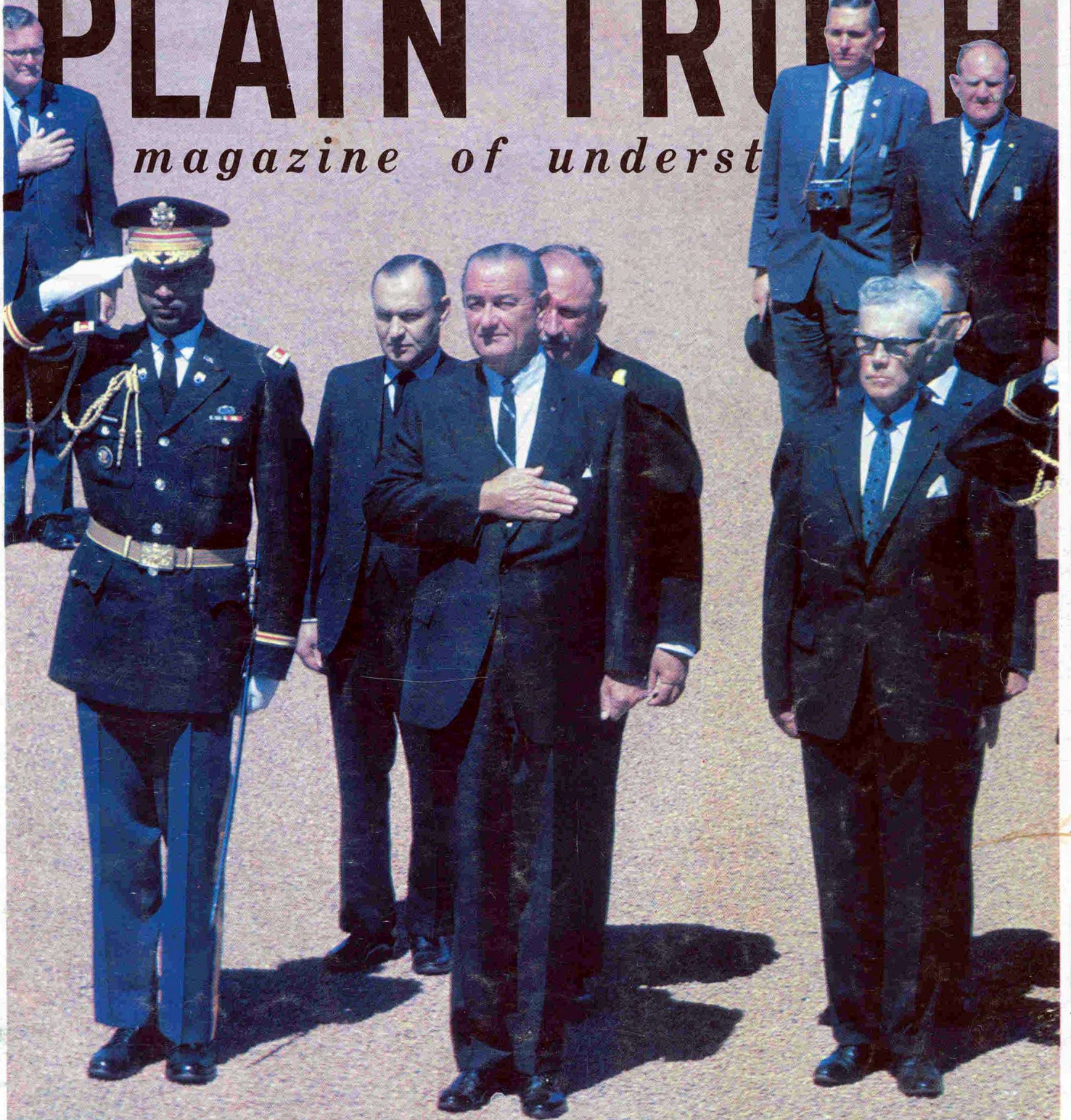


*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*magazine of underst*



**President Johnson  
in Australia**



# What our READERS SAY

## Sick Man of Europe

"Thank you for my September PLAIN TRUTH. They are really getting better and better—if the 'Obituary of the British Empire' can be called better, but at least it is true. The display maps are quite enlightening. The British Prime Minister repeatedly warned that Britain is the Sick Man of Europe, true again; tighten our belts and work harder; right, some should. Well, I am sick and grieved at our plight, and I pray the Lord will open peoples' eyes before it is too late."

Alice D., Glamorganshire,  
United Kingdom

## Up-to-Date

"I read several articles from your PLAIN TRUTH thinking I was reading a *current* issue. The articles reflected the happenings I had recently read in the newspaper, but I found the magazine was 3 years old. I'm very anxious to read the new issues."

