



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Official Newspaper of the Church of God International

Vol. 34, No. 2

"Put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13)

Summer, 2013

The First Commandment—I'm All In!

by John Coish



John Coish

I see the confusion and sometimes the painful destruction from people who do not understand or who seem incapable of changing their pattern or beliefs to something more positive. I also see the conflict and needless sorrow people have who cannot commit to God.

For instance, I love to respond to someone in the world who says the Old Covenant is of little or no value to us today, because I know it has great value. I love to respond when someone seems discouraged and hopeless as if they were predestined to failure. God wants you to see the hope that lies before you.

In this article, though, I want to talk about the number of people who are perpetual visitors of the church. Some of them are children who grow up and never get baptized. They may fully agree with the church and would be quick to defend the commandments and testimony of Jesus, but they never get baptized. Some are spouses of members who regularly attend or occasionally attend, but while they agree with our understanding of what God expects of us and the awesome destiny God wants for mankind, they never ask to be baptized. Others are truly perpetual visitors, almost as if being close is good enough.

These people have always intrigued me in that I have regularly tried to examine my deliveries and messages to determine how I might motivate them to action. I have prayed for the words, the passion, the love, or whatever is needed. I have tried to come at this subject in various ways—and this is my latest attempt.

If you are one of the people mentioned above, may God's Word grace your heart with a fire to commit your life to Him.

Acts 16:30–31: "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"

It seems easy enough. Many of those people mentioned above believe in what we teach as being the truth. Yet that belief is not translated into the action of baptism. Why?

Luke 18:18–23: "Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' So Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness," "Honor your father and your mother."' And he said, 'All these things I have kept from my youth.' So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich."

Here is someone who acts like he is a part of the church, growing up in the church, yet he fails to inherit eternal life. It doesn't seem fair to some people. They will look at this guy and think they know a lot of baptized people who probably aren't as "good" as him. They weren't asked to sell everything they have. It's just not fair.

The answer Jesus gives is that no one is good but God. That comment reflects on the need for all of us to come under the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Comparing yourself to another is futile when all of us fall short on our own.

Second, the commandments are the moral code that we should follow.

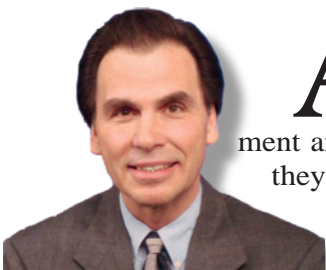
Third, the request Jesus made of him was to demonstrate to him that he had not kept ALL of the

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The China Factor— It's Gaining Momentum!

China is gaining strength and exploring political options, raising concern from prominent economists and world leaders, primarily due to its targeting of the United States—its technological, military, and economic prowess—and its apparent effort to bring down and collapse America's infrastructure. China is also exploring ways to replace the U.S. dollar with an alternate currency as the world's standard reserve denomination. Are these serious concerns? Does China actually present such a potential upset to the world's geopolitical structure and in particular, that of the United States?

by Bill Watson



Bill Watson

According to officials in Beijing, China has lost approximately \$271 billion by holding U.S. Treasuries from 2003 through 2010. It is estimated by China's National Development and Reform Commission that they will lose another \$580 billion if they continue to hold this enormous amount of U.S. debt! That equates to a little less than approximately 50 percent of their total U.S. treasury holdings. Obviously, they are not happy about this, and from recent moves on their part, it appears steps are being taken to proactively explore alternatives to protect their U.S. investment.

In an article printed in the *International Business Times*, it was reported China and Russia entered into a contract to change the Petrodollar Agreement (the requirement that nations buying oil from Middle Eastern oil producing countries must pay in U.S. dollars). China initiated efforts to modify this agreement, and is appealing for allowing oil to be paid with an alternate currency—presenting the question, *what* and *whose* currency will it be?

The United States federal government now owns approximately \$0.32 for every dollar of U.S. debt. Yes, that's right, we own just less than 30 percent of our own debt—\$4.6 trillion in actual dollars, as of November, 2012. Another approximately \$11 trillion

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The Other Half

by Vivian Hall



Vivian Hall obtained mercy, though little is recorded about her.

Later, Scripture tells us that God made a promise to the man Abraham. Many do not remember that He also made a promise to Abraham's wife, Sara. Equally they obtained grace and mercy. The fulfilled event affected all mankind.

We know man was created first and is the head. That fact does not take away from the fact that a woman has a part. If indeed her role is submission, is man then not obligated to wisely lead?

When Jesus walked the earth, He talked and interacted with both male and female. Instances are the disciples, the blind man He healed, and the man with leprosy. He also talked with the woman at the well, to Martha, and to the Mary's. Both male and female spread what He did and said! Did not a woman dream that the leader should not harm the righteous Jesus (Matthew 27:19)? That fact is seldom mentioned. Did she have a valid point?

What, if anything, can we glean from these things? Women want to be considered and acknowledged—not necessarily acclaimed—not for chaos and misadventure, but for beauty and grace brought with her feminine presence.

We consider Samuel, esteemed as a patriot and prophet who influenced royal leaders. Was not Samuel brought to be through Hanna, whose petitions were her great desire to give to God?

Women have always been used of God in important ways. Let us then strive in unity to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling." Men, please help us!

The Other Half in Order

You were made before we came to be.

Do not continue to muzzle us for the sin of the fruit of the tree!

We are fully aware we sometimes fail.

Aid us in our quest to prevail!

Our goal is THE KINGDOM, same as you.

We welcome righteous leadership by what you do.

Accept us, the weaker vessel, as we struggle and wrestle,

With temptations in our way, striving to overcome day by day.

Stay our hands, NOT our heart! Encourage us to attempt our part.

Vivian Hall



The Church of God International Has An Open Church Policy

The Church of God International is an open church. We do not "screen" people to see if they are "righteous enough" or "knowledgeable enough" to attend. We do not have a hierarchical "top-down" form of church government. We believe in servant leadership, as advocated by Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:42–44; Luke 22:25–27). Everyone is welcome. We have many people attending who are new in the faith. Please be aware that some may not always keep each of God's laws as they should, and some may not believe everything we teach. We pray that they may be strengthened through the services we render and the examples we set as they come to a closer walk with their God. We request that you be neither judgmental nor base your standard for obedience on what you see your brother do. Christ is our standard, not weak and sinful men or women. Always remember that you will be judged for what *you* do, not what others do. Your job is to pray for them, set the right example, and please God our Father and Jesus Christ in all that you think, say, and do.

Be sure to send for your copy of our revised free booklet, *Welcome to The Church of God International!* You'll be glad you did.

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"Welcome to the Church of God International!"

The Church of God International sponsors the *Armor of God* telecast, provides written material on a wide range of biblical topics, and has congregations in the United States, Canada, Jamaica, the Philippines, and Australia, with affiliates in other parts of the world. We invite you to find out more about us, our purpose and mission, our beliefs, and our customs. Send for our newly revised booklet, *Welcome to the Church of God International!* Simply send your request to:

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Our Great Commission

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19–20).

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THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS 3900 TIMMS ST., TYLER, TX 75701

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commandments. There was one in particular that was a problem, the first one. *You shall have no other God.* What does that mean?

The first commandment is about giving up your life to follow God. It is the same as the poker player saying, “I’m all in.” There is nothing else. There is no “one foot in and one foot out.” It is about giving your life to God. It is a 100 percent commitment.

Like the rich man, the group of people I talked about above agrees with everything, but lacks the commitment. It is like a guy who dates the same woman for 10 years but won’t get engaged. He may think she is wonderful and he gets along with her well, but there is no future together without the commitment.

The first stop in baptismal counseling is usually Luke 14:26–27, 33: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

So what stops us from making such a commitment?

Some hear of a specific action or comment that stirred another’s interest in God and think they haven’t had that “*Aha!*” moment. On the other hand, I think they missed the point of those stories or testimonies. The real moment in their lives is the moment they made a commitment to God, not the moment that started them on a journey to find God. That time of commitment is like the time one decides to be engaged. Most people can remember that moment for the rest of their lives. I imagine most can remember the moment they committed to God for the rest of their lives because something changes for us at that moment. A peace comes over us that we can’t necessarily explain, but it happens. That commitment doesn’t negate our need to be baptized any more than an engagement ring negates the wedding, but the commitment to be married happens at the time of engagement.

Some are afraid that God maybe isn’t calling them because of nonsense that people refer to as “predestination.” God has predestined man to be with Him in glory or to die. Personally, He has not predestined your future, He has given YOU a choice. Just as the rich man was given a choice, whether you respond or not has nothing to do with God wanting or choosing you; it has to do with your heart responding to Him. Are you “ALL IN”?

Acts 17:30–31: “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Yet still, some feel unworthy of God’s grace and mercy because of their many failures and sins.

John 3:16–17: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

God doesn’t want sinners to die. He wanted to demonstrate how much He wants to save you by allowing His most perfect Son, the Lamb of God, to be sacrificed for YOU. He died so that even those who killed Him and who yelled “CRUCIFY HIM!” might be saved.

One of the things that makes us feel unworthy is our struggle to be perfect, to evidence repentance to ourselves before we commit to God. The problem with that is, if you’re honest, you will realize we are never truly perfect. Yes, you should try to correct the problems in your life, but if you had to be the perfect man or woman to get married, would you ever get engaged? It is an unrealistic standard and fails to acknowledge our need for God and His Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

God wants you to quietly pray with Him.

God wants you to say you’re sorry for sinning before Him.

God wants you to declare to Him that you want to be a personal disciple of Jesus Christ. He wants you to tell Him you are ALL IN—that regardless of what blessing or trials befall you, you will never forsake Him as long as you live.

Tell Him your fears over your ability to do what is right, and ask for the strength and wisdom that you may shine brightly to the world as being an “ALL-IN DISCIPLE.”

When you look at the mercy God has, say “I’m all in!”

When you look at the fruit of God, say “I’m all in!”

When you look at the good in the commandments of God, say “I’m all in!”

When you look at the world and the incredible complexity and intelligence in all things, say “I’m all in!”

When you examine the testimony of Jesus, what He did from the beginning of the world, His ministry, His sacrifice, His leadership, say “I’m all in!”

Commitment comes at a price—you must never give up, no matter what.

