

# Insight Into



May / June 2025



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# Insight Into

## General Information

**Insight Into** is the official youth periodical of the Netherlands Reformed Congregations in the United States and Canada.

As a Reformed magazine, **Insight Into** seeks to promote the knowledge of the truth and to give biblical guidance to young people in their daily lives.

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# MEDITATION

## A Word for our Young People

***“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word”*** (Psalm 119:9).

Rev. A.M. den Boer (1929-2004)

Psalm 119 is an alphabetical Psalm. It is the longest and most perfect of its kind in the collection of Psalms. The unique composition of this Psalm consists in that the first eight verses begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the next eight verses begin with the second letter, and so on.

The general subject of this Psalm is the consideration of the law of God as a rule of life. It seems to be a record of the author's personal experience or the result of his meditations on the subject. In the words of our text, we find that the author — whom some think was David — remembers the “*young man*” as he thinks of his own youth. In Psalm 71:17, he says, “*O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth.*” Oh, that many young people would read this and receive the same holy desire in their hearts, even exclaiming with this man of God: “*For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand*” (Psalm 84:10)!

Here the author asks an important question and gives a very good answer himself. He knows that young people usually have a great desire to enjoy the world with its pleasures and thus are very vulnerable to sins and snares. God's Word warns us about this in many places (see, for example, Ecclesiastes 11:9-10). How worldly and unholy are the ways of many sons and daughters! They are often unconcerned about God, the Saviour Jesus Christ, death, and eternity. How careless and indifferent they are about the most important things!

On Sunday, we may be in church, which is very good, but how are our lives during the week? How necessary it is to examine ourselves, because when we are yet unconverted, we are in great danger of going



lost. Our heart must be renewed and sanctified; the dangerous road to hell must be forsaken. Think of Moses, who refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, because he had learned the happiness of God's people. We can also find this in the answer David gives to his own question: *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word."*

How blessed is the Word of God, which is used by the Holy Spirit to convict, to cleanse, and to heal. When the Word is brought with power into our souls, then we will loathe ourselves and pray what we sing in Psalter 140, stanza 1: *"Wash me, make me pure within; Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin."*

Paul wrote to Timothy, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Timothy 3:16a). This text is especially directed to the young people. May your daily prayer be, *"Shew my Thy ways, O LORD; teach me Thy paths"* (Psalm 25:4).

May the Lord give us an opportunity to attend catechism classes regularly and to be willing to learn our questions. But above all, may the Lord bless these simple means in our lives. Then it will also become our prayer that Jesus Christ, who came into this world, may become our Saviour.

### Chrysostom

Chrysostom was one of the early Christians who lived in the days of persecution of believers by the Roman Empire. The emperor, who wanted him to renounce his faith, asked his advisors what fearful thing would make him recant? Several ideas were mentioned, such as prison, banishment, or even death. However, those who knew him said that none of these would bring about the desired effect.

"What then will make him afraid?" asked the emperor.

The reply was given straight away: "There is only one thing he is afraid of, and that is sin!"

What a wonderful reputation to have!

~ Submitted



# Alone with God

Rev. P. van Ruitenburg

No one was so familiar with the Father as the Son of the Father, the Lord Jesus. He had a deep need to be busy with the things of God. The Child “*Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man*” (Luke 2:52). I do not understand this text, but in any case, it is clear that the Son had a close relationship with the Father. As a twelve-year-old, He enjoyed the prophetic teachings, as having power, with authority, and not as the scribes. His sermons were lived-in, and His prayers were spiritual.

Often the Saviour left the house alone, sometimes in the middle of the night. Not so much to be alone, but to be alone with God. No one else had to be present. Think of Jacob at Peniel. He didn’t want to be distracted, and he didn’t want to be disturbed. In our modern world, it’s even harder to isolate yourself completely. The media constantly demands your attention. It is therefore not wrong to turn off your phone every day. And on special days, for example, prayer and thanksgiving days, you could fast in relation to the modern media. Among other things, fasting is meant to have more time to be with God. Fasting is not only eating and drinking less, but also shopping, exercising, sleeping, and so on, less. And all this in order to have more time for God. Fasting is therefore not only healthy for your body, but your mind can also benefit from it.

