

**MAJOR SHIFTS ON THE WORLD SCENE
WILL CHANGING WEATHER BRING MASS FAMINES?**

Election '76

**DOES IT MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE
WHO WINS?**



A United States senator preached a sermon in a Methodist pulpit in Los Angeles a few years ago. Of all things, imagine a well-known senator saying that *patriotism* is a false god to many people. And he is right.

"Love of country can transcend the love of God," he said, "and we must, in time of stress, avoid making patriotism a religion."

He said a number of other things I could have said, myself. Among the idols professing Christians worship, he cited *prosperity, science, patriotism, peace* — and some people actually make an idol of the Bible, strange as that may sound. Some, he said, worship the Bible for *itself* — NOT as containing TRUTHS necessary for salvation — and, I add, as a GUIDE to a WAY OF LIFE.

What is *your* idol? What are YOU really dedicated to? Is it earning a living — making money? What absorbs your mind, your thoughts, your time? What are you really *devoted* to? Is it GOD — above all else? Or is it your hobby, your wife or husband, your children, your home, your sports, or your amusements and entertainments? What do you keep your MIND on most of the time? What most occupies your INTEREST? Is it friends — society? Is it PEOPLE, or is it THINGS?

It certainly couldn't be GOD, could it? With most, it's not. And, if not, there is danger of having your interests become your idols. You end up serving your idols instead of the living God.

Just WHAT IS RELIGION?

Is it merely an incidental interest, secondary to *many* other things, such as earning a living, your home, your family, your friends, hobbies, sports, entertainments? Is it possibly secondary to TV or movies?

Religion is your CONNECTION WITH GOD — your relationship with Him. Religion is realizing the PURPOSE of your life, the reason why God had you to be born, the reason you draw the breath of air and exist, the PURPOSE or end-GOAL of your life, and HOW to live that life so as to arrive there.

I have written the *Seven Laws of Success*. You may have this free booklet by writing to our office nearest you. These laws are really the seven laws of LIFE. They are the seven laws of RELIGION. Yet most people do not know, practice, or apply a single one of them.

The first law is to have the RIGHT GOAL.

That GOAL — God's PURPOSE for having put the breath of life in you — is that you be born of GOD, to share with Him the GLORY of creation, to inherit His divine NATURE, to be LIKE HIM, to do what He does, to accomplish what He accomplishes, enjoy what He ENJOYS — peace, happiness, joy, resplendent GLORY in LIFE EVERLASTING.

No other goal could be as great. It is superlative.

But what are *you, now*? Just a mass of matter, put together like a machine. Your present existence has to be constantly SUSTAINED. You have to keep drawing a breath of air into your lungs about every two or three seconds. You have to eat food on the average of at least three times every day. You have to take care of eliminating the impurities from food, and you have to bathe and cleanse your body. Maybe you don't *really* have to "brush your teeth after every meal" as a certain toothpaste TV commercial keeps repeating like a phonograph record that got stuck. But you *do* have to maintain and sustain your physical anatomy to keep on existing, and even then you are aging and degenerating every day and every year. In fact the most certain thing in this existence we call "life" is that this machine process is going to run down — YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.

Actually, we have to simply *keep pumping life into ourselves* constantly to continue existing — to continue consciousness.

Yet most people keep on, day after day, year after year, pumping that existence into themselves, with no MORE PURPOSE than to try to be comfortable, free from pain, and to be pleasing the five senses, with their minds on the passing physical and material things of the moment — things that are not lasting, and are soon gone.

Unless God's own CHARACTER is being formed and developed in your mind and your life, replacing the carnality that is there now, you shall have missed your GOAL. God's PURPOSE is to CREATE within you, during this life, a new and perfect CHARACTER, so that you may be *given* eternal life — self-containing, inherent life.

If you are converted — that is, if you do once establish actual *contact* with

Personal from...



FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE!

God — He supernaturally puts within you His HOLY SPIRIT. This impregnates you with His LIFE — begets you as His child, actually yet unborn. Actually, what many professing Christians call "being born again" *should* be termed "being begotten."

