

1972 VOL. 88 NO. 11

OUR TIMES

**WRECKERS OF SOCIETY
LET'S GET BACK TO GOD
PEACE IN YOUR LIFE**



News and Views

BINGO FANS OR "HEAVEN'S LIEUTENANTS"?

PRESIDENT of the National Association of Head Teachers struck a resounding blow against the evils of our permissive society. The many points he made included the following:

★ "Too many parents put their own enjoyment before responsibility to their children."

★ "Not even the best school can take the place of a good home."

★ "It is false to say we live in a civilized society. I cannot imagine anything more uncivilized."

★ "Values are all wrong. Children are given attention by the wrong people for the wrong reasons. There is lack of communication between parents and children. There is not enough love of the right sort."

★ "It is too easy to give children money for the cinema, or allow them to watch long hours of unsuitable television, so that parents can spend evenings in the bingo hall or pubs."

Comment: It is worth remembering that the health and integrity of family life directly determine the strength of society and of the nation. With TV and radio purveying its weekly quota of violence and twisted behaviour, making no significant effort whatever to ennoble

viewers, and tending constantly to erode belief in the Bible and its sacred teachings, parents concerned about the character of their children face a formidable challenge.

The Bible has lots to say on this—advice intended to be timeless. God designed that parents should teach the Moral Law to their children. He said: "You must think constantly about these commandments. . . . You must teach them to your children, and talk about them when you are home or out for a walk; at bedtime and first thing in the morning" (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; *The Living Bible*).

Right moral values are even more important than academic knowledge or political ideals.

Shakespeare wrote: "The voice of parents is the voice of gods, for to their children they are heaven's lieutenants." Shakespeare was here presenting the ideal. Where parents recognize and fulfil such a role, there are no generation gaps in the modern sense, and families are well integrated.

Put another way, and in the well-known words of the "Wayside Pulpit": "Families that pray together, stay together."

"MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO"

Of course it could be explained away as one of those bizarre incidents that take place now and again. But who is to say it couldn't happen anywhere in any home?

A 15-year-old high school sophomore in Virginia, U.S.A., held police at bay with a .22-calibre rifle and a .32 calibre pistol. The boy fired a fusillade of shots at the officers, missing all of them but doing extensive damage to cars and nearby houses. It took police 40 minutes of pleading and a canister of nausea gas to induce him to surrender.

Why did he do it? Because he had seen just such an event portrayed on TV the night before. He told police he had watched an episode of "Hawaii Five-O," in which a boy had drawn police to his home and then fired on them.

The U.S. Surgeon General, in an unrelated speech last autumn, said: "Viewing aggression can instigate subsequent aggression among observers."

WORLD'S OLDEST ROCKS?

Here's one for the scientists: Geologists have discovered what they think may be the earth's oldest rocks, in southern Greenland.

Using data from their strontium- and lead-dating process, a team from Oxford, England, estimates the granite-like rocks to be as old as 3,000 million years—or about 40 million years older than the previous record holders.

It is interesting that the two different dating processes used produced ages that were 38 million years apart. The scientists, while offering several explanations for the difference, conceded that the problem "must await further study," allowing that there are still questions about currently accepted methods of scientific dating.

No wonder many top scientists still believe the truthfulness of the Bible record of Creation.

SWING TO RELIGION

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Christian literature sales by Seventh-day Adventists totalled over \$48 million in 1971, Church world headquarters here reports.

In releasing the figures William A. Higgins, associate director of the denomination's publishing department, stated that there is a growing interest in things religious. Since the American Bible Society published in 1966 its New Testament version *God Speaks to Modern Man*, some thirty-one million copies have been sold.

"People are more serious-minded," Higgins declared. "They are fed up with permissiveness, and there is a swing to religion. For instance, a book on death recently published is almost a best-seller."

Most popular books being sold by Adventist publishing houses is a children's series of ten volumes called *The Bible Story*.

Liberty, a magazine of religious freedom, which has greatly revised its format and content under the present editor, has seen its circulation zoom from 168,000 in 1959 to more than half a million.

Listen, a magazine aimed at preventing alcohol, tobacco, and drug addiction, through education, circulates 180,000 copies each month among high school students and other young people. Both magazines are aimed at the general public.

The Adventists operate 48 publishing houses around the world, including one in Britain. Their publications are printed in 266 languages. Besides across-the-counter sales in their Book and Bible Houses, scattered in scores of large cities around the world, about 6,700 literature-evangelists visit homes in nearly every country with Christian books and magazines. They accounted for \$26.9 million in sales last year.

Such work goes on regardless of war conditions, as in Vietnam, where there are currently 74 literature-evangelists. A publishing house in Saigon serves these Christian salesmen with literature.

Higgins predicts still greater interest in religious publications in days to come.

PICTURE CREDITS

COVER PICTURE: St. Paul's and Ludgate Circus by S. E. Punter.
Keystone, page 3; Studio Lisa, page 10; Review and Herald, page 13.

OUR TIMES

A family journal of Christian living dedicated to the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel. Presenting the Bible as the Word of God and Jesus Christ as our all-sufficient Saviour and coming King

EDITOR . . . R. D. VINE

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS . . . W. L. EMMERSON, J. A. McMILLAN, LAWRENCE MAXWELL

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.
ALMA PARK · GRANTHAM · LINCOLNSHIRE

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £1.20 (inc. 30p postage) · SIX MONTHS 60p (inc. 15p postage)

Volume 88 · No. 11 · Price 7½p.



**Discerning
the times...**

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE BIBLE
BY THE EDITOR

TRAGIC TURNABOUT

WHAT would be our verdict on anyone who found pleasure in falsifying directions on road signs, removing danger notices, putting innocent labels on bottles of poison, etc?

A sick mind, we would say. For the safety of society, we would commit such a person to an asylum for criminal lunatics.

But on a scale for which history has no parallel, and in a way that strikes far more deeply and widely than does the twisted behaviour of the mentally deranged, this very thing is happening today—in schools, colleges, universities, in Press, on Radio and TV, and via every media for public information and education.

Impossible! you say.

We answer: There was never such a time as ours when right things were rejected, and wrong things promoted; when truth was degraded and error enthroned; when the most important things were diminished, belittled, or denied; while trivial, unimportant, and even downright wrong things were justified, magnified, publicized, and advocated.

For instance, there has been a positive swing towards surrender on sex. Commandment Seven is dropped. Free sex is accepted. And by this we mean not just pre-marital, and extra marital, but every conceivable misuse of that marvellous sex urge which God ordained exclusively for procreation, and as a means of enriching the marital relationship. We even hear of "sex" being practised by psychiatric "healers" with "deprived" patients as a therapeutic tool.

Today, God's Law is "out," while sin is "in." "Right behaviour," say the "new

moralists," "is determined by the particular situation at the particular time." Such words as: "absolute," "unalterable," "unchangeable," are now regarded as archaic. They have been cast overboard. "Sacrosanct standards" are condemned as myths. Today the Bible is "out;" while almost any and every non-Bible teaching is "in." So successfully has the change been achieved that even some Church leaders concede the view that Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, etc., are just as valid means of achieving heaven, as Christianity.

We could list all the major Bible doctrines, and show how every one is not only attacked and denied, but ousted from many a mind by some plausible substitute.

Revolt against Bible teachings is responsible for the myth of the alleged contrast between the happiness of care-free pagans and the "frustration" of "inhibited Christians." But the fact is that society gets more and more unsafe and unhappy, as it moves further from Christian restraints and true Bible principles. On the other hand, millions of committed Christians can truly testify to an experience of constant satisfaction and joy.

Philosopher Jung reflected that Christianity "was originally accepted . . . to escape at last from the brutality of antiquity. As soon as we discard its licentiousness returns."

OF the tragic turnabout in man's thinking and teaching, God said: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil. . . . Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight" (Isaiah 5:20).

Speaking of the very Bible teachings and laws which today are largely discarded, Jesus said: "Whosoever shall break one of these least commandments, AND SHALL TEACH MEN SO, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

The language of the Bible's final chapter is equally emphatic: "If any man shall take away from the words of the book . . . God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city" (Revelation 22:19). In other

words, according to God's Holy Book, a person who rejects its teachings will inevitably incur rejection by God in the Final Judgement which all must face (2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27).

