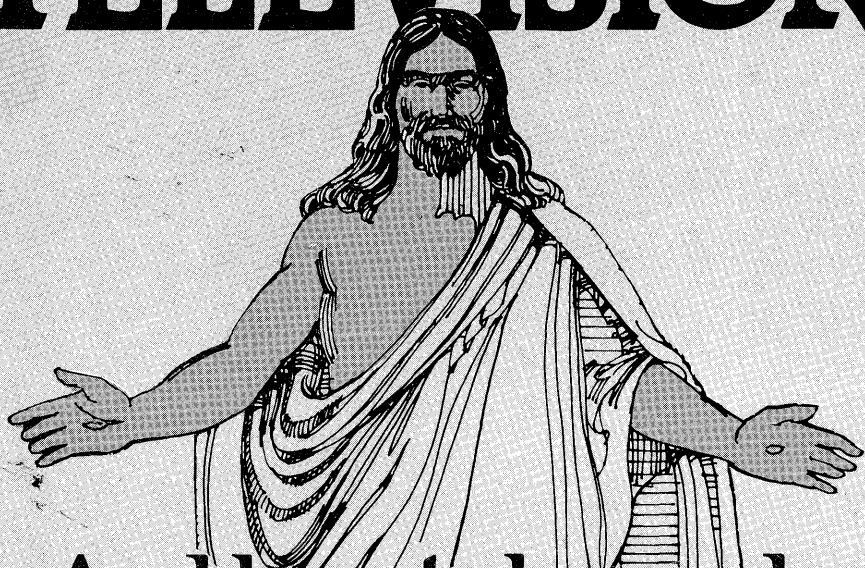
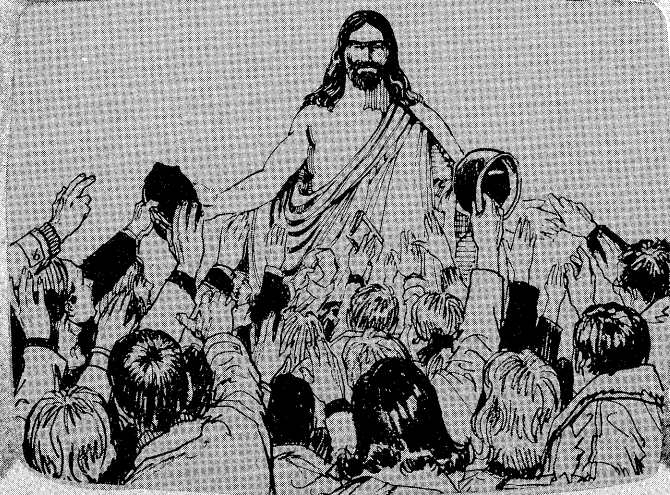


TELEVISION



And how to be ready
for our Lord's return

RAY BRUBAKER



TELEVISION and HOW TO BE READY FOR OUR LORD'S RETURN



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TURNED OFF ***by Television?***

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, in analyzing television trends, featured an article in February, 1984, entitled: "Why People Are Turned Off By Television!" (Feb. 13, 1984)

It noted, "The public in record numbers is deserting traditional kinds of programs that long have been television's staples."

A survey for the National Association of Broadcasters found a growing number of the nation's TV viewers feeling "increasing dissatisfaction" and that "the majority of viewers believe television is a negative influence."

A TV consultant and former chief of network programming has testified, "The entire communications industry — both printed and electronic — is in turmoil."

States Michael Dann, "We're in the midst of a revolution in delivery systems for entertainment, from satellites to two-way cable, and nobody knows exactly where it will lead."

Perhaps we should journey to the land where television had its beginning over 50 years ago.

Actuality:

Luis Palau, conducting a revival crusade in England, commented on London, calling it the ethnic capital of the world.

Declared Palau, "A revival in London could set off a chain reaction of revivals across the old British Empire."

It was from Britain that television began and there you will find the latest piece of electronic hardware, a satellite communication dish in an English garden, capturing the most unlikely television broadcasts from the airwaves.

Satellites are dominating world broadcasting more and more, and if you have the right receiving equipment, you can pick up GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS, or Soviet television, or any of the satellite feeds between continents. Already the possibilities are boundless.

It was the novelist, George Orwell, who wrote from here his terrifying account of what 1984 would be like, based somewhat, perhaps, on the appearance of the television set capable of transmitting pictures as well as eavesdropping.

Wrote Orwell, "With the development of television and the technical advances which made it possible to receive and transmit on the same instrument simultaneously, private life came to an end."

The situation is not as bad as Orwell had predicted. Private life still thrives, but what the future holds, who knows?

A receiving dish for every home is a possibility, but hardly practical.

The satellite could prove, however, to be the spy in the sky used by the coming world ruler we call the Antichrist.

Already a new international conference at Geneva has negotiated a treaty allowing for a regular satellite-to-home TV service.

A direct broadcast system from high-powered satellites can beam a signal to Earth which can be picked up by receiving dishes as small as two feet in diameter.

With gospel broadcasts on satellite, it can also become a new day of revival for England and for the world.

Columbus, Ohio was the first city to have two-way cable television. A movie theater owner who had been charged with showing pornographic films asked to subpoenae the records of the local cable TV company. He wanted to demonstrate that many people in Columbus, including some of the city's leading citizens, were watching pornographic movies at home.

Likewise, in Nashville, Tennessee, researchers used information from the local cable TV company to show how many religious families were actually watching "R" rated movies.

No wonder there are those like Dr. Fred Jarvis, writing in HERALD OF HIS COMING, who see television as having a demoralizing effect upon the home.

He writes, "The devil gave us a nasty blow when he took over and corrupted the power of the media. We have been fed on a vicious variety of violence and filth. The devil has won the victory even in the living room of Christians." He asks, "How can we expect our children to grow up to be decent Christians when we allow them to be bombarded and victimized by the things they see and read?" He adds, "No wonder that the morals of our generation have plummeted so rapidly."

A poem was written to show how television is an evil influence,

The Devil once said to his demons below,
"Our work is progressing entirely too slow.
The spiritual people stand in our way,
Since they don't believe in the show or the play,
They teach that the carnival, circus and dance,
The taverns and honky-tonk with games of chance,
Drinking and smoking, these things are all wrong;
That believers don't mix with the ungodly throng.
They're quick to condemn everything that we do;
To cause unbelievers to be not a few.
They claim that these things are all of the devil,
That Christian folk live on a much higher level.
Now fellows, their theology while perfectly true,
Is blocking the work we are trying to do.
We'll have to get busy and figure a plan
That will change their standards as fast as we can.
Now, I have a vision of what we can do;
Hearken . . . I'll tell this deception to you.
Then find me a wise but degenerate man
Whom I can use to help work out this plan.
There's nothing so real as the thing you can see
The eyes and the mind and the heart will agree.
So what can be better than an object to view?
I say it will work and convince not a few.
The home is the place for this sinful device;
The people deceived will think it quite nice.
The world will possess it; most Christians can't tell
That it's all of the devil and was plotted in hell.
We'll sell them with pictures of the latest news,
And while they're still looking, we'll advertise booze.
At the soul-damning cigarette also they'll look,
Until they forget what God says in His Book.
At first it will shock them - they'll seem in a haze;
But soon they'll be hardened and continue to gaze.
We'll give them some Gospel that isn't too strong,