Commitment also comes with rewards. It comes with a feeling of grace that God has forgiven you, although you never earned it. It comes with a feeling of peace, knowing that no matter what happens, you’re in the good hands of God. It comes with a confidence that no man can take away; you can only give it away by not being 100 percent committed.

Romans 8:37–39: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Even during times of trouble and poor health, we are given great confidence.

James 5:14–15: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

“But I’m still not sure I will be ‘good’ or ‘faithful’ enough. Will I be able to finish?”

God gave you the parable of the sower to understand the answer is Yes—if that is your intent, you can finish.

Matthew 13:18–23: “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Let’s examine the people from the list above against the parable. People who agree with our beliefs and have been around for a significant period of time,

a) have understood it

b) have likely faced trials and still do what is right—they usually are stable and aren’t jumping to please others, and

c) have the power to control whether or not they are choked out—be a part of a church, regularly pray and read God’s Word, observe the Sabbaths, and you will not become unfruitful, and you won’t be choked out.

When you become engaged, you should be making a commitment that you are “all in” the marriage until death do you part. How do you know you will survive a trial? You probably had one or two along the way, and you survived them. How do you know you won’t let your marriage be choked out by the cares of the world? The response is usually, “I won’t let it be. I will make sure I do what is necessary to let her or him know I love them always.” Funny how we can look at that “all in” commitment with marriage and be confident, and yet we sometimes can’t seem to relate to making the same commitment with God and be confident. It is NOT too hard for you. It is very near you; you just have to do it.

Commitment is what the first commandment is all about. Are you “all in”?

Jesus had a more difficult row to hoe than what He asked the rich man to do.

John 18:10–11: “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?’”

In Matthew, Jesus had said that He could have called many angels and avoided this, BUT shall He not do what the Father had given Him to do? He prayed long and hard that there might be another way. He knew the pain and anguish He was going to have to go through. He knew the prophecies about Him.

Jesus was ALL IN to do God’s will. He knows your fears and your doubts, and He wants to be your Friend and Teacher. Talk with Him and release your fears.

God's Other Message to Mankind

by Lonnie Hendrix



Lonnie C. Hendrix

God intended for the Bible to *encourage and correct people*. Unfortunately, many of today's preachers only focus on one aspect of this two-fold purpose. The positive thinking/feel good preachers of television, radio, and print are very popular in America and around the world. Moreover, we all like to hear or read pleasant and uplifting things.

Nevertheless, although God intended for His Word to encourage us, He also designed it to correct us. We read: "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires" (Hebrew 4:12, *The New Living Translation*).

Hence, God's Word was never intended to be just a lovely song or a pleasant tune. The Bible was not written exclusively for our enjoyment and entertainment! People seeking that type of experience have access to a host of other things that were designed for just that purpose—games, radio, television, theater, etc. The Bible, however, was intended to sometimes shock, irritate, and offend!

Thus Ezekiel's message to the ancient Jewish people still has relevance for God's people today. After pointing out their arrogance and other sins (Ezekiel 33:23–29), the prophet wrote: "They say to each other, 'Come on, let's go hear the prophet tell us what the Lord is saying!' So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say. Their mouths are full of lustful words, and their hearts seek only after money. You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument. They hear what you say, but they don't act on it" (Ezekiel 33:30–32)!

God wants His words to penetrate our stony hearts. He wants them to have a profound impact on everyone who reads them or hears them read by others. James wrote: "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves" (James 1:22). Paul said: "For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight" (Romans 2:13). In short, God expects His words to change us. He intended for His message to produce growth of character and understanding.

In the book of Hebrews, we read: "There is much more we would like to say about this [Christ as our High Priest], but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong" (Hebrews 5:11–14). Once again, there is an implicit expectation that God's message will produce growth in the individual receiving it.

Even so, there were "feel good" preachers in the early church too, men and women who had perfected the art of selling their ideas to the public. They were able to marshal persuasive and logical arguments to win people over to their sides. They knew how to tap into enthusiasm and appeal to the ego of their audience.

Peter and Paul warned against them. Peter wrote: "But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed" (2 Peter 2:1–3). Paul warned Timothy: "For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths" (2 Timothy 4:3–4).

Brethren, that day is here! That is precisely what people in our society are doing today. They only hear what they want to hear. Those who have a conservative political outlook will only listen to Fox News. Likewise, those who have a liberal political outlook will only listen to MSNBC. They shut out anything that does not agree with their point of view or otherwise offends

their sensibilities. Moreover, this phenomenon is not confined to the realm of politics—it is also the practice in religious circles.

People seem to be unaware of the fact that almost everything Christ said offended the people of His day. His message grated on nerves. For most of the people who heard His words, they were like sand being thrown into the gears of society. His message was the fly in the ointment.

After Jesus had expounded on the things that make someone impure (Matthew 15:1–11), we read: "Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?'" (Matthew 15:12)? Likewise, we read that the people who were most familiar with Christ and His family, the people of Nazareth, "were deeply offended and refused to believe in him" (Matthew 13:57). Christ's words made many of the people who heard them want to stone Him (John 10). In the end, He was crucified because of the things that He had said during His ministry!

Likewise, it is apparent that people did not like what His followers had to say any better. Stephen was stoned to death for the message he delivered to the Jews (Acts 7). Paul and Barnabas were chased out of Antioch by a mob that did not like what they had to say (Acts 13). God's message seemed to irritate the people of the first century!

In fact, God intended for His words to get under our skins. He wants His message to unsettle us and effect a change of heart and attitude. When Peter had finished his first sermon to the crowds gathered around the disciples on Pentecost, we read that "Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'" (Acts 2:37)? Peter responded by telling them to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38).

Brethren, we are not here to entertain or amuse you! God wants to prick your heart. God wants to penetrate that thick skin and hard head and effect a change in us, but He is not doing this to hurt us. On the contrary, He wants to save us from ourselves! He wants us to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

God has called you out of this world to be different. Do not allow yourself to be offended by His Word. Instead, allow it to transform you—**THAT IS WHAT IT WAS INTENDED TO DO!** God's words have the power to lead you to salvation, and then someday welcome you into His Kingdom. Ω



The First Commandment, continued from page 3

Exodus 20:2–3: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

"No other gods" includes your own will over God's will. You must be committed to being under His authority in your life.

You can't have one foot in and one foot out. You can't be mostly in but hold back a little just in case. God is all or nothing. You can have no other God.

Mark 12:28–30: "Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, 'Which is the first commandment of all?' Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is: *"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."* This is the first commandment.'

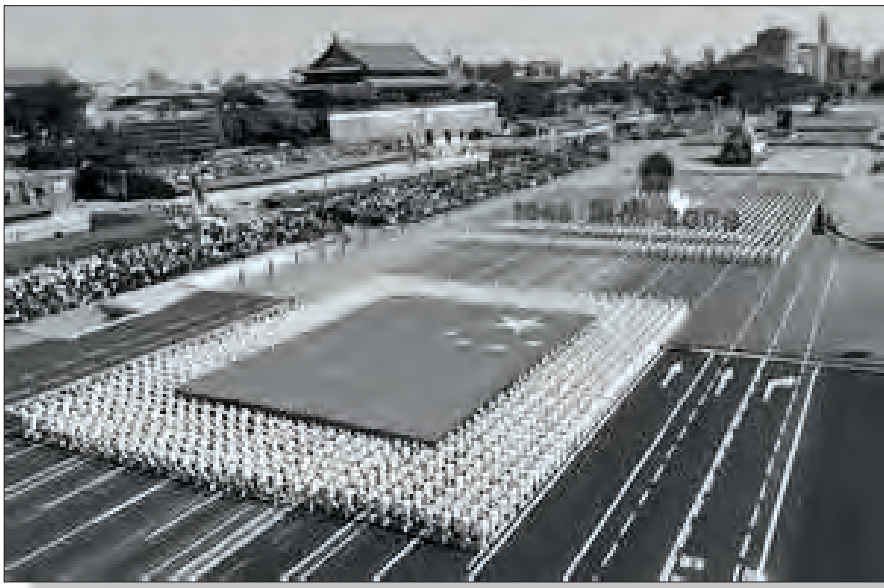
God is the perfect partner in life. Jesus is the greatest Friend, Priest, Advocate, and Teacher you could ever imagine. The commandments are holy, just, and good.

So what would hold you back from making that commitment?

Go ahead—tell God **YOU'RE ALL IN!**

I promise it is the only winning hand at the table of life. Ω

Chinese, continued from page 1



is owned by individual investors, corporations, state and local governments, and of course, foreign governments such as China, Japan, and others who hold prodigious amounts of U.S. Treasuries (U.S. debt).

Foreign governments presently own about 46 percent of all remaining U.S. debt—more than \$5.0 trillion—in the form of Treasury bonds and notes—with China owning approximately \$1.5 trillion exclusively. In total, China owns about eight to nine percent of all public held U.S. debt. This is more than the amount owned by all American citizens, which is just about \$1.0 trillion.

However, here's what's alarming about this: China is the third largest debt holder—that's right—they are third on the list, not first. The largest debt holder is the U.S. Social Security Trust Fund, which is about \$2.75 trillion "under water," and right behind it, the U.S. Federal Reserve—holding approximately \$2 trillion—all purchased as part of the quantitative easing (Q.E.) program over the last four years. This happened primarily due to the fact that markets for buying up U.S. debt are "drying up"—no one wants it—they see the handwriting on the wall. Sadly, and more importantly, this indicates many of our past "investors" are now beginning to consider the United States unattractive, and are beginning to worry the United States runs a real risk of default, or just as bad—never intends to pay back its debt.

So What's China Doing About It?

Unquestionably, a lot of money is involved—approximately one-third of China's disposable cash from their sovereign fund is at risk! This is a serious matter from their perspective. What they are seeing is a U.S. economic policy that's debasing the dollar by printing (actually *assigning*, electronically) more money into the monetary system (Q.E.3, assigning/printing \$85 billion per month with no end date), which reduces the value of China's \$1.5 trillion investment. Needless to say, this disturbs them. So it's understandable and therefore no secret that China has been recently involved with increasing cyber attacks, specifically targeting the United States' military and domestic locations, along with U.S. corporations. There's plenty of motive here (about \$1.5 trillion worth) as China attempts to figure out how they can protect their investment from what appears to be the self-destructive political and economic behavior of the United States.

