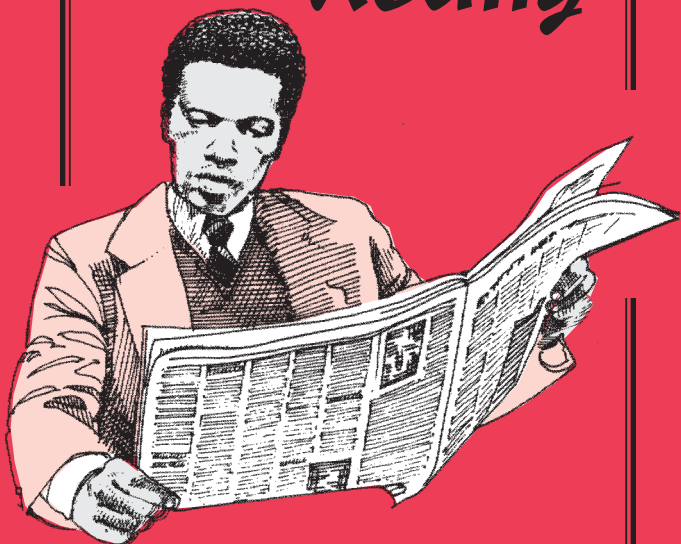


Are You Really



**INFORMED?
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by F. Koenig

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Are you really *informed*? You will probably answer “Yes,” and in a certain sense you are right. Never in the history of mankind has there been so much information available to you. With good reason, a contemporary book title calls us *The Informed Society*. And the media keep us so well informed that this era has become known as the *Information Age*. Computers electronically process and store an incalculable amount of information that we can access at the push of a button.

Today, we are informed about the latest news, sports, entertainment, weather, etc. through television and radio broadcasts world-wide via satellite. The question is not how much we know—but do we know what’s most important, and is it making us happy?

Despite the relaxed moral attitudes of today’s society, never have loneliness, fear, hopelessness and despair been so widespread. We may be getting a lot of information, but is it the right information to really *inform* us with the truth?

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

Has anyone ever told you that without a relationship with Jesus Christ your life is headed for disaster? Why? Because the Bible clearly states that all are sinners by nature, and are therefore unable to stand before a sin-hating God: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

(Rom. 3:23). That's why God offered salvation in the Lord Jesus. The offer is still good today: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

You are probably asking, "What happens to those who don't accept this offer of salvation?" The Bible answers: "Those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ... shall be punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Th. 1:8,9). This may prompt you to say, "What does *everlasting destruction* mean? If it's the same as *eternity*, I don't believe in it. As far as I'm concerned everything ends with death." How wrong! In words that cannot be misunderstood, God says that all will rise from the dead: "The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth" (Jn. 5:28-29).

Perhaps you are thinking: "I don't want to rise from the dead. I'm trying to satisfy my desires here and now. While I may not succeed, and some things make me feel guilty, I *do not believe* in life after death." Your very denial of life after death proves that you fear it!

Despite your attitude, one thing is certain: you will not be given a choice. You *will* rise from the dead. You may make all sorts of plans for death. You may have your remains sealed in a vault. You may have your body cremated. It makes no difference. You will rise from the dead *and* you will face God's judgment: "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). That means those buried,

those burned, even those the sea has swallowed up (Rev. 20:13). That means everyone including you.

Because God loves you He wants to warn you and help you, so “He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He (Jesus Christ) who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:42,43).

• IS GOD TALKING TO YOU?

By now you may be thinking, “I don’t believe all this. I don’t understand it. To put it mildly, it sounds like foolishness to me.” The Bible confirms that your reaction is quite natural: “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him” (1 Cor. 2:14). It also says that “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

Just as not being able to see is proof of blindness to a blind man, so your not being able to understand is evidence that you are not saved. God loves you and speaks to you clearly and plainly in His Word.

Who is God talking to when He says, “There is no difference; for all have sinned” (Rom. 3:22-23)? He is *not just* referring to really bad people

like murderers, robbers, and fornicators. He's also referring to good, moral and upright people. All are lost—without exception.

