

THE YALE STANDARD

Volume XI, No. 2

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. Isaiah 59:19

Spring 1995

In Pursuit of Knowledge

Many people want to contribute to the expanse of human knowledge. Particularly in the field of science, our understanding is advancing quickly. The combined efforts of researchers have resulted in amazing technological advances.

But as researchers we can spend half a life-time simply catching up to the current level of knowledge in a field. One only has the remaining half with which to try to expand the field. The field itself is likely to be just a subspecialty of a specialty.

Though I am drawn to science as a vocation, I can

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Medical School Migraine

"Who then is the man that fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him" Psalm 25:12.

As college students, we know selecting a major or future profession will affect our life's course. God says He has a "chosen way" for each person, much like a father would have in mind a course best suited for his child.

Many people would regard the idea of God having a specific plan for our lives as very confining. "Does that mean I have no freedom to choose what I want to do?" God definitely gives us the right to choose but he desires that we freely choose Him and walk where he would have us go.

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Fulbright Blessing

In the former Czechoslovakia, during the communist rule (1948-1989), conditions for Christianity and other religions were not favorable. The official and only reputable philosophy in the country was Marxism-Leninism.

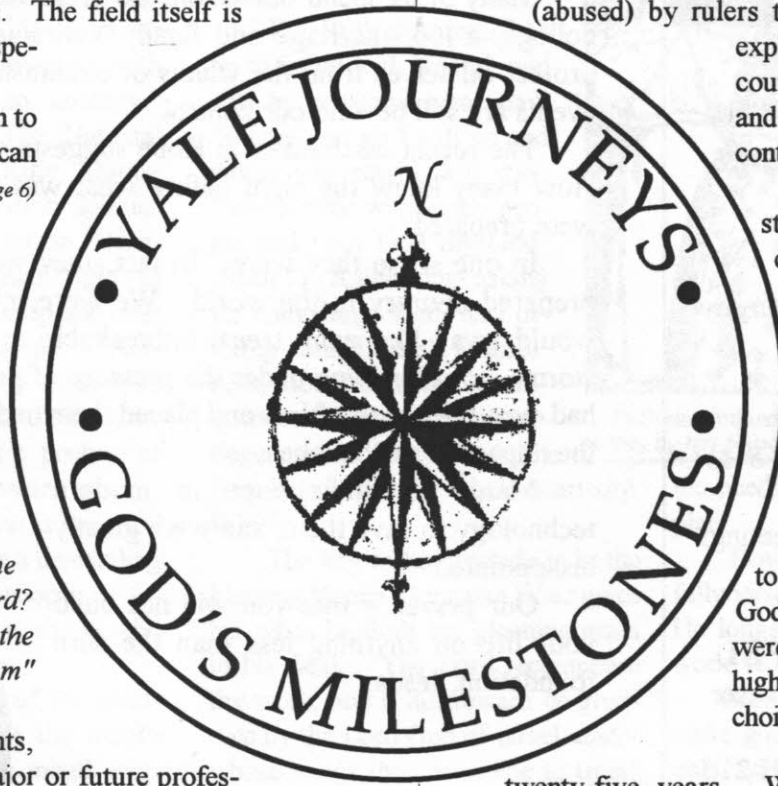
Basically, it is a pure materialism. All the schools taught it, from basic schools to graduate institutes. Religion was considered an "opium of mankind" (Karl Marx), used (abused) by rulers to rule, or more generally to exploit men. Religion was counted an obstacle to progress and a potentially dangerous tool to control public thinking.

However, since there were still many Christians, and communist leaders could not dissolve the churches, they put religion under state control. The government nationalized major churches, forced priests to become state employees and spied upon high religious officials.

Ordinary people were scared to exhibit freely their belief in God because children of believers were sometimes barred from the high school or university of their choice.

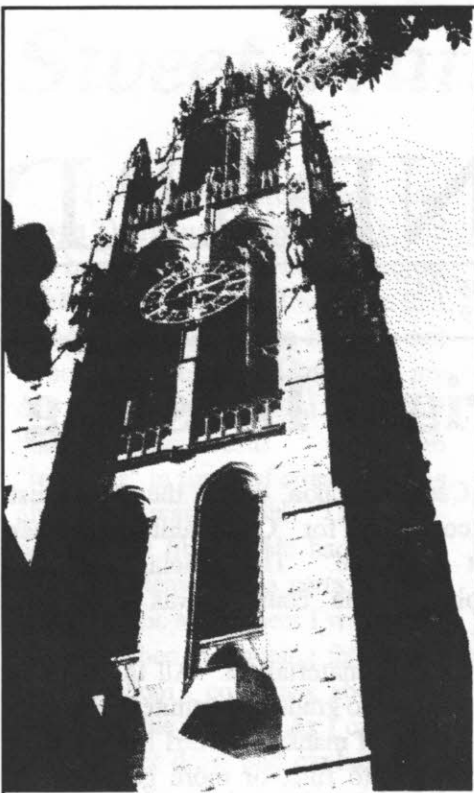
I lived in this environment for twenty-five years. Within my family, only my grandparents on my mother's side were believers. In the spring of 1989, I passed my last exam in Marxism-Leninism, which was required to obtain a Ph.D. degree. Six months later, the Prague Velvet Revolution freed our society from

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Editorial:

"No one knows about that day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days of the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them away. This is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day the Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will also come at an hour when you do not expect Him."

