

DECEMBER 1982

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Before You Say 'I Do'

SEE PAGE 2

Is Jesus God?
By Herbert W.
Armstrong

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OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

DECEMBER 1982

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COVER: Marriage, one of the most important steps a person can take, should not be taken lightly. Much is involved in proper preparation, as the article beginning on page 2 explains. Photo by G.A. Belluche.

Letters

Wants to subscribe

Today a copy of your magazine was put in my mailbox by mistake. I looked it over and found it remarkably interesting, just like your terrific magazine, *The Plain Truth*.

To be honest with you, the Worldwide Church of God puts out the most astonishing information about the Bible that I have ever read. It's just like you say — the plain truth.

However, as I was looking through this remarkable magazine, I couldn't find a subscription card. I don't know if I can subscribe to this wonderful magazine or not, but if I can please put my name on the mailing list.

Mitch Terry
Erlanger, Ky.

The *Good News* is sent free to members and co-workers of the Worldwide Church of God and to anyone else who would like to receive the magazine and so requests.

Anyone who would like a free subscription should send his or her name and address to our nearest mailing address (see list at left).

"Do You Know Your Enemy?" — an interesting comparison

I considered it more than a coincidence when I received my August *Good News* and August 30 *Newsweek* on the same day.

Both had cover articles dealing with Satan — the *GN* had "Do You Know Your Enemy?" while *Newsweek* had "Giving the Devil His Due"! The similarity ends there.

Malcolm Tofts accurately tells of Satan while the *Newsweek* story makes such outrageous comments as "neither the Old or New Testament contains an account of his origin and fall." The article insinuates the concept of Satan developed from Persian dualism. We should be so lucky!

Unfortunately, Satan is more than a concept. The last sentence of the article is the worst of all. It has to be demon inspired. It says, "Satan's cleverest ploy would be to convince mankind that a pallid personal Devil really does exist." Unbelievable.

It seems like Satan has everyone either deceived into believing he doesn't exist or terrorized by fear of possession and haunted houses. Everybody but us.

Carl Rupp
Morristown, N.J.

Is Jesus God?

What is the REAL ANSWER? Is Jesus God? Is He the same as Jehovah? Is there more than one God? Here you will find GOD'S answer — from His own Word — as revealed in YOUR BIBLE.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

STARTLING as it may seem, there is great *confusion* today among religious leaders concerning the true nature and office of Jesus Christ — the Savior of the world.

You need not be in doubt! The Bible was divinely inspired to impart TRUTH to those who seek it with *honest* hearts and minds.

But even this all-important subject has become jumbled in today's troubled and chaotic world.

Is Jesus God?

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin in our stead. He gave of *Himself*, that we might be reconciled to God. *How was this made possible?*

First, if Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Rom. 6:23).

Since God the Father created all things *by* Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9), and since *all* things, including man, were made *by* Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life that He gave was of *greater value* than the sum total of all human beings.

For we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God*. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things were*

made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3).

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (verse 14, Revised Standard Version).

Also, "He was in the world, and the world *was made through him*, yet the world knew him not" (verse 10, RSV). Compare these scriptures with I Corinthians 8:6 and Colossians 1:12-19.

Life alone can *beget* life. This is the absolute law of biogenesis. Since eternal life is the GIFT of God (John 3:16), only a GOD *possessing* immortality could give it. If Jesus were only human, *we could not receive eternal life through Him* and He could not be our Savior.

Man *does not* have eternal life inherent in himself. But, as God "the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." And: "God *hath given* to us eternal life, and this life is *in his Son*. He that hath the Son hath life; and *he that hath not the Son of God hath not life*" (John 5:26, I John 5:11-12).

He was also human

On the other hand, Jesus was also human.

Since it is *human* life that has transgressed God's law, the law claims *human* life as its penalty. Contrary to popular present-day teaching, the Word of God states that the wages — the penalty —

of sin is DEATH — not eternal life in a so-called hell fire (Rom. 6:23).

When we sin, we break God's perfect spiritual law, "for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The penalty for this sin is *death*. The penalty *must be paid*. God the Father will not compromise. It must be paid *by man*.

Therefore, Jesus, who is and was God, who has always existed (John 1:1-2), was actually *made flesh* (verse 14). He, who was God, actually *became* human flesh because I John 4:2-3 (RSV) states, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ *has come in the flesh* is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God."

He was conceived in and born of the human virgin, Mary. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:18, RSV).

He was made not only flesh, but *human* flesh and blood. Notice Hebrews 2:14: "Since then the children are sharers in *blood and flesh*, himself also in like manner partook of the same" (Ivan Panin translation).

Jesus called Himself the Son of MAN repeatedly, and also the Son of God. Matthew wrote: "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his

(Continued on page 22)



Before You Say 'I Do'

If you are soon to be married, or if you hope to be married sometime in the future, here's important information you need to consider.

By Gary Antion

"I now pronounce you husband and wife." Those beautiful words are music to the ears of couples anxious to begin life together as a new family. It is their big moment — one of the most important moments of their lives. They are now joined as husband and wife.

What leads people to this

point? How do they prepare? What should we know in anticipation of that future time when marriage will come to us or our loved ones?

Be prepared

As we grow up we may move in and out of "love" abruptly.

We begin to notice the opposite sex. And the more we notice, the more care we give to our per-

sonal grooming and behavior — how we look, how we talk, the kind of impression we leave on others.

Puppy love and infatuation are common. Sometimes the person we "love" doesn't even know he or she is "loved." Once in a while we feel that we have finally found our "true love." When that involvement doesn't work we are crushed. But soon our romantic self has recuperated and is ready for another fling.

It seems that most people go through such stages in growing up. But marriage, the second most important step in one's life (making a commitment to God is first), is not for the immature. It is only for those who are physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and spiritually prepared.

Before "dear" hunting, a person should be ready for the possibility of marriage. This requires a high level of maturity.

Some let physical development be the only indicator of maturity. If a person has reached a certain age, they reason, he or she should be married. Or they let physical attraction be the determining factor. Certainly there must be physical attraction, but what about a person's level of education? Is the thinking mature? There are lovebirds and kissing fish, but to be a proper partner in marriage takes mental maturity in addition to physical maturity.

Emotional people are beautiful—they feel deeply and express themselves effectively. But have they tempered their emotions—brought their emotions under control? If so, great. If not, it will be difficult for them to cope with the changes and adjustments necessary in marriage.

Then there are those who put too much emphasis on money. They seem to think they have to marry millionaires. This is unrealistic and wouldn't work anyway without all the other factors working.

But, then again, it does take adequate finances to run a family. How much do you earn? Do you have a regular job? Is it a career

Photos by G.A. Belluche and Warren Watson

or only a temporary stop in the job market? Proverbs 24:27 tells us to prepare first, and then to build a home and family. So be sure that you are stable financially before assuming the responsibilities of marriage.

The most important factor in preparation for marriage is spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity on the part of both husband and wife is extremely important to the success of the marriage.

So it all begins with you! Prepare for your future with that special person by making sure you are mature physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and spiritually.

Dating

Dating is an art that is rapidly being lost. Many people are interested only in what they can *get* out of a date. A person should be concerned with how he or she may *give* the other person a nice time.

Dating is a discovery period. We all have ideas about what we want in a mate, and dating helps bring that image into clear focus. Dating widely at first helps a person to narrow the field.

Actually, the more individuals you date before settling on that special one, the better. You will observe good and not-so-good traits in those you date. You will gain a more realistic picture of your "dream girl" or "knight in shining armor."

Remember, though, that you should not view dating as merely a search for a husband or wife. Don't be in a hurry to get serious — with God's help, you will find the right mate at the right time — and keep in mind that your goal is to *give* to your date in friendship, genuine concern and good, clean recreation.

It is not the intent of this article to thoroughly discuss dating. Those interested in more information on

dating may request our free book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. You will find much dating information in this book, especially in chapter 12.

Seek counsel early

Marriage is a godly institution (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18, 21-24), and we should make every effort to insure its success. One way is through proper mate selection. When you find yourself getting interested in a certain someone, it is good to get counsel (Prov. 11:14).

Talk to those who know you both, especially your parents and families. Your parents know you and your strengths and weaknesses. You should seek and consider carefully their advice concerning a potential mate.

Be aware that most of your friends and peers will be romantics and will see a mate in anyone you pick. This is not to say that friends who know you well are not a good source of counsel, but be sure they are being honest and constructive in their evaluations.

Your minister is another valuable counselor in this important area. He may have known you for years, especially through various youth programs. You can confidently seek his advice — he has much knowledge of marriage responsibilities and a lot of experience in handling various marriage situations.

When

seeking advice be sure to be open-minded. How often we all want to hear the answer we want from someone else! But to avoid marital problems later, it is wise now to maintain an open mind and honestly seek help. Be open about your feelings. Disclose your positive views as well as any apprehensions. Take off the proverbial rose-colored glasses and look objectively at the person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life.

Men (and marriage is for men, not boys), the major areas you should look for from that special girl are compatibility and adaptability. Does she easily follow your lead? Do you sense that she respects you? Are you able to lead her in every way (Eph. 5:22)?

Ask yourself: Do I really deeply care for her? Is she the most lovely person in the world to me? Her physical attraction and personality must make her tops in your book (verse 25). What about her intelligence and maturity? Would she make a good mother? Does she desire children?

Finally, what is her level of spirituality? Is she godly? If pleasing God is the driving force in her life, chances are that she will apply God's marital laws, which are so necessary for success. The po-

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roy Marsh
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Marilyn Marie
to
Mr. John Sherman
Friday, the fourteenth
in hundred and



tential wife must consider how sensible the man she's planning on marrying is. After all, if he makes poor decisions or is reckless in his habits (driving, drinking, taking care of his health), will you be able to respect him and submit to him (verse 24, I Pet. 3:1)? Does he ask for input from you before making decisions?

How caring is he about you? Does he show love and concern, not attempting to spoil your future with premarital sex and necking — I Cor. 6:18? Does he find you attractive and is he expressive to you in proper affection and words? Do you find him physically attractive?

Does he have a good job? Will he be a good provider for you? Or will lack of finances be a source of arguments? Even though you may wish to work after you're first married, when children come along, it is essential that the husband be able to provide. Will he make a good father? Does he like children? What views does he have about child rearing? Are they the same as yours? How can two walk together in any matter unless they agree (Amos 3:3)?

These are only some major areas to consider. Our free book, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, and free booklet, *Why Marriage! — Soon Obsolete?* detail more areas of importance. Your minister may be able to recommend other books he's found helpful in this area.

The engagement period

So, after much consideration you decide that you are right for each other. What now? Some have become engaged, set the date and merely notified the minister and their families. This doesn't show much respect for families or minister.

The best way is to counsel with your minister. Tell him about your interest in each other and that you would like to become engaged. This gives him the opportunity to help you by advising a longer waiting period or by mentioning certain difficulties he might have

seen. He may want to know that these difficulties are now resolved.

Remember, engagement not only means a flashy ring on the third finger of your left hand, but carries with it a promise to marry. So before you make such an acceptance and formal announcement, be sure you are ready to marry!

After securing your minister's counsel, next call or see the parents of the bride-to-be. Ask the father for the daughter's hand. Many a father has felt bypassed, overlooked or neglected when this wasn't done, and it negatively influences future relationships in the family.

