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Contact The Real Truth:
1000 Ambassador Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281
realtruth.org
True Faith—
What God’s Word Says!
Part 2

We have covered real, biblical faith, including common misconceptions. We also examined the Bible definition of faith, and the difference between human faith and Christ’s faith. We saw it is impossible to please God without faith. We also learned one condition to having true faith. Yet other conditions exist and this final part reveals them.

The vast majority of people are confused about this all-important topic. But you need not be among them. You can have real faith.

Most people believe the only faith needed for salvation is to “just believe.” It is popular to recite, “if you shall confess with your mouth…and believe in your heart…you shall be saved” and “for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:9, 13). But is this all there is to receiving salvation? Can it really be this easy? If so, the Bible should be two verses long. The rest of it becomes unnecessary!

It is amazing how millions of people are content to accept outright twisting of the Bible in order to practice a Christianity of their own devising. The apostle Peter wrote, “…no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation” (II Pet. 1:20)—and this is true of every Bible doctrine. All verses pertaining to any matter must be taken together to have the complete picture. Seizing “pet verses” and taking them out of context leads to deception, confusion and ignorance.

What about law, sin, grace, faith and works? Do these bring any requirements to those who practice true faith? Is faith alone sufficient for everything? Or must Christians obey God? Are any works attached to salvation? Most people believe the answers to these questions are “no.” They want to believe Christ “died for their sins” and they are saved by “faith alone” without doing anything about sin in their lives.

Human nature does not want to obey God (Rom. 8:7). Yet Paul taught, “Not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Rom. 2:13).

If the law is done away, no one can be guilty of sin. But Romans 3:23 states, “…all have sinned…” How is this possible if there is no law to be kept?

Several things must be considered. I John 3:4 states, “…sin is the transgression of the law.” All professing Christians are certainly willing to acknowledge Jesus
“died for their sins,” but they continue with the assumption that, because He died for past sins, they no longer need to worry about future ones. This is a ridiculous argument. Yet it has effectively swallowed hundreds of millions of people for nearly 2,000 years.

Consider Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it [the faith] is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

People love to quote this. It is also common for people to quote Romans 3:20: “…by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight…” Few are willing to read the very next phrase, which says, “for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” We could ask: What would be the purpose of having any law except for keeping it? Would its purpose be to demonstrate people may freely break it without worrying because Jesus “died for their sins”?

The purpose of God’s Law has never been to forgive sin or bring justification. (No law could do this.) This is what the blood of Christ is for—and it is why mankind needs a Savior. The purpose of the law is to point out sin!

Think about prison systems in most countries of the world. Convicted criminals are sometimes pardoned or their sentences are commuted. Others are released from prison early through what is called “shock probation.” Are these people pardoned and released with the idea that they can re-enter society to repeat the exact same crimes that put them in prison? Of course not!

The very idea is absurd. The police would simply re-arrest and incarcerate them again—probably with a stronger sentence! How is it that so many can believe the judgment of the great God of the universe somehow requires less justice with His Law than do civil authorities with theirs? It insults Him to suggest He would give His Son for people’s spiritual crimes—sins—only to see them continue in the very things that required Christ’s death.

What pitiful human logic!

To believe the deception that forgiveness, through Christ’s blood, permits people to freely break the law is hypocrisy. It not only insults God, and the intelligence of His Master Plan, but it also ignores the following extensive verses in James 2. These explain how law, sin, faith and works fit together.

Carefully consider this longer passage: “What does it profit…though a man say he has faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?…Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone…I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils [demons] also believe, and tremble. But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See you how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?…You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (vs. 14, 17-22, 24).

Like demons, many people do believe God exists. However, most of them do not tremble at the existence of God—but demons do!

Remember, we must never “add to God’s Word” because “every word of it is pure” (Prov. 30:5-6). God says what He means and means what He says. The above verses do not teach works save us. They do teach that faith must be accompanied by works. This is what the apostle Paul meant when he asked: “What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law [meaning under its penalty], but under grace? GOD FORBID” (Rom. 6:15).

What about grace, faith and works? How do they work together?

Notice again: “Shall we continue in sin [breaking the law], that grace may abound? GOD FORBID. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Rom. 6:1-2). The answer to Paul’s rhetorical question is obvious. We cannot.

Finally, notice how the Bible asks, “Do we then make void the law through faith?” It answers its own question: “GOD FORBID: yes, we ESTABLISH THE LAW” (Rom. 3:31). The ministers of this world generally permit people to break God’s Law—usually because they want their congregation to pay them a salary—but God forbids lawbreaking!

The devil will not obey God’s Law because he hates it. Neither will “his ministers” (II Cor. 11:13-15). They deliberately ignore these verses and many others. They deceive people who seem to willingly accept their shallow arguments—arguments ignorant of the plain truth of Scripture.

Paul taught that God’s Law is holy, just, good and spiritual (Rom. 7:12, 14). David said it endures forever (Psa. 111:7-8) and is perfect (Psa. 19:7). James calls the Ten Commandments “the royal law…of liberty” (Jms. 2:8-12). Jesus said it will never be done away—that heaven and Earth would disappear before the Law did (Matt. 5:17-19). Deceiving impostors teach that Christians must focus on “just having love” while ignoring plain scriptures like Romans 13:10, which says, “…love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Also see I John 5:1-3.) No wonder the apostle John said that any who claim to “know [Christ], and keeps not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4).

Strong words! I have known many people who claimed to know Christ but did not keep the Commandments, including the fourth one. You saw how God views them.

Please see PERSONAL, page 27.
Patriotic music blares as missiles streak through the air in rapid-fire succession and explode along the horizon, tossing huge plumes of dark smoke into the air. Valiant soldiers parachute into Seoul, the capital city of South Korea, and capture 150,000 United States expatriates and soldiers.

A caption reads, “North Korea has succeeded in proceeding with this nuclear test despite the United States’ increasingly unfair bully activities against North Korea.”

The film, as translated by The Telegraph, is another saber-rattling media broadcast shown by the North Korean government in its “military propaganda war” that aims to demonstrate that no nation is too large for it to defeat.

Since the sudden death of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il and the ascension of his son and successor, Kim Jong Un, these broadcasts have been occurring more frequently. The nuclear-armed nation is continually ratcheting up its rhetoric against the United States and other countries it perceives are in its way.

This has caused concern across the globe regarding the stability of the country.

Kim Jong Il kept the region on edge with what the Financial Times called “deft brinkmanship” during his 17 years as ruler of the impoverished communist nation. But officials worry his son, who became leader a little over a year ago, may continue to assert his authority via military aggression.

Already the nation detonated its third nuclear test and brazenly shredded the armistice agreement it signed with South Korea in 1953. Shortly thereafter, the country cut off all channels of communication with South Korea, ordered its artillery to be combat-ready, and issued threats of preemptive nuclear strikes against the United States and South Korea. Even more, it declared that nuclear war is now unavoidable and warned Japan that Tokyo would be the first target.

These defiant acts clearly signal North Korea’s hardline determination to increase its military standing.

As the communist nation continues to build its nuclear program, how will its defiance of the international community impact world events?

By Robert R. Farrell

North Korea’s Global Impact

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK
immediate threat posed by its nuclear technology may be North Korea’s willingness to sell it to nations that Washington sees as sponsors of terrorism. The fear of such sales was highlighted [in late March], when Japan confirmed that cargo seized last year and believed to be from North Korea contained material that could be used to make nuclear centrifuges, which are crucial to enriching uranium into bomb fuel,” The Associated Press reported.

“Outside nuclear specialists believe North Korea has enough nuclear material for several crude bombs, but they have yet to see proof that Pyongyang can build a warhead small enough to mount on a missile. The North, however, may be able to help other countries develop nuclear expertise right now, as it is believed to have done in the past” (ibid.).

This was confirmed recently when it was revealed that the nation may have the potential to load a nuclear device onto a missile.

During a House Armed Services Committee, a Colorado congressman read a line from a Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report that stated, “DIA assess with moderate confidence the North currently has nuclear weapons capable of delivery by ballistic missiles, however, the reliability will be low.”

With a history of unpredictable and confrontational behavior, how will the global ripple effects of an aggressive, nuclear North Korea shape the future balance of world power?

Aggressive Stance

The North Korean government heads the fourth-largest standing army on Earth—more than one million soldiers—as well as a civil defense force group of about 5.7 million people.

“Pyongyang also commands a formidable artillery force numbering some 12,000 guns that some fear it would use as an opening gambit in a war with South Korea to shell Seoul, which lies only about 20 miles from the tense demilitarized zone that separates the two countries,” NPR reported.

For decades, North Korea has made a continued effort to develop into a world military power, most notably pursuing nuclear capability.

In 1994, after years of diplomatic wrangling, the nation agreed to suspend all nuclear-related activities in exchange for fuel, food and financial aid, primarily from the U.S. and China.

The agreement, however, was short-lived. In 2002, Pyongyang restarted its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and expelled UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors. The following year, it withdrew from the international nonproliferation treaty.

Proceeding events created a vicious cycle of nuclear advancement and international sanctions. In 2006, North Korea conducted its first nuclear test, which elicited military and economic restrictions from the United Nations. Then in 2007, “Pyongyang agreed to shut down its main nuclear reactor at Yongbyon in return for aid and diplomatic concessions.”

“But negotiations stalled as North Korea accused its negotiating partners—the US, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia—of failing to meet agreed obligations,” BBC wrote.

The media outlet stated that in May 2009, “ Barely a month after North Korea walked out of international talks on its nuclear programme, it carried out its second underground nuclear test, which was said to be more powerful than the first.

“Russia’s defence ministry estimated a blast of up to 20 kilotons, a similar size to the American bombs that completely destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.”

After even tighter sanctions from the UN and U.S., North Korea agreed to resume peace talks.

A year later, a tour of a North Korean uranium enrichment plant was given to a U.S. atomic scientist. Although the plant was said to be for civilian nuclear power, the scientist said he was astounded by its sophistication and that it could easily be converted into a weapons-grade processing facility.

In December 2012, Pyongyang successfully launched a three-stage rocket, which increased its scope of attack. Two months following the launch, another nuclear test was conducted, reported to have been “miniaturized and lighter” so as to be placed on a long-range missile.