In a recent study by the American Chamber of Commerce, 25 percent of U.S. companies in China have been "hacked," with trade secrets actually stolen! Twenty-six percent of respondents to the *U.S. Business Lobby's Annual Survey* claimed they have been victimized by such attacks, and 95 percent of them think it's only going to get worse! Obviously, this poses an enormous obstacle for U.S. businesses in China, when considering their right to protect their intellectual and technological property.

Jack Lew, U.S. Treasury Secretary, some weeks ago confronted China's leaders about the subject of Chinese corporate espionage, describing it as very serious and threatening economic interests. He and other U.S. leaders further tried to separate state sponsored attacks from criminal hacking on U.S. government and/or military locations, but Beijing's consistent response has been to deny any participation in these activities. Unfortunately, regardless of Beijing's denial, worries over corporate espionage and the high potential of thievery of information and technology has reduced the confidence of U.S. based companies' interest to invest in China from 43 percent, just a year ago, to 28 percent today.

Just recently, a U.S. security firm linked China's military to cyber attacks on more than 140 U.S. and other foreign corporations and a variety of other entities, according to this 60-page report. This study, conducted by the Alexandria-based *Mandiant* security firm, presents a very comprehensive and detailed assessment tracing corporate cyber espionage to the Chinese military. Clearly, bringing into question China's repeated denial of its military involvement and their attempt to minimize the seriousness of this by

comparing it, figuratively, to the "three-legged cat, Kung Fu," which attempts to characterize China as inept to steal anything, is so typical of Chinese obfuscation and deflection for avoiding accountability.

The refusal, in light of the evidence of their unquestionable involvement in this clandestine and covert activity, would be laughable if it wasn't so disturbing and seriously threatening! Consider the proof the *Mandiant* security firm collected and documented that was first reported by the *New York Times*. In this "Mandiant Intelligence Center Report," information was disclosed that over a seven year period, 141 organizations had been attacked and was traceable to a single military group known within the Chinese military as the *Advanced Persistent Threat 1*, or *APT1*. This is a specialized unit within the People's Liberation Army General Staff's Third Department, code named *Unit 61398*. And included in these attacks were smaller U.S. local, state, and federal government agencies, along with other international government organizations overseas.

Notice some of the details of this report. Since 2006, *APT1* compromised 141 companies, spanning 20 major industries. Eighty-seven percent are headquartered in English speaking countries, with 115 located in the United States, two in Canada, and five in Britain. Of the 19 countries, 17 of them also are English speaking. This is a very serious and costly effort conducted by this Chinese specialized unit, *APT1*. It appears there is a clear and definite agenda of "information acquisition" being collected for constructing a strategy to do something—or why exercise such an effort by such a specialized military group within their army?

Unfortunately, senior U.S. officials, including the President of the United States, have brought these issues up to the Chinese leadership, outlining these cyber attacks on commercial, military, and government targets without any progress. Recently, Jay Carney, White House Press Secretary, declined to address the *Mandiant* report, but said, "we have repeatedly raised our concerns at the highest levels about cyber theft with senior Chinese officials, including their military, and we will continue to do so."

It's becoming more obvious, as the United States loses the respect of these rising and emerging economic and military giants—and this includes Russia—that the United States does not know how to counter their aggression and/or ambitions of working their agendas. It would appear information is being collected for some reason, and considering the sources doing the collecting, it would appear something is being planned "off the grid."

Regardless of this obvious covert activity and clear evidence the Chinese military is involved, no serious counter measures appear to be taken by the United States to commence some very focused and serious discussion about just how these acts of aggression should be understood. It's as though the U.S. thinks the same passive behavior will generate different results, when in fact doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is nothing more than insanity! The plain and simple truth is, China is collecting and stealing data while conducting surveillance for something they have in mind—and it most certainly appears it's more for their benefit than the USA's!

Replacing the Dollar as the Reserve Currency?

While the present administration in the United States grapples with how it should respond to China's aggressive cyber space behavior, China continues to operate by the political motto that "the best defense is a good offense." What I mean by this is, China is gradually allowing their currency, the yuan, to appreciate and become more of a "free market" currency. This is a new and bold offensive move.



Some economists claim it's a sign China is promoting the yuan as a more "global" currency—they want it viewed with increased preference and a higher degree of credibility among the world's currencies. The fact China has been hoarding gold and buying gold mines for many years leads some to think they are seriously considering some level of gold backing for their currency. This would undoubtedly be disruptive to the dollar's position as the present world's reserve currency—which has absolutely no value backing it!

According to Zha Xiaogang, research fellow at Shanghai Institute for International Studies, the basis of the United States' power could be weakened. Zha says, "There are many uncertainties about how the U.S. will respond to the dollar's loss of dominant status. We therefore are not sure whether the transformation of international monetary system will take place smoothly or peacefully."

Obviously, what this infers, as many experts already believe, is the United States Federal Reserve, under the present leadership, is playing a very complicated, risky, high stakes game. The decisions of the past and present—to handle the economic malaise with continuing a high spending, debt generating, money printing solution—

Chinese, continued on page 6

Chinese, continued from page 5



simply jeopardizes the position of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Even trade wars are a legitimate concern due to this debasing. It's a "fine line" to walk as one tries to manage the domestic benefit of a lower dollar, while risking the role of our international status as the world's reserve currency, because a declining dollar among the international markets can discourage investors the U.S.

needs for buying up its debt—and that is exactly what is happening now!

It's plain to understand how debasing the dollar's value is upsetting to those foreign nations holding so much U.S. debt—of which China has the most invested among those foreign countries, and therefore the most to lose!

China's Other Current Strategy

Earlier this year, Jerome Corsi, writer for *WND*, wrote about China's plans for economic development by *colonizing inside the United States*—creating what has been dubbed as "development zones." Under this plan, it's understood the Obama administration would grant a financial guarantee for attracting China to transfer some of its U.S. debt into direct equity investments. These "development zones" would afford China to establish Chinese owned businesses, operated by Chinese citizens to work within the United States, but not as immigrants—instead, as separate Chinese economic entities, owned and operated by China—within the U.S.!

Essentially, what this means is, China would take ownership of successful U.S. corporations, potentially profitable infrastructure projects, and high-value U.S. real estate. "The basic idea is to turn Asian savings, China's in particular, into real business interests rather than use those revenues to support U.S. over-consumption" by simply purchasing U.S. treasuries. If you doubt this could happen, the fact is that this idea is already part of an evolving proposal Beijing has been discussing discreetly with the present administration since 2009, with the intent to convert more than \$1 trillion of U.S. debt, presently owned by China, into some kind of equity. This is stunning and undoubtedly shocking—but true! (Reference: <http://www.wnd.com/2013/01/china-poised-to-play-debt-card-for-u-s-land/>)



www.wnd.com/2013/01/china-poised-to-play-debt-card-for-u-s-land/

Essentially, this agreement would provide security to the Chinese against any default of the United States' debt. It would lessen their concerns and provide a guard against any collapse of the dollar, due to the present Federal Reserve's Q. E. strategy. What this does for China is, it simply takes all risk out of their holdings in U.S. treasuries and guarantees them full access to channel/convert their fund values into business investments. But let me ask: What's the business benefit for the United States? *Are we missing something?*

Additional Chinese Concerns and Consequent Biblical Connections

Many of us in the West do not recognize how much progress China has made over the last few decades. Let's just consider a few very serious developments that have occurred unbeknownst to many during this time.

China is presently manipulating its currency for commercial advantage and control. They have a healthy alliance with Russia and other anti-American nations, including North Korea. China's growing military and nuclear power has an inventory of over 100 ICBMs, many of which are aimed at a variety of U.S. cities. China and Russia have been responsible for, almost single-handedly, arming terrorists with weapons devoted to harming the United States and other Western nations. The countries of Iran,

Syria, Libya, and even Cuba are just some of their leading customers for these weapons of destruction and terror.

They have the capability of launching weapons that could kill well over 100 million Americans and Canadians within 30 minutes; and this doesn't include their Russian ally! Presently, China has been relentless in their "cyber hacking" of multiple computers in a variety of areas ranging from government, industry, education, and the military for purposes of stealing all kinds of information including designs and military secrets—and for good reason!

What many don't realize is, China is taking a different route in the development of their military prowess. They know very well the United States is a formidable military competitor, and conventionally, China is presently no match. So they are on a path of "strategic military development." Currently, they have a 2.3 million man army—the largest in the world—supported by a \$114 billion (U.S. dollar value) military budget. This budget is also directed to support one of the largest naval, anti-ballistic missile defense systems, and cyber tech build-ups in its history.

China has decided to develop a range of capabilities linked to outer space and the cyber tech domain. By doing this, they are sidestepping the United States and doing the proverbial "end around" for reasons to surpass the U.S. in war technology. Already, China has commissioned its first major aircraft carrier with multiple more being planned, and is presently building and testing an anti-ballistic missile defense system to provide it a shield from incoming ballistic missiles. Additionally, it's hard to quantify their progress in cyber technology, except they are relentless, as mentioned before, in testing our own cyber defense against their unending "hacking attacks." This just goes to illustrate, whatever progress is being made, ultimately, we can be assured, it won't bode well for the United States or the broader Western nations in general.

On another front, China's continued aggressive trade tactics have impacted the U.S. job market, resulting in millions of Americans presently unemployed, along with relocating some of the United States' most critical manufacturing operations to China and other parts of the Pacific Rim.

This is further illustrated by the fact the United States remains as one of the major, if not largest, purchasers of Chinese goods—consuming almost one-fifth of all of China's exports—illustrating very plainly, by the prodigious amount of goods, clothing, and other services being obtained from China, just how much of our manufacturing has been relocated. This has continued to strengthen their position of influence and control when combined with the fact they own approximately \$1.5 trillion of the United States' debt. Obviously, this puts the United States in a very vulnerable position as the Bible warned would happen if we disobeyed God and went down this road (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

When considering these facts of reality surrounding us in our geopolitical world today, and the size, scope, and complexities of these monolithic international conditions and alliances, it should remind all of us about the potential plausibility of additional events that just may be the catalyst to finally shift the balance of powers for the final "set-up"—the last "table arrangement"—of end-time prophetic events that are described in our Bibles. Could it be we are heading into a preliminary war, designed to be that catalyst—resulting in taking down the present arrangement of nations—disrupting geopolitical conditions enough that will develop suitable circumstances to finally cause this end-time Greco-Roman, Babylonian system to emerge onto the world stage—matching the Bible description of Revelation 13 and 17?

