

the
Real
Meaning
to
LIFE

**VITAL SOCIAL
AND
PERSONAL
ISSUES
THAT AFFECT
YOUR FUTURE**

MANY people question the reason for life. Faced with increasing personal problems, suffering from demanding trials and difficulties in family situations, aware of a society plagued with issues for which there is no apparent solution, caring people are bewildered by the seeming hopelessness of it all. But there is an answer and a future for men and women prepared to consider the real issues of life — and who will take into account the purpose for which Almighty God created life upon this earth. This booklet considers some of the questions that many have asked, and gives the divine answer as revealed in the Scriptures of Truth. It will provide a satisfying solution, giving a reason for living, and strengthening the quality of family life. It will set clearly before the reader a real hope for today — and the future.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE *A Christadelphian Publication*

**DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF
THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS
CHRIST AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

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THE *Real* MEANING TO LIFE

LIFE!

What is it all about?

For what purpose does mankind exist?

Why, in this modern age of progress and leisure, is there increasing stress, weariness—even despair—despite modern technology that has removed much of the arduous labour of earlier times? There is mounting pressure to perform, to achieve higher results—for students: to gain academic excellence—for businesses: to increase productivity and financial gain—for people: to enjoy more goods and services. And all this in an increasingly competitive retail world.

Young people face increased expectations, greater demands, and often cannot perform to the anticipations required. Many find it easier to quit, rather than to strive to fit into the narrow slots of available employment.

Such is the pressure upon youth, that New Zealand (a country once known for freedom and ease) has the world's highest suicide rate among young males. There is a malaise attacking our society. Despite the increasing pursuit of pleasure and the national reverence for sport, most see no fulfilling purpose to life.

What does it all mean? Where are the answers?

The Questions of Life

Fiktor Frankl, an American psychotherapist, in his book "*The Unheard of Cry for Meaning*," (1978) describes the despair and hopelessness that marks the lives of so many people, resulting in depression, disillusionment and crime.

Nevertheless, there *is* a meaning to life; there is a reason for being on planet *Earth*. Just as there is a cycle of life in nature and order in the construction of the universe, so there is a reason for our existence.

Another author, Islip Collyer, wrote: "It is doubtless difficult [*for some*] to realize the idea of an all-powerful Creator, uncreate and immortal, but it is still more difficult to deny Him. The universe as now constituted must have had a cause adequate to the present effect. That cause must have been a force of some kind or it could have produced nothing. That force must, in some form, always have existed, or it could never have come into existence. A force which always has existed and which has been the primary cause of all things is utterly beyond our understanding, so that whether we accept the idea of a Creator or not, we are bound to begin the conception of the universe with an unknowable force. It is no more difficult to believe in an intelligent first cause than in a blind force." (*Vox Dei*, ch. 2).

A Wonderful Order In Creation

All creatures are subject to creative order and law. Despite popular claims to the contrary, there is no evolution of the species. Instead, every species generates its own kind. This is the law of genetics, and one of the creative laws described in the Bible in the following words: "God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so" (Genesis 1:24-25).

The very fact that there is order in the universe with the heavenly bodies moving endlessly in harmony, the consistent cycle of life — all teach that there must be a creator, and therefore a lawgiver who can determine the rules that provide for the harmony necessary for all things to co-exist.

The planets move within their orbits and astronomers can

calculate their exact position at any point of time. As telescopes become more powerful, greater wonders in the heavens are discovered.

The seasons, with harvest following the planting of seed; the days, with the rising and setting of the sun; cycles of life with conception, birth and finally death are all predictable. Such order and pattern indicates an ultimate power which has harmonised all creation.

Nothing clashes until man interferes.

Environmental problems demonstrate what occurs when nature gets out of balance. These problems are so serious that the very continuance of life on earth is now in question. Governments seem powerless to constrain commercial and industrial interests, who unheedingly, often ignore environmental concerns in order to achieve selfish ambitions and increased profit.

The Social Environment

Mounting problems in the natural environment are perhaps synonymous with disorder in the social climate. Humanity is entering an era of crime and terror that is reaching into people's homes, and permanently affecting lives. Murders are so commonplace, that, apart from the unusually dramatic and gruesome, they only receive minor attention in the news media. Violence is so rampant, that people are often not even safe in their own homes. Unemployment is scarring young people, and leaving them with an emptiness and a void in their lives, that is often manifested by contempt of the community and rebellion against law and order.

