

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

Philanthropic and humanitarian paper
for moral and social uplift. Published monthly

Administration and editing
27, Route de Vallière
1236 CARTIGNY/Geneva
Switzerland Tel. 022 756 12 08

Subscriptions
Switzerland, 1 year . Fr. 5.00
Other countries . . US\$ 7.00
Giro account: 12-656-7

Founder: F.L.A. Freytag

The beneficial effects of divine wisdom

MANKIND think they are very wise, particularly those of them who have studied to any extent. They have a high opinion of themselves and look down with pride on such as have not attended university. Of course, pride is not confined to any one class of society, for all are affected with it. Even the poorest and the most ignorant, in many cases, think they are very wise: they express their opinions, they pass judgement and they defend their point of view with great assurance.

The Holy Scriptures do not mince matters. They declare that the wisdom of men is folly in the eyes of God, and that is the simple truth. You only have to take stock of where all the science, all the studies and all the research of the last few centuries is leading. It is leading to inevitable catastrophe. And if God did not intervene — according to his plan, so infinitely kind and wise, and elaborated already before the foundation of the world — the whole human race would be wiped out.

God's infinitely varied wisdom makes itself felt everywhere in the Universe. All things moving in Space declare the glory of God. What is the Earth? And what are we ourselves beside all the heavenly creations? Yet the Earth alone in itself is a wonder of beauty. It offers splendid displays and tells of the power of its Creator. The crowning of the creation of the Earth, is certainly the creation of its inhabitants, the human race. They were made for living on it eternally. They failed to stay alive because they failed in gratitude. It was ingratitude that brought about their downfall and caused them to fall short of their destiny. They went from debasement to debasement, and despite their inordinate pride, not one of them is able to provide help that is anywhere near to being effective.

As we pointed out above, pride, grossness and hypocrisy are to be found in every class of society. Yet the higher you climb in what is called "refined society", the more those sentiments prevail and the more dangerous they are, being disguised under a coating of politeness and good breeding. But what sort of a figure would those people cut — with their society manners, with their distinguished bearing and with their gloves and their ties — in the presence of God's dearly beloved Son? It would be impossible for them to conceal their condition of miserable sinners when face to face with him who said: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble." Yet they are the people who hold the reins of government because they are in a position to

enforce their will, being far cleverer than the common people. Of course, that does not mean they are wiser and more able to live for the good, for the blessing and for the benefit of all.

Mankind then all lack real wisdom. Yet the "science of sciences" has been made known to them for long centuries. It can be put into these words: "Love God above all and your neighbour as yourself. Do that, and you will live." They have attempted all sorts of things to better their lot and to solve numberless problems, but they have not succeeded in learning the essential thing, which is love for one's neighbour. Very much to the contrary, the further they go, the more jealous they are of one another and the more they hurt one another. That state of things will go on till human pride is quite levelled down. Indeed, the Bible tells us that the day is coming when all those who are proud and all those who do evil will be like stubble. They themselves, with their own hands, are building up the tension which is going to make that happen, and nothing of all that can be attributed to God.

All along the 6,000 years subsequent to man's Fall in Eden, the rod of the wicked and the sceptre of the rulers, have been laid across the backs of mankind without stop. The violent have made slaves of those weaker than themselves, treating them as beasts of burden. Those wretched conditions are reaching their peak. The Apostle Paul describes them, saying that humanity is groaning and dying, and without knowing it, is earnestly expecting the Revealing of the Sons of God.

Why, I ask you, is mankind up against so much adversity? Simply because people have not been sufficiently honest to live up to the Gospel of Christ. It has been preached to them, but they have not known what to do with it. It ought to have taken effect in their hearts as a power of God, but for that purpose, it had to be lived up to. The Gospel of Christ contains the whole wisdom of the Kingdom of God. But to make good use of it, you must not be a cunning individual, an egoist or one skilled in bringing grist to his own mill and in making use of everything for his own profit at the expense of others. A man who does all that thinks he is very wise, when all the time, he is nothing but a poor fool. Man is being deceived and suggestionised by the "god of this world of darkness". He is selfish, and selfishness kills him. That is why the human race is dying like flies.

All people, everywhere, are out for their own personal advantage, in every domain, on a small and on a large scale, and in the nation, in the workshop and in the family. In many cases, a wife will exploit her husband, or a husband his wife. Besides which, what frightful mental suffering there is when either the husband or the wife is unfaithful, or when the children do not love their parents! There is besides so much sickness and such great catastrophes. Some have to be shut up because they are out of their minds. So, it is plain to see, there is a regular devilish round going on among the human race under the power of the wisdom of this world, which is hurtful because it is founded on selfishness. For that reason, it leads to destruction.

The beneficial effects of divine wisdom

Divine wisdom has the opposite effect. It leads to life and happiness. It always goes hand in hand with splendid nobility and with a power of well doing. The nobility it brings with it is not spurious. It is not indicated by a title set before a name whose owner may have a terribly depraved heart. It is indicated by noble dispositions, by a mind that values life at its true worth, that is capable of devotion that will stand up to every test, and that possesses the power to make all under its influence happy. All who follow the way of divine wisdom obtain wonderful blessing that brings no grief in its train. Indeed, it is impossible to grieve such people, because they have built up dispositions by which they are immunised against evil.

Divine wisdom leads us to knowledge of the Universal Law and its derivatives: the Law of Equivalents and the Law of Perfect Balance. With those glorious elements, we know which way we are going and what we are doing. We can understand the full process of divine ways. We know that, sooner or later, we have to reap what we have sown. We know that the height of wisdom is to exist for the good of our fellows. To do that is a sure guarantee of joy and blessing.