Mrs. O. D., Lynchburg,  
Virginia

• *The reason it was up-to-date is that we print tomorrow's news in advance!*

## Evolution

"The October, 1966, issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* is the finest issue I have seen yet (I have been receiving the magazine since 1964). I'm a senior in high school and your magazine is a big help to me in my study of government. I just finished reading the article on evolution. It really made me stop and think and appreciate the wonder of God's creation. It's almost too good to be true that such a wonderful publication is absolutely free!"

Miss Z. S., El Paso, Texas

"I really enjoyed the October issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*! I think your article 'The Questions Evolution Can't Answer' is one of the best articles that has been in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I think you should have a series of articles in the magazine on this subject to show

God's love and wisdom, and to disprove evolution. Something that would really disprove evolution, and I would like to see in the magazine, is the explanation of the honey bee."

G. K. B., McAfee Army Hospital,  
White Sands Missile Range,  
New Mexico

## No Financial Worries

"Your article 'You Should Not Work for Money' was excellent. I have known this to be right for many years now and have proved it to myself in business. If I keep in mind and practice *servng* the needs of my customers to the best of my ability and be consistent with God's laws, good financial fruits result! It doesn't happen overnight, but with patience and faith it eventually does!"

Jerry B., Fenton, Michigan

• *That's a good start, Jerry. Trouble is, most people don't know God's laws of success. They're made plain in our free booklets "The Seven Laws of Success" and "Ending Your Financial Worries."*

## Thanks . . .

"I just received the September PLAIN TRUTH and while I was reading the 'Personal from the Editor' I felt so ashamed for not writing you and giving thanks for the book you wrote on *GOD SPEAKS OUT* on 'The New Morality.' This truly is one of the most wonderful and beneficial books that has ever been placed on our library shelf. Please accept my belated thanks and know that I think of and pray for you and Mrs. Armstrong and the Work of God, although I may neglect writing as I should."

D. C., Bellevue, Washington

## Child Rearing

"How wonderful to hear AT LAST—advice concerning child training that is based on the Word of God. I am a teacher in a junior primary school where there is a 'special' class for 'maladjusted'

(Continued on page 8)

## the PLAIN TRUTH a magazine of understanding

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# Personal from the Editor

I HAVE JUST COME from the funeral of one of our granddaughters whom Mrs. Armstrong and I loved very much. This particular granddaughter was very special to us, because of circumstances under which she was born, which resulted in a partial handicap through life.

I always called her my "Princess." Her name was Carole Ann Mattson. At birth she weighed only three pounds and five ounces — which dropped to an even three pounds before she began to add weight. She could not have survived had she not been kept in an incubator for seven-and-a-half weeks.

A chain of providential circumstances climaxed in her birth. Our elder daughter, Beverly (Mrs. James A. Gott), had become pregnant with her third child some weeks after Carole's mother had conceived Carole. During Beverly's pregnancy a complication arose. She finally consented to an X-ray examination, and two doctors saw and reported the existence of an internal cyst, or nonmalignant tumor. In obedience to the New Testament teaching of James 5:14-15, Mark 6:13, Luke 9:2 and 10:9, etc., etc., I had anointed her and asked God to remove this growth. But it was not immediately removed. Rather, it grew.

The doctor, who was supervising her pregnancy, finally told her she would have to undergo an operation for its removal. The fetus was growing, and the cyst was enlarging and bringing increasing pressure against the baby's head. Beverly came to our home frightened and crying. What should she do? The doctor had said that to delay the operation might prove fatal to the unborn child. He assured her the operation would be a simple one, with no real danger. But she *feared* being cut open with knives.

At the time, Mrs. Armstrong and I were ready to leave home on a trip. I reminded Beverly that Jesus had said

regarding healing from God, "According to your faith, be it unto you." (Mat. 9:29). I advised her to rely on whichever method she had the most faith. If she had more faith in the doctor and in surgery than in God and His written promises, then undergo the operation without delay. But, seeing her faith in God was wavering, I advised her that she should not reject the surgery unless she would immediately devote at least one or two days to nothing but fasting and praying, asking God for unwavering faith. God had *promised* to heal. She had been anointed. I had claimed God's promise in prayer. If she could really BELIEVE God would do as He had promised, the growth would disappear.

Mrs. Armstrong and I left on our trip, not knowing what decision our daughter would make. But we received no word of undergoing surgery, and assumed she had determined to trust God. It was some little time after we returned that our younger daughter, and her husband stopped at our home. They were on the way to the hospital for the delivery of their first child. There was some complication, the nature of which I do not remember, that caused the doctor considerable concern for Dorothy's life, during delivery. She, too, had been anointed for the healing of whatever the complication was. But she needed faith.

