

The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

July 1969



Personal from the Editor

HOW MANY times have you heard non-Christians, judging one who professes Christ, say in disgust: "Well if *that's* Christianity, I don't want any of it!"

How many judge GOD by the way professing Christians live? How many assume that one must live a *perfect* life, before he can become a Christian?

How many say: "If I could give up smoking, I'd become a Christian."

How many think a Christian is supposed to be perfect, never doing anything wrong? Suppose you do see or hear about a Christian doing something **WRONG**. Does that mean he is a hypocrite — that he is *not* really a Christian, after all?

Is it possible for one to actually **SIN**, while he is a Christian and *still remain* a truly converted Christian?

I suppose nearly everyone would reply in the negative. But here is a vital point *you need to UNDERSTAND!*

It's hard to believe — but **TRUE!** Few know just what *is* a Christian. Few know **HOW** one is converted — whether suddenly, all at once, or gradually. Does conversion happen *immediately*, or is it a **PROCESS**? **IT'S HIGH TIME WE UNDERSTAND!**

The **TRUTH** is that there is a sense in which true conversion *does* take place *at a definite time* — all at once. But it is also true that in another sense conversion is *worked out gradually* — a process of development and growth.

NOW NOTICE CAREFULLY!

WHEN does one really become a Christian? It is when he receives God's Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9, we read that *unless* we have the Holy Spirit, we are not Christ's — not Christians.

There is a definite **TIME** when God's Spirit enters into one. At the *very moment* he receives the Holy Spirit, he is, in this first sense, *converted*. Yes, *all at once!* If he has Christ's Spirit, he is **CHRIST'S** — he is a Christian! The very *Life* of God has entered into (impregnated) him. He has been begotten as a child of God.

But does that mean his salvation is complete?

Is he now fully and finally "saved"? Is that all there is to it? Is he now, suddenly, *perfect*? Is it now impossible for him to do **WRONG**?

NO! FAR FROM IT! But *WHY?* What's the answer? Why do so many **MISUNDERSTAND**?

Why does almost **NOBODY** understand the very **PURPOSE** of the Christian life?

WHY do people not understand the very gospel Jesus Christ taught? He taught the **KINGDOM OF GOD**. So did the Apostles, including Paul. He spoke mostly in parables. Take a quick look at one or two. Notice what Jesus revealed. Notice the awe-inspiring **TRE-MENDOUS** potential that is ours.

Take the parable of the nobleman going to a far country, later to return. It is in Luke 19:11-27. Jesus is the Nobleman. He was going to a far country — to the heaven of God's throne, seat of the government of the entire universe. He spoke this parable because His disciples thought the Kingdom of God should appear immediately. So far more than 1900 years have gone by, and the Kingdom of God has not yet appeared.

So He called, in the parable, his ten servants — symbolic of the ten tribes known as the Kingdom of **ISRAEL**. He gave them ten pounds — a pound each, using, in our English language translation, the English unit of money. This is symbolic of one unit of **SPIRITUAL VALUE** with which each was started out. In other words, representative of the portion of God's Holy Spirit which was given to each on initial conversion.

But His citizens hated Him. They rejected Him as their **RULER**. They said, "we will not have this man to **REIGN OVER US**." The Kingdom of God is a **RULING GOVERNMENT**. They, as of then, received no conversion — no "pounds." (They shall yet find conversion, as many, many passages of Scripture affirm).

Now the reason for His going to heaven was to "receive for himself a **KINGDOM**, and to return." That is, He was going to the throne of the Government of the entire universe where God Almighty, the Father, sits, to have conferred on Him the **RULERSHIP OF THE WORLD**. The coronation ceremony will take place in

heaven, at the throne of UNIVERSE RULE. When He returns He will be crowned with MANY CROWNS (Rev. 19:12); He is coming to RULE ALL NATIONS with almighty divine POWER (verse 15).

Back to Luke 19. On his return, his servants, to whom he had given the money — that is, the beginning unit of GOD'S SPIRIT at conversion — are to be called to an accounting, "that he might know how much each man had GAINED" while he was gone. This means each Christian is expected to GROW spiritually — in spiritual KNOWLEDGE and grace (see II Peter 3:18). The Christian life is a life of spiritual GOING TO SCHOOL — of training for a POSITION IN GOD'S KINGDOM, when and after we shall be changed from mortal to immortal — when we shall be no longer flesh-and-blood human, but composed of SPIRIT, with eternal life inherent.

In the parable, the first came to report he had multiplied what he had been given TEN TIMES. You see, the receiving of God's Spirit is GOD'S GIFT — that is what GOD does — it comes by GRACE, as a gift. WE CAN'T EARN IT. But all through the New Testament it is made plain we shall be REWARDED according to OUR WORKS. Not SAVED by works we have done. This man had, by his own application, multiplied his spiritual gift ten times — his one pound was now ten pounds. He received a greater REWARD than the one who gained five pounds.

The Nobleman (Christ) said to him, "Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in very little, have thou AUTHORITY OVER TEN CITIES."

He had qualified to RULE. He had been obedient to God's commands — God's government. We have to BE RULED before we can learn to RULE.

The second servant had increased his spiritual stock of goods five times. He had qualified, in this life, for HALF as much as the first servant. He was given HALF the REWARD.

This parable shows Christians are to RULE under Christ, *when* the Kingdom of God is set up. Jesus was speaking of GOVERNMENT — *world government*. This parable was given to show that the Kingdom of God was not to appear at that time. The Kingdom is *not* an ethereal, sentimental something "in our hearts." It is *not* the Church.

Daniel's prophecy shows that the SAINTS are to RULE, under Christ the Messiah, when he sets up literal WORLD GOVERNMENT. See Daniel 2 — read it through and then notice verse 44. This Kingdom will

break in pieces every other form of government — all rule of man — and will stand forever. Notice Daniel 7: And especially verses 18 and 22. It will be an earthly kingdom — not in heaven, but "UNDER the whole heaven," verse 27.

Jesus said: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth MY WORKS unto the end, to him will I give POWER over the nations: and he shall RULE THEM with a rod of iron" (Rev. 2:26-27).

He said, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne." (Rev. 3:21.) When Jesus said this, through John in the 90's A.D., He was in heaven with His Father on the throne of UNIVERSE *government*.

When Jesus sits on His own throne on this earth it will be the throne of David, in Jerusalem. Notice what is said of Jesus: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall REIGN over the House of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33).

But he was not going to set up the world government of the Kingdom of God *at that time*. The Bible speaks of *three* worlds — or *ages* — in time order. First, the world that then was, overflowed with water — prior to the flood; second, this present evil world; and third the world to come. On trial for his life before Pilate, Jesus said he was born to be a king (John 18:37), but that His kingdom was "not of this world." He will rule THE WORLD TOMORROW (verse 36).

The saints (Spirit-led Christians) are to reign, under Christ, "ON THE EARTH," (Rev. 5:10), for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4,6).

WHY has the whole world been deceived with a false gospel (Rev. 12:9)? WHY have they been deceived into belief in a counterfeit Kingdom of God? See the article, "What do You Mean — KINGDOM OF GOD?" in the June number TOMORROW'S WORLD.

Look again at the many parables of Jesus. They teach the Kingdom of God. They make plain the fact the Kingdom of God is the WORLD GOVERNMENT soon, now, to be set up by Christ, coming in ALL POWER and GLORY, to bring us world peace, abundance, happiness and joy.

The purpose of the christian life is to train future KINGS to rule with and under Christ. How then,

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What do You Mean...

SALVATION?

Do you realize not one in a hundred knows what it is — how to get it — when you receive it? Don't be too sure you do! Here, once for all, is the TRUTH made so plain you will really UNDERSTAND it!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

COULD you, yourself, answer these questions? If someone asked you to open your Bible and show him exactly *where* the Bible says salvation means *going to heaven* — could you do it?

Is salvation a *place*, a *destination*, a *condition*, a *reward* — or WHAT?... and *where* would you turn in your Bible to find it? Are you sure?