The divine plan is magnificent. Before the world existed, the infinitely varied wisdom of God had provided for a Redeemer in the person of his dearly beloved Son. Every single detail of that masterly work of love has been foreseen and preordained. All things have been thought out with wonderful wisdom. No detail has been overlooked, and all things happen exactly as planned.

All that has taken place till today was written beforehand, together with present-day happenings which include a change over from one dispensation to another, that is to say, the disappearance of the kingdom of the Adversary, whom the Bible calls the "god of this world".

Break your chains, and cast off your burdens

FRANCE: "There is no doubt about it, young George will not live more than 24 hours at the most. Take him away, so that his mother may not see him die. I'm powerless to do anything else," so speaks the doctor. Only mother refuses to give up. A deep-seated sense, to which those around her are quite impervious, urges her to hope on in spite of everything.

For three days and three nights, with the use of oxygen, she fans that "smouldering wick", fosters it with tender affection, and talks to the baby in a way that only the heart is able to understand. At dawn on the fourth day, George at last emits a feeble cry. He wants to drink. Victory! "Maternal science is wiser than medical science," the good doctor exclaims. As for Jeanne, the mother, this deliverance confirms a certain intuitive

feeling, for she is deeply horrified of death.

George and his three brothers grow up happily in the rural atmosphere of their father's hotel, whose glass doors open towards shaded alley ways. Many people gather there, either smiling or preoccupied, and all appreciate the good food and the kind welcome of the hotel.

On one day, it is some judges who come to forget the worries of their responsibilities, and on another day, it is some doctors and business managers who are overworked and also some friends who seek to satisfy a desire for a peaceful life in the atmosphere of this hotel.

Even the President of France, a regular visitor, delights in the simple pleasure of watching George's father at work. The honesty and open-mindedness of this hotel manager, who after all is ill-equipped for running a business, are of great interest to him. Having served as chef to Edward VII, to the Prince of Wales and to other royalty, he had returned to this country district to raise his small family.

In this hotel, big dinners are served in the manner of royal banquets. George, a precocious child, takes it all in and draws his own conclusions.

At the time when business is in prosperous shape, the hotel is sold. Is it the demon of business who has thus laid a snare for them in his own particular way? At any rate, it is sold at a loss. But that is not father's only experience. Today, George tries to forget that time when everything seemed to be going wrong. However, to move house 11 times is a good preparation for life in the world.

At 20, he has had enough of roaming on the ocean of uncertainty. He and his three brothers decide to get organized. Each brings his individual talents into the pool, and the small community is able to keep its head above water. Father has returned to his cooking pots, but his four sons henceforth are the only regular guests of Villa Sainte-Elisabeth, and George is the head of the family.

Along the roads of the eight "departments" (areas in the country of France) allocated to him, he travels getting orders from grain merchants. Being a commercial traveller does not prevent him, far from it, from seeking some indication of the Truth he feels must exist. With his knowledge of the seed trade, which is his particular business, he quite realizes that one reaps exactly what one has sown. His mind is open to everything that comes his way, and if on one day, he listens to the red-hot sermon of some preacher concerning the judgement of the godless, on the next day, he may be found listening to the speech of a politician proposing a panacea for all ills. For his part, being a born idealist, he imagines a society of brethren freed from the shackles of selfishness. He thinks of all the wretched people on Earth bending beneath the yoke of money and driven by the demon of hatred and by dire poverty, and he feels an ever-growing desire to go to their assistance.

It is disappearing to make room for the Kingdom of God, the dawn of which is already visible. The Great Tribulation has also been foretold. It is in no way due to any wrath of God or to any vengeance on his part.

The Almighty is much too wise, much too noble and far too powerful to be roused to anger or to seek vengeance. Only the equivalent of man's line of conduct creates tribulation. That tribulation will bring Babylon tumbling down. The proud and those who do evil destroy themselves with their own selfish and senseless goings on. On the other hand, it is written that for those who fear the Lord, the "sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays". That is why it is also written: "To fear the Lord, that is wisdom." "To fear the Lord" means "to love Him and to do his will".

The wonderful time of the Restoration of All Things has long been foreseen by the Prophets. Accordingly, Isaiah was able to say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, so that He may teach us his ways and so that we may walk in his paths." Immense riches have been placed within the reach of those people who have wanted to learn divine wisdom. But what have mankind done with them, and above all, what have religious people done with them? To be sure, it is not enough to know the Gospel of Christ, it must be put in practice. What is the use of knowing every Bible text off by heart, if one does not follow the advice they give?

The Bible was given to men so that they might do themselves good and so that they might learn to love one another, to become altruists and to imitate the wonderful loving-kindness and the humility of our dear Saviour, who says: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble. ... Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is good in the sight of all people. ... Love your enemies. ... bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you." They ought to have applied their hearts to those things, but that was the very thing they did not do.

Divine wisdom is at the disposal of all who wish to feed on it. It influenced Abraham who was able to receive this wonderful promise: "Through you and your seed, all the families of the Earth will be blessed." That does not mean blood descendants, but spiritual ones, people who have the faith of Abraham. To become that seed, you then have to develop faith and altruism. You then become heirs of God according to the promise. No one can prevent us from running that race, but it must be run according to the regulations.

