

## Building for Eternity

*As a carpenter, Jesus knew much about building. But what is our part in His current construction?*

**B**uildings can last centuries, but eventually all require some renovation. Two iconic edifices in London – Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Westminster – have recently been threatened with closure due to the need for repairs.

In contrast, when Jesus Christ said, ‘I will build my Church,’ He intended a building that would last forever.

### Christ the Builder

We know from Scripture that Jesus Christ created ‘all things’ (John 1:1-3, 14). Long before His birth as a human being, He questioned righteous Job, ‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?’ (Job 38:4). Job couldn’t answer.

When Jesus Christ came to earth

He became a carpenter. At that time this involved not only working with wood, but with all kinds of building materials. (The word for ‘carpenter’ in Mark 6:3 also means a builder, see *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, 5045). Christ’s profession was, and is, a builder, whether it be as the Creator of the universe, the God of Israel in His human form or in His glorified state following His resurrection, .

Christ once asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter replied that He was the Son of the Living God. Jesus responded by saying, ‘I also say to you that you are Peter [*petros*, a small rock or boulder], and on this rock [*petra*, a large outcrop of rock] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it’ (Matthew 16:17).

Christ’s Church was going to be built, not on frail and impetuous Peter (the small stone), but on Christ Himself. Corroboration of this is found in scriptures such as Acts 4:11 and 1 Peter 2:6, where Jesus is described as the ‘chief cornerstone.’ This was the stone against which all others in the building were aligned.



Palace of Westminster, currently in need of renovation. (Shutterstock)

### A temple of living stones

Christ is continuing to build His Church. Paul explained to the Corinthians how this is being achieved: ‘Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?’ (1 Corinthians 3:16).

He made a similar statement in his letter to the Ephesians: ‘Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation [dwelling place] of God in the Spirit’ (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Those now in Christ are the building blocks of this temple.

### Preparing the materials

When Solomon built the first Temple, he instructed that the costly stones be cut and finished in the quarry. They could then be brought into Jerusalem, where they would all be fitted neatly together without the noise usually emanating from a building site (1 Kings 5:17 and 6:7).

Using this idea as a metaphor, the apostle Peter compares Christians to those blocks of stone prepared away from the temple site (1 Peter 2:3-6). Following repentance, baptism and the receipt of the Spirit of Christ, we receive treatment similar to those stones in the quarry. As we follow the

teachings of Christ and overcome our sins and the pulls of human nature and the world, God chips away at all the ‘rough bits’ which do not reflect the image of His Son.

What is being built within us is the righteous character of Christ (Galatians 4:19). However, unlike a literal stone, we can help in this process. There are long lists in Paul’s epistles of the characteristics we need to ‘put on’ and those we need to ‘put

off’ (see, for example, Ephesians 4:25-31; Colossians 3:5-15).

We need to be careful how we build on the precious foundation of Christ, because all that we build will be tested (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). At His return Christ will bring any reward we have earned from our building (Revelation 22:12). Salvation comes with it, however this is a priceless gift from God to His children, not something we earn.

We especially need to learn how to get along with others, so we will fit perfectly together with all the other stones in that spiritual temple – a building so perfect it will never require renovation or repair.

For more information about becoming a ‘living stone,’ please request or download our free Bible study aids *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion* and *The Church Jesus Built*.

David Payne

# Salvation – a Past, Present or Future Event?

*The New Testament uses three tenses to describe the process of salvation: ‘saved,’ ‘being saved’ and ‘will be saved.’ Each stage is needed to inherit eternal life. This is what they signify.*

Some years ago, I had finished work on a customer’s farm and was ready to drive off when, quite out of the blue, the farmer asked, ‘Are you a saved person?’ It sounded like a seriously intentioned question, so I replied, ‘Not yet.’ Having waited for a response which was not forthcoming, I added, ‘I am in the process.’

With something of a puzzled expression he said, ‘Oh!’

I left him pondering.

## Instant salvation?

Much traditional Christianity holds the view that ‘saved’ only points back to a time when one decided to ‘follow the Lord,’ perhaps when someone answered an altar call, had a few words with the preacher and that was it – he or she was heading into the Kingdom.

The basic concept is that once you make the decision, then your place is booked, as it were.