Could you open your Bible and show a questioner where it tells you *when* you receive salvation? Do you actually get it *now*, or when you die, or when Christ returns — or at some other time? This article will show you plainly.

Are you, at conversion, an inheritor, or an heir to inherit, — and just what *does* one inherit?

Let's Make It PLAIN!

Religious people talk about “getting saved.” Yet even most religious people understand no more of what the Bible teaches about salvation — the real meaning of the word “salvation” — than a certain young man did about another religious expression.

He said to me, “I gave my heart to the Lord at the revival meeting last night.”

“Well,” I said, “Just what do you *mean* — you gave your heart to the Lord? Just how did you do that? Did you reach in your hand, take your heart out, and actually hand it to the Lord — and was He really right there, in person?”

“Well, uh — uh —” he stammered, confused, “uh — well, no, I didn't do that.”

“Then just what *did* you do? *How* did you give your heart to the Lord?” He stammered some more, then guessed he didn't know.

That's the way it is with a lot of people who say “I got saved.” They don't really know what they mean by “getting saved.”

Do you know what the BIBLE teaches about salvation? Millions of sincere people have *supposed* they knew — yet have been deceived into accepting a FALSE SALVATION.

It's about time to get to the plain WHYS, WHATS, HOWS, and WHENS, so you can see it clearly, plainly, right in your own BIBLE! *Why* should the most important thing in life be a vague, mysterious, superstitious, ethereal, meaningless thing?

I'm going to make it PLAIN — *in your Bible!* So prepare yourself for a SHOCK! And don't believe me — BELIEVE THE BIBLE!

What Salvation Is

While the real truth must come from the Bible, the dictionary definition may help a little. Webster defines “salvation” as: “1. The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin; especially deliverance from sin and eternal damnation. . . . 2. Preservation from destruction, failure, or other evil.”

Now we need to learn the Bible definition of SIN, and to see what the

Bible reveals the spiritual CONSEQUENCES to be. Whatever the CONSEQUENCES, Webster says salvation is to save you *from* it — and in this the Bible confirms the dictionary definition. Also salvation means PRESERVATION — and in this also, we shall see the Bible affirms the definition.

But why would you *need* to be saved from the spiritual CONSEQUENCES of sin? And WHY, if you are an immortal soul, do you need *preservation from destruction?*

What has this to do with YOU?

Suppose you say, “Look, I don't go to church. I don't pretend to be religious. Why should I be concerned with all these religious words like ‘sin’ and ‘salvation’ and ‘spiritual consequences?’”

Does this concern *only* religious people?

WHY You Are Concerned

God Almighty, who designed, created, and sustains human life — including *yours*, says this: “ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

That involves YOU!

Right now you probably have no conception of what is meant by “the glory of God” you have come short of. You'll *really* open your eyes in astonishment when that is made plain to you.

But, whatever SIN is, *you have sinned*. ALL humans have! Christ,

only, is excepted. *You are involved.* And since salvation is saving man from the *consequences* of sin (and the Bible affirms this, as we shall see), let God's Word tell you what the *consequences* are.

It is plain and simple. Here it is: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

But why have you heard — and possibly believed — just the opposite? *Look at that* — read it in your own BIBLE! *Notice!* The wages you are going to be paid for having sinned — the *consequences* of sin — is DEATH! Then why do so many religious people teach exactly the opposite of the Bible — WHY do they teach that the wages of sin is ETERNAL LIFE in hell?

Look at that again, in your Bible! On the one hand, the penalty is DEATH — on the other hand, the gift is ETERNAL LIFE. The two are contrasted — it is one or the other — DEATH, or ETERNAL LIFE.

Right here let me make VERY PLAIN one thing THE BIBLE teaches. A few persecutors have accused us of teaching "a salvation by WORKS" — that is, that our "works" *earn* salvation. Let it be made clear and plain right here that your "WORKS" — your *evil* works — *do earn something* — but it is NOT SALVATION — what they *earn* — the WAGES they earn — is DEATH, and *not* salvation!

Further, let's get this point straight and plain right here — ETERNAL LIFE is *not* something you can *earn*, it is GOD'S GIFT through Christ! That is the plain teaching of YOUR BIBLE!

Again — your BIBLE says very plainly that "the GIFT of God is ETERNAL LIFE." Now this very verse (and all others in the Bible bearing on the subject agree) says plainly that what you RECEIVE by God's GRACE — as HIS GIFT, is ETERNAL LIFE. It says that eternal life is something you have to OBTAIN as a GIFT from GOD! Therefore SALVATION actually is "ETERNAL LIFE" — a GIFT! But do you know that many actually DENY that eternal life comes only as God's GIFT by grace and through Christ? THEY SAY YOU ALREADY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. They say you are an "IMMORTAL SOUL"!

Yes, this is amazing!

This is important! This is the crux of the whole question — of life — of the reason for existence! If you have an immortal soul — if you already *have* eternal life — then the Bible is not true when it says plainly eternal life is a GIFT from God. According to the Bible, what the "saved" receive as God's GIFT through Jesus Christ is ETERNAL LIFE. Salvation, then, actually *is* the receiving of something you don't now have — ETERNAL LIFE.

Yet a very popular teaching deceives people into believing they do not need to be saved *from death* by Christ's free grace — by His shed blood. They say you do not need saving *from death* at all. They say, as Satan deceived mother Eve, that you will not surely die — you are — or have — an immortal soul!

NOTICE THIS IN YOUR BIBLE!

It's time to quit believing and following the deceptions of a religious world. Look in your own Bible. BELIEVE GOD!!

WHY You Are Helpless

Now does the Bible say anywhere that you are, or have, an "IMMORTAL SOUL"?

For years we offered \$1,000 to anyone who can show any place where the words "immortal soul" are found in the Bible. No one ever found it!

WHY IS IT that religious people speak continually about "your immortal soul," about "going to heaven," about dead loved ones being now "with the Lord," and many other such things supposed to be the BASIC beliefs of Christianity — and yet *never once showing you any such teaching* IN THE BIBLE! They *talk* of these teachings *as if* they were true. They lead you to take these teachings for granted — to suppose they came from the Bible.

What does the Bible teach about the soul? Will you read it in your own Bible? Don't take my word for it — don't believe me — BELIEVE GOD!

Read it, in Ezekiel 18:4: "The soul that sinneth, *it shall die.*" Yes, again, the wages of sin is DEATH — that soul that sins shall DIE!

That truth about the soul is so important God caused it to be written

twice. Turn now to Ezekiel 18:20: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Souls are not immortal. Your Bible says they can DIE!

But one who is deceived may say: "That's in the Old Testament." Read in the NEW Testament that ALL Scripture — all that Timothy had known from youth, which was the Old Testament — is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:15-16).

Again, in the NEW Testament: Jesus Christ Himself said you should "fear him which is able to *destroy* both *soul* and *body* in gehenna" — a fire that will *burn them up* — cause them to DIE — *destroy* what is burned! Oh, yes, the Bible does teach *that* kind of hell fire — but not the kind where one burns forever and yet never burns up (Matthew 10:28). Let's *believe* Jesus Christ when He says souls can be DESTROYED! They are NOT immortal!

What is a Soul? Notice Gen. 2:7: "The Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and man became a living soul. Man *is* a soul. What was made of the dust of the ground became a soul. The soul was formed out of *matter*. The soul is *not* spirit. It is material, and can die.

This may come as a surprise: not only is it true that there is no such expression anywhere in the Bible as "immortal soul," but the word "immortal" occurs *only once* in all the Bible — in I Timothy 1:17, where it refers to GOD as being immortal.

Further, the word "immortality" can be found only five times in all the Bible. In Romans 2:7 you will read it is something for us to *seek for*. Of course! It is the GIFT of GOD, who has it to give! You don't need to *seek for* something you already have! In I Corinthians 15:53, and again in verse 54, immortality is something the "saved" shall *put on*, AT THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION. In I Timothy 6:16 it speaks of the resurrected and glorified Christ, who, *only*, of all who have been born human, has immortality. And finally, in II Timothy 1:10, immortality is something Jesus Christ brought to light — made possible for us to receive — through the Gospel.