Today's widespread rejection of Bible truth is a sign of the last days. Denial of God's Law, and refusal to accept it as an absolute standard, is, according to prophecy, one of the most noteworthy facts of the world's final feverish period prior to Christ's second advent.

Thank God there are millions whose confidence and joy in God's truth is unshakeable. They have proved that Bible teachings are a sure guarantee of present happiness because they answer all life's major problems, show the way to unity with God through Christ, and hence provide assurance of personal immortality and bliss to come.

We like the pronouncement posted on the door of his church by a minister who deprecates today's "tragic turnabout." It reads:

"Whereas some would deny the faith of our fathers and destroy the morals of our children,

"Be it hereby known that in this church WE STILL BELIEVE IN;

"GOD who is Spirit, not Spaceman, and can be thought of as our Father;

"SIN, which is disobedience to God's will and the Commandments He has given;

"FORGIVENESS through Jesus Christ, by which God puts us right;

"GRACE by which the Holy Spirit keeps us right and shows us what to do."

In that so-called "doomsday" towards which the world is hastening, the ones who will survive and qualify for an eternity of total bliss, are briefly described by the Bible's prophet as "the righteous nation" which not only knows the truth but keeps the truth (Isaiah 26:2).—R.D.V.

(Why not enjoy the free study courses in Bible truth offered by the world's largest Bible Correspondence School? These courses have transformed thousands of lives. They could transform yours, too. See back cover for details. No fees. No obligation.)



WRECKERS OF SOCIETY

Today's films mean more than meets the eye. Films are powerful mind-benders and conscience-killers

by Colin D. Cook

MANY modern films implant certain attitudes to life that are destructive. They do this deliberately.

Today's kind of film doesn't PLAY at reality. It deals with reality in the most realistic and forceful way. The days of the old Romanticist film are virtually dead and gone. An increasing number of film directors purposely set out to instil a philosophy through the film—a philosophy which is mostly dangerous and destructive. The frightening thing is, that the public generally *don't realize what's going on!*

TREND-SETTERS

Film Director Robert Altman, for example, has just produced the film "M*A*S*H"—a humorous satire against war. Yet he declared that his purpose was not to slam politics: "I am more concerned with behaviour, with THE INSANITY OF ORDER. . . ."¹ There is a word for that in philosophy, the word

NIHILISM, which is the view that there is no real way of knowing truth, that existence is basically senseless and useless. We shall return a little later to the film "M*A*S*H."

Fellini of Italy (maker of "Satyricon"), Slessinger of England, and Bergman of Sweden, are three of the outstanding *despair-film makers*. Bergman has said that he deliberately developed the flow of his films to teach the philosophy of EXISTENTIALISM (a view that states, among other things, that man's experience in life is unreasonable, irrational, and cannot be communicated). In a later film, however, he went a step further: "The Silence" is a statement of utter nihilism. Man has no meaning, no morals, no real will; life is chaos.²

But by far the two most important film-makers in this respect are Jean-Luc Godard (maker of "La Chinoise," "Masculine-Feminine," "Made in the USA," and "2 or 3 Things I know about Her"), and Michaelangelo Antonioni (maker of "L'avventura," "La Notte," "Blow Up," "Zabriskie Point"). Godard is today a chief pusher of REVOLUTION through the film medium (we shall refer to his films

later). Antonioni has been named by *Esquire* magazine as "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD." In a list which includes celebrities like President Nixon, Pope Paul and Leonid Brezhnev, Antonioni is considered to be one of the "people who between 1965 and 1975 had had (or will have) the greatest impact on the world."³ When you realize that his films expose to full view the philosophy of NIHILISM and the remedy of CLEANSING BY VIOLENCE of society's ills, the thought of his increasing fame becomes truly frightening.

FANNING THE FLAME OF REVOLUTION

Felix Barker, in the *London Evening News* has noted that the cinema is definitely reflecting the Protest-Revolution trend in society. Take "Zabriskie Point" (Antonioni) as an example. It is the story of a young man who gets caught up in a student revolt. He is thought to be to blame for the killing of a policeman during the riots, and escapes in a "borrowed" plane and lands in the desert. There he shares his frustrations with a girl where they both enjoy the freedom from their synthetic culture and also have sexual intercourse. Later he takes the plane back, only to find himself surrounded by monster-like, siren-hooting police cars. He is killed, almost with the first bullet.

The girl is depressed and alone. She returns to her plush home, where her father greets her with all the necessary smiles, but none of the needed genuine concern. He's too busily involved in a new take-over bid. The girl drifts out of the house and in her imagination she blows the place sky high and walks off into the sunset.

The story itself is simple: it is the setting, dialogue and production that make it such a revolution-fevered film. *Society and youth are projected as entirely alien to each other*. Society is mechanistic: youth is human. "I only work when I want bread [money]" says a youth, and immediately the camera fixes on a

hoarding depicting a farmer feeding bread to pigs. Students revolt and are met by a passionless response from the police that they are in "violation of section 415 of the penal code."

The girl tells her father that she's going off to meditate.

Typical of his materialism, he replies: "What do you do when you meditate?"

A youth asks the proprietor of a sandwich bar to "trust him for the price of a sandwich," to which he replies: "It's not that I can't trust you, but if, I trusted you, I'd have to trust everybody in the whole world"—the whole loveless world.

People are portrayed as being of value only as they are of use: "You know as well as I do that a thing is of value only in proportion to its potential use," says a business opponent in a selling point made to the girl's father. Society is mechanistic. Youth gives up the effort to communicate.

What is Antonioni's solution? He has the girl saunter out of the house, and standing at a distance looking at the grand place nestling in a rock, she blows up the lot in her mind's eye. A dozen times the scene is repeated. The shots are in slow-motion and become psychedelic. Then separate views are shown of an exploding T.V., a stack of sumptuous clothes, lavish food, tea parties, piles of books, Wonderbread and refrigerators—the smithereens sail by in weird colours as if they were passing through volumes of water. And all the while, electronic music, producing the most discordant and shrill sounds fills the ears, like the frenzied screams of youth as they view the collapse of society. THAT IS ANTONIONI'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF OUR PLASTIC SOCIETY. DESTRUCTION!

VIOLENCE ADVOCATED

Other films offer the same negative solution. "Strawberry Statement" intensifies the "awful gulf" existing between the two generations. Strike and revolution are the only answer of a despotic corps of callous cops to keep things under control.



Similarly the film "If" exhibits violence as a cleanser of society when Radicalism shoots down Liberalism, by a bullet between the eyes of the headmaster.

The film "M*A*S*H" throws out just as damaging a philosophy. Because it is an hilarious comedy slamming WAR, many people will be taken in by it. For the film opposes war, NOT BECAUSE WAR IS AGAINST AN ACCEPTED MORAL CODE, BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MORAL CODES TO GIVE ANY PURPOSE TO WAR. WAR IS NOT BAD BECAUSE IT OPPOSES OUR STANDARDS OF GOODNESS: IT IS STUPID BECAUSE IT FAILS TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE NO STANDARDS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

"M*A*S*H" leaves nothing sacrosanct. All the "sacred cows"—morality, religion, patriotism, medicine, respect for women, are slaughtered.⁴ *Moral absolutes disappear.*

REVOLUTION URGED

A trilogy of films was produced by Godard in the sixties—"2 or 3 Things I know About Her," "La Chinoise," "Weekend." EACH OF THESE WAS BASED UPON THE NEED FOR REVOLUTION IN SOCIETY. The first, focuses on the violated middle

class who have become pawns in the hands of the technocrats. Society needs turning back to zero by revolution.

The second shows how the revolutionaries will triumph over the bourgeoisie.

The final film of the three considers what should replace the present culture after it is destroyed. The answer is a classless world, BANKRUPT OF MORAL ABSOLUTES. Barbarism runs rampant. A new organization under a hippie chief is set up to establish a new ideal. SO WE ARE BACK WHERE WE STARTED. GODARD'S ANSWER IS A NON-ANSWER.