When both sets of parents are consulted, it makes them feel more involved and makes them more willing to help the couple. If distance is a problem, a phone call would be next best to asking in person. It produces more confidence in and a better relationship among everyone when parents, their children and prospective mates have met before the actual engagement. If that's not possible, meetings ought to take place during the engagement period.

Suppose your parents disapprove of your prospective mate. Take their comments to heart. You will need to seriously and intelligently decide what to do in such a situation. Ask what it would take for their approval.

Barring parental bigotry, parental views should be heavily weighed. To force them into acceptance is to ask for future in-law trouble as well as probable marital trouble for you, the couple (Prov. 18:19).

Engagement periods vary according to the couple. Some have short engagements, some longer. It is not advisable to wait longer than a year; closeness (and you should be drawing closer) for too long a time may lead to premarital sexual involvement.

It is during engagement that you should spend most of your free time together. This is the time when you begin to lose the "I" and "me" and "you" and become "we" and "us." Each

must consider what's good for "us." This takes time and often compromise.

Housing, furniture, foods, entertainment, automobiles are other areas needing the input from both individuals involved. Most especially, discuss your hopes in life, family plans, finances, living quarters and general outlook for living together.

Of prime importance is the wedding day itself. When will it be? Where will it be? In setting the date, be sure to check with the minister you've asked to perform the marriage. Once you get his OK, check with parents and see if that date is all right with them, since, in many areas, the father of the bride traditionally bears much of the financial cost of the wedding. He is definitely to be considered for his input as to when it takes place.

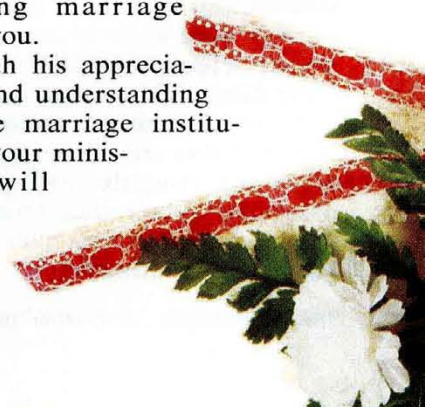
The location of the wedding will depend largely on the bride. She will probably want to have it in her hometown. The proper hall will depend on the size of the wedding and whether there is to be a catered meal or only refreshments. Again, parents and minister should be consulted regarding the plans (see the accompanying checklist of reminders).

Once all the physical details — when, where, by whom — are worked out, invitations may be ordered. If the other planning can be done early, beautiful invitations may be ordered at fairly reasonable costs from various companies.

Premarital counsel

Next in your preparation for the big event is counsel with your minister. He will probably want to spend at least two sessions (probably more) discussing marriage with you.

With his appreciation and understanding of the marriage institution, your minister will



want to do all he can to facilitate your happiness since you have asked him to perform your wedding (usually the minister you counsel with will be the one performing the wedding).

Throughout his meetings with you, your minister will be accumulating information to help you plan your future together. He will be looking for the signs that make for a good marriage as well as those that lead to problems.

According to authorities, there are certain qualities that make a person "most marriageable": adaptability and flexibility, empathy, ability to work through problems, ability to give and receive love, emotional stability, similar family backgrounds, similarities between the couple themselves, communication.

The big day

Finally, you are as prepared as possible for that special day. Double-check to make sure all is in readiness. Rehearse for the ceremony.

Before walking down that aisle be sure to consider the commitment you're about to make. Go over the words in the ceremony God's Church uses.

The minister will ask the man: "Do you, then [groom], faithfully promise and covenant with God, in the presence of these witnesses,

to take [the bride] to be your lawful wedded wife, and to cleave to her unto death — to love her, cherish her, honor her and provide for her?"

The minister will ask the woman: "And do you [bride], faithfully promise and covenant with God, in the presence of these witnesses, to take [the groom] to be your lawful wedded husband, for the remainder of your natural life, and as God has ordained, to submit yourself unto him as unto the Eternal, to be subject to him in everything and to respect him?"

When you say "I do" to these promises, you are committing yourselves to a lifetime together (Matt. 19:4-9).

Marriage was established by God at creation and pictures God's relationship with Israel (Isa. 54:5, Ezek. 16:8). It also depicts the spiritual relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:21-33, Rev. 19:7-9). So be sure you know what is involved when you say "I do" on your wedding day, and be sure you intend to live up to the responsibilities of this godly institution.

With the words, "By the authority of Jesus Christ, I now pronounce you husband and wife," may you two become one and truly live happily ever after. □

Consider the commitment you're about to make. . . . When you say "I do" . . . you are committing yourselves to a lifetime together . . .

Wedding Preparations Checklist

Apparel

- Clothing for bride and bridesmaids
- Clothing for groom and attendants
- Rings

Civil Matters

- Marriage license
- Blood tests

Correspondence

- Invitations
- Announcements in Church
- Thank-you cards

Floral Arrangements

- Flowers for wedding party, parents, servers, hall

Honeymoon Arrangements

-

Photographer

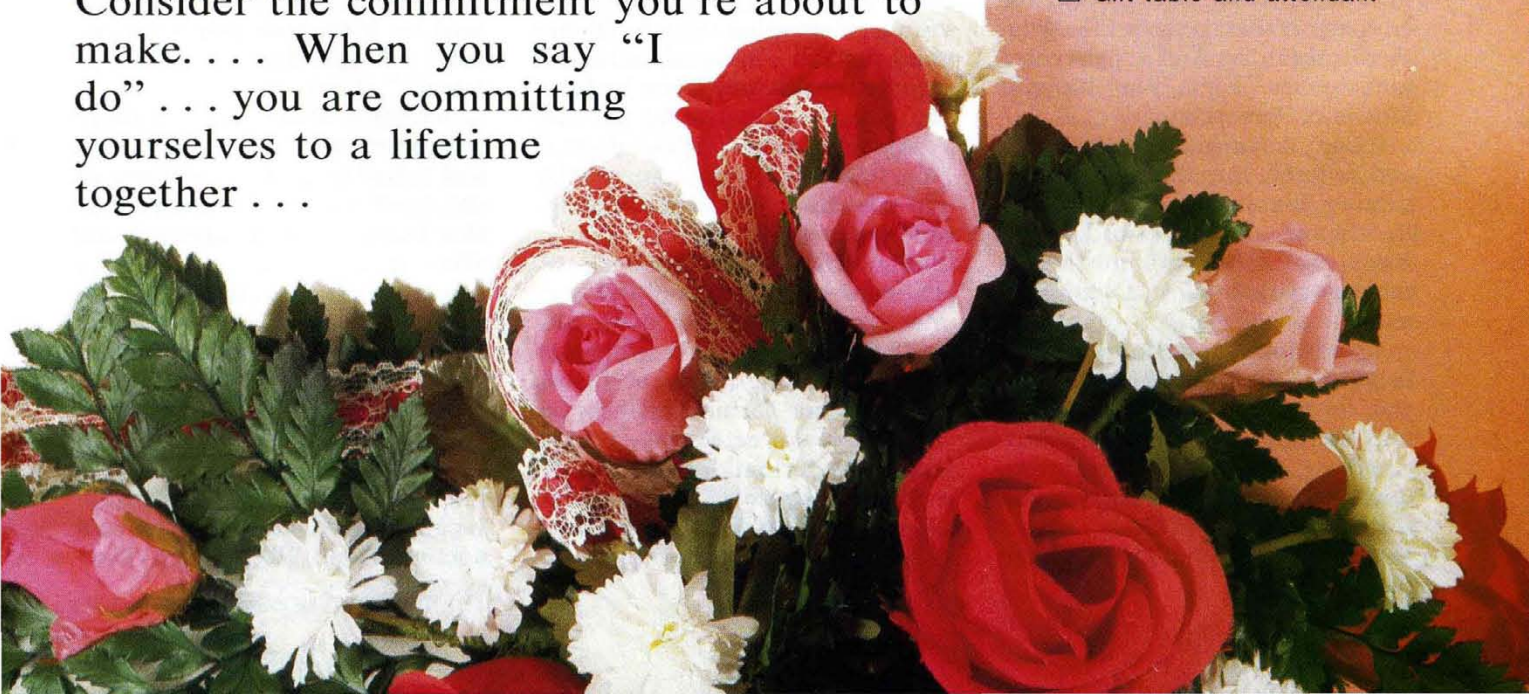
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Reception

- Reception area setup
- Refreshments
- Wedding cake
- Cleanup crew

Wedding Ceremony

- Hall rental
- Seating
- Decorations
- Music
- Ushers
- Rehearsals
- Guest book
- Gift table and attendant



This Is Real Repentance

What is repentance? What actually happens in a repentant person's life? What does repentance have to do with salvation? Here are the facts.

“As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. . . .

“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord . . . came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? . . .

“And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And . . . they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. . . .

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me . . .

“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. . . . And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

“But all that heard him were

By Neil Earle

amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent . . . ?” (Acts 8:3, 9:1-21).

What a story!

It is the best New Testament example of real repentance — what it is, how one comes to it, how to tell if it's genuine (I Tim. 1:15-16).

Total change

Change. About-face. Total reversal. Redirection. Complete transformation. These are the essentials of real, biblical repentance.

It includes feeling sorry, of course, but goes much deeper than that. A convicted, hardened criminal feels sorry when he faces the gallows. Yet this is not real repentance, merely selfish depression, inner anxiety triggered by the cowering fear of an inescapable penalty.

The Bible, in a lucid phrase, distinguishes between “the sorrow of the world” and “godly sorrow” (II Cor. 7:10). Worldly sorrow is mourning for the self. It is only another form of selfishness — inwardly directed pity, not the total transformation of the self, evidenced by real, demonstrable change, such as Paul experienced (Matt. 7:16).

Paul's life change was completely overpowering — obvious — striking.

That's why the worst thing you can say to a true Christian is: “You haven't changed a bit!”

Paul changed — totally. The transformation was so shocking that it stunned the early Church. Early Christians had a hard time believing it (Acts 9:26). The Bible describes “fruits worthy of repentance” — measurable, noticeable evidence of change (Luke 3:8). Paul had these fruits.

The Old Testament prophets knew that real repentance is a definite, heartfelt change. “As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezek. 33:11).

Jeremiah eloquently portrayed real repentance: “Turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth” (Jer. 31:18-19).

Repentance is a point of no return. It is the pivotal decision in life. There is no room, in the mind of the repentant person, for turning back. God's terms are unconditional: “Repent ye there-

fore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

Sin is defined in I John 3:4 as the "transgression of the law." Romans 7:7 explains that the law that sin violates is the Ten Commandments. God's law is a spiritual principle regulating our physical actions and relationships toward others, husbands and wives (Ex. 20:14, 17), parents (verse 12) and children (verse 10) and property (verses 15, 17).

Christ magnified the law

Jesus Christ amplified and enlarged the spiritual dynamics behind the Ten Commandments in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:21-22, 27-28).

Christ showed that sin begins in the heart (Matt. 15:19). Action follows thought (Prov. 23:7). God hates sin because He knows that spiritual satisfaction is never possible through wrong physical sensations. The "deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13) tricks us into thinking that deep, inner blessings will follow if we take, appropriate, indulge. But sin never results in blessings.

