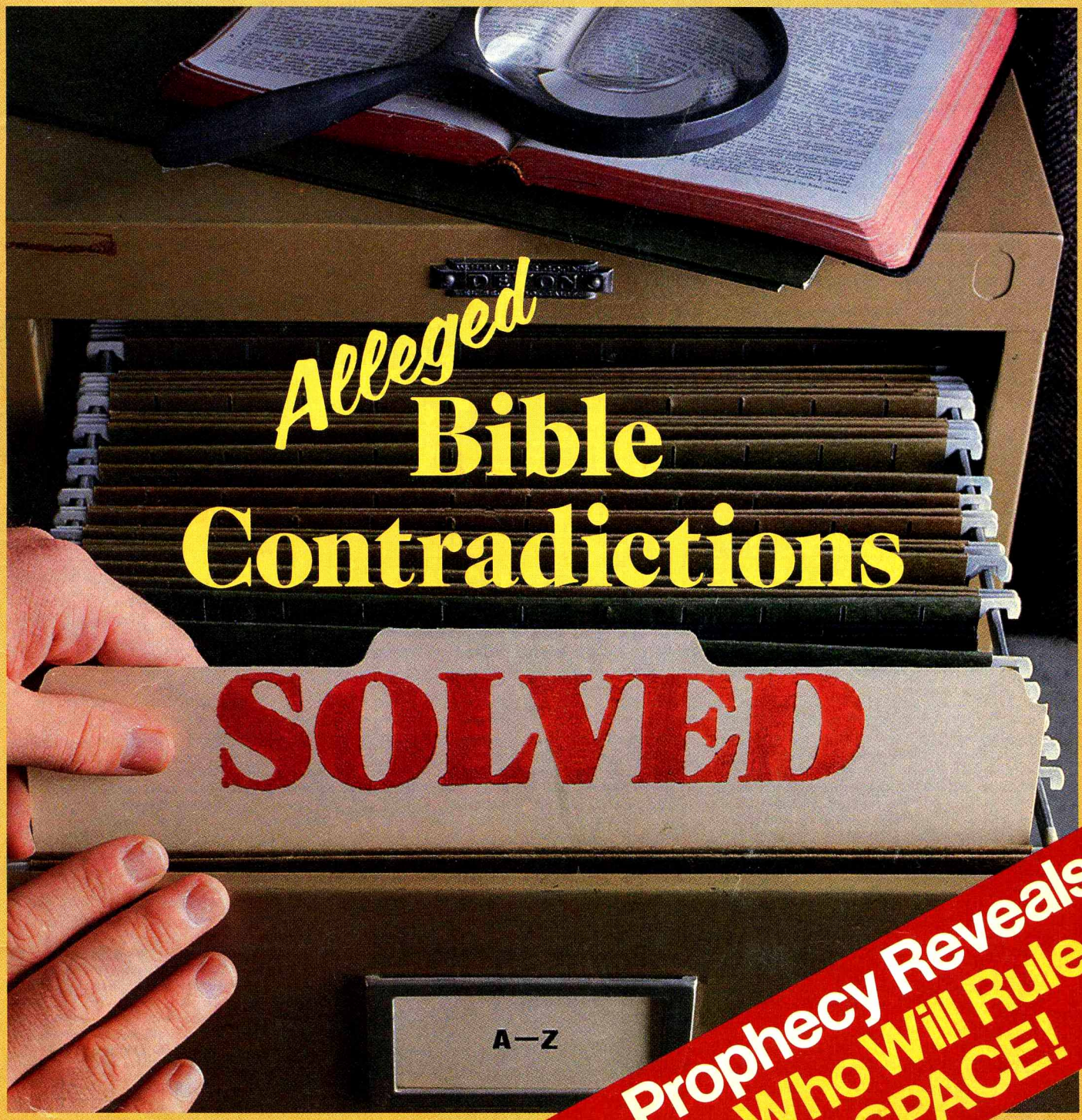
AUGUST 1986

The Good News OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



Prophecy Reveals Who Will Rule SPACE!

The Good News
OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

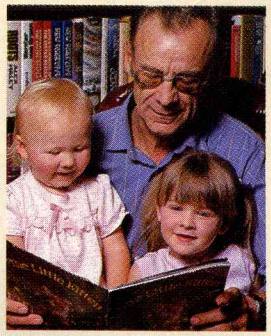
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A Parent's Example
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COVER: The Bible purports to be God's infallible revelation of basic truth. But skeptics reject the authority of the Bible because of supposed inconsistencies within the text. The article beginning on page 7 addresses — and shows how to solve! — alleged contradictions in the Bible. Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

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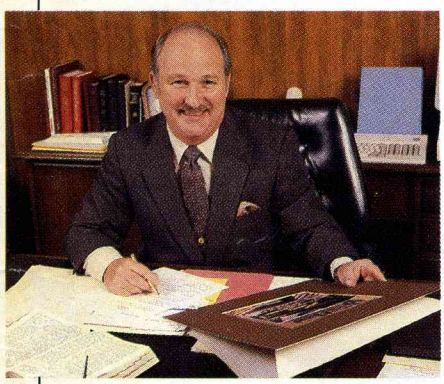
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Are You Dull of Hearing?

Every month, we receive hundreds of letters responding to the Worldwide Church of God's publications.

The majority are positive and complimentary; they come from people who are thrilled with the truths they are discovering and who want to express their appreciation.

We also get complaints from readers who disagree with us, but not many. Probably, most of those who don't like what we say just don't write.



Editor Dexter H. Faulkner *reviews Church publications.*

There are also heartwarming — and sometimes heartrending — letters from people who share personal experiences with us.

And then there are the letters that puzzle us, the ones that make us wonder how well we are doing our job — or how well some of our readers understand exactly what we are doing.

One reader writes: "I could be wrong, but there seems to be less meat and more milk in *The Good News* of late. Granted, we need our memories refreshed from time to time, but we also need to move forward and grow in grace and knowledge . . . I'm undernourished myself."

The Good News concentrates on basic, practical, Bible-oriented articles. Our commission as a Church is to instruct our readers in God's way (Matthew 28:19-20). Over the past few years, we have covered major topics from tithing to healing to God's Sabbath to family problems.

But this reader's statements bring up some disturbing questions: Are some of our readers growing "dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:11)? Do some feel they've "heard it all before" and that therefore they don't need to listen or read as carefully?

Do some of us, like the Laodiceans, think we "have become wealthy [such as in spiritual knowledge], and have need of nothing" (Revelation 3:17)?

The knowledge of God should always be exciting, refreshing, stimulating. Remember the noble Bereans, who "received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). They never felt "undernourished" by any of the precious gifts of knowledge God gave them.

The Good News, The Plain Truth and the Work's other publications contain hundreds of important bits of knowledge every month. Do you skim them casually without striving to find the messages God has in them for you? Statistics show that the average reader forgets 66 percent of what he or she reads within 24 hours of reading it. After 31 days the average reader forgets 79 percent of what was read.

The question is, Do you really understand what you read and apply it in your life?

Most of us may not be as well off spiritually as we think we are. Neither are the Laodiceans! "You . . . do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

If any of us are "undernourished," it's not God's fault, and it's not the fault of the magazines. The knowledge is there for those who truly hunger and thirst after righteousness, whether you are a 25-year Church member or a person who has just received his first *Good News* in the mail.

I don't intend this column to be an attack on readers who ask honest questions or make sincere statements. I just want to refresh our memories, as the writer said, about something the apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12)!

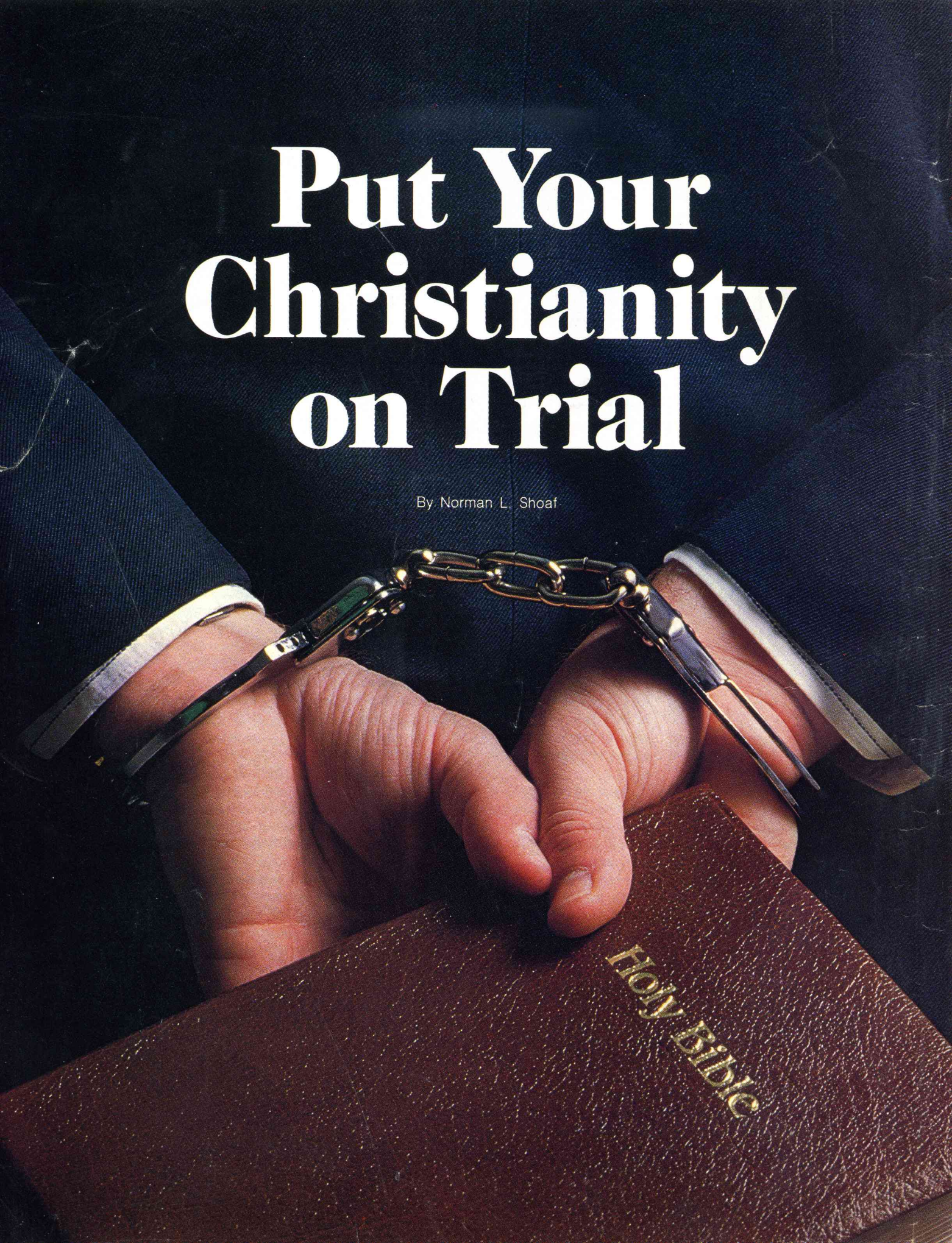
Photo by Nathan Faulkner

Dexter H. Faulkner

Editor

Put Your Christianity on Trial

By Norman L. Shoaf



If you were tried in court on the charge of being a Christian, could you be convicted?

Suppose you were actually arrested and charged with being a Christian!

Could they possibly convict you for this "crime" — devotion to Jesus Christ's way of life?

They *should* be able to, you know.

Your life should be such a blatant example of loyalty to the principles of Jesus Christ that it would be simple to convict you of the imaginary crime of being a Christian.

What charges should the authorities be able to bring against you? What evidence should they be able to find to prove the charges? What witnesses could be called to testify against you?

The evidence against you

Jesus said, speaking of Christians, "Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:20).

Your fruits — what you produce with the power of God's Holy Spirit — are the evidence that would be used to press charges against you. And the better your fruits are, the surer your conviction as a Christian will be:

• *Prayer and Bible study.* What is your relationship with your Creator like? How well do you know Him and what He is doing — and what He wants *you* to do? If you are a true Christian, you will be growing more in harmony with Him each day.

That harmony is founded upon a solid practice of constant prayer and Bible study, both of which the Bible commands.

"Pray without ceasing," commands I Thessalonians 5:17.

And, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15, Authorized Version).

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

• *Understanding and supporting God's government.* The foremost thing on God's mind right now is restoring His government to this earth. That government will be the basis of the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God was the foundation of Christ's Gospel message.

Do you understand God's government, and do you know where it is working today on earth? Are you in full support of that government, and do you desperately want it to rule you and this entire world?

True Christians know what the government of God is and are totally behind it. If you aren't sure, then the prosecutors won't be able to convict you on this point. You need to know more about this subject, and you can by writing for our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean, Kingdom of God?*

• *Keeping God's commandments.* True Christians are concerned with obeying God's laws. Those laws, based on love and outgoing concern — the *give* way of life — will be the basis of government in God's Kingdom and will be the standards by which the entire world is judged. To be convicted of Christianity, you must be a *keeper* of God's commandments, not a *breaker* of them.