Would the God who created the world, with nature in balance and harmony, leave mankind without direction for social order? Certainly not! As there is a divine control in the physical environment, so there will also be found a divine way that can govern the social and moral environment for harmony and wellbeing. Since man is a moral creature with the capability to discern between right and wrong, it follows logically that there must be moral laws to regulate his behaviour.

The Manufacturer's Specifications

An agricultural scientist will spend years learning how to

identify various soils, crops and plants, so that he can advise the farmer in the field. The architect dedicates time to developing his skills on design, and learns the qualities of the various metals, so that he can prepare the plans and specifications for the builders. The agricultural scientist and the architect know that their plans are only effective if *they operate within the specifications of the materials they select.*

As the Great Controller of the Universe and Architect of Creation, Almighty God has formed the earth, its environment and the creatures upon it to operate within creative laws. Only at our peril will we ignore the deliberate plans and specifications designed to control our lives and future.

Yet, when it comes to human behaviour and social responsibility, speculation and experiment have spawned the modern “human rights” concept, with generally disastrous results.

Formerly it was generally accepted that a man cared for his wife, and a woman cared for her family, and the children were nurtured and raised within the guiding orbit and discipline of parents. The family circle was the very foundation of social order. When “alternative life styles” were first introduced into society, they were regarded as a matter of personal choice. Today, several decades later, we can categorically affirm that they have escalated social chaos and despair such as was unknown outside times of war.

The decay began when belief in God as the Creator was eroded. No longer did mankind feel it owed any responsibility to a divine Being. Without a respect for God, there was no final court of appeal. When there was a general sense of awareness of God, and when people felt their responsibility to Him, a follower of God who was dealt with unjustly knew that one day the truth would be revealed before the Judge of the whole earth. A person who might be inclined to steal or lie, was often restrained by the knowledge that the all-seeing eye of the Creator would catch up with him (even if the police did not). People were governed by dread of a future without God — whether that future embraced the idea of punishment in the “hell” of the churches, or being ostracized from kinsfolk and friends.

Nowadays, fear of divine punishment or judgment is rarely evident. Even if the police catch a criminal, a skilful lawyer will find some point of law that can nullify justice, or at the least, minimise the punishment. This has given rise to the common “victims of crime” perspective that is now being promoted in society. But this emphasizes the result, not the cause of the problem.

It is therefore important that thinking men and women be aware of the true purpose of life, and the future of this world. Let us summarize some of the principles already outlined, and observe certain governing rules.

The Laws of Creative Power

1. God is the absolute power of the universe. He requires justice, but exercises lovingkindness to those who work in harmony with His creative laws.

2. Light is the first principle of creation. It was the first thing that came into existence when God exercised His creative powers in the beginning of the world’s history. The Bible records: “*God said ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light*” (Genesis 1:3). The word “light” is often used in the sense of “knowledge” — that which is revealed by examination. God has always put a premium on knowledge. Jesus declared: “This is life eternal, that they might **know Thee**, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3). Only knowledge can separate us from ignorance, as light separates from darkness. And because God is the Creator He is the final arbitrator for absolute wisdom.

3. There is a special arrangement and order in the heavens, which affects conditions upon earth. Sun, moon and stars and seasons all have position and purpose (Genesis 1:15-18).

4. In the record of creation, described in Genesis 1, the living creatures are categorised as: **cattle** (domesticated animals); **creeping things** (such as insects, etc); **beasts** (which includes all other living creatures).

It is important to notice that each form of life was created according to its own genetic pattern. All would bring forth “after their kind” (Genesis 1:24, 25).

God Has A “Family”

The great Creator of life has feelings. He created the earth

for His glory (Numbers 14:21) so that, finally, men and women might “bring Him pleasure” (Revelation 4:11). He delights in His people, and desires their wellbeing. From heaven, through His ministering angels (Hebrews 1:14) God guides and cares for His children over many years, patiently assisting them towards maturity. He “is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2Peter 3:9). Again, He “will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1Timothy 2:4).

