AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 23

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

NOW is YOUR TIME to REPENT!

THIS present era of violence and potential *WORLD SUICIDE* is helping STIMULATE worldwide interest in religion. Multitudes are thinking more and more about MAKING PEACE WITH GOD.

But *are* they really making peace with God, being truly *converted—changed*, and coming under His divine protection in the manner He has ordained that they *must* follow? No! They do not realize they must *really* look into their Bible to see how God instructs this vital necessity must be accomplished, and they do not realize the *URGENCY* of doing so *NOW!* Your Bible describes these very end times as a period when Satan the Devil "deceiveth the *whole world*" (Rev. 12:9).

The god of this world—with all its lusts, vices, and evil desires—is the *Devil!* And the sooner you wake up to this fact and turn, in *repentance* to the *true* God, because of *your* part in it, the better off you will be. Yes, Satan the Devil, "which deceiveth the whole world" has the whole WORLD DECEIVED RELIGIOUSLY. Only a very FEW KNOW the real WAY TO PROTECTION and salvation.

Devil's System Teaches Repentance Not Necessary

How be saved?—JUST BELIEVE? It's hard to realize but it's true that millions have *believed* on Jesus Christ and are *NOT* SAVED! Millions worship Christ—and *all in vain!*

Almost every sermon you hear; or pamphlet you read, telling "How to Be Saved" will admonish you: "Just believe!—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you *are* saved." "That's all there is to it," they assure you, "just *believe*." "There are no works," they say, "for if you keep the Ten Commandments, you are under a curse." For, they will tell you solemnly, "By grace you are saved, through faith—not of works," they quote, "lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). *But* why do they never read to you the *rest* of that instruction in the verse that follows it? Notice what this *following* verse says!—"We . . . are created . . . unto *good works* . . . that we should *walk in them*" (verse 10). This last verse plainly says THERE IS *DOING* TO BE *DONE!* We MUST *REPENT*, RECEIVE GOD'S SPIRIT, AND *DO* THE GOOD WORKS GOD COMMANDS US IN HIS BIBLE, TO BE SAVED.

We are actually being educated into fallacies!! SALVATION IS EDUCATION. That is, *God* has to tell us exactly what steps *we* must take in order that He will save us. But here we see a *false* system of education in action! Let's understand this FALSE EDUCATIONAL system that GRIPS the WHOLE WORLD! This world is *sick!* It is suffering from a poison that is paralyzing the whole of society. This poison attacks the *minds* of our children. It also poisons the *minds* of our adults. This poison is *wrong education!* PROPER EDUCATION ought to be defined as THE ART OF SUCCESSFUL LIVING WHICH LEADS TO *PROTECTION* BY GOD AND ON TO *SALVATION!* The source of *true* education is God! But God is *not* accepted in the schools or in this world today. This world has forgotten what

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Solomon said: "The *Eternal* giveth wisdom. Out of *His* mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6). Every human being, as long as he is *separated* from God, can never become fully educated, no matter how great his material knowledge may be.

Final Instruction

This lesson is intended to direct you to the Bible. Here is the METHOD OF STUDY.

Be sure, now, to WRITE OUT THE SCRIPTURE which answers each question, if you have not done so before, in previous questions. Writing down your material—the answers, and every word of each Bible passage, and any comments you wish to make as you go along—will AID you greatly in *reviewing* and REMEMBERING.

Now READ THE LARGE TYPE WORDS in this Final Instruction section right down to the end of this section—*pay no attention to the small type.* And SUDDENLY—YOU HAVE A FLASH REVIEW OF ALL THE IMPORTANT POINTS! These serve as AN INDEX, TOO. Simple and effective. *All the material in the Lesson is written this way.* USE THE LARGE WORDS FOR THIS PURPOSE!

This lesson, like all others, is extremely important to you. HAVE YOU PRAYED to God that He will give you understanding of this lesson? If not, don't read any further. Go to a private place, kneel down, and ask Him for the understanding and wisdom so that you may properly grasp and apply the material in this lesson you are about to study!

And NOW FOR THE LESSON itself!

LESSON 23

Origin of "No Repentance" Teaching

FALSE SALVATION EDUCATION BEGAN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, at the very time when man was created. God instructed Adam in right, and wrong. God, then, was the teacher—the *Supreme* Teacher. God imparted *knowledge* to man—knowledge which man was to *act* upon. Adam was to obey the instructions of his Teacher. Adam knew right from wrong. God, there personally in Eden, was his "*Bible.*" But what did SATAN do? He planted *doubt* in the mind of Eve. He *PERVERTED* WHAT GOD SAID. Let's understand.

