

Reaching Out

FALL 2025, ISSUE 125

WELCOME TO REACHING OUT

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

Live The Moment	P2
Habits	P3
Lost . . . Reward	P4
Dating Rocks and Dead Things	P6
Mother.....	P8
A Good Creator	P11

HOW TO REALLY BE RICH . . . P10

Live The Moment

by Clay Zimmerman

To “live the moment” is the idea to not bypass a simple pleasure as we rush through life looking for something “big.” “Stop and smell the roses” is another statement we use to bring out the same thought. If we are watching a beautiful sunset, we need to do it right when it is happening. Sunsets fade away quickly and we either watch them for the few minutes they exist, or we miss it. There are special things that come our way at any time. A meaningful conversation with a friend, a special moment with our spouse, or a fun unplanned game with the children. These are all times to “live the moment” as they come. Don’t miss life’s simple pleasures while we plan the next “big” vacation.

However, to “live the moment” can be a negative in our life if we don’t carefully consider the outcome. A hasty angry word is also “living the moment” but may quickly lead to hurts and regrets that are hard to fix. Spending money carelessly when the paycheck comes is to “live the moment.” However, when we are faced with the reality of the rent, car payment, and our food needs, that “live the moment” spending was quite costly.

Each moment leads to another and to not look ahead can bring lots of pain if we have not considered the results. When we choose an action, we choose the consequences. This is a life principle that runs on into eternity. We reap what we sow.

The homeless person who spends his disability check on three nights in a nice hotel and then goes back to a tent for the rest of the month is a stark reality of “moment living.” Most of us think we are doing better than that, but we must be careful we are not treating our spiritual life the same way.

Galatians 6:7-8 says “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

In other words, living out your life in sin without God ends in judgement and destruction whereas living with God directing your life leads to life eternal. Living in sin is but a fleeting moment of pleasure, but eternity is forever.

“Live the moment” in God’s forgiveness and love and the end will be glorious!

Would you like to receive each issue of **Reaching Out**, or do you know of a friend who might? Send your requests to the church represented on your back page.

Do you care to respond to any of the articles?
Send your thoughts and comments to:

Reaching Out
Daniel Allgyer, Editor
12196 State Hwy 37
Benton, IL 62812

Reaching Out Published Quarterly, Issue 125, 4 2025

Editor: Daniel Allgyer

Board: Joe Weirich, Wayne Miller, James Yoder, Clay Zimmerman

Regular Columnists: Clay Zimmerman, Denton Ford, Caleb Martin, Daniel Allgyer, Gardell Strite, David L. Martin

Reviewer: Roger L. Berry



WISDOM FOR YOUTH

Habits

by Roger L. Berry

After a delicious Sunday dinner, I sat down for a friendly visit with my cordial hosts. On the bookcase lay a large, attractive photo album. Curiosity got the best of me.

"May I see your album," I queried.

"Why, certainly," responded the wife, "I wanted you to see the pictures we took when we were first married."

Much to my surprise, I hardly even recognized the just-married couple in the front of the album. Thirty years really had made some changes, especially in *him*!

Back then, he had a curly shock of brown hair. Now—well, it's almost completely gone. Just a little straight, graying hair on the sides is about all that's left.

I wonder if they could have guessed, on their wedding day, what thirty years would bring.

Baldness, you know, does not happen all at once. Probably my friend and his wife hardly noticed it at first—it happened so gradually. Finally it became noticeable. Eventually it became a permanent part of this man's appearance.

In just the same way, habits begin in a small way—hardly noticeable. But gradually they get control of you. Then they become noticeable.

Youth is the time many men start becoming bald. Youth is also the time you start forming habits, both good and bad. The things you do now, as a young person, will largely determine your appearance and your personality for the rest of your life. These things can make or break your life. They can affect your eternal destiny.

I once heard a man glibly remark, "Well, a boy's got to sow his wild oats first, then he'll settle down. Boys will be boys, you know."

