

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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MODERN PHARISEES

“They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne...but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

by Mark Armstrong

Suddenly on account of the media’s hype, governors, mayors and county officials have figured out that they have virtually unmitigated power to “keep everybody safe.” They talk to us in sing-song like we’re small children and tell us what to do. If you refuse to go to work you’re not a slacker, you’re just being careful not to acquire or spread the deadly virus.

It’s more than a little disconcerting that the mainstream news media have joined forces with the big corporations, academia, entertainment and sports, and whether you’ve noticed or not, are seeing their audiences flee. Emblazoned on the screen 24 hours a day are false numbers. Health providers were schooled well in advance of the panic as to how to fill out “classification” papers regarding the deceased. The individual might have been dying of 12 different maladies, but if they suspect Covid 19 complicated the situation at all, it was a “confirmed Covid death.”

Interesting how the overall death rate this year is right on track with normal expectations. But that’s not helpful to the activists pushing hysteria, so that information has been banished.

A researcher at John Hopkins University wrote a paper comparing the year 2020 to previous years, and found no increase in the death rate across the United States. That paper wasn’t allowed to penetrate the public consciousness though. It was deleted, banished and removed from public view lest the public conclude that Covid was more political hype than actual health concern.

Some are actually making the argument that the Constitution of the United States should not come into the discussion. You may have the “right to assemble” under the Constitution, but you don’t have the right to endanger the public safety. You’ve probably already come across this justification for grievous orders. But now we’ve found that the worst offenders in California, in Michigan, Oregon, New York and many others, have no intention of following their own dictates. There’s photographic evidence. They expect everybody to wear masks, even advising that they should be pulled down while taking a bite of food, but pulled over the nose and mouth while chewing. What’ll they think of next?

Governor Brylcreem of California recently

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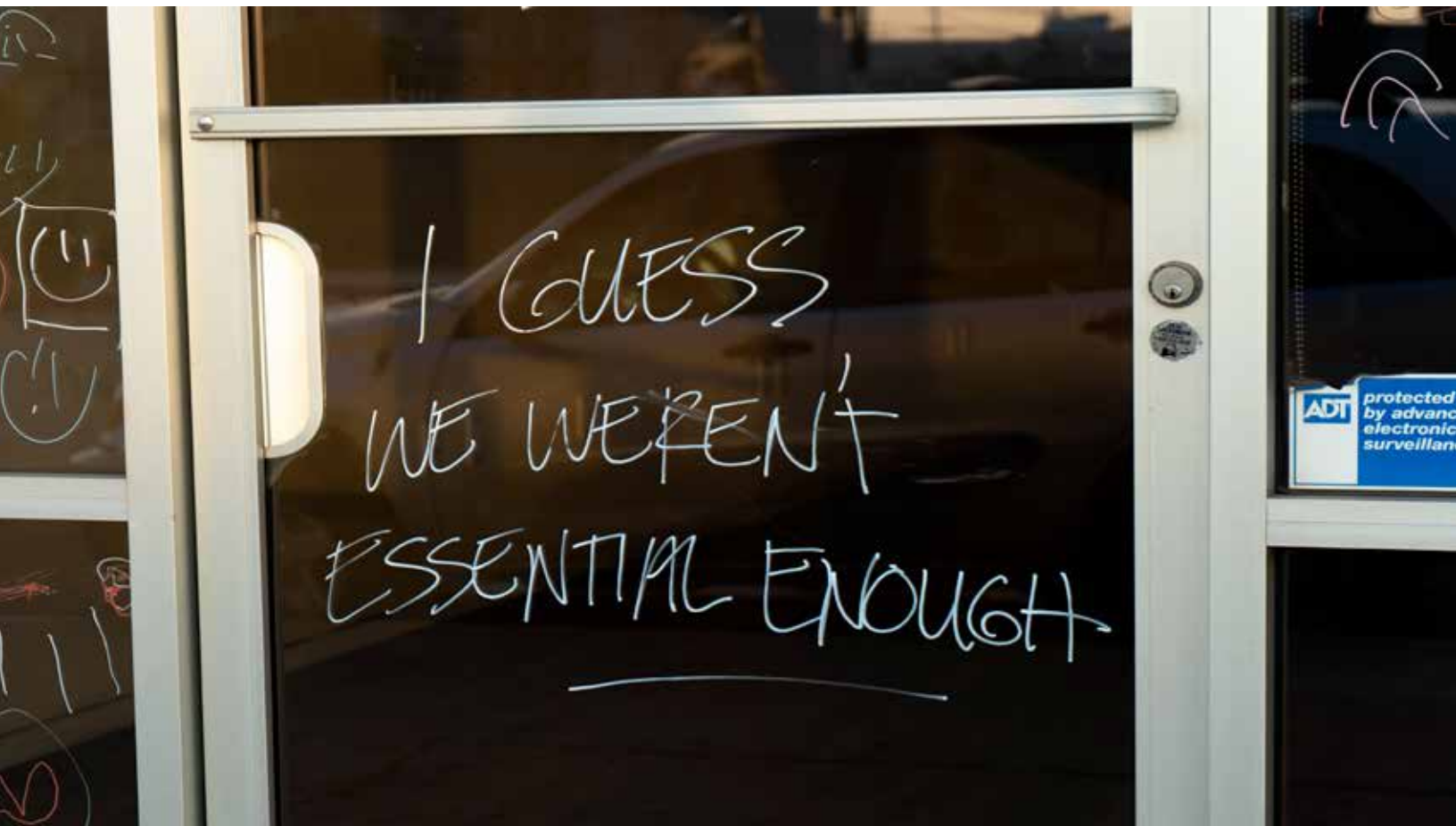


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SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

Why be baptized? What IS baptism? Is it a religious “rite” required by this or that church? Should it be done in infancy? Should you be sprinkled, poured upon, dabbed at with a damp cloth – or immersed? What IS a valid baptism in God’s sight?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“Repent!” screamed the panting, perspiring evangelist to a crowd of avid followers in Brooklyn, New York.

It was a hot, steamy, sweltering day, with the heat assailing them in waves from the blistering pavement under their feet. As the hoarse voice of the street corner evangelist grew in fervor and intensity, the excitement of the crowd mounted.

Finally, an impassioned street corner plea for repentance was given. Dozens rushed up, tears coursing dusty rivulets down flushed and perspiring faces as they were swept along on the crest of a tidal wave of human emotion.

They were baptized — right then and there.
The method?

The evangelist had secured permission from the city Fire Department. He turned on a street-corner fireplug and sprayed the whole crowd — with a fire hose! Was this baptism valid?

THE SCENE CHANGES

At that same hour, on a Sunday morning, a cultured, well-dressed young couple stood solemnly, proudly holding their infant first-born before the pastor in a fashionable Methodist church.

The pastor graciously sprinkled a few drops of water over the wee bit of humanity. The baby had been baptized.

The scene shifts again. A baptizing service is in progress in a Baptist church. In waterproof costumes and black robes both the pastor and candidates step down into the tank of water. The pastor bends the candidates over backward, completely immersing them under the water.

Simultaneously, unknown to any of these participants, still another baptizing service is under way, far outside the city. In a swiftly running stream a minister is immersing a number of candidates, also burying them completely. But this minister shunned the water of the baptizing tank. He buried them in the running stream.

Pouring, sprinkling, immersing. Indoors, outdoors. Babies being sprinkled. Some adults being required to repent. Others baptized on profession of Christ without any repentance. In many churches there is no baptizing whatsoever.

Does anybody KNOW which is right? Does it make any difference which way — or whether one is baptized at all? Why such confusion?

A CONFUSING WORLD OF RELIGION

Jesus Christ said such things would happen. He warned you would be living in a world literally filled with religious confusion. He said, “Take heed that no man deceives you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:4, 5). Notice Christ said many would be deceived, and that many would come “in His name,” that is, using the name of Jesus Christ as if they had His authority. He said, “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:11).

In the hodge-podge of conflicts, schisms, splits, divisions, arguments, personal interpretations, and private philosophies that make up our Western world of Christian religion, one starkly clear fact stands out: These plain-spoken prophecies of Jesus Christ have come to be true — literally!

Today, there are well over two hundred differ-

ent recognized “denominations” — each professing to be teaching exactly what is in the Bible — and enough other schisms and splits, or independent “organizations” to make up more than 400 differing bodies in the Western world of Christianity!

CAN THEY ALL BE RIGHT?

Surely all these churches can't be wrong. But why can't they? Jesus Christ of Nazareth said the great majority would be!

Most never think to put it this way: “Surely, all these churches CAN'T be right!” All you need to do is simply add two and two together. The very fact there are so many different views proves, in itself, the latter statement. No, they can't all be right! The dilemma facing each layman, then, is to find out who is right, and how you can prove it!

Remember, the Apostle Paul said, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes. 5:21). Isaiah said, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20). The Apostle Paul taught a group of Jews in Berea who were, “more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Remember! “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16).

Be sure you do carefully prove, to your own complete and total satisfaction, that you know the plain truth about baptism — by checking up on these scriptures in your own Bible!

CHRIST COMMANDED BAPTISM!

Jesus Christ of Nazareth was baptized! Later, you will see baptism is an outward symbol of the burial of the old self, and of the resurrection to life — to live in a new and different way! Baptism is commanded as an outward sign of our repentance, and willingness to surrender our lives completely to God — being willing to bury the old self.