These types of questions are timely when considering the *real-world* conditions we're living in—especially in light of the Bible's very clear picture of some specific end-time events which are central to an invasion in the Middle East. Remember, this invasion involves a king of the north and a king of the south. In the book of Daniel, this attack is described in quite a bit of detail. Notice: "and at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [the king of the north]: and the king of the north shall come against him [the king of the south] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships;



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and he [the king of the north] shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land [Palestine, Jerusalem; where the Jews are today], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He [the king of the north] shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east [eastern Eurasia, the Pacific Rim] and out of the north [Russia, Mongolia] shall trouble him [the king of the north]: therefore he [the king of the north] shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain [the king of the north and false prophet will occupy Jerusalem]; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him [the king of the north]" (Daniel 11:40–45).

Though this has a lot of detail as to what is going on, who's involved, and where it's happening—what we are missing is how did things get to this point? How did the nations east and north of Palestine become large enough threats and such sizeable world powers that it necessitated a preemptive strike by this king of the north, who is now occupying many of the Middle Eastern Moslem countries, including Palestine? And furthermore, where is the United States and Great Britain while all this is going on? It's hardly reasonable to think that the Jewish people would be attacked without the help and aid of the United States and Britain. Where are they in this scenario?

It's apparent we're still missing many of the pieces to this part of the puzzle. What we can glean from this particular narrative is primarily this: there are three major players on the geopolitical grid at this time in mankind's history. They are: 1) the king of the north, 2) the king of the south, and 3) those in the northeast from Palestine. It would appear much of the rest of the world might not be significant enough to mention at this time—otherwise, logic would seem to indicate they would be! What do we make of this?

Many times in prophecy, because pieces of the puzzle are found here a little and there a little, we must look to areas that provide some sense of sequence. Revelation is the book that sequences many end-time events, which helps add some clarity to the scenario of the last days. The book of Revelation describes an end-time government called Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, that has a rich "Greco" history and is responsible for the killings and persecutions of God's church down through the ages (Revelation 17). Clearly, Revelation explains how this world ruling economic, military, and religious socialistic state dominates the world and controls the population with some kind of mark (Revelation 13:16–18) that allows each member of society to integrate into the system. This information plays a major role in explaining what mankind's geopolitical conditions are like immediately prior to Jesus Christ's triumphant return. We know this because it's this system that makes war with Christ upon His return (Revelation 17:11–14).

Our present international geopolitical arrangement is not suitable for these kinds of events to be unleashed by the "power players" currently on the world's stage. The European Union has no ability to conduct an invasion of the magnitude described in Daniel 11; nor is there an Arab coalition or caliphate group large enough or strong enough to threaten Europe on the scale describing the end-time scenario in Daniel. (This of course assumes the pattern previous in history that has established the king of the north as the Seleucids and the south as the Ptolemys, repeats itself once again.)

I believe all of us would agree the European Union is in no position to preemptively initiate an attack against the northeastern Eurasian countries as described in Daniel 11:44–45. It's just not possible at this time. But on the other hand, the northeastern Eurasian countries of China, Russia, North Korea, and a few other Indonesian nations, including some Middle Eastern countries, are indeed capable of attacking Europe, and much of the West, including the United States and Great Britain, *right now!*

Just Something to Consider...What If?

What I'm suggesting to consider as just another possibility, in light of Revelation 6:8, how does 25 percent of mankind die? And from whom does this horrific force of mass destruction come from, which immediately results in Christian persecution and martyrdom, described as the fifth seal (Revelation 6:9–11)? Could there be a military conflict



up ahead that preempts the rise of the Beast as described in Revelation 17:9–13? Because assuredly, the present European Union cannot be described as this.

Regarding this particular conflict mentioned in Revelation 6:8, could this

be, or might it be, used to provide the fertile ground for the rise of a tyrannical dictator—much like it was during the 1930s that gave rise to Hitler and his Third Reich after WWI? Is this the conflict, or a combination of conflicts that is used to finally take down the United States and its British allies? Is this where the birth righted nations finally meet their punishment and are taken off the proverbial "playing field," making way for the times of the Gentiles? *These are questions that need to be boldly considered in light of what we know and how our present world condition is.*

Regardless, there appears to be a very good case to be made that a renewed "Cold War" is brewing, and very strong possibilities of trade wars erupting due to currency manipulations, large mounting debts, and prodigious amounts of bailouts. How this plays out remains to be seen. But interestingly enough, another point to keep in mind is found in the book of Daniel. When describing the fourth beast, which is the last beast of Daniel 7, we are told: "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others...[this is the last beast and correlates with the beast described in Revelation 13 and 17] and of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, *and before three fell:* even of that horn that had eyes and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows" (Daniel 7:19–20).



This is a very curious statement that seems to imply there is a good possibility three conflicts occur prior to the final rise of the latter day Beast—signs, if you will, that mark the arrival of the final coalescence of this world influencing Greco-Babylonian religious socialistic state.

The truth of the matter is the European Union is very secular and stricken with potential bankruptcy. Major European Union bailouts remain looming for the future. They, too, are printing euros and financing their debt as the U.S. Federal Reserve is doing. Japan is now printing yen. Actually, there are multiple nations printing currency to remain competitive in the international markets—which is contributing to this enormous "financial bubble" that is building internationally!

The United States, frankly, is already bankrupt—and bankrupted morally as well. God does not intend to allow His birth righted nations to go unpunished for their wayward ways of iniquity. He warned Israel of old in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 what would happen if the people claiming the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would forget Him—and it isn't very pleasant! We have the example of ancient Israel's fate to plainly prove God is a God of His word—and we are a nation, like Israel, who has claimed Him to be our God. Therefore, we are accountable to Him!

We must be courageous in asking the right questions and recognizing things for what they are—because without a doubt, the present arrangement of nations require change, modification, and rearrangement in order for the countries and events described in our Bibles to match. Currently there are major disconnects. And clearly, there are scriptures providing additional consideration for more events that will drastically affect the world around us as we draw closer to the emergence of this resurrected Greco-Roman Babylonian Mystery System!

Remain vigilant, brethren, as you continue to watch (Mark 13:33–37). We may be closer to the beginning of the end—that is, the end of the "era of dominance" by the birth righted nations—and the final rise of the Gentiles! Ω

**Be sure to request our free booklets:
Who, What, Is the Beast of Revelation?
Evidence of the End Times, and CDs
Where Are We Headed Prophetically?
and Will the Real Beast Please Stand Up?**

Your Place of Safety in a Risk-Filled World

Here's how to use the principles laid out in your Bible thousands of years ago to help protect you in today's toxic society.

by Lloyd W. Cary



Lloyd W. Cary

Have you ever thought of your Bible as a security blanket or even a safety belt? No one wants to be insecure. Yet, there are ever so many things that work toward a loss of security. Watching the evening news on TV can be downright scary! We hear of constant wars, rumors of wars, tragedies, famines, droughts, floods, earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, sink holes, murders, mass murders, riots, terrorism, home invasions, robberies, rapes, injustices, accidents, sickness, disease, mental illness, lying, cheating, thefts, graft, corruption, declining morality, and more. As one pessimistic philosopher said, "There ain't none of us gonna get out of this here life alive."

Scary, isn't it? And to make matters worse, you know it can happen to *you* and to your loved ones. The Bible affirms, "...but time and chance happeneth to them all" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). All told, the world is a dangerous place to live. It is almost like walking through a minefield.

To walk in a minefield can be deadly. Unexpected things happen suddenly. Would it not make a difference, though, if you had a "map" that showed the locations and types of land mines? Additionally, suppose you had been trained to identify the various mines. Certainly, such knowledge would greatly reduce the risk of your being injured or killed.

The Bible can be compared to a map and training guide to see you safely through the often unseen perils of life. God's Word contains unsurpassed godly wisdom and counsel to help you avoid the perils and problems that arise in life. Let's look at a few examples.

Avoiding Common Accidents

Statistics recently published by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the global annual mortality caused by traffic accidents is about 1,171,000. Nearly 40 million others are injured, and just over 8 million suffer long-term disability.

Although absolute safety while driving is impossible, our personal security is enhanced considerably when we obey traffic laws. Speaking of the governmental authorities, who set and enforce traffic laws, the Bible says: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers" (Romans 13:1)—that is, to the laws of the land. Motorists who abide by this advice greatly reduce the risk of having an accident, with its often deadly or debilitating consequences.

Another inducement to driving safely is respect for life, others as well as your own. Life is a divine gift. Consequently, we have no right to take that gift away from anyone or to show disrespect for life, including, of course, our own (Genesis 9:5-6).



Deadly Auto Accident

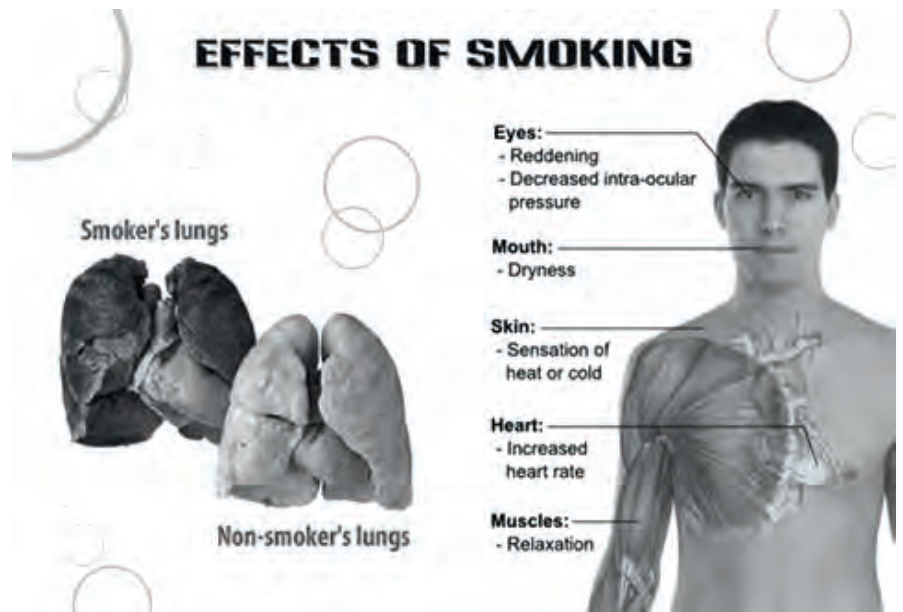
Respect for human life includes making sure that our cars and homes are as safe as is reasonably possible. In ancient Israel, safety was a high priority in all aspects of life. For example, roofs in the East were generally flat, and many ate meals on their roofs and slept there in the warmer months. When a house was built, God's Law required that a safety device, a wall about 3 feet high on all sides, was

needed to keep people from accidentally falling off. "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence" (Deuteronomy 22:8). If someone fell because this safety law had not been observed, God held the owner responsible. Without a doubt, applying these kinds of PREVENTIVE PRINCIPLES would minimize accidents at the workplace today.