This philosophy has led many a young person to disaster. Many have been the young man or woman who followed the crowd because it was easy. They didn't want their friends to think they were odd or "chicken." But God loves each one of us and expects the best of us. He is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

I recently read of a young fellow from a respectable home who got in with the wrong crowd. Soon he was carousing around the neighborhood "living it up."

One night he took a few drinks too many. On his way home, he lost control of his car, slammed into another car, killing himself and the occupants of the other car.

He brought shame on his parents. And worse, he went into eternity without Jesus Christ. There were no more chances to "clean up his life" or to break his youthful habits.

This young man "sowed his wild oats" but, in the end, he reaped DEATH.

The Bible's sentence on "living it up" is plain: *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* (Galatians 6: 7). "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7).

Don't hope that you can have a "high old time" now, then "turn over a new leaf" sometime in the future. You may never have the opportunity. And even if you do have the opportunity, you may find yourself helplessly bound by the habits you have formed.

We are told that if you throw a frog into hot water, he will jump out. But if you put him in cold water and gradually heat it, he will boil to death. Why? Because he gradually grows accustomed to the heat and is scalded before he realizes what's happening.

Habits, too, can so gradually enslave us so that we don't realize the grip they have on us, until it's too late to change—till we can't break the habit. It's too great a risk now to get involved in something you may not be able to change later.

God wants you to live for Him now. Your youth may be the only time you will ever have. You have no guarantee that you'll live to be old or that you'll ever have more opportunities to try to improve yourself. God wants YOU—all of YOU—NOW. Form good habits NOW—habits that will stand the test now and forever. *"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"* (Ecclesiastes 12:1).



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Lost . . . Reward

by David L. Martin

You have probably seen an ad tacked up somewhere that says, "LOST." It goes on to describe a dog or cat, with a phone number to call if you spot it. Sometimes the notice ends with the word "REWARD." If you help the owner to reunite with his pet, the owner will give you a gift, probably cash. Who wouldn't help out in response to that offer? But most people would gladly help out the owner even without getting paid. There is a reward just in the satisfaction of bringing pet and owner together again.

Once in a while, it is not a pet who is lost, but a person. This time, there are multiple posters, larger and more urgent, with more details—when the person was last seen, what he was wearing, and so on. Again comes the word REWARD, often with a high dollar figure. That lost person is priceless to someone.

People—yes, people—get lost. Some become disoriented and wander off. Some walk away deliberately. Some explore too far and lose their way back. Some are the victims of foul play. In any case, something is drastically wrong. They are gone. They are not only lost, but in danger of staying lost, never to return.

The authorities are notified. Search and rescue teams head out. Families and sometimes communities are disrupted. *Lost* is a fearsome word.

Jesus used the words *lost* and *found* to illustrate how welcome someone is when he is finally found again. (He was not the type to tell people to "get lost.") In Luke 15, He told of a father whose son walked out, headed for who-knows-where. The son was gone a long time. Was it months or was it years? At any rate, he finally ran aground, decided enough was enough, and headed home. Now get this: "*When he was yet a great way off, his father saw him.*" Those words imply that his father had been watching for him all the while. What then? His father ran and embraced him!

According to an old story, a man traveling by train noticed that the young fellow sitting beside him looked troubled. He ventured to ask the young man about himself, and the young man confided that he had left home and lived a wild life, but had finally come to his senses. So he had written home, asking his parents if they would take him back. Not being sure of their welcome, he had written that if they wanted him, would they please hang a sheet from a window of their



house facing the railroad track. If the sheet was there, he would get off at the local station. If the sheet was not there, he would stay on the train.

"Beyond the next curve is my home," he said, "but I can't bear to look. Would you look for me?"

Suddenly the man said, "Look! Look! Your mother must have ransacked the house looking for sheets. There are sheets at every window."