And a few sacred songs to string them along.
 They'll take in the ads, with the latest of fashions,
 And soon watch the shows that stir evil passions.
 Murder and love-making scenes they'll behold,
 Until in their souls they are bitterly cold.
 The "Old Family Altar" which once held such charm
 Will soon lose its place without much alarm.
 Praying in secret will also be lost,
 As they look at the scene without counting the cost.
 The compromise preachers who don't take a stand
 Will enhance this new vision and think it is grand.
 They'll help fool the people and cause them to sin
 By seeking this evil and taking it in.
 Influence is great, and this you can see.
 Just look at my fall, and you'll have to agree;
 It won't take too long my demons to tell
 That the vision of Satan will populate hell.
 Divorce will increase, sex-crimes will abound,
 Much innocent blood will be spilled on the ground.
 The home will be damned in short order, I say,
 When this vision of mine comes in to stay.
 Get busy, my cohorts, and put this thing out;
 We'll see if the church can continue to shout.
 The spiritual people who stand in our way
 Will soon hush their crying against show and play.
 We'll come to the earth with this "Devil-vision"
 Though we'll camouflage it with the name, "Television."
 The people will think they are getting a treat,
 Till the antichrist comes and takes over his seat.
 He'll then rule the world while the viewers behold
 The face of The Beast to whom they were sold.
 We'll win through deception, this cannot fail,
 Although some bigoted preachers against it will rail!" Copied

Whether or not you agree with that poem, we have those agreeing that something is wrong with much of our television programming.

Even Charles Ferris, as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said good programs fell by the wayside because they are "too innovative, too good!" meaning, in effect, that people won't watch them.

How many people watch programs such as GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS?

Do some Christian people prefer to watch "junk"?

Steve Allen told U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT that much of television is "junk food for the mind . . ."

A newspaper editorial states: "Today, most prime-time programs seem devoted to gratuitous violence, illicit sex, or vulgar humor."

The Rev. Don Wilder of Tupelo, Mississippi, who heads up the National Federation of Decency, warns that excessive sex and violence on prime-time television administers "a real beating to traditional Christian values."

The federation, which surveys television programs, says "love, respect for God and people, honesty, marital fidelity, hope, faith, clean speech, kindness, faithfulness, fairness and forgiveness" were sadly lacking in many programs. These are considered as "Christian values."

Does television violence breed real-life violence?

"Emphatically yes," answers William Belson who interviewed 1,565 London boys. Belson has concluded that those who watch violence on television for long periods commit 50 per cent more rape and other mayhem than those whose viewing is limited.

The latest development in Britain is the emergence of small, independent television studios quite separate from the two national broadcasting bodies, the BBC and the IBA.

These small stations are like many that are allowed to operate in Italy. Films banned from Italian movie theaters are shown on television. One program is a call-in quiz starring a housewife — masked to protect her identity — who peels off an item of clothing every time a caller got the right answer.

Likewise, in Britain, a light-hearted experiment in audience participation finds this love triangle based on a popular soap opera. The girl has to decide between two lovers. What shall she do?

Those in the audience are given the choice themselves as to how the episode should end. The viewers are given enough time to press a few buttons, and the result of the poll is recorded on the screen.

What we are seeing is lust on the loose. In Italy, it is called "transmitting Satan live!"

If only we would hear the words of the Apostle James when he warns, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Writes James, "Do not err, my beloved brethren."

What is it that drives men to shame and ruin? What is it that breaks up marriages and causes more divorces? What leads to sin and death? The Bible says it is "lust"

In 1Thess. 4 we are told how it will be when Jesus comes.

We read: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Now, immediately preceding this description of the event we call the rapture, we are given instructions as to how to be prepared for that event.

Remember, of Enoch it was said that he pleased God, and suddenly one day God took him. Enoch is said to be a type of the rapture. If we know the Lord, and if we please Him, He will take us one of these days. Hallelujah!

Let's read from the first verse of 1 Thess. 4, and I'm reading from the Phillips' translation where Paul writes:

"To sum up, my brothers, we beg and pray you by the Lord Jesus, that you continue to learn more and more of the life that 'pleases God . . .'"

Then we read, "God's plan is to make you holy, and that entails first of all a clean cut with sexual immorality."

How many need to hear that message!

Letters come asking us to comment on what it means to be ready for Christ's coming.

Continuing to quote Phillips, Paul urges, "Make . . . a clean cut with sexual immorality." He continues: "Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never regarding it as an instrument for self-gratification, as do pagans with no knowledge of God."

Have you ever noticed how the Pope, John Paul II, speaks out concerning what he calls the "sins of the flesh"?

On one occasion he referred to our Lord's assertion, "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:28)

The Pope then triggered a lot of criticism by saying that a man could commit adultery in his heart by lusting after his own wife.

Where true love, and not lust prevails, this should not be the case. But with all of the erotic films being shown on television, there may be a question as to how much of human relationships, even in a family situation, are "lust" and not pure love.

Bruce Witherspoon, in the GOOD NEWS BROADCASTER, points out, "The Lord did not say that the man who looks at a woman is guilty of adultery. Rather, the man who looks at a woman 'to lust after her' is guilty."

Lust is what leads to sin and death!

Going back and reading 1 Thess. 4 from the King James Version: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication."

Young people are often caught up in a web of peer pressure. "If other young people engage in sex, why can't I?" they ask.

The reason is that it's God's will that you abstain from fornication.

What is the will of God? It is to abstain from sexual sin.

What is sanctification? It is to abstain from sexual sin.

Some try to relate holiness to some kind of super piety. But verse 7 reads, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness."

"Holiness," explains Bishop Ryle of London, "is a requirement God has given in His Word. In Hebrews 12:14 we read, Follow peace and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Some explain that all we are told to do is to "follow," and not necessarily possess this holiness.

Returning to the Phillips' translation, we read again what is recorded here, "God's plan is to make you holy, and that entails first of all a clean cut with sexual immorality. Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never regarding it as an instrument for self-gratification, as do pagans with no knowledge of God. You cannot break this rule without in some way cheating your fellow men. And you must remember that God will punish all who do offend in this matter, and we have seen this work out in our experience in life." Notice now what we read, "The calling of God is not to impurity

but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of a man's ruling but of God's command. It is not for nothing that the Spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit."

What a remarkable passage!

In essence, what Paul is saying is that you can't commit sexual sin and get away with it! Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Cor. 3:16-17 we read: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy . . ."

How many have had their ministry destroyed because of this sin? And, how many will be left behind when Jesus comes if they do not repent of this sin?

Look at Eph. 5:2, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."

But you reply, these are ordinary, common sins today.

Let's read verse 5, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

There are those today who say the Church will go through the tribulation, but the believer will never see the wrath of God.

These verses tell us we're not to be deceived. For on account of these sins we've just mentioned, the wrath of God cometh. Don't be deceived!