Jesus said: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Matthew 5:17-18).

Paul and John, apostles taught at Jesus Christ's feet, supported His teachings:

"Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31).

"He who says, 'I know Him [God],' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

God's commandments include His weekly Sabbath and annual Holy Days, which picture His plan of salvation. True Christians will be aware of how Satan the devil has deceived the whole world with pagan holidays, and will be keeping all of God's true, ordained festivals. Do you observe them as you should, both physically and spiritually?

For more information, write for our free booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?*

• *Doing good works.* To prove that you are a true Christian, your prosecutors should be able to charge you with a long list of good works you have performed. Unselfish acts of service to others are one of the hallmarks of a Christian life (Matthew 25:31-46).

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Is your attitude one of giving, sharing, helping, volunteering, sacrificing your interests in favor of the best interests of others? A Christian's goal in life is to do things that produce abundant life and happiness for other people.

• *Becoming spiritually pure.* When Christ returns to this earth to rule, He is going to marry a clean, pure bride who is wearing sparkling, beautiful garments (Revelation 19:7).

You, if you are part of the true Church of God, are a member of the "body" that will wed the Savior of the world. Your duty as a Christian, preparing now for that glorious wedding, is to become spiritually pure and perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it . . . that

Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Your mind should be fixed on honest, just, pure, lovely things — and so set that you can never be swayed from that way of thinking (Philippians 4:8). Spirit-born Sons of God will have developed perfect character and chosen the *give* way over the *get* way once and for all.

If you were arrested on a Christianity charge and given a lie detector test, you would be unable to think anything except right, beautiful, godly thoughts. How strongly do you manifest the fruits of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?

Witnesses for the prosecution

When suspected criminals are tried, their convictions usually require more than a clearly defined set of charges and bits of circumstantial evidence. The strongest condemnation of a person in the prisoner's box comes from *eyewitnesses* who can testify that they saw the accused commit some illegal act.

If the defendant was caught red-handed, so to speak, by reliable witnesses, there is little he or she can do to maintain innocence.

So in the imaginary trial of a Christian, the prosecution should have available a number of witnesses — people who saw the follower of Jesus commit the "crimes" of which he or she is accused. And in real life, the multitude of witnesses around you should have no question in their minds as to your persuasion in life.

Once again we look to a definite instruction Jesus Christ gave His followers.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

Your attitude and works should plainly proclaim that you are trying to glorify God by living His way of life. Christ has put you in a world with literally billions of witnesses to whom He wants you to display the character you should be developing. If you are like the salt that has lost its savor (verse 13), no lawyer on earth could find an honest witness to convict you.

But all the witnesses to whom you should be showing a model life are not in the world.

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Paul had just finished listing in chapter 11 of Hebrews the heroes of faith who had served God down through time: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets. He immediately followed that list with a statement identifying those people as a "great cloud of witnesses" who should influence us to obey God better. This group of God's chosen servants lived lives that "witnessed" to God's glory, and, symbolically, they are now watching those who claim to be God's servants today. In the resurrection, those people who learned to obey God perfectly will be able to judge whether some of us are now serving God as well as we would like to believe.

God is completing the construction of His spiritual Temple with the body He is working with in this end time. The Church of God today must live up to the awesome legacy of previous faithful servants of God, who have already qualified to be in God's Family.

We are also being watched by Satan the devil, the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), who would dearly love to witness to God that we are not obeying Jesus Christ, though we claim to.

And above all, our lives and hearts are being searched by God the Father and Jesus Christ, to whom the Father has given the responsibility of judging the entire world (John 5:22). We had better be doing everything we can to please these two great witnesses!

Put yourself on trial

How well would you be able to defend yourself if you were brought to trial on the charge of being a Christian? Would you have to plead guilty and accept the consequences, or would you be able to easily beat the rap by cataloging just a few of the skeletons in your spiritual closet?

At this critical juncture in world history, Christians must put themselves on trial and cast a cold eye over their spiritual conditions. Each of us needs to throw the book — the Bible — at ourselves and test our character in the perfect mirror of God's law.

Jesus Christ is preparing for His marriage, and His bride must be perfect. True Christians have been given the opportunity to be the bride at that very special wedding, and to actually join Christ in a loving, exciting, eternal relationship. But we must be ready when He returns.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (II Peter 3:10-14). □

By Ronald D. Kelly

How Important Is Marriage?

I've often been amazed at the many unhappy families in our modern society and wondered to myself, How have I been so blessed with more than 25 years of happy marriage?



Photo by Hal Finch

I realize I have no magic formula — no inside track to a hidden, eternal secret of the universe. I certainly am nobody special, not of prestigious heredity, possess no superior intelligence.

But there is one thing.

During my freshman year of college I was privileged to take a class under the late Herbert W. Armstrong — a class entitled "Principles of Living." It met only one hour a week and was only a one-semester course. But few things in my life have affected me more. My wife-to-be had taken the course about two years before (although we were not romantically involved at the time). As a result we both were given the most valuable knowledge possible to lay the foundation for our marriage.

You see, Mr. Armstrong knew the Word of God was the foundation for all knowledge. He knew that in the pages of the Bible were instructions on how to live.

Look at it this way: One must follow the instruction manual to operate complicated machinery such as my computer, on which I type these articles. If I don't follow the instructions, the article may come out something like this: xzzy!??*!a*CCpft ##dqRR$$(bML. That wouldn't make sense to you or me — our editor would wonder what I was trying to do.

A lot of marriages are like that. They haven't followed the instruction book and just don't make good sense.

But if you strive to follow the instruction manual, the Holy Bible, you will have a happy and successful marriage. Disregard the Creator's instruction, and . . .

Well, look around you in the world. That's the result!

There is chaos and confusion. So few seem to know what marriage is all about. Roles of men and women have been confused. Men don't know how to be husbands and fathers. Women don't know if life is successful unless they achieve high-level corporate status and compete with men for big pay and power. Many women have been made to feel ashamed and guilty if they pursue a career of full-time wife, homemaker and mother.

But wait a minute. If all this modern knowledge and liberation has not brought marital and family happiness, what is the answer? Are we destined to wander blindly forever — never coming to a knowledge of what marriage is all about?

By no means!

Revealed knowledge

Let's return to our analogy of the instruction manual. God, the great Creator, made mankind in His own image — but not of His substance. We are made of material matter, of this earth, physical human beings.

There are physical laws by which we must live or we pay a penalty. Should we break the law of gravity, we could be severely injured or killed. Should we eat poisonous food, we become ill or even die.

But if we carefully adhere to those laws, we can successfully sail the oceans or fly in airplanes. If we eat and exercise properly, we enjoy better health.

Well, there are also laws for successful marriage. If those laws are broken, the chances are the marriage will break, too. But if we live by them, the result is happiness and joy on the highest level.

When God created the first man and woman, He first made

the man, Adam. There was a purpose in this. During creation week, God had made oceans and dry land, plants and animals. It was all for what would come on day six — mankind, in the image of the very Creator, made for a magnificent purpose.

But when Adam named the animals, the Bible reveals, "For Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:20). There were beasts of burden and work. There were beautiful birds and fish. There was plenty of food. There were animals to be domesticated and be faithful companions. But none could talk. None could think, plan, create.

God let Adam learn something — he, the man alone, was not complete. He was only half there. All the animals had instinct. They did not think and reason. But they could all reproduce. Adam could reason, but there was no one with whom he could communicate. And he could not reproduce himself.

So God told Adam, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (verse 18).

Then God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and took a rib from his body to form and fashion the other half of mankind — woman.

Some mistakenly have believed that because God made the man first, then the woman, somehow that made the male better. Nonsense. Neither is better than the other. But we are created male and female for a purpose (more about that in future issues of *The Good News*). Both are in God's image, after His likeness, but in a unique way. By making mankind male and female God revealed how mankind would reproduce. Neither could do that alone.

However, human reproduction was not the sole purpose for which mankind was made male and female.

The mystery of the Church

Centuries later, when the apostle Paul discussed the marital relationship of husbands and wives living together in love, he summarized the greatest purpose of all in marriage: " 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

So sacred and so holy is marriage that God uses it as a type of the coming marriage of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the Church — a wedding soon to take place upon the return of Christ to the earth to establish God's Kingdom.

A husband and wife form a union of love, affection and sharing through a lifetime of experiences together.

If you could describe God with just one word, what would that word be?

The apostle John devoted the main thought in one of his letters to what God is. He wrote, in I John 4:8, "God is love."

So simple, yet so meaningful.

Love is the one word that tells us, above all other words, how God thinks and acts. That quality will be the basis on which Jesus Christ will enter into an eternal relationship with His Church. And it is upon this quality that marriage must be based.

Maybe some of you will see for the first time why we humans have been made male and female. The greatest purpose of all is so a man and woman can grow to love one another and enter into marriage, where that relationship of love can grow and mature through the years.

When God made mankind physically complete, he presented Eve, the woman, to Adam in the first marriage ceremony. And God said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

If you have experienced the wonder of the union of mind and spirit of a man and woman in love within the bounds of the sacred marriage covenant, you will begin to comprehend the majesty of God's wisdom and love to have created us as He did.

Such wonder cannot be understood apart from the laws of the One who made mankind male and female and set the law of marital love in motion.

God's laws are so vital to happiness in marriage. Two of the Ten Commandments preserve the sanctity of marriage — one forbidding adultery, the other forbidding even the lusting or coveting of another's husband or wife. It is possible to comprehend the importance of marriage only if one follows those laws.

If marriage grows in love, the couple will become a miniature type of the coming spiritual marriage of Christ and the Church. And in the process, they will have the happiest possible marriage.

So how important is marriage? There is nothing that is more important!

Next month we'll begin to show how husbands and wives can apply the laws and instructions from God to have that happy marriage we all want, but so few have achieved. □

If you have experienced the wonder of the union of a man and woman in love within the sacred marriage covenant, you will begin to comprehend the majesty of God's wisdom and love to have created us as He did.

Alleged Bible Contradictions SOLVED

Is the Bible an infallible source of instructions to live by, or should we reject it because of apparent inconsistencies within the text?

By John Ross Schroeder



"'The Bible is full of mistakes and contradictions!'

"These were the words of a tall, handsome medical officer, some few years ago, in the saloon of a passenger steamer as we were gliding silently through the beautiful waters of the Mediterranean, returning home from a voyage to the East.

"I asked him, as there were so many mistakes in the Bible, would he kindly show me a few of them? But the only reply I could get from him was, 'It's full of them, it's full of them.'

"I then placed my open Bible in front of him, and in presence of another passenger, said: 'If you can show me one mistake or contradiction in that Book, I will give up the whole thing' " (Sidney Collett, *Scripture of Truth*, page 115, 1969 edition).

The late Dr. Collett was confident of his ability to defend the Bible against all critics claiming supposed contradictions. Others, at the other extreme of the pendulum, are equally confident of their ability to shoot the Bible full of holes.

What about it? Is the Bible believable? Are there logical, credible explanations for apparent inconsistencies within the biblical text? The Worldwide Church of God says unequivocally that there are. But hear us out — point by point!

The Bible is a summary

The Bible is a summary book or, more properly, a series of related summary books. It does not always give detailed accounts of God's interventions in the affairs of men. Understanding this is fundamental to solving alleged biblical errors.

For example, our Creator devotes only six chapters of the Bible to the first 16 centuries of mankind's history — from the creation of Adam to just before Noah's Flood. It follows, in this basic summary of events, that many details have simply been omitted.

A case in point: The age-old question "Where did Cain get his wife?" has been asked by many a novice who has begun reading

Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

through the initial chapters of Genesis.

This apparent problem is solved by a logical deduction based on verse 4 in the genealogical table in Genesis 5. Adam fathered many sons and daughters during the course of his long life. Obviously, Cain married one of his sisters.

The Bible never pretends, in any of its books, to be a totally comprehensive record of all the events that occurred in a given time.

Biblical chronology

Another crux point in understanding alleged inconsistencies in the Bible is the nature of biblical chronology.

In general, a chronological thread runs throughout the Bible. But the events within each book are not always recorded in chronological order. Even the books themselves are not always arranged according to when they were written.

For example, Romans is the first of Paul's epistles, order-wise, in the New Testament. Yet Paul wrote other epistles before Romans. The epistle to the Romans is put first in the New Testament because it is Paul's most theologically comprehensive epistle.

The two creation chapters constitute another example. Genesis 2 (sometimes referred to as "the second account" of creation) is actually a reiteration of Genesis 1 from a different viewpoint. Genesis 2 emphasizes the reason and purpose behind the creation of Adam and Eve. Some, not understanding this vital point, erroneously conclude that the first two chapters of Genesis contradict each other or that they describe two separate creations.

Numerical problems

What about apparent numerical inconsistencies in the Bible record?

