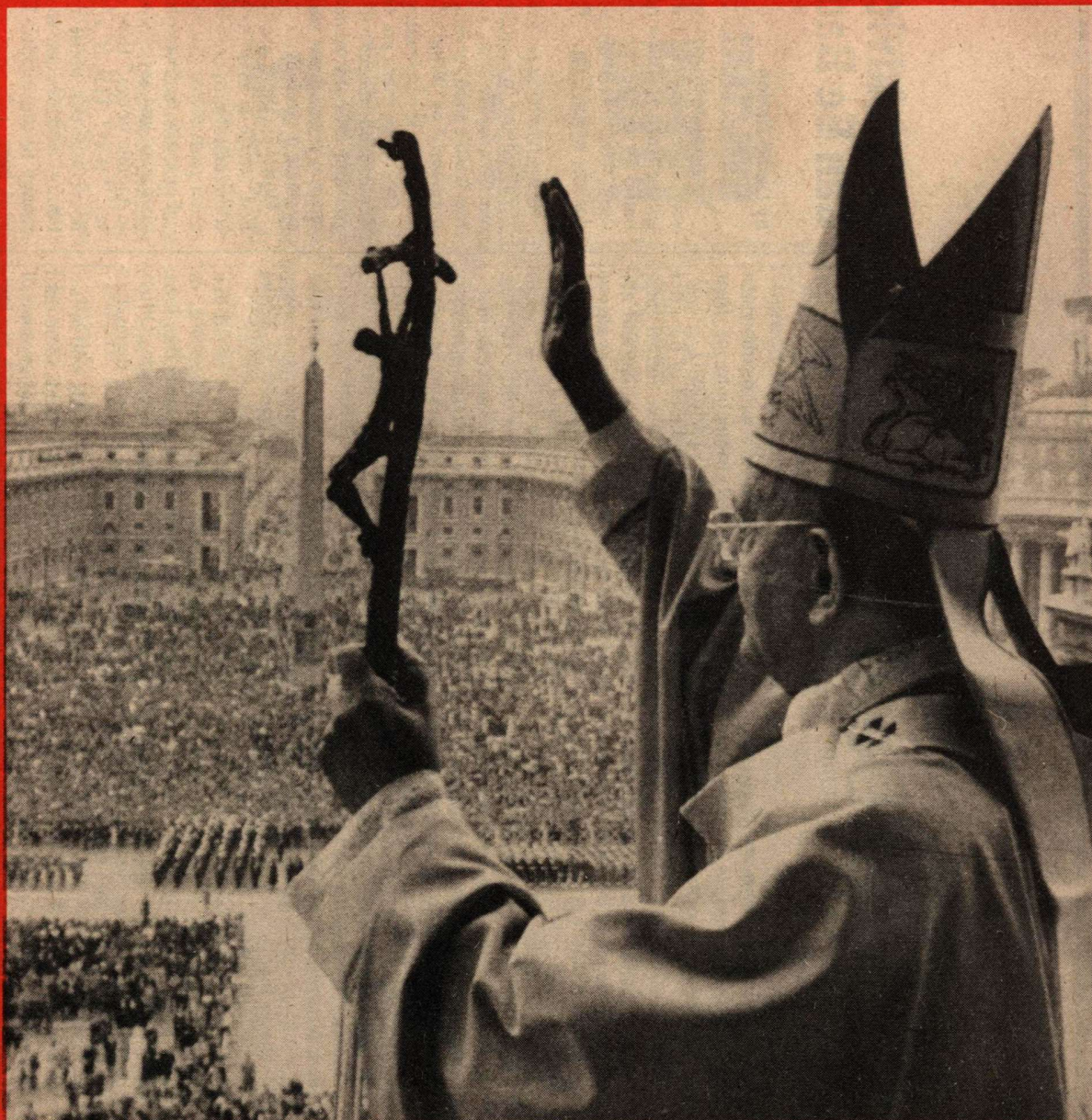


Will North Sea Oil Rescue Britain?

Life After Death?

THE POPE'S DRIVE FOR RECONCILIATION



Many times I have been asked, "What do you say when you meet a president, king, prime minister or high official of a government?"

I suppose some would think I should start telling him about Jesus Christ, trying to convert him. But, I am not sent by the living God for any such purpose.

I am afraid so much false "religion" has rubbed off on some that they have carelessly assumed an entirely false concept.