At the beginning of history, God, as a wise Creator and “Builder,” clearly set down the “specifications” upon which men and women were formed and would exist. The first human pair, Adam and Eve, were quite unique because they are the only objects of creation *directly patterned* after the moral code of the Creator. “God (*A plural Hebrew word, Elohim, meaning “mighty ones”*) said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over all the earth...” (Genesis 1:26).

This verse tells us:

1. God had others to assist Him in the work (His angels; Psalm 103:20-21).
2. He wanted to be revealed in others (2Corinthians 4:6-7; 2Peter 3:9).
3. Man was created “in the image of God,” and thereby to have the same physical shape as God and His angels.
4. Man was to be after the “likeness” of God, and therefore was given a capacity to think, speak, and moralise.
5. Being in the Creator’s “image and after His likeness,” mankind had before him the pattern of behaviour by which God expected man to conduct his affairs, so that he might be “like” his Creator.
6. God designed a vocation for man, in which he could exercise his abilities, and develop his godly characteristics. He was to exercise dominion with control and wise management over all creation.
7. This means that because God created man in His “image,” He knew that man had the capacity to fulfil the responsibility God placed upon him, and provided him with all

the elements and circumstances necessary to achieve this great objective. But all was to be done to the honour and glory of God (Numbers 14:21).

8. The exercise of dominion was to be for “them” — both the man and his wife (Genesis 1:26). Unitedly, they were to exercise wise control over the territory which God gave into their care.

9. They were also to multiply and fill the earth with their kind, thus extending the goodness and glory of God throughout the earth (Genesis 1:28).

10. In the process, they were permitted to have use of all that had been created. They could eat of the food available in the garden of Paradise into which they were placed (Genesis 1:29), and enjoy harmony with the angels who were provided as companions.

The Image and the Likeness

These two words, ‘image’ and ‘likeness,’ of which we have spoken have important meanings. We talk about a child being “the *image* of his father,” or of someone or something being “just *like* this or that.” God uses these words in the Bible because He created mankind to have some recognisable characteristics of Himself. This explains the innate ambition of mankind to aspire to greater things (Ecclesiastes 3:11), to reach up for something higher, beyond ourselves. Man has a need to worship something superior to himself; to admire and emulate the perfection of the God of all creation.

The tragedy is that men and women have made *other images*. Ignoring God, they have sought to appropriate His glory to that which *they* have created, believing that such has more power than the Creator (see Romans 1:22-25 which includes the statement: “Professing themselves to be wise, they [*ignorant mankind*] became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever”).

The Folly of Making our own Idols

God certainly abhors this inbuilt capacity to “*be like Him*” being diverted to any other object. He gave a law about it: “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything... thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them” (Exodus 20:4-5).

Despite this, some religions which claim to worship God, multiply images and idols of all kinds to themselves. Ancient peoples made themselves idols, “the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell” (Deuteronomy 4:28). The modern world is not much different. It reveres the idols of social position, financial security, career achievement, luxurious living, fast cars and overseas holidays. The pursuit of pleasure and materialism is the idolatrous ambition of our age. The Bible teaches that the insatiable desire for more is a form of idolatry (Colossians 3:5) because it takes our attention from Christ, who should be not only our pattern, but our hope of life, eternally, when he returns to reign in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

Disbelief in God leads to personal irresponsibility and ingratitude (2Timothy 3:1-4). Ingratitude — because the blessings and provisions of a beautiful earth are enjoyed, and often exploited, but their Creator is not acknowledged. The evidence of the eyes should convince man that there is a Creator. “Ever since the creation of the world, God’s invisible nature, namely, His eternal power and deity have been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they [*mankind*] are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honour Him as God or give thanks to Him.” Once God is not acknowledged, and there is no gratefulness for what He has provided, moral decline sets in. So, “*they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools*” (Romans 1:20-23).

Be Conformed To The Image Of The Son

In His understanding and kindness, God recognises that we find it difficult to follow His ways. He knows that our weakness comes from the results of transgression committed in the very beginning by Adam and Eve when they disobeyed His law (see Genesis 3:1-8). Since that time, mankind has

suffered the consequences of mortality, and an inherent bias towards sin. Consequently men and women cannot manifest perfect obedience to His righteous ways, and they find themselves in a state of sin. The "image" and "likeness" that God desires to see in us is greatly marred, because of the presence of sin; therefore eternal life is a matter of hope set before those who strive to manifest God's character.