Take the plague in the wilderness: Ancient Israel fell into gross sexual sin related to the worship of Baalpeor. So God sent a plague among them. Notice Numbers 25:9: "And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand."

Centuries later, Paul wrote of the same plague: "Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell" (I Corinthians 10:8). Here we have a discrepancy of 1,000.

The obvious explanation is that Moses mentions the total number of sinners who perished — Paul mentions only those who died in one day.

Who did what?

No less important than supposed numerical inconsistencies are alleged errors about who did what in the biblical narrative.

Just such a problem with names is found in Matthew's gospel when compared to the book of Zechariah. Notice Matthew 27:9: "Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced.' "

Now compare Zechariah 11:12-13: "Then I said to them, 'If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.' So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter' — that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter."

This reference to 30 pieces of silver cannot be found in Jeremiah; it is recorded only in Zechariah.

But read the two verses carefully. Matthew's gospel records that the prophecy was *spoken* by Jeremiah — not *written*. Zechariah apparently recorded what the prophet Jeremiah had previously spoken.

Now notice Zechariah 7:7: "Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous . . . ?" Jeremiah, a former prophet, prophesied against Jerusalem. Zechariah, a latter prophet, recalled the spoken word of Jeremiah.

This brings up another important key to resolving supposed biblical contradictions: "The passages in question have not been studied with the individual and personal care and prayer which the Book demands. This carelessness lies at the root of nearly all the supposed difficulties that we hear about" (Collett, *Scripture of Truth,* pages 115-116).

Often, two passages that seem to contradict do not say exactly the same thing. They are not intended as verbatim duplicates. Important key word differences will often solve the supposed contradiction and even add more detail to whatever subject is being discussed.

Historical perspective

What about the two expressions, "kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven"? Do they contradict?

Contrast Matthew 3:2 — "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" — with Mark 1:15: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew uses the phrase "kingdom of heaven" for a reason. Many Jews regarded themselves, since Sinai, as already being part of the Kingdom of God. Notice Matthew 21:43, where Jesus told the Pharisees, "The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation [the New Testament Church, according to I Peter 2:9] bearing the fruits of it."

The literal Kingdom of God, or Kingdom of the Messiah, would be a spiritual kingdom transcending any physical kingdom or nation on this earth. Matthew wanted to be sure his Jewish audience understood the important difference.

In his phraseology Matthew certainly did not mean that the Kingdom is *in* heaven. The English word *of* denotes ownership — not locality. The Bank of Morgan is not *inside of* Morgan — it *belongs to* Morgan. The

Kingdom *belongs to* God, who rules from heaven.

This example brings up another principle — the unique individuality of the biblical authors. The eternal God inspired each book of the Bible in the author's own writing style, using his particular, personal method of expression. Paul's epistles are distinctively Paul's, John's distinctively John's.

In recording an identical event, each writer, under inspiration, selected those particular facts that seemed significant to him. Each may have drawn his facts from a different source. Each may have omitted minor connecting facts that would fill in the details.

John W. Haley writes: "Inspiration does not destroy the individuality of the writers. It deals primarily with *ideas,* rather than with *words.* It suggests ideas to the mind of the writer, allowing him, generally, to clothe them in his own language" (*Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible,* pages 6-7, 1958 edition).

Dr. Collett reminds us: "Let those who imagine they have discovered errors and contradictions in the evangelists' writings remember how easy — indeed, how natural — it is to give three or four accounts of one circumstance from different points of view" (*Scripture of Truth,* page 140).

Time and translations

Notice the time difference between two separate chapters in Genesis. First Genesis 1:31: "Then God saw everything that He had made [including man], and indeed it was very good." Now compare Genesis 6:5-6: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth . . . And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."

Time explains the difference. About 1,500 years had elapsed between these chapters in Genesis. After the original human sin, the spiritual state of man had gone from bad to worse to intolerable. Man could have remained loyal to God; he simply chose not to. He let Satan's influence gradually drive him farther and farther from the Creator and His ways.

What swallowed Jonah — a fish or a whale? Notice Jonah 1:17: "Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah." Now Matthew 12:40: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly . . ." (Authorized Version).

The Authorized or King James translation is not accurate in this case. The word *whale* should be rendered a sea monster or huge fish. In this instance the King James translators assigned a wrong meaning to the original Greek word.

Doctrinal mistakes can emerge from translation errors. For instance, take the word *Easter* in Acts 12:4, AV. Easter is a pagan holiday that was never observed by Christ, the original apostles or the early Church of God.

Knowing the most exact and literal meaning of the original text is critical in this instance. The original Greek word, *pascha,* should be translated "Passover" in Acts 12:4. Most other translations render it correctly.

Discrepancies caused by errors in translation from the original languages frequently may be solved simply by consulting several different translations.

Your attitude and approach

The most important key in viewing an apparent Bible contradiction is your attitude toward the Holy Scriptures themselves.

Paul wrote: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [Why?] that the man of God may be complete [spiritually mature], thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Understanding God's master plan and developing perfection of character should always be the main purposes for which we study our Bibles.

Isaiah graphically portrayed God's feeling about those who would study His Word: "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor [humble in attitude] and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2).

In studying the Bible, one is bound to run across seeming inconsistencies. But the person who fears to misunderstand is already halfway to a solution. Many difficulties are easily solvable when all the facts are discovered.

As one continues to study the Bible, he or she is bound to run across what seem to be inconsistencies. But if that person fears to misunderstand God's Word, keeping the above key verses in mind, he or she is already halfway to a solution. Many difficulties are easily solvable when all the facts are discovered.

Other problems, however, may not lend themselves to quick solutions. The Bible itself explains that some of its portions are "hard to understand" (II Peter 3:16).

If a problem persists in this area, simply reserve judgment. Put the problem on the shelf for a while. Do further study. Pray about it. A logical answer will surely come!

For more information on the reliability of God's instruction Book for mankind, write for a free copy of our new brochure *The Authority of the Bible.* It offers incontrovertible proof that the Bible is the inspired Word of God you can believe and live by! □

HUSBANDS AND WIVES!

Your Marriage CAN Be Happy

Marriage should be a blessing, but in many homes it is a curse. The way to a joyful marriage is to understand God's instruction and follow it!

By L. Leroy Neff

Unhappy marriage is one of the world's major problems.

Why? For every effect there is a cause!

If you break the laws of marriage, they will break you! The problems we have are caused by the way we live.

Some people get very upset when told that the way they are living is wrong. They want to continue to live the wrong way, but have right results. It doesn't work that way. Having the right effect requires the right cause.

When it comes to God's instruction about marriage, many people are offended and disagree with what God has to say. Some get irate when they hear what God expects the husband to do, and even more so regarding what God says the wife should do.

Root of the problem

In the Garden of Eden, Eve, the first woman, had a personal choice to make. She could believe God and obey Him, or she could believe Satan, take of the forbidden fruit and disobey God.

At the same time, Adam also had a personal choice. He, too, could obey God, or please his wife by eating of the forbidden fruit and in the process disobey God.

The first humans chose to disobey God — to decide for themselves what was right and wrong. They became the lawmakers in place of God. In this process they set themselves up as God and worshiped self rather than God. Since that time the whole human race has followed their example.

God uses the term *sin* for any action that will lead to the wrong result. But each person today has his or her own definition of what is sin and what is righteousness. When you decide for yourself, you will decide differently from God, and sin will result. The pull of human nature, under the sway of Satan the devil, is downward.

Adam was made first, but something was lacking. He needed someone to help him (Genesis 2:18), so Eve was made from Adam.

There are two points we should notice about the creation of the first humans: 1) Adam had seniority, and 2) Eve was made to be his helper. Adam was the appointed leader, the one in charge from the beginning.

But, at the first opportunity Adam had to take the lead and make a decision, he let Eve make it instead. It was not just a matter of pleasing his wife. He was disobeying God. It is good for a man to try to please his wife, unless doing so would be a violation of God's instruction. The man is supposed to use wisdom and outgoing concern in deciding.

Automatically, there was a penalty for the sin of Adam and Eve. That penalty was ultimate death (Romans 6:23), and in addition, in the meantime, there would be physical curses for the sin (Genesis 3:17-19).

Both husband and wife would now take to themselves the prerogative of deciding what was right and what was wrong. Eve would, of course, believe that she knew what was right, that she should be the leader. Adam was also going to decide what was right and what was wrong, and in view of the fact that he was first, was already the one in charge and was physically stronger, what would the result be?

"In every age of the world's

history, woman has been found in a state of subjection; in all heathen countries she has been the slave of man, as throughout the East at the present day she is his property — his possession by purchase. Man exercises a lordship over the weaker sex, and although in Christian nations, where the sexes are more generally restored to their just and proper relations, a wife is raised to a position of greater dignity or honorable equality in rank and privilege, yet even there women are often doomed to bear much from the will, temper or caprice of imperious husbands . . . while the spirit of Christianity is wholly averse to lordly authority" (*Critical and Experimental Commentary,* by Robert Jamieson).

If husbands and wives would live according to God's definition of good and evil, instead of their own definition, the penalties of sin could be eliminated.

The head in marriage

The husband's responsibility as the leader in marriage is evident throughout the Bible. We should now see two texts in particular:

"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23).

"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (I Corinthians 11:3).

What does it mean to be the head? What does the head do? According to the dictionary, the head is "one who occupies the foremost position; leader, chief or director." Also, one who has "the place of leadership or of honor, or of command."

The following offices are examples of what it means to be a "head" or to have a "head" office: the chairman of the board, a prime minister, the president of a corporation or a country, a king, the captain of a team or the chancellor of a college.

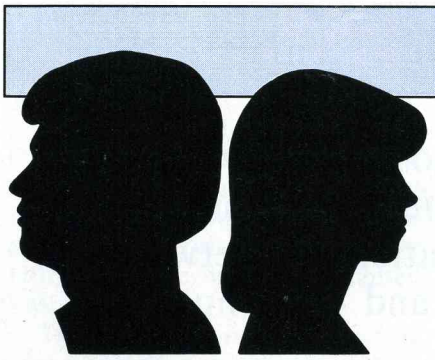
How does such a head function? Some world leaders are dictatorial, despotic, absolute rulers who abuse power, while others are more considerate and concerned about the welfare of the people over whom they rule.

Husbands also vary. Some lord it over their wives like a tyrant. The wife is a slave, created to take care of the man's every whim. Some seem to think they are lord of lords and king of kings. Such men do not know someone else has that office!

Other husbands are kind, considerate, loving, affectionate and giving. They exhibit the character of Christ in their marriages. Would that there were more of this variety.

Several scriptures command the husband to love his wife (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33, Colossians 3:19). That means that man should have outgoing concern for his wife and her welfare. He is also instructed to give honor to his wife, which means hold her in high esteem (I Peter 3:7).

The perfect example of what it means to be head is found in Ephesians 5:23: "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."



Husbands and wives must live by God's definition of good and evil, not their own.

Christ, Head over the Church, saves, rescues and helps the Church. He also loves the Church, which means that He has outgoing concern for it. He has so much concern that He gave Himself as a literal sacrifice for the Church. He *gave* instead of trying to see what He could *get* from the Church.

The husband, following Christ's example as head, should set the right example in his own life physically and spiritually. The wife is not a dog, way below him in station or required to walk 12 paces behind him. She should be beside him. The husband should gently and lovingly lead his wife, much like the Holy Spirit leads a Christian into all truth.

The husband should provide for his wife, or he is worse than an infidel or unbeliever (I Timothy 5:8). He should never be bitter against her (Colossians 3:19), and should always dwell with her in understanding and honor (I Peter 3:7). Even if his wife is an unbeliever, his good Christian conduct may in time help her come to repentance and salvation (I Corinthians 7:16).

The helper

Why was the woman made? God said it was not good that the man be alone (Genesis 2:18). In order for humans to "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28), the female as well as the male was required. Man needed companionship. Adam also needed a "help meet" (Authorized Version) or a "helper comparable to him" (Revised Authorized Version). He could not do what he needed to do by himself.

The principle is again mentioned in the New Testament. "Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man" (I Corinthians 11:9). Also, "The head of woman is man" (verse 3). From these and similar texts it should be clear that the purpose for woman is the same now as it was in the beginning.

A helper is an assistant or an aide to the one being helped — one who is of service to, or gives aid to, another.

Listed above were various jobs

or positions connected with the man. Each of these jobs has a counterpart. For the chairman of the board, there is the president. With a prime minister, there is usually a premier. For the king, there is the queen. For the captain, there is the lieutenant or, if in reference to a team, the manager. For the chancellor, there is the deputy chancellor. Each position has a companion position of slightly lesser authority.

Authority and submission

Some people greatly dislike that word *authority*. They want to be their own authority — to make all the decisions. That is what Adam and Eve wanted. If you are going to be in the Kingdom of God, you will first have to learn the real meaning of the word and be willing to be under authority. The ultimate authority is God the Father. The wife has slightly less authority than her husband. Many women reject that fact and that authority, and so reject the authority of Almighty God who made it law. If a woman rejects this law and thereby lives as a law unto herself, she comes under the automatic penalty of God's law.