But is it as straightforward as that, or is there more? What does the Bible really teach?

## Saved from our sins

The New Testament reveals that there are three phases or steps of salvation. First of all, we are saved from our past sins by Christ’s sacrifice. He took on Himself the death penalty we earned by our sins (Romans 6:23).

Discussing the starting point of salvation, the apostle Paul stated, ‘And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air . . . and were by nature children of wrath . . . But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)’ (Ephesians 2:1-5).

The context explains that they had been saved from ‘being dead in trespasses and sins,’ from the wrath

of God and from ‘the prince of the power of the air,’ Satan, and his influence in their lives.

This is the first phase in the process of salvation through God’s grace. Although Paul projects forward to the completion of salvation in the Kingdom of God, he shows clearly that the culmination is to occur, not immediately, but ‘*in the ages to come*’ (verse 7, emphasis added).

Paul continues to impress on his

*First of all, we are saved from our past sins by Christ’s sacrifice. He took on Himself the death penalty we earned by our sins (Romans 6:23).*

readers that we cannot save ourselves by any means whatsoever, as salvation is a gift from God: ‘By grace you have been saved [from your past sins and trespasses and from Satan the Devil] through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God’ (verse 8).

## Developing godly character

Paul then defines the second phase of salvation, that of allowing Christ to be formed in us (Galatians

4:19). He continues in his letter to the Church in Ephesus, 'We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them' (Ephesians 2:10).

God's grace obligates us to live and walk in those good works. What are those good works? Jesus, as God of the Old Testament, clearly defined them for us in the Ten Commandments, and endorsed them in the Sermon on the Mount by raising those commandments to a higher plane.

This second phase of salvation is characterised by the process of Christian growth and overcoming. As we live by every word of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we develop godly character.

Paul told the Church of God in Corinth, 'I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word that I preached to you' (1 Corinthians 15:1-2). The Greek word here for 'are saved' really means 'are being saved' (present tense, passive) as the rest of the context indicates. The same expression is found in 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 2 Corinthians 2:15.

This is the part of salvation which is to be worked out by the individual with God's Spirit dwelling in them. We should be doing this daily as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and choose to live God's way.

Writing to another congregation, this time in Philippi, Paul exhorted them, 'Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure' (Philippians 2:12-13).

Once under God's grace, we are to strive to do His good pleasure, so that we reflect the nature and image

of Christ. Failure to do this could jeopardise our salvation (Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 13:5).

In his letter to the disciples at Thessalonica, Paul explained, 'We also pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him' (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

Doing God's pleasure means conforming to the image of His Son – taking on Christ's godly character (Romans 8:29).

### Phase three – eternal life

The third phase of salvation occurs at the return of Jesus Christ when the dead in Christ are resurrected and those still alive are changed into spirit beings (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

The apostle Peter explained that salvation was to be 'revealed in the last time' (1 Peter 1:3-5).

The author of Hebrews clarified this when he wrote, 'To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation' (Hebrews 9:28).

Just before he died, the apostle

Paul, knowing his salvation would be completed at the resurrection, wrote to the young elder Timothy, 'There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that Day [the day of Christ's return and the resurrection], and not to me only, but also to all them who have loved His appearing' (2 Timothy 4:8).

### Past, present *and* future

Those who respond to God's calling will receive salvation through the grace of God, but as we have seen, the process is accomplished in three phases:

Past: *having been saved* from past sins by being forgiven.

Present: *being saved*, as God the Father oversees the development of Jesus Christ's character within us.

Future: *shall be saved*, when we appear with Christ at His return.

At the resurrection the phases of salvation will be complete and Christ's followers will appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4).

Ultimately the blessing of God's edgrace is eternal life through the resurrection and, in time, it will be offered to all who wish to take part in this process.

Oswald McKay

## Living Under Grace

Many people equate 'grace' with being freed from an obligation to live a life of obedience to God's laws. If you consider what grace, or a pardon, means in civil law, you'll recognise the fallacy of this reasoning. When a person receives a pardon, it means the judiciary suspended *the penalty* for breaking the law – it did not suspend the law itself.

