

Hour Times

\$2.00

Vol. 1

Issue 1



What's Happening
to my
Family?

Editor
JAY
GALLIMORE

Associate Editor
DWIGHT HALL

Assistant Editor
CARI HAUS


Design Layout
EDDIE
HERNANDEZ

Graphics Design
PENNY HALL
and
EDDIE
HERNANDEZ

Marketing
Representatives
ROYCE SNYMAN
and
SCOTT ERB

Cover:
Illustration by Giselle Hasel

FEATURES

Planting Seeds for the Kingdom  9

A Moral Compass for Your Home 10

Values  14

DEPARTMENTS & COLUMNS

Editorial 3 Lifestyle Matters 12

Words of Hope and Encouragement 4 Recipes 13

Berean Corner 8

COVER STORY

Who Invited the Termites Home?



COMING ISSUE

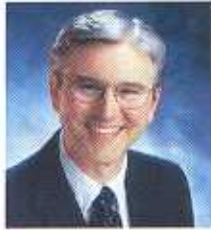


A Mad Cow Generation!

Is your lifestyle killing you? The nine leading causes of death in America are largely related to lifestyle choices: what we put into our bodies and what we do with our bodies. Discover timeless principles that ensure optimum physical, mental and spiritual health.

Our Mission:

Hour Times, published by Remnant Publications, a nonprofit organization, is produced for the sole purpose of leading individuals, families and society to "A Better Way of Life," as found through God's Holy Word, the Bible. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God; its principles and counsel are as relevant and binding upon humanity today as they have been throughout the ages.



What Are We Doing to Our Homes?

By Jay Gallimore

The tragic shootings in schools around the nation have led America as a nation to search its collective soul—and rightfully so. A scary proliferation of potential gunmen have reminded us regularly and well of a most disturbing thought: this could happen again—in my town, to my children or grandchildren, or to others I know and love.

The response to this devastating possibility has been heartfelt and strong. So strong, in fact, that moral issues and the place of religious values in public life promise to be major issues in the upcoming political campaigns.

Politicians are already talking about the “decency deficit,” “compassionate conservatism” and a government plan making it easier for one parent to stay at home.

“What went wrong?” is the question on the lips of so many Americans. “Whatever happened to the Christian virtues of kindness, unselfishness and love?” Or even more painful, “What *is* wrong with our families?”

What *can* we learn?

While there is no doubt a number of reasons behind the continued crumbling of values and virtues in our society, one rather large causative factor comes immediately to my mind. Interestingly enough, it’s a problem my father was aware of, warned me of, and protected me from a number of years ago.

“You’ve got to be kidding!”

I can still hear the comments and see my friends smirking when I told them the truth—we didn’t have a television in our home. Many thought my dad was, well—dare I say it?—too conservative. Today, in the light of young people lying in pools of blood, he looks progressive and wise.

What Dad saw on the television was not in harmony with Philippians 4:8: “Whatever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Today, with the realities of school violence burned into our collective conscience, the Christian conscience, the Christian value of guarding what we see

has a new appeal. Our homes and churches must become places of refuge from the restless and violent evil that fills the world. Television, music and video games should be under the control of Philippians 4:8. If they can’t be controlled, then consider my dad’s solution.

The undeniable connection between violence and what we see and hear has made me increasingly thankful for the decision my father made more than 30 years ago. I didn’t understand the reasons for what he was doing then, but I do now. My father has been gone for a few years, but every Father’s Day (and in between) I think of him and wish I could tell him thanks. And if I could, I think I would say something like this: “Dad, even though you sleep in the grave and know nothing of these tragedies, your faith still works. Thanks for believing your Bible and sparing me from ten thousand scenes of murder and fornication, not to mention the beer commercials.

“I know that the absence of TV and rock music didn’t make you or your family perfect. Even without a television there were plenty of temptations. And you knew that too.

“I don’t think I need to guess what you would have said about violent video games. You understood how impressionable your boys were. Sometimes I thought you didn’t know much about boys, especially teenage boys. Now I understand—you knew a lot.

“Thanks for not giving in to my pleading and begging for a television. Thanks for standing firm when relatives and others thought you were taking Scripture a little too seriously.

“Thanks for all the times you played with us in the yard instead of hunkering down and watching someone else play. Thanks for your hugs and kisses. Thanks for your discipline. I didn’t like it then, but I am grateful for it today.

“And, finally, thanks for being a man of faith. If only there could have been more Christian dads like you, then the nightmare of Littleton and beyond might never have been a reality.” ❧

Our homes and churches must become places of refuge from the restless and violent evil that fills the world.

"A house is built of logs and stone,
Of tiles and posts and piers;
A home is built of loving deeds
That stand a thousand years."
—Victor Hugo

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. . . . The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, 349.

"Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction."—Paul, in Ephesians 6:4 (Today's English Version).

In the United States, 58% of people say that they are very satisfied with their home life (compared with less than 30% in Germany and Russia, and 17% in Japan). And almost two-thirds of married people in the U.S. say that, overall, their marriage is very happy.—World Values Survey, 1990-93, and General Social Survey, 1990, in Rodney Stark, *Sociology*, 397 & 407.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."—Jesus, in John 15:12 (NIV).

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV).

"The greatest gift you can give your child is a healthy self-respect."—Nancy VanPelt, *Train Up a Child*, 49.

"In happy marriages both partners are generous with kind thoughts, words, and actions. Both must be ready to give more than they get."—*Positive Parenting*, 18.

"I once asked a woman to describe her father. She replied, 'He is loving, kind, just, and a fine gentleman . . . but I feel he is so distant.' Some weeks later I asked her to tell me about God. She replied, 'He is loving, kind, just, and omnipotent . . . but He seems so distant.' She used almost the exact words in describing God and her own father! This is not uncommon.

"A child's image of God is strongly influenced by his relations with his parents. . . . Loving and mature parents make it easy for children to understand God's character. But anxious, inconsistent, or domineering parents instill a poor father-image. . . .

"In a real sense God has given us a divine opportunity to shape our children's lives for time and for eternity. It is beautiful to realize we can actually teach our children the love and character of God. It is awesome to know that our own hang-ups can drive wedges between our precious children and God, the Creator of the universe."—Dr. Bruce Narramore, *Help! I'm a Parent!* 11-14.

