

BEYOND TODAY

The British & European Supplement

January/February 2018

How the smallest bribe can corrupt good character

From flagrant attempts to influence our judgement to an appeal to compromise just a little, bribes or inducements can adversely affect our determination to follow Christ.

Bribes can appear in many guises and are not always a matter of physically handing over cash. Gifts, hospitality and entertainment can be bribes if they are intended to influence a decision. Even promotions can fall into this category.

In his foreword for the 2010 Bribery Act, then Secretary of State for Justice Kenneth Clarke made the following comment: “Bribery blights lives. Its immediate victims include firms that lose out unfairly. The wider victims are government and society, both undermined by a weakened rule of law and damaged social and economic development. At stake is the principle of free and fair competition, which stands diminished by each bribe offered or accepted.”

Definitions of bribery in the Act include offering, promising or giving “a financial or other advantage to another person” intending that the advantage will “induce a person to perform improperly a relevant function or activity or to reward a person for the improper performance of such a function or activity.”

Christ’s reaction

Spiritual inducements can often be harder to spot and to resist than the physical equivalent. Jesus Christ was subjected to an infamous yet ultimately unsuccessful bribery attempt from the master of deceptions.

Following Christ’s fast of forty days and forty nights, Satan the devil came to tempt Him. This event is described in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. In one of these tests,

Satan took Christ up onto a high mountain and “showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours’” (Luke 4:5-7).

The temptation here for Christ was that He could gain rulership over the earth without having to go through the suffering for mankind’s sin. On a more genial note, He could perhaps have prevented much human suffering dur-

A bribe may become a target for blackmail and lead to further compromise with God’s standards.

ing that brief reign. However, as He was now human and subject to death, and the prospect of regaining His eternal life was in the hands of His Father, a few years as king over the whole world was still a poor comparison (John 17:5; Romans 6:4). In any event, He had been given a greater task to accomplish, through His death and resurrection.

He responded, apparently without hesitation, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Luke 4:8). Even, three and a half years later, when facing the imminent torturous death on the cross, Jesus submitted Himself to the Father’s will (Luke 22:39-46).

“Adequate procedures”

Just as Jesus was offered bribes by Satan, we too are similarly subjected to his guile. He offers all sorts of rewards to follow his ways and desert God’s way of life. Many of the things he offers sound attractive but we mustn’t be led astray. Instead we are to be above reproach. From Christ’s experience with Satan, we can see how easy it would be to justify a wrong act because some good or



pleasurable experience may come from it. However the action would still be wrong. Justifying one wrong action can make it easier to compromise again in the future.

In the guidelines to the Bribery Act it says that “companies who put in place “adequate procedures” to prevent bribery will have an absolute defence to liability under the law.” Similarly, as Christ’s followers we must have more than “adequate procedures” in place to prevent or minimise Satan’s attempts to deflect us from our walk with God. Closeness to God, through prayer, Bible study and occasional fasting, together with an acute awareness of His laws are essential. Also remember that all our actions are seen by our Heavenly Father and that one day we will be required to give an account.

Helpful in our resistance to bribes is remembering, as Christ did, the wonderful reward for being faithful to God. Jesus Christ was willing to go through all he experienced, not only to regain the glory He had previously known with God the Father but also so that He could rescue repentant sinners from Satan’s grasp (Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 12:2; Romans 5:8-10).

A risky answer to problems

Sometimes inducements may seem to be the answer to a personal crisis, at other times bribes can infiltrate our lives unnoticed. The concept generally involves, “I’ll do something unusual for you, if you’ll do something unusual for me.” Or in Satan’s case, “a small compromise with God’s law won’t do any harm, and look at the advantage

you gain.” We do not need to re-learn the same lesson Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden of Eden. Quick fixes or something-for-nothing offers are rarely genuine (Genesis 3:1-8).