So the Bible teaches that the soul is

NOT immortal, but is mortal, subject to DEATH as the penalty of sin!

Now where does this leave YOU? Let's get back to YOU!

All have sinned. That includes you. The penalty is DEATH! You do not possess eternal life from natural birth. Christ said: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). So you are only mortal, material FLESH. You are "of the earth — earthy" (I Cor. 15:47). The life you were born with is merely temporary chemical existence! You live by breathing air in and out of your lungs — the *breath of life*.

You are only one breath away from death — the cessation of the existence we call "life." If you don't draw that next breath, you can't keep alive or conscious ten more minutes. There is no immortal soul that will keep you alive and conscious. You ARE a soul (Gen. 2:7) that has *sinned*, and so shall DIE, unless saved from it by Christ's grace.

If your heart does not make that next beat, there is nothing in you to keep you alive ten minutes. You exist by breathing of air and circulation of blood — fed by food and water. You have only temporary CHEMICAL EXISTENCE. You are like a clock wound up, and running down. You don't know at what second it will stop!

You can't give yourself any LIFE beyond this running-down chemical existence. There is no eternal life inherent in you. Nothing you can do will produce it, supply it, or EARN it. You can't get it by *your own works!*

What your own works have done for you is earn for you the PENALTY of death. And it is ETERNAL DEATH — *eternal punishment!*

It is not "eternal punishing" in life but eternal punishment in DEATH (Matt. 25:46). Notice, Jesus said the punishment, death, is to last forever — "everlasting punishment." Again, in II Thessalonians 1:9, speaking of those who reject God's salvation, they shall be punished with everlasting destruction." The punishment is not LIFE in torture but DESTRUCTION to be final, total, forever.

GOD — and God *only* — has immor-

tality! Instead of *assuming* carelessly the pagan teaching of the "immortality of the soul," turn again to I Timothy 6:16 and read it with your own eyes in your own Bible! The risen Christ, and He only, of all who were born human, has immortality. God has immortality — life *inherent*, in Himself (John 5:26). He has given to the Son, Jesus Christ, also to have LIFE *in Himself*. And only GOD can impart eternal life to YOU! It comes through Christ.

But how are you going to go to God? Your past sins not only have condemned you under penalty of death — they also have put a total BARRIER between you and God. They have cut you off from all access to God!

Read it! See it in your own Bible: "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but *your iniquities have separated between you and your God*, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

HOW Seek God?

So HOW, when this barrier stands between you, are you going to GO TO GOD to obtain eternal life?

Again Isaiah answers: "SEEK ye the Eternal while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; *let the wicked forsake HIS WAY*, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. . . . For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Eternal" (Isa. 55:6-8).

So now you SEEK GOD, so you may obtain eternal LIFE from Him. You REPENT! You forsake *your way* of life, and turn to God's way — or at least you think you do. But something is *still lacking!* You still are cut off! The barrier is still there! Do you know why?

At this point we need to stop and find out what is meant by that word "SIN."

Haven't you honestly been a bit confused by this religious terminology? You hear people talk about "sin," "getting saved," "under law or under grace," "justification," "sanctified," "heaven," "hell," "predestination," and dozens of other terms. Haven't they

been pretty vague to you — rather meaningless? Do you know that most religious people who use all these religious words usually don't know any more than you do what they really MEAN?

What Do You Mean — SIN?

We started by quoting the scripture "ALL have sinned." We said that included YOU!

But *what is SIN?* Why, when men preach, don't you hear *that* explained, defined, made clear and understandable? WHY are these religious terms used most of the time loosely, vaguely, meaninglessly?

Once, in Springfield, Oregon, a young man with a Bible in his hand accosted me on the street. An evangelist had come to town and pitched a tent. He brought with him a "gospel team" including some eight young men of college age, who roamed the streets carrying Bibles, stopping people and inviting them to attend the services. One stopped me.

"Well now," I said, "Does your evangelist teach that Christ saves us from SIN?" He assured me he did.

"Well, what I want to know," I persisted, "is what I have to quit DOING — or what I have DONE that you call 'SIN.' Just what *is* 'SIN'?"

"Well," he answered, "Christ died for our sins."

"But that doesn't tell me exactly *what* I've done that Christ had to die for," I insisted. "What *is* 'SIN'?"

"Christ DIED for our sins," came the reply.

"Yes, I know — you said that before. But what *is* this thing, 'SIN,' that He died for? What do I have to quit doing? Can you open that Bible you have, and show me the BIBLE DEFINITION of the word 'SIN'? Is there a place in the Bible where it gives a plain definition — where it says 'sin is' — and then in plain words tells what it is?"

He called to a second of the young men — then a third, and a fourth. Finally, with a large crowd gathering, they called the evangelist himself. But even he could not — or *would not* — turn to the Bible answer! One by one,

the evangelist and his "team" all slunk away!

Then I took a Bible out of my briefcase, turned to I John 3:4, and read to the crowd:

"Sin is the transgression of the Law."

But *what* law? This is explained in Romans 7. So next I read:

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay I had not known sin but by the law" — or, in the plainer English of the *Moffatt* translation: "Why, had it not been for the Law, I would never have known what sin meant!" In other words, the Law *defines* sin. Sin is breaking the Law. But *what* Law? Continuing, same verse: "for I had not known lust, except the Law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7).

There we are told plainly *what* Law it is SIN to transgress. It is the Law that says: "Thou shalt not covet." And that is a direct quote from Exodus 20:17, where the Ten Commandments are being given. That Law is the Ten Commandments. It is SIN to break any of the Ten Commandments.

In verses 12 and 14 of this same 7th chapter of Romans you will read that the Law is *holy, just and good*, and that it is a SPIRITUAL LAW — a law of spiritual principles of living!

Of course the whole spiritual Law may be summed up in the word LOVE. This may be divided into the two Great Commandments, love toward GOD, and love toward *neighbor*. The first four of the Ten Commandments tell us *how* to love GOD; the last six *how* to love neighbor. The WHOLE BIBLE elaborates, showing the principles involved, until it includes the entire RIGHT WAY OF LIFE!

Now notice Romans 3:20. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Of course! A deceived popular teaching to the contrary notwithstanding, THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT WE TEACH. Keeping the law by your own efforts will not justify anyone. We have all sinned. We cannot justify this guilt we have incurred — we cannot avoid

the wages we have earned — DEATH — by obedience, goodness, works, or anything we can do.

Let's make that REAL PLAIN! Most women carry a mirror in their purses. A woman takes out her mirror, steals a glance at her face, discovers dirt on it. Does she try to wash off the dirt with the mirror? Ridiculous? Yes, of course. Looking into the mirror won't cleanse the dirt already there. WHY? Because BY the mirror comes the KNOWLEDGE that the dirt is there! Now God's LAW is His spiritual mirror. Your Bible says so — plainly (James 1:22-25). You look into GOD'S LAW. It shows you the spiritual dirt on your heart. To HEAR God's Word, which corrects, reproves and rebukes (II Tim. 3:16) and then DO NOTHING about the spiritual dirt it reveals is like a man beholding his face in a mirror, seeing the dirt — gaining knowledge of it — then forgetting how dirty he is — doing nothing about it.

God's LAW is His spiritual mirror. But keeping yourself from becoming more dirty today does not wash off the dirt already there. By being careful to incur no penalty today, you do not erase the penalty incurred yesterday and all the days PREVIOUSLY. So, "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" — WHY? Because "by the law is the KNOWLEDGE of sin." Of COURSE!

Sin is "the transgression of the law." Paul would not have *known* it was sin to lust, except the LAW had said "Thou shalt not covet." The function of the Law is to tell us *what sin is!* Not to cleanse us of yesterday's sin or erase the penalty of last year's sin.

