obey my Father in heaven” (Matt. 12:50, Mark 3:35, Luke 8:21).

Jesus concluded His sermon with that statement. He dismissed the crowd and began to pass through them out to the street. At the door He warmly greeted and embraced His mother and half brothers.

Jesus speaks in parables

Taking the 12, Jesus led the way to the shore of Galilee. This spot was one of His favorite places to teach. The crowd trailed behind, increasing in numbers along the way. Jesus sat down in a small boat and preached a sermon made up of parables about the Kingdom of God (Matt. 13:1, Mark 4:1, Luke 8:4).

Jesus concealed the parables' true meanings from the audience because the time had not come for God the Father to begin to call many into His Church. Jesus was on earth only as a witness. He had come, this first time, to announce the Kingdom of God, to die for the sins of mankind and to start the New Testament Church.

One of the parables He used was about a tiny mustard seed that eventually

A giant wave caught the boat broadside "Wake Him!" Peter shouted when he saw the rudder wrenched from the hands of James and John . . . "We're going to the bottom if you don't!"

became a huge plant. The purpose of this parable was to show how the Church of God would grow from one person, Jesus, to eventually fill the whole earth.

Jesus teaches the disciples privately

Dismissing the multitude, Jesus returned to the house. The 12 tried to discourage the crowd from following, but the people wanted to see more miracles and hear more parables.

When they were inside, the disciples began to question Jesus about His discourse. They wondered why Jesus spoke in parables to the crowds. The truth was that the disciples themselves didn't understand what the parables meant.

"What, for instance, did you mean by the weeds in the field?" asked one. "Who is the enemy who sowed the tares?"

Jesus explained that His message — the true Gospel — was meant to be understood only by a select few at that time. Then he went over the parables one by one and explained them (Matt. 13:36).

That evening Christ and the disciples set sail across Galilee toward the Gadarenes area, aboard a large boat. Before long dark clouds billowed in the west and obscured the sun. A sudden gust of wind filled the sails, swinging the craft around.

John stepped up to his brother James. "I think we'd better postpone the trip. A storm's coming."

"Ask Jesus if we should turn about," James instructed, his eye on the boiling sea.

Stepping over the feet of Matthew, Judas, James the Second and Philip, John found Jesus sleeping soundly in the stern of the boat, His head on a sheepskin pillow (Matt. 8:24, Mark 4:38, Luke 8:23). Jesus' face was relaxed, and John thought to him-

self that Jesus needed this rest. John went back to James. "He's asleep. Why don't we keep going? We'll be all right."

Soon, however, the wind increased to gale intensity, screaming across the lake and violently shaking the boat. James yelled to Andrew, "Get those sails in or they'll be ripped away!" Thunder rolled over the blackened heavens. All talking in the boat had stopped. Amid the noise of the storm Jesus slept on.

Waves splashed in over the bow. Then a giant wave caught the boat broadside. Shuddering, the craft pitched helplessly into a trough of the sea, but just as quickly it was tossed up again. Water continued to come into the boat. The situation looked progressively grimmer to the disciples, and some became openly fearful.

"Wake Him!" Peter shouted when he saw the rudder wrenched from the hands of James and John together. "We're going to the bottom if you don't!"

Someone bent over Jesus. "Sir, wake up! We're sinking! Don't you care?"

Jesus sat up, rubbing sleep from His eyes. He heard the screaming of the wind and saw the terror in the disciples' faces. "Why are you afraid? Where's your faith?" He asked. Leaning into the wind, He rose and raised a hand in a gesture of rebuke. "Be still!"

The storm immediately lost its vigor. The howling wind died away and the sea calmed to gentle, lapping waves. Flecks of foam that clustered here and there on the surface of the lake were the only evidence that there had ever been a storm.

Now, however, the disciples were even more fearful than they had been before. "What kind of a man is this?" asked one of them. "Even the wind and the sea obey Him!" □

Living

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us. They come to strengthen, to build our character. And that's the very purpose of our being — to make us like God. We, like Jesus Christ, can be born into the Kingdom of God. Notice I Peter 4:12-13:

"Beloved [this is speaking to real Christians], think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

Some people, when some of these trials and these problems come, think nobody else has ever had anything come upon them like that. It's some strange thing that is peculiar to them. That is not true!