With John the Baptist we would cry out, "Flee the wrath to come!" In John's day they said, "We have Abraham to our father." It's like saying, We are Baptists, or we are Methodists, or Presbyterians.

No, my friends, it's not what church you belong to. Rather, it's whether or not you are living for Christ in a life of purity and holiness.

But you say, "I know I'm saved!" Isn't salvation a gift?

Yes, it is. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Remember, however, that when our Lord comes, He will reward us according to our state of readiness.

In Rev. 22:11-12 we read, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Not for purpose of argument, but sincerely, based upon the Word of God, we ask: what if Christ were to come, would your life be characterized as unjust, filthy, or righteous and holy?

Remember, He has said He will reward accordingly.

Secondly, what if the rapture is a reward?

There is no assurance that you can live in sin and be ready for the rapture.

Oh yes, you may have accepted Christ as your Saviour. You have assurance of your salvation. But if practicing sin, you need to repent

and live in obedience to the Word of God.

In 1 John 3:2 we read, "We know that when he shall appear, we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath his hope in him, purifieth himself, even as he is pure."



We would not want to rob anyone of the assurance of his salvation. If you are trusting Jesus Christ and His shed blood to forgive you, then you need to live for Him. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

The way to be ready for the coming of the Lord is to "walk in the light" of His Word. Let the Lord save you. Let Him wash your sins away. And, then with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can live for Him and be ready when He comes.

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, save me by your grace. Forgive me of all my sin and keep me ready for your coming. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it from your heart. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

The TRAGEDY of



James Reston, noted journalist, winner of the Pulitzer prize, writes of "world satellite television in which ideas will not only cross the Iron Curtain but vault the continents."

Worldwide television can be an effective tool for good, or it can propagate all kinds of evil.

One survey of television as seen on the three major networks in this country showed programs which featured 88% of all sex taking place outside of marriage. Alcohol was consumed ten times more than the next beverage — coffee.

Is this what we want to indoctrinate the nations of the world with? For many will be using our films which too often convey their message of immorality and violence.

Praise God for the many excellent religious programs and networks which feature full-time inspirational programming.

ACTS, which stands for the American Christian Television System, is a project of Southern Baptists. Testifies Dr. Jimmy Allen, "We are planning to cover the nation and provide a vehicle for mainstream Christians to get into all the homes in the country."

In addition, there are the PTL Satellite Network, the Trinity Broadcasting Network, National Christian Network and the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Cable systems balk at adding more religious channels, but Christians think it's marvelous to have such a variety of programs they can watch.

Various surveys have been reported on the viewing habits of Christians and others who watch television.

A two-year study, conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communications, found that religious broadcasts appeal to 13.3 million people. These people, for the most part, have strong religious convictions.

Another religious poll showed some 47% of Americans see at least one religious program a week on TV.

David W. Clark, of the Christian Broadcasting Network, shows the polls as saying Christian TV programs do not decrease attendance at the local church.

Carl Sandburg said it . . . "The impact of television on our culture is just indescribable. There's a certain sense in which it is nearly as important as the invention of printing."

In fact, a Roper Organization Survey (Dec., 1978) asked the question, "Where do you usually get most of your news about what's going on in the world today — from the newspapers or radio or television or talking to people or where?"

The answer: 67 percent of the American people said they get most of their news from television. 49% credited printing as the source of their news through the medium of the newspaper. The survey from multiple sources found 20 percent giving radio as their source of the news and 5% suggesting magazines. (Incidentally, the percentages total more than 100 because of the multiple responses.)

The indication is that television news rates high as the source of information that people seek. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why GOD'S NEWS is so highly rated on the various surveys that we have seen.

We have been doing a series of programs on the TV Phenomena. This is not a telethon, but we are hoping we can find a few new friends in every area who will realize the importance of GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS, and will put us on your prayer list to pray for us, and will begin supporting this program each month.

That shouldn't be too difficult. As you pay your light bill and water statement, why not put GOD'S NEWS on your list to send a contribution each month? Be assured, if we have your station underwritten, we will utilize our program to present the message rather than to call attention to our needs, for then our needs will be met if you respond to our special appeal.

Let me ask, do you have a business? Would you like to receive honorable mention in your community each week while helping to support the sending forth of the Gospel by this news documentary? At the end of the program we will list the businesses that will help us. By contributing as little as \$40 a month, (and providing we can get enough businesses to help), we'll feature the name of your business as one of our sponsors. You are saying you believe as we do — "Jesus Is Coming Soon" and we need to tell the world, "Be ye therefore ready!"

Why not contact some of your business acquaintances and then write us? Let us know you want to help keep this message on the air, 'til Jesus comes in the air! Even if you are a loyal listener and want to let it be known you will support this program, write us. We'll include your name at the end of the program.

Efrem Zimbalist Jr., of movie and television fame, tells how he turned the dial of his TV set and the clearest picture he could get was a Christian TV station. Later, he tuned in again and called a counsellor to say, "I want to accept the Lord as my Saviour."

Zimbalist says, "I think Christian television has two purposes: one to undergird the ingathering of lost souls, but also for people who are saved to have something to turn on, day or night, when they need strengthening."

Others of TV fame have comments to make about the role television is playing in helping demoralize our society.

Bing Crosby, before his death, stated in his last published article, "It became apparent to me that, very slowly and very subtly, writers and producers are working nudity, permissiveness, irresponsibility, profanity, scenes of semi-explicit sex, provocative dialogue, smutty innuendoes and situations into their shows . . ." Says Crosby, "I voiced my sentiments to a TV executive and he said, 'We are only depicting life as it is.'" The famous singer added: "I fear they are depicting life as it is going to be if they are not diverted."

Dick Robinson, in his news column, writes, "Television has become more powerful than the church, family or school in shaping the way people handle their emotions." And he quotes such authorities as Dr. James P. Comer, associate dean at Yale University Medical School.

He writes: "All authority figures have less influence today than in the past — ministers, teachers, policemen and parents.

"People are exposed to TV much more than they are to the church, school or family."

This distinguished professor points out, "Television is a model, and people use it as a model for their own behavior. If you see the way characters react angrily in a television program, that's a model for the way you handle it."

Declares Dr. Comer, "Often TV is a bad model. It doesn't promote desirable social behavior. Its only purpose is to get your attention and entertain."

Do you agree?

And, did you know that when you watch undesirable programs, you identify with that form of behavior — that style of living?

Let me read from Romans 1, beginning with verse 28. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

Here are some of the things you'll see on TV today!

Verse 29, "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud," and we could go on and on with the list of those who are often the type of people watched on television.

Verse 32 says, "Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Think of it!

Why watch that fare of disgusting immoral sex and violence which makes you as guilty as the performer, for you are sharing in the character of the person?

We need to be careful what we watch, and what we allow our children to watch on television!

Dr. Rose Goldsen, Cornell University Sociologist, contrasts the

amount of time people spend watching the TV to that spent with the family or in church.

She notes, "In the average home, the television set is on almost seven hours a day."

She adds, "Nobody is exposed to that much religion."

She goes on to say, "Television creates an environment in which people develop emotions that are much more colored by the TV input than that of family and religion."