1. What did God lovingly warn Adam? Gen. 2:16,17. Did God command the man Adam saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die?"

What did God mean? Few really understand these words.

COMMENT: God placed before Adam—has set before everyone—a vast number of things they may do which are *good* for them. Things which are good for *everyone!* GOD WANTS US TO HAVE THE *BEST* OF EVERYTHING.

But GOD also POINTED OUT TO ADAM—has pointed out TO ALL MANKIND, through the Bible—one thing, A RELATIVELY FEW THINGS—which were evil, *NOT GOOD* for Adam—which are *not good* for *all mankind.* And God lovingly warned Adam—and has LOVINGLY WARNED the earth's inhabitants, who have come through Adam, "Thou shalt not eat of it"—evil, the things which are *not good* for man—"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"—ETERNAL DEATH!—THE DESTINATION TO WHICH PARTICIPATING IN THINGS WHICH ARE *NOT GOOD* for man, LEADS.

2. Aren't these good and evil things, exactly the same things God has placed before other PEOPLE? Deut. 30:19. And weren't they *FREE* TO *CHOOSE* whether they should live or die? Same verse. Note the word "*Choose*"!

COMMENT: God has made MAN A *FREE MORAL AGENT.* He is *free to choose for himself.* EACH OF US IS *FREE TO CHOOSE* for himself whether he wishes to live happily forever, or live miserably and die forever.

3. *BUT* what did Satan, the Serpent, say? Gen. 3:4. And what did gullible mankind—Adam and Eve—*do?* Verse 6. Didn't this seem, to their carnal, evil human natures—with which they were created—the pleasant and proper course of action to follow, after the Devil assured them?—even though God had warned them that if they did do this they would die eternal death? Same verse.

COMMENT: SATAN OFFERED "ANOTHER WAY" TO HAPPINESS AND ETERNAL LIFE —JUST FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF THE HUMAN NATURE WHICH IS WITHIN, the nature which will lead one *away* from God and all that we really desire. And *THIS* is THE WAY MANKIND has FOLLOWED EVER SINCE.

COMMENT: Why did God place these verses at the *very beginning* of His guide-book, the Bible? Because GOD *KNEW* this would be the pathway which mankind WOULD FOLLOW!! All down through human history mankind has pursued this wretched and miserable pattern of following the dictates of their evil nature which leads only to unhappiness and eternal death! Influenced invisibly by Satan, and assured *visibly* by Satan's *human* agents, man has readily followed his own downward pulls which lead to these dreadful results. This IS *WHY* God has placed this terrible pattern, as a *WARNING*, AT the VERY *BEGINNING* OF His guide-book, the BIBLE, which is the *true* guide to joyous and abundant living and to eternal life.

SATAN is the *father* of all lies—he was their originator. He personally taught in the Garden of Eden, and has continued to TEACH, THROUGH SUPERNATURAL THOUGHT IMPLANTATION AND through HIS *HUMAN* "MINISTERS," that *PERSONAL* OBEDIENCE to God is *NOT* NECESSARY FOR SALVATION. These false teachers will tell you there is *no* way by which you, *personally*, can keep God's Bible commandments. And that it was for this reason that Christ kept them *for* you, and that all you have to do to be saved is JUST *BELIEVE* He did. *How FAR FROM THE TRUTH this is!* They continue the teachings begun in the Garden of Eden, where SATAN URGES man to GO AHEAD and DISOBEY GOD, MEANWHILE ASSURING him with the *lying* words "ye SHALL NOT surely DIE" (Gen. 3:4).

BUT GOD *means* what He says! Through Christ, *God* COMMANDS, "If thou wilt enter into life [eternal], *keep* the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). God commands *REPENT*—turn and *DO* His COMMANDMENTS. He *knows* this is the CLIMACTIC SPOT of your entire destiny. He *knows* it was for this very purpose of making it possible for you to come to this decision, that He created the earth. *REPENT* now, BE BAPTIZED, and RECEIVE thereby the *HOLY SPIRIT*—the loving nature of God, the *POWER* TO *KEEP His Commandments* and then—and only *then*—you will not die. *This* is what *God* promises!