Despite international warnings, North Korea has defiantly stated it has the right to a nuclear “self-defense” deterrent and continues to develop its missile and nuclear program.

This belligerent approach has strained its relationships with the United States, South Korea, Japan and even China, all of which are concerned about Pyongyang’s military intentions. As a result, North Korea is widely seen as the greatest threat to peace in the Far East.

Economic Distress

North Korea’s impact on the world scene outweighs its size. Bordered by Russia, China and South Korea, it has a population of 24 million in a landmass slightly smaller than the state of Mississippi. The communist country is perhaps the most isolated, highly controlled in the world. Citizens are closely monitored and the government restricts travel into and out of the country.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Korean peninsula was under Japanese rule. Following Japan’s surrender in World War II, the Soviet Union infiltrated the northern portion of the country and the United States the southern portion. This split the nation into two occupation zones along the 38 degrees north latitude line known as the 38th parallel. As time progressed, the divisions politically and socially polarized—traditional communist ideals in the North and free-market capitalism in the South.

In the late 1940s, Kim Il Sung rose to power and established a communist government in the North: “While promising great wealth for his country, Kim suppressed his people and fashioned a militaristic society. In 1950, he instigated the Korean War following an
attempt to reunify the peninsula. (He was rebuffed by U.S. and UN forces.)

“After the war, the state-run economy, based on Kim’s philosophy of ‘self-reliance’ [known as ‘juche’], grew fairly rapidly but stagnated in the 1990s,” according to Time magazine.

During that decade, the country’s economy declined dramatically under a combination of economic mismanagement, natural disasters, fertilizer shortages, and the collapse of its main benefactor, the Soviet Union. For an economy that was never robust to begin with, the results were catastrophic. Poor agricultural yields led to severe food shortages and widespread starvation. It is estimated that during its time of economic decline, between 900,000 and 3.5 million North Koreans—4 percent to 15 percent of the population—starved to death. Since then, the country has relied heavily on aid from China, South Korea, the U.S., and other international agencies to feed its population.

“North Korea’s history is marred by decades of unimaginable famine. In 2011, Freedom House listed the regime as one of the seven worst violators of human rights in the world. It is a place where political prisoners languish in gulags [Stalin-era labor camps], escaped defectors testify of cannibalism, and famines decimate the population,” CNN reported.

Food shortages continue today mainly due to a lack of arable land, inefficient farming practices, and shortages of tractors and fuel.

The nation’s military-first policy has not helped either. It is estimated that North Korea spends one-third of its gross domestic product (GDP) on the military, the highest rate in the world. (By comparison, its rival South Korea spends only 2.8 percent of GDP on its military.) This has enabled North Korea to have a standing army of one million soldiers and a formidable arsenal of biological, chemical and conventional weapons.

With little over a year under his belt, the nation’s new supreme leader, Kim Jong Un, has proven to follow the same ideology as his predecessors.

“In 2012, Kim Jong Un’s first year of leadership, the North displayed increased focus on the economy by renewing its commitment to special economic zones with China, negotiating a new payment structure to settle its $11 billion Soviet-era debt to Russia, and purportedly proposing new agricultural and industrial policies to boost domestic production,” The World Factbook stated. “The North Korean government often highlights its goal of becoming a ‘strong and prosperous’ nation and attracting foreign investment, a key factor for improving the overall standard of living. Nevertheless, firm political control remains the government’s overriding concern, which likely will inhibit fundamental reforms of North Korea’s current economic system.”

International Concerns

In 2003, a group of the world’s leading nations initiated “Six-Party Talks” in an attempt to persuade the North Korean government to give up its nuclear ambitions, with the proposed incentive of receiving increased economic aid as well as a security agreement from Washington not to attack North Korea.

After several rounds of talks, little progress was made. Then in 2009, after receiving condemnation and expanded sanctions from the United Nations for launching a missile, the country announced it was permanently withdrawing from disarmament talks.

As it presses ahead with its nuclear program, Pyongyang’s aggressive stance is causing rippling effects across the world scene.

■ South Korea: Political polarization between North and South Korea has prevented any lasting peace on the peninsula. An armistice was signed in 1953 that ended the Korean War, yet the two nations have continued to be at odds and tension has not fully dissipated.

In 2000, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung instituted what was termed a “sunshine policy,” which thawed relations with its northern counterpart. But all of this was undone in 2002 when Pyongyang reactivated its nuclear reactor and expelled foreign nuclear inspectors.

Advances in North Korea’s weapons testing and bold rhetoric within the past year have intensified hostilities to a degree reminiscent of the Cold War. In retaliation, Seoul announced that it would accelerate missile development with a range that would bring all of North Korea within its reach.

■ United States: America has thousands of troops stationed in South Korea, with potential reinforcements on its military bases in Japan.

Due to North Korea’s intensifying threats, AFP reported that the United States signed a pact with South Korea that “guarantees US support for any South Korean retaliation and allows Seoul to request any additional US military force it deems necessary.”

For further reassurance, “US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told his South Korean counterpart that Seoul could rely on all the military protection the United States has to offer—nuclear, conventional and missile defence” (The Telegraph).

■ Japan: Tokyo and Pyongyang have not had diplomatic relations for some time. The two countries are historical enemies, with bitterness rising to new heights after Japan’s occupation of Korea and the atrocities it committed in World War II. Contentious relations continued in the second half of the 20th century. For example, in the 1970s and 80s, North Korean spies abducted a number of Japanese nationals, which sparked national outrage.

Now with North Korea’s repeated test-firing of missiles over Japanese territory and direct threats to attack the nation, Japan aims to strengthen its own military defense and integrated capabilities with the United States.

■ Middle East: Pyongyang is said to have provided weapons to a number of Middle Eastern nations including Iran. It is also believed to be a sponsor of terrorism.

As the state of Israel is supported by the U.S., Arab nations have long
To truly fix the medical system in the United States, the nation must take another look at the problem itself.

By Edward L. Winkfield

Brown v. Board of Education—Miranda v. Arizona—Roe v. Wade. These United States Supreme Court cases left a lasting mark on segregation in schools (1954), police arrest procedure and due process of law (1966), and abortion (1973). All three changed America forever.

On June 28, 2012, National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius seemed destined to enter the elite ranks of game-changing rulings. This was the day the highest court in the land decided the fate of the controversial Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)—better known as universal healthcare or, more simply, “Obamacare.”

As the nation awaited the ruling on President Barack Obama’s signature legislation, a sea of protesters surrounded the Supreme Court building. The polarized audience spoke volumes about the debate: some homemade posters stated “Stand up for Religious Freedom,” and others “Hands Off My Medicare”—women in lab coats waved “Protect the Law” signs—strips of red duct tape, with “LIFE” scrawled on it, covered mouths of anti-abortion advocates—and still others hollered “1-2-3-4, healthcare is what we’re fighting for.”

Finally, the verdict was in. PPACA emerged relatively unscathed with only one significant change—it was now a tax.
Democratic lawmakers viewed the decision as “a victory for people all over this country whose lives will be more secure” and “a breakthrough of sunshine in a long dark night of... assaults on the American middle and working class.” One prominent leader even stated, “Our supreme court has spoken...the matter is settled.”

Yet it was far from settled.

The excitement and energy exhibited by PPACA supporters was matched by the disdain and discontent exhibited by opponents upon learning the court’s decision.

Multiple national polls show a majority of Americans view PPACA unfavorably. Many feel the law will “do serious harm to American families” and is “a profound attack on our liberties.” U.S. business owners speak of passing on costs to employees, slashing work hours, or terminating jobs altogether.

Opposition has also emerged outside of the U.S., with the Vatican openly opposing a portion of the law’s provisions. Catholic leaders objected to the “use of federal funds to pay for elective abortions” and the failure of the act to help “those most in need.”

With all the bickering, though, both sides generally agree on one thing: America’s healthcare system is in crisis. Exploding costs are hindering patients’ abilities to afford medical treatment.

Consider. In 1980, healthcare expenditures were $256 billion, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In 2010, U.S. taxpayers paid nearly $2.6 trillion for healthcare services.

This represents a tenfold increase in a single generation!

A reported 60 percent of bankruptcies in the U.S. are due to expensive medical bills. In effect, as Dr. Steffie Woolhandler told CNN, “Unless you’re a Warren Buffet or Bill Gates, you’re one illness away from financial ruin in this country.”

So-called Obamacare (at first derogatively named after its primary champion then later embraced by Mr. Obama who stated he does care) is an intended solution to the problem. Its aim is to reduce the number of uninsured and fix flaws within existing insurance programs.

Yet, three years after PPACA was passed with provisions to be phased in through the year 2020, the law has been unable to shake the controversy attached to it. Politicians, economists, pundits and those in the medical field have spent years attempting to justify, clarify or attack the nearly 1,000-page document that is the new healthcare law.

Everyone wants to be healthy. These same people, however, cannot agree on how this should be achieved. Clearly healthcare in this country is broken and America is deeply divided on how to fix it. Yet the bridge between the two sides is agreement that something must be done.

The blizzard of controversy over PPACA, however, hides the actual problem.
Healthcare Overhaul?

By and large, U.S. healthcare can be summed up in one word: insurance. It is intended to protect individuals and families against the possibility of a devastating financial loss. Many believe this system is the only way to avoid bankruptcy and the trauma that accompanies an expensive medical bill they cannot afford to pay—in multiple lifetimes.

Yet, even with insurance, a serious illness can lead to financial ruin.

In 2008, a hardworking, middle-class family of three in New Jersey learned this the hard way. The daughter described the day her mother developed a headache as one that “would change everything,” according to The Star-Ledger.

It turned out that the woman had a brain aneurism. In a matter of months, the family went from being a financially secure, two-income couple who owned their own house and had a daughter in college to being bankrupt and having a house in foreclosure. The debilitating injury plunged the couple into $650,000 of debt—and this was after insurance! Their daughter was forced to drop out of college a year from graduation to get a job and help pay bills.

Doing all he could to work two jobs and be there for his incapacitated spouse, the husband lamented, “I wake up every day and hope I can make it through.”