Jesus Christ did not come to earth on a "soul-winning crusade." He came, as prophesied in Malachi 3:1, as a messenger with a message for all mankind from God in Heaven. That message was his "gospel." The word "gospel" means "good news." The message God sent was news. It was good news about a tremendous coming worldwide event. Actually, Christ came announcing that coming event. He came giving that glorious news — not to get members for his religion.

The message God sent was Christ's gospel. Christ himself was not the gospel. He was the messenger God sent to earth to announce the good news.

Have you not read in Mark 1:1, 14-15, "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God."

It was a news announcement. Jesus had just qualified, by withstanding Satan (Mark 1:13), to be the king of the kingdom of God, and to set up that kingdom. The time had been fulfilled. Jesus had just qualified (verse 13). And so he announced (verses 14-15) that the time was fulfilled, and the kingdom of God was now at hand. The time had come when he could announce the wonderful news that he was going to establish in the far future the kingdom of God on earth. The Great Commission is to GIVE — to announce the news, not to get members for a religion. I do not go as a proselyter, nor does God send me as one.

But what is the "kingdom of God"? It is the government of God — a government that is going to replace

all the governments on earth — the governments of the United States, Britain, Japan, Russia and China, of India, Ethiopia, of Germany.

Christ's gospel message was news about government over the nations of this world. The gospel, then, is about government.

The living Christ is sending me now to the rulers and leaders in these very governments.

To understand, let's go further. What is the function of government? The function of government is to rule over the people of its nation, to maintain peace within the nation and with other nations, to regulate the lives of its people, to bring about the welfare of the people — to be a benefactor of the people.

Government is concerned with world conditions — that is, relations between governments of nations in the world and with internal conditions within these countries.

What, then, is the state of affairs in the world today — between nations, and within nations? The state of affairs today is one of war and threat of war — not of peace. It is the state of more than half of all the people on earth living in abject poverty, near starvation, illiteracy, unequal conditions, unhappiness, anguish, suffering, hopelessness — and death!

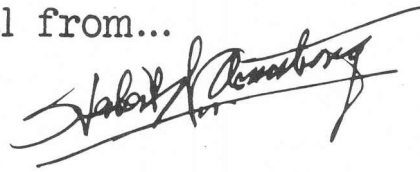
Every government today is fraught with insurmountable problems greater than the heads of government can cope with.

Why is the kingdom of God going to be set up?

Because only the government of God, with the total power of God based on the laws of God, can cope with the thousands of problems besetting these nations and the whole world — only the kingdom of God can bring peace and happiness and universal well-being to the people now ruled over by those high in government, to whom the living Christ is now sending me.

Why will the kingdom of God solve all these problems? Because the law of God — the very foundation and way of life of the kingdom of God — is the way that will cause universal well-being. Violation of God's law is the cause of all

Personal from...



WHAT DO I SAY TO GOVERNMENT HEADS?

of the world's problems and evils.

Jesus Christ came to show people the way that would lead to peace, happiness and prosperity (as well as the gift of eternal life) and taught and urged people to live that way, as well as to announce the coming kingdom of God, which finally — in our present generation — will take over world rule and bring about peaceful and happy living.

So with this knowledge, what do I talk about when I have meetings with heads of state and others high in their governments?

I talk about those things human government leaders are dealing with. I talk about world conditions. I talk about world problems and the cause of all their problems, and the way to world peace, general happiness and well-being.

I actually talk about Christ's true gospel message, but I don't use the word "gospel" to them because Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9) with the counterfeit false "gospel," and they would think I was bringing that into their country — and I would be silenced! I tell them I am coming with a message of hope and peace — that I am bringing them the cause of all the troubles and evils — and the way to world peace, happiness, joy and universal prosperity. I tell them I am bringing them what science has never discovered — what no reli-

gion has given us — what higher education has not taught.

And that, they do want to hear. They may not know it, for the whole world has been deceived about the real gospel message Christ brought. But Christ's true gospel message is the good news — and that is precisely what I take to each country.

Do I talk to them about "God's Law"? Yes, I certainly do — but not in those words. God's Law is the way of giving, serving and sharing. The way of sin is getting and self-centeredness. So I use the term to "give" as opposed to the way of "get" which is the way the world is living, and the cause of all humanity's troubles and evils. Expressed in this language, which they understand, they want to hear it! Do I mention God? Of course! I speak of the God who created their nation. And I speak of his authority!

Christ's message, the kingdom of God, is concerned with the way people live. Sin is the transgression of God's way. For salvation people must come to know God's way — the way of love. They must repent of the wrong way and turn to God's way in faith. Then they may receive God's Holy Spirit and become an heir of eternal life in God's kingdom! Yes, I do proclaim the true gospel of Jesus Christ!