Jesus never sinned! He did not NEED to be baptized as a repentant sinner — but only because “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an exam-

ple, that you should follow His steps” (I Pet. 2:21). Christ's baptism, then, was an example to all true Christians.

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered Him. And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:13-17). Notice! Jesus said, “Permit it to be so now — for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness.” John recognized Jesus did not need to be baptized, but that, rather, John was the one who needed baptism!

Jesus was setting us an example to follow.

After Christ's trial in the wilderness, He “began to preach and to say, repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). Jesus' message was that of repentance.

But Christ really meant it. He meant for us to really repent — not just experience an emotional upset or disturbance.

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death!” (II Cor. 7:10). There is a “sorrow of this world” which is sheerly human and physical — it is emotional — but it works death.

What about it? Do you know the difference between sheer human emotion, which would even lead some to sob and shed tears as they “go down the aisle,” and Godly sorrow which leads to real repentance?

Jesus said, “Except you repent you shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5).

In His parable of the one lost sheep, and the “ninety and nine,” Jesus said, “I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance!” (Luke 15:7)

Jesus gave this example to show what a rare thing it is when one really repents.

ONE BAPTISM

Peter, preaching on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D., said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Later, He said, “Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). Many were deeply convicted as a result of the fantastic miracles they had seen, and the almost incredible fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! God says, “Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Notice, the very first thing they did after really experiencing true repentance was to be baptized!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “There is one body [one True Church of God] and one Spirit [the Holy Spirit of God] even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith [body of belief, true doctrine] one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6).

Notice it — there is ONE baptism! That is, there is only one valid, authorized, right baptism according to the divinely inspired Word of God!

There are not two or three different modes or methods, not several different manners in which it may be done — each one as “acceptable as the other.”

God did not leave it up to this world to devise some “form” of man-made religious rites, attaching the name of Christ to it, and calling it Christian!

God allows us to decide, not what will be our method or mode of worshiping and serving Him, but whether we will obey the one mode which He, the Creator, has set before us! What, then, IS that “one baptism”?

WHAT BAPTISM IS

The Greek word *baptizo* means to submerge, to immerse, to bury, to plunge into! The very word itself can, at no time, mean anything other than to submerge or to immerse, fully, in water!

Notice again the example you read in Matthew 3:13-17. Jesus came to find John on the edge of the river Jordan! But why there? If Christ had wanted to

authorize the sprinkling of infants, or “pouring” of water out of a pitcher over someone’s head, why did He go all the way to the river Jordan? Notice, “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway OUT OF THE WATER!” (Matt. 3:16). What was Jesus doing IN the water — if the mode or method He intended to authorize were that of sprinkling or pouring?

Notice Mark’s account: “And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized [the Greek word means submerged, buried, or immersed!] of John IN Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him” (Mark 1:9, 10). Notice further, that the baptism of repentant believers required much water, not just a cupful, or a few handfuls. “After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judea; and there He tarried with them, and baptized. [Read John 4:1-2, however, which states that Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples or students acted in His behalf.] And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was MUCH WATER there, and they came and were baptized.” (John 3:22-23)

How plain! John had gone to this specific location because there was much water available for baptism! Baptism is, then, a total submerging into the water as a sign of the burial of the old self!

A COMPLETE BURIAL!

Have you ever seen a funeral where a corpse was left lying above the ground, and a few handfuls of dirt sprinkled over its head? Of course not — this would be absolutely ridiculous, and contrary to all laws of health and common sense!

Notice how Paul explains it in Romans 6. “Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized [immersed!] into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that, like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk [live] in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4).

Baptism symbolizes burial! The Apostle Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved

me, and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

God commands, through Paul, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2). If a person is experiencing true repentance, he is literally giving his own self to God! He is reckoning himself dead, so far as sin is concerned, but alive through God and His Son Jesus Christ! “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin [and sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4)] therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lust thereof” (Rom. 6:11-12). Remember, “The wages of sin is death!” (Rom. 6:23).

Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and come short of the glory of God, and since the wages of sin, which is the breaking of God’s law (I John 3:4), is death — therefore baptism symbolizes that death!

And it is only a symbol! Christ died in our stead. We do not need to die!

But we DO need to symbolize the death of our “old man” by being symbolically buried underneath the water in baptism! “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:5-6).

How plain! Though Christ died for our sins, He nevertheless demands our obedience to His example and His command that we typify the crucifixion and burial of the old self, by being immersed into a watery “grave,” and being raised up immediately as if in a resurrection, to live in a totally different manner!

This is the ONLY authorized “mode” of baptism given anywhere in the Bible — and any other method or “mode” devised of man is absolutely contrary to God’s inspired Word, and is not valid!

Surely it must be a terrible travesty to God to see a literal carnival made of such a deeply personal and absolutely serious event as the baptism of a sinner, symbolizing the death and burial of the old self, and as an outward sign of total repentance!



Pouring water over a baby, sprinkling a crowd of believers. Do these methods of baptism reflect what Christ intended: Death of the old, sinful creature and resurrection of a new creature in Christ?



WHEN SHOULD BAPTISM BE DONE?

Surely, in light of the scriptures you have already read, the answer to this question is obvious.

Since baptism is an outward sign of total repentance, and of the willingness to bury the old self, it never should be done to infants!

Baptism symbolizes the putting away of the life of sin! It symbolizes death and burial of an “old self.” It does NOT constitute some “magical formula” for getting oneself into the “good graces” of God! Baptism is NOT a secret ritual for “joining a church.” Baptism is not a “christening” of a baby at birth!

Baptism is not valid if it is done by pouring, sprinkling, dabbing with a damp cloth, or cavorting under a fire hose. Baptism is not for children!

It would be a very rare thing if a young teenager of even 16 or 17 is truly ready for baptism. There have been cases where boys and girls of this age have been able to come to the place of real repentance — but these are few and far between, indeed.

Baptism should be done as the result of complete and total repentance toward God and complete faith in the blood of Jesus Christ! Only a mature mind, one which can truly “count the cost,” should consider baptism!



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

But what about you? Have you been baptized? Was it done the way God commands? Did you really repent first? Did you know what repentance is? Did you know what to repent of? Did you really know exactly what sin is, according to the Bible? Did you come to feel deeply broken up over your past way of life, the method you used in conducting your private affairs, your business, your home? Did you become so thoroughly disgusted with yourself, your very nature and personality, your habits and methods of expression, that you simply couldn't stand to live with yourself any longer?

Did you not only feel this as a deep and very real emotion, but did you thoroughly understand that you must yield in complete obedience to God and His Law? Had you really come to Jesus Christ in unconditional surrender of your rebellion against God's ways — had you thoroughly repented of going with the world?

Did you understand, fully, that you were being buried, and that a “new you” was to emerge from the water? Did you really “count the cost” (read Luke 14:25-33) when you were baptized?

Perhaps you are like many who I have heard from. They realize there was no really dramatic change that took place in their lives when they were “baptized,” but feel “satisfied” since they are now learning some new “points of truth.”

But this is not enough! Remember — and never forget — that belief without obedience is not enough to get you into God's Kingdom. Even the demons “believe and tremble!” (James 2:19).

Satan the Devil is the greatest “fundamentalist” of all time! He believes Jesus is the Christ. He believes in the virgin birth, the temptation and trial of Jesus, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, that Christ ascended to the right hand of God the Father, and that He is coming again! He believes in all the essentials of salvation! He knows they are true — but he WON'T obey them!

Belief coupled with obedience is necessary to gain the Kingdom of God! What about it? Are you being truly honest with yourself?

WHY WE WATCH



by Michael Armstrong

This publication and the organizations that support it take on an uncommon task. We believe the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God; a textbook for life that cannot be superseded by tradition. We believe that the standard of righteousness it illustrates is both eternal and universal. As a chronicle of God's dealings with man it is an invaluable guide, reasserting its relevance in every generation. We believe not only that Jesus was the Christ, through Whom alone we can receive salvation, but in the GOOD NEWS He preached about repentance and the coming Kingdom of God. How about you? Do you "believe in God" in a philosophically detached, comforting sort of way? Or do you believe God is true to His Word, fully able to keep His promises and uphold His judgments?

It is a distinction worth making. One that runs afoul of the dogma of many denominations. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, pierc-

ing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Was your conversion painless? Were there no bad habits to overcome, no friendships that suffered, no employment issues, no family complications? More likely it's an ongoing struggle, a battle against our own inclinations that hopefully we are winning.

Understanding the relationship between Christ and the law can be difficult. There is more than enough disagreement on the subject, though this need not be so. There is no dispute that Jesus kept the law. They needed false witnesses to condemn Him. This would not have been the case had there been real infractions. Should we not emulate His example? He said, "...one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). With faith, repentance, and baptism we escape the penalty already incurred. Through Jesus Christ we are pardoned, but like

the woman taken in adultery we should "sin no more" (John 8). The principles remain intact and in effect, thus the ongoing need for repentance and the warning in Hebrews 10:26: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

However you want to slice it, a Christian is responsible for living a righteous life. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Corinthians 13:5) Hebrews 10 already made it clear, you do not want to be a reprobate. God knows if you are sincere. He knows what you are capable of and, based on that, what He expects of you. That is made plain in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Romans 12 talks about "your reasonable service" and utilizing the gifts each one of us is given. It is an intimidating prospect but chances are you are already on the hook

Continued next page

for it. James 4:17 reads, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

Our individual responsibility is clear. Does it differ somehow when applied on a societal level? Doesn't the Bible illustrate that there is only so much God will tolerate? Before the flood it

my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us. But where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the num-

“and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Covetousness? The world economy would probably crash without it, sad as that is to admit.