Such is God. Every time a sinner turns to Him, He gives that man or woman a glad welcome.

But let us not forget the man at the train window. Was he not rewarded to be able to tell the young man how welcome he was?

God Himself appreciates the help of anyone who points a sinner toward God. And how is this done? All kinds of ways. Some knock on doors. Some take in foster children. Some care for prison babies. Some invite friends to summer Bible school. Some have church visitors home for lunch and make a follow-up phone call during the week. Some pack a bag with goodies and a Gospel paper for the homeless man at the end of the freeway ramp. Just two testimonies follow.

"From little things like cards or phone calls, to big things like putting up insulation or watching our children with little advance warning, people at church have made extra effort to reach out to us."

"It is my testimony that those . . . Christians did a good job of loving me into church membership and practicing what they preached. God bless you all!"

There is no greater reward than seeing people moving toward God.

***"Brethren, if any of you do
err from the truth, and one
convert him; let him know, that
he which converteth the sinner
from the error of his way shall
save a soul from death, and
shall hide a multitude of sins."***

James 5:19-20

An Evening Prayer

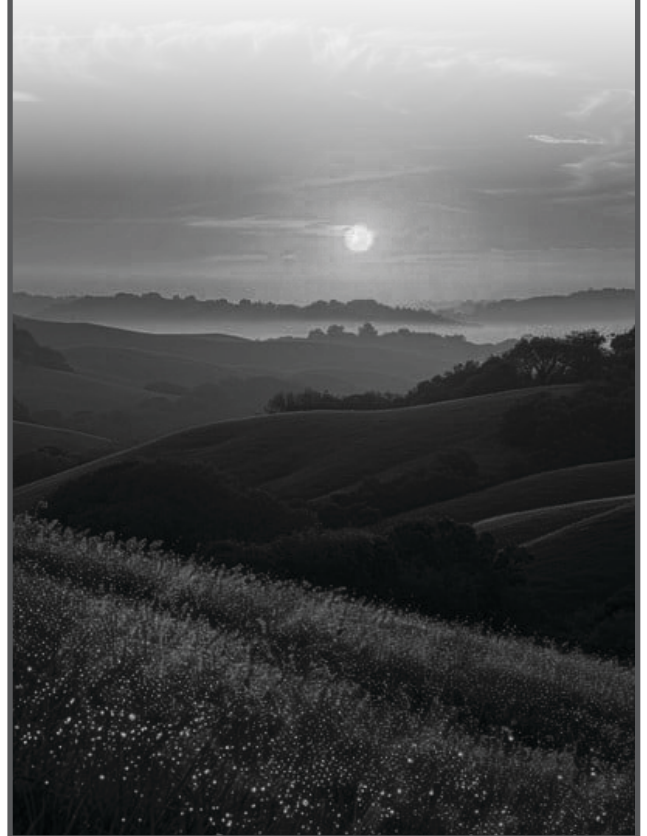
**If aught I may have said or done
Hath from the wrong a wanderer won,
I thank thee, Lord.**

**If aught I may have said today,
Hath caused one soul to go astray,
Forgive me, Lord.**

**So help me live for thee, each day
That some lone traveler on life's way
May know thee, Lord.**

**And when at last I see thy face,
And come unto thee, saved by grace,
Receive me, Lord.**

-Laura E. Kendall





THE BIBLE & SCIENCE

Dating Rocks and Dead Things

by Denton Ford

Thou, even thou, art LORD alone;
thou hast made heaven,
the heaven of heavens, with all their host,
the earth, and all things that are therein,
the seas, and all that is therein,
and thou preservest them all;
and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

(Nehemiah 9:6)

Many scientists claim the earth is around 4.55 billion years old, and that the Bible's shorter timeline of only thousands of years is wrong. Many Christians are intimidated by these claims, and often especially so by all the seemingly sophisticated and nearly impossible to understand terminology of their arguments. I hope to make one of those "sciencey" topics that are used to discredit the Bible more simple and easy to understand, and also show that sometimes what looks like an enemy turns out to be a friend in the end. There will be a few big words, but don't get nervous: you don't have to pronounce them if you don't want to!