While any secret arrangement may seem insignificant and harmless to those involved, the focus can be turned solely onto the one bribed. For example, bribes can be considered an “equal” arrangement, until one party wishes to exert pressure of some kind over the other. Then the inducement may become a target for blackmail and lead to further compromise with God’s standards. It can place you in a position of “slavery” to the one who bribed you (as in the principal of “the borrower is servant to the lender” found in Proverbs 22:7).

Much of the world constantly seeks some kind of financial advantage, hence the current proliferation of gambling and gaming. Another trend is the avoidance of paying for things, such as taxes. This epitomises a self-centred way of life, where the focus is on the self, rather than providing adequately for one’s family or helping others. This kind of greed leads to opportunities for others to take advantage. Ensuring that sound financial principles guide our lives can reduce temptation in this area.

Satan will always try to sneak an inducement to sin into our lives. Disciples of Christ need to be aware of their potential to fall for this kind of deception and should have the aforementioned “adequate procedures” in place in their lives to help them thwart Satan’s wiles.

Mark Webb

Debt: a source of multiple problems

Years of low interest rates and easy credit may have lulled some into a false sense of security that the future financial situation of the country will continue to be the same as it has been. Personal debt is one issue, but warnings are beginning to surface that government debt is spiralling out of control again, as it did ten years ago. Any further ramping up of government debt could cause another crisis (“Bank warnings over Britain’s debt,” *The Daily Telegraph*, 1 December 2017).

Those with high personal debt could find themselves with severe monetary difficulties should another recession result. Fears are that many benefits could also be affected as there may be insufficient money available to fund them.

How can people manage their money in such unstable financial conditions? Our booklets *Making Life Work* and *Managing Your Finances* offer practical help. Please request or download your copies.

Garments fit for a royal bride

Beautiful clothes, especially wedding garments, are often equated with righteousness in the Bible. A study of this analogy can teach us much about spiritual attitudes and the glorious future awaiting those whom God declares “righteous.”

In the months leading up to the 70th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in November 2017, many images were seen of Her Majesty’s wedding dress. Photos of it even appeared on postage stamps.

With the marriage of the Queen’s grandson Prince Harry to Meghan Markle, due to take place 19 May 2018, many wait with anticipation to see the wedding gown of the latest royal bride. Whether simple or ornate, it is certain to be stunning.

The prophet Isaiah pleaded with his people, “Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city” (Isaiah 52:1). To the prophet’s eyes, no city on earth compared favourably with Jerusalem’s “beautiful garments.” However, she had discarded them by rejecting God’s way. So what were these garments Isaiah so wanted Jerusalem to put on?

Garments of righteousness

In the Bible, beautiful attire for both men and women is often analogous to righteousness. In the Old Testament, Job, one of the most righteous men who ever lived, stated, “I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban” (Job 29:14).

The prophet Isaiah declared of God, “For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak” (Isaiah 59:17).

The apostle Paul encouraged followers of Christ to put off certain sinful attributes such as anger, wrath, blasphemy and filthy language, putting on those that reflected Christ’s character instead (Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:8-14; Romans 13:14). The Greek verb used in the original text for “put on” is used of “sinking into a garment.”

Speaking of the Church as the Bride of Christ the apostle John declared, “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Revelation 19:8).

Righteousness is an important theme in both the Old and New Testament. It is what God sought and still seeks in His people: “Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy” (Psalm 132:9).

God wants us to be righteous

In John’s first epistle, we are reminded that there are two opposing ways of life: “In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10). A few verses earlier, John explained, “He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous” (1 John 3:7).

The apostle Peter concurred. He declared, “For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them” (2 Peter 2:21). The saints are those in whom Christ dwells through the Holy Spirit. “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27; see also Galatians 2:20). Without the righteousness of Christ within us, our own righteous acts are insufficient, “we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

David wrote, “My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172).

What made Jerusalem the holy city

In the Old Testament, Israel, identified by its capital, Jerusalem, entered into an agreement with God. The Almighty likened this relationship to a marriage (Jeremiah 3:19-20). His gift to His people was the laws that would show them the way to become holy as He is holy.