We need God's protection, and we need to be the kind of righteous people that restrain His wrath. Quietly, diligently, humbly living decent and productive lives. Individually we are the first line of defense, yet we are unavoidably part of a whole; a town, a city, a nation. Philippians 2 talks about obedience, about working out your own salvation.

Verse 4 reads, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” It says Jesus took on the “form of a servant.” Active, outgoing concern is a primary Christian responsibility. Enough of it will elevate society as a whole. Just judges, safe streets, fair prices and wages, everything the governments of the world claim to want to provide, will never survive among unprincipled people.

The effects are amplified when applied to leadership. There is so much information to be gleaned from the historical books of the Old Testament on this subject. It's almost monotonous, especially through the books of Judges and Kings. The cycle of transgression, oppression, repentance, and deliverance, varied by the character of the current leader or king. The influence of the institutions of government is undeniable. God intended Israel to be a nation of laws, applica-

Ours is not an easy task. We must watch out for ourselves, our families and neighbors, and our societies and inasmuch as they reflect us, our institutions.

says, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11). Abraham's progeny did not inherit the promised land until the iniquity of its inhabitants was “full.” It states again and again that disobedience brings wrath and righteousness restrains it. Elijah thought Israel was totally lost, but God told him, “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (1 Kings 19:18).

The time did come when God let them go into captivity, both Israel and Judah. Couldn't that have been avoided? Too often we ignore God, at least until disaster strikes. Jeremiah was sent to warn Judah, “As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets. Saying to a stock, Thou art

ber of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah. Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 2:26-29). As the old cliché says, those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.

How do we measure up today? Compare society to the Ten Commandments. No other gods? Faith is rarely what people consider most important. Idols? It's too obvious to even address at this time of the year. Taking God's name in vain? You'd have to keep ear plugs in and avoid all media not to hear it. The Sabbath? Next! Honor your father and mother? You tell me. Murder? It is estimated that there are almost half a million worldwide per year. Adultery? One clue is that half of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce. Stealing? Employees of our largest retailers are not even allowed to confront thieves caught in the act. False witness? Revelation 21:8 says,

ble to all. How did ignoring that work out for them?

Let's not be under any delusions about the similarity of our situation. The United States was founded as a nation of laws to prevent the abuse of power by monarchy. There are other forms of domineering absolutism threatening the world today. The type of centralization and despotism pictured in prophecy is not compatible with the nation-states we currently inhabit. Any move in that direction, particularly by the most influential countries in the world, is worth noting. The United States has been the guarantor of Israel's security since its modern inception and the primary force worldwide in all of our lifetimes. How important is Jerusalem in prophecy?

Like Israel anciently, we have forgotten our God. Our laws trespass into the jurisdiction of the Almighty. Our sources of information deceive willfully. Our officials, elected or otherwise, are hypocritical and self-seeking. Most would prefer to be distracted by some vile or insipid entertainment anyways. Will God continue to bless and protect a nation that barely renders lip service? These are the types of societal flaws that bring destruction! You can see it in the newspaper and on TV, you might even find it on social media. These are the changes we are watching for, changes in the character of the people as a whole. No news anchor or politician is exempt. No corporation gets a free pass.

Ours is not an easy task. We

must watch out for ourselves, our families and neighbors, and our societies and inasmuch as they reflect us, our institutions. We can't possibly know how many righteous individuals are out there, anonymously restraining the wrath of God. We pray that there are more than enough and endeavor to be among their number. What we can do is examine entertainment, business, and government to see if it reflects or encourages Godly values and behavior. If you saw an accident about to happen you would prevent it if possible, right? Especially you that "know to do good."

Change is afoot in this world, particularly in Western democracies which would be expected to have the most say in their own destinies. Historically Christian nations, founded on immutable law, would prefer not to remember that about themselves. Liberty of conscience has been perverted into something it was never intended to mean. Is our responsibility not to speak up, to intervene and, if possible, prevent disaster? The issues we must address are sensitive. They involve religion, they have become political as politicians have sought to control more aspects of our lives.

As David wrote in Psalm 127:1, "Except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." No amount of warning will save an unrighteous people, but the responsibility to warn remains. Like a Christian's duty to his neighbor or the watchman of Ezekiel 33, don't become guilty

through inactivity—for remaining silent when you could have prevented a tragedy! Watch, like Christ commanded in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Watch, like He commanded His disciples in Matthew 24: "Take heed that no man deceive you."

No matter how unpleasant the task may become, our duty remains. Much of what needs to be discussed is not comprehensible without some understanding of the history, values, and prophecies of the Bible. Paul wrote of this struggle. In Hebrews 5 he says, "For when the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

We all have different needs. We are at different points in our individual spiritual development. On the other hand our goal is the same — to be part of the family of God, members of His soon coming kingdom. Edify, enlighten, and encourage one another, according to the gifts you have been given. Together we can accomplish a mighty work of witness and warning to this world! "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching." (Luke 12:35-37). □



WHO PRESSED THE GREAT RESET BUTTON?



What is this “Great Reset” we’re now hearing about? In a nutshell, the Great Reset refers to a global agenda to monitor and control the world through digital surveillance.

As explained by journalist James Corbett in his October 16, 2020, Corbett Report, the Great Reset is a new “social contract” that ties every person to it through an electronic ID linked to your bank account and health records, and a social credit ID that will end up dictating every facet of your life.

by Dr. Joseph Mercola

It’s about getting rid of capitalism and free enterprise, and replacing them with “sustainable development” and “stakeholder capitalism” — terms that belie their nefarious, anti-humanity intents. As noted in the book, *Technocracy: The Hard Road to World Order*:

“... Sustainable Development is Technocracy ... The Sustainable Development movement has taken careful steps to conceal its true identity, strategy and purpose, but once the veil is lifted, you will never see it any other way. Once its strategy is unmasked, everything else will start to make sense.”

THE GRAND PLAN

In her blog post “The Great Reset for Dummies,” Tessa Lena summarizes the purpose behind the call for a global “reset”:

“The mathematical reason for the Great Reset is that thanks to technology, the planet has gotten small, and the infinite expansion economic model is bust — but obviously, the super wealthy want to continue staying super wealthy, and so they need a miracle, another bubble, plus a surgically precise system for managing what they perceive as ‘their limited resources.’

“Thus, they desperately want a bubble providing new growth out of thin air — literally — while

simultaneously they seek to tighten the peasants’ belts, an effort that starts with ‘behavioral modification,’ a.k.a. resetting the western peasants’ sense of entitlement to high life standards and liberties (see awful ‘privilege’).

“The psychological reason for the Great Reset is the fear of losing control of property, the planet. I suppose, if you own billions and move trillions, your perception of reality gets funky, and everything down below looks like an ant hill that exists for you. Just ants and numbers, your assets. Thus, the practical aim of the Great Reset is to fundamentally restructure the world’s economy and geopolitical relations based on two assumptions:

“One, that every element of nature and every life form is a part of the global inventory (managed by the allegedly benevolent state, which, in turn, is owned by several suddenly benevolent wealthy people, via technology).

“And two, that all inventory needs to be strictly accounted for: be registered in a central database, be readable by a scanner and easily ID’ed, and be managed by AI, using the latest ‘science.’

“The goal is to count and then efficiently manage and control all resources, including people, on an unprecedented scale, with unprecedented digital ... precision — all while the masters keep indulging,

enjoying vast patches of conserved nature, free of unnecessary sovereign peasants and their unpredictability.”

GLOBAL ASSET REALLOCATIONS WILL NOT BENEFIT “THE PEOPLE”

These new global “assets” can also be turned into brand new financial instruments that can then be traded. An example of this was given by Vandana Shiva, Ph.D., in my interview with her.

In it, she explained how India is headed toward Zero-Budget Natural Farming — a brand-new concept of farming in which farmers must trade the carbon rate in their soil on the global market if they want to make a living. They’ll get no money at all for the crops they actually grow.

There’s not a single area of life that is left out of this Great Reset plan. The planned reform will affect everything from government, energy and finance to food, medicine, real estate, policing and even how we interact with our fellow human beings in general.

Privacy protections, of course, are a major hurdle in this plan, which is why every effort is made to get people to loosen their views on the right for privacy. In the U.S., we also have the Constitution that stands in the way, which is why efforts to undermine, circumvent, ignore or nullify it are increasing.

“To sum it up, the desired end result is a giant, joyless, highly controlled global conveyor of everything and everybody where privacy is tremendously expensive, dissent is unthinkable, and spiritual submission is mandatory.

“It’s like a 24/7 medicated reality, except the medications are both chemical and digital, and they are reporting you back to the mothership, which can then punish you for bad behavior by, say, blocking your access to certain places or by putting a hold on your digital bank account — perhaps without any human intervention at all,” Lena writes.

STAKEHOLDER CAPITALISM

An October 5, 2020, Winter Oak article addressed the “technocratic fascist vision” of professor Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum who wrote the book

on the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Schwab announced the World Economic Forum’s Great Reset Initiative in June 2020, which includes stripping all people of their privately owned assets.

In addition to being a staunch technocrat, Schwab also has a strong transhumanist bend, and he has spoken of a near future in which humans merge with machines and in which law enforcement will be able to read our mind.