It's the stick-together family that wins the joys of earth,
That hears the sweetest music and that finds the finest mirth;
It's the old home roof that shelters all the charm that life can give;
There you find the gladdest play-ground, there the happiest spot to live.
—Edgar A. Guest, *Just Folks*, 51

We value the opinions and thoughts of our readers. Please share how *Hour Times* has made an impact on your life. Your feedback is essential to our success. Thank you.

Hour Times P.O. Box 19009, Lansing, MI 48901

Who Invited the Termites Home?

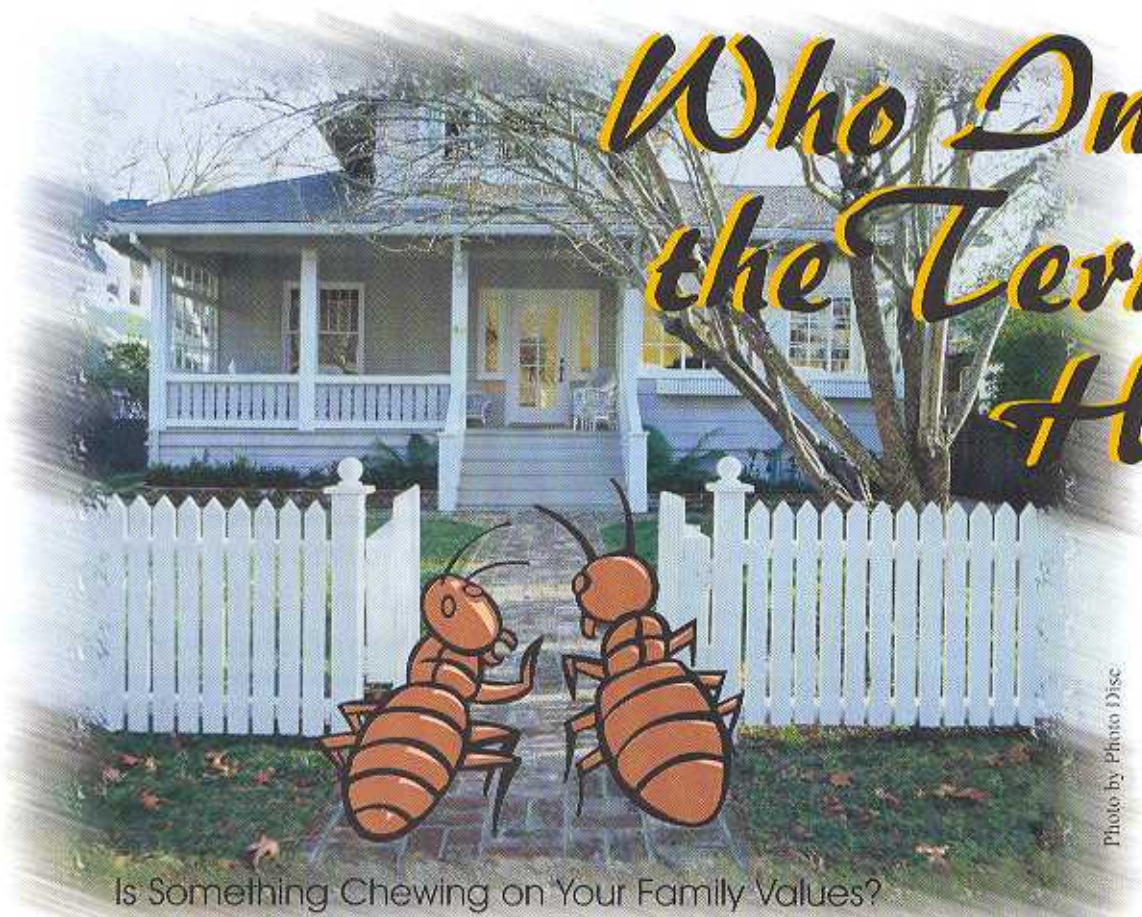


Photo by Photo Disc

Is Something Chewing on Your Family Values?

By Jay Gallimore

Without question, an invasion of termites is one of the worst things that can happen to a house. Whenever these gnawing little pests arrive en masse, they eat away at the very structure of a building, until the walls themselves are weakened and worthless. Interestingly enough, termite-infested wood looks fine on the outside. But split it open, and the insides have literally been eaten out, making it useless even for firewood.

My father was well aware of the termite threat. In fact, he was always concerned about it. Long before the day of environmental enlightenment, he poured used motor oil around the foundation of our frame house. And Dad's method worked very well—although no environmentally aware person would use it today.

In these high-tech times, invading termites face a sophisticated arsenal of termite-prevention tools. Treated wood, professional exterminators and high-powered pesticides have replaced the simple methods used by my father so many years ago. But while we have become expert at protecting our houses from traditional termite invasions, we as a nation have failed—miserably failed—at protecting our homes from

an equally murderous influx of termite-like predators.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

Your home is more than a house—it is your family. And home should be the dearest thing on earth to you—a place to be honored and protected because your family is there. Yet we as a society seem to know much more about *house* maintenance than *home* maintenance. We spend a lot more time taking care of our *houses* than our *homes*.

This is an extremely dangerous situation, for families need just as much protection as the wood inside their walls. Families are built or destroyed by what fills their minds. The saying “by beholding we become changed” is just as true today as it was 2000 years ago. Families *become* what they *think*! In our efforts to protect our family structure, then, we need to guard the “driveways of our minds” in a careful and deliberate way.

Unfortunately, the structure and very foundation of the American home has been dangerously invaded, yes invaded, by a whole new breed of termites. While we were nearly

We spend a lot more time taking care of our houses than our homes.

oblivious to their presence, they have been quietly chewing—chewing away at our values.

This is especially damaging, for values are what make homes, *homes*. Values are the ties that bind our family relationships, which bring so much joy and happiness into our lives. They act like white blood cells, fighting off invasive elements and keeping the home healthy. A family can absorb a lot of punishment as long as their immune system is in order. But destroy the immune system, and the family itself is in trouble. When values are eroded, the very foundation of a home becomes like a termite-eaten board. And the result—the inevitable result—is the decay and crumbling of the home.

THE DEVIL'S HIT LIST

In his Herculean efforts to destroy the home, the devil is especially focused on the very best defense of a home—its family values. A list of family values on the devil's hit list would undoubtedly include love, which is the very principle of unselfishness. The idea of putting God first, others second and ourselves last is foundational to a happy and healthy home. The devil doesn't like integrity either, for honesty in what we say and promise builds security in our home and other relationships.