Submission is another disliked word. If we do not learn submission to authority, whether we are male or female, we will never be in God's Kingdom. All except the Father must submit to authority, even Jesus Christ. And even the Father, by His own choice, is subject to His own law.

The Scriptures state: "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). This same instruction is also given in verse 24 and in Colossians 3:18.

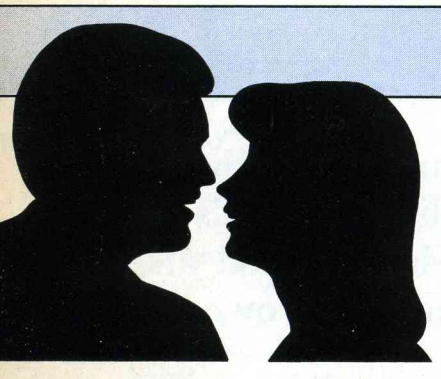
The only scriptural exception given is found in Acts 5:29: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Submission to the authority God has placed in marriage can sometimes be difficult. This is especially so when the husband does not use his authority wisely. The apostle Peter commented, "Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear" (I Peter 3:1-2).

By living the proper life before an unbelieving husband, or before a "believer" who does not live his "belief," a good wife may save her husband (I Corinthians 7:16).

Paul wanted women to be taught "to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5). He also taught that a wife should respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

In Proverbs 31:10-31 is the example of the virtuous woman. Read it for yourself. All wives need to aspire to be this kind of help to their husbands.



As a godly family, husband and wife should picture the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Teamwork is essential

Husband and wife must learn to work together as a team and as a true, godly family. They should picture the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church, His future Bride (Ephesians 5:32)!

The president of the company cannot make all the decisions alone — he must have counsel, advice and help. So must the husband. But many husbands do not take advantage of the wisdom, skill, experience and understanding of their wives. The wife, after all, is the vice-president. She is the queen. She is the manager of the home. She is the executive assistant. Or at least she should be all these things.

When a man will not permit his wife to assist him, or will not talk over family or other problems with her, or does not let her be involved in what is going on, she is under a great handicap.

On the other hand, some wives do not have any confidence in their husbands, and they take over control in the marriage. One woman said, "If I let my husband run things, we would starve." What a reproach this was to such a woman. This comment made it evident that she had made a terrible mistake in selecting such an ignoramus for a husband.

If this woman would have let her husband take charge and make the decisions, or if he would have taken charge, he would have soon learned some lessons. This would certainly be true if he really made mistakes that prevented him and his wife from having food to eat. An empty stomach helps one to learn quickly.

A topsy-turvy world

Today almost everything is all mixed up. The world's sins have caught up with it. The only way to true happiness is to obey God.

Frequent articles like this one in *The Good News* give God's instructions on how husbands and wives are to live in marriage. Husbands should learn what it means to love their wives. Wives should learn what it means to love their husbands.

If you have that kind of love, the husband will be the head, the wife will be the helper and you two will live joyfully together. As Proverbs 5:18-19 says: "Rejoice with the wife of your youth. . . . And always be enraptured with her love." □

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Should we buy foreign-made products?

In view of the world economic situation, it might seem to some that buying any foreign-made products would be unpatriotic. Certainly domestic producers object when competition from abroad cuts into their profits. Yet these same producers strive by every possible means to increase their own sales in foreign markets, regardless of the effect upon their competitors.

But what should be the Christian attitude toward this question, especially since *Good News* readers live in many different nations around the world?

As citizens living in any particular nation, we must abide by the civil laws of that nation. If the law proscribes buying foreign-made products, we must submit to the law. But if there are no such restrictions, then we are free to use our good judgment in accordance with biblical principles.

God has given us minds and bodies with which to think and work. He gives us the ability to earn money to supply our physical needs. After we have paid God our tithes and given offerings to Him, He expects us to use the remainder of our income wisely to provide our needs.

If a foreign-made product is definitely better made and cheaper than a comparable domestic product, then it would be part of wisdom to consider purchasing the foreign-made product.

Sometimes I become so discouraged by my problems that I don't know what to do. It makes me feel like giving up. What should I do?

A Christian has no reason to become discouraged. Discouragement comes from concern about oneself. God commands us to cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us (I Peter 5:7).

After you go to God in prayer and cast your problems upon Him, leave them with Him. You should forget about bearing them. Then, with your problems forgotten, you will not be concerned for self, but for others.

Pray for others who have more problems than you do, remembering that you are one of the few on this earth to receive God's rich spiritual blessings at this time. Pray for the growth of God's Work so that others may also hear the true Gospel.

We will be flesh only a brief time compared to the eternity God has prepared for us in the Kingdom of God. Keep yourself so busy in your concern for others that you do not have time to become discouraged.

All people have the same problems and temptations, but God promises you a way of escape from yours (I Corinthians 10:13).

Is Michael, who is called "your prince" in Daniel 10:21, the person who later became Jesus Christ?

Some assume that Michael was Christ because Christ is called "Messiah the Prince" in Daniel 9:25. Christ certainly was and is a prince, but this does not make Him a prince who was named "Michael."

The angelic being who gave the vision recorded in chapter 10 told Daniel, "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me" (verse 13). Notice that there was a prince of Persia. That prince is another spirit being like Michael.

Notice also that Michael is called "*one of* the chief princes." This indicates that among the spirit beings there is more than one "chief prince." The combined power of prince Michael and the prince who delivered the vision to Daniel (Gabriel) was enough that they were able to subdue the prince of Persia, an evil, rebellious spirit prince.

But Christ is far superior to any of these created spirit princes. Christ has always existed; He created all the angels in the first place (John 1:1-3, 14). There are no other princes of equal rank to Christ. But there are others of Michael's rank.

Christ is not Michael. Michael is "your prince" — the spirit set to serve Israel. Michael and the other princes over the nations are all subject to Christ, supreme ruler under God the Father.

Genesis 32:30 says that Jacob saw God face to face. Yet I John 4:12 says, "No one has seen God at any time." How can this be explained?

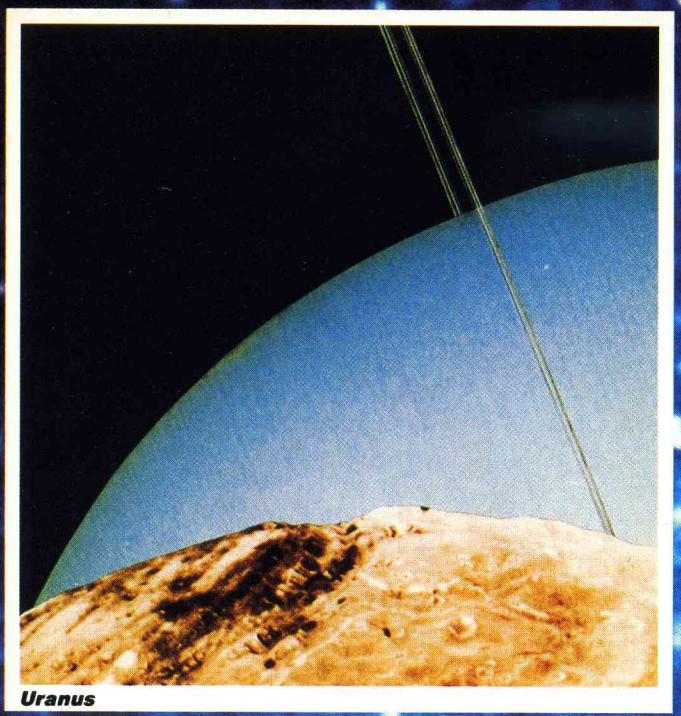
I John 4:10 shows that John was speaking of God the Father, the One who sent Jesus Christ to announce the good news of God's coming Kingdom and to die for the sins of the world. "In this is love," wrote John, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Who, then, did Jacob see? It could not have been God the Father. John said no man has seen Him. The answer is inescapable!

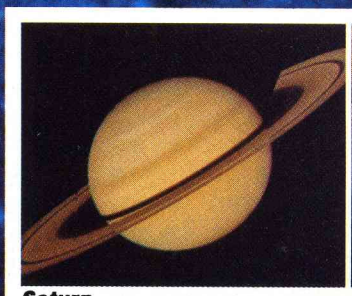
The One Jacob saw face to face — the One with whom Jacob wrestled all night, the One who blessed him and changed his name to "Israel," which means "Prevailer with God," the member of the God Kingdom with whom Jacob prevailed — was the One who became Jesus Christ.

Jacob saw the One who became Christ — the Son (I Timothy 3:16). The Logos — the Word, the One who became Christ (John 1:1-3, 14) — manifested Himself in physical form and wrestled with Jacob until dawn, testing him, to see if he would persevere. Jacob did, and Christ blessed him.

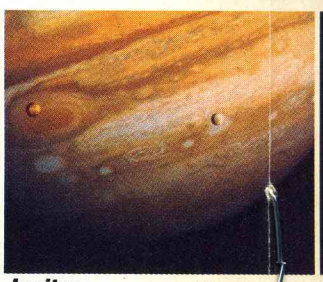
You need to know more about the roles of God the Father and Jesus Christ in the God Family. Why not write for our free reprint article entitled "Is Jesus God?" □



Uranus



Saturn



Jupiter

Prophecy Reveals

Who Will Rule SPACE!

Man has always dreamed of traveling to the stars. One day — though not in the way we may expect — we will!

By Ronald S. Toth

Out beyond Uranus, out where the sun is just another distant pinpoint of light among the millions of other pinpoints in our galaxy, flies an unmanned spacecraft into the unknown.



Mars



Venus



Mercury

Voyager II, an American spaceship launched nine years ago, early this year flew past Uranus, the seventh planet from the sun, and is now making its way toward Neptune.

We know scant little about the outer planets of our solar system. Even in astronomers' best telescopes, these planets are just small, fuzzy disks.

So Voyagers I and II were launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., in 1977. Their mission: to explore the outer planets.

Amazing discoveries

Voyager I flew past Jupiter in March, 1979, and then sailed past Saturn in November, 1980. Because scientists wanted a closer look at Saturn's moon Titan, the spacecraft veered past the moon, swinging past Saturn, and soared out into interstellar space.

Voyager II flew past Jupiter in July, 1979, past Saturn in August, 1981 and past Uranus last January. Data from these flybys has vastly increased our knowledge of these celestial bodies.

Some discoveries include active volcanism on Jupiter's moon Io. Instruments revealed to scientists that Saturn's rings are made up of bright, fine-grained particles

Uranus photo: Jet Propulsion Laboratory; other photos: Finley — Holiday Film Corp.

and have wave- and spoke-like features. Voyager II's close encounter with Uranus last January provided scientists with more information about the Uranian system in half a day than astronomers accumulated since Sir William Herschel discovered the planet March 13, 1781.

Think of it! We live in a world of awesome progress. Sending spacecraft hurtling through space for nine years, traveling billions of miles, is a tremendous achievement. Successfully sending Voyager II to Uranus has been likened to sinking a golf putt from 1,500 miles away!

If all goes well, Voyager II will swoop past Neptune's cloud tops in mid 1989. After the Neptune flyby, Voyager II will leave our solar system and venture into interstellar space.

Is there a purpose to the universe?

Did you ever wonder about our awesome universe, the countless millions of shining stars, our planets? Do they all have some purpose?

Some 3,000 years ago, King David gazed upon a clear, cloudless night and beheld a star-studded sky. What he beheld inspired him to write: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3-4).

David asked the big question: What is man in relationship to God and the starry universe?

Were the stars set there for a purpose? Scientists want to know, but they have no answers. Science can only tell us bits and pieces *about* the universe, not *why* it's there.

Let's face it. Humans may have the desire and the dream of going to distant worlds, but they really aren't capable.

The United States sent men to the moon. Those men explored relatively little of the moon's surface, and their missions took only a few days. But those were tiny journeys by space standards.

Remember, Voyager II took more than eight years, traveling more than 33,000 miles per hour, to get to Uranus. Its transmissions, traveling at the speed of light, take more than two hours to reach earth.

It would take thousands of years for any man-made probe to reach another star.

No, exploring this vast universe with its billions of stars is beyond reach of physical man with present technology.

But the greatest barrier to space flight is man himself. He is fragile, his life too short and too easily snuffed out.

Our destiny

Science generally rejects revelation as a basic source of knowledge. Yet, incredible though it may seem, the Holy Bible, the sure source of revealed knowledge from the One who created everything, paints a detailed picture why physical humans cannot explore deep space.

God said to humans, "Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

God has, for the present, assigned humanity to earth.

But God has decreed that the heavens belong to Him! "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16).

Why, then, do the seemingly endless heavens even exist? Why do planets exist so far out in the distant reaches of our own solar system that we haven't even been able to get a clear glimpse of them until recently?

God reveals: "You made him [man] a little lower than the angels . . . You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him" (Hebrews 2:7-8).

Can you grasp it?

God says He has put all things in subjection under man! There is nothing that is not put under man.

Man's ultimate destiny is the rulership of all — in other words, the entire universe will be put under man's subjection.