Matthew 24

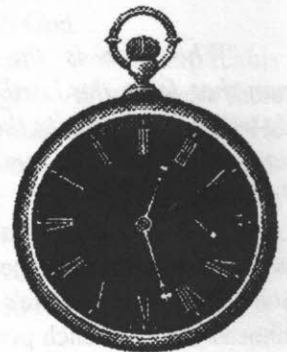
Many of us spend our whole life preparing for what is to come: college, a job, marriage and family, retirement. While we try to protect ourselves from the whims of circumstance and nature, some events are still beyond our control.

The recent earthquake in Kobe suggests something of this limit. How many knew the night before what was to come? How many were prepared?

In one sense they were. In fact, they were acclaimed the best prepared country in the world. We were told that their buildings would sway like palm trees, unbreakable even in the harshest of storms, not crumbling under the pressure of powerful shaking. They had even created machines and placed them under cities to help absorb the impact of earthquakes.

Many put their hope in modern technology to save them, and were greatly disappointed.

Our prayer is that you will not build your life on anything less than the sure foundation, Jesus.



THE YALE STANDARD

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Choosing the Unconditional Road

A friend of mine loves God, but wonders about the wisdom of His dealings with her. She says everything is okay, she's even ready to go to the mission field, except that she doesn't have a husband. Or a child. How could God leave these important people out of her life and maybe even out of His plan for her? She's been waiting for a long time and nothing seems to change.

Our culture is full of the voices

Our culture is full of the voices of people making demands. Abortion rights activists want "Abortion on demand with no apology." The National Rifle Association lobbies for an unlimited right to keep and bear arms. Animals are championed by those who are eager to stand up for their rights. We seem to think that a posture of insistence is the only posture.

of people making demands. Abortion rights activists want "Abortion on demand with no apology." The National Rifle Association lobbies for an unlimited right to keep and bear arms. Animals

are championed by those who are eager to stand up for their rights. We seem to think that a posture of insistence is the only posture.

But something deep is revealed when we habitually take a demanding attitude either toward people or toward God. What you say shows who you are.

Jesus said it's out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. A complaining mouth suggests a complaining heart. As the Scripture shows us, a complaining heart is an unbelieving heart, out of tune with God and His way.

God turns the tables on our tendency to insist on our rights. Take His description of His own, beloved Son. Jesus did not think His equality with God "something to be grasped [at]," but "made Himself of no reputation and took on Himself the form of a servant" (Philippians 2).

We are urged in the same passage to be like Jesus, to take up the same attitude He had. He was rightful heir to all God's glory and power, but didn't insist on His rights. He bought our salvation by becoming a servant to us.

In the Bible's Book of Ruth, Ruth the Moabitess faced much the same problem the friend I mentioned is facing. She found herself a childless widow, with no male protector of any kind. Her mother-in-law, Naomi, told Ruth to go back to her father's home: that would be best if she hoped to remarry and start her life again.

But Ruth determined to go to Israel with Naomi, and stay by her come what may; "Where you go I will go and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1). Rather than asking for something, Ruth was offering herself, in all faithfulness, no matter the consequences. There were no contingencies in her offer. She gave herself simply, whole-heartedly. Why?

The key to her attitude is in the blessing Naomi's kinsman Boaz gives her when he finds her gleaning grain in his field: "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2).

She trusted the Lord to the point of abandoning her ancestral gods, all that she had known and all that she had been. It was God she wanted, and she obtained Him. There was nothing in Naomi's return to Israel that held any particular promise for Ruth, but as Boaz saw, it was to God that Ruth entrusted herself.

In the end, Ruth received from

the Lord all that she lacked when she set out from Moab with Naomi, but the Lord did even more than satisfy her personal need. Boaz became her husband, she became "better than seven sons" to Naomi (Ruth 4), and bore a son to be an heir to Boaz and Naomi's heirless house.

But best of all, Ruth became ancestor to King David, and through David, ancestor of Jesus the Messiah. Because Ruth sought God first, God made satisfying her need an occasion for meeting



Ruth determined to go to Israel with Naomi, and to stay by her come what may. Lucien Pissarro (1896)

the needs of others and advancing His plan.

How God looks for hearts that are fully yielded to Him! (II Chronicles 16). He longs for us to share in His great work, to know His joys.