Trust, especially in the marriage vows, is another “no-no.” The devil wants to put all our promises, of any kind, in jeopardy. Self-control is another virtue the devil hates. He wants passions—sex drives in overdrive and “mistemper”—to rule and ruin, making homes unmanageable and dysfunctional.

And, of course, the devil hates courtesy and thoughtfulness, those wonderful attributes that smooth the rough edges of our human existence.

REPLACEMENT VALUES?

While a host of stellar family values guards the citadel of a healthy family unit, there is an equally compelling (and rather different) list that

works against these values. Not surprisingly, these “anti-values” are some of the very ideas promoted by television, Hollywood, movies, rock music and the media. They promote “values” such as greed, violence, lust, deceit, brutality, drugs and perverted sex. Fortunately, an increasing number of Americans are seeing the connection between these “anti-values” and their avid promoters.

Recently, I heard an expert representing the American Medical Association (AMA) note that “there is no question that watching violent behavior produces violent behavior.” We see this principle at work in America all the time. Whenever some grisly crime hits the news, copycat crimes are soon to follow. Movies have the same effect. According to recent research released by the AMA, “the risks of viewing the most common depictions of televised violence include learning to behave violently, becoming more desensitized to the harmful consequences of violence and becoming more fearful of being attacked.”

In other words, by watching violent and brutal behavior, one learns to become violent and brutal. One also learns to be afraid. Maybe this is why so many Americans are buying guns and taking up the martial arts.

The AMA also found that:

- Eight-year-old boys who viewed the most violent programs during their childhood were the most likely to engage in aggressive and delinquent behavior by age 18 and serious criminal behavior by age 30.
- TV violence affects youngsters of all ages, both genders, all socioeconomic levels and all levels of intelligence. The effect is not limited to children predisposed to aggressive behavior.

OTHER “TERMITE” THREATS

Of course, TV violence is not the only termite-like threat to the values of our society. The Internet, when misused, is an

equally dangerous foe.

Many, including the FBI, are deeply concerned that child molesters are stalking children through the Internet. In addition, pictures of violence and sexual perversion can easily be found by children as well as adults. For example, Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh got his inspiration straight from the Internet, where he located a book advocating the violent overthrow of the government.

“There is no question that watching violent behavior produces violent behavior.”

Recently, I heard a sad story of a marriage broken up by unwise Internet use. The trouble actually started earlier when one spouse began reading romance novels. Then came the exciting discovery of the Internet, together with an entire retinue of real people in the chat rooms who were all too ready and willing to bring fantasies of the mind to life. The ruin of a fine family was the unfortunate result, together with all the heartache and pain caused by the situation. Unfortunately, this type of story is becoming all too common.

THE ROLE OF VIDEO GAMES

Then, of course, there are the violent video games. Despite arguments to the contrary, chopping up lifelike screen opponents can and does impact a 14-year-old boy. You don't need a Ph.D. to figure that out either. With their realistic depictions of increasingly graphic blood and gore, these games strongly reinforce the killer instinct. As a result, the minds of many of the children have become so hardened that even the most despicable of crimes—killing their own families—can become a remorseless reality.

Have you ever wondered why we are building so many prisons? Unless there are some dramatic changes, many more prisons will have to be built. And why? To house the

exploding prison population of young men and women whose feelings of human compassion have been totally removed by violent TV, music and/or video games.

MUSIC TELEVISION (MTV)

President Clinton is a declared fan of MTV, which seductively promotes adultery, fornication and human indecency. Perhaps that was the inspiration that tarnished the nation and the office of the president of the United States. One can only shudder at what the next generations will be like, with their minds filled with this garbage.

Have you ever wondered why teenage pregnancy has skyrocketed among all groups and races? In some communities more babies are born out of wedlock than in it. It's bad enough when teenagers follow the movie star cult, thinking it's cool to engage in illicit sex. But what about the children they produce? While a few of the lucky ones may be adopted into good homes, most are kept and reared by parents who are still children themselves. Doesn't anyone care about the children condemned to live in misery and confusion because of the sex worship promoted by the powerful media of movies, sitcoms, rap and rock music?

Many people argue that since movies aren't real, they don't affect the way we act. But if movies and music don't impact our behavior, why do businesses spend billions, yes, billions of dollars for ads? Because they work, that's why. Trillions of dollars have been made because of 30-second ads, many of which are aimed at America's most vulnerable audience—the children.

THE WORK OF THE TERMITES

You see, it is the termites, those cute little bugs from Hollywood, that are eating the values out of our homes. Oh, they wring their hands when the spotlights are turned on their dark little tunnels. They will tell you, with tears, that they simply reflect the condition of society—rather

than shape it.

Hollywood, the music industry and the media gangs are not really interested in family. They never have been. They are interested in money. They have studied human nature very carefully, discovering that when you touch a person's emotions, you get their attention. If you can get them to laugh or cry, rage or relax, be passionate or intense, you can infuse them with your message.

Of course, emotions are very important. But when our senses are artificially and continuously stimulated, it takes increasingly dramatic input to get a response. Imbibing today's entertainment scene is like eating hot chili peppers. The more you eat, the more your taste demands. Illicit drugs work the same way: you start with something mild, but soon you look for a harder, more exciting kick.

The problem with all this stuff is that people know they are hooked, but they like it. They really don't care to be unhooked—until it is time to pay the devil. Then they want deliverance from all the misery it causes.

THE COMING EARTHQUAKE

There is a moral earthquake coming. In fact, it's already shaking our homes. And the people do want help. With desperate cries they call for Superman, but he doesn't show. He's tied up in a video tape! They plead

In some communities more babies are born out of wedlock than in it.

for Batman, but he can't escape the digital signal. They scream for the government, but it's paralyzed by the mess of its own laws—enacted by actors who became politicians. They call for the church, but most of the preachers are busy trying to imitate the actors. They call on God, and He answers—but their ears are so deaf from the blaring music that they can't hear Him. The screams get weaker and weaker, until only two sounds can be heard—heinous laugh-

ter and heartbroken sobbing.

The devil is laughing, and God is weeping. Then, out of the darkness there comes the faintest sound. The devil stops his laughing, and God stops His weeping. Someone is singing! It's not rap or rock, either. It's the sound of a hymn. And you can hear the words: "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold... He is all that my hungering spirit needs; I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead, than to be entertained by the world's domain or be held in sin's dread sway."