For this reason, He provided a Son, "in the brightness of *His glory* and the *express image* of His person (Hebrews 1:2-3). This son was born by the power of the Holy Spirit acting upon a godly young woman, and the child was called "the Son of God." It was necessary for God to interfere in the affairs of mankind, to provide a unique man who, whilst acting in His divine Father's interests, could nevertheless empathize with our weaknesses and frailties, because he bore the nature of his mortal mother (Hebrews 2:14-18).

Building After the Image and Likeness of God

As a labourer on the building site has to continually refer to the plans and specifications set out, so we often need to refer back to our pattern, our Image, seen in the example the great Architect has provided in His own Son.

The Bible record of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ reveals the perfection of his character, the wisdom of his counsel and the kindly interest shown towards those who came to him. In everything, he promoted the will of his Father, despite the diversions, pressures and temptations that assailed him during the days of his ministry. Although he shunned public popularity, he was always drawn to those in need.

The wonderful example of the Lord Jesus Christ provides the plan and specifications that we need to consult, for, in providing salvation, "God predetermined that we be conformed to the image of the Son" (Romans 8:29).

From the very beginning God set down in His Word of Truth the principles that would ultimately be revealed in His Son. Even in those early years, mankind was invited to obey God's law and to honour His ways. But, despite the divine specifications being very clear, it did not take wilful man long to invent diversions for his personal gratification.

Only a few generations from creation the marriage laws

were broken; musical entertainment was designed and indulged; people were pressurized by property manipulation and industrial development (Genesis 4:19-22). Some activities were quite harmless, but, inevitably, so-called "progress" brought perversions, with industry producing munitions, entertainment being used for debauchery, the unity of marriage being replaced by polygamy, and a challenging, vengeful response was made against any who attempted to reprove the growing wilfulness of society (Genesis 4:23-24; 6:2-5, 11, 13; 10:9-10).

As this new *idolatrous* way of life increased in influence, the Bible records a sorry scene that developed. Indeed, after only some 1,500 years after creation, human rights and self-will climaxed in corruption and violence. Power-politics and crime became the order of the day. At that sad time the Creator saw that "all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth" (Genesis 6:12). ***Men and women were no longer striving to live after the likeness of God.*** As they moved away from the intellectual and moral likeness of God, they became like animals, living only according to the senses and lusts of their nature.

Once the specifications are no longer followed, the very foundations will not support the society that is built upon it.

A Time of Judgment was Needed

In the days of Noah, society became absorbed in their everyday affairs and were heedless of God's ways. The world reached an intolerable situation, in which righteousness and justice were hardly discernible. Every man did that which was right in his own eyes, and the principles of God's way were rejected. God decreed that such corruption as had been introduced by mankind should be destroyed, so He sent a worldwide flood to cleanse the earth of the folly of mankind.

The flood marked the end of an epoch and stands in history as an example of the judgment that God brings upon those who disobey His principles. The Lord Jesus Christ likened the conditions leading up to the flood to those immediately preceding his second coming. He declared that the people of Noah's day "*knew not*" until the judgment swept over the earth, and their lives were lost, and he warned that similar

conditions would exist in the “latter days” (Matthew 24:37-39). Evidence abounds in society today, that the very same circumstances pertain, as was the case in the days of Noah.

Subsequent to the flood, God introduced a further safeguard against violence. He legislated against the taking of life. “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man” (Genesis 9:6). When a man’s life was taken from him, he no longer was able to achieve the purpose for which he was created — namely to live after the “likeness of God.” By inference, men and women have a personal responsibility to so deal with others as to seek their highest wellbeing, that the purpose of God might be promoted within each person.

The challenging cry of Cain, the man who slew his brother and declared “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9), must be answered in the affirmative. As created beings, we have a responsibility to help each other live according to God’s purpose. All men and women of normal intelligence can attain unto the hope of immortal life in accordance with the “image and likeness,” of God as seen in His angels (see Luke 20:36) and God will require accountability of each life of those responsible to His Will, when the day of judgment arrives.