The mother, paralyzed and confined to a nursing home told the newspaper, “I will miss my family.” The lives of this woman, her spouse, and daughter will never be the same.

Paying for such medical hardships has become the strategy in the battle to resolve the healthcare crisis with insurance as the weapon of choice. The individual mandate of the PPACA, which requires the majority of Americans to have insurance by 2014 or pay a penalty, is seen by many as a game changer in the conflict.

The original idea of a mandate is said to be the invention of conservative economists. It was proposed at the time to counter liberals’ call for a single-payer healthcare system similar to the one in Canada. The idea behind the mandate is twofold: (1) to discourage free-riders who do not carry health insurance coverage and therefore rely on the emergency room for medical treatment, which increases costs for those with coverage, and (2) to partially fund the new healthcare law.

The Washington Post summarized the debate over the legality of the individual mandate as follows: “The legal question on the individual mandate centers on whether such a regulation is permissible under the Commerce Clause, which allows the federal government to regulate interstate activity. Health reform opponents contend that the decision not to do something—namely, not buy health insurance—is economic inactivity, rather than activity, and therefore not a behavior the federal government can regulate. Health reform supporters argue that the decision to not purchase health insurance has an economic effect.”

PPACA attempts to take it one step further and increase access to what is called preventive care. Preventive options include screening for all types of cancer, vitamin deficiencies in pregnant women, high cholesterol and blood pressure, sexually transmitted diseases, and obesity. The law also has provisions to provide wellness programs as well as counsel for those who are depressed, obese or smoke cigarettes.

All of these services have their merits. Doctors are trained to diagnose. Yet there is a problem and it speaks to the heart of the healthcare crisis.

Even before PPACA was introduced, the medical industry has been largely focused on treating patients after they are sick. Almost every preventive care option includes looking for a disease or malady. Usually, if a condition is found, it is already too late. If a doctor finds throat cancer—you already have throat cancer. If results show you have chlamydia—you already have chlamydia. If you find you have high cholesterol—you already have high cholesterol. (Granted, these can all be found and more easily treated in early stages, but they can mostly be avoided altogether by maintaining a healthful lifestyle.)

Healthcare in America is predicated on the notion that the overall medical system is fine. Yet even though healthcare went through a massive overhaul, all that really changed was access and affordability to current medical services.

This glaring inefficiency has nothing to do with Mr. Obama’s healthcare plan; it has always been this way. For centuries, healthcare has really been sickcare—addressing health issues after symptoms have presented themselves.

Wrong Focus

Who is to blame for this sickcare mindset? Why does the system spring to life after a problem has surfaced?

Some blame experts, going as far as to say that pharmaceutical companies...
ONLOOKERS WATCHED with despair as giant cases of beer were hauled from supply trucks and thrown onto a curb in New York City. Determined men with hammers and axes attacked beer bottles and kegs as if they contained bubonic plague. Amber liquid spilled into a sewer as a large crowd started to form.

It was January 16, 1920. America’s prohibition of alcohol had just become law.

After years of lobbying, political jockeying, and heated debate, the ratified 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution had banned “the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors.” The fifth largest industry in the country had been deemed illegal.

At the time, The New York Times reported, “One minute after midnight tomorrow night the United States becomes flesh and bone dry under the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Assistant Commissioner [H.M.] Gaylord of the Internal Revenue Department has stated that it would require six years to make the country absolutely ‘dry,’ but to all intents and purposes the Government’s organization for the enforcement of national prohibition is already so well organized that there will be no alcoholic refreshment available for the ordinary wayfarer…after Jan. 16.”

Despite having one year to prepare (the law was ratified a year before taking effect), many Americans were shocked when Prohibition actually happened. Others greeted the change with joy.

Amid continuing debate, one certainty existed: one of the grandest moral and social experiments had begun. Its results revealed how deeply ingrained alcohol is in the fabric of society—and the true extent of the curse of alcohol abuse.

A Movement Is Born

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, alcohol’s harmful effects finally spurred action. A temperance (meaning moderation or self-control) movement began, which was comprised of Protestant evangelists, women and recovering alcoholics, among others. But this initial, much more practical, movement was soon hijacked by those advocating the complete prohibition of alcohol.

The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, founded in the late 1800s, was considered the “moral watchdog” of...
the nation. Yet it should have more accurately been called, “The Women’s Prohibition” or “Abolition” Movement. Those who were part of it considered intoxicating spirits the root cause of society’s problems and believed that human beings had proven they could not just have “one drink.” Alcohol must be banned completely, they argued. Saloons should be shut down.

This group, known as teetotalers, blamed any use of alcohol instead of its abuse. For instance, John Bartholomew Gough, a Prohibition advocate, prod-ded followers, “Snap your burning chains, ye denizens of the pit, and come up sheeted in the fire, dripping with the flames of hell, and with your trumpet tongues testify against the damnation of drink!” (Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition).

When the ban took effect, well-known preacher Billy Sunday told a crowd of 10,000 people gathered to celebrate alcohol’s demise: “The reign of tears is over. The slums will soon be only a memory. We will turn our prisons into factories and our jails into storehouses and corncribs. Men will walk upright now, women will smile, and the children will laugh. Hell will be forever for rent” (ibid.).

While many had high hopes, Prohibition fell far short of its proponents’ dreams.

**Noble Experiment**

The more booze was legislated, the more human nature ran wild. The cure was worse than the ailment itself. A Chicago Tribune article that looked back on this time stated: “Even as [the law] went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on this date, only the naive really thought Prohibition would do away with alcohol consumption.

“Chicago’s gangsters, crooked cops, corrupt politicians and the booze-consuming public all conspired to keep the drinks coming. The combination of flamboyant characters and flagrant law breaking would make the Prohibition era the most notorious in Chicago’s history and leave the city’s reputation with a whopping hangover for decades.”

The article continues, “By 1924, there were 15 breweries in the city going full steam and an estimated 20,000 saloons.” In addition, around 60 percent of Chicago police were reported to be in the business of bootlegging.

In New York, the effect was the same. Some residents drank more alcohol when it was banned than when it was legal.

 Attempting to control widespread drunkenness through legislation only made matters worse. What was seen as
a “noble experiment” had unintended consequences. Good intentions of prohibitionists were upended. Smugglers and bootleggers brought loads of illegal alcohol across lakes, up rivers, or concealed on trucks to bypass the authorities. Often, this “moonshine” contained ingredients that were more harmful than pre-Prohibition liquors.

Washington, D.C., eventually realized that the public’s unquenchable thirst for alcohol made it impossible to ban it. By the early 1930s, legislators admitted something had to be done.

The 18th Amendment was repealed by the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933—which put an end to the nearly 14-year experiment.

Consider the implications: man’s most aggressive attempt to solve alcoholism failed. The United States, one of the wealthiest and most powerful nations on Earth, could not erase its uncontrollable appetite for alcohol through legislation.

In the end, Prohibition’s greatest lesson was that government cannot legislate morality. In the documentary Prohibition, award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns observed this about the disappointing end result of the 18th Amendment: “Prohibition did cut alcohol consumption for a time, but alcoholism, the disease that had inspired it, has never gone away. It destroyed lives in 1820 and 1920, and it destroys them still. No government, anywhere, has found a way to prevent it.”

Other nations tried Prohibition with similar results to those of the United States: “…Historians have shown, Americans were not alone during the first quarter of the 20th century in adopting prohibition on a large scale: other jurisdictions enacting similar measures included Iceland, Finland, Norway, both czarist Russia and the Soviet Union, Canadian provinces, and Canada’s federal government,” The American Journal of Public Health stated. “A majority of New Zealand voters twice approved national prohibition but never got it.”

Prohibition’s widespread failure meant that few solutions remained to cure alcoholism. Today it serves as a constant reminder to governments around the world that regulating, taxing or banning alcohol altogether does not work.

Temperance in History

Part 1 revealed that modern trends in alcohol consumption are worsening. As world conditions grow more dire, millions of people are using it as an escape—with more lives being lost and families destroyed. Educational institutions have not solved the problem. Advertising and awareness campaigns have done little. Alcoholics Anonymous programs have also not been successful on a grand scale.

A clue to the real solution of alcoholism is found in the history of temperance movements in the United States. Such groups recognized alcohol’s bad effects but did not preach its abolition.

Notice what Abraham Lincoln said in an 1842 address to the Springfield Washington Temperance Society: “[Historically] none seemed to think the injury arose from the use of a bad thing, but from the abuse of a very good thing.” Alcohol was not viewed as inherently bad.

These early temperance advocates recognized what was also seen by wise King Solomon of ancient Israel, who described the familiar picture of a drunkard stumbling and injuring himself, always in search of “another drink”:

“What has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?” (Prov. 23:29-35, New King James Version).

Such terrible effects of alcoholism—poverty, divorce, murder, domestic abuse, and sexual assaults—led many in the temperance movement to eventually believe intoxicating drinks should be banned outright. Before the 18th Amendment, the only
choices seemed to be widespread alcohol abuse or an absolute ban. In an instance of human nature being prone to extremes, the quiet voices of moderation were drowned out by the hubbub of “Prohibition!”

Today, as with decades ago, these moderate voices have been forgotten. In this anything-goes society, self-control has been tossed aside. And with Prohibition having failed, mankind’s collective mindset now seems to be one of diving ever deeper into the abyss of alcohol abuse.

Anti-alcohol proponents of the past used the ultimate source to back up their beliefs—the Bible. Certain denominations of Christendom still do this. For instance, the Southern Baptist Convention’s “Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission” states, “Alcohol is treated in the Bible somewhat like slavery and polygamy, which, though not universally condemned, were undermined and ultimately doomed by the high moral principles set forth in the Scriptures. Similarly, while total abstinence from wine with its relatively low alcohol content was not demanded in Bible times, both general Bible principles and specific Bible teachings encourage today’s Christians to abstain from this dangerous drug…Additionally, the Bible encourages Christians, as salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16), to deliver society from alcohol’s devastating personal and social effects.

Yet is this what the Bible really says? Is drinking beer, wine and liquor just a sinful pleasure—or can it be healthful and life-improving?