MORALLY BANKRUPT

This failure of film-makers to give a satisfactory answer to society's problems is considered a virtue by Norman Silverstein in *Films and Filming*. He says: "If a film ends with a solution to a human dilemma, IT IS PROVIDING A STRUCTURE THAT IS OF NECESSITY FALSE" ⁵ *This seems to be the view of most modern film-makers.*

OUR TIMES and its hundreds of affiliated magazines around the world, FEEL DUTY-BOUND TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST SUCH PERNICIOUS ENCITEMENT TO DESPAIR AND VIOLENCE.

It is true that society is rent and torn by all manner of ills, BUT THIS IS NO REASON TO ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE BY OFFERING ONLY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES. It is true that America is hastening towards revolution, but this is no reason for encouraging the hatred that already exists either side of the generation-gap. NON-RATIONAL, NIHILISTIC ANSWERS END IN NOTHING. THEY ARE NO-ANSWERS.

THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER

OUR TIMES stands on the side of neither the decadent society nor the drop-outs. It declares that these two alien groups can be reconciled only as they are prepared to recognize certain basic truths of Christianity and human nature:

1. *That man is a personality, created in the image of a personal God. His personality is not to*

be violated by violence.

2. That man was created as a verbalizer—he speaks and can be spoken to. He must use this means of communication and stop acting as if he were an irrational, non-logical gibbering animal, incapable of no other form of communication than violence.
3. That man is turned in on himself—he has fallen—and is divided against himself and against society. The decadence of society is therefore, primarily, a MORAL decadence. Man must put himself right in order to put society right.
4. That the decadence of right-wing society and the violence of the left may be CLEANSED and RECONCILED by the renewal of personality through the power of God in Christ.
5. That renewed men may thus work towards a renewed society through the love and the understanding that Christ imparts to the mind.
6. That there is a criterion for all morals—a moral absolute—in God. We may judge the right and wrong of society, violence and revolution by their relation to God and the Standards He has given in the Bible.
7. That the FINAL REVOLUTION will be accomplished by God and not man, when God OVERTHROWS THE SOCIAL ORDER and recreates the world and a society based on love and understanding AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

Revolutionaries should commit their cause to Christ and work towards that Day by showing the way to a renewed personality and by attempting to reconcile society through the gifts of communication.

This surely, is the duty of filmmakers. Get to grips with the real answers, AND STOP PRODUCING FILMS THAT OFFER NO OTHER SOLUTION THAN EXTINCTION. ↔

References.

- ¹ Time, page 66, May 25, 1970.
- ² Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*, page 42, Inter-Varsity, Chicago, 1968.
- ³ *Films and Filming*, page 50, June, 1970.
- ⁴ *Evening News* (London), May 21, 1970.
- ⁵ *Films and Filming*, page 104, June, 1970.

VOICE OF YOUTH

WHY I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE TODAY

WHEN I was small, my mother taught me how to pray, and from time to time she wrote poems to God about our family. One thing I do remember was this little poem which she wrote and often recited to us:

"Dear God, Let me be
A good Mother to my three;
May they grow up to be honest and true,
To love me and their Daddy and not forget You."

Somehow, I think that years later, God answered my mother's prayer; because when I needed Him most, God really helped me not to forget Him.

During my school years I was like many other young people—just happy to leave school and to experience the thrills that adulthood could give. To be honest, I just wanted to enjoy myself and to get as much as possible out of life. At the age of sixteen or seventeen the world seemed to be one big merry-go-round. I began to love the "gay life" more and more: drinking, smoking, and dancing became my life. The world was made to appear as attractive as possible, and I accepted the bait without thinking where it would lead me. I can honestly say that without the help of Jesus Christ I would be off my head, on drugs, or perhaps dead. But let me tell you how I came to this point and how God led in my life.

I became seriously ill, and for a period of two years suffered spasmodic attacks of a disease which crippled my arms and legs, and which could have left me completely helpless. You can imagine how I felt as I faced the possibility of being crippled for life. In between the attacks I still lived life to the full—pop-music formed my escape world, and I became more and more infatuated by it. Because of my illness I had much more time on my hands; I was working about twenty hours a week and used the money for further enjoyment.

I must confess that when I became ill I prayed to God for help. The way that He seemed to answer baffled me, but looking back I can see how His hand was leading.

I was admitted to a hospital where 99% of the patients were in wheel chairs, permanently crippled from the very disease I had. This was virtually the end of the world to me. I felt like ending everything. Also I felt like cursing God for the terrible sights I saw in the hospital: Yet if I could have looked into the future, I would have praised Him for His providence.

During my stay in hospital my ideas



by
Carl Fletcher

about life changed. In the suffering I saw a complete contrast to my life of enjoyment, and for the first time I realized that life was a serious matter. At the same time the Holy Spirit worked on my mind and I began to realize that with the nurses and staff there was a way of life which seemed to be more satisfying than mine had been. All my enjoyment hadn't brought me happiness. Also for the first time I met a genuine Christian. It was a wonderful experience and at the time I really wanted to be like this person.

After leaving hospital my health deteriorated and I became more and more depressed, until each day was a burden and all I wanted was death. My family and friends were very concerned about me, as I never went out. I would never speak to any one and I just stayed in my room. The greatest thing that held me back was not my bad health or its depressing effect, but the overwhelming remorse and guilt which I felt for my past life. I knew that unless I found forgiveness I could never have peace of mind. I was controlled by my habits and inclinations—I had walked into a trap and the more I tried to escape from it the tighter it became. I almost gave up hope of happiness, but again I remembered the Christians I had met during my stay in hospital. This thought encouraged my prayers which went up to God every night.

No one ever cries to God in vain, and after two years of prayer, a friend invited me to some meetings on archaeology. To my surprise there was a lecture on health the same night. It was here that I really found Christ and the forgiveness and peace of mind which He alone can give. There followed many more personal miracles which God worked for me. Jesus Christ led me in a wonderful way from a life of complete despair to one of hope, happiness, security and faith. The future is now extremely bright; by His blessings, God has more than made up for the years I missed through illness.

I am now studying to be a minister for God. I want to bring other young people to a knowledge of Christ and enjoy that peace which passes all understanding.

BROTHERHOOD

by Joyce Frances Carpenter

Think only thoughts of love today
With understanding as your guide:
You'll find you help along their way,
The weary ones close by your side.

And breathe out peace to all you meet;
For many strangers in the street,
With skins of black, or white, or tan
Need help from "Brotherhood of Man."



the stones cry out

HOW LAW-GIVER HAMMURABI PROVES BIBLE TRUTH

by Charlotte Hastings

WHEN in Bablyon my attention was drawn to a seal of Nebuchadnezzar II in the paving of the Processional Way; and also to another, in re-used brickwork, by the famous Ishtar Gate. Impressed a thousand years earlier, it was of the time of Hammurabi, Babylonian king, from the first Golden Age and Dynasty.

Hammurabi is chiefly known for his famous Law Code, the original of which, in polished, black diorite, is a stele nearly eight foot high and is at the Louvre, Paris. It was brought there by French archaeologist Jacques de Morgan from his excavations at Susa, Persia [Biblical, Shushan]. One replica is in the British Museum.

Carved on the tapering upper part, Hammurabi is portrayed re-

ceiving his laws from the enthroned sun-god, Shamash, in whose Temple at Sippar near Babylon it once stood, until taken as booty by a Persian conqueror. It is beautifully engraved in cuneiform columns, has a eulogistic prologue and epilogue, besides 282 laws.

This comprehensive legal code (dated 2300 B.C.) of over three and a half thousand lines covers every aspect of civil rights—for nobility, commoners, and slaves. Marital responsibilities, divorce, inheritance, debts, disputes concerning property, cattle, commerce—whatever the issue, obligations and penalties were stated, including death sentences for theft, adultery, and false accusation. Murder was covered by the Law of Retaliation by relatives. Unsuccessful operations risked mutilation of a hand for the surgeon, and literarily an "eye for an eye" if sight were lost.

The code is of particular importance because from this secular source is confirmed how historically true is the setting and prevalent customs of patriarchal times outlined in the Bible. Instances such as the manner of contract over the purchase of the Cave of Machpelah by Abraham; the episodes between Jacob and Laban regarding Laban's daughters Rachel and Leah; and the dealings of Abraham's wife Sarah with the handmaid Hagar, in sending her away, are seen to be merciful according to Babylonian law, Clause 146: "If . . . equality is claimed with her mistress because she bore children, her mistress may not sell her, she may mark her with the slave-mark, and count her among the slaves."