Winter Oak — a British nonprofit social justice organization — points out that Schwab and his globalist accomplices are using the COVID-19 pandemic “to bypass democratic accountability, to override opposition, to accelerate their agenda and to impose it on the rest of humankind against our will.”

This is no conspiracy theory. The plan is out in the open. As noted by *Time* magazine, “The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a unique opportunity to think about the kind of future we want.” The same statement has been delivered by a number of politicians and organizations around the world in recent months.

Schwab’s book, “COVID-19: The Great Reset” also urges industry leaders and decision makers to “make good use of the pandemic” and “not letting the crisis go to waste.” Incidentally, the owner of *Time* magazine and founder of Salesforce, Mark Benioff, is also a board member of the World Economic Forum, so he’s clearly familiar with the reset plan.

The problem is that while the plan is being sold as a way to finally make life fair and equitable for all people, the required sacrifices do not apply to the technocrats running the system. Ultimately, the Great Reset will result in two tiers of people: the technocratic elite, who have all the power and rule over all assets, and the rest of humanity, who have no power, no assets and no say-so in anything.

While technocracy is not a political system but an economic one, in practical terms it does resemble fascism. None of it is being sold under the banner of fascism, of course. Instead, they use financial terms like “stakeholder capitalism,” described by *Forbes* magazine as “the notion that a firm focuses on meeting the needs of all its stakeholders: customers, employees, partners, the community and society as a whole.”

In that same article, *Forbes* points out that this strategy has already been tried and failed. It failed because balancing conflicting stakeholder claims was near-impossible and only led to mass confusion and poor returns. The failure of this strategy is what led big businesses to focus on maximizing shareholder value instead.

Now, at a time when big business finds itself under attack for “single-mindedly shoveling money to its shareholders and its executives at the expense of customers, employees, the environment and society as a whole,” the answer, they say, is to return to stakeholder capitalism. But if it didn’t work before, what makes us think it will work now?

GREAT RESET PLAN FOR BIG FOOD

A November 9, 2020, article in *The Defender*, a new media platform by the Children’s Health Defense, also points out the problems with the World Economic Forum’s Great Reset plan for the food industry:

“The architects of the plan claim it will reduce food scarcity, hunger and disease, and even mitigate climate change. But a closer look at the corporations and think tanks the WEF is partnering with to usher in this global transformation suggests that the real motive is tighter corporate control over the food system by means of technological solutions.”

Aside from the food industry, partners include data mining giants, telecommunications, weapons manufacturers, finance, drug companies and the biotechnology industry.

Looking at that list, it should come as no surprise that the World Economic Forum insists the future of food and public health hinges on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), laboratory-grown protein, drugs and industrial chemicals.

THE EAT FORUM AND THE RISE OF FOOD IMPERIALISM

To further the fake food takeover, the World Economic Forum has partnered with the EAT Forum, which will set the political agenda for global food production. The EAT Forum was cofounded by the Wellcome Trust, which in turn was established with the financial help of GlaxoSmithKline.

EAT currently collaborates with nearly 40 city governments across Africa, Europe, Asia, North

and South America and Australia, and maintains close relationships with imitation meat companies such as Impossible Foods, which was co-funded by Google, Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates.

As noted by *The Defender*, the ultimate aim is to “replace wholesome nutritious foods with genetically modified lab creations.” To this end, EAT is working with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to establish global dietary guidelines and sustainable development initiatives.

The “Planetary Health Diet” developed by EAT is a diet that is supposed to replace all others. Frederic Leroy, a food science and biotechnology professor at University of Brussels told *The Defender*:

“The diet aims to cut the meat and dairy intake of the global population by as much as 90% in some cases and replaces it with lab-made foods, cereals and oil.”

Vandana Shiva, Ph.D., has raised harsh critique against the proposed diet saying it “is not about nutrition at all. It’s about big business and it’s about a corporate takeover of the food system.” *The Defender* adds:

“According to EAT’s own reports, the big adjustments the organization and its corporate partners want to make to the food system are ‘unlikely to be successful if left up to the individual,’ and the changes they wish to impose on societal eating habits and food ‘require reframing at the systemic level with hard policy interventions that include laws, fiscal measures, subsidies and penalties, trade reconfiguration and other economic and structural measures.’”

But Shiva said this is the wrong approach, because “all of the science” shows that diets should be centered around regional and geographical biodiversity. She explained that “EAT’s uniform global diet will be produced with western technology and agricultural chemicals. Forcing this onto sovereign nations by multinational lobbying is what I refer to as food imperialism.”

THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND HEALTH CARE

You can get a feel for where the future of food is headed by analyzing the World Economic Forum’s strategic intelligence map. As you can see, this top-

down approach ties food production to a wide range of sectors, including biotech, the chemical industry, artificial intelligence, the internet of things and the digital economy.

For more details on Schwab and the World Economic Forum's strategic intelligence plan, see Covert Geopolitic's article, "Breaking Down the Global Elite's Great Reset Master Plan."

If any of this raises your concern, you're probably not going to like what the World Health Economic Forum has in store for health care reform either. As detailed on their website:

"Our current capital intensive, hospital-centric model is unsustainable and ineffective. The Platform for Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare leverages a data-enabled delivery system and virtual care, integrated across the continuum of care from precision prevention to personalized care delivery ..."

Aiding the World Economic Forum in this health care transformation are the biggest corporate criminals in the history of the modern world, including Bill Gates, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Pfizer, Novartis and a host of others.

These companies have at various times been found guilty of all sorts of crimes that they have paid tens of billions of dollars in fines for. They are also loaded with conflicts of interest in nearly every ven-

ture they are involved with. Yet we're now supposed to believe these companies are going to put aside their profit incentives and fix the whole system?

BUILD BACK BETTER

As noted in a July 21, 2020, World Economic Forum article, the economic devastation caused by COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns "has the potential to hobble global prosperity for generations to come." The answer is to come up with stimulus measures, such as infrastructure development, that can allow countries to move forward.

But while at it, countries are urged to make sure the economic system is "built back better." Make no mistake, this catchy slogan is part and parcel of the Great Reset plan and cannot be separated from it, no matter how altruistic it may sound. As reported by *Fox News*:

"A radical movement called the Great Reset embraced by some Democrats poses a grave threat to liberty and free markets in the United States and around the world ... The Great Reset is perhaps the biggest danger to capitalism and individual rights since the collapse of the Soviet Union ...

"It would destroy the current capitalist system and replace it with progressive and modern socialist systems, with a special emphasis placed



photo: Drop of Light/Shutterstock

President of Poland Andrzej Duda, President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaite and President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, annual meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Continued next page

on eco-socialist policies ... Policy ideas offered by ‘Great Reset’ advocates include government-provided basic income programs, universal health care, massive tax increases and the Green New Deal ...

“For example, at a campaign event on July 9, Biden said we need to end the ‘era of shareholder capitalism,’ a major part of the Great Reset proposal that would alter how companies are evaluated, elevating social justice causes and climate change concerns over property rights ...

“The Build Back Better plan comes straight from the Great Reset’s playbook ... As recently as July 13, the World Economic Forum promoted ‘building back better’ through ‘green’ infrastructure programs as part of the Great Reset ...”

Part of the “building back better” is to shift

the financial system over to an all-digital currency system, which in turn is part of the system of social control, as it can easily be used to incentivize desired behaviors and discourage undesired ones.

An August 13, 2020, article on the Federal Reserve website discusses the supposed benefits of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). There’s general agreement among experts that most major countries will implement CBDC within the next two to four years.

Many uninformed people believe that these new CBDCs will be very similar to existing cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, but they would be mistaken. Bitcoin is decentralized and a rational strategy to opt out of the existing central bank controlled system, while these CBDCs will be centralized and



The images above are a screenshot captured from the official World Economic Forum website, www.weforum.org. Their other published “platforms” include shaping: *Covid Action; Manufacturing & Production; Consumption; Cybersecurity & Digital Trust; Digital Economy & Value Creation; Energy, Materials & Infrastructure; Media, Entertainment & Sport; Mobility; Technology Governance (A.I. & Machine Learning); Trade & Global Economic Interdependence; Internet of Things and Urban Transformation; New Economy & Society.*

completely controlled by the central banks and will have smart contracts that allow the banks to surveil and control your life.

THE GREAT RESET PSYOPS GUIDE

It goes without saying that to achieve the kind of radical transformation of every part of society has its challenges. No person in their right mind would agree to it if aware of the details of the whole plan. So, to roll this out, they had to use psychological manipulation, and fear is the most effective tool there is.

As explained by psychiatrist Dr. Peter Breggin, there’s an entire school of public health research that focuses on identifying the most effective ways to frighten people into accepting desired public health measures.

By adding confusion and uncertainty to the mix, you can bring an individual from fear to anxiety — a state of confusion in which you can no longer think logically — and in this state, you are more easily manipulated. The following graphic illustrates the central role of fearmongering for the successful rollout of the Great Reset.