Dr. Victor B. Cline, Psychologist of the University of Utah, says young and old are similarly affected by TV. "Both adults and young people turn to television to learn what society considers appropriate behavior — as they once turned to the family, the community or the church for guidance."

Dr. Cline suggests, "Some soap operas . . . are pretty sick in presenting conflicts in male-female relationships — deception and lying and double-dealing."

He observes, "The woman who sits glued to her TV set all day and gets this garbage in her brain will be affected in her feeling about her marriage and her relationship with her husband."

Someone wrote Ann Landers about soap operas, saying, "I always thought they catered to morons . . ." and enclosed is a copy of the column by Paul Price in the LAS VEGAS SUN. He lists samples of the resumes of programs appearing on TV.

ANOTHER WORLD: Realizing that his uncle planned to name Sally as Kevin's trustee, David proposed to her, then suffocated the old man with a pillow.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES: Tony tries to give Marlena the poison capsule but fails.

ALL MY CHILDREN: Lisa recovers from being beaten by Bud.

GUIDING LIGHT: Beth tells Lillian about Bradley raping her.

We could go on and on . . . but is that not descriptive of the trash on TV soap operas?

I recall when Mr. Krushchev was in the country. When shown around in Hollywood, he poured scorn on the film fare that he saw.

PRAVDA has come out with headlines critical of U.S. television, saying the networks are flooding screens with sex, violence, racism and biased news aimed at making Americans "programmed robots" with crippled psyches.

This Communist Newspaper says of our variety of American TV programs, "They are all united by spiritual poverty, subjectivism, petty melodrama and are calculated for indiscriminate tastes."

George Will, in his commentary, once referred to the customs official who stated there was a time when "most of our pornography came from foreign sources. Now the United States can out-porn any country in the world."

Sorry to say some of that rot is finding its way onto the cable TV screens!

In our series of programs we have been discussing how to be ready for our Lord's Return.

We close nearly every program by quoting our Lord who said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

Some write, "What must I do to be ready? I thought all you need do is to receive Christ as your Saviour."

Another asks, "Are we not saved by grace?"

To all of these questions we would agree that this is true, that we must receive Christ as our Saviour, and we are saved by grace!

However, Jude calls attention to those who would appear "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." In his epistle he writes to exhort that we should "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

As a youngster we did not go to movies because they were considered worldly and harmful to one's spiritual growth. Besides, we were told we would be patronizing evil men and would be putting money into the coffers of the unregenerate. We regarded the theater as the devil's church.

Now, it is not unusual for Christians to watch those same movies, some of which are in black and white, and it is all right. The life style, which may be considered worldly when I was a youngster, is accepted today. We think nothing of immodest styles of clothes, even though the Bible emphasizes modesty in apparel. And we do not feel obligated to be in church on Sunday night. Instead, we watch worldly shows on television. Yes, we know the Bible says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching!" (Heb. 10:25)

That means, as our Lord's return draws nearer, we need more, not less, of fellowship with the saints. We need to be in God's House.

One quotes 1 Thess. 1:10 to suggest there is no possibility for a believer to experience the wrath of God. For we read, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come!"

You ask, do we believe that? We would answer, indeed, we do.

Our Lord paid the supreme sacrifice. His death on the cross fully atoned for our sins. We are saved from wrath through Him.

In fact, in 1 Thess. 5:9 we read, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

Notice, once we are saved, we are no longer appointed unto wrath.

John the Baptist warned the people in his day to "flee the wrath to come." The day when saints are taken off the earth, and antichrist rules the world, is described as a day of wrath.

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight," is what John cried out.

The people replied, "We have Abraham to our father." They trusted in their religious experience. Nevertheless, John still said they were to "repent" and bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, or give evidence of their repentance.

Turn to Ephesians 5 and listen closely as we read from this chapter where Paul is writing to Christians. Here's what we read: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting . . ."

What is it on television that many watch? Is it not off-color sex? filthiness? Is not much of it foolish talking and jesting?

We continue to read: "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Now notice, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

Beloved, God hath not appointed us to wrath. But this scripture says we would be deceiving you if we did not point out that to be guilty of these things we just mentioned would find the wrath of God coming down upon the children of disobedience. And we're warned, "Be not partakers" with such people.

Beloved, we are saved by grace. Make no mistake about it. We can't buy our salvation. We can't earn it.

On the other hand, the Bible says that when the Lord comes, He will reward every man according as his work shall be. Depending on the life that we are found living, we shall be rewarded.

We read, "He that is unjust, (unconverted) let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

Which will we be when Jesus comes?

We can know we are saved through the shed blood of Jesus, wholly of grace. But when the Lord comes with His rewards, in what category will we be — among the unjust, the filthy, or the righteous and the holy?

The Bible says, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." (1 Thess. 4:7)

Again we read, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!" (Heb 12:14)

Let's come to Christ. Receive Him as our Saviour and Lord. And then, let's live holy lives worthy of His reward when He comes.

We would urge you to turn from your sin to trust the Saviour. Receive the empowering of the Holy Spirit as you allow Christ to become Lord and Master of your life.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

TV and the TWO WITNESSES



A publication of the National Association of Evangelicals relates, "A study performed in Germany found television so addicting for viewers that not one of 184 volunteers could last longer than five months without it. They experienced withdrawal symptoms that included an increase in tension and quarreling, declining marital relations, and increasing incidents of wife-beating. When the sets were turned back on, the symptoms disappeared."

The impact television is making on our society is reflected in a book by James Martin called **THE WIRED SOCIETY**. He compares the world today with the world of the Gutenberg Bible, suggesting that the changes video will make in our lives have barely begun. Video and cable technology will continue to revolutionize our planet in years to come.

Dr. Austin L. Sorenson sees television as playing a prominent role in endtime prophetic events.

For example, in the **PROPHETIC WITNESS** he writes, "The stage is being set in our day for the advent of the Antichrist. From obscurity he will burst into a worldwide personality." He adds, "The news media will help promote him as an international figure."

Sorenson quotes Barry Goldwater, who in his book, **THE CONSCIENCE OF THE MAJORITY**, relates how "a small group of men, numbering perhaps no more than a dozen, decide what 40 to 50 million

Americans will learn of the day's events in the nation and world."

How? By network news on television!

He writes: "We are influenced not only by what we read but by what we see on television."

So in this way a world figure will be brought into great prominence.

According to research by MERCHANDISING WEEK, we find 99% of homes with TV sets.

R. H. Bruskin Associates finds television sets come out on top when Americans are asked to name the most important items in their home. Refrigerators and stoves are the runners-up.

The kindergarten teacher spoke to her class at length on cheerfulness and of the abundance of those who were wearing frowns. "What do you think we need most of all in this room?" she asked. "What do we need every day?"

Young Tommy loudly responded, "Television!"

Bill Moyers reported on his news show how he quizzed youngsters: If you had to choose between giving up your television set or your father, which would you choose?

Would you believe it? — many said they'd give up Dad!

We'll find television playing a vital role in endtime affairs — especially of this one we call the Antichrist.