It was the will of God that a man should have only one wife, as in the beginning. In calling Abraham from Ur, God was leading him away from polytheistic [many gods] concepts which had corrupted religion, morals, and legislation.

Thus archaeology has completely disproved the assertions by Bible critics—that it was impossible for Moses to write the highly developed system of laws contained in the Bible (Pentateuch). Some 400 years after Abraham, who was a contemporary of Hammurabi, the Book of the Covenant, the statutory laws of Israel were written by Moses, BUT NOT COPIED FROM HAMMURABI. And much earlier, similar legal codes have now been discovered . . . those of Lipit-Ishtar, Nippur; King Bilalama, Eshnunna; and King Ur-Nammu, Ur. "It seems certain," stated archaeologist Sir Charles Marsden, "that Hammurabi's laws were a codification of the oldest and existing laws and customs of the Semitic race—the race that springs from Noah's son Shem, the race to which the Hebrews belonged." (*The Bible Comes Alive.*)

"In the Babylonian laws there is no control of lust, no limitation of selfishness through altruism; nowhere the postulate of charity; nowhere the religious motif which recognizes sin as the destruction of the people, because it is in opposition to the fear of the Lord." (J. Jeremias, in *Moses and Hammurabi.*)

Re-emphasized through Moses at Sinai was the Moral Law of the Ten Commandments, written by God, the real Law-giver, whose basic attribute is love. Only this was placed in the Ark of the Covenant, beneath the Mercy Seat. True loyalty to God will lead us to keep His commandments (Exodus 20:3-17), and thereby fully to respect and honour the rights of our fellow men. ↔



King Hammurabi of the first Babylonian Kingdom. (c. 1792-1750 B.C.) is here depicted on the famous stele on which is inscribed the laws he is here seen receiving from the so-called sun-god. This legal code is the most important single document relating to Babylonian life that is known to us.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

(See page 14.)

GOD'S WORD

ACROSS.—1. Gutenberg; 7. Ind; 8. nails; 10. Eve; 11. lined; 13. sigma; 15. forth; 18. cured; 20. air; 21. Eddas; 22. orb; 23. Coverdale.

DOWN.—2. union; 3. ended; 4. bones; 5. ruing; 6. Wycliffe; 9. Standard; 12. eat; 14. I.O.U.; 16. radio; 17. haste; 18. crowd; 19. rebel.



SPOTLIGHT
ON OUR
GODLESS
AGE

LET'S GET BACK TO GOD

by Richard Vine, M.A.

RECENTLY a young man jumped from a New York skyscraper because, after taking the drug LSD, he thought he was a bird, and could fly. We would label him a fool, because he was out of touch with the facts of reality—with the law of gravity; and with the hard fact of the pavement hundreds of feet below—until it was too late.

The Bible defines a man who doesn't believe in God as a FOOL: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). Why is he a fool? He is out of touch with Reality, with the hard facts of this world, he is living in an imaginary world that does not exist, an incomplete world in which he, because he excludes God from his life, is only a half-man himself!

WHY ARE MODERN PEOPLE SO GODLESS?

We are living in a post-Christian age, when the majority no longer attend church, and have only a hazy idea of God. The laws of the land are no longer Christian laws—in fact, *un-Christian* behaviour, such as homosexuality, are being made legal. How did this process of "expunging" God from our society begin?

About 200 years ago, men like Locke, Hume, Hobbes, Rousseau and Voltaire wanted to find Truth, or Reality, the truth about man

and the world. In their quest they said: "We'll start with Man, and using our five senses, we'll reach out and inquire into the universe. We'll use only scientific methods to gather our facts. We'll weigh, measure, and observe." They went on to say that if a thing can't be seen or handled or weighed, then *it doesn't exist*. Sounds reasonable? The Bible says that God *cannot* be seen by man, for He is *invisible*. The men of the Age of Reason promptly assumed "There is no God." But instead of being labelled Fools, they were hailed as the heralds of what the history books call "The Enlightenment" of the 1700s.

PAUL VERSUS "THE AGE OF REASON"

Paul calls such men fools. They thought they were being clever when they left God out of their reckoning. The Greek word in Romans 1:21, 22, 25 for Fool is "Morones," or Moron. They thought man was growing up, being freed from "superstitions," being educated. But Paul says that as they debased God, man himself became debased—not enlightened or exalted. He devotes the rest of the chapter (Romans 1) to describing the results of first denying God. *This is the reason for our lawless, confused, cruel society today—IT HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON GOD*. Just read verses 24-31—it's

almost as if you were reading the *Sunday News of the World*.

We are only now reaping the full fruit in our society today of the seeds that were sown by the men of the "Age of Reason" 200 years ago, who because they could not see Him, avowed: "There is no God!"

CONSEQUENCES OF DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. Having denied God because He cannot be seen, they denied the reality of angels and devils, because they couldn't be seen. To believe in them was thought "Unscientific." Have you ever seen an angel?
2. If God goes so does His Law—the Ten Commandments. The Commandment which says, "Thou shalt not steal" becomes irrelevant, if the law and the God behind it, do not exist. Hence the reason for our present crime-wave—in some areas it's unsafe to walk in the streets alone at night. Especially is the crime-wave noticeable in young people under the age of 21.
3. When the Creator-God disappears, in a way, so does *man himself*. He's no longer a full man—with a body, mind and soul. Diderot wrote in his famous *Encyclopaedia* (1752-1772) under the entry "Man" these words: "Man is really only an animal—who can SEE any

basic differences . . . there is no basic difference between man, animals, plants and things."

The Theory of Evolution, popularized by Charles Darwin in 1859 in his book, *The Origin of Species* seemed to give scientific support to this idea of man as a super-ape, but nonetheless still just another *animal*, with a body that needed clothing and feeding, and a brain that needed educating, but because it couldn't be seen or measured, *he had* no soul. Is it any wonder that youngsters, fed on B.B.C. pro-evolution propaganda in the schools programmes, *act like animals* if they believe that's just what they are? The theory that man is just a super-ape, a little less hairy, is taught in best-sellers like *The Human Zoo* and *The Naked Ape*.

4. Following the idea that things which can't be weighed or seen or measured do not exist, it is denied that man has a SOUL. That capacity for reflecting the character of God is called soul in the Bible. This, we are told today, does not exist. Man is no more than another animal.
5. Intangible things like love, loyalty, beauty, goodness, faith, friendship all disappear from man's make-up because they too cannot be measured or seen. Love disappears for that reason, and we are left with that part of love which *can* be seen and experienced, called SEX. This is said to be just another appetite that must be satisfied. Old-fashioned ideas about right and wrong, responsibility, the Law of God which says "Thou shalt not commit adultery" don't enter the discussion of sex, because they can't be observed or photographed or weighed.
6. We are told that as animals, we must hunt and be hunted, that the fittest (and fiercest) will survive. Thus our society is riddled with self-interest, and we have lost courtesy and unselfishness, and the virtue of putting others first. "The meek," said Jesus, not the fierce, "shall inherit the earth."

7. *Worst of all, having denied God, men today have denied the possibility of a life hereafter.* It cannot be proven scientifically, they say. Thus, modern novelists like Sartre, and philosophers, and even modern artists, like Picasso, are very conscious in all they do, of the fact of death, but most of them have no hope for a life hereafter. The result is: MAN WITHOUT MORALS. He reasons: "If I live a bad life, I die. But if I live a good life, still, I will die, so why should I bother what sort of life I live?" Doesn't this describe a large segment of our generation?



FOOLS SAYS DAVID, FOOLS SAYS PAUL

Foolish modern men, fancy imagining that the God of the Universe, the Maker of the earth and Creator of mankind, can be fitted into a test tube! The whole Bible approach to truth—moral and spiritual truth—is the opposite to Man's approach. The Bible reveals that the only truth that really matters is not found out by man equipped with his laboratory and telescope. Truth is something that has been revealed by God through His prophets, and recorded in His

Word, the Bible. Unless God had revealed it, Man would never be able to find it out. Such is the Christian approach.

How should we seek God? It is by using that faculty we call *faith*, in other words, by believing in Someone whom we cannot see.

