

Wisdom Booklet 14



WISDOM QUIZ

Matthew 5:13b

"...But if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."



How well do you understand the concept of losing savor?

True/False

1 A Christian loses his savor when he loses his love for the Lord.

(Read Matthew 24:12.)

- Losing love for the Lord is a result, not a cause. Just as salt loses its savor when it is mixed with impurities, so the Christian loses his effectiveness when he allows himself to be contaminated by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (See I John 2:16.)

Based on the danger of temptation, the Christian should have as little contact with the world as possible.

(Read I Corinthians 5:9-10 and John 17:15.)

2 Once a Christian loses his savor, he can never regain it.

(Read Revelation 2:5.)

- God is slow to wrath and plenteous in mercy. He promises to restore effectiveness when a Christian repents. Even the discipline of being "trodden under foot" is one of the means God uses to cause ineffective Christians to cry out to Him so they can be restored.

During the time that a Christian loses his savor, he also loses the

potential of spiritual rewards which can never be regained.

(See Hebrews 12:17 and I Corinthians 9:27.)

3 If a Christian loses his savor, he does not lose his salvation.

(Read I Corinthians 3:10-15.)

- Salvation is a blood covenant relationship in which Christ is the initiator. (See I Corinthians 11:23-24.) Christians who violate this covenant are then disciplined as sons. (See Hebrews 12:1-13.) At the point of salvation, every Christian is "...sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance..." (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The discipline which God administers to "savorless Christians" includes sickness and death.

(See I Corinthians 11:30.)

4 If one Christian becomes "good for nothing," God will raise up someone else to do his same work.

(Read Ezekiel 3:18 and 33:8.)

- If this were true, there would be no motivation for Satan to try to destroy the Godly seed, and there would be no reason for God to lament that He looked for a man to stand in the gap but found none. (See Ezekiel 22:30.) The missionary call of Romans 10:14-15 is based on the need for every Christian to fulfill his God-given responsibilities.

The trampling under foot of savorless Christians will be done by human authorities.

(See Psalm 106:35-42.)

Total Correct 4/4

Must I Go, and Empty-Handed?

CHARLES C. LUTHER

GEORGE C. STEBBINS



1. "Must I go, and emp - ty-hand - ed," Thus my dear Re-deem - er meet?
2. Not at death I shrink nor fal - ter, For my Sav - ior saves me now;
3. O the years in sin - ning wast - ed, Could I but re - call them now,
4. O ye saints, a-rouse, be ear - nest, Up and work while yet 'tis day;

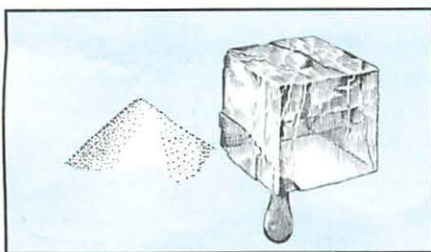


Not one day of serv - ice give Him, Lay no tro - phy at His feet?
But to meet Him emp - ty-hand - ed, Tho't of that now clouds my brow.
I would give them to my Sav - ior, To His will I'd glad - ly bow.
Ere the night of death o'er-take thee, Strive for souls while still you may.

WISDOM WORKSHEET ON MATTHEW 5:13b



**"... BUT IF THE SALT
HAVE LOST HIS
SAVOUR, WHEREWITH
SHALL IT BE
SALTED?"**



Salt becomes worthless in two ways:

1. By becoming mixed with impurities. This makes salt stale or gives it an unpalatable "off" taste.
2. By having its power "leached out" through exposure to moisture. The moisture draws off the actual salt content and leaves behind a worthless residue.

Christians lose their witness in the same two ways: by being mixed with the impurities of the world and by having their inward power drained away.

**"IT IS THENCEFORTH
GOOD FOR NOTHING,
BUT TO BE CAST OUT,
AND TO BE TRODDEN
UNDER FOOT OF
MEN."**



Unsavory salt was thrown out on the road and trampled on. Unsavory Christians allow evil to influence government. The result is a corrupt law system which will then take freedom from Christians and bring them "under its heel."

Linguistics

Languages,
Grammar, Vocabulary,
Communication



IF

Greek: εἰν (eh-AHN)

DEFINITION: Whenever, if ever.

HAVE LOST HIS SAVOUR

Greek: μωραίνω (moe-RYE-no)

DEFINITION: Tasteless or insipid; literally, to become foolish.

INSIGHTS: In Jesus' day, salt was associated with wisdom. Thus, to lack saltiness was to have foolishness.

Christ's instruction in Mark 9:50 to "... Have salt in yourselves ..." means to be wise, to conquer evil in your lives, and to develop a thirst for righteousness.

Do Resource A.

SHALL IT BE SALTED?

Greek: ἀλίζω (hah-LID-zoe)

DEFINITION: To fulfill the essential functions of salt; to preserve, bring out the flavor, maintain balance.

GOOD FOR NOTHING

Greek: οὐδὲν ἰσχύω

(oo-DEN iss-KOO-oh)

DEFINITION: The negative οὐ (oo) plus ἓν (hen), "one," means "not one thing." ἰσχύω means "to be strong." The literal meaning is "it does not have strength for one thing."

TO BE CAST OUT

Greek: βάλλω ἔξω (BALL-loe EX-oh)

DEFINITION: βάλλω means "to throw; to hurl; to cast; to fling." ἔξω means "out, outside."

TO BE TRODDEN UNDER FOOT

Greek: καταπατέω

(kah-tah-pah-TEH-oh)

DEFINITION: κάτω (KAH-tah) means "down or under." πατέω (pah-TEH-oh) means "to tread upon, to trample." INSIGHT: Salt is a potential pollutant; it can harm vegetation. Thus, in Jesus' day it was spread on dirt roads where it would do the least damage.

Do Resource B.

History

Archaeology,
Geography, Prophecy,
Music, Art, Literature



How do savorless Christians turn dynamic churches into empty monuments?



At the end of the first century, the Holy Spirit gave a warning to churches that he would discipline them if they lost their first love.

The discipline is a loss of power and influence and eventual rejection by the

very people whom they were raised up to help.

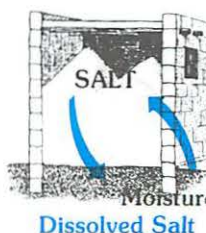
The disintegration of most religious movements has followed the five "M's" of church history.

1. God begins with a **MAN**.
2. The man chooses **MEN**.
3. The men focus on **METHODS**.
4. The methods require **MACHINERY**.
5. The structure becomes an empty **MEMORIAL**.

In the formation of every organization are the seeds of its disintegration. The seeds are wrong ideas which are promoted by savorless Christians.

Do Resource C.

How did a greedy merchant of Sidon lose his salt?



In order to avoid the salt tax of the Roman government, a merchant bought a huge quantity of salt from Cyprus and hid it in 65 cabins.

The damp, earthen floors, however, drew up moisture and dissolved the salt into the ground.

The worthless mounds that remained had to be thrown out into the roads to be trodden under foot.

Science

Chemistry, Biology,
Astronomy, Geology,
Physics, Mathematics



How does savorless salt illustrate powerless Christians?



The primary source of salt is the sea. God compares the wicked to the sea. "... *The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt*" (Isaiah 57:20).

For salt to be useful to man, it must be separated from seawater. Salt, however, has an affinity for moisture, just as Christians have a tendency to become worldly.

Do Resource D.

How does salt by the Dead Sea symbolize Christians who have lost their savor?



A column of salt stands where Lot's wife was judged.

God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness and lack of Godly people.

When Lot came into Sodom, he was a "just" and "righteous" man. However, he failed to influence the city and most of his family.

Rather than influencing the city for Godliness, the city influenced his family for ungodliness.

When Lot and his family fled, his wife looked back and turned to a pillar of salt—a symbol of the spiritual influence which the family should have had in the city.

Do Resource E.

Law

Government,
Economics, Logic



What is the relationship between Christians who lose their "saltiness" and totalitarian governments?

Christians are the conscience of a nation. If the conscience is defiled, the forces of evil will triumph.

The Reformation in Germany was brought about by Christians who were truly "the salt of the earth."

The catechism was written by Martin Luther to be used by fathers with their children.

Philipp Melancthon (1497–1560) established Christian liberal arts colleges in cities throughout Germany.

Decline began as humanistic philosophy was mixed with the teaching of Biblical principles. The result was intellectual criticism of the Bible and the rise of apostate theologians.



Martin Luther
1483–1546



Friedrich Nietzsche
1844–1900

Friedrich Nietzsche is but one example of a man who rejected his Godly upbringing. His "God is dead" philosophy popularized humanistic thinking in Germany during the nineteenth century.

Hitler carried humanistic thinking to its ultimate conclusion in his program of annihilating "inferior races" and setting up a government based on godless principles.



Adolph Hitler
1889–1945

Do Resource F.

Medicine

Health,
Nutrition, Behavior,
Counseling

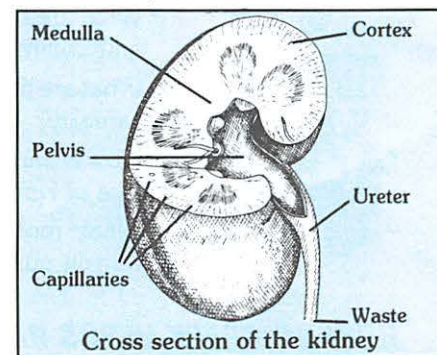


How does the danger of impure salt in the body illustrate the danger of unsavory Christians in the world?

Our bodies normally produce many waste products which would soon cause disease and death if not removed.

Salt, however, easily combines with these damaging substances and helps to transport them throughout the body by means of the circulatory system.

Therefore, the blood must be constantly cleansed from these impurities, "... *for the life of all flesh is the blood* ..." (Leviticus 17:14).



Only as the kidneys remove impurities from the blood and maintain a proper salt balance in the body will there be health and vitality.

Do Resource G.

How do Christians who lose their salt become more corrupt than the world?

Corinth was a seaport populated by wicked people and by Christians who had become carnal. The Corinthian church had immorality in it which was not even mentioned among unbelievers. (See I Corinthians 5:1.)

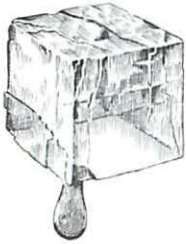


The temple of the "goddess of love" dominated Corinth.



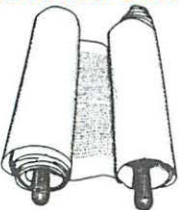
How many of these questions can you answer before studying the resources?

HOW DOES LOSS OF SAVOR LEAD TO DEFEAT?



- How do Christians become apostate? 539
- Why do Christians who compare themselves with others tend to become mediocre? 540
- What are the symptoms of a lukewarm Christian? 541
- What are the three levels of carnality? 545
- How is Samson a clear picture of carnality? 545
- What motivated Paul to remain pure? 546

HOW DO GREEK VERBS RATE CHRISTIANS?



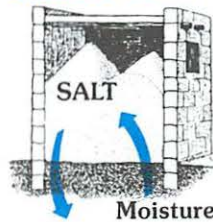
- What three properties does each Greek verb contain? . . 548
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HOW DO MINISTRIES LOSE THEIR SAVOR?



- Why must one with a vision endure difficult trials? 551
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HOW IS SAVOR LOST IN SALT AND CHRISTIANS?



- How does water both destroy and purify salt? 557
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WHAT CAN THE DEAD SEA TEACH US?



- What makes the Dead Sea "dead"? 560
- Why can't a person stand up in the Dead Sea? 560
- Why is osmosis destructive to a saltwater fish? 561
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HOW DID CHRISTIANS ALLOW A DICTATOR?



- How did the land of the Reformation become the stronghold of humanism? . . 564
- What was the secret of Martin Luther's powerful prayer life? 566
- How did Martin Luther's friend become the "seed of disintegration" in the German Reformation? 567
- How did the missionary movement in Germany touch John Wesley's life? . . 568
- How did the philosophy of one pastor's son lay the groundwork for the murder of millions of Jews? 572

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF LACK OF SALT?



- Why does lack of salt cause blood vessels to collapse? . . 573
- How does sodium send internal messages? 574
- Why doesn't the stomach digest itself? 575
- What are three major impurities in blood? 576



LEARN WORDS WHICH DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF DIMINISHING SAVOR.

Spiritual defeat in the Christian life does not happen all at once. It is usually the result of subtle, permeating influences that first rob us of our love for the Lord and His commandments. Then we are drawn away by our own lusts into new attitudes which constitute a love of the world.

As our love for the Lord decreases, so does the savor of our salt and our spiritual power. The consequence is a growing inability to engage in victorious spiritual warfare and an increasing number of defeats as the enemies of God's ways dominate public opinion, schools, courts, and government.



1 **LUKEWARM**



2 **BACKSLIDDEN**



3 **WORLDLY**



4 **CARNAL**



5 **WORTHLESS**



6 **APOSTATE**



STEP 1

RECOGNIZE THE SYMPTOMS OF LUKEWARMNESS.



C. Hemer

Large, stone water pipes at Laodicea

PRONUNCIATION: luke-warm (lūk-wôrm)

DEFINITION: Moderately warm; tepid; neither hot nor cold. Used figuratively in Scripture to define lack of zeal, spiritual coolness.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek word χλῖω (KHLIH-oh) meaning "tepid," it is allied to the word *slack*. "Lukewarm" is used to describe the spiritual condition of the church in Laodicea.

Laodicea, with its ideal climate and strategic location, attracted the wealthy as a center for ease and retirement. It had only one disadvantage; it lacked a permanent supply of good water.

The residents attempted to solve the problem by constructing a long, stone pipe to hot springs nearby. However, when the water reached Laodicea, it was lukewarm. To show their disappointment and disgust, the townspeople took a mouthful of the water and spit it out on the ground.

Hence, the reference, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16).

Laodicea was a medical center noted for its ophthalmology (treatment of the eyes). It also produced garments of glossy, black wool. These features are referred to in the following warning to the church of Laodicea.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:17-18).



Asia Minor—location of the seven churches in Revelation

USAGE: As an adjective—lukewarm

Lukewarm Christians are nauseating to God.

As a noun—lukewarmness

God has special rebukes for lukewarmness in Christians.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: mediocre, indifferent, average, ordinary, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, undistinguished, tolerable, complacent

Noun: mediocrity, indifference, coolness, middle-of-the-roader, half-heartedness

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: fervent, zealous, earnest, intense, whole-hearted, enthusiastic, distinguished

Noun: zeal, fervor, vigor, earnestness, commitment, dedication

EXAMPLE

Lukewarmness within a Christian relates to that person's love for the Lord. A "hot" Christian loves the Lord with all of his heart, soul, mind, and



Baker's Bible Atlas, Charles F. Pfeiffer, Baker Book House, 1961

Ephesus today—ruins of a once great city

strength. A "cold" Christian loves the world with his whole heart.

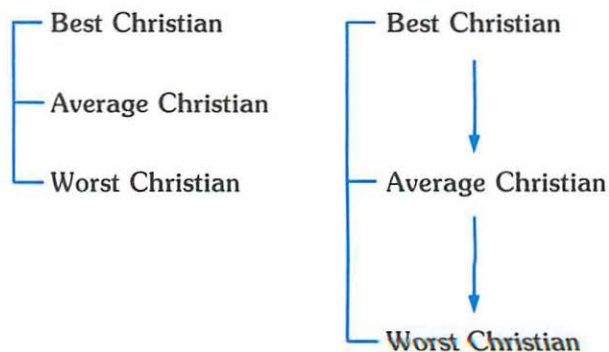
A lukewarm Christian is both half-hearted and double-minded. The lukewarm Christian has left his first love as did those in the church of Ephesus. Thus, in spite of all their work for the Lord, they were rebuked by Christ.

"... For my name's sake [thou] hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:3-4).

APPLICATION:

Lukewarmness occurs when we stop "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2) and begin looking at other Christians for standards of what is right and wrong. When we measure ourselves by other Christians rather than by the Lord, we tend to become mediocre, because we find ourselves between two standards: those who are the best Christians and those who are the worst Christians.