In the field of human relationships ancient Jerusalem had in its possession superb laws and statutes that, if kept, would serve her people well. What made Jerusalem’s spiritual attire so special in contrast to other nations in antiquity? It was their divine origin. How else could a people who were relative newcomers on the Middle Eastern map produce such a treasure chest of laws regulating human relationships – unless these “garments” came from God. Many centuries later, the apostle Paul referred to these biblical laws as “the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2).

The Children of Israel were to have been an example to the other nations who didn’t possess the wise teachings Israel had been given. In order to prevent the Israelites

from feeling superior to other nations, God reminded them of an important fact in the fifth book of the Bible: “For you were the least of all peoples” (Deuteronomy 7:7), i.e. they had been slaves in Egypt. What made the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, special in the sight of God was that they were given commandments, laws and statutes that other nations didn’t have, a treasure chest of divinely established laws so that they could be the people of God (verses 8-11).

Jerusalem’s attire discarded

Even though the Israelites of the Exodus preserved God’s revelation for posterity, including the Ten Commandments and various other laws, it wasn’t too long before these moral absolutes were rejected by the Israelites. “They have regarded Your law as void,” is how King David put it a few hundred years later (Psalm 119:126). The laws of God regulating the relationship between Creator and created went out of the window and Israel began to shed the beautiful garments it had been given.

Isaiah is unrelenting in his condemnation of Israel’s behaviour. At first Jerusalem was “the faithful city . . . full of justice, [and] righteousness lodged in it” the prophet proclaimed. But then things changed: “Everyone loves bribes . . . They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come before them” (Isaiah 1:21-23). God’s laws on good human relationships were ignored to such an extent that He pleaded with His people, “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:16-17).

The beautiful attire of the holy city had become ugly rags in the sight of God.

Garments available to all

Has history not repeated itself in our own modern world? In Britain today, as elsewhere, moral absolutes are no longer adhered to and society is paying the price for such rejection. Man is progressively rejecting the Decalogue and other laws of God that, if kept, would benefit both society and individual.

The “beautiful garments” revealed and preserved in the Bible are accessible to anyone wishing to be clothed with them. Biblical Israel rejected them all too often, substituting the tradition of men at the expense of the laws of God. Christianity didn’t fare any better, teaching that the laws of God are no longer necessary to keep and that Christ’s atoning sacrifice made them obsolete. No thought is given as to why the Almighty might command the Israelites to keep His laws and then, centuries later, declare them void and unnecessary, especially when He proclaims

“For I am the LORD, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6).

The Bible, in both Old and New Testaments, teaches that God’s laws, including the Ten Commandments as exemplified by Jesus Christ, are moral absolutes that have no sell-by date – because they are the righteousness, the beautiful spiritual garments, that every human being should put on.

The bride of Christ

Throughout the New Testament the return of Christ in glory is proclaimed. The apostle Peter explains that beyond His 1,000-year reign in Jerusalem, “We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13).

The Church as the Bride of Christ will be dressed in fine linen representing righteousness (Revelation 19:7-8). Furthermore, the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven to the earth “like a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). This is where the righteous saints will dwell for all eternity with God the Father and Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:1-5). Finally, the holy city of Jerusalem will be completely and for all time attired in the beautiful garments intended for her.

We should strive always to appear before the Lord our God in beautiful spiritual clothing as befits the future bride of Christ, and with His help and daily repentance to lay aside and be cleansed from all the filthy rags of sin.

Gerhard Marx

Law not now based on a higher authority

“For over a thousand years the Christian faith influenced and helped to shape English law, and the law underpinned the nation’s Christian heritage. Both are now in ruins,” wrote Stephen C. Perks, in his book *Christianity and Law*. He also explained, “Our legislators no longer recognise the authority of a higher law to which all human law must conform if it is to be valid; consequently Christian law is being replaced by law based on religious and philosophical presuppositions that are alien to our legal traditions.”

Perks concluded that “The remedy for this malady lies in recognising once more that all human law must conform to the standards of justice revealed in God’s law” (p. 13-14, Kuyper Foundation, Taunton, England, 2012). How very true.

