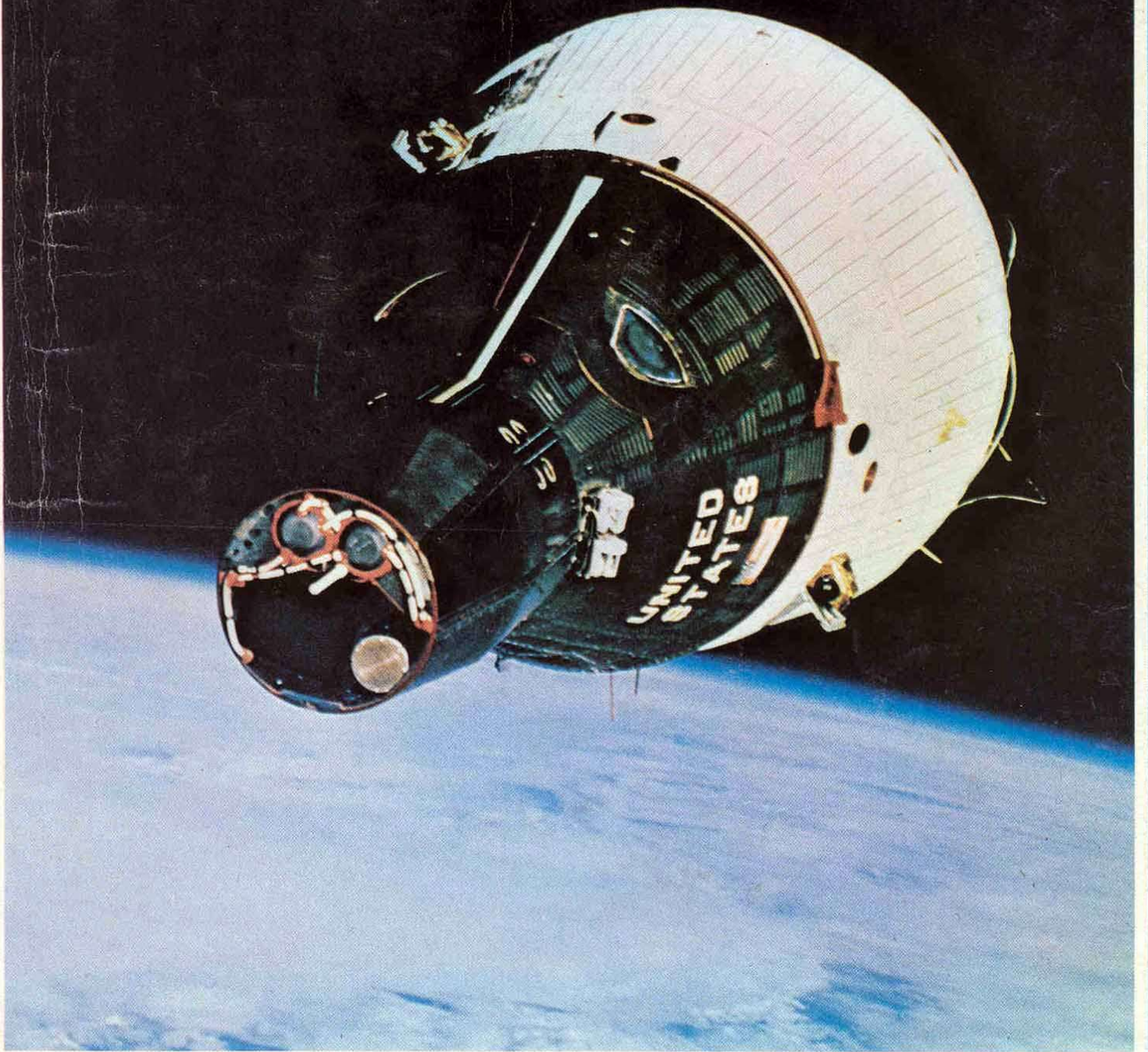


the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



What our READERS SAY

Today's Music

"Thank you for your marvelous article in the current issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, 'What's Wrong With Today's Music?' I just *knew* you'd get around to this subject when the time was right, and who in the world with two tics and a whistle-full of the Beatles would deny that the time is just EXACTLY right! Of course, I'm just a piano teacher—I don't count."

