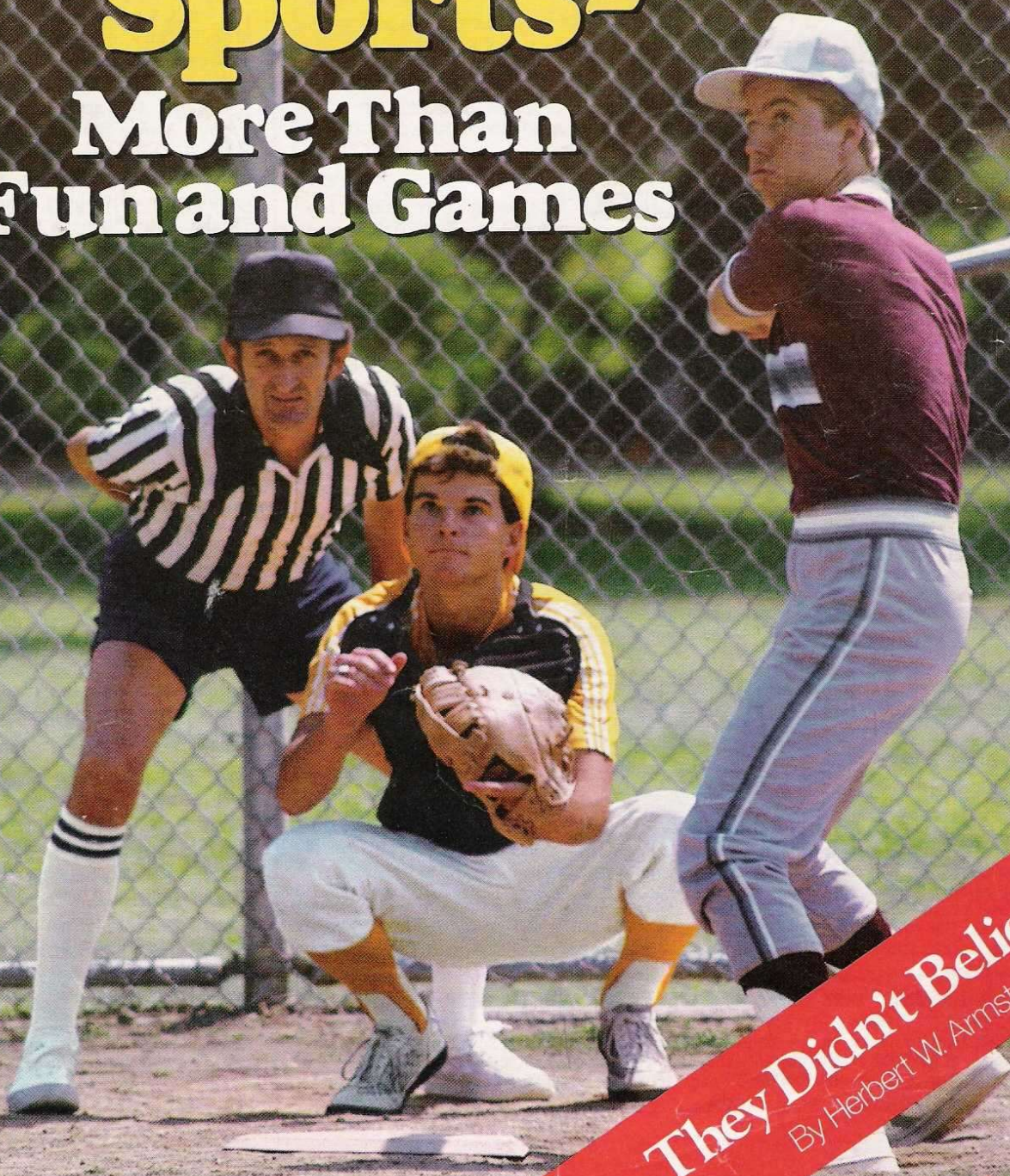


SEPTEMBER

# Youth & 4

**Sports-**  
**More Than**  
**Fun and Games**



**They Didn't Believe It**  
By Herbert W. Armstrong



# They Didn't Believe What He SAID

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**he more I travel around the earth, the more I see the sickening conditions in the world today and the more I glean from history, the more convinced I become that the real root *cause* of all of humanity's troubles and evils may be summed up in six words: "They didn't believe what He said."

