

# Reaching Out

ISSUE 100



## Welcome to Reaching Out,

a Christian magazine to serve the community. Our goal is to offer Biblical solutions to the problems facing our society today.

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# Where Is Your DNA?

by Clay Zimmerman

As we discover more and more of the molecular world, tiny things get fascinating. With the invention of microscopes, mankind realized there were a lot of things around us that are not visible to our regular eyesight. As we discovered the "universe" of the germ world and what they do, we have been able to vastly improve our health and have made great strides forward in disease prevention. We have also discovered that we ourselves are leaving traces of our own particles as we touch and move through our world. Our own DNA (the carrier of our genetic information) is so precise and identifiable that it appears we each have an identity like no one else. Leaving smudges behind that can be identified as ours has been a great help for the law enforcement agencies. Traces of the criminal found at the crime scene speak louder than words and have settled many a case.

There have, however, been some wrong conclusions drawn. This is because DNA can be passed from one in-

dividual to another. Your presence can seem to have been somewhere when in actuality it was carried there by someone else. Hmmm . . .

As a Christian, my spiritual DNA is godly because, in committing myself to God and having received His Holy Spirit, I have become one of His sons. Therefore, as I interact and touch the lives of others, I should be leaving traces of godly DNA in their lives. Have I truly been changed? Does my presence and influence bless others? Can my words and the impressions I leave be traceable back to God? If I am carrying His DNA, then there should be traces of Him wherever I have been. Just like physical DNA, the people I truly touch should be carrying bits of Godly character on to others.

***"Ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17b). "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).***

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### LOVE . . . Love Not

by Harold Brenneman

"Love" is the most misused word in our language. It has been profanely used to advertise lust and to commercialize products on the market. The word "love" hardly conveys anything sacred or fine or holy to the minds of the masses.

But God has addressed His messages to us earth dwellers out of a heart of love. And He wants to form such a heart of love within us! So He tells us what and whom to love and how. He also tells us what and what not to love.

Almost 3,000 years ago God said, *"Hate the evil, and love the good"* (Amos 5:15).

When God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to share the life of us earth dwellers, He sent many messages about love. Jesus showed that genuine love is expressed in obedience. *"If a man love me, he will keep my words"* (John 14:23). Now it is not so hard to love the lovely, or those who love us. But Jesus says, *"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"* (Matthew 5:44-46).

Love of self must not crowd out love of others. The neighbor will taste the flavor of your religion by your love. *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law"* (Romans 13:9, 10).

A special, divine love flows between Christians who are to regard one another as brethren of a common holy Father. *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren"* (1 John 3:13). This love is purified of carnal, lustful elements and self-seeking.

*"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again"* (1 Peter 1:22, 23). It is not "put on" as a politeness or device. It is wholly refined of God.

Not only in and through all, but also over and

above all must be the love reserved for God alone. *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"* (Matthew 22:37, 38). Such pure, wholehearted love as God requires cannot live in the same life with forbidden loves. Even legitimate loves become forbidden when they interfere with devotion to God. One of these is the love of money: *"For the love of money is the root of all evil"* (1 Timothy 6:10).

The all-inclusive message God has for us concerning forbidden loves is found in 1 John 2:15-17: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

Honestly, isn't most of today's advertising calculated to arouse love of the world and the things in the world? The heart must be weaned away from the world to become "dead" to sin, and "alive" to God. These words from God speak plainly and painfully. Read them over and over. Measure yourself by them. Let them "sink down in your ears." Let God deliver you from the bondage of fashion, culture, pleasure, ease, prosperity, and self. *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36).

*The true measure of loving  
God is to love Him  
without measure.*

*- Bernard of Clairvaux*



# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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## Forgive Us Our Debts

*by Doyle Zimmerman*

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Jesus emphasizes the point of forgiveness in this model prayer by saying "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." The challenge is, Do I really forgive like I want God to forgive me?

What does it mean to forgive? To forgive is to release a person from paying a debt, no longer requiring any form of payment from him. To insist that a person apologize is to require an apology as payment. To require that a person make restitution is to require a payment. Joseph did not even know if his brothers were sorry before he, in love, gave them corn and returned their money. Later he helped them obtain the best farmland in Egypt, even though it appears that they had not yet apologized for their wrong against him (Genesis 47:6; 50:16-17).