Robert D. A., Pittsburg,
California

"I received my first PLAIN TRUTH and read the entire magazine in one sitting. I particularly enjoyed the article 'What's Wrong With Today's Music?' I will frankly admit that I have experienced 'the hypnotic effect of the "Big Beat."' Do you think you could have a subsequent article on Op-Pop art that is now so popular in our pseudo-cultural society?"

J. E., Northern Illinois University
Dekalb, Illinois

"I must say the article in your November issue, 'What's Wrong With Today's Music?' drastically lowered your usual high standard of articles in my opinion. It was a rash generalization and without any depth! It was an entirely one-sided article. . . . This story seemed to say that anyone who listens to modern music is compelled to jump up and down. I feel that this condemns something without presenting the *whole* truth, which is not your usual style. If this letter cannot be printed, please show it to the author of the article. Thank you."

Jack J., Canton, Ohio

• *Jack, you need to reread the article and see what it really says!*

Womanhood

"I have just finished reading 'Our Mad, Mad Marriages' and 'True Womanhood—is it a 'Lost Cause'?' in this month's PLAIN TRUTH. I thought they were both outstanding articles. Fortunately, my husband and I have a good

marriage. I just wish all those people who have troubled marriages could read that article, although it's good for people with happy marriages to read. It makes me want to try twice as hard to keep mine happy. I can see where I've been so wrong in so many ways. I thought, until I read the article, that I had a pretty routine and dull schedule, since I stay home all day and keep house, cook, etc. I see now where I have exactly the schedule God intended. Now I can go about my duties with a much warmer outlook. I just pray that God will help me to do all the things that will make me truly feminine. I want to thank you and your staff for opening my eyes, as I'm sure you did for many other women."

Mrs. Alex T., Plant City,
Florida

"I read your articles on manhood and womanhood both. In almost everything you have written on these subjects I have *almost* agreed completely . . . But there is something I am wondering about. . . . How's a woman supposed to handle a husband who expects too much out of her in the first place, and then picks on her because she doesn't get everything done just perfect. Men should realize that women get tired, sick, worried, and sometimes behind in their work because of emergencies as with men. . . . I think you wrote this article strictly from a man's point of view, and you are a man. Why didn't you get a woman's point of view on this subject? Surely some Christian woman, such as Mrs. Armstrong would have had an intelligent viewpoint or two. . . . How does a woman handle a husband who picks on her constantly and criticizes her faults all the time, since she has no right to talk back?"

Mrs. R. H., Westfield, Iowa

• *She first overcomes her faults—then her husband might be willing to give up some of his! And, by the way, Mrs.*

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Personal from the Editor

IS IT WRONG to be a cultured individual? Is it wrong—is it extravagance—to purchase quality things?

Some people pride themselves on their lack of culture and good breeding. Some people actually *brag*: "We're just poor folks." They spurn good-quality merchandise, saying, "That's too rich for *my* blood." They shop for bargain prices, condemn better quality as "EXTRAVAGANCE." They accuse a well-dressed person of being "stuck up."

Does God love the poor and hate the rich? People speak of "God's poor." Must one be poor economically, ignorant educationally, uncouth socially, in order to please God? It's true Jesus said "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God!" But He also clarified His meaning, adding, "how hard is it for them that *trust in riches* to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

We speak of the Ambassador Colleges as cultural institutions, providing beautiful and cultural physical environment. Is this wrong?

In this world we have the poor, the ignorant, the uncouth and uncultured. And at the other extreme we have the rich, the social snobs, the intellectuals.

WHAT IS RIGHT?