I am also thinking of Sunday. Above all, we should not interpret Sunday legally, but it has great advantages to continue to see Sunday as God’s day. I would say discuss with each other how you are going to fill the first day of the week. What is most to God’s glory? What is best for your spiritual life? The hours you have left after church services can also be used for personal Bible study and prayer.

“*And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed*” (Mark 1:35).

~ Translated from his book *Stil tot God*



# The Unused Sword

César Malan (1787-1864)

I was sitting in a quiet spot when I heard a voice singing Psalm 116, and I felt disposed at once to join in. I did so when the third verse had ended, and I was overheard. Though no answer was given, a few seconds afterwards I saw an officer coming up to me. Holding out his hand, he said, “We are both of one mind.” The speaker seemed about 40 years of age, with a weather-beaten face, and his eyes were fixed on me.

“Let us sit down together,” I replied, “and converse on the subject we both love – on what the Lord Jesus has done for our souls.”

“It is long since I have heard such a request,” said the officer. “It does me good. I come from a distance. Business has brought me far from home; but here is an unexpected refreshment for me.”

“Are you a native of France?” I asked. “You sing in French and you speak that language fluently.”

“My mother was a native of Nîmes, in the south of France, and she taught me early the psalms she had been used to singing.”

“Then she was a Protestant, probably one of those ancient families who preferred the Word of God to their homes, and even to their lives.”

“She had often listened to the Word preached in the wilderness, and she knew the Saviour well. She knew Him, and she has now been with Him for the last five years. What a blessing it is when God gives a pious mother! Whenever my heart draws near to God, I think of her, for she first taught me to know Him. But how remarkable it is that two strangers like ourselves should talk thus freely, and that you should feel this interest in my concerns.”

I said, “This proves the truth and the nature of the work of God’s Spirit in the heart, because throughout the world, all whom He renews are led by the same teaching, and united by the same life to the same Saviour. And they are prepared for that eternal world, in which they will form just one family.”

“The world knows nothing of these ties of brotherhood, by which Jesus Himself makes His presence to be felt in our hearts.”

“You seem to have been a follower of the Saviour for a long time.”

“Please do not think that, or give me any honour to which I have

no claim. You would take care not to praise me if you knew what I have been and done, and how I have denied the Saviour! Never was His mercy more freely bestowed. My story is my shame; yet it tends to the glory of God.

“My father was a man of some importance. After I had received a basic education at school, I was sent at the age of 19 to university to study law. For a year or two, I regularly kept times of prayer and worship. But, at first unconsciously, and afterwards, when fully aware of it, I stopped reading the Bible and, later, my prayers; and, at last, the examples, the invitations, and various temptations of those with whom I then associated drew me away from God, from His Word and worship. I became, at last, what those around me were: a worldly-minded man, or what the Scriptures would call a fool.

“I was not happy then; I knew no real peace or satisfaction; I was a terror to myself. I pretended to be merry, and I was sucked into a world of pleasures, to which I was drawn by my youth and outward advantages on the one hand, and on the other by the praise of all those among whom I lived, whatever their age, whether male or female. Yet I felt a secret uneasiness, a sensation of self-reproach, which I vainly tried to resist. Still, God watched over me, but I rebelled against Him; I stopped my ears, I hardened my heart, and I went on without hesitation or repentance.

“My mother, as you will suppose, soon observed my backsliding, and by her letters, her precious letters, she did not stop urging me to return to the worship of God. I sigh and mourn to think of the concern which my folly caused her. I know that she, and God also, has forgiven me; but how many wounds I have inflicted on the heart of her who only sought my happiness, and who watched over me with prayers and tears day and night!

“It is enough to say that, when I reached the age of 26, I was like the horse which resists the bridle, rushes furiously into the battle, and falls, being wounded suddenly from every quarter. I might have perished, too, but God preserved me and brought about His gracious purposes. Long did He wait, and at the very time when the devil would have brought me to ruin, God humbled me and pierced my heart. Like him that was possessed with the legion of devils, I was again clothed and restored to my right mind.