Paul writes in the New Testament: "Without faith it is impossible to please him. For they that come unto God must believe that *he is*, and that *he is a rewarder* of those that *diligently* (not half-heartedly) seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

What then, can we really know about God? Notice these words of Jesus Christ to one of His disciples: "He that hath seen me hath *seen* the Father" (John 14:9).

Read also these words of John: "That which was from the beginning, which we have *heard*, which we have *seen* with our eyes, which we have *looked* upon, and our hands have *handled*, of the Word of life; . . . That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, . . . And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1 John 1:1, 2, 4).

Yes, God has revealed Himself; He has revealed the truth, in *Jesus Christ*.

God is looking for men and women today who won't be afraid to be "fools for Christ." People who will bear witness to their friends and families to a message which is so simple, so direct, and so unbelievable, that at first it seems foolishness. (1 Corinthians 1:21.)

This is the message from a "fool" who believes, to a fool who doesn't believe: "This God, who made you, loves you, and wants you for His son or daughter. He wants you so much that He died for you on a cross. He's waiting now for you, preparing a home for you in heaven where He lives. And He's coming soon, in person, to take you to your home so that you can enjoy His friendship for ever. Won't you accept?"

(Readers are recommended to enrol for one of the several free Bible Study Courses offered by the Voice of Prophecy Bible School. See back cover for details. Act now.)

peace in your life

by E. Pettit

Full acceptance of Christ is the sure means of changing a life of anxiety into one of unblemished happiness. Millions today have proved it. And remember, the peace of society, of the nation, and of the world, begins with the peace of the individual.

I DO not want what I have and do not know what I want!"

So sighed a bearded hippie in Los Angeles one day. His complaint seems to echo that of many in our affluent society. In the midst of plenty we cry for more. With shops and stores bulging with goods modern man is poverty-stricken. But it is not material poverty. It is that of the spirit.

There are millionaires with full bank accounts but empty lives. Brilliant and versatile people highly trained to earn a living but with no knowledge of how to live. So-called successful men who are moral and spiritual failures.

Most people, deep down, feel dissatisfied with their lives. So they go charging after that "will-o-the-wisp," material possessions, to fill their emptiness. When they have a black and white TV they want a colour one. They want a bigger house, a newer car, a boat, and so on. So there is the saying "Keeping up with the Joneses!" Someone said the other day, "I wish Jones would drop dead!" The trouble is Jones exists *inside* us not *outside*. There is something greedy and grasping about a certain side of our nature that wants more, more, more.

Psychologists have tried to explain why this should be so. Adler said that within each human being is the hunger to be loved. This hunger is frustrated and so comes out in various ways. You may have the prosperous middle-aged, middle-class housewife, who is a kleptomaniac. By stealing from the supermarket she is compensating for the lack of love in her life.

But someone says: "That is all very well, but you must make ends meet, you must have money!"

Well as one wit put it, "Money will never buy you happiness, it will only help you enjoy being miserable!"

No, there is nothing wrong with money or wealth as such. The Bible says: "The *love* of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10)—not money itself.

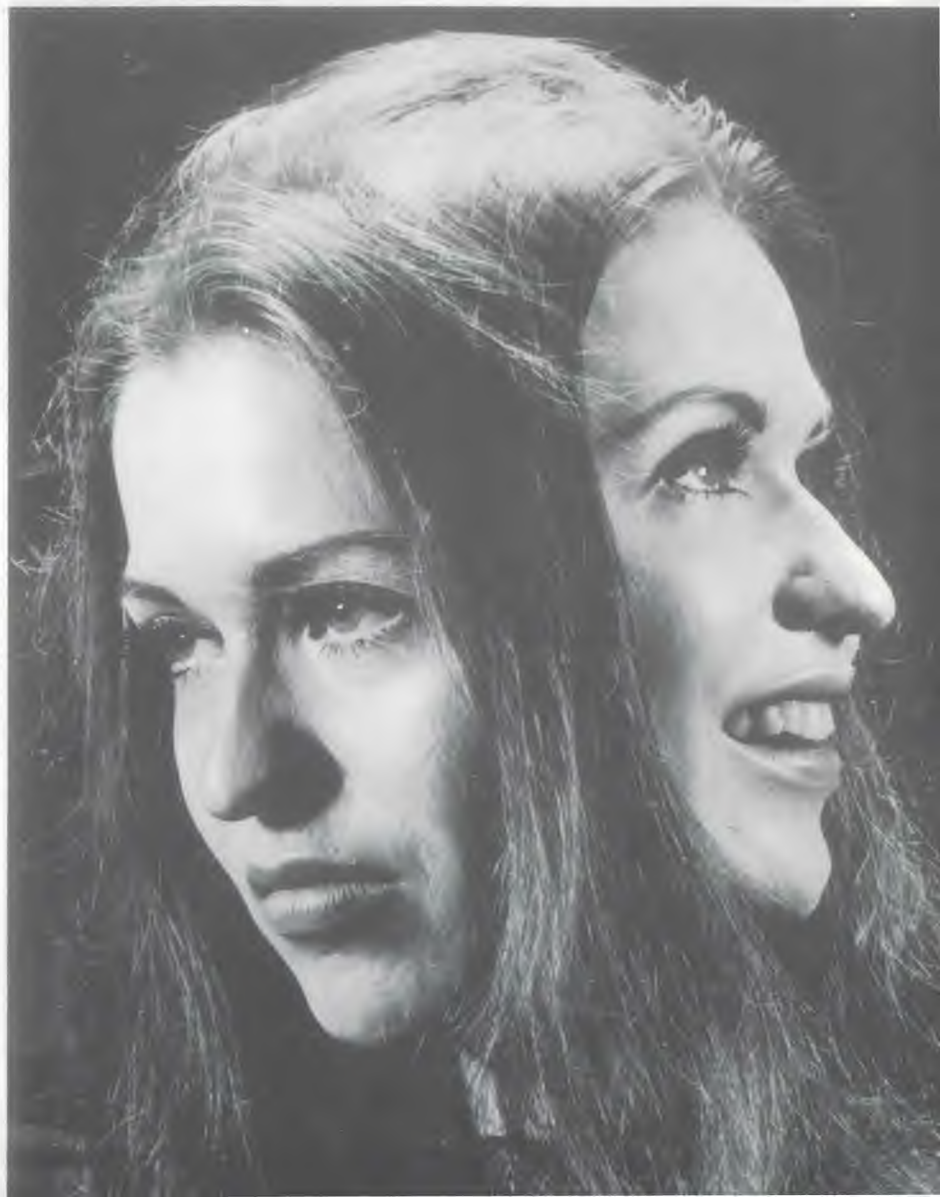
Julian Huxley once said, there is a "God-shaped blank" in each

human heart. Perhaps he was thinking of St. Augustine's statement where he said that: "We have no rest until we find our rest in Thee."

If we love wealth selfishly we are creating a false god. We are attempting to fill that aching void with a material thing. But it cannot be done.

For material possessions can never fill this primal need in our hearts.

How true and wise Our Lord's words were when He said: "Therefore take no thought saying, what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or where withal shall we be clothed? But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:31, 33). There is the true place for wealth, not a priority but a secondary. It must, therefore, come



after "God and his righteousness."

A materialistic manner of life does not hold the true secret of peace. Modern man has made money and power his "gods" rather than his servants. They are very good servants, but terrible and demanding "gods."

Now there has always been a tendency in Christian thinking to look upon physical things as dangerous, and to preserve the spirit it is better to renounce them. Hence we veer from one extreme to another, from materialism to ascetism. The thinking is that if true joy and peace cannot be found in the pursuit of earthly things then there must be a total renunciation of all earthly pleasures.

DID PILLAR CHRISTIANS FIND PEACE?

One of the most noteworthy cases of this was Simon Stylites (c 390-459 A.D.) who practised his peculiar austerity by living on top of a column thirty feet high. Every day he would have some meagre food and water raised to him by a rope and basket. Hundreds followed his example. They were known as the "pillar Christians". Did such men thus find peace with God? Henry Chadwick observes: "Their recorded mortifications make alarming reading. A heavy iron chain as a belt was a frequent austerity. A few adopted the life of animals and fed on grass, living in the open air without shade from the sun and with the minimum clothing, and justifying their method of defying society by claiming to be 'fools for Christ's sake!'" One legend says that after one of these hermits had spent thirty years living on top of a column he said, "God, I have been living on top of this pillar for thirty years but I do not feel that I have yet found you. . . . Where are you God?" And God replied, "Down here among the people!"