Just as they were going out the door, Beverly drove up, and came running excitedly saying, "I've just come from the doctor's office, and I'm HEALED! They took another X-ray, and the cyst is GONE! The doctors are flabbergasted! It's just disappeared!"

This experience came at the psychological instant to give our younger daughter the faith she needed for a safe delivery of her baby.

During delivery, she hemorrhaged. The baby was in such condition the doctor did not expect it to live. He

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Ambassador College Photo

### OUR COVER

President Johnson stands before Australian War Memorial at Canberra, the Commonwealth's capital, on October 21. This photo was taken by our Australian regional editorial staff moments before the President placed a wreath on the Memorial (see pages 2 and 3 of this issue).



# FALSE CONVERSION!

Millions have been led to think they are "saved," who are only deceived, and don't know it! — Here is a frank, daring article, making the truth PLAIN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Reprinted from the October 1955 issue in response to thousands of requests.

IT'S DIFFICULT to believe, but it's true — in *today's* religious confusion *millions* have supposed they had salvation spiritually — they have believed on Jesus Christ — and *are not saved!*

Would you suppose one could actually *worship* Christ — and all in vain?

## Can One Worship Christ — IN VAIN?

Do you know *what* Jesus Himself said of these people who want to worship Him without *obedience* to God's Commandments?

Listen to His words: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For, laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well do ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:6-9).

## Back to the Faith Once Delivered

But what does GOD tell you in His Word?

Through Jude, God says: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the *common salvation*, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the *faith which was once delivered* unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . ungodly men, turning the GRACE of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church to corrupt it — turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS.

And what is "lasciviousness"? It

means "license" — unrestrained liberty — abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do that which seems *right* in human eyes — according to human *conscience* — though it *disobeys God's LAW!* And that is exactly what those ungodly men, even in the first century, did — turned GRACE into unrestrained privilege to disobey God's law! turned to *human conscience* as a guide! And once introduced, the practice has persisted and spread over the whole world until today!

This is one of the FABLES the apostle Paul warned us men would turn to. Paul said: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, *deceiving*, and *being deceived!* . . . For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts [lasciviousness — *human reasoning* —] shall they . . . turn away their ears from the *truth*, and shall be turned unto FABLES" (II Tim. 3:13; 4:4).

But, one will argue, Jude said these men would *deny* the Lord Jesus Christ. Do *not* the men who teach a "no works" doctrine *believe in Christ?* Do *they deny Him?*

Yes, *they DENY Him!* God says: "They *profess* that they *know God*; but IN WORKS they *deny Him*, being abominable, and *disobedient*, and *unto every GOOD work reprobate*" (Titus 1:16). The way of human reason — that *seems RIGHT* — is often DISOBEDIENCE to God!

## What the Saviour Himself Taught

These deceived teachers have just one favorite text. They quote Acts 16:31: "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Now that text from the inspired pen of Paul means what it says. But there

are *two kinds* of BELIEVING — the *living* faith that brings salvation, and a *dead* "no works" faith that produces only DEATH!

But WHY do they, in their tracts and their sermons, never quote *what the Saviour Himself said* in answer to the question? WHY?

Jesus was asked: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18.) Some might try to tell you that the SAVIOUR Himself did not know, or teach, the way of SALVATION — He was teaching Old Testament religion. Well, He was asked HOW to gain ETERNAL LIFE. Is that salvation? It certainly is! Old Testament religion teaching lasted *until* John — not until the cross — not until "Pentecost." Just UNTIL JOHN (Luke 16:16). Jesus preached the SAME Gospel He commanded His disciples to teach ALL nations — Gentiles included — the same Gospel Paul preached to Gentiles. He preached *only* the NEW Testament Gospel. He revealed THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Here is His answer — that of the SAVIOUR HIMSELF ON HOW TO BE SAVED:

"If thou wilt enter into LIFE, *keep the commandments.*" And He enumerated enough of the Ten Commandments to show it was this particular law that must be obeyed AS A CONDITION to receiving eternal life as God's GIFT. Jesus said "IF" — (there was a CONDITION) — "IF" we are to be saved, by God's grace, WE MUST KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS! God lays down His own terms and conditions. His FREE GIFT is conditional — you get it ONLY if you "keep the commandments."

You can't EARN it. God GIVES it — but only to those who "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." God will not GIVE you eternal life *in sin*. And what *is* sin?



"SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (I John 3:4).