"I'm pretty good," some will argue. "I've never killed anyone." But have we never felt anger, spite, jealousy, resentment or the desire for revenge? Of course we have! These emotions are but spiritual preparation in the human heart for the most dire acts, if we dared try to get away with them. There are no inner reserves of goodness, no strong, selfless motives inside a human being (Jer. 17:9).

Real repentance, then — the deeply committed, emotionally jarring confrontation with and rejection of the evil saturating us deep inside — involves far more than a few superficial, cosmetic changes on the outside. The outer facade of righteousness never deceives God and Jesus Christ (Matt. 23:25-26, 28).

The rich young ruler who interviewed Jesus Christ thought he was doing all right. When Jesus challenged him with the Ten Commandments he replied, "All these things have I kept

from my youth up: what lack I yet?" (Matt. 19:20).

Had he, really? Christ's next statement flashed right to the heart of the matter: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matt. 19:21).

What a bombshell! Jesus discerned covetousness in this young man. Though outwardly successful, moral and a model citizen, the rich young ruler, whom Christ liked (Mark 10:21), had not even begun to live the deep spirit and intent of God's commandments. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:22).

Death of the self

There have always been curiosity seekers, those mildly titillated by after-dinner talk and coffee-break discussions on the ultimate meaning of life. Some casually evidence an interest in the big

and assumptions, even in the face of persecution and suffering.

This is the essence of the Christian life.

This is why only the few endure to the end (Matt. 7:14).

This is why the Bible teaches so emphatically: "They are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:9-11).

This is why Paul, a real repent-er, sang so exultantly: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

A tumultuous upheaval

What is real repentance? It is a tumultuous upheaval in a person's life, a spiritual and emotional crisis triggered by a painful and intense conviction from grasping the true inner motives and inten-

Real repentance is the sober desire to replace selfish, fleshly reactions with the promptings of God's Spirit inside us . . . It is the axial change in life . . .

questions at one time or another, and answers are available. Understanding is possible. The problem is that most people don't want it badly enough to pay the price (Prov. 17:16)! The price for understanding is to obey God's commandments (Ps. 111:10).

This is too high a price for the average person. It is nothing less than the death of self, the willingness to crush pride and vanity, the abasement of ego, the humility to agree that we violate the spirit and intent of God's Ten Commandments every day of our lives, the willpower mobilized by the shocking encounter with the evil within, the tenacity to fight for years in a sometimes tiresome struggle to root out wrong habits, attitudes

— the evil inside us (Matt. 19:17).

Real repentance is an experience that hammers home to us that we haven't just done wrong but that we *are* wrong (Ps. 51:5). The truly repentant are pricked in the heart (Acts 2:37). They are shocked by the deceit and vanity that permeate their words and deeds — they realize that even their good deeds are many times only selfish attempts to appease God's wrath or to make themselves feel better than others (Isa. 64:6)!

Real repentance includes the heartbroken desire to give ourselves over to God — the willingness to allow God to refashion us as He sees fit. This includes sub-

mitting to the human representatives of God once we prove who they are (John 20:21).

Real repentance is the stabbing awareness that our personal sins, the wrong habits that we relish and enjoy, required the brutal and excruciating death of Jesus Christ (Isa. 53:11).

Real repentance is toward God and no one else. **The truly repentant worry about their personal standing with God, not their standing with anyone else.**

Real repentance means to tremble at God's Word, not at the opinions, customs and traditions of mere men (Isa. 66:2). When God speaks, we listen. We are submissive, teachable. We're willing to observe any festival, pay any tithe, shun any worldly association to measure up to God's standards (Phil. 3:8).

Real repentance is the sober desire to replace selfish, fleshly reactions with the promptings of God's Spirit inside us (Eph. 4:24). It is the axial change in life, the most important experience we can ever pass through.

How repentance comes

How can we come to this conviction overnight? The answer is that we can't!

Who can deeply grasp true repentance inside a circus tent, listening to a sweating preacher whip up a frenzy about "hell fire"?

Real repentance does have an emotional content, but is much more than sheer emotion. It is conviction. Purpose. Determination. A quiet resolve to change.

Now, how do we get that?

Can it be "worked up" in a moment of hysteria?

No. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance," Romans 2:4 tells us. Even the desire to repent comes from God. No human being decides of his own volition to surrender before God unless God is at work first in that individual's mind. God must help us pass from darkness to light, from death to life, from blindness to understanding. He must grant repentance:

"When they heard these

things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life" (Acts 11:18).

"Him [Jesus Christ] hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (II Tim. 2:25).

Repentance is the gift of God! How else could we ever see ourselves through God's eyes?

God the Father Himself carefully selects those to whom He wants to reveal His truth at this time (John 6:44). God then gives a small portion of His Holy Spirit to work alongside our minds (John 14:17). We begin to see our way of life for what it is — for the first time, we understand our true motives and intentions.

God watches for the reaction this produces. If our conscience is tender, if we are yielded and teachable, we begin to put some things right in our lives. Then, in direct proportion to how much we yield to and obey God, God gives us more understanding. He works with us more strongly through His Spirit (Acts 5:29).

This begins the process of Christian growth. A responsive heart and a pliable spirit are essential. Finally we amass enough evidence, through study, prayer and meditation, to see ourselves for the first time — as a sinner, with a chemical, temporary life expectancy of only 70 years, in need of forgiveness and power from Almighty God.

But this new attitude of obedience cannot atone for past sins. Thus the truly repentant believer comes to hold an undying respect for the enormous sacrifice Christ made for him almost 2,000 years ago. Only Christ's death can purge our past sins, wipe the slate clean (I John 1:7).

Gratitude, tenderheartedness, an exquisite consciousness of God's mercy — these are the attitudes that predominate during

real repentance. No hardheartedness, belligerence or placing blame on others. None of the "But here's the way I look at it" syndrome.

The repentant person surrenders to God. He throws himself upon God's mercy and pardon. Job's cry is now his: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

An ongoing process

But repentance is not merely a one-time event in a person's life. It is an active, ongoing, dynamic process. Even after we have deeply, sincerely repented of our past sins and been convicted to follow God's way in everything, we will stumble and fall. We do not become perfect all at once. We still are ruled, for the most part, by our human nature. We are still under the influence of Satan and the world around us.

We will, in moments of weakness or carelessness, sin again. And then we must again repent and ask God to allow Christ's precious shed blood to cover the sin (I John 1:8-10).

As we obey God and submit to His government in our lives, He will give us more of the power of His Holy Spirit to overcome. The process of Christian growth — the process of developing God's perfect character within ourselves — is gradual, a lifelong profession (II Pet. 3:18). The true Christian consistently keeps himself in an attitude of repentance and submission to God's will.

In II Corinthians 7:9-11, Paul describes seven mental reactions triggered by real godly repentance. This Paul calls "godly sorrow," the profound realization that our personal sins caused the death of the perfect, spotless Son of God.

It is a mature, heartfelt mourning over the wasted energies, the squandered opportunities, the misplaced time and attention, the deep hurt to ourselves and others that sin produces. Yet the truly

(Continued on page 21)

How to Truly Honor Your Parents



Do you really understand the Fifth Commandment and how it applies in your life?

By Richard Rice



Every human relationship is affected by the Fifth Commandment. That's right — *every* human relationship.

Do you know why?

God attaches life-and-death significance to the Fifth Commandment. This living law is a vital key not only in establishing strong, stable families, but also in building a happy, peaceful and God-fearing society.

Let's take a closer look at the Fifth Commandment and see the practical applications today of this important law of God.

An exalted office

Thundering from Mt. Sinai, God commanded, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Ex. 20:12).

From the beginning, God the Father gave each parent an important, exalted office — a vital position and role to play in the human family. He decreed that this position be highly honored and respected. Why?

Because **parents are the direct representatives of God Himself to their children!** The parental role in the physical family is symbolic of God's role in God's spiritual Family. Parents occupy a position of authority and guardianship. They are entrusted with the responsibility of leading their offspring to know

Photos by Hal Finch

God and of teaching them God's way of life.

Notice God's instruction to parents in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The book of Proverbs in particular is filled with information on how parents should instruct their children in God's way (Prov. 2:1-9, 3:1-4, 4:1-2, 5:1-2). Also notice Ephesians 6:4.

To treat the God-appointed office of parenthood with scorn or disdain is equivalent to dishonoring God Himself.

A timeless command

The command to honor one's parents applies to people of all ages — both children and adults.

The word *honor*, as the Bible uses it in the Fifth Commandment, is rich in meaning. It means "to esteem or to hold in high regard, to prize or to reverence." Included in its meaning is respect mingled with love and devotion. The word carries the same intent as the honor and deference shown to a dignitary or king.

Children still living at home and dependent on their parents for food, clothing, shelter and other necessities have a special obligation to heed the Fifth Commandment. Not only does this mean having a willingness to obey parental instructions, but it also means doing more than is required in acts of love, kindness and helpfulness.

However, even when children are grown and have left home and are no longer under their parents' authority and control, the children still owe the parents honor and respect, particularly so in the parents' old age (Lev. 19:32). The responsibility to honor parents never ends.

Christ rebuked the Pharisees for teaching their followers to neglect duties toward parents (Matt. 15:3-6). Here Christ clearly addressed married adults, not young children living at



The Fifth Commandment is a foundational law for the home and society. Children should strive to please parents within the bounds of God's law — for example, by remembering anniversaries or occasionally serving breakfast in bed.

home. He showed that adults are still to have regard for their parents' needs. They should continue showing parents concern.

What if your parents do not fear God? What if they do not obey God's laws, and oppose you because you do?

Whatever the situation, always show parents the love and respect they deserve. Honor their office. Never allow yourself to look down on them simply because God has not chosen to call them at this time. The Commandment to honor them still applies.

Active obedience

We should strive to actively fulfill God's instruction to honor our parents.

A child living at home may do as he is told, but only to avoid trouble. He complies with requests to help with chores such as taking out the trash or straightening his room, but does so begrudgingly, and only does the bare minimum. His parents need to continually remind, beg or even bribe him to do his duties.

This is only following the letter of the law. A spirit of willing service and spontaneous obedience is lacking.

In the same way, an adult may visit his parents or write to them out of duty or obligation, rather than out of genuine love and concern. Important family dates such as Mom and Dad's anniversary may pass unnoticed. Helping parents may be viewed as more of a burden than joy.

True Christians should grow beyond this stage. To truly keep the Fifth Commandment, we should strive to understand and fulfill the spirit of the law.

We should have a spontaneous willingness to please and serve, to esteem and revere, to regard and admire. Active obedience means going above and beyond what is required (Luke 17:10).

A child, still living at home, who applies this principle will volunteer to do more than he's asked to do. He will think of addi-



tional ways to please his parents, such as polishing Dad's shoes, washing the car, making cards of appreciation or washing the dishes while Mom is shopping.

Even when we no longer live with our parents, we should keep their welfare in mind. They spent a large portion of their lives rearing us. When we moved away a gap was left in their lives. When-



ever possible, we should visit our parents. If they live too far away, we should write letters, send cassette tapes or, when possible, call, especially on occasions such as anniversaries or Mother's Day. If we are unable to see our parents, we can send pictures of our families (our looks can change more quickly than we realize!).