God’s law is eternal and unchanging and can still change lives today. To learn more please request or download our booklet *The Ten Commandments*.

When anger rises within us

Is it wrong for Christians to get angry? Here is what the Bible says, and some suggestions on how to gain control over this emotion.

In the animal kingdom the two most important reactions to a stressful situation have been described as “fight or flight.” God has chosen to wire humans up the same way. When we feel threatened in any way, the body may respond physiologically with the flight response, correlated with fear and blood draining away from the skin. The fight response is correlated with anger and with increased blood flow to the face as a warning for the other person to back off.

Of themselves these emotions of fear and anger are not sinful. However, if we do not react appropriately to them, they can lead to sin.

Unchecked emotions can lead to sin

In his letter to the Ephesians the apostle Paul showed how emotional problems can give rise to spiritual issues when he stated: “Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26-27).

Firstly, note that it is possible to be angry without sinning (also confirmed in Psalm 4:4).

Secondly, anger can lead to sin. How does anger lead to sin? If I violate your rights in any way such as hitting you, screaming at you, swearing at you, then I am sinning against you.

Thirdly, we are not to suppress our anger. This may be a surprise to some because many of us have learned to “stuff” our angry feelings. Maybe we grew up in a dysfunctional family where we experienced verbal and physical violence. Anger was scary for us so we resolved to never express anger; instead we repressed it. We may believe that as good Christians this is acceptable behaviour. However, Paul shows suppressed anger can give Satan a foothold in our lives. It can lead to resentment, grudges, bitterness, withdrawal, depression, passive-aggressive behaviours, and addictions such as smoking. Although you may not think that anger is causing you to sin – because you are not openly fighting or yelling at someone else – the suppression of anger often causes separation between you and others because of your toxic feelings of resentment and bitterness. Under those circumstances you become easy prey for Satan who delights in negativity. (For more information on withstanding Satan’s attacks please request our booklet *Is There Really a Devil?*)

Cain’s anger led to murder

The story of Cain illustrates these principles well. Cain and Abel both brought offerings to the LORD (Genesis 4:3-4). God respected Abel and his offering but not Cain or his offering. In response, “Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell” (verses 4-5). God asked Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it” (verses 6-7).

Failing to heed God’s warning, “Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (verse 8).

In this account Cain was clearly very upset and undoubtedly experiencing a number of different emotions, such as jealousy of Abel. Anger is specifically mentioned here. He had not yet sinned, because the LORD said that “sin lies at the door,” but Cain had to get control over his anger, otherwise it would lead to sin. In the event, he failed to control his emotions and then sinned by murdering his brother.

Paul said that not dealing with anger can give place to the devil. John implies that this happened to Cain when he writes: “not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother” (1 John 3:12).

Moses lost the plot

Often anger can result from heightened levels of frustration. This can be illustrated by an event in the life of Moses. The children of Israel had come into the Wilderness of Zin and were very upset with Moses because they were without water. God then described to Moses how He would perform a miracle for the people which would provide them with water while also honouring God as their provider. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals” (Numbers 20:7-8).

What transpired was very different from God’s instructions: “And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, ‘Hear now,

you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?’ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them’” (verses 10-12).

Moses was asked to speak to the rock; instead he struck the rock twice with his rod. He should have acknowledged God as the source of this water, instead he said ‘Must we . . .’ as if he and Aaron were the source of this miracle. Why did Moses depart from his instructions? “Hear now, you rebels!” makes it very clear that the intense frustration he felt as a result of the Israelites rebelling against his leadership and wanting to go back to Egypt caused his frustration to escalate into anger. Temporarily he “lost the plot,” as the saying goes.

It was a costly mistake. God was very displeased and decided not to let Moses lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. The example of Moses shows that anger often results from extreme frustration. The lesson is to recognise that escalating frustration culminates in out-of-control anger if not managed. However, many times we may have the anger and not recognise its source. The story of King Saul is also helpful here.

What is driving the anger?

Saul’s anger at David caused him to attempt to kill David on a number of occasions. By examining one account, we can learn what was driving that anger.