Technically, to be "born of God" means to be changed in composition from flesh and blood matter to SPIRIT — no longer mortal, no longer human. But it does put within you a NEW NATURE, entirely opposite to HUMAN NATURE. You are, as Scripture says, given "exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE" (II Peter 1:4). Of course the old human nature *remains*; and *your mind* makes the continual decisions whether to yield to the downward pull, appetites, and established habits of human nature or to resist it by yielding to the new divine nature — to BE LED BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.

This, then, BECOMES *your very life!*

You can only succeed if your GOAL is kept constantly — continually — before your eyes. When you drive a car, if you take your eyes and attention off what is in front of you (and sometimes coming from the side or behind) even for two or three seconds, you may find yourself "coming to" in a hospital, dying, and saying, "It all happened so suddenly!" Driving *carefully* means BEING ALERT, being DILIGENT every second, KEEPING YOUR EYE, mind, and attention

on the matter of DRIVING, not on conversation or other things.

In the same manner, if you let other interests or material pursuits steal first place in your mind, heart, and *interest*, you are putting yourself in danger of a SPIRITUAL SMASHUP that could rob you of eternal life.

That's why God doesn't want you to have these other gods BEFORE Him. For your own sake — in your own interest — you must keep Him enthroned and enshrined constantly ABOVE ALL. You must study HIS WORD in order to be *instructed* by Him.

Instructed in what? Instructed in true KNOWLEDGE — knowledge of GOD'S PURPOSE for you, knowledge of and about GOD, and knowledge of HOW to LIVE. Jesus Christ said you must actually LIVE by the words of the Bible. It is your GUIDE TO LIVING — YOUR INSTRUCTION BOOK the Maker send along to instruct you HOW to OPERATE this mechanism that is YOU.

Moreover, you must study your BIBLE — to find what you now believe that is wrong and what you are NOW DOING that is wrong — to be CORRECTED and reproved by it.

YOU must study the Bible to let it INSTRUCT you in the ways of GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS — His WAY OF LIFE. And then you must *devote* yourself to LIVING IT!

Still, without regular and constant
(Continued on page 11)

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Personal from...

Robert A. Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

PRAYER, you cannot maintain CONTACT with God. And when that *contact* is broken, you are CUT OFF from Him, and His spiritual LIFE, LOVE, and very NATURE cease flowing into you.

For, understand, these divine attributes of His spirit DO FLOW! They are IN MOTION. They do not stagnate. You either GROW spiritually in knowledge, in grace, and in God's character or you deteriorate back toward becoming a mere physical animal, to die in ETERNAL PUNISHMENT in the lake of fire!

But if God, and the things of God — His revealed knowledge, His law, His love, His way for you to live — are constantly *foremost* in your mind, your thoughts, and your interest, then you are PRAYING ALWAYS. You are in a constant SPIRIT OF PRAYER — a constant MENTAL ATTITUDE of prayer. The contact with God must be *perpetual!*

This kind of Christian life, the only kind that truly is Christian, requires, as the Bible emphasizes repeatedly, zealous DILIGENCE. You must CONCENTRATE on it. You must be DEDICATED to it. It re-

quires utter CONSECRATION. It requires total EARNESTNESS.

Yes, it requires the application of the other six laws of SUCCESS: education, in which the Bible is the main textbook; good physical health; DRIVE, or concentrated DILIGENCE and EFFORT; resourcefulness; sticking to it — enduring; and continual contact with, and the guidance, help, and power of GOD.

True spiritual mindedness is *not* a sticky sentimentalism. It is *not* a certain emotional mood. It is *not* the use of a certain religious phraseology, saying constantly, "Praise the Lord," or, "Glory, Hallelujah." I have known many people whose TALK is so very "spiritual" — but whose hearts were as far from God as the prophet Isaiah described. (See Isaiah 29:13.)