All along the Gospel Age, which is now closing, there has been nothing but the race for the High Calling in Jesus Christ. That was a calling to associate with our dear Saviour in his sacrificial work. Those who embody themselves in it give up their earthly life, and in return, just like our dear Saviour, receive divine nature. Now, with the appearance of The Message to Humanity (the Book of Remembrance), the calling of the Host of the Lord has opened. The Host of the Lord is made up of people who wish to become earthly children of God, that is to say, to simply achieve the destiny to which all humanity is called and that our first parents ought to have achieved by remaining faithful to the divine programme. Adam's and Eve's resurrection together with that of all who, till today, have gone into the grave, is fully guaranteed by the Ransom paid by our dear Saviour and his Church. Then, everybody will be able to choose life by conforming with divine ways.

That is the ineffably glorious plan provided for since time began by God's infinitely varied wisdom. Everyone who will get into line with it and will adapt himself to it, laying selfishness aside, can go ahead to everlasting life and reap all the lasting joys of the Kingdom of God.

The language of nature

From the Belgian-French magazine *En Marche*, No. 1617 from the 15th of November 2018, we quote the following article that greatly interested us:

The irresistible attraction to nature

A sunset, a starry night, a forest, a flower, a meadow, a river...nature attracts us. Its beauties contain a unique magic that we have as our digital-screen background images and keep in various photos, to delight us.

More than half of the world's population lives in cities. But almost everyone, either from the city or the country "looks for places that they love, be they mountains, oceans, forests or meadows" with the intention of absorbing a source of happiness and lasting well-being that is found in nature. In contrast to other things that make us happy, nature is never exhausted. It is never worn out from use. Nature is not what "positive psychology" calls the "hedonistic treadmill" ["hedonistic adaption"], which is the forgetting of what makes us happy and the loss of its effect on us. "If I have a hot shower every morning or live in a democracy, I have the tendency to forget that they are chances and that they might not always be there for me," says the French psychiatrist Christophe André. The hedonistic treadmill, unfortunately more or less, contaminates all our sources of happiness: the happiness of living, of walking, of seeing, of hearing, of having friends and children, of working..." One gets used to them, that is all.

Lasting happiness

With nature, everything is different. Undoubtedly thanks to one of its characteristics: its everlasting existence. As said by the French philosopher Alexandre Lacroix, who comments on why we feel so much when viewing a spectacle of nature: "A landscape is a series of constantly new appearances that never stop. Nature is a universe that constantly renews itself." According to the time of day, the weather, the season...it changes. This is another explanation for its indestructible happiness: looking at nature means feeling, not owning. "To have lasting happiness, it is better to enjoy than to own!" Ownership of a garden or some land, is nothing in comparison to the benefit that one can gain from it: observing, planting, putting one's heart into it... They are sources of happiness.

Source of health

Nature systematically recharges us. It "gives us energy, and momentarily interrupts our temporary occupations and our internal conflicts". Its mere presence has therapeutic effects. Thus, since the 1980s and with the help of the American Professor Roger Ulrich, it has been shown that, for patients, contact with nature has clinical effects (increased well-being and a reduction of sickness symptoms) and biological effects (a reduction of the hormone cortisol, of arterial blood pressure and of the pulse rate). Even pictures of natural landscapes and of plants, produce the "green effect". But not to the level of actually being there. Nature is an important source of mental and physical health. Additionally, "our brain is sensitive to biological diversity, without us being aware of it", which has been proven by Christophe André's research in this area. "Well-being, which we feel in nature, is proportional to the number of its plant species and of its various bird calls and songs."

Our senses at a distance

Nature contains benefits...as soon as we make ourselves accessible to it. Our modern life separates us from the natural environment and even from the smallest green areas. Our "noise" drowns out bird calls and songs, and the sounds of nature. "In comparison to our ancestors, to hunters and gatherers, and even to farmers from

the 19th century, we have a hearing impairment." We are also used to closing our noses in our daily lives in order to avoid fumes, and we artificially deodorize our world. We no longer have close contact with nature. Weaving, picking and digging: our hands no longer do common things... Briefly said, our senses have become insensitive to nature, without us really being aware of it. To reconnect with that part of our humanity, we do not need to go far. Even behind a wall of buildings, there is a sunset. Let us occasionally say to ourselves: look! listen! breathe!...

The writer of the above article must be a very sensitive person in order to perceive the multiple benefits of nature. Even though nature has been greatly devastated, it is true that it can still influence us, of course only in the measure that we are open to it. The bird calls and songs, the various flower perfumes, colours and shapes, the variety of animals, plants and minerals, and the wide oceans, fill our hearts with admiration. And when we consider the beauty and majesty of the stars on a summer's night, we must recognize that we are faced with a universe whose grandeur and immensity overwhelm us.

Contact with nature really is beneficial for people, and they look for contact with it, which can even have therapeutic effects on them. In the past, it was not unusual to recommend patients to spend time in the country, at the sea or in the mountains, in order to improve their health. Fresh air, the sun, light and quiet, can all contribute to a person's healing.

When we think that currently more than half of the world's population (53% according to recent estimates) lives in cities, we understand that we hardly have any relationship with nature. For many of us, daily life consists of using some type of transport: car, train, plane, public transport in the city...and of using a computer or a mobile telephone. That lifestyle not only separates us from nature, but also often from other people. Even on the streets, most pedestrians are fixated on their mobile-telephones screens or are making phone calls, by which they ignore people whom they met and who remain strangers. One lives an isolated life in a bubble in which one is caught without realizing it.