And they still don't believe what He says today!

Suppose you had suddenly come into consciousness — just now having been suddenly created the first human being. Your Maker is sitting beside you, revealing to you *vital knowledge* so direly necessary for you to know.

He tells you that He has made you and the wife He has created beside you so that you can reproduce your kind. In due time you will populate the earth with millions of your offspring.

## A way of life

He reveals to you that He has provided for you a WAY OF LIFE that will CAUSE and produce PEACE between individuals, groups and nations that shall arise. This way of life is an inexorable spiritual law as automatic and relentless in continual action as the law of gravity, which He demonstrates to you.

It is the basic law of His

government by which He rules the vast universe He has created. It is the law of love. It will produce peace, happiness, joy, abundance, universal prosperity, and if you and your children choose it as your way of life, He will give you also the gift of eternal life, which He has not yet given you.

This way of life is symbolized by a tree in the midst of the beautiful garden where He has placed you, called the tree of life.

But also, in case you decide to reason out your own way of life — taking to yourself the decision and knowledge of what is good and what is evil, then there is a second very special symbolic tree that also produces fruit. The tree is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But your Maker FORBIDS you to take of this tree, which means disobedience to His law, and if you choose to disobey and take of that tree, you shall die, since the penalty of SIN (the transgression of His LAW) is DEATH.

Would you BELIEVE what your Maker said? Would you?

Adam and Eve didn't.

God their Creator had given them His way of life. If they rejected it, turning to their own way, it would bring sorrow, curses, unhappiness, suffering — and death!

But Satan, in the symbolic form of a serpent, came along and said God lied. They would not surely die. They were immortal souls. He reminded them of the superior human minds they had. They could work out their own way of life — and after all, could they believe God? They only had His word for it.

They must have said: "Yes, that's right! After all, how can we be sure? All we have is God's word for it. We'd better *make an experiment*, and be sure! Let's put it to the test. Let's *take to ourselves* the decision — the knowledge of what is good and what is evil."

## The first experiment

They made the first scientific experiment.

Even today, the scientific method rejects revelation as a source of knowledge and understanding.

Adam and Eve rejected divine revelation, as does modern science today. They didn't believe what their Creator said! And it



The God who created the earth also created a way of life that causes peace and happiness.

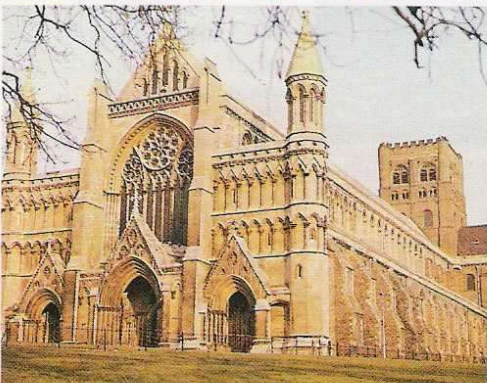
NASA Photo



**God shows us  
the way to world  
peace . . . But men  
do not believe  
what God says,  
and so we have  
no peace.**

was “when the woman saw [observation] that the tree [of the forbidden fruit] was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [human reason], she took of the fruit thereof [she made the experiment], and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6, Authorized Version throughout).

Some 4,000 years later, God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, into the world with a message from heaven. This message was essentially the same as He had instructed the first two humans.



Why don't modern science or professing Christianity take God's Word literally? (Photos: Warren Watson; *Youth 84*)

It had to do with God's government and rule over them, of His way of life that would cause every good and with the gift of eternal life.

But again, humans (with few exceptions — 120 in all) did *not believe* what He said! They called him a liar!

Let me quote: “As he [Jesus] spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word [His MESSAGE], then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:30-32).

They answered Him sarcastically and hostilely. They were Abraham's descendants and were already free.

“I know that ye are Abraham's seed,” responded Jesus, “*but ye seek to kill me*, because my word [His Gospel message] hath no place in you.”

They believed on the Messenger — but they *rejected His message* — they didn't believe what He said!

Jesus continued, “But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth [His Gospel message], which I have heard of God.”

Later, Jesus said, “And because I tell you the truth, ye *believe me not. . . . why do ye not believe me?*” (verses 45-46).

#### **Christ's message suppressed**

Before the end of the first century that message was suppressed and another false gospel substituted. Christ's message was not proclaimed to the world again until now — in the latter half of the 20th century!