GOD'S MESSAGE is NOT one of LICENSE, BUT one of *OBEDIENCE*. For God says, "One jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till *all* be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:17,18). *EVERYONE* everywhere, who would live forever, MUST COME TO LIVE BY *ALL THE LAW!*

COMMENT: The DEVIL is a real live being with whom we must contend. He is able to conceive all sorts of ways to APPEAL TO our DOWNWARD PULLS. BECAUSE OF the predominance of downward PULLS, ADAM AND EVE TOOK IMMEDIATELY TO Satan's *FALSE* SYSTEM of EDUCATION. The false system of *mis*knowledge which leads to eternal death. That was, and *is*, the system that appeals to man's carnal *nature!*

Down through the centuries man has continued to reject God's revealed way of life. So today we find ourselves living in a confused and DECEIVED, CHAOTIC CIVILIZATION started thousands of years ago by a carnal-minded man named Nimrod (Gen. 10:8). Every phase of this Babylonish civilization is established on principles diametrically *contrary* to the revealed principles and Laws of God. The ANCIENT NATIONS, led by their collective *carnal mind* which is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7), STRAYED FROM the REVEALED KNOWLEDGE, the Laws, and the ways of God which He revealed to mankind in the Garden of Eden. Groping in the dark, seeking to learn about "the unknown," the ancients SPECULATED their way into the pagan philosophies that have come down to us—the very philosophies which form the *basis* of modern education—the teachings of Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Epictetus, Virgil. As the Creator, through the Apostle Paul, said of these ancient philosophers, "They DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE" and today's popular education has no place for *God* or for God's precious divine revelation either.

This IS the ORIGIN OF *TODAY'S* EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM! It begins by questioning whether a God exists, God's function, and prerogatives. It launches man on the road of human search for UNDERSTANDING *WITHOUT* GOD—the WAY WHICH *SEEMS RIGHT* to a material, carnal mind, but which will END in DESTRUCTION (Prov. 16:25). Conversion involves the process of *unlearning* as well as learning. Babylon means confusion. OUR educational SYSTEM is a *confusion* of TRUTH *AND* ERROR. Man today bases his way of life and hope of salvation upon the thoughts and voiced opinions of *carnal*-minded men—whose ideas were INSTILLED into his mind WHILE he was still a CHILD. *Man never realizes the absolute importance of looking into the* BIBLE to see what GOD *really instructs.*

Today, modern education is almost wholly MATERIALISTIC. It has LOST SIGHT OF the TRUE *SPIRITUAL* VALUES. It REJECTS the BIBLE as God's revelation to man, AND the NECESSITY OF *REPENTANCE* for salvation! "REPENT!" God calls. Man would rather do most

anything than *really* repent, but he *must!* Yes, *repentance* is the *climactic CRISIS* OF your WHOLE LIFE!

Warnings Against False Teachers

1. What did Jesus warn? Mat. 7:15.

COMMENT: JESUS here WARNS us to *BEWARE OF* those who *seem* to be God's ministers, but who are actually the "MINISTERS" OF the DEVIL. For man, influenced by his own carnal nature and the Devil, works out a system of "religion" that *does NOT* CALL FOR *REPENTANCE* —a way of eternal *death!*

2. CHRIST CALLED upon ALL TO *REPENT* (Matt. 4:17). But did Paul, even a very short time after Christ's death say that "the mystery of *iniquity*"—a religious system of *lawlessness* not calling for *repentance*, was already at work? II Thes. 2:7.

3. And was PAUL sorrowful because he KNEW it would continue to DECEIVE the WORLD IN OUR DAY? II Cor. 11:3-4.

COMMENT: Note the word *simplicity* in verse 3. Christ's doctrine regarding receiving the Holy Spirit and eternal life is *simple*, when we understand it —it is *not* a theological mystery! But, people come PREACHING "another Jesus"—a *FALSE* WAY OF SALVATION. And people "bare well" with these. They *receive* these false teachings.

4. What did Paul warn of our time now—NOW when this world is IN the throes of the death agony of the END OF THIS AGE? II Tim. 4:3-4.

COMMENT: Do you realize the full significance of this dangerous situation? It means the MANY WHO *BELIEVE* they have actually "REPENTED" AND are "SAVED," *have not repented for they* ARE *NOT* keeping *God's Commands*, a *condition* to being saved—dead "*no works*" faith produces only *death!* Remember, Jesus was asked: "What good thing shall I do to have eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16, 17). And Jesus' reply was: "IF thou WILT ENTER [ETERNAL] LIFE, *KEEP* the COMMANDMENTS." And He enumerated enough of the Ten Commandments to show that it was this particular Law that must be obeyed *as a condition* to receiving eternal life as God's *gift*. You can't *earn* eternal life. God *gives* it—but only to those who "keep the Commandments"—THE LAW. God will not give you eternal life *in sin*. And what is sin? "SIN is TRANSGRESSION of the LAW" (I John 3:4).