SOCIAL ENGINEERING IS CENTRAL TO TECHNOCRATIC RULE

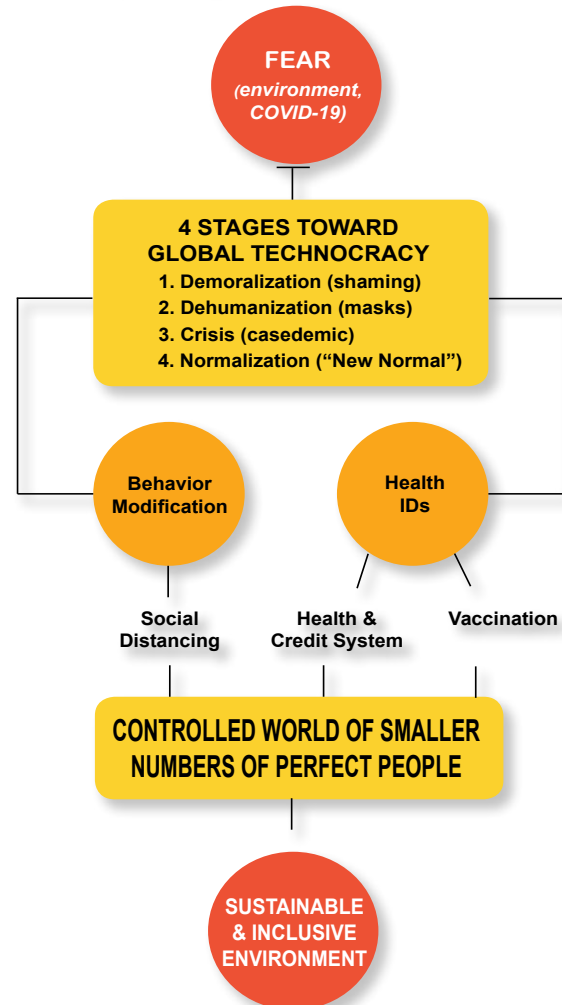
In closing, keep in mind that technocracy is inherently a technological society run through social engineering. Fear is but one manipulation tool. The focus on “science” is another. Anytime someone dissents, they’re simply accused of being “anti-science,” and any science that conflicts with the status quo is declared “debunked science.”

The only science that matters is whatever the technocrats deem to be true, no matter how much evidence there is against it. We’ve seen this first hand during this pandemic, as Big Tech has censored and banned anything going against the opinions of the World Health Organization, which is just another cog in the technocratic machine.

If we allow this censorship to continue, the end result will be nothing short of devastating. We simply must keep pushing for transparency and truth. We must insist on medical freedom, personal liberty and the right to privacy.

One fight in particular that I don’t see us being able to evade is the fight against mandatory COV-

**Technocracy and the Great Reset
Psychological Operations Guide**



ID-19 vaccinations. If we don’t take a firm stand against that and fight for the right to make our own choice, there will be no end to the medical tyranny that will follow. As noted in the *Covert Geopolitics* article:

“As you might have guessed, ‘the most important anchor of recovery’ is for a COVID-19 vaccination ... The implication is that without a vaccine the world will be unable to return to any sense of normality, particularly in terms of open interaction with your fellow man ...

“You can actually participate in the global efforts to cripple the Deep State organized criminal cabal’s ability for genocide, while enjoying health-care freedom at the same time, by boycotting Big Pharma for good.” □

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BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*


Improving Our Prayers

HOW NOT TO PRAY

The concept of using mindless, rote, memorized prayers will clearly not build a relationship with God. However, God does tell us to be persistent in prayer. How does one develop a true, heartfelt, deep, prayer life to get closer to God while considering both these factors? This is one big issue that each person should think about. Consider what Jesus instructed us:

Matthew 6:7-8, “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” (NKJV)

Jesus was explaining that what the worldly pagans did while worshiping their gods was not what God desires. We should obviously avoid those kinds of pagan-like practices. However, each of us should ask, “How can I keep my prayers spontaneous and heartfelt?” Many of us use prayer lists and must work on not letting that list push us in the rote-prayer direction. One thing that could help is to learn more about the people we are praying for, if possible.

Those who wish to build a strong relationship with the true God must be persistent even when we have to wait a long time for an answer. Yet one must

not become rote in the asking. How can we prevent that from happening?

Luke 18:7-8, “Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

One distressing reality is that it seems to be prophesied that in the end of the age many will lose faith and give up on the value of prayer! They will no longer believe in a God who can intervene. Is this the future of many of us? We hope not!

When we don’t get answers to our requests in a timely manner, appreciate that God is playing the long game. But we can always express our true feelings with God. David certainly did!

Psalms 10:1-2, “Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

“The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.”

David is complaining in prayer that it seems that God is avoiding him. He is asking why God is allowing the evil ones to succeed. David is boldly honest with God about how he feels.

Psalms 88:13-15, “But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

“LORD, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?

“I have been afflicted and ready to die from

BIBLE STUDY

my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught.”

David normally ended his prayers with praises, even after pleading with God to save him from his troubles. We will look at one such prayer:

Psalm 89:1-3, “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

“For I have said, Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:”

David goes on to praise God above all for everything He promised.

HUMBLING OURSELVES AND HONORING GOD

Paul the Apostle accepted God’s “NO” answer because he realized it would keep him humble. He learned to appreciate humility. Humility allowed God’s power and inspiration to flow into Paul in greater amounts.

2 Corinthians 12:5, 7-9, “Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities...lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

“...I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Paul’s prayer-power was greatest when he humbled himself. Likewise, our prayer-power will be stronger when we follow Paul’s example of humility.

Another example of the power of prayer is based on King Hezekiah’s prayer while the fright-

ening Assyrian Army was besieging Jerusalem. The Assyrians bragged that the gods of all the pagan nations they had conquered could not save them, so why should the Israelites assume their God was any stronger?

Isaiah 37:29-33, “Because your rage against Me and your tumult have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back by the way which you came...”

“Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it.’”

Hezekiah’s prayer emphasized the Assyrian’s blasphemy of God’s power and greatness, not how good the people of Jerusalem were at that time. God answered by causing the Assyrian army to simply die. They never woke up again. The evil king had to return home without his 185,000 troops because he had challenged the God of Israel. He was soon assassinated.

In a similar attitude Moses prayed, asking God to spare Israel after they rejected His leadership, displayed their lack of trust in Him and refused to enter the promised land. He based his request on maintaining God’s reputation, not on the goodness of the people.

Numbers 14:14-16, “And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

“Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying,

“‘Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.’”

When we pray for America, we should base our prayers on God’s greatness, as the nation He has blessed and chosen; certainly not on the goodness of the American people. We do not want God to give us the leadership we deserve.

Continued next page

BIBLE STUDY

CLOSENESS TO GOD STRENGTHENS PRAYERS

Obedying God, being humble and praying regularly are like force multipliers. By maintaining closeness and obedience, prayers will gain more strength.

The disciples, after casting out many demons, found one they could not handle. Christ gave them this advice:

Mark 9:28-29, "And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?'"

"So He said to them, 'This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.'"

The more we pray daily, and fast occasionally, the more power our prayers will have.

James 5:16, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

God expects some level of true trust from us to gain His ear in prayer.

Mark 9:23-24, "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'"

If we need more faith we can ask God for it,

and just like this father's request, He will fill it. If we need more wisdom to know what to pray for, we can ask for it.

James 1:6-8, "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

"For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

"He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.

"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

This is one of the most intriguing verses on prayer in the Bible. The "groanings" mentioned are not mindless gibberish (see I Corinthians 14:22-23). Let us strive for this even deeper bond with God through heartfelt prayer.

Paul was so close to God that God's Spirit would help him to pray effectively. Can any of us hope to attain this level of bonding with God? If it is in scripture, then it is possible to achieve.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). □

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WORLD NEWS BRIEF

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

THE PRICE OF PEACE?

The Middle East peace process (so-called) has been one of the most tortured diplomatic endeavors of all time. While historic progress has been made between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors in recent months, such as the normalization of relations with the UAE, relations with the Palestinians are as contentious as ever. Of course, the Palestinians themselves are divided with Hamas in control of Gaza and the Palestinian National Authority over the West Bank. For decades their objections and violent resentment have effectively hindered relations with Israel throughout the Arab world. While their objections are becoming less relevant internationally, their own constituents pursue peace at their own peril. Last spring eight Palestinians were arrested just for having a teleconference with Israelis about peace. Two were held for over six months, and three were convicted of “weakening revolutionary spirit.”

INCOMPATIBLE

Europe has had a flare up of terrorist violence since last quarter. Paris, Nice, and Vienna have all experienced deadly incidents. Paris middle school civics teacher Samuel Paty was beheaded. Discussing the 2015 attack against French satire magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and showing the cartoons blamed for it led a parent to call for reprisals online. An 18 year old Chechen man answered that call. It does not appear he was related to any student and reportedly paid bystanders to identify Paty. Despite liberal and inclusive foreign policies, Europeans are not yet ready to abandon all freedom of ex-

pression. French officials denounced the attack as being against the core values of their Republic.

Less than two weeks later, a church in Nice, on the southern coast of France, was also attacked. A 21 year old Tunisian man beheaded one and killed two others. He had been in Europe for only a month. Pictures of the Paris attacker, as well as Islamic State related images, were found on his phone. Vienna, Austria also suffered four killed and many wounded. 20 year old Kujtim Fejzulai rampaged down a street past a Synagogue and a crowded bar with a rifle, pistol, and machete. A dual citizen of Austria and North Macedonia, Fejzulai had previously served eight months in prison for attempting to travel and join ISIS.