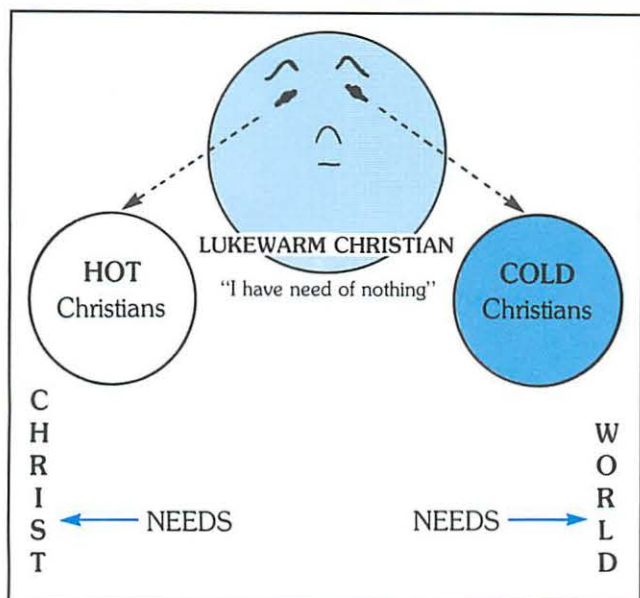
The word *mediocre* comes from the Latin, *mediocris*, meaning "halfway up the mountain." *Medius* means "middle" and *ocris* means "mountain peak."



As we become more worldly, we increase our mediocrity in order to remain average.

The lukewarm Christian who has one eye on “hot” Christians and one eye on “cold” Christians soon develops the attitude that he has no needs spiritually.

This specific attitude creates and defines a lukewarm condition. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17).



Those who are spiritually “hot” recognize their spiritual needs and are seeking the Lord in order to meet them. Those who are spiritually “cold” are also aware of their needs; however, they are looking toward the world in order to meet them.

Therefore, the way to overcome lukewarmness and return to our first love is to begin identifying our needs and seeking the Lord to meet them. Here is a checklist to begin this evaluation:

- ☐ 1. Do I have the assurance of salvation?
- ☐ 2. Have I fully accepted myself?
- ☐ 3. Have I dedicated my life to God?
- ☐ 4. Do I have purpose in life?
- ☐ 5. Am I obedient to God-given authority?
- ☐ 6. Do I have a good conscience?
- ☐ 7. Have I forgiven my offenders?
- ☐ 8. Have I yielded all my rights to God?
- ☐ 9. Have I conquered anger?
- ☐ 10. Have I overcome worry?
- ☐ 11. Do I transform irritations?
- ☐ 12. Am I engrafting Scripture into my soul?
- ☐ 13. Do I have Godly friends?
- ☐ 14. Am I accountable for victory and growth?
- ☐ 15. Do I pray for non-Christian friends?
- ☐ 16. Do I have Scriptural dating standards?

God gives clear instructions to those who have lost their first love. “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent” (Revelation 2:5).

STEP 2

AVOID THE STEPS OF BACKSLIDING.



A.R. Millard

The “great high place” at Petra, Jordan

PRONUNCIATION: back-slid-den (bak-slid-ən)

DEFINITION: Having reverted to sin or wrongdoing, especially in religious worship and practice.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Hebrew word שׁוּב (shoob), a primary root meaning “to turn back, to turn away, to retreat (not with the idea of returning to the starting point), to do evil, to draw back.”

It is used in Jeremiah 2:19 to refer to turning back from Godly convictions and standards and committing evil in the sight of the Lord.

“Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts” (Jeremiah 2:19).

USAGE: As an adjective—backslidden (participle)

A backslidden Christian gives a testimony of misery to those in the world who are looking for something worthy of their lives.

As a noun—**backsliding, backslider**
"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways . . ." (Proverbs 14:14).
 As a verb—(to) **backslide**
 In order to **backslide**, a Christian does not need to do anything.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: reverting, lapsing (participles), regressive
Noun: regression, retreat
Verb: to regress, to revert, to lapse, to relapse, to turn back, to fall away

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: growing, maturing, perfecting (participles)
Noun: growth, maturation, perfection
Verb: to grow, mature, to perfect, to progress

EXAMPLE:

The high places of Israel provided the means by which the nation became backslidden after a return to the Lord. The high places were altars which were erected on the hills and which were used to worship the Lord as well as pagan gods of sensuality.



Bible Art Series
Solomon

In spite of all Solomon's wisdom, he became a backslider because he took his affections off the Lord and *"... loved many strange women ..."* (I Kings 11:1).

He was turned to other gods, because *"... his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father"* (I Kings 11:4).

It is significant that when Solomon became king, he sacrificed to the Lord at the great high place at Gibeon, *"... because there was no house built unto the name of the Lord. ..."* (See I Kings 3:2-5.)

It was at this high place that God asked Solomon what he wanted and gave him the wisdom which he requested. Through his wisdom he built the Temple, wrote most of the Proverbs, and brought the nation of Israel to the pinnacle of its glory. When he became backslidden, he returned to the high places and this time worshiped pagan gods. (See I Kings 11:7.)



Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati

Backslidden Solomon worshipping at the high place

APPLICATION:

The high places of our day are those objects of worship which are used for both the Lord and Satan.



They are the places and activities which appeal to both spirituality and sensuality. They can be justified on the basis of the good they have and condemned on the basis of the evil they promote.

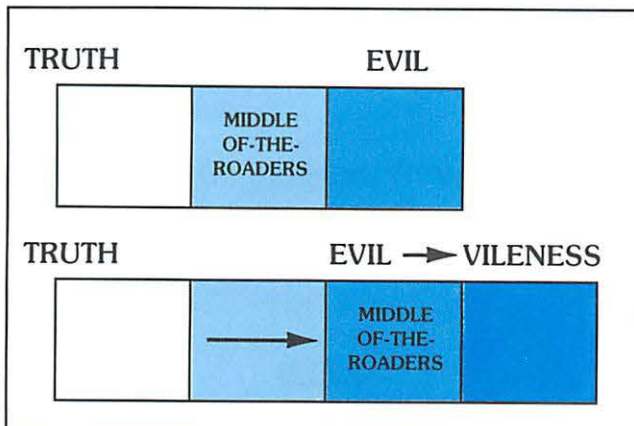
They yield a strange mixture of good and evil and lead to compromise and carnality among Christians. They appeal to Christians who do not want to be too spiritual or too worldly, but who would rather remain lukewarm and follow the "middle of the road."

1. Learn what causes backsliding.

Any Christian who desires to be "average" or remain "in the middle of the road" between Godly Christians and carnal Christians will backslide.

The following diagram explains why. Truth and holiness remain constant. However, evil can always become more evil.

As evil becomes more corrupt, those who are “in the middle of the road” move away from truth. In fact, those who are “in the middle of the road” today are standing where evil was years ago.



2. Purpose not to be a “middle-of-the-roader.”

3. Identify and remove high places in your life.

Learn what God thinks about high places by looking up the following verses. Then exercise the courage which Hezekiah demonstrated and for which he was honored by removing every high place from your life and home.

- | | |
|---|--|
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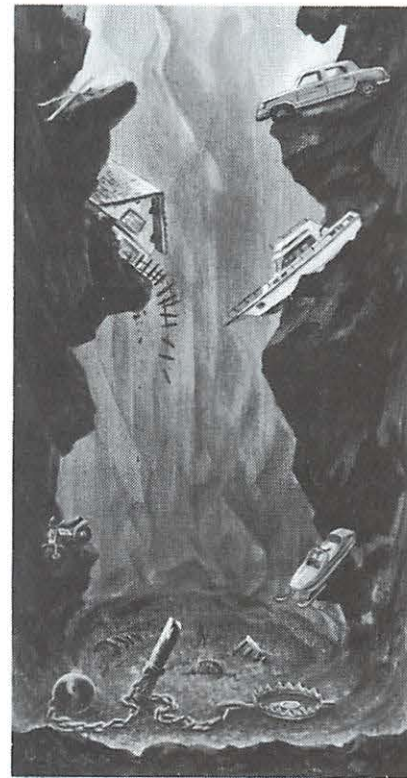
STEP 3

REJECT THE PULL OF WORLDLINESS.

PRONUNCIATION: world-ly (werl-dlē)

DEFINITION: Pertaining to the temporal world; devoted to the world’s system; antagonistic to spiritual realities; secular; appealing to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

ETYMOLOGY: The Greek word κόσμος (KOSS-moss) signifies a secular world system of man’s reasoning apart from God’s wisdom.



“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God . . .” (I Corinthians 3:19).

The old English amplifies this concept with the word *weorold*, meaning the “age of man.” (The root word *wer* means “man,” and *eald* means “age.”)

We are warned in Colossians 2:8, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

The “rudiments of the world” are identified in I John 2:16: “. . . The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. . . .”

USAGE: As an adjective—**worldly**

Worldly Christians have been the scourge of the Church since its beginning.

As a noun—**worldliness**

When **worldliness** comes into the church, spirituality goes out of the church.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: earthly, temporal, secular, materialistic

Noun: secularism, materialism

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: spiritual, Godly, victorious

Noun: spirituality, Godliness, victory

EXAMPLE:

Demas was a Christian in the early church. He was one of the inner circle of Paul's fellow workers. When Paul was under house arrest in Rome, Demas was with him. Then a fire broke out in Rome.

Nero, who is rumored to have set the fire, used it to direct new hostilities against Christians and begin a wave of persecution. Demas now had a choice: to stay with Paul and suffer, or to flee the city.

His decision was based not on how he could be most effective for Christ, but rather how he could gain the most pleasure, profit, and fame. Thus, he deserted Paul at a crucial time and received a blot to his name and character by the following words from Scripture:

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world . . ." (II Timothy 4:10).



Nero

A sculpture of the Emperor Nero. He represented **worldliness** as an ungodly ruler.



Demas

When Demas forsook Paul, he showed himself to be a **worldly** Christian.

APPLICATION:

Engraft into your soul the following Scriptures which identify worldliness and warn against it.

□ *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

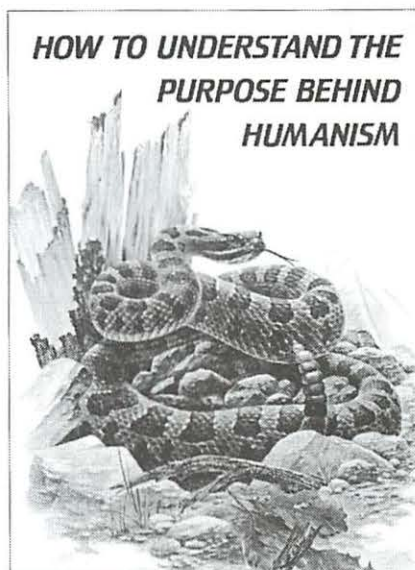
"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:15–17).

□ *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11–12).

□ *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).*

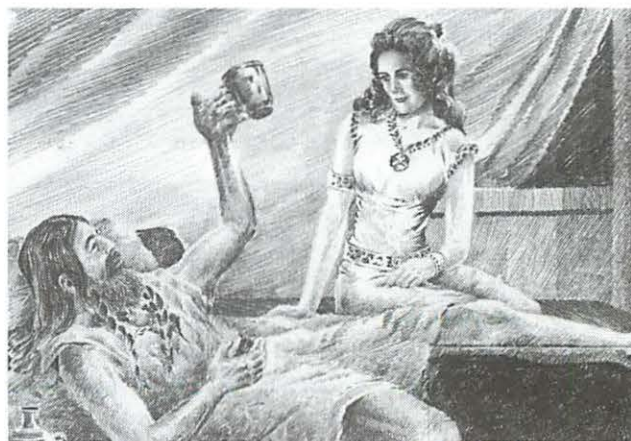


Learn how worldliness is set forth in the doctrines of secular humanism. Read the booklet, *How to Understand Humanism*.

Purpose to recognize and avoid the traps of worldliness by setting your affection on things above and *"looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).*

STEP 4

FLEE THE LUSTS OF CARNALITY.



Samson was conquered by Delilah.

PRONUNCIATION: car-nal (kär-nəl)

DEFINITION: Relating to the desires and appetites of the flesh; self-indulgence that is demonstrated by sensuality, argumentation, and presumption.

ETYMOLOGY: The Greek word for *carnal* is σαρκικός (sar-kih-KOSS), translated “fleshly” in I Peter 2:11, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”

The bondage of carnality is defined by Paul in Romans 7:14: “. . . I am carnal, sold under sin.”

The Latin word *caro* means “flesh.” From it we get the words *carrion* (decaying flesh), *carnivorous* (“flesh” eating), *incarnate* (in the “flesh”), *carnage* (destruction of flesh), and *carnival* (the lifting of flesh—feasting).

USAGE: As an adjective—**carnal**

The **carnal** mind is at war with God.

As a noun—**carnality**

The divisions among the Corinthian believers demonstrated their **carnality**.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: sensual, fleshly, profane, vulgar, lewd, wanton, erotic

Noun: sensuality, profanity, vulgarity, eroticism

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: righteous, holy, pure

Noun: overcomer, purity, holiness, righteousness

EXAMPLE:



Samson

The birth of Samson was announced by an angel. The purpose of his life was explained by God. His parents took special precautions to keep him holy and pure. However, in spite of all of this, he became carnal and experienced the destruction of his flesh as stated in Scripture.

“... He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption . . .” (Galatians 6:8).

The judgments that came upon Samson provide a clear description of the consequences of carnality.



Blind Samson grinding in prison

First, Samson was bound, both by his lusts and by the ropes which Delilah put around him. Next, he was blinded by his enemies. Before they literally put out his eyes, however, he was already suffering from spiritual blindness. Third, he was forced to grind in the prison in shame, with God’s enemies mocking him.

APPLICATION:

When dealing with the lusts of the flesh, there are three levels of responses. Each can be illustrated by types of fire.

The first level of carnality is lustful thoughts. Lustful thoughts are like candles. We can easily “blow them out” by turning our attention to Christ and bringing every thought into obedience to Him. (See II Corinthians 10:5.)

The second level of carnality is sensual actions. These are like bonfires in the soul. They must be put out by saturating our hearts with the water of the Word. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

The third level of carnality is perversion. It is like a forest fire from which we should flee as we would a deadly plague. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (II Timothy 2:22).



American Forest Product Industries

STEP 5

AVOID THE TRAGEDY OF WORTHLESSNESS.



Ewing Galloway

A “castaway” refers to rubbish

PRONUNCIATION: worth-less (wəth-ləs)

DEFINITION: Without value, benefit, or use; without dignity or honor.

ETYMOLOGY: *Worth* comes from the Old English word *weorth*, meaning “worthy.” It is related to *stalwart* (worthy in foundation), *worship* (condition of worth). *Worthlessness* is defined in Scripture as “castaway.” Paul strove to remain pure, lest he should become worthless to God and be cast on the rubbish heap. (See I Corinthians 9:27.)

The condition of worthlessness is defined by Paul in Romans 7:24, “*O wretched man that I am! . . .*”

USAGE: As an adjective—**worthless**

A **worthless** Christian has given himself over to evil.

As a noun—**worthlessness**

Worthlessness should never describe the life or activities of a Christian.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: useless, profitless, valueless, wretched, empty, vain

Noun: uselessness, valuelessness, wretchedness, castaway, emptiness, vanity

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: valuable, useful, profitable, worthy

Noun: usefulness, profitability, worthiness, value

EXAMPLE:

Ananias and Sapphira



Ananias and Sapphira became tragic examples of worthless believers. They desired the praise of the early Church for their good deeds of giving. However, they allowed worldliness to influence them to lie to the Holy Spirit.

Their worthlessness to the cause of Christ was vividly demonstrated by the swiftness of God’s punishment upon them. Since they were of no more value to the Church, God removed them from the Church by death. (See Acts 5:1–11.)

APPLICATION:

In contrast to Ananias and Sapphira, Paul kept his body under the strictest discipline: “. . . *Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway*” (I Corinthians 9:27).

Paul’s discipline was accomplished not by his own strength or will, but rather by his identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection as explained in the sixth chapter of Romans. Paul walked by the power of God’s Spirit as described in the eighth chapter of Romans.



By being crucified with Christ, the power of sin in Paul’s life was broken. By responding to the grace of God, he became a valuable apostle of Christ.

Identify the disciplines and self-sacrifice that should be in your life so that you could experience the following Scripture:

“*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world*” (Galatians 6:14).