The LAW—including all *God's Commandments* —IMMUTABLE, *eternal*, *STANDS* fast *FOR EVER* AND *EVER* (Ps. 111:7-8). The SOONER we BEGIN LIVING BY this Law, the SOONER we will PROFIT. The world has been going the *WAY* THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO *MAN* for six thousand years. *No wonder* it is in the condition it is. The *way* of the world has BROUGHT ONLY unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, sickness and disease and finally, *CHAOS* and *despair* all over the world! It has produced *nothing good!* God says: "*Seek* ye the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near: *let the wicked forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man *his thoughts:* and let him RETURN UNTO the ETERNAL, and HE WILL HAVE MERCY UPON him: . . . for He will abundantly pardon. For *My thoughts are not your thoughts*, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Eternal" (Isa. 55:6-8). And *this* is the *way* of salvation! *This* is the way to *find* God! *Seek Him*, by FORSAKING—*what?* Forsaking *YOUR* WAY—*YOUR* THOUGHTS! The way *you* have thought to be right. Since the *BIBLE* contains *God's way*, we must turn SOLELY to its teachings for guidance. It becomes *our GUIDE FOR RIGHTEOUS and SUCCESSFUL LIVING!* That is why Jesus said man shall LIVE BY *EVERY WORD OF* God!

The Bible BECOMES THE *SUPREME AUTHORITY* OVER YOUR LIFE. You therefore, henceforth, *STUDY* the Bible—*NOT* just CARELESSLY, but *study* to LEARN God's WAYS, and to *LIVE BY every Word of God!*

5. And didn't JUDE, who also lived IN PAUL'S TIME, give a WARNING for us of today that MEN had ALREADY crept in, unrecognized, and were PERVERTING the TRUE WAY OF SALVATION? Jude 3-4.

COMMENT: Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church, twisting the Bible commands SO that they COULD DO WHAT SEEMS *RIGHT* IN *HUMAN* EYES—according to the human conscience—though in doing these things they actually disobey *God's Law!* And having the same natural, carnal mind, man has been DOING this TO THIS DAY.

What Repentance IS and is NOT!

1. Can people actually *worship* the Lord, acknowledging that He is Lord, and yet not enter His Kingdom? Mat. 7:21. And how else can they *worship* God and yet never be transformed at Christ's soon coming? Mat. 15:8-9.

COMMENT: It's difficult to believe, but it's true—in *today's* religious confusion *MILLIONS* have supposed they had salvation spiritually—they have *believed* on Jesus Christ—but are *NOT* SAVED!

Would you suppose that one could ACTUALLY *WORSHIP* CHRIST—and all IN VAIN? Do you know what Jesus Himself said of these people who want to worship Him without *obedience* to God's Commands? Listen to His Word: "Howbeit IN VAIN do they WORSHIP ME, TEACHING

FOR DOCTRINES the COMMANDMENTS OF *MEN*. For, *laying aside the Commandment of God*, ye hold the tradition of *men* . . . Full well ye REJECT the COMMANDMENT OF *GOD*, THAT ye MAY KEEP *your OWN* TRADITIONS" (Mark 7:7-9). MAN has SUBSTITUTED his OWN commandments FOR GOD'S *COMMANDMENTS*. Man would seem to think God would give him salvation if he kept these. But God says "*Repent*"—that is, *turn to* the *true* Commandments. Man would rather do most anything than surrender self to God. His carnal nature *rebels!* It does not want to be crushed out!

COMMENT: It is COMMONLY BELIEVED a *REMORSEFUL FEELING* OVER past MISTAKES PLUS *ACCEPTANCE* of CHRIST is a *SAVING* EXPERIENCE. Are *you* like many thousands of others who have "made the decision for Christ" in this manner, and have "given yourself to Him" to be saved by Him, WITHOUT FURTHER EFFORT on your part? Is this a down-to-earth, concrete, *practical* course of action? Jesus came to this earth with a *message* from God the Father regarding salvation! BUT what did JESUS TELL THE PEOPLE to do, ". . . *REPENT* for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). *Notice*—the words of Jesus are "*repent!*" Jesus gave stern warning that "EXCEPT ye *REPENT*, ye shall all likewise PERISH" (Luke 13:3, 5).

"*REPENT*." *That* was JESUS' CRY. *That* was HIS MESSAGE! And what is wrong with the carnal mind and its doctrines? Listen! ". . . The CARNAL MIND is ENMITY AGAINST GOD: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). THIS MIND CANNOT CONTINUE TO RULE YOUR BODY IF you are going TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD!