The same is true regarding spiritual law. Breaking it is sin (1 John 3:4). God's grace is the extension of a pardon, the suspension of the death penalty. God

expects the pardoned individual will from that point on live a law-abiding life – obedient to His Law. Assuredly, there is freedom in grace. It affords freedom from the death penalty, as well as freedom to begin anew to live life as we should.

To study this subject further, please read 'Grace, Faith and Law' on page 68 of our free booklet *The Ten Commandments*. Copies are available on request either from the address on the front page or downloaded from [www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets](http://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets).



# Seeking to Update God's Profile

*When it comes to describing God, campaigners want to ditch the exclusive use of masculine language and imagery in favour of feminine terminology. Should we ignore God's own revelation of Himself in Scripture?*

Following on the heels of the selection of the first female bishop, support is apparently now growing within the Church of England to rewrite its official liturgies to refer to God as 'She' (*Daily Telegraph*, Monday, June 1, 2015).

Based on the scripture, 'God created man in His own image; *in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*' (Genesis 1:27), some claim that since God has both male and female characteristics, He could equally well be considered female. However, God has chosen to reveal Himself in Scripture as a father figure, ie, masculine (2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 1 Peter 1:3).

## **Father as head of the family**

Human families serve as a type of the ultimate family which God is creating. Most people don't understand that plan, yet that is clearly what the Father has in mind (Ephesians 3:14-15).

When the Creator first established the human family unit, the father was the leader of the household, with the wife taking the important role of being his support. Many great men would have remained in relative obscurity, without the backing of an intelligent, capable and resourceful wife.

By placing what we understand as masculine character traits into men and feminine characteristics into

women, God expected that in marriage these aspects would complement each other.

As the God of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ held titles such as Master, Lord, King, Father, Husband (Jeremiah 31:32; Malachi 1:6, 14). When born as flesh and blood through His human mother, Mary, He retained this male identity (John 1:1-3, 14). God was His Father, although since 'God is Spirit,' He actually has no specific gender, as we would understand it (John 4:24).

At His return, Christ will receive the masculine titles of 'King of kings and Lord of Lords' (Revelation 19:16). He will also, spiritually speaking, take a wife well-suited to His rank and position (Revelation 19:6-8).

## **Our Father in heaven**

Jesus came to reveal the Father (John 6:46; 14:6-7). Those who claim to be His disciples should be following the example that He set. Nowhere in the New Testament did He address God as His mother. He instructed us all to address God as 'our Father' (Matthew 6:9).

The apostle John was presented with a vision of the 'day of the Lord,' when which he was permitted to see into heaven itself. Throughout the book of Revelation, God is always referred to using masculine pro-

nouns. In the penultimate chapter, He once again refers to Himself in terms of being a 'Father' (Revelation 21:7).

With all this evidence, who are we to argue with God's choice of how He presents Himself to us, or to decide to change His holy word? There are warnings about adding to or subtracting from Scripture (Revelation 22:18-19).

## **Gender will not be an issue in God's kingdom**

Whatever the arguments, gender will not even be an issue in the Kingdom of God. We read in Galatians 3:28, 'There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female

*Since 'God is Spirit,' He actually has no specific gender as we would understand it (John 4:24).*

for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

In His reply to the Sadducees' question about the resurrection, Jesus explained, 'The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection' (Luke 20:34-36). The Greek word used here for 'sons' can also include daughters, as also the context indicates.

Our Heavenly Father is offering the same future to all, whether male or female (1 Peter 3:7). While God has made a distinction in the physical

creation, there is no difference in the world to come.

God is a complete spiritual Being. It seems He has placed some of His qualities into men and some into women. Once we are changed to immortal spirit beings, we too will become complete having both male and female qualities and other qualities beyond imagination. Currently we have no terminology to describe an unquantifiable God and can only understand Him by His own revelation and that of His Son.

If you would like to learn more about the wonderful future God has in store for you and all humankind, regardless of gender, please download or request our free booklet *What is Your Destiny?* You may also like to request *Who Is God?*, which gives more information on the nature of God and how we can understand the Father through Jesus Christ.

*Ademola Adesupo*

## A Day to Let Go of Stress

*People benefit from time to de-stress, so God not only created a rest day, but made it holy time too.*

**A** day away from the ordinary, often stress-filled, activity of day-to-day life is not a new concept. Resting one day out of seven to reconnect with that which is most important is mentioned in the second chapter of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. It doesn't get much more ancient than that.