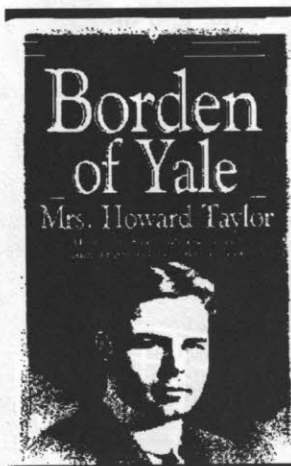
Giving up your "rights" may not make good political sense, but it is the only spiritual beginning going. Paul says "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices..." (Romans 12).

May we not abide in the shadowlands and swamps of our own demands, but offer the Lord an unconditional surrender.

Marena Fisher, Graduate '92

YALE REQUIRED READING

The **Men of Faith** and **Women of Faith** books are engaging and challenging biographies of the pioneers and heroes of the Christian faith. Read the personal story of William Borden, graduate of Yale, whose sacrifice touched Egypt and the world for Christ. Other titles include Amy Carmichael, Charles Finney, Corrie Ten Boom, C.S. Lewis, John Wesley and many others.



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Launch Out

*The mercy of God is an ocean divine,
A boundless and fathomless flood;
Launch out in the deep, cut away the shore-line,
And be lost in the mercy of God.*

*But many, alas, only stand on the shore
And gaze on the ocean so wide;
They never have ventured its depths to explore,
Or to launch on the fathomless tide.*

*Oh, let us launch out on this ocean so broad,
Where floods of salvation e'er flow;
Oh, let us be lost in the mercy of God,
Till the depths of His fullness we know.*

By Albert B. Simpson (1843-1919)

Medical School Migraine

(Continued from page 1)

Ever since high school, I thought I would become a doctor because 1) Biology was my favorite class and medicine seemed the best use of it, 2) I was pretty skillful with my hands, good for neurosurgery, and 3) I enjoyed helping people. My parents and I would talk about possible professions, but after batting around ideas such as learning computers or becoming an accountant, we always settled on medicine as the best choice.

If this was to be my lot in life, I was grateful to have the skills and temperament a good doctor needs. I was also comfortable with entering what anybody would consider a worthwhile profession.

I became a Christian a few weeks before arriving at Yale, but believing in Jesus didn't yet bear on my career choice. I stepped onto the pre-med track: freshman chemistry, sophomore orgo, physics, and labs. I chose Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry (MB&B) as my major since its prerequisites fulfilled medical school requirements and would fortify me to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

During my junior year, I began to wonder whether being a doctor was "for me". Cramming the last minute for science tests was beginning to frustrate me—I was gulping heaps of information only to regurgitate it onto 7 sheets of paper. So little of the science I was exposed to was really integrated into my life.

As I learned more about medical school and about its huge time commitment, I began to question my reasons for going there. The thought of studying seven more years—cramming information about parts of the body or the symptoms of various infectious dis-

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eases weighed on my heart.

I was a science major but was fairly certain that I didn't want to work in a laboratory.. I even considered special paramedic programs in the Army that would teach me all the practical medical skills that I wanted to know within one or two years. I didn't think my parents would approve of this alternative, but the question remained in my heart, "what would I do if I didn't go to med school?"

I spent much time wondering about God's plans for my life. Did it include becoming a doctor? How would I know what He wanted me to be? Had I decided on medical school simply because it was the most practical route? I began to seek God earnestly about His plan for my life.

During the second semester of my junior year I read an Old Testament passage that spoke directly to my situation: Here the Assyrian armies had surrounded the city of Jerusalem, the last

says, "The LORD will surely deliver [Jerusalem]"...[Consider] what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, until I come and take you to a land like your own, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death!" (2 Kings 18)

Like the Judeans, I felt backed into a corner, with medical school as my only plausible way out. The things medicine offered--the satisfaction of helping others, respectability, the hope of making my parents happy (the modernized version of vines, fig trees, and grain) seemed like good things. I couldn't be faulted for wanting them just as the Judeans couldn't be faulted for wanting the water or food the Assyrians promised during a time of starvation caused by the siege.

taining security instead of relying upon the Lord..

It would be like the Judeans making peace with the king of Assyria to get the wells, vines, and grain, instead of trusting in the Lord, who could provide those things and much more.

I decided not to go to medical school and to trust God with my future. I had my own narrow ideas for my life as a doctor but God isn't narrow. He has something much broader, something best suited for His purposes and eternal kingdom.

The way is narrow in that you have to stick closely to one person--Jesus Christ, the Saviour. I may no longer have a career path that is directly laid out before me but the Lord simply asks that I go where He goes because He really is my life.

"For I know the plans I have for you. Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29

Yuna Lee, Saybrook '94



refuge for Judah's citizen's who were on the verge of being conquered.