Under those circumstances, we certainly are far removed from the hunters and gatherers, and from the farmers of the 19th century, mentioned in the article. And our artificial lifestyle has taken away the gift of some perceptions that our ancestors possessed. Most of us no longer have any direct contact with the soil, plants or animals. Even farmers are increasingly sitting in machines, which eliminate manual work and contact with the soil, which is saturated with chemicals. The air we breathe is polluted. The water we drink is no longer clean.

But the principal virtue of nature, which the article's writer seems to have forgotten or ignored, is that it links us to our Creator, the Lord God. If contact with nature, which means with creation, is beneficial to humankind, we can certainly believe that communion with its Creator, our God, is more important and even essential. To be deprived of it is the most detrimental thing.

If nature is a source of happiness and lasting well-being, then it is because it was created by the Lord God to exist for the good of humankind and animals that should live in it. Nature automatically fulfills its assigned purpose. And if nature is inexhaustible, and if it is not a "hedonistic treadmill", then it is because nature is the opposite of human inventions and achievements, which are dead works, and because nature is alive. Everything that nature is — soil, water and plants — are living organisms. On the contrary, the hedonistic treadmill is nothing other than ingratitude that lets humankind forget all the benefits for its advantage.

Humankind's great misfortune is that it cannot recognize its Creator's signature in nature. As apostle Paul aptly said: "His [God's] invisible attributes, namely, his

"I would willingly lay down my life for a cause that is true," he declares to his friends.

It is the year 1938, and the sick world has a fever. The political horizon is overcast. The hopes awakened by the Munich Agreement (to help prevent war) have been short-lived. A fresh "war scare" erupts in all minds. George has taken over a big grain business in the city of Lyon. He runs it with the assistance of his mother and a secretary. His vans deliver the goods to the retailers.

One day, a young woman comes to his office and offers him *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance). She graciously does her best to answer the questions asked her. Jeanne listens attentively, for she still fears death, and this book, which they are told describes man's destiny of life and happiness, interests her. George buys two copies of *The Message to Humanity*.

The next morning, they exchange their impressions: "There's something extraordinary

about that book," George says. They both feel overjoyed. Unfortunately, he has mislaid the address where the meetings are held, but remembers the suburb. It shouldn't be a difficult place to find. The Angel of the Lord (the Philanthropic Association), everybody nearby must know where it is. The name will probably be written in gold letters on a big marble slab outside a hall where 500 or perhaps 1,000 of those people thirsting for justice and peace crowd together, filled with enthusiasm.

However, that evening, he hunts through the suburb in all directions, but finds neither a big marble slab nor letters of gold, nor any indication to set him on the track of the Philanthropic Association. Could they be hiding in some secret place?

The next day, when calling on a customer, he sees a *PAPER FOR ALL* lying on his desk. It has the very address he is looking for. The following Thursday, feeling somewhat skepti-

cal, he attends the meeting, accompanied by his bookkeeper. Let's see what sort of error there is hidden in this business, he thinks as he goes.

His first impression surprises him. Everything is on a modest scale, particularly the attendance, about 20 in all. It is nothing like what he had imagined. But there is warmth in the simplicity of their welcome. They are probably from every sort of background, gathered there around the "law of altruism", which George hears described this evening to the delight of his soul. What is read out and the testimonies, are exactly what he has been looking for! There is no error at all to be discovered.

God's intentions are always pure, guided by wisdom and balanced by justice. Never does He make a mistake, and the day that is coming will make this known. Those revelations and the true fraternity he has found, have kindled a flame in him

that he is at once going to communicate to others.

One of his customers is a Bible Student, a woman who, between two Bible texts, always manages to slip in a malicious remark concerning the Philanthropic Association and its Messenger. That does not worry George much, but once when Brother Victor is there, he tells him about it. "Yes, yes, I know," is all he says.

The effect is instantaneous: "People who do not return accusation for accusation, and who, when reviled, do not revile in return, they are the true sort!"

The Thursday after, it is the turn of Jeanne, his mother, to be seized by divine grace in the midst of the small Family of Faith, and the Thursday after that, come his three brothers, and after them, his saleswoman, their cousins, some friends and so on till some 20 new adherents have come to swell the ranks of the courageous pioneers.

eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen and understood by what has been made since the creation of the world, so that people are without excuse. They knew about God, but they did not honour or thank Him. As a result, their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1: 20 and 21.

Humankind also does not recognize Jesus Christ, God's Son, as its Saviour. But we know that the day is coming, and it is not far away, when all humankind, from the smallest to the greatest, will know and praise its Creator, the Almighty, on Earth, which will be restored to perfection for all eternity.

Failures and victory

From the Belgian-French magazine *En Marche*, No. 1615, we quote the following article by Catherine Daloze, which drew our attention:

Permission to fail

Failing an examination, not being elected at an election, taking a failed cake out of the oven, going broke, separation...are things that one does not like to go through. One only tells a select group of people. But that is how some know-alls make a "success story" out of their failures.

When one looks at the display screens around us, one could believe that life only consists of successes. The losers on a television quiz show are consoled and smile: the only allowed souvenir is their "15 minutes of fame". Internet influencers present their happy faces, so that they have the best effect: the expression that is preferred should be "young and beautiful", it could also be a photo of a landscape, of a little flower or of children, and everything should be lovely. At elections, the disappointed candidates hide behind a strategy of cheerful gratitude for the votes received, even though there were not enough. The speeches and interviews about a loss of a job or the bankruptcy of a business, appear to be the start of a new adventure and a new challenge.