Our Lord had prayed concerning his disciples: "I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15, R.S.V.). Here we catch a glimpse of the beauty of Biblical Christianity.

Not materialism or "loving the world," nor ascetism or "withdrawal from the world," BUT BEING KEPT FROM EVIL BY THE POWER OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD.

The Christian is to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. It is here that many falter and ask, how can this be? How can I meet the temptations of the world without succumbing to them?

ENSLAVED

I once knew a young man who was training to be a lawyer. One day we were discussing Christian living and he said to me, "I just cannot live up to your Bible standards." He was what we call a "womaniser." He had a different girl each night as well as being engaged to one young lady, and having about six others to whom he had promised marriage. When I spoke to him concerning the high ethical standards of the Bible he said, "I just could not do it, if I could not carry on as I am, life would not be worth living!" But he was not happy. *In fact he was a slave to his passion.*

There are many like him, though the enslaving sin may be different. Maybe they cannot leave the bottle alone; or perhaps they have an evil temper; they may gamble, lie, cheat, steal incessantly and obsessively.

Some say it is a psychological problem. Get them to lie down on a couch and talk to a psychiatrist and they will get better. Now a great deal of good can be accomplished by psychiatry. But if we feel that the problem can be solely dealt with by the psychiatrist's couch we make a big mistake. For the reason lies deeper still, since *it is more than a mental problem, it is more than a moral problem, it is a spiritual one.*

THREE CLUES TO DYNAMIC LIVING

There are three clues to discover the secret of inner peace and tranquillity, that are given in the Bible. If we give due heed to them we shall find for ourselves the secret of dynamic living.

The first one is this, that the Bible reveals that man is fundamentally, intrinsically, and basically *alienated from God*, Paul

speaks very clearly of the condition the whole human race is in when he wrote: "They are darkened in their understanding *alienated* from the life of God" (Ephesians 4:18). In the same epistle he speaks of man being "by nature, children of wrath," and as such have "no hope" and are "without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:3, 12).

Man in his original state was created to have communion with God. He was made to live his life with God as the centre of that life. When he sinned he rebelled against God, thereby displacing God as the centre of his being, and putting his ego there instead. Hence man is ego-centric.

Any idea of withdrawal from the world must be a false way to salvation since it is basically egoistic, a desire to save oneself by works.

An understanding of man's Fall (Genesis 3) and the Christian doctrine of original sin transforms man's question: "How shall I save myself?" into the question: "Who will deliver me?"

For the Christian there is only one ultimate answer: "Thanks be to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 7:24, 25).

INWARD EXPERIENCE

Now we must examine the next clue, which is that peace and power in one's life does not depend upon outward circumstances but is essentially an inward experience. Again we quote the word of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27 R.S.V.) To have such peace and inner harmony we do not have to retreat to a desert island! My young friend who could not leave the girls alone, did not have to go to that monastery in Greece which is located on a towering cliff and where no woman has set foot for 1,000 years, to get away from temptation! *Something had to happen to him*, and has to happen to us which is *internal*, not *external*.

The first step in the reception of such peace is to recognize that we are empty, we are alienated and separated from God, but then

THE creation account closes with the words: "And God rested." Not that He was weary and needed repose, but rather that He rested in the sense in which a lawyer rests his case. In other words, He ceased from His creative activity. The Word says that "the works were finished from the foundation of the world." (Hebrews 4:3).

As a memorial of creation week, THE SEVENTH DAY WAS SET APART AS HOLY TIME. In it man was commanded not to do any work, but to observe it in commemoration of creation (Exodus 20:11). Had the Sabbath thus been observed by all, there would never have been any idolatry, nor atheism, nor any other of the many doctrines that deny the sovereignty of God in the universe. *The Sabbath was to be a sign between God and His people (Ezekiel 20:20) whereby they would know that He was their God.*

According to the New Testament, the Sabbath was observed at the time of Christ, for we read that the women who prepared spices for His burial "rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56). Also, "when the Sabbath was past" they brought the spices to the tomb "in the morning the first day of the week" (Mark 16:1, 2).

NOT JEWISH

The Sabbath was not a Jewish holiday, for it was established 2,000 years before there was a Jew. It was set up as a perpetual memorial, and we can never do away with the fact of creation, which it was to memorialize, any more than we can change the fact that the Magna Carta was sealed on June 15, 1215.

How did idolatry begin? We read in Romans 1:21-23 that men did not glorify God as God. Their vain imaginations led them to worship nature itself. A study of ancient religions shows that most of them originally had some idea of a Supreme Being, although His exact relation to the universe was not clearly defined. Losing sight of the personality of God, men transferred His attributes to the things

When God Rested

**Eighth of a series on Creation
Week in the light of Modern
Science and the Word of God.**

by Harold W. Clark
Professor Emeritus of Biology

of nature. This departure from the fundamental truth led to many and devious avenues of error.

EASTERN PANTHEISM

In India religious leaders conceived of God as an essence or energy pervading all nature. God was all in all and in and through everything. The sun and moon, the winds, the storms, the animals, and all manifestations of nature were activated by that universal energy. Thus there was left no distinction between God and the manifestation of His power in nature. This was pantheism—"all God," or God in all.

The next natural step in the development of this philosophy was the "establishment" of many gods. Losing sight of the separate existence of God, and conceiving of God as penetrating nature everywhere, the ancient leaders of religious thought personified the various activities of nature and set up gods according to their vain imaginations, as the Bible puts it.

HAD THE SABBATH ALWAYS BEEN OBSERVED AS A MEMORIAL OF THE CREATION OF THE WORLD BY THE GREAT JEHOVAH, SUCH IDOLATRY WOULD NEVER HAVE COME INTO BEING.

In some ancient countries philosophy took a different turn. Perhaps the philosophy that has had

the deepest influence on modern thought was that developed in Greece by Aristotle, one of the greatest of ancient thinkers.

Aristotle conceived of the world as being activated by an inherent force or power. All the processes of nature were directed by this "necessity," which drove them onward. Note this statement regarding the results of this philosophy:

"As we pass upward from purely mechanical changes, to chemical changes of quality, and thence to organic life, involving growth and decay; as, in organisms, we advance from the vegetative life of the plant, to the animal soul, capable of sensation and motion; and from the animal soul to man, from sensation to reason: we find each step governed by an upward impulse toward the succeeding step, which constitutes its perfection, . . . the goal toward which it is striving."—A. K. Rodgers, *A Student's History of Philosophy*, page 106.

According to these ideas, whatever god there might have been was declared to be simply the ultimate ideal operating through nature. Thus Aristotle's philosophy, when carried to its logical conclusion, results in materialistic evolution.

IDOLATRY OF EVOLUTION

Modern evolution, with its emphasis on the "laws of nature" as the ultimate power activating natural phenomena, is practically the same as the ancient Aristotelian philosophy. The great I AM, the Creator-God of Genesis, has no place in this system of thought.

But let us leave these abstract considerations and note some more worth-while points. In the third chapter of Genesis, where the account of man's fall is given, we read that the Lord God walked in the garden in the cool of the day.

How beautiful to think of the Creator's coming to talk with His newly created son and daughter! What interest He showed in their welfare! Without doubt He instructed them in many things. Adam and Eve, while fully mature individuals, were as yet lacking in experience and needed to have



Astronomy provides the reason for observing the periods of the day, the month, and the year. But the period of the week with its concluding seventh-day Sabbath, has its origin exclusively in the Bible record of Creation—eternally enshrined in the Fourth Commandment of God's Moral Law (Exodus 20:8-11).

much information about the world about them in order quickly to adjust themselves to it. Instead of leaving them to discover everything by slow, experimental methods, their Maker came to aid them in acquiring the necessary knowledge to make their lives more meaningful.

