

Reaching Out

Issue #94

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.

What's Inside?

Four regular columns:

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So proclaim the advertisements encouraging you to be self-employed, work at home, or make more money. The main attraction however seems to focus on “Be your own boss so you don’t have to take orders from anyone else!” O what freedom! I can do what I want, when I want, and on my schedule. I can be the boss and make my own decisions.

A lot of people carry this idea into all of life. Many a young person has left home and parents because they wanted to “be their own boss.” Some get fed up with school, work, or the laws of the land. “I want to be my own boss!” But this carries some deep consequences. If you get too out of hand, you can get expelled from school, fired from work, or the “long arm of the law” gets you by the collar. Some would say “Might makes right.”

So while force or repercussions keep most somewhat in line, many are the people who fear man more than God. When it comes to spiritual things, they want to “be their own boss!” They want to decide right from wrong and to order their own lives, not God or a church.

That was the lure Satan used when he approached Eve in the Garden of Eden. “You can

be your own boss.” She thought that sounded great and chose Satan’s suggestion over God’s commandment, resulting in trouble ever since. God designed the human race, and He simply knows what is best for us. Many are the blessings when we do it God’s way. Best of all, the end reward is “out of this world” for all who accept His forgiveness for trying to be our own boss, and rather live in love and obedience to Him.

That we can be our own boss is true because God has given us that choice. We can let him rule, and tell us right from wrong, or we can insist on “being our own boss.” The idea, however, that we can come out right for eternity while doing it “my way” is the biggest lie and deception ever fed to us. Satan tried it, got disinherited, and to follow his example is simply to play the fool. Satan said, “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14). God is not only the “Boss,” He is our heavenly Father who loves us, knows the right way, and wants us to live with Him forever.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not onto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:15).

*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

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Feature Article for Youth . . .

Taking a Risk!

Some years ago I taught school and had one tenth grader in particular who loved to take risks. He would do daring things like trying to see how many stair steps he could skip and still get down the flight of stairs. He especially enjoyed doing stunts on his bike like going up a ramp to see what it felt like to be airborne as he sped over the end of the ramp. Some teased him that he would break his neck if he wasn't careful.

I lost track of this young man for a few years, but found myself visiting his community again. I found out that he was still living in the area and called to see if I could stop in for a visit. He gladly accepted and I looked forward to the "reunion." He met me at the door and I noticed that he walked a bit slowly and with a slight limp. After a brief chats about the "old days," I asked him how things had been going for him since school days. He told me that he had become what some call a "stunt artist." He enjoyed doing amazing things before large crowds of people. Then he told me about his last stunt. As the crowd below watched, he jumped from an airplane and waited as long as possible to deploy his parachute. He had done this several time with no problem. This time, however, something didn't work right and he continued his free fall. Finally, the parachute opened and helped break his descent a bit, but he hit the ground with a thud. His back was broken along with some other bones and he was rushed to the hospital. After a long recovery and extensive rehabilitation, he was able to walk again but continued to suffer a lot of pain.

He admitted that he had learned his lesson about stunts and taking such risks. He would never do such things again, in part because he was no longer able. Such things were really not worth the risk when he was younger or when he jumped from that plane.

Life is full of risks and it could be argued that most everything we do involves some degree of risk. However, some types of risks can have more serious consequences than others. People who have studied risks and risk taking have listed risks giving them various names. There are financial risks and health risks, for example. Many people smoke heavily, realizing, of course, the serious risk of lung cancer. But not everybody that

smokes gets lung cancer and so they hope they will be the exception.

One type of risk that has been extensively studied is called "dread risks." People tend to dread some risks and not others. For example, it is common to dread epidemic diseases, food poisoning, airplane accidents, and tornadoes. Yet people fail to dread more likely risks such as automobile accidents and medical errors which take more lives. For example, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many people feared to fly and took more trips by car which increased the number of traffic fatalities for a time.

There is, however, a risk that is far more serious than diseases, terrorist attacks, or other risks people tend to dread.

That is the risk of living for self, material gain, and the pleasures of this life. For example, people will indulge freely in acts of immorality risking serious diseases and the regrets that go with such a lifestyle. Neither do they consider the consequences later in life

and after this life is over. People fail to realize that refusing to live for God and obeying Him have serious consequences if they do not repent and forsake lifestyles that violate God's standards.