But notice the rest of verse 8: "But now we do not yet see all things put under him."

Human beings were created to rule the universe! But we are not yet ready. Man has proved he is not qualified morally or spiritually to rule the earth, let alone the universe. Nearly 6,000 years of human history have proved that man, left to himself, is incapable of even handling what's been given to him on this planet.

Though man has progressed by quantum leaps in scientific and technological achievements, he seems utterly powerless in preventing war, bloodshed and human misery.

Why?

Man's nature needs to be changed. Our ways of thinking and acting, our habits, our desires must be brought into harmony with God's own nature.

And God's master plan involves just that — changing our minds, teaching us to obey God's law, based on His Ten Commandments. We must turn from our selfish ways and live the way of outgoing concern for others.

Only after we qualify by developing God's own character will we be ready to fulfill our ultimate destiny — rulership of the entire universe! Then God will change our weak, mortal bodies to powerful, spirit-composed, immortal bodies thoroughly equipped for space travel, unbound by the limitations of time and space (I Corinthians 15:49, 53).

Then God will open up the entire universe for us!

The born sons of God will be given dominion over the entirety of God's vast creation, obeying God's law and living under the government of God (Revelation 21:5-7).

You need to know more about man's future — about *your* future. Write for our free full-length book *The Incredible Human Potential.* It's like nothing you've ever read. And your true destiny is like nothing you've ever thought of! □

LETTERS

A time of transition

Mr. Tkach, it was sad to hear of the death of Mr. Armstrong, but he has received a much-deserved rest and now we must carry on the Work. I pray for you and thank you for your strength and leadership.

Glenn Vickers
Welcome, N.C.

Very thankful for the smooth change-over from one man of God to the next and we truly are thankful to be one of the least serving under your leadership under Christ.

Magaline Parham
Vinton, Va.

Many congratulations to you and all the staff for a fantastic job you did on the May edition of *The Good News,* "A Tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong." Mr. Armstrong would have been well pleased. God bless the Work!

Trevor Coverdale
Croydon, England

I appreciate all of the papers and letters about Mr. Armstrong . . . For Mr. Armstrong was the first to show me how wrong I was and how I had been deceived along with all the rest. And I am very anxious to be baptized into the Church of God and receive the Holy Spirit. And I am very thankful that I was given the chance to help with the most important work in the world.

Eathel Anderson
Henderson, Tex.

Every Sunday night at 11 o'clock I watched Mr. Armstrong on my television. He reconverted me from following the wrong popular customs of the day. I finally bought a Bible (which I always meant to read but didn't until that time, though). I know the Church will go on. I will greatly miss Mr. Armstrong.

D.J. Greenard
Western Nassau, N.Y.

Appreciation for *The Good News*

It will not be an exaggeration if I say that I have never come across such a superb publication, so fine in layout and contents. I am really thrilled to go through the articles.

Cherian Varghese
Quilon, India

During the past week I . . . received my first copy of the *Good News* magazine and what a splendid magazine it is. It's great to be able to read literature of this quality without the sensationalism, violence or sex of most standard publications.

John K. Shaw
New Farm, Australia

We have read books and booklets by many noted "Christian" writers. But we often found in them confused statements that do not agree with the Holy Scriptures. Everything we receive from you, quite to the contrary, is biblically clear.

M. Nkulu Muenze
Luena-Shaba, Zaire

I would like to thank you today for your magazines *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News.* Also, thank you very much for the Bible Correspondence Course. Even though I have read the Bible since my earliest childhood, it has only now been possible for me to understand it.

Reader
Worms, West Germany

Disasters

I especially was very impressed by the article written by Norman L. Shoaf, "Coming! An End to Natural Disasters" [April]. It only reinforced my opinion and prediction that these disasters have occurred because "humanity . . . has rejected its loving Creator."

Mary E. Charles
Albany, N.Y.

I wish to take exception to the statement of Norman Shoaf in his article in the last issue. He states that the Red Cross began in 1919. The Red Cross was established in 1881 by Clara Barton at Springfield, Mass.

Gordon E. Warnke
Boynton Beach, Fla.

Some of the information in the article was obtained from the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which began in 1919 as a branch of the International Red Cross and is today the world's largest disaster-aid apparatus. The Red Cross began with the work of Swiss humanitarian Jean-Henri Dunant, who proposed that all countries form voluntary relief societies. The first societies came into being in 1864.

"When Life Seems Despairing . . ."

Thank you so much, Mr. Marshall, for the article in the April *Good News.* It was a very inspiring article to know that God and Jesus Christ are with us and for us all the time and they are always available to help us no matter what. What a wonderful, loving Father and Brother we have.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Bickel
Brighton, Colo.

"The Handwriting's on the Wall"

The March, 1986, article entitled "The Handwriting's on the Wall" by Jerold Aust was a very sobering exposition on showing the duality of prophecy. It explained just how close we are to the end of this age.

Mr. Aust is to be commended for his thorough insight, which God gave him, and for his opening up this vista of prophecy which helps us to be on guard for future events which are ushering in a new age with blinding speed . . . .

Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, was fortunate to have the services of Daniel to interpret the inscription. We thank God, for our Mr. Aust, who has given us the end-time interpretation.

James W. Parker
San Diego, Calif.

"An Unknown Soldier Identified!"

This is the first time I have written to any of your publications. The article that inspired me to take pen in hand came from *The Good News,* March, 1986, issue, "An Unknown Soldier Identified!" This article was "plunged" into me as if it were a "sharp two-edged sword." First, to know that Christ was murdered by the hand of that "unknown" soldier, then to find out that that soldier represented every one of us! We all murdered Christ! What a powerful truth!

But thanks to God's wonderful mercies, we can all escape the penalty for this savage crime and become a very part of the same God Family of which Jesus Christ is a part! That knowledge and hope is really worth living for!

Richard D. McCoy
Boise, Idaho

"Building Coordination in Your Children"

I just read your article on "Building Coordination in Your Children." It's really a heart-to-heart article. I learned so much from it. Love is caring, and I can express it when showing my daughter and sons how to be creative and develop mental gifts.

Jesse C. Watkins
Los Angeles, Calif.

Your Child's Musical Heritage

The wonderful world of music is the focus as our series of articles on early childhood education continues.

By Joan C. Bogdanchik

Music is an integral part of all our lives! It is much more than merely a pleasant entertainment or diversion.

Even though you may not have realized the significance of music in your total development as a person, you have been influenced in one way or another by music from your earliest childhood.

Where did music begin?

Music was already in existence at the creation of the earth; the Bible tells us the angels sang for joy on that occasion. Music therefore began with God.

Music is in itself rather inexplicable. Intertwining spiritual and physical elements, it has been described as the "most worthy, courteous, pleasant, joyous and lovely of all knowledge, for it makes a man gentlemanly in his demeanour . . . as it acts upon his feelings. Music encourages us to bear the heaviest afflictions, administers consolation in every difficulty, refreshes the broken spirit" (*How Music Grew,* by Bauer and Peyser).

Music is important to God, and it should be to us. Good music is joyous, fun and uplifting to listen to and to participate in, an enrichment to our lives, a force for positive development.

God expects parents to expose their children to right and proper



music at an early age so when they grow up they will be able to discern good music from bad and appreciate the good. How many parents today are bemoaning the fact that they didn't follow through on this responsibility?

"Since music is so important, how can we best introduce good music to our children?" you parents may be asking.

An early start

God starts for us! From our earliest days, rhythm plays a most important part in our lives. As baby develops in mother, he or she is rhythmically comforted by the steady beat of her heart.

The child grows to love the rhythm of the parents' voices. In many ways it is difficult to separate speaking from music, for speaking is an important melodic skill. Melody is heard in voice inflection.

Sounds around us are quite rhythmical. The creation itself sings of God's glory. Stop, listen and observe the song of the four seasons, of the tides, of rain, of birds, the summer chorus of insects, your walk, the clop-clop of horses and the ticking of the clock on your mantle.

These all create interest and curiosity in your child, and that's how learning begins. This interest must then grow and inspire a child to direct effort at acquiring an enjoyment of, and then certain degrees of skill at, music.

Skill, however, should *not* be emphasized first, but enjoyment. Too much emphasis on skill at the beginning can cause a child to lose interest. Music, as other areas, should be taught in a happy, pleasurable way — a way that leads to active participation.

Baby thoroughly enjoys the movement of his or her body and thrills to dancing in the parents' arms. They can either have a record on or sing their own composition. It makes no difference to baby — he or she is enthralled with either. If his or her own name is put in the composition, it becomes baby's own.

Baby is lulled to sleep by lullabies endearingly and lovingly sung by the most important people in the world — the parents. Music conveys comfort, warmth and love.

Babies enjoy their own sounds and practice them by cooing, babbling and shaking toys that make interesting sounds. They listen to their parents' chattings and chantings and then practice them. These activities help babies learn to talk.

Children naturally delight in music. They love sound rhythms and motions. Rocking and bouncing fun is made to order for them. They are fascinated by rhythmic patterns and tones.

Do you begin to see how vital rhythm is?

Sing songs for the joy of sound. Don't be concerned that your voice isn't good enough. Make up spontaneous chants — compose your own songs. Later experiment with homemade instruments, such as making shakers from boxes that contain beads, or drums from large cans. You can make a zither by stretching rubber bands over a box.

You may buy some musical toys such as bells, xylophones, music boxes or rubber-headed drums. If you live in an apartment, try putting sandpaper over wooden blocks. Also, you will find hand cymbals less abrasive.

Important to development

Music is joyous, and so important for baby's development. It promotes good exercise and improves coordination. It helps develop muscular control and self-discipline. Music is physically as well as intellectually stimulating. Emotionally, it helps release body tensions. Music provides a beautiful transition from one activity to another, such as from playtime to naptime.

On God's Sabbath and other special family days, let music be a part of your enjoyment. Sing the miles along on auto trips. Music often helps us think on God's creation and praise Him. There are seven basic tones in music (seven is the Creator's number of perfection), and these can be arranged in countless different musical combinations.

When you sing together, don't put down or ridicule a child who is not singing on key, which often takes time to learn. If a child is having difficulty, encourage and help by letting the child participate with all his or her heart. By continued participation and example, improvement will come. Never make fun of your child.

Some adults make this serious error. If this happens too frequently, a child will fear participating in music or dance and will miss out on this area of development. This fear can carry through life and affect many other areas.

Terrific times

When he or she is about 2 years old, you will find that your child enjoys listening to many kinds of music. Musical play and singing games are favorite activities. These encourage swaying, bouncing, jumping, swinging hands, twirling and dancing. Don't expect the motions always to be on time. The games should include starting and stopping. This requires careful listening. Now you will find your child composing his own "music."

At about 3 you'll notice your child can dance simply, gallop and walk in time to the music. Talk about the music you're playing. If you have been giving good exposure, your child will sing simple melodies, though not always on key. Through music and song, new words are learned. Letters, numbers and colors are part of songs.

At age 4 come a longer attention span and the keeping of quite accurate beats. Rapid growth takes place. Coordination improves as he or she sways the whole body in time to songs. The child learns right and left. Listening and concentration grow.

As the syllables of language are rhythmical, clap your hands to various words, starting with one- and two-syllable words. Build to three, four and five. What good advance practice for your child's future spelling and

Photos by Hal Finch

reading as he or she returns the claps! Later, clap out simple tunes you know. Have the child and others guess their titles. Be sure your child initiates some.

To really enjoy this requires careful listening. Have your child become aware of sounds, differences between sounds and how sounds can be organized to communicate ideas and feelings.

As you listen to music on the radio or phonograph, be sure to vary the tempos. Include children's records, marching music, brass bands, bagpipes, circus music, Broadway tunes, folk songs, vocal artistry and symphonic selections of classical works. Have a wide variety. Your public library has many selections from which to choose.

Talk about the music as you play the different compositions. Ask about the rhythm and tempo. Is the music loud or soft, high pitched or low, long or short? Have your child stretch high for the high notes and bend to the floor for the low. How does the music make him or her feel?

Which instrument is making the music? Explain the different instruments. Introduce them to your child through picture books, special outings to parades and concerts (some especially for children) and instruments you may have in your home.

Appreciating music



Your child will come to appreciate music as he or she learns that it can be stately, majestically inspiring, peaceful, pleasurable, joyous and even sad. Music adds to a child's knowledge of the world around. It continually helps speech, vocabulary and auditory discrimination. It will help reading, which is the spoken word in print. All this is accomplished before the child sets a foot in a formal classroom setting — if parents are doing their job.

Don't underestimate music's worth, but, too, don't expect progress to come automatically. The more musical experiences you present to your child, the greater his or her interest in and love of this art will become.

Music invites movement. Marching to the one-two rhythm (the simplest of all because the accent is not difficult) helps reinforce left, right, left, right.

Dance in the living room. Dancing before a mirror enables the child to see as he or she shows the way the music makes him or her feel. He or she can skip, gallop, glide, swirl streamers, dance as if in water or deep snow. How would he or she dance if barefoot on a hot sidewalk?