We say that at Ambassador College we teach not only how to earn a living, but HOW TO LIVE! The college motto is: "RECAPTURE TRUE VALUES." Out of what textbook do we teach the true values? In what textbook do we learn how to live? Actually the only SOURCE of this most necessary knowledge might seem a little strange to students of the average university. For, strange though it seems, the *one* textbook rejected by nearly every college and university in the world is the ONLY textbook which imparts the right knowledge on this most basic question. It is the ONLY textbook

which imparts the MOST NECESSARY of all knowledge: What is the MEANING—the PURPOSE of life? What are the TRUE VALUES? What is the right way to live—the way to peace, happiness, prosperity, security—the comfortable, interest-packed, *enjoyable* and abundant life?

WHY should the one book that holds all the right ANSWERS—the only rational answers that make sense—be rejected by educational institutions? Incredible? Yes, but still a fact. Bruce Barton must have been right. Truly it is the book nobody knows—well, almost nobody! The Holy Bible is, actually, the FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

So *what is the answer* that comes from the textbook of the very Creator about this matter of culture, good breeding, how we should dress, education, financial prosperity?

Actually, surprising though it may be to some, the Bible teaching upholds prosperity, right culture, true education and acquisition of right knowledge, good quality, proper attire in clothes. The Bible reveals human nature as being lazy, slovenly, yet full of vanity and greed.

When people *brag* about being poor, uneducated, uncultured, that is merely VANITY. It is SELF-excusing shiftlessness, neglect, lack of effort.

To become "saved" as religious people express it, one must become more like God. Jesus Christ set us an example that we should live as He lived.

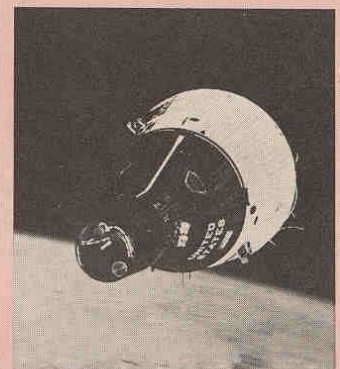
Now is God lazy? Jesus said: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Now what was God's work? That of Creator, and of Ruler over His creation.

What about QUALITY? Was HIS work well done, or poorly done? After the creation of the first chapter of Genesis, "God saw everything that He

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UPI Photo

OUR COVER

Looking out the window of Gemini VI shortly before nose-to-nose rendezvous in space over Pacific. Sunbeams play on blue-black surface of Gemini VII as it approaches for space spectacular. Words UNITED STATES highlight latest U. S. success in moon race and military domination of inner space.

away—you can reach it in good weather (since the roads are all dust and mud at various times of the year, and with no drainage, no lights, no curbs, and, for that matter, no traffic) on your bicycle—if you're able.

The clinic is tended by a midwife.

The family cash hoard consists of one five-dollar bill, buried in the dirt floor of the tool shed.

Gloomy?

Certainly! But NOT ONE BIT EXAGGERATED! Would you ENJOY being Mr. and Mrs. "Average World" even for a FEW DAYS?

Now, let's look at the United States, compared with the rest of the world, as if in an imaginary world of 1,000 persons. That's taking all the THREE BILLION people on earth, and putting them into a town of 1,000 persons.

Sixty persons would represent the United States—940 the rest of the community.

The 60 Americans would have an average life expectancy of 70 years. The average among the other 940 would be about 40 years.

The Americans would have about 15½ times as much goods and services per person as the rest of the people. Half the total income of the entire community would be given to the 60 Americans, the remaining 940 would share (unequally) the other half.

The community's total supply of electric power would be consumed at the rate of TWELVE TIMES as much by the Americans as by all the rest; 22 times as much coal would be used; 21 times as much oil and gasoline; 50 times as much steel; and 50 times as much general equipment of all kinds.

Do you believe such a community could survive for long?

Or would *jealousy, bitterness,* and GREED begin to motivate the other 940?

Where Did We GET Our Wealth?