Stephen showed a forgiving spirit to those who stoned him (Acts 7:60). He desired not that God would give them sleepless nights or that someone else would hurt them, but that they could find forgiveness. The example of how God forgives us in Psalm 103:11-12 suggests that when He forgives, He also removes our sin by purging it. We do not have the power to impart the strength for victory or to purge sin, but we do have a responsibility to help the brother who has wronged us to be victorious.

The Hebrew writer admonishes us to "follow peace with all men." A grudge from an unforgiving heart usually grows from resentment to bitterness. Then it becomes hatred that troubles the bearer and defiles many others (Hebrews 12:14-17).

Joseph's brothers hated him because he was their father's favorite. They resented Joseph's dreams and they wished him dead. Eventually, because of their hatred, they sold him. In the ensuing years, they followed a downward course in sin. An unforgiving heart not only affects our relationship with the one we do not forgive, but it also affects our relationships with God and others. Bitterness changes the way we look at life. It makes it easy to ascribe unkind motives to well-intended actions of others. We begin to suspect others and imagine evil of them. Bitterness in the heart bars us from the forgiveness that we so desperately need from God.

Forgiving our fellow men is better understood when we realize the great debt that we owe God. God created us to serve Him. Yet we have done many things in our lives that displeased Him. We have disobeyed God and, sad to say, in rebellion we have done things that we knew were wrong. Every time we disobey God, we increase our debt. Jesus illustrates this in Matthew 18:23-35. The first servant is us. We owe the king (God) a debt that we cannot pay. Our fellow men are the other servants. They may have wronged us and therefore owe us a debt, and we may feel that they should suffer punishment.

When sins are committed against us, it may seem that the offender gets off free, and we bear a scar for the rest of our lives. Still the Bible says, "Forgive." If we do not forgive, we are like that servant who was forgiven that big debt but refused to forgive his fellow servant who owed him a small debt (Matthew 18:28). Joseph found himself in Egypt because of his brothers' hatred, and in prison for Potiphar's wife's lie, yet he chose to forgive them and faithfully serve God.

Reuben's attitude was revealed by his response: "Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear?" (Genesis 42:22). But he was not innocent of selling Joseph. Reuben wanted to be in favor with his brothers, but he did not feel right destroying Joseph, so he suggested a compromise. His plan to hide Joseph in the pit and later returning him to his father may have seemed noble. However, when he helped to cover his brothers' sin and lied to his father, he became partaker of their sin (Genesis 37:31-32).

Joseph understood his own need of God's mercy, so he understood his responsibility to extend mercy to his brothers. He said "This do, and live; for I fear God." The fear of God taught him how to extend the mercy he received from God to his brothers.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). The challenge for each of us is to remember that God has forgiven us for Christ's sake, and then to follow that example.

We can forgive others as we recognize the place of God in our lives. Joseph told his brothers four times that God had sent him to Egypt. "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life .... God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh" (Genesis 45:5, 7-8). "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Genesis 50: 19-20). Joseph saw the moving of Almighty God in his own life. He saw that God had a purpose for

his life, and that no one, not even his brothers, could frustrate God's plan.

You and I are able to forgive our fellow men when we recognize that although others may mean what they do to us for evil, God only plans good, and only allows what is good for us. No one can hurt us if God does not allow him to. It was not because Joseph was tough and did not feel hurt that he could forgive. He could forgive because he believed that it was God's place, not his, to bring vengeance. He could forgive because he trusted God. The brothers' actions were not good, but God brought good out of it. We hear of seemingly senseless tragedies and wonder why God allows such things, yet we can have the confidence that God allowed it for good. We can find that same place of rest when others are cruel and unkind to us. This does not mean assuming a martyred air, but rather calmly accepting God's claim on our lives.

Forgiving one who has wronged us may be more than a one-time struggle. It seems that Joseph must have forgiven his brothers soon after he arrived in Egypt. How else could he have experienced victory in his life and have accepted his lot in prison cheerfully?

Surely he must have felt the release of forgiveness those many years. An unforgiving attitude toward his brothers or Potiphar's wife would have certainly turned to bitterness.

When his brothers appeared before Joseph in search of food, it was in his power to bring revenge. This was his chance! When he faced his brothers, the feelings could have come rushing back: the hurt, the sense of injustice, and the desire for revenge. He called them spies and liars. He proposed to put them in prison and send one brother home for Benjamin to prove that they told the truth, yet he put them all into prison (Genesis 42:16-17). When he brought them out on the third day he said, "This do, and live; for I fear God" (Genesis 42:18). Even though he may have felt like making them pay dearly for their actions, his fear of God decided his course of action. He chose to forgive!