We, as children, should never allow time or distance to erode the strength, love and devotion of our family ties.

One of the best ways we can honor our parents is to seek their advice. Parents are in an especially good position to give sound counsel since they know us so well, and also because they have had so many years of experience.

Being able to help their children — even knowing that their children want their advice — gives parents great joy.

As our parents become older and weaker or, tragically, their health fails, our devotion and faithfulness to them should increase. This is the time they need their children's consideration and appreciation more than any other time of their lives.

Notice the patriarch Joseph's example. When Jacob, Joseph's old, blind father, came to him, Joseph "bowed himself with his face to the earth" (Gen. 48:12). Here is an example of respect and honor for an aged father brought down by the weight of years and infirmities. Joseph continued to revere and acknowledge his father, and also provided for the elderly Jacob (Gen. 45:9-11).

A special promise

Did you know that a special blessing is attached to the Fifth Commandment for those who strive to keep it?

Ephesians 6:2-3, rehearsing and explaining the command in Exodus 20:12, says, "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Here is a special promise that some may not have fully realized. Instead of receiving God's richest blessings, they may have come under His disfavor or even a curse.

What does this promise entail? Certainly the blessings for keeping the Fifth Commandment would include a life of greater peace, joy and happiness — an abundant life filled with worthwhile opportunities as well as protection from injury or illness and untimely death. Further divine blessings and favor include wisdom, understanding, health, prosperity and a compatible and loving marriage partner (Prov. 3:4,

8:35, 18:22, III John 2). When we honor this command of God, we experience God's blessings in a profound way.

On the other hand, disobedience to this command produces parent-child conflicts, hatred, jealousy, poor communication and family and societal breakdown. If you don't believe this, look around you today at this society — and, unfortunately, you may not have to look any farther than your own family!

Your responsibility

Today we are living in an age characterized by rejection of the Fifth Commandment. Bible prophecy shows that "in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be . . . disobedient to parents" (II Tim. 3:1-2).

The world as a whole has departed from the very command on which God intended civilization to be built. This is one of the reasons that this civilization is hurtling toward a tremendous time of crisis unparalleled in human history. This terrifying time, which the Bible calls the "great tribulation" (Matt. 24:21), is just ahead now.

However, another critical prophecy is to be fulfilled shortly before the Great Tribulation: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Mal. 4:5-6).

God's people today have the awesome responsibility and privilege to help restore the meaning of the Fifth Commandment in today's decadent society. Are you doing your part?

Remember, it is through this vital Commandment that God desired to sustain and perpetuate His law and truth through the ages, and on into His soon-coming Kingdom. Therefore, seek to keep the Fifth Commandment in its fullest intent. Your eternal destiny depends on it! □

Is Your Child Ready for School?

Your child's future success depends on how well you prepare him or her before formal education begins.

By Joan C. Bogdanchik

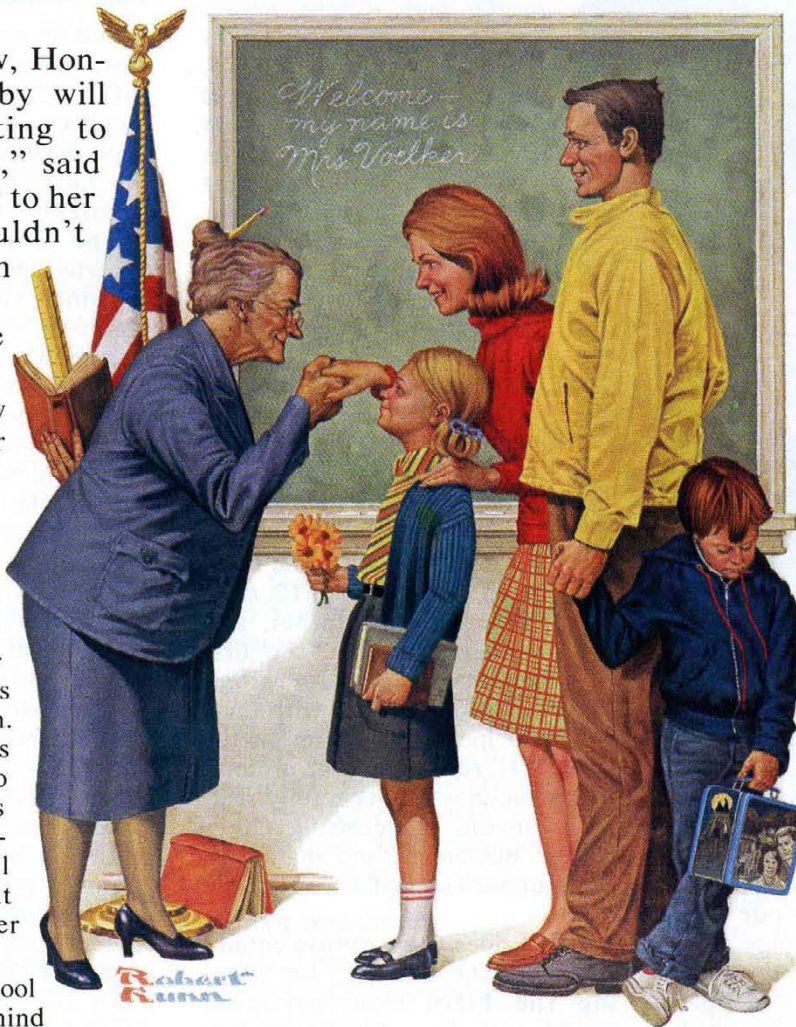
“You know, Honey, Bobby will be starting to school next week,” said the young mother to her husband. “Shouldn’t we be getting him ready? Is there anything that he should know?”

“No, we’ll only confuse him. Better let his teacher do it,” her husband shrugged.

Jenny’s parents had a completely different approach. Teaching their daughter to read was all important to them. Even before she was age 2 Jenny began to read. Now she was reading near a fourth-grade level. “She’ll have no trouble at school,” boasted her parents.

The first day of school arrived. Cowering behind his parents came Bobby, on his face a look of terror and anxiety that brought sorrow to his teacher’s heart. Nothing was going to pull him free of Daddy’s trouser leg!

Jenny came in smiling and quietly found a seat next to the bookcase. Don’t those books look easy! she thought. But when the



children went outside to play at recess, Jenny sat on the sidelines. She hadn’t taken part in any activities or games like those the other children were involved in. She had rarely played with other children. Jenny sadly discovered that school wasn’t what she had expected.

I have personally known such children. Others like them will be

entering school next fall. Will your child be one of them? How much — and what — should a child know before he starts school?

Parents need to know, because what they do during a child’s vital early years will determine, in a large way, whether the child succeeds or fails during his school years and, indeed, throughout his life.

Begin preparations early

Certain specific areas should be covered before your child enters school to ensure that he will adjust smoothly to the new environment in which he will find himself. Trying to accomplish this preparation in the last weeks before school begins is too late. Initial preparation for school — and life — begins at the very beginning.

Proper child development begins at conception (and even before that, by extension, in the health and education of the parents before their union) and continues throughout life. The mother must have a proper diet and

Illustrations by Robert Gunn

right frame of mind during pregnancy.

But once the child is born, the real job of education begins. This instruction begins in the cradle — on the first day of life. This early education is vital — by the time a child is 1 year old he will either display or be lacking the qualities found in outstanding students.

From that wonderful moment when you first hold your baby in your arms, he is becoming aware that someone is there — and he will get to know that someone thoroughly, by smell, taste, touch, hearing and sight. You as his parents will have a tremendous influence on him. You will mold and shape him.

Talk to your child

One means that will be crucial in his development is your speech, which you should use unsparingly. Talk to your baby — while caressing him, dressing him, changing him, bathing him. The importance of talking to your baby cannot be overstated — the habit of talking cannot be established too early in a child.

Sad to say, some parents think that talking to a baby is a waste of breath. The child can't answer, they reason, and there are more important things to think about. But parents need to realize that the talking they do, beginning right after the birth of their child, is foundational. Hearing the sound of your voice and hearing the language you speak are necessary to your child's development.

Changing the position of the baby's crib from time to time is a good idea, too, as he will begin learning to distinguish different colors and shapes. He begins to learn that there are differences in seeing, as well as hearing.

By the time your child is 8 or 9 months old you will notice that he has more of an understanding of what you are saying. When you see this spark of enlightenment, fuel it!

Use carefully selected words and phrases, but speak normally. Baby talk shouldn't be used — the child will only have to unlearn

it later. A child will revert to what he learned early, and any faulty constructions you have instilled in him will come out — to his embarrassment in front of his classmates. This is something for which he will not thank you, so don't let it take root.

Work on your own grammar. You are transmitting the language with which he will think and express his ideas. You surely want to transmit it as thoroughly and as correctly as you can.

Encourage curiosity

When your child is crawling, he shouldn't be confined to his playpen for overlong periods of time. It may be more convenient for the moment, but it can curtail his interest and curiosity, and curiosity is the beginning of learning.

As your child is crawling about, he is learning as he feels the toys, carpet, furniture. Of course, all dangerous things should be put out of his reach, but a certain amount of minor mishap should be allowed for. Don't be overprotective. He should have certain freedom or

begin to reject the authority of its parents, as many parents have found to their sorrow.

When a parent is inconsistent the child loses his sense of security. He wants to know his boundaries. He uses them as his fences. A child thrives on love and security. If one limits these, the child could become shy and nervous.

Children should be reared in an atmosphere of love and encouragement. Strive to have as few negative confrontations as possible. Loving pats on the back and big hugs will help your children learn in a warm way.

Develop right attitudes

Be careful not to show favoritism among your children. Let them love you and want to please you because of this love that is growing day by day. Strong family loyalty begins in early childhood. The parents' interests become the child's. He is growing in courtesy and is grateful for his parents.

Children should be taught to accept criticism, too, for it is a part of life. Your child will need

From that wonderful moment when you first hold your baby . . . you as his parents will have a tremendous influence on him.

else he can become withdrawn.

Of course, this is not to say that proper discipline should be absent. Certain activities should be positively prohibited. Because he has general freedom of the house, limits in certain areas should be set for the child's own good. Establishing self-discipline in him early is good.

Children will test their parents in every way they can. They will push to the limits they can go, but remember, they will accept authority if parents are firm. Parents must be consistent in handling their children. Love and discipline must go hand in hand. If they are not from the earliest days of a child's life, the child will

your comfort when he is criticized, but he must learn to make necessary corrections when he is wrong. He should learn to forget the sting of criticism and concentrate on its positive fruits. Your love will help him.

If one lets down in these areas, a child will become unresponsive both to his parents and his teachers at school. He'll become an expert at tuning out — he'll ignore directions and adjust poorly to situations.

Build confidence in your children. Don't talk to others about their faults and inner feelings. If a child knows that what he reveals to you from his heart goes out to others, he will stop

being open with you. Don't lay the foundation for a generation gap. Begin building family loyalty now.

Be highly interested

A parent should be highly interested in a child and all his

interests. This shouldn't be just a casual interest — the child will know the difference.

Children should be allowed to play near you when you are working, even though this leads to interruptions. Our job as parents is to train our children.

Answering their questions is a necessary part of this responsibility.