There can never be a LAW, unless there is a *penalty* for its violation. And, where "no law is, there is no transgression" (Rom. 4:15) and could be no penalty — no punishment. If the wages — the punishment — of sin is death, and death is the penalty, then there is a LAW. And if there is no law being broken, there is no transgression and no penalty — and then we need no Saviour — no salvation FROM the punishment.

NOW WHERE did the Law come from? Again, through James, God says "There is ONE LAWGIVER" (James 4:12). That is GOD. God set in motion many laws — laws of physics and chemistry among them. The great law of LOVE is a *spiritual* law. It is THE WAY of peace, of happiness — of right relationship with God and with human neighbor. It is inexorable — a *living* law as much fixed and in motion as laws of gravity and inertia.

This spiritual law was set in motion by a loving God to provide THE WAY to every desired GOOD — peace, happiness, prosperity, security, abundant life. To break it is to turn in the opposite direction from peace, happiness, security, abundance, and toward strife, fear, worry, unhappiness, suffering, death. The final wages you earn traveling that WAY IS DEATH! FOR ETERNITY! ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

Yes, the wages of sin is DEATH. But we have HOPE! The GIFT of GOD is eternal LIFE.

So now, where are we? Eternal life can be had only from GOD. So, as stated above, you seek GOD. But you find a tremendous, impenetrable barrier — your sins you have committed. Until they are JUSTIFIED you have no access to God.

LAW-KEEPING Won't Justify!

YOU ARE STILL CUT OFF FROM GOD!

Actually, as we shall see in a moment, you can't keep a spiritual law with a carnal mind and carnal love. But, even if you could, your OBEDIENCE now is *only what is required of you now!* It does not make up for PAST law-breaking. A man convicted of committing murder last month does not erase his sentence by being law-abiding this month.

THAT IS WHAT YOUR BIBLE TEACHES! GET THAT STRAIGHT! All the good WORKS in the world — all the LAW-keeping — cannot JUSTIFY you of your past guilt.

Now where do you find yourself? You are now submissive — obedient to God's Law. At least you try to be. Is this necessary? MOST ASSUREDLY IT IS! For if you disobey — break the law — you commit more sin. Christ does not

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aside the Laws of God as having no binding force on them today.

"But what of the transfiguration?" Yes, *what of the transfiguration?* The disciples, Peter, James and John, were with Jesus on a mountain, apart from the others, when a marvelous *vision* appeared — an actual *foretaste*, a view ahead into the soon-coming Kingdom of God! As the disciples stood, gazing with awe and wonder at the brilliance of the vision, there came a "voice out of the cloud, which said, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him'" (Matt. 17:5). But notice, did the scripture say it was God the Father who spoke? No! *Read it in your own Bible!*

Many have carelessly assumed the Bible says what it does not say! Notice this particular case, where a *voice* is heard speaking, and yet Christ Himself tells us it **COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE VOICE OF GOD!** (John 5:37.) The only logical conclusion in the light of all scripture is that an angel (messenger) spoke, as one bearing this message from the Father in heaven!

Since it was *not* God the Father who spoke to Moses, and Who even allowed Moses to see His hind parts (Exodus 33:23), then it had to be the Eternal Being who was instrumental in executing God's word! That was Christ's prior OFFICE, that was His all-important job! Who was the One who SPOKE to Moses? Why the *spokesman*, the *Logos*, of course!

Notice I Cor. 10:4, "... And did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they [the ancient Israelites] drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, *and that Rock was Christ!*"

That certainly clinches it! The One who actually GAVE the laws to the children of Israel from Mount Sinai was the One who later became Jesus Christ! **JESUS CHRIST WAS THE LORD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT — THE GOD WHO DEALT PERSONALLY WITH ISRAEL, WHO REVEALED HIMSELF TO THE PHARAOH, TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH!**

Most people have assumed the God of the Old Testament was the Father of Jesus Christ. This is proven by God's own inspired Word to be a great error. As we read in I Cor. 10:4, the "ROCK"

of the Old Testament was Jesus Christ. Remember the word "LORD" is actually YHVH, which means the Ever-living One, or the Life Self-Existent One. Now see II Sam. 22:2-3, "He said, 'The LORD [YHVH] is my *rock*, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my *rock*, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; thou savest me from violence'" (RSV).

In Psalm 18:1-2, *this same ROCK is YAHVEH*. When Moses was talking to YAHVEH, and asked Him His name (Ex. 3:4-5, 13), He answered that His name was "I AM" (verses 6, 14) and "YAHVEH" — the Eternal One (verse 15). See also Ex. 6:2-3. In John 18:5-8, as soon as Christ made Himself known to the crowd led by Judas as "I AM" (the "he" in italics is added without inspiration, and was not in the original), they went backward and fell to the ground. Again in John 8:56-58, Jesus called Himself: "I AM."

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is needed the SAVIOR of the world!*'" (RSV). See Isaiah 60:16, where YAHVEH is called the *Redeemer*, which is the SAVIOUR, or the Holy One of Israel!

Jesus, the Saviour, was the Holy One born of Israel (Jacob). Jesus is the LORD of the Old Testament.

What to DO About It

What an overwhelming truth it is, to realize the glorious, the awe-inspiring magnitude of Jesus' pre-human existence! It should make you realize more fully the tremendous PRICE that was paid that YOU might have your guilty past blotted out, and the slate wiped clean! GOD HIMSELF, in the person of Jesus Christ, paid that penalty!

Think of it!

God the Father sent His own Son down to this mundane sphere of sin and fleshly emotions to suffer for humanity, and thereby provide a way of salvation, a way to enter into life eternal! The Life that was poured out on the cross was a human life — but it was much more than that — it was also Very GOD-LIFE! Jesus was Human, but He was also Divine! Day and night, while on this earth, Christ must have remembered the tremendous power and glory *from all eternity* He had enjoyed with the Father — and realized it would have been possible to *sin*, to *relent* in His battle against human nature, and *become eternally lost!* The very willpower, the determination and perseverance of Jesus Christ, together with the Divine presence of the Holy Spirit of God, kept Him from falling, that He could become the Saviour of the world!

Can you grasp it? Can you comprehend? Your very Creator — the One who gives you every breath of air you breathe, DIED FOR YOU! What are *you* going to DO about it?

What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?

(Continued from page 8)

save us *IN* our sins, but *FROM* our sins. Does obedience JUSTIFY you? A THOUSAND TIMES NO!

Where are you now? You still have NO ACCESS WHATEVER to God.

You are pretty helpless, aren't you?

HOW You Gain Contact

And now you have made this right start — you have repented — there is a way you may gain contact with God

who has ETERNAL LIFE to impart. God so loved this world of sinners, cut off from Him, that He GAVE His only begotten Son! Remember, God GIVES eternal life through CHRIST!

Notice Romans 5:6-10: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Jesus Christ never transgressed God's Law. He said, "I have KEPT my Father's

Commandments" (John 15:10). He also said He set us an example that we should do as He did. He never incurred the death penalty. He never cut Himself off from God. When He voluntarily PAID the death penalty, He did not pay it for any sins of His own — for there were none. He gave HIS LIFE instead of YOURS! He paid YOUR penalty FOR YOU!

The life HE gave was that of the MAKER of us all! God created all things BY JESUS CHRIST (Eph. 3:9). All things — including all humans — were MADE BY HIM (John 1:1-3). Therefore the life He gave on the cross was greater than the sum total of ALL other human lives! THAT is the life that died FOR YOU — that paid YOUR penalty FOR YOU!

Now, continue in Romans 5:8-10: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, *being now justified by His blood...*"

NOTICE! "Being NOW justified." How? By the blood of CHRIST! If you have repented, and accepted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour you are already NOW justified!

