



MAP ♦ P.O. Box 128 ♦ 575 U.S. Highway 250 ♦ Savannah, OH 44874 ♦ (419) 962-1515 ♦ January 2015

## The Believer's Life and Walk: Free and Spiritual

*Galatians 5:13-6:18*

—*Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™*

<p><b>1. How to do good to a teacher: By sharing in the ministry of the teacher</b></p> <p><b>2. Why do good to a teacher</b></p> <p>a. A person must learn to guard against deception—mocking, ignoring God</p> <p>1) If one sows selfishly, to his flesh, he reaps destruction</p> <p>2) If one sows spiritually,</p>	<p><b>E. A Walk Doing Good to One's Teacher: Sowing &amp; Reaping, Gal. 6:6-10</b></p> <p>6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.</p> <p>7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.</p> <p>8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap</p>	<p>corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.</p> <p>9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.</p> <p>10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.</p>	<p>he reaps life</p> <p>b. A person will reap great reward—if he does not give up</p> <p><b>3. When to serve with a teacher: As we have opportunity</b></p> <p>a. Do good to everyone</p> <p>b. Do good especially to believers</p>
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### Section V

#### THE BELIEVER'S LIFE AND WALK: FREE AND SPIRITUAL

**Galatians 5:13–6:18**

#### Study 5: A WALK DOING GOOD TO ONE'S TEACHER: SOWING AND REAPING

**Text: Galatians 6:6-10**

**Aim:** To strengthen your commitment to your teacher.

**Memory Verse:**

**“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Are you moved to take some sort of action after your teacher shares God's Word with you? Or do you just sit there and gaze with a blank stare at the wall? The student has a responsibility

to respond to God's Word. Do you ever wonder why so many churches have to beg people to teach Sunday school? A large part of the struggle is a lack of enthusiasm from students.

One day, a frustrated teacher decided to pull out all the stops. He decided to take a risk and take a personal interest in each one of his students. The teacher concluded that “the cold facts” were not enough to attract the interest of his students. The only thing which would break down the walls of apathy was the power of relationships.

Months later, his class was the most exciting class in the entire Sunday school. When one of his students was asked what made the difference, the reply was: “Before, our teacher just read us the Bible stories. Now, we have so much more—he challenges us to act out the stories in the Bible and to join him in doing so. For the first time, we feel like we are ministering together.”

Few people are as important to a society or to God as are teachers. The relationship between teacher and student is a subject that is never stressed enough within the church. The present passage deals with this subject, in particular with the student's responsibilities to the teacher. Keep in mind that every believer is a student who sits at the feet of God's teachers whether they be ministers or Bible teachers.

#### OUTLINE:

1. How to do good to a teacher: by sharing in the ministry of the teacher (v.6).
2. Why do good to a teacher (vv.7-9).
3. When to serve with a teacher: as we have opportunity (v.10).

#### 1. HOW TO DO GOOD TO A TEACHER: BY SHARING IN THE MINISTRY OF THE TEACHER (v. 6).

How does a believer do good to a teacher? Very simply, by communicating and sharing in the ministry of the teacher. This means much more than just giving financial support. Of course it means financial support; but as stated, it means much more. Note that Scripture is speaking directly to the *learner*, that is, to a believer in the church, to the person who is *taught in the Word of God*. The learner has a responsibility to the teacher just as the teacher has a responsibility to the learner. What is that responsibility?

To share with the teacher in all good things and to participate in the ministry of the teacher. The learner shares in the ministry of the teacher by...

- *being present* when the teacher teaches
- *being attentive and learning* what the teacher teaches
- *sharing in discussions* of what the teacher teaches
- *passing on* what the teacher teaches
- *participating* with the teacher in his or her full ministry
- *supporting* the teacher financially
- *encouraging others* to come and learn from the teacher

Note another point: the reference to the "Word" means the Word of God. A teacher should always be teaching the Word of God, and a learner should always be sure that he is sitting under a teacher who is teaching the Word of God.

**"Let the elders [ministers] that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward" (1 Tim 5:17-18).**

#### ILLUSTRATION:

One of the most rewarding experiences for a teacher is when his or her students capture the truth and apply it to other people.

*Years ago, a Christian football coach invested a good portion of his life in his players and coaches. A stickler for details, his philosophy on offense and defense was branded into the minds of his assistant coaches. He spent just as much energy sharing his philosophy on what made up good character as he did on the actual game of football. An active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, his faith in Christ became contagious. Through his witness, many of his coaches and players became believers.*

*As the years went by, some of his players and assistant coaches went on to coach at other schools. Showing striking evidence that they had been mentored by this great coach, the philosophy for each of their teams mirrored what they had learned. The offense was the same. The defense was played the same. And in more important matters, godly character was stressed and expected. Like their former coach—their mentor, their teacher—Christ was seen in each of their lives. Through one man's influence, many young men came to know Jesus Christ personally. His students were sharing in his ministry—literally—both on and off the field of play.*

A good teacher reproduces what is in him. A good student shares what he has learned with others. Just as we are all teachers in some areas of life, we are all students in others areas. Are you sharing in the ministry of your teachers by passing on what you have learned to others?

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What practical things can you do to share in the ministry of your teacher?

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2. Are you currently participating in your teacher's ministry? How valuable is the input of individuals in any class setting?
3. What would happen to your class if everyone participated in the teacher's ministry? What has to occur in order for this to happen? What would be your role in this? As the teacher? As the learner?

## 2. WHY DO GOOD TO A TEACHER (vv. 7-9).

Two very strong reasons are given.