Radioisotope Dating

It's time for a very condensed lesson on radioisotope dating (also known as radiometric or radioactive dating). There are often a lot of big words involved, but the concept behind it is fairly simple. First, elements are the basic

building blocks of matter. There are many different types of elements, many of which are very familiar, such as iron, gold, carbon, etc. Certain elements are radioactive, or unstable, and they decay over time into a different, stable form. The unstable form is often called the "parent element", and the stable form it decays into is often called the "daughter element." In radioisotope dating, the idea is that when a rock forms (such as when lava cools), the "parent"



elements start to decay. Since we can test and find out at what speed various elements decay, the amount of the parent element can be compared to the amount of the daughter element, to determine how long ago the rock formed. It is through this type of method that the earth has been claimed to be around 4.55 billion years old.¹ Obviously, this is much older than the approximately 6,000 years in the biblical timeline. Does this mean the Bible is wrong? Let's take a closer look.

Faulty Assumptions Involved

There are a lot of assumptions involved in the radioisotope dating process. First, it is assumed that when the rock formed, there was no daughter element in the rock, only the parent element. Then, it is also assumed that the decay speed hasn't changed, and that the rock has not been contaminated with extra parent or daughter element from somewhere else. If any of these assumptions are false, then the age they got from these assumptions is also false. We weren't there to see the rocks form, so radioisotope dating is often built on unreliable assumptions.

Old Ages from New Rocks

In addition to unreliable assumptions, there have been instances of modern rocks that were observed to form in recent times that have been tested with radioisotope dating. Following the major eruption in 1980 of Mt. St. Helens in Washington, there were smaller eruptions and lava flows. One of these lava flows formed a dacite dome in 1986. The potassium-argon radioisotope method was used to date the lava flow, and it yielded a date of 350,000 years.² Obviously, 1986 wasn't that many years ago, and this provides more evidence that radioisotope dating currently isn't very reliable.

Carbon-14

There is another similar dating method that uses a radioactive type of carbon known as carbon-14 (C-14). It works the same way as the radioisotope dating methods we have covered already, except that it is used on fossils instead of rocks. You see, C-14 is formed in the upper atmosphere, and living things breathe in or

otherwise absorb it. When an organism dies, it stops absorbing C-14, and the C-14 starts to decay into a stable form of carbon. Once again, scientists compare the amounts of the parent and daughter elements to determine an age for the fossil. Of course, this method still has the same assumptions and resulting problems that we covered earlier.

Max Lifespan of C-14

Something different about carbon-14 is that it decays much faster than some other elements. Its decay rate is described in terms of its half-life (the amount of time it takes for half of the remaining C-14 to decay), and it has a relatively short half-life of 5,730 years. This means, that at a maximum age of 100,000 years or so (to be generous), there should be no C-14 left, at least not enough to detect.

In a fascinating twist, C-14 has been found in fossils that are claimed to be millions of years old, far past the time that all the C-14 should have decayed. And it has not just been in one fossil—for example, it has been detected in fossilized wood, dinosaurs, and fish.³ This strongly suggests that these fossils cannot be millions of years old.

The Bible is right, and the Gospel is right.

When we look closer at radioisotope dating, we see that, far from being rock-solid evidence that the Bible's timeline is wrong, the dates produced from radioisotope dating are mostly unreliable. And carbon-14, with its short life-span, being found in fossils that are supposedly millions of years old, seriously calls into question their conventional ages and supports the Bible's history.

I like to wonder if maybe God intentionally left some of these clues, such as C-14 in dinosaur fossils, just to remind us of the truth of His Word. The more we discover in science, the more it continues to line up with the Bible. And the God who gave us the true history of the world also wants a relationship with us. He sent His Son to redeem us from the sin that separates us from Him, so we could have eternal life with Him. Have you been redeemed?