The incidents have resulted in many arrests, some mosque closures, and hundreds of deportations. Teachers in countries across Europe have also come under threat for discussing these events and one Paris school actually closed. All of the attackers were shot by police, two fatally, with only the Nice attacker surviving in critical condition. Europe is at a loss as how to combat terrorism by self-radicalized individuals acting spontaneously, especially when the secular freedom they pride themselves on is the source of offense. French President Macron has asserted, “This is our Europe. Our enemies must know with whom they are dealing. We will not retreat.”

ALMOST OUT?

American troops have been on the ground in Afghanistan for so long that they barely rate the news cycle any longer. This section, in the Second

Quarter 2020 issue of this magazine, addressed our presence there and the ongoing negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Our presence is now expected to be reduced to 2,500 troops by 2021. Total NATO forces in Afghanistan are currently estimated at 12,000. Violence is ongoing and serious doubts remain about the government's ability to resist the Taliban without foreign assistance. A November 29th car bombing killed over 30 security personnel with at least as many injured. Despite ongoing conflict, foreign powers are weary of their commitments in the region. The *NY Times* estimated over \$8 Billion in international aid money went to Afghanistan in 2019 alone, in addition to military commitments. This may be the leverage behind the progress that has been made in negotiations despite continuing attacks. One diplomat, speaking to *Reuters* on the condition that he remain anonymous, is quoted as saying "aid has been conditional" and "both sides know they have to move forward to show some progress."

IRAN'S TOP NUCLEAR SCIENTIST KILLED

Iran is presuming that Israel is to blame in the "ambush" that resulted in the death of one Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who apparently had his car blown up and was hit by long-range sniper bullets.

The Iranian Ministry of Defence issued a statement that said he was seriously injured during a clash between his security team and terrorists. They also said, "...this manager and scientist, after years of effort and struggle, achieved a high degree of martyrdom." That would mean he's now enjoying the carnal delights in Muslim paradise. At least he's not providing the means for nuclear war on earth! There are all kinds of threats of retaliation, very similar threats to those that were issued in the immediate aftermath of the liquidation of Soliemani last January. It seems nothing happened, and Iran has been unusually quiet.

Concerns have been raised that Iran has been busy with its uranium enrichment efforts and might be only a matter of weeks away from having the ability to wage nuclear war. Iran still

claims that its nuclear program is for the peaceful production of energy. Israel had Fakrizadeh on its radar, and said he'd been lying and hiding Iran's true intentions for years. Israel had come into possession of a cache of Iranian documents that apparently proved what was suspected about what was really going on with Iran's nuclear program and the "martyr's" involvement.

EAT JUST WHAT EXACTLY?

Singapore now boasts the world's first restaurant that sells meat grown in a laboratory. The alleged "chicken" was grown in a "bioreactor" by American company Eat Just. The company specializes in plant-based meat substitutes that are "cruelty free." Finally, we need not season our nuggets with tears any longer. As if there weren't enough strange new developments this year already. Many other companies are involved in similar ventures with chicken, beef, and pork. Cells harvested from live animals are nourished with vegetable based nutrients as they grow. The "medium" used however, relies on elements from the blood of unborn cows. This will change with the introduction of new animal-free mediums, but were not available for the first batches of... "chicken."

LEMONADE

Back to back hurricanes Eta and Iota slammed into Central America resulting in hundreds of deaths. Mudslides and flooding caused some of the worst damage. Roads, bridges and houses were devastated with an estimated 500,000 people displaced. Many lost everything. Some taking refuge in shelters shared photos of where their homes used to be. Victims of mud slides remain buried in isolated cases. With nothing left to lose, thousands are considering migrating north. There are reports of entire shelter populations organizing caravans with the aim of reaching the United States. Departure is scheduled before the end of the year. Should their plans come to fruition, it remains to be seen how progress will be made across Mexico and what sort of reception they will receive at the border. ◻

Modern Pharisees

Continued from page 2

got caught breaking all his own rules. Not only him, but “California Heath Officials.” You see, they’re important, unlike us. They’ve got important conversations to have in the most exclusive of restaurants, places you’d never spring for. But then somebody took pictures. After he was caught, he issued one of the most pitiful “apologies” you’ll ever hear. And then went right back to lockdowns for those counties that voted against his party.

Poor Californians, New Yorkers, Michiganders, Oregonians and several other states. They’ve been in “lockdown” for ten months and counting. Restaurants were allowed to seat people outside on the sidewalks, where BLM and Antifa thugs could get at them and ruin their evening in unforgettable ways. The videos are accessible. But then they capriciously decided that the “new numbers” being reported by the mainstream media were just too much to ignore. They decided they had

no choice but to renew the lockdown! Why there hasn’t been mass defiance, we’ll never know.

They tried everything within their power to ruin Thanksgiving, even in states not referenced above. Some said you couldn’t have more than five at Thanksgiving dinner, others said seven. You may have seen the video of the Governor of Oregon. She encouraged people to call law enforcement if they were to witness any violation of her Covid orders. She explained that such violation would be a Class 3 Misdemeanor, punishable by fines or jail time. So if you think you’re going to get away with disobeying her edicts, she’ll get you thrown in jail.

Mom and Pop businesses have long been the backbone of the American economy. But in numerous states, they’ve not been allowed to open. The fines levied for those few who’ve decided to let them wrack up, figuring they’ll fight in court someday, spiral into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Maybe you’ve seen the gym owner, actually a couple of them, who defied



Continued next page

Covid orders, even police raids, and continued to do business. Their fines are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. To boost their legal position, they've instituted all manner of "protocols," which requires their clients to wear masks, "social distance" (Don't you love the new lingo we've all been forced to adopt?), and see to it that workout equipment is "sanitized" all the time.

Those that hated President Donald Trump were prepared to pull out all the stops to get him out of office. You may remember the lament, that they'd never be able to defeat him short of an economic collapse. So Corona Virus 19 was just the ticket. We saw the Chinese, literally welding people into their houses so they couldn't come out, issuing all manner of orders, and naively said, "This could never happen in America." The Constitution wouldn't allow for it. But these power-hungry, self aggrandizing politicians obviously don't care about the Constitution. They'll happily tell Churches they can't meet. They've canceled public and private schools. Science or no science, their word goes!

This little exercise we've been through has been a "proof of concept." They can scare everybody into line, and into believing their "health and safety" outweighs the supreme law of the land. The supreme law of the land is now subject to the whims of some governor somewhere who will send the police if you don't OBEY!

It violates every concept of freedom. It never occurred to most of us that they could start a nationwide panic like this and people would just fall for it. The word is starting to get out. Who

doesn't realize, at this point, that the wretched virus was used as an excuse to put us into the crisis in which we now find ourselves? It's been used as a means of getting Donald Trump out of office (whether or not that is the final outcome). It has been used as a way of letting people know they have no rights.

The biggest of corporations have enjoyed an online shopping boom. After all, the stores are closed, and you might get yelled at if you dare venture into public without your mask. People are buying online, making the big online providers wealthier than ever. Meanwhile, the Mom and Pop facilities are dying on the vine. And just so you know, the mainstream lays that at the door of you-know-who too. "These businesses and individuals need government handouts to survive." They say it around the clock all over mainstream news. They lay all this disaster they created directly at the feet of Donald J. Trump.

It won't be long now. Pretty soon we'll know whether Covid 19 was the perfect solution for ridding the world of freedom and putting all power over our lives and pursuits under the auspices of important people who "follow the science." Except they don't.

They cried "Russian Collusion" for at least two years. Then they came with the sham impeachment, and that didn't work. Finally Covid proved to be the magic bullet. And they found out the masses respond obediently to fear. You think this will be the last time FEAR is used to control the public? Wait 'till they determine your religious beliefs are a public hazard. □

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An excerpt from Garner Ted Armstrong's book:

Saved By Grace?

*Or Is There Something You Must Do
to Enter the Kingdom of God?*

THOUSANDS of professing Christians and many large denominations insist there are no works required in order to receive salvation! Millions of people who profess Christ insist that the LAW is “done away”; that such things as the Sabbath, annual Sabbaths, clean and unclean meats, tithing are all unnecessary. They believe the Bible says “Jesus nailed the law to His cross,” and claim that “under the ‘NEW’ Covenant” there is no obligation to keep any laws! Millions believe we are saved by grace alone! They insist there are no works of any kind involved in salvation.

Is this true? Will God save us if we do not obey Him? Put another way, will God refuse salvation to us if He finds us trying to keep His laws? Does it make God angry with us when He sees us trying to keep His Ten Commandments? Can keeping the Sabbath and holy days get you LOST?

In this publication, you will see just what was “nailed to the ‘cross,’” and you will be astonished at what your own Bible says!

Yet, judging from the angry rhetoric one hears over radio and television and reads in religious publications, you and I would be in real trouble with God if we were found trying to keep His laws! “That’s legalism!” they say, when asked about keeping the Sabbath or feast days, observing God’s dietary laws, or obeying the Ten Commandments.

Is God angry with us if we keep His laws? Will we lose out on His Kingdom if we dare try to obey Him?

TUNNEL VISION OR DISHONESTY?

The favorite text quoted by thousands of ministers to do away with any works is, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Invariably, they stop quoting with the word “boast,” and never go on to read the rest of the thought!

On its face, this oft-quoted verse seems to tell us we need only have faith to be saved — that we certainly do not need any “works” to present before God. If

this is so, then why did Paul, the writer of this letter to the church at Ephesus, continue to say in the same passage, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”? (Ephesians 2:10).