When the questions come at a time when you cannot answer, have the child wait. This is valuable training for school and later life. It develops patience and con-

Don't Neglect to Teach Your Children About God

By Dexter H. Faulkner

"Does God have a face?"
"Why can't I see God?"
"Why is this God's house?"
"Why is this day so special to God?"

When your child asks questions like these, what do you say?

God holds us responsible for teaching our children about His way. *And we can't start too soon!* We personally will to a tremendous degree determine what type of people our children will grow up to be. The Bible states, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Prov. 22:6, New International Version).

Here are some vital keys that will help us teach our youngsters the proper concept of God and God's ways.

Teach children what God is like

God reveals Himself as our Father. We can explain to our child that, just as we are his or her father, God is also a father, only much wiser and stronger. Tell him that a good father loves his children more than himself, provides them food, a place to sleep, toys to play with. A good father wants his children to be happy. In simple, everyday terms, we can show that just as we do these things for him, God does them for all His children, only more so.

Jesus called His followers friends

(John 15:13-14). Here is another everyday concept we can use to help our child understand God. While we are being a friend to our children — playing with them, building kites, taking bike rides — we can show what friendship with God is like.

We can use the physical creation to open our child's mind to the Creator's characteristics. Job 37-41, Isaiah 40 and many of the Psalms describe God's power and authority in terms of the creation. Point out how majestic mountains, rushing rivers and other spectacular natural phenomena show God's grandeur.

For a young child, we might reduce it to even simpler terms. Explain that God can move mountains and also the large rocks that neither the child nor we can move. As an example, during a thunderstorm, remind him that God's voice is like the thunder (Ps. 29:3-5). As we talk or reflect on God's great creation, we should try to find new and interesting ways to explain God's nature.

Our children will wonder what God looks like. Point out the many scriptures that mention His hands, eyes, face and other body parts, showing that we are made in His image. Also, show them that God laughs (Ps. 37:13), rejoices in helping His people (Jer. 32:41) and shows us boundless compassion (Matt. 23:37). This helps our children to come to know His personality.

Bible training

Remember God holds parents personally responsible for teaching children His way (Deut. 6:6-7). Can our child tell who built the Ark, or how the first man and woman came to be? As soon as our children begin to put



trol. It is good, too, because he has to remember his question, which is excellent preparation for school. If, however, these questions are left unanswered, we have let valuable learning experiences go by.

As time goes on you will notice

your child's personality developing. At age 2, some children are capable of using expressive language and building compound and complex sentences can be handled, though some youngsters do take a bit longer.

At age 2 a child has a speaking

vocabulary of about 200 words, but during the next three years it reaches 2,000. This shows the steady, rapid progress that can be made during these crucial preschool years.

Help your child put his
(Continued on page 29)

words together they can begin to comprehend these things.

We shouldn't rely on commercial Bible-story books, which tend to oversensationalize disjointed incidents without imparting any knowledge of God's plan. To teach our children about the Bible, we must be gaining a thorough knowledge of it ourselves through daily Bible study.

We should teach them with colorful, interesting stories. Without overfictionalizing, we can tell about what Jesus' childhood must have been like, or how David killed a lion while he was still a boy. "One day, as David's sheep grazed peacefully, they didn't know that a savage lion was lurking just 50 yards away . . ."

As a child grows, we can explain the Proverbs, illustrating one proverb at a time, using examples and anecdotes to apply it to the child's life. Or create hypothetical situations, asking the correct course of action based on the proverb.

Over and over, we should emphasize this principle: Obedience to God produces happiness and blessings; disobedience and rebellion bring unhappiness and punishment.

We should set aside a time daily to read to the child. A good time for this is just before bedtime. If we end stories on a note of suspense, they'll look forward to the next one. We can go over the "Stories From the New Testament" appearing in *The Good News*, or Basil Wolverton's *Bible Story*. Remember, we may have to tailor these stories to the child's understanding.

How to pray

In teaching our children to pray, we should first explain why we pray: to thank God, to credit Him with our many blessings, to ask Him for our own and others' needs.

We should teach children to pray by example, letting them hear us as we pray at mealtime, in the morning, in the evening. Gradually, as a child

learns to speak in short sentences, he can bow his head and repeat simple prayers after us.

Many opportunities for teaching about God and the Bible occur spontaneously. We should make the most of our mealtimes. For example, we can tell the children that God in His love for man provided good, delicious food. We can teach thankfulness and gratitude at the same time. The children can then more meaningfully participate when the blessing on the food is given.

As our children grow older, they can pray more detailed prayers, using their own words. We must be sure to praise and encourage — and, if they sometime get stuck, help them. As our children mature, they will understand more about to whom they are praying and what they are saying, but laying the foundation of how to pray at an early age is important.

We must be careful not to cause the child to deplore prayer time. We shouldn't embarrass him or laugh when he makes requests that seem humorous, but should respect his efforts, as God certainly does. We need to keep prayers short and enjoyable, never shutting a child in a room for a certain number of minutes to pray.

We should remember that different children's abilities to express themselves will vary at any given age. We must teach our children to be respectful, stopping them if they pray in a singsong voice or make intentionally silly requests. Teaching must be done with wisdom, balance, patience and example.

Teach about God's plan

Do our children understand why they were born? They deserve to. Parents ought to teach children the answers to life's most basic questions.

We can start by asking some easy questions. Why did God make chickens? If the children don't know, explain that the basic reason for

chickens is to give us meat and eggs to eat. Why did He make sheep? Point out that each animal has a specific purpose.

Then ask, "Why did God make people?" This is our chance to simply explain that God made us to someday be like Him.

A child won't grasp the meaning of being like God, so we should keep the explanation simple. But we should plant in his mind the progression from child to adult to God and impress upon him that in order to become God, we must obey God's laws and live God's way of life, which produces happiness.

Be aware that Satan will try his best to influence our children from birth. We must diligently fight his strong influence. New mothers, even when nursing or cuddling newborn children, should begin to rehearse God's truth by talking to their child about God and His greatness. This is also a great opportunity to include the older siblings in the conversation.

We are qualifying now for the Kingdom of God to teach others on a grander scale. As Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong put it to this year's Ambassador College graduating class: "The education of the future — I will say this, education will begin in the home and in the cradle. Parents will have to learn first how to teach infants in the first months of their lives, because infants are being taught by an invisible Satan self-centeredness and selfishness. . . . In the world tomorrow, education will begin in the cradle."

For those of us few and chosen parents, moms and dads, now is the time to be diligently teaching our children about God. □



STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Chapter 12

A Birthday Party Ends in Tragedy

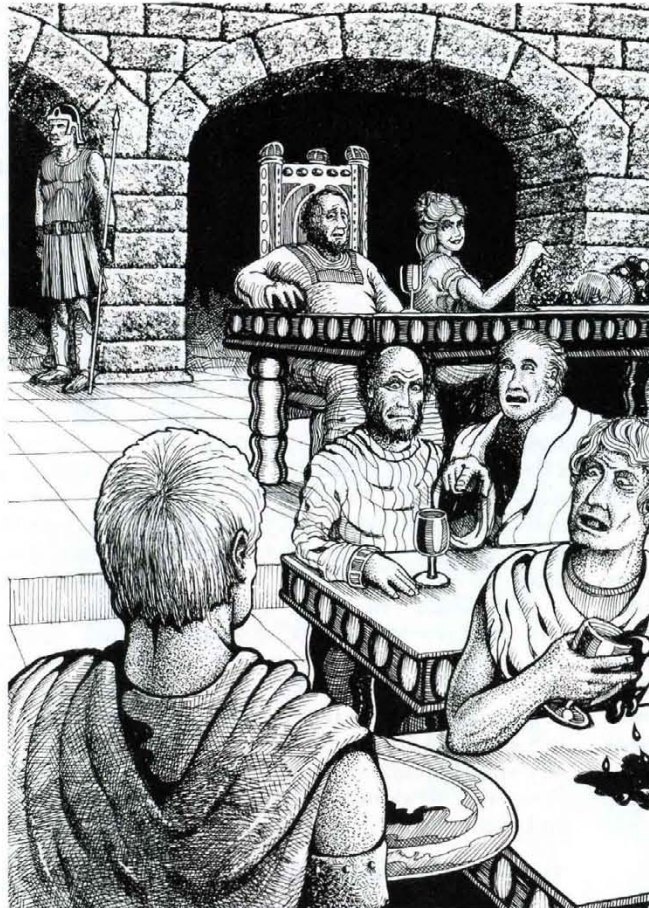
By Shirley King Johnson

The 12 disciples might well have felt some apprehension, though they may not have said anything, when Jesus announced to them that He was going to visit His mother. It was in Nazareth, after all, that the leaders of the synagogue had wanted to kill Him.

Jesus, however, seemed unworried about possible trouble, and set out for the village where He lived in His youth. The disciples followed, perhaps somewhat reluctantly.

Walking along with Jesus in the lead, the disciples divided into little groups of twos and threes. Judas, the treasurer and keeper of the money bags, stayed in the middle of the procession for fear, he said, of lurking highway robbers.

In Nazareth they found that the townspeople continued to be resentful. The



majority scorned the man they disparagingly called “the carpenter’s son.” They knew that His mother, brothers and sisters lived among them. Jesus was a mere “nobody” to them.

Jesus explained the attitude of the Nazarenes this way: “A prophet will be held in honor everywhere except in his own hometown, and by his own relatives” (Matt. 13:57, Mark 6:4).

Moving on to other villages, Jesus announced to the common people the good news that God’s

government would be established on earth.

The disciples are sent forth

After spending much time in prayer, He

Shock and disgust mingled on the faces of Herod’s guests when the servant returned with a platter.

Herodias' daughter began to dance Dazzled by her beauty, his brain dulled with drink, Herod beckoned for her . . . "I'll give you anything your heart desires," he told her . . .

sent His disciples out two by two. He gave them power over unclean spirits and instructed:

"Go and preach the Gospel. Explain that the Kingdom of my Father is going to be set up on earth. Heal the sick and cast out demons. Don't take any money or food with you on the journey; certain of those to whom you give this message will care for your needs. And those who don't receive you — well, there is a day of judgment coming."

Jesus told the disciples that He had not come to bring peace to earth, but that His Work would produce hostility. Family members would be turned against each other and households would be divided as some were called to this way of life and others were not.

The disciples listened in apprehension. Each doubted his own ability to work such miracles as Jesus described. But Jesus spoke confidently to them.

"Don't worry," He added, sensing their anxiety. "The Spirit of my Father will speak through you. When the time comes, you'll be given the right words to speak. You have freely received this truth. Now give of it freely."

Inspired by His positive attitude, the disciples paired off and went away to preach as He had preached and to heal as they had seen Him heal (Mark 6:12-13, Luke 9:1-2).

After the disciples departed, Jesus went on to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee where the disciples had lived (Matt. 11:1). The disciples were on His mind all the while and He spent much time in prayer for them.

The king plans a party

Herod Antipas, governor of Galilee, was the son of Herod the Great, who had ordered

all the boy babies killed at the time of Jesus' birth. Herod Antipas also ruled the nearby district of Peraea, which was south and east of Galilee across the Jordan River. When he had been in Rome he had met Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Philip. Desiring to have her for his own wife, Herod soon brought her back to Galilee.