1. A person can be deceived about facing the judgment of God. The word deceived means to be led astray. Some Galatians were being led astray in this matter. They were failing to share in the ministry of Paul, becoming critics instead of supporters. And note what attacking the teacher of God equals: it equals mocking God. The word "mocked" means to turn one's nose up at God. By rejecting God's minister, the teacher whom God had sent to them, the Galatians were rejecting God. They were not only mocking and turning their noses up at the teacher of God, but they were mocking God. However, Scripture declares in no uncertain terms: "God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap." If a man sows a life...

- that is not present when the teacher teaches
- that is not attentive and learning what the teacher teaches
- that does not pass on what the teacher teaches
- that does not participate with the teacher in his ministry
- that does not encourage others to learn from the teacher

...if a man sows this rejection, this turning up of the nose, he rejects and turns his nose up at God. And if he rejects God, he shall be rejected by God. Whatever a man sows toward his teacher, he reaps. He shall bear the judgment of his behavior toward God's teacher.

a. If a believer sows corruption to his flesh, he shall reap corruption (v.8). If he does not listen to the teacher's warnings about the lusts of the flesh, he shall reap the lusts of the flesh. He will be overtaken by the appeal, pull, cravings, passion, and lust...

- to worship as he desires
- to seek his destiny from astrology and sorcery instead of prayer
- to live as he pleases
- to seek earthly position, power, and honor
- to strive against others as he pleases
- to party as he likes
- to have illicit sex

- to hoard
- to seek the things of this world

The list could go on and on, but the point is well understood. The flesh perishes. It ages, dies, and decays. If a person sows to the flesh, he shall go the way of all flesh: die and face the judgment of God. God will not be His Word. If a man rejects God's messenger and chooses to sow to his flesh, he shall reap the flesh and its destiny: death and judgment. God is not mocked; there is no escape.

**“For to be carnally [fleshly] minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Ro. 8:6-8).**

b. If a believer sows to the Spirit, he shall reap life everlasting. If he listens to the teacher's exhortations about the salvation that is in God's Son and the life God expects him to live, he shall reap the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God will actually enter his life and take up residence there. The Spirit will implant the divine nature of God within the heart of the believer, the divine nature that shall live now and forever. The believer will be enabled (given the strength and power) to live a life of...

- |         |                  |                |
|---------|------------------|----------------|
| • love  | • long-suffering | • faithfulness |
| • joy   | • gentleness     | • meekness     |
| • peace | • goodness       | • self-control |

And most importantly, as stated, he shall live forever with God in the new heavens and earth.

**“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:14-15).**

2. A person shall reap if he does not faint in serving with his teacher. The believer or pupil must join with his teacher in the ministry if he wishes to reap the reward. He must not...

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • withdraw          | • give in to pressure    |
| • fall back         | • allow interruptions    |
| • slack off         | • cave in to persecution |
| • allow weariness   | • give in to temptation  |
| • allow routineness |                          |

The pupil must be constant, steadfast, and persevering—just as he is taught to be by his teacher. He must join right in with his teacher in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

**“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Co. 15:58).**

Note the motive for not fainting: the student shall reap in due season. The day of reaping is coming. God is going to reward the pupil (believer) who serves and works by the side of his teacher.

**“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward” (Mt. 10:42).**

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What kinds of things have you sown that will reap a blessing?
2. If you sow bad things, can you expect to reap life? Explain your answer.
3. What would cause some Christians to look for a blessing after they have knowingly sown to their flesh?
4. What kinds of things do you need to do in order to firm up your commitment to your teacher's ministry?

### 3. WHEN TO SERVE WITH A TEACHER: AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY (v.10).

When is a believer to serve with his teacher? Very simply, at every opportunity. He is to join right in and do good every chance he can. The idea is that he is to...

- stay alert to opportunity
- keep his eyes open to make opportunities
- rush to all opportunities

When a teacher goes to meet a need, the believer must not miss the opportunity to join his teacher and minister with him. No chance to minister should ever be missed. With each missed opportunity, a believer can miss the privilege of ministering and of being more greatly rewarded in the glorious day of redemption. Therefore, he must stay alert and not be weary if he wants a full reward.

Note to whom he is to minister: to all men (unbelievers), but especially to believers. A person is responsible for his own family first; then he adds on the burden of the world. God has placed us all within a family, and we are the ones who are first responsible for that family. Others may help us, but we are the ones who are primarily responsible. The same is true with the family of God. A Christian brother is the one who is

responsible for the family of God. Therefore, we must always meet the needs of our Christian family before moving on out among unbelievers.

**“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil” (Luke 6:35).**

**“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).**

#### QUESTIONS:

1. How often do you skip regular times of Bible study with your teacher? What kinds of things cause you not to attend?
2. Do you have a role in your teacher's ministry? Are you fulfilling it?
3. Are you comfortable with your level of commitment to your teacher's ministry? What changes do you need to make?
4. When is the best time to serve with your teacher?
5. What is the priority of ministry? Who comes first? Why?

#### SUMMARY:

Contrary to popular belief, your teacher is not required by God to do all the work of the ministry. He or she is called to equip other believers for the work of the ministry. The responsibilities of the student are clearly outlined:

1. How to do good to a teacher: by sharing in the ministry of the teacher.
2. Why do good to a teacher.
3. When to serve with a teacher: as we have opportunity.