If God has ordained that we should “walk in good works,” meaning live a life of good works, which this verse plainly tells us, then isn’t this a diametric contradiction only a few words apart in the Bible?

Not at all. God’s Word does not contradict itself. It does not tell you one thing in one verse, and the exact opposite in the next. One need only understand the meaning of the words used in order to grasp the full meaning of the entire passage. One thing is obvious: If only a part of the phrase is quoted, ending with the word “boast,” the person quoting the verse does not want his listeners or readers to hear or see the remainder, which says we are created in Christ, as newly-begotten “creatures in Christ,” unto good works! Is there any dishonesty involved?

Continued next page

**WHAT IS THE BIBLE
DEFINITION OF GRACE?**

Grace does not mean a permanent condition of a human being. "Living under grace" is a term often used by those who deny there are any works to be accomplished by Christians. But grace is a quality of the character and nature of God, not the state of being of a Christian. Grace means unmerited pardon. It means undeserved, unearned forgiveness! Because God is gracious, meaning merciful, He is willing to forgive us for our sins when we repent. A plain paraphrasing of the enigmatic verse in Ephesians 2:8 would be, "By God's loving, merciful graciousness and forgiveness, we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and even this faith is a gift from God, it is not something we can produce ourselves, lest we should boast and brag that we had saved ourselves! Nevertheless, we are created in Christ, as Christians, for the purpose of performing good works, which God has before ordained that we should live in them."

Here is what the dictionary says about grace: "God's free

and undeserved favor to and love for mankind; influence of God operating in man to improve and strengthen: *'but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20).'*"

Never forget the real meaning of the word "grace." Remember, it is not the life-long condition of a Christian — a "state of being" in which the Christian dwells, it is part of the quality of character of God! When we repent of sin, God is gracious and merciful to forgive us of our sins. Notice, "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered" (Romans 4:4-7).

We can never "work" to eradicate sin. Sin is only forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ, not through anything we can accomplish. No amount of well-doing today can erase evil-doing yes-

terday. But when God "imputes righteousness without works" to us, He does so only through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ; through His righteousness.

How greatly blessed we are, by God's loving and merciful grace, when He forgives and covers our sins! And what is sin? Sin is the breaking of God's Ten Commandments!

No human being can ever earn God's forgiveness. Remember, being forgiven is the very first step toward salvation. We know "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin," wrote Paul (Romans 4:8). Neither you nor I could live one hundred lifetimes of one hundred years each, mightily striving to "be good," or "do good," and earn salvation! We could not keep God's Ten Commandments perfectly for one hundred such lifetimes of one hundred years each, and earn salvation!

Why is this so? Because salvation is the gracious gift of God. A gift is not something we earn, it is something freely given! □

Call or go online to order the FREE booklet

Saved By Grace?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

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LIFE OR DEATH:

There is No “Choice”

by Allison Smith

An expectant mother's response to endless “pro-abortion” bombardment on social media.

Lately I feel the need to speak up. My facebook feed has been full of pro-life vs pro-choice posts, and shockingly I have seen more than I want of the pro-choice side. These pro-abortion posts have sat heavy on my heart for days. I have taken the top pro-choice arguments and broken them down completely. I don't ever want to think that my silence kept someone from seeing another side.

“Just because I am pro-choice doesn't mean I am pro-abortion.”

This is saying that you are fine with allowing abortion to happen just as long as you are not directly held responsible. There's a reason political platforms use the term “pro-choice.” It's because it has a nicer, less threatening tone than what it really is: “pro-abortion.” Do not be deceived by the watered down narrative that pro-choice is something more than pro-abortion. You might consider reading:

Matthew 12:30, “He who is not with Me is against Me,”

Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil,”

Revelation 3:16, “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit

you out of My mouth.”

That argument also screams, “I am completely against protecting the life of an unborn child, but I'm ok with someone else terminating that life.” If you are okay with pro-choice but not necessarily pro-abortion then what are you standing on?

“I know it's wrong, but Christ will forgive me.”

This is a growing narrative in the Christian community and one that boggles my mind! Will Christ forgive you? Absolutely — with repentance. His grace and forgiveness is for all, no doubt about it. But why would you KNOWINGLY disobey the One who lived and DIED for your sins?!

Try Romans 8:5, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.” Also James 4:17, “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

If we have the knowledge of God, we have His Spirit living in us and are commanded to show discernment in what is right or wrong and “sin not.” Why would you knowingly make the wrong choice?

As Christians we are not to be of the world, but of Christ! Also we should read what Paul wrote to

Continued next page

the Roman church. Romans 1:32 says, "... That those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also APPROVE of those who practice them." That means that whatever you sanction is what you are guilty of yourself. If you sanction abortion then you are as guilty as having one yourself. Are you really ready to stand on a "pro-choice" platform that eases the way for abortions to happen when you know YOU are going to be held accountable for it? Isaiah 45:9 "What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator." (NLT)

"Because of pro life laws, abortions are more emotionally hard for mothers."

False. The Constitution is pro-life. Our country was founded on the principle of LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These "laws" you speak of were added due to "pro-choice" laws. You can thank Roe vs Wade for that, and also the 64.8 MILLION abortions that have been performed since that ruling.

Yes, most states do demand you wait a time period of around 48 hours before you can abort. So let me ask you this: "What is the difference between Ted Bundy and an unborn child?"

Sounds ridiculous right? Ted Bundy murdered 30+ women. He was a menace to society. An unborn child has done nothing wrong. So why did Ted Bundy have to wait 10 years before he was executed, yet people are outraged at waiting 48 hours before terminating an innocent life? It's a travesty that known mass murderers are processed, tried before a jury, convicted, appealed, appealed again, and then put to death after years of debate, but to end an innocent life only needs one signature and 48 hours.

And let's not even get started on the differences between these deaths; Lethal injections versus late term abortion where the child is either dismembered — DISMEMBERED — or has a suction used to suck the brain and spinal fluid out of its body while in the vaginal canal. Have we become such a corrupt nation that we have more mercy on a serial killer than a baby? Proverbs 6:16-17, "These six things the Lord hates, Yes seven are an abomination to Him; a proud look; A lying tongue. *Hands that shed INNOCENT blood...*"

"I don't want the government to tell me what to do with my body."

This argument is so full of irony I almost can't stand it. Funny that this is the leading argument when for months the government has been telling you to wear a mask, social distance, don't leave your homes, etc., and most people followed along hook, line, and sinker. "But wearing a mask protects others" they say. Yes, and being pro-life protects a child. If you are concerned with protecting others from sickness, aren't you more concerned with protecting a life?

"It's not even a life yet."

Let's do some research. I studied the heart for over 8 years, and if you do any research in this area you will learn that a baby has a heart at 3 weeks gestation. That means when the mother first finds out that she is pregnant, that child has a heart.

"Well if it's not beating, then it isn't alive." Wrong! If it isn't alive, then how could it continue to grow? Growth is the essence of life!

According to their logic, the fetus is not considered a living thing until there is a heartbeat. However, someone which has no life does not have living cells. Life has living, functioning cells. A fetus, from conception, has LIVING, functioning life at a cellular level which is why it continues to grow! It's very basic science. The fact that a Doppler ultrasound cannot detect a heartbeat until 5 weeks does not mean that the child is lifeless. Life is life! Also might I share some of my favorite verses on this subject:

Psalm 139:13, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."

Psalm 139:16, "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed."

Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."

Job 10:11-12, "You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and favor..."

I write all of this to help those who maybe are pro-life just because they've always been pro-life and don't have an explanation. And hopefully give some insight to those who are on the fence. □



BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON SIX: THE GOSPEL

The gospel is the message preached by Christ and by His Church about God's coming Kingdom, the restoration of His government on earth, and how mankind can enter that Kingdom and government. It includes the message of what Jesus has done, is doing and shall do and ultimately is the message of the entire Old and New Testaments. The primary purpose and commission of the Church is to proclaim this gospel in all the world as a witness to all nations, and to baptize and teach those who respond.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

The word “gospel” means simply “good news.” The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that He is coming again to establish His Kingdom on this earth in place of man’s governments, and the good news of how we can become part of that government as Sons of God. Hence, the gospel is called “the gospel of the Kingdom of God” (Mark 1:14), and it is this gospel which Christ came preaching (same verse). As Jesus went on to say, repentance and belief in the gospel go hand in hand (Mark 1:15).

In its broadest sense, the gospel includes the whole story of the Bible — the whole panorama of what God is doing with mankind, especially God’s plan of salvation and forgiveness of sins.

The true gospel is a message of hope given to a world in danger of destroying itself. Christ’s return is the essential component of the biblical message. The reason for His return is the establishment of His Father’s Kingdom on earth, putting an end to man’s unhappy and unsuccessful rule. Hence, Christ’s return and coming Kingdom is the subject of the message that He commissioned His disciples and Church to preach to all nations until His return.

In John 18:33, Pilate asked Christ, “Are you

the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth.” That is the true gospel. Christ, destined to rule this earth as the King of God’s Kingdom, was to preach this message of good news to the world. He came to bear witness to the truth — to tell the world that God’s Kingdom is going to rule this earth whether mankind believes it or not.

The disciples of Christ had no doubts about the message Christ was preaching. They understood He was coming again to put an end to this present evil age and to replace it with the glorious Kingdom of God that Daniel described (Daniel 2:7). The fact that the apostles asked Christ when His Kingdom would be set up proves that they knew about that coming Kingdom and had great expectation of it. Christ’s answer to their question was that His Kingdom would not be set up until the gospel of that Kingdom should be preached to all the world as a witness (Matt. 24:14).