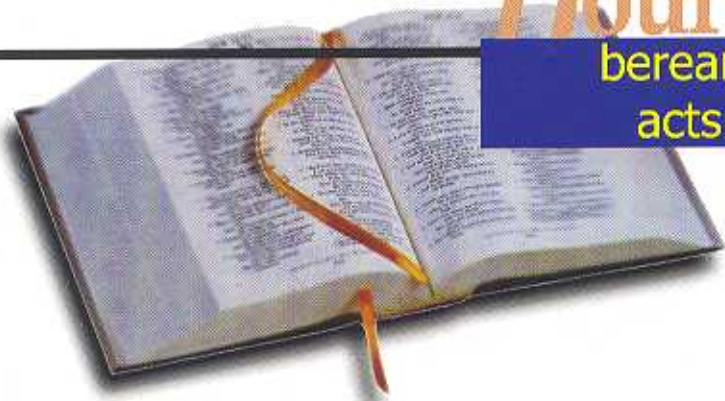
Little by little, from all over planet Earth and in many languages, voices join in. You can hear the voices of children, teenagers, parents and grandparents. The devil groans in agony, but God weeps for joy. The earthquake is over! People are coming out of their homes!

They are the survivors—survivors of the moral earthquake—because their homes were built on a set of solid values. And when they saw those baby value-eating termites hatching in their homes, they killed the queen that laid the eggs. In other words, they pulled the plug and turned off the power. And when the moral earthquake struck in all its force and fury, collapsing homes all around them into rubble-filled heaps, their homes stood strong. Out of the darkness of death, illusion and violence their lights of love, devotion and unselfishness continued to shine.

Now we see God moving toward them with confident strides. He sweeps them all up into His arms and holds them close. He hugs them like a father who has lost all his other children in a terrible tragedy. And oh, how He hugs them! How He hugs them! From the safety of His arms they look at their now visible enemy. The devil stands unmasked for all that he is. When they look at him he has four faces, the face of a dragon, a snake, a rat and yes, a termite. ❧

Hour Times

berean corner acts 17:11



Study to show thyself approved . . . rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

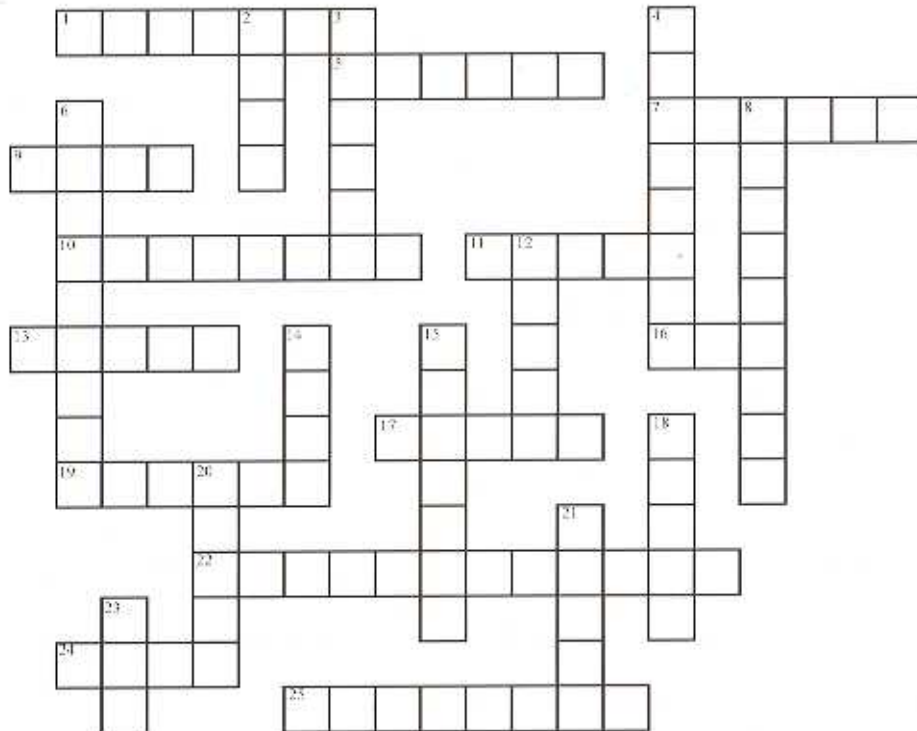
Use King James Version for answers.

Across

1. Archangel (Jude 9)
5. Mountain where Noah's ark rested (Genesis 8:4)
7. Death and life are in the power of the _____ (Proverbs 18:21)
9. God created man from _____ (Genesis 2:7)
10. Who will come in the last days? (2 Peter 3:3)
11. "The just shall live by his _____" (Habakkuk 2:4)
13. Moses' brother (Exodus 4:14)
16. God created woman from Adam's _____ (Genesis 2:22)
17. The Bible is compared to what weapon? (Hebrews 4:12)
19. He was fed by Ravens (1 Kings 17:1-4)
22. "If ye love me keep my _____" (John 14:15)
24. King David's general (1 Chronicles 27:34)
25. With the Lord a day is as a _____ years (2 Peter 3:8)

Down

2. Who named the animals? (Genesis 2:19)
3. Jacob dreamed angels were on a _____ (Genesis 28:12)
4. He bought Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39:1)
6. "Honour the Lord with thy _____" (Proverbs 3:9)
8. "Love your _____ as yourself" (Galatians 5:14)
12. "Grievous words stir up _____" (Proverbs 15:1)
14. He built the ark (Genesis 6:13-14)
15. Weapon used by Samson (Judges 15:16)
18. Birds were created on the _____ day? (Genesis 1:20-23)
20. He stole Esau's birthright (Genesis 25:31)
21. Quantity of each kind of clean animal on ark (Genesis 7:2)
23. The fool says there is no _____ (Psalm 14:1)



Answers

1. MICHAEL 2. ADAM 3. MOUNTAIN OF SINAI 4. 20 SHEKELS 5. ARARAT 6. MOUTH 7. DEATH 8. NEIGHBOR 9. DUST 10. THE SECOND COMING 11. HIS OWN JUSTICE 12. BLOOD 13. AARON 14. NOAH 15. HIS OWN HAIR 16. HIS RIB 17. THE WORD OF GOD 18. THE FIFTH 19. 40000 20. TWO 21. TWO 22. MY COMMANDMENTS 23. GOD 24. GOLIATH 25. THOUSAND

God's Answers to Your Questions
Answers from the corner of all wisdom
THE BIBLE
 If you like crossword puzzles, you'll love
God's Answers to Your Questions

This unique book lists hundreds of thought-provoking questions on topics such as:

The Future	The End of Suffering & Sin	Baptism
Death	Health	Prophecy

Order Yours Today \$9.95
800-423-1319 Plus \$3.00 S&H

Planting Seeds for the Kingdom



Photo by Corbis

Being the Right Models for Our Children

By Diane Thurber

As parents, one of the best gifts we can pass on to our children is the gift of faith. While there are no guarantees that this gift will grow to maturity, we can, like careful gardeners, prepare the soil of their hearts so that God's Word can sprout and grow in it. The foundation we help lay and the gift of faith we leave our children will then assist them as they navigate through life.