The weekly Sabbath falls on the seventh day of the week, Saturday as we know it. It is a day of rest, certainly, but rest with a purpose. It was, and is, an identifying marker of God's followers. It is time blessed by Him and made holy (Genesis 2:1-3); a day for additional contact with Him, as individuals or communally, as like-minded brethren meet together and focus on our relationship with our Creator.

The Sabbath is simultaneously

a religious and pragmatic obligation. We obey because we make a choice to follow a command from God. We benefit, because it moderates the hectic nature of our lives from overexposure to the stream of information and to the stress of life and work, often running at an unhealthy pace. Once a week we are given holy time when we can re-focus on the most fundamental concepts of the human experience: obedience, fellowship, and eternity.

To learn more about why the Sabbath is commanded in the Bible, what is required of those who keep it and why it is worthy of consideration, please request or download our free Bible study aid *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*.

## Where Did That Thought Come From?

*Among the many thoughts that stream continually through our minds, inappropriate notions often pop up unbidden and unexpected. Why does this happen?*

**A**re you ever surprised by the thoughts drifting into your mind? Maybe an idea you would never normally entertain? Or feeling overwhelmed by desire, fear or anger for no apparent reason?

Like the irritating tune in one's head that keeps repeating itself, one's thoughts can seem to have a life of their own. Perhaps this is because, in a sense, they do.

Although we cannot see Satan, his influence is powerful and pervasive. Paul understood this, reminding Christians that 'you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience' (Ephesians

2:1-2). The result of the devil's influence is that, before conversion, our focus is on 'gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts' (verse 3, NIV).

Paul described Satan as 'the prince of the power of the air.' It seems he is responsible for a sort of spiritual 'broadcast' to which human minds are attuned. Just as the air around us is saturated with TV and radio signals into which we can tune our electronic devices, so it is also saturated with Satan's spiritual broadcasts of selfish and rebellious moods and attitudes to which our minds are receptive.

The devil thereby influences humanity to reject God and His law. Under this influence, 'the mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable do so' (Romans 8:7, Holman Christian Standard Bible).

Separated from God, man chooses to go his own way with devastating results. Under Satan's influence, humanity has rejected God's revelation and guidance and built societies and civilisations on wrong foundations.

The apostle Paul instructed Christians to cause 'every thought to come under the authority of Christ' (2 Corinthians 10:5, Bible In Basic English). To learn how to recognise the 'wiles of the devil' and to begin to resist his influence, please request or download our Bible study guide *Is There Really a Devil?*

# When Time Flies . . .

*Each of us only has so much time. Let's use it wisely.*

**H**ave you ever scrolled endlessly down the Facebook news feed, eyes glued to the screen, slightly dazed? Turning the wheel on your mouse or repeatedly flicking the screen of your tablet as you skim the surface of a tide of non-essential but copious details about the lives of others. Suddenly you snap back to reality as your mobile phone rings or someone asks a question in real time. Out of the daze, you wonder, where *has* the time gone?

## A stealer of time

According to recent statistics from Global Web Index, the average person around the globe has five accounts on social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter, and spends an hour and forty minutes surfing that wave of details each day. That means that nearly twenty-eight

*Twenty-eight percent of the average person's Internet use evaporates through social media.*

percent of the average person's Internet use evaporates through social networks. Britons, however, are slightly below that, spending only an hour and twenty minutes daily on social media (Lauren Davidson, 'Social Media Is Where the Time Goes,' *Daily Telegraph*, May 18, 2015).

The rise of Internet accessibility through various mobile devices accounts for the increase of time spent on social media and the Internet in general. Two hours a day are now spent online compared to the hour and fifteen minutes that was the average in 2012.

## Is the Internet evil?

So now that we know where those lost hours have gone, does that automatically make social media an enemy? The answer is no, and yes.

Social media has many strengths. It connects people with a rapidity and an accessibility that the world has never before experienced. Families can share photos in an instant. Those who are ill can, through video calling, be a part of activities from which they are physically distanced. Ten years of this amazing level of connectivity feels like centuries, and it's easy to forget how we interacted in the past.