Some who pervert God's truth insist Jesus did not name ALL of the Ten Commandments in the above Scripture. Sin is the transgression of THE LAW. It is a COMPLETE LAW. He named enough of its points to designate WHICH LAW He was talking about. And James says that law has "POINTS" — and, if we break any ONE of the ten points of the Ten Commandments, we BREAK THE LAW, and are sinners! (James 2:8-11).

The very same day the Holy Spirit came — the very day the NEW TESTAMENT Church commenced — thousands, hearing the inspired Peter's sermon which struck straight to their heart, asked: "What shall we do?" — yes, WHAT SHALL WE DO TO BE SAVED?

The *inspired* answer was:

"REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said, "REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL." We must BELIEVE not only in Jesus as Saviour, but we must believe also THE GOSPEL He brought and preached — the gospel of the Kingdom of God — the AUTHORITY of God and the WORD of God *over our lives!* — *a message not preached today by most organized churches.*

After His resurrection, in His parting instructions to His disciples for preaching the way of salvation, Jesus said: "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that REPENTANCE and *remission of sins* should be preached in His name *among all nations*, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48). This is the Gospel for ALL NATIONS!

But *what* must we repent of? WHAT IS SIN? Do you realize that VERY FEW people know? Very few know the BIBLE definition of SIN.

God's inspired definition of sin is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Paul would not have known what was sin, except by the law. But *what* law? The very law which says: "Thou shalt not covet"

(Rom. 7:7). That law is the Ten Commandments.

This law is summed up in the one word — LOVE! It is further defined in the two Great Commandments, LOVE to God, and LOVE to neighbor. But the same law is further defined, and divided into ten points, by the Ten Commandments — the first four of which tell us how to love God, the last six of which tell us how to love neighbor.

### James' Inspired Answer

And thus it is explained in James: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well" (James 2:8). Here is the Royal Law — the whole Law — as a general principle.

The law is LOVE — and LOVE is the fulfilling of the law. Jesus fulfilled it, setting us an example that we, too, should fulfill the law. We fulfill it *with* LOVE — not any natural, carnal love in human nature, but "*the love of God* is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). The Holy Spirit in us is merely GOD'S LAW IN ACTION IN OUR LIVES! And so, if we fulfill this Royal Law, we do well — but if not, we commit sin (James 2:9). Now read verse 10. If we keep the WHOLE LAW — the general principle of LOVE to neighbor — yet offend *in one point*, we are guilty — we have broken the law — and the penalty is DEATH, not eternal life.

Notice, please, the law is divided into points! And it is divided into TEN POINTS — the Ten Commandments. These are merely the ten points, or subdivisions, of the General Royal Law, LOVE to God and to neighbor. "For He that said [or, that law which said], Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery" — if you do not break that specific point — "yet if thou kill" — you just break that one point — "thou art become a transgressor of the law" (Jas. 2:11). So you see the TEN COMMANDMENTS is the very law it is sin to transgress.

It is a SPIRITUAL law (Rom. 7:14). It is fulfilled by the SPIRITUAL LOVE which is God's precious gift to us — His love placed within us. "Wherefore the law is HOLY, and the command-

ment HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD" (Rom. 7:12).

To REPENT of sin means to turn from sin. It means to QUIT SINNING! And that means to *stop transgressing God's holy law*. And the way to stop breaking it is to begin KEEPING God's Commandments — ALL OF THEM, for if you break only one, you bring on yourself the penalty — ETERNAL DEATH, and you *lose salvation*.

Now Jesus "magnified the law, and made it honorable" (Isa. 42:21). When we put a spiritual "magnifying glass," so to speak, on the Ten Commandments, it is enlarged in spirit and principle into many more points. And in a larger aspect the ENTIRE BIBLE is a magnification of God's law. The Law is the basis of all Scripture. It defines THE WAY of life — THE WAY to happiness, joy, eternal life!

Notice how *like God* it is! The Law is GOOD (Rom. 7:12). God is good.

The Law is HOLY (Rom. 7:12). GOD is holy!

The Law is JUST (Rom. 7:12). GOD is just!

The Law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). GOD is spiritual!

The Law is PERFECT (Psalm 19:7). GOD is perfect!

The Law — including all His Commandments — is immutable, ETERNAL, stands fast FOREVER AND EVER (Psalm 111:7-8). And GOD is eternal!

Of course — for the Law is the very character, the very nature, of God! It is the WILL of God.

### Conscience Not Your Guide

But in the modern-day Babylon — confusion of conflicting teachings — you may have been taught, falsely, that YOUR CONSCIENCE tells you what is sin. But your conscience only troubles you when you do what YOU THINK is *wrong!* And what you think is wrong, *another* may think is *right!* Your CONSCIENCE IS NO GUIDE!