STEP 6

KNOW THE CONSEQUENCE OF APOSTASY.



PRONUNCIATION:

a-pos-tate (ə-päs-tāt)

DEFINITION: Forsaking and renouncing one's faith; a person who turns away and rejects the principles which he once affirmed.

ETYMOLOGY: The word *apostasy* is made up of two Greek words; the prefix ἀπό (ah-PAW) means "from" or "away," and the root ἵστημι (HISS-tay-mee) means "stand." Thus, apostasy is to "stand away from your faith."

The Latin form is *apostata*. It comes from *apo*, which means "away from," and *stanai*, which means "to stand."

An apostate is a reprobate who has turned against the truth.

USAGE: As an adjective—**apostate**

An **apostate** church will persecute dedicated believers.

As a noun—**apostasy**

In the last days **apostasy** will run rampant in the church.

As a verb—**apostatize**

Immature Christians will **apostatize** under the influence of false teachers.

SYNONYMS:

Adjective: unfaithful, reprobate, heretical

Noun: denial, renunciation, recantation, heretic

Verb: to recant, to deny, to renounce, to disclaim

ANTONYMS:

Adjective: faithful, devout, devoted

Noun: faithfulness, devoutness, devotion

Verb: to affirm, to uphold, to confirm

EXAMPLE:

The Pharisees were organized to protect the purity of the Law. Their apostasy from their founding purpose was powerfully proclaimed by Jesus.

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. . . .

"Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! . . .

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

"Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. . . .

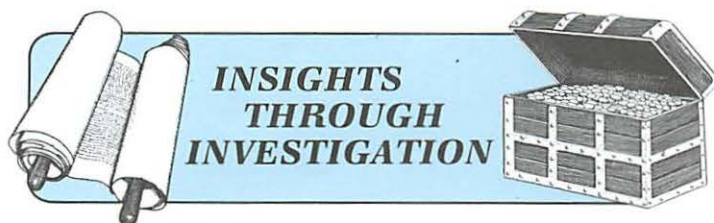
"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous. . . .

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:13-14, 16, 23-27, 29, 33).

APPLICATION:

Realize that apostasy is a natural progression from being lukewarm, backslidden, worldly, and carnal. Purpose that none of these will have any place in your life so that you can truly be **savory salt** for the Kingdom of God.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HOW DOES THE VOICE OF GREEK VERBS CONFIRM THE PROBLEM OF SAVORLESS CHRISTIANS?



Savorless salt was trodden under foot.

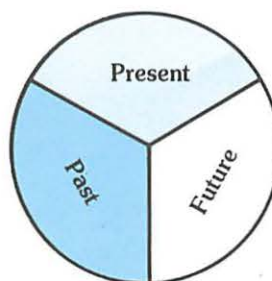
Every Greek verb contains tense, mood, and voice. These three properties confirm important aspects of the message being communicated.

Notice the verbs in this verse:

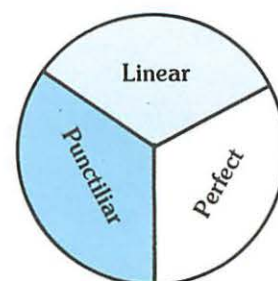
ἐάν δὲ τὸ ἅλας μωρανθῇ,
if now the salt be saltless,
ἐν τίνι ἀλισθήσεται; εἰς
with what shall it be salted? unto
οὐδὲν ἰσχύει ἔτι,
nothing is it strong any longer,
εἰ μὴ βληθῆναι ἔξω, καὶ
except to be cast out, and
καταπατεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων.
to be trampled by the men.

1 TENSE REVEALS THE TIME AND TYPE OF A VERB'S ACTION.

"Ye are the salt of the earth. . . ." (You continue to be the salt of the earth.) The verb ἔστε expresses linear (ongoing) action at the present time.



Time of Action



Type of Action

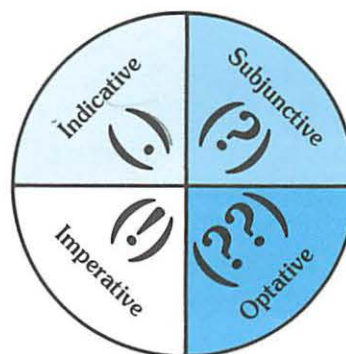
Tense

"... But if the salt have lost his savour. . . ." (If at some point in time the salt lost its savor.) The verb μωρανθῇ expresses punctiliar (a point in time) action.

"... To be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (At a future point in time, the salt will be thrown out and trodden under foot.) The verb ἀλισθήσεται expresses punctiliar action to be done in the future.

For further review of verb tenses, see *Wisdom Booklet 10*, page 369.

2 MOOD REVEALS THE RELATIONSHIP OF A VERB'S ACTION TO REALITY.



Mood

In the clause, "Ye are the salt of the earth," the verb ἔστε is in the indicative mood. Indicative mood simply makes a statement of fact.

In the clause, "But if the salt have lost his savour," the verb μωρανθῇ is in the subjunctive mood. This mood makes the statement conditional.

The verbs ἰσχύει and ἀλισθήσεται in this verse are in the indicative mood.

For further review of the mood of verbs, see *Wisdom Booklet 12*, page 464.

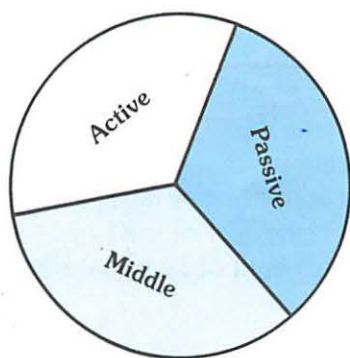
3 VOICE REVEALS THE RELATIONSHIP OF A VERB'S ACTION WITH ITS SUBJECT.

The voice of a Greek verb paints a "word picture" by clarifying a subject's relationship with its verb's action. Voice tells in what way a subject is involved with its verb.



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The Greek language places verbs in the active, middle, or passive voice.



Voice

1 In the active voice, the subject is performing the action of the verb.

**ACTIVE VOICE =
SUBJECT DOES THE ACTION**

The world despises savorless Christians.

Voice also clarifies how directly a verb's object is emphasized. For example, an active voice verb emphasizes the action of the subject toward its direct object.

The subject (world) is doing the action (despises) to the direct object (Christians).

2 In the middle voice, the subject is performing the action upon itself.

**MIDDLE VOICE =
SUBJECT ACTS ON ITSELF**

Savorless Christians disqualify themselves.

The subject (savorless Christians) acts upon itself. In English it is necessary to use the word *themselves* (or *himself*, *herself*) to communicate this message. English verbs do not have middle voice.

3 In the passive voice, the subject is the recipient of the action.

Verbs using the passive voice rearrange the emphasis of a sentence to reveal that someone other than the subject of the sentence is performing the action of the verb.

**PASSIVE VOICE =
SUBJECT BEING ACTED UPON**

Savorless Christians are trodden under foot.

The subject (savorless Christians) receives the action (trodden under foot) from a source outside itself.

Matthew 5:13b contains at least three examples of a passive voice verb or infinitive: καταπατεῖσθαι, βληθῆναι, and ἁλισθήσεται. Each of these words pictures the action of the verb being performed by the verb's object upon the verb's subject. καταπατεῖσθαι provides the clearest example:

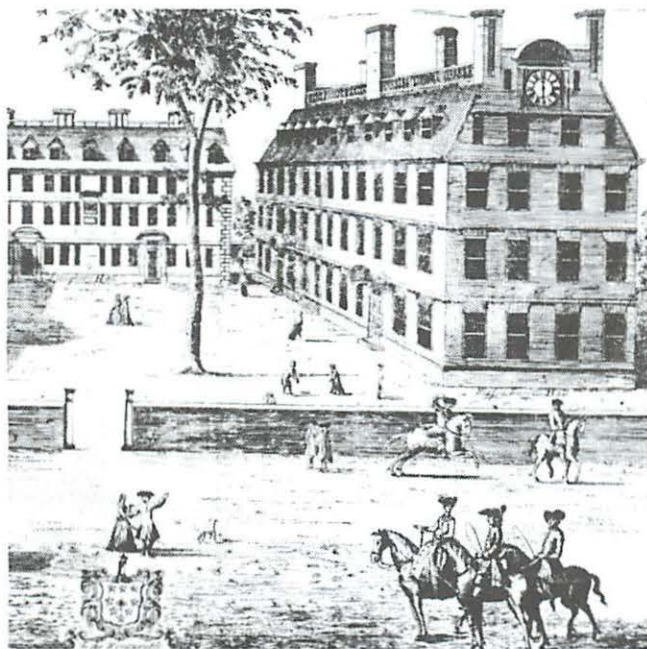
καταπατεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων
"to be trampled by the men."

Savorless Christians are actually passive Christians who allow outside influences to control their thoughts, emotions, and wills. The outside forces to which they have surrendered will ultimately trample them under foot.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



WHAT CAUSES DYNAMIC CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES TO LOSE THEIR SAVOR?



The original buildings of Harvard College

Harvard College was founded in 1636, just sixteen years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The purpose of the college was to train young men to preach the Gospel and to do missionary work among the Indians. It was named after the Puritan minister John Harvard, who left half of his estate to the college when he died in 1638.

If John Harvard were to return today and visit the school that bears his name, he would, no doubt, be shocked at how far removed it is from its original purpose. If he were to ask, "How did this happen?" would you know how to answer him?

1 GOD GIVES A VISION TO A CHRISTIAN.

The Hebrew word for "vision" can never refer to human plans or self-initiated goals as the English word may suggest. Instead, the word pictures a clear direction or instruction from the Lord through Scripture. Without such a "word" from the Lord, plans and programs can consume huge amounts

of time, money, and energy while accomplishing very little to advance the cause of Christ.

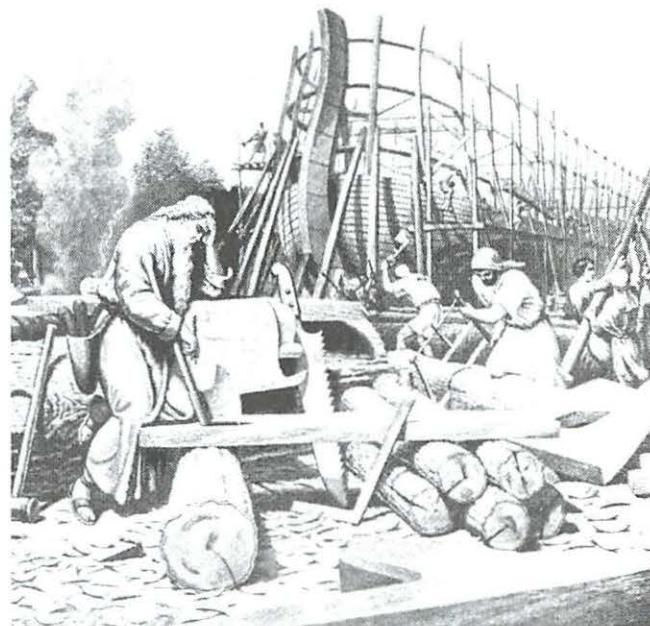
Because God has given each Christian a spiritual gift, it is the opportunity and responsibility of each Christian to receive a "vision" of how he can best serve the Lord with that gift.

Within the Body of Christ, one vision is as vital as another, even though the ministry of that vision may not be as visible as that of another. Paul emphasizes this truth as he reasons, "If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body" (I Corinthians 12:17–20).

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).

The vision of a ministry is the result of faith and the by-product of personal discipline. Faith is not a "blind leap in the dark." Rather, it is a clear spiritual discernment about what God wants a person to do. This faith is made strong by living in the Word of God and walking in the fear of the Lord.

It was this kind of faith that directed Noah to build an ark.



"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house . . ." (Hebrews 11:7).

Faith is what activated every other individual who accomplished significant things for God. *"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son" (Hebrews 11:17).*



"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24–26).



By faith Moses chose the spiritual vision that God gave him rather than the temporal opportunities of Egypt.

Notice the basic decisions that faith required each of these men to make. Noah chose to reject the sin and corruption of his evil day and instead receive the taunts and jeers of his generation as he constructed an ark before it had ever rained upon the earth.

Abraham's faith required him to choose between the Lord and his most cherished affection.

He offered to God his only son, whom he loved. Because of his decision, God was able to bless both Abraham and his son Isaac.

Moses was prompted by faith to identify himself with the despised people of God rather than the elite rulers of Egypt. He was willing to become a "nobody" and give all his energies to free God's people from bondage. He knew that he could not be accepted by both crowds.

• **Faith molds character.**

All the qualities that are required by God in the life of the Christian through whom He will work are personified in the Lord Jesus Christ. He yielded His rights and left all the riches of Heaven to come into the world, carry out His Heavenly Father's purpose, and be crucified by the very ones He came to save.

However, His motivation to endure such rejection and suffering came by keeping His focus on the vision which His Heavenly Father had given Him. *"... Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).*

When God gives each of us a vision, He will also take us through trials and difficulties in order to mold us into the image of Christ. Then we can experience His power through these bodies of ours. *"... All things work together ... to be conformed to the image of his Son..." (Romans 8:28–29).*



• **Faith motivates purity.**

If a Christian is to be used for a lasting work of God, he must maintain a life of purity. The more important the ministry, the more essential is the purity of the one carrying it out. This principle is clearly explained by Paul to Timothy:

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these,

he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Timothy 2:20–21).



Engraved by Aug. Blanchard

The Great Reformation began as Christians studied the Scriptures and desired to raise up Godly standards.

Every man or woman whom God ever raised up died to his or her own goals and desires and responded to the grace of God in the disciplines of fervent prayer, sacrificial giving, and consistent fasting.

They learned how to bring thoughts into captivity to Christ. They engrafted Scripture into their minds, wills, and emotions. They cared not for their own reputations. They walked with wise men and kept their hearts with all diligence.

God promised that those who do these things secretly, He will reward openly. (See Matthew 6:1–18.) Through these kinds of men God showed Himself strong and changed the course of history. Great religious movements in history grew out of the vision and work of such men and women of faith.

• **Faith reproduces maturity.**

The vision that God gives each Christian will be related in one way or another to building up other Christians. Even missionaries who evangelize people who have never heard the Gospel must be sent out by Christians whose spiritual maturity or lack of it will have a direct bearing on the fruitfulness of the missionaries' work.

Immature Christians often say and do things which cause unbelievers not only to reject the Gospel, but also to mock all Christians. When Christians fall into sin, they give occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme His Name.

Because of these factors, the first step in understanding God's vision for our lives is to ask ourselves, "What can I do to help Christians grow in their faith and in their walk with the Lord?" This is consistent with the instructions of Galatians 6:10. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith [especially Christians]."

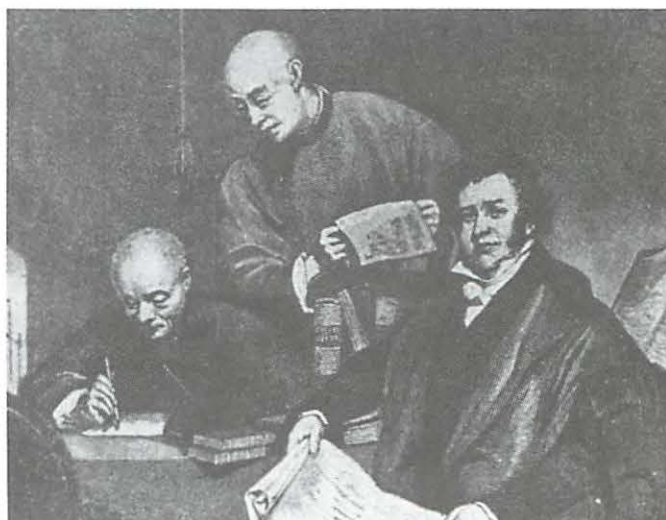


Peace Child, Don Richardson, ©1974 G/L Publications

The vision of a missionary to Dutch New Guinea was to learn the language so that the Scriptures could be translated into the tongue of the Savi people.

2 A VISION ATTRACTS OTHERS OF LIKE HEART AND MIND.

As God begins to bless the vision and faith of a Christian, others will recognize the hand of God and be attracted to the ministry of that person. Some will be encouraged to support it financially; others will offer their time and energy; still others will desire to give counsel and direction.