Life Threatening Addictions

According to WHO, there are now over a billion smokers in the world, and some four million deaths a year can be attributed to tobacco. This figure is expected to rise to about 10 million over the next 20 to 30 years. Millions of other smokers, as well as users of "recreational" drugs, will ruin their health and quality of life because of their addictions.

The U.S. National Center for Health Statistics reports:



- Every 60 seconds 10 million cigarettes are sold.
- Every single day of our lives, over 3,000 teenagers begin to smoke cigarettes and go on to become daily, steady smokers.
- By the year 2030, smoking will kill as many as one in six people.
- Smoking is the main cause of preventable death in America today, with an estimated 438,000 deaths annually; or put another way, one in five deaths, the most common cause related to lung cancer.
- There are over 4,000 chemicals in cigarette smoke, 40 of which are known carcinogens.
- In 2007, 19.8 percent of U.S. adults were smokers, and 23 percent of these were high school students.
- Smoking causes 30 percent of all cancer deaths in the U.S., mostly lung cancer.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of death for men and women; 90 percent of lung cancer rates in men (and 80 percent in women) is caused by smoking.
- Men who smoke are 23 times more likely to get lung cancer, and women are 13 times more likely.
- Smoking causes 87 percent of lung cancer deaths.
- Smoking is responsible for many kinds of cancers, namely cancer of the larynx, oral cavity, pharynx, esophagus, and bladder.
- Smoking increases the risk of pancreatic, kidney, bladder, and cervical cancer.
- The longer you smoke, and the higher the amount of cigarettes, directly increases your risk of cancer.
- Second-hand smoke is also dangerous to health; in fact, it's estimated to cause 3,000 lung cancer deaths per year in America.
- Peer-reviewed studies show teenagers are heavily influenced by tobacco advertising.
- The tobacco industry has changed the way it advertises in the last 30 years. Now, only 10 percent of advertising expenditure goes to print and outdoor advertisements, while more than half goes to promotional allowances and items, such as T-shirts for young people or lighters and key rings, etc.
- From a Canadian study, 11 billion cigarettes are smoked worldwide everyday, or approximately 127,314 cigarettes per second. And cigarette smoke pollutes as much as 10 diesel cars idling for 30 minutes.

See more striking statistics on the following web sites: http://www.smokingstatistics.org/smoking_and_cancer_Know_the_Fact_s.asp and http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_256.pdf

One wit quipped, "A cigarette is a fire on one end and a fool on the other." While God's Word does not specifically mention tobacco use and "recreational" drug abuse by name, its PRINCIPLES are universal, and can protect us from these scourges. For instance, 2 Corinthians 7:1 advises: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Safety, continued next page

There is no question that tobacco and drugs pollute, or defile, the flesh with many harmful chemicals. The Bible says, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile [pollute, contaminate, poison, or corrupt] the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17). By extension, this principle is also a solemn warning against sexual sin and drunkenness, which also destroy the body.

It is God’s will that our bodies be healthy, holy, pure, and clean. (See also Romans 12:1.) Do you not agree that adhering to these principles will promote well-being and reduce a significant risk to one’s life?

Staying Healthy

The key to good health is to have balance in all things. Many people are given to extremes in eating and drinking. The consequences of overeating can include obesity, loss of energy, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. The abuse of alcohol leads to additional problems, such as alcoholism, cirrhosis, broken families, and traffic accidents. At the other extreme, obsessive dieting can also be harmful, and can open the door to such life-threatening eating disorders as anorexia nervosa.

Though the Bible is not a medical textbook, it does give straightforward advice even on the need for moderation in eating and drinking. God intends that eating and drinking should be pleasurable. “... every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God” (Ecclesiastes 3:13). God even revealed that there are certain foods that are not fit to be eaten. (For more information, send for our free brochure, *Have the Old Testament Dietary Laws Been Abolished?*) He goes on to say, “Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers [heavy drinkers]; among riotous eaters of flesh [gluttony]: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags [bring him to poverty]” (Proverbs 23:19–21). Jesus warned, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares” (Luke 21:34). Excessive eating and drinking burden the stomach and digestive system, and affect the entire body by stupefying the senses, making the mind dull and heavy, and unfit for spiritual and godly pursuits such as reading, meditation, and prayer. Christ said, “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27).

If we value our health, we need to eat and drink within common sense and within the bounds of the law. Even overeating (surfeiting, Luke. 21:34) is sin, as well as drunkenness. Drunkards, among others, “shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:21).

The Bible encourages a balanced attitude toward physical exercise, affirming that, “For bodily exercise profiteth little [for a little while]”—but it adds: “but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

“How,” you may ask, “is godliness beneficial even now?” In many ways. Besides adding a vital spiritual dimension to one’s life, godly devotion nurtures such beneficial qualities as love, joy, peace, goodness, faith, patience, gentleness, self-control—all of which contribute to building godly character, a positive outlook, and good health (Galatians 5:22–23; Proverbs 23:1–3; 25:16; Daniel 1:8–16; Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 9:25–27; Philippians 4:5; 1 Thesalonians 5:6–8; Titus 2:2–3, 11–12; 2 Peter 1:5–10).

Dangerous Fads

A 2006 study done by the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* found that 24 percent of Americans between 18 and 50 are tattooed—that’s almost one in four. And the survey showed that about 36 percent of Americans aged 18 to 29 have at least one tattoo!



Tattoo regret:

Funny... at first.

**The pain will go away,
but the tattoo is forever!**

The current generation of young adults’ adoption of tattoos has been unprecedented in history.

Tattoos are deemed “cool,” trendy, and fashionable, but they always carry a risk of various diseases which are mainly blood borne. These blood borne diseases can be quite serious, and sometimes life threatening, such as tuberculosis and hepatitis. And then there is the issue of “tattoo regret.” Remember, the pain will go away, but the tattoo is forever. AIDS, tetanus, and many other harmful diseases may stem from tattooing. Close on the heels of tattooing is body and facial piercing.

Once again, God’s Word gives healthy advice: “Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:28). Tattooing was practiced in

various pagan nations from the earliest times, as well as markings with paint and cutting the flesh. Any disfiguration of the body was an outrage to God and an insult to Him who designed the body.

The Bitter Consequences of Immorality

Today, millions have abandoned all moral restraint. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the consequences. According to WHO, over 16 million have died since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, and at present, about 34 million are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Many AIDS sufferers contracted the disease through promiscuous sexual activity, contaminated syringes used by drug addicts, or tainted blood.

Other consequences of loose morals include herpes, drug-resistant gonorrhea, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. Although such medical terms were not used in Bible times, venereal diseases were common at the time and were well known. For example, Proverbs 7:23 describes the fearsome consequence of fornication as an arrow striking through the liver cleaving open the liver. Syphilis commonly attacks the liver, as does hepatitis. Yes, how timely and loving is the Bible’s counsel that Christians abstain from blood and from fornication! (Acts 15:28, 29).

The Snare of the Love of Money

In an effort to get rich quick, many people take big risks with their money. Tragically, taking such risks often leads to financial loss or ruin. To the servant of God, however, the Bible says: “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28). True, the hard worker may not always become wealthy, yet he has peace of mind, self respect, and little fear of the law knocking on his door.

The Bible warns: “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:9–10).

Riches in Scripture are considered the cause of much sin and rebellion against God; and for this cause, there are many warnings to men, especially converted men, to shun all covetousness of such (see Deuteronomy 6:10–17; Psalm 52:1–7; 73:1–22; Proverbs 23:4–5; 28:20–22; 30:8–9; Jeremiah 9:23; Ezekiel 28:5; Matthew 6:19; Luke 6:24; 12:15–20; 16:13–31; 1 Timothy 6:4–19; James 1:9–11; and 5:1–3).

**If money is the root of all evil
Why do churches want it?**

Many misquote 1 Timothy 6:10 to say that “money is the root of evil.” It does not say that. It says, “the love of money is the root of all evil,” or, as the *American Standard* and the *World English Bible* translate it, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).

“And those wishing to be rich, do fall into temptation and a snare, and many desires, foolish and hurtful, that sink men into ruin and destruction” (1 Timothy 6:9, *Young’s Literal Translation*). Those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and hurtful desires, which plunge men into destruction and ruin. There is no denying that many who are determined to be rich *do* get rich. But at what cost? Is it not true that often their health, family, spirituality, and even the quality of their sleep suffers (Ecclesiastes 5:12)? A wise person realizes that “a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). Money and certain possessions are necessary in most societies. In fact, the Bible states that money is for a defense or protection, but adds that “the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it” (Ecclesiastes 7:12). Christ said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Do not fret about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have its own troubles. The care of each day is enough to master. Thoughtful preparation for the future is not rebuked, but fretting about it is condemned.

From Politics to Religion

Countless thousands turn to politics for the answers. “If only we could get the right person or party in office,” they reason, “we could turn things around!” Others say, “a one world government is the answer to our problems.” Still others stock up on food and weapons and wait for “the end” to come. Many, shaken by the frightening conditions around them, turn to the churches. They believe that only God has the answer to these critical problems and they seek to find Him in church; yet when they honestly view what the churches are teaching and doing, they find that, far from finding solutions to problems, the churches are merely adding to them! Instead of teaching the pure, unadulterated Word of God, mega-churches have substituted “feel-good-about-yourself” stories and anecdotes. Others “add to,” change, and “take away from” God’s Word by their traditions to the extent that the Bible’s *Safety*, continued on page 10

Safety, continued from page 9

original content and intent is scarcely recognizable (Matthew 15:3,6; Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18–19).