Sin is not the doing of what you think is wrong. Not the transgression of conscience — "sin is the transgression of God's LAW" (I John 3:4). Sin is thinking and doing what GOD SAYS is wrong — and He says it in His Law. Some think it perfectly all right to divorce and remarry. Others think it is



a sin. To do it would trouble the conscience of the latter, but not of the former.

One who does what he thinks is right may be committing a great deal of sin!

God says: "There is a way that seemeth *right* unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH"! (Prov. 14:12 and 16:25.) Again, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 12:15). And: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2). The world has been going the WAY that seems right to man for some 6000 years. But this WAY has brought only unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, sickness and disease and finally, CHAOS and DESPAIR all over the world! It has produced NOTHING GOOD!

God says: "SEEK YE the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake HIS WAY and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS: and let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, saith the Eternal" (Isaiah 55:6-8).

And *there* is THE WAY of Salvation! There is THE WAY to find GOD! SEEK HIM, by forsaking — WHAT? Forsaking YOUR WAY — your thoughts! The way you have THOUGHT to be right.

### The WAY of SALVATION

The first step toward salvation is to REPENT — and that means forsake your way — the customs and traditions you have been following — the ways of man — the ways you have been living. FORSAKE YOUR OWN WAY. Turn to God's way — the way of HIS LAW! The way of HIS WILL! Yes, the WAY of success, achievement, doing good, of prosperity — the WAY of ETERNAL LIFE!

Since the entire Bible contains the magnified explanation of GOD'S LAW, the Bible becomes OUR GUIDE FOR RIGHTEOUS AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING! That is why Jesus said man shall live by *every Word of God*!

True repentance means you give your SELF to God. And the only kind of repentance that is prerequisite to the gift of eternal life is COMPLETE AND UN-

CONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO GOD — to His will, which means to HIS LAW. You become HIS, literally, and wholly, with no reservations! Repentance is a COMPLETE CHANGE in your life — in your *attitude* TOWARD *life* — your *purpose* in life — your THOUGHTS and your ACTIONS.

It means forsaking some of your old friends and companions — if they are living the worldly life that seems *right* to MAN. It means turning from and forsaking worldly social and religious customs, interests, pleasures that are contrary to GOD'S WAYS.

It means THE BIBLE becomes the SUPREME AUTHORITY over your life — your *guide* to *living* — yes, to happy, abundant, gracious living, and SUCCESSFUL and righteous living, henceforth and forever — to live your life from now on with GOD'S HELP, and BY HIS POWER, according to the spirit and principle, as well as the letter and precept of His Commandments. You henceforth STUDY THE BIBLE — not just carelessly read, but STUDY, to learn GOD'S WAYS, and to LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

Now ask yourself, candidly: How MANY people who profess salvation — who have "accepted Christ" — do you believe have REALLY COME TO THIS KIND OF REAL REPENTANCE? "Except ye REPENT," warned Jesus, "ye shall all likewise PERISH." And again, "He that SAITH, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His Commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). Yes, MILLIONS ARE DECEIVED!

But if millions are deceived about the prior CONDITION of repentance, just as many millions are deceived today as to the KIND OF FAITH that really SAVES!

### The FAITH That SAVES

Now *think* a moment! *Use your REASON!* We are taught, and rightly, that we cannot EARN our salvation — it is the GIFT of God. It is by GRACE — and "grace" means *undeserved pardon* and *free gift*. Yet, notice how inconsistent people are! They argue there must be NO WORKS — no OBEDIENCE of the Commandments, or doing GOOD — no recognizing of God's AUTHORITY over your daily living — because salvation

comes by GRACE — God's free GIFT. And yet they seem to believe that somehow WE must supply the FAITH that brings salvation! If WE work up, or if WE supply this FAITH by which we are saved, *would not that*, in fact, amount to our producing *our own salvation* by the very WORKS of *supplying this FAITH*?

So notice, briefly! Notice more CLOSELY than you did before! "For BY GRACE are ye saved through FAITH; and that [that FAITH] not of yourselves; it [this saving FAITH] is *the gift of GOD!*" (Eph. 2:8.) The faith that really saves is GIVEN TO US by GOD — it is a GIFT from HIM! YOU don't supply it, or work it up.

Did you ever notice that before?

Well, what then? In Gal. 2:16 Paul explains a man is justified only "by THE FAITH of *Jesus Christ*." Notice, he does not say, by the man's faith IN Jesus Christ — he says by "the faith of Jesus Christ" — which means CHRIST'S FAITH — the faith HE has and uses — the same faith with which He performed all His miracles — the same faith by which He lived — His faith, placed by a miracle, as a gift direct from God, into the man!

So, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! Salvation is GOD'S GIFT. You do not, cannot, earn it. God GIVES it. But — and here is where people become mixed up, and stumble — God will GIVE it only on condition! Yes, there are terms and conditions! God has set these terms, and you can't alter them, and He won't change them!

I want to make this perfectly PLAIN. It is not *your* faith in Christ — a faith YOU supply in BELIEVING in Him as Saviour — that saves you. It is CHRIST'S faith, which *He* supplies and places in you by His Holy Spirit, which actually IMPARTS ETERNAL LIFE. But WHAT, then? Is it not necessary for YOU to believe, with YOUR OWN faith, in Christ?

Now let me make this PLAIN! Salvation is GOD'S FREE GIFT — it is by GRACE ALONE. Yet the very purpose of God demands TWO prior CONDITIONS on YOUR part. First, you must REPENT! Second, you must BELIEVE *in* Christ as Saviour. But you cannot believe in Christ unless you also believe His mes-



sage—the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16). But NEITHER your repentance, your obedience, NOR YOUR faith earns any salvation! They are merely prior CONDITIONS. But when you supply these two ingredients, then God STANDS BOUND BY HIS PROMISE to impart to you by His Holy Spirit, HIS *righteousness*, and CHRIST'S *faith*—and THESE, *supplied by GOD*, are the ingredients that SAVE and impart ETERNAL LIFE!

Paul explains: "Even we have believed IN Jesus Christ, *that we might be justified BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST*" (Gal. 2:16). You must repent and believe *in Christ*, as a condition, a prerequisite, IN ORDER THAT you may receive, and be saved *by the faith OF Christ*—by HIS faith placed within you!

### Cut Off from GOD

All have sinned!

All have gone the way that seems right in human eyes. And our sins have cut us off from God: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2).

Now salvation—eternal life—comes from GOD. But your sins have cut you off from GOD. The connection is SEVERED. YOU severed it! God will not GIVE you His gift of eternal life until you are reconciled to Him!

But He SO LOVED you, that He GAVE His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to DIE FOR YOU so that you need not perish—but, through Jesus Christ, be brought into contact with Him so He can GIVE you eternal life!

The PENALTY of transgressing His law is DEATH! Jesus paid that penalty in your stead. If, and when, you TRULY REPENT, as I have explained at length, and BELIEVE on Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour from sin and from sinning, then by and through HIM you gain access to GOD THE FATHER.

The two conditions of turning FROM sin, and *accepting* Christ (including baptism), YOU *must* DO YOURSELF! That's what YOU must do! That is NOT *what saves you!* It merely *reconciles*

you to GOD—brings you into CONTACT *with God*, so that *God will then GIVE YOU His HOLY SPIRIT*—and HIS SPIRIT imparts the *gift of the FAITH that saves*—and it is also the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, of *knowledge, of the LOVE that FULFILLS the Law*, and imparts GOD'S *righteousness*.

Millions have been *deceived*, and *falsely* believe that they *have* a salvation which they do NOT yet have at all! GOD HELP US, then, to UNDERSTAND.

### What You Should Do

Now, finally, just HOW shall you go about it?

Must you go down the aisle in a church? Must you go to a public altar, and shed tears in front of others, and pray aloud before others?

Being converted is not an initiation into a lodge or secret society! It is not a rite or ceremony! It is a matter of turning FROM the old life that was false, yet may have seemed right to you—of turning TO a new and TRUE way of life in Christ Jesus, living by every Word of God, in and by the power of God's Holy Spirit! When you UNDERSTAND the real MEANING and the PURPOSE, you'll see that it is something that takes place down deep in your HEART and not a matter of THE PLACE or THE SURROUNDINGS, or the presence of other people. What Jesus said about confessing, or denying Him before men did not refer to a rite, or ceremonial form of being converted. Being converted is the receiving of the Holy Spirit—the *very life*—of God.

You CAN, of course, make this full surrender and consecration to God in front of others, at an altar. You *can*, also, make it just as sincerely and fully, in a private room at home, all ALONE with God! You can pray in church before others and do it sincerely from the heart. Yet Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet [any small room], and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

WHEN you have *really* repented—repented of what you *are* as well as what you have *done*—WHEN you come

to this *parting of the ways* from the old life—when you come to the place of making this COMPLETE CHANGE—this total unconditional surrender to God—this complete consecration, GIVING your SELF to Him, accepting Christ as your personal Saviour—turning FROM your sins, and TO GOD'S way of life as you'll find it in the Bible, you'll want to PRAY! Yes, you'll want to throw yourself completely on God's mercy, and ask Him through Jesus Christ to FORGIVE YOU all your past sins and transgressions against Him.