Robert Morrison translating the Bible into Chinese with the help of his assistants

Every lasting work requires the labors of several people working together. This is true because of the interrelationship of the members of the Body of Christ. What one member does affects every other member of the Body.

The multiplied effectiveness of Christians working harmoniously is indicated by the Scriptural principle, *"And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight . . ." (Leviticus 26:8). "Two are better than one . . . and a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9,12).*

As the work prospers and the number of workers increases, it is very easy for the personal disciplines which God originally blessed to be minimized and even neglected. When this slackening is allowed, Satan is able to gain an advantage in the lives of those who are leading the ministry.

Then those with conflicting motives or interests become "seeds of disintegration" within the movement.



John

Judas

Peter

Even when Christ chose the men to work with Him, a "seed of disintegration" was among their number.

FIVE TYPES OF CO-WORKERS WHO ARE "SEEDS OF DISINTEGRATION"

1 People with unscriptural views

Every decision that a person makes is based on presuppositions. If these are not founded upon Scriptural principles, the decisions will promote human reasoning rather than Godly wisdom.

If a leader within a movement promotes ideas which are based on humanistic reasoning, tensions and divisions will result. Unless these false ideas are dealt with quickly and Scripturally, the entire ministry will suffer.

Often Jesus would reprove a disciple for an unscriptural concept such as who should be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

One of the major areas requiring Godly wisdom involves how funds are to be obtained and used. Hudson Taylor's policy of looking only to God for his funds was a major safeguard in attracting only men and women of like faith to his ministry.



Hudson Taylor

2 People with hidden expectations

It is significant to note that Jesus initiated the call to most of His disciples. On one occasion, however, *" . . . a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest."* Jesus must have detected unspoken expectations in his offer, for He replied, *" . . . Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head"* (Luke 9:57-58).

Expectations damage relationships. Thus, the call of Jesus to discipleship was a call to forsake all and follow Him. *" . . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24).

3 People with unresolved disloyalties

One of the wrong reasons for which a person may want to join a successful ministry is to avoid the character training of the Lord under a God-given relationship. A person who is disloyal in one relationship has no real basis for being loyal in a new relationship.

When Scriptural commitments to parents, a marriage partner, government authorities, church leaders, or former employers are broken, the foundation is laid for rejecting any future authority which is not to the liking of the individual. This attitude produces division and destruction from within.

Paul warned about the seriousness of this problem when he wrote, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple"* (Romans 16:17-18).

4 People with moral failure

God promises that a person who covers his sin will not prosper. (See Proverbs 28:13.) This warning includes the work which that person would do in a Christian ministry. A Christian living in secret sin will obviously be plagued with a divided heart. On the one hand, he will desire to serve the Lord; on the other hand, he will desire to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Such a person is unstable in all his ways. (See James 1:8.)

A man's morality will tend to dictate his theology and his philosophy. For this reason a person with moral failure will tend to reject the standards which convict him, but which were used of God to make a ministry successful.

5 People with unkept vows

God assures us that by our words we will be justified and by our words we will be condemned. (See Matthew 12:37.) This truth is further affirmed when God warns that the work of a man's hand will not be rewarded if he has broken a vow.

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou has vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

"Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?" (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6).

HOW DOES ABRAHAM'S CHOICE OF LOT ILLUSTRATE A "SEED OF DISINTEGRATION"?

God's calling to Abraham was clear, "... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation..." (Genesis 12:1-2).



Lot

Abraham obeyed God as far as leaving his country. However, he took Lot with him.

Lot did not have the faith of Abraham, nor did he have the motivation which caused Abraham to follow the Lord. Lot was attracted by the things of this world; Abraham focused on eternal things. When God blessed the flocks and herds of both Abraham and Lot, contentions broke out among the herdsmen.

Lot then chose to move toward Sodom and Gomorrah and left Abraham.

The story, however, does not end there. Lot had two sons which became two nations. These nations fought against the descendants of Abraham.

Ultimately these nations brought about the destruction of the nation of Israel by leading its people into immoral Baal worship. (See Numbers 22-25.)

HOW DID NEHEMIAH DEMONSTRATE AVOIDING "SEEDS OF DISINTEGRATION"?

Nehemiah's vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was the result of his learning about the deplorable conditions of God's people in that city. When he came by the king's command and with the king's resources to fulfill his vision, Sanballat and Tobiah were deeply distressed. "... It grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel" (Nehemiah 2:10).



Nehemiah built the walls with vision.

Throughout the time of the building of the wall, these two evil men tried their best to set up meetings with Nehemiah. However, each time he tactfully rejected their offer. He knew they desired to harm him and stop the work. Thus, he said to them, "... The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem" (Nehemiah 2:20).

3 A VISION IS DIMMED BY USING WRONG METHODS.

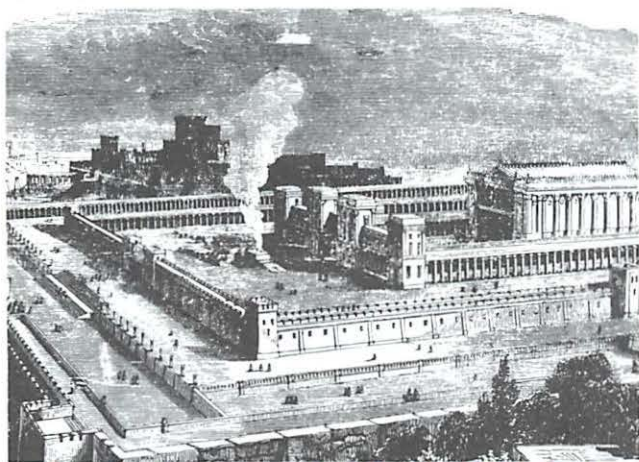
When the disciplines of a personal walk before the Lord are neglected, the members of a group will have a form of Godliness without its power. In order to get the same results that were previously achieved by God's blessing, they will tend to resort to new methods of carrying out the work.

In recent years of church history, men have been looking for better methods, while God has been looking for better men.

Methods will never take the place of the inward working of the Holy Spirit. "... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

In an effort to get the visible results of larger crowds, bigger offerings, and more converts, there is a tendency to compromise either the message or Godly standards which are required by the message.

Some try to defend the use of worldly methods on the basis of apparent results; however, this philosophy that the "end justifies the means" is the very basis of religious humanism. Therefore its end cannot be blessed.

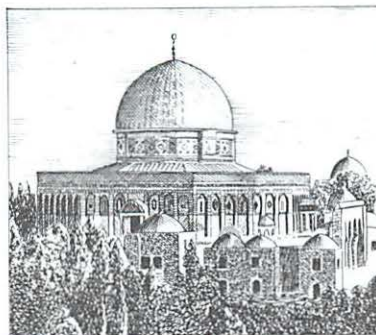


David had a vision to build a Temple for God.

God gave David precise instructions for not only the structure of the Temple, but also the worship that was to take place within it.

It was not long, however, before the people focused on the methods of worship and lost sight of the meaning behind them. Gradually new methods were introduced which perverted the very purpose of the Temple.

When Jesus came to the Temple, He denounced its greedy financial methods by overturning the tables of the money changers and declaring, "... My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:13).



The Dome of the Rock

Methods continued to deteriorate until the Temple itself was destroyed in A.D. 70.

Today an Islamic mosque stands near the site of Solomon's Temple.

How did Gehazi illustrate ineffective methods?

After Elisha proved himself in his service to Elijah, he received a double portion of spiritual power from the Lord. Elisha had a servant named Gehazi.

One day a woman whose son had died came to Elisha, begging him to restore her son to life. Elisha gave Gehazi his rod and told him to go and place it on the dead child. Gehazi followed through on this direction; however, the method failed. It took the personal efforts of Elisha to raise the boy from the dead.

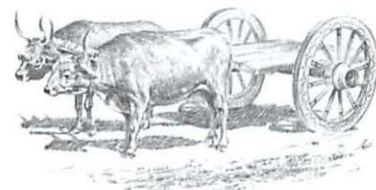


Gehazi

Later, Gehazi demonstrated that he was more concerned about outward provisions than about inward power when by greed and deception he claimed a reward for Naaman's healing. (See II Kings 4-5.)

When did David use wrong methods?

King David attempted to transport the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem; however, he used the wrong method. He put the ark on an ox-drawn cart. David copied this method from the heathen. The Philistines had used a cart to transport the ark several years earlier.



Some methods may work for non-Christians that will not work for Christians! The results of this method were disastrous for David. One man was

killed, David became angry at God, and the huge procession ended without success.

There was a clear reason why the method of transporting the ark on a cart did not work. God had given precise instructions on how the ark was to be moved.

It was to be carried on the shoulders of four priests. (See II Samuel 6:1–19, also *Character Sketches*, Volume I, pages 99–101.)



The Ark of God

4 A VISION IS LOST IN ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY.

Scripture requires that we do all things decently and in order. Christian work is no exception. God wants His work to be carried out in an orderly fashion.

However, when outward methods take the place of inward power, the organization ceases to be responsive to the direction of the Holy Spirit and the varying needs of God's people. Organizational machinery then emerges.

Such machinery is characterized by positions with prestigious titles. The tendency is to focus on the position and maintain its authority rather than the need which it was designed to fulfill.

Christ's parable of the mustard seed provides a close analogy to the development of a vision to the machinery stage. A man with the faith of a mustard seed begins a work for God. Because of his faith, the seed grows into a large ministry.



A mustard tree branch

However, once the ministry exists, unspiritual workers, like the birds of the air, see an opportunity for temporal security. They come and make a nest in its branches.

Birds have territories and guard their territory from intruders, thus friction and divisions occur within the mechanized organization.

In the day of Nehemiah, Tobiah was a striking picture of a "nesting bird." Once the walls were rebuilt and Nehemiah left Jerusalem, Tobiah moved into the Temple and prepared for himself lavish living quarters.

Later, when Nehemiah returned, he was outraged and threw Tobiah and his belongings out into the street. Then he cleansed the Temple and restored its original purpose. (See Nehemiah 13.)

Five signs that a movement has turned into a machine

- When leaders and workers are so busy working for God that they are no longer able to enjoy fellowship with God
- When workers are expected to build up the organization and there is no provision by the organization to build up the workers
- When leaders or workers neglect the needs and pressures of those in their own families—assuming that they will understand
- When workers are allowed to lose their joy in the Lord under sustained pressures
- When numerical or financial goals are set up in place of vital spiritual achievements

5 A VISION THAT IS LOST BECOMES AN EMPTY MEMORIAL.

Although the future of God's Church is sure, the future course of individual local churches and other Christian organizations and ministries depends entirely upon countless decisions made along the way.

When an organization reaches the machinery stage and people become little more than fillers of positions within a static organizational structure, the work ceases to be a life-giving organism.

Its leadership looks to man rather than God for its provisions. When a financial need occurs, it is not seen as a signal from the Lord for self-examination or a change in direction, but rather as the signal to make an urgent appeal to people for funds.

Soon the organization and its outward structure is little more than a memorial to the life and vision of its founder.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1).

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



WHAT CAUSES SALT AND CHRISTIANS TO LOSE THEIR "SAVOR"?



Traders gathering salt in the desert

Salt, or sodium chloride (NaCl), is essential to the diets of both people and animals. Thus, throughout history, salt supplies have been urgently sought. When salt was scarce, it became more valuable than precious metals.

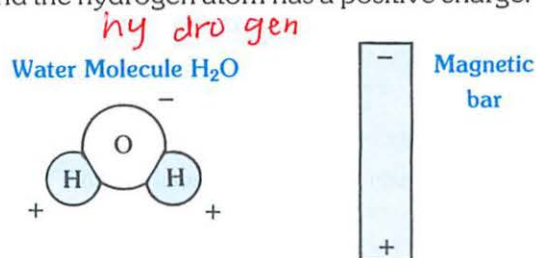
During Biblical times, as in the present, traders gathered salt from the deserts where sea water had evaporated. They brought it by caravan to people in distant lands. These salt deposits were not pure but were mixed with sand, soil, and other impurities. It was this salt to which Jesus referred in His statement:

"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another" (Mark 9:50).

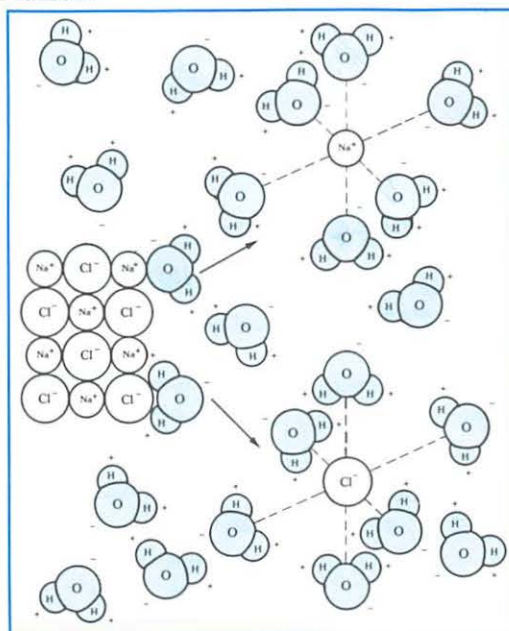
1 SALT LOSES ITS SAVOR WHEN MOISTURE FROM THE OUTSIDE BREAKS IT DOWN.

A water molecule can break down the ionic bond of the salt molecule and dissolve its structure.

This action takes place because of the positive and negative poles in the water molecule. Water molecules have electrical charges because of an unequal sharing of electrons between oxygen (O) and hydrogen (H). The oxygen atom has a negative charge and the hydrogen atom has a positive charge.



The water molecule uses its positively charged hydrogen atoms to pull the negative chlorine ion from the salt crystal and its negatively charged oxygen atom to pull the positive sodium ion from the crystal lattice.

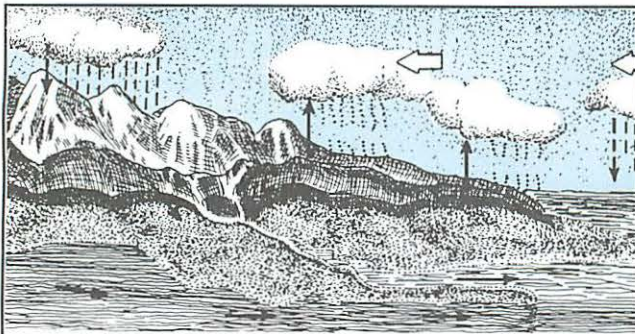


Breaking down of the ionic bond of NaCl

Once the ionic bond of sodium and chlorine is broken and the ions are pulled away from the salt crystal, they are completely surrounded by the water molecules. The salt crystals are no longer visible and must flow with the movement of the water.

2 SALT LOSES ITS SAVOR BY MIXING WITH IMPURITIES.

As water runs off the surface of the earth, it picks up many minerals in addition to salt. These are washed into rivers and lakes where they are mixed together. As the water evaporates, the minerals settle out as a solid mixture of everything that has been washed into it.



Water continually washes salt and other minerals into the ocean. As the water evaporates, the minerals are concentrated into huge deposits of impure salt.

Sometimes salt may be only a small portion of the total deposit. If this trace of salt is lost, only the impurities remain and the saltiness can never be restored.

The deposit has lost its savor and is good for nothing but to be cast onto the road or thrown on the rooftop where the impurities will not pollute the soil.

3 SALT LOSES ITS SAVOR WHEN MIXED WITH A DOMINATING SUBSTANCE.

The salt Jesus spoke of was probably mixed with gypsum. Gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) is the white, chalky substance that is used to make plaster and plasterboard. It does not dissolve as easily in water as salt does; therefore, when salt is dissolved and washed away, the gypsum is left behind.

The "salt that had lost its savor" contained large amounts of gypsum. It was good only to be thrown onto rooftops and roads. There it absorbed rainwater and then hardened like plaster. This process sealed leaks in the roof and filled in the cracks in roads.