1 G. Brent Dalrymple, "The age of the Earth in the twentieth century: a problem (mostly) solved", *The Age of the Earth: From 4004 BC to AD 2002*, C. L. E. Lewis, S. J. Knell, (2001) DOI:10.1144/GSL.SP.2001.190.01.14

2 Dr. Steven A. Austin, "Excess Argon within Mineral Concentrates from the New Dacite Lava Dome at Mount St. Helens Volcano," *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal (Answers In Genesis)*, Vol. 10, no. 3, (1986) pp. 335-343

3 Brian Thomas, Vance Nelson, "Radiocarbon in Dinosaur and Other Fossils," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Volume 51, (2015)



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Mother

by Caleb Martin

I admire women and their gifts. My wife and my mother continue to be some of the most influential people in my life, and I am amazed with their life-changing abilities.

My mother sacrificed a significant portion of her life for me. I'm eternally grateful. Now, as I watch my wife navigate the difficulties of motherhood, I'm slowly comprehending the important work that my own mother so selflessly poured into me. Did I mention that I have nine brothers? Mom belongs to an exclusive club. Not many women raised 10 boys.

Before I dive into the lessons my mother can teach us, can we take a wider view?

A woman personifies creativity, beauty, and nurture. Women provide a fundamentally critical role for any society: raising children. However, their value extends far past their critical role in reproduction. The feminine call to civility and morality tames the world. A society that realizes the pricelessness of women, builds its code of ethics around protecting and providing for them. This noble project pushes men to their best behavior and provides a stable platform for society.

Femininity is creative at its core. It transforms the physical into the spiritual. It turns houses into homes and brats into gentlemen. That's why the mundane tasks of a gentle mother live on as the best of memories for some of the most brazen men. Through a good mother, the most menial of tasks are transformed into spiritual rituals. This spiritual transformation that a woman is instrumental in providing should not be passed over

lightly.

Let me give you two examples. First, a child deprived of his mother is greatly disadvantaged. I believe in the grace of God and that each child has an opportunity to flourish in God's eyes. However, neglect from a mother can add much unnecessary suffering. Similarly, a wife that dominates and disrespects her husband adds incalculable amounts of chaos into her home. Conversely, an unselfish wife that respects her husband reinforces the foundation of her home.

Feminine beauty is inherent and spiritual. What beauty surpasses the tender mother that shepherds her young charges through life's complexities? This beauty imbues the world with purpose and hope. It revitalizes aching backs and invigorates disillusioned hearts. Its loveliness consistently calls us higher and nobler. Intertwined in this creativity and beauty is the urge upward - the push for growth. The nurturing instinct is a call for greater maturity and can't be separated from the inherent creativity and beauty of femininity.

Have you confused femininity with the effeminate? Don't. They aren't the same. The feminine is not conjured. Femininity is a real property that cannot be pretended. It's not the whole thing but it's an integral part of the whole.

Anyway, I started by talking about my mother. It's tempting to confuse femininity with softness and passivity. However, that's not the case. The core of the truly feminine is wrapped in endurance, and Mom embodied this. Raising ten boys took a ton of work and lots of patience. We hated

to work but she kept us busy. We tested the moral boundaries, and she disciplined us. She hauled us to the beach and to the berry patch. She taught us how to care for goats and cows and chickens. She taught us how to bake and clean and do our homework.

But more than all these important things, Mom cared about us. She comforted our sorrows and soothed our fears. She listened to our stories and told us her own. She read endless stories (sometimes falling asleep in the middle of them). She nursed us through fevers and coughs and infections. And always, she pointed us to God. Mom went through hard times raising us and this could have destroyed her. Instead, she prayed and leaned on God and allowed these times of testing to deepen her faith. Mom loved God passionately. She willingly sacrificed herself for God and called us to do the same.