Are we to believe God is to be found in churches where ministers and followers alike are abandoning God and His Word, the Bible? Is it any wonder why there is such a turning away from God by churchmen and church attendees alike? It is because the churches are in confusion—they are dying! God's Word says: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

How could God back up or bless any church organization—no matter how large or small—who would condone changing His Sabbath to Sunday; who would substitute His Passover for Easter; who would exchange the world's holidays—Christmas, New Years, Valentine's Day, and Halloween, for His designated holydays? How could God possibly back up or bless any church organization teaching doctrines diametrically opposite from what the Bible teaches—immortality of the soul, rapture, spending eternity in heaven upon death, burning eternally in hell-fire, the trinity, and that God's law is done away, "nailed to the cross"?

If you think you will find peace and security by searching for God in the worldly churches, you will be vastly disappointed. He is not there! If God were there, there would be peace, unity and order, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Where, then, can you find true security? How can you find the God that gives it? By reading the Holy Bible and taking to heart what God Himself says there. Encouragingly, Psalm 112:1, 7 says: "Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments... He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." Psalms 4:8 adds, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."

Yes, only the true God—the God of your Bible—can provide true safety and security for you in these distressing times. The first step toward that security is to begin a systematic study of God's Word to determine what His purposes and will are. Pray every day. Obey God—believe and trust in His Word. Vital too is the need for true Christian fellowship with those who have God's Holy Spirit dwelling in them and who have the highest respect for God and His high standards.

"The Devil, You Say"

Scripture warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Our only defense against these spiritual adversaries is to be close to God. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The devil cannot conquer you if you continue to resist and call upon God in earnest prayer.

We read in God's Word, "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things" (Proverbs 2:10, 11). Where does this protective wisdom come from? "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

The wisdom and discernment mentioned in the Bible are not of human origin, but of divine origin. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me [godly wisdom], shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33). Let us see, for example, how the Bible can enhance our security and help us avoid many of life's difficulties today.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2).

The bottom line is that NO other source of information has such wide-ranging help to reduce risks to your health and life, as well as your eternal life, as the Bible does. No other book has the Bible's authority, and no other book can help you find true security in today's risk filled world. "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33). *GOD'S WORD IS YOUR PLACE OF SAFETY. Read the Book!*

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?" Jay Lenno

To help you further in your study of God's Word, be sure to send for our free booklet, *How To Study Your Bible*. Ω



For Those of Us Born Before 1950...

Consider the changes we have witnessed! We were born before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, cappuccino, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees, and the pill.

We were born before television, computers, CAT scans, MRI's, organ transplants, boom boxes, audio tapes, compact disks, digital cameras, cell phones, GPS, 3-D movies, hybrid cars, radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, ballpoint pens, plastic, pantyhose, dishwashers, microwave ovens, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes—and before man walked on the moon.



In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins. A mall was a large mallet used in the game of pall-mall.

We thought fast food was what you ate in a hurry, and Outer Space was the balcony of the Paramount Theatre.

Do you remember The Shadow, Howdy Doody, Captain Video, and The Katzenjammer Kids? How about Kukla, Fran and Ollie?

We were born before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, and dial-a-prayer. We were born before daycare centers, group therapy, and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness, not condominiums. A cavity check was done in the dentist's office, not the airport. A "chip" was a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. Kites were something to fly on the end of a string, not something to get as high as.

We were on the scene when there were five and ten stores, where you really could buy things for five or ten cents. Franklin's sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. Bread and milk were delivered to your door. For one nickel you could ride a streetcar (trolley), make a phone call, and buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600, but who could afford one—a pity, too, because gasoline was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarettes were fashionable, grass was mowed, Coke was a drink, and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullabies, and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office.

We were certainly not born before the difference between the sexes were discovered, but we surely were born before the sex change. We made do with what we had and were the last generation so dumb to think you needed a husband to have a baby. We even got married first and then lived together. How quaint can that be?

We were part of the Greatest Generation—the generation that endured the Great Depression and World War II. This generation had matured well beyond their years and added greatly to the world.

But we survived! And we've come a long way, baby! No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today!

I remember reading in Grandma's old Bible that a young man named Daniel was told, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: *many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*" (Daniel 12:4). Hmmm... in view of all the things I've seen come and go, I wonder how soon *that* will be? Ω

Be sure to request our free brochure, *The Way of Escape—*

Divine Protection in the Last Days!

www.info@cgj.org



Questions & Answers



Q I need help. It seems that every time I try to explain something in the the Bible to my friends, they look at me as though I am weird and just say, “Well, that’s *your* interpretation. Here’s *mine*.” How can I prove which interpretation is correct?

A First we need to examine some true and false principles of Bible interpretation. Whenever there is a dispute about the meaning of a scripture, a favorite ploy of gainsayers and Scripture wresters (2 Peter 3:16) is, “Well, that’s *your* interpretation!” as though this pat answer should shut down all further controversy. The apostle Peter said, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: **AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU** a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). We should always *study* (2 Timothy 2:15) to be ready to explain why we believe what we believe. Jesus Christ Himself said in John 10:35, “... the scripture *cannot* be broken.” Believe it!

First, let’s examine some of the common misapplications of Bible interpretation:

Many read a couple of scriptures, and then draw conclusions without considering what many other scriptures say about the same subject. Then, based on these faulty assumptions, they condemn others who practice things different than themselves. Others read preconceived ideas *into* the Scriptures that are not there. Others spend much time and effort trying to find *hidden meanings* for every letter of every word. This can lead to idolatry of the letter actually leading *away* from the true meaning of Scripture rather than understanding what it actually says. Some convince themselves they can find more written “between the lines” than is in the lines of Scripture itself. And then there are the “symbol searchers”—those who find a symbol in one place and insist on interpreting plain, literal, understandable scriptures by those symbols as though this is an iron clad rule.

Others display a positive hostility toward the Scripture by attempting to eliminate the supernatural element through “logic and science.” One example is redefining the flood in Noah’s day as a mere “local” flood. This attitude results in utter destruction of the Word of God. Christianity is a miracle religion. If you can do away with all miracles, you do away with Christianity itself!

A third category of misinterpreting the Bible is insisting that a dispensational pattern be imposed upon the Scriptures for proper understanding. Dispensationalism is a method of interpreting history that artificially divides God’s Word into different periods of time. The usual breakdown of the dispensational theory is as follows: the Dispensation of *Innocence*, the Dispensation of *Conscience*, the Dispensation of *Human Government*, the Dispensation of *Promise*, the Dispensation of *Law*, the Dispensation of *Grace*, and *Millennial Kingdom* of Christ [*Scofield Reference Bible*, January 1, 1917, p. 5]. One of the main reasons for imposing the dispensational system upon the Scriptures is to CONTRAST law and grace. “Since we are now in the dispensation of Grace,” the anti-law proponents maintain, “therefore the *law* is done away.” Preterists—those who believe most things in the Bible are either already fulfilled or “done away,” tend to lean heavily on the dispensational theory of interpretation. For example, the book of Daniel is interpreted as events that happened in the second century B.C., while Revelation is interpreted as events that happened in the first century A.D.

The chief rule for rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) and *correctly* understanding the Bible is to gather the precise meaning the writers intended to convey from the Scriptures themselves. We should apply the same principles, rules, grammatical process, and exercise of common sense and reason to the Bible that we apply to other books. In doing this, one must take the Bible as *literal* when it is at all possible. When a statement is found that cannot possibly be literal, such as Jesus being a “door,” or “bread” being His body, or of a woman being clothed with the sun and standing on the moon and on her head a crown of twelve stars, or of land animals coming out of the sea, and other statements which are obviously *not* literal, then we know the language is *figurative*. In such cases we must *get the literal truth* conveyed by the figurative language. The truth intended to be conveyed will then be as literal as if it were expressed in literal language without the use of such figures. After all, figurative language expresses literal truth as much as if such figures were not used.

In a general sense, the best method for properly interpreting the Bible incorporates the following ideas:

- Be teachable and humble. Take the Bible for what it *says*. Do not seek to find hidden meanings to the words of Scriptures, or add to or subtract from the Scripture (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18–19). When human language is used in other books, men do not try to make them mean anything that *they* want them to mean. Why should they do so with God’s Word?
- Do not change the literal to a spiritual or symbolic meaning. Read it, believe it; where possible, act upon it!
- Give the same meaning to the words of prophecy that are given to the words of history. Do not try to read obscure symbols or meanings *into* the Bible.
- Be aware of the laws of double reference and prophetic perspective.
- Be aware of the primary meaning of words and their common use in the age in which they are used, and the importance of synonyms.
- Be aware of the grammatical construction and idiomatic peculiarities of the languages of the Bible. Note the *context*, both immediate and remote. Remember: a *text* without a *context* is very often a *pretext*.
- Get *all* the scriptures on a subject and compare all the parallel passages. Consider the purpose and intent of each writer in each particular book.
- Note the agreement of Scripture in its several parts, its prophecies, and their fulfillment. Learn the historical background of each writer and the circumstances under which he wrote.
- Understand the general plan of the entire Bible, and its moral and spiritual teachings. (Send for our free booklet, *God’s Seasonal Plan*.)
- Discover the manners and customs of the particular age and land of each writer.
- Understand how to interpret prophecy, poetry, allegories, symbols, parables, figures of speech, types, and all other forms of human expression. No figure of speech ever does away with the literal truth, but merely expresses it in another way. (Send for our free pamphlet, *Can You Understand Bible Prophecy?*)
- Be aware of the various classes of people dealt with in Scripture, and the application of the different principles and rules of interpretation.