Flat paving stones
fitted closely together

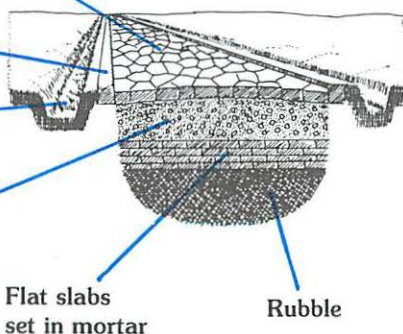
Curbstones

Drainage
ditches

Concrete and
crushed stone

Flat slabs
set in mortar

Rubble



4 SAVOR CAN BE RESTORED ONLY WHEN SALT IS PURIFIED.

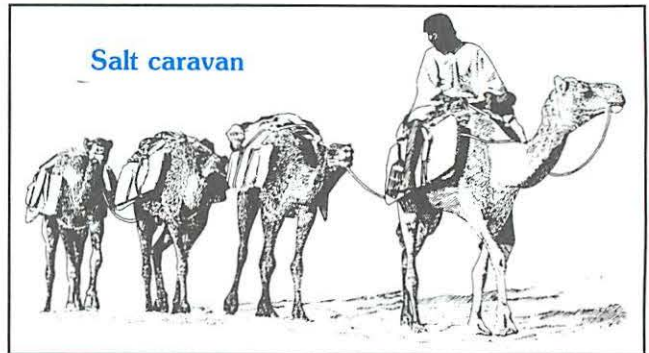


Salt can be purified in only two ways, either by removing impurities from the salt or by removing salt from the impurities.

Mined salt is often washed with water to purify it. The salt dissolves, but most of the impurities are left behind when the "salt water" is poured off and collected. The water is then evaporated to yield "pure salt."

To remove the impurities from the salt, soda ash and lime are added to the salt. These react chemically with the impurities but not with the salt. The products of the reactions can then be removed, leaving the "pure salt" behind.

Salt caravan



PROJECT 1

Salt traders used cloth bags to carry the salt to the marketplace. As the bags encountered rainstorms and moisture, much of the salt would be dissolved in the water and flow out of the bags into the ground, leaving only a trace of the sodium chloride among all the impurities. Without the sodium ions, there would be no "savor" of salt.

Reenact the salt traders' experience by filling a small cloth pouch with a mixture of salt, sand, and soil. Soak the pouch in water, and let it dry. Look for traces of salt on the pouch and among the contents.

PROJECT 2

Discuss how Christians lose the "savor" of their "salt" in the following ways:

1. By too much contact with the world
2. By allowing impurities in their lives
3. By the domination of overpowering people

When should Christians separate from wrong influences, and when should wrong influences be separated from Christians?

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



SCIENCE RESOURCE

HOW DOES THE DEAD SEA REMIND CHRISTIANS TO BE "SALTY" AND "IN BALANCE"?



Doré Bible Illustrations

Lot's wife became a symbol to be remembered.

On the day that the Dead Sea region "died," an event took place which we as Christians are to remember. (See Luke 17:32.)

The significance of this event plus the unusual characteristics of the Dead Sea provide important lessons on the causes and consequences of the lack of salt or of salt being out of balance.

1 THE DEAD SEA REGION WAS CORRUPTED BECAUSE OF THE WICKED.

The area of the Dead Sea was originally well-watered and once bore fruit like a garden.

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar" (Genesis 13:10).

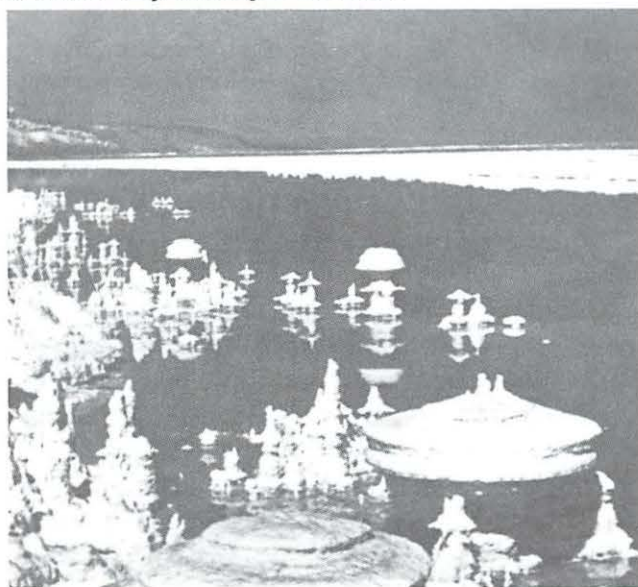
When Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, the area became desolate and barren. The "death" of the Dead Sea region is the direct result of God's judgment on the people who once lived there.

Scripture records that fire and brimstone rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah. (See Genesis 19:23–28.) This account suggests a violent volcanic eruption. As Sodom and Gomorrah were

destroyed, they apparently sank into a volcanic fault and were later covered by water. The body of water that covers Sodom and Gomorrah is now called the Dead Sea.

2 SALT IN THE DEAD SEA IS COMPLETELY OUT OF BALANCE.

The Dead Sea was once called the "Salt Sea." (See Genesis 14:3.) Because it contains almost nine times the concentration of salt that is found in the oceans, the Dead Sea is the saltiest sea on the face of the earth. It is even saltier than the Great Salt Lake in northwestern Utah. On hot summer days, the Dead Sea may contain as much as thirty percent salt and only seventy percent water. Normal sea water contains only three percent salt.



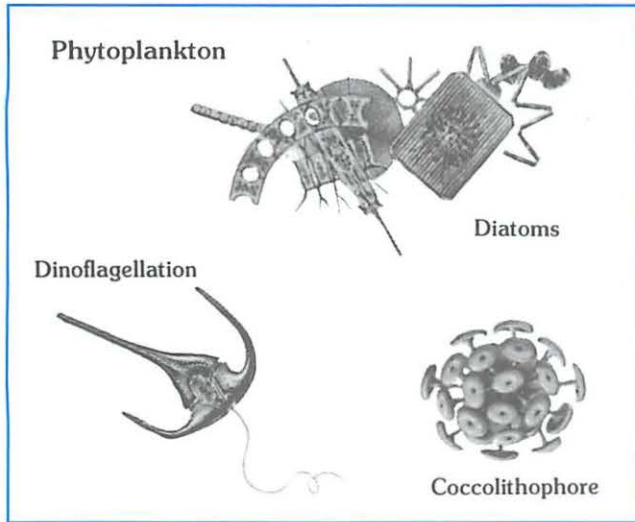
Israeli Information Office

Even the shores of the Dead Sea are encrusted with salt.

3 THE DEAD SEA NO LONGER REPRODUCES OR SUSTAINS LIFE.

In addition to sodium chloride, the Dead Sea contains other minerals such as magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride, bromine, and gypsum. Over the years these minerals have become concentrated in such tremendous amounts that they prevent anything, including fish, insects, and plants, from growing in the Dead Sea.

The individual minerals are worth billions of dollars; yet they destroy all living organisms with which they come in contact. Brine shrimp, which normally thrive in salt water, cannot survive the high concentrations of salt. Even birds avoid the area because they know that there is no food to be found near the shores of the Dead Sea.



World Book, Inc.

Phytoplankton (fye-toe-PLANK-tun) are tiny plants that drift freely in the sea and provide food for larger forms of life. Because phytoplankton cannot survive in the Dead Sea, there is no food to support any other forms of life.

4 THE DEAD SEA CONTINUALLY "RECEIVES" BUT NEVER "GIVES."

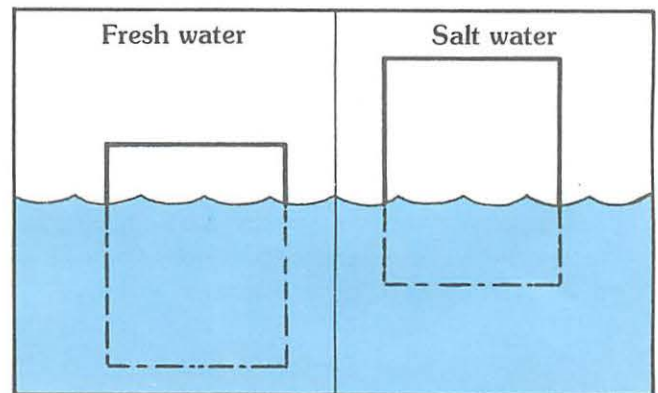
The valley where Sodom and Gomorrah were once located is now the lowest valley in the world. It is 1,299 feet below sea level. This situation causes everything to flow into the valley and allows nothing to flow out. Even the Mediterranean Sea is higher than the Dead Sea. If a canal were dug between the two seas, the Mediterranean would empty its waters into the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea is fed by the Jordan River and several other small streams that have their beginnings high up in the peaks of Mount Hermon. The Jordan flows for two hundred miles before it reaches the Dead Sea, and in that distance the Jordan drops several thousand feet.

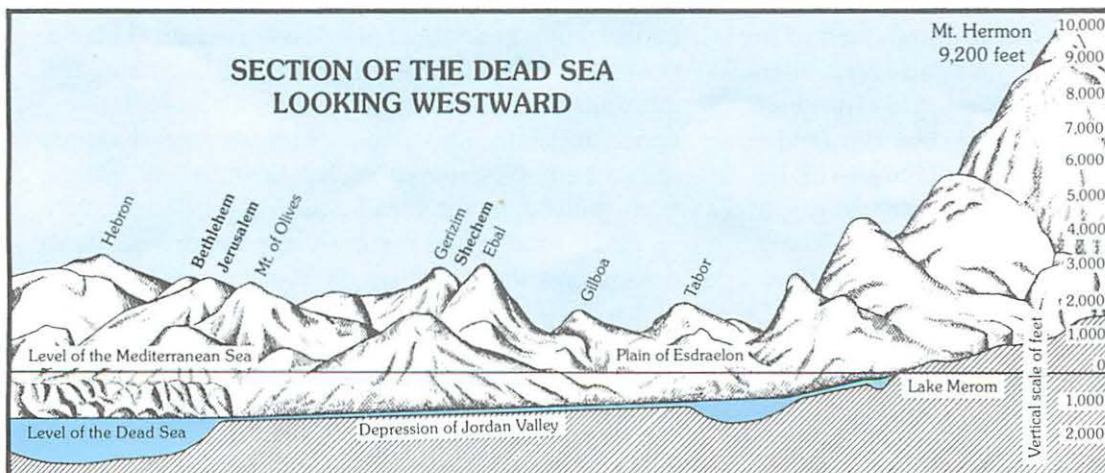
5 THE DEAD SEA IS BECOMING MORE "IMBALANCED" EVERY DAY.

During the hot summer, water evaporates from the Dead Sea's 405-square-mile surface at a rate of seven million tons per day. This loss of water prevents the Dead Sea from overflowing. However, as the water evaporates, it leaves dissolved minerals behind. These minerals were once found in the soil of the mountains which surround the Dead Sea. The minerals were dissolved in rainwater and melting snow and carried to the Dead Sea by the Jordan River and other smaller streams. The absence of these minerals in the soils around the Dead Sea is one of the reasons the area is so barren.

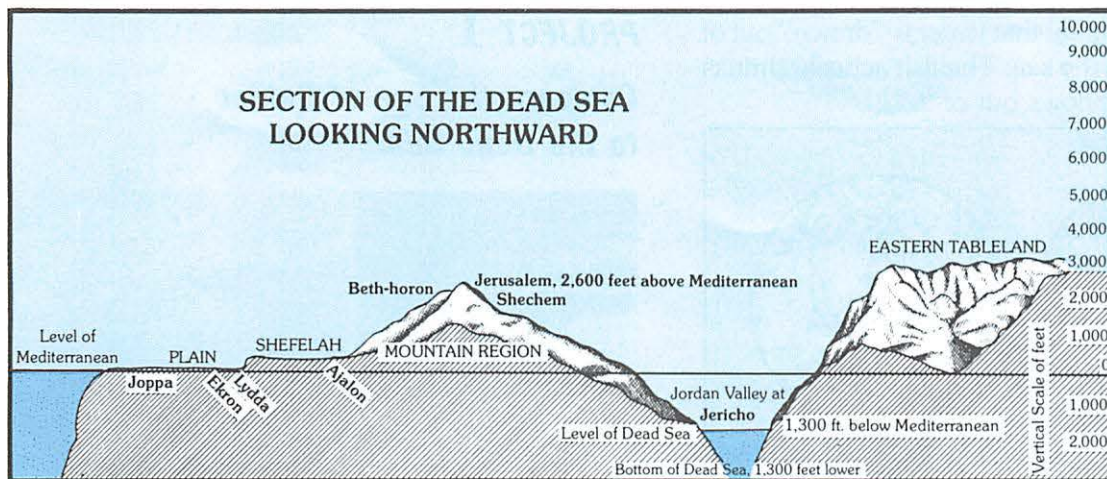
Each day the Dead Sea becomes more concentrated as additional water carrying fresh minerals feeds into it. The sun evaporates the water, and the minerals are left behind. The evaporated water then rises in clouds to the mountain peaks and falls again in the form of rain. Rain dissolves more minerals and washes them into the Dead Sea. This cycle has continued since the day that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.



The Dead Sea is twenty percent more buoyant than fresh water. The Dead Sea is so buoyant that a person is "floated off his feet" and cannot stand in shallow water.



The entire Jordan Valley slopes downward toward the Dead Sea. From the peak of Mount Hermon to the bottom of the Dead Sea, the land drops almost 12,000 feet.



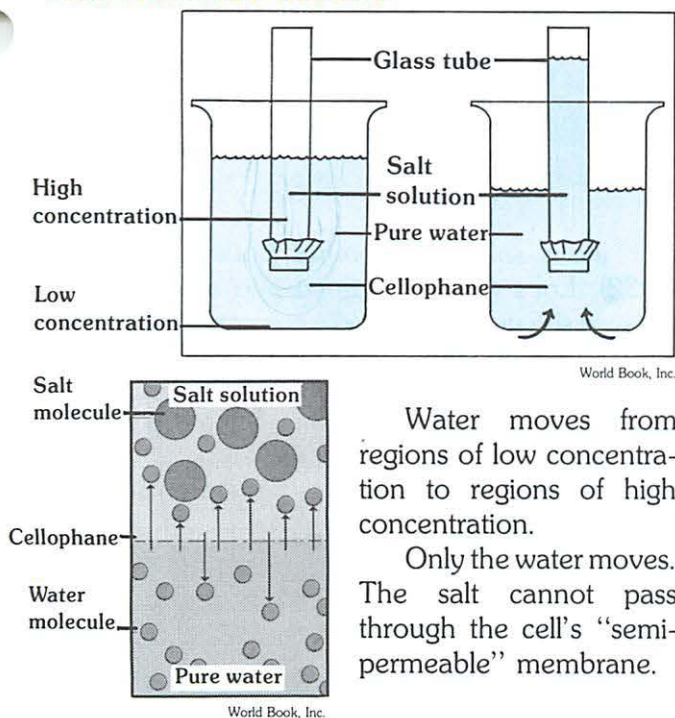
The Dead Sea is completely surrounded by mountains. The mountains of Jerusalem, Masada, and the Judean hills line the western shore.

Mount Nebo, Mount Shihan, and the Eastern Tablelands line the eastern shore.

6 THE DEAD SEA DRAWS WATER AWAY FROM EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES.

Salt attracts water through a process called *osmosis* (ahz-MOE-sis). Osmosis is the movement of water from regions of a low concentration of salt toward regions of a high concentration of salt. The pressure that "draws" the water is called *osmotic* (ahz-MAH-tik) pressure.

HOW OSMOSIS WORKS



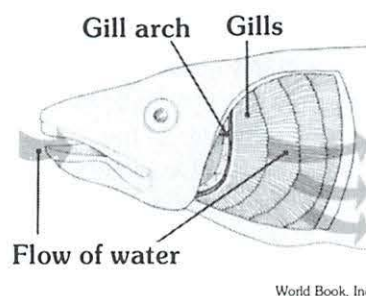
Water moves from regions of low concentration to regions of high concentration.

Only the water moves. The salt cannot pass through the cell's "semi-permeable" membrane.

Within living organisms, osmotic pressure helps to maintain balance. Osmosis causes high concentrations to be diluted and low concentrations to be concentrated. Osmotic pressure also draws water into the roots of plants. It helps the kidneys to purify the blood and forces the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the lungs.