#### ILLUSTRATION:

How willing are you for His will? This is a question that every believer must answer whenever opportunities to minister are made available. God has provided plenty of work to do. The key is this: be ready to serve when He opens the door. Sometimes, that open door comes at a great personal sacrifice:

*“You are going out to die in a year or two. It is madness!” That is what a tutor in Oxford University, England, said to a brilliant student who was giving himself under the auspices of a missionary society for service in Africa.*

*It turned out that the young man did die after being on the field only a year, but he had answered his tutor in these wise and weighty words: "I think it is with African missions as with the building of a great bridge. You know how many stones have to be buried in the earth, all unseen, to be a foundation. If Christ wants me to be one of the unseen stones, lying in an African grave, I am content, certain as I am that the final result will be a Christian Africa."*

As the hymn reminds you, "Wherever He leads, I'll go." Is that true with you?

## Have you been blessed by the commentary articles, taken from the Book of Galatians?

As we near the end of the Book of Galatians, we would like to once again encourage you to buy the entire set of Old and/or New Testament commentary sets.

### Consider the facts:

- ♦ you will have in your hands a piece of resource that took Bible scholars centuries to accumulate and layout for the simple person to read and understand.

## PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES

### (Reflection & Response)

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The area that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Statement of Commitment:

- ♦ what it will do for your relationship with God
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## See our full page ad on 8.

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## The Way of True Love

—By Lynn Miller

Two major components in relationships worth having are trust and communication. If either of these components are missing, there is breakdown.

If you cannot trust someone, usually you do not feel too inclined to build a relationship with him or her. On the other hand, if you feel that someone does not trust you, you often feel quite disrespected.

Lack of communication also quickly causes a feeling of disrespect. Clear, loving communication, even in difficult circumstances, often prevents misunderstandings and much grief. Avoiding communication about difficult issues often causes questions to arise in the relationship and at least one party will feel disrespected. Of course, it is good to take some time to think things over and to pray, but then it is a good idea to clearly and kindly communicate your perspective and to give the other party an opportunity to share their perspective, as well.

Basically, offering others the same respect and honor that we

would like to benefit from in a relationship goes a long way. Of course, it is always easier to see how others are not doing that for us, while we are oblivious to the fact that we are not providing those things to others.



We need a divine relationship, or a connection with the Divine One, to develop the love and wisdom needed for other relationships. Having a heart-to-heart connection with God and experiencing intimacy with Him exposes us to pure love—the kind of love that removes our own hurts and insecurities, and frees us to love the way He does.

Knowing how He views us, and being secure in that knowledge, releases us from needing to know how others view us, and frees us from the bondage that comes from needing their approval. It also opens our eyes to how Jesus sees others, and enables us to love them with His love, to communicate lovingly, and to give honor and respect, even when it is not deserved.

This is the way of Jesus—the way of true love.

**END**

### **Heavy Heart – Lost at Sea**

My sins were a constant burden and reminder that, indeed, there was a God who had created within me a conscience. I knew, beyond any doubt, that when life here ended, there was a real Heaven to gain and a literal burning Hell to be avoided at any cost; but I tried to tell myself that I was already a Christian. I had no peace about it, and I tried to do everything not to think about it.

Those dark days of storms, hurricanes, waves crashing over the entire ship, and nights with the wind tugging at the anchor caused me to think of eternity. I was truly “Lost at Sea.”

### **Not Going Home – Going Home**

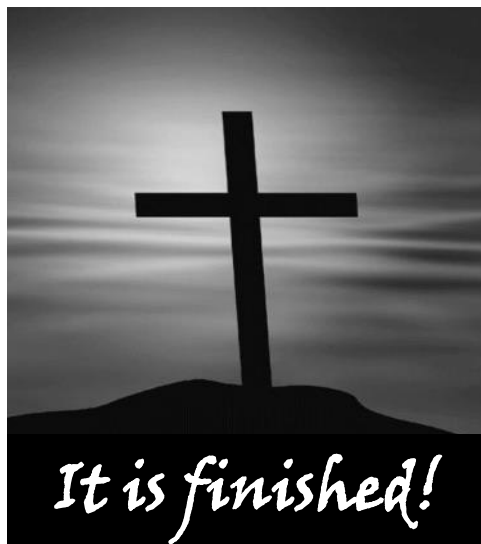
After miraculously arriving safely back in Miami that November, the Lord, through various circumstances, changed my mind about not going home. I had been determined to continue my quest for peace, in spite of all God had shown me and through which He had allowed me to survive. Up until then, I had my heart set on another adventure to California via motorcycle, but God had other plans. I walked down the jet way in Detroit on a cold November morning, wondering if I was in my right mind to return home.

I let my family know that I was not returning home as the prodigal son, but that I had my own plans, which did not include them. Well, after being in the biggest cities in the U.S. and then coming home to a small town, it was more of a letdown than ever. The emptiness, depression, and memories of that whirlwind summer and the adventures from which God had allowed me to return home made me more miserable than ever.

### **Boredom Leads Me to Church**

After being home for two weeks and being bored out of my mind, I decided to

go to church to see some of my old friends. The church was having some special services conducted by two visiting evangelists. I had no intention of listening. After all, I had heard it a thousand times before.



The preacher was speaking forcefully and loudly about one of the last things Jesus said while on the cross. It was the phrase, “It is finished,” that caught my attention. He kept repeating it and explaining what it meant. He said that it meant there was nothing we could do to save ourselves, that the work was already done, and that all of our sins were completely paid for. He said that all we could do was to rest in it.

In a moment of time, it flooded over me. It was something I had heard many times, but never realized until then—that Jesus, having no sins of His own, took my place and paid the price to satisfy the justice of a Holy God. Furthermore, God was so pleased with the finished work that He raised Him from the dead with His mighty power.