In 1 Samuel 18:10-11 we are told that King Saul attempted to kill David by pinning him to the wall with a spear. Verses 6-9 reveal what motivated Saul’s behaviour: “When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.’ Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. ‘They have credited David with tens of thousands,’ he thought, ‘but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?’ And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David” (New International Version)

Yes, Saul was angry, but underlying that anger was jealousy. Saul was very upset because the women of Israel were praising David more than him and he was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul (verse 12). Those underlying emotions drove Saul’s murderous anger.

Appropriate responses

If we do not respond appropriately our resulting actions can lead to sin, hence Paul’s advice to be angry without sinning, and God’s cautioning of Cain. When angry we can sin by violating another person’s rights. This is often visible to all and can be by direct violence, or by an argumentative, disrespectful or petulant attitude, as we struggle to get our own way.

Suppressing the anger may not seem to be so sinful, but Paul advises us to deal with the anger that same day, or at least begin to address it by taking the problem to God and asking Him to help us handle the situation as He would have us do. Otherwise it can become a spiritual problem, separating us from our fellow man and from our Heavenly Father. Suppressing anger and not dealing with it can allow Satan to influence us further, as he relishes negative attitudes and can intensify our feelings. Cain’s murder of his brother Abel, and Saul’s numerous attempts to kill David illustrate this principle.

If we recognise that we have a problem with anger, one solution is to ask ourselves what is driving the anger. In the example of King Saul we learned that emotions including jealousy and fear caused Saul’s anger and desire to kill David.

Thus, whenever we find ourselves feeling angry, a healthy choice would be to ask ourselves: I wonder why I’m feeling angry? We can ask God for help in revealing the true cause of these feelings. They might include:

- Am I feeling threatened?
- Am I jealous or envious?
- Am I afraid that I am losing control?
- Am I afraid of being embarrassed?
- Am I afraid of being rejected?
- Am I afraid that I might be wrong?

This strategy serves two purposes:

Firstly, it prevents us from being provoked into an immediate angry response and possibly sinning.

Secondly, once we identify the emotions underlying the anger, we have something more tangible or real to address and discuss with God, as we plan how best to come to terms with the issues.

Being able to control, direct or deal with anger and aggression is a sign of spiritual and emotional maturity. For more help in wisely directing our emotions, please request our reprint article “How Can I Manage My Anger?” and our booklet *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*.

Dr Wayne Topping

Beyond Today Supplement



(Acts 4:10, 12), but obedience to God's law is also required (Acts 5:32). To learn more, please request or download our booklet *You Can Have Living Faith*.

Q Why do so many teach as doctrine what is not in the Bible?
FAQ

A The Bible is the sole authority in regard to what to believe and how and when to worship God. Too many have allowed their traditions to have the last word on this. Once most of the original disciples of Jesus died or were martyred, leaders arose who had their own agenda. Unwilling to allow the Bible to establish doctrine, they developed their own human traditions, even adopting pagan concepts into their worship. As the centuries rolled by, they then refused to allow any educated lay person to read the Bible in order to prevent their own false teachings from being discovered.

Almost all of the current doctrines and festivals taught and accepted as "Christian" were introduced long after the New Testament was written and put together by the apostles. By the fourth century AD pagan celebrations like Christmas had been adopted along with the veneration of dead saints and the worship of the Virgin Mary.

God warns that we should neither add to nor take away from the His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18). To study this subject further, please request or download our booklet *The Church Jesus Built*.

Q Is divorce allowed in scripture and under what circumstances?
Reader from Luton

A Christ taught that marriage is between a man and a woman and is intended for life (Matthew 19:1-6). A divine institution, ordained by God at Creation, it was much later that Moses allowed a "bill of divorcement" if there were justified moral grounds (Deuteronomy 24:1-4 and Matthew 19:7-9). Often though, the Israelites misused this clause (Malachi 2:13-16).

In the New Testament, Christ reaffirmed the sanctity of marriage, with only sexual immorality being stated as a cause for separation (Matthew 19:9; 5:31-32). Our booklet *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension* has more to say on this subject.