However, the process of osmosis can also be very destructive. A fish living in salt water, for example, loses water continually out of its bloodstream. The concentration of salt in the blood is only about one percent, while the concentration of salt in normal sea water is almost three percent. Because osmosis causes water to flow from the lower concentration to the higher concentration, the osmotic pressure draws water out of the fish and into the ocean.

To compensate for this loss of water, the fish must drink large amounts of water. The only water ocean-dwelling fish can drink, however, is salt water. Drinking large amounts of salt water causes salt to build up in the bloodstream. This salt must then be removed from the body to maintain a proper balance of salt.

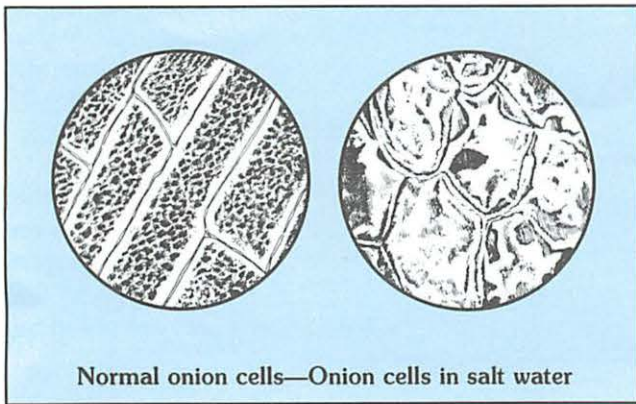


Special cells located in the gills of ocean fish collect and remove excess salt from the bloodstream to maintain perfect balance.

Fish that live in fresh water have a different problem. Their blood contains more salt than the water in which they live. Osmotic pressure forces water into the bloodstream of freshwater fish. This means that freshwater fish never have to drink water.

Because the Dead Sea contains almost thirty percent salt, the osmotic pressure between the blood and the sea is almost thirty times greater than normal. Any freshwater fish that finds itself in the Dead Sea usually dies within minutes. The salt

concentration is so great that water is “drawn” out of the fish’s body into the sea. The fish actually shrinks in size as the water flows out of it.



Normal onion cells—Onion cells in salt water

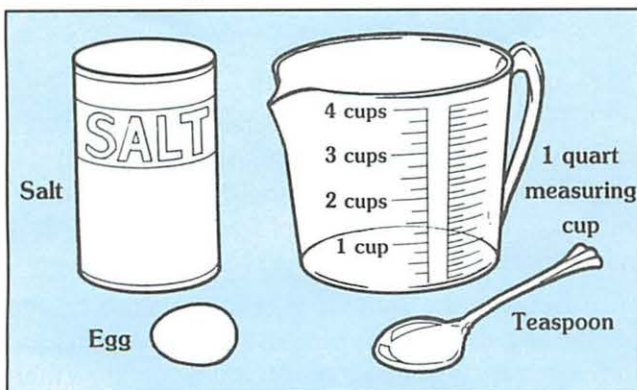
7 THE DEAD SEA'S WATER DECREASES THE ABILITY TO TASTE GOOD FOOD.

Excessive amounts of salt overpower the taste of other foods and make the tongue less sensitive to sweet, sour, and bitter tastes.

An interesting way to learn about the saltiness of the Dead Sea is to actually make some saltwater that is the same concentration as that found in the Dead Sea. All that is needed is a fresh egg, a one-quart measuring cup, some water, and some salt. Because the water of the Dead Sea has about the same density as a fresh egg, the egg will float when the water contains the same concentration of salt as the water of the Dead Sea.

Fill the measuring cup with about three and one half cups of water. Place the egg in the water; it will sink. Now add salt slowly, one teaspoonful at a time. Be sure to stir the saltwater so that all the salt dissolves. Keep adding salt until the egg bobs to the top. When the egg floats, the saltwater is the same concentration as the saltwater of the Dead Sea.

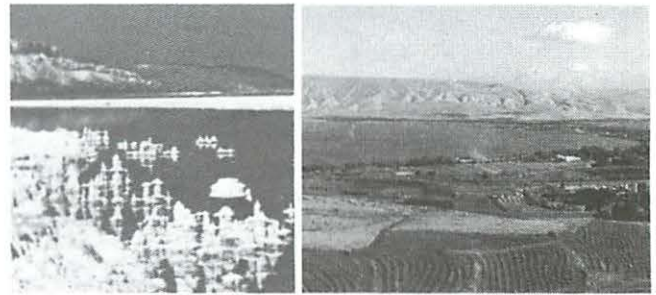
Taste the water, but do not swallow it. Now taste something else.



Make your own sample of “Dead Sea water.”

PROJECT 1

Compare the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.



Israeli Information Office

Ronald Sheridan's Photo Library

Dead Sea

Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is like the Dead Sea in many ways: both are far below sea level; the water in the Sea of Galilee becomes the water in the Dead Sea; both seas are connected by the Jordan River; and both are in the Jordan Valley. Why is one “dead” and the other “alive”?

PROJECT 2



Doré Bible Illustrations

Remember Lot's wife—with understanding.

Jesus said, “Remember Lot's wife” (Luke 17:32). Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she disobeyed God's command not to look back to Sodom. It appears that she looked back, not only because of curiosity, but because her heart was still in those wicked cities. Neither Lot nor his wife were the “salt” they should have been.

How do the characteristics of the Dead Sea symbolize the probable condition of her heart?

How could Lot have protected his wife from destruction?

Consider the danger of taking in rich spiritual food every day and failing to give to others.

“... Freely ye have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HOW DID SAVORLESS CHRISTIANS ALLOW THE RISE OF A GODLESS DICTATOR?



The accused arrives for his trial in 1521.

The determined monk began his historical trip with a commitment to do God's will though he be carried there sick, and even at the risk of his life. He had been warned by friends of the danger that this fateful trip might bring to him.

His faith was in the finished work of Jesus Christ without mixture of religious works. The authority of the Bible alone determined faith and practice. These views had placed him on a collision course with the religious and civil powers of his day. He was accused of holding and teaching heretical views.

He was summoned by Emperor Charles V and the Holy Roman electors to give an account of his views. He wrote to a friend, "You may expect every thing from me except fear or recantation. I shall not flee. May the Lord Jesus strengthen me."

On the way to the trial, he passed through numerous towns and drew curious and admiring crowds. His enemies along the way were quick to

hurl abuses and criticisms. In several towns he stopped and boldly preached the Gospel message. Many were brought to true Biblical faith in Christ.

News of his arrival at Worms electrified the city. Thousands poured into the streets to catch a glimpse of the "notorious heretic."

The large hall at Worms was soon filled with the major church and state officials. The accused heretic was brought before them. Pamphlets and papers were held up to him, and he was asked to admit whether these were his writings. He acknowledged that they were, whereupon they demanded that he recant what was written in them.



The trial before the Holy Roman electors

Stunned by the unexpected course of the trial, he attempted to reason with his accusers. When this failed, he replied in a clear and firm voice:

"Unless I am refuted and convicted by testimonies of the Scriptures or by clear arguments (since I believe neither the Pope nor the councils alone; it being evident that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am conquered by the Holy Scriptures . . . my conscience is bound in the Word of God; I cannot and will not recant. . . ."

The assembly erupted in loud and angry shouting against the monk. In response to the violent clamor of the assembly, he raised his voice and proclaimed the words which fueled the fires of the Reformation in Germany.

"Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me! Amen."

That dedicated monk was Martin Luther. He made these statements on April 18, 1521, before

the might and power of the Holy Roman Empire of Germany and the Roman Catholic Church.

The Reformation spread quickly throughout Germany. It was built on the truths of justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, access to God's throne directly through Christ, and most of all the absolute authority of the Scriptures in all matters of life.

HOW DID THE LAND OF REFORMATION BECOME THE STRONGHOLD OF HUMANISM?



Fred Hunt Library

Nazism was the political expression of humanism.

How could a nation with such spiritual enlightenment give birth to the godless movement of Nazism several generations after the Reformation? To understand the steps of spiritual disintegration within the church of Germany, we need to study several important aspects of Germany's history.

1 THE BIRTH OF THE REFORMATION

Martin Luther had spent many years in deep searching as an Augustinian monk in order to find forgiveness of sin and peace with God. However, the severe disciplines required by his religious order seemed only to drive him further into despair.

It was then that he began to study the books of Romans and Galatians. He recorded what took place:

"Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by faith.' Then I



Brown Brothers

grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning. . . . This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven."

With new excitement, he continued to study Scripture and discovered to his dismay that so much of what he had been taught came not from Scripture, but had been added by the traditions of men and church councils. He concluded that the Scriptures alone were the final authority on all matters of life and faith.

The abuses of the church now stood out in sharp contrast to what Martin Luther knew was the truth. When a Dominican friar named Tetzel passed through Wittenberg selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins, Martin Luther determined that a bold confrontation must be made with the doctrinal error.



European

Johann Tetzel sold indulgences by proclaiming, "As soon as the penny tinkles in the box a soul from purgatory flies."

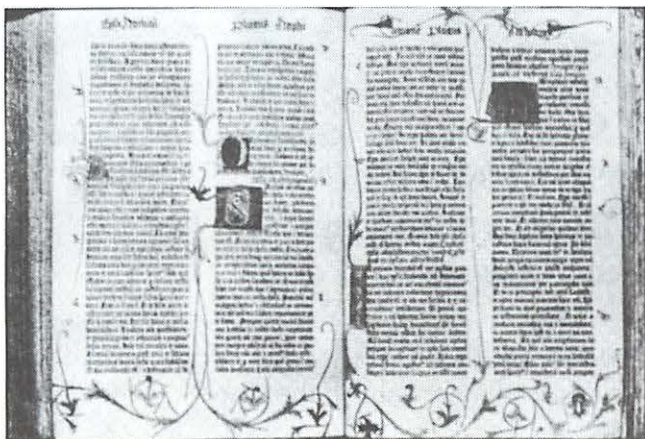
On October 31, 1517, firmly convinced of the absolute authority of the Scriptures, Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church. These were critiques of the practice of indulgences. They repudiated the claim of the Roman Catholic Church to spiritual authority.

2 THE IMPACT OF THE REFORMATION



New York Public Library

The Reformation reestablished the authority of Scripture in society, and the invention of the printing press made the Scriptures available to the common man.



• On the authority of government

Luther and the Reformers believed the Scriptural teaching regarding the depravity of the human heart. (See Jeremiah 17:9–10.) Therefore, they concluded that government officials needed checks and balances to curb their tendency to abuse power.

They further believed that nations must also submit themselves to Biblical principles in their relationships with each other. The first codifying of international law came from the influence of the Reformation.

Because of the entanglement of the Roman Catholic Church with state affairs, Martin Luther at first emphasized a sharp distinction between secular and spiritual powers. In later years, however, he realized the need for the Bible to influence government. Thus, he united the two very closely.

• On the importance of education

Martin Luther believed that it was crucial that all German citizens be able to read so that they could study the Scriptures for themselves.

In 1524, he wrote a book urging civil authorities to improve the schools. However, he emphasized the importance of keeping the Bible central to any education.

“I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth.

“I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.”

Luther wrote both the *Large* and *Small Catechisms* for the purpose of educating the people in the truths of the Scriptures. Along with his German translation of the Bible, they have become some of the richest fruit of German literature.

• On the place of Scripture in worship

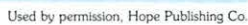


The Life of Luther in Picture and Verse


During the Reformation, the traditions of the mass were replaced with the opened Bible. The

A fellow worker wrote, "No day passes that he does not give three hours to prayer, and those fittest for study. Once I happened to hear him praying. How great a spirit, how great a faith, was in his very words! With such reverence did he ask, as if he felt that he was speaking with God . . . as with a Father and a Friend . . . And my mind burned within me with a singular emotion when he spoke in so friendly a manner, so weightedly, so reverently, to God."

Martin Luther restored congregational singing to the Church and wrote many hymns for the people. In a very real sense, he skillfully placed the Reformation into the hearts of the people. Next to the German Bible, the “hymn” became the most powerful and influential missionary of the Biblical doctrines of the Reformation.



One composer in Luther's day said, "In his hymns you find not an idle or useless word. The rhymes are easy and good, the words choice and proper, the meaning clear and intelligible, the melodies lovely and hearty."

A black and white portrait of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark coat with large buttons over a white cravat. He has a large, powdered wig and is holding a small, folded piece of paper in his right hand. The background is dark and indistinct.

The Reformation emphasized practical holiness in daily living. Thus, it reinstated the principles of marriage and the home to their Biblical priority.



Martin Luther at home with his family

In April 1523, Martin Luther entered into a lifelong commitment of marriage with Catherina von Bora. He thoroughly enjoyed the responsibilities of marriage. "Next to God's Word there is no more precious treasure than holy matrimony. God's highest gift on earth is a God-fearing . . . wife."

Martin and Catherina had six children. Every day "Papa" Luther would rouse his family and begin with devotions by reciting sections of his *Small Catechism*.



Keystone

Guests learned at the table of Martin Luther.

The evening meal was equally enriched with spiritual nourishment. Frequently the family was joined by guests. These included beggars, theologians, students, princes, noblemen, and ladies. Martin Luther's discourses were recorded by eager listeners and later compiled into a book entitled *Table Talk*.

3 THE RISE OF UNIVERSITIES

Just prior to the Reformation, the Renaissance had swept through Europe. Its emphasis was on humanism, which exalted man and human reasoning rather than God and the Scriptures.

The centers of Renaissance influence were the universities. Between 1409 and 1506, twelve universities were formed in Germany. By the sixteenth century, humanism was entrenched in all of them.

Martin Luther's total commitment to the Scriptures was not shared by some of those who were closest to him. One of these was the grand-nephew and protégé of the humanist Reuchlin, Philipp Melanchthon.



Historisches Bildarchiv, West Germany

Philipp Melanchthon
1497–1560

Philipp Melanchthon was a brilliant Greek scholar at the age of twenty-one. He became Martin Luther's closest ally and wrote many defenses of Reformation doctrine. He was noted for his intellectual approach to the Scriptures and has been called "the brains of the Reformation."



The Bettmann Archive

The intellectual emphasis of Philipp Melanchthon became the "seed of disintegration" of the German Reformation.

He established liberal arts colleges throughout Germany and attempted to combine the study of Scripture with the study of humanistic philosophy. Humanism ultimately won as the spirit and vibrancy that Luther radiated was reduced to cold academic formulas.

4 THE RISE OF HERESIES

As the Christians of the Reformation lost their first love, churches became spiritually cold and carnal. Soon destructive philosophical and theological debates divided congregations. Heresies began to spring up throughout Germany.

They denied that Jesus Christ was God, stating that He was only a man filled with the powers of God. They rejected the power of the blood of Christ, emphasizing instead the love of God.

Among the groups which adopted doctrinal heresy were those that believed the Scriptures, but taught the total separation of church and state. They also forbade their followers to participate in any form of public office.

Their influence caused Christians to withdraw from many important areas of public leadership, and thus the “salt” of Reformation truth soon became absent from critical areas of German life and thought. Humanism quickly filled the resulting vacuum.

5 THE RETREAT OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

In the period between 1600 and 1700, Biblical Christianity began to retreat. This retreat was heightened by political upheavals. Ferdinand II, who was emperor of Germany and king of Bohemia, decided to rid his territories of Protestantism.

He was a fanatical Roman Catholic, and his purge produced among the Bohemians a revolt which started the Thirty Years War (1618–1648). This war brought devastation to Germany. The population actually decreased from thirty million to twenty million during this time.



The Bettmann Archive

King Gustavus Adolphus prayed for victory as he brought his Swedish army to assist the Protestants. His forces won the battle; however, he was killed.

Instead of being involved in the leadership of Germany, the Christians turned inward with their faith and also began a missionary movement outside the country.

Growing out of this period was the Moravian movement under the leadership of Nicolaus Ludwig,

Graf von Zinzendorf. No other Protestant group was more influential to the cause of missions than the energetic and bold Moravians. John Wesley was brought to salvation after observing their deep love for Christ.



German Information Center, New York

**Count von Zinzendorf
1700–1760**

6 THE REJECTION OF SCRIPTURE

With its repudiation and scorning of all supernatural events, deism began to undermine the revelation of God's Word and the basis of Reformation faith.

As the Scriptures were forsaken, the error of deism was embraced. Deism combined the philosophies of materialism and rationalism. Materialism is the belief that the material world is the sum total of human existence. Rationalism teaches that man's reason alone, without revelation, is sufficient to lead him.