When we choose to forgive, it releases us from bitterness and its bondage. But the devil may bring the temptation to us again. We may need to struggle again to forgive. This process may need to be repeated, but God will give us the love necessary to forgive.

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# THE CHRISTIAN HOME SERIES

## Wanted: Fathers Who Lead!

by J. Luke Martin

It has been said, "It is one thing to father a child and it is altogether another thing to be a father to your child." What does it mean to be a good father to our children?

Jesus Christ came to show us the Father who is in heaven. *"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"* (John 14:9).

All that Jesus is the Heavenly Father is: perfect, loving, kind, full of grace and truth, forgiving, full of wisdom and power, full of mercy and compassions. Jesus was firm. He lived with a purpose and a mission. He was honest and transparent. He expressed his disapproval of those who professed faith but were hypocrites.

Fathers, let us learn from the Heavenly Father. We should emulate Him. As much as is humanly possible, we should be to our children what our Father God is to us.

The writer of 1 John 2:14 said, *"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning."* Fathers, our first need is to know the Heavenly Father. We must emulate Him. We can then be to our children what our Father God is to us.

Consider these characteristics of our Heavenly Father:

**1. He is a Father of love** - John 14:21; 16:27; 17:23, 26.

Be a father who loves. It has been said that the best thing a man can do for his children is to love their mother. Love expresses itself in sacrifice and kindness. Love is the grace that makes ordinary things meaningful, dull moments shine, heavy burdens lighter, and failures forgivable.

**2. He is a Father who has expectations** - 1 John 5:3.

Fathers love your children, give direction and guidance. Teach your children about God. Teach them the Bible. Train them to obey. Teach the law

of deeds and consequences (sowing and reaping). Teach then that we reap a good harvest by sowing good seeds.

Fill their minds with lessons from history. Show your children how to make value judgments as well as moral decisions. After you decide between right and wrong, help them to decide how to choose between the good and the best.

We know it is right to give a portion of our earnings to the Lord. It is wrong to steal from God or man. Show them that how much you give will be according to what you value. They will see this principle work out in the reading material you buy, your music, the vehicles you drive, and the clothes you wear.

**3. He is a Father who disciplines His children** - Hebrews 12:7.

Fathers, discipline your children. This is not a popular principle in our society. The Bible says God corrects those He loves (Hebrews 12:7). To refuse to discipline is to hate your child (Proverbs 13:24). Do not think of discipline as a punishment but as a correction that will help your child think before he acts. Timely correction given in love brings blessing to the giver and receiver. *"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul"* (Proverbs 29:17).

**4. He is a Father who forgives His children** - Matthew 6:14.

Fathers, forgive your children. Forgiveness is refusing to bring up past offenses that have been corrected. It is pardoning the guilty, canceling the debt, and being reconciled to your child. The fruit of forgiveness is reconciliation. After you have addressed the misdeed and it has been corrected, let your child know he is freed from the guilt. Express love, acceptance, and good will. Commend honest effort and improved behavior. Forgiveness builds trust and makes future discipline more effective.

**5. He is a Father who cares and provides for the needs of His children** - Luke 6:35.

Fathers, provide for your children. *"If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel"* (1 Timothy 5:8). Providing for the family implies sufficient food, clothing, and shelter, as well as providing for the spiritual needs. Providing for your families involves learning frugality and how to make money reach. It may mean doing without the nonessentials our culture deems necessary.

Providing for our families does not give us the option to believe it is the government's responsibility to do so. We are thankful for a government that responds to needs and emergencies. The Bible teaches that we should identify with the people of God who are willing to share when we are in need.

**6. He is a Father who communicates with His children** - 1 John 1:3.

Fathers, communicate with your children. Talk to them about your walk of faith and the lessons you learn as you come to the light. Talk to them about your failures and the lessons you needed to learn. Talk to them about your convictions and your desire to serve God. Bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into your daily experiences, and show your children how it works.

Communication involves listening. Our heavenly father hears our prayers. We need to listen to our children's talk, to their re-

quests, and to their troubles. Let them know you are there for them and that none of their problems are too small or too big to share with you. Teach them the truth about the Word of God and the need to know the Word of God. Teach them the fear of God and the value of the Christian brotherhood.