### **Peace Comes in Like a Flood**

The wonder of it all! Then the thought crossed my mind. Could it be so simple? The peace that flooded through me that night and in the days ahead was the answer to that. What could be better in this world, than to know your sins are

forgiven and to be assured of a home in Heaven! It does not matter whether they are large or small sins. We all have them and the Bible says in the book of Hebrews, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” That night, at the end of myself, God gave me faith to trust and rest in the finished work of redemption, receiving it as my very own.

So my dear friend, I beg you to consider these matters carefully. Read God’s Word, the Bible. Read John, chapters 1-4, and the book of Romans. Ask God to show you your need of His great gift. My earthly father always told me that God only does business with honest hearts. Remember, there is nothing you can do to be saved. He did it all. “It is finished.” “Paid in Full!” Rest in Him, as I did all those years ago.

The real adventure began on that wonderful night, now so long ago, and furthermore, it will never have an end, as the Bible reveals—continuing throughout the endless ages of God’s Eternal Day.

### **Some verses from the Bible for you to carefully consider:**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

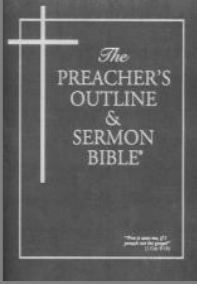
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal

**Continued on next page**





## Preachers Outline & Sermon Bible in King James Version

If you are one of those people who is serious about studying and understanding God's Word, but sometimes need just a little bit of help understanding what you read, then I would like to recommend to you one of the Christian's greatest and most trusted tools available in our generation. From the very first time I was introduced to the POSB commentary set, I fell in love with them. What drew me the most is the simple layout, explanations and illustrations (see sample of John 3:16-17 below). I also like the way this commentary brings in other scriptures to go along with what you are studying. What I would like for you to prayerfully consider is; buy one book and see for yourself how great they are. I promise, you'll have a hard time laying it down. You will learn so much!

### Sample Page

(3:16-17) **Introduction:** this is the world's most well known Scripture. Brief and to the point, Jesus revealed God's great love.

1. The fact: God so loved (v.16).
2. The evidence: God gave (v.16).
3. The purpose: to save (v.16).
4. The proof: God sent His Son (the Incarnation) (v.17).
5. The means: through Him (v.17).

1. (3:16) God, Love of: God so loved the world. He loved the whole world. Note several facts.

1. The idea that God loves the whole world is a new idea. The Jews believed God loved the religious (the true Jew) and hated the non-religious (the Gentiles). The same thoughts are held by many in every generation, especially by religionists. The fact that God truly loves is shocking to many. Some wonder and others question how God could possibly love the...

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • vile person    | • murderer         |
| • immoral person | • wife beater      |
| • child abuser   | • prostitute       |
| • thief          | • alcoholic        |
| • street person  | • oppressor        |
| • enslaver       | • bitter, vengeful |

**Thought 1.** God loves every man, not just the religious and the good. He does not love only the people who love Him. He loves everyone, even the unlovely and the unloving, the unbelieving and the obstinate, the selfish and the greedy, the spiteful and the vengeful.

**And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).**

**For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12-13).**

**"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).**

**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).**

1. The fact: God so loved (v.16).
2. The evidence: God gave (v.16).
3. The purpose: to save (v.16).
  - a. From perishing

**E. Revelation 5: God's Great Love, 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- a. To eternal life
- b. By believing

**4. The proof: God sent His Son (the Incarnation)**

- a. Not to condemn
- b. But to save

**5. The means: Thru Him**

#### DIVISION II

THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, 2:1-3:21

E. Revelation 5: God's Great Love, 3:16-17

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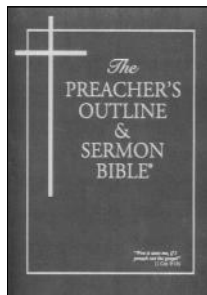
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**What is Time?** To some, time seems to drag on and on forever and ever. To others, time seems to be flying past like a loose kite caught in the wind. For some people, time is a gift that they cherish while it lasts. For others, time is work that must be struggled through day by day until it is gone. How can time be one thing, yet different to everyone?

*Webster's New World Dictionary* takes almost half a page describing the word *time*. That does not include all of the similar words or phrases like: times, many a time, time of day, or time after time. The first definition for *time* is “indefinite, unlimited duration in which things are considered as happening in the past, present, or future; every moment there has ever been or ever will be.” That definition raises some very important questions. How many moments have there been? How many moments will there be? What does that mean to me? I will try to answer these questions in the following paragraphs.

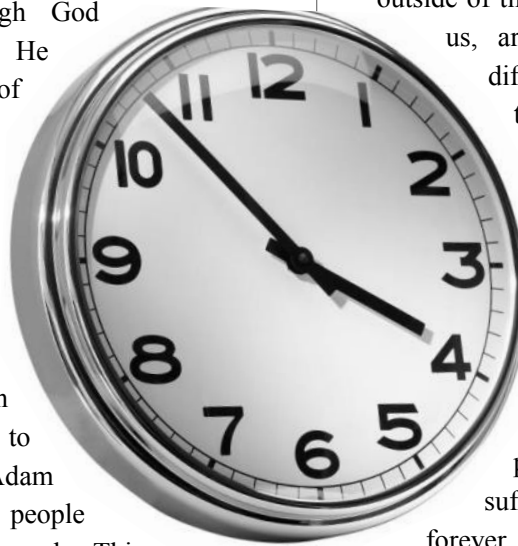
How many moments have there been? I believe that time began when the universe began. Time and space are so closely intertwined that it would be crazy to believe they started separately. In fact, Genesis 1:1 states that they were created together, along with the other basic element of the universe—matter. It says, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*” “In the beginning” clearly refers to the beginning of time itself. “God created the heaven” clearly refers to the creation of space. “. . . and the earth” refers to the creating of matter. The reason the different phrases and words are used to describe the creation of the universe is that the Hebrews did not have a word for universe. Using different words in that case is acceptable, because it refers to the

same thing—the universe.