She loved the Bible and studied it voraciously. She wrote articles, headed up Bible studies, and pitched in during family worship. At the same time, she took 1 Timothy 2:9-15 seriously: *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."* And she did a wonderful job modeling these verses. She wasn't a pushover. She had her own opinions regarding Bible interpretation and loved discussing these things with Dad. But, at the end of the day, she respected Dad and his decisions. I never questioned that Dad was the head of our home.

My mother is not a feminist. What is odd to me is that the people who claim to love diversity often push women into the same role as a man. They don't acknowledge that women and

men are called to different responsibilities. The concept that women should go to work and try to fulfill a man's role is counterproductive. Of all the movements that have undermined society and led to pain and suffering, the feminist movement is near the top of the list. The number of children who have suffered without a kind mother to care for them is astounding and feminism has played a key role in this tragedy.

Recently, my wife and I were waiting on our flight in the Denver airport when an attractive young woman sat down across from us. She was evidently delayed like us and placed a call to her significant other. She asked a favor of him on behalf of their son, and he obviously declined. This quickly devolved into a crude, mud-slinging contest. I could only hear one side of the conversation, but, according to her, the man on the other end of the line was worthless and shameful. She kept up a harsh tirade while on the phone but as soon as she disconnected, she burst into tears.

I could have cried myself. It was an appalling situation with everyone sharing plenty of blame. But I found myself wondering, "What if this young woman had been raised by my mother? What if she had learned the critical role God has called her to? What if she learned modesty, deference, and the power of feminine winsomeness?" Her request was simple. With a little coaxing, self-deprecating humor, and winsomeness, she probably could have persuaded the man on the other end of the phone to humor her. How many Biblical principles had feminism broken for this young woman? And how tragic the results!

I'm grateful that my mother is not a feminist. She is a talented woman and I'm sure she could have excelled in many other things besides raising children. However, I believe that her work in raising us was far more important than any corporate job. Her beauty, creativity, and nurture filled a role that Dad (or any other person) could never quite fulfill. I pray that mothers everywhere realize the importance of their work and fulfill their critical, feminine role that children need so desperately.



MONEY AND ME

How to Really Be Rich

by Gary Miller

The Bible tells of a man we refer to as the rich fool. But I doubt his neighbors thought of him as a fool. I suspect he was regarded as a wise man in his community. Jesus even revealed this man's thoughts. This man was thinking smart thoughts. He saw that the harvest was greater than his ability to store, so he decided to save the extra for the future. Nothing stupid about this man. He knew how to plan ahead. He knew that not every year would be a bumper year, and he should be setting something aside for the future.

But Jesus called him a fool, and I would encourage you to spend time meditating on the twelfth chapter of Luke to understand why. Jesus concluded this account by saying, *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:21). What does it mean to have treasure for myself, yet not be rich toward God? We know how a man can be rich on earth, but how can a man be rich toward God?

Immediately following this account of the rich fool, Jesus tells us how much time we should spend worrying about the future, how much regard we should give to food and clothing, and exactly how to be rich toward God.

"Sell that ye have," Jesus said, *"and give alms; provide for yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"* (Luke 12:33, 34).

Jesus says that giving to those in need is how we become rich toward God. Jesus was not condemning investing. Actually, He commands it. But there are different ways to invest and different places to store our investments. We can summarize the lesson we get from the man Jesus called a fool in this way: he was a wise earthly investor but a poor heavenly one. Or we could say he was good at investing; he was just investing in the wrong kingdom.

We come into this world as completely self-centered individuals. As infants, we cry if we are hungry,

holler if someone is not paying attention to us, or fuss if too many people do. Everything that happens is gauged by how it affects us. As we grow older, we learn how to mask our self-centeredness. We learn how to appear loving while really trying to get our own way. We find that we can get more of what we want by being kind. In short, we find ourselves developing a little kingdom we will call the kingdom of self.