The apostle Paul reveals how. He confessed: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth *no good thing*: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:18-19).

He saw human nature in its gruesome reality. He struggled with it—fought against it—only to find that it was more powerful than he!

What could he do?

Paul cried out, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Read the answer to the problem in the *Moffatt* translation: "Miserable wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? *GOD WILL!* Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Verses 24-25.)

It is not perhaps of great consequence *where* you do it! But the IMPORTANT thing is to DO IT! The longer you put repentance off the harder it will become. WHY it should be difficult to just go and throw yourself on God's mercy, and ask His forgiveness, and give your SELF to Him, is hard to understand—yet something in the human nature within you will keep tempting you to PUT IT OFF. That temptation is not of God, you may be sure.

If you are sick and tired of the empty, fruitless, materialistic life you have been living—IF in your heart you DO want to turn from it to the FULL and JOYFUL life filled with God's SPIRIT, then WHY DELAY? This is *just the start* of the real Christian life. Don't look for a certain feeling, but repent and believe.



towns and took up residence in them. Because Israel had forsaken God's right ways, they no longer had His protection.

The day after the battle, Philistine soldiers set out to strip the dead Israelites of their weapons and valuables. They removed the armor from the bodies of Saul and his three sons, and cut off their heads. The armor was sent into Philistia to show that there had been a great victory over Israel. The heads were taken to be displayed in the temples of Dagon, the most revered god of the Philistines. The headless bodies were fastened to the wall of the town of Beth-shan, an Israelite habitation taken over by the Philistines. (I Samuel 31:7-10.)

Across the Jordan River southeast from Beth-shan was the town of Jabesh-gilead in the territory of Gad. Saul's first outstanding deed as leader of Israel, years previously, was to conscript an army and rescue the people of Jabesh-gilead from the soldiers of Nahash, king of the Ammonites. (I Samuel 11:1-11.) Since then the inhabitants of that town had greatly loved and respected Saul. When they learned what the Philistines had done to the remains of Saul and his sons, the more courageous men of Jabesh-gilead decided that something should be done about it.

Moving westward by night across the Jordan River and the twelve miles to Beth-shan, the armed company of determined Israelites quietly crept close to their objective. Well after midnight they craftily closed in on one guard after another, hastily removed the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall and slipped away to return to Jabesh-gilead before dawn.

It wasn't an Israelite custom to burn bodies, but the men of Jabesh-gilead didn't want the Philistines to recover what had been taken from that wall of Beth-shan. After the remains had been burned, the bones were buried under a tree. Satisfied that they had done their best to save their former king from further desecration by their enemies, the devoted men of Jabesh-gilead paid their last respects by fasting for seven days. (I Samuel 31:11-13.)

### David Grieves

Thus the unpredictable Saul came to his end. Under his leadership Israel had both good and bad times, but if he had continued from his early kingship to be obedient to God, probably he would have lasted for many more years during which Israel would have prospered in safety. Israel's welfare wasn't completely determined by the conduct of its ruler. But, since people follow a leader, if a ruler obeys God's laws, the people are more obedient. And obedience to God's ways always leads to happiness, prosperity and protection. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14.)

After David and his men had returned from slaughtering the Amalekites, they



set about repairing the burned parts of the fortress city of Ziklag. Three days after they had begun the task, a weary-looking stranger approached from the north and asked to speak to David. His clothes were torn and dirt was on his head—a sign of mourning in those times. After being directed to David, the young man fell to his knees and bowed his head to the ground. (II Samuel 1:1-2.)

“Stand and tell me where you’re from,” David said.

“I’ve come from the camp of the Israelites near Mt. Gilboa,” was the reply. “The Philistines have demolished it! Their numbers were superior, and they had thousands of archers who quickly felled a great part of the Israelite army. Most of the Israelites turned back and fled to the east. The Philistines chased and slaughtered many more. Saul and his three sons are among the dead.”

David was shocked by the news. He regretted to hear that Saul, his enemy, was dead (Proverbs 24:17), and he was saddened to learn that Jonathan, his close friend, had been killed. Tragic as these events were, the report that the Philistines had triumphed was much more painful. It meant that all of Israel might soon be taken by the enemy. David could only hope that his informer was exaggerating these matters.

“How do you know that Saul and his sons were killed?” David asked as he intently stared at the man. (II Samuel 1:3-5.)

“I was fighting close by, and I saw the sons fall after being deeply pierced by arrows,” was the answer.