As the Israelite soldiers on the city walls stood guard, the Assyrian commander offered them a treacherous deal: "Do not let Hezekiah (your king) persuade you to trust in the LORD when he

The king of Assyria said, "Choose life not death." But the Bible states "the Lord is your life" (Deuteronomy 30). Medical school was a comfortable, secure option in this world, but I realized that choosing medical school would be choosing my own way of ob-



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In Pursuit of Knowledge

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still see that the current breadth of our knowledge is narrow, and one person's contribution is liable to be disappointingly small, even at its best. There are so many bounds – yes, frontiers to push on – but overall, we do not know much.

After three summers of work at

The scientists' problem was not a mere disagreement on evolution; it went deeper.

Lombardi Cancer Center, I was startled to find that our cancer research characterized just one protein among thousands. Entire labs were competing or collaborating on one single protein. Our techniques were not even assuredly reliable, because the necessary experimental conditions poorly mimicked the tumor environment.

Seeing this, I became confused about the pursuit of knowledge, and curious about what drove researchers nevertheless to continue their hard work.

The Biochemistry Retreat

While on a biochemistry department project, I was invited to a posh departmental retreat. In hours-long sessions, principal investigators took turns presenting their work and problems they grappled with. To me, the science and the discussions generated were stimulating.

At times, the researchers' findings supported their idea of how the present natural world came to be. Our department sections proteins and nucleic acids and analyzes each component for function. Sometimes, a component was focused to be common to many species, linking bacteria

to flatworms and humans. I noticed the scientists were pleased with and spurred on by this apparent progress.

Many more times, however, a particular submolecular component stood out as unique and specific to the species in which it was found. These results might even suggest that the component had to have been intelligently fashioned particularly for that single species. The results were reproducible as they stood, and as for understandings and interpretations, the scientists came out empty-handed. I even noticed an uneasiness settle over them.

A Glimpse of the Irrational

And there, I think that I came upon the crux of the problem. I cocked my ear to hear objective scientific questioning, but instead I heard only childish possessiveness of their views. Why were they so protective of their particular theory even when results clearly pointed in the opposite direction? The problem was not a mere disagreement on evolution; it went deeper.

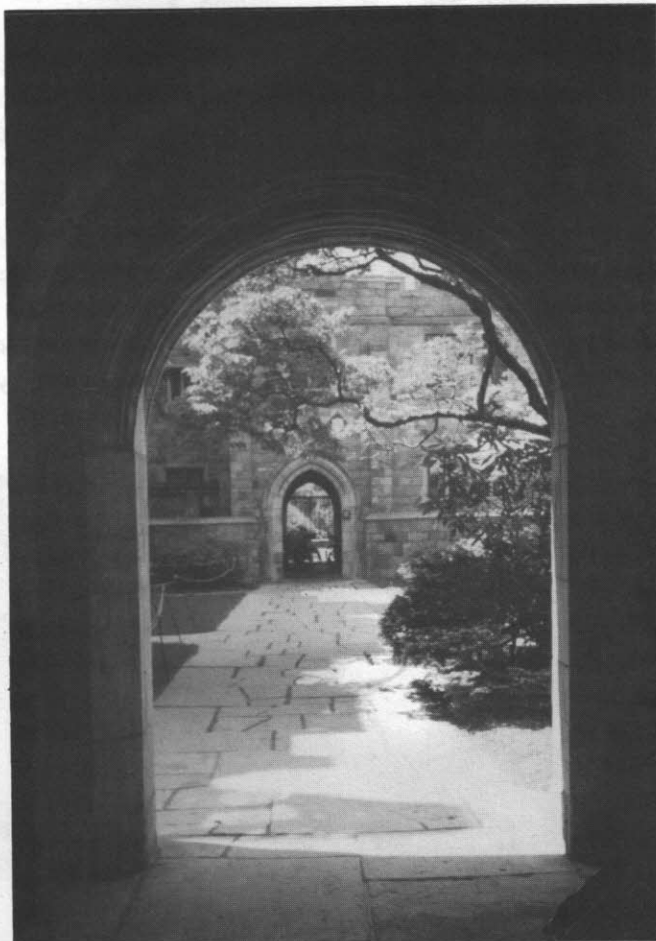
Often what we want to believe affects what we see. People tend to choose according to their hearts' desires rather than their reasoning; and the mind only makes reasons or excuses afterward to justify the heart's choices. Worse yet, the Bible shows that the human heart to suffer from a moral disease called sin, which confounds the soundness of our choices.

We have all seen or heard of researchers promoting their own theories and as a result missing out on

greater things. For example, doctors for years had sent patients suffering from ulcers to psychologists to deal with their presumed stress problem. Subsequent research discovered there was indeed a medical explanation for certain ulcers. Now, antibiotics are prescribed regularly to target the bacteria discovered to be responsible.

Joy at Retreat's End

Before I became a Christian a few years ago, I too would have been baffled at the apparent contradiction



to theory the researchers' results presented. And there was no overturning of experimental evidence.