The kingdom of self is very much like the kingdoms of this world. We look out for our own interests, just as natural kingdoms do. We are ready to defend ourselves, just as the country where we live does. We want to look good, have people admire us, and be happy. That is the kingdom of self.

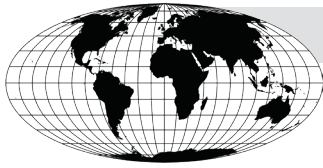
But Jesus compares the kingdom of self with the Kingdom of God and tries to show us the foolishness of focusing on the kingdom of self. He talks about our preoccupation with food, clothing, and housing. A man who is focused on the kingdom of self finds his thoughts revolving around these topics.

Then, after addressing our tendency to focus on the kingdom of self, Jesus says this: *"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God"* (Luke 12:31). God knows we need food, clothes, and shelter. But He asks us to take our focus off all these things and focus instead on the Kingdom of God. Jesus is asking us to stop building one kingdom and start building another.

Whose kingdom are you building? I think it not only a fair question, but also an important one. Do you find your thoughts circling around food, clothes, material things, or is your primary interest and concern the Kingdom of God? Make no mistake about it. You cannot build both kingdoms at the same time with the same money. The one kingdom calls for you to save and accumulate, the other tells you to share and distribute. The kingdom of self will tell you to protect yourself; the Kingdom of God will encourage you to trust in Him.

I believe it is important in our Christian lives to get a clear picture of what it means to build the Kingdom of God. This overriding vision will help us deal with the smaller questions that come from day to day.

From Charting a Course in Your Youth,
Published by TGS International,
PO Box 355, Berlin, OH 44610. Used by permission



THE WORLD TODAY

A Good Creator

by Daniel Allgyer

Many evil things happen in the world today. But it was not meant to be this way. I think of an old poem in which appears this line: "And much it grieved my heart to think what man has made of man."¹ The Bible says, "*There is none righteous, no, not one.*"² The evil in this world is the result of man's sinful nature, fueled by a Satanic agenda.

But it was not meant to be this way. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth, and God saw that everything was good—the earth, the plants, the animals, and the man and woman. However, goodness has fixed principles under which it must operate to be good. When the good man, yielding to the influence of Satan, disregarded the principles the good Creator had set in place, he became sinful. And, as time goes on, sinful mankind gets worse and worse.

But the all-knowing Creator God was not blind-sided by this turn of events. He knew all along what man would make of man. And, in His goodness, God provided the gift of forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever would repent, believe on Jesus, and call upon the name of the Lord, could be saved. Saved from the guilt, bondage, and punishment for sin and made righteous unto eternal life by Jesus Christ.

It is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance. It is the goodness and longsuffering of God that withholds judgment, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. It is a good God who causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and who

sends rain on the just and on the unjust. It is the goodness of God to bring fruitful seasons and fill our hearts with food and gladness.

God is not blindsided by the evil in the world today. He is quietly moving in the hearts of people and in the minds of kings and nations to bring about His purposes. According to the Bible,

God's plan is to deliver His people, judge unbelievers, and make all things new.

But, in the meantime, how do we relate to the evil around us? We must overcome evil with good. We noted earlier that evil is the result of an individual's sinful nature. So, every individual needs a transformation, a change from evil to good. Only our good God can make this change in a person. And He will, if a person repents of his sin and believes on Jesus Christ. Then God renews the

mind and spirit of that person to be in harmony with and guided by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit of God.

As transformed believers are guided by the Spirit of God, good things come forth from their lives. Things like love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance. This is the good by which evil can be overcome. "*Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good*" (Romans 12:21).

Amid an evil world, believers commit the keeping of their souls to God in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.³ And they proclaim the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of the goodness of God through Jesus Christ.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

¹ Lines Written in Early Spring by William Wordsworth

² Romans 2:10

³ 1 Peter 4:19