John the Baptist had at once denounced the adulterous marriage, and vindictive Herodias influenced Herod to put John in prison (Matt. 14:3, Mark 6:17).

When Herod's birthday came, he held a party in honor of himself. He invited a great many government and military officials from throughout the area.

Herod grew more exhilarated and puffed up as plans for his party were put into action. A central room was decorated with imported plants and lighted with hanging oil lamps. Musicians arrived and struck up lively music. When the banqueting began the many tables were lined with important people. Wine flowed freely.

In the midst of the reveling, Herodias's daughter began to dance, twirling and gliding with great skill. Soon every eye was upon her. Dazzled by her beauty, his brain dulled with drink, Herod beckoned for her to come to his table when she had concluded the dance.

"I'll give you anything your heart desires," he told her, leaning across the table. "What will it be?"

A deadly request

The girl hesitated. "Let me have a moment to think about it." Whirling, she flitted to her mother's table and she and her mother had a quiet conversation. She glided back to Herod. "I've decided what I want to ask for."

"Speak, child. Whatever you ask is

The girl lowered her eyes. "Give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter" . . . Herod's face changed. . . . "You promised!" Herod looked left and right. . . . "Yes. I did promise."

yours, even to half of my kingdom." The girl lowered her eyes. "Give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter" (Matt. 14:8, Mark 6:25).

A quick gasp came from the listeners at the tables. Herod's face changed. His mouth dropped and his eyes opened wider. He leaned forward, staring into her face to see if she were joking. She was not. "You don't — you can't mean that! He is a holy man!" Herod had enjoyed listening to John and felt that John's message made a certain amount of sense, though much of it confused him.

"I want his head!" She flung her hair back from her shoulders in a haughty gesture. "You promised!"

Herod looked left and right. Every guest's attention was fastened on him. What could he say? "Yes. I did promise."

He signaled to an attendant. The servant hurried over and listened as Herod gave a lengthy order that concerned the chief executioner. The servant nodded and went on out.

His hands trembling, Herod raised a cup to his lips. He tried to appear nonchalant — after all, he was in charge here! But his eyes were on his wife Herodias. She had put her daughter up to this — he saw that in her sullen eyes. And now he had to carry out the foolish promise he had made.

As he ground his teeth together in helpless remorse, Herodias raised her cup toward him and smiled.

"Happy birthday, m'lord!" she called out.

The birthday banquet went on. The guests went back to their reveling. Talking and laughter grew louder as more food and wine were brought in. A large roast was served, along with melons filled with nuts and berries.

Herod felt a sudden draft on his feet as an outside door opened. The servant had returned and he carried a platter. On the platter . . .

Herod lunged to his feet. "Don't bring that to me," he commanded, barely concealing his disgust and a growing nausea inside him. "It's hers."

He pointed to his wife's daughter. "Give that to her."

Herod left the banquet hall soon thereafter, feeling a strange but overwhelming sense of sadness and loss. □

LIVING LESSONS

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You Were Born to Rule!

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

In our previous study, we discovered the astounding fact that God is in the process of expanding His Family — that God is actually reproducing Himself through human beings.

Exactly how is God accomplishing this miraculous feat? When can we become literal members of His Family? What is it like to have a spirit body? And what will you be doing forever as a member of the Family of God? This exciting study reveals the surprising answers.

As we learned last issue, human reproduction pictures the process by which God is reproducing Himself. Recall that Jesus told Nicodemus we must be “born again” to become members of God’s Family (John 3:3-8).

Each human since Adam and Eve started from a tiny ovum, the size of a pinpoint, produced in his or her mother’s body. But unless the egg is fertilized by a life-giving sperm cell from the human father, the egg dies within a short time. A human life can begin only when that sperm cell impregnates or enters the ovum.

Spiritually speaking, each human mind is like an egg. Each of us was born incomplete and able to live only a relatively short time. We were made to need the impregnating spiritual life of God’s Holy Spirit in our minds so we could begin growing spiritually before being born of the Spirit and living forever.

1. Are true Christians already, during this mortal life, God’s children? I John 3:1-2. Are they therefore inheritors of God’s Kingdom, or only “heirs” to it? Rom. 8:14-17.

Notice that although they are now the children of God, Christians are only heirs — ones who shall, in the future, inherit the glory of God’s Family with Jesus Christ. Why only heirs? Because they are now only Spirit-begotten children. It is when they are *born* of God that they become members of God’s Family.

2. Must the Spirit-begotten child of God grow spiritually before being born of God, much like a newly begotten human must grow physically in its mother’s womb until it is born? II Pet. 3:18, I Pet. 2:1-2.

After God the Father begets a person by

imparting His spiritual life to that person’s mind (upon true repentance of sin and then water baptism), the person must begin to grow in spiritual character. This growth comes about through Bible study, prayer and walking with God through obedience to Him. Thus all Spirit-begotten Christians are now the unborn children of God the Father in the same sense that an unborn human fetus is the child of its human parents.

3. When will the Christian’s spiritual birth take place? I Cor. 15:50-53. When will the resurrection occur? I Thess. 4:15-17. Will those thus resurrected be like God? Ps. 17:15. Of what is God composed? John 4:24. Will Christians be changed to spirit at the resurrection? I Cor. 15:42-49. See also I John 3:2 and Philippians 3:20-21.

When Jesus Christ returns to earth, the Spirit-begotten sons of God who have died through the ages will be resurrected, and those still alive will be instantly changed into spirit beings. At that moment, they will be “born again” as members of God’s own Family. And God’s own offspring will then have eternal life inherent within themselves — just like Jesus Christ their elder brother.

4. To what did Jesus compare one who is born of the Spirit? John 3:8.

When you are “born again,” born of the Spirit of God, you will be invisible to mortal eyes unless you choose to manifest yourself. The effects of the wind are easily discernible, but the wind itself cannot be seen.

5. After His resurrection, was Jesus, with His spirit-composed body, able to suddenly appear and disappear? Luke 24:36-37. Was He able to pass through walls? John 20:19, 26. Can one composed of spirit transform himself into mortal flesh and bone when necessary, and even eat if he so desires? Luke 24:38-43.

6. Are spirit bodies capable of traveling through space faster than light? Compare John 20:17, 19-20 with Matthew 28:9. Earlier in the day Christ would not let His disciples touch Him because He had not yet ascended to heaven. But later that day He did allow them to touch

MINISTRY

Him. Christ traveled to the Father in heaven and returned to earth on the same day.

"Truth is stranger than fiction," goes the old saying. The marvelous, exciting truth about your awesome potential as revealed in the Bible pales into nothingness any science fiction thriller you could read!

7. Was Jesus "glorified" again after His resurrection? John 17:4-5, Heb. 2:9. Had He previously given His disciples a fleeting glimpse of this glorified condition? Matt. 17:1-2. How does Christ's glorified body appear today? Rev. 1:13-16.

To be "glorified" means to be given great power and brightness. Jesus Christ had a glorious, powerful spirit body like His Father's before He became a human being. After His resurrection, He was restored to the same power and glory. Christ's face and powerful spirit body now radiate light as the sun in full strength, with eyes blazing like flames of fire.

8. Will God also glorify all of His Spirit-begotten children at the resurrection by giving them this same great power and glory? Rom. 8:17, Col. 3:4, Dan. 12:2-3.

The ultimate glory that Spirit-begotten children of God are to receive at the resurrection will be so great it will make them shine like brilliant stars. But that's only a part of what God has in store for those who cooperate with Him in developing God's own character while yet human beings.

9. What will the sons of God begin to do after becoming part of His spirit Family? Rev. 3:21, 2:26, 5:10, 20:4-6.

The Kingdom of God is a ruling Family. And those who become a part of that Family are destined to rule the earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years. They will become kings and priests, ruling and teaching in the world-ruling Kingdom of God!

Billions of people will learn to live God's way and be born into His ruling Family during this period. Then, after the Millennium, still more billions who died without knowing of God's way of life will be resurrected and given the opportunity to become sons of God. This period of "judgment" (Rev. 20:11-13) will, apparently, last 100 years (Isa. 65:20).

These additional billions will be added to God's spirit Family at the conclusion of God's plan for physical mankind.

It has been estimated that 40 billion people may have lived from the time of Adam until now. It would be difficult to accurately estimate the number of people who will yet be born and enter

God's Kingdom during the Millennium and Great White Throne judgment periods. There no doubt will be multiple billions.

But let's suppose that 200,000,000,000 (200 billion) are ultimately born into God's Family. Since God is always busy working, creating and sustaining what He has created (John 5:17), He knows His sons could not be happy unless busy working and producing. And so what could keep this incredibly huge Family of God Beings busy for eternity?

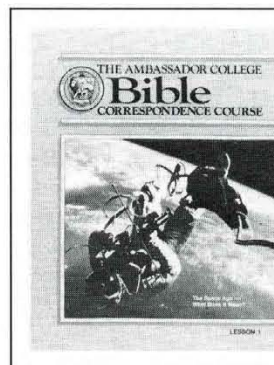
10. Just how great is the authority Jesus Christ has already inherited? Heb. 1:1-2, Matt. 28:18. Will those who are born into God's Family share in that inheritance as co-owners and co-rulers with Christ? Rom. 8:16-17, Rev. 21:7. And will God's government continue to expand for all eternity? Isa. 9:6-7, Rev. 22:5.

The Moffatt translation renders "all things" in Hebrews 1:2 as "the universe." Incredible as it may sound, your ultimate potential and the potential of every human being is corulership of the universe with Jesus Christ and God the Father!

But is there really enough "out there" for our estimated number of 200 billion spirit sons of God to rule?

Astronomers estimate that there are more than 40,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (40 sextillion) stars that are suns to other planets. This figure is virtually impossible to comprehend. If our estimate of 200 billion sons of God is accurate, that means each member of God's Family would be responsible for maintaining and developing 200 billion stars and their attendant planets. Those stars and planets would make up a galaxy twice the estimated size of our own Milky Way galaxy!

This is your awesome potential — the glorious destiny God has in store for those who seek to do His will and follow His way. Yes, you were born to rule! □



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Repentance

(Continued from page 8)

repentant believer comes roaring out of this emotional turmoil raring to do something about it all.

Let's notice these qualities:

"For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you" (II Cor. 7:11).

Carefulness encompasses the diligent, circumspect, intense habits the genuinely repentant believer practices. He is wary. He wants to avoid the same sins springing up again (II Pet. 2:20). The really repentant aren't involved in the same sins again, at least as a life pattern or habitual walk. A motorist pardoned from the penalty of a speeding ticket is careful. He doesn't gleefully charge off to speed again. The lesson sinks home.

"Yea, what clearing of yourselves."

How true! The deeply sorry, sincerely broken-up individual now eagerly seeks God's approval. He wants to be totally absolved of guilt. He is disgusted with himself for allowing sin to "lord it over him," and he energetically applies himself to the advice and counsel that will help him not miss the mark again (Ps. 63:1).

"Yea, what indignation!"

It is maddening to see how Satan subtly cons us into collapsing before temptation. Satan's ploy is to deceive us into thinking that the satisfaction we derive from sensual enjoyment is more worthwhile in the short run than the thrill we can feel from resisting temptation and making real progress in our personal lives.