God then went on to create everything in the universe in six literal days (a unit of time). Although God created time, He exists outside of it. Man was created after time, leaving man in his physical form bound in time. God would come down very often to walk with Adam and Eve—the people whom He had made. This puts God, the One who exists outside of time, with man, His creations bound by the limits of time. Even though man was still immortal, he still experienced time. When God was not walking with them one time, they sinned. They directly defied God's orders, adding death to time. This shows that once there was time, but no death. Nowadays we place time and death together, when they are really two different things.

Ever since then, man has been born, has lived, and has died. He then is sent into the realm of infinite time known as eternity. This is different from God's eternity, because He is outside of time. I believe we will always exist in time, because time is good, and it was a part of the original creation. That answers the question of how many moments there will be and leads us to the last question.

What does this mean to me? Sadly, many people do not ask this question anymore. We only care about our time here on earth, and we pay no attention to the time after death. There are two, and only two,



places to spend your infinite time after death: Heaven or the Lake of Fire. They were both created by God, the One outside of time, yet these places, like us, are bound in time. The difference in them is not the time (for they both last forever), but the conditions. The Lake of Fire is exactly what the name says—a lake of fire. Since you are dead, you will not die, but you will spend your infinite time in a place of constant suffering with no joy at all forever and ever. Then there is Heaven, which is bright and beautiful. It is the very abode of God, where there will be joy forevermore. It will be a glorious place to spend your infinite time.

So which do you prefer? More importantly, how do you get there? If you want to go to Heaven, stop trying to earn your salvation, because none of us can. We are ALL descendants of Adam, the first man, so we ALL possess his sinful nature that he brought upon himself. Whether it is one sinful action, one wrong word, or even one bad thought, God cannot allow us to spend our infinite time with Him in Heaven, for He is holy and sinless. We cannot save ourselves, so God made a way. All you need to do to spend your infinite time with God in Heaven is to listen and accept the following truths: the all-powerful God, not bound by time, became a man and stepped into time to take your place in death. Then He took back his own life by using His infinite power to rise from the dead. The God-man's name is Jesus

**Continued on next page**

## Time, Continued

of Nazareth. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Promised One of Israel. He took your sin upon himself, so that all you need to do to spend your infinite time with Him is to accept His free gift of salvation. Acknowledge your sin, personally believe in His death and

resurrection, and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and you will be saved from the eternal punishment of your sin (the Lake of Fire).

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*

*For by grace are ye saved through faith;*

*and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

*But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me (Psalm 31:14-15).*

**END**

## Useless Kinds of Religion

—By J. C. Ryle

**There are two ways by which a man may lose his own soul.** What are they?

**1. He may lose his soul by living and dying without any religion at all.** He may live and die like a beast, prayerless, godless, graceless, faithless. This is a sure way to hell. Mind that you do not walk in it.

**2. He may lose his soul by taking up some kind of religion.** He may live and die contenting himself with a false Christianity and resting on a baseless hope. This is the commonest way to hell there is.

What do I mean by useless kinds of religion? I will tell you. The first thing I wish to say is this. A religion is entirely useless in which Jesus Christ is not the principal object and does not fill the principal place.

There are only too many baptized men and women who practically know nothing about Christ. Their religion consists in a few vague notions and empty expressions. "They trust they are no worse than others; they keep to their Church; they try to do their duty; they do nobody any harm; they hope God will be merciful to them! They trust the Almighty will pardon their sins and take them to heaven when they die." This is about the whole of their religion.

But what do these people know practically about Christ? Nothing: nothing at all! What experiential acquaintance have they with His offices

and work, His blood, His righteousness, His mediation, His priesthood, His intercession? None: none at all! Ask them about a saving faith—ask them about being born again of the Spirit—ask them about being sanctified in Christ Jesus. What answer will you get? You are a barbarian to them. You have asked them simple Bible questions; but they know no more about them experientially than a Buddhist or a Muslim.

And yet this is the religion of hundreds of thousands of people who are called Christians all over the world.

If you are a man of this kind, I warn you plainly that such Christianity will never take you to heaven. It may do very well in the eyes of men; it may pass muster very decently at the [church] meeting, in the place of business, in the House of Commons, or in the streets. But it will never comfort you. It will never satisfy your conscience. It will never save your soul.

I warn you plainly that all notions and theories about God being merciful without Christ and excepting through Christ are baseless delusions and empty fancies. Such theories are purely an idol of man's invention. They are all of the

earth, earthy: they never came down from heaven. The God of heaven has sealed and appointed Christ as the one and only Savior and way of life; and all who would be saved must be content to be saved by Him, or they will never be saved at all. I give you fair warning. A religion without Christ will never save your soul (Joh 14:6)!

But I have another thing yet to say. A religion is entirely useless in which you join anything with Christ in the matter of saving your soul. You must not only depend on Christ for salvation, but you must depend on Christ only and Christ alone (Eph 2:8-9).