The message of the coming Kingdom of God includes, as an integral part, the preaching of spiritual salvation for all through Jesus Christ — that He died for our sins (I Cor. 15:1-3) and that He was resurrected (v. 14). The only person who has

already been saved is Jesus Christ, who was resurrected from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God the Father. He is the pioneer of our salvation, the one who has gone on ahead and shown the way (Heb. 2:10). When He returns, at the end of this age, those who have died in Christ in previous years shall be raised from the dead and given eternal life to rule with Him. Previous to His return, salvation shall have been offered only to a minority; at His return, it shall be made available to all.

Thus, the true gospel is God's message to man through Christ about His coming Kingdom and how humans may enter it. It includes the ultimate purpose of human life and the plan devised by God to bring it about. This is the true destiny of man — to become members of God's family. This potential of being born of God as His children in His family is universally applicable to all mankind. It is the potential of men and women, Jews and Gentiles, all races and peoples, for we are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

This gospel was understood in part by the Old Testament patriarchs and the prophets. It has been preached "since the world began" (Luke 1:70). Hebrews 11 states that these men died in faith, not yet having received the "promises" (i.e., of the Kingdom of God and eternal life, v. 13), "but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" waiting for God's Kingdom. Those who acknowledge the temporary physical existence of this life "declare plainly that they seek a country" (i.e., the goal of God's Kingdom, v. 14).

Likewise, many Old Testament verses show plainly that those with whom God was dealing then knew of His coming Kingdom.

"For unto us a Child is born, and unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: ... of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth and even forever" (Isa. 9:6-7).

Only God's government and Kingdom could be eternal — the Kingdom referred to in these verses (see also Dan. 2; Mic. 4; Zech. 14; etc.).

The gospel of the Kingdom of God can be traced from the patriarchs of Old Testament prophets, through the ministry of John the Baptist, and finally to Jesus Christ who greatly expanded our understanding of His coming Kingdom and showed how men might enter it as members of the God family. Christ commissioned the disciples to preach it in all its important aspects. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

The early disciples followed Christ's command to preach this gospel of the kingdom as a witness to all nations. The Church of God also follows this command and views as the primary reason for its existence the commission to preach the gospel of the kingdom to all nations in accordance with Jesus Christ's instructions. The church today strives to continue fulfilling that commission with ever-increasing effectiveness, following in the tradition of Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist (Mal. 4:5-6), by preparing the way for Christ's return through the announcement of that gospel message. □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **Mark 1:14-15** - Jesus came preaching the gospel.
- **Matthew 24:14** - The gospel will be preached in all the world and then the end shall come.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - Jesus tells the disciples to preach the gospel unto all the world.
- **John 18:37** - Christ came to be a ruler and king.
- **Galatians 3:28** - Everyone who has ever lived has an opportunity at Salvation.
- **1 Corinthians 15:1-3** - Salvation is available to us because Christ died for our sins.
- **Hebrews 2:10** - Christ is bringing many to Salvation by showing us the way.

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. The gospel message is about:
 - a) God’s coming Kingdom.
 - b) The restoration of God’s government on earth.
 - c) How man can enter the Kingdom of God.
 - d) All of the above.
2. The word “gospel” means simply _____ [what?]
3. Will the present worldly systems of government/religions continue forever? Yes or No?
4. In the broadest sense, the gospel includes the whole story of the Bible. True or False?
5. The reason for Christ’s return is the establishment of His Father’s _____ on _____? [what?]
6. Who will rule this Kingdom of God on the Earth?
7. The disciples had no idea about Jesus setting up a kingdom. True or False?
8. In the plan of Salvation, how many have been saved so far?
 - a) countless millions.
 - b) all those of the New Testament church.
 - c) just one, Jesus Christ.
9. Prior to the return of Christ, salvation will have been offered only to a relative few. True or False?
10. The true destiny of man is to _____ [what?]
11. It is a myth to believe that all of mankind gets an opportunity at Salvation. True or False?
12. The Old Testament patriarchs and prophets understood nothing of the gospel. True or False?
13. The gospel has been preached since _____ [when?]
14. Who confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth waiting for God’s Kingdom?
 - a) The Old Testament patriarchs and prophets.
 - b) David and Solomon.
 - c) The Disciples.
15. What verse begins, “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”?
 - a) Matthew 24:18
 - b) Zechariah 14:28
 - c) Isaiah 9:7
 - d) Daniel 2:7
16. The Gospel also includes the totality of the message of how all mankind shall enter into God’s Family into God’s Kingdom. What verses state that all people, all races and all nations are eligible?
 - a) Galatians 3:26-29
 - b) Ephesians 3:26-29
 - c) Philippians 3:26-29
 - d) Colossians 3:26-29
17. In what verse does Jesus charge the disciples to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”?
18. Who is following in the tradition of Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist by preparing the way for Christ’s return through the announcement of the gospel message?

LESSON SIX — ANSWERS:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 13. (the world began) | 7. (False) |
| 18. (God’s church today) | 12. (False) | 6. (Jesus Christ) |
| 17. (Matthew 28:19-20) | 11. (False) | 5. (Kingdom, Earth) |
| 16. (A, Galatians 3:26-29) | family) | 4. (True) |
| 15. (C, Isaiah 9:7) | 10. (Become members of God’s | 3. (No) |
| and Prophets) | 9. (True) | 2. (Good News) |
| 14. (A, Old Testament Patriarchs | 8. (C, Jesus Christ) | 1. (D, all of the above) |

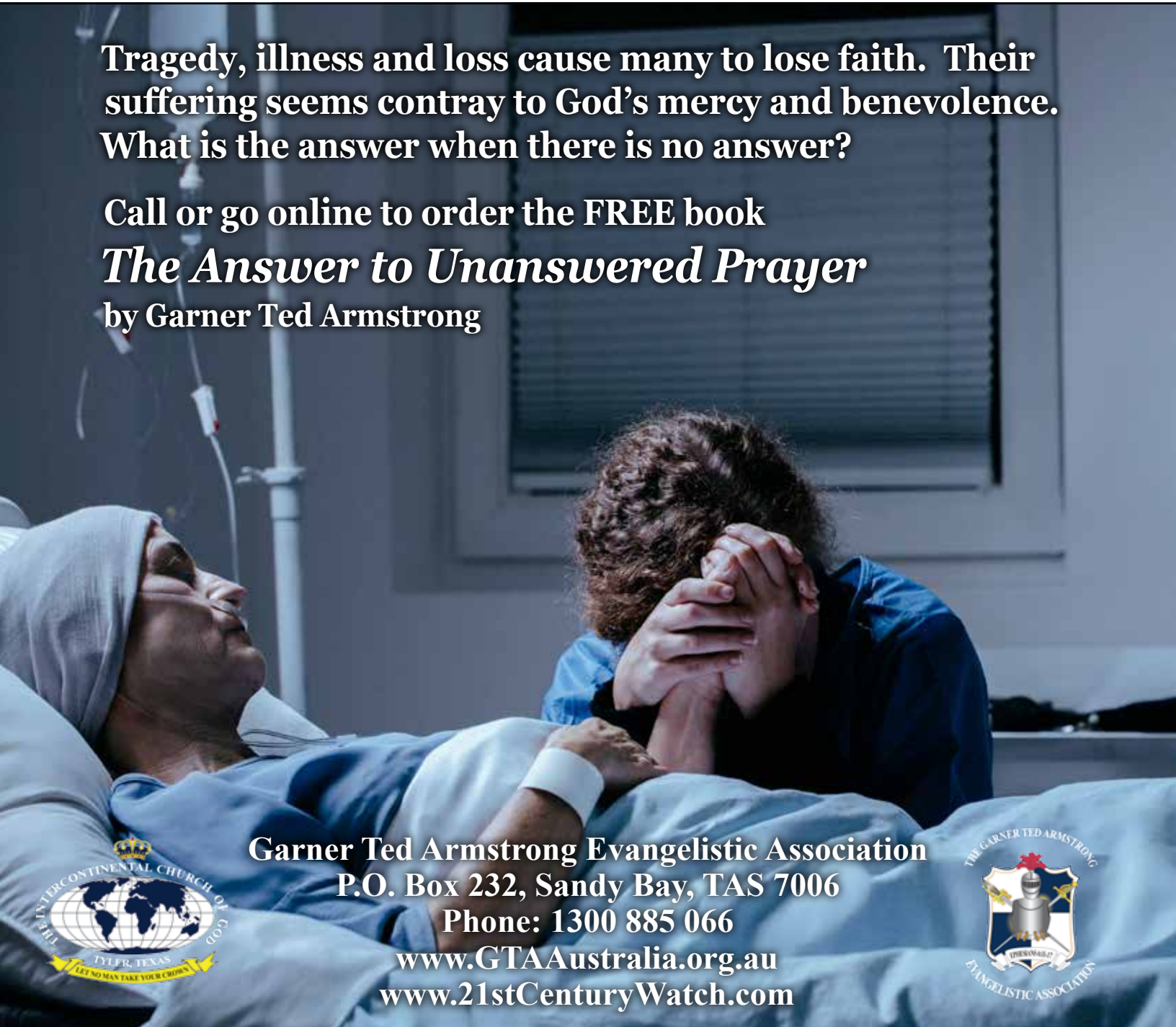


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