Maurice Dametz, writing in CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine, notes: "Across the various scenes depicted by prophecy, there falls the shadow of a figure, commanding and ominous—the Antichrist. He will be the political, religious, commercial autocrat of the world; the long-looked for superman who will satisfy the political, commercial, industrial, social and religious world."

Now the Bible says, "Power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life. (Rev. 13:7b-8a)

We believe television will bring this personage into great prominence.

Then there are other endtime personages who appear at the same time. They are called in scripture the Two Witnesses.

Turn to Rev. 11 where we read beginning with verse 3. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (3½ yrs.).

As we said, this will take place during the coming awful time of tribulation.

Verse 5: "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man hurt them, he must in this manner be killed."

Verse 6 tells us what these two witnesses will be able to do. "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

Then we read in verse 7: "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."

Now notice verse 8: "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

In verse 9 worldwide television seems to play an endtime role. Notice again: "And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves."

How could all the nations of the world "see" the dead bodies of these two witnesses except for global television?

Verse 10 says: "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt upon the earth." Could it be that during the tribulation the Antichrist will want to get away from any observance such as Christmas and Easter? Here we see the custom of giving gifts now suddenly tied in with the death of these two witnesses. Out of great rejoicing that they are dead, we find the world celebrating."

But, look what happens in verse 11, "And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them."

Again, the whole world is able to view this scene. The TV cameras are focused on these two witnesses as they exhibit life. Just as our Lord came back to life, they are now seen standing on their feet.

Verse 12, "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud: and their enemies beheld them."

Can't you see the networks describing this event? This will be a scene emanating from the city of Jerusalem, for mention is made, "Where our Lord was crucified." As yet, the city does not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, so the city is also called "Sodom." And it is called "Egypt" which might have us to believe that Egypt may capture Jerusalem. It's just a guess, although the chapter begins by saying that "Gentiles" will one day take over Jerusalem again. We read in verse 2, "The holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

Remember Jesus said in Luke 21:24, "And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

Thus, the time of the Gentiles comes to an end with this episode involving the two witnesses, slain no doubt by the one we call the antichrist, and after three and one-half days, they are revived and return to heaven.

Now we say "return," because it is generally believed these are Moses and Elijah. Others believe they are Enoch and Elijah, since it said in scripture that neither of these men experienced death.

Of course, in the Second Coming Bible it is stated that this passage does not require such an interpretation. It is suggested, "If two men shall appear in the last days bearing witness in the spirit and power of Elijah and Moses, the terms of the prophecy will be fully met."

We would point out that concerning these witnesses we read in verse 4, "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."

In order to understand the meaning of this, you will have to read chapter 4 of Zechariah where the vision is seen of these objects. In verse 11 we read, "Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees?"

We'll continue reading "And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?"

"And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my Lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth!"

So what we have recorded here in Zechariah of the two anointed ones who dispense the golden oil are likewise seen in Revelation. As Scofield says, "The whole scene forms a precursive fulfillment of the ministry of the two witnesses of Rev. 11."

In conclusion we might ask, is the golden oil descriptive of the last day outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Recall Peter quoted Joel at Pentecost, saying: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:" (Acts 2:17)

This had its beginning on the day of Pentecost. We have witnessed a day of grace and a day of the gracious moving of the Spirit of God.

But Dean Alford says of Joel's prophecy, "It is not the first coming of Christ, which interpretation would run counter to the whole tenor of the Apostle's application of the prophecy; but clearly His second coming."

Ephesians 5:18 says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

To be filled with the Spirit simply means to be controlled by Jesus, allowing Him to be the Lord of your life. As we read in 1 Cor. 12:3, "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Is He in control of your being? Is your body His temple?

Now you may call Him the Lord, but that's not what we're saying. In Matt. 7:21 we read, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Listen to this: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name have done many wonderful works?"

Surely, you would have supposed that these were worthy of acceptance with the Lord. But hear Him as He says, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

You may have a good testimony. You call Jesus your Lord. But if you are practicing sin, forget it!

The Bible says, "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Tim. 2:19)

Beloved, it's time we come clean. It's time to turn from sin to trust the Saviour. We must confess and forsake our sin by trusting the finished work of Christ on the cross if we are to be saved. Then we are to live in purity and power of the Holy Spirit by allowing Christ to be Lord and Master of our lives.

Again we ask, is He the Lord of your life? Have you received Christ as your Saviour, and is He your Lord?

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!



Dr. David Barrett, in his **WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA**, states, "Bible translation is booming, church broadcasts reach 990 million people a month."

Says Barrett, "Some 6,850 of the 8,990 ethnic or linguistic groups on earth have by now been penetrated to some extent with the Gospel."

Enthusiastically, he adds: "The outreach, impact and influence of Christianity have risen spectacularly." And, he notes, "If the church has not achieved its much touted turn-of-the-century goal of the 'evangelization of the world in this generation,' it has come closer than most Christians and non-Christians realize."

One place where the gospel has penetrated the culture is in South Africa where there has been launched one of the world's newest television stations.

Jimmy Swaggart says, "Television is the singularly most effective medium known to man for evangelizing the world!"

The new station was dubbed "BOP"-TV for Bophuthatswana.

President Lucas Mangope attended the opening ceremony which included an invocation of blessing by Almighty God upon this new station.

There followed a presidential address in which Mr. Mangope likewise pronounced God's blessing upon this new undertaking that would strengthen the ties between his countrymen.

The new television station is one of many stations throughout the world which will help to fulfil the Great Commission of our Lord. For to

His disciples, Jesus said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15-16)

TIME magazine reports as of this decade Christianity has "a non-white majority for the first time in 1,200 years."

In 1900 two-thirds of Christians lived in Europe and Russia; by 2000, three-fifths of them will live in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Africa is gaining 4,000 Christians per day through conversions from other religions and three times that many through the birth rate.

Think of it!

Television may play a dramatic role in the proclamation of the Gospel in Africa as elsewhere, although this is not the only fare they may see.

The question is, will entertainment have a demoralizing effect, especially when programs that demoralize are shown?

Can television have such an effect upon Africa? Or will TV be able to continue use of this media for the propagation of the Gospel?

The work of faithful dedicated missionaries has laid the groundwork for all that is being accomplished today.

We're reminded of a British Naval Officer who once said to R.P. Wilder, "Why don't these missionaries stay at home and mind their own business? Why do they come here and worry these people?" Mr. Wilder replied: "Suppose you received orders to sail tomorrow to Constantinople and I were to suggest you just stay here and mind your business."

Replied the officer, his eyes flashing: "If we are ordered to go, we must go."

By whatever means, we must preach to and reach everyone.

Much of BOP-TV's potential audience still lives in the countryside without electricity. However, the government has promised that the electrification of the entire nation is a top-priority. And so is a TV in every home with the emphasis on educational television.

Don Wildman, a Methodist minister who founded the National Federation for Decency, maintains: "All television is educational."

Addressing the National Religious Broadcasters in Washington, he declared: "Network television is the greatest educator we have. It tells us what is right and wrong, what is acceptable and unacceptable, whom to believe and not to believe, whom to trust and not to trust, and whom we should desire to emulate. In a recent interview most teenage boys said they wanted to be like Burt Reynolds! The medium sold them."