“I had taken my degree and started to work as a lawyer when, in a fit of temper, I quarrelled with someone I thoroughly hated, for I regarded him as a rival. This ended in a challenge to a duel, which was

to take place in secret. I spent a whole day and night preparing for it, and still I could not look forward to it without horror. Not that I dreaded either being wounded or killed, for my heart was hardened. But the Bible frightened me.

“I had laid it aside in a room, and I went to this room to look for the sword with which I intended to meet my opponent. I opened the room. It was nearly midnight. I climbed onto a chair and reached up to the highest shelf, feeling for my sword, but I placed my hand on my Bible. A sudden chill ran through me, and without leaving any time for consideration, I took the Book and opened it. Still standing on the chair, I read Psalm 10, which was the first passage on which my eyes rested. Then the voice of the Lord once more echoed through the dark corners of my soul. I read with breathless eagerness, and still I went on reading, though my uneasiness increased, till I came to this verse, *‘Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? He hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it’* (Psalm 10:13).

“I felt confounded and threw myself face down on the floor of my room. I sobbed aloud and groaned, praying for pardon from God for the sake of Jesus. I did not dare rise. I was afraid even to look up. I felt that the eye of God was upon me, and my sorrow cannot be described. After about an hour, I felt calmer and sat down, still holding my Bible. God had rescued me. The prayers of my poor mother were heard, and my sinful soul was brought into the narrow way of life.

“What followed? I resolved to give up my duel. But this was not all. I was filled with sympathy for the one I had regarded as my adversary. I longed to make this known to him, and also to those who were to have witnessed our crime.

“The day began to dawn, and the time for our meeting arrived. My companions came to seek me, but I had gone on first and hurried to the wood, the place chosen for the duel. I reached it first and felt that the Lord was graciously present with me. My adversary, accompanied by his seconds and mine, arrived there and cried out to me, ‘Here I am; make ready.’

I answered seriously, but with much feeling, ‘I am ready in the presence of God to ask pardon of you if I have offended you, and to forgive you any wrong you may have done to me.’

“‘Coward, scoundrel,’ he exclaimed, ‘this is your meanness!’

“‘You need not insult me,’ I added. ‘I speak in





the presence of God, who sees us both. He has humbled me and touched my heart, and I repent and acknowledge my folly before Him, and I entreat you also to fear Him and no longer to reject His mercy.'

"Here the companion of my adversary came up to me, took my hand and asked me if I was a Christian. 'I am,' I answered, 'and so my sword shall remain in its sheath. If your friend has any complaint against me, let him mention it, and it shall be put right. Also, I will not stand in the way of his claim, which caused this quarrel.'

"Thus, God prevailed. The contest was dropped, and I returned to the town, urging my companions no longer to live in rebellion against God. I do not know if they yielded to my pleas, for I left the town shortly afterwards and had no further contact with them. But I cannot describe the joy of my godly mother when she heard that I was what she wished me to be and felt that the Lord had shown His infinite love and mercy to me.

"Not long after this, the government called me up for military service on behalf of my country. The Lord has blessed me. His precious Word has daily become more valuable to me, and, as you are aware, I love Psalm 116. I find much in it to describe the manner in which God has dealt with me. Where should I have been, if God had not given me such a mother? But let me look higher. Her love is but a faint shadow of the everlasting love of God; let all the praise be ascribed to Him."

"My brother," I answered, "if we could thus look back daily on the way in which God has guided and preserved us, we should feel the same cause for thankfulness with which you acknowledge your entrance on this path."

"And where," said the officer, "is the haughty, cold spirit of those who think it is in the power of man to keep alive his own soul, by his own feelings toward God? Certainly, I was found by Christ when I sought Him not. There was nothing in me by which I laid hold on eternal life; but the Giver of life eternal laid hold on me. The Father, who keeps us by His power, who abides faithful, and who has daily bound me to Him by the cords of His love, has again and again by His Spirit caused me to hear the voice of His dear Son. To Him I owe all my comforts in this life and in the life to come."