"The horizon of millions of users of social networks, seems to be the illusion of a perfect life. An improvement is impossible," says the writer Mathilde Damandier. The pressure of "success" is so great that some people develop a type of "neurosis of failure". They give up before they have even started, preferring not to try, rather than possibly failing.

Explaining their failures with the smile of success

Risk nothing, another failure. In the domain of the biggest online companies (such as Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon), there is a culture of enterprise. The art of the "start-up" is of greatest importance. To fire up the "Made in Silicon Valley" creative spirit, one goes by the motto "Fail fast, learn fast". "FailCon" is used as a tool in that doctrine. In Europe, it is less used, but in the USA, it is common. What is it about? It is conferences where businesspeople explain their career failures. The goal: to take the drama out of failure, and to give value to a new start. It gives a "happy ending" in advance.

But what failures are we talking about? Those of Jeff Bezos (the CEO of Amazon) and his contemporaries, the personalities of the modern economy, who can continuously raise new capital for their innovations, despite expensive failures. They, like famous warriors, present for viewing, the scars of their crashes, while other people "have to pay for their failures, with their own investments or, even worse, with their own labour". A CEO starts again and boasts about their "success story". Their company and their employees have to suffer the collateral damage. "71% of the permanent staff at the Amazon logistics centre in Montelimar, France, suffer from insomnia, 70% of its employees talk about stress, and 40% have already visited a doctor. ... For them,

failure is not a heroic deed, but a disaster," reports Mathilde Damandier.

The writer concludes: "To highlight one's failures is nothing more than a new way of discarding one's responsibilities." This is a good business for the big bosses of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0).

Make progress through failure by ignoring reality

Failure can also have some good. Especially when it gives access to a wise question, when it means a higher stage of understanding, when it stimulates curiosity and when it is a stimulus to look at something from another point of view rather than the usual "process". Failure can release creativity and represent a happy accident. Do not forget that if the French Tatin sisters' recipe had not failed, the famous "tarte Tatin" [Tatin tart], named after them, would never have delighted our taste buds and become a "inescapable" dessert. Without the mistake of an American engineer during the planning of a device that measures the heartbeat, would there be a pacemaker? And there is much more. Many discoveries were born from failures. We made a mistake when we did not have room to be wrong, to doubt ourselves or to be allowed to fail.

We made a mistake when we also could not consider failure with a benevolent eye, our failure or other people's. It could also be an interesting episode but not a humiliation, a reason to feel guilt, or an episode that one quickly forgets.

Failure is a sensitive subject to talk about. The article's author, like many other representatives of "positive psychology", places a lot of value on considering failure with optimism. One may well say that lamenting over our failures will not change anything. But positive thinking, according to the modern expression, also does not solve anything. We can laugh about our misfortune, even though it is real. Furthermore, one often hears the expression "No worries!" but one never actually has none. Optimism is in fashion, but one increasingly separates oneself from other people when one does not try to talk to someone about one's own setbacks. Additionally, some people can allow themselves the injustice of not only talking, but also of joking about their failures, while other people suffer from sleeplessness and depression, as the article's author says.

It is true that some mistakes have led to discoveries, as is mentioned by Catherine Daloze. Should one therefore immediately recommend failing? Certainly not!

Of course, ignoring a defeat gives us the illusion that it is not there. But that only makes everything worse. That is how one acts when one has no solution and because one, in that way, avoids the stress and the depression that are associated with a mistake. However, the day comes when one has to face facts and can no longer avoid them. Therefore, why not today? That is what God's Word invites us to do. Moreover, it is the only means of fixing our mistakes, of recognizing them, of admitting them and of changing ourselves. Yes, it is possible! It is no longer a matter of positive psychology or of psychology at all.

In fact, humankind's first mistake was that of our first parents in Eden, who disobeyed God's Word. We know the consequences of that mistake, because we live with them. It is a matter of the condemnation and the death of Adam and Eve, and of all their descendants. But the Lord God, in his infinite wisdom, has planned for the solution to that problem. Even before the creation of the world, He had the thought of giving his Son as the Sacrifice to pay for the debts that humankind had made to justice. One can exclaim, with apostle Paul: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!" Romans 11: 33.

We love to say here that all our mistakes, our weaknesses, our misfortunes and our failings, were paid for in advance by the very loving Gift of the life of our dear Saviour. Everything is already settled, gone and fixed.

That is the wonderful Good News of Christ's Gospel. Our effort consists of developing faith in order to receive that Sacrifice, to accept it as the payment for our mistakes, and to appreciate it with all our soul.

But God's Work for the benefit of humankind goes even further. When the glorious ministry of our dear Saviour provides for the forgiveness of all sins, it also offers us the possibility of a new education that allows us to finally come out of our condition of sinners and condemned people, and to attain the promise of eternal life. They are enthusiastic prospects that are placed before us.

When all people will have successfully gone through all the phases of the divine education, there will be no more mistakes. Eternal life will be everyone's share, and all will praise and glorify the Almighty and our dear Saviour. That will be the restored Paradise on Earth, where, according to the prophet's expression, there will be no more wrong or harm. Isaiah 11: 9.

An unusual event

The following report is from the French newspaper *20 Minutes* on the 12th of September 2019. It tells the story of a fisherman who was intrigued by the strange behaviour of a dolphin:

He happened to attend the "funeral" of a dolphin

In the port city of Marseille in southern France, a fisherman filmed an aquatic mammal pushing the carcass of one of its fellow creatures. It could be a ritual.