2. PEOPLE today are *SELF*-RIGHTEOUS. Having a desire placed within them by God to worship *something*, but their carnal minds being at enmity to *God*, they *SUBSTITUTE* COMMANDMENTS *OF their OWN* FOR *GOD'S* Commandments. They say, "Well, here's the way *I* look at it"—they are PUTTING THEMSELVES IN THE PLACE OF THE *BIBLE*. If it "looks right" to them, it becomes their law. Neither do they seek God's *Holy Spirit!* They are *self*-righteous.

Just what does Isaiah 64:6 say about *our* righteousnesses? What did Jesus say about those who "trusted in *themselves* that they were *righteous*, and despised others"? Luke 18:9.

COMMENT: Notice that it was the man that smote his breast and called upon God to be *merciful* to him a *sinner* who received the commendation of God (verses 13 and 14).

3. Man was created perfect *physically* in the Garden of Eden. But is a true Christian a new creation *mentally?* Eph. 2:4-10.

COMMENT: A TRUE CHRISTIAN is A *NEW* CREATION CREATED TO PERFORM *GOOD WORKS*. Although it is a spiritual matter, involving God's Holy Spirit, this *CHANGE* TAKES PLACE IN the MIND—especially in the faculty of mind we call "the heart." The *FIRST* STEP is REPENTANCE. Repentance literally means "a change of *mind*." The *SECOND* step, *acceptance* and *faith* in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, takes place also in the heart and mind. The *THIRD* step is something God does—*placing within* us the gift *of* His *Holy Spirit*. Receiving of the Holy Spirit is the *RENEWING* of the MIND (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23). The Spirit of God is the spirit of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7). There never lived a sounder *mind* than Jesus Christ. Conversion *MIRACULOUSLY* PUTS WITHIN US the *MIND OF JESUS* Christ (Phil. 2:5). Christ's kind of mind. Conversion is putting on the "new man, which is *renewed in KNOWLEDGE*" (Col. 3:10). Overcoming is directed by this *renewed*, that is, *new* mind! True Christians MUST *GROW* in grace and in Christ's knowledge (II Pet. 3:18). In other words, though we perhaps have never thought of it in this light, real conversion *is* education! And *TRUE EDUCATION gradually LEADS TO CONVERSION!* A *conversion* or *changing* of our minds to think as *God* does.

Man is the highest mortal being God has created on earth. And his *mind* is the highest part of man's faculty which, above all else, elevates man above dumb animals. Did not God intend our minds then to be developed, trained, *used* to His honor and glory?

Further Warnings Against False Teachers

1. And again, what did JUDE WARN us to do? Jude 3.

COMMENT: Jude here said to *contend* for the true faith because there were ALREADY IN HIS DAY *FALSE* PREACHERS creeping in and *PERVERTING* the TRUE MESSAGE revealing the *only* way to salvation through *REPENTANCE* and *OBEDIENCE*, just as Paul prophesied earlier. In verse 4 of Jude, we read that ungodly men were TURNING the GRACE of God INTO lasciviousness or LICENSE TO *DISOBEY GOD*. They were TWISTING the meaning of the SCRIPTURES in order to have an excuse to *dis*obey the law. These false preachers were beginning to INTRODUCE the IDEA that God's COMMANDMENTS were DONE AWAY or changed. IN THESE END DAYS, this TENDENCY has become very MARKED.

2. But what does God say about these so-called "ministers" who say that they know Him and yet do not keep His Commandments? I John 2:4.

COMMENT: Do you believe this? God says those who say they know Him but who do not keep God's commandments are *liars*. Such as these cannot be depended upon to teach the ways of *repentance* for salvation! How *different* the Word of God is from the teachings of men! Don't you see that TO BE A TRUE CHRISTIAN you are going to HAVE TO follow Jesus and PUT *LOVING OBEDIENCE TO GOD* FAR ABOVE ALL the worldly ideas and institutions? You were born into a world that forcibly brands the minds of most people with error before they are even old enough to consciously decide for themselves what God says is right and wrong. But God is now warning *you* to COME OUT OF THIS CORRUPT WORLDLY SYSTEM and LEARN the TRUTH and FOLLOW it. We like to be well thought of, to be "liked, and be accepted"—PEOPLE are for this reason TRAPPED INTO *CONFORMITY* following like *BLIND* SHEEP.

Are *you* like those of whom Christ said: "This people HONOR me WITH THEIR LIPS, *BUT* their HEART is FAR FROM me"? (Mark 7:6). Choose now whom you will serve! If God be God to you, then prepare to keep His Commandments. It is time for people everywhere to *WAKE UP* and get back to the "faith once delivered!"