But instead of being dismayed because the results did not support a man-made hypothesis, I saw that they shed light and understanding on what I knew to be true; I marveled at God's creation, his handiwork. Wow, with what precision and efficiency our Creator designed our universe.

And at session's end, I overflowed with praise for my Maker.

Radiant with joy, I was just slightly disappointed I had no one to share it with.

On the contrary, the last speakers before dinner would always crack jokes about keeping the presentation short so we could all indulge in cocktails soon. That night is firmly etched in my memory: I watched the grad students get so drunk that they themselves could not remember it.

To his skeptics, the Creator has declared that round about all of us, his creation speaks of his existence. "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1)

While mental errors and misconceptions are famous in the history of science, more damage and waste of effort has stemmed from wrong-headedness than wrong-headedness.

Evolutionary theory plainly makes no allowance for God. Not only does evolution explain God away, but it forcefully -- and really with much more authority than what scientific findings can support -- rejects God. Thus, those who uphold evolution themselves have also rejected God, a stand taken from the heart.

God in His word predicted that evolutionists (among others) would arise: "Although [men] claimed to be wise, they became fools ... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator." (Romans 1)

The evolutionist-scientist lacks the foundational knowledge that would give him the proper perspective, not only on his work as a scientist, but also on his whole life and its meaning. Scripture says, "The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge." (Proverbs 1)

But where men refuse to acknowledge God, their hearts are in the wrong places, and they live in the

POWER – to become a son of God

When God is central in a human life, there is a steadiness and "a peace that passes understanding." Unlike ideologies and philosophies, which change with circumstances like the weather, God never changes. A person who knows Jesus does not have to fear anything, not even death, because knowing Jesus is eternal life. He does not have to feel guilty about past actions because God has forgiven him, "and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin." Instead of guilt, fear, or uncertainty, there is peace—a peace unlike anything in the world.

God's peace is not a result of trying harder or being religious; it comes from being "born again," an entirely new life which God gives. People often think to themselves, "If only I could start my life over. . ." and God does exactly that. This new life cannot be earned or worked for; it is a free gift. The gift is Jesus: "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men." If you receive Jesus you will receive power — "power to become a son of God."

A person who is born again experiences a marvelous freedom, because whosoever is born of God overcomes the world." He does not have to be conformed to the world in his thinking — to be fearful and worry along with everyone else. Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world," Jesus said.

futility of their thinking. "They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts." (Ephesians 4) They pursue knowledge of small specialities, seeking fulfillment and a sense of accomplishment in achievements that swiftly lose their significance.

But the Lord invites us to have a heart for Him, and to receive a new heart through belief in Jesus, that we may see aright. And not only so our academic research would go well. Rather, we discover that the wonder of the Lord only begins in what our research uncovers. For because of sin, God hid knowledge of His ways from men. But He delights to reveal it to those who would choose to find out about their glorious Maker.

God has a higher wisdom reserved for His people: "God's secret

wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

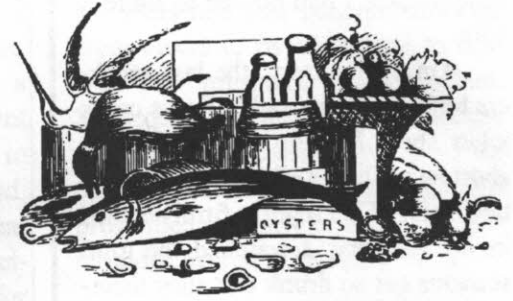
"None of the rulers of this age understood it for if they had, they would not have crucified [Christ], the Lord of glory." (1 Corinthians 2)

Denise Chen, Branford '95



By Lucien Pissarro (1897)

Spiritual Food



As children we were constantly told that certain foods that we didn't like were good for us. Our mothers would say, "Eat your vegetables!"

As a child I never questioned my mother, but later I wondered what did vegetables have that, say, Snickers bars did not. I have since learned that certain foods help our body while others tear it down and are toxic.

We are not always aware that our bodies are constantly under siege by infection and disease. Daily dramas and battles play out in the deep places of our cells as the life-giving nutrients we eat give our bodies the edge over sickness' ceaseless onslaught. We don't think we are adding to our arsenal when we eat broccoli, but we are all the same.

This is also the case spiritually. Whether we realize it or not, a constant battle rages against our faith and our

Christian walk. Countless lies assemble around us, designing to sap the life out of us and conquer us as believers.

Situations cry out to us saying they are the most important things in the world, and need constant and immediate attention: school projects, problems with family or friends, or even household chores.

We have two mighty weapons against such attacks--Praise and Worship. Just like the effectiveness of certain foods, we are not always aware of the power of praise and worship. God in his generosity has made it such that, when we worship Him with all that is in us, even in our giving all to Him, He gives to us. He delivers us from our enemies.