Indeed, not taking God's way is far more than a risk. We have no hope of true happiness in this life and no hope of Heaven if we continue living in sin (disobedience to God). We have no hope that we can get away with living for self or that there will be a "chance" that we might not have to face the consequences of a life of sin. Daring to take a "risk" by failing to serve God will have everlasting and devastating consequences. And that is one "risk" that we dare not take. It is a risk that we do not need to take.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

—RLB

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take a "risk"**
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THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

"To the Praise of His Glory"

by Elvin Stauffer

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

Great accomplishments bring honor and praise to men. When the Brooklyn Bridge was open to traffic in 1883, it was hailed as "the eighth wonder of the world." John Roebling designed it and when he died his son, Washington Roebling, directed its completion. Such achievements show great intelligence and ability, and society has benefited greatly from them. Henry Fords, Thomas Edisons, and many others have brought us through the industrial age and into the digital age.

But how do we feel when we see a sunset, a flower, a bee colony, a stallion, or a newborn baby? Do we worship the Creator? There are many today, influenced by public education, who would say that these natural things are just accidents that came about through random processes. They take for granted that our whole ecosystem with its living creatures and habitat originated without intelligent input.

Can we conceive the affront this is to God? He is patient, longsuffering, and forgiving, but the day is coming when there will be a recompense for this injustice.

A Look at One Species of God's Created Kinds

One of the most common songbirds that inhabit eastern woodlands is the red-eyed vireo. It is heard more than it is seen, staying secluded in higher foliage. It gives continuous robin like chortles, whereas the robin pauses every four or five phrases. It is a gray, sparrow-sized bird with a black and white eyebrow over a red eye.

Some years ago, my grandchildren found a vireo nest in a young maple tree in my yard about four feet above the ground. To make a nest, the female vireo finds a horizontal Y in a twig and hangs grass, threads, spider webs and rootlets over the two branches. She sticks the bottom together with more spider webs, grass,

and flat pieces of leaves and paper. She adds some lichens for camouflage and lays her eggs and raises her young in this hanging cup. I still have the nest.

Who trained the vireo and her following generations to make their nests this way? It could not have failed at first for a few years or there would be no vireos. Immediately from creation, God encoded the information for the features of their bodies and instinctive actions of all His creatures. They do what they were made to do, without a learning curve.

Parasitism

Not all is rosy in the vireo's world. The vireo is the most parasitized of the small songbirds by the cowbird. The brown-headed cowbird does not raise its own young but lays its eggs in the nest of other birds. Its eggs have been found in the nests of 144 species. It usually throws an egg out in exchange for its own. The young cowbird hatches before the host's young, monopolizes the nest, gets most of the food, and pushes others out.

Through my binoculars, I once watched a small yellow warbler busily gathering insects. Then, to my dismay, I saw her go and stuff them into the mouth of a brown bird larger than itself sitting on the ground. I do not feel very kindly when I see a group of cowbirds foraging in the pasture. While they were loafing, mother vireos, warblers, redstarts, and others were slaving away to raise "foreign" babies to the loss of their own. Later, when the young cowbird sees its own kind, it joins them. Cowbird control programs have restored songbird populations where they were endangered.

We could ask, "Why are there parasites in God's creation?" Numerous organisms live off of and weaken or destroy others. They range from the human tape worm to the mistletoe that

sends its roots into the sap layer of an oak tree limb it lodges on. Did God create them that way? How can this be God's pleasure (Revelation 4:11)?

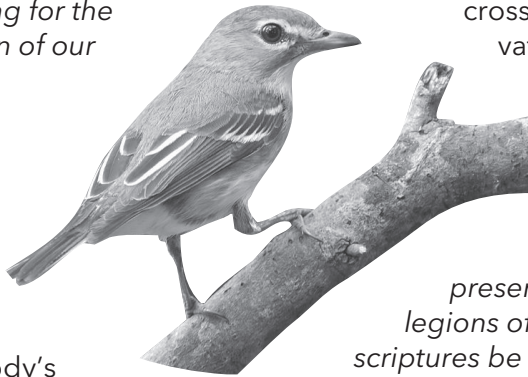
In Genesis, the book of beginnings, God tells of a curse that came upon His perfect creation because of the first man Adam's choice to listen to Satan (Genesis 3:14-19). God did not make man a puppet that had to perform His prescribed will. Man was made in the image of God with a will, the ability to choose his course in life. It would be a glory to God for people to voluntarily live for Him because they love Him and want to.