In addition to making God's Word the moral compass for your home (see the article on page 10), there are eight steps you can take to lay a solid foundation, pass on your spiritual heritage to your children and help them begin to grasp the gift of faith:

1. Begin With the End in Sight

Parents who are intentional about the direction they would like their children to go will spend time developing a family mission statement. They will ask their family questions like these:

- What is the most important mission, or goal, for our family to work toward?
- What are our current priorities?
- Does the way we spend our time reflect our priorities?
- Why do we care about our family?
- What does our family do to support and strengthen its members and its community?

- What would be missing in the world if our family ceased to exist?

Answers to these questions can be used to write the reason for their family's existence. In addition to developing a mission statement, parents may spend time thinking about what a mature Christian faith looks like. Parents will begin to develop goals and hopes for their children as they envision all they can be.

Your list may look different from mine, but if time is spent early on looking at the end result of the time allotted you to nurture your children, you will no doubt begin to chart a course for development to take place—physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

Like sailors, who navigate ships from one continent to another, we too will face rough seas and strong winds. Looking ahead will help us be prepared to encounter detours along the way, and it will help us realize we need the wisdom of our Heavenly Father as we begin this journey.

2. Model Success and Failure

Children are naturally great imitators. For better or worse, they mimic adult behavior all the time.

What would be missing in the world if our family ceased to exist?

Jesus said, *"A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher"* (Luke 6:40, NIV). As parents, you and I are our children's most important teachers. And whether we like it or not, they will become like their most important teachers—us! Our children are watching what we do and how we act.

No parent is 100 percent successful as a model, but when we do fail to model successfully, we need to then model the proper actions to take after we've messed up. Children will be given the opportunity to see Jesus' strength working through our weaknesses. Teach your children to interpret failures as learning experiences. If parents will also see failures as learning experiences, we will more carefully determine the course of discipline we choose to apply as we attempt to help our children learn from their mistakes.

3. Establish Family Traditions

Besides being fun, traditions preserve a family's heritage and give each family member a sense of shared identity. Through traditions, values are handed down from generation to generation. Traditions to celebrate include:

- Milestones, such as birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, accepting

Christ, baptisms, etc.

- Annual traditions, such as trips to visit grandparents, holidays, the last day of school, camping trips, etc.

- Weekly traditions, such as family play nights, worship times and date nights between one parent and one child.

- Daily traditions, such as eating together, story time, morning devotions and evening prayers.

4. Express Your Love in Many Ways

Spend time studying the ways Jesus said "I love you" while on this earth. He used many different ways. In the book *The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman divides ways of expressing love into five categories:

- acts of service,
- words of affirmation,
- quality time,
- gift giving, and
- physical touch.

According to Chapman, every person has a dominant love language. And while we may be well-intentioned in expressing our love, it must be communicated in a way the receiver understands.

As parents, we need to realize that saying "I love you" to children is not enough. We need to become

familiar with our child's love language, look for unique ways to express our love, and understand that our message of love is more likely to come through loud and clear when we express it in many ways.

5. Broaden Your Child's View of Life

Many times children appear to be reared in a vacuum, with little exposure to the world around them and a lack of guidance to help them interpret their experiences. You can enlarge your child's perspective of life by:

- Involving him or her in acts of service. Help your child discover that faith is not just about head knowledge or heart attitudes—it's about what we do with our hands, feet, resources and time.

- Pursuing activities to expand their knowledge of other cultures. You can do this by modeling respect for people of different races and establishing friendships with them. This will help your children understand God's pleasure in creating all humans similarly, yet unique, and they will learn to enjoy their place as part of God's unique creation.

- Helping your children discover that they are uniquely equipped with many God-given talents and

A Moral Compass for Your Home

By Diane Thurber

"Troubled" youngsters are not always easy to spot. I know, because I ran into one during my senior year of high school. He came by one night while I was working in the yearbook office, and he couldn't have been more helpful. Noticing that I was doing my work by the light of a single, underpowered bulb, he cheerfully fetched me a better light.

Just a few days later, I was shocked and amazed to find he wasn't the person I thought I knew. Beneath his jovial ways with classmates was a bottled rage that eventually exploded. That very weekend he ended the lives of his grandparents-turned-parents in a bloody killing spree reported by both local and national networks. His motive? To collect an insurance premium, thereby becoming independently wealthy.

I can remember thinking many things then—like why didn't we see this coming? What if he had taken out his rage at school? And, what if I had been the recipient of his anger that quiet night when I encountered him, alone?

Twenty years later, I look at that tragedy through different eyes—the eyes of a parent. And with the recent violence committed by children in our nation, I ponder what might lead to these actions in children.

How do children, who have so much to offer, turn down a violent path? How do children, with the capacity to extend kindness, transform into hateful and apparently remorseless human beings? What was their upbringing like? Did the parents have clues? How much of this violence is the result of personal choices? How much is a result of the self-centered society in which they are reared? What place does the media play in this—with the visual images of murders flashing on the television from early morning cartoons to late night action adventure shows?

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Children in today's world are confused and looking for answers. Life is no longer cut and dried. Children have

abilities and also ways they can use their talents to help others.

• Teaching your children about nature. The experience children have in nature and the opportunities parents take to help explain the mysteries of God revealed through His marvelous creation, will not only instill in them the value of all living things but will also point to His power, majesty and great love for us.

Memorize Scripture with your children, and teach them to apply it to their everyday lives.

6. Bring God Into Your Children's World

Acquaint your children with the presence of God in your home, and teach them that this is a natural thing—by establishing routines of spiritual discipline in the home, such as family worships, personal devotions, mealtime prayers, bedtime prayers, etc. Church and church school opportunities are other important avenues for planting God's Word in the hearts of your children. Memorize Scripture with your children, and teach them to apply it to

their everyday lives. They will soon realize it holds the answers to the successes, disappointments, questions and crises they encounter.