Jesus Christ was a perfectly SPIRITUAL man. But He did not go about using such mushy language. He was *not* a girlish, effeminate, sentimental, or emotional weakling. He was a strong, virile, masterful, yet kind and gentle MAN. He possessed LEADERSHIP, STRENGTH, PURPOSE, and SUPREME STRONG WILL, yet these masculine qualities of strength and power were perfectly blended with wisdom, judgment, knowledge, understanding, justice, and also patience, compassion, and mercy. He was filled with PEACE, LOVE, and FAITH. And His WILL, strong as it was, was totally yielded and obedient to GOD. All this was the character of GOD.

He is our PATTERN. We must imitate Him — copy Him.

Look at the men of God in the Old Testament: Abraham, Noah, Joseph, David, Daniel, Elijah. They were all different from Christ in one respect in which you and I must also be different. They had human weaknesses, and all did sin; yet these men all repented and strove to overcome. But they were all men of strong PURPOSE, strong WILL guided by God, all possessed leadership, but also love, faith, and a consecrated OBEDIENCE to the will of GOD. But they were not effeminate, sentimental men indulging in an affected, put-on, religious-sounding way of talking.

Look at the apostles Peter and Paul. They were the same. You don't find any of this pseudo "spirituality" in them; yet they were truly SPIRITUAL men, devoted to obeying God and serving the needs of the people.

But one thing to watch and guard against every second, in the way of attitude, is resentment, bitterness, and hatred. Don't let ANYTHING, no matter how unjust, make you sour and bitter. That is the deadliest mental and spiritual POISON. We must LOVE even our enemies who perpetrate the greatest outrages — though we do not condone their evils.

If you even think I'M wrong about anything, *don't get sour or bitter about it* — let GOD correct and punish me — vengeance is HIS, you know. Resentment against me won't either punish me

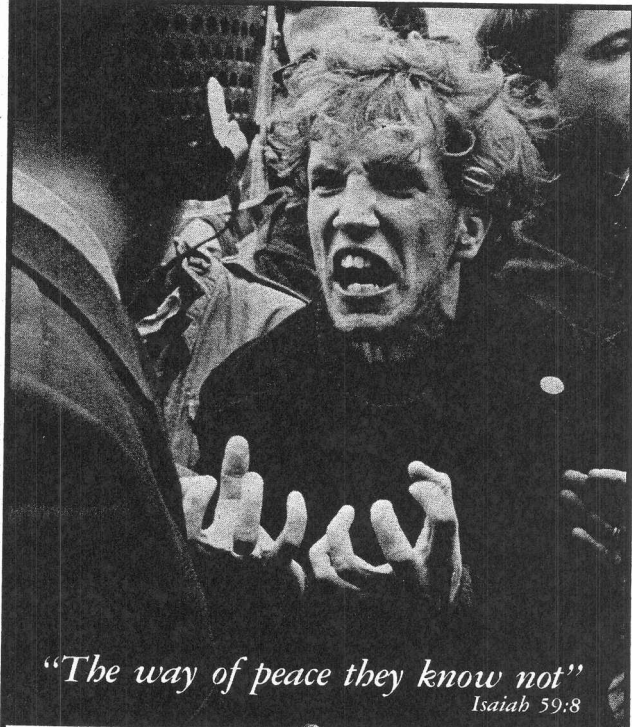
or benefit you, but it could consign YOU to *eternal* punishment! Whether YOU believe it or not, I have come, by years of experience and learning the HARD WAY, to have supreme faith that GOD will never neglect to correct or punish *me* wherever I deserve it! You may TRUST HIM to do it!

Remember what a GLORIOUS GOAL we have before us!

How GRATEFUL we ought to be! How our hearts ought to be FLOODED with love and gratitude to the great God for

His matchless LOVE toward us. I'm sure we don't grasp what a supreme price He paid to make it possible. He wants us to be CHANGED — to overcome and root out this debasing, rotten carnality we all have in us — and to GROW into His righteousness, that we may SHARE His GLORY.

And, you know, I believe God wants and *longs* to share the supreme GLORY that He has with you! Make it your supreme overall life VOCATION, and WORK HARD AT IT! □



"The way of peace they know not"
Isaiah 59:8

If you understand the Bible, you understand today's world.

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