**7. He is a Father who gives good gifts to His children** - Matthew 7:11.

Fathers give good gifts to your children. Think of all the good gifts the Heavenly Father has given you. This includes sunshine, rain, health, a sound mind, and the freedom to love and be loved. The list expands when we include the spiritual blessings that come when we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The best gift you can give your children is a godly example. Prove to them the power of Jesus Christ that enables you to live free of covetousness, pride, envy, lust, ill will and discouragement. Give them lessons in diligence, economy, and good work ethics. When our first child was born, my father-in-law told us that if we teach our children submission and industry, we will have taught them the two greatest principles of life. Dependability, trustworthiness, and contentment are more valuable than a new car or pickup.

**8. He is a Father who rewards His children** - Matthew 6:4, 6, 18.

Fathers reward your children. This may seem like a repeat of what we said earlier about gifts. However, rewards differ from gifts. Rewards are earned and gifts are not. Praise your children for their obedience and cooperation. Thank them for completed tasks..

As with any other virtue, we need to be discreet that we do not leave a reward mentality. Yet our children need to hear our approval and words of appreciation and commendation. To express disapproval but never approval will discourage children from doing their best. If we only punish for disobedience, we are, in essence, only rewarding them for failure. Deal positively with your children and experience the rewards.

**9. He is a Father who is impartial to His children** - Luke 6:35.

Fathers, be impartial to your children. Each child is uniquely different. They differ in personality and capabilities. Some excel in academics and others in art. Boys and girls respond differently.

Partiality and favoritism in any degree destroys

respect, confidence, and trust. Favoring one child and disfavoring another produces discouragement and defeat. Every child needs to feel fully accepted

and appreciated.

**10. He is a Father who suffers with His children** - Isaiah 63:1.

Fathers, suffer with your children. To suffer effectively with the hurting is the ultimate expression of love. It is hearing the sufferer's cry and listening to his emotional heartbeat. Growing up isn't always easy. Our children need our understanding and sympathy in facing personal failures. Some face handicaps and need our guidance in dealing with them.

Fathers, we need to be there for our children. This takes time and devotion. Listen to them. Ask them about their friendships and school activities. Be considerate of their fears and hurts. Give them answers.

Yes, our heavenly Father cares deeply about his children—about you and me. Should we not care just as deeply about our own children? Since our children largely develop their concept of God from us fathers, should we not want to be everything a godly father can be? You are your children's role model. I want to be a father that will lead my children to bless God and call Him Abba (Papa) Father. Thank you, Jesus, for showing us the Father.

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*You are your children's  
role model.*

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# THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

## Calvary Excludes Evolution

by Elvin Stauffer

*"By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians. 15:22).*

I was recently talking with a few young men in New York City. After some conflicting comments on creation and evolution one of them said, "I believe evolution and the Bible can fit together nicely." This shows the common attempt of many professing Christians to hold on to remnants of faith and evolution also. Through ignorance of the subject and loyalty to secular science, they give in to evolutionary dogma. The media reinforces these beliefs with a steady diet of misconstrued facts and conjecture.

### THE IRRECONCILABLE CONFLICT

The problem with mixing the two beliefs lies at the root of Christian doctrine. Jesus' sacrificial death provided the blood of atonement to cover and put away sin. In doing so, He conquered death, which came by sin. *"For since by Adam came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:2, 22). If death did not come because of man's sin and occurred millions of years before man in a prehistoric world, then Jesus' atonement did not abolish death, because Adam's sin was not its cause! Evolution puts man at the end of a long chain of struggle, suffering, death, and survival of multitudes of biological organisms. Although many prestigious men of religion have concocted ideas to bypass this fact, some evolutionists have known it well.

H.G. Wells (1866-1946), a science fiction writer and historian, wrote, "If all the animals and man had been evolved in this ascendant manner, then there had been no first parents, no Eden, and no fall. And if there had been no fall, then the entire historical fabric of Christianity, the story of the first sin

and the reason for an atonement, upon which the current teaching of Christian emotion and morality is based collapse[s] like a house of cards."

### FAULTY INTERPRETATION = ERROR

These human fabrications reject the evidences in God's world and God's Word. The error of mixing human philosophy with Christian faith is seen here. It leads to many inconsistencies such as Adam and Eve in the first "very good" earth standing on a graveyard of fossils of dead creatures. True Christian faith is belief in the facts of God's Word. Since it is true and no lie, it will always be in harmony with observational science (God's world). It is men's interpretations called "philosophy and vain deceit" in the Bible that produce confusion and error (Colossians 2:8). The physical evidence and scriptural text is consistent with the creation, fall, and flood destruction of the first world.