Don't fall for this "cunning craftiness," this devilish sleight of hand (Eph. 4:14). Abhor and despise the temporary "pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:25). The real, repentant Christian is infuriated at Satan's victories against his own attempts to overcome.

"Yea, what fear."

Fear is a vital component in real repentance. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). Once we

understand that God considers Sabbath breaking as wrong as murder, adultery and stealing, we should fear to disobey (Heb. 12:28). We will want to flee the folly and distraction involved in worldly, pagan holidays like Christmas, Easter and Halloween once we deeply grasp the cunning deception involved.

We should recoil instantly from sin (I Cor. 6:18). Otherwise our conscience slowly hardens and we end up half enjoying the sins we should hate. This is serious! Unless we dramatically wrench ourselves from some sins we can slowly become amoral creatures, conscienceless reprobates whom even God cannot shake up (Matt. 5:29-30). Godly fear helps yank us out of this attitude (Matt. 10:28).

"Yea, what vehement desire."

The spirit of our drifting, caloused, noncommittal generation affects us all. Vehement desire changes this. The casual "I suppose I should do something about this sometime" melts before the burning, pressing desire of the truly repentant to shake up his life, get back on track and stay there.

"Yea, what zeal."

The genuine Christian isn't a spiritual cliffhanger, edging as close to the spiritual abyss as possible. The repentant believer deeply feels the need to put as much distance between himself and his sins as possible. The invincible power of God's Spirit gives one a conquering, formidable zeal.

King David of ancient Israel, even in the inky blackness of despair over his capital sins of adultery and murder, found relief only in real repentance. Psalm 51 is his emotion-etched expression of that crucial event in his life.

David came storming out of that experience bursting with zeal, overflowing with godly projects as an expression of his thanks to God (verses 13-19). David's enthusiasm, triggered by his gratitude to God for showing him mercy, helped seal his repentance. He threw himself into God's Work even more.

"Yea, what revenge."

Exactly. David bounced back from his sins. The apostle Peter's cowardly rejection of his Lord and Savior shook him to the depths of his being (Luke 22:61-62). It was a different Peter on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 31 helping move 3,000 people to real repentance (Acts 2:36). Peter's conviction and intensity flowed in part from his determination to "revenge all disobedience" (II Cor. 10:6).

Are you holding back?

How about you?

If you have read this far you must surely realize that it is no shame at all to kneel before your Creator, your Savior, your Lord and Ruler, and to really mean it when you say, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

Real repentance. It is that catalytic key step on the road to real life — the road to eternity (Luke 15:21-24).

So how about it? Do you still only agree halfway with God? Do you resent the concerned direction and authority you receive from this Work?

Do you still say, "Well, here's the way I look at it."

Do you hold back? Do you still retain sovereignty over part of your inner nature? Those of you who really understand should know by now that this is God's Work, not that of men (Acts 5:38-39). Those of you who feel pricked in the heart by the promptings of God's Spirit as you study our publications should begin to respond.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit can be inside you, illuminating your understanding, giving you a richer contact with the God Family, setting you on the road to your eternal destiny — a life of accomplishment, service and usefulness in the coming Kingdom of God.

It all begins with that first step: the willingness to admit, the honesty to confess, the strength and wisdom to agree, that we just didn't *do* wrong, but that we *are* wrong. This is real repentance. □

Is Jesus God?

(Continued from page 1)

disciples, 'Who do men say that the Son of man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven' (Matt. 16:13-17, RSV).

Jesus, in nature, is equal with God — "Jesus: who, existing in God's form, counted not the *being on an equality with God* ought to be grasped at, but emptied himself . . . being made in likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6, Panin translation).

He is *called* God in Titus 2:10, 13. Therefore He *is* God. The Bible contains so much on these points that the above is a mere fragment of the evidence.

Yes, Jesus is also "Jehovah," although this word is a *mistranslation* used in the American Standard Version. The original name, in the Hebrew, contained the consonants *YHVH*. In writing in Hebrew, vowels were omitted, supplied only in speaking. Thus the precise pronunciation of the name is not definitely known, but today it is commonly assumed to be *Yahveh* or *Yahweh*.

The *meaning*, in English, is "THE ETERNAL" or "THE EVER-LIVING" or the "SELF-EXISTENT." It is commonly supposed that *Yahveh* or, as commonly called, "Jehovah" or, as in the Authorized Version, "The LORD" of the Old Testament was God the FATHER of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

Yahveh was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to ancient Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not" (John 1:10).

Neither did they know God the

Father (Matt. 11:27, Luke 10:22, Panin). "No one knoweth . . . who the Father is, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to REVEAL him."

In Genesis 1, the Hebrew name translated "God" is *Elohim*. This is a uniplural name, such as *church* or *family*. A church or a family consists of more than one person, yet is *one* church, or *one* family.

In this same sense *Elohim* — the God Kingdom — includes both God the Father and *Yahveh*, who was the *Logos* or the WORD of God, and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the LIFE, CHARACTER and POWER of God.

Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might "be ONE as we are one" (John 17:11, 21, Moffatt translation). The Church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

this is a long study involving hundreds of passages.

As a fragment of the evidence, compare Isaiah 8:13-14 with I Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, "The LORD of hosts" — *YHVH* — shall be "a stone of stumbling" and "a rock of offence." Peter said, in *quoting* this text in reference to *Christ*, He is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence." Jesus is the LORD — the Eternal of the Old Testament.

Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Matthew 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before *Yahveh* (Isa. 40:3) who was *CHRIST* (Mark 1:14-15).

In Revelation 1:17 we read: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last." And in verse 8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Again Revelation 22:13, "I am

Elohim . . . is a uniplural name, such as church or family. A church or a family consists of more than one person . . . In this same sense Elohim . . . includes both God the Father and Yahveh . . .

The word *God* has two meanings — the God Kingdom or the God Family, AND the *persons* composing that Kingdom or Family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, *not two* Gods — one *Elohim*. That is why *Elohim* said, "Let us make man in OUR image" (Gen. 1:26).

Yahveh was the "WORD" or Spokesman of the Godhead — its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always *Yahveh* who spoke (translated "LORD" in the Authorized and "Jehovah" in the American Standard Version — see Genesis 2:16, 18 and Exodus 20:2). Almost always it is *Yahveh* in the original Hebrew — the "WORD" who was made flesh. The proof of

the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (RSV). Study also Revelation 22:16 for proof it was *Jesus* speaking.

Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god'" (RSV).

Now turn to Isaiah 48:11-12, RSV. "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. 'Hearken to me, O Jacob, and Israel,

whom I called! I am He, I am the first, and I am the last." Verses 17-18 show it was *Yahveh* speaking.

And also in Isaiah 41:4, RSV: "Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He." All of these scriptures show that *Yahveh* is the first and last. Christ is the *Yahveh* of the Old Testament.

Christ is the ROCK — the God of the Old Testament

In I Corinthians 10:4, the "Rock" of the Old Testament is called Christ: "For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was *Christ*" (verse 4, RSV).

Notice also II Samuel 22:2-3, RSV: "He said, 'The LORD [Yahveh] is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; thou savest me from violence.'" See also verse 32.

In Psalm 18:1-2, *this* same "ROCK" is *Yahveh*. When Moses was talking to *Yahveh*, and asked Him His name (Ex. 3:4-5, 13), He answered that His name was "I AM" (verses 6, 14) and *Yahveh* — the Eternal One (verse 15). See also Exodus 6:2-3.

In John 18:5-8, as soon as Jesus identified Himself to the mob led by Judas as "I AM" (the "he" in italics is added without inspiration, and was not in the original), they went backward and fell to the ground.

Again in John 8:56-58, Jesus called Himself "I AM." For we read, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, *I am*" (verse 58).

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42, RSV, contains this:

"They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that

this is indeed the SAVIOR of the world.'"

"But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a *Savior*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20, RSV). Read also Titus 2:10-14, Luke 1:68-69.

That Jesus, the Savior, is *Yahveh*. See Isaiah 49:26 and 60:16, where He — *Yahveh* — is also "the mighty One of Jacob" (to be OF Jacob means a son or descendant of Jacob) — the mighty One of all Jacob's children.

Also, in Isaiah 48:17, *Yahveh* is called the *Redeemer*, and "the Holy One of Israel" — the One of Israel who is holy! The same is expressed in Isaiah 43:14: "Thus saith the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Also note the next verse (15): *Yahveh* is Israel's Holy One, Creator of Israel, Israel's King.

Now notice in Acts 3:14-15 that the Christ who was denied was the same "HOLY ONE" — *Yahveh*! "But ye denied the Holy and Righteous One . . . the Prince

shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief *Shepherd* is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (I Pet. 5:2-4, RSV).

It is JESUS CHRIST who is coming again in person as KING of kings to rule, and to RESTORE.

In Revelation 19:13-15, RSV, John writes: "He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. . . . From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty."

And again John writes, "They will make war on the *Lamb*, and the *Lamb* [Christ] will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful" (Rev. 17:14, RSV).

The great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King of kings

The word *God* has two meanings — the God Kingdom or the God Family, AND the *persons* composing that Kingdom or Family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, *not two Gods* — one *Elohim*.

of life" (Panin). See also Acts 2:27 and Mark 1:24.

Christ was David's shepherd

Who was David's *shepherd* (Ps. 23:1)?

In John 10:11, Jesus said *He* was the Shepherd. Open your Bible also to Hebrews 13:20, RSV: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great *shepherd* of the sheep."

Compare this text with I Peter 2:25, RSV, which says, "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the *Shepherd* and Guardian of your souls." We also read: "Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for

is *Yahveh*. "And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God" — *Yahveh* or Christ! See Ezekiel 34:11, 30-31.

Now notice Isaiah 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4. "It shall come to pass . . . that the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord's [*Yahveh's*] house shall be established in the top of the mountains [kingdoms]" — ruling the world. "And he [*Yahveh* — Christ] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people," and then they shall have PEACE.