A Blessing

God’s Word does discuss alcohol throughout the Old and New Testaments, but as with many subjects in this Book, most have preconceived ideas about its teachings. Nowhere in the Bible does God condemn drinking wine—as long as it is not abused. He encourages the moderate and responsible consumption of alcohol. It was designed by Him to be a blessing—not a curse. Here are just a few examples:

Deuteronomy 7:12-13: “...if you hearken to these judgments [God’s Law], and keep, and do them...the LORD your God shall keep unto you the covenant...and He will love you, and bless you...He will also bless the fruit of your womb, and the fruit of your land, your corn, and your wine, and your oil.”

Proverbs 3:9-10: “Honor the LORD with your substance...so shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine.”

During the observance of God’s commanded seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, His people are instructed to use “money for whatsoever your soul lusts after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink...and you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you, and your household” (Deut. 14:26).

While King Solomon described alcohol’s negative effects, he also said that in moderation it could be beneficial. He wrote in Ecclesiastes, “A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry...” (10:19).

In Genesis 14:18, Melchizedek, King of Salem, served wine to Abraham. Hebrews 7:2-3 states that Melchizedek was “King of peace; without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abides a priest continually.” This person was none other than Jesus Christ! He brought Abraham wine because God approves of the modest use of alcohol.

Additional scriptures could be cited to show God’s servants using alcohol in a responsible way and with God’s approval. In fact, moderate use has numerous physical and social benefits. The apostle Paul wrote, “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your often infirmities” (I Tim. 5:23). Studies have shown that wine does aid digestion as well as lowers the risk of heart disease. Both wine and beer can be rich in minerals and antioxidants.

While alcohol’s physical benefits continue to be discovered, the emotional and social benefits have been known for millennia, including stress reduction and increased happiness.

What about the teachings of Jesus Christ? Did He instruct His followers to cast off the chains of alcohol and embrace a purer, chaste lifestyle? Did Jesus drink alcohol?

Christ’s Example

Consider that the first recorded miracle by Jesus was to change water into wine (John 2:1-12). Anti-alcohol advocates should note that this miracle was not the other way around! Jesus obviously approved of drinking wine since this miracle provided alcohol for wedding attendees. The “governor” at the wedding even commented that it was “good wine” (vs. 10). Also realize that if this had merely been grape juice, as some claim, he would not have said, “but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Better wine would normally be consumed at the start of a feast, with inferior or drinks saved for later when the taste was not as important. This principle would not apply to grape juice.

Jesus Christ also drank wine with His disciples during the Passover meal before He was crucified. Notice: “He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer...And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine [wine], until the kingdom of God shall come” (Luke 22:15, 17-18).

If wine were intrinsically wrong, why would Christ not have taken this opportunity to condemn it instead of drinking it with His disciples? God wants people to enjoy alcohol, but to do it wisely. Drinking is not wrong or sinful—but abusing it is! The bottle is not the problem—it is the person holding the bottle!

As with food, money or anything that has the potential for misuse, moderation is the Bible standard for all true Christians. Paul wrote, “Everyone that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things” (I Cor. 9:25), and “Let your moderation be known unto all men” (Phil. 4:5).

The Bible is plain about how true Christians are to approach alcohol.
God prescribes neither abstinence nor overuse of it. But will humanity as a whole ever learn to use alcohol the right way?

Global “Temperance Movement”

A clue to the coming worldwide solution to alcoholism is in the account of Christ’s final Passover. Recall He said, “I will not drink of the fruit of the vine [wine], until the kingdom of God shall come.” This “kingdom of God” is not on Earth today as so many mistakenly believe. Neither is it “in the hearts of men.” In fact, it is a world-ruling supergovernment soon to be established over all nations. Upon Christ’s Second Coming, He will reign supreme over all peoples, and God’s Way of peace, happiness, joy and abundance will be ushered in for all.

Numerous scriptures detail this future divine world government. Here is just one from the prophet Isaiah: “It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house [another term for kingdom of God] shall be established in the top of the mountains [representing other nations], and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (2:2-3). One aspect of God’s way of life that will be taught to all nations is the proper use of alcohol.

Return to an earlier quote from Mr. Burns: “…alcoholism…has never gone away. It destroyed lives in 1820 and 1920, and it destroys them still. No government, anywhere, has found a way to prevent it.”

God’s Word shows that a new, divine SUPREGOVERNMENT is coming that will prevent and abolish for all time the curse of alcoholism!

But how?

First, a wonderful environment will be created for all. The pain, hardship and sorrow that so many millions use alcohol to escape from will no longer be a reality. The world will be a peaceful and productive place. (To learn more about God’s coming kingdom, and the dramatic changes that will occur once it is in place, read David C. Pack’s inspiring and exciting book Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View! available at reg.org/tww.)

In this new world, people will be given the tools to change their behavior along with the strength to say no to a second, third or fourth drink. This will happen once God’s Spirit, which will help people have self-control, is given. Notice Acts 2:17: “It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh…” One of the fruits of this Spirit is “temperance” or self-control (Gal. 5:23).

God’s Spirit is also described as the spirit of “power…and of a sound mind.” Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament defines “sound mind” as “self-control” and “moderation.”

This “power” will help people to use alcohol in the right way. Proper habits will be taught in every nation to all peoples, beginning from early childhood.

No more will drunken husbands beat their wives and children after a long night of drinking. No more date rape due to binge drinking. No more young women’s lives being cut short from alcohol poisoning. Driving drunk will be a thing of the past.

Human beings will finally be able to control themselves and not overdrink. They will be able to build character to do what is RIGHT—not what is WRONG. All will be taught the proper use of alcohol—in moderation.

A real, global temperance movement will be implemented—and this time it will work! □

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**NORTH KOREA**

Continued from page 6

sought sponsorship for their cause. A well-armed North Korea provides a potentially attractive option, particularly for weapons procurement and military training. The benefit of such a relationship for North Korea would be the ability to obtain large quantities of cheap oil, which it desperately needs.

China: Since its founding, North Korea has had close ties with the Chinese government, its main supplier of food and fuel. China has an interest in building a stable North Korea, chiefly because of the threat of millions of refugees streaming over its border in search of food.

However, relations between the two countries have cooled in recent years due to North Korea’s volatile behavior. In an unexpected move, China completely halted its crude oil exports to the country in response to its illegal nuclear test in February.

With its recent posturing, the question could be asked: will Beijing be able to persuade North Korea to cooperate with the world community as it continues to advance its nuclear program?

According to Der Speigel, the answer is yes.

“…German commentators say that sanctions and other existing measures are not doing much to deter North Korea from its nuclear ambitions, and suggest taking a different approach.

“The center-left Suddeutsche Zeitung writes:

“‘The country has actually become rather predictable in its provocations, which above all serve one goal: to demonstrate the power of the ruling Kim clan to the world. North Korea’s regime does not act unpredictably. It acts irresponsibly.’

“‘As predictable as [a particular] nuclear test was, the reaction was also to be expected. Governments around the world are indignant, including the country’s friends in Beijing. The US is demanding a sharpening of existing sanctions in the UN Security Council, which further condemned North Korea in a new resolution. After some hesitation China also approved it. Fundamentally the response to the
latest nuclear test was not different from the second one. In reality the test has changed little regarding the region’s status quo and geo-strategy with regards to the US.’

“Still the tests are highly dangerous. They show that the young Kim is prepared to take big risks…And the nuclear program has another dark side of proliferation because North Korea is a [weapons] exporter…What would prevent a player such as the dictator in Pyongyang from selling knowledge and even material to Iran or other nations?”

“In reality there is no satisfactory answer to this question. The only ones with a chance of success of finding an answer are the Chinese.”

“Meanwhile, Chinese calculations appear to be shifting. A government newspaper in Beijing spoke of the “high price” that North Korea will pay in the case of nuclear tests. One does not know how the government in Pyongyang will actually react to pressure from Beijing. But now is the time to try it out. The Chinese must take responsibility for its irresponsible neighbor. And they must do it now.”’

A Los Angeles Times article titled, “North Korea, China’s Problem Child,” concurred.

“Although China has new leadership that may be reevaluating its approach to its troublesome neighbor, an unusual amalgam of factors—historical, ideological, strategic and economic—make North Korea something of a sacred cow in Chinese public discourse.

“North Korea is a sensitive subject. It used to be impossible to write anything negative about it,” said Zhan Jiang, a journalism professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University. He said the taboo is gradually lifting. ‘Even the most hard-core leftists are becoming less supportive of North Korea. It is really hard to call them brother when they give you so much trouble.’

“In a speech…at an international forum, newly installed Chinese President Xi Jinping condemned countries that ‘throw a region and even the whole world into chaos for selfish gains,’ but he did not specifically mention North Korea.

“The favorable opinion of the Chinese public toward Pyongyang is fading,’ the Communist Party-affiliated newspaper Global Times cautiously wrote in an editorial…It warned that North Korea’s ‘latest provocation is further damaging its reputation and exhausting its future ability to use deterrence strategies.’

“It is like discussing a child who is good, but is behaving rottenly,” said John Park of Harvard University’s Belfer Center, describing China’s attitudes toward North Korea.

“North Korea owes its continued existence to China, which intervened on its behalf in the 1950-53 Korean War and today supplies it with most of its fuel oil and such consumer products as umbrellas and shampoo.

“Although the current Chinese leaders came of age after the war, several of them have close Korean ties.”

“The Korean War is part of the Chinese identity. It was really the first time after the Opium War that China stood up and successfully stopped the West,” said John Delury, a Chinese studies professor teaching at Seoul’s Yonsei University.”

“But some Chinese still admire North Korea’s undiluted brand of communism.

“It is the pure land for some people who feel China’s getting soft,” said Adam Cathcart, a lecturer at Queen’s University Belfast, who writes a blog about Chinese-North Korean relations. ‘Between China and North Korea, there is a lot of cultural compatibility…You see the patriotic operas, the waving of the red handkerchiefs.’”

Future Situation

Escalating threats have done much to inspire rumors of war. Conflict seems inevitable.

Intelligence specialists, military experts, and government leaders monitor and try to understand this and other geopolitical situations. They analyze possible scenarios and posit questions in an effort to figure out the answers in advance.