### EFFECTS OF FALSE DOCTRINE

One of the attempts to conform Christian faith to the long ages of evolution is to say there was a pre-Adamic race of man-like beings without spirits and souls. These creatures became extinct, and Adam and Eve repopulated and *"replenish(ed) the earth."* This idea originated in 1655 with Isaac LaPeyrere, a Jewish convert to Catholicism from Bordeaux, France. He began the thought of biblioscpticism, later called higher criticism. LaPeyrere said that

**The issues of life are first decided in the mind but finally are carried out in actions.**



Cain's wife and the inhabitants of his city came from this pre-Adamic race. Adam, he said, was the first Jew and the various Gentile races came from these earlier people. This was his explanation for the various cultures that were being discovered around the world such as black Africans, Chinese, Eskimos, Native Americans, Polynesians, and the like. Pre-Adamism thus became the intellectual justification for racism and slavery.

These may seem like "far-fetched" ideas, but today polygenism [belief in multiple origins] is still a pillar of bias and hate in groups such as white supremacists, British Israelites, Christian Identity, and some Ku Klux Klan groups. Some more popular Christian movements refer to early "spiritless" beings to accommodate supposed ancient humanlike fossils.

The Scriptures speak plainly of *"the first man Adam"* (1 Corinthians 15:45) and that *"Eve was the mother of all living"* (Genesis 3:20). We again see that ideas result in consequences. The issues of life are first decided in the mind but finally are carried out in actions. Irreparable grief and suffering are the consequences of these errors.

*"But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* (John 1:17).

### FOSSIL EVIDENCE OF THE CURSE

Numerous evidences exist that men and animals in the fossil record were victims of the curse on creation through Adam's fall and thus were after Adam. One Christian anthropologist notes numerous evidences of sin and sickness in human remains such as cannibalism, violence, and diseases such as syphilis. Some two hundred Neanderthal skeletons from across Europe show a bone deficiency of vitamin D, called rickets from lack of sunlight. This likely came from living in caves and from the overcast environment during the ice age after the world destruction by flood.

Violence evidently abounded among animals as well as people before the Biblical flood (Genesis 6:13). Dozens of fish are found swallowing other fish. Some bones are scarred with teeth marks and two dinosaurs of different species are found fossilized with their claws in each other.

### CALVARY BROUGHT DELIVERANCE

Adam and Eve earned the death penalty they were warned about (Genesis 3:17-19; 2:27; 3:3). Their sin brought death and suffering and the groaning and travailing of all creation (Romans 8:20-22). The New Testament is clear that Calvary was to deliver creation from this continual death process. It is absurd to claim to be Christian and yet reject Bible teaching, which is the only source of Christian faith and practice.

Evolution provides a supposed justification for proud men who reject the doctrine of original sin. Men inherit a selfish, evil sin nature from which they need a spiritual deliverance. We only need to view our present world to see the result when men reject Christ and Christian principles. Men can't save themselves.

*"He [Jesus] bore our sin in his own body on the tree [cross]"* (1 Peter 2:24). Now those who repent and accept His atoning work are free! *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36). We can be free from the sin that *"did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death"* (Romans 7:5) and free from eternal death after this life.

Evolution is a religion of death, depending on the death of multitudes of creatures to improve. The hope of the Christian is in the abolishing of death at Calvary. Jesus is the minister of life and that more abundantly (John 10:10)! All those who trust and obey Jesus receive eternal life and live on after physical death because Jesus rose from the grave.

It's a promise! All who believe in Him will rise with him (Corinthians 15:12-23).

### IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION

Evolution is one of Satan's primary tools in removing the ability to believe in God. The subtlety of the deception is just another evidence that the happenings of our day are not a series of non-moral events, but a desperate battle to the end between God and Satan for the souls of men.

Man tries to put a foot in the world and keep a hold on heaven. But God has put a crossroad between the love of Christ and the love of the world. We cannot have both. *"Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him."* (1 John 2:15).

God is constantly working to bring out peoples' colors. What will you do with Jesus? He often needs to get our attention by disturbing our nest. When America's security is shaken, people's self-confident fabrications ("house of cards" - apologies to H. G. Wells) begin to crumble.