Marriage and divorce issues require an accurate understanding of an individual's personal situation before a correct decision can be made. In these cases it's best to talk to a minister who has a good understanding of the Bible and believes it to be God's Word.

Q Is faith all that is required for salvation, or are works needed as well, and if so what kind of works?
Reader from Ireland

A The Bible teaches that whoever believes in Christ shall be saved. However, Jesus also told a young Jewish man that if he wanted to be saved, he needed to keep the Ten Commandments as a bare minimum. When asked, "What good thing shall I do that I may have everlasting life," Christ replied: "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:16-17). In the following verses Jesus mentions several of the commandments He was talking about.

Although keeping the laws of God doesn't save us, since "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), anyone who doesn't use God's laws to guide him in life is a person who hasn't repented of his sins and is continuing in lawlessness.

The law explains what sin is (Romans 3:20). A person cannot continue to sin – to break the moral laws of God – and then be saved by just uttering a few words. This would be tantamount to trampling Christ's sacrifice underfoot (Hebrews 6:4-6). Only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins is salvation possible

Let the Bible Answer...

What does the Bible say about work?

God's view of work is mentioned in Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:8-11; Ecclesiastes 9:10; John 5:17.

On diligence as a worker, see Proverbs 6:6-11; Ephesians 4:28; Colossians 3:22-24; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; 1 Timothy 5:8.

Regarding the treatment of workers read Colossians 4:1 and 1 Timothy 5:18.



Letters From Our Readers

Beyond Today programme

Thank you for your books and the *Beyond Today* magazine. Your *Beyond Today* programme on YouTube is great.

From the Internet

I used to watch your *Beyond Today* programme on a Friday evening at 9 pm. I am disappointed that it is no longer on at that time. I do occasionally watch the online service on a Saturday evening.

Reader from Cambridge

Editor's comment: Currently three airtimes for Beyond Today on The Word Network include:

- Saturdays – 6:30 am UK time
- Sundays – 4:00 pm UK time
- Mondays – 3:30 am UK time

The programmes are available online at www.BeyondToday.tv. We also welcome you to watch BT Daily – short daily videos which cover a range of Bible topics and current events. You can watch BT Daily and our 30-minute Beyond Today programmes on YouTube, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Roku and other streaming-enabled devices.

Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?

A booklet I can give to a non-believer, who doesn't have much time to read about the bare essentials is a great help. It may encourage the non-believer to read more about the Bible.

Reader from North Shields

Of course it matters what we believe. Evolution is still and always will be a theory. There is a creation and therefore a Creator! There's a design and therefore a Designer!

Reader from Yorkshire

Learning more about the Bible

Thank you so much for your booklets. I've learned so much I was never taught in my own church. My own fault because I never studied the Bible, so I'm sure I will learn a great deal more with this *Bible Study Course*. Do you have a booklet on keeping God's Sabbath?

Student from Northern Ireland

Editor's comment: A copy of our booklet Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest has been sent to you.

As a Catholic I was not used to

the Bible, but through your magazines I am getting to know more about Christianity. I am enjoying reading them.

Reader from London

Thank you for your interesting booklets. They are extremely helpful in making the Bible a meaningful book with [their] biblical references. They are a wonderful tool for studying one's Bible.

Reader from Dorset

Thank you for *Beyond Today*. It has been a real eye-opener. Everything you print is easy to understand and follow. I was brought up a Roman Catholic but I now see how misinformed I was to the truth.

Reader from Wales

Beyond Today magazine is really educative and enlightens the scriptures in the Holy Bible. I always eagerly await the next issue to learn more.

Reader from Croydon

Our literature can be downloaded from our website, www.ucg.org or requested from the address at the bottom of the front page.

How our literature is funded

The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction in 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 United Church of God.

Donations may be sent to *Beyond Today* or United Church of God, PO Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom; or donated through your bank (ask us for our bank details), or online at www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html through Paypal or Charity Choice.

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192).