In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD *Yahveh* — the Eternal — is Jesus Christ. Clearly, Jesus is the God of the Old Testament. □

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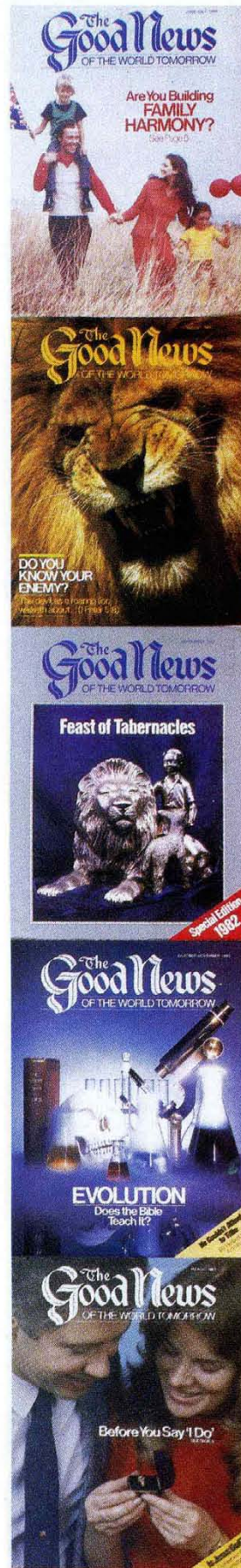
The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

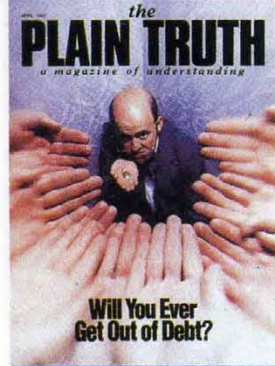
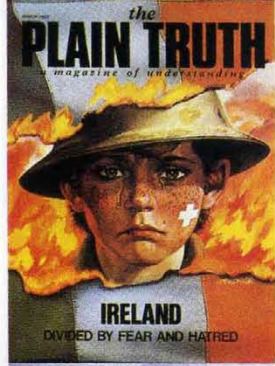
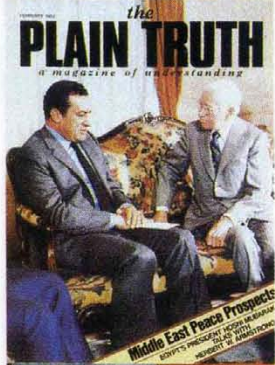
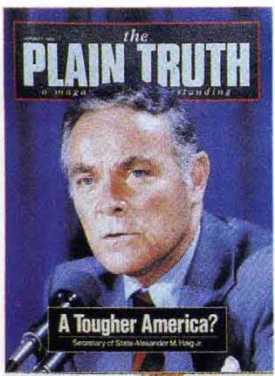
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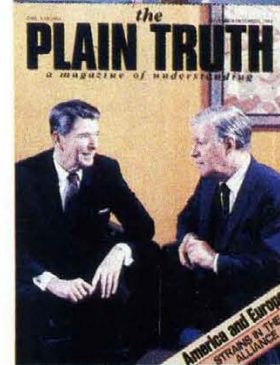
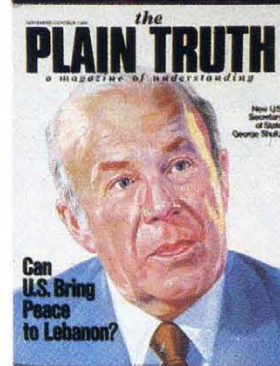
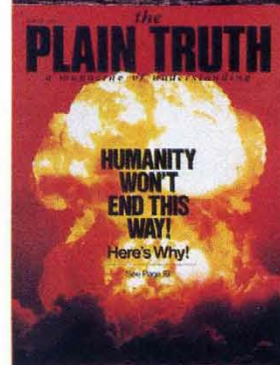
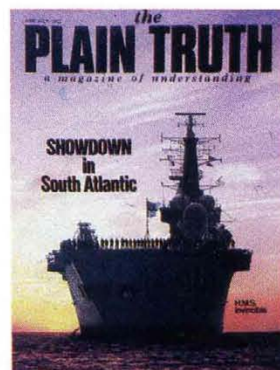
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School?

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responses into words. Don't let him get away with nodding or pointing. Have him speak in correct, full sentences.

In all teaching, we should remember: A child will live up to our expectations. If we have a low standard, he'll settle for that. If it's a high one, he will reach it.

At his level, your child should learn to work for results. But teach and train in a positive, happy, warm, loving way. You shouldn't allow yourself to get so overburdened with other tasks that impatience sets in. Have time for laughter and fun. Make family life enjoyable.

Your child's play

Play is important in the life of a child. But he must be provided with the right needs at the right time.

Play experiences can help develop your child's tastes, maturity and personality. Through play a child rehearses patterns of living. Play is the child's work — it is a main activity. If proper experiences are offered, a child is likely to transfer much of the pleasure of his play into what we call work.

Select toys that are big and well made. Some toys can be made from wood or cans with plastic tops. Children enjoy cardboard boxes, too — boxes make fine trains and buses.

Many parents overlook this important principle: the smaller the child, the bigger the play materials. Large sheets of paper, large brushes, wallpaper remnants and newspaper provide wonderful materials for craft work that will help develop coordination. Jumbo-sized crayons and pencils are good.

Scissors should be round ended, but really cut. This is the time to teach proper use of sharp objects, and your child should soon be quite safe with them.

Don't expect perfect results from your child's craft activities.

It is not the result that counts at this time, but the activity.

From your cloth remnants, you can cut odd bits of material and have your child match the pieces. Teach him to feel the difference between wool, cotton, silk, nylon and other fabrics.

Don't forget to have him clean up. This is necessary training that is often not stressed enough.

Your child should have a big ball. Coordination, timing and agility are positive results of properly playing with a ball. If he has difficulty, start by throwing soiled clothes to him to put in the hamper.

Outdoor play is excellent for health and coordination. A swing, climbing frame, an old tire tied from a branch provide a wide variety of stretching, pulling, growing activities. Allow for a few minor mishaps — the child will soon learn to avoid them.

In games with others, a child should be taught that winning is not as important as being a good sport. Games offer a tremendous opportunity to teach good sportsmanship and face disappointment gracefully. He should be taught to always put forth his best effort and to cheerfully cooperate with others.

Splashing in an outdoor tub or pool can teach the child much about the properties of water. As he plays with jars, funnels and bubble pipes he will learn that some objects sink and others float. (Of course, he should never be left unattended — not for a second.)

A sandbox complete with rakes, sieves and shovels allows a child to construct. He can discover such concepts as wet and dry volume, weight and shapes. This is wonderful training for elementary math.

Under your supervision only, give your child large beads to thread. Watch carefully to make sure that the child doesn't put these in his nose or mouth.

Have him pick berries, fold napkins, sort out Daddy's nails, screws, bolts. Provide clay or, better yet, pastry to knead. This can be part of Mother's baking

day. These activities help develop strength in hands and fingers, as do different types of construction sets. Good penmanship starts here, too.

The importance of listening

Your child should learn to be quiet at certain times of the day. The ability to be quiet and sit still when necessary will help him immensely at school and elsewhere. The inability to listen is one of the greatest lacks I have found among children.

Teach him to listen, to really concentrate and give his undivided attention to you when you are speaking. Play listening games. Have your child listen for something specific such as an alarm clock ring, a recorded announcement or weather reports.

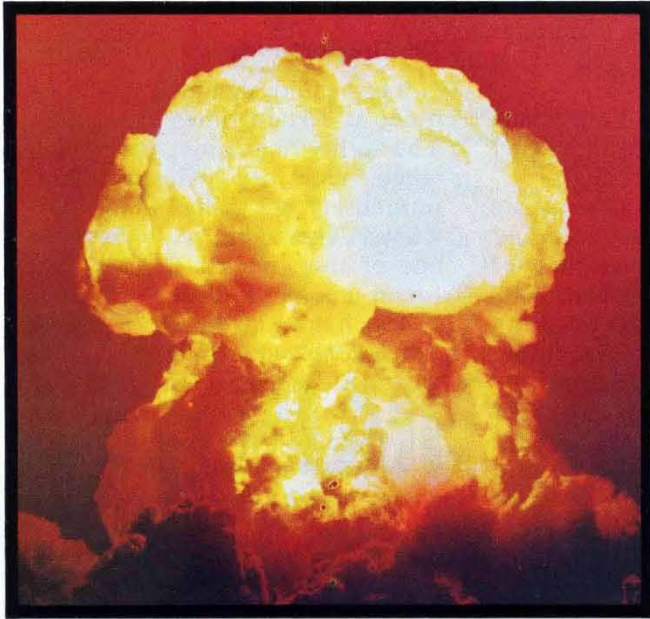
Start by having your child listen for a minute or two at a time. Make sure his eyes are on you. Then ask a question concerning what you had just covered. Praise him with: "What a good boy you are! Those ears just catch every one of Mommy's words!" A big hug will be in order.

You will develop by experience the ability to know how much your child is able to take in and reiterate in answer form. When you feel it's too easy for him, add information, always expanding his knowledge and understanding. Extend his listening time to several minutes by the time he's near 5 years old. If you've been doing your part, he'll respond enthusiastically.

As you are teaching him to listen, this is a perfect time to read to your child. How to effectively teach reading skills, develop other vital areas of preschool training and prepare your child for the first days of school will be covered in future articles. □

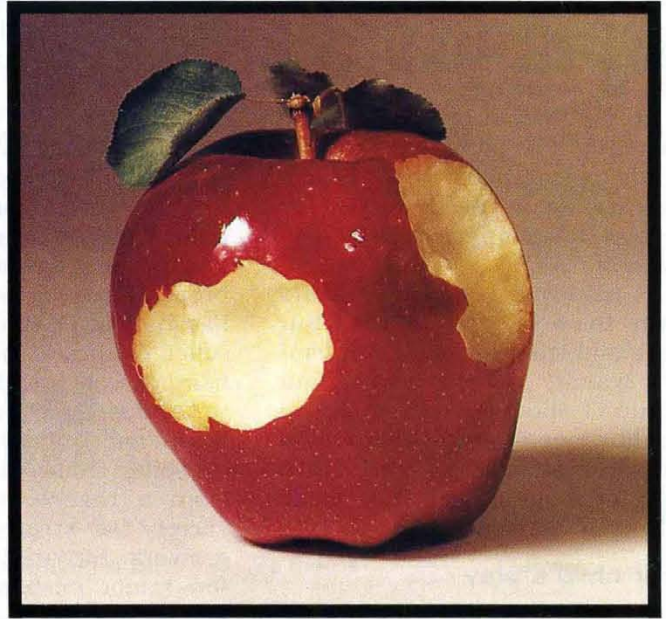
Joan C. Bogdanchik has taught at the elementary level in both public and private schools. She taught at Imperial Schools in Bricket Wood, England, from 1970 to 1976 and is a member of the faculty at Imperial Schools in Pasadena, Calif.

EFFECT:

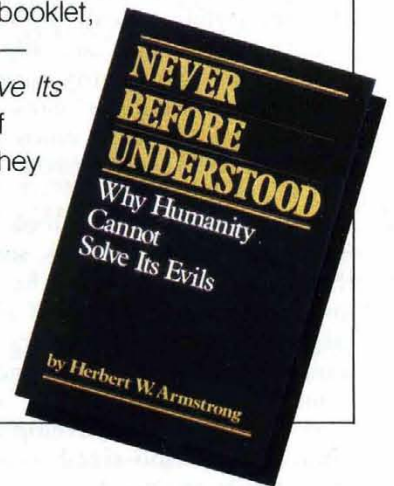


Mankind today stands at the brink of a nuclear world war that could erase all life from earth! And this, unbelievable as it seems, in the face of astonishing materialistic progress! Scientific and technical knowledge has produced awesome achievements, but human knowledge production has also brought humanity to the brink of extinction. Why the paradox? Why do we lack the know-how to solve world troubles? What is the ■■■

CAUSE:



■■■ missing dimension in human knowledge? It all started long ago, with two trees. The first humans made a fateful choice. They could have chosen the tree of life, which would have provided hope, joy, abundance and eternal life. But they took the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that decision has led to the multiple crises that even now threaten annihilation. The tree of life was taken from man for 6,000 years. Our free booklet, *Never Before Understood — Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*, explains the cause of world problems and how they ultimately will be solved.



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