Your reaction might be, “How can you say such a thing? After all, there are good people and there are bad people. Whoever cannot see this difference is blind to reality. Some people are really selfish, but others sacrifice themselves by helping others and doing good to others.”

It is not necessary to rob a bank or cheat on your spouse to be lost. Without Christ, you are lost *no matter how good you are*.

However, man's point of view is clouded by all the polluted thinking of the world. Things look quite different from God's point of view, and His verdict is the deciding one: “Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one” (Ps. 53:3). As we said before, “There is no difference; for all have sinned.”

The difference between the so-called “good” and “bad” people doesn't even come into question, because “there is no difference.” All are sinners in need of a Savior.

•SOME EXAMPLES

It is high noon at Jacob's well in Samaria. Jesus meets an outcast who comes to draw water at a time when no one else is around to see her. People despise her because of her loose morals. But He cares about her and “has come to seek

and to save that which was lost” (Lk. 19:10). In fact, He came to Samaria specifically to find her and say to her, “If you knew the gift of God” (Jn. 4:10). He calls her attention to what she so urgently needs: radical conversion, the gift of God, the living water, the Savior. He really cares about those the world considers to be bad people. In fact, He seeks them out!

Now let’s look at a midnight encounter in Jerusalem. A professor of theology and member of the district court comes secretly to Christ. He is respected by all. He has a good reputation. He is a gentleman—so ready to help, so polite, so solid. What does the Lord say to him? “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:3). Being a good citizen and a learned scholar do not help. The Lord calls his attention to what he urgently needs: new birth, complete conversion, the Savior. This is how the Lord Jesus speaks with the highly respectable. Good and bad alike need Him. Without Him all are lost.

Two people board the same train. One is intelligent while the other is simple-minded. When the conductor steps into the compartment and examines their tickets, he has to inform them both that they are on the wrong train. Both are going in the wrong direction. No matter how good or intelligent you are, if you don’t know Jesus as your Savior, you are lost and heading in the wrong direction—away from God.

IS SIN A THING OF THE PAST?

The concept of sin has changed considerably. Today, the world treats sin as though it has little or nothing to do with a person's relationship to God. The word is used loosely in such expressions as "this food is sinfully rich." But in the Bible sin is no small matter. It means separation from God, and its consequence is eternal destruction.

Sin is always present, like a volcano ready to erupt. It can't be ignored. Every theft, every adulterous act and every murder is sin. Every untruth, every half-truth, every dirty look and every hypocritical act is also sin. Sin is present in every selfish act, in every business fraud, in every act of disobedience at home as well as laziness on the job. It is present in every form of envy, in every unkind word and in all adultery whether in deed or in thought.

Sin is not a thing of the past; it is an ever-present, frightening reality. The newspaper reports it daily as abuse, addiction, burglary, brutality, hunger, rape, perversion, murder, etc. But sin is not only in the daily papers; it is also in *your* heart.

Some time ago, a group of young people decided to form a commune that would eliminate all the problems of the world and become the model for a "new society." But soon their commune collapsed because the very sins they

tried to get away from were suddenly present again. One of the leaders expressed what happened in these words: "The cancerous tumor of the old society has erupted in our commune."

• GOD'S STANDARD

God who is holy gave man a perfect moral law in the form of the Ten Commandments. I'm sure you've heard of them, and may be saying, "I've never stolen, and I haven't wronged anyone." That may be true, but can you say you have never told a lie, or even a half truth—which is just as bad? Rate yourself in regard to these two commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 22:37-39).

We must recognize our real condition in the light of God's Word. James 2:10 says, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." Consider the commandments to be like a chain with ten links. Do all ten links have to break before the chain is rendered useless? No! A single broken link ruins the whole chain. Think it over.

In His love, God teaches us what we must know about ourselves and about Him. His demands upon men can be clearly understood. For instance, in a 100 meter race, all 100 meters must be run to finish—not 99. Anyone not fin-

ishing the race or not running by the rules is disqualified. Likewise, a sinner who commits only one sin will be lost eternally: “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction” (2 Th. 1:9). Thankfully however, the God of holiness who cannot excuse sin, is also the God of love who offers us a way to be pardoned.