The officer stopped, and when we had read a part of the Word of God and prayed together, I felt that there may be a foretaste of heavenly joy on earth.

~ Taken from *The Christian Treasury* (1852)



# The Doctor's Story

Submitted

An old doctor, whose name was Jim, said to some boys, "I have a little story to tell you."

One day, when he was a boy, young Jim met his father on the road to town. His father asked him to take a packet into the town. Jim was about 12 and did not like working much. He had been working hard in the hay field since early morning. He was now tired and dusty and hungry.

He was not pleased to have to walk two miles into town after a hard day's work. He wanted to go home for his meal. His first thought was to say, "No." But something changed his mind. It was God who kept him from disobeying his kind, loving father.

So, Jim said, "Of course, Father, I'll take it." He gave his scythe to one of the men and took the package.

His father told him, "Thank you, Jim. I was going myself, but somehow I don't feel very strong today." Jim and his father walked together for a little. As they parted, the father put his hand on Jim's shoulder and said, "Thank you, my son. You have always been a good boy to me, Jim."

Jim hurried away to the town and then back home again. When he had almost reached his house, he saw some men by the door. One of them came to tell him, "Your father fell down dead just as he reached the door of his home. The last words he spoke were those he said to you in parting."

How glad the doctor was that he had obeyed and honoured his father that last time they were together! And, even after all these years, he thanked God for helping him to do so.

You should ask God to help you obey and honour your father and mother. Remember God's commandment: "*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee*" (Exodus 20:12).

# Life Is Short

J.W. Alexander (1804-1859)

J.W. Alexander was an American minister. He wrote a series of letters to his younger brother. They have been reprinted as *Am I My Brother's Keeper?* Here is one of these letters; it has been edited.

Life has been compared to the movement of fast ships and the flight of an eagle hastening to its prey. It is described as a hand's breadth, a dream. This is what the Bible says about human life. If you will consider it, you will see much in it to make you change the way you behave at present. When a young person looks forward, he almost always thinks of a long life. He thinks something like this: "I am now 13 (or 15, or 17, or whatever it may be). In so many more years I shall be an adult. Then I shall decide everything for myself; I will do such and such; I will try such and such schemes; I shall be happy."

Mistaken boy! How different from this does life seem to an old man! He looks back and says to himself: "It was just the other day that I was a boy. I was then full of hope. Life seemed a long and flowery path. I was wrong. It is a short journey, through a valley of tears."

From this, we should all learn to say with Moses in Psalm 90:12: "*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*" Is life short? Then, whatever you have to do in life, it ought to be done soon. You ought to begin at once. If you were told to do something difficult and were given an hour to do it, and if you were told: "At the end of the hour I will come to see whether you have finished your task," you would be anxious not to waste a moment.

You should be just as anxious now to make good use of your time. If the whole of life is very short, then the little parts of it — which we call childhood, youth, middle age, and old age — are short indeed. The little

portion of youth will soon be over; yet in this very stage of life you are laying a foundation for all the rest of your days. If the young twig grows crooked, the full-grown branch will be fixed in the same direction. Think of this.

Youth is a time for gathering. You must now be busy laying up useful knowledge for the future. Youth is a time for sowing seed. If the farmer lets the time for sowing pass by, he will have no harvest and he must starve. If you do not fix in your mind the seeds of truth and wisdom now, you will be ignorant and foolish when you grow up to be a man – if you ever live to become a man.

Everything you do, however trivial it may seem, has a bearing on your future life. You will reap as you sow, and you are sowing some good or some evil every moment. It seems to you no great matter to waste an afternoon, but in that way you are getting into a habit of idleness – you are losing that part of your life.

The great thing for which you were made is to please God and to enjoy His love. The Shorter Catechism says, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” Life is short; so, do not put off serving God until tomorrow. If life is so short, you ought to give God the whole of it. Surely you will not rob Him of the springtime of your days – the very best part of them. He has as much right to this day as to tomorrow; He demands your youth as well as your old age.