The overall rule of thumb is this: Take the Bible literally wherever it is at all possible; if symbolic, figurative, or typical language is used, then look for the literal truth it intends to convey. Be sure to request our booklet, *How To Study Your Bible* and our *Home Bible Study Course*. They are *free* upon request. Ω

How We Got Our English Bible (a Synopsis)

Our English Bible is the result of over 1200 years of work by all kinds of learned men. Portions were translated from the Vulgate, the Latin version, beginning as far back as A.D. 700 when Aldhelm translated the Psalms into Saxon. Egbert translated the four gospels sometime later. In A.D. 735, Bede translated parts of the Scriptures into Saxon. King Alfred undertook a translation of the Psalms, but died in A.D. 900 before it was finished. Elfric translated the Pentateuch and some of the historical books in the 10th century. Nothing else was done about translation from then to the time of John Wycliffe, who made the first complete English Bible from the Vulgate in A.D. 1380. The next was a New Testament by William Tyndale in 1535 and the Pentateuch in 1530. In 1535, Miles Coverdale made the first complete printed English Bible. Then came the Geneva Bible in 1560, followed by Bishop’s Bible in 1563, revised in 1568. The Roman church came out with the Douay version of the New Testament in 1582, and the whole Bible in 1609, which has been used by that church up until now. In 1604, King James authorized 47 men to make a complete translation of the Bible from the original languages. It was finished in 1611 after seven to eight years of diligent work. It has been the most popular and accepted version of the English speaking world from that day until now. There have been several revised versions since then, and a number of Bibles in modern English, but none have been as well accepted and as lasting as the King James Version, and perhaps never will be. Ω



Eye In The Sky

“Look! Up in the SKY! It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s... it’s... oops!... it’s Big Brother!”

by Lloyd W. Cary



Many are concerned—some to the point of paranoia—that “Big Brother,” the government, or even aliens are watching them from the sky. Others, for example, the lost or those in peril, are glad to know they *are* being tracked. Here’s why.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) that most people are familiar with is a worldwide radio navigation system that works because there are always 24 to 32 satellites orbiting the earth at an altitude of about 12,500 miles. The GPS uses these “man made stars” as reference points in calculating positions accurate to a matter of feet. In a sense it’s like giving every square mile on the planet a unique address.



GPS receivers have been miniaturized to just a few integrated circuits, and so are becoming very economical. And that makes the technology accessible to virtually everyone.

These days, GPS units are finding its ways into cars, boats, planes, farm machinery, laptop computers, and even portable devices for hikers! Soon

GPS will become almost as basic as the telephone.

God’s Supernatural GPS

Today’s complicated GPS system is just a tiny analogy of what God can do.

When replying to false prophets and gainsayers, God, through His prophet Jeremiah, asked, “Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:23–24). The obvious meaning here is that God sees, hears, and takes notice of persons, places, and things at a distance, even on earth. This was quite contrary to the notions of these prophets and people who, like heathens, thought that God did not concern Himself about persons and things on earth. The great truth is that God is as near in one place as in another. Those who deny this great truth are in for quite a shock on Judgment Day when their sins are revealed. “For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad” (Luke 8:17).

King David was quite aware of this when he wrote, “O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee” (Psalms 139:1–12).

Operation Lead Shield

Many, it seems, unconsciously try to “compartmentalize” their minds. They want God to be with them when they are hurting, sick, or in need, but shut Him out when they are in pursuit of their own devices. This might be likened to *Operation Lead Shield*, where, it seems, people mentally erect an invisible lead shield above their heads pretending to “shut God out” while they do their own thing, as if to say to themselves, “God can’t see me now!”

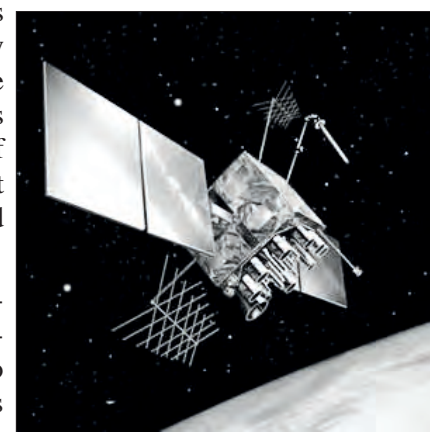
God was aware of Jonah in his plight and even heard Jonah’s prayer when he was in the belly of the great fish (Jonah 2:1–2).

In fact, God is even aware of a sparrow that falls to the ground (Matthew 10:29–30). Further, the very hairs of your head are all numbered! How can we think God is not aware of our every action? “The LORD knoweth the *thoughts* of man, that they *are* vanity” (Psalms 94:11). Paul admonished, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him” (Hebrews 2:6)?

In a sense, Big Brother IS watching us. If you are a baptized Christian, Christ is our “Big Brother,” and He is watching over us. He is ever mindful of us—i.e., His mind is *full* of us (Psalm 8:4–8; 115:12).

David, when considering the heavens, the moon and the stars, the work of God’s hands, asked, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him” (Psalms 8:3–4)? Job asked the same question (Job 7:17). Indeed, what *is* man—what claim has one so weak, and frail, and short-lived, to be remembered by Almighty God? What is there in man that entitles him to so much notice? Why has God conferred on him such honor? Why has He placed him over the works of His hands? Why has He made so many arrangements for his comfort? Why has He done so much to save him? Man is so insignificant, his life is so much like a vapor, he so soon disappears, he is so sinful and polluted, that the question may well be asked, why such honor has been conferred on him, and why such a dominion over the world has been given him. See these same thoughts expanded more fully in Hebrews 2:6–8. In comparison with the lofty heavens, the radiant moon, and the hosts of sparkling stars, man seems to the psalmist wholly unworthy of God’s attention. How ironic that man thinks he can possibly shield his thought from God!



The thought that there is a Divine Being who tracks you wherever you are can bring fear to those who are trying to hide. This terror can be responsible for atheists who try to hide from God by denying He exists. They are only fooling themselves (Psalm 14:1). But for the converted Christian, this brings great joy. He knows that through God’s Spirit, God has promised to guide and lead us today and every day as we follow His leading (Isaiah 58:11).

Man’s Global Positioning System (GPS) is a Johnny-come-lately, and is greatly deficient when compared to God’s Spirit. How thankful we should be that God’s mind is full of man!

Living in God’s Presence

A good exercise is living in God’s presence. If you are a baptized Christian, you *already* have God’s Holy Spirit dwelling *in* you (Romans 8:9–11). Why not experience God’s presence in you? Invite Him into your life literally. When you go about your daily duties, whether to school, work, traveling, shopping, visiting, whatever, visualizing Jesus Christ being right there with you, at your right hand, will work wonders for you, making you even more conscious of His presence. You can take Him with you all day long, wherever you go. You can talk to Him (it might best to pray silently if you are in public) and share your day with Him.

- Ask yourself, Would Jesus do this? Really?
- Would Jesus say that?
- Would Jesus go there? Would Jesus watch this?
- Would Jesus eat or drink this?
- What would Jesus do or think about this situation?

You get the idea. Take down your “lead shield,” and instead of hiding from God, practice the presence of Jesus in your life daily and see how it can change your life! Ω

What’s going on in *your* local Church area? Combined services? Public Bible studies? Potlucks? Church activities? Celebrations? Memorials? Visiting ministers? Birth or death announcements? Plans for getting *The Armor of God* on a free Public Access television station in your area? Let us know, and perhaps we will publish it under “Church News.” We’d love to hear from you!

The editor

The Biblical Origins of The British Commonwealth and U.S.A.

Throughout history, optimists have cried, “It can't happen here,” or “Our country is different,” or even, “We are a godly, Christian nation.” Yet history has demonstrated the average life expectancy of the great civilizations down through time is approximately 200 years. Nearly all the great civilizations of the world have passed through this series of graduating steps or stages from birth to decline, and ultimately to their demise. A very few nations, such as the British Empire and the United States, have already exceeded this average, while other countries are now approaching the average age in this rise and fall of nations cycle. Some historians have listed these in ten stages as follows:

1. From Bondage to Spiritual Faith

2. From Spiritual Faith to Great Courage

3. From Great Courage to Liberty

4. From Liberty to Abundance

5. From Abundance to Excess and Selfishness
6. From Selfishness to Complacency

7. From Complacency to Apathy

8. From Apathy to (Sexual) Moral Decay

9. From (Sexual) Moral Decay to Dependence

10. Finally, from Dependence to Bondage

Quick! Check your local newspaper! Watch the evening news! Do you see any parallels, patterns, or similarities? The most important question of our day is, Where are we *now* in the scenario of Bible prophecy—and can anything be done to break this vicious cycle?

The answer is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; *then* will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

To understand where we came from, where we are headed, and what we must do *now* to avoid national calamity, be sure to request our special CD series, *The Biblical Origins of the British Commonwealth and U.S.A.* They come with an attractive, accompanying easy-to-understand brochure. Ω

Good Fathers

We need good fathers in our homes,
Whose hearts are full of grace;
Who by their love and earnest prayers
Make home a pleasant place.
Who set examples that are clean
For all their folks to see,
And long to be the noble men
That God would have them be.

We need good fathers in the church
To occupy the pews;
And help their fellow members seek
The things they ought to choose.
Whose lives are such from day to day
Wherever they may go,
That others looking on may say,
“The Lord they surely know.”

We need good fathers o’er the land
Who live and tell the truth,
And have at heart along life’s way
The welfare of our youth.
Who want to keep our country free
On ocean and on sod,
And help their fellows on their way
To the kingdom of God.

Such fathers then deserve our prayers,
Our honor and respect.
And never should they suffer from
Our spirit of neglect.
And by the living grace of God
We ought to boost them on,
Until their battles all are fought,
And the Glory’s day shall dawn.

by Walter E. Isenhour

submitted by Alice Lauria

Attention History Lovers

Here is an archive of written material for you to study right alongside your own Bible. It is the *Armor of God* periodical.

The story of the Church of God down through the annals of history is quite a saga. It is written in the blood, sweat, and tears of literally tens of thousands of God fearing, devoted people simply caught in the crossfire of so-called “Christian” religious persecution. Over the centuries, this true story develops into an epic that is sometimes stranger than fiction when considering who was responsible for inflicting what some considered a merciless genocide on quiet, hard-working, God-fearing family communities—all in the name of Jesus Christ and Rome’s Universal (Catholic) Church.

What is the truth concerning these historical benchmarks that discolor and blister the alleged Christian church? How is it that a “work of charity” in the name of Jesus Christ can continue to be so revered in our modern day and yet be responsible for so much innocent bloodshed—and not be held accountable, but instead remain believable? Could it be because most of today’s secular society and culture is unaware? Or perhaps they just don’t care, because our humanistic *pop culture* has them too distracted. Maybe they really are “too busy” to take the time to search out the information that discloses these atrocities and changes. Or perhaps many have simply lost the love for God’s truth.