Each analyst has his own particular lens through which he views a scenario. For example, if Seoul becomes a nuclear power, what does that mean for a region whose history is wrought with territorial disputes? How would America, which is barely staying afloat and cutting back on its own military expenditures, be able to shoulder another conflict? Would North Korea’s actions give rise to Japanese nationalism and, as many worry, the emergence of Japan as a military and strategic counterweight? Where does China fit into the picture?

While all possible situations are discussed, no human being can precisely predict the decisions a rogue nation will make or how the outcome will affect the world’s future.

Among these perspectives, though, one is dismissed: the Bible. It is the one source that lays out—in advance!—the future. Viewed through the lens of this Book, the geopolitical future of the Far East becomes crystal clear.

The Bible explains that three power blocs will soon vie for world influence. Two are symbolically known as the “king of the north” and the “king of the south” (Dan. 11). A third power is described in the New Testament book of Revelation as “the kings of the east” (16:12).

A confederation of Asian nations, which will include North Korea but likely be led by Russia and China, will emerge. This is described in Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack’s book The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out, available for online reading and download at rcg.org/voicepu.

“Many sense that the differences between and within nations are intensifying and are threatening to spin out of control. New and different power blocs are forming, with traditional alliances wavering, waning or disappearing.”

This is already taking place, with certain larger nations already playing a more central role on the world scene.

Pay attention as these countries, although seemingly separate now, work together to form a power bloc that will affect events—during your lifetime!—in a way that was foretold long ago.
On this weekly program, David C. Pack analyzes world news and explains Bible prophecy—removing all mystery from current events and detailing biblical truths. Answering life’s greatest questions straight from the Bible, he explains how overwhelming global problems will finally be solved.

Tune in to The World to Come with David C. Pack to learn the plain truth answers addressing the causes behind the destructive effects reflected in today’s headlines and hear the good news of the only real solution—now just over the horizon!
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<td>305</td>
<td>3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CW-KJOS</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CW-KJUD-DT2**</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>3:30 a.m. CT</td>
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Television logos and names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.
Montrose — CW-KJCT-DT3**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:30 a.m. MT
Pueblo — ION-Cable, Sunday, 4:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:30 a.m. MT

CONNECTICUT
Hartford — ION-WHXP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
New Haven — ION-WHXP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Washington — ION-WXWP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

FLORIDA
Daytona Beach — ION-WOPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Fort Lauderdale — ION-WPXM, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Fort Myers — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Fort Pierce — ION-WPXP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Gainesville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Jacksonville — ION-WPXC, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Melbourne — ION-WOPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Miami — ION-WPXM, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Naples — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Orlando — ION-WOPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

GEORGIA
Albany — CW-WSWG-DT3**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Atlanta — ION-WPXA, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Augusta — CW-WAGT-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
 Ion-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Columbus — CW-WLZT-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Macon — CW-WBNN**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Savannah — CW-WGSA-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

HAWAII
Honolulu — ION-KPXL, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. HT

IDAHO
Boise — CW-KYU-TV/KBOI-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:30 a.m. MT
Idaho Falls — CW-KIFI-DT3**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. MT
Pocatello — CW-KJST-DT3**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. MT

ILLINOIS
Bloomington — CW-WWHO-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Champaign — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Chicago — ION-WPXC, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
Decatur — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Moline — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Mount Vernon — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Peoria — CW-WHOI-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Quincy — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
Rock Island — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Rockford — CW-WREX-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Springfield — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

IOWA
Ames — ION-KFPP, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Cedar Rapids — ION-KXPR, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Davenport — ION-WPXL, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Dubuque — ION-KXPR, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Keokuk — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
Mason City — CW-KTTC-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Quincy — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Ottumwa — CW-KWOT, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Sioux City — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WAlterloo — ION-KPXR, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

KANSAS
Hutchinson — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Pittsburg — CW-KSKF, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Topeka — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

KENTUCKY
Bowling Green — CW-WBKO-DT3**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
LEXINGTON — ION-WUPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Louisville — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Paducah — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

LOUISIANA
Alexandria — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Baton Rouge — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Lafayette — CW-WRTC-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Lake Charles — CW-KVHP-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Monroe — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
New Orleans — ION-WXPL, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT
Shreveport — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 2:30 a.m. CT

MAINE
Auburn — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Bangor — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, GTV = Grace TV, ION = ION Television, JOY = Joytv11, WORD = The Word Network

** Indicates this station may pre-empt The Real Truth to come with local broadcasting.
Portland — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Tuesday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Presque Isle — CW-WBPO, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

MARYLAND
Baltimore — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Hagerstown — WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Salisbury — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston — ION-WBXP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Holyoke — CW-WBQT, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
New Bedford — ION-WPXQ, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Springfield — CW-WBQT, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

MICHIGAN
Alpena — CW-WBAE, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Battle Creek — ION-WZPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Bay City — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Cadillac — CW-WBVC, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Detroit — ION-WPXQ, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Flint — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

MINNESOTA
Austin — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Duluth — CW-KDLH-DT2**, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Manitou — CW-KWYE, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Minneapolis — ION-KPMX, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

MISSOURI
Cape Girardeau — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Columbia — CW-KOMU-DT3*, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Hannibal — ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

MISSISSIPPI
Biloxi — CW-WBGP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Gulfport — CW-WBGP, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

NEBRASKA
Hastings — CW-KWBL, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Kearney — CW-KWBL, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT
Lincoln — CW-KWBL, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
ION-Cable, Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT

NEVADA
Las Vegas — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
Reno — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 12:30 a.m. PT

NEW HAMPSTEAD
Manchester — ION-WBPX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

NEW MEXICO
Santa Fe — WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:30 a.m. MT

NEW YORK
Albany — ION-WYX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Binghamton — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Buffalo — ION-WPJX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
Elmira — ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

NEW YORK — ION-WPXN, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

New York City — ION-WPXX, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

NEW JERSEY
MAY 2013
ION-Cable, Sunday, 4:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 1:30 a.m. MT

ION-Cable, Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable, Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET
<table>
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<tr>
<th>NORTH CAROLINA</th>
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| Asheville —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Charlotte —  
TV64-WAXN,  
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. ET |
| Greensboro —  
ION-WGXP,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Wilmington —  
ION-Cable,  
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET |
| LEXINGTON —  
ION-Cable,  
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET |
| NORTH DAKOTA |
| Bismarck —  
CW-KWKM,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT |
| Dickinson —  
ION-WKWN,  
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT |
| Minot —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. CT |

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<th>OHIO</th>
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| Akron —  
ION-WVPX,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Canton —  
WORD-Cable,  
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET |
| Cleveland —  
ION-WVPM,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Columbus —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Dayton —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Lima —  
CW-WBOH,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Steubenville —  
CW-WBWO,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |

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<th>PENNSYLVANIA</th>
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| Altoona —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Erie —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Erie —  
MyTV-WLH,  
Wednesday, 6:00 a.m. ET |
| Harrisburg —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Lebanon —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SOUTH CAROLINA</th>
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| Charleston —  
CW-WCEO-DT2*,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Columbia —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |
| Greenville —  
ION-Cable,  
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET |

** Indicates this station may pre-empt The World to Come with local broadcasting. 
Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, GTV = Grace TV, ION = ION Television, JOY = Joytv11, WORD = The Word Network
## CANADIAN STATIONS – CABLE*

### ALBERTA
- Calgary
  - GTV-TELUS: Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Camrose
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Edmonton
  - GTV-TELUS: Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Fort McMurray
  - GTV-TELUS, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Lethbridge
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Medicine Hat
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Red Deer
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

### BRITISH COLUMBIA
- Barriere
  - GTV-RAFTVIEW, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
- Big White
  - GTV-Omega, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
- Campbell River
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
- Chilliwack
  - GTV-TELUS: Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
- Comox
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
- Dawson Creek
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Fort St. John
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Gold River
  - GTV-Conoma, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
- Kamloops
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
- Kelowna
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
- Lower Mainland
  - GTV-TELUS, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
- Penticton
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

### MANITOBA
- Brandon
  - JOY-MTS, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
  - Portage la Prairie
    - JOY-MTS, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
  - Steinbach
    - JOY-MTS, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
  - Thompson
    - JOY-MTS, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
- Winnipeg
  - GTV-MTS: Shaw Cable, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. CT
  - JOY-MTS, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

### NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
- Conception Bay South
  - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - JOY-Rogers, Sunday, 12:00 a.m. NT
- Corner Brook
  - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - JOY-Rogers, Sunday, 12:00 a.m. NT
- Gander
  - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - Grand Falls-Windsor
    - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - Mount Pearl
    - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - St. John’s
    - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT
  - St. John’s
    - GTV-Rogers, Sunday, 12:30 a.m. NT

### NATIVE AMERICAN STATIONS
- Deer River
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Fort St. John
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. MT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
- Revelstoke
  - GTV-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. PT
  - JOY-Shaw Cable, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

### THE REAL TRUTH

** Indicates this station may pre-empt The World to Come with local broadcasting.

* Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, GTV = Grace TV, ION = ION Television, JOY = Joytv11, WORD = The Word Network
Pollution and mismanagement are straining the ecosystems of the world’s ocean and freshwater bodies.

**OFF THE SHORE** of every continent, swaths of bacteria rob oxygen from thousands of miles of ocean and cause sea life to flee or die.

Pollutants disrupt the ecological balance of the world’s waterways and create massive ocean and lake “dead zones” where animals cannot survive.

The most well-known of these is in the Gulf of Mexico where fertilizers and other wastes devastate marine equilibrium. During the worst seasons, much of the Gulf, from the Mississippi River to the border of Mexico, is robbed of oxygen, which destroys life in the area.

Researchers report that the problem continues to worsen and many fear the damage may be permanent.

**Chemical Destruction**

Many of the chemicals and fertilizers dumped into rivers are high in phosphorus and nitrogen. Both of these elements are key ingredients in the growth of certain algae, particularly phytoplankton. These algae are natural stabilizers that help balance the rivers and seas. By feeding on these nutrients and other chemicals, the algae preserve the aquatic environment for other creatures.