Our fantastic wealth was GIVEN to us—directly!

Remember, man only changes, shapes, forms and puts together the basic *raw materials of this earth* into his many modern conveniences and inventions.

And the fabulous *lands* of our peoples, our mineral resources, our natural stands of timber, our sprawling grazing

and farm lands, our almost endless coastlines, our strategic sea gates, our favorable climates, our very inventiveness and ingenuity—all were GIVEN to us by our Creator!

God said, of our people, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: . . . his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the Stone of Israel): Even by the God of thy father, who shall HELP thee; and by the Almighty, who shall BLESS thee with the blessings of heaven above [our WEATHER], blessings of the deep that lieth under [our minerals, coal, oil, gas, and natural resources], blessings of the breasts and of the womb [our longer life expectancy, and generally better *health*]: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was chief among (margin) his brethren" (Gen. 49:22-26).

If you have not yet proved to yourself OUR PEOPLES are *directly* referred

to in this fantastic prophecy, then write immediately for your own free copy of the booklet, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

GOD gave us our national inheritances.

But we have FORGOTTEN HIM!

We have forgotten our very IDENTITY in the Bible—have turned our backs on the One who GAVE us these ABUNDANT blessings; have defiled His lands, polluted His streams and rivers, trampled underfoot His holy days and customs, defied with impunity His great and marvelous LAWS!

We have become a STENCH in His sight—and He says He will MAKE us see—FORCIBLY—just what it is LIKE to be left alone in the world—*without* God!

He says, "For she did not KNOW that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal. Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. And now will I discover

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Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

had made, and, behold, it was VERY GOOD." God placed the first man in the Garden of Eden. It was undoubtedly the most beautiful garden ever to exist on earth. GOD PLANTED IT. God gave the first man a JOB in that garden. Not to be lazy, shiftless, let it go to weeds and ugliness—but "to dress it and to keep it." (Gen. 2:15.)

Jesus, prior to His ministry, was a carpenter, a builder of buildings. In Nazareth the BEST and FINEST buildings were built out of stone. The little synagogue (mentioned in Luke 4:16) was very probably one of the buildings that Jesus built, or helped to build. That synagogue was so finely and substantially built it remains in good repair to this day. I have entered it and

inspected it. Its quality was the finest.

In creating, God had to think, plan, design what was to be created. For example, a beautiful rose, a lily. Nothing inferior there!

His instruction to the workman: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Eccl. 9:10.) But what is Satan's way? It is the way of the workman who says to a fellow-laborer: "Slow down, there, bud—or we'll all have to work that hard."

A man once accused me of being a "perfectionist." But Jesus Christ *commands* that we be perfectionists: "Be thou therefore PERFECT, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Jesus Christ *is still* a BUILDER. He rose from the dead. He IS ALIVE TODAY! But today He is building a SPIRITUAL building—His Church, to *become* the Kingdom of God. It must be THE FINEST (Eph. 2:20-22; 4:11-16).

Just *what* is the difference between best QUALITY and cheap merchandise?

All merchandise comes out of the ground. Quality products are simply those resulting from more careful and conscientious selection of better materials, made into an object by more thoughtful, better-designed, painstaking craftsmanship. Inferior merchandise comes from indifferent selection of materials, and less conscientious and careful workmanship. GOD'S WAY IS THE QUALITY WAY!

Is good quality "EXTRAVAGANCE"? Many people do not realize the true meaning of the word "extravagance." Webster's definition: "An instance of exceeding the limits of reason; (extravagant claims); lacking in moderation, balance and restraint. Excessively elaborate." Good quality, then, is NOT extravagance *unless* excessively elaborate.

But what if you can't afford the best quality? Then purchase only what you are able—always live within your means—and "be satisfied with such as you have." But, be industrious, doing what you do the best you can and if you really live GOD'S WAY, in due time He will prosper you so that you *can* afford better.