Have your child sing, clap hands, tap feet, thump various parts of the body and click the tongue. Making animal sounds can be fun. Have him or her shake rattles or maracas, play wood blocks, rhythm sticks, triangles, finger cymbals, pots, horns or gongs. Instruct in the safe use of all of these. No child needs all of the above instruments, but these will give ideas for the home band.

You will find it interesting musically to arrange glasses or mixing bowls in a graduated fashion to build the scale. You will have to fill (or spill) until you achieve the true ringing. With spoons, tap out tunes your child knows.

Don't stop

Do not stop your music program when your child begins school. In your family life, let music continue to play an active part. At times, have music on when you are preparing dinner and let it play in the background at special mealtimes.

In your mind, expect that your child will play an instrument as he or she grows, whether in band or orchestra at school or in youth groups, or privately, or both. When is the best time to start formal music lessons? This varies with the child, but do bear in mind that starting school means the child is now learning reading and number codes. For a good many, adding another set of abstractions at the same time can be too much all at once. Unless you have a child with very great talent and ability, it may be better to wait a while. Often, a child who starts when the mastery of reading and numbers is well under way can make fast progress in a short time.

On the other hand, some children are able to start formal musical training at a very early age, and do very well. Time, natural abilities and, above all, the child's interest are factors. Don't sour your child on music in general by pushing hard too early.

When you do start, be sure to select a teacher who understands children's musical needs and keeps the joy in music. Early lessons should be a blend of playing for skill and pleasure. Remember that not all children will become musicians by any means. But they will have their lives enriched and broadened by music studies.

When your child does begin formal lessons, set a definite practice time. Start early in your child's school life to make homework and practice time as routine and necessary as you make picking up toys and doing other chores. Explain as fact that it is something that is done this way. Be firm, yet loving and warm, and stand by it.

Don't bribe or beg your child into practicing. That sets a bad example and promotes poor study habits, and loads you with an added daily burden of enforcing practice time.

Good study habits and self-discipline learned early help your child all throughout life. Let music help you achieve this.

With so many aspects to music, with so much power in its potential, keep music in your child's life. Music is a wonderful means of education. Build your child's musical heritage! □

A Parent's Example

By Wendy Styer

"Happy reading, Wendy! Love, Grandpa."

I was going through some of my old belongings during a recent visit home since graduating from college when I came across this inscription in a book Grandpa had given me. It brought back fond memories.

Grandpa knew I loved to read as much as he did. He had given my brothers and sister and me many books as gifts, and we treasured every one.

As I looked around my room I saw many more books I had been given as gifts over the years, many from my own parents, from my sister and brothers and from my grandpa's children — my aunts and uncles. They all loved to read and they knew I did, too, so what better gift to give than a book?

It sure is great to share a common interest like reading with so many different relatives, I thought.

This brought new thoughts to mind: Was it all just coincidence that my grandfather's children and his daughters' children all love to read? Just how much of an influence do parents have on the interests their children develop?

When I look back at the example my mother and my grandfather in particular set in this area, it is apparent that my similar love for books is more than mere coincidence. Since good reading skills are so vital for success in our society, this area is well worth looking into.

I began to think back over my reading background. Just how much were my relatives a part of it, anyway? Where did their influence begin?

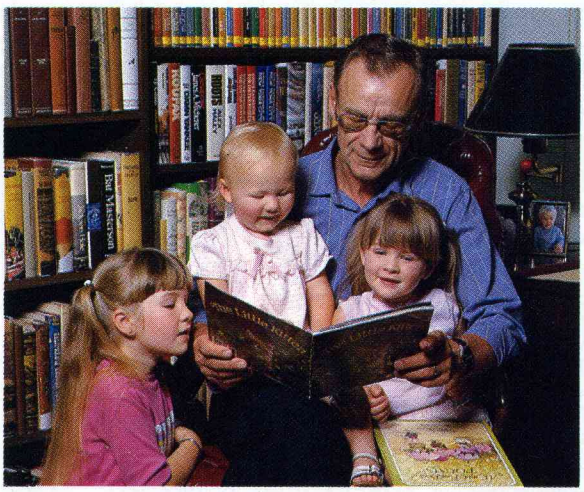
My grandfather was a hardworking Wisconsin dairy farmer with a wife and four small children, one of whom was my mother. He had always wanted to attend college, but his plans had been thwarted when his father became ill and needed him to take over operations on his large dairy farm. When his father died the farm became his, and he worked hard to keep it going.

But in spite of his busy days, he made sure he spent plenty of time with his family. Secondarily, he made sure he took time to read.

Grandpa was an avid reader. All this reading reflected itself in his wisdom and knowledge. I think reading was his substitute for the college education he could never receive.

Since his love for words and books was such a large part of him, he naturally wanted to share it with his children. My mother told me how he would give them books as gifts whenever he could, and how they never would tire of it.

She also told me how special Friday evenings were in those days, because that was when Grandpa would get all the children together to read to them — but not just from one book. Each child would bring one of his books and Grandpa would take turns, reading a chapter from each one. It made them all feel special to have one of "their" chapters read.



Just the presence of all those books had an effect on his children. In Grandpa's home there were bookshelves in many of the rooms — from floor to ceiling — filled with books of all kinds. It would be hard to ignore that many books.

Mom tells of how sometimes she would just stand in the rooms and read the titles. They really pricked her curiosity. As she grew older she read many of them herself.

I can remember doing the same thing in Grandpa's house as I was growing up. All those different books fascinated me.

In this way, Grandpa influenced me directly with his love of books, but the majority of his influence was indirect — through my mother.

My mother began to introduce books and reading to my brothers, sister and me at a very young age. She did this by reading to us — a lot — even when we were small babies and couldn't understand all that she was saying.

But we picked up a lot more than many might realize. I remember seeing the results of this in my younger sister. Shari had several children's books that she particularly loved to have Mom read to her. By the time she was 3 or 4, she was already, in a sense, "reading" them herself!

She couldn't yet actually read the words. But she had heard them so many times that she knew what they were. And she would sit by herself for long periods of time turning the pages of her books and reciting them almost word for word, a true illustration of following parental example.

My mother also bought us colorful workbooks to exercise our reading skills in our preschool days. Sometimes my oldest brother would help us with these workbooks by having "playschool" classes with us. We all loved it.

Mom never *forced* us to read. That would have taken the fun out of it. She caused us to *want* to read, just by the way she worked with us and the example she set. I didn't realize until later how many of her ideas and teaching methods she had gotten from her own father. She was also following the example of *her* parent.

If my grandpa and mother hadn't been good readers, what effect would that have had on me?

It's hard to say. Maybe I would have developed a love of reading on my own — but maybe not. Their example certainly played a big part in nurturing any interest I might have developed.

Through my own experience I have come to see that parental example is important. Children naturally want to be like their parents, so they'll often copy their parents' actions, whether or not those actions are desirable.

Parents need to realize how much their children look at their example and draw on it — even years later, when they're grown.

I'm thankful for the positive influence my parents and grandparents had on me in the important area of reading. Just as my mother followed her parent's example, and I followed mine, I hope one day I can pass such a fine example on to my own children. □

Photo by Nathan Faulkner

Coming to Grips With Pride

Are you alert to the dangers of pride? Do you see how it is affecting your life?

By K. Neil Earle

One educator has warned, "The principal forces of our age are antiauthoritarian!" He was referring to such hallmarks of our time as democracy, evolution, psychology and entertainment.

These forces are deeply embedded in the thinking of the society around us. But they batter away at God's people as well!

The Bible predicts that three main personality types will dominate in this end-time society. Jude, a brother of Jesus Christ and a leader in the first-century Church of God, catalogues them in a brief but pointed letter that, with the book of Revelation, closes the New Testament. Jude's exposé warns of "mockers in the last time" (Jude 17-18).

End-time warning

Ungodly men had insinuated their way into the Church, distorting God's true message. Jude urged Christians to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (verse 3).

What would be a prime characteristic of these men? They would "reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries" (verse 8).

Is this a hallmark of our time today? Ask any policeman!

The attitude that characterized false Christians in Jude's time is as old as Satan, the original rebel. The Bible reveals that *pride* was the trigger for Satan's rebellion long ago, before man was ever created (Isaiah 14:12-14, I Timothy 3:6).

Pride could thus be called the original sin. And it always goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18). Satan has insidiously pumped every human mind on this planet with this dangerous attitude. Those who claim they are the most free from it are usually most blinded by it. Pride is just that deceptive.

That is why God inspired His servant Jude to personalize pride with three case histories from the Old Testament. Jude vividly parades before us "the way of Cain," "the error of Balaam" and "the rebellion of Korah" (Jude 11). He singled out these three notorious case histories because he knew they mirrored attitudes with which every carnal mind is in tune.

Constantly the Bible warns that there are reservoirs of carnality and rebellion buried deep down inside us that, under the pressure of events, will erupt to the surface.

What is pride?

David, a man after God's own heart, alerted us that "every man walketh in a vain shew" (Psalm 39:6, Authorized Version).

Jeremiah despaired of ever being able to understand his true motivations: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). The Hebrew word for "deceitful" means "full of windings or twistings."

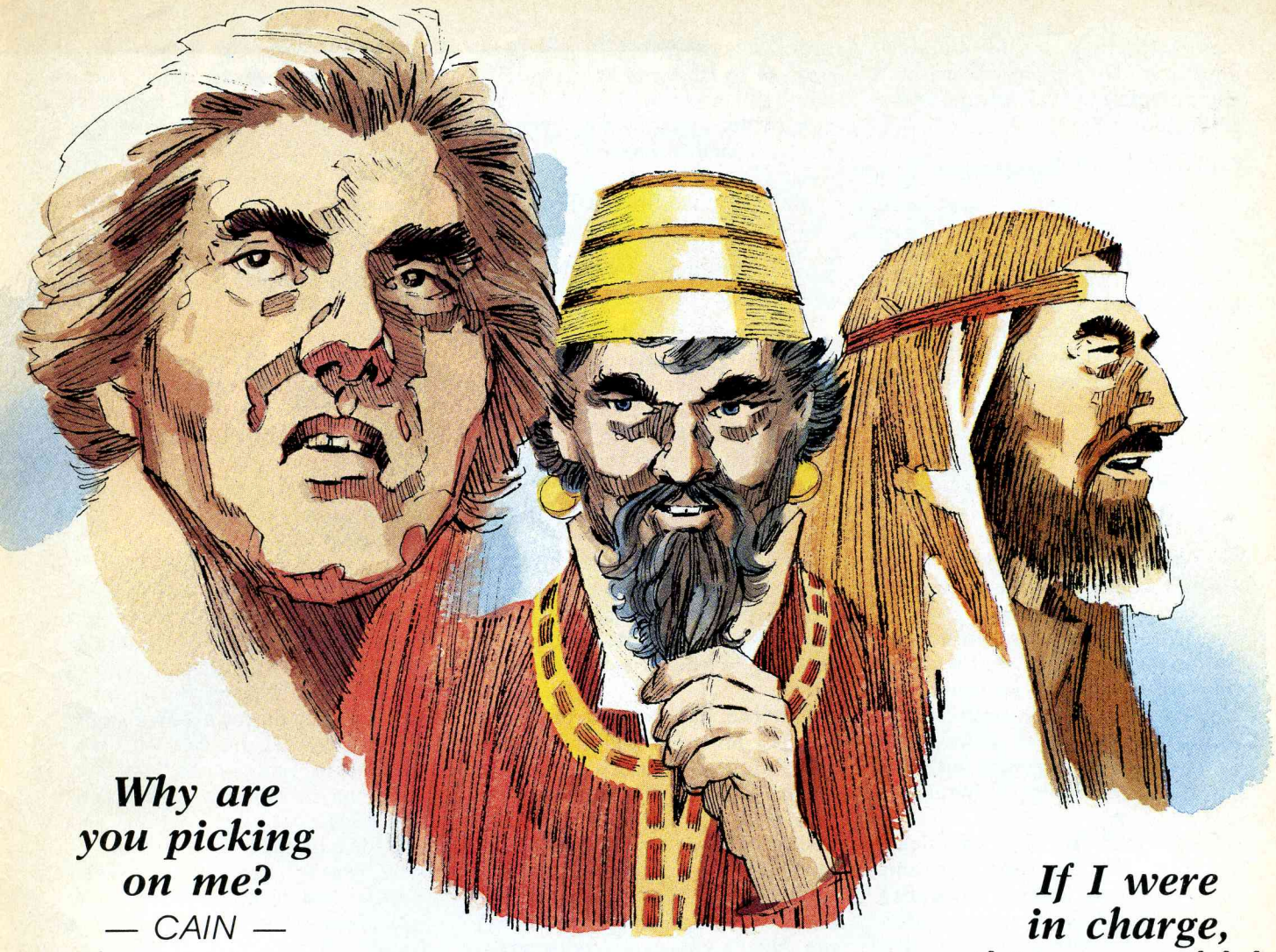
Millions today think they *do* know their own hearts. They think they've got themselves figured out quite nicely. They feel insulated and insured against the storms of life. They do, that is, until disaster strikes.