JESUS PROMISED that He would BUILD *HIS* CHURCH. He prayed that His Church would be *ONE*, not many divided and confused denominations. But He also WARNED that there would ARISE MANY FALSE TEACHERS and ministers who would found many *different* churches which would *profess to be the Churches of Christ*, and through these would deceive the *many*.

The CHURCH that JESUS promised to build, *which is composed of those who are filled and LED BY the SPIRIT OF GOD*, IS *GUIDED INTO TRUTH through all ages* despite enemies from without and apostates from within who would *profess* to teach the truth.

This Church is a Commandment-keeping Church, *NOT* a *POLITICAL* ORGANIZATION. This Church faithfully RETAINS the TESTIMONY of Jesus Christ recorded in inspired Scripture. This Church RECOGNIZES CHRIST as its HEAD and it is *SUBJECT* TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

Do you realize that THE ONE *BASIC DIFFERENCE* between *our* Church—God's true Church, and all others—the difference between it and *the world?* That difference IS the difference in the *source* of our religion. The SOURCE OF *OUR* RELIGION is THE *BIBLE!* In order to appear "acceptable" in the eyes of others—in order to avoid the uncomfortable feeling of feeling *inferior*, people by *nature* accept the beliefs and practices of the *world about them.*

They don't realize it. They have heard *about* God. The world about them *professes* to believe in God. The CHURCHES OF THE WORLD even claim to believe and *follow* the BIBLE—*but* by READING THEIR *OWN* MEANING INTO IT. They seem to believe that God speaks to man through his *conscience*, and then carelessly *ASSUME* this SQUARES WITH the BIBLE. But whether they believe it or not, the actual *source* of the beliefs and practices of nearly all people is *society*—this world! And, realize it or not, this is the very essence of *worldliness!*

3. What does the BIBLE say about the Scriptures FOR reproof and CORRECTION? II Tim. 3:17.

COMMENT: Have you ever heard someone say to a friend: "I'm terribly upset—I believe I have been wrong about my beliefs, and I think I made a *mistake* in most of my opinions." Have you? It is doubtful! The *CARNAL* MIND DOESN'T LIKE to BE CORRECTED. BUT the *REPENTANT* MIND *WILL* TAKE correction. Notice this Scripture says the Bible is profitable for *reproof* and *correction.* And for instruction in righteousness—God's *reason* why we must take His BIBLE as our GUIDE for a way of life! We must take it for reproof and correction SO that WE MAY TURN AROUND AND GO THE OTHER WAY. The TIME is SHORT in which to do so!

COMMENT: One of the world's great preachers has made a statement that he cannot visualize a loving CHRIST COMING to this earth as a warrior to punish its people. But this man is going to have a great surprise, for this is exactly how Christ *is* coming! Rev. 17:13-14; 19:11-16. Christ would far rather come this way, and shake this earth until its inhabitants very teeth rattle, than let them go on in their *non-repentant* destructive sinful ways until "there should no flesh be saved" alive (Matt. 24:22). Yes, Christ calls upon all to *repent now!!*

Now is YOUR Time to REPENT!

Instead of asking, "how much do I *have* to give up," if people could realize it IS the complete and *TOTAL* SURRENDER, of the *mind* and *will* to God, which He requires. The *UNCONDITIONAL* surrender of the *self*—the *GIVING UP* OF *SELF*. But does this mean God wants all *OUR MATERIAL GOODS* too? *OF COURSE NOT!* We have a *multi-billionaire* Heavenly Father! The *earth* is *His*, and the fullness thereof! He doesn't *need* anything *from* us, but we *desperately need everything* from Him!

GOD *WANTS* US TO *KEEP* EVERYTHING THAT IS *GOOD* FOR US, according to his Divinely revealed laws! We only have to give up

the *evil* things *we would do* because of the carnal nature with which we are born.

JESUS CAME TO CALL US *OUT* OF this WORLD'S *TROUBLED CONDITIONS*, but He also came that we might HAVE LIFE MORE *ABUNDANTLY* (John 10:10). This means that He came that we might have a HAPPY and JOYFUL LIFE, a life lived in accordance with the Royal Law of Love, a life just *FILLED* WITH INTEREST, with *zeal*, and with *USEFULNESS*. *He did not tell us to bend our backs under a mountain of human woe and suffering!* Or to do penance and live in poverty and misery!