But too much of these chemicals can be damaging. Algae proliferate with the increase in phosphorus and nitrogen from the billions of tons of fertilizer and waste washed off the land and into the waterways. This produces what is called an algae bloom. As the bacteria feed on the algae, thousands of miles of oceans and lakes become hypoxic—low in oxygen.

In addition to abundant phosphorus and nitrogen, the growth of algae is stimulated by exposure to sunlight. This is one of the major reasons colonies of algae are appearing where rivers flow into oceans—where they can receive plenty of sunlight over a wide area.

The overly abundant algae eventually die and drop to the bottom of the bodies of water where the cleanup then continues through bacteria. Bacteria break down and digest algae, which releases carbon dioxide and consumes large quantities of oxygen.

In the end, animal life either suffocates or migrates to escape the rolling cloud of dead water.

**Global Problem**

Dead zones worldwide have increased exponentially, according to the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Despite conservation efforts, more than 400 systems have been affected and more than 150,000 square miles devastated. Many of these areas are subject to a seasonal ebb and flow. During the summer, additional rain spreads the chemicals and increased sunlight provides ideal conditions for algae to blossom. In some places, less-active currents and constructed dams
for irrigation further exacerbate the problem by restricting the ability of water to circulate and replace depleted oxygen.

Billions of fish were killed in 2012 around the globe—with 55 million deaths in China alone (Xinhua). In Puget Sound in northwest Washington, the algae bloom of June 2012 was described as “unprecedented” by local authorities.

Besides creating this imbalance of oxygen exchange, certain algae also produce powerful toxins that can cause illness and death in animals and humans. One particular variation, blue-green algae, is so toxic that even recreational contact, such as swimming, can cause adverse health effects.

Lake Tai of China was notorious for its 2007 blue-green algae bloom that contaminated “the drinking water for millions of people and [sparked] panic-buying of bottled water...” Prices skyrocketed from $1 for a two-gallon bottle to over $6 (The Associated Press).

Even after a multibillion-dollar cleanup, Reuters reported, much of the water in the country remains unsafe to drink and China’s “environment ministry said 43 percent of the locations it was monitoring in 2011 contained water that was not even fit for human contact.”

Another blue-green algae bloom in Lake Erie was “so vast that in 2011 it covered a sixth of its waters, contributing to an expanding dead zone on its bottom, reducing fish populations, fouling beaches and crippling a tourism industry that generates more than $10 billion in revenue annually,” according to an article in The New York Times.

“It is perhaps the greatest peril the lake has faced since the 1960s when relentless and unregulated dumping of sewage and industrial pollutants spawned similar algae blooms and earned it the nickname ‘North America’s Dead Sea.’ Erie recovered then, thanks to a multibillion-dollar cleanup by the United States and Canada that became a legendary environmental success story.

“But while the sewage and pollutants are vastly reduced, the blooms have returned, bigger than ever.”

Later the article stated, “That [2011] algae bloom, mostly poisonous blue-green algae called Microcystis, sprawled nearly 120 miles, from Toledo to past Cleveland. It produced lake-water concentrations of microcystin, a liver toxin, that were 1,200 times World Health Organization limits, tainting the drinking water for 2.8 million consumers.”

Other bodies of water throughout North America experience similar problems, including Lake Winnipeg, one of the largest lakes in Canada.

The algae blooms in the Gulf of Mexico pose an even greater threat to humans. When cells of the plankton are ruptured by waves, the toxins can become airborne and produce asthma-like symptoms. In addition, a study by scientists from the North Carolina State University and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showed that this algae, known as Karenia brevis, becomes two to seven times more toxic when phosphorus levels are low.

While occasional algae blooms occurred naturally in times past, the increase and severity today is considered to be a direct effect of man’s pollution.

Interdependent Life

Nothing on Earth happens in a vacuum. As one of the planet’s delicate ecosystems becomes destabilized, the effects are felt in other ecological communities around the world. The ability of various interrelated plant and sea life to withstand repeated widespread disruption is unknown. However, the destruction is reaching a threshold where the damage may become irreversible and wipe out entire ecosystems.

“An international panel of marine scientists has warned that the world’s oceans are at risk of entering a phase of extinction of marine species unprecedented in human history,” according to a University of Oxford news release.

“After examining evidence on the impact of factors such as pollution,
The economic impact of depopulating aquatic life is being felt in many areas around the world. In February, tens of thousands of herring (valued at $9.8 million) were found dead in a fjord in Iceland due to low oxygen levels. Researchers in the area said that one whole season’s worth of herring has been lost within two months.

As the population continues to increase, the basic principle of supply and demand shows that humanity’s pattern of environmental abuse cannot last much longer.

**Typical Reactions**

For many, warnings about mankind destroying the planet seem all too familiar: “Man’s overindulgence is damaging the environment” and “The damage may be catastrophic.” But the typical reaction is: None of it will not come from where it is... manatees face a new killer. It’s red tide, a natural algae bloom that has released microscopic toxins that cling to vegetation the manatees eat. Those toxins get into the manatee’s nervous system and paralyze them. If they can’t come up for air every few minutes, they drown.

“This year alone, red tide has killed 181 manatees, a record,” CBS News reported.

Anyway, the group agreed that ocean ecosystems may be unable to recover after being constantly bombarded with multiple attacks.”

“The panel concluded that the combination of stresses the ocean is exposed to is creating the conditions associated with every previous major extinction of species in Earth’s history,” the report continues. “The speed and rate of degeneration in the oceans is far faster than anyone predicted and the damage being done worse than anticipated. The decline in reef-forming corals could, scientists believe, be the first sign of a globally-significant extinction.”

Professor Alex Rogers of Oxford University’s Department of Zoology and scientific director of the International Programme on the State of the Oceans “commented that even if the destruction was limited to the extinction of coral reef ecosystems, something likely to occur by the end of this century, this would constitute in itself a ‘mass extinction’ event because of the estimated nine million species associated with coral reefs.”

Already in 2013, one marine species is facing dire circumstances. Manatees have been threatened by human development for decades, with fewer than 5,000 in existence. The primary culprit had been boat propellers injuring them, but along the coast of Florida, “…manatees face a new killer. It’s red tide, a natural algae bloom that has released microscopic toxins that cling to vegetation the manatees eat. Those toxins get into the manatee’s nervous system and paralyze them. If they can’t come up for air every few minutes, they drown.

“This year alone, red tide has killed 181 manatees, a record,” CBS News reported.

The huge costs suggest that treatment, rather than prevention, remains the preferred solution, with industrial growth paramount and pollution regarded as just another economic opportunity…” (Reuters).

Reports have indicated that the dead zone issue is being exacerbated by the turn to ethanol, which comes from corn. The increased production of corn is leading to more runoff into the world’s waterways. While trying to help in one area, mankind is ruining another.

It becomes ever more obvious that man is damaging the world around him. If it is not the seas, it is the skies; if it is not the skies, it is the land; if it is not the land, even space is being polluted. Just like any home or vehicle subject to continual abuse, the environment will eventually wear out and no longer function correctly. Together, these things point to a major problem—a problem that no one has been able to solve.

**Insoluble?**

There are, and will continue to be, many quick-fix remedies that will look good, yet fail to deliver. However, there is a solution and it will not come from where you might think.

To learn more, read the thorough, free book *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* available online at rcg.org/mwcia. It shows the way to resolve man’s ever-increasing issues and provides hope for the coming years!
It takes faith in Christ for the Christian to be able to keep God’s Law. Recall Christ said that He could of His own self do nothing and that the Father did the works in Him. Jesus kept the Law perfectly and a Christian “…follow[s] His steps” (I Pet. 2:21).

Christ Taught Law-keeping

With God’s help, you will be able to keep the Commandments. Do not ever allow anyone to tell you otherwise.

My book The Ten Commandments — “Nailed to the Cross” or Required for Salvation? answers every question you have about obedience to God.

Jesus never taught that people should just “believe on Him” to receive salvation. When a young rich man asked Him what he must do to have “eternal life”—to receive salvation—Jesus answered, “If you will enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matt. 19:17).

Hearing this, the disciples were shocked. They did not understand how this was possible and asked, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus answered, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (vs. 25-26). You cannot keep God’s Law, but CHRIST IN YOU CAN—if you have true, living faith!

God gives His Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32). Obedience is preceded by repentance and baptism, with the Holy Spirit being given at this point, upon one’s repentance of breaking God’s Law. (Read Acts 2:38.)

Jesus said, “…in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men” (Mark 7:7-8). Did you realize it is possible to worship Christ in vain—that it is possible to think about Him, talk about Him, and even use His name often and still do all of this IN VAIN?

Notice: “Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven [“of,” not “in,” heaven]; but He that does the will of My Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Remember, it is the DOERS of the law that will be justified.

“Fight of Faith”

Paul told Timothy, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life…” (I Tim. 6:12). Faith is more than a battle. It is a war that all Christians wage throughout their lives! And it is not an easy war won in a single battle. It involves many battles.

The apostle Jude tells Christians, “…you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The next verse warns of “certain men” who “crept in unawares” into the early Church, diluting it with false teachings, with the goal of destroying the Church’s foundation—that of holding to the true doctrines of the Bible. The meaning of real faith also became corrupted in the minds of many at that time. Sadly, history shows people have always been willing to let deceivers reduce Christianity to little more than “just believing.”

Do not fall for this!

We have discussed how Christians must keep God’s Law while they are at the same time justified by the faith OF Christ. The book of Revelation

The Ten Commandments—Done Away?

Order your free booklet at rcg.org/syottc to learn why YOU should keep this living, active, spiritual Law of God!
records, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (14:12).

There is a reason this verse joins patience, commandment-keeping, and Jesus Christ’s faith. They are inseparable. Christians are able to keep the commandments, but only through the faith of Jesus. It takes patience to do this throughout a lifetime. Yet this is exactly what true Christians—saints—must continually do.