Our Personal Responsibilities and Relationships

When Eve was presented to Adam, he saw in her a reflection of himself, and described the first human relationship in the following words: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man. *Therefore* shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall *cleave* unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:23-24).

This declaration teaches the following:

1. The man and his wife were to be inseparably devoted to each other because of *the manner* of the woman’s creation.
2. The order of creation (man *before* the woman), empowers him with the responsibility of leadership and her care (1Corinthians 11:3, 7).
3. To man is given the “command of marriage.” He needs to be commanded to “*leave*” his former association of family and to “*cleave*” to his wife in his marital relationship.

4. "Cleaving" involves man initiating the relationship, and providing the care and support necessary for the protection of his spouse.

5. The woman *will* respond when he "*cleaves*," because she has been created *from him* as a dependent creature.

6. The natural independence of man must be curbed by the consideration of the needs of his wife.

7. Only in this way, will they be blended together and become "*one flesh*."

It is because this first golden precept of true and proper marriage is not generally observed, that human relationships are now disintegrating in society.

In this modern age of women's liberation and the demand for absolute equality between the sexes, wives are often moved to seek their own careers, pleasures, and ambitions in life, discarding their primary responsibility to husband and children. The Bible counsels differently: "wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, *as unto the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:22; Compare 1Corinthians 11:3-9; 1Peter 3:1; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5). Although the teaching of Christ and his apostles raises the position of women far above that which was generally recognised in the ancient world, no licence or permission was granted for her to cast aside the authority of her husband, such as is common in society today.

So far as husbands are concerned, sometimes, the sports-field, the beckoning horizons of a notable career, or the challenges of business, are all very exciting to man's natural ego. But if he takes a wife, he is really bound by a divine, creative law that involves consideration of his wife's unique contribution to the marriage and family. His love for his wife is to be predicated upon the highest ideal, that of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for his bride (the believers).

The apostle Paul delivers the following instruction to believers: "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church (Greek, *ecclesia*) and gave himself for her, that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church (Greek, *ecclesia*) without spot or wrinkle, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to

love their wives as their own bodies... For no man ever yet hateth his own flesh, but nourishes and cherisheth it" (Ephesians 5:25-29).

The "love" of which the apostle speaks is a selfless, sacrificing attitude which seeks the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the other. The unusual Greek word, *agape*, does not refer to the sentimental attitude that sometimes passes as "love" today, but to a deep and abiding influence that restores the real meaning of life. Such a love will mean that the husband cares for the spiritual future of his wife, by "sanctifying and cleansing" her by their mutual consideration of the Word of God.

When a man's love for his wife is selfless, there should be no desire on her part to seek elsewhere for fulfilment, because she finds her haven in his companionship.

Society Disregards the True Principles of Family Life

But the cry of human rights has actively encouraged each individual to seek his or her own desires, and neglect important family and social responsibilities.

The feminist movement has stirred women to favour their own personal advancement at the expense of the nurture of children and family. Careers are elevated as more important than marriage; children are often delivered into child-care facilities. Home life is neglected. Nobody is happy. There is a sense of everyone having lost out.

Society has tried to remedy the situation, but its welfare agencies are critically overburdened, and would be unnecessary in a world governed by wise, divine principles. The authorities are aware that the disintegration of family life and the departure from women's traditional neighbourly care for others in the community, are largely responsible. But they do not know how to return to the former attitudes and standards of life.

Social welfare in New Zealand, for example, has reached an astronomical bill; there are more people on benefits than there are wage earners. The huge cost, which shows no signs of abating, is a consuming concern to economists. But it is also a worry in other areas. As a result of less stability at the foundation of a child's life, there is a larger burden upon the

police and justice agencies, more health and social care demanded for increasing burdens, more counselling and psychiatric services for “troubled teenagers,” and a greater strain upon teachers in educational fields. There seems to be no relief in sight.

Christ Observes Creative Law

But there is a ray of hope in a dismal age. To discover this, we return to the teachings of the Bible, and to the only one who can give an answer to the world’s troubles. This is the Lord Jesus Christ, who upheld and revealed the wisdom and power of Almighty God in all that he did.

He was the greatest creative work of God, and was brought into the world in order to bring harmony out of disorder, and truth into a world of deceit and falsehood.