That scene, as rare as it is moving, was observed last week in the harbour of Marseille. As he was leaving to catch some fish, an amateur fisherman noticed unusual movements near his boat. On closer examination of the surface of the water, he found that it was an adult dolphin pushing the dead body of another dolphin, a smaller one, perhaps a female or a calf.

Being touched, the fisherman approached the mammals to try to help the living dolphin. "But it didn't want to leave the dead one. It was really moving, it looked like a funeral," reported the fisherman to the French newspaper *La Provence*. His impression of having attended a funeral ritual seems to be corroborated by science. Many researchers have indeed studied the behaviour of these animals at the time of a death. Several studies have reported cases where dolphins were observed keeping watch over their deceased. Some groups took turns on the seabed for several days so as not to abandon the dead body. In 2007, in the Gulf of Arta (in Greece), a marine biologist observed a female pushing the body of her dead calf for two days, without her eating, which is dangerous for an individual with a high metabolism.

Elephants are also known for their particular behaviour at the time of a death. When one of them dies, they start a procession, carrying with them some bones or a tusk of the deceased.

An unusual phenomenon that once again proves the sensitivity of animals. Humans might be the only beings on Earth that know they will die. But what do animals feel when one of them dies? When they see the latter lifeless? They then become well aware that something has changed. In any case, this dolphin did not accept the help that the fisherman wanted to give it and continued to push the dead body of its fellow dolphin. We do not know what motivated this behaviour or even what it meant. To say that it looked like a funeral is drawing an analogy with what humans do in similar circumstances. However, animals do not act like humans. They are guided by instinct, not by reasoning.

For instance, it has often been reported that dogs go to the grave of their deceased master. Some of them do not even want to live any longer when their master is dead; they cannot stand the loss of the communion they had with their beloved master. That proof of loy-

Then comes the first congress. George drinks in the words of the Faithful and Wise Servant. His teachings, which have nothing of a doctrine about them, are common sense itself, and what he says to his hearers does not come from the knowledge which puffs up. It is practical, provides the needs of the moment, and is what is wanted in the good fight to be waged for changing one's sentiments, for that sanctification without which no man can know God. As a shepherd, he leads the Lord's flock with love into green pastures and to still waters.

In such an atmosphere, George frequently has to wipe, from his eyes, the tears that spring from an overfull heart. His mind is made up: he is going to learn to serve.

In contrast, in the world, conditions are deteriorating. To the meek peacemakers, it is painful to be able to do nothing about the escalation of hatred. From Switzerland comes the pamphlet "The basis on which to come

to an understanding to avoid catastrophe", which the dear Messenger has published for the occasion. George and all the brethren in his country publish it far and wide. But just as of old, the nations go on making guns and lend their ears to the "prophets" who tell them that this will lead to peace — and the catastrophe which is to cost the lives of 80 million people cannot be avoided: World War Two. As history teaches, when a nation rejects the advice of men of faith, it inevitably has to turn to men of law till it is trampled on by men of neither faith nor law.

Brother George, being called up, presents himself six days later. Everyone else has been sent to the front. Everything works out for the best, for they are in need of someone to look after the old men and the women and children. One of his fellow workers keeps his eye on him, for he has delivered his testimony and bears it out with his unchanging benevolence. Once, when he is the victim of

ill-will, his colleague perceives that he makes no reproaches and repairs the wrong done by doing good, and is conquered. This man's wife also becomes a fervent adept of the cause.

Now, the country is occupied by the enemy, and George is able to return home. He sells up his business, for he has promised his life, his time and his strength to the cause of building up the House of God. Here, he comes upon a curious coincidence: a stone's throw away, there is the spot where, eight centuries earlier, a rich silk merchant (Peter Waldo) from Lyon, in a Christian way, distributed his wealth to the poor, also for the purpose of serving only one Master.

All that keeps George busy for a year. In the streets, in offices and shops, and on work-sites, all who are not deaf and speak French, hear his testimony. Every day in the public hall, the news is posted up, and it is also put in official notices. People stop to read and to discuss events.

There, George describes justice. Words that reach the hearts are granted to him. Once, 60, and another time, 80 people listen to him announce the Kingdom of God.

"If what that young man says does happen, it will be a wonderful thing," someone in the crowd spoke up. There, some of his former workmates and friends are present. They shake their heads: "Poor old George, he's lost all sense of reason!"

At last, he is free, and a door is opened to him in Methamis, in the south of France, on the second Test Station of the Kingdom of God on Earth, in chronological order. He has the dear Messenger's invitation in his pocket, and, like the 16th century Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, he has burned his ships. There, he is on a dusty road, with a beating heart at the entrance of the area.

Brother André is standing there to welcome him with a donkey cart and a brotherly

ality from our companions in the animal world, is very touching. We do not know if we can describe what they have as "feelings", but those manifestations are curiously similar.

We do not claim to be able to explain everything. Even our scientists face many question marks. The report says that researchers have studied the behaviour of some dolphins at the time of a death. Nevertheless, there are still many questions without satisfactory answers.

During the Reign of Christ — which will soon be established on Earth, thanks to the sacrifice of our dear Saviour and of his faithful Church — we will receive the answers to all the questions that we are currently ask ourselves and that we cannot answer. Including those about the behaviour of our friends, the animals. Then, we will have much closer contact with them, because we will no longer be under the effect of condemnation. They will no longer flee from humans, because we will once again be their benefactors, as was the case at the time of Creation. We also know that in that future time, no one will cause harm or destruction anywhere on the Lord's "holy mountain" (Earth), as the Prophet Isaiah announced to us. Isaiah 65: 25.