• **WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?**

Satan, the great enemy of God, is doing everything he can to keep people from coming to their senses. Do you know how he does it? You’re always busy. He uses the troubles and the rat-race at work, at school and even at home to keep you that way. What happened to your so-called free time? Life has become nothing but a treadmill.

Do yourself a favor. Get off Satan’s treadmill and reflect upon your life—your past, present and future. Where is your pathway leading? This broad road is so easy for all to walk, good citizens included—but it ends in eternal destruction (Mt. 7:13). If you are without Christ as your Savior, you are heading in the wrong direction, and it is later than you think.

Recognize where you are headed, but do not blame God, your circumstances or others. Blame yourself. Have you heard about the prodigal son, that young fellow who ran away from a good home and wound up in a pig pen of this world? God’s Word tells us that when he came to his

senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you’” (Lk. 15:17).

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Stop and listen to God saying, “Repent therefore and be converted” (Acts 3:19). Don’t misunderstand this divine command. Scriptural repentance is not just an exercise of penance. It is not a good work by which a lost sinner may earn God’s favor. True repentance requires conviction, which is the acknowledgement that you are a sinner and you are lost. Here’s what an unrepentant person looks like under the incorruptible light of the Bible: “The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it” (Isa. 1:5,6).

True repentance begins when you discover that your entire life has been one of sin and that you are a sinner. When you see your life in God’s light there is cause for alarm. But if you are really serious about repenting and turning your life around, you have God’s sure promise: “Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted” (2 Cor. 7:10).

That’s how it was with the prodigal son. After he came to his senses and actually saw his awful

condition, he said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight." First, you must come to your senses and see yourself as a sinner. Then you must confess your sins. These two steps must be more than mere good intentions to do something at a later time. After the prodigal son confessed, he "arose and came to his father" (Lk. 15:20-21).

Perhaps you are saying, "I would like to repent and make a complete turn around, but what will my friends say? Will they laugh at me?" When Jesus was brought before Pilate, Pilate knew very well that He was innocent. He intended to set Jesus free, but got no further than this intention, because the crowd challenged him: "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend" (Jn. 19:12). So instead of freeing Jesus, he released Barabbas, a notorious criminal, and had Jesus crucified.

Things haven't changed! If you don't repent because of what your friends or family might think, you *will* perish eternally. Don't be a coward! When you have to give account before a holy God, your friends and relatives will not be able to help. In fact, if they don't repent they too will perish. How many have put off repentance and suddenly died? The Bible says "Repent today!" (See Heb. 4:7.) We have all heard of those who thought they still had many years to live, but suddenly died. Do not postpone the decision. Procrastination is Satan's most effective trap.

• **HAVE YOU MET GOD'S SON?**

The most high God knows your most secret thoughts. As soon as He sees that you are sincere about repentance, He comes to meet you, just as the father of the prodigal son did. He offers you the best, saying, "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry" (Lk. 15:24).

When He comes to meet you, He brings His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus, who died on the cross of Calvary for your sins. There His precious blood flowed for you. A holy God could not let sin go unpunished; a loving God could not let us perish: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

He sacrificed His own Son for your guilt and mine. His Son became the true Lamb of God who shed His blood for our sins: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him ... And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:5-6).

The Lord Jesus allowed sinful men to press the crown of thorns down on His head and to drive nails through His hands and His feet. And then, when the fury of men had burst all over Him on that cross, the God of all holiness turned His face from Him and forsook Him. Why?

Because He was suffering that punishment for sin which you and I deserved.

Please let the work of Calvary penetrate your soul. God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die for you. He wants us to deliver this message to you as “ambassadors for Christ, as though God were *pleading through us*: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:20-21).

WILL YOU ACCEPT?

Is salvation from sin really possible? Yes! God in His great love is showing you that even in your sinful condition, you do not need to perish. He loves you so much He has provided a Savior. Listen to what the Bible says about Him: “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). And about Himself, the Lord says: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10).