What is television on the networks teaching those who watch?

Says Wildman: "It is teaching that adultery is an acceptable and approved lifestyle. It is teaching that violence is a legitimate way to achieve one's goals or to resolve conflict. It is teaching that profanity is the language of the respectable. It is teaching that hardly anyone goes to church, that very few people in our society are Christian or live by Christian principles. How? By simply censoring out Christian characters, Christian values, and Christian culture from the programs."

We might ask, is that what we want shown on African TV stations? Very shortly we can expect to see such programs make their way to BOP-TV and the other stations that are willing to feature them.

Because of such films and movies the Ayatollah Khomeini dubbed America as "Satan," seeking to forbid such fare in his country.

Without question, the founders of BOP-TV will be under pressure to carry, not only programs they may produce, but some of the sex and violence films featured on our screens.

That's why we need Christian television programs such as God's News Behind the News.

Tim LaHaye, writing in RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING magazine, calls attention to the control the media has on the news. You just don't see other programs like God's News Behind the News where the entire half-hour is devoted to a news theme of biblical significance.

LaHaye predicts this next election will determine two things could happen — if Christians do not go out and vote.

One, the "electric church," or Christian radio and television programs, could be greatly curtailed, and, two, restrictions could be placed upon bulk mailing.

Says LaHaye, "We need to vote for morality. That is, when informed of a candidate's voting record on moral issues, we vote for candidates who oppose abortion, homosexuality, pornography, euthanasia, etc., and who favor school prayer, equal rights for Christian students to use the classrooms after school, and religious freedom unrestricted by government intrusion."

If 17 million unregistered Christians will register and vote, with the perpetuation of freedom we can have a strong and free America as a "launching pad for Christian missions to the people of this whole world."

While LaHaye believes this is the most important election in our lifetime, and asks all of us to exercise our rights as citizens of this great nation, so we urge you to get out the vote for God's News Behind the News.

Do you value this program enough to want to keep it on this channel?
Are you willing to do your part to help us?

We are in need of your support, so we are asking you to vote for your station by sending your largest contribution to help us just now.

We believe God wants this message proclaimed worldwide that Jesus is coming soon! Be ready!

Together, let's prepare the way for His coming as we seek to herald His return as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

If one of the candidates for president were to come to your city, it would be announced so that everyone would know about it. However, how many know about the coming of the Lord?

I see where a Roman Catholic writer urges those of his faith to be careful in watching "evangelists," for Catholics are coming to know a "lot about the rapture."

Well, we have many who relate that they have come to know about the return of Jesus Christ through God's News Behind the News. And, God has spoken to many hearts about sin in their lives, and careless living, so that they have gotten right with God.

Beloved, it will be worth every investment when Jesus comes, and we'll see those who are ready because you prayed and you gave to keep

this program on the air and this message going out that "Jesus is coming soon. Be ready!"

You wouldn't have to be coaxed to give if you could only visualize eternity and the words of the Saviour, saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

How many times we were ready to go off a station when we received a letter from someone in that area telling us what the program meant to them, or how it led them to Christ.

So we urge you to cast your vote today for keeping God's News on your station. Send your largest gift possible and God will bless you for it.

The great Spurgeon writes of an American preacher, Summerfield, who when he lay a-dying, turned to a friend in the room and said, "I have taken a look into eternity. Oh, if I could come back and preach again, how differently would I preach from what I have done before!"

My dear friend, take a look into eternity. How will it be when you stand before God? Will it be with joy because you helped keep the message going out that Jesus is coming soon?

One day His coming will be a reality! It will be too late then to give! All accumulated riches, stocks and bonds, will go to the Antichrist and his world government.

The time to invest your time and your wealth is now!

J. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary, tells how a one-legged school teacher from Scotland came to offer himself as a missionary. Inquired this great missionary statesman: "Why do you, with only one leg, think of going as a missionary?" to which the man replied: "I do not see those with two legs going, so I must go." The man was accepted.

We find it is the widow, and often the person who can't afford it, who may write and support the Gospel. They know what it's like to be in need, so they give out of their want.

One of our missionary leaders, Dr. Robert Hall Glover, once observed: "A country at war declares a draft of man power in terms of which every man of military age and fitness is conscripted for active service. The norm is to go, not to stay. The only honorable exempted from going are those disqualified for overseas service or those who can serve their country's cause better by remaining at home. Exactly so should it be in the Church's missionary war."

What we're saying is — we can all do something in the war against sin and Satan. The devil is doing all he can to get messages like this off the air because he doesn't want the people to hear the good news that Jesus is coming again. Remember, He's coming for those who are ready.

We read, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Th. 4:16-18)

Are you comforted by that message?

Are you ready were Jesus to come right now? If not, let's get ready!

Open your heart to the Saviour. Then help us to win others while there is still time.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY magazine once observed, "Prior to World War I many pulpits sounded forth the note of the possible imminent return of Jesus Christ to earth."

The magazine notes: "At times this led to excess; in at least one book the claim was made that Mussolini was the antichrist of the Revelation. Since that time eschatology has taken a back seat."

Today we've lost sight of what the Apostle Paul called our Blessed Hope.

Observes this journal, "Somehow the Church does not seem to be alight with this hope."

The magazine concludes: "Therefore let every Christian work diligently, for the night is coming when man can work no more. But let him also watch as he works in the assurance that his true hope lies in the return of the Lord of glory."

Hallelujah! Do you agree?

We believe we have been called upon to help keep alive this glorious hope of our Lord's Return. All we ask is that you help us.

We prepare these broadcasts every week. We buy the news film and contract for the time on stations where we believe we have the best audience.

Now, if you want to keep this program on your station, you must vote. Every dollar is a vote!

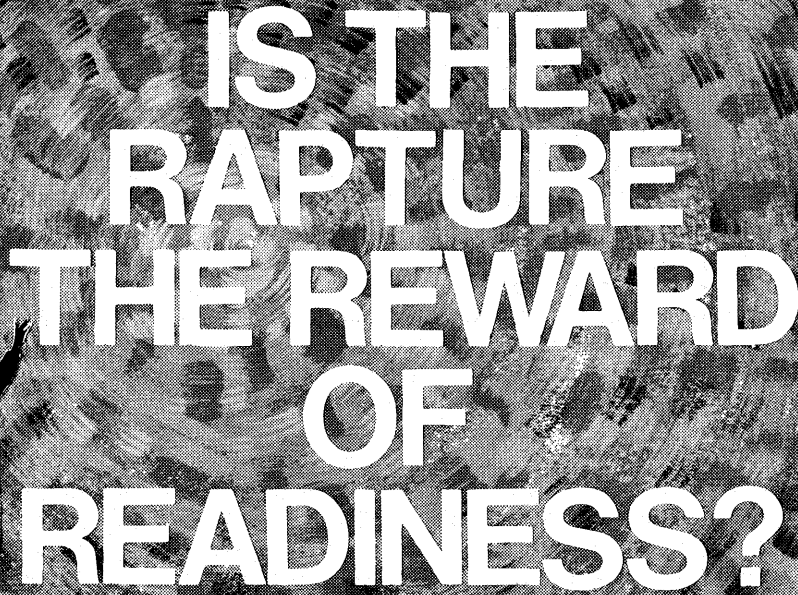
First, however, make sure you have given yourself to Christ. We are not asking support of anyone who does not know the Lord, but only you who share our vision.