Where Most Jump the Track

But right here is where so many go off into error. They simply do not understand Biblical terms. "JUSTIFIED" does not refer to the FUTURE — it has to do only with your guilty PAST! This term "justified" does not mean "saved" as we shall now see. It does not mean the GIFT of LIFE. It means the GIFT of ACQUITTAL of PAST GUILT! It means the penalty of PAST sins has been paid in full, by Christ, for YOU!

The law stood over you. It claimed your life — you were under it. It took Christ's life in payment instead of yours. The PENALTY STANDS PAID! You are no longer UNDER the Law. It no longer has claim over your life! You are now under GRACE — undeserved PARDON. You are PARDONED from paying the penalty, since Jesus Christ paid it FOR you! This is not YOUR WORKS. It is Christ's SACRIFICE. YOU ARE NOW ACQUITTED — JUSTI-

FIED — the slate is wiped clean of a guilty past!

IN OTHER WORDS — the BARRIER between you and God has now been removed — by the fact that Christ paid your penalty in your stead, and you now accept Him as your personal Saviour. You are now, by CHRIST'S SACRIFICE, given contact with GOD — reconciled to HIM!

SAVED by His DEATH?

So, continue: "Much more then, *being now justified by His blood, we SHALL BE SAVED by Him.*"

NOTICE IT! You are already JUSTIFIED. The PAST is squared up — the penalty paid — the contact with God made. BUT are you already SAVED?

LOOK AT IT! It says "we SHALL BE saved." Not that we already are saved. It says "being now justified" but it does NOT say "being now SAVED." It says "we SHALL BE" — yes, in the FUTURE — saved. That is still FUTURE! SEE IT with your own eyes. Don't believe ME. Don't believe preachers who say you are already, now, saved! JUST BELIEVE THESE PLAIN WORDS IN YOUR BIBLE!

It IS real plain, isn't it?

Now here comes a surprise. Notice verse 10:

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son..." Here, again, we WERE RECONCILED — past tense. Not by your works — by Christ's DEATH. When you have truly repented, forsaken your way, sought God, accepted Christ as Saviour and His death as payment for your past sins, you HAVE BEEN, ALREADY, reconciled. So the wording here is *we were reconciled* — past tense — to God by the DEATH of His Son.

What was accomplished by Jesus' death? It paid the PENALTY — it wiped out your guilty PAST — justified you of your guilt — reconciled you to GOD. But did it SAVE you? DID IT? Wait — don't just say YES — see with your own eyes what YOUR BIBLE says!

It says, continuing, same sentence: "much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR OWN EYES? There it is, in your own Bible!

Already reconciled, by Christ's death; but — "*we SHALL BE SAVED*" — that is FUTURE tense. Not yet *saved* — but we SHALL BE — in the future — saved. Now are you going to be SAVED by Christ's DEATH? Can DEATH impart LIFE?

There is no stronger law in science than the law of bio-genesis which says LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE. Death cannot impart LIFE.

Now HOW shall we — in the FUTURE — be SAVED? By Christ's death? NO! Notice! READ IT! "We shall be saved BY HIS LIFE"!

After Christ died, God RAISED HIM BACK TO LIFE. We are saved by His resurrection — by HIS LIFE — by a LIVING SAVIOUR! Read I Cor. 15:14-23.

What Do You Mean — "Not Under the Law"?

Now where do you stand? You are now making progress. You now have real hope. You have repented — you have sought God, forsaken YOUR WAY — turned to GOD'S WAY, as defined in His Law and all through His Word. You have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and His shed blood for remission of sins. You are now reconciled to GOD. You are justified of — FORGIVEN — your guilty past. You are out from under the PENALTY of broken law.

Now, we read the question: "What shall we say, then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" (Rom. 6:1.) You are now under GRACE — undeserved PARDON!

You *deserved* only DEATH. You didn't earn forgiveness — PARDON from the death penalty. You received it BY GRACE through Jesus Christ.

Now, shall you CONTINUE IN SIN — that is, continue *transgressing the Law*? The answer is "God forbid" (Rom. 6:2).

You *were* UNDER THE LAW, when the law stood over you, claiming its penalty. Christ paid the penalty, and satisfied the claims of the law and when you accepted Him as Saviour you were no longer under the law, but under

GRACE. Now does that mean you are not under obligation to *obey* the law — that you have license to SIN — to BREAK THE LAW? Remember sin *is* the transgression of the law.

NOW READ THIS IN YOUR BIBLE!

"What then? shall we sin" — that is, according to the BIBLE definition, shall we break the Law — "because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to OBEY, his servants ye are to whom ye OBEY; whether of sin" — breaking the law— "unto DEATH" — penalty for disobedience to God's Law — "or of OBEDIENCE unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6: 15-16.)

There it is! We *must not* return to rebellion against God's inexorable law of LOVE — His right way of life. If we do, we are *again* under the law — again automatically sentenced to DEATH! Jesus Christ did not die to give you license to continue in law-breaking. When you accept, by His grace, remission of sins, *it is only for sins THAT ARE PAST!* You cannot obtain *in advance* remission of all the lawlessness you might deliberately commit *in the future*.

Read *that* in your Bible: "*for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God*" (Romans 3:24-25).

We have remission of SINS THAT ARE PAST — not license to break the Law in the future.

But does that mean you must live a *perfect* life from that moment? You would find that quite impossible. You must never again return to a life of wilful and continuous disobedience. But future missteps must — and can — be forgiven, so long as you *continue* in striving with God's help, to live a life of obedience to Him.

WHY do some religious people today teach that it is all right for Christians to go right on breaking the Law? WHY do they say that GRACE means LICENSE to DISOBEY God's Law? No wonder God found it necessary, through Jude, to warn us to contend earnestly for the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED to the

saints by Jesus Christ — for, as you'll read in Jude 3-4, there are certain men crept in unawares — deceiving people — TURNING GRACE INTO LICENSE!

Would a governor PARDON a man convicted of murder so he could continue murdering more and more people? God's merciful PARDON — His GRACE — is bestowed on us *because* we have repented, with a sincere desire to *turn from our wicked ways* of lawlessness.

So, from here on, we *must* OBEY — unto RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Rom. 6:16.)

Yet *you cannot*, of your own strength, keep the spiritual Law spiritually.

Now let's really understand *that!*

How You Get Eternal LIFE

You have now gained contact with God. You are mortal, possessing only a temporary chemical existence. GOD ONLY has eternal life. LIFE can come only *from* LIFE — not from death. Now what?

You now need to receive God's gift of eternal life. But HOW?

Jesus Christ said it was necessary for us mortal humans that He go to the Father's throne in heaven (John 16:7) in order to send the Holy Spirit of God for us.

This required the resurrected LIVING Christ. So after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the throne of God that rules the entire universe (Rev. 3:21). Then, some ten days later, on the annual day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to enter *into* the very minds of all who had sincerely REPENTED of their rebellion against God and His WAY, and who had been reconciled to God — had gained access — by faith in Christ's shed blood for the remission of past sins (Acts 2:1-4).

These first disciples received God's Spirit *through the work of the resurrected, glorified, LIVING Christ*. The Spirit of the Father is also the Spirit of CHRIST. Thus it actually was the living Christ, Himself, entering into them — not in Person, but IN SPIRIT! Christ is a *living* Saviour who does His saving work from WITHIN!

Now let's get the connection.

On that annual day of Pentecost, at Jerusalem, thousands of people, looking on, were amazed when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. Peter preached a sermon, explaining (Acts 2:14-36). The multitude were emotionally convicted and cried out, "what shall we do?" Peter gave the answer — for you and me today as much as for them of that day: Repent, be baptized, showing your faith in Christ, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God imparts eternal life into us by His Spirit. It is the impregnation — the begetting of eternal life.

IF the Holy Spirit of God actually DWELLS within you, then as God raised Christ from the dead, He shall — *at the time of the resurrection* — ALSO make immortal ("quicken" means energize — make eternally *alive*) your mortal body BY His Spirit dwelling in you (Romans 8:11). But (verse 9), unless His Spirit is actually IN you, you are not a Christian — no matter how many churches you join!