There are multitudes of baptized men and women who profess to honor Christ, but in reality do Him great dishonor. They give Christ a certain place in their system of religion, but not the place which God intended Him to fill. Christ alone is not "all in all" to their souls (Eph 1:23). No: it is either Christ and the Church, or Christ and the Sacraments, or Christ and His ordained ministers, or Christ and their own goodness, or Christ and their own prayers, or Christ and their own

<p><b>RELIGION</b> emphasizes the importance of sacrifice, devotion, ritual, &amp; how much people should do for God</p> <p><b>THE GOSPEL</b> emphasizes the importance of the sacrifice &amp; work of Jesus Christ</p>
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**Continued on next page**

## Useless Religion, Continued

sincerity and charity—on which they practically rest their souls.

If you are a Christian of this kind I warn you also plainly that your religion is an offence to God. You are changing God's plan of salvation into a plan of your own devising. You are, in effect, deposing Christ from His throne by giving the glory due to Him to another. I care not who it is that teaches you your religion and on whose word you build. Whether he be Pope or Cardinal, Archbishop or Bishop, Dean or Archdeacon, Presbyter or Deacon, Episcopalian or Presbyterian, Baptist or Independent, Methodist or Plymouth Brother—whosoever adds anything to Christ, teaches you wrong (Gal 1:6-8).

I care not what it is that you add to Christ. Whether it be the necessity of joining the Church of Rome, or of being an Episcopalian, or of becoming a Free Churchman, or of giving up the liturgy, or

of being baptized. . . , whatever you may practically add to Christ in the matter of salvation, you do Christ an injury.

Take heed what you are doing. Beware of giving to Christ's servants the honour due to none but Christ. Beware of giving the Lord's ordinances the honour due unto the Lord. Beware of resting the burden of your soul on anything but Christ, and Christ alone. Beware of having a religion which is of no use, and cannot save.

[Christ] left the glory He had from all eternity with the Father and came down into the world to provide salvation. He took our nature upon Him and was born as a man. As a man He did the will of God perfectly (Mat 17:5), which we all had left undone (Rom 3:23). As a man He suffered on the cross the wrath of God which we ought to have suffered (Rom 6:23). He brought in everlasting

righteousness for us (Dan 9:24). He redeemed us from the curse of a broken law (Luk 1:68; Rev 5:9). He opened a fountain for all sin and uncleanness. He died for our sins. He rose again for our justification (Rom 4:25)). He ascended to God's right hand, and there sat down, waiting till His enemies should be made his footstool (Luk 20:42-43). And there He sits now, [calling] to all who will come to Him, interceding for all who believe in Him, and managing by God's appointment all that concerns the salvation of souls (Joh 3; Eph 1-2; Rom 3-5).

It is an awful thing to have no religion at all. To have an immortal soul committed to your charge and neglect it—this is dreadful. But it's no less an awful thing to be content with a religion that can do you no good.

**Do not let this be your case!**

**END**



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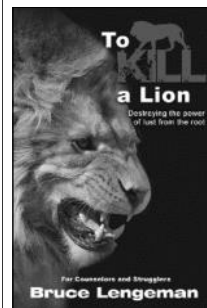
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# The Mount of Olives

**Question:** "What happened on the Mount of Olives?"

**Answer:** The **Mount of Olives**, sometimes referred to as "Olivet" in the KJV (2 Samuel 15:30; Acts 1:12) or "the mount facing Jerusalem" (1 Kings 11:7), is a ridge running along the east side of Jerusalem, separated from the city walls by a ravine and the Brook Kidron. The **Mount of Olives** was the site of many events in the Bible and will be the site of a yet-future fulfillment of prophecy.

In the Old Testament, the **Mount of Olives** is mentioned once in relation to King David. When David's son Absalom wrested control of Jerusalem, David and his loyal followers fled the city via an eastern route: "David continued up the **Mount of Olives**, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up" (2Sam. 15:30). Later, King Solomon used the **Mount of Olives** for idol worship: "On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites" (1 Kings 11:7). In one of Ezekiel's visions, the prophet sees the glory of the Lord depart from Jerusalem and come to rest "above the mountain east of it" (Ezekiel 11:23).

Jesus made many visits to the **Mount of Olives** (Luke 21:37). In fact, it was "usual" for Him to go there when in the vicinity of Jerusalem (Luke 22:39). Every time Jesus visited Lazarus and Mary and Martha, He was on the **Mount of Olives**, for their village of Bethany was situated on the eastern slope. The road from Bethany to Jerusalem lay over Olivet.

The Bible records Jesus' visiting the **Mount of Olives** three times in the last week of His earthly life, and each time something of significance happened. The first visit was to deliver what has come to be known as the Olivet Discourse, recorded in Matthew 24:1—25:46.

Parallel passages are found in Mark 13:1–37 and Luke 21:5–36. The content of the Olivet Discourse is Jesus' response to His disciples' question "When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24–25 primarily concerns the future tribulation period and the second



**Mount of Olives**

coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation. The Discourse includes parables about those who wait for the Master's coming—the wise and faithful servant (Matthew 24:45–51), the five wise virgins (Matthew 25:1–13), and the good servant who uses his resources wisely (Matthew 25:14–30).

Jesus' second visit is what we call the triumphal entry. The donkey Jesus rode that day was found in the area of Bethany and Bethphage, on the east side of the **Mount of Olives** (Luke 19:29–30). Then, "when he came near the place where the road goes down the **Mount of Olives**, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen" (verse 37). While still on the **Mount of Olives**, Jesus looked at the vista in front of Him, wept over the city, and pronounced a judgment against it (verses 41–44).