Consider how the Son of God fulfilled the divine purpose that was featured in the work of creation:

- The **Light** appears — Christ “was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9).
- Made in the **Image** of God — Revealing God’s image and likeness, Jesus Christ portrayed that character to those around him. “We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). This was not a literal glory, as often depicted in a ‘halo’, but the glory of a perfect character.

- Given **Dominion** — Christ exercised absolute control over his personal life, refusing to allow it to be marred by sin. As a result, he is now alive for ever (Romans 6:9-13), and is about to return to this earth to assume complete control over all mankind, as the Bible teaches.

The teachings that Jesus Christ presented when he was on earth clearly dealt with the moral issues of the day, and remain just as practical for society today. He refused to weaken the creative purpose or the principles of family life established in the law of marriage. He taught that men and women should live according to the divine specifications revealed in God’s creative law (cp. Matthew 19:1-7).

God Will Guide and Help Us

Essentially a Being of absolute justice, Almighty God is far more merciful than we can ever imagine. Notwithstanding the

essential wickedness of mankind, He works through His Son to achieve the salvation of those who depart from iniquity and seek Him. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2Corinthians 5:19). The Lord Jesus explained that this is achieved by obeying his instructions. He taught: "If a man love me, he will keep my words and my Father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). Unity with God is possible on the basis of obedience to His commandments, and approaching Him through His Son: "We have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like us, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

We Must Change Our Direction

We can do little to change the present social ills. Christ will change those at his coming, which, according to Bible prophecy, is imminent. However, we can take stock of our personal situation now. We need to turn to the foundation, the source of life, and the Creator's instructions for guidance and counsel.

The Bible teaches us to seek a new way of life, after the fashion of God's creative work: "Put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge **after the image of Him that created him**" (Colossians 3:10). "Put off the former way of life...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts and **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind that ye put on **the new man**, which after God [*i.e. His image and likeness*] is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-25).

This new way of life is truly a transformation, a new beginning. Those who seek it, forsake the evil way of life in society, and follow the principles of Truth. And they do it, because "God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:25-32).

How to Begin The Change

The first principle of creation, is *LIGHT*. Jesus Christ was "the *light* of the world" and only by coming to know him, will light and knowledge come into our life. To do so we need to follow **four important steps**:

First, to hear. “Hear the voice of the Son of God, and live” (John 5:24-29).

Second, to know and believe. “This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

Third, to be baptised. “He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). Baptism is a commitment to God. It symbolises the death and burial of the old way of life, and the ‘rising up’ to a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-8).

Fourth, to continue in the way of truth and righteousness. This means following the example of the apostles, who “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

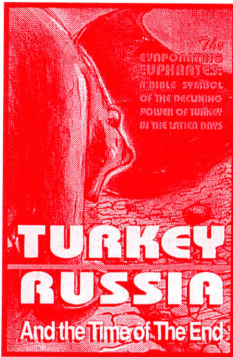
Following the four steps outlined above, brings a person into the family of God and enables him to share in the wonderful promises recorded in the Bible. These promises include the return of Jesus Christ to the earth, a complete change to government and society, a rejuvenated community, the establishment of a universal religion from the centre in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Men and women, who obey the divine commandments today, will be selected to assist the great king from heaven who will reign over a world at peace. They shall be granted immortality, sharing in the very nature of God himself, and witness the great glory that will overspread the earth. “The LORD shall be king over all the earth, in that day shall there be one LORD and his name one” (Zechariah 14:9).

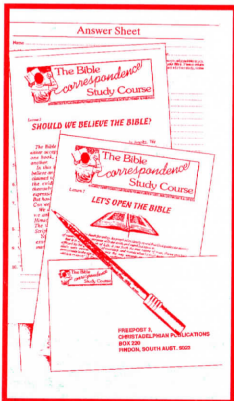
The Bible declares that Jesus Christ will welcome as his royal associates those who have faithfully followed his commandments in life: “The king shall say... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).

The Bible alone offers the solution to the problems of life. It outlines the real meaning to life. Pick it up today, open its pages, read its message — and put into your life the grand hope of a future that will far exceed anything that this present world can offer.

— B. E.



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