That is what I SAY to heads of government and their people! □

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WHY DO MEN (AND WOMEN) USE PROFANITY?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Have you ever been shocked and perhaps deeply *hurt* to hear for the first time someone you knew well — someone you had highly respected and honored — pouring a torrent of profanity out of his mouth like a gushing fire hydrant?

The first time I experienced such a shock was many years ago. I was visiting one Sunday afternoon with a man I had known for a long time. I knew him well — or I thought I did. I knew him as a man of principles and high standards. While I did not constantly think about it, he had always been a man of clean speech and high moral character.

Then a neighbor of his dropped in. My friend was outside his residence doing a little work himself on his car. As soon as his neighbor came along, suddenly his whole manner of speech changed, and he spewed out a torrent of profanity and filthy language.

It was like being shocked unexpectedly by a sudden bolt of electricity. All of a sudden he was like a totally different man. Never had he spoken like that in my presence!

Why? What caused the sudden change in personality and manner of speech? Immediately I noticed the neighbor was very fluent with his profanity and dirty language. It was immediately apparent that my friend had been accustomed to using such language when in the company of this neighbor. He must have known he was shocking me. But was he ashamed to let me hear such foul language flow out of his mouth? Apparently not. Certainly, he would have been *more* ashamed to let his neighbor hear him using clean speech because of my presence.

Why is a normal, carnal human being *ashamed* of appearing "good" to those he knows are not "good" and make no profession of being so? Why does human nature want to appear evil in the presence of evil and good in the presence of good? Of course, none is really good. Some of us, I hope, do not go completely out of our way to impress others that we are just as evil — just as much one of the "bad guys" — as they are.

How often do people try to impress you with their evil by saying braggingly, "Well, of course, I'm no saint."

I just dashed off on my portable typewriter — which I always carry with me around the world — a short piece for the *Plain Truth* on what I talk about when I meet heads of state. I talk with them about world problems and the kind of problems in general which they must try to cope with. I talk about all the problems and evils people are suffering in the world. But why all these troubles and evils? What causes them?

It all goes back to a WAY OF LIFE. I represent the Creator God — the Creator of the people of every nation whose president, king, prime minister or other official I meet. What is God interested in? Troubles, problems, evils? I represent the living Christ. More than 1900 years ago the God of all nations and peoples sent him to this earth with a message for mankind. That message had to do with government — with regulation of the people — with a way of life which would produce peace, happiness, total good.

One of the evils preventing this world from having peace, happiness, and total good is that quirk of human nature that seems to take pride in being one of the "bad guys," saying, "I'm no saint." What makes some people feel ashamed of appearing to

orchids & onions

letters

Whatever physical shape it may eventually take, I feel sure this magazine will continue to shape lives as it has done to mine.

Spiritually oriented world news is a must in this disorganized time.

Margaret Russell,
Woodlawn, TX

I'm writing this letter because I wish to subscribe to your inspirational and uplifting magazine. As has already been demonstrated to me your ideals have a very worthwhile effect in my line of work. I work for the Boy Scouts of America as a professional Scout Executive. I feel that your publication can be most helpful in instilling in teen-agers a deep and abiding respect for God and such virtues as honesty, integrity and the belief that good will triumph over evil. . . .

At first [our] attempts to form Scout units among Portland's delinquents met with failure, but later using the ideals of *Plain Truth*, we were able to reach the teen-agers in the inner-city and to help them. Now in addition to camping and other outdoor activities, reading and discussing articles in *Plain Truth* form a vital part of the program. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you for the good you have done.

Thomas Tarara,
Haverhill, MA

Obviously it is necessary for you to cut your production costs. Frankly, however, I'm dubious that producing a physically uglier magazine will help you to reach the large circulation you are striving for. . . . You see, most people throw away less attractive magazines — and thus lose a certain referral value. . . .

I have been in the magazine business, and believe me a less attractive piece of literature usually winds up in the trash can. In fact, the act of disposing of the physical paper itself does to some extent affect the retention of the ideas and information in the literature.

Moreover, the grayer, cheaper stock paper is somewhat messy and a bit less pleasant to read. I know people who do not care to read newspapers partly for this reason.

be "good." I don't mean "pretty good." I mean just normally upright and good. Why, for example, would many feel quite embarrassed to be seen walking down the street carrying a Bible?