Our entire age is horribly deceived (Revelation 12:9). The various psychological prescriptions of our time portray selfishness as a virtue, prescribe manipulation, assertiveness and even intimidation as acceptable ways of steering through life's difficulties. But the Bible calls this intellectual pride spiritual drunkenness (Isaiah 28:1-3).

Paul showed that pride can so blind us to our true motives that we could even sacrifice our physical lives and still be 100 percent wrong (I Corinthians 13:3). Now that is deception!

Jesus Christ was concerned about people's motives — *why* they did good deeds rather than the good deeds themselves. He knew that man's reason and moral impulses are distorted by "the pride of life" (I John 2:16), the more or less unconscious belief that we ourselves are the final authority, that we are quite capable of running our lives at our own pace.

This enthronement of self, this confidence in our own ability, this determination deep inside that we can operate independently of God, this carefully concealed self-will, is what the Bible



Why are you picking on me?
— CAIN —

Just how much can I get away with?
— BALAAM —

If I were in charge, things would be different.
— KORAH —

calls pride (Romans 12:3). It is actually rebellion against God and God's authority.

But what about Cain, Balaam and Korah?

Cain's false humility

Cain, killer of his brother Abel, was the world's first murderer (Genesis 4:8). With very few humans around, he couldn't very well resort to one of the cardinal tricks of pride, blaming others. So instead he blamed God! When God indicted Cain, Cain's first reaction was an accusative, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (verse 9).

Underneath these few words lurked a hostile attitude. Cain, like his parents Adam and Eve before him, tried to dodge correction (Genesis 3:12-13). That is as natural to the carnal mind as breathing is to the lungs.

Cain's pride drove him down the dark corridor of self-justification and hostility to authority, where the real truth about ourselves and our lives can disappear in our own minds (Isaiah 59:8).

When God announced the penalty, Cain lashed out at God in self-pity and hostility: "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" (Genesis 4:13).

Don't be fooled by Cain's "woe is me" tactic of self-pity. There was no humility, no real repentance, no deeply mortified earnestness to do better. How can we tell? By the fruits (Matthew 7:16). Cain sired a line of hardened criminals whose hearts were impervious to real repentance. God had to destroy them in the Flood and start the world all over again.

Have we never reacted like Cain? Don't we feel sometimes that authority figures are "picking on us"? "They have it in for me — they never did like me," we reason. "Why me? What have I done now? Why am I in trouble this time?"

Better beware. That's the way of Cain, whose heart hardened like a stone in the face of God's merciful correction (Proverbs 29:1). Jude predicted that people in the end time, rather than ac-

Illustration by Ken Tunell

cept correction, would hide behind a smoke screen of self-pity and complaining, all triggered by pride (Jude 16)!

Balaam's permissiveness

Balaam, pagan priest and prophet of ancient Mesopotamia, had a reputation to maintain (Numbers 22:6). When Balak, king of Moab, dangled a large fee before him if he would put a curse on the nation of Israel, Balaam's mouth watered. But Balaam knew he could do no more than the true God allowed (verse 18).

But Balaam wanted the "wages of unrighteousness" (II Peter 2:15). He also wanted his precious reputation preserved intact, a major concern to false teachers (Matthew 23:6-7).

In the sometimes humorous and ironic narrative in the book of Numbers, Balaam revealed himself to be a compromiser at heart. He would push as far as he could in the wrong way without, he hoped, incurring the wrath of God.

God's word to him was clear: Don't go with the Moabites, and don't curse Israel (Numbers 22:12). But Balaam wasn't satisfied with that. His lust for wealth and esteem was overpowering. While still trying to appear obedient, he tried to get God to change His mind.

His answer to the Moabites smacks of self-righteous posturing: "The Lord has refused to give me permission to go with you" (verse 13). But in his proud heart, Balaam wished that God would. How he wished God could be like him, a bit more permissive. When tempted with more loot, Balaam went back to God again "just in case" God had changed His mind (verses 18-19).

Balaam's attitude was: "Just how much can I get away with?" God finally gave Balaam enough rope to hang himself by letting him go with the Moabites. God then overruled Balaam's prophecies (Numbers 23:11).

The error of Balaam was stubborn self-will, trying to get around as many of God's commands as possible. Balaam wanted to find out how much he could get away with while at the same time appeasing and "stroking" the one in charge — in this case, God. Do we?

Balaam paid for his proud deceit with his life (Numbers 31:8).

Korah: champion of the underdog

The cause of rebels has often seemed right and just. The pride of human nature loves to portray itself as the champion of the oppressed, the hero of the underdog against real or imagined grievances.

Korah was like that. He was one of Moses' cousins (Exodus 6:18, 20-21). He was one of the "men of renown" in the congregation of ancient Israel (Numbers 16:2). He held a prominent position in the priesthood (verse 9).

But the hardness of pride enveloped him. He couldn't escape its clutches. Korah's deceptive pride had no doubt convinced him that he was not really rebelling. He saw himself as rescuing Israel from despotism. He was altering the government to more equitably serve the needs of the people, or even more grandiose deceits (Jude 16).

Korah was easily able to lead the murmurers, complainers and other hardened rebels in the camp into an altruistic-sounding, "more power to the people" campaign (Numbers 16:1).

Korah's cunning craftiness soon fashioned a plausible pitch: "Moses' promises are worthless. We were promised milk and honey, but we're still slogging around in this wilderness" (verses 13-14).

That was true — up to a point.

The nation was still in the wilderness, but not because of Moses. Israel's own rebelliousness and lack of faith caused it (Deuteronomy 1:30-35). That part Korah and his conspirators conveniently left out. They slanted the story. The moral? Even if there's a certain amount of truth in what rebels say, they're still rebels.

The attack on Moses and Aaron was brazen and blunt: "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them." Notice how they invoked God's name to make treason seem righteous. "Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" (Numbers 16:3).

Moses prostrated himself in abject humility, fearful that God would wipe out these arrogant upstarts *and* the nation in a flash (verse 4). And Moses was right. An earthquake destroyed Korah and his rebels in plain view of the nation (verses 32-35).

The antidote

Jeremiah succinctly summed up the whole matter of pride: "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. O Lord, correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing" (Jeremiah 10:23-24).

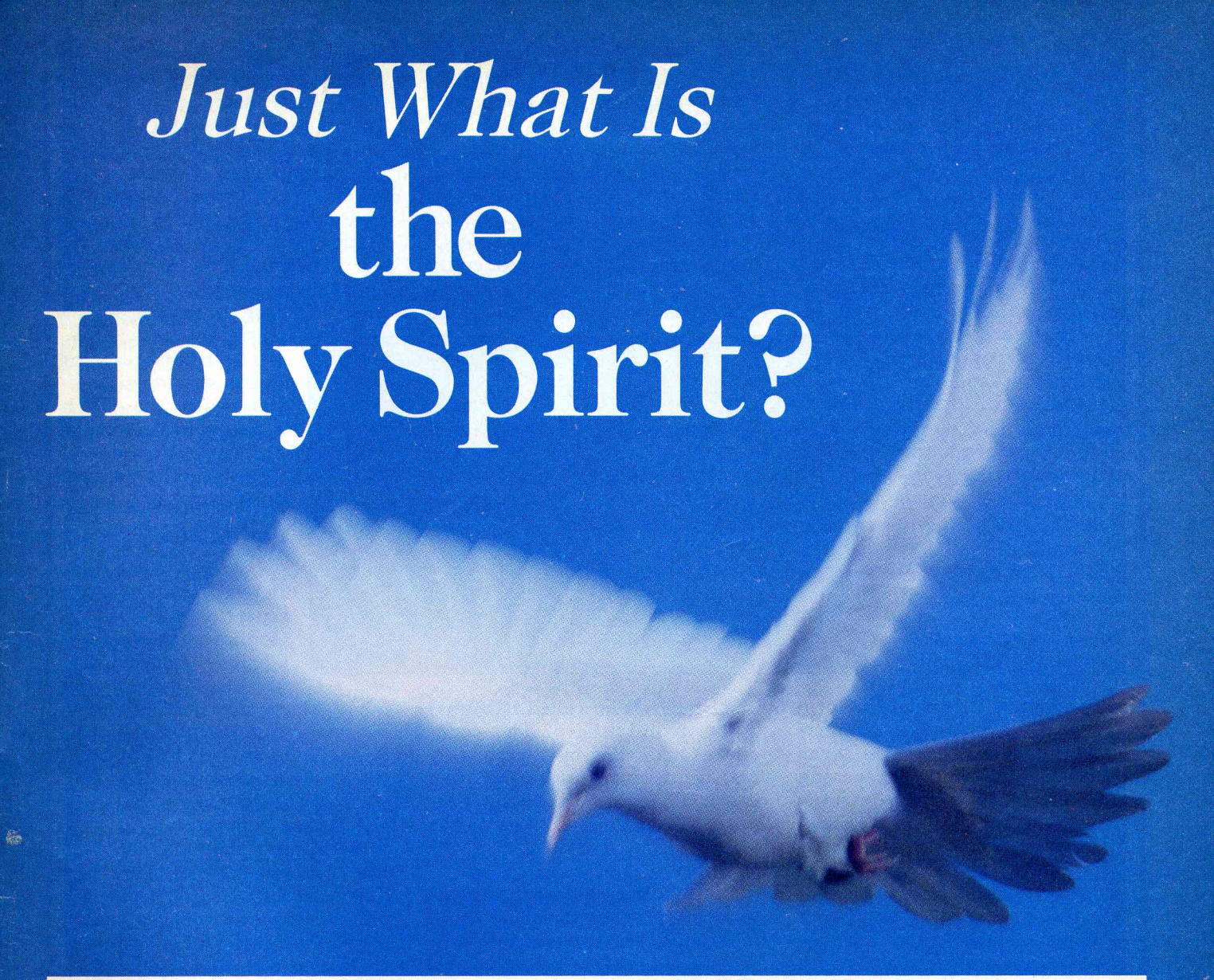
Pride's opposite is found in Jesus Christ's statement, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3). Jesus didn't mean to be a disspirited, beaten-down doormat in life, wearing a woebegone, depressed look or expression. Not at all. But He was talking about those who rate themselves as insignificant, having sober estimations of their own talents.

This is humility, the antidote to pride. Moffatt translates Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are those who *feel* poor in spirit!"

Now how do we build this approach? Fast and pray regularly, Jesus taught (Matthew 6:5, 16). Study the might of the great God as revealed in His creation (Psalm 8:3-4). Measure yourself by the standard Jesus Christ set (Hebrews 3:1). Meditate often upon the ultimate folly and tragedy of human life apart from God, apart from God's power to resurrect us from death.

We can do it. We can conquer (Romans 8:37). We can — with the loving help of God — escape the insidious snare of pride! □

Just What Is the Holy Spirit?



Is the Holy Spirit a third person in a trinity? How can the Holy Spirit be in *a Christian if the Holy Spirit is a person?*

By Bernard W. Schnippert

It was the shock heard around the world.

It was the first atomic bomb detonated in anger, exploded over Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945.

The real shock heard around the world, of course, was not that of the blast — as unfathomable as it was — but rather the shocking realization the blast produced: Man had unleashed a source of power so vast, so tremendous, so utterly unstoppable that its destructive power could, unchecked, obliterate civilization into a cosmic cinder cloud!

Yet, as awesome as the invention of the atom bomb was, and as immensely powerful as the unleashed atom can become, this tremendous force had already — even before its discovery — been dwarfed by the coming into the human realm of another power much more dynamic and all-encompassing than the power contained within the atom!

For, on the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, a power was given to men far greater than the atom — in fact, so far greater that this power is destined to swallow up the power of the atom itself and turn its very destruction into life!

And just what is this power?

It is the power of the Holy

Photo by Warren Watson

Spirit of God Almighty and of His Son Jesus Christ! It is the power of God Himself, a power He has offered as a free gift to you and to me upon repentance, belief and baptism.

But we do not much see this power in action today in traditional Christianity. To be sure, we clearly see the physical power of the atom. It literally obsesses the thoughts of all mankind, living under the ominous and constant shadow of nuclear war. The power of the atom bomb and of its even more sinister sister, the hydrogen bomb, is real. Yet the power of the Holy Spirit is not real to most people.

Why?

The answer is deceptively simple. The Spirit of God — that is, its identity, its nature, its form and value — is simply not understood by most people — even most sincere and professing Christians. Yes, many assume they know, but they do not really understand. They are deceived.

This is a shame. Men know, understand and believe in the destructive power of the atom bomb — a power that brings death — and they quake in fear at its very thought. Yet, of the Holy Spirit of God — of the very spirit of power and life — they remain in ignorance.

And why? Because men have believed a lie. They have been told the truth about the power of the atom, but they have been told untruths about the Spirit of God.

Shrouded in falsehood

The truth about God's Spirit can be explained by going directly to the Bible and reading what God's Word says about it. But the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 11:3) has been shrouded through the years by man's endless, unfounded and complex speculations about God.