The first Sabbath must have been a wonderful day of exploration and communion. And had every succeeding Sabbath since then been of the same nature, how close to God the human race might have remained! Even today Christians may profit greatly by spending some time on Sabbath in communion with God through His works. On this point we read from the writings of one who had a deep appreciation of the great lessons to be found in nature:

"Christ's purpose in parable teaching was in direct line with the purpose of the Sabbath. God gave to men the memorial of His creative power, that they might discern Him in the works of His hand. The Sabbath bids us behold in His created works the glory of the Creator. . . . On the holy rest day, above all other days, we should study the messages that God has written for us in nature. We should study the Saviour's para-

bles where He spoke them, in the fields and groves, under the open sky, among the grass and flowers. As we come close to the heart of nature, Christ makes His presence real to us, and speaks to our hearts of His peace and love."—Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 25, 26.

"From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvellous tint and colour, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. . . . All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens, speak of God."—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, pages 411, 412.

Those who thus learn to appreciate the handiwork of God assimilate lessons that will fit them for the hereafter, of which the prophet spoke:

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 66:23).

God's plan for mankind is eter-

nal. The same memorial of His power (the seventh day Sabbath) that was given in Eden will remain throughout eternity to be a constant reminder of His love and power.

Now the most wonderful seven days in the history of the earth had come to a close. The earth in all its pristine beauty stood as a witness to the work of an almighty hand. Man, the highest of all creation, made in the image of God, had been given dominion over everything. What a wonderful privilege! What a priceless heritage! To be able to read and understand the thoughts of God in nature—surely this was, and still is, the greatest heritage man could desire.

Man has departed far from his original state, and nature has sadly deteriorated. However, a day is coming when all will be restored. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth. . . . Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create" (Isaiah 65:17, 18). With eager anticipation we should look forward to that day. It will be well worth bending every effort to win an inheritance there. ↔

PEACE IN YOUR LIFE

← page 11

to realize that *God still loves us.* The man who womanises, gambles, drinks, or whatever, is really sensing that subconscious need and attempting to fill that emptiness with things that are, in fact, destructive. What he should do is realize that God loves him—yes, God loves him as a son! As soon as we realize that God loves us and yearns over us as a Father no matter what we have done or are doing, something is going to happen in our lives.

"When a man saw (and sees) the reality, even the enormity, of his own sin, and the work of God in meeting that sin in Christ, the response is one of obedience and surrender to a God gracious and merciful. A kind of buoyancy is born in the human soul, a trust and confidence in all God's promises." *Martin Luther and the Birth of Protestantism*, James Atkinson, page 83. ↔

Christ Died Even for Terrorists

by R. H. Pierson, D.D.

ONE December morning in 1967 I was speaking to a group of Viet Cong prisoners in a Vietnamese prison camp. The front verandah of a Buddhist temple served as my rostrum. On a banner stretched above my head were the words of Paul to the Philippian jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Before me that morning were forty-eight men who some months earlier had been plotters, arsonists, terrorists, thieves, and murderers. Now they were transformed into peaceful, loveable Christians. They were presenting themselves for baptism and membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Television and radio stations and the press heralded their conversion around the world.

What power had wrought this great change in their lives? Who had taken away the burden of their guilt and condemnation? In short, who had assumed the penalty for their sin and transgression?

The only possible answer is simply and certainly Jesus Christ, the Man of Calvary. The Apostle Paul wrote: "We can see that it was while we were powerless to help ourselves that Christ died for sinful men" (Romans 5:6, Phillips). Christ died for Viet Cong as He died for Britons and Americans, for sinners from every land. Sinners in every land deserve to die. They are marked men. The penalty of death hangs inexorably over their heads. That penalty must be paid.

Thank God Paul's words do not end there. He also assures the sinner that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"The gift of God"—this is what the Viet Cong needed. It is what you and I need. If we are not to die, someone else must be our substitute and pay the penalty, for the claims of God's law must be satisfied.

Your Bible Teaches...

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. Both Old and New Testaments contain an all-sufficient revelation of God's will to men and are the only unerring rule of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, pre-existed with God the Father, for our sake was born of a virgin, lived as a man among men, died on the cross as a complete atonement for our sins, rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven. There He intercedes as "High Priest" as the lives of men are called into judgement. Through Christ only is salvation possible (John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 2:9-18; 8:1, 2; 7:25; 4:14-16).

The second coming of Christ is near. This, not man-made forces, will mark the end of the world. No man can predict when this will be but the Church believes it is imminent. His coming will be literal, physical, visible to all mankind (Matthew 24:1-44; Acts 1:6-11; Revelation 1:7).

In death man rests in the grave. He simply ceases to live until his restoration at the resurrection. In death he is neither tormented by the fires of hell nor taken to heaven. He knows "not anything" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; John 5:28, 29).

God, through Christ, created the earth and all life on it. This life itself did not evolve over vast periods of time (John 1:1-3; Genesis 1).

The seventh day is the Sabbath. Both Old and New Testaments point to the sacredness of the seventh day of the week, as a memorial to God's creative power, a sign of His authority (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Hebrews 4:1-10).

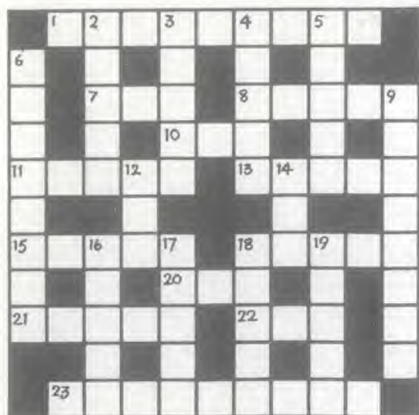
The Ten Commandments reveal God's will relating to moral conduct. These commandments are moral, unchangeable precepts, binding on all men in all ages. Salvation is not by the keeping of the law but through Christ only. Observance of the law signifies one's allegiance to and love for God (Exodus 20:1-17; Malachi 3:6; 1 John 2:3-7).

Baptism is by immersion in a Biblical figure of the burial of "the old man of sin" and a resurrection of "the new man" reborn in Christ. Baptism is held to be a rite in which only those of sufficient maturity to understand its meaning should engage (Romans 6:1-6; Acts 16:30-33).

The communion service is regarded as partaking symbolically of the body of Christ, is open to all who confess Him. It is associated with the "ordinance of humility," or washing of feet as instituted by Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-29; John 13:5-17).

BIBLE CROSSWORD

by Myrtle Cooper



ACROSS:

- The second book this German printed upon his newly invented press was the Bible.
- Poetic word for the country in which Ida Scudder spread the Word of God.
- He who was not willing to believe the word of Jesus said, "Unless I see the mark of the (5) on His hands . . . I will not believe." (John 20:25, N.E.B.)
- One who by mistrusting God's Word brought misery to our planet (Genesis 3).
- The purses of those prepared to spread the "good news" of Christ were not to be (5) with money. (Matthew 10:10.)
- 18th letter of the alphabet of the language used in the Septuagint Version.
- Blessed be the name of the Lord from this

time (5) and for ever-more. (Psalm 115:2, A.V.)

- Faith in God's Word brings physical healing . . . and from that moment he was (5)." (Matthew 17:18, N.E.B.)
- Those who love God's Word will be caught up in clouds "to meet the Lord in the (3)." (1 Thessalonians 4:17, A.V.)
- Ancient books of old Norse poems.
- Globe surmounted by cross symbolizing Christ's sovereignty over the world.
- He was responsible for publishing the first complete English Bible, a copy of which Anne Boleyn always kept with her.

DOWN:

- The Authorized Version was issued 8 years after the (5) of Scotland and England.
- The cry of those who have not listened to the Word of God. "The harvest is past, the summer is (5), and we are not saved." (Jeremiah 8:20, A.V.)
- "He keepeth all his (5): not one of them is broken." (Psalm 34:20, A.V.)
- Regretting.
- The Biblical translation of 1382 is credited to this man—the "Morning Star of the Reformation."
- The middle word of A.S.V.
- "To him who is victorious I will give the right to (3) from the tree of life." (Revelation 2:7, N.E.B.)
- Formal acknowledgement of debt.
- God's Word is now heard through this medium.
- The shepherds "came with (5)" (Luke 2:16, A.V.) to worship Him who is the Word. (John 1:1.)
- A multitude. "There was a great (5) and they listened eagerly." (Mark 12:38, N.E.B.)
- "Some there are who (5) against the light of day . . . and do not linger in the paths of light." (Job 24:13, N.E.B.)

(Solution on page 7.)

Disobedience - and a sore head

by Miriam Hardinge

TEXT: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." Proverbs 12:15.