Do they not realize that God's way of life — the way Jesus taught — is the way for our own good? God does not forbid one thing that is not harmful to ourselves directly and indirectly — and often harmful to others.

It is simply the clean, honest, straightforward way which is right for everybody.

But using profanity — using the name of our Creator and the source of everything good that we WANT disrespectfully or even hostilely or in a disparaging manner — certainly that is something utterly without excuse. And the use of dirty comments which so often accompanies that sort of talk cer-

tainly does not reflect anything in one's character that is right and good.

Also, in my selling experience, I never knew but two publications out of hundreds, printed on such paper, that ever achieved a remarkable circulation figure. . . . and you are trying to achieve "a remarkable figure."

However, tough the situation may be, one cannot cut quality in any manner and reach your present expectations.

Why not go out and look at the "rag sheets" on the racks. Such publications, almost without exception, are forced to use ads and sensationalism to crack the nut.

Realistically, if you cut your quality you must also cut your expectations down. I like your publication, otherwise I would not be concerned enough to give a reply.

W. C. Marler,
South Pasadena, CA

. . . We commend your uncompromising stand against these blithering, mediocre, spineless, liberal milksops, who pass themselves off as theologians, pastors and ministers of God. Amidst the bleeding heart romanticism of the sniveling humanists and the mechanistic dehumanization of current scientism, debauched by the rationalizations of a pagan technocracy, your magazine, the *Plain Truth*, as well as your extraneous pamphlets, shine out as a ray of revealed sunshine in a world enshrouded by the darkness of sin.

This brings us to the point of this letter. We would desire to have our institution placed on your mailing list. Please send your magazine to Eastern Mennonite College Library. Thank you for your kind attention.

Gary Harkins,
Media Relations Director,
Harrisonburg, VA

I enjoy reading your magazine but I do feel that many of your articles have a tendency to wander before making their point. Also, I feel that the reader is presumed to have very little education, or that he is unable to grasp a particular point unless it is repeatedly mentioned. Of the individuals I know who do read *Plain Truth* this is definitely not the case. I know of a few cases where you have lost the interest of the reader because they felt that they were being "talked down to" rather than being given a bit of information. I continue to read in spite of this very same

feeling because I feel you do have a very important message to bring, but I would like to see a few more intellectually challenging articles.

Philip A. Fuss III,
Orange Park, FL

It is very difficult for me to understand what progress can be made in India by your speaking to these people in Bombay. India is evidently very devoted to developing the nuclear bomb and all other implements of warfare, and not concerned with its starving millions.

Please understand, Mr. Armstrong, that I am not attacking you in any way. It's just that I find it difficult to reconcile the path India is treading and your speaking to them about peace, goodwill, love, and compassion, when it is obvious their wills and minds are dedicated to the opposite way.

I do hope this letter is delivered to you and that perhaps you would write something explaining this very baffling situation. I sincerely hope this finds you, Mr. Rader, and all in the best of health.

Mrs. Charles Tooraen,
Shreveport, Louisiana

Concerning your editorial in the January issue, I think it was written in an unobjective manner, contrary to what the name of your magazine implies.

Anyone can take excerpts from a book, and by taking them out of context make the book seem to be the most decadent and irreverent book ever written, including the Bible with its tales of incest, prostitution, etc.

A book cannot defend itself unless presented in its entirety. Therefore it is easy for someone with a certain lack of intelligence or imagination to give a seemingly sound argument against it. I have been enjoying *Plain Truth* for many years so I know you do not lack intelligence. Perhaps you only lack a sense of fairness, or of open-mindedness.

You say, since prayer is not allowed in school, neither should pornography be. Nobody outlawed the Bible in school, only the by-product. Likewise, these books should not be banned, but orgies in classrooms should.

I realize this letter may make me seem irreverent. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is simply that I hate to see censorship and yellow journalism anywhere. I especially dislike people who feel so self-important that they think they should have the power to deprive others of their rights to freedom of speech and of the press.

I would suggest next time you present the whole story, instead of a particle you can twist to suit your own opinion.

Tom Moore,
Carson, CA

Paradoxical Proverbs

"Look before you leap," but remember, "he who hesitates is lost."

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," but then, "out of sight, out of mind."

"Seeing is believing," but don't forget "the hand is quicker than the eye."

"The squeaking wheel gets the grease," but "it's the silent sow that gets the swill."

"Opposites attract," but "birds of a feather flock together."

"A picture is worth ten thousand words," but it took only seven words (and no picture) to express that idea.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 22, 1975