Whatever the reason, this issue of the *Armor of God* has assembled a variety of in-depth, hard hitting articles revealing information which for some will be extremely eye opening regarding Christian church history. You can also find it on our new website at www.cgi.org

Here are some of the articles in this Church History edition:

- The Chronicles of the Early New Testament Church
- Polycarp: A Man on Fire, Lighting the Way
- The Church That Jesus Built Is Not What Most People Think
- A Snapshot of the Historical True Church
- Who Changed the Sabbath to Sunday?
- A History of Church Buildings
- Heresies: Ancient And Modern
- How Passover Was Replaced By Easter
- Is Christmas Christian?
- The Trinity: Is It Biblical?

Church News



William Clyde Bost,

William Clyde Bost, age 91, of Statesville, North Carolina, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at Iredell Memorial Hospital. He would have been 92 on March 21.

Mr. Bost was the son of the late James Oscar and Bertha Idella Bost, of Statesville. Over the years, Clyde worked and held many jobs; however, when asked if he had a favorite, he quickly told of his job building ships for the Norfolk Naval Shipyard during World War II, and his pride in working on the *U.S.S. Eisenhower*.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, his first and lifetime love for almost 70 years, Effie Frances Fincannon Bost, who passed away June 3, 2010; eight siblings, James Furches Bost, Mable Albertine Bost, Francis Ernest Bost, Henry Glenwood Bost, Sydney Harold Bost, Keith Kenyan Bost, Margaret Bost McGhee, and Jack Curtis Bost.

Mr. Bost often told of how he could never have found a more loving, compatible, and humble woman as he found in Effie, and shared that, "of all of the significant events and triumphs" in his life, "out of all of the choices that she had, she chose me." They were married September 30, 1941, in York, South Carolina. Remembering back to that day, he often told the story of Effie being too young, legally, to marry at the age of 17, and him stopping the car to have her walk across the state line. The two of them went on to have a total of eight children—four sons and four daughters.

Mr. Bost is survived by all of his children, William C. Bost, Jr. and wife Audrey, David L. Bost and wife Barbara, Stephen A. Bost and wife Dee, Jeffrey L. Bost and wife Laura, Karen K. Jessup, E. Frances Plunkett, Helen Rainelle, and Janet B. Byers and husband Jeff; siblings, Denell Bost Wike and David Ray Bost; thirteen grandchildren; and twelve great grandchildren.

A graveside service was conducted on Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Stony Point Cemetery, minister Freddie Carroll officiating. A "Celebration of Life" service was held on Saturday, March 2, at 1:30 PM at Crossroads Church of God Seventh Day, 345 Nixon Road, Statesville.

Mr. Bost was baptized in the Church of God on September 24, 1958, and never wavered from his strong spiritual beliefs. He was ordained as a deacon in 1994, and led the music for his church for many years. He went on to earn his speaking credentials and was authorized to teach in the field churches in January, 2003, by the *Church of God International*, Tyler, Texas.

A product of the working class and of the Great Depression, Mr. Bost had many hobbies, creating much with his hands over the years. He learned to play the harmonica at a very young age and continued to entertain throughout his lifetime, with a harmonica he had been given by his wife. He took piano lessons at the age of 37, and owned that same piano until he died. His wife, Effie, delighted in harmonizing, as he accompanied her, moving quickly into any song of his choice. By his life's end, Mr. Bost had created a song for each of his children.

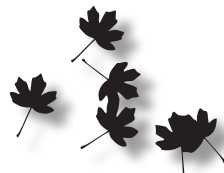
Did Clyde wish to leave behind any parting words or a favorite verse? *But, of course!* A never-forgotten bit of poetry by the author Edgar Albert Guest, *It Couldn't Be Done*, typified William Clyde Bost: Ω

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But, he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.



**Watch Sabbath Services
Live On Your Computer!**

You are invited to attend church services in
Tyler, Texas via the Internet.
We invite you to tune in Saturdays:

Tyler, TX, 12:00 Noon, EST at www.cgi.org

Simply go to the website and look for the link to
"Live Webcasting." Best results are
achieved with a high-speed Internet
connection. *Please be patient and be
prepared to "retry the link" until you connect.*



Noni McVey

Noni McVey, the originator of the idea for the *Infuse* program was recently diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer and colon cancer. The Infuse Leadership Team recently decided to supply a donation to a benefit fund set up to help cover her medical costs. If you would like to do the same, the account is set up at Santa Barbara Bank and Trust named the "Noni McVey Benefit Fund." You can make the deposit at the bank, or mail a check made payable to "Noni McVey Benefit Fund" and send it to Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, 26380 Carmel Rancho Lane, Carmel, CA 93922. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and very helpful.

Your heartfelt prayers are earnestly solicited. Remember to pray for others as you would have them pray for you. Ω



Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases (Psalms 103:2-3)

Church News

Infuse News You Can Use!

Infuse Retreat: “Putting on the Whole Armor of God”

Ephesians 6:10–18

The Infuse Retreat has been rescheduled to the first weekend in August, to avoid any conflicts with the July 4th holiday. The Retreat will now run from Thursday, August 1, 2013 through Sunday, August 4, 2013 at the CGI Detroit church in Southfield, Michigan. A welcome dinner will kick things off Thursday evening, with a farewell breakfast concluding the Retreat Sunday morning. We are still going to have our great seminars, praise and worship session, and volunteer project.

If you require further information or need financial assistance to attend, please feel free to contact Mike James at: mhames6043@yahoo.com

Infuse at the Feast

Infuse will run programs at two Feast sites this year. We are returning to both Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Panama City Beach, Florida. Specific activities outside of our daily seminars will be announced in a later *Monthly Note*. If you would like to assist in coordinating or participating in any events, please contact Mike James at mhames6043@yahoo.com.

For information on the Myrtle Beach Feast site, please visit this page: <http://cgi.org/myrtle-beach-sc-feast-site>

For information on the Panama City Feast site, which is a joint site with Common Faith Network (CFN), please visit this page: <http://www.commonfaithnetwork.com/> Ω Submitted by Mike James

Notice to All Who Receive The Weekly “News Of The Work”

We invite YOU to become involved with the *News of the Work*. Our vision here is to increase the scope and coverage of the items we cover in this weekly report. We would love for you to send in newsworthy events and items from your local church areas that we can include, thus truly making it the *News of The Work*.

Notice Of Combined Regional Ministerial Meeting

Mike Nolen and Bill Watson have made arrangements for a three-day ministerial meeting, August 2 through August 4. All CGI ministers (and their wives) in their two regions are invited to attend (including all Canadian CGI ministers). The host facility will be the Holiday Inn, Cincinnati Airport—the same place we’ve used for our MAP meetings over the years. Please check your calendars and set aside those days to be away from your local congregations. As soon as you are able, let Mike and Bill know whether or not you will be able to attend. An accurate head count will help with room reservations and provide an idea of how many to accommodate for meals. The home office will pay for travel and food expenses. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please communicate with Mike [e-mail: tmnolen@HomeSC.com phone: (843)761–5211]; or Bill [e-mail: wtw@roadrunner.com phone: (330)225–0478]. You will receive further information about the meeting (schedule, topics, activities) in a timely manner. Ω

Wedding Announcement



Betty Register and Darrel Slocum were married on May 11, 2013 in Vancouver, Washington.

Darrel’s grandson Michael was his attendant, and Betty’s daughter Nancy was hers. Her son Dave gave her away. Mr. Charles Groce conducted the ceremony.

The Register and Slocum families were very close friends in southern California in the 1960s.

Betty and Darrel began corresponding after the deaths of their wonderful spouses, and found that they had many things in common, and are very happy to have found one another once again and to be able to spend the remainder of their lives together. Both families are pleased to reunite once again. *Congratulations!* Ω

The deadline for the next *International News* is August 15, 2013. Send in your items early.

William Dwight Cavin

November 8, 1922–April 21, 2013



William Dwight Cavin

Over the years, many of us have gotten to know Dwight Cavin of Freeport, Texas. He and his wife of 70 years, Freda, attended church services in Houston and came to Tyler as health and circumstances allowed. Dwight served the church in many ways, including tenure on the Board of Directors. His participation on the Board was vital to the stability of the church, as was his thoughtful counsel.

Dwight died on Sunday, April 21, in his home. Although he most likely died of cardiac arrest, it can be said it was just his time; he was 90 years old, and as he might say, “all used up.” He is survived by Freda; two daughters, Kay and Karen; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dwight was a longtime resident of Brazoria County, Texas and a World War II veteran with the Army Air Corp. He was born November 8, 1922 in Guymon, Oklahoma, and grew up on his father and mother’s dairy farm. After his service during WWII, he moved his family to Texas in 1962, making their home in Houston.

You didn’t have to be around Dwight very long until you learned he was an avid fisherman who often took trips, some overnight, into the Gulf. He was a gentle spirit and a dedicated servant of God and his brethren. His service to the Board of Directors will be missed, as will his warm and genuine fellowship in the Body of Christ.

Charles Groce and George Crow officiated at his funeral. Ω



LET’S HEAR IT FOR THE SENIORS!



Comments From the 1950s

- “Did you hear the Post Office is hinking about charging a dime to mail a letter?”
- “When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon? Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”
- “Thank goodness I won’t live to see the day when the government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress.”
- “No one can afford to be sick any more. At \$35 a day in the hospital, it’s too rich for my blood.”
- “If they think I’ll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it.”
- “I’m afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.”
- “If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire help at the store.”
- “Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long before we will only be able to buy a used one.”
- “I never thought I’d see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.”
- “It’s too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work just to make ends meet.”
- “What? Twenty-five cents a pack? If they go up any more, I’m going to give up smoking.”
- “I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s soon going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for \$15.”

You Know You’re Getting Older When...

- You look forward to a dull evening.
- You don’t remember when your wild oats turned to shredded wheat.
- Younger men ask you for advice.
- You sing along with the elevator music.
- You begin every other sentence with “Nowadays...”
- You wake up with that morning-after feeling and you didn’t do anything the night before.
- Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
- You finally got your head together, now your body is falling apart.
- You come to the conclusion that your worst enemy is gravity.
- You wake up looking like your driver’s license picture.
- You have a party and the neighbors don’t even realize it.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

5 Good Things About Growing Older

- Arthritis makes you less likely to lose your wedding ring.
- No one expects you to walk fast.
- You can act as grumpy as you feel and people think you’re only being funny.
- People pick up things you drop.
- You can act as though you are hard of hearing when it’s your turn to pay.



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS
3900 TIMMS STREET, TYLER, TX 75701
Published by the Church of God International

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Summer Issue
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