The power of trees

From the French newspaper *Ouest-France* on the 8th of July 2019, we quote the following report:

Trees can (almost) save the planet

There is a powerful tool to reduce climate change (global warming): forests. Deforestation must be stopped. Wood should not be prioritized as a resource.

Forests grow from CO₂ (carbon dioxide)

Every year, the oceans absorb 2.4 billion tonnes of carbon. They cannot absorb any more, because they are already saturated with CO₂. But land vegetation absorbs 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon per year, of which the forests absorb 2.4 billion tonnes per year.

Great loss of vegetation

Of those 2.4 billion tonnes of carbon absorbed per year, the forests only store 1.1 billion tonnes in the form of wood. Deforestation causes the emission of 3 billion tonnes of carbon per year. In the last 25 years, we have destroyed areas of forest that are 7.6 times the size of France's forests.

Terrible trio: coal, oil and gas

Every year, through human activity, 9.4 billion tonnes of CO₂ are released from fossil fuels. In addition, 1.5 billion tonnes are released from agriculture. That means that an extra total of 5 billion tonnes of CO₂ goes into the atmosphere every year.

An overdose of 250 billion tonnes

According to a study by Corinne Le Quéré, who leads the annual update of the Global Carbon Budget, humankind has released 250 billion tonnes of CO₂ in the

last 200 years. Where do the carbon dioxide and the other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) go? Into the thin layer of the first 12 kilometres of the atmosphere, in which 90% of our air is concentrated.

Sweep the dust under the carpet

To keep global warming below 2° (2 degrees Celsius) by the year 2100 (the target of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change [COP21], held in 2015), we should not only stop emitting Greenhouse Gases, but also remove them from the atmosphere. Eureka! (I found the answer): in many places in the world, including Lacq (a town in south-western France), they are beginning to inject smoke from factories, into the empty spaces left behind when oil and gas are extracted from the Earth. They are even imagining giant vacuum cleaners for later, in order to continue putting our dirt under that "underground carpet". Is it possible to guarantee no leaks? No, according to some geologists.

New wind for forests

Forests turn carbon into wood. Even better, the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) has proven that the more CO₂ there is in the atmosphere, the more CO₂ is absorbed by trees and is turned into foliage. For that, the forests need to be well maintained: no fire, no rotting wood left anywhere, mature trees are processed into timber, regular reforestation and even regular expansion.

No conflict between forests and farming

What about the competition among the farmable areas that will have to feed 9 billion people on Earth by the year 2050? Trees are not the enemies of farmers, say scientists. Forests, hedges and fields: a) regulate the water; b) reduce the heat in summer and the cold in winter; c) give protection to insects, birds and mammals; and d) prevent erosion of the ground, and fertilize it. They are more of a solution than a problem. Especially for an extra 25 million people in poor countries who have to leave their land every year, because it has become infertile.

Better wood than concrete

By optimizing the forests and farmland, those "green carbon sinks" would absorb [sequester] 6.5 billion tonnes per year in a few decades. "Furthermore, 3 billion tonnes of carbon emissions would be prevented if we used wood instead of materials that require energy for production: concrete, metal and plastic," says Jean-Marc Guehl from INRA (at the Nancy Centre in France). A recent study by British scientist Thomas Crowther confirms that a worldwide expansion of forests in the next 30 years, to an area the size of the United States, would neutralize 204 billion tonnes of CO₂. "Also, forests should not be the victims of global warming, which they will reduce," warns Philippe Gourmain, the president of forest experts in France.

Those numbers make us think deeply. Deforestation has been going on for a long time, and the timber in-

dustry has run at high speed without considering the consequences of such actions. Now, we are beginning to recognize the effects of our activities on our environment and consequently on our lives. But it is a little late. It is therefore important for us to know the cause of the current situation, which is, in fact, not an inevitability, but an equivalent.

The Creator of all things made everything in a wonderful way, so that there was an ideal climate for the well-being of humankind on Earth. The above report shows us that forests can annually absorb 2.4 billion tonnes of CO₂, which is a gas that humans breathe out. Just imagine how the climate originally was when the whole world was covered with forests. There were very tall trees and others of a medium height that protected the fruit trees, shrubs and bushes. There were no strong winds, storms or cyclones as we see nowadays. Additionally, the lush vegetation attracted the water, which led to the ground never drying out. One can see that God provided generously, so that everything was abundantly available for the well-being of humans, animals and plants, according to the Universal Law of altruism, which governs all things and every being in the entire Universe.

That is how it should be on Earth. It was also up to humankind to keep that Law, to exist for the good of each other and of nature, which they should respect. Unfortunately, the emergence of sin and of selfishness in particular, have upset the balance that originally governed our planet. It was said to humankind: "The ground is cursed because of you" (Genesis 3: 17). Fortunately, the Lord God, in his infinite wisdom, provided for the restoration of humankind and of all things. To make that possible, He did not hesitate to pay the price for that Salvation by giving his only Son as the Sacrifice. The gift of his life frees us from sin and all its consequences and enables the restoration of Paradise on Earth, as it originally was. All people will regain their destiny: eternal life. But for that, it requires the acceptance of a collaboration on God's Work. Because in his Kingdom, the Lord does not want any spectators, there are only participants. Because the curse came into the world through humankind, humankind must also collaborate on bringing the blessing back to Earth.