If you decide to accept this offer, in honest repentance for your sins, and child-like faith in His work on the cross, what will happen? He will receive you as His own: “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (Jn. 6:37). Through faith you become a child of God.

Do you know what happens in heaven when

you repent? Luke 15:10 says: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Today, when there are events of great interest such as the *World Cup Soccer* finals, millions pay attention. That's all they talk about; and there's great excitement. Likewise, when a sinner repents, a similar thing happens in heaven!

The Lord not only died for our sins, He also rose again bodily as proof of His victory over sin and death at the cross on our behalf. Further proof of this victory will come at the Rapture, the time when those believers who have died will actually rise from their graves, "to meet the Lord in the air." (See 1 Th. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:12-19.)

Get serious right now, and consider this question from the Bible: "Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). In another place, God's Word says, "I have set before you life and death ... choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Dt. 30:19). We hope that you know His goodness and have accepted His offer of salvation by now.

A NEW LIFE!

If you have repented, confessed your sins, and personally accepted, by faith, the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf, then you have full assur-

ance of salvation. The old life is gone, and something entirely new has begun—new life through, with and for the Lord. Let's see what this new life is like.

Every new life begins with birth. The date of your natural birth has been registered with the government. Likewise, everyone who has been born again also has his new life recorded in the Book of Life (Rev. 21:27). And just as you are born only once physically, there is only one new birth. It is unscriptural to say that one must be born again over and over. It is also contrary to the Word of God to say that "I will only receive eternal life after I die and appear before God in eternity." This is wrong thinking.

Whoever does not receive eternal life here and now will never have it there and then. The Word of God emphasizes that every one who believes *has* eternal life:

- "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me *has* everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (Jn. 5:24).

- "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life" (Jn. 3:36).

- "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 Jn. 5:13).

You can know and should accept the fact that you have eternal life as soon as you believe. Five evidences of this new life are:

1. COMMUNICATING

What does a new born baby do? It cries out! Crying is evidence of new life. And it should be the same way with one who has been born again. The Bible says: “With the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:10). Those around you should hear that you have new life in Christ. Your sins have been forgiven, and you have eternal life. What a reason for rejoicing!

Tell your friends, relatives, and co-workers. Doing so will help you break connections with the world, because light and darkness don't go together. God calls new believers His own “special people” who have been called “out of darkness into His marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Some may become believers as a result of your testimony. Others may not consider your new life to be so “marvellous.” They may even mock you. But the Bible says you are blessed if you are mocked because of your stand with Christ (1 Pet. 4:14).

2. BREATHING

Fresh air is necessary for life. If you are deprived of air for a short time you suffocate. Praying has been compared to breathing. What air is to your lungs, prayer is to your soul. Many people believe prayers are special statements to be memorized and repeated. But that is not what

prayer is. It is speaking with God. You can and should pray everywhere and always. The Bible tells us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17).

Since God is your Father, why not tell Him about everything that affects you? The Bible says you should be “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7). This is particularly important today, when there are so many dangers and temptations all around. Therefore, pray regularly with childlike confidence. Take time for prayer and you will experience the power of God in your life. These words of James should never apply to the new believer: “You do not have because you do not ask” (Jas. 4:2).

3. EATING

You are accustomed to eating at certain times each day, and your stomach would growl if you didn't stick to that schedule. If you skipped breakfast and lunch, you'd be really hungry. Think what would happen if you also skipped supper? If this went on day after day, you'd starve!

In the same way, the new Christian also will starve if he gets no spiritual food. This is why there is so little growth seen in many new-born Christians. They are not eating! The believer's food is the Word of God. For good spiritual health and growth to maturity, it is imperative to take in God's Word by reading it regularly.

And how should you read the Bible? First, ask the Lord to make His Word understandable to

you. Then read with this question in mind: How is God speaking to me? The Bible is the inspired Word of God and unlimited riches are waiting to be found by you personally.

Growth is so important. Little children give us joy, but if they do not grow they cause us concern. Failure to grow may mean they are seriously ill. Likewise, the one who has been born again should grow steadily and have increasing joy in reading the Word of God. That way you can say with the psalmist: "I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure" (Ps. 119:162).