“Living by Faith”

There is an Old Testament verse that is so important it appears twice more in the New Testament. Habakkuk 2:4 says, “…the just shall live by his faith.” This is a powerful statement about faith as a WAY OF LIFE! It is the faith of each person (notice the singular word “his”) that guides individuals through life. This verse is cited to show God has always taught that His true servants must have real faith. Faith has never been merely a New Testament requirement for salvation. In fact, some of the greatest examples of faith are found throughout the Old Testament. Actually, every example found in the “faith chapter” of Hebrews 11 lived in Old Testament times. This did not keep “faith chapter” of Hebrews 11 lived in

Actually, every example found in the Old Testament, of the greatest examples of faith are requirement for salvation. In fact, some of the greatest examples of faith are found throughout the Old Testament. Actually, every example found in the “faith chapter” of Hebrews 11 lived in Old Testament times. This did not keep them from being “witnesses” (12:1) to the awesome power of properly understood faith.

Two verses repeat Habakkuk almost verbatim: “The just shall live by faith” (Heb. 10:38; Rom. 1:17). The definition of faith follows immediately on the heels of Hebrews 10:38. Again, God could not require people to live by faith and then not tell them what it is! In the very same verse, God continues, “…but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

Where faith is lacking, God is not pleased!

Faith is not merely something you exercise during life’s moments of crisis. It is not just something to consider when “things aren’t going well.” In other words, faith is not just for the “bad times”—it is full time! Grasp this vital point. Faith is completely inseparable from the entire spiritual understanding through which you are to confront every issue you face in the Christian walk (II Cor. 5:7).

All people on Earth will be sorely tested in the years just ahead. Make no mistake! Without real faith no one will survive the terrible calamities foretold to occur just prior to Jesus’ soon-coming Return. Operating on human steam or ingenuity will not be sufficient to survive the great crisis coming at the close of this age! Complete faith in all of God’s promises will be required—and needed.

What Does the True Christ Expect?

Let’s ask: what does the true Christ expect of His followers?

He commanded, “Repent…and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). The Bible adds, “God…commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30)—meaning to change their thoughts, attitudes, words and actions, and to live the only way He always intended. God is calling but a select few into the understanding of His truth, to live His way of life.

It takes faith to change, to reject the pulls of the flesh, the devil and society, and permit Christ to live in you through His Spirit. It means growing from human faith to the faith of Christ, to come under Jesus’ authority, and to submit to His government, administered in His Church.

Being called into the way of true Christianity means you must permit God to build His holy, righteous, perfect character within you—a lifelong process involving time, trials, tests and lessons. You must yield yourself as clay to the Master Potter, and put your will aside. You must voluntarily choose to, as Jesus said, “enter you in at the strait gate [the difficult gate]: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it [the Greek means, are finding it, present progressive]” (Matt. 7:13-14).

With God’s Way come endless benefits for faithful obedience. This means: “…we [have] confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (I John 3:21-22).

Jesus set the example, the pattern for overcoming sin and focusing one’s life on being born into the kingdom of God.

There are two opposing ways of life. One is described as the way of “give,” the other of “get.” One of the greatest teachings of Jesus is, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Of course, He set the ultimate example by giving Himself for mankind. The give way for Christians begins with recognizing they belong to God as “living sacrifices.”

Being called also means being willing to “…endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”—to untangle and disengage “himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier” (II Tim. 2:3-4). It means a life of waging spiritual warfare—but also of enjoying unbounded happiness at the same time!

The way of true Christianity is infinitely more than mere talk—it requires action. It brings with it security, peace of mind, excitement, thrilling news of God’s Work, and a host of blessings—including the greatest one: hearing Jesus say upon His Return, “Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:21). In other words, receive rulership under the glorified Christ in His kingdom.

God’s is a way leading to inheritance of “all things” as “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17), who is called “the firstborn among many brethren” (vs. 29).

But the path to God’s kingdom is not easy. Building character is the only thing one can carry into eternal life, for “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 15:50).

Personal Example

It will not be easy to follow and practice God’s truths and believe His promises. Over 40 years of doing this
have taught me this lesson—deeply! God will test your faith—and the devil will tempt you to abandon it. Have no doubt of this. I have also learned that God will always deliver, no matter how dark circumstances seem.

I grew up in a comfortable home. Then God called me at age 17 and the real trials began. By age 23, I was married and had an infant son of less than four months old. My wife had nearly died in childbirth and had lost her milk because of it. She could not nurse our son. During this brief period, I did not have a full-time job in the ministry. I had lost my salary. I was unemployed and we were struggling.

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I will never forget one particular moment. We were, quite literally, down to our last dime. There was almost no gas in the car or food in the house. Our baby was crying and we had nothing to feed him. I had a single dime in my pocket. I pulled it out and held it up to the light over our kitchen table. My wife and I determined we would trust God to provide for us.

He did!

That evening (I remember it was a Thursday night), my wife was asked to teach two flute lessons and was paid seven dollars. She immediately bought milk for the baby. I received a job the next morning (Friday), and my boss offered to advance me a full paycheck the first day I arrived. God had answered our prayers and left us with a faith-building experience that we never forgot. I have recalled it often when times are difficult, and I still draw strength from God’s intervention when I most needed it—and numerous other similar interventions in my life!

Every day has not been “sunny.” I have had to face many obstacles in my over 40 years in the ministry. This very Work is a work of faith. God never fails to provide for our needs. The hindrance of accusers, slanderers, liars and outright enemies has, at times, been an almost daily way of life for us. God has never failed His Work.

In the end, He always defeats those who seek to overthrow His purpose. He has always protected and delivered our staff through “thick and thin.” I am confidently assured—I have faith—He will continue to do this. You can also develop confident assurance—faith—that God will always deliver you.

Typically, people think of faith as something they work up or express toward God so that He will do something for them. Actually, the real case is often exactly the opposite! Many times, faith is something God gives to a person so he will have the strength to do something for Him—usually to fulfill His overall purpose. I have seen this in my life over and over again.

If you ask God, He will do the same for you. Sometimes you must exercise the fruit of faith—and sometimes you may need to ask for the gift of faith in order to face the most severe trials or most difficult decisions in your life.

The Bible lists nine separate fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and nine different gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:1, 7-10). Faith is the only quality of spiritual character mentioned in both lists. It is both a fruit and a gift of the Spirit. God often chooses to grant extra faith to certain people—as a gift—because in some way it is necessary in the fulfillment of His purpose.

Remember, even the very Spirit of God is given to us (Acts 2:38). The opportunity to learn to exercise the fruit of faith also starts with a gift—the faith-containing Holy Spirit. God will give you the very same faith that was once in Jesus Christ.

“Where Is Your Faith?”

Matthew and Luke record an important parallel account regarding faith. Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a tremendous storm arose. The disciples became terribly frightened while Jesus was asleep. This account reflects the dramatic difference between the faith that Jesus had and the fear that governs the thinking of most human beings. Notice the account records that they “awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish” (Matt. 8:25). The disciples thought they were about to die. They lacked even basic human confidence that, with Christ in the boat, this could not happen.

Jesus’ response is instructive for all today. He asked two questions—with one in each gospel. Let’s connect them. In Matthew, He asked the disciples, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” (vs. 26). In Luke’s account Jesus was more blunt when He asked His disciples, “Where is your faith?” (8:25). Of course, the disciples were not converted at this point.

Lacking the Holy Spirit, they were not able to develop godly faith. Apparently they did not even have temporary human faith at the time. Christ’s two towering questions remain for all people—Why are you fearful?—and Where is your faith?

Just as Jesus’ disciples went on to learn and practice great faith in their lives—and their writings record that they also taught its meaning to many others—so must God’s true servants today answer these questions in their lives. I now ask you: Why are you fearful? Where is your faith?

Be sure to read my vital booklet What Is Real Faith? at rcg.org/wirf. It teaches the points that this series has explained, principles taught nowhere else.

We began with Hebrews 11:6 stating, “Without faith it is impossible to please [God]…” God wants you to learn to rely on Him—to trust Him completely in everything! You really do not have a choice if you want to please Him. Like any human father, God does not want you to fret, worry and agonize over your needs. In numerous places throughout His Word, He promises to provide for you in all circumstances. He will always take care of you. Do not doubt! Believe God! Trust Him! Wait on Him! Expect Him to keep all of His promises—and He will!

Faith is your evidence!
want people to remain sick because that is how they make money. In their minds, profit drives the medical industry to be reactive in its approach. Others blame the general populace with claims that the average person only thinks about his health when he loses it. They argue that people would rather focus on fixing a problem once it has occurred rather than taking the more challenging approach of preventing it in the first place.

What cannot be debated is that modern medicine is more advanced than at any time in human history and America is at the forefront of the field. According to SelectUSA, an advocacy group that promotes the U.S. as a premier location for business and investment, “The United States is a world leader in healthcare services and an innovator in cutting edge diagnostics and treatments.”

America’s medical system does what it was designed to do: identify and treat illnesses after symptoms present themselves.

This thinking is not new. The field of medicine has been treating already sick people for thousands of years.

The ancient Greeks, under the leadership of Hippocrates, ambiguously made the connection between sickness and “natural causes.” Upon this discovery, disease was no longer seen exclusively as “unpredictable and striking unsuspecting victims.”

This discovery did lead to some improvements in health. For example, in the 17th century, doctors found that simply washing their hands prior to assisting with childbirth largely prevented puerperal fever—a disease that took the lives of an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 mothers.

While most historians claim “modern” medicine started with the Greeks, the main framework for healthcare began millennia earlier in ancient Egypt. In describing ancient Egypt’s medical prowess, Homer wrote in The Odyssey: “In Egypt, the men are more skilled in medicine than any of human kind.”

Egyptian physicians, for example, had a remarkable understanding of human anatomy as evidenced by their skills in mummification. Specialists for eyes, feet, intestines, etc., abounded during this time, just as they do today.

Records also show these ancient doctors even prescribed potions and compounds as treatment for maladies. Surgery was also commonplace through the use of hooks, forceps, drills, knives, saws, pincers and scales. Archeologists have even discovered the relics of prosthetic limbs.

Encyclopaedia Britannica states, “The search for information on ancient medicine leads naturally from the papyri of Egypt to Hebrew literature. Though the Bible contains little on the medical practices of ancient Israel, it is a mine of information on social and personal hygiene. The Jews were indeed pioneers in matters of public health.”

In the Old Testament, many health laws cover sanitation, waste management, disease quarantine, food guidelines, and much more. And while the Bible does not record much on specific medical practices, it does offer overarching guidelines on how to approach health.