Among those speculations about God is the doctrine that God is three equal but separate and divine persons — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — somehow combined into one.

But have you ever looked at the history of this doctrine of the trinity?

The Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 is generally given most credit for legitimizing the idea of the trinity. And what of the Council of Nicaea? Who called it? What authority did it have? This council was not called by church leaders, as one might assume. To the contrary, it was called by Emperor Constantine. And what were his motives?

The trinity doctrine was synthesized from pagan and Jewish philosophy and thrust upon the church by a council called by the Roman emperor, who was not a Christian.

Notice:

"In 325 the Emperor Constantine called an ecclesiastical council to meet at Nicaea in Bithynia. In the hope of securing for his throne the support of the growing body of Christians he had shown them considerable favor and it was to his interest to have the church vigorous and united. The Arian controversy [one of the sides in the trinity dispute] was threatening its unity and menacing its strength. He therefore undertook to put an end to the trouble. . . . Constantine himself of course neither knew or cared anything about the matter in dispute but he was eager to bring the controversy to a close" (*A History of Christian Thought,* volume I, page 258).

No biblical basis

The story of how the decision in support of the trinity doctrine was reached is thoroughly detailed in history. You should look up the circumstances in one or more of the major encyclopedias.

The trinity doctrine was synthesized over two centuries from the speculations of men whose roots were in pagan and Jewish philosophy. The trinity was only finally thrust upon the church in the fourth century by a council called at the direction of the Roman emperor, who was not a Christian.

The trinity teaching shares striking similarities with the triads common in the ancient pagan religions of Egypt, Babylon and other societies.

Holy Spirit a person?

Now consider this: If the Holy Spirit is a separate person of the Godhead, then He is Christ's Father. For Matthew 1:20, speaking of Mary, states, "That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." See also Luke 1:35, which shows that the power of the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and caused conception.

Yet Christ plainly called God His Father, and not the Holy Spirit (John 20:17). And He prayed to the Father — not to the Holy Spirit (John 17:1).

Of course, common sense tells us that Jesus would not have called God the Father His Father unless God the Father was His Father.

Further, if the Holy Spirit were a separate person of the Godhead, then the apostle Paul hadn't heard about it. For in the introductions of his epistles, he routinely invoked the name of the Father and Son in greeting the brethren, but always omits mentioning the Holy Spirit. What an offense this would be if the Holy Spirit were a person coequal with Father and Son!

As if this were not enough, Paul continued his effrontery to the Holy Spirit (effrontery, of course, only if the Holy Spirit is indeed a person) by ignoring "him" at other crucial times.

In Romans 8:17 Paul identified

Christians as heirs of the Father and of Christ, but left out the Holy Spirit. In I Corinthians 11:3 we see man pronounced the leader of the wife, Christ the Head of the man and God the Head of all. No mention is made of any person called the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:5 mentions the Kingdom of God and of Christ, but skips over the Holy Spirit. And I Timothy 2:5 says Christ is the mediator between God and man, yet the Holy Spirit — which is credited in other places as being an intercessor for man with God (Romans 8:27) — is not mentioned as a person. Why, if the Holy Spirit is a person?

Further, although numerous verses depict God's throne with the Father and Christ sitting or standing, we see not even an empty chair reserved for the Holy Spirit. Read Colossians 3:1, Acts 7:55-56 and Revelation 5:1-9, 7:10.

God is a family

The truth about the Holy Spirit depends upon the proper teaching about who or what God is. The trinity doctrine places the Holy Spirit into the God group as a person or coequal being, so we first must understand about the Father and the Son before we can understand about the Spirit.

And the truth about God is as astounding as it is vital. Simply put, it is this: God is a family composed of, at present, two spirit beings, the Father and the Son, who are separate yet are both God, for God is a family.

This truth is so plainly stated in the Bible that one must almost purposely construct mental excuses to deny it.

The full revelation of the nature of God as a family did not come until the New Testament. Nonetheless the truth can be seen, in retrospect, in the Hebrew Old Testament.

For example, examine Genesis 1:1, 26 and 3:22. These verses translate the word *God* from the Hebrew *Elohim*. This Hebrew word allows for plurality, such as may the English word *team*. It shows that God is more than one being. See also Genesis 11:6-7 and Isaiah 6:8, which also grammatically indicate that God is more than one by the use of the word *us* or some similar phrasing.

We need to look into the Bible and read what God the Father and Christ tell us about themselves. The biblical statements are clear and understandable.

Some argue — and that is all it is: an argument — that the plural here is merely used because it is the plural of majesty or the plural that a writer may use in an article when he speaks of himself. Nonetheless, many theologians see these verses as indicating exactly what they do indeed show — the plurality of God.

Now let us come to the New Testament. We need look no further than John 1:1-2 to learn that the God group certainly consists of two beings. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

There it is — it is undeniable! Two beings. But still, we don't know the relationship between the two. So we need to look into the Bible and read what God the Father and Christ tell us about themselves. The answer need not be left to our imaginations, for the biblical statements are clear and unavoidable.

God is a family of two beings, the Father and the Son. How do we know? Simply because God says Christ is His Son, and Christ says that God is His Father. They are not liars. And they tell us these things plainly.

Look first at the plain statement recorded in the Bible of Christ's baptism: "Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water . . . And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased' " (Matthew 3:16-17). There it is. The Father called Christ His Son. How can people believe this and not see God is a family?

And look at John 10:22-39. Here Jesus repeatedly called God His Father. And consider this: These references, and many others like them, are not mere descriptions of God by an outsider like a poet or author. They are indeed actual words spoken by Christ and the Father about themselves, to clearly describe themselves.

Re-read John 10:22-39, just referred to. The Jews knew Christ was calling God His literal Father, for they accused Him of thereby saying He Himself was God (which, of course, the true Son of God would have to be). They understood His words so clearly that they felt He had blasphemed and wanted to stone Him for it. They knew He meant it. Most of professing Christianity today, which holds to the trinity doctrine, doesn't really believe Christ meant what He said!

Here, then, we have the simple truth of how God can be one God yet two persons, for the Scriptures plainly teach there is but one God (Deuteronomy 4:35, I Kings 8:60, I Corinthians 8:4, James 2:19). God is a family. And God is a family name. It is a family name for a family of two beings on the same level of existence. There is one God Family, but two beings.

Who or what, then, is the Holy Spirit? And how can we know? Again, we must let the Bible interpret itself. □

(To be continued)



GIVING *in a World of* GET

Two widows, living 2,000 years apart, teach us an important lesson about giving.

By John A. Halford

It happened one day when Jesus and His disciples were visiting the Temple in Jerusalem.

The disciples were from the northern region of Galilee and were impressed by the great building and what they saw there. Jesus was not.

Oh, Jesus respected the Temple, but He saw through all of the splendor, pomp and pageantry. He saw a system that had become corrupt, and a religion that thought it upheld God's law but had missed the point. So while His disciples were exploring, He sat down on a bench to rest.

The bench was in a public area known as the "court of the women." It was also the place where offerings were made for the Temple treasury. Close to where He sat were 13 trumpet-shaped boxes in which the offering money was placed.

Jesus watched with mild interest as people brought their offerings. Many rich men were giving large amounts. He smiled to Himself as a wealthy man tried to look suitably humble as he deposited a particularly impressive offering. But then something else caught His attention.

A widow, obviously very poor, had come into the court. Sensing that this was an opportunity to teach His disciples a lesson, Jesus quickly called them over to Him.

The widow went up to one of the boxes and dropped in two small copper coins. A Temple official gave her a patronizing look. Her offering was so small as to be almost useless — less than one 15th of a day's wages.

But as she hurried away, Jesus explained, "This poor widow has put in more than all" (Luke 21:1-3).

The disciples looked puzzled. The widow had only given two *lepta* — almost valueless coins. Some people had given hundreds, even thousands, of times more than that.

But Jesus said, "All these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty has put in all the livelihood that she had" (Luke 21:4).

The attitude of giving

This incident teaches an important lesson about giving.

Notice that Jesus did not criticize the wealthy men who had given large offerings. He did not question their sincerity.

Rich people are often generous. To some, it's good for their "image." With some, maybe it's peer pressure — their friends invite them to get on the bandwagon of this or that favorite charity. Surely most sincerely *want* to help those less fortunate than themselves. They are rich and they give generously — but out of their abundance.

But this little widow in the Temple that day showed another side to giving. The plight of a widow in the first century was often desperate. A woman without a breadwinner often lived on the verge of destitution. People like this widow were more likely to come to the Temple for a handout. Instead she gave all the

spare cash she had! She did not, of course, give her house, her furniture and her clothes, leaving herself utterly destitute — but she did give all that she had available at the time.

Nobody could have criticized this woman if she had not made an offering that day, and her offering had made hardly any difference in what was collected. But poverty does not stop you from giving — not when giving is *a way of life.*

A word to the rich

What priority does giving have with you? Most readers of this magazine are comparatively wealthy — especially compared with the abject poverty that most people on earth must endure.

You are also probably generous, helping support those causes and organizations you believe in. They can count on you — *while you have it to give.*

But are you just giving out of your abundance? Maybe you need to think again about the widow who gave up her two little coins.

(In case you think this article is turning into a thinly veiled request for money, relax. Jesus was not talking about amounts, but rather, attitude — the attitude of giving in a world that finds its security in getting.)

These are precarious times. Our prosperity is balanced on a razor's edge. A few rash moves, a major nation defaulting on its loan payments, a run on the banks — and our economic house of cards collapses.

In such times, the tendency of those with wealth is to protect themselves and preserve their prosperity. Would you, if it all came apart, still be willing to give?

The apostle Paul warned the young minister Timothy: "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (I Timothy 6:17).

Paul was not criticizing the rich because they were rich. But he was warning them not to trust in their wealth for security. How could they avoid this trap?

"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (verses 18-19).

When Paul wrote this, he knew that the Church of God was heading into a time of turmoil and testing. He was afraid that richer members might be tempted to regard their wealth as refuge and security. This attitude would produce selfishness and greed.

The apostle James understood this: "Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! . . . You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord" (James 5:1-4).

James realized that the rich, who in good times give of their abundance, forget their commitment when the going gets rough, and may even exploit those they have helped.

Real security

That is why Jesus directed us to the example of the widow that day in the Temple. She did not live in a world of *get* — hers was a world of need. But unlike the rich, she had found security in that world.

Although she could not survive by herself, God looked after her. That was His responsibility (Psalm 68:5). Meanwhile, she still had her responsibilities to carry out.

Perhaps that morning she had looked at her meager possessions. She had a roof over her head, food for the day, clothes — yes, God had provided for her needs. But there wasn't much else — except those two copper coins. A mere pittance, but they were better than nothing — *anything* is better than nothing for somebody who has discovered the joy of giving. She wrapped her old cloak around her and headed up the hill to join the crowds at the Temple.

Two thousand years later

A few years ago I met a 20th-century counterpart of this first-century widow.

I was asked to give a talk to a congregation on the East Coast of the United States about the needs of people in some of the impoverished countries of the Third World. When I had finished, a little woman pushed her way through the crowd to me. She was badly crippled with arthritis and obviously very poor.

"Here, young man, hold this," she said, and held out her shabby purse. I held it for her while she opened it. She fumbled through her purse until she found what she was looking for — a dirty and dilapidated dollar bill. It had obviously been out of circulation for a long time.

"Now, take this," she said, "and use it to help those poor people you just told us about."

"But, ma'am," I protested. She looked so poor and frail. I could see by the papers in her purse that she was a widow. Surely she needed that dollar bill for herself. I gave it back to her, and said as kindly as I could, "Thanks, but *you* need that — and just one dollar bill won't make that much difference."

"That's just your trouble, young man," she retorted. "You are so used to having enough that you don't know what a difference a dollar can make. You take this, and give it to someone who does!"

Those widows' mites, 2,000 years apart, should teach us something very important about giving. We should make it a habit.

If you have plenty, be thankful — and generous. But never allow yourself to come to the point where "you can't afford to give."

God loves cheerful givers (II Corinthians 9:7), and He makes sure they have peace and security that this world's wealth can never guarantee. □

Illustration by Ken Tunell

COMING
IN THE GOOD NEWS

◆How to Convert Lemons

To live successfully in the world and develop as Christians, we must know how to face up to trials.

◆YES! God Will Answer Your Prayers

If God is truly working with you, He will hear and answer your prayers. But there are conditions you must fulfill first before God is bound to respond!

◆Just What Is the Holy Spirit?

Is the Holy Spirit a third person in a trinity? What does the Holy Spirit do? Our two-part article concludes, laying out the plain truth straight from the Bible.

◆Ancient Coin Depicts Satan's Master Plan!

The curious image on an ancient Phoenician coin reveals the plottings of Satan's twisted mind as reflected in pagan mythology. The message is of great relevance now!

◆Miracles — Are They Happening Today?

Jesus Christ said miracles would follow His true servants. What are miracles, and are they occurring in God's Church today?

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