If you've never done so, invite Christ into your heart. Hear Him as He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Is this what you want?

Then pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I come to you for the forgiveness of my sins. I believe when you died on the cross and shed your precious blood, you died for me. I do here and now receive you as my Saviour and Lord to live for you and serve you 'til you come for me. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



IS THE RAPTURE THE REWARD OF READINESS?

For the first time in the history of the Miss America contest, the reigning title holder, Vanessa Williams, was forced to resign. Pictures she had taken before aspiring to the title were used by PENTHOUSE magazine which led to her forced resignation.

What an embarrassment!

Bert Parks, who hosted the Miss America pageant for 25 years, said he was saddened by the whole episode. He noted, "Miss America . . . is the greatest Cinderella story in the United States, and something came along to destroy that, it's sad!"

While not desirous of commenting on the rightness or wrongness of beauty contests, we might suggest the Scripture comes into focus where mention is made of those who "worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator." (Romans 1:25)

God is the creator. And He is to be worshipped for even the beauty evidenced in His creation, which would indicate He does all things well.

Rather, what we wish to comment on is the fact that there are standards to uphold which were not upheld and, as a result, a crown was lost.

Perhaps we could have used other illustrations of Olympic sports figures, for example, who were found to have drugs in their systems who also lost their crowns.

But we wish to call attention to the Scripture that reminds us of the danger that might come to us as believers of losing our crown. Have you ever stopped to think of that?

Specifically we refer to Rev. 3:11 where we read: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown!"

What possibility is there that we may lose our crown? We will not lose our salvation if we are truly born again, but we may lose our crown.

In 2 John 8 we read: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

The Bible teaches that there are crowns and rewards to the faithful. And there is retribution to the unfaithful.

In the parable of the talents, those who invested their lord's money were rewarded with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

When we serve the Lord, and give Him our best, it will be joy when our Lord comes.

However, to the man who buried his talent we read where his lord says, "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the ex-changers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." And the unfaithful servant is cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Think of it!

We think of our talents as abilities which we all possess. Some have the ability to teach, others to give special counsel, while others possess a gift of speech or musical ability. Talents here, however, refer to money. And, if this parable teaches us anything, it reminds us that when our Lord comes, depending on how we use our money, He will reward us.

It will be worth it all to stand in the presence of the Lord at His coming, knowing we gave to support the Gospel, helped the poor and the widow, and shared with our brother who was in need.

At Pentecost it was said of the early Christians that of the things they possessed they did not consider them their own but had all things common. Is that not God's norm for the carrying on of His work?

I'm afraid our standards today are quite different. We have the impression that God blesses us and wants us to have a large bank account and vast estate and that will honor Him. No, my friends. Rather, only as what we have and use it for the expansion of His kingdom will God's work prosper and we will be blessed and rewarded at our Lord's Return.

On the other hand, could it be that failure to invest our talents (money) means we will be "cast into outer darkness"?

Outer darkness relates to the realm of Satan. It must be realized that when Jesus comes and raptures the saints, this world will be turned over to Satan. For a brief time his henchman, the antichrist, will rule this world. Satan once offered Jesus this right to rule the world if He would only worship him. Well, during the tribulation the world will worship a man. Satan will be cast down upon the earth. And the Bible says, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth in that day."

Did you hear it?

If you believe going through the tribulation will be a picnic, you do not have a correct understanding of the purpose of the tribulation. In Revelation it is called "the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Rev. 3:10)

It would appear that at the end of this age God allows a testing time to come to those who, for one reason or another, are not ready for the rapture. They will go through the tribulation. They will either take the

mark of the beast or they will have to hold to their faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of all kinds of persecution, torture, and even death.

God uses suffering amidst persecution to perfect the faith of His children. As Peter says, "He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." (1 Pet. 4:1)

Again Peter reminds us, "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 1:7)

In Revelation 5:9-10 we see those who sing unto the Lord, saying "Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign upon the earth."

This, we believe, represents the raptured crowd—the overcomers, the faithful, those who invested their talents and are rewarded as being rulers over cities or possessions.

Then we see a second group of those who were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony they held. We read, "White robes were given unto every one of them." Could this indicate there are those who will be left behind, possibly sons and daughters, who heard their parents say that if they did not receive the Lord, they would be left behind to go through the tribulation? If they were to believe and refuse to worship Satan, they could be saved. White robes represent the righteousness of Christ freely bestowed upon all who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some have the mistaken belief that when the Lord comes, there will be no more opportunity to be saved. However, Peter at Pentecost declares there is a day coming when the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord comes: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved!" (Act 2:21)

Now this does not mean you should take a chance and put off your salvation. If you do not receive Christ now, when it is popular to be a Christian, don't take your chance and be left behind, thinking you can become a believer then.

Daniel comments on this coming tribulation. He also refers to it as a purging time. Notice what we read: "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

As it will be wise virgins that will be ready to meet the coming bridegroom, it is the wise today who know what we are saying—that many will be left behind at the rapture and will go through the tribulation because they were not ready to meet the Lord.

That's why on every broadcast we sound forth the message, "Be ye therefore ready!" That doesn't mean simply to believe on the Lord and live your own life. Rather, it means accept Christ and then live for Him. Do His will. Obey His Word. Give to His work. Be a faithful servant.

In Revelation, concerning those seen coming from heaven on white horses with our Lord Jesus Christ, it is said of them, they are "called, chosen and faithful."

Can you say you are among the "called, chosen and faithful"? Jesus said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." We are also told to make our calling and election sure and an abundant entrance will be given into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It's not just calling ourselves Christians. The Laodiceans were Christians. But they were lukewarm Christians. And they are spued out. This doesn't mean there was no more salvation. Rather, they are told to buy gold tried in the fire, meaning there would be the purging and purifying of faith to gain the white robes, for many were never saved in the first place. It was all profession and not possession.

The Bible indicates that before the Lord comes, there will be a great revival in the earth. That revival is the result of preaching this message that many who profess to be Christians will be left behind to go through the tribulation. As the unfaithful servant was left to outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, many will be unprepared when Jesus comes and they will cry out each day, "Why didn't I live for Christ?" "Why was I left behind?" There will be churches filled with people studying the Scriptures to discover why they were left behind. And they will find that if they live for the Lord every day amidst great persecution and do not deny their faith or surrender to Antichrist, they can be saved. However, it must be remembered in that day that you can't buy or sell unless you identify with the Antichrist world system. So the only way you can stay alive is to have some reserve food on hand, be near a water supply, and hope not to be discovered. As Christians housed the Jews in the holocaust, there will be neighbors who will take Christians under their wings and see that they get something to eat rather than for them to starve. It's that kind of a day that is ahead.

Again we declare unto you the Word of the Lord that many will miss the rapture who thought they would make it!