Yet, NEVER SET YOUR HEART ON PHYSICAL THINGS. In the quotation from Jesus, mentioned above, (Mark 10:23) it was not the *possession* of wealth that Jesus said would keep a man out of the Kingdom of God—but the TRUSTING IN those riches. David warned us that, when God prospers us, be careful not to set our hearts on the prosperity.

Through John, Jesus says: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health," (III John 2). Look at the prosperity of Joseph: "And the Eternal was with Joseph, and he was a PROSPEROUS man; . . . the Eternal made all that he did to PROSPER . . ." God promised Israel the greatest PROSPERITY and abundance of material wealth of any nation—IF they diligently followed HIS WAY of life (Lev. 26:3-5). Job was the wealthiest man in the east. After he learned his lesson, God gave him *double* his original wealth.

Prosperity is not a sin—it is a BLESSING. God is the GIVER of abun-

dance and prosperity. But carnal man usually sets his heart on the wealth, instead of God. He makes it an idol in which he trusts. *That* is the sin.

It is GOD'S WILL that we prosper, obedient to Him, our hearts set on Him, relying solely on Him. Then when we prosper—when God gives abundance of GOOD things—of good quality—He wants us to be appreciative, grateful, give Him thanks, ENJOY what He has blessed us with, all the while trusting and worshiping GOD, and realizing we shall have the material things but a short time.

One, whom God had blessed with a very nice home well furnished with good quality things, put it this way: "My attitude toward it is like it was when I was assigned to a very fine hotel room for overnight. I said: 'I will enjoy it these few fleeting moments, give God thanks, be appreciative, try to use it as facilities for serving God, obtaining a good night's rest, and then leave it and go on my way in the morning, never looking back with any regrets at leaving it.' That's my attitude toward my very nice home. If I had to leave it forever tomorrow morning, there would be no regrets—just thanksgiving that God let me enjoy it for the little time I had it. This life doesn't last long—and we soon leave everything in it. I'm merely a transient sojourner here, looking forward to something more real and permanent in GOD'S KINGDOM."

Now what about education?

We are commanded to GROW in KNOWLEDGE—and first of all in the "knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18). The most precious thing God gave us in this life is the human MIND. It—like the Garden of Eden—ought to be cultivated—improved. I could write several editorials on this theme.

But what about one who never had this teaching—and now, at middle age or older, realizes what has been lost? It may be no fault of the person at all. And even if so, God will forgive the past. But every one should do all he can, from the time he awakens to this truth. I know such a man. About 18 years ago he put nearly all his life savings into Ambassador College, to

help others, still young people, to gain the right education he had failed to receive. Forget the past. Begin where you are, and start living GOD'S WAY!

What about culture, good manners, clothing and proper attire?

There is much sophisticated "culture" in this world that is pure snobishness and vanity. But TRUE culture—the kind one finds at Ambassador Colleges—is based on God's great Law: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." That part of culture and good manners which expresses concern for neighbor in politeness, graciousness, pleasantness, smiles, and service is TRUE culture.

About dress? Yes, one should dress according to the occasion, and also within reason according to his pocket-book. On Ambassador campuses, during work hours, students dress in the proper work clothes for the job. During classes, they do not "dress up" but men often come in shirt sleeves and open collar—yet always clean and neat and orderly. For an evening function, they dress up in whatever is their best—and if they cannot afford better than they have, that's quite all right—there is no snobbery here.

But for a wedding, or graduation exercises, they should dress properly—in the best they have. Is that being "stuck up"? Never! Jesus gave a parable picturing the wedding between Him and His Church. The King in this parable is God, and his Son is Jesus Christ. Notice: "And when the King came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. And He saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the King to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness." (Mat. 22:11-13.)

The Bible teaches the principle of proper attire according to the occasion. Of course "white apparel" often symbolizes "the righteousness of saints" in the Bible. Bodily apparel is used to symbolize CHARACTER. There is a kind of pride that is NOT vanity, but rather concern for *others*, and respect toward GOD. That kind of pride we should diligently have.