Jesus' third visit during the week of His passion was on the night He was betrayed. That evening began with the Last Supper in Jerusalem and ended in the Garden of Gethsemane on the **Mount of Olives**. During that last Passover meal, Jesus washed His disciples' feet and then

revealed Judas as the betrayer (John 13:1–30). At the conclusion of the meal, Jesus established the New Covenant and instituted the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26). Then He took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane (literally, "Garden of the Oil-press") located on the western slope of the **Mount of Olives**. There Jesus prayed in agony as He contemplated the day to come. So overcome by the horror of what He was to experience in the crucifixion the following day that His sweat was "like drops of blood" (Luke 22:44) and God sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43).

After Jesus prayed, Judas Iscariot arrived with a multitude of soldiers, high priests, Pharisees, and servants to arrest Jesus. Judas identified Jesus by the prearranged signal of a kiss, which he gave to Jesus. Trying to protect Jesus, Peter drew a sword and attacked a man named Malchus, the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus rebuked Peter and healed the man's ear, displaying the miraculous power of God (Luke 22:51). Nevertheless, the mob arrested Jesus and took Him to face trial, while the disciples scattered in fear for their lives.

After the trials, crucifixion, and resurrection, Jesus once again stood on the **Mount of Olives**. During His final post-resurrection appearance, Jesus led His disciples "out to the vicinity of Bethany, [and] he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 22:50–52). Acts 1:12 specifies that "the vicinity of Bethany" was indeed the **Mount of Olives**. Immediately following Jesus' ascension, two angels told the disciples on the **Mount of Olives** that "this same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). According to the

**Continued on next page**

## Mount of Olives, Continued

prophet Zechariah, Jesus will return not only in the same way, but to the same place. In a prophecy related to the end times, Zechariah declares, “On that day

his feet will stand on the **Mount of Olives**, east of Jerusalem, and the **Mount of Olives** will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south” (Zechariah 14:4). The very

location where David wept in defeat and where Jesus was betrayed and rejected will be the place where Jesus returns in triumph over all His enemies.

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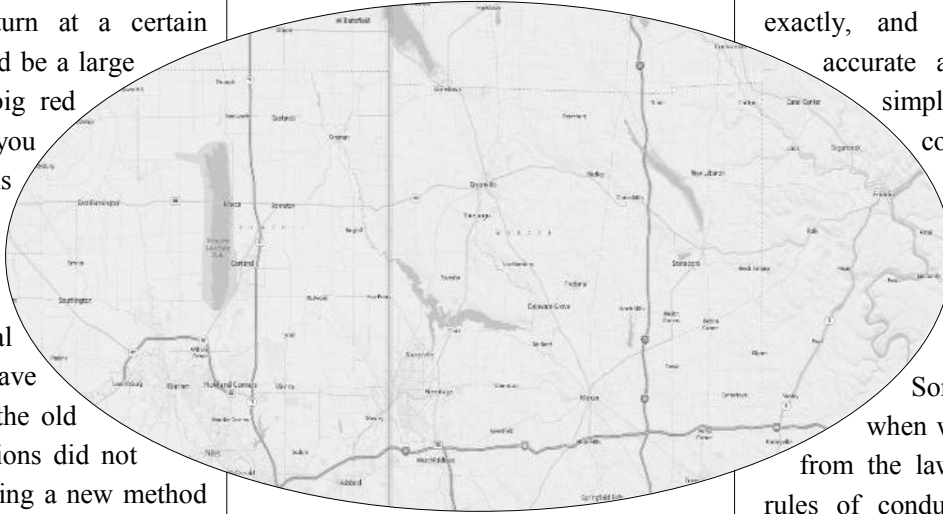
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## Maps Inside

—By Eli Stutzman

Many years ago if you wanted to get somewhere, you would ask directions from someone who knew the way. They might tell you to turn at a certain landmark, which could be a large rock, a tree, or a big red barn. All was well if you had good directions and followed them carefully. Since then, maps and compasses and GPS (global positional system) have guided us. Knowing the old way of getting directions did not necessarily help in using a new method of navigation. With a map, you need to know where you are at any time. You have to learn to read a map in order for

it to be useful. It is a whole new method of finding your way. The difficulty we have in changing from a system of law



was a lot like getting directions. If you followed them carefully, all was well. If you listened carefully, memorized them exactly, and if the instructor was accurate and clear, it could be simple. Any glitch and you could easily be lost, but with practice you might get good at it. With the advent of maps, your previous understanding does not help.

to a life of grace as expressed in the New Testament is like learning a new type of navigation. Living under the law

Some people think that when we say eternal life is not from the law, we are throwing our rules of conduct to the wind. Grace gives you freedom to aim at a higher target and find a way to get there. A map

Continued on page 15



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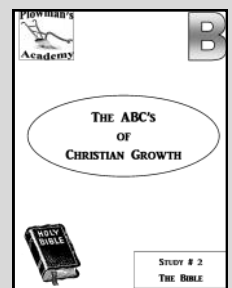
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# Free Bible Reading Plan

All throughout the Bible, we are told to read the Bible, to love it, to hide it in our hearts, to live it, for parents to teach it to their children, and more. The Jews used Hebrew. Those in the New Testament often read the Scriptures in Greek, and later in Latin—they read the Bible in their own common language. About 500 years ago, it was taught that the only acceptable language in which to read the Bible was Latin—a language that only the priests could understand. Godly men like John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and others risked and sometimes gave

their lives to translate and take the word of God to the people in their own everyday language that they could best understand.