As a result, many lost confidence in the Scriptures; literature and art were more concerned with secular subjects and less concerned with Biblical principles. Theology was no longer regarded as the center of study, the “queen of the sciences.”

Intellectual life centered around such humanists as the pantheist (believing that nature is god), Benedict de Spinoza (1632–1677), Gottfried Leibniz (1646–1716) of Germany, the secular moralist Earl of Shaftesbury (1671–1713), the vigorous materialist Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679), and the father of modern unbelieving philosophy, René Descartes (1596–1650).

7 THE ENTRENCHMENT OF HUMANISM

As Germany entered the next two centuries, the overwhelming tide of humanism began its ground swell. By the end of those two centuries the course of world history was set into humanistic concrete.

The state Lutheran church was hardly recognizable from the spirit of the age. Its pastors

received their training in the universities and brought humanism into the pulpits to the people.

The eighteenth century ushered in the "Age of Reason." Man was to be guided by nothing more than his own intellect. Anything not comprehensible, such as the supernatural, was to be scorned. Atheism and agnosticism flourished in the universities.



Wide World

The French Revolution influenced German thinking.



National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Voltaire
1694–1778

French rationalism began to affect German music, literature, and philosophy. The writings of Voltaire poured out an intense hatred of Christianity. He declared that he would in his day see the extinction of Christianity. His Godless ideas were propagated in Germany as well as those of the influential Immanuel Kant (1724–1804).

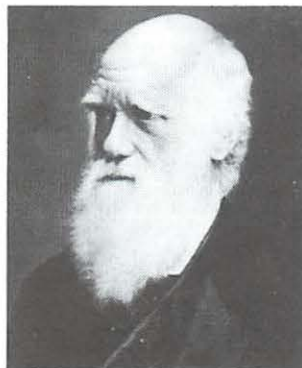
The humanists attacked the Bible by calling it "a confused compilation of several documents." Humanistic philosophers like Johann Eichhorn (1752–1827) and Johann Semler (1725–1791) established what became known as "higher criticism."

Rationalism turned to romanticism as people relied on their feelings and began to worship nature. Then such men as Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778) removed all restraints except man's urges. The French Revolution plunged the Western world into the abyss of unrestrained human depravity and unimagined evil.

A new religious tenet, evolution, now came on the scene and forcibly removed the Creator from His

creation. In 1859, Charles Darwin published his theory of natural selection.

In a few decades, the myth of evolution gave the humanists the excuse to remove the last vestiges of any god-concept and moral accountability. Life was then explained totally in terms of atheistic materialism.



Brown Brothers

Charles Darwin
1809–1882



International News Photos

Herbert Spencer
1820–1903

Herbert Spencer transferred the theory of evolution to the world of philosophy, coining the phrase, "survival of the fittest." He claimed that moral principles are not the result of absolute truth, but rather the product of changing (or evolving) emotions.

Years later, Spencer's philosophy became the justification for the genocidal horrors of Adolph Hitler's reign of terror. Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazi Gestapo, stated that the law of nature must take its course in the survival of the fit ones. Those who were not "fit enough" would have to be removed from the society.

8 THE SUPREMACY OF THE STATE

Statism was drilled into the German people by the influence of the Prussian prime minister Otto von Bismarck. He unified the historically diverse German states under Prussian influence during the late 1800s and became the first chancellor of the German Empire.



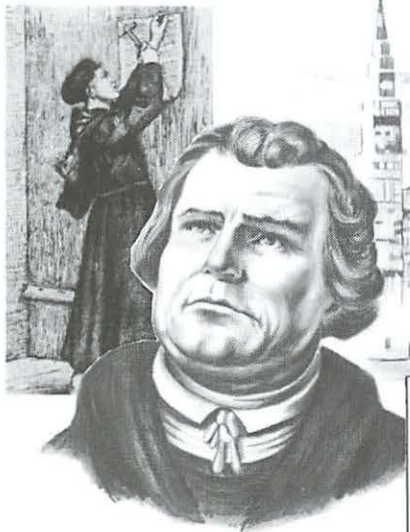
Staatsbibliothek, Berlin (Handke)

Otto von Bismarck
1815–1898

1400

1500

1600



The Waldenses
(1173—)



John Hus
(d. 1415)



The Prince—Machiavelli (1469–1527)

October 31, 1517
Birth of The
Reformation

Sola Scriptura
Sola Fide
Sola Gracia

• Diet of Worms (1521)



Philipp Melancthon
(1497–1560)

Galileo (1564–1642)

Socinianism

Rise of Universities as
Institutions of Humanism

1348	Prague
1386	Heidelberg
1409	Leipzig
1457	Freiburg
1472	Munich
1477	Tubingen
1527	Marburg
1544	Konigsberg
1558	Jena
1607	Giessen
1694	Halle
1737	Gottingen
1810	Berlin
1818	Bonn
1946	Mainz

Humanism—The Renaissance

DECLINE OF INFLUENCE

RISE OF INFLUENCE

• Radical Reformation

• Arian Heresies

CHURCHES LOSE
SPIRITUALITY

• Thirty Years War
(1618–1648)

Pietism: Retreat of
Christian Influence

Pia Desideria (1675) •

• René Descartes (1596–1650)

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900



French Revolution (1789) •

AGE OF REASON



Francois Voltaire
(1694-1778)

REACTION OF ROMANTICISM

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)



Jean-Jacques Rousseau
(1712-1778)

Moravian Missionary •
Movement

Count von Zinzendorf
(1700-1760)

• Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

• (1741) *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759)

United States Constitution (1787) •

• The Great Awakening—Outside Germany



Karl Marx
(1818-1883)

DOMINANCE OF RATIONALISM

• (1859) Darwin's *Origin of the Species*

Ludwig von Beethoven (d. 1827)



Friedrich Nietzsche
(1844-1900)

Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898)

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

New Lutheranism •



Humanist Manifesto
I (1933)
II (1973)



John Dewey
(1859-1952)

1700

1800

1900

The state as the sovereign collective was first introduced to the German people in the writings of Karl Marx. In 1848, he and Friedrich Engels authored their *Communist Manifesto*.



Karl Marx
1818–1883

The Granger Collection



Friedrich Engels
1820–1895

Historisches Bildarchiv, West Germany

9 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOTALITARIANISM

Probably no two individuals have had a greater impact on the humanistic tragedies of the modern era than the philosophers Georg Wilhelm Hegel and Friedrich Nietzsche.

Hegel destroyed any hope for absolute truth with his dialectical thinking. In the dialectic, he taught that “truth” was the idea which resulted when two opposing ideas clashed and were forced to synthesize. The new idea would eventually be opposed, and the resulting clash would produce another new idea or “truth.”

Hegel also elevated the state to the position of key pivot in history. Thus, he introduced the concepts of relativism and state salvation to the German people.



Georg W.F. Hegel
1770–1831

The Bettmann Archive



Friedrich Nietzsche
1844–1900

Photographische Gesellschaft, Berlin

Friedrich Nietzsche’s father and grandfather were Lutheran pastors, and his mother and his father’s mother were pastors’ daughters.

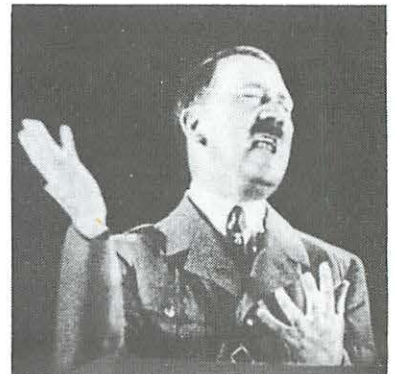
Early in life he reacted to his Godly heritage, and under the influence of the skeptic professor Arthur Schopenhauer he rejected Christianity.

Throughout most of his life, Nietzsche carried the consequence of a venereal disease which eventually brought him to insanity. He despised what he called the “slave mentality” of Christianity handed to them by the Jews.

Nietzsche’s hope lay in the rise of the new “superman.” His goal was “a New Order . . . for the domination of the earth.”

In 1937, not long after Nietzsche died, the tyrant Adolf Hitler spoke these words, “God has created this people and it has grown according to His will. And according to our will it shall remain and never shall it pass away.”

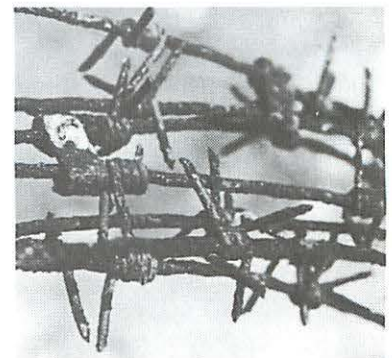
And the Nazi regime replied, “Der Fuehrer accomplishes great deeds out of the greatness of his heart, the passion of his will, and the goodness of his soul. We are all creatures of Der Fuehrer. His faith makes us the most powerful of men. If he removes his confidence, we are nothing, we are plunged into darkness and lost to the memory of man. For Germany is Adolf Hitler . . . Hitler is like God.”



Adolf Hitler
1889–1945

PROJECT

- What lessons should we learn from the history of Germany?
- Compare the similar signs of spiritual decline between America and Germany.
- Discuss what you could have done in Germany before and during Hitler’s rise to power.



Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



MEDICINE RESOURCE

HOW DOES A LACK OF SALT IN THE BODY SHOW THE DANGER OF UNSAVORY CHRISTIANS?



A heathen temple at Corinth

Salt is required to help maintain the basic functions of the body. Without it, death would occur. Similarly, Christians are to carry out God's purposes in the world. Failure to do so also results in death.

The church in Corinth is a sobering illustration of savorless Christians. The temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, dominated this pagan seaport.

The Christians who should have checked the spread of sensuality instead became corrupted by it and ended up in immorality which was more vile than that of the pagans. *"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles . . ."* (I Corinthians 5:1).

The consequences for unsavory Christians in Corinth involved not only the loss of influence

among the non-Christians, but also premature death among the Christians. *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep [have died]"* (I Corinthians 11:30).

Just as the lack of salty Christians produces spiritual consequences, so the lack of salt in our physical bodies results in the following consequences.

1 BLOOD VESSELS WOULD COLLAPSE.

Blood vessels are designed to bring nourishment to every cell in the body, just as Christians are responsible to bring the message of life to every person throughout the world.

Salt is the most concentrated mineral in blood. It regulates the volume of blood and other extracellular fluids in the body. Without salt, blood vessels would collapse, and the body would quickly lose all its water and die.

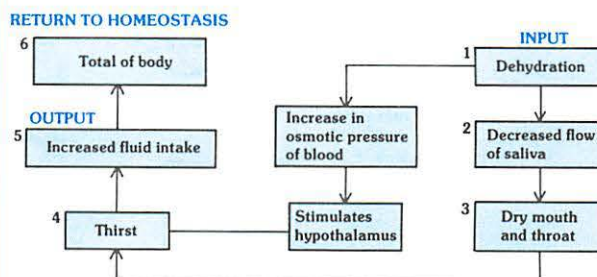
The function of salt in the blood is so important that it is kept to within two percent of normal at all times. This concentration level is maintained by the kidneys, which constantly check the salt level in the blood. These organs are able to check the salt level in one fourth of the body's blood every minute!

When a kidney finds that the concentration of salt is too low or too high, it immediately begins to retain sodium or excrete it in the urine.

When salt is excreted, the body loses large amounts of water with it, creating thirst.

The center for thirst is located in the hypothalamus, which monitors the volume of fluids in the body. When salty food is eaten, the hypothalamus notes the change in body fluids and sends a sensation of thirst to the brain.

The process by which salt concentrations are maintained in the body is called *homeostasis*.



It is difficult for a healthy adult with access to plenty of water to have too much salt. Imbalances arise only when one or more of the body's systems fail to operate properly.

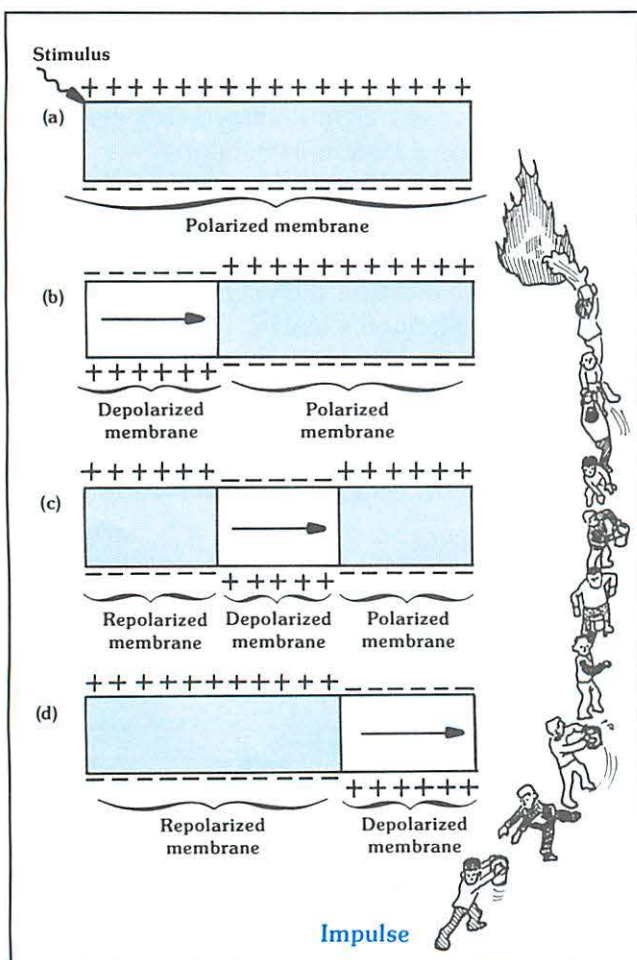
2 THE NERVOUS SYSTEM WOULD CEASE TO FUNCTION.

The nervous system is the communication network of the body. It receives messages of need and danger and sends out directives to the muscles for immediate response.

When a nerve cell is at rest, the concentration of sodium (Na, from salt) is fourteen times greater outside the cell than it is inside the cell. Potassium (K), on the other hand, is almost thirty times greater inside the cell than it is outside the cell. This difference is maintained by a potassium-sodium pump that continuously transports sodium out of the nerve cell and potassium into the cell.

Because K^+ and Na^+ carry electrical charges with them, an electrical potential difference builds up between the inside and the outside of the cell.

When a nerve is stimulated, the first small section of the nerve's cell wall suddenly changes to allow sodium to flow into the cell. This change first neutralizes the potential difference and then creates a positive potential difference.



Nerve impulses carry messages in much the same way that a bucket brigade carries water.

As the sodium rushes into the cell, it stimulates the next section of the nerve cell wall to also allow sodium to enter the nerve cell. This triggers an impulse that moves like a wave along the outside of the cell membrane.

When the impulse has passed, the cell walls return to normal and the sodium is pumped back out. The whole process may take less than $1/2,500$ of a second in some nerves or as long as $1/10$ of a second in others.

3 ACID IN THE BLOOD WOULD BECOME IMBALANCED.

Balance is vital to both the health and the life of the body. Similarly, one of the primary functions of the Christian in the world is to maintain the balance of God's truth as it applies to all functions of life. Truth out of balance leads to heresy.

Blood is slightly *basic* (alkaline). It has a pH of 7.35 to 7.45. Salt helps to keep the blood within that range by changing strong acids into weak acids and strong bases into weak bases. Because a buffer is not a permanent solution, the source of the imbalance must be located and corrected.



Strong
Acid

Weak
Acid



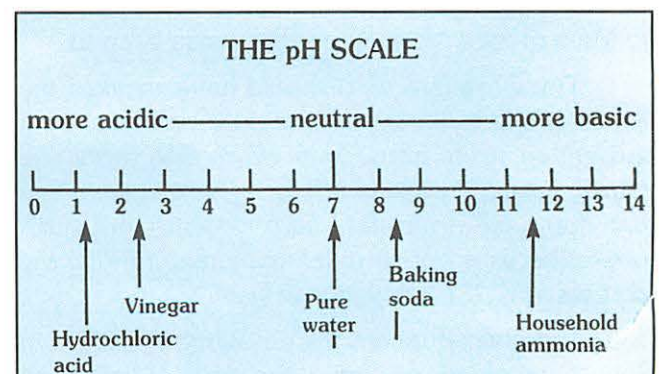
Strong
Base

Weak
Base

The pH of a solution is the measure of its number of H^+ ions. The range is from 1-14. Seven is a neutral solution. Less than seven is acidic. More than seven is alkaline.