However, and here is the drawback to social media, it is *only* a decade old, and for thousands of years before, human beings have connected mainly through writing (books, print, and letters) and face-to-face interaction. It worked well, in fact so well that it is through this means of communication and collected knowledge that the internet, building on previous technologies, was ultimately developed. There is room for all three: digital communication, writing, and face-to-face conversation.

## Developing balance

A wise man once said, 'Let your moderation be known to all men . . .' It is a good idea, but a struggle in the face of endless streams of digital information that absorb our time.

The question is, how do we *actually* spend our precious time?

Spending too much time on electronic communication devices allows the mind and body no time to rest from constantly trying to filter

and process information. Taking a break, stepping outside to look at something green or floral, or getting away from the back-lighting of the computer and tablet screens through reading or writing on paper are a good counterbalance.

This is exactly what moderation is all about – taking time away from the normal routine to rest and rejuvenate.

In addition, are we stealing from the face-to-face quality time we owe our families and loved ones? Are our work commitments suffering because our minds are distracted by busily updating our Facebook 'status' or contemplating a new 'tweet'? Or could our relationship with God be withering, because we are so busy with superficial human interactions or following the latest celebrity news headlines that we do not spend enough time with God through prayer and Bible study?

The challenge of prioritising is to ensure that the hours, minutes and seconds that make up our lives are spent on those important aspects first. Once they are all attended to, then we can settle down with a relatively clear conscience to our potentially time-consuming online interests.

It is also worth considering that while this article concerns social media, it is not the only culprit when it comes to absorbing inordinate amounts of time! Hobbies, television, games and even work can all eat away at our lives. End of life regrets often stem from a failure to have spent more precious time with loved ones, and with God.

The vital question always to ask: Is there something more worthwhile or more important I could be doing?

*Amanda Stiver*





**Q** Which Bible translation should I use? Is there one that is considered the best?

**A** There are many different versions of the Bible available today. Addressing these differences, our free booklet *How to Understand the Bible* says, ‘The most helpful tool for Bible study is, not surprisingly, a Bible – or, more properly, several Bible versions, among which you can compare wording. People will often seek to find the translation that is most accurate, most literal or easiest to read. However, no single translation fits all these requirements.

‘More than 60 English versions of the Bible are available. We can divide them into three broad types: word-for-word, meaning-by-meaning and paraphrased. Usually a particular Bible version will explain, on its introductory pages, which approach was used in preparing it.

‘The word-for-word versions most accurately follow the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. Generally speaking, the King James Version and its modern counterpart, the New King James Version, are word-for-word translations’ (page 24).

Because the New King James Version combines translation accuracy and modern language, most scriptural quotations in literature produced by the United Church of God are from this translation.

What about meaning-to-meaning versions? They, too, can be valuable as secondary sources, to put

the Scriptures into more understandable wording. The New International Version, Revised English Bible, Good News Bible and New Living Translation are popular meaning-to-meaning translations.

The final group are paraphrased Bibles, such as *The Living Bible* or *The Message*. These can be described as interpretive translations. ‘Their goal is to make the Bible even easier to read in modern language.’ Caution is necessary in working with these texts, however, because the authors may have exercised poetic license to transform some basic terms according to their own religious ideas.

‘Paraphrased versions can be consulted to better grasp the story flow but should not be used to establish doctrine. They should be considered poor sources for accurately determining the meaning of any text’ (page 27).

Given the many choices of Bibles available today, our recommendation is that individuals use the New King James Version as their foundational Bible. Other translations can then be added to augment their biblical studies. For additional information on this subject, consult our free booklet *How to Understand the Bible*.

**Q** Do angels watch over us and do they sometimes appear to people?

**A** In the Bible angels have two key roles. Firstly they are messengers between God and His human creation, as in Genesis 22:11 and Luke 1:5-20. Secondly, they work in God’s service to accomplish His will regarding the Israelites in the Old Testament and the spiritual Body of Christ, the Church, in the New (see for example, Exodus 23:20 and Matthew 24:31).

Angels are also very much involved in the prophetic events at the end of man’s allotted time. They will be instrumental in proclaiming God’s final warning prior to Armageddon and the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation, chapters 8 and 9).

Mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible in both Old and New Testaments, angels are usually invisible to the human eye. While they sometimes appeared visibly, it was in exceptional circumstances and certainly not for trivial matters.

Since we now have the whole Bible, God’s revelation, in our possession, there is really no need for angels to appear to anyone. God tells us His will within the pages of Scripture. Yes, angels exist, and may still interact with Christ’s followers (Hebrews 13:2) but we shouldn’t expect them to appear before us visibly and should be wary of those who claim to have seen them.

## Let the Bible Answer...

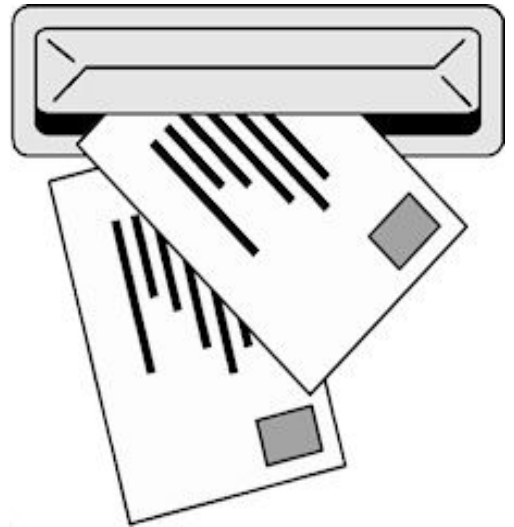
*Does the Bible have anything to say about gossip?*

Principles are found in Proverbs 11:13; 18:17 and 26:20.

Also Matthew 12:36; 1 Timothy 5:13.

If the gossip is untrue, Exodus 20:16; 23:1, 7 and Matthew 19:16-19 can be considered.

# Letters from our readers



## **Beyond Today programme**

[Saturday 6 June] was the first time I heard your TV programme *Beyond Today* on the Word Network. I will certainly watch it again.

*P M, Northern Ireland*

We watched your programme and enjoyed what you were saying. Could we please request *Is the Bible True?*

*A & L F, Dumfries*

Well done! In your last broadcast you said we could call for a free copy of your booklet [*The Book of Revelation Unveiled*]. Please, I would like a copy to help me in my Bible study

*Viewer from Ireland*

*Editor's comment: The Beyond Today television programme airs in the British Isles on The Word Network (Sky channel 588) three times a week: Friday evening 9:00 pm, Saturday evening 11:30 pm and (from 13 September) Sunday afternoon 4:00 pm. All UK time.*

## **Good news beyond the bad**

I must commend you for the efforts put in to making sure we are aware of what we should expect to happen in our world, and the hope

for believers. My problem is my inability to remember some of the [comforting] passages that I have read in the book of Isaiah, for example, chapter 2, verses 2-4. It is a real eye-opener.

*Reader from Croydon*

Those unfamiliar with biblical prophecy, who might glance through the latest issue of *The Good News* (July-August) could be forgiven for thinking it is anything but good news. However, it is to me a most thought-provoking insight into what the future holds, with nothing hidden because it might be too frightening.

*The Good News* looks beyond the horrific scenario which is unfolding before our very eyes in this time of the end, to what Winston Churchill described as 'broad sunlit lands.'

Keep up the good work and please accept this small donation, so that more people may learn of the wonderful age ahead, when our Lord appears, standing on the Mount of Olives.

*Reader from Northamptonshire*

Thank you for the material you freely give out in God's name for His Kingdom. I find them so useful on my journey with our Lord and

Saviour. These are difficult times we are living in and we need [God] like never before.

*A R, Hull*

## **Renewing *The Good News***

I am always inspired by the word, and *The Good News* magazine is the word explained for those that, like me, sometimes find the Bible hard to understand.

*R F, Swindon*

I have just received the latest edition of *The Good News* magazine and British Supplement. I would like to continue receiving these two publications. Your teaching in them is very sound and biblical. I need teachings like this to develop my Christian faith. Please send me the booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

*J F, Taunton*

Would you kindly continue to send me *The Good News*. I look forward to reading the magazine and learn a lot from it.

*Reader from Gateshead*

## **How Our Literature Is Funded**

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, coworkers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that His message can be made available to all. We are grateful to those who assist financially in the work done by *The Good News*.

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