Jesus told us to search the Scriptures. Isaiah tells us to seek out the book of the LORD and read. The apostle Paul tells us to study the Bible to show ourselves approved unto God. **Have you ever read through the entire Bible?** Why not begin now? What better way to begin the new year than to read the Bible and study God's word? Below are a couple different reading plans to help you read through

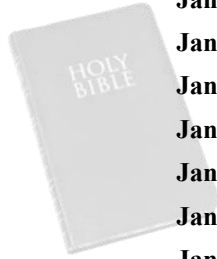
the Bible in one year. The plan on the left begins with Genesis and has you read straight through the entire Bible. The plan on the right has Scripture passages for each day from both the Old and New Testaments. **Here is the offer: sign up for one of our free Bible correspondence courses by filling out the form at the bottom of the page, and we will send you your choice of either of the two one-year Bible reading plans.** Simply tell us which course you want to take and which Bible reading plan you prefer, and we will send you both—for free!

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- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Genesis 1-3   | 8. Genesis 25-26  |
| 2. Genesis 4-7   | 9. Genesis 27-29  |
| 3. Genesis 8-11  | 10. Genesis 30-31 |
| 4. Genesis 12-15 | 11. Genesis 32-34 |
| 5. Genesis 16-18 | 12. Genesis 35-37 |
| 6. Genesis 19-21 | 13. Genesis 38-40 |
| 7. Genesis 22-24 | 14. Genesis 41-42 |

## Bible Reading Plan Two

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Jan 1</b> Gen 1-2, Matt 1         | <b>Jan 8</b> Gen 20-22, Matt 7         |
| <b>Jan 2</b> Gen 3-5, Matt 2         | <b>Jan 9</b> Gen 23-24, Matt 8         |
| <b>Jan 3</b> Gen 6-8, Matt 3         | <b>Jan 10</b> Gen 25-26, Matt 9:1-17   |
| <b>Jan 4</b> Gen 9-11, Matt 4        | <b>Jan 11</b> Gen 27-28, Matt 9:18-38  |
| <b>Jan 5</b> Gen 12-14, Matt 5:1-26  | <b>Jan 12</b> Gen 29-30, Matt 10:1-23  |
| <b>Jan 6</b> Gen 15-17, Matt 5:27-48 | <b>Jan 13</b> Gen 31-32, Matt 10:24-42 |
| <b>Jan 7</b> Gen 18-19, Matt 6       | <b>Jan 14</b> Gen 33-35, Matt 11       |



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### Upcoming conference calls:

**February 01: The end times—Matthew 24: will the elect be deceived?**

**March 01: Importance of daily time alone with God.**

### Maps Inside (Cont from page 13)

or GPS can show many ways to get to a destination. Roads may be detoured for whatever reason, but a map can help you navigate back roads, so you will have no problem.

In our spiritual world, we have Jesus as head of the church. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we receive His Holy Spirit. Jesus has a plan for us. He often reveals His plan one step at a time. He has the right to ask us to serve Him in whatever way or place He wishes. Also, He has given us the Old and New Testaments as a kind of map.

When a Pharisee asked Jesus which is the most important commandment in the Law, *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great*

*commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”* (Matthew 22:37-40).

How can we say that salvation has set us free from the law? It seems we are now lawless and can do whatever we want! That alarms some folks. We are so used to the strict direction of the law that our sudden freedom frightens us. What guides us?

As believers, we are not without guidance once we are saved. Scripture says that we are dead to the written law. In fact, Jeremiah chapter 31 says, *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the*

*land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people* (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

That is exactly what has happened! With the Holy Spirit, we have the law of God written inside us. What drives us now comes from the heart. We have a built in moral compass and roadmap, in a manner of speaking. When you are new in the faith, it seems hard at times to understand. We may want the old way—the Law—to guide us; but Jesus has paid the price for our souls and now He is the owner. Don't be afraid to learn how it works.

**It's worth it!**

**END**

## The Amish Voice

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## Lost at Sea!

—By Philip T. Sarlo

### Restless Years on the Run from ‘Christianity’

In the summer of 1971 after high school graduation, I had been partying regularly with some so-called friends. I was depressed and very bored with my life up until then. As usual, the never-ending search for excitement, in whatever form I could find, would end in emptiness and depression.

I would try not to think about the Godly influence of my two loving parents and all they had tried to teach me about God’s Word and His ways as seen in the Bible. Down deep I knew they were right, but I was not ready to give up my rebellious, self-indulgent ways. I was so convicted when I was around them that I made up my mind that I was going to “run away from home” and try to get away from the Christianity that had always surrounded my life.

### Selfish Pursuits Break Hearts at Home

I not only wanted escape from what I

thought were oppressive parents and church influences, I wanted adventure and lots of it. Well, on a summer Saturday afternoon in late June, I hurriedly made the decision to leave my small Michigan town and head for the bright lights and fun of Miami Beach, Florida.



The flight south that afternoon was a cruel thing to do to my family, especially my mother, since I left without telling them where I was going. However, I was not thinking about them. I was only thinking about myself and about what I thought I wanted. The adventures in the days ahead in South Florida are too numerous to tell here; however, one thing

I know now and suspected then was that God had His protecting hand on me. This was no doubt due to praying parents and grandparents.

### High Life: Rubbing Shoulders with Stars and Millionaires

After two weeks in Miami Beach, my parents discovered my whereabouts about the same time I found a “dream job” aboard a world-class yacht that chartered to movie stars and millionaires. A few days later we headed up the east coast to New York for the summer, just as I started receiving letters from my mother and grandmother, mostly.

The next 100 days spawned adventures with which Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn would have been thrilled. But, even so, my days consisted of loneliness, disillusionment, and despair. At every turn, God reached out His hand to spare my life and speak to my empty heart in my desperate search for peace and fulfillment.

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