7. Teach Your Children to Reach Out to God

"An adult's attitude of reverence and sincerity is keenly felt by a child," writes Wes Haystead, author of *Teaching Your Child About God*. "Although the child may not understand all the words, he senses that talking to God is a very real experience."

According to Haystead, many of a child's feelings, thoughts and practices concerning prayer will be determined by the adult models the child observes. If your conception of prayer is formal or vague, your child is likely to feel the same way.

Make your prayers conversational, and let your children see your relationship with God through them. Help them to see prayer as a relationship, not a memorized ritual. Teach them that no concern of theirs is too insignificant for God.

8. Take Time for Faith Talks and the Miracle of the Moment

Opportunities will arise through-

out the day that naturally provide times to speak about God and to apply His wisdom to situations you encounter with your children. Take advantage of these teachable moments, and spend time sharing your stories of faith with your children. Showing them how God has blessed and led in your life will help them see God is real and an integral part of your life.

Parenting With Confidence

These eight steps will go a long way toward preparing your children's hearts for the Holy Spirit to work. I invite you to step out in faith and become partners with God in nurturing your children, knowing that God, who cares for our children even more than we do, will work in their lives to mold them according to His purpose.

The apostle Paul tells us that we can work hard to plant and to water the seeds, to provide every opportunity for our children to know God—but it is God who provides the growth. (See 1 Cor. 3:7.) And He who has begun a good work in you (and your children) will be faithful to complete it.

As partners with God, we can have great expectations and parent with confidence. Happy planting! ✂

many choices available to them that greatly affect their future outcome. As parents, we have been given the formidable task of steering them through this maze of choices. It often seems overwhelming as we hear the barrage of parental advice flowing from our society.

A SOURCE OF COURAGE

In the face of these challenges, I have gathered courage as a parent from the fact that the God who formed our bodies—these complex structures composed of enough DNA to string from the earth to the sun and back more than 400 times—did more than breathe life into our bones. Thoughtfully, he left us with an instruction manual, a moral compass by which to live our lives. Of course, that book is the Bible.

In the pages of this Book we can find the wisdom of the ages, imparted by God to help us understand life. *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16, NKJV).

In the Bible, we learn that the God of the universe has an interest in each of us. *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV).

It is the Bible that defines what our real responsibility is as parents, to *"Teach these commands to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working."* (Deut. 6:7, TEV).

And it is the Bible that gives us that glimpse of a better world, a world where there will not be any more sorrow or pain. There are so many answers in the Bible, but perhaps most important, there is hope—hope for the present, hope for the future and faith that God will see us through every situation we encounter in this life and the one to come.

Our children are looking for answers, and we can give them a clear compass by which to guide their lives by the simple sharing of Scripture, from the Book that alone contains the wisdom and insight they need to guide them through life. ✂



Does God Have An Owner's Manual?

By Vicki B. Griffin, Ph.D., MACN, Author, Lecturer, Researcher

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE OWNER'S MANUAL

Have you ever purchased a new car? It's amazing how much a manmade conglomeration of metal, plastic, aluminum, wires, dials, gauges, hoses, rubber, airbags and glass can cost! While cars differ in design, color, size, length, gas mileage and a host of other factors, there's one thing they all have in common: an owner's manual.

IT CONTAINS VALUABLE INFORMATION

Every manufacturer provides an owner's manual. What person would buy a new car—or even a used one—and ignore it? The owner's manual contains very valuable information—advice that could save you thousands of dollars in repair bills in the future, or even the life of the car! It lists what type of oil to use; when to change the hoses, filters, and belts; when to have it serviced; and much, much more. Who would lay down thousands of

dollars and ignore the manufacturer's guidelines?

HUMAN BEINGS ARE MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN CARS

The human body is a much more complex assembly than a car—we have trillions of cells that form tissues, bones, hair, sensory and internal organs, and the complex chemical and hormonal systems that operate them all. Each of your 30 trillion cells performs an average of 10,000 chemical functions every day. Your body is controlled and coordinated by more than 16 billion neurons and 120 trillion “connection boxes,” or receptors, in a complex system of neuropassageways. But the brain and spinal cord, which orchestrate the whole process, weigh less than 3 pounds! Imagine. Just one stress reaction produces more than 1,400 known physiological responses! Your heart beats more than 100,000 times daily to move blood 168 million miles around your body, and you take about 23,800 breaths a day to bring about 438 cubic feet of air to your lungs. The psalmist David expressed it best when he declared, “I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” (Ps. 139:14).

DO WE HAVE A MASTER DESIGNER?

Some people believe that after a spontaneous cosmic explosion, or “big bang,” we evolved by “chance” out of a primordial “slime” pool. That takes a lot of faith! But the Bible teaches that there is a Master Designer, an all-intelligent, all-powerful God that created this marvelous human machine and the world we live in. Psalm 100:3 tells us that “It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” “For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” (Ps. 33:9). There it is—the real Big Bang!

WHERE IS OUR OWNER'S MANUAL?

If Christians are correct, then God, as the Designer, must have left us an owner's manual—a step-by-step practical guide to show us how to care for these wonderfully complex machines that He created. Christians teach that the Bible is God's letter to humanity, a practical guide to finding solutions to the complex problems that confront us in this life. Could the Bible also be God's owner's manual—the Manufacturer's Guide to the practical care and maintenance of the complex assemblage

Fast Facts

- “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31
- Seniors who volunteer may be helping themselves as well as others. A new study shows that people live longer because they volunteer, rather than that volunteers are healthier and hence live longer. *Journal of Gerontology*, May 1999.
- A study of 8,098 Americans revealed that 23% had serious depression before the age of 20. Suicide rates for U.S. children have quadrupled between 1950 and 1995. Ronald Kessler, Harvard Medical School.

of body, mind, emotions and affections that He created? "Receive My instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold...Counsel is Mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength." (Prov. 8:10, 14).

GOD CREATED THE MORAL AND PHYSICAL LAWS THAT GOVERN US

During this series we will learn that true science, the Bible and common sense are always in agreement. As science has investigated the incredibly complex human machine, many of its findings have been astounding! And many have validated lifestyle and mental health principles that have been recorded in the Bible for thousands of years! In the upcoming articles we will take a thrilling look at how medical science is validating the simple principles of life and health. And these principles have been handed down to us by a loving Creator who has not left us without an Owner's Manual!

GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOUR LIFE AND HEALTH

Remember, God is interested in every aspect of our lives. He wants us to be healthy, happy and well-balanced. "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." (Prov. 4:20-22). It is for this reason that He has ordained protective principles that govern not only our relation-

ship with Him but also what we eat and drink, how we work and entertain ourselves, how we organize our schedules and handle stress, and much, much more! Violating the principles that God has laid down to govern our daily lifestyle and activities can be a major cause of disease, stress and depression. We bring so much disability upon ourselves through ignorance of God's counsel in the Owner's Manual! We are admonished to "ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." (Prov. 4:26). The violation of any of God's laws, whether physical or moral, reaps disaster and ruin. "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Prov. 6:27).

God has outlined a lifestyle designed to minimize stress, suffering, disease, despair and disability.

DESIGNER LIFESTYLE

God is not just sitting in heaven watching us blunder through life without a care about our welfare! He has a plan and a desire for each person! It's found in "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3 John 2). God has outlined a lifestyle designed to minimize stress, suffering, disease, despair and disability of every kind, even in this sinful world. "That Thy way may be known upon the earth, Thy saving health among all nations." (Ps. 67:2). He outlines it in all its simplicity and beauty in His owner's manual. And more than that, He gives us the power to execute His plan for godly living! (See Ps. 68:35.) We will discover more of His powerful plan in this series. ✨

recipes

"GOLDEN WAFFLES"

Ingredients:

- 8 C Rolled oats
- 3/4 C Soy flour
- 1/2 C Corn meal (optional)
- 1/2 C Dates or 1/3 C Honey
- 2 tsp Salt
- 4 Tb Vanilla or 3 Tb Maple extract

Directions:

- Put all ingredients in large bowl.
- Add 10-12 C water, or enough to make it blendable.
- Blend mixture, 3 C at a time, until smooth; add water, if necessary, to help mixture blend.
- Transfer blended batter into another bowl as you go.

- Cook for 8-10 minutes in a sprayed waffle iron.
- Cool on rack and, if possible, wait until next day to eat.

Serving Suggestions:

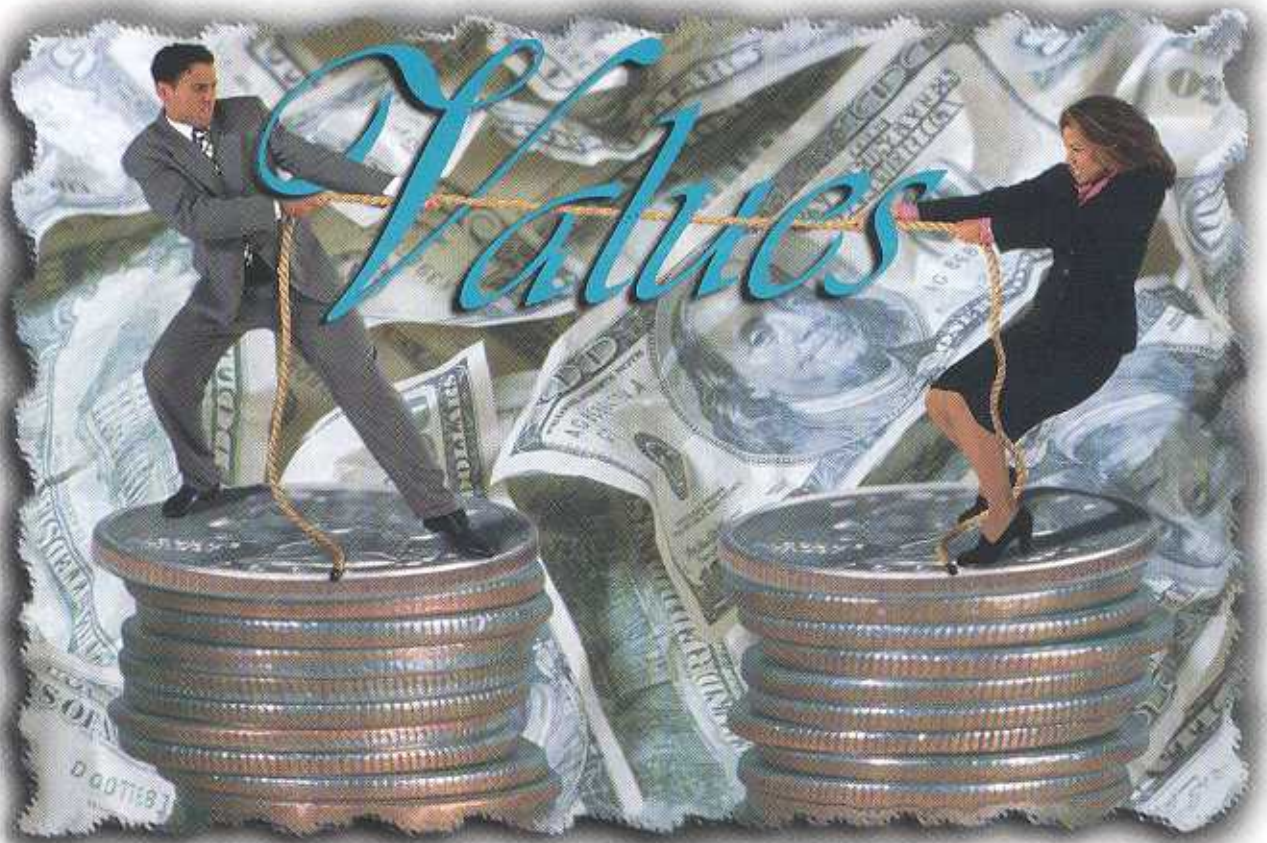
- As the batter sits, it will thicken, so you may have to add some water. If your waffles are too crispy and thin, your batter is too thin. If waffles are heavy and solid, you did not add enough water. The consistency of the batter should be a little thinner than a cake mix.
- These waffles freeze well and are delicious as a main breakfast dish. We also love to make sandwiches from them for picnics.
- To heat, just pop them into the toaster or heat in a low-heat oven right on the rack.



Guilt-free Gourmet Your Vegan Cookbook and Lifestyle Resource Book.

Finally, a cookbook featuring recipes that taste good and are good for you! More than 300 pages of scrumptious, mouth-watering creations that are nutritious, cholesterol-free and easy to make.

Order yours today. Only \$19.95
1-800-423-1319



Don't Let Anything or Anyone Devalue Your Values

By Kay Kuzma

Whether we realize it or not, we are what our values make us. Values, like honesty, kindness, generosity and service, act as a decision-making rudder, steering behavior.