Two will be in the field, one taken the other left. The Greek might indicate, "two of the same kind." They both should have gone when the Lord comes, but one is left behind and the other taken.

Our Lord warns us not to be like the servant who says in his heart, "My lord delayeth his coming," and begins to live carelessly. Said Jesus, "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."

Here is a servant looking for his lord to come. But because he was not ready, he was "cut in sunder," or as the Greek says, "cut off," and left behind with unbelievers. Here is a believer of a sort left behind with unbelievers.

Now you hear the argument that we are the bride of Christ and when the Lord comes, He won't just rapture the head and leave behind the body.

Well, there's coming a time when that bride will be complete but not until she is without spot and blemish. God must have a pure bride. So if you are looking for the coming of the Lord, the Bible says, "He that hath this hope purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

If you are living in sin, you're not ready for the rapture. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

While it is true that God hath not appointed us to wrath, it is also true that on account of uncleanness the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience, and we're warned, "Be not partakers with them."

Listen again to what Jesus says. Here is a parallel passage to Matt. 25 where ten virgins were all waiting for the coming bridegroom. But you know how half of them were left behind. They had gone seeking oil, and while they were gone, the bridegroom came.

Beloved, be sure you have the oil of the Holy Spirit. If you have never surrendered wholly and fully to Jesus Christ, do it now. "No man can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Ghost!"

To be ready for the rapture, Jesus needs to be your Lord.

Now here in Luke 12 we read, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately."

In Matthew 25 we have ten virgins waiting to go to the wedding. Here we are told what happened apparently to those who missed the wedding. They are told now to be ready when our Lord comes back from the wedding.

Then our Lord gives the illustration which reminds us that we are a part of the household of faith. He doesn't use the symbolism of a bride here as Paul does in Ephesians.

Listen to what He says:

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

Now notice the two times of His coming—at the rapture and then at the revelation.

We read: "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

Did you hear it?

The evidence is that the house will be broken through when Jesus comes. If ministers of the Gospel would be faithful in warning their congregations, they would not find many of their number left behind.

Today we have a cheap grace proclaimed that, regardless how you live, if you profess to be saved, you are ready for the rapture.

Hear me, beloved. This is not what the Apostle Paul preached. He declared the rapture to be a reward to which all should persevere to obtain. Now he did not use the word "rapture," but listen closely and you'll see what I mean.

First of all, let me make it clear to you that what the Bible calls the first resurrection takes place at the end of the tribulation. Strangely enough, the only ones seen resurrected are those who died during the tribulation, which would have to indicate there was a rapture before the tribulation.

In Rev. 20:4 we read where John says, "And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,

and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years . . .” We then read: “This is the first resurrection.”

Now I want you to know that I am not looking forward to that first resurrection. The great number of saints will be in that first resurrection and not in the rapture. That is why it is called **THE FIRST RESURRECTION**.

On the other hand, the Apostle Paul writes in Phil. 3 of not having his own righteousness but the righteousness of Jesus Christ which is of God by faith, “That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”

Was the Apostle Paul questioning that he might not make the resurrection?

No. Here you must understand the Greek, for what Paul was saying was that he “might attain unto the resurrection out from among the dead.”

At the time of rapture there will be a selecting out from among the dead those who will be raptured to attend the time of feasting called the marriage supper of the Lamb. That’s why we are told, “Blessed are they who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And we’re reminded, “His wife hath made herself ready!” If you’re looking for the rapture, you will have to get ready for it.

Notice again what Paul writes, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after . . . Christ.” This is what God wants to see. He wants to see our heart attitude bent on serving Him. David was a man after God’s own heart. He sinned grievously, but in his heart he repented and always wanted to live for God. So Paul says that he hasn’t yet attained this goal—he hasn’t arrived. But this is his bold objective.

Do you see it?

Hear him as he says: “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

The “high calling” is better translated “upward calling.” It is a prize to be gained to be caught upward when Jesus comes—when the dead in Christ rise first, and we who are alive and remain are caught up to be with our Blessed Lord.” Hallelujah.

Paul says this is a prize to which he presses. So we believe the rapture to be a reward.

Notice, he admonishes, “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (Phil. 3:9-15)

Today there is a lot of confusion as to whether the church will go through the tribulation. God promises that if we have a desire to be ready for the coming of the Lord, He will not only get us ready, revealing these truths to us from His Word, but keep us ready by the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit.

I believe if we will walk in the light of His Word and in obedience to His will, the blood of Jesus Christ covers and cleanses us and keeps us ready for His coming.

In 1 Thes. 5:23-24 we read, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

That's a big assignment. That means the God who will miraculously transform your physical body into the likeness of Christ's glorified body can preserve you now. That means money you give to the hospital can go to help reach the lost.

You say—you mean God can preserve me—spirit, soul and body? Indeed He can and He will if you will let Him. The next verse reads: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it!"

God, who calls you to be ready for the rapture, says He will do it. He will get you ready and keep you ready. All it takes is your willingness to follow the formula that He has laid out in His Word, which we have given to you today.

And your spirit will bear witness to the truth, because this is God's revelation concerning the need of readiness for the rapture which we believe is one of the rewards at Christ's coming.

Finally, if you have a question as to who will be left behind to go through the tribulation, turn to Rev. 7.

We said there were four groups pictured here—those who are raptured who reign with Christ as kings and priests, a select company. Then there are those who die for their faith and the Word of God and are given white robes signifying they are saved during the tribulation but are martyred. Thirdly, mention is made of the 144,000 who are the sealed of Israel, the remnant that will turn to Christ their Messiah and receive the Holy Ghost with the seal of God in their foreheads.

Now, I want you to notice the fourth group.

John writes, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

Verse 13, "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?"

In consternation he wonders, who is this great multitude which no man could number? He had seen the raptured saints, the martyred who were given white robes, and the remnant of Israel. So he inquires, who are these?

Notice the answer. We read, "And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Do you see it?

Here is a great multitude which misses the rapture. They go through the tribulation (the great one) GREEK; and amidst the purging, purifying fires they are found washing their robes. They are not given robes, as that would speak of salvation. They already had robes, but their robes were defiled, spotted, and in need of cleansing by the blood of the Lamb. In the midst of tribulation they come clean.

Beloved, hear me. Now is the time to come clean, to separate from the world, to turn from sin, to be made pure and holy.

When the Lord comes, He is coming for His saints. The word "saint" in the Greek is the same word for a sanctified person, who is separated unto God, a holy person. That's why we're told to follow peace and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

To sum up, let me read from G. Campbell Morgan who says: "Personally, I am convinced that not all Christian people will be taken to be with Christ on His Return, but only those who by the attitude of their lives are ready for his appearance."



Today's message is one that needs to be preached in every evangelical church in America. Too long have we been under the delusion that it doesn't matter how we live so long as we profess faith in Christ. We're cautioned lest what we do be seen as works, and reminded that works do not save us.

The truth is, we are saved by grace through faith, and not of works. But when our Lord comes, He says He will reward every man according to his works. And He doesn't see us as saved and unsaved. Rather, He divided humanity into four divisions—"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be . . . And be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."