The Lord Jesus calls out: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word" (Jn. 14:23). But how can you grow on His Word if you do not take it in? Jeremiah's answer is: "Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jer. 15:16).

Finally, it is important to get rid of the poisoned food that your "old self" ate. Worldly magazines and books, questionable television programs and videos, and many other amusements are junk food that should not be a part of the Christian's regular diet. However, daily meditations and good periodicals are helpful to your spiritual growth.

4. EXERCISING

Under normal conditions, a child grows and eventually becomes a healthy and mature being. But if that growing child is bedridden for several

weeks, his muscles and organs begin to degenerate for lack of activity. He becomes crippled if this condition continues. Exercise is an important part of life, and fitness through exercise and regular activity is strongly encouraged for good physical health.

If exercise is important for the natural body, it is even more important for the Christian life. The Lord wants you to be active for Him. Pray that He exercises you and gives you work to do. How many sick people are waiting for a visit? How many lonely ones are longing for fellowship and encouragement? How many people are lost and headed down the broad road to destruction? They need to hear your personal testimony of Jesus as Savior and Helper.

You may not be able to evangelize before large crowds, but you can speak with your friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers about the Lord. In addition, there are many good gospel tracts that are easy to distribute. With them, you always have the gospel in a concise form to give quickly and easily to others.

The French atheist Voltaire greatly feared these little leaflets and said: "Library volumes will never bring about a revolution, but those little tracts are to be feared!" Christians armed with gospel tracts are a surprisingly powerful missionary force.

While all Christians enjoy the blessings of the gospel and their inheritance in heaven, many do not want to let the gospel take full effect in their

lives. God's Word demands that those who have received eternal life "should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:15).

We want to encourage you to serve your Lord and Savior faithfully, "because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts" (Rom. 5:5). *Poured out* means that much has been given you to share with others. So obey the call to "serve the LORD with gladness" (Ps. 100:2). And don't be selfish in your service for Him: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6).

5. INTERACTING

The homeless are really to be pitied, and so are those who have a home and family but don't feel "at home" there. What do you think of when you hear the words *home* and *family*? Is it love and understanding, blessing and security? It should be, because this is what home is supposed to be.

Through new birth you have become a child of God—part of God's family—and are now a member of the body of Christ, the Church. This is your new home, spiritually speaking. There are not, as some wrongly think, many churches. There is only one Church, and all those who have been born again belong to it. Being a member of a denomination does not make you a member of the body of Christ, the Church. Only new birth can do that: "There are many mem-

bers, yet one body ... Now you are the body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:20,27).

Viewed from this biblical standpoint there are only two classes of people: those who are born again and those who are lost. All those who have been born again are members of this globe-encircling Church. Spiritually speaking, they have been called out of the world. The real and original meaning of the word *Church* is "called out ones," or those called out of the world and to the name of the Lord Jesus alone.

For your spiritual development you need fellowship with other Christians. The Bible knows nothing of hermit-like Christians. Sadly today, many Christians don't have regular fellowship with other Christians, even though the Bible tells us that we should never be found "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some" (Heb. 10:25). The early Christians "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and *fellowship*, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). What a testimony these early Christians were to those round them!

However, since that early time, a sectarian spirit has spread everywhere, and many Christians have formed into groups that are sectarian in nature—that is, having fellowship only with members of their own sect. This is not obedience to the Word of God. More than ever, the apostle Paul might ask the rhetorical question, "Is Christ divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13).

But today, the Lord still has some who seek to

obey His Word and gather to His Name alone, keeping themselves separated from this world's evils while enjoying fellowship with as many Christians as possible. They take no other name than "Christian" because the Bible mentions no other name. (See Acts 11:26.)

They endeavor to make the Bible their only guide for personal living and fellowship. They seek to love all children of God, but are grieved by the spirit of division that persists among them. Don't misunderstand: man does not bring about unity among believers; only the Holy Spirit can do that. Denominations and divisions are proof of man's failure.

The Bible tells us that God has formed the unity of the body of all believers. His command to us is that we should be "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). All the fundamental truths of the Bible—such as repentance, conversion, salvation and security—are clear and simple enough for any child of God to understand. The truth of the unity of all believers is equally clear.