God's Holy Spirit is His LIFE. It imparts HIS LIFE to you! It imparts *more*, as we shall now see!

God Doesn't "Kid Himself"

One thing more, the Holy Spirit is DIVINE, SPIRITUAL LOVE — the love of GOD flowing into you from God Almighty — through the living Christ! (Rom. 5:5.) Jesus explained how we should come to HIM, and drink in of His Spirit, like drinking in *living water* — and how this same Holy Spirit would FLOW, like a river of living water, on out from us (John 7:37-39) in love to God and to fellow man. Now let's make all that PLAIN AND CLEAR.

God's Law is a law of LOVE — love to God in reverence, worship and obedience — love to neighbor in service, kindness, sharing. *It takes LOVE to fulfill — to PERFORM — the Law*. You will read that in Romans 13:10.

But, remember? — we saw, in Romans 7:14, that this Law is a SPIRITUAL Law. Science knows only about PHYSICAL laws. Humans are mortals — PHYSICAL. We were born with a capaci-

ty only for PHYSICAL love. The love of a parent for a child, a husband or wife for a mate, or even relatives, friends, neighbors. We also are born with capacity for envy, jealousy, hate.

But this SPIRITUAL LAW can be fulfilled — performed — spiritually kept and obeyed — ONLY BY SPIRITUAL LOVE! You were not born with that kind of love. You do not have, naturally, the kind of love required to truly keep this great Spiritual Law!

You must go to GOD to obtain *that* kind of love. That is a love He gives you through the *living* Christ. That is HIS OWN LOVE. It emanates directly from HIM.

Now UNDERSTAND! True righteousness is keeping "ALL THY COMMANDMENTS" (Psalm 119:172). It is performing God's Spiritual Law with the SPIRITUAL LOVE which only GOD can supply.

You drink it in from Him — once the contact is established. It pours on out from you like rivers of living water. Water in a river flows in a certain *direction*, guided by the river bed or channel. GOD'S LAW is that river bed which guides the *flow* — the expression — the *direction* in which the divine love flows! God's Law is THE WAY of perfect spiritual CHARACTER — the very character of GOD.

So — the VERY SPIRIT by which God imparts to you HIS LIFE — His SALVATION — is also His own LOVE which imparts to you HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS! It is no longer just YOU, in your own power and strength "keeping the commandments" — it is, spiritually speaking, the living Christ IN you, keeping His Father's Commandments — even as He kept them by this same divine love even while He was human here on earth!

Can you brag, or boast, then, about your righteousness? No — IT IS NOT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS — IT IS GOD'S! If Christ, by His GRACE, erased your guilty past, gave you access to God, and now pours forth into and through you the spiritual love that keeps the Law, this is not *your* righteousness, but GOD'S.

And this is not YOUR "WORKS"!
It is *nothing you earn!*

God does not "kid Himself." Some religious teachers tell you Christ lived a righteous life FOR you more than 1900 years ago, and since you "can't keep the Law," as they claim, God "IMPUTES" Christ's righteousness of 19 centuries ago to you — by sort of "kidding Himself" that you are righteous, while you are given license to still be a spiritual CRIMINAL breaking His Law! GOD does not impute to you something you do not have.

Far from this — the *living* Christ by His power *makes* us righteous! He imparts to us power to actually BECOME RIGHTEOUS. It is HIS DOING!

WHY Not to Heaven NOW?

Once again, back to YOU! *Now* where are we?

There are, first, two things YOU must do. On that very day of *Pentecost* after Christ had ascended to heaven, many who had joined the mob crying out "CRUCIFY HIM!" during Christ's trial before Pilate, were conscience-stricken and afraid when they heard the inspired Peter's sermon. They cried out, "WHAT SHALL WE DO?" They, too, *were helpless*.

"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" was the inspired answer (Acts 2:38).

Note it! Two things YOU do:

1) REPENT — turn *from* YOUR WAY, by turning to GOD'S WAY — His Law! You repent of sin. Sin is the transgression of the spiritual Law.

2) BE BAPTIZED. The Ethiopian eunuch, coming to a lake of water, asked Philip what hindered him to be baptized. "If thou believest with all thine heart" was Philip's condition (Acts 8:36-37). Repentance is toward GOD, for the Law comes from God, but FAITH is toward Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). Faith in Christ's atonement for sin is *commanded* to be expressed by BEING BAPTIZED. (Write for our free booklet "*All About Water Baptism.*")

This, then, *gains contact* with God. That is as far as *you* can go, on your own. You have reached your extremity! So now GOD does something!

3) YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

This is God's GIFT. It is the presence, conditionally, of eternal life.

And now if you faithfully follow GOD'S WAY — *the way* the Holy Spirit leads — you are already a begotten SON OF GOD! "For as many as *are led* by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

"Beloved, *now are* we the sons of God, and it doth *not yet* appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he [Christ] shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

GET IT STRAIGHT! You are now *converted* — a *changed* person — for God's Spirit (Eph. 4:23) produces a RENEWING of your mind. Your whole concept and direction of life is CHANGED! God's Spirit is HIS VERY LIFE imparted to you! You are now a BEGOTTEN son of God.

But it *does not yet* appear what you *shall be*. This scripture does not say "*where* you shall GO" — or "*where* you shall BE." It is talking about a *condition*, not a place: "WHAT we shall be"! Salvation is a matter of WHAT YOU BECOME — not *where* you shall go! God's purpose is to CHANGE YOU — from your vile character to HIS GLORIOUS CHARACTER — not to change the PLACE where you are!

BUT — you are now *already* a begotten SON of God — you may now call Him FATHER! — *as long as* you are LED by His Spirit! — and no longer (Heb. 10:26-27).

And there are still some "IF'S." You must GROW spiritually (II Peter 3:18). It is "To him that overcometh" that Christ will grant to sit with Him on His throne, when He returns to earth (Rev. 3:21). *IF you overcome* — overcome your own carnal nature, the world and the devil — AND KEEP CHRIST'S WORKS" (not your own works, but CHRIST'S — by HIS SPIRIT

IN YOU) then you shall reign and RULE ALL NATIONS with Him, in the happy WORLD TOMORROW!

The *real* Christian life is, truly, a life of overcoming, spiritual growing — but it is the only HAPPY LIFE — the ABUNDANT life — here and now! Yet we must ENDURE and remain steadfast — for it is he who ENDURES TO THE END that *shall be* saved! Read this in your BIBLE — Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 4:17; John 6:27; I Cor. 9:24-27; Heb. 10:26-27.

The Christian Life

The very fact that the Christian life is one of *overcoming, growing* spiritually, means that none is PERFECT on repentance, faith in Christ, and receiving God's Holy Spirit.

I have said, previously, that at the time of conversion you are forgiven sins *that are past*. That is correct. You are *not* given license to commit sins in the future. But a false accuser represented falsely that this is a teaching that you can never be forgiven any future sins.

That, of course, is not true. The newly converted Christian is still mortal — still flesh and blood — still human. God's Holy Spirit has entered his mind, and that is the divine nature. But this new divine nature does not drive out the old human nature. That is still there, too.

The newly converted Christian has come to a CHANGE OF MIND. Before, he actually loved sin — now he HATES it! But he is the victim of many habits. He will be caught off guard, and as a matter of habit, before he fully realizes it, he may do something that is a sin. Or, through human weakness, and because he has not yet come to keep in constant contact with God through prayer, he may succumb to some temptation, and sin. Then he *repents* — he is remorseful. Can he be forgiven? OF COURSE! Read I John 1 and 2.

As long as the Christian really WANTS, in his heart, to OBEY GOD, and to live God's way, God *looks on the heart*, and FORGIVES, on repentance.

But what I want to EMPHASIZE is that

we are not given LICENSE to return to a DESIRE to sin and to deliberately live a life of continuous sin, and then say we were forgiven in advance. You are NEVER forgiven sin IN ADVANCE. Always you are forgiven sins that *are past*. But when Jesus said WE must forgive until seventy times seven, will He do less?