But because of man's disobedience to God's Word, degeneration, sickness, hardship, and death came upon creation. Now we see that not everything is good and beautiful in this world. God told Adam: *"In the day that thou eatest thereof [the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] thou shalt surely die* (Genesis 2:17). Now we see *"that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together ... And not only they, but ourselves also ... [are] waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body"* (Romans 8:22, 23).

Why Must People Suffer?

This is an often-asked question. Why are people afflicted with such things as migraine headaches, toothaches, disabling diseases, terminal cancer, and much more? But pain is often the body's way of warning us something is wrong. We, of course, use reasonable means to alleviate pain. A notice on a hospital wall said, "Are you in pain? Notify a nurse. You don't need to be in pain." They have many drugs to numb the body and numb the mind. Now more people are choosing the "legal" option of being put to death which is not in harmony with God's will.

Suicide in our "Christian" culture has always carried a stigma, and it should. Life is sacred and given by God. He originated each spirit, soul and body, and we leave it in His hands when and how it should end. It is a pagan practice to turn suicide and murder into noble deeds. From the Japanese kamikaze, Mayan sacrifice of youth, and the offering of infants to Molock, the weak in a culture are victimized by the strong. This is all the work of Satan and is an evil that God warned His people against (Deuteronomy 18:10)



The Redemption

But God knew He would need to institute a redemption plan from the beginning. *"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men. for that all have sinned,"* But *"if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man. Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. . . For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous"* (Romans 5:12-19).

God, out of love and commitment to His handiwork (Job 14:15), offered His own Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for sin (John 3:16). This had to be voluntary for Jesus to consent to go through with the crucifixion. In the garden of Gethsemane *"his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."* Jesus said, *"Father . . . remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"* (Luke 22:42-44).

In June 2007 I stood in the garden near where Jesus won the battle to go through with the cross experience to provide my salvation. I had to meditate on the reality of this event in history and on Jesus' struggle.

It was an issue of non-resistant love. *"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"*

(Matthew 26:53, 54). This demonstrated His love for you and me, and the church of believers that would be born. This is the treasure in the field (the world) mentioned in (Matt 13:44).

A songwriter said, "O the love that drew salvation's plan, and the grace that brought it down to man! God made us and, for all that repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, He bought us back from sin.

Think again of the affront it is to God to reject Jesus sacrificial death for us! To reject God as Creator of nature and Redeemer of the soul is to cast aside all hope of salvation and eternal life with Him (Acts 4:10-12, Hebrews 10:26-31).

God's salvation plan is so *"that we should be to the praise of his glory"*! He is worthy! (Ephesians 1:12, Revelation 4:11). *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation"* (Hebrews 2:3).

Resources: *The Bible* (God's Word)

Stokes Field Guide to Birds, by Donald and Lillian Stokes



THE CHRISTIAN HOME SERIES

Respect for Authority

by Marlin Kreider

Respect for those in responsible positions of authority is essential for the successful function of any home, church, or nation. The Bible, God's Word, gives us clear direction.

For the home, it says, *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right"* (Ephesians 6:1). In reference to church leaders, Hebrews 13:17 says, *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls."* Concerning civil government authorities, Titus 3:1 says, *"Put them [Christians] in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."*

God is the ultimate and final authority. He has ordained and established the foundational institutions of the home, the church, and the civil government to accomplish His purposes on the earth and for the physical, moral, and spiritual welfare of humanity. These sacred structures have divinely-appointed responsibilities, and with that, God has given them authority to accomplish their work. We call this *delegated*

authority. "Delegated" means being given power or authority to act for another.

The Bible, in Romans 13, speaking of civil authority, says it so plainly. Here are a few quotes from verses one to four. *"Let every soul [person] be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained [ordered] of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God . . . For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain . . . Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same."*

Respect and obedience to authority figures is at its best when it is rooted in love and loyalty, rather than fear and duty. Let us remember: Until it is wrong to obey, it is wrong to disobey the earthly authorities God has placed over us for our good. Only when an authority asks us to do something contrary to God and His Word can we rightly say, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (See Acts 5:27-29 for an example.) Even a less than ideal authority is usually better than no authority at all. Our world today needs a revival, back to a wholesome understanding of respect for authority!

Today, authority is being challenged and disregarded in many homes and churches. There is a growing rebellion toward civil authority figures. There is an alarming loss of respect for God, His sacred Word, and human life in general. When respect for authority is lost, there is rebellion and anarchy. The result is chaos, with great material and spiritual loss. The Bible predicts and describes these days in which we find ourselves. The days leading up to our Lord Jesus Christ's second coming will be characterized by decep-



tion, rebellion, and lawlessness. Be a Bible student. Read scriptures such as Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5, 2 Thessalonians 2, and 2 Timothy 3. See for yourself how accurate and up-to-date the Bible is.

In America we are witnessing the disintegration of the nuclear family unit. This is at the root of many of society's problems, such as child abuse and the growing number of socially maladjusted, hurting, homeless people. Many churches are fragmenting and apostatizing from the truth as it is in Jesus. An increasing number of people are not attached to any church. Some are having difficulty finding a Bible-preaching and Biblepracticing congregation. Nations are divided by civil wars and social unrest. In America, we have a multitude of special-interest groups, some of them becoming violent, undermining law and order that threaten the stability of the nation.

What is the answer? What can God-fearing Christians do? *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (Psalm 11:3). We can, and must, rebuild. We must begin in our homes to restore respect for God and His delegated authorities. Here are a few practical principles that will guide those who desire to get back to doing things God's way.

1) Husbands and fathers must assume their God-given responsibilities as leaders, providers, protectors and positive role models in the home. (See Ephesians 5:25 and 6:4.) One of the fruits of women's liberation is stronger women and weaker men. This has also contributed to the gender and transgender confusion we face today. Fathers, be there at home with and for your wife and children.

2) Wives and mothers must return to their role as submissive, suitable helpers, and keepers at home. (See Genesis 2:18, Ephesians 5:22, and Titus 2:3-5.) Mothers, make home a place where your husband and children want to be. When mothers are at home, it brings security and stability to a child's life. The mixing of women and men, closely associating together in the workplace, tends to undermine proper reserve and has contributed to the breakdown of home fidelity in our society. True Christianity always elevates woman to her God-given place of dignity and respect. Contrary to popular thought, she can realize that best by being a loving homemaker, supporting her husband.

3) Children must be taught and trained to obey, first their parents, and then other authorities. (See Ephesians 6:1-3 and Colossians 3:20.) This training must begin early in life both by precept and example. Children are best trained at home, not in the daycare center. When father, mother, and child all go their own way for most of the day, lots of precious time for bonding and training is lost.

Because of the fall of man, children by nature are rebels. Left to themselves they will self-indulge, self-deify, and finally self-destruct. They need the parental love of both the rod and relationship. (See Genesis 18:19 and Proverbs 22:15.) Children can be trained to obey, respect, and be secure under firm and loving parents. This then prepares them to find their way with God when they come to an accountable age.

4) Every home needs a family altar. We all need guidance to find our way in this dark world. During the family worship time is when the family daily gathers around the Bible, sings spiritual songs, and prays. This is where children should hear their parents pray for them, as well as for the president, the pastor, and the policemen. By this, children understand these authorities are our friends and we appreciate and respect them.

5) Every home needs a church. This is where we both receive from and contribute to other believers in the local body of Christ. There should also be church-sponsored Christian schools. These connections are invaluable in teaching and training our children. Parents, talking about and working under their authorities respectfully, leave a good example for children to see and follow as they relate to God-delegated authority.

Finally, as these last days become darker, the godly have the wonderful opportunity to let their light shine. (See Matthew 5:13-16.) As we lift up to God's Biblical standards in our personal lives, homes, churches, and general society, we can be a preserving salt to our generation. May God help us to this end, and may He receive all praise and glory as we submit to His authority.

**True
Christianity**
*always elevates
woman to her
God-given
place of dignity
and respect.*



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

About Conversion

by Daniel Kauffman

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

The word "conversion" is used in the Bible but once—Acts 15:3. Different forms of the word, however, are used more frequently, and the doctrine of conversion is so prominent in the teaching of Christ and His disciples that if it were expunged from the Christian faith there would be nothing left worth saving. The word itself means a turning, a change, a bringing back.

THE DOCTRINE STATED

We were *"by nature the children of wrath"* (Eph. 2:2)—like Ephraim, wedded to our idols. To get back to God there must be a turning around, a change—a change of mind, of heart, of affections, of attitude toward God and toward sin, a change in everything needed to bring us back to God and in harmony with His Word. While the exact words, "Things I once loved I now hate, and things I once hated I now love," are not in the Bible, yet the experience therein expressed is true of every sinner who has been converted to God. It takes a complete turning around, a complete about face, a new love in the heart and new life in the soul, to constitute a real evangelical conversion to God.

NO CHANGE, NO CONVERSION

A fundamental change must take place before the sinner can become a child of God. There must be a change of mind, of heart, of life. Without such change, the sinner may unite with some church but he cannot become a child of God, for in Christ Jesus nothing will avail but to become *"a new creature"* (Galatians 6:15). And no sooner does the "new creature" exist within than the "newness of life" will begin to manifest itself without. *"Out of the abundance of the*

heart the mouth speaketh . . . Faith without works is dead . . . How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" When one is converted to God he will change his ways, forsake all sinful habits, and in his daily walk he will manifest the fruits of a righteous life within. Where such change does not take place—the tongue not being cleansed from filth or profanity, the pride continuing to be manifest in outward appearance, the crooked business ways continuing, the daily habits still indicating more pleasure in the sinful things of this world than in the things pertaining to the world to come—we conclude that since there is no change without, there has been none within, that the individual thus described is not converted to God. Where there is life within there is light without. Matthew 5:14-16.

RESULTS OF CONVERSION

As already stated, conversion means a change, a turning around, an about face, a transformation, a "newness of life." This is what the Bible says takes place when one is really converted:

1. *He becomes "a new creature."*

"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). The life after turning to God is described as a *"newness of life."*

2. *He is adopted into God's happy family.*

"If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin but the spirit is life because of righteousness . . . For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but

ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:10-15).

3. He is "clothed with humility."

The true standard of greatness is set forth in Matthew 18:1-3. It is universally true that when people are truly converted to God they become a meek, unassuming, humble people. Christ refers to Himself as being *"meek and lowly in heart"* (Matthew 11:29). His true disciples are like Him. Read Philippians 2:5-8.

4. He is clothed with righteousness.

"Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness" (Isaiah 1:27). When a person is converted, he brings his own righteousness [filthy rags] to the cross and receives the righteousness of God . . . Read Romans 10:3. This righteousness is no longer the *"filthy rags"* of which Isaiah writes, but the real righteousness of Jesus Christ that becomes the light which causes others to glorify God. Matthew 5:14-16.

5. He is zealous in the Master's cause.

"A peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9) is a proper description of God's people of all ages. The brightest examples of true conversion have invariably been men and women whose zeal for righteousness and truth were known to those about them.

6. He walks. "Not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Read Romans 7:9-8:1. No man has ever been converted to God without becoming like Him, spirituality included. Before conversion we walked *"according to the course of this world"* (Eph. 2:2), *"in the flesh to the lusts of men"* (1 Peter 4:2); but all this is changed when the transforming grace of God turns the individual around and gives him the heavenly vision.

7. He enjoys Christian fellowship.

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another" (1 John 1:7). It is as natural for people converted to God to have fellowship one with another while they walk in the footsteps of Christ our Saviour as it is for the people of this world to keep themselves in the fellowship of those traveling the broad road to destruction. Our fellowship here is but a foretaste of an endless and eternal fellowship with God and with saints in the realms of glory.

Excerpted from the book, Doctrines of the Bible, by Daniel Kauffman.

The Man of Character

by Dallas Witmer

People called him Slippery. No matter how often they had done business with him; no matter how sincere he seemed; and no matter how tightly they thought they had sewed up the deal this time, Slippery still ended up taking advantage of them.

Slippery obviously lacked character. Character is the moral fiber of men and women. It is what makes one deal honestly even when he has opportunities to pull a fast one. It not only makes one honest in business, but faithful in marriage, responsible in management, and the all-around solid citizen. Psalm 15 beautifully describes the man of character.