When we praise the Lord, we proclaim that Jesus, not the paper that is

due tomorrow, or the family crisis, or even our personal future, but *Jesus* is the most important of all.

When we worship Him, we acknowledge that He is the most powerful of all, more powerful than any crisis, problem relationship, sin or bondage.

When we adore Him, we get our proper perspective, and at once, the Enemy's lies are neutralized, because we choose to stand on God's truth.

We don't normally see the adversary flee or see his constructs collapse as we praise the Lord, but this happens all the same. God's word says

so.



By William Nicholson (1897)

Rule of Reason

Groping about in the shadow of the Enlightenment, our culture suffers a crisis of intellectual authority. Reason, human

reason that is, has been crowned king and all truth claims must now submit themselves before its judgment.

One of the deposed authorities sentenced to execution is the Christian tenet that all Scripture is God-breathed. Self-contented modernists have denied Scripture all relevance in adjudicating truth. Even in many Christian circles the Bible commands but a quaint sentimentality as people pay their respects to the church's old-time favorite.

Though the consequences of so lightly esteeming Scripture may not be immediately obvious, Christianity cannot long survive having its very foundations undermined. In one of his last works, *Attack of "Christendom"*, Søren Kierkegaard observes, "[T]he Established Church is, Christianly considered, an impudent indecency.... it is openly an apostasy from the Christianity of the New Testament . . . an effort in the direction of making a fool of God, making a fool of Him, as though we did not understand what He is talking about in His Word." (trans., W. Lowrie, Princeton, 1944, p. 19). Unfortunately, Kierkegaard's assessment of the present-day church

*"Praise the Lord.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly
of the saints.
For the Lord takes delight
in his people;
he crowns the humble with salvation.
May the praise of God be
in their mouths
and a double-edged sword
in their hands,
to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
to bind their kings with fetters,
their nobles with shackles of iron,
to carry out the sentence
written against them.
This is the glory of all his saints.
Praise the Lord." (Psalm 149)*

As his people we are privileged to praise God as a company and privately, so as to "carry out the sentence written against" the Enemy.

Now what would happen if, in our criminal courts, offenders were sentenced to prison, but no one took the

responsibility to carry out that sentence? The sentenced criminal would simply walk out of the courtroom free to carry on in wickedness and cruelty. His sentence makes little difference if no one carries it out against him.

Because Jesus died on the cross, a death sentence has been handed down to the Enemy in our lives. We have the right and honor to carry out this sentence against him, to bind him with fetters and shackles of iron, to inflict vengeance on him and his cohorts. We take our wonderful part as we regularly praise and worship the Lord.

We don't praise the Lord simply to set the enemy back and take hold of the victory Christ won for us. No, we worship Him because He is worthy and it is right and good for us to do so. As a direct benefit and consequence, we find deliverance from the foe.

This week you may find yourself hemmed in by some lie, or pressed by a weighty something you are "being told" is important above all else. At those

moments, praise the Lord. Say aloud who He is and what He has done for us all. Proclaim Him as the most important and the most powerful. Rejoice in Him and even sing and dance.

You may not immediately feel the results of praise and worship carried out in faith, but you can be assured according to God's word that you are doing damage to the Enemy's devices and schemes set against you.

You will be doing something that is "good for you," good for your soul and your life in Christ.

Peter Toscano

does not seem grossly exaggerated.

How then are we to uphold the authority of Scripture, we who are confronted by the Enlightenment dictum of

"In many Christian circles the Bible commands but a quaint sentimentality as people pay their respects to the church's old-time favorite..."

the supremacy of Reason? We could begin by realizing that Reason, if indeed reasonable, will recognize its own limitations, especially when addressing issues pertaining to God.

Even an enlightened thinker will concede that if there is a God, this God

would be transcendent. That is to say, He would somehow exceed and surpass the sphere of our humanly perceived reality. Yet this presents a curious problem: how can we know anything about Someone who presumably transcends our sphere of reality?

We cannot see God or hear God or touch God in the way that we do with everyday objects and persons. Laying aside human pride, we must confess that if Someone transcends us, then by that very fact, we cannot precisely analyze Him by our own means of investigation, however rational they may be. Our only hope derives from the possibility that the transcending One is revealed to us.

We can never surmount our limitations to perceive the transcendent, but the transcendent may intersect our world, thereby making itself known. As we Christians maintain, 'the transcendent' is the God who has revealed Himself to us in the Incarnation, and in the Holy Scriptures that attest to Him.

To the astute skeptic, this might appear to be a specious argument, assuming what one is trying to prove. If we identify God as Someone who transcends us and then assert that we can know Him only through His self-revelation, what makes us think that He exists in the first place? This is a fair challenge, and Reason alone cannot provide a satisfactory answer--not because Christian claims are unreasonable, but simply because Reason itself is limited.