Many are lulled by the ease of life and don't want to think on unpleasant things or commit themselves. But we must believe right. *"Many are carried about with divers and strange doctrines"* (Hebrews 13:9). It is by reading, thinking, and believing God's Word that we receive the knowledge and experience of salvation.

**Resource:** *Creation Magazine*, vol. 24, no. 4.



# THE WORLD TODAY

## Truth Is Fallen in the Street

by Roger L Berry

*"For our transgressions are multiplied ... In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood ... justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter" (Isaiah 59:12-14).*

Sounds like our modern world, doesn't it? Truth had fallen in the streets in the days of Isaiah over 2,500 years ago! Truth, God's truth, is being ignored, yes, even trampled in the streets of today's society. Many claim that there is no God. Others live as if there is no God.

Truth is an almost lost commodity in our society. In our courtrooms people swear to "tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth," using God's name or the Bible to witness it. Then truth often gets warped or mutilated on the witness stand. The swearing in ceremony becomes a farce. At many trials the truth seems abundantly clear, but technicalities and forces of popularity seem to paralyze the judge and jury from acting on the truth.

The ignoring of truth is but one consequence of humanistic and godless philosophies that have permeated schools, homes, and almost every institution of modern society. Even churches have not been exempt. Husbands and wives lie to one another and cheat on one another. Honesty in business is often winked at in a dog-eat-dog world. Many political leaders refuse to divulge the truth, either covering it up or lying their way around it. Some get caught like former President Nixon in the Watergate scandal. Others seem to get by with it, for the time being.

Through surrender to God we can rise above a corrupted society with a higher regard for authority than our peers. We do not need to lose our moorings and drift away from God, the only source of truth. In knowing God, we come to know the truth.

*"Then said Jesus ... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know*

*the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32).*

I used to donate blood at the local blood bank. I had to answer a barrage of questions, some of them very personal, that had a bearing on the safety of my blood. At the end of the questioning the nurse gave me a bit of paper with two peel-off labels with bar codes on them. In a little booth I was given one last opportunity to say if I felt my blood was unsafe or not, in case I had lied when the nurse asked me all those questions. At first I was offended that someone would think that I might have lied. Didn't they believe me? Then I realized that this is one more evidence that truth has fallen in the streets. But with my faith anchored in God and His Word, the Bible, I can live a truthful life. Truth is not fallen in the lives of those who follow God's plan for salvation and for daily living.

If we are going to live truthful lives, we will need to be born from above and follow Jesus who said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).* When we know the One who is truth, we will know the truth and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). We will follow Jesus' example of truthful living.

Through Jesus, God offers us deliverance from lying. The Bible says, *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour" (Ephesians 4:25)* On the other hand, the Bible reminds us that *"All liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).*

You do not need to get caught up in the lying and deception of our judgment-bound world. You can turn your life over to Jesus Christ and find deliverance and peace in Him. Will you do that today? With a clear conscience, you can live the life worth living.

*"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21).*

## Thou Art the Way

Thou art the Way: to Thee alone  
From sin and death we flee;  
And he who would the Father seek,  
Must seek Him, Lord by Thee.

Thou art the Truth: Thy Word alone  
True wisdom can impart;  
Thou only canst inform the mind  
And purify the heart.

Thou are the Life: the rending tomb  
Proclaims Thy conqu'ring arm;  
And those who put their trust in Thee  
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou are the Way, The Truth, the Life:  
Grant us that way to know,  
That Truth to keep, that Life to win,  
Whose joys eternal flow.

— George W. Doane

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## HOW CAN I BE BORN AGAIN?

Jesus spoke to a man who had come to Him seeking the truth and to find satisfaction in life. Jesus said to him: *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Perhaps, by now, you are asking the question, "How can I be born again?" How can I experience this change that will bring peace and meaning to my life? The Bible shows us the way.

### SEEK A NEW LIFE . . .

Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10).

*"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### SEEK A NEW CONFESSION . . .

*"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"* (Romans 10:9).

*"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out"* (Acts 3:19).

### SEEK A NEW MASTER . . .

Jesus said, *"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"* (John 5:24).

*"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"* (Luke 9:23).

### SEEK A NEW WALK . . .

*"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him"* (Colossians 2:6).

*"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed"* (John 8:31b).

### SEEK A NEW FELLOWSHIP . . .

*"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ"* (1 John 1:3).

*"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart"* (2 Timothy 2:22).

*"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized ... And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship"* (Acts 2:41, 42).