It will also be necessary to reforest the Earth. F.L.A. Freytag (God's last Messenger of the Gospel Age), in his book *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance), shows us the way to follow. He tells us that one should begin the reforestation by planting trees next to the watercourses, rivers and oceans, and to then gradually expand the reforestation further inland.

That is how the hydrographic (water-system) balance can be restored to what it originally was. By people contributing to the good of each other, they also work on their own salvation and are able, with the help of divine grace, to acquire the sentiments that make them earthly children of God and that enable them to live forever on Earth, which will again become God's footstool.

handshake. Together, they are going to share their joys, their struggles, their pains and their efforts with several others on this land where the small beginnings of the Kingdom of God are being launched.

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

Observing the rapid approach of tragic events which the world is heading for, one is better able to appreciate the very precise warnings given by God's faithful servants of the past and also of the present time. It is an interesting fact that nearly all the Prophets, then especially our dear Saviour and finally the Apostles, whose witness has been passed on to us, said a great deal about that period called the Time of the End. The Faithful and Wise Servant of our time, God's Messenger, has besides splendidly explained those testimonies in the books *The Divine Revelation* and *The Message to Humanity* (the Book of Remembrance).

As we have frequently pointed out, it was our Lord himself who, in a few words, summed up all those various testimonies when he spoke to his Disciples about the evident signs of the present dispensation. In the 24th chapter of the Book of Matthew, verses 21 to 24, he says: "For then there will be Great Tribulation [Great Distress], such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, and will never be again. If those days were not shortened, no flesh would survive. But because of the elect [the chosen ones], those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you: 'Look, here is Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will come and perform great

signs and wonders in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

That is reported once again by Luke in his 21st chapter, in these words: "There will be signs in the Sun, in the Moon and in the stars. On Earth, nations will be distressed and bewildered by the roaring sea and the raging waves. People will faint from fear and the expectation of the things that are coming on the world, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Those words have been read over and over again wherever the Gospel has spread, but nobody has really taken any notice of them. Today, distress is invading the hearts of all who take the trouble to look at what is going on around them.

Our Lord said in advance: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold." Today, we can see those things being very visibly fulfilled everywhere. It would truly seem that there should not be any more doubt about our times, at any rate, for those who have had the privilege of receiving the very clear teachings of God's Messenger.

When we visit our various groups and Test Stations founded for the purpose of becoming demonstrations of the New World, we are compelled to see that, of those who know the Truth, only a small number resolutely go from theory to practice. Here we see the manifestation of the terrible power of distraction and seduction announced for this "hour of temptation". That power of distraction does its deadly work in all who are not attached to the Kingdom of God more than to anything else. It is true that distractions and temptations take on the most subtle disguises. That reminds us of what God's Messenger used to say: "The greatest of all temptations is pros-

perity and comfort." That is a truth which we are very clearly able to distinguish. It is a fact that the ever-increasing facilities and well-being placed at the disposal of all people in civilized countries, give birth to all sorts of needs that did not exist before. People used to live in conditions of greatest simplicity, from which, in those days, there was scarcely any possibility of departing. While today, many people who would have been quite happy in the most modest conditions, readily become exceedingly fastidious and discontented when plenty comes their way.

Everybody ought to realize how dangerous such a state of mind is. It causes divine spirituality to rapidly decline. Then, the diabolical spirit takes over and is evidenced in discontentment, irritability, complaints, jealousy, etc. God's Faithful and Wise Servant reminds us that if we allow the diabolical spirit to gain ground in us, we are on the road to destruction.

However, we are very glad to see that almost everywhere, there is rising enthusiasm, particularly among new brothers and sisters who are coming along.

When we visit the Test Stations, we are frequently asked for more collaborators. It is true that a great deal of the work cannot be done as we would like, for lack of hands. It is, however, indispensable to bear in mind that fresh collaborators ought to be met with a reception which corresponds to the way their hearts have been touched by the message of the Truth. Now, we have an idea that if some of those fresh collaborators were to go to such-and-such a Test Station, they might, in some cases, be disappointed. That, moreover, is what has already happened.

For a Test Station to truly become a dem-

onstration of the Kingdom of God, its residents must take quite seriously the advice and instruction given by God's Messenger. In many cases, they do not do that. Communion and unity must also be established between the brother or sister in charge of the Test Station and all who collaborate, so that a real family might take shape in all that the term implies. There should be no commands or orders, but only kind invitations to do that which ought to be done. Of course, there must be firmness in the wish to fulfil, in full, the programme of a Test Station, but there must also be gentleness and kindness, which are the ornaments of God's House. As God's Faithful and Wise Servant has often reminded us, it is divine love that is the foundation of the Father's House. Nothing should be done behind anyone's back or by compulsion, but always in broad daylight.

It is that wonderful unity which will have the power to make the world believe, as our dear Saviour said in his Sacerdotal Prayer. It is also that that will bring the Great Tribulation to an end and prevent the destruction of all flesh.

Besides, it is also necessary that those who wish to collaborate on a Test Station during their holidays, be aware of the privilege kindly offered to them of associating in that glorious work with the zeal which produces faith and the right understanding of divine ways. We are glad to bring out those various points, which people who want to hasten God's day through holy conduct and godliness, must always keep in mind.

Publisher: Angel of the Lord, Philanthropic Association. — **Editor:** Ph. Miguet. Imprimerie du Château, 1236 CARTIGNY/Ge (Switzerland)