Human intellect, apart from a vital relation with its Creator, is mainly

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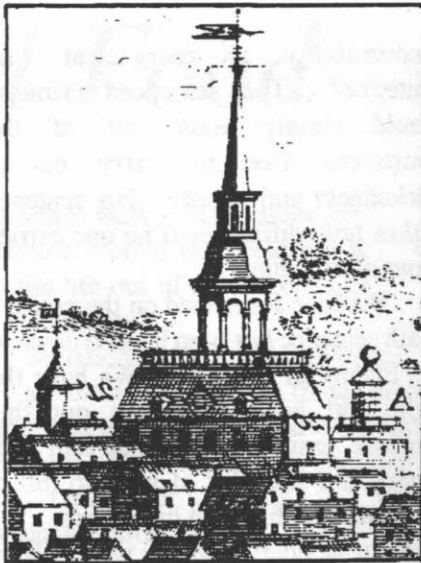
Yellow Cab

- AIRPORTS
- TRAIN
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LOWER OUT OF TOWN
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24 HOURS

777-5555



By William Burgis (1743)

Fulbright Blessing

(Continued from page 1)

Communist rule, but the materialist thinking endured.

All these facts do not excuse my former way of life. I cite them to testify to God's great love and grace which led me away from the crude materialist world to a new life in Jesus Christ.

Though I did not know it, my way to Jesus started quite a long time ago. Early on I realized that the believers whom I knew held a consistent world outlook -- not less consistent than that taught at school. A key question for me then was: "What is good and what is evil?" or "How can we judge an action as good or evil?" For me, good and evil were relative concepts with meanings to be determined by the average opinion of a group of people. However, for believers, "good" and "evil" had unchanging meaning, independent of the human factor.

One Christian friend gave me a satisfactory definition of these concepts without using the word "God" (or any synonym). This helped me greatly because back then I could not accept anything by heart, which my mind had not first accepted-- especially because I

am a mathematician.

Now everything is different, and I believed in God even though He is supernatural and His intentions are sometimes hard to understand here on Earth.

After this talk, I felt that I should no longer live only for myself or for science and mathematics; I doubted if the science that I did could really help mankind.

So, inspired by some other friends, I began to work with children. After a while I realized I did not actually know what the children needed nor what to teach them, so I joined my small group of children to a scouting group.

Scouting's main idea is expressed in the scout oath: "I promise on my honor to serve the highest Truth and Love and at all times to fulfill all my own duties and obey the scout law, and in my body and mind to be always ready to help those around me."

I enjoyed the group and especially my times with a scout leader named Martin. The ideal scout, he divided his time between work and university studies, the scout group, his parents, and self-improvement. He seemed to waste not even a minute.

When I married, I had to leave the scouts -- it consumed too much time. But even more, compared to Martin, I was not talented, filled with the same spirit, nor as able to bear the responsibility of leading such a scout group. Also, there was no more theory that I could learn from scouting.

Looking to improve myself, I read such books as "How to Make Friends and Influence People", "How to Get Off Anxiety and Start to Live", "Be Your Own Psychologist", "Assertiveness", etc. I learned many partially useful

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Rule of Reason

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equipped to engage the tangible, physical world, not the reality of the transcendent. Assuming that God, as God, must be transcendent, Reason cannot exercise the final authority in issues concerning the divine. But God can; and it is perfectly reasonable to suppose that if God does exist, He would have made Himself known to us, realizing that we cannot know Him unless He graciously reveals Himself to us. After all, the unknown God would be wise enough to recognize our limitations and do something about it.

The good news is He *has* done something about it: He came to earth as Jesus Christ, to live and die and rise again, and He has ensured that we, even two millennia later, would have access to these truths through the Bible, the authoritative Word of God.

Sang Joon Yoon, Ezra Stiles '93



(Continued from page 10)

things, but was not satisfied.

I thought that I must find a Teacher for me.

My search for God has not always been straightforward. I started to study Dianetics, led by some people who had experience with it. In short, Dianetics claimed to offer a reliable "religious technology" to remove all problems of the mind, so as to improve human health, increase IQ, etc. The theory

isolated from Czech culture, and because of the language barrier, we were also isolated from American culture.

The change helped me break old patterns and habits and gain a new perspective. I decided to look for wisdom in the Bible. I knew from Christian friends that there was wisdom in the Scripture, but until then I had no intention of reading it. I thought the Bible might be hard to read, so I looked

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seemed to have great features, but sin is not recognized as a problem, and hence Dianetics does not lead to salvation. In general, Dianetics accords well with the widespread, but false belief that man with his science and technology is able (or will be able in the future) to solve all people's problems on Earth without the Creator's help.

Finally, by the Lord's grace, I received a Fulbright Fellowship and came to New Haven, far from my home. In America, my wife and I were almost

for a Bible study group, and began to attend one at Yale.