Make every effort to gather with other believers according to the principles in God's Word. If you cannot find such a group, then make your desire a matter for prayer. Be very careful that those with whom you have fellowship recognize the whole Word of God as inspired and without error. God will keep you from being turned away from the truth through false teaching of any kind.

DON'T LOOK BACK!

Looking back is not good, so don't do it. A life with the Lord Jesus is so abundant and beautiful that one doesn't need to look anywhere else. The Lord Jesus says: "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62). Looking back will not make you happy, because all you will see is your sinful past.

Satan will take every opportunity to try to turn your eyes again to your past life. He is very interested in turning you aside and in making you unfit for the Lord's service. He knows that he cannot rob you of your eternal salvation, but he can rob you of the joy of your salvation and make you ineffective in sharing Christ with others. Looking back always makes a Christian unhappy.

There are two ways in which you can look back. First, Satan tries to get you to doubt whether your sins are really forgiven. But the Bible warns: "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (Jas. 1:6). Old garbage is stirred up again and anxiety and doubt take possession of your heart.

How can you handle these doubts? You cannot do it with your own thoughts and feelings, but rather with the Word of God. And the Bible says this about your sins: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). It is possible to

measure how far the North Pole is from the South Pole. But the distance between east and west can never be measured, because one can continue encircling the globe without ever reaching those locations. In another place the Bible tells us this: “I have blotted out ... your sins” (Isa. 44:22). So let the past be!

The second way of looking back that Satan stirs up is that of making the things of this world attractive again. If he succeeds, you become unhappy, because the things of this world can never truly satisfy a Christian. Jesus says, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Mt. 6:24).

God’s Word also tells us: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

When a little child is just learning to walk, he may sometimes fall. Likewise, a child of God may occasionally fall back into sin. Being a child of God does not mean being sinless. The Lord Jesus has not only shed His blood for your past sins, but for all your sins—past, present and future.

What must be done if you fall into sin? Recognize your sins as harmful, and confess them to God immediately: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9). When your fellowship with the Lord has been broken by sin and your joy is gone, don’t hesitate to confess your sin to Him. Forgiveness is not a matter of feelings, but of faith. Trust God’s Word, not your feelings. Then peace and joy will enter your heart again.

DO LOOK UP!

We live in a time of great unrest and confusion. No matter where you go, there is an underlying fear of what is to come. Science and technology try to make man happy and secure, but their attempts to make things better have no lasting effect. Unbelief, anger, and violence are spreading more and more every day.

You can easily recognize how these days correspond to the picture of the end times described in the Bible. But Christians are not waiting for the end of the world; we are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for His Church. This is not some fantasy, but the clear promise of Jesus who says: “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again* and receive you to Myself; that

where I am, there you may be also” (Jn. 14:2,3). In 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we are told how His return for us will take place.

The Bible has even predicted what the scoffers of our day would say to these promises (2 Pet. 3:3,4). But the scoffing of the world is really brought on by a secret fear. For the world, the return of the Lord will be a frightening event connected with the dreadful final judgment. Those who are born again don’t need to fear, because they are eternally safe.

So look up, expecting His soon return! And while you are waiting, use your time for Him, so that others may hear the good news of salvation.

• **ARE YOU REALLY *IN-FORMED*?**

By now you realize that being *in-formed* means much more than having a lot of information. It really means being *formed anew from within* by the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. To have this in-forming take place, you must first give *your* life to Jesus Christ, the One who gave *His* life on Calvary’s cross for your sins.

Hopefully, you have already taken this most important step to obtain eternal life, and have been encouraged in your walk with your Savior and Lord.

Are You Really Informed?

The world's answer to this question is really different from God's. The world says, "You need to *know* more—see, hear, read and do more—in order to be really informed."

But what does God say? To find out, read this booklet. It could change your life forever!

*For more INFORM-ation about
this subject, write and ask for the
New Believer's Packet.*

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or • P.O. Box 4902, Kaduna Junction P.O., Kaduna, Nigeria
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