So, finally, back again to YOU! Where are we, *now*? You have been converted — *changed* in mind, concept, attitude, direction of WAY of life — you are begotten as a child of God — you have now eternal life abiding in you — as long as you are LED by God's Spirit

in God's WAY — as long as you continue in contact and fellowship with God (I John 1:3) — all by God's GRACE as His GIFT, and not anything you have earned by your works; and now if you continue overcoming, growing spiritually — and ALL THIS ACTUALLY THROUGH GOD'S POWER — you shall INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and *be made* IMMORTAL to live forever in happiness and joy!

(A copy of this article is available in booklet form. Address any requests to the Editor. See inside front cover for addresses).

The Bible Story

VOLUME VI

Available

In November, 1958, *The Bible Story* started serially in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Recently we changed the title to *The Story of Man*, and it is currently in its one-hundred-twenty-ninth chapter. Over the years we have put out five bound volumes of this unique, continuous story flow from God's Word beginning in Genesis as told in word and picture by the nationally known artist, Basil Wolverton. Those first five volumes put in book-form the first eighty-two chapters — and now we are able to offer volume six!

This volume picks up the Biblical Story of Man from the beginning of King Saul's reign and continues through most of King David's time. Those of you who have the first five volumes will be eager to add this sixth one — and for those who do not even have volume one, there are still some of them available. Just write the editor and request your volume.

Free for the asking, of course.

SEE INSIDE FRONT COVER FOR ADDRESSES

rettes by filters. The overall difference from one brand to another is negligible.

For many reasons, therefore, no filter-tip cigarette can be considered to have eliminated whatever health hazard is present in smoking! In fact, some of the filter-tips are more harmful than regular cigarettes because of the lower-grade tobaccos they use!

Dr. C. W. Lieb declared that the fact that the filters masquerade as an aid to health, while they are no such thing, is to his mind, "the shame of the filters."

The Surgeon-General's Report states emphatically, "NO METHOD of treating

tobacco or filtering the smoke has been demonstrated to be effective in materially reducing or eliminating the hazard of lung cancer. . . .

"Present knowledge indicates that IT IS *NOT POSSIBLE* to filter selectively, specific components such as carcinogens."

For this reason, the report concludes, "...the individual person's risk of lung cancer can best be reduced by the *elimination of SMOKING*!"

The answer is not changing to filters, or to a pipe — the solution to the cigarette peril is to STOP SMOKING!

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 4)

does one become Christian? When? And WHY is salvation a PROCESS, as well as an initial phase when he becomes a Christian instantaneously?

Here is the PLAIN TRUTH you need to know.

First, there are TWO conditions to becoming a Christian: REPENTANCE, and FAITH. These two we, ourselves, must perform. But these do not make us Christians — do not convert us. It is what GOD does — giving His Holy Spirit by His grace as His free gift — that converts us.

Our repentance and faith do not *earn* the receiving of God's Spirit. God does not give us His Spirit *because* we repent and believe. He gives His Spirit *because* He *wants* to give it. He *wants* us to have His Spirit as His gift *before* we repent. He merely *requires* repentance and faith as *conditions*.

Yet no one can, of himself, say: "Oh now, I see — I must repent. All right, I hereby repent." One does not just decide casually, as a matter of routine, to repent. WHY?

Jesus Christ said that none can come to Him, except the Spirit of the Father draw him. God *grants* repentance. God calls one, and convicts the mind and conscience by His Spirit, working on the mind externally. Usually a real struggle goes on within. The person has been shaken to *know* he has done wrong — that he *is* wrong — he has sinned — he *is* a sinner! He is brought to real REPENTANCE, not only for what

he has done, but for what he now sees that he *is*. It is not easy. The *self* never wants to die. To *repent* is to make an *unconditional surrender* to God — to *obey His Law*!

Yet he, himself, must make the decision. If he does repent, surrender to God, and in FAITH accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then, upon performance of these TWO conditions, God *promises* to put within him the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. This is the very *life* of GOD — SPIRIT life. It imparts to him the very *divine nature*!

Then *what*, at that stage, *has happened*?

This new convert has only been *begotten* of God — not yet BORN. Many who believe they are "*born again*" on receiving the Holy Spirit are more in error in terminology than in what happens. He has not received the full measure of God's Spirit which Christ had; he is only a *spiritual babe* in Christ. He must now GROW spiritually, just as a newly conceived embryo in its mother's womb must grow physically large enough to be BORN as a human.

This new convert has now REPENTED, in his mind, from the depths of his heart. HE MEANS IT, too! In all sincerity, in his mind and heart, he has *turned around* to go the other way — to live a different life. He is now a CHRISTIAN — he has received God's Holy Spirit. He *has been* converted, He *is* a Christian. He really *wants* to do what is right — to obey God — to live GOD'S WAY.

YET HE FINDS HE DOES NOT DO THIS PERFECTLY! Many, at this stage,

become discouraged. Some give up even trying to live a Christian life. And WHY? *Because of the false notion that a Christian is one who becomes PERFECT at one fell swoop*, or that one cannot become a Christian *until* he has broken all wrong habits, and *made himself* righteous.

It's vital to UNDERSTAND how true Christianity REALLY WORKS!

The newly begotten Christian must grow up, spiritually. What would you think of a human baby, who became 6 feet tall *all at once*, without *growing* up? The growing up process requires TIME. There is an *instant* when a person receives the impregnating Holy Spirit of God — when he first becomes a Christian. But he is only a spiritual *infant*. He must *grow up* spiritually.

The newly converted person, *in his mind and heart*, sincerely has ABOUT-FACED! He has actually gained contact with GOD, and received God's Holy Spirit. God's own divine NATURE has now been conceived within him. BUT THAT'S ALL: it is *merely conceived* — not yet full grown! He is still human — mortal — flesh and blood. He is still composed of matter, not Spirit. And his HUMAN NATURE *is still there*; it has not been killed or removed!

Understand this!

We were all born HUMAN. We all were born with HUMAN NATURE. Few seem to know what human nature is. It is a strong PULL — a tendency — and, like gravity, it is a *downward* pull. Like a strong magnet, it draws us in the WAY OF pride and vanity, selfishness and greed, a lack of outgoing concern for others — the spirit of competition, opposition, strife, effort to acquire, and to exalt the self. It is a pull toward self-gratification, and jealousy, envy and resentment toward others. It is the spirit of rebellion against authority, hostility toward God and the Law of God. THAT is human nature. YOU were born with it. It is still within you. But it must, in the Christian be crucified — be overcome.

The Christian must develop the righteous CHARACTER to choose the right way, and resist the wrong — to discipline the *self* in the way he ought to

go, instead of the way of self-desire and vanity.

God's PURPOSE in having created humanity — in having caused YOU to be born — is to reproduce Himself. And GOD, above all things, *is* PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! God is able to create character within us; but it must be done as a result of our independent free choice. We, as individual separate entities, have our part in the process.

What *is* perfect character? It is the ability, in a separate entity with free moral agency, to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the right from the wrong — the true from the false — and to CHOOSE the right, and possess the WILL to enforce self-discipline to DO the right and resist the wrong.

Like muscle, character is developed, and grows by exercise. My name is Armstrong. I suppose I could make my arm slightly stronger, and develop the muscle, by constantly bending it back and forth at the elbow. But if I pull, or push, against some heavy weight or resistance, the muscle will develop much faster. There is within us this NATURE that exerts a heavy pull *against* that perfect righteous character — to give us something to *strive against* for THE VERY PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING RIGHT CHARACTER!

God's CHARACTER travels in the direction of His Law — the way of LOVE. It is an outgoing CONCERN for others. GOD has that character! He has an outgoing *concern* for you and for me. He GAVE His only begotten Son to reconcile us to Him and make the JOYS of His character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us HIS DIVINE NATURE — *when* we repent and turn *from* the WRONG ways of THIS WORLD, begin to *resist* it, and turn TO Him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour!