Follow the example of the Saviour, who said, *“I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work”* (John 9:4). This is what few boys think much of, but those who do are wiser and happier when they become older. And no one enjoys life so much as those who began, early in life, to love Jesus Christ, the Lord.

~ Taken from *Am I My Brother’s Keeper?*

### **Building Their Own Prison**

In a town called Portland, there is a large prison with exceedingly high walls around it. The story is that the prisoners themselves were, under strict supervision, the builders of that wall. Every block they put into place rendered their possibility of escape more and more remote! How this illustrates the mind of an unrepentant person. These prisoners were forced to build their own walls, but sinners willingly, under Satan’s dominion, build their own walls, thus imprisoning themselves in their sins and the consequences of them.

~ Submitted





## “Not Yet” and “Not Quite”

When recording the effect of what Paul said to Felix and to Agrippa, the Holy Spirit has shown clearly the usual state of mind of those who hear the gospel but are not saved. We read that *“Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”* (Acts 24:25) and that *“Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian”* (Acts 26:28). In effect, Felix said, “Not yet”; and Agrippa said, “Not quite.”

The sinner’s judgement is convinced; his heart is touched; the knockings of the Holy Spirit are heard and recognized. Will the sinner absolutely refuse? No, he dares not. He can only say, “Not yet.” That is enough. The Spirit is grieved and has gone. Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity, but man’s convenient season is what God abhors.

Another sinner says, “Good Master, I am ready to be a Christian now.” The Saviour explains what it means to be a Christian, and the young man sorrowfully adds, “But not quite a Christian.” “Not yet” and “not quite.” Dangerous words! They are Satan’s milder words for “never” and “not at all.” They look towards heaven and take hold of hell.

Christian, when we examine ourselves, let us also ponder these things when the Master gives such commands as: *“Take up [thy] cross, and follow Me”* (Matthew 16:24); *“seek ye first the kingdom of God”* (Matthew 6:33); *“go...preach the gospel”* (Mark 16:15); *“love your enemies”* (Matthew 5:44); and *“if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off”* (Matthew 5:30). When the Holy Spirit shows us sins that must be put to death and duties to be done, and when our conscience awakes and talks to us, let us listen, lest, perhaps, in the corners of our hearts, there may be heard the echo of those sinful words: “Not yet” and “not quite.”

~ Adapted from *The Christian Treasury*

# The Young Age of the Earth

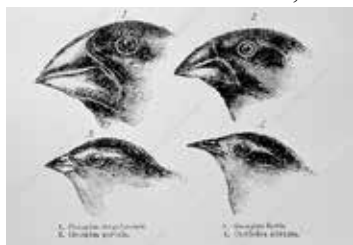


Mr. S. Timmer

Some years ago, I took an ecology class at a Lutheran college. The professor I had would often lead us on field trips. One such field trip took us to Pipestone, Minnesota. Here we saw rocks that were metamorphosed sandstones called Sioux Quartzite. The professor claimed that these rocks were formed before biological evolution began about 1.6 billion years ago! After class, I politely asked my professor if science was based on observation. He affirmed this fact. I then indicated to him that it was not science to claim that Sioux Quartzite was Precambrian rock, because no one observed this rock to be formed. The professor became quite upset and said to me that “you are just a fundamentalist.” Shouldn’t we question the theory of evolution, because it is against Scripture and observation?

God’s Word is truth. Yet universities, public schools, and society in general have thoroughly rejected the truth of God’s Word. This is also true with respect to man’s idea of the age of the earth. For more than a century, educators have been telling their students that the earth is millions or billions of years old. The old age theory is presented as a “fact” and those opposed to this idea of an old earth are considered as holding “outdated, unscientific beliefs.” Why is the “old age” theory of earth clung to so tightly? Simply put, man seeks to dethrone God and explain all matter without a reference to a Supernatural Creator. According to them, dead chemicals gave rise to “simple” living things and then over long periods of time, these organisms gave rise to more complex things and finally to man himself, even though this is not happening today.