So far, I did not think that I could become a Christian, nor believe in God. How could I pray for belief when I did not believe that someone might listen to me? It was an endless circle. I did not know what I missed.

The reason for the circle was that I was starved for wisdom--the wisdom of God which was the way out. But while seeking for wisdom, I have found much more.

At my first time at Bible study, I learned that one can know the whole Bible -- each and every sentence -- and work to obey each of God's commands, and still do all this in vain, like the Pharisees of Bible times.

A person must accept the teaching at the very heart -- otherwise it makes little sense.

I also learned I could start to believe in God that evening and pray to Him.

I thought about it the whole evening, and during a partly sleepless night I had a dream where I realized that I wished to understand the Bible, I wished to believe in God and then, that I already did believe in Him so I could start to pray and praise Him. I experienced an immense relief and peace after that. I do not remember many details from the dream -- I only remember the smile of my brother who had become a Christian years before I had, and who was obviously very pleased by my conversion, and even made a joke about it.

Thus began my new life following Jesus. Praise the Lord!

Petr Tichavsky



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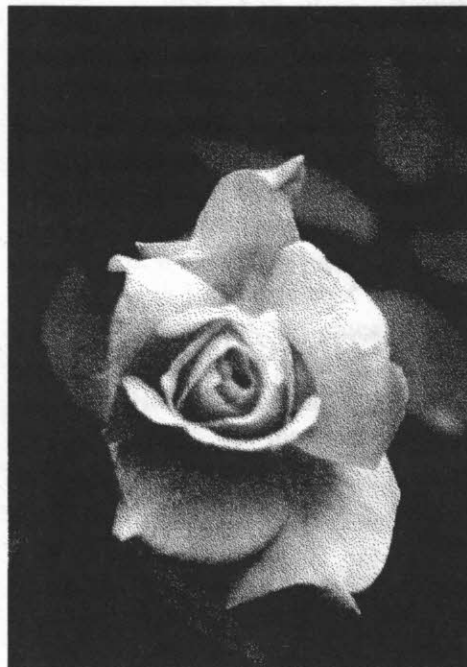
I was pressed from every side. It was Thursday, December 15th, and my book review and music project were due the next day. I was glad that I had asked the Lord to help me not to be anxious because I knew that my old ways, how I thought and acted before I met Jesus, tended to "reappear" in times of stress. But as always He was faithful. That afternoon in the library, He had warned me not to leave out a certain graph from a music assignment I was working on. Then, a teaching fellow appeared whom I could ask about this portion of the project. As I carefully watched her draw and explain what needed to be done, I realized that I had not had a clue what to do before she helped me. The Lord was kind--and I was grateful.

I was all smiles when I got home that evening, but a new set of temptations quickly arose. I had to cook dinner--and none of my roommates offered to help. They knew what a bind I was in, they didn't have all this work to do. How inconsiderate they were! Resentment welled up within me, but I soon realized that I was in the wrong and that I would have to fight these feelings. As I cut and cooked the chicken, I stopped periodically to push back accusing thoughts towards my roommates. I did not want to forget how good God had been to me just that afternoon, but I was having a hard time keeping the door shut to these angry feelings which continued to press upon me. I realized that the weight of my will alone could not hold back this assault upon my soul. My strength was failing, and once again I saw what an evil and ungrateful heart I had.

Just when I was feeling most helpless, I remembered--the cross of Calvary...Jesus, my Savior...He died for my sins! I let out a deep sigh of

relief, released from the weight of the oppressive thoughts that had overcome me. He set me free, offered His blood in exchange for my life, and now I was beyond the reach of Satan. Nothing was as lovely to this needy soul at that moment as the cross of

*... The water that
could not be drunk
was turned into a
sweet source of life
for all.*



Calvary. I praised the Lord God Almighty for He was my salvation--and I joyfully finished preparing dinner for my friends. "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed!"

A friend came over about 5:30 that night to join us for dinner. We prayed and were about to eat when one roommate and then another exclaimed that their water was sweet. I am often scolded that I use too much sugar when I cook--but I *never* put sugar in people's water. I laughed and tried to dismiss their suspicions. But when I took a drink from my own glass, I found that it really was sweet. Then the thought came--that the Lord can make even the bitter sweet. Of course! I remembered the story, that the Lord once told Moses to throw a piece of wood into a spring containing bitter water, the only water available in the desert for the Israelites to drink. Moses obeyed and the water that could not be drunk was turned into a sweet source of life for all.

It is true: God can miraculously turn all that is bitter into sweet. The greatest example of this was when Jesus turned the bitter piece of wood we call the cross into the means of salvation for a world of lost sinners. He defeated sin and all its power, and even overcame death itself, opening the way for someone like me to know and walk with God.

The water *was* inexplicably sweet that night. All who were there agreed about this. But even better He can make sweet the difficult experiences of life. As the old hymn says, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.

Vivian Kim, Silliman '96