Test paper used to measure pH



The condition in which blood is too acidic is called *acidosis*. The condition in which blood is too alkaline is called *alkalosis*. Both excesses affect the nervous system. Acidosis leads to depression and complete loss of nerve functions. The result in extreme cases is a coma that may lead to death.

Alkalosis has just the opposite effect. Nerves become overexcited, and the patient becomes "hyperactive."

4 THE STOMACH LINING WOULD BE EATEN AWAY.

When systems within our body begin to malfunction, new imbalances, which only create more problems, are triggered. Similarly, when Christians fail to carry out God-given functions in the world, those without God's wisdom attempt to resolve problems in their own ways and only create greater destruction.

Salt is a major source of chlorine, from which the body manufactures *hydrochloric acid* (HCl). *Parietal cells* in the lining of the stomach produce strong, concentrated HCl with a pH of 2.

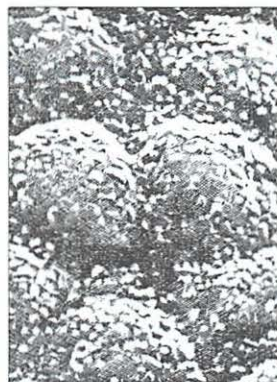


A healthy, normal stomach is protected with a mucus lining.

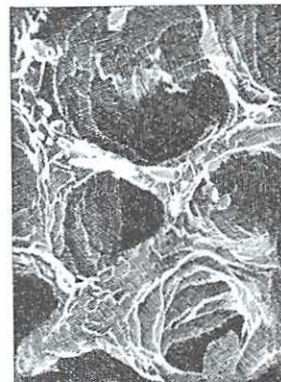
To protect itself from HCl, the stomach is coated with a barrier of mucus that does not allow the pepsin or HCl to come in contact with it.

Pepsin is so powerful that it can digest the very cells that produce it. To prevent this, pepsin is manufactured in an inactive form called *pepsinogen*. It is unable to digest protein until it is mixed with hydrochloric acid.

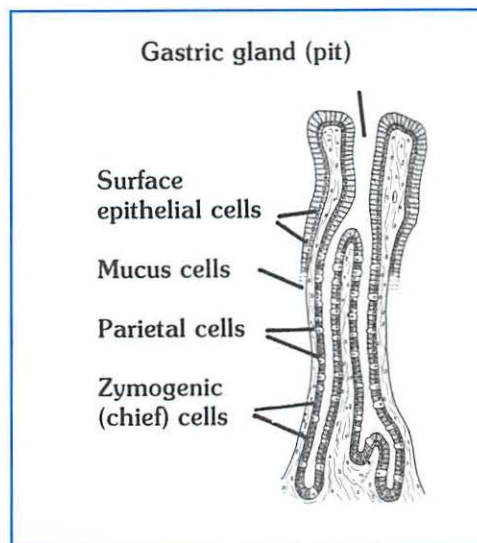
During times of stress and anxiety, mucus production decreases and acid production increases. The unprotected stomach lining may then be digested away, resulting in an *ulcer*.



Normal lining



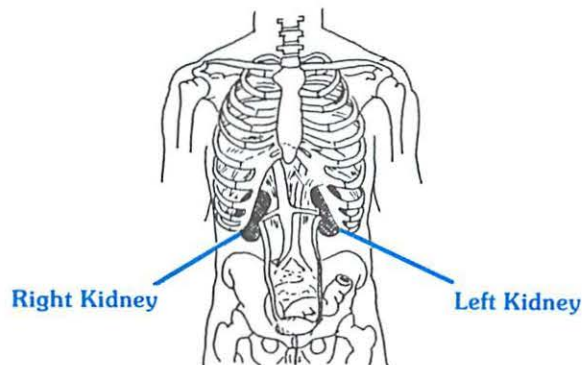
Peptic ulcer



The cells within the stomach wall produce HCl, pepsinogen, and mucus.

5 THE KIDNEYS WOULD MALFUNCTION.

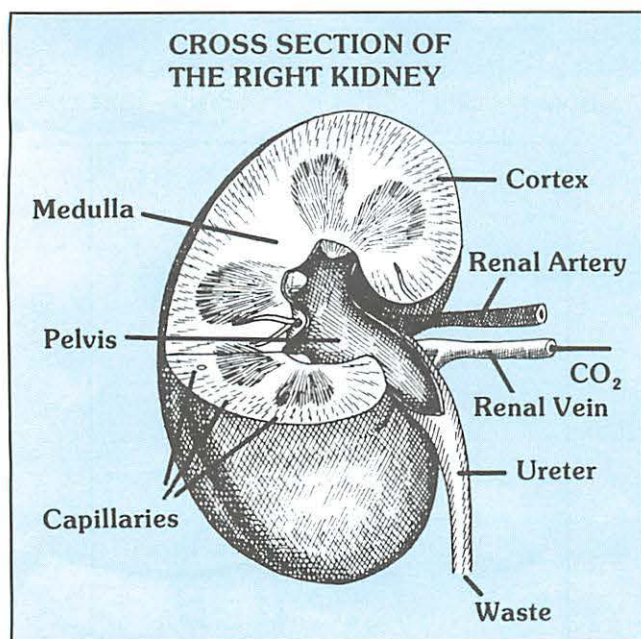
Kidneys have the primary function of cleansing the blood. Christians have an identical function in the world. They are to remove impurities that will bring both physical and spiritual destruction.



Most people have two kidneys. They are brownish red in color and are located on either side

of the spine about two-thirds of the way down the back. The right one is always a little lower than the left because it sits underneath the liver.

While both kidneys operate all the time, if one is damaged, the remaining one can do the job of both. Without kidneys the body would become so filled with impurities and wastes that it would literally poison itself to death within a few days.



Kidney beans

The kidney looks much like an oversize kidney bean in both shape and color. In fact, that is where the kidney bean gets its name.

The kidney is responsible for removing impurities from the body. It monitors more than one hundred different substances by filtering out impurities, cleansing waste products, and keeping other necessary components in balance.

On the average, the kidneys filter the entire blood volume more than sixty times each day.

What are the major impurities in blood?

As blood flows through the arteries and veins of the body, it picks up many impurities that cause the blood to lose its "savor." Impurities in blood fall into three categories and limit the body's ability to perform and fulfill God's design.

- **INFECTIONS** attack from outside the body. They are living viruses and bacteria that rob the

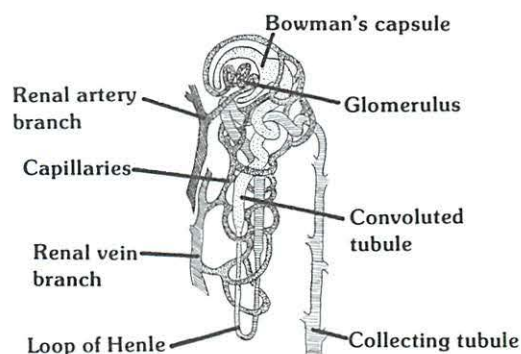
body's resources for their own purposes and then pollute the bloodstream with toxic wastes.

- **WASTE PRODUCTS OF METABOLISM** are produced by the body itself. When a muscle moves, its energy comes from a chemical reaction inside it which produces water, carbon dioxide, and *urea*. Urea is a waste product which must be removed from the body.
- **IMBALANCES IN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS** can be just as dangerous as poisons. Potassium is an important element that must be kept in balance with sodium. Sugar is another important element in blood, but too much or too little sugar can be very harmful.

How do the kidneys monitor over one hundred different substances?

The basic unit of filtration in the kidney is called the *nephron* (NEFF-rah-n). More than one million of these delicate instruments are neatly arranged in the *cortex* of the kidney. Each nephron begins with an artery that carries "unsavory" blood into the nephron. There the blood vessel forks into five or more tiny loops called *glomeruli* (singular—glomerulus [gluh-MARE-yuh-luss]).

Structure of the Nephron

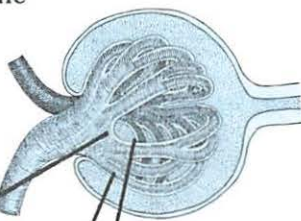


The walls of the glomerulus are lined with microscopic filtration slits that are perfectly spaced to prevent large protein molecules, red and white blood cells, and platelets from passing through. All the other components of the blood, both useful and poisonous, are forced through the slits and collected in the *Bowman's capsule*.

The Bowman's capsule empties the filtered blood into a long, coiled tube that weaves in and around scores of capillaries. These capillaries are able to selectively reabsorb only the substances that the body needs. Whatever is left over is emptied into the *ureter* and disposed of as waste.

FILTRATION

Those elements of the blood that are too large to pass through the filtering slits of the *glomeruli* remain in the blood stream. Those elements that can pass through are collected in the *Bowman's capsule*.



Bowman's capsule



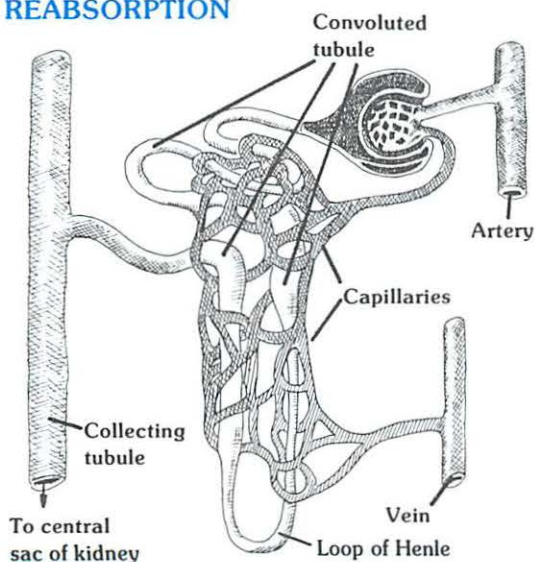
The slits magnified 7,800 times

The nephrons contain a long, straight loop called the *loop of Henle*. This loop is like an electronic pump that measures the amount of salt in the blood and either adds salt or takes it out until it is in perfect balance with what the body needs.

Essentially, the body cleanses blood by mixing it fresh each time it passes through the kidney. The blood is first filtered and then each component is mixed back into the bloodstream in exactly the right proportion.

If all the capillaries and tubules of the kidney were stretched end to end, they would be more than

REABSORPTION



Reabsorption takes place in the maze of capillaries that surround the convoluted tubule.

fifty miles long (more than 2,000,000 connections without a single leak).

What does urine reveal about the condition of the body?

Albumin is a kind of protein which makes up about fifty-five percent of the total blood plasma. It is what makes blood thick rather than watery. If albumin appears in the urine, it means that the kidneys are leaking.

The presence of sugar indicates that there is either too much sugar in the blood or that the kidney is unable to transport the sugar back into the bloodstream where it belongs.

Red blood cells signal that the kidney may be bleeding. One cause of this is kidney stones. Kidney stones may be formed if a person does not drink enough water. White blood cells in the urine mean that the kidney may be infected.

6 BLOOD PRESSURE WOULD BE UNSTABLE.

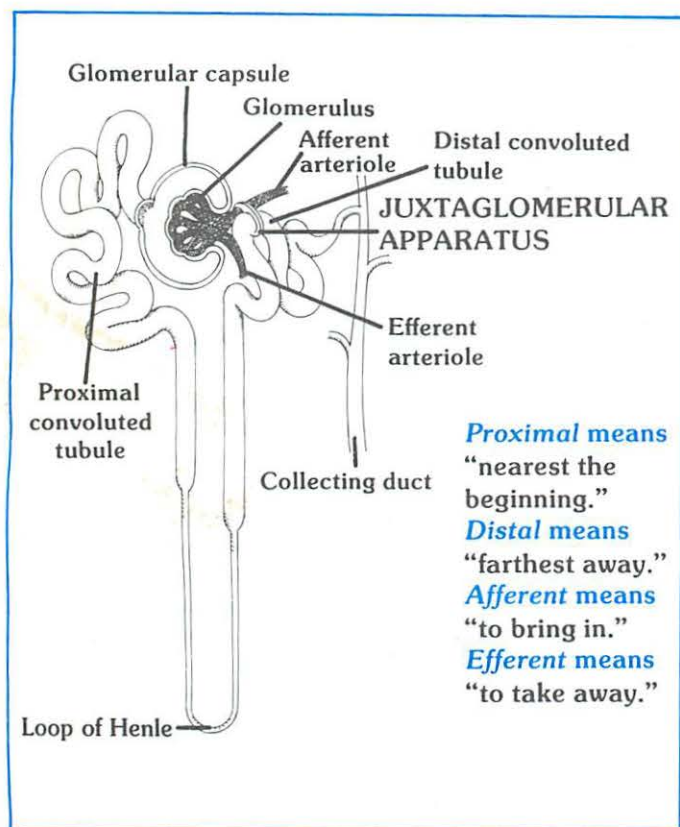
Blood pressure allows the body to regulate the movement of blood in response to varying needs. Christians are also to be mobile within the world and responsive to the pressures which God allows to come upon churches.

If a kidney senses that it is not filtering the blood properly, it will increase blood pressure to compensate. *Hypertension* is another word for continual high blood pressure.

Forcing blood through the glomerular filters requires precise control of blood pressure. If the pressure is not high enough, impurities are not filtered out. If the pressure is too high, the blood vessels may burst and damage the nephron.

To measure the blood pressure inside the kidney, God designed a miniature blood pressure cuff that fits around the nephron. It is called the *juxtaglomerular* (JUX-tuh-gluh-MARE-yuh-ler) *apparatus* which simply means "the device that fits around the glomerulus." It is able to sense whether the blood pressure is too high or too low.

If the blood pressure is too low, the juxtaglomerular apparatus produces more of an enzyme called *renin* (REH-nin). Through a complex interaction with several other enzymes, renin increases the concentration of salt in the body. This increases the blood volume and also increases blood pressure. If the blood pressure in the kidney rises too high, the juxtaglomerular apparatus simply produces less renin.



The regulator of blood pressure

PROJECT

Examine each of the analogies in this resource on the basis of how Christians have failed to carry out their God-given responsibilities and what you personally can do about it.

1 Collapsed blood vessels

At various times, countries have been open to the Gospel and have welcomed missionaries. In many cases churches have been slow to respond to these opportunities and have been ineffective in the efforts that were made.

As a result, many countries are closed to the Gospel and no longer allow missionaries to enter and to preach the Gospel.

In what ways is our country "closing its doors" to the Gospel message? Name three things that you could do to develop the spirit of a missionary.

2 Malfunctioning nervous system

Divisions within churches and among Christians have caused a serious breakdown in relationships and communication. As a result, important information is not being transmitted among Christians,

and vital needs are not being met within the Body of Christ.

What could you do right now to reestablish broken communications with another Christian?

3 Acid imbalance

Because of imbalance in teaching and applying the truths of Scripture, the pure water of the Word is being corrupted, and actual damage is being done to many who are hearing distorted truths.

Are there areas in the Christian life which you are overemphasizing or neglecting?

4 Ulcerated stomach lining

The imbalance within Christianity has caused alarm and tension to both Christians and non-Christians. Fear and worry are common ailments in direct contrast to the peace which God promises to those who keep their hearts and minds fixed upon Him.

Does your life demonstrate the peace that will cause others to ask the reason for the hope that lies within you?

5 Kidney malfunction

In spite of millions of Christians in our nation, the floods of iniquity and impurity have rapidly multiplied. The corruption is being compounded to such a degree that even the secular world is becoming alarmed.

Have you cleansed your life, mind, and home of impurities? And do you "filter" the thoughts and conversations that come to you from others?

6 Unstable blood pressure

Because of worldly influences in the Church, many Christians are aroused by sensuality that has no place in the Christian life. On the other hand, they are not alarmed by the spiritual condition which is bringing God's judgment to the Church and to the nation.

Whereas God called us to have a mobile attitude as "pilgrims and strangers," many Christians have become complacent and live as though this world were our final resting place.

Do unsaved people cause you enough concern that you spend time and energy in praying for them and seeking to lead them to Christ?

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____