Every other person on earth is having problems. Everyone is having troubles. They have things to meet and to overcome, solutions to work out, the same as you do. It's not strange. And so here is the teaching of God. He says: "But REJOICE," yes, rejoice inwardly in these things, "inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings."

Christ suffered, but Christ also said to His apostles, "My joy I leave with you." "I am come," He said, "that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly."

He came to give us THE ABUNDANT LIFE. He had that kind of life. He was happy. He was filled with joy, even though at the same time He was a man of sorrows — and why?

Because He LOVED all human beings, and He saw the way they were going. He saw how they were destroying themselves, how they were bringing unhappiness and emptiness, fear and worry, poverty, sickness, disease and sufferings on themselves. He thereby shared their sufferings. He was a man of sorrows. He was sorrowful for them.

But He was a man who was happy *inside*. He was setting us an example of the kind of life that we should live. So we read here:

"Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

Why we can always be happy inside

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled" (I Pet. 1:3-4).

There isn't one person in 10,000 professing Christians who really knows and understands what that incorruptible inheritance really is. It is far greater — filled with far more splendor and glory, and far more happiness — than you probably ever imagined. That is what is in store for you if you will surrender your life to God.

It's up to you!

Peter continues, saying that we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready "to be revealed in the last time."

That means a time yet future, ahead of us just now, only a few years future in our time, at the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth once again!

"Wherein," continues this scripture, "ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" or trials and troubles that come upon us, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth" — because this trial of our faith is developing character that will never perish. It's more valuable than gold.

What do you do when troubles come?

When a trouble comes upon you, instead of griping, grumbling, moaning and being unhappy and miserable about it, realize that something is come upon you to try you, to develop character,

to develop something real and genuine in you that you will carry with you for all eternity.

But when troubles come, do you rejoice in them? Do you realize that something is come that is more valuable to you than a great sum of gold?

Or do you grumble and complain and wish that such things had never come?

Jesus Christ came so that our lives should be *changed* from what they are. They are to be changed from drifting, going the easy way, acting according to impulse — which builds no character, which is putting nothing into us that we can take with us, nothing that is real, that is lasting and permanent — to the life that finds the true values.

He gives us a life that does meet and overcome obstacles and temptations, a life that is just filled with happiness, brimful and running over with joy, the real abundant life. We realize what is being accomplished, where we're going. You have a goal if you are Christ's. You have an objective. You know where you're going; you see the progress you're making. It gives you a thrill of happiness.

Material blessings, too

And, incidentally, if your life is the right kind that God desires, which is for your good, if you seek first the Kingdom of God, which is your objective in life — or should be — and His righteousness, the right ways of life, He says that all these material things shall be added.

God, perhaps, may not add material things early in life. He may not add them right away. It may be some little time, but He will give you all the material goods and necessities that you really need, and even a great many of the luxuries, if your life pleases Him. Yes, you can have those things when you know how to possess them and how to use them.

What is an abundant life? What is abundance? Here is the definition: "possessing an overflowing fullness." It means great

plenty — great plenty of life and real living. It means exuberance. It means abounding. That's the kind of life that Jesus Christ came to reveal that we could have.

Not very many people understand it. Not very many people understand what real Christianity is. Not very many professing Christians know what a real Christian life is. They're making themselves so unnecessarily unhappy.

The true Christian life, then, possesses an overflowing fullness of the things that are the fruits of the Spirit of God — an overflowing fullness of LOVE (it's God's love — it's a genuine, spiritual love), a fullness of JOY, and of PEACE, and of *faith*, of *meekness*, of *temperance*. Does YOUR life possess those things? Have those things come into your life to fill you?

I know that you fall a great deal short of all of that. Everybody does. *We all* still fall short. But that's our goal! That is the life that we shall live in the Kingdom of God. That is the life that we should strive for, and with God's help we can gradually grow more and more into it.