One such basic principle is that of cause and effect.

The way of life outlined in the Bible is based upon this law. This Book contains hundreds of principles, with each carrying the power of cause and effect for those who keep—or break—them!

Prevention Is Key
Many balk at the idea that the Bible contains principles for a successful
life. Yet think on cause and effect for a moment. Failure to put gasoline in a vehicle can leave a driver stranded on the side of the road. Failure to change the oil can result in a blown engine and an expensive repair.

The average person works to make sure they do not find themselves in either of these predicaments.

Oddly, this clear correlation seems to vanish when it comes to giving the body the fuel it needs to function properly. People expect their bodies to keep running without the proper intake of water, vitamins and minerals—and seem at a loss why they are constantly sick.

This idea is apparent in the lingo associated with ill health. How often have you heard others say they “caught” a flu bug? Were the “victim” of a stroke? Or have “fallen” ill? Such terms imply that suffering the illness was inevitable and that the sufferer had no choice.

Once sick, most people instinctively scurry to the doctor to diagnose and treat the condition. But the effectiveness of pills and potions offered by those in modern medicine, limited as it may be, has blinded many to the benefits of being proactive in the prevention of illness. They erroneously cling to the pre-Hippocratic belief that acquiring a disease is outside of their control.

Realize that physicians cannot heal. Pills or treatments only synthetically enhance or suppress a natural bodily function in an attempt to speed the recovery process. The artificial environment created in the body by these medicines, however, often leads to an extensive list of harmful side effects associated with a so-called “cure.”

This all comes back to cause and effect. Most sickness is unnecessary. If you participate in high-risk behaviors such as sexual promiscuity, illicit drug use, eating only junk food—the causes—you will be more prone to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and obesity-related illnesses—the effects.

The opposite is also true. If you eat nutritious foods and make sure to have appropriate balances of vitamins and minerals—the causes—you can avoid many unnecessary illnesses and overall have more energy and vibrancy—the effects.

A healthy human body is able to naturally fight off many viruses and bacteria. If a person does contract an illness, a strong immune system will often mean the symptoms are very slight.

Benefits of a healthy diet include a reduction in the risk of stroke, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, certain cancers, and coronary artery disease. These five maladies alone account for 74 percent of the total fatalities attributable to the U.S.’s top 10 “leading causes of death” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

While proper diet will not address 100 percent of all ailments, it is a core component of disease prevention. It allows each individual to achieve true healthcare by dealing with the cause of illness not just the effects.

A proper understanding of cause and effect is the key to solving the healthcare crisis.

What Scriptures Reveal

A towering example of the effects of good diet can be found in the Old Testament. The biblical text identifies Daniel as a young man “skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science” (Dan. 1:4).

As an Israelite, Daniel was no doubt trained on the effects of proper diet. (A list of proper foods to eat can be found in Genesis 2:9 and Leviticus 11.)

Daniel’s background led to him being recruited and brought into the palace of the king of Babylon to be taught a new language and culture. As a part of his immersion into this environment, Daniel was offered a diet referred to as the “king’s meat.”

History shows the diet of royalty was typically heavy in meats and alcohol, with few vegetables. (Note that gout, a form of inflammatory arthritis caused by a high-protein, high-fat diet, has long been referred to as “the disease of kings.”)

The context of the story implies this offer was an act of generosity, with the king thinking that Daniel would benefit from food typically available only to royalty.

Conscious of the impact this unbalanced diet would have on his health (1:8), Daniel requested to be served only “pulse” (food that was sown or vegetables) and water for 10 days. Daniel knew the benefits of eating natural food. After the time expired, Daniel was seen to be in better health than those who ate the rich foods originally offered (1:15).

The young man successfully implemented the knowledge he had been taught concerning nutrition and gave his body the “raw materials” needed to function at its peak. Daniel properly made the clear connection between the cause of a good diet and the effect of good health. The connection is no different today.

Those interested in truly resolving the healthcare dilemma must realize that implementing an entire system that is proactive—based in part on properly equipping the body to function—and not reactive—depending solely on medical science for a cure—is vital to solving the crisis once and for all. This is the factor that has been woefully missing from the healthcare equation!

Take charge of your life. You can learn to build and improve your health!

To learn more about how it is possible to be healthy, happy and brimming with life, read the free booklet God’s Principles of Healthful Living at reg.org/gloh. You will learn how to restore or preserve your health by eating wholesome and unprocessed foods, and how to avoid the numerous toxins in our polluted environment. You will also learn about rejuvenating your body through exercise and the importance of getting sufficient sleep as well as much more.

Take time to order this booklet today. It could save you from a lifetime of unnecessary suffering and health problems! □
Margaret Thatcher, the only female prime minister in Britain’s history, died on April 8 at age 87.

Lady Thatcher directed Britain’s Conservative Party between 1975 and 1990 and built herself a reputation as an unwavering leader throughout her political career.

Prime Minister David Cameron remembered her as “an extraordinary leader and an extraordinary woman,” CNN reported.

“Ed Miliband, leader of the opposition Labour Party, paid tribute to Margaret Thatcher’s achievements but at the same time pointed out he disagreed with many of her decisions.”

“Whatever your view of her, Margaret Thatcher was a unique and towering figure,” he said, and a ‘prime minister who defined her age.’”

Other dignitaries were also quoted in the article with a mixture of praise and criticism, such as the Liberal Democrat party’s Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg who said that “it’s impossible to deny the indelible imprint Margaret Thatcher made both on the nation and the wider world.”

Leaders from around the globe also paid their respects.

“Tributes poured in from past and present leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as British political leaders and Queen Elizabeth II,” The Wall Street Journal reported.

The newspaper added: “Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom Mrs. Thatcher formed a close relationship, said in a statement on the Gorbachev Foundation’s website: ‘Thatcher was a politician whose words carried big weight.’

“Our first meeting in 1984 laid ground to the relationship that was at times complex, but always even and on both sides serious and responsible,’ Mr. Gorbachev said. ‘In the end we managed to achieve mutual understanding, and this was a contribution to the changing atmosphere between our country and the West, and to the end of the Cold War,’ he said.”

During her 11-year tenure as prime minister from 1979 to 1990, Mrs. Thatcher became known as the “Iron Lady” because of her strong anti-communism stance alongside then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan. She was also an advocate of limited government and individual liberties.

“Together, Thatcher and Reagan represented the West in the Cold War and did much to ensure that it did not end with nuclear devastation,” CBS Denver stated. “Thatcher and Reagan also did a great deal to show that free market values could help economies and did a great deal to bring both of their countries out of deep recessions.”

Considered one of the world’s most influential and controversial leaders, Lady Thatcher “often credited her father with introducing her to politics,” according to NPR reporter Jackie Northam. “She said he instilled in her the importance of being an independent thinker and of being able to stand on her own two feet—values that she expected from all Britons once she gained power.”

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ECONOMY & PERSONAL FINANCE

Cyprus Financial Sector Faces Darkest Hour

Cyprus is the fifth eurozone nation—after Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Spain—to be bailed out. While the island asked for 17 billion euros to rescue its troubled government and banks, it was only approved for a smaller package, which did not include funds for its financial institutions.

“The deal with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund that emerged on [March 25] grants Cyprus a €10 billion ($13 billion) loan that will not be used for bank re-capitalizations [restructuring],” Der Spiegel stated. “In return, Cyprus will wind down the state-owned Laiki Bank and shift its salvageable components (along with €9 billion of European Central Bank debt) to the Bank of Cyprus. Laiki’s uninsured depositors and bondholders will be wiped out. Bank of Cyprus depositors will also be heavily hit, allowing the country’s debt-to-GDP ratio to remain at a sustainable level that can be brought down to 100 percent by 2020, according to the IMF.”

Banks locked down and would not release funds until government officials devised a plan to raise almost six billion euros as a bailout guarantee. University of Nicosia associate professor Hubert Faustmann told the Guardian it was “the darkest week in Cyprus since the 1974 [Turkish] invasion.”

In response to the crisis “people stormed supermarkets, jammed streets with cars and piled every conceivable product into [shopping carts].” “It may be the very last time I can use this,” said one man waving a credit card outside Athienitis, a mega-store in [the nation’s capital] Nicosia. “We might not have banks next week.”

Drastic measures (such as 300 euro-a-day withdrawal limits and a 9.9 percent tax on uninsured deposits of more than 100,000 euros) took effect once banks reopened two weeks later. In addition, no one was allowed to leave the island with more than 1,000 euros. “That amounted to the first so-called capital controls that any country has applied in the eurozone’s 14-year history,” The Associated Press stated.

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Massive Beehive Losses Threaten Food Supplies

Almost half of the billions of bees that pollinate up to a fourth of food crops in the United States vanished last winter. This worsening phenomenon, known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), has decimated hundreds of thousands of bee colonies in the nation within less than a decade and cost billions of dollars in agricultural losses.

The normal 5 percent to 10 percent yearly bee death rate “more than tripled” around 2006, CBS News stated. “Now, some beekeepers say they’re losing up to 50 percent of their hives.”

While his bees looked healthy last spring, Montana’s Big Sky Honey owner Bill Dahle told The New York Times that by September 1, they “started to fall on their face, to die like crazy.” He said that in 30 years “we’ve never experienced this kind of loss before.”

The newspaper added that according to the U.S. Agriculture Department, “a quarter of the American diet, from apples to cherries to watermelons to onions, depends on pollination by honeybees,” and that fewer of these insects “means smaller harvests and higher food prices.”

Mansfield News Journal reported, “Food prices in the U.S. rose at an average annual rate of 2.9 percent from 2005 through 2012, in part because there have been fewer honeybees to pollinate our food.”

The media outlet added, “Mites, viral and fungal infections and pesticides have been investigated as causes of CCD, but events this year are starting to place suspicion on a nicotine-based class of pesticides called neonicotinoids, which act as nerve agents on all manner of insects and went into use about the same time CCD began emerging eight years ago” (ibid.).

No one knows exactly what is killing the bees, but there are potential culprits aside from pesticides, according to BBC News. “Three-quarters of the world’s food crops rely on insect pollination but bees around the world have suffered serious declines in recent years, due to habitat loss and disease…”
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