It was the second day of school in the brand new building, and as usually happens when one goes into a new place, everything was not quite ready. The inside of the school was all right, but the playground was not finished. It was going to be a lovely playground when the men were through with it, and the boys and girls could hardly wait for it to be finished. But the teacher warned them, "Children, do not play over where the men are working. That part of the playground will very soon be finished, but until it is, please keep away."

"I don't care," said Benny, and went right over to the new part of the playground.

But alas, his foot caught against a pile of broken bricks and he went sprawling. His head hit the ground and blood dropped from an ugly wound. One of the teachers had to rush him off to the hospital so that the doctor could put stitches into the wound.

He had been counselled [advised], but he had not taken the counsel and had to suffer for his foolishness.

Are you one of those who take counsel? Or do you, like Benny, think it is all right to do what you want? Why not listen? Teachers, parents and counsellors know more than you do about dangers—physical and spiritual. Why not listen to them and heed them? If you don't you may find yourself in trouble, as Benny did.

(You may read more about taking the counsel of the wise, in Proverbs 19:18-20.)

Your Letter

Dear Sunbeams,

The following poem is the second of the two I received from Clive Southern, one of our Southampton Sunbeams. The first was published in OUR TIMES No. 10.

A BOY

This has been my birthday,
I'm nine years old today.
I want to help my Mummy
In every kind of way.

I'll help her in the garden
To dig and sow the seed;
To cut the grass so very neat
And all the plants I'll feed.

Then I will pray to Jesus
Some kind deed I may do,
That I may help someone each day
And all the whole year through.

I think this is a fine poem, don't you? And Clive is letting his light shine as he looks for opportunities to do a kindness for someone each day. Clive recently won a certificate for his piano playing—a surprise gift, he said, for his mother's birthday.

Sunbeam Alison Tweedie wrote to say she lives in a very pretty spot near some pinewoods where the red squirrels are tame and take nuts from your hands. Her letter continued with the following amusing story: "A starling, laid an egg while it was flying over my next door neighbour's garden." Evidently poor Mrs. Starling had been disturbed and so her egg landed on the hard ground instead of in the nest prepared for it.

Do write and let me know how you make use of the summer hours, Sunbeams, so that your experiences can be shared. The Sunbeam Band is like a large family and I am sure you would like the rest of the family to know of any exciting or interesting thing that has happened to you.

Yours affectionately,

Auntie Alice

RESULTS OF COMPETITION NO. 6

Prize-winners.—Anna Berry, 130 Topsham Road, Tooting Bec, London S.W.17. Age 15. Davina Hawken, "Wensleydale," James Place, Station Road, Ulceby, Lincs. Age 7.

Honourable Mention.—Julia Hawken (Ulceby); Kathleen Holden (Wharram-le-Street); Anne Dillon (Rainham); Jane Edwards (Grenada); Harold Jefferies (London S.W.12); Peter Secker (Birmingham 36); Peter Luker (Southampton); Gillian Walcott (London N.22); Louise Maybury (Waltham Cross); Harriet Lazere (Slough); Annette Edwards (Grenada); John Secker (Birmingham 36); Julie Meeson (Wolverhampton); Susan Miller (Grantham); Carol Barron (Manchester 8); Fiona Wood (Binfield); Gavin Anthony (Norwich).

Those Who Tried Hard.—Tracey Alford (Exeter); Yvette Reddall (Leicester); Maria Davey (Norwich); Curtis Watter (Huddersfield); David Wilby (Dublin 6); Michele O'Rourke (Oxford); Gillian Poyser (Stockport); Roland Simpson (Preston); Fiona MaSoud (Southampton); Jacqueline Clark (London E.10); Kevin Edwards (Croydon); Laila Wilby (Dublin 6).

A Boy I Know

I know a boy who has a watch,
But never thinks to wind it;
And when he ought to be in time,
He's always just behind it.

And when he has a task to do,
He says, "Wait till tomorrow."
And when he cannot find his things,
He simply says, "I'll borrow."

That boy may make a businessman—
I know he wants to do it;
But he must mend his careless ways,
Or he will live to rue it.

That boy must do his work today
And plan work for tomorrow:
Good habits, everybody knows,
Are something boys can't borrow.
Selected.



FOR YOU TO PAINT

See how nicely you can colour this picture and send it with your name, age, and address to: Auntie Alice, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs.

Name Age

Address

WE QUOTE

IMPOSTORS.—"Impostor for impostor I prefer the mystic to the scientist—the man who at least has the decency to call his [claims] a mystery, to him who pretends that it is ascertained, weighed, measured, analysed fact."—George Bernard Shaw (in *Otto*).

FRONT PAGE NEWS.—"Religion, far from being swallowed up on a technological, secularized society, is front-page news and a multimillion-dollar industry when translated into records, theatre shows, and films. The sad prospect is that so many stop so short of what religion (as God meant it to be) could really do for them. *The immediate thrill, the painless commitment, cheap grace, and warm feeling is passed off as the real and the genuine.*"

"Never was a time more ready for clear statements regarding the truth about God and man. *Never were people more wistful regarding the quality and reality of life. Never has mankind needed a clearer demonstration of what God meant by a life of faith, by a life that always says Yes to whatever God says is best.*"—Dr. H. E. Douglass, D.Th.

MOST IMPORTANT CREATION.—"We are, to a very large extent, what our homes make us. There is, therefore, nothing so important as the creation of a good home and a loving and happy family."

"Home-building is a joint undertaking by a man and a woman, . . . each complementary to the other in this splendid partnership. In order that they may succeed in this delicate and intricate work they must have a clear vision of what they want to do and how they intend to set about doing it before they decide to build a home together. . . . It is because they are not giving sufficient thought to the preparation that so many of the homes that are being built today are not standing up to the storms of life."—the late Basil J. Henriques, C.B.E., M.A., J.P.

THE DIFFERENCE.—"After reading the doctrines of Plato, Socrates, or Aristotle, we feel that the specific difference between their words and Christ's is the difference between an inquiry and a revelation."—Joseph Parker.

OUR TROUBLE.—"We can bounce sound and images off a satellite to the opposite side of the globe, but we have increasing trouble communicating with our neighbours."—Film Producer, John Taylor.

THE ONLY MATERIAL.—"Regenerated people are the only material out of which regenerated society can be built."

IF ONLY!—"Had the doctrines of Jesus been preached always as pure as they came from His lips, the whole civilized world would now have been Christians."—Thomas Jefferson.

REAL LIFE.—"Life is a matter not of conforming to external rules but of being transformed from within."—J. B. Phillips.

INTO EUROPE?—Commenting on Britain's proposed entry into Europe's Common Market, *Punch* Editor William Davis wrote: "It is a Europe of expresso and frozen fish fingers, a Europe where Idealism tends, at best, to be regarded as a luxury and, at worst, a waste of time."

REAL LIFE.—"Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life: not a philosophy of life, but a life and a living process."—Coleridge.

FINDING REST.—"Learn of me," says the philosopher, "and ye shall find restlessness." "Learn of Me," says Christ, "and ye shall find rest."—Drummond.

"The Hope of the World"

WHY NOT GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH HIM through free Bible Study Guides sent to you by post?

Four courses available, including the latest and most popular . . .

"TAKE HIS WORD"—29 lessons, vital themes, giving the Bible's answer to all basic problems.

JUST AN ENVELOPE AND A STAMP!

That's all it costs to understand your Bible better—to know its answers to today's problems—its message to meet YOUR need.



Send today for the course of your choice. Just complete, detach, and post the coupon to:

VOICE OF PROPHECY BIBLE SCHOOL,
Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JU

The Bible Study Guides will be posted to you in pairs until you have completed your studies and receive a certificate.

ALL COURSES ARE ENTIRELY FREE

The Study Guides are yours to keep. The Bible is your only textbook.

VOICE OF PROPHECY BIBLE SCHOOL, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JU

Please send me the first two lessons of the course indicated.

I understand all are completely free and are sent by post.

- HOPE OF THE WORLD**—The Life of Christ (20 lessons)
 GREAT TEACHINGS and PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE (24 lessons)
 BIBLE COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (20 lessons)
 TAKE HIS WORD (29 lessons)

Mr/Mrs/Miss Age (if under 21)

Address

..... **BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE**