

**“Men loved DARKNESS, rather than light,
because their deeds were EVIL”** (John 3:19)

We have made seeking PLEASURE our god!

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). “Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

“...the Son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). “Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:40).

**“Except ye repent, ye shall
all likewise perish.”**

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48). **“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Acts 2:21).

“The Lord is...longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12).

**“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”** (Galations 6:8).

Don't play with your salvation! Every sacrifice made is worth it to draw close to the Lord.

We cry out for revival in repentance, with tears of repentance.

We cry out for revival in repentance, with tears of repentance. Verse five of Psalm 80 says, "You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure." It is our brokenness that may bring us to our blessedness again. Our tears to help us see the light of the glory again, to wash our eyes, that we may see the light of the glory again. Our prayers must be fervent and reverent, passionate and persistent. **Cry out to God** and then live out the faith that we have been given. We are ambassadors for Christ. What is an ambassador? An ambassador is a representative, one nation in the land of another. We are ambassadors for Christ. As citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom, we are ambassadors for Christ in this land. We are to lift up Christ in our nation and in this world; we are to influence and invite others to Christ.

This is not the first time that God's church has faced opposition. And we know that opposition and more opposition is on the way, but our battle is not with flesh and blood. We have a hope beyond the political and cultural landscape. We can rise above the culture. And our hope is not in Washington or the government; our hope is not in more nuclear power or more technology. Our hope is not in electing the next candidate. **Our hope is in God almighty and God himself alone.** The one who is enthroned, on the throne of the universe.

You don't pick and choose in a religious smorgasbord, your own religion and your own way. That you come by Christ and his cross, or you don't come at all. That no person can come to God apart from Jesus Christ. We announce the good news of salvation in love and compassion and grace. Our message is that God loves you. He died on the cross for your sins. He rose again that you might have eternal life. He is the way, the truth, and the life. And no man comes to the Father except by Him. We unapologetically proclaim this message.

We need revival. God's mission is the **conversion of a human soul** that is eternal and immortal. This is the truth that transforms lives: that there is no life without Jesus. In Him, we live and move and have our being. Without Christ, we are lifeless. We live in death. We have no reason to exist. The church has no reason to exist apart from Christ and this gospel. And the reason that so many churches today are on life support is because they do not preach the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Let judgment begin at the house of God. Revival must begin in the church. Selected

The Fading Voice of God

www.churchofgodpreaching.com #5022 Bro. Michael Smith

Collection of excerpts - listen to message on-line

The Spirit of God is not lifting off the face of the earth. **The Holy Spirit is still working and dealing** with mankind! Some don't see evidence like they one time did because people are rejecting Him. He'll still lead us today like 2000 years ago!

You don't need to be afraid of the Spirit of the Lord. It is a security to us to feel His dealings! Do you remember when He cautioned you? It is the mercy of the Holy Spirit when He comes back again! Do you remember when you used to walk with God? "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30). Do you still hear?

"When He is come, **He will reprove the world of sin**" (John 16:7). The function of the Holy Ghost is to convict, to judge, reprove, and to lead.

People in our society today are living without conviction. . .getting very lackadaisical with their relationship with God. "I used to feel guilty when I did some of these things - I'm O K with it now." What happened? **The Spirit of God is not going to strive and quarrel when we reject Him over and over.** Folks, we are living in a very hardened generation with minds so occupied, drowning the dealings of the Holy Spirit. We still want to do things "my way."

When we do not submit ourselves to the Spirit of God, His voice begins to fade.

First Advent / Second Advent

Excerpts of message – 12-16-2018 Bro. Michael Williamson Loranger, LA

First Advent: We are all very familiar with how Jesus Christ came, born into this world by the virgin Mary, and placed in a small trough where cattle are fed. Man was in conflict with Heaven. Christ was sent so there could be healing of that conflict!

As He began His place in humanity – He was a servant. He was one who was willing to love when He was unloved. He was willing to forgive when He was not forgiven. He took on Himself the form of a servant. **He came offering hope and help to humanity, something to cause them to rise above themselves.**

There is a stark contrast between the first advent and the second advent.

“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints. To execute judgment upon all, that are ungodly. . .of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 14b-15).

In the first advent, He came as a servant, in most humble circumstances. In the second, He's going to arrive with all of Heaven at his side. Folks, when our Lord comes a second time, it is not going to be in a lowly, pitiful condition. **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).**

He is not going to be crucified again. When He Comes back the second time, He's coming back as judge. Read John 5:22... Matt. 24:27... **“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:27).** Read Revelation 19:11... He's coming back! But He's not coming back as a baby! **He's coming back as Lord! He's coming back in judgment! Every man shall die once. Some men shall die twice. I'm talking about eternal damnation!**

Which story do you like? To the human flesh, the first is more palatable, but the second is **just as true!** The second tells us if we haven't made peace through His blood, we stand in jeopardy! **If we think that we're going to be able to stand against JESUS CHRIST and push back . . . we're going to be crying for ROCKS and MOUNTAINS to hide us!**

	churchofgodmeetings.com
Thyrnau, Germany	March 1 – 10, 2019
Guthrie, OK	May 24 – June 2, 2019
Loranger, LA	June 30 – July 7
Monark Springs, MO	July 19 – 28, 2019 (National Campmeeting)
This is the most current information as of this printing, but before planning travel, it would be good to check the website itself, or with someone who does have website access, for the most up-to-date information. www.churchofgodmeetings.com	

They scoff at the thought of future judgment and live their lives as if the present would be the pattern for the future. Peter reminds them that although God may be longsuffering in sending judgment, ultimately it will come. In view of that fact, believers should live lives of godliness, blamelessness, and steadfastness.

What do **Holy Scriptures** say about

2 PETER 3:18

the END of the WORLD? 11 *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be*

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days ^Tscoffers, ^Rwalking ^Tafter their own lusts, *mockers · 2:10 · according to*

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they **willingly are ignorant** of, that ^Rby the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: *Gen. 1:6, 9*

6 ^RWhereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: *Gen. 7:11, 12, 21-23*

7 But ^Rthe heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto ^Rfire** against the **day of judgment** and perdition of ungodly men. *vv. 10; 12 · Matt. 25:41; [2 Thess. 1:8]*

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and ^Ra thousand years as one day. *Ps. 90:4*

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which ^Rthe heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.** *Ps. 102:25, 26; Is. 51:6; Rev. 20:11*

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be ^Rin all holy ^Tconversation and godliness, *1 Pet. 1:15 · conduct**

12 ^RLooking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the **heavens being on fire shall ^Rbe dissolved**, and the elements shall ^Rmelt with fervent heat? *Titus 2:13-15 · Ps. 50:3 · Is. 24:19*

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for ^Rnew heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. *Is. 65:17*

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be **diligent ^Rthat ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.** *1 Cor. 1:8; 15:58*

15 And ^Taccount *that ^Rthe longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; *Ps. 86:15; Rom. 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:20**

16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ^RTo him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Noah's
Time

Whatever God has been talking to you about, **IT IS TIME!** It is time to draw near to God and let Him work in your heart & life! He has made a way for us to come to Him! **Jesus Christ!** Let's approach Him now, humbling ourselves, acknowledging, & confessing our every need. Let's give Him space in our lives! He wants to speak to the need of our homes & lives! It is not too late yet. He wants to make each of us new, refreshed, revived, forgiven, and offers grace that we can turn from all sin, all darkness, and all wickedness!

By His grace, let's make right our wrongs we've done to one another. Let us forgive and be forgiven, both of God & our fellow man! He told us if we do not love our brother, whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we've not seen?

He came to break the bonds of sin that have bound us. **He came to set us free!** There is no other name under Heaven whereby we can be saved!

He bore our sins, Himself, upon the cross, that we might not continue the sinning business! In a new & living way, He seeks to clean us up so His Spirit can dwell within us. He wants our bodies to become the temples of God, by His indwelling Spirit. As we **yield all our will and life to serve Him,** He wants to become our All in All!

In the day that we seek Him with all our hearts, He has promised to be found of us!(Jer.29:13). He knows our thoughts! Jesus is right for whatever is wrong in our lives! **Bring Him your heavy, weary burdens.** Cast on Him your every care! Taste and see that He and His ways are good! He wants to correct our thinking so good & uprightness can permeate through and through our being!

Let His Word - The Bible, come alive to nourish our hearts! Let it be a lamp to our path and a light to guide our feet! (Psa. 119:105). Let God thus direct our way of doing all the things of our lives!

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

It is time!

Hammond Campmeeting maybe 1980

Excerpts of message by Bro. Clifford Wilson

Galatians 1:17-18 Spend time trying to learn how to understand the voice of the Spirit. Don't forget your victories – be inspired. (Judges 14:5). Learn to be able to draw strength from past experience (David, Sampson). We're going out to battle; get prepared. Dedication is fundamental. Don't expect to go from conversion to the front of the battle. Don't expect a big fanfare. **Battles are fought and won in the confines of your heart.** All He asks is that you keep yielded. **Satan has been opposing mankind since the beginning. Look to your past experience – grow in grace – work to be a success – lay our groundwork well – that His preparation in me might be flawless.**

Hold still under trial – looking for success. God knows how to qualify. Dig deeper. Consecrate more.

Determine more than before. Learn how to face the conflict. Learn how to win the victory.

“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” (I Sam. 7:12).

Prepare for the Coming of the Lord

Bro. Ira Stover: Edited from a message preached at Hammond, LA in the late 1970's

The Lord allows wickedness just so long before He brings it to a halt. You know when sin is abounding on the earth, the ears of God hears those things that are going on. His eyes look down. I've thought many times, “Oh, what a wicked world that God has to look into today.” Every direction that He might look, it's sin, sin, sin, vice and immorality, nakedness and ungodliness – every wicked thing you can name as He looks here. The sin of Sodom is sweeping our nation. It's just as vile as the devil himself. I tell you today, **the world's getting ready for the heart of God to wipe it off and to bring it to final judgment.** We'd better have God in our lives. This is too vile a place for you to live without having **God's Spirit in your soul.**

The angel came to Sodom with the judgments. The angel had to shake them out of there. It was hard for them to break loose from their homes and possessions. They had to leave their flocks; they had to leave their earthly substance. **You know, everyone's going to have to leave everything behind one of these days! The judgment fire is going to burn it up, and all we'll have is our bare soul.** God is calling for a clean sweep of evil. As they fled, his wife was thinking about her home. Home – you know that is a big attraction. Many women think their home is a little castle, and it is almost! Everything that you can put in some of these homes, it's there. They are so fine and so marvelous that they don't want you to hardly walk over their carpet. Let me tell you, one of these days, they're going to leave it all! The fire's going to consume it, and it will all go up in smoke.

Then I think of the 25th chapter of Matthew, concerning those ten virgins. You know, God is expecting His people to be ready to meet Him! He's doing everything He can to warning us all to **flee** from sin and evil, and **turn to God before it's too late.** Five of the virgins were not ready.

How wonderful, when someone passes away to know they've lived for that hour! They have lived carefully and watchfully, ready for the Lord to come and call them, not fearful that it might come and nobody there to help them. You know, if you're right with God, He'll help you out regardless of the cost – if we'll just be true and faithful. Dear ones, be ready when He calls. **Don't be careless of your soul's welfare. It's such a long eternity with no return.** When once we have cast our lot for eternal things, and the end comes and takes us just as we are, we can't make one amend. There's not one thing we can do.

Sometimes people have had ill feelings in their hearts; have carried them for a long time. You know those things will damn your soul. An unforgiving attitude is one of the hardest things for a lot of people – to get where they can forgive somebody who has wronged them. If you cross somebody, sometimes if you say the wrong word, you're in trouble with them. You know, Dear Ones, that ought not to be. People ought to be congenial with each other. We ought to be friendly; we ought to be brothers in the Lord. Then, it is easy to forgive if someone makes a misstep or says a wrong word. You know it's easy to correct something with a good saint. If you say something that's not right, and you see it, just go to them and ask them to forgive you for what you said or did. You know, saints are not hard to satisfy. When they're asked forgiveness, they **forgive**; or, when they don't, **they're** in trouble. It shifts from the one who made the error to the one that does not forgive.

May the Lord help us! The thought upon my heart is: how needful it's that we be a people ready for the **coming of the Lord!** Just as sure as the world is standing, He's coming. He's coming; how soon we don't know! It will pay for us to get ready!

finding **TRUTH & Hope**

No. 25

Serving God's True Children Everywhere - God's Church

Weeds And Deeds

(Pauline Francis Camp)

A naughty little weed, one day,
Poked up its tiny head.
Tomorrow I will pull you up,
Old Mr. Weed, I said.
But I put off the doing till
When next I passed that way
The hateful thing had spread abroad,
And laughed at my dismay.

A naughty little thought, one day,
Popped right into my mind.
Oho, I cried, I'll put you out
Tomorrow, you will find!
But once again I put it off,
Till, like the little weed,
The ugly thing sprang up apace,
And grew into a deed!

So, boys and girls, heed what I say,
And learn it with your sums;
Don't put off till tomorrow, for
Tomorrow never comes.
Today pull up the little weeds,
The **naughty thoughts subdue,**
Or they will take the reins themselves,
And some day master you!

"Parents are the most important teachers that young people ever have. God meant it that way. No one else can adequately replace them. Every word and deed of both fathers and mothers have a lasting effect, for better or for worse, on impressionable young minds."

Is God In Everything?

Things in which we can see God's hand always have a sweetness in them that consoles while it wounds; but the trials inflicted by man are full of nothing but bitterness. What is needed then is to see **God in everything, and to receive everything directly from His hands,** with no intervention of second causes; and it is to just this that we must be brought before we can know an abiding experience of entire abandonment and perfect trust. Our abandonment must be to God, not to man; and **our trust must be in Him, not in any arm of flesh,** or we shall fail at the first trial.

The question here confronts us at once, "But is God in everything, and have we any warrant from the Scripture for receiving everything from His hands without regarding the second causes that may have been instrumental in bringing them about?" I answer to this unhesitatingly, **Yes.** To the children of God everything comes directly from their Father's hand, no matter who or what may have been the apparent agents. There are no "second causes" for them. The whole teaching of Scripture asserts and implies this. **Not a sparrow falls** to the ground without our Father. The very **hairs of our head** are all numbered. We are not to be careful about anything, because our Father cares for us. We are not to avenge ourselves, because our Father has charged Himself with our defense. We are **not to fear,** for the Lord is on our side. No one can be against us because He is for us. We **shall not want, for He is our Shepherd.** When we pass through the rivers they shall not overflow us, and when we walk through the fire we shall not be burned, because **He will be with us.** He shuts the mouths of lions, that they cannot hurt us. He "delivereth and rescueth." "He changeth the times and the seasons; He removeth kings and setteth up kings." A man's heart is in His hand, and "as the rivers of water, He turneth it whithersoever He will." **He ruleth over all the kingdoms** of the heathen; and in His hand there is power and might "so that **none is able to withstand**" Him. "He ruleth the raging of the sea; when the

IMPORTANT! Be BIBLICAL models of marriage & family.

waves thereof rise. He stilleth them." He "bringeth the counsel of the heathen to naught; He maketh the devices of the people of none effect." "Whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that doeth He, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and all the deep places." "Lo, these are parts of His ways; but how little a portion is heard of Him? But the thunder of His power who can understand?" "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding."

These Scriptures and many others like them settle forever the question as to the power of "second causes" in the lives of the children of God. Second causes must all be under the control of our Father, and not one of them can touch us except with His knowledge and by His permission. It may be the sin of man that originates the action, and therefore the thing itself cannot be said to be the will of God; but by the time it reaches us it has become God's will for us, and must be accepted as directly from His hands. No man or company of men, no power in earth or heaven can touch that soul which is abiding in Christ without first passing through His encircling presence, and receiving the seal of His permission. If God be for us, it matters not who may be against us; nothing can disturb or harm us, except He shall see that it is best for us, and shall stand aside to let it pass.

Take Joseph. What could have seemed more apparently on the face of it to be the result of sin and utterly contrary to the will of God, than the action of his brethren in selling him into slavery? And yet Joseph, in speaking of it, said, "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it for good." "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life." It was undoubtedly sin in Joseph's brethren, but by the time it had reached Joseph it had become God's will for him and was, in truth, though he did not see it then, the greatest blessing of his whole life. And thus we see how God can make even "the wrath of man to praise Him," and how all things, even the sins of others, shall "work together for good to them that love" Him.

I learned this lesson practically and experimentally long years before I knew the Scriptural truth concerning it. I was attending a prayer meeting held in the interests of the life of faith, when a strange lady arose to speak. She said she had great difficulty in living the life of faith on account of the second causes that seemed to her to control nearly everything that concerned her. Her perplexity became so great that at last she began to ask God to teach her the truth about it, whether He really was in everything or not. After praying thus for a few days, she had what she described as a vision. She thought she was in a perfectly dark place, and that there advanced toward her from a distance a body of light which gradually surrounded and enveloped her and everything around her. As it approached,

a voice seemed to say, "This is the presence of God! This is the presence of God!" While surrounded with this presence all the great and awful things in life seemed to pass before her—fighting armies, wicked men, raging beasts, storms and pestilences, sin and suffering of every kind. She shrank back at first in terror; but she soon saw that the presence of God so surrounded and enveloped herself and each one of these things that not a lion could reach out its paw, nor a bullet fly through the air except as the presence of God moved out of the way to permit it. And she saw that if there was ever so thin a film, as it were, of this glorious Presence between herself and the most terrible violence, not a hair of her head could be ruffled nor anything touch her, except as the Presence divided to let the evil through. Then all the small and annoying things of life passed before her; and equally she saw that there also she was so enveloped in this presence of God, that not a cross look, nor a harsh word, not a petty trial of any kind could affect her, unless God's encircling presence moved out of the way and let it. Her difficulty vanished. God was in everything; and to her, henceforth, there were no second causes. She saw that her life came to her, day by day and hour by hour, directly from the hand of God, let the agencies which should seem to control it be what they might.

Would that it were only possible to make every Christian see this truth as plainly as I see it! For I am convinced it is the only clue to a completely restful life. Nothing else will enable a soul to live only in the present moment, as we are commanded to do, and to take no thought for the morrow. Nothing else will take all the risks and "supposes" out of a Christian's life, and enable him to say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." —Selected

The most blessed thing in the world is to do the will of God. To abandon yourself to God is an act of highest intelligence and wisdom.

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Acknowledgment

Pages have been taken from *The Mission Trail*, the *Faith and Victory*, *God's 5 Minutes*, and *Voice of the Martyrs* for this issue. We trust that in the printed pages you will find encouragement to live for God! So much of a lost world are waking to the fact – *there must be a better way!* **There Is!**

Lasting Biblical marriages are fast becoming a phenomenon! We want to be Biblical models of marriage and family! Teach necessary consistent discipline and God's solid value system. Keep your word. We can teach our children to work hard and enjoy it. Leadership is developed in the family. We can teach them to respect the opposite sex. There is a crisis of character all around us today! Because of corrupt habit patterns, so many dear ones spend so much of their time trying to overcome emotional difficulty. Let's be concerned about the family and aware of what we are producing in the next generation.

Caution! Danger Ahead

This article is taken from *The Mission Trail*, a transcript of the radio program by Willie C. Murphey, broadcast in April of 1984.

Friends, there is a frightening and an all-important question. It should be asked faithfully and answered honestly. Perhaps it is lurking unformed already in the minds of many, needing to be put into words: Are we, as a people and as a nation, on the brink of the decline and fall of the United States of America? Are we witnessing and participating in the same kind of inner moral and political decay which brought an end to the Roman Empire in 200 A.D., which are also evident to many today? Does this mean that the United States will inevitably fall also? Well, this depends upon the course which is taken from here on out. I would say up to this point there are some certain signs and indications which point toward the corruption and decay and

fall of our country. The quality and staying power of American civilization is fiercely in dispute between the communist and non-communist nations today. There are many countries which scorn American materialism while striving to match it in both big and little ways. Perhaps envy may have something to do with this, but there is also a true basis for this debate: Is America really going forward, or has it reached its zenith and is it declining and falling away?

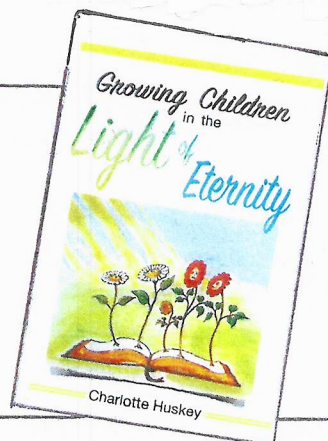
Some of the same symptoms seen in the decline of Rome and arising, not from external enemies but from inside the country itself, are also seen in our society. I am speaking of internal corruption. When the moral consensus, based on religion, collapses among the people, it is not surprising that it also collapses at the top of the country. Let us bear in mind that civilizations who rejected voluntary discipline were brought into subjection by force which took away their liberties.

Now, what are the visible signs of the decline of the United States which were in part the contributing causes of the decline of Rome?

Just to name a few:

1. A disregard of law by those elected to uphold the law.
2. The acceptance by many in and out of government that the end justifies the means.

**Audio Book
available on
You Tube:
Raising Children
in the Light of
Eternity**



Page 4 “Dear ones, how can we, as a nation, say we are wise when we refuse the words of the Lord?”

3. The pervasive practice of deceit and hypocrisy in government, in business, in union, in religion and elsewhere in society.

4. A perilous decline in the credibility of nearly every category of national leadership, including politicians, the press and the modern churches of our day.

5. A rising desire of people to live off the state on welfare subsidies and business subsidies.

6. A moral blackout toward vulgarity, violence and public indecency.

7. An inordinate love of show and luxury.

8. A moral torpor toward money corruption in politics and political corruption in government.

Now dear ones, I say there is enough evidence here to cause Americans to wake up. **It is time for people to seek the Lord for their own souls, the souls of our children and the people of our nation.** America is fast traveling the road to destruction. This brings us to the question of the century: Is America's decline irreversible? Can its direction be reversed? It is not impossible, but it is highly unlikely if the present course is pursued. This trend doesn't have to continue, but it will not be averted by closing our eyes or our minds to the many things which have gone wrong with our society. Folks need to see and do whatever is necessary to reverse the downward slide.

Now that answer is a returning to the Bible and its teachings. It is a return to Christ. An old-fashioned revival is what is needed in our day and time. By this the nation can be saved. And by this you, as an individual, can be saved regardless of which way the nation goes. Listen to these verses from Jeremiah 8:7-9: “Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord. How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he

it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?”

Dear ones, how can we, as a nation, say we are wise when we refuse the words of the Lord? What does it mean to have a constitution of freedom written in beautiful words, and it is a wonderful piece of work, but if it is not practiced what good does it do? What does it mean to have beautifully written laws with equality and justice for all if they are not practiced? How can we say the law of the Lord is with us, when His words are trampled under foot day after day?

Now I say this **change** needs to be brought about **in the hearts of individuals**, in the hearts of the society of the people. Then it will not be hard to bring about those laws and cause those people to obey them, if it is really in their heart to do it.

Jesus said, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these saying of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:24-27.

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, we pray that You would bless each listener to the broadcast today. Cause the words to be effective, cause the Spirit of God to bear them to the hearts of those who need to **change** their **lives**. Encourage those who are striving to do the right and living for Thee. Bless all listeners this day in the way which they need most and to Thee we will give the praise through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh**. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." James 5:7-9. Oh, how important for us to **live with an awareness** of the fleetingness of time and the approaching of eternity. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching**." Hebrews 10:24, 25. Truly with the many signs of His coming unfolding around us, we are persuaded that that great day of the Lord is approaching.

"But of that day knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:32, 33. Though the day and the hour are unknown to us, there are signs that point to the nearness of His coming. "But as the days of Noe were, **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be**. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37-39. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28-30. Surely eating and drinking, marriage, working, buying, and selling are not sinful things. But the disastrous thing was that they "**knew not** until the flood came, and took them all away." They were indifferent and unaware of the impending doom that hung over them. They thought all was well. But the clouds of destruction hung right over their path, and they "**knew not**."

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 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, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thess. 5:1-3. The full fledged pursuit for peace and safety in carnal security in our society today is a very sure indication of the nearness of the coming of the Lord. **The general run of our generation today is not geared to thoughts about the nearness of Christ's appearing**. Like those in Noah's and Lot's times, men are buried in a world of **selfish and fleshly endeavor**. Eternity has very little place in

their thoughts. The kingdom of God and His righteousness are set aside for the meager commodities of this present life.

We are warned over and over in the Bible not to be caught in this trap. Let us consider the words of Jesus as recorded in Luke 21:34-36. "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you **unawares**. For as a snare shall it come on **all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth**. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to **escape** all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." The day of the Lord is approaching and **we need to keep our hearts and minds stirred up about it**. Eternity is looming in sight. We can hear the breakers of the great ocean of eternity dashing upon the shores of time. Oh, how foolish to bury our talents in the frivolous things of earth when eternity is just ahead!

In the 25th chapter of Matthew we have set forth by the Lord Jesus three aspects of His coming. The first is about the ten virgins; five of whom were wise and five were foolish. Then He presented the thought of the nobleman who distributed his goods to his ten servants while he went away to receive for himself a kingdom. Each one of these has to do with the **reckoning that we will have to meet with Christ when He comes**. Then the final scene is that of the coming of the Lord in power and glory when all nations will be gathered before Him, being separated as sheep are divided from goats. To the sheep on His right hand (the pure and undefiled who have served Him faithfully) He will give a hearty welcome into His heavenly kingdom. But the ones on His left (those who have refused to accommodate Him and His saints) will hear the woeful sentence: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matt. 25:41. And Jesus concluded His discourse with these weighty words: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.

Ponder these words: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Eternity draws near. **We are choosing today what will be our eternal abode**. Eternity is unending. Everything in time has an end, but nothing in eternity will have any ending. If it is life, it will be life forever and ever. If it is damnation, it will be torment forever and ever. Disregarding what false prophets are telling the masses today, the holy Word of God teaches everlasting life and everlasting punishment. Oh, let us turn from the paths of pleasure, and closer to Jesus press. Let us walk with our dear Redeemer in His perfect holiness! Let us lay up treasures in heaven and pray always that we will be accounted worthy to stand in His holy presence in that last great day.

—Leslie Busbee

Man should not take the praise and honor that belongs to God, our Maker. —Sis. Marie Miles

Bend Me, O Lord

(By John Ramsay)

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
Subdue each sinful thought,
 And let my life to thy dear will
 Be in **subjection brought.**

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
 Take self and pride away,
 Implant thy ways within my heart—
 Come in and hold thy sway.

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
 And may I ever see
 I must be humble, meek and mild,
 If I would "learn of Thee."

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
 This lesson daily teach,
 That when I'm nothing of myself,
 Then I am most complete.

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
 No more of "me" and "my,"
 Myself in Thyself ever hide
 Until I'm called on high.

Bend me, O Lord, bend me,
 Too long has self held sway,
 Now take me, body, soul and all—
 And bend me to Thy way.

Songs In The Night

The curtains of night have fallen. The purple shadows clothe the earth in coolness. The duties of day have been laid aside. The noise has subsided. The winds have yielded to His "peace be still." How refreshing the hush of eventide! This is the time that God seems near. This is the time the soul yearns to be alone with God. **Alone with God,** earth's trials and cares vanish. We gain true knowledge. Our souls are **refreshed.** How true He giveth us songs in the night.

As I write, a picture is before me. One of Christ alone in prayer. His days were busy. He was, no doubt, weary with the duties of the day, as He went from village to village preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing the sick and doing good wherever He went. His was a life of sacrifice for

others. Let not the cares of life crowd out the moments we need and that are most essential to our life's peace. We need to commune with our own heart — and "be still." Cast not from you the songs in the night. Let them distill as the dew. Let the **soul** be refreshed with their music. All nature everywhere is **trying to teach us the life worth while.** The flowers bloom in their beauty cheering the world and gladdening weary hearts with their rich fragrance. The refreshing showers cool the parched land and causes the grass and flowers to grow. The sunlight gladdens millions of people. All things serve the purpose for which God created them. And should we, the greatest of all God's creation, not **serve Him** and fulfill the purpose for which we were created?

God wants our life to adorn His greatness. Like the pure white lily in the stagnant pool—its surrounding is the filthy black water. Yet the lily rises above the filth and blooms in beauty and purity. It has risen above its surroundings.

Follow Paul's advice to Timothy, "**Keep thy self pure.**" How sad to see young men and women selling their souls for a mess of pottage; yes, selling a noble useful career for some fleeting pleasure — rioting on to judgment. Cost what it may, live the life that counts. Be not crushed by the busy, bustling world. The life that counts is one spent for God and the good of our fellow-men. What is the music of the dance hall compared to the music in the soul?

The cares of day are over;
 Night brings me sweet repose.
 The hour alone is to my soul
 Like dew is to the rose.

Alone with God earth's trials recede
 And vanish out of sight.
 He giveth in the still hour
 The music of the night.

Music, sweet **within the soul** —
 Songs in the night are best.
 For there is joy within the soul
 And peace within the breast.

Peace that the wicked never know;
 It's one of lasting joy,
 It's one that keeps us full of hope
 Though trials oft annoy.

— Goldie Finch.

THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH. — I JOHN 5:4

How Great Thou Art

Psalm 8:3-4 says, **When I consider** Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? Through the centuries this expression of the Christian faith has **sustained** saints in all cultures and ages.

For example, Karl Gustav Boberg lived in Sweden from 1859-1940. In 1885, he and some friends were returning home to Mönsterås from Kronobäck, where they had participated in an afternoon service. Nature was at its peak that radiant afternoon. Presently, a thundercloud appeared on the horizon, and soon sharp lightning flashed across the sky. Strong winds swept over the meadows and billowing fields of grain; thunder pealed in loud claps. Then rain came in cool fresh showers. In a little while the storm was over, and a rainbow appeared.

When Boberg arrived home, he opened the window and saw the bay of Mönsterås like a mirror before him. From the woods on the other side of the bay, he heard the song of a thrush while the church bells were tolling in the quiet evening. It was this series of sights, sounds, and experiences that **inspired** the writing of a poem which was a paraphrase of the 8th Psalm. In 1891, the words were first published, and they were sung to an old Swedish folk melody. The poem, titled *O Store Gud* in Swedish, was translated into German in 1867, Russian in 1912, English by Stuart Hine in 1925. Here they are in English:

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:



While on a missionary trip in the Carpathians the Hineses inquired if there were Christians in a village they visited. The only ones were a man named Dmitri and wife Lyudmila. She knew how to read as Russian soldier had left a Bible behind several years earlier, and she slowly learned by reading it. When they approached Dmitri's house, they heard a strange, wonderful sound: Dmitri's wife reading about the crucifixion of Christ to a houseful of guests, who were in the very act of loudly repenting. So they heard people calling out to God, saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their own sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy. Stuart wrote down the phrases he heard them use, and it became the third verse that we know today:

"And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin."

Just after WWII, an interned Polish gentleman to whom they were ministering told the Hineses an amazing story: he had been separated from his wife at the end of the war, and had not seen her since. At that time his wife was a Christian, but he was not, although since converted. His deep desire was to find his wife so they could at last share their faith. He did not expect to see her again on earth; instead he was longing for their meeting in heaven. The story inspired Hine, and this became the basis for the fourth verse to 'How Great Thou Art':

Search online: **5 Min – KNEO** or **Finding Truth & Hope** 

"When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
to take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, My God How Great Thou Art!"

This beloved classic has become, by some accounts, the second most popular hymn, after *Amazing Grace*, in our modern world.

Search online: **5 Min – KNEO** or *Finding Truth & Hope*

A MIRACLE in Siberia

God had made signs and miracles so that Christians and Communists would learn that He knows and loves those who are His, even in a Communist prison.

When the Soviet army entered a certain province in Communist Romania, they deported all the Christians living there to Siberia. Hungry, beaten and mocked by the Communists,

the Christians were sentenced to forced labor, compelled to cut a specific number of trees every day. If they did not meet their quota, they did not receive their soup that evening.

Among the Christian women in the work camp was a sister named Lidia, who worked very hard to cut the required number of trees. One evening, some thieves and robbers who were imprisoned with her stole the work Lidia had completed that day. So when Lidia returned to her prison cell, she received no soup.

Hungry and knowing that she could not sleep, Lidia left her cell and walked out into the prison yard. As she was walking, praying and weeping, she heard a man's voice calling after her, "Hey, hey, do you have a mother?"

As if awaking from a dream, she looked behind her and saw a Soviet officer with a revolver in his hand. "Hey, do you have a

mother who prays for you?" he asked.

"Oh, yes, I have a mother who surely prays for me," she replied.

"Why do you ask me?"

"For half an hour, I have been running after you with this revolver to shoot you because you are where you are not allowed to be," he told her. "But now I cannot move my arm. It is surely your mother who prays for you. Now run back immediately, because if someone sees us here he will shoot us both."

Lidia, now weeping tears of thankfulness, ran back to her prison cell and slept as if she had eaten the best of dinners. Early the next morning, the guard who had spoken to her the previous night showed her his arm, which he was now able to move.

Among the thousands of prisoners often forgotten and written off, God took care of His child, Lidia, showing even to the Communist guard that the mother who prays can work for her child even when the child is in a Communist prison. ■



Edited story told by
Sabina Wurmbrand

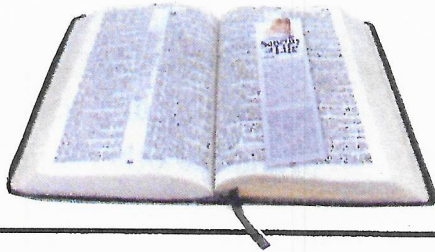
◀ Sabina Wurmbrand (1913–2000) and her husband, Richard, founded *The Voice of the Martyrs*. Sabina was imprisoned for three years in Communist Romania, forced to work as a slave laborer on the Danube Canal.

The Persecuted - Their #1 request is "Pray for us."

Daniel's Lions

Radio 275

- Daniel 6:16-17 ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and **they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions**. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. ¹⁷ And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.
- O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? ²¹ Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. ²² My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.
- Daniel was quite a courageous man of God, as he had already proven. Now here was his chance to show his commitment as had already his three compatriots, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abenego, for the fiery furnace was not more terrible than the hungry lions.
- Notice how the arrangement was made: the law could not be broken, and just as a great stone was placed over the sepulcher's opening where Jesus was placed after His death, so a stone was laid over the mouth of the lions' den and stamped with the king's seal, to make certain no tricks or deceptions could take place.
- **Man's governing efforts, when against truth and righteousness, are only small barriers to God.** He often uses the very things intended to prove the power and importance of human majesty to **show His great love** and **preserving hand** in **protection of His people**.
- Let's **not fear** the dark clouds gathering over our land today, in which we Christians find ourselves more and more constricted and disfavored by our government and many of our fellow countrymen here in the United States. We **must be** as **committed** to our **holy faith** and **as fearless** in its practice **as our forefathers** from Bible times. There is no one harder to prosecute than an innocent person who acts according to conscience based on a proper relationship with God and understanding of His word. If so be, **our God** whom we serve is able to deliver us, but if not, we walk a path equally as worthy when we set our feet **where the martyrs have trod**.
- Now think of what all God did in this case: He caused the heathen king to pray. The king questioned the value of his and Daniel's faith, for he spent a restless night and asked for Daniel with trepidation early next morning. But finding Daniel alive and well must have strengthened his faith, thus opening further opportunities for blessing to him as a person and also a channel of blessing to all the people whom he governed.
- God didn't only deliver Daniel, He sent him an angel to keep him company.
- In the end, the evil hearts of Daniel's envious rivals was made clear, and they paid a terrible price.
- **God is still God; He sits on His throne and rules in the affairs of men.** Have you talked to Him today?



Why I Believe the Old Book

Do I believe the old Book? Do I really believe it? My heart answers that I do. The deepest consciousness of my soul testifies that it is true. I will tell you some of the reasons why I believe it.

The Oldest, and Still the Newest, of Books

God's Book written in the rocks is old, exceedingly old, but God's Book the Bible reaches back still farther. It goes back not only to the "beginning" of this terrestrial world, but into eternity; for the expression, "in the beginning," used by John, **reaches back long before this world was.** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." From past eternity its majestic sweep covers the whole range of being and **reaches into the future eternity.** It is, in fact, the Book of eternity, and within its folds lie the grandeur and sublimity of the great unknown future. It never gets out-of-date. Other books have their run of popularity and are forgotten, but the Bible never grows old; no matter how familiar we become with it, it is **ever new.** To the Christian it never grows stale, but is always fresh and always satisfying. It ever reveals **new depths** that we fail to fathom, **new heights** that we cannot scale, and new beauties that enrapture our vision.

We read it over and over, and ever and anon we see new jewels sparkling within its pages, jewels that delight the eye and reflect the light of God. From it refreshing waters break out where we least expect them, and our souls are refreshed like a **thirsty** man who suddenly finds water on the desert. We may have read a text a thousand times, yet when we look at it again it opens up and presents to us a vista of marvelous truth of which **we were before entirely unconscious.** What other book can do these things? When we read a book written by man, however interesting it may be, it soon loses its interest and its charm; we do not find new beauties in it as we do in the Bible. Its treasures are soon exhausted, but the Bible is **ever new,** and so I do not believe that the Bible is man's book nor that it could be man's book. Its **depths** are too deep to come from the heart or mind of man; its heights are too great for him to reach; and its **wisdom** is more than human. It can but be Divine.

The Most Loved of All Books

Wherever the Bible goes, people learn to love and to treasure it above all other books combined.

It is the one Book that people love; it is the treasure that people hold fast even at the risk of their lives. In past ages when wicked rulers tried to keep it from the people, they could not. **At the peril of their lives people would have it.** They underwent dangers and tortures, and shrank not from anything, that they might **possess** this wonderful Book. It is not for what it claims to be—though it claims much—nor for what men claim for it, but for what it is to the individual himself that it is so dearly loved. There is that in the Bible which endears itself to the human heart, and **no other book** has that quality. Other books are enjoyed and admired and praised and valued; but the Bible, in this respect, stands in a class by itself.

The educated and the ignorant, the high and the low, all races in all climes, when they learn to truly know the Bible, and when they submit themselves to the God of the Bible, learn to love it and to delight in it and are enriched and blessed by it; and because I too feel this deep love in my heart for the old Book, I believe it. I believe that, in some way, it was made for me **by One who knew my needs,** and that it corresponds to the very **essence** of my inner self; and I believe that I could not love it as I do if it were not God's Book and if it were not true.

The Most Hated of All Books

Not only is it the best-loved Book, but it is also the most-hated Book. No other book has had so many nor such bitter enemies. I suppose more books have been written against the Bible than against all other books combined. Men do not hate Shakespeare nor Milton nor Longfellow; they do not hate works on science nor philosophy; they do not hate books of travel or adventure or fiction; they do not hate the other sacred books of the world; they hate **only** the Bible. Why this hatred? It can be only because they find in the Bible something that they find nowhere else. What they find there is **a true picture of themselves,** and the picture is not pleasant to look upon, so they turn away their faces and will have nothing to do with it except to vilify and condemn it. They deliberately misrepresent it and write falsehoods about it; they satirize and ridicule it, using all sorts of weapons and all sorts of methods to combat it, and for only the one reason—that its truth **pricks them in their consciences** and they can by no other means escape from it.

It is judged by a standard far more stringent than any other book, not excepting the other sacred books. No critic would think of treating any other book as he treats the Bible, nor of requiring of any other book what he requires of the Bible. The more men hate God, the more they hate His Word; and this has a deep, underlying reason, and that reason, I believe, is that the Bible is God's Book and that in it there is so much of God Himself.

It Has Withstood All Assaults

But though so bitterly assailed through all the ages, the Bible has withstood the assaults of all its enemies and stands victorious still. The Greek philosophers, with all their skill, were vanquished. The greatest intellects of modern times find themselves given pause before it. The sharpest arrows that unbelief could forge have not pierced it; the assaults made upon it have resulted only in the destruction of the weapons used. All through the ages countless theories—religious, philosophic, scientific, or other—have been used against the Bible, only to fall in ruins at last before it and to be rejected even by those who once advocated them. **The Bible endures an amount of criticism** that no other book could endure, and instead of being destroyed, **it is only brightened** and made better known. Could such a thing be truly said of error? Could error endure what the Bible has endured, and live? It is the law of nature that error is self-destructive, but that **truth can not be destroyed**; and according to this law, the Bible must be true because of its indestructibility.

It Tells Me of Myself

My deepest emotions and longings, my highest thoughts and hopes, are mirrored there, and the more settled inner workings of conscience are there recorded. It speaks to me of my secret ambitions, of my dearest hopes, of my fears, of the love that burns within me. My desires are pictured in the Book just as I find them working in my heart. **Whatever picture it draws of the human soul I find within myself**, and whatever I find within myself I find within its pages, and thus I know that it is true. No man can know me as the Bible knows me nor **picture my inner self** as the Bible pictures me; and since no work of man could correspond with my inner self as the Bible corresponds with me, I know that it did not come from man.

It Gives Comfort and Hope

To what book do those in sorrow turn? To Voltaire? To Ingersoll? To Haeckel? Do they turn to science or philosophy or poetry or fiction? There is but one Book that is the Book of comfort. The sad and desolate heart turns to its pages, and as it reads, the **consolation of the Holy Spirit, which fills the Book**, comes into that heart, and it is comforted. It is as the balm of Gilead; it is as a **letter from home to the wanderer**; it is as a mother's voice to the child. Friends may speak words to comfort us, but they can not comfort us as does the Book; its words seem to enter into our innermost sorrows with a **healing touch**. God is **the God of all comfort**, and it is the comforting God in this comforting Book that comforts the soul.

It is also the Book of hope. Sometimes man

despairs, and he looks here and there for hope; finding none; but there is one Book in which hope may always be found. It always has something to offer him **to inspire hope with new courage**. Therefore it is the hope of the hopeless; since in the troubled soul it brings a calm, brightening dull eyes and causing them **to look beyond**. It lifts up the bowed head, **strengthens** the feeble knees, **renews** the courage, and **takes the sadness out of the voice**; it is therefore truly the Book of hope.

Only Answer to the Enigma of Life

The "why" of life is found nowhere else. Other books tell us many truths about life, yet its depths and meaning find expression and answer in only one Book. **It interprets life**; and he who reads the interpretation knows that it is true because it is the story of himself, and in himself is the witness of its truth. Men have sought everywhere the **secret of life** and the things that pertain thereto, but everywhere, save in the Bible, they find only darkness and obscurity and uncertainty. The Bible, however, speaks in no uncertain terms. It speaks the language of him who knows, and if we **reject** its voice we are left in a **tangled maze**, out of which we can not find our way.

The Bible outlives all its critics and is triumphant when they are forgotten; it has many times been pronounced dead, but still it lives; it has been called "exploded," but its power is not dissipated; it has seen all antagonistic theories of the past, one by one, destroyed and rejected, but **it still stands** in spite of the critics, in spite of its enemies; and those who anchor their faith upon it need not fear what voice is raised against it. —C. W. Naylor
(Taken from *Heart Talks*)

How to live a Holy Life by C. E. Orr

"BE DOERS OF THE WORD"

I want to remind you again that the mission of this little volume is to teach you how to live. **The life beyond depends on the life here**. Let me emphasize what I have repeatedly said before: to live as we should, we must live by every word of God. To live by every word of God is not only to hear it but also to do it. We have learned that, in order to enter the city of God and eat of the tree of life, we must do His commandments, and also that it is not "every one that saith, Lord, Lord, that shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**"

Now I shall read you a text from the Epistle of James, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." We are living in a careless age. The Word of God is being treated with neglect. Many are **hearing it**, but **alas! how few are doing it!** In this way people deceive themselves. They think they are on their way to heaven, when they are not. The only way to heaven is by doing the commandments. To illustrate this, I will refer you to a few texts. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him." Rom. 12:20. "Whosoever shall smite thee on

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World views are shaped very young.
Children need to see that Dad is genuine.
That Dad loves the Lord, that Dad walks
with the Lord.

thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matt. 5:39. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31. If it comes most natural for us to live according to these texts, we can begin to conclude that our hearts are right with God. **However, we must have a heart that does not rebel against any text in the Bible.**

We are exhorted earnestly by the apostle Peter to make our "calling and election sure." The only way to do so is to live to every word of God. Oh, my dear reader, those sweet hopes you have had of reaching heaven and of seeing Jesus and those dear loved ones who have gone before you to that other side will never be realized by you unless you be a **diligent doer of the Word of God.** I feel like warning you against all carelessness and neglect, and to keep yourselves in the love of God. See that your heart and life reads each day as the Bible reads, and you will then have an unshaken foundation for your faith and hope. If you would know how to live, and make the best of life, read the Bible much and **conform your life** to its teaching.

So again we are reminded by the Holy Bible that, in order to spend this brief life of ours as we should, we must keep the commandments of God. No other life will find acceptance with God. No other life will please Him. He desires your love most certainly, but He wants such love as will prompt you to obey Him. **Do not measure your Christian experience by your feelings, but measure it by your obedience as proceeding from an internal principle.** When you find something in your heart that causes you to **obey God no matter how you feel,** you have good reason to hope that you are a Christian.

by C. E. Orr

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Compared to eternity this present life is but a few fleeting moments. How vain are the things of time and sense, and yet so very many people are attracted away from God by them. Oftentimes, men of the world fail to attain to their coveted desires, and when they do attain, it **fails to fully satisfy.** What does it profit a man who gains great riches, honor and fame in this world and has to lay them down at the grave and enter into fire and brimstone with torment throughout all the ceaseless ages of eternity? He has flourished in his pride and self-exaltation for a few moments, and it all ends and follows with tormented eternal existence.

Man should allow himself to be corrected by the Word of God which will "teach us to **number our days,** that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psa. 90: 12). "We spend our years as a tale that is told"; now we are on the stage and soon we will go as others have gone. Knowing this, it would be wisdom for us to fear God and prepare for that going. "To fear God is the beginning of wisdom, to depart from evil is understanding." The man with godly wisdom will be fearing God, and if he is a possessor of understanding, he will willingly depart from evil, and in so doing will be seeking for that heaven of glory and eternal happiness which is given to the righteous after physical death. **Editorial F&V 9-1932**