Character does not just happen. It does not come through the genes. Parents teach and discipline it into the child. If that fails, it can be implanted by the miracle of new birth, and maintained by obeying God.

Parents can only train character into their children because they have a conscience. Conscience is what most distinguishes mankind as a special order of God's creation. Animals can be trained to instinctively respond to commands, but only a human being can be trained to respond to conscience. With animals, it just isn't there.

Parents can only impart true character as they hew to God's moral standard. God gave us that standard as the Bible. Sad to say, too few parents today know God or care about His Word. Evolution teaches that men are animals. Modern humanism teaches them to act that way, and makes all ethics relative. Having experienced a generation or two now raised on evolutionary doctrine and relative ethics, we are reaping a harvest of negligent parents, disoriented youth, criminal conduct at every level of society, and a population sadly lacking in character.

But didn't we say that the New Birth and Christian discipleship can still compensate for a lack of moral training? It surely can. The Bible says, *"Therefore 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). I can show you fine specimens of men and women who are guided by conscience and obedient to God's Word, though their parents neglected or abused them in the home.

It ought to alarm us that our society today is adrift without a moral anchor. But it ought to encourage us to know that even Slippery can still be saved.



THE WORLD TODAY

"There Is No Peace"

by Roger L Berry

These words were not spoken in the twenty-first century, though they sound as though they could have been. The full quote is *"Peace, peace; when there is no peace"* (Jeremiah 6:14). These words were spoken some 2,600 years ago in the time of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. The land of Israel had, for the most part, turned away from the God they claimed to worship, and certain judgment was impending. Their unfaithful leaders spoke these words, claiming there would be peace when there was not. A foreign army was about to invade,

"For when they shall say,

Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them"

(The Bible)

when there is no peace." For example, after communism fell in Russia and Eastern Europe, people around the world were excited about these political changes. It looked as though the world was about to embark on an era of peace. How soon that optimism was squelched as war was fought in Iraq. This opened the door to a new era of terrorism that has spread to affect countries around the world, especially the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. It seems that as soon as one conflict has been cooled, another arises to take its place, raising the question "is there no peace?"

destroying any semblance of peace. Many would be brutally killed and others would be taken away captive, and their possessions would fall to others. There was no peace, as the people soon found out.

In our own times, many have tried to claim *"peace, peace,*

At this writing in October, 2017, the threat of war, even nuclear war, involving North Korea seems to be more likely than ever. Even if that possibility passes for the time, we wonder where the next threat of war will develop. Will there ever be peace? The Bible's answer to that question is an emphatic "no," at least as long as mankind resists God and refuses to submit to Him. Jesus foretold that, as the end of time draws near, wars will only increase. Mankind without God will find no solution to world problems. *"Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows"* (Matthew 24:6-8).

In 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3 is the prophecy of people in the last days of history who will say "peace and safety" just before sudden destruction comes. *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them . . . and they shall not escape."*

If we look to this shaky world's political and economic systems for peace and security, we will be disappointed. If we look to the military might of the world's most powerful countries for protection, we have no guarantees. If we depend on this world's economic systems what would a great depression do to us? World events should remind believers in Christ and unbelievers alike that peace among the nations is like a straw in the wind.

The Bible calls on us to put our trust in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ. We need to be looking to Him and not to unstable world systems for

peace and security. There can be peace among God's people and peace within our own hearts regardless of world conditions. The Bible calls Jesus Christ "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). He can bring us peace of mind even in turbulent times. Jesus promised, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27).

We find that peace by surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ and living in obedience to Him. We need to repent of sin and follow Him with our whole hearts. Jesus said, *"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* (Luke 4:8). Then we have this promise: *"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7).

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How to Be Saved

Salvation from sin is a GIFT from God. You accept it on condition that you will let Christ deliver you from your sin and control your life.

RECOGNIZE

That you have transgressed God's laws and have fallen short of God's will.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

BELIEVE

That God loves you and offers you His mercy through the salvation work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

ACCEPT

Christ's death and Resurrection as God's provision for your forgiveness. Acknowledge your acceptance of Christ by praying sincerely:

"Jesus, I am a sinner, I accept You as my Saviour and Lord of my life. Make me an obedient child of God."

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

LIVE

In newness of life. When a person truly becomes a child of God, it will change the way he thinks, the way he talks, the way he acts.

"Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.... Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:4, 12, 13).