Conversion does not mean to cast all material things aside. Instead, conversion MAKES POSSIBLE for the first time OUR INTELLIGENT *USE* OF MATERIAL CREATION. Christ did *not* say: "Throw material wealth and physical pleasures away and seek *only* the Kingdom of God." Notice what He *did* say: "SEEK ye FIRST THE KINGDOM of God, and His righteousness; *AND ALL these THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU*" (Matt. 6:33).

So it is not the giving up of these things that is so IMPORTANT—it IS THE *ATTITUDE* toward them! Seek *first* the Kingdom of God, and *then* (secondarily in importance) shall these other things be added to you! We are here to learn to *use* the material world, not how to *abuse* it. LET'S HAVE *BALANCE* about these things. Let's UNDERSTAND the WORKING OF GOD'S MIND. We are HERE TO LEARN HOW TO BE HAPPY and how to make others happy, too. If you seek first the Kingdom of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within you, GOD WILL BLESS YOU. You will have an inward joy and peace and certainty of salvation even as this already hectic world grows more and more hectic each day.

Man is now engaged in a momentous struggle, the *result* of which could well prove to be the *total destruction of human life from this planet!*

Almost no one understands the real *cause* of this chaotic international situation, and of the individual wretchedness of so many millions of human beings. The WORLD NEEDS TO *REPENT* and BE *CLEANED UP* BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING WITHIN EACH INDIVIDUAL!

The Apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy, foretold of these exact times. We have now entered in the last days of this age when the unbridled pulls of carnal nature are now bringing this world into a final convulsive climax, the results of which Christ said would be the complete self-annihilation of man from off this earth were he not to intervene. Here is what Paul says of this "present evil world," made so by the *unrepentant* minds of men: "This know . . . that in the *LAST DAYS* PERILOUS TIMES shall come. For MEN shall be lovers of their own selves, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, UNTHANKFUL, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, FIERCE, despisers of those that do good, traitors, heady, high minded, LOVERS OF PLEASURE more than lovers of God; HAVING A *FORM* OF GODLINESS, but denying the power thereof [denying the power of *true* godliness]" (II Timothy 3:1-5). Yes, people *profess* Christianity—they attend churches—they have a *form* of godliness, but that mere OUTWARD *FORM* and *CEREMONY* is *not* enough! "How shall we escape, if we *neglect* so great salvation?" asks God in Hebrews 2:3. Man MUST *REPENT* and *TURN* FROM his own PRESENT WAY IF he expects TO continue to SURVIVE now and from this time forward. It is *LATER* THAN YOU THINK!

Yet, there are those who will say, "Repent? —Repent of what?" *EXAMINE YOURSELF!* Do *you* form a part of this worldly system that is *now crashing* to its doom? Of course you do. God calls on you now to repent—*turn* from it! For God says *all* have *sinned*.

Listen further to how God denounces the ways of this present evil world: "Love *not* the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is *not* in him. For all that is in the world, *the lust of the flesh*, and the *lust of the eyes*, and the pride of life is *not of the Father*, but it is *of the world*. And the world *passeth away*, and the lust thereof: but he that *DOETH* THE *WILL OF THE FATHER* ABIDETH *FOREVER!*" (I John 2:15-17). This world is now tottering on the brink of taking its plunge into its prophesied final chaos of World War. TERRIBLE SUFFERING lies *JUST AHEAD* for those who are not under God's protection.

ARE YOU *NEGLECTING* your opportunity for SALVATION and SAFETY—*throwing away* with *impunity* your opportunity for *eternal life*—for the shoddy, corrupt, *temporary* lusts of the flesh?

The BIGGEST QUESTION IN *YOUR LIFE* should be—WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO ABOUT IT? REPENT* NOW! The way to REPLACE *BAD* HABITS is to EXCHANGE them FOR *RIGHT* HABITS.

The *only* true way to happiness is set forth in God's revelation to man—the Bible. And the very first test to finding real happiness is described by Paul in his letter to the Romans, when he said: "BE NOT CONFORMED to this world; BUT be TRANSFORMED BY the *RENEWING* OF *your MIND*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2). Here is the very *starting point* on the way

to salvation!—*to come out of this world!* Not to be conformed to its way, but to become like Christ by allowing the HOLY SPIRIT to come WITHIN you. You can have the mind that is in Jesus Christ. Here is the way. JESUS SAYS: "Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock: if any man hear My voice, and *OPEN the door*, I WILL COME IN TO him" (Revelation 3:20).