That is the challenging life we grow into, the life of God's Spirit within us — *that* is the HAPPY life, *that* is the JOYOUS life, and the ABUNDANT life.

The abundant life must be a life that has abundant RESOURCES. If you have these resources, they have to come from somewhere, because if you look within, you will find that they are not there! We have some resources within, but they fall far, far short from the kind of abundant living that Christ reveals and I'm telling you about. You don't have these kinds of resources within and you can't obtain them from the "around."

Look around you. You can't obtain them from other people because they don't possess these things either.

God above is the source

We can have abundant resources if we know where to go to

obtain those resources. But material wealth does not give anyone those resources. It can only add to them.

You don't have them *within*. You can't get them from the *around*. But you can receive them only from the above, from God Almighty.

God Almighty is the great Giver, not only of life, but of life more abundantly. God is the Giver of the great resources. He is the Almighty.

God Almighty has a great deal of power to give you, to impart into you. You can receive from Him abundant FAITH, the resource of POWER, faith to drive out fear and worry, faith to drive out discouragement before obstacles, to know that it's going to work out every problem, power where you are now weak, to give you love to cover up and to drive out the bitterness and the resentment when other people do you wrong.

The LOVE of God will cover all of that and drive it out. God will give the resource of WISDOM that you now lack. God has all knowledge and all wisdom. God says if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally. And if you really believe, it shall be given, and understanding, too! And then zeal and energy — real living, driving energy that is needed to do the work that you must accomplish.

It can happen to you, too

I am going to mention something personal. To conduct this Work I lead a very busy, driving life, and expend a great deal of energy.

A physician friend of mine once asked me: "Mr. Armstrong, I don't see how you do it. Where do you get this energy? How do you keep going so long and under so many hours of strain and stress, and still have that driving energy?"

I told him, "It's one of the resources that I get from above."

Of course, I find it necessary to observe the laws of health and

practice moderation in all things. It requires self-discipline.

You, too, can have these resources that make you happy. These are the things that we all need. These are the resources that can come only from God. And these are the resources that will produce those fruits of love, and joy, and of peace, and of patience.

Most lives today are empty, absolutely *empty!* They are filled with boredom, with frustrations and fears.

It is as you read in Isaiah 55:1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Everyone is really thirsty for the good things of life, for the happiness, the pleasant things and, to some extent, even exciting and thrilling things in life that we could and should have. But most lives seem empty. The well is dry, and they're thirsty.

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?" (verse 2).

What do you drink in? Jesus said that if you drink of Him, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow rivers of *living water*" — not stagnant water, but living water, sparkling water. "*But this spake he of the Spirit*, which they that believe on him should receive" — the Holy Spirit of God (John 7:38-39).

You need God's Spirit

The Holy Spirit of God is pictured as living water. It comes into you. You go to Christ to receive it. You don't bottle it up and put a cork on it. It flows out from you. The Holy Spirit flows out in love, peace and joy, radiating *from* you. There is no other way to find these resources. There is no other way to live a happy life.

The laws of God are a way of life. The Bible in its whole is a way of life. Jesus Christ said that

we must live by every word of God. If you live by every word of God, you will live according to the way of life that God has laid down in His Book, the Holy Bible.

It is the way of life that is the *abundant* life. It's the way of the happy, the cheerful life that simply *radiates*. It radiates sunshine and happiness, and it's always happiness within. The well is not dry. It's filled!

Now here is what this kind of life will mean. It means that you will be **RADIANT**. It means that God's Spirit in you will radiate cheerfulness and smiles, friendliness toward others, love, sincerity, vigor, calm courage, goodwill and interest in others, instead of being so self-conscious, with so much overinterest in your own self.

If the Spirit of God is *in* you, you will be plain and simple. You will put on no airs. There will be no posing, as most people do in the world. You will be natural, and not pretending. You will be honest and frank and unaffected, clean in mind and in body. You will be humble. There won't be *self-confidence*. There will be *faith in God*, instead.

You will be humble, but you will have **THE FAITH AND THE POWER OF GOD**, whose power is unlimited. You will be strong through this faith of God. There will be no weakness, but great strength. You will have wisdom, and you will have courage. You will have everything, every resource you need.