“But how about Saul?” David demanded. “Did you actually see him die?”

“I did,” the man lied with a strange tone of pride in his voice. “I was the one who killed him!”

*(To be continued next issue)*



Standing before David, the stranger boldly and almost proudly announced that he was the one who had killed Saul.



# Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

needed to devote his entire attention to stopping the hemorrhaging. He didn't even slap the baby's back to make her breathe. Instead, believing the infant could not live unless by divine providence, he prayed asking God to decide, and cause the infant to breathe if He wanted her to live.

At that instant the tiny three-pound bundle of humanity uttered a feeble cry, and began breathing. She was washed and put in an incubator. Nevertheless, there were internal complications which prevented taking on weight — although she grew normally in height — and there was a basic heart condition which gradually produced enlargement of the heart. Carole never was privileged to live a completely normal life, and her parents knew, as far back as six years ago, that she probably would never reach her eighteenth birthday.

Some may ask, could not God have healed her of this growing condition, and have given her a normal and lengthy life. Of course. But many do not understand that God does lay down certain terms and conditions which He requires of us! During the past thirty-nine years I have been called on to pray for the healing of many hundreds of people. Many, many, have believed and been healed — many by astonishing miracles. Yet a great many others have not. WHY? I have prayed as earnestly and with as much faith for those not healed, as for those who were. The answer is obvious.

When a woman touched Jesus' robe and was healed, He did not tell her that His faith healed her. Rather, He said (Luke 8:48), "Daughter, *THY* faith hath made thee whole." King Asa of ancient Judah started his reign trusting in God (II Chron. 14:1-2). God heard, and answered his prayers (verses 11-12). But, later in life, he began to rely on other kings instead of on God (II Chron. 16:7). In the 39th year of his reign, King Asa "was dis-

eased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Eternal, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died..." (verses 12-13).

But my little "Princess" lived long enough to build a beautiful character. She set a splendid example for her younger sister and brother. She had a good, sound and sensible mind. She acquired a splendid attitude — a right spirit — that survives death, and will still be hers in the resurrection. She lived to be seventeen and a half. But, "as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall ALL be made alive" (I Cor. 15:22) — the SAME ALL who die. In the very next second of her consciousness, Carole will awaken in a resurrection.

There is just ONE THING we can take with us when we die — a RIGHT-EOUS CHARACTER! Any money we accumulate, property, material goods — all these we must leave behind. There's the old saying, "You can't take it with you." But you *can* take with you a right CHARACTER if you build one — and, after all, that is the VERY PURPOSE of this life. A beautiful and fine CHARACTER is worth more than all the money in the world. *That* is "the TRUE riches." A girl like Carole has not lived in vain — and she shall live again!

I said she set a splendid example for her younger sister and brother. I think



A late picture of Carole Ann Mattson taken shortly before this letter was written.

she did much more. In a letter she wrote to her Daddy and Mom, as she called them, she set a splendid example for thousands of children of those who will read this column, for I'm going to reprint that letter here. It was dated September 1, 1965. She was sixteen and a half.

She had been reprimanded for being cross and "bossy" with the younger children. The offense was not as serious as her letter indicates, but the important thing is that she took it seriously when it was called to her attention. How many of you "teen-agers" who read this column would write such a letter?

Here is her letter:

September 1, 1965

Dearest Mom and Daddy,

Not before today did I *really* know how I have treated you both. I am very ashamed of myself, and I don't expect you to forgive me for all the years I have caused you needless pain. It seems to me now that I have totally wasted your time.

Well, I'm going to try to make up for it all. I feel very terrible and I wish I could live over those lost years you spent trying to teach me some good behavior. From now on I'm going to act my age and help out as much as I can. I'm not going to quarrel with the kids and I will remember what you have always said to me, "If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing right."

From now on I will also be neat and clean and wipe out my bossiness towards others.

Maybe someday, and soon I hope, you will be proud of me, as you have been at times, when I was good.

My grades in school will go up this year too, and my new school clothes, as well as my old ones, will stay neat and where they belong.

I truly hope you can see an improvement in me soon.

I think you are both the most wonderful and understanding parents *any child* ever could have. I love you and I'll prove it!

Love, your daughter,  
Carole

And Carole *did* PROVE IT! I have always been astonished at her sensible and understanding mind. I think you can understand why Mrs. Armstrong and I, as well as her parents and brother and sister, loved her.

There is a big empty spot in the Mattson home now. The "Princess" is no longer there. But, though of course we grieve, we "*sorrow not, AS others which have no hope*" (I Thes. 4:13-18). We're grateful for the life she had — we look forward in anticipation. We shall see her again!