God's divine nature is the nature of love — of giving, serving, helping — of outgoing concern. It is also the nature of humility.

Now when one is converted — has repented, and *turned from* this world's false WAYS — has *at once* received God's Holy Spirit — his HUMAN

nature, as I said before, does not flee. It too, remains. It *still* exerts a pull. We still live in THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, and it exerts a pull. God still allows Satan to be around; and HE exerts a pull.

So we now have THREE PULLS to RESIST — to OVERCOME! We must now *overcome* these three: Satan, this world, and our own SELVES. We have to battle against these three, in order to develop and strengthen RIGHT CHARACTER within us. God says plainly it is THE OVERCOMERS who shall be saved — who shall REIGN with Christ! (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21.)

No human being is strong enough to do this BY HIMSELF! He must seek, and IN FAITH receive, the help and power of GOD. Even with God's power he will not overcome such forces easily, or all at once. IT IS NOT EASY! Christ plainly said the way to ultimate salvation is hard, difficult. It's a constant BATTLE — a struggle against self, the world, and the devil. The creation of CHARACTER comes through EXPERIENCE. It takes TIME!

This development is a PROCESS. It is a matter of GROWTH — DEVELOPMENT. It requires, to become PERFECT, full and right KNOWLEDGE of the very Word of God; because Jesus taught that we must *live by* EVERY WORD OF GOD.

The natural, unconverted mind cannot fully and rightly UNDERSTAND the Scriptures of God. But the Holy Spirit *opens* the mind to this spiritual comprehension. The acquisition of this KNOWLEDGE, in itself, is a procedure requiring TIME. It is the DOERS of this Word, not hearers only, who shall be saved.

But can any man DO, immediately and all at once, this new WAY he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all HABITS he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a FIGHT against acquired former habits.

He still has this PULL of human nature to overcome. This nature is A LAW working within him. The apostle Paul calls it the law of sin and death.

Paul was *converted*. Paul was a real Christian. He had repented, accepted Christ, and received the Holy Spirit. With his MIND, he wanted with all his

heart, and in real intense sincerity, to DO God's WAY! But did Paul do it perfectly?

Let him tell. LISTEN!

"For we know that the Law is spiritual," he wrote, "but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. . . . Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." He is speaking of human nature within him. He continues, ". . . 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. . . . For I delight in the Law of God after the inward man: But I see *another law* in my members, *warring against* the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:14-23).

The law of his mind is the Law of God — the Ten Commandments. The law "in his members" is *human nature*. Then Paul cries out. ". . . O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? . . ." Then he thanks God — that GOD WILL — through Jesus Christ, and by the power of His HOLY SPIRIT. BUT IT TAKES TIME!

The truly converted Christian will find that he often stumbles, *under temptation*, and falls down — even as a physical child learning to walk often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET PERFECT!

GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART — the inner MOTIVE — the real *intent*! If he is trying — if he gets up whenever he falls down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness, and sets out to do his very best NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN — and to persevere with renewed effort to OVERCOME, God is rich in mercy toward that man in his striving to overcome.

I think it should be apparent by now that the newly converted Christian is not PERFECT all at once. He does not — must not — commit sin deliberately and wilfully in a spirit and

attitude of rebellion. That's what he has repented of! He *wants* to live completely above sin. But to live perfectly would require all spiritual KNOWLEDGE. He would have to live by EVERY WORD of the Bible. The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual perception so he can UNDERSTAND the Bible. And to understand *all* the Bible TAKES TIME. We have to GROW into the KNOWLEDGE of HOW to live perfectly, without sin.

The Book of I John was written in the 90's, A.D. It was written to converted Christians. When John speaks of "you" and "we" he is speaking of and to converted Christians.

He says: "If we [we Christians] say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:8-9). One does not CLEANSE his dirty hands and face *before* they become dirty. The dictionary definition of cleanse is *to remove dirt or stains* — not to prevent dirt getting on the face or a garment.

This passage in I John continues: "If we [we Christians] say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us. My little children [speaking to His converts who are still spiritual children, not yet spiritual adults], these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And IF any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins: and not for ours [we Christians — John the Apostle included himself] only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 1:10 and 2:1-2.) That is, He is the atoning sacrifice effecting reconciliation with God, for the sins of the UNconverted — if and when they repent and believe.

A Christian may, by force of habit, or under weakness and temptation, sin. But if he is a Christian, he is immediately repentant, and on this repentance, Christ's sacrifice cleanses his sin.

Converted people often are under heavier temptation than before conversion. They are STRIVING against sin STRIVING to overcome. But they are

not yet perfect. Sometimes they are caught off guard. They may actually sin. Then they WAKE UP, as it were, and realize what they have done. They REPENT. They are filled with remorse — *truly sorry* — disgusted with themselves. They go to GOD, and CRY OUT for HELP — for more power and strength from God to OVERCOME!

This is the WAY of the Christian!

It is the way of a constant BATTLE — a striving against SIN — a seeking God in earnest prayer for help and spiritual POWER to overcome. They are constantly GAINING GROUND. They are constantly GROWING in God's KNOWLEDGE, from the BIBLE. They are constantly rooting out wrong habits, driving themselves into RIGHT habits. They are constantly growing closer to GOD through Bible study and prayer. They are constantly growing in CHARACTER, toward perfection, even though not yet perfect.

With Paul, they say: "...Not as though I had already attained, or were already perfect: but I FOLLOW AFTER, ... Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but *this one thing I do*, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS" (Philippians 3:12-14.)

But, someone may ask, what if one's life is cut off, and he dies *before* he has attained this perfection? Is he saved, or lost? The answer is that we shall never obtain absolute perfection in *this* life.

I said, earlier, that a person who is converted does receive the Holy Spirit at a *definite time* — *all at once!* Not the full measure Christ had — he is not at once full grown spiritually — only a spiritual babe in Christ. Yet he is then a changed, converted person — changed in mind, in attitude, in the *direction* he has set himself to travel. Even though he has not yet reached perfection — even though he may have stumbled under temptation, and taken a spiritual fall — as long as, in his mind and heart, he is earnestly striving to travel GOD'S WAY, to overcome and grow spiritually — as long as

God's Spirit is in him — as long as he is being LED BY the Spirit of God, he is a begotten SON OF GOD.

If, anywhere along this life's journey, that life is cut short, such a man will be resurrected — saved — immortal in God's Kingdom.

It is only the one who QUILTS and GIVES UP — who REJECTS God, and God's WAY, and rejects Christ as his Saviour — who neglects or turns FROM this direction of GOD'S WAY, *in his mind and heart* (in his inner INTENT) who deliberately and intentionally in his mind — or, from continued neglect — TURNS FROM Christ, — who is lost.

If, once having been converted, having received God's Spirit, and TASTED of the joys of GOD'S WAY, one deliberately rejects that way, makes the DECISION, not under stress of temptation, but deliberately and finally, NOT to go God's way, then God says it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew such a one to repentance. He would have to REPENT of that decision. But if he WILLFULLY made it, not in a time of temptation, but calmly, deliberately, willfully, then he just WILL NOT ever repent of it.

But anyone who FEARS he may have committed the "unpardonable sin" — is perhaps worried about it, and HOPES he *has not* committed it, and still WANTS to have God's salvation — no such has committed it — such a one MAY repent, and go right on to salvation IF HE WANTS TO!

If YOU have stumbled and fallen down, DON'T BE DISCOURAGED! Get up and press on ahead!

If you see a Christian do something wrong, DON'T SIT IN JUDGMENT AND CONDEMN — that's God's business to judge, not yours! Let's have compassion and mercy — WE don't know the inner heart of others — only GOD does!

If you would like a booklet on this subject, write for our free, vitally interesting booklet explaining just what a Christian is, why a Christian *can* sin, and the truth about the fear of the UNPARDONABLE SIN. Its thought-provoking title is *What Do You Mean — The Unpardonable Sin?* It will make the truth thoroughly and interestingly plain.