You will be ready always to say "I don't know," if so it be. You will be ready, always, to admit error when it is so proved, to confess wrong and to *change* to what is right, wherever you are wrong. You will be ready to accept correction and reproof, and to act upon it no matter how humiliating or painful. You will diligently study to learn the right way and to live it, and you will study the Bible to find it.

You will face every obstacle that comes along — every difficulty, every problem and trouble — unafraid, in the full faith of

God, looking to Him for wisdom and knowing that He will guide you and deliver you out of it.

The attitude of a Christian

Here is the kind of attitude you will have. You will wish others to live their lives, too, up to their highest, their fullest, their best. You will be concerned for their welfare.

You'll try to help others every way you can, never to hurt or to injure. You will never meddle. You will never dictate, interfere or give unwanted advice, or speak ill of, nor give gossip about others. Never will you go around griping, complaining and murmuring things that make you and others unhappy.

You will always be willing to help others by giving them a chance, and mainly you can help others by helping them to help themselves, by encouragement, by setting a good example, by thus inspiring and uplifting others, giving advice only when it's welcomed, and when they want it and are willing to open their minds to receive it.

You will hew to the line of the one supreme goal of life, which should be to inherit the Kingdom of God, to be really born of God into the very Family of God. You will be relentlessly pursuing this goal with zeal, with enthusiasm, with drive and with energy fired by godly ambition, with hope, with faith, living by every word of God.

The Bible will be the authority that you obey, the authority that you look to for everything in your life.

You will be overcoming your own human nature and the world, resisting Satan, drawing nearer to God by **constant daily Bible study and by prayer, and by occasional fasting and prayer**. That is the Christian life. It's the *happy*, the *abundant life*.

It's yours for the asking. It's yours for the willingness to confess your sins to God and to repent of breaking His laws. It's yours if you're willing to do what He says. □

MARRIAGE

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vice versa, and expand your mind. This will do much to keep your marriage bright and vibrant.

Also, invite people out or to your home for visits as you can afford it — perhaps just for a cup of coffee. These get-togethers will build and sharpen your powers of observation and mental alertness.

Make a total commitment

Work is the one ingredient that is often missing when marriages collapse and disintegrate. It takes work to build a positive relationship and to keep commitment strong.

King David's prayer, after he was caught in sin, can be encouraging. It is found in Psalm 51. David was very sorry for his mistake and bitterly repented of it. He cried out to his Maker, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).

Like David, you can take your problems to God. Ask Him to create in you a clean heart. Pray for a right spirit and the courage to step out and turn things around. Husbands, take the lead to initiate a reconciliation. Resolve to sit down together in private to iron out differences and start a new life together.

Kneel down together before God in prayer and confess: "We're tired of all this fighting and arguing, and all these conflicts that make us unhappy and miserable. We're tired of doing it our way and ending up total failures. Please, Father, we want to live your way. Restore our love again. Give us love for each other."

Begin now to work at building the love God will provide. Your marriage, with the problems it may have, needn't be like an unsolvable puzzle.

Renew your marriage commitment, founded on God and His great love, and start, together, to build a marriage that is overflowing with happiness, love, accomplishment and success! □

• A Monthly Booklet Quiz •

Test Yourself

Number 3

All About Water Baptism

- *Is baptism required for salvation?*
- *The thief on the cross wasn't baptized — what about him?*
- *Does the word baptizo mean to pour, sprinkle or immerse?*
- *What does the ceremony of baptism picture?*
- *Should we be baptized "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" or "in the name of Jesus" only?*
- *How many people did Jesus Himself baptize?*
- *What does the Bible say the proper age for baptism is?*

Jesus said repentance and belief are the first two steps toward becoming a true Christian (Mark 1:15). Water baptism is next (Acts 2:38). Can you correctly explain the subject of water baptism? The answers to the above questions are all found in our booklet, *All About Water Baptism*. If it's been a while since you've read this booklet, why not reread it? Or, if you have not read it, you may request a free copy by using the literature request card inside this issue.