The godless theory of biological evolution was proposed by Charles Darwin in the late 1800s, after visiting the Galapagos Islands and noticing



the variety of finches with different beaks. He hypothesized that a pair of finches first migrated to this island and then over a period of time, other finch species evolved with characteristics suited for different food sources and different environments. One of his drawings is included in this article. Darwin then extrapolated this idea

and proposed that all living things came from common ancestors over huge periods of time to produce all the life forms we see today. According to evolutionists, little biological changes in small spaces of time would produce totally different organisms over long periods of time.

The theory of evolution is diametrically opposed to the truth of God, who spoke and the earth was created with complex life forms in a six-day creation week. According to the Psalmist in Psalm 33, verse nine, *“He [God] spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”* If God’s Word is wrong at all, then all can be questioned, which is to question God Himself. Clearly, this is a godless, atheistical proposition, but one that is appealing to those who want no moral restraint. *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God”* (Psalm 14:1).

Sitting in a university class and hearing evolution being presented as “fact” can be very unsettling to a person taught that God’s Word is inspired with truth in every detail. However, contrary to falsehood taught by man, God commands us to *“hold fast that which is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). As archeology demonstrates the truths of Scripture, likewise, geology, astronomy, and other sciences, when rightly understood, speak of God’s veracity, wisdom, handiwork, and glory. David beheld the wonders in the sky rightly and he saw in them the glory of the Creator (see Psalm 19:1).

As we study the earth, there are many evidences that it is only thousands of years old, not millions or billions as the evolutionists claim. (Scripture itself repeatedly affirms the creation in six days and its young age as we find in the Law as recorded in Exodus 20:11 and in the biblical genealogies.)



Following are four evidences of a young earth.

1) Every year, about 20 billion tons of sediment enter the ocean. These sediments are carried by currents and deposited on the ocean floor near the continents. The average thickness of these deposits is less than 1300 feet. This thickness is a fraction of what it should have been if the earth were millions or billions of years old. Considering the worldwide flood and the enormous erosion and deposition that would have taken place, it is likely that even a large portion of the 1300 feet of sediment was flood generated,

implying the earth is very young.

2) The earth has been created as “the water planet.” If earth were level, it would be covered by 8000 feet (2.4 km) of water! Every day, the ocean gets a little saltier, as salt dissolved from land enters streams, rivers, and the ocean. The average salt concentration in the ocean is about 3.5%. Considering the rate at which the ocean is gaining salt and the amount of salt in the ocean, we come to the conclusion that the earth could not be nearly as old as evolutionists claim. If the earth was 4.6 billion years old, it would have 75 times more salt in the ocean than it currently contains!



3) Evolutionists claim that T-Rex dinosaurs roamed the earth about 65 million years ago. Yet in the past decades, dinosaur fossils have been found to contain soft tissues such as blood vessels, blood, collagen, nerves, nerve fibers,

and bone cells. These startling discoveries first occurred around 2005, when the leg bone of a T-Rex was examined. The discovery of these soft tissues accompanied the discovery of the protein actin, which our Creator also gave us, so that muscle contractions can occur. A reasonable explanation to such tissues being found in fossils is that they are not millions of years old, but thousands, having been laid down in Noah’s flood as described in Genesis 6 to 9.

4) A large variety of organisms supposedly found in rocks millions of years old are still living today. Horseshoe crabs are one example of what evolutionists call “living fossils.” Horseshoe crab fossils are found in rocks that



evolutionists date to be about 450 million years old. Yet identical horseshoe crabs are swimming in the ocean today. What happened to “evolution of the species”? Isn’t there a much better explanation of a young earth in which the Creator made distinct kinds of animals, such as the dog kind, the horse kind, and so on?

In conclusion, we should not be threatened by those who deny the Bible as the source of truth. Evolution is a recent, man-made theory that is written by fallen men seeking to exclude the Creator God and that requires long ages to the earth for gradual processes over which all living things formed. Scripture has been written by the omniscient God, who created all and is the Author of the Bible where the creation week is given. Any statement made by man that contradicts the authoritative Word of God is a



lie. Man's ideas are constantly changing, but Truth never changes and does not depend upon man's acceptance or approval.