HEAD VERSUS HEART VALUES

“Finders-keepers” seems to be the accepted moral code today, even though God’s law is clear, “Thou shalt not steal.”

The problem is a lot of people have “head” values—they know what they should do—but they don’t have “heart” values. In other words, they have been taught certain values and know the right answers, but they haven’t incorporated these values into their internal moral code, which gives them the willpower to act on them.

To add to the confusion, your values (if not principle-based) are always in a state of flux. They are constantly being influenced by your culture, family, friends and the media—that which you read, watch or hear.

Notice how the value of honesty has changed over the years. What would you do if you found a wallet loaded with ten and twenty dollar bills, or if you saw a large number of dollar bills lying on the table of a restaurant, a tip left by a previous customer? The answer is simple. You would do everything possible to find the owner. Right? Well, that’s not what most people would do.

“Finders-keepers” seems to be the accepted moral code today. Even though God’s law is clear, “Thou shalt not steal,” many rationalize their dishonest behavior. “Society owes it to me because of the way

I've been treated." "I was praying that God would help me get some money—and suddenly there it was."

Others make their moral decisions based on who the victim was. They reason that it's worse to keep the money if the person stolen from is poor rather than rich. It's even less objectionable if it's an institution or the government that is cheated.

Very few people today would follow the Honest Abe example of walking several miles to return 6 1/4 cents that a customer inadvertently overpaid!

BUILDING AN INTERNAL CODE

Adults should be making moral decisions that are based on unchanging principles. In other words, you judge whether something is right or wrong based on an internalized set of moral standards. Individuals who make principled decisions consider questions such as: How will my action affect others? What if everyone were to do this? What does God say about this behavior?

Without an internalized moral code, you will be swept away by various pressures, regardless of your



age; the pressure to win; or your desire to be accepted, get attention, or gratify self.

What makes people who know better choose to go against their consciences? Why are your "head" values—that which you verbalize—not always the same as your "heart" values—that which you do?

Chances are, it's because you are still making value decisions based on childish, immature levels of moral decision making, such as whether:

- you'll be punished or rewarded,
- your action is "naughty or nice," or
- some authority says to do or not do something.

How can you develop a strong internal moral code based on Bible principles and protect yourself (and your children) against the Pied Pipers of the world trying to corrupt your value system?

Base your personal value on God's value of you. You need to feel good about yourself because of what Christ has done for you. He has died for you and given you the gift of salvation. When you believe you are special, you don't have to compromise yourself or "buy" acceptance by saying yes to questionable activities. You can choose to turn off the TV, burn the trashy pictures, break the hard

rock CDs, and throw away the romance novels, even though it's not the popular thing to do. If you believe you're the son or daughter of royalty, you'll find it easier to act like it.

Establish a biblically based moral code for yourself and your family. The earlier you take a strong stand as to the standards that are right for you, the

sooner you will empower your will to make right choices. Every time you make a value decision, a connection is made in your brain. The longer you choose to go against your conscience, the stronger that negative brain pathway becomes. When you make a decided choice based on principle, you actually start forming a new connection. The more decided and often that new choice is made, the faster a new habit will be formed.

It's also true that the stronger the

Very few people today would follow the Honest Abe example of walking several miles to return 6 1/4 cents that a customer inadvertently overpaid!

stand you take as to what is morally and ethically right for you and your family, the more likely it is that your children will accept your standards and internalize them.

Your kids may not always like these standards, but they will respect them if they are reasonable and they can clearly see the biblical and principled basis for them.

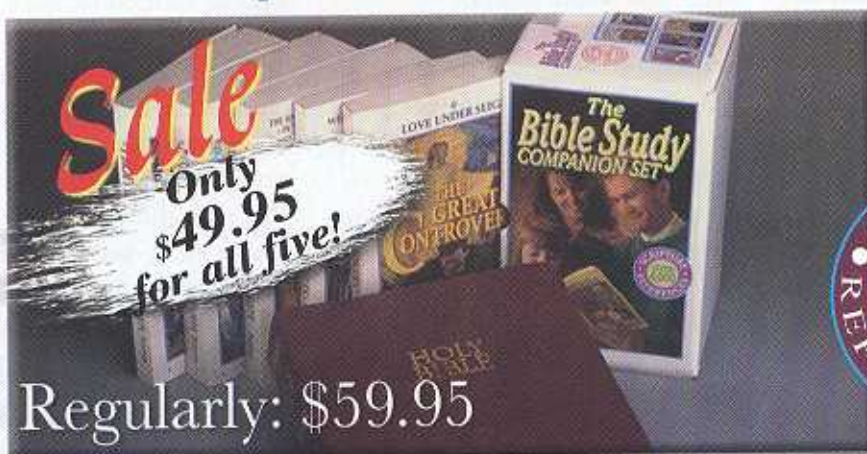
When tempted to alter or violate your moral code, practice quoting Bible verses such as:

- "A soft answer turneth away wrath,"
- "It is written," and
- "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

That's what Jesus did, and as we follow His example, He will help us make decisions based on the best moral guide of all—His Word. ✕

The Bible Study COMPANION SET

An indispensable aid to Bible study!



"I just can't understand the Bible!"

• How did the universe begin? How did the world get here? Where and how did the human race start? *Patriarchs and Prophets* is a book about beginnings. In fascinating, easy-to-read language, it describes exactly how planet Earth—and the people who live on it—began.

• *Prophets and Kings* is volume two of the five-volume set that covers human history from the beginning of our time—and on into the future. This book begins with the reign of King Solomon and ends just prior to the first advent of Jesus Christ.

• The inexpressible desire of all ages cannot be found in things, fame, power or pleasure-seeking. It can be found only in a Person. *The Desire of Ages* is His story. This book will be the end of your search.

You will again witness the enormous power of the early church as you read *The Acts of the Apostles*, a remarkable commentary on the book of Acts. Then you are invited to request it—and experience it—for yourself and your church.

• *The Great Controversy* begins at the dawning of the Christian era, traces the rise and fall of nations and religious powers down to our day, then plunges ahead to preview the future. And what this book sees coming is not based on guesswork. It is based on a source of predictions that has never yet missed in its prophecies.

To order by mail send your request to Remnant Publications, 649 E. Chicago Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036

Hour Times

P.O. Box 426
Coldwater, MI 49036

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Coldwater, MI
Permit #199

ORDER NOW!

800-423-1319