But God saw to it that His word — His message to mankind — was inspired and put into His *written* Word.

But even today, the religions that have appropriated Christ's name preach about the PERSON of Christ — about the MESSENGER — but they do not proclaim His MESSAGE — His *true* Gospel.

And in many basic doctrines they teach the very opposite of

what Jesus and the first apostles taught. They condemn the customs Jesus observed, and observe customs Jesus and the Bible condemn.

Today, a professing adherent of “Christianity” will say, in surprise, “Why, you surely don't take the Bible *literally*, do you?”

Humans have written books by the millions. People read and take *them* literally. They take them to mean what they say — and say what they mean. But the Bible? They can't seem to *believe* it can mean what it plainly says.

For example, the Bible says, “The wages of sin is DEATH” (Romans 6:23).

But professing Christians will say, “But death doesn't *mean* death — it means everlasting life in hell fire!” God SAYS “death” — but they don't believe what God *says* — and since this is His word, they don't believe His message!

This same verse says, also, “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Do they believe eternal life is a gift of God? No, they believe we are immortal souls who already *have* eternal life. But God says in His Word, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). God says that — but professing Christians don't believe what He says! He says the same words again in Ezekiel 18:20.

God said the same thing to Adam and Eve, “In the day that thou eatest thereof [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] *thou shalt surely die*” (Genesis 2:17).

And in verse seven God says He “formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [made of the dust of the ground] became a living soul.” To this “soul” God said he would “surely die” if he disobeyed, taking the forbidden fruit.

It was Satan who said, “Ye shall NOT surely die.” Today those who profess Christ believe  
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## Didn't Believe

(Continued from page 2)

what Satan said. But they do not believe what God said!

And what about modern science and higher education? Like our first parents, they reject revelation (what God says) as a basic source of knowledge. Do they believe there was a flood in the days of Noah?

God says there was, but they do not believe what He says! What about higher education? God says the waters of the Red Sea parted, and the Israelites walked across on the dry floor of the sea. In His Word, God says the walls of the water returned, covering and drowning Pharaoh and his army. But can you find that in the ancient history texts? They don't believe what God said!

God shows us the way to world peace — peace between individuals, between groups, between nations. But men do not believe what God says, and so we have no peace.

God shows us the way to peace, happiness, prosperity in abundance and eternal life as His gift. But men, except for the very few, don't believe what God says! Instead, humanity suffers on! □

## READER BY-LINE

# 'Hey, Look Me Over'

By Jennifer Swihart

As you go to see the Howards' newborn baby, you're excited! You can't wait to see the cute, smiling infant with rosy, pink cheeks who looks like an advertisement for baby food.

Instead, the Howards show you an entirely red, toothless, bald, prune-faced, screaming little creature.

They automatically expect you to say something nice about their baby. They may expect, "Oh, what a cute baby!" But you can't lie. Coming up with nothing to say, you suddenly blurt out, "Well, that sure is a baby, isn't it!"

Early in life, a child begins to learn the social importance of physical appearance. The first books many children read are centered around physical appearance, such as *The Ugly Duckling*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella* and *Dumbo the Elephant*.

I read of a man of age 36 who said, "I was 5 years old when I realized I was ugly, and I've never been the same since." His whole personality has been distorted by this awful misconception.

Children become conscious not only of their own appear-

ance, but also of the appearance of their peers. They call each other nicknames that they think fit the person. Children do not realize that the names they call other children have long-term effects. But, as we all know, they do!

It is our responsibility to encourage those who may have doubts about themselves, not to reinforce those fears.

It's true, not all of us can be the most beautiful or handsome. There are things about the way we look we wish we could change. Maybe our ears stick out too far or someone threatened to go skiing on our nose. Even if these comments have some truth, we must focus on the positive qualities we have. You may say, "What positive qualities?"

Believe it or not, the most important qualities are not appearance, but your personality

and character. You may say that's crazy, but it's true! You would be in deep trouble if you married someone only for his or her looks. In time the looks would be gone — then what would you have?

We have to learn to see people for what they really are. We can appreciate others for their personality and character, and also build more of both of those in ourselves.

As last month's "By the Way . . ." showed, God doesn't look at the outward appearance, but at the heart. □



*Editor's note: The author, age 18, is from Dayton, Ohio. If you would like to submit an article for this section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 84, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129.*