The depravity of our hearts, the desire for fulfillment, and the answer to man's deepest needs are only found and expanded upon in Scripture. These truths, worked in the heart by the Holy Spirit, yield a conviction that hope is not in one's self, or in man, or in a passing world, but only in the Triune God. As David states: *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth"* (Psalm 121:1-2).

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#### References

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#### **What Will Those Little Eyes See?**

Pondering this evening, I was thinking of a little event that took place in the 1700s. Towards the beginning of the 1700s, about three hundred years ago, a baby boy was born. That was a very sad time in the history of the church of God. It seemed that once again there would be dreadful persecution and imprisonment. Moreover, the state of religion was extremely, dreadfully low. Wickedness abounded. Christianity was mocked. It was said that the Archbishop of Canterbury was an atheist.

When that baby boy was born, his godly grandfather looked at him and could not help weeping. He shed bitter tears. He said: "I wonder what those little eyes will live to see in this evil world."

Well, as the little boy grew up, he knew what his grandfather had said, and he himself became quite an eminent minister. Before he died, he referred to what his grandfather had tearfully said when he was born: "I wonder what those little eyes will see." And the little boy, now an old man and a godly minister, said: "These little eyes have lived to see the most spiritually blessed days in the church of God that England has ever known." For, you see, he had lived to see the days of Whitefield and the Evangelical Revival, when thousands were blessed and the churches and chapels were filled.

~ Submitted

# The World is a Source of Great Danger to the Soul

*“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”*

(2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Rev. J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

The world is the great rock on which thousands of young people are continually making shipwreck. They do not object to any article of the Christian faith. They do not deliberately choose evil, and they do not openly rebel against God. They hope somehow to get to heaven at last; and they think it proper to have some religion. But they cannot give up their idol; they must have the world. And so, after running well and bidding fair for heaven while boys and girls, they turn aside when they become men and women and go down the broad way which leads to destruction. They begin with Abraham and Moses and end with Demas and Lot's wife.

The last day alone will prove how many souls the world has slain. Hundreds will be found to have been trained in religious families and to have known the Gospel from their childhood...and yet, to have missed heaven. They left the harbour of home with bright prospects and launched forth on the ocean of life with a father's blessing and a mother's prayers... and then they got out of the right course through the seductions of the world and ended their voyage in shallows and in misery! It is a sorrowful story to tell; but, alas, it is only too common. I cannot wonder that Paul says, *“Come out...and be ye separate.”*



## Thy Word is Truth

Some years ago, the local health officials in an Indian state were trying to discourage the people from drinking water straight from the River Ganges. To convince them of the danger, one of the officials brought a powerful microscope with him. After taking a sample of the river water and placing it under the microscope, he invited the villagers to come and see what kind of water they were drinking. The sight of germs and algae swimming around in the sample so disgusted and angered one of the villagers that he took a hammer and smashed the microscope and returned to the river to drink from it!

Similar is the true story of a tribe in Africa where mirrors had been non-existent. In one of the tribal villages, deep in the jungle, lived a princess of the tribe. From her earliest days, she had been told that she was the most beautiful woman in the tribe. In actual fact, her looks were nothing out of the ordinary, and behind her back, some of her acquaintances thought she was ugly! When a Christian missionary arrived with this novelty of a mirror, all of the people wanted to see themselves in the glass. At length, the princess wished to see how beautiful she was. To her horror, she saw that she was no more attractive than her friends; indeed, the mirror told a tale of decidedly plain features. She was so angry that she snatched the mirror and slammed it on the ground, smashing it into pieces. In both of these cases, rather than accept the truth of the message, the messenger was destroyed.

This is sadly typical of people by nature. Rather than hear what the Bible has to say about their lives and behaviour, they despise the Bible and deny its true message. Jesus summed it all up with the following words: *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”* (John 3:19-21). *“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”* (Matthew 12:37).

~ Rev. B.A. Ramsbottom (1929-2023)