Jesus meant exactly what He said! He will come in, through His Spirit, and literally *live* His life of true righteousness in you, if you will only surrender all of *self* and let the Saviour in—the SAME HOLY SPIRIT that is IN CHRIST, WILL be within YOU and MOTIVATE your thoughts. Not much time is now left. "The *NIGHT* COMETH when no man can work" (John 9:4)—the black times just ahead—of *hot* World War III (Matt. 24:22). *NOW* IS THE TIME TO *REPENT!!*

YOUR Faith's Part in Repentance

What relationship has FAITH to repentance? Let us understand.

1. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1. Notice the two words "*substance*" and "*evidence*." This first tells us that if one has *true believing faith*, and asks God for something, he is as certain that he *will have it* as though it were *already* in his possession. WHEN GOD, THROUGH His BIBLE, PROMISES SOMETHING TO US, WE SHOULD *BELIEVE* God in this fashion AS MUCH AS we are HUMANLY ABLE.

2. Does GOD *PROMISE* us that Jesus CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF FOR *OUR SINS* that He might deliver us from this present evil world? Gal. 1:3, 4.

COMMENT: This is one of God's *promises* we *MUST* HAVE *FAITH* IN to the greatest extent we are humanly capable.

3. Does Acts 20:21 also show we must have faith toward Christ?

COMMENT: All through the New Covenant and Testament part of your Bible the name CHRIST appears—as our SAVIOUR, as our HIGH PRIEST, as our Redeemer, as our coming KING AND RULER. And Christ is mentioned as being "in us." No wonder a part of our *believing*—OUR *FAITH*—MUST CONSIST OF *BELIEVING* THESE THINGS.

4. Does Mark 1:15 verify the fact that we must *believe*, have *faith* in, Christ's GOSPEL MESSAGE that the establishment of the Kingdom of God is imminent AND THAT WE MUST *REPENT* and *BELIEVE* this gospel?

COMMENT: THIS MUCH FAITH IN THESE THINGS *WE* MUST HAVE. It is an *active* faith—a *motivating faith* which gives to us a high objective to achieve and CAUSES US to *act* by *SURRENDERING* OURSELVES to God *in faith*, knowing that only God can make it possible for us to be a *higher creation* than we now are. But is this human, *carnal* faith of *ours*—this poor little weak faith of *ours*, which we, as human beings can muster, the kind of faith that can make of us this *higher creation* and *save* us? *No!* Let us understand.

The Faith of CHRIST in Us

1. Aren't we actually *saved* by *faith?* Eph. 2:8. Notice the word *faith. But* is this *our* faith—the kind of faith that carnal *man, unbegotten by the Holy Spirit*, has? Notice that it says of this kind of faith that it is "*not* of yourselves." Then if it is *not* the kind of faith the carnal unbegotten person has, *SAVING* FAITH must come *FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE*, must it not? Notice that it —*saving* faith—is A *GIFT* FROM *GOD*. Same verse.

2. And *why* is it that *God* gives this *DIFFERENT* KIND OF FAITH than we have—this *saving* faith? —is carnal natural man *boast*ful and proud of what *he, of himself*, can do? II Timothy 3:2. Then is it not to PREVENT man from BOASTING he saves himself that *God gives* this *special* kind of faith? Ephesians 2:9. Notice the words "lest any man should *boast*."

3. And by what *means* is this *saving* faith given as a *gift?* Is it not THROUGH THE *GIFT* OF THE *HOLY SPIRIT* WHICH WE RECEIVE *BECAUSE* WE *REPENT?* Acts 2:38. And isn't one of the fruits of the Godly Holy Spirit, *faith?* Gal. 5.22.

COMMENT: This is exactly the *SAME* SOURCE FROM WHICH CHRIST was able to DRAW HIS POWER-GIVING *FAITH* WHICH *ENABLED* HIM TO OVERCOME the TEMPTATIONS OF the WORLD, the FLESH, and SATAN, by having within Him the indwelling of the power of the Holy Spirit. The *saving* faith of the *Holy Spirit* within us is what saves us!

How clear it becomes there is SO LITTLE that WE OURSELVES CAN ACTUALLY DO TO SAVE OURSELVES. And how clear it becomes that OUR ROLE is to *REPENT* and *SURRENDER OUR WILL—OURSELVES*—TO GOD, having faith in Him, *TRUSTING HIM* TO CLEAN US UP and SAVE US from the final gehenna-type hell fire which will destroy the unsaved when this earth burns up.

How *simple!*—these two *different* kinds of faith required for salvation! REPENT *NOW!!*—SO GOD CAN BEGIN TO CHANGE YOU, THAT YOU MAY BE *SAVED!*