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REPORT

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER  
2023

THE PERIL  
OF THE

*Easy Life*



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Hide God's

Word

in Your

Heart

Memorize:

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful (Proverbs 27:6).*


It's highly likely that a good friend would tell you if you had a big piece of spinach stuck in your teeth, but would a stranger or, even worse, an enemy? What about in matters of infinitely more importance—like your salvation?

The memory verse tells us that when a true friend does something that "wounds" you, it is because he is "faithful." In the original Hebrew, "faithful" is defined as "to support," "to stand firm," "reliable." A faithful friend is someone you can trust to always be looking out for your best interest and who will "stand firm" upon that principle. A faithful friend is like a supporting beam lifting you up to reflect the image of God.

The actions of a faithful friend may be hard to take sometimes; in the process, our pride may be bruised or our selfishness revealed. But like Jesus, our most faithful Friend, said, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [God the Father] takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:2). Pruning may not feel good, but it is "for our good always, that He [God] might preserve us alive" (Deuteronomy 6:24).

Nowadays, however, being supportive has been twisted to mean you'll agree with that person and go along with whatever he or she wants regardless. But let's look at this practically. Say a friend wanted to have a few drinks at a bar. To be supportive, do you go along and buy your friend a shot or two? When your friend stumbles drunkenly to the car, do you allow him to drive? And do you encourage him to do it again the next night?

Let's hope not. That would be like "the kisses of an enemy." They seem nice and agreeable and even fun, but they're actually cloaking a very real danger.

Have you noticed that the world today is a lot like these kinds of kisses? Are you, without even realizing it, being assisted to your own destruction by a lie that doesn't ever make you uncomfortable and lets you have your own way? Find out in this quarter's main feature as Pastor Doug Batchelor uncovers "The Peril of the Easy Life." 

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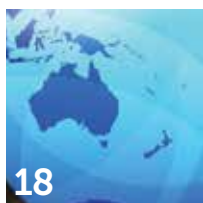
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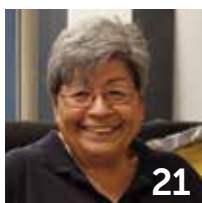
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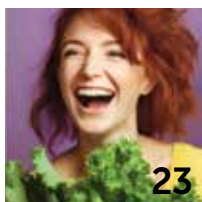
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Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at [subscribe.amazingfacts.org](https://subscribe.amazingfacts.org)!

# Connect with Amazing Facts

## Update

In our last issue, we reported that Pastor Doug had an upcoming speaking engagement in the Philippines in 2024. This event has been postponed. Visit [amazingfacts.org](http://amazingfacts.org) for the latest news.



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## From the Mail Bag



### The Best Bible Studies

I started reading *Amazing Facts Study Guides* when I accepted Jesus as my Savior. These mini lessons helped me to learn the Bible, search Scripture, and to understand the plan that God forged for my salvation at the beginning of time. For me personally, it is the best Bible

study ever printed; it is written so that any person, educated or not, can read and understand. Although I go through trials every day in life, I thank God that Amazing Facts has taught me to be a better person, not just in my eyes but in the eyes of my family. Nothing is easy, but it is a walk that I am glad to walk every day. *Ernest*

### Boredom to New Life

I had a messed-up life full of addiction and swearing. I was bored one Sabbath but was allowed to watch only Bible movies. I chose to watch an Amazing Facts prophecy DVD that my uncle gave me. I really liked it once I truly listened to it and understood it, so I started searching for more DVDs and found Doug Batchelor. He seemed to speak in a way I could understand because we are alike in the mess-ups of our lives; he was able to preach in a way that inspired me. *Christian, Australia*



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# THE PERIL OF THE *Easy Life*

JUST BECAUSE A DOCTRINE FEELS GOOD DOESN'T MEAN IT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

By Pastor Doug Batchelor

## An Amazing Fact:

*Multiple studies are finding a powerful link between "civilization diseases"—like diabetes, obesity, cancer, and cardiovascular issues—and the so-called "civilized" culture of developed countries, described as a highly stationary life of ease. This "easy" lifestyle consists primarily of addictive entertainment; desk jobs; and a diet of highly processed, refined fast foods.*

*It's the life* that everyone wants—or more accurately, the life they *think* they want. It's a life that includes such terms as "same-day deliveries," "binge-watching," and "couch potato." Ask a search engine, "What makes life easier?" You'll get multiple lists promoting multiple products to purchase, all for the sake of convenience. Must-haves include robot vacuums, a self-grooming tool for your pets, even an automatic cocktail maker.

You'll notice a trend. In today's "civilized" world, what makes life easy is figuring out how to do everything with less effort and less time, or else not at all. Now, there's certainly nothing wrong with being effective and efficient. Time management is a healthy—not to mention godly—principle. But that's not all our modern-day society is directing us to do. What happens to all that extra time we saved?

According to a U.S. Department of Labor survey for 2021, Americans spend, on average, a solid 5.27 hours in daily leisure; the majority of those hours are spent watching television.<sup>1</sup> To put this in perspective, the same survey reported an average of only 3.5 hours per day spent on work. Even more alarming is our youth, who "spend, on average,

a whopping 7.5 hours in front of a screen for entertainment each day."<sup>2</sup> Other than sleep, leisure is the activity to which Americans devote the majority of their time.

## WHATEVER YOU WANT

We live in a society where apps spoon-feed content tailored to user preference; where candy bars are deliberately positioned for an impulse buy; where everywhere we turn, we are bombarded with the urge to indulge. How many have clicked on a video only to wonder two hours later where the time has gone? This type of life is not only being portrayed as beneficial for you; it's practically being forced upon you. This is a life that nurtures instant gratification and aspires to complacency; it's a life fueled by a single principle—selfishness. This is



1 "American Time Use Survey—2021 Results," Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 23, 2022, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/atus.pdf>.

2 "Screen Time vs. Lean Time Infographic," January 29, 2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/multimedia/infographics/getmoving.html>.

the world's definition of the "easy" life: one that revolves around you, your wants, your ease.

But there's a problem: Easy does not equal good. Not everything you want is good for you. A candy bar may go down smooth as silk, but all its sticky sweetness doesn't do your health any favors.

And as ubiquitous as this "easy" way of life is, you can be sure that your spiritual life is not immune. Perhaps you've heard some of these popular teachings in Christianity:

- Once you're saved, you're *always* saved.
- You're saved *in* your sins, not *from* your sins.
- *Everyone* is going to be saved.

These are incredibly tempting teachings to swallow. According to these doctrines, anyone can live however he or she likes and still receive the reward of eternal life in paradise. At the heart is the same worldly principle: Do whatever *you* want.

But these smooth sayings that sound and feel good are actually lies. A person who once accepted Christ's gift of salvation can indeed be lost: If "a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity ... [and] shall die in his sin, ... his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered" (Ezekiel 3:20). The angel told Mary that Jesus would save us *from* our

sins (Matthew 1:21); He "bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). And sadly, there will be some lost in the final judgment: They will "come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:29); "some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

These are only a few of the many Bible verses teaching the clear truths about salvation. Yet those who are supposedly preaching from the very same Word are telling their flocks the opposite. "Those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). Those who make an idol of appetite are actually doing the work of Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44).

### WHEN EVIL BECOMES GOOD

It has been said, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while truth is putting on its shoes." We are living in a world in which people would rather hear a lie that suits their own fancy than the truth which doesn't. The Bible foretold this would happen: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will



heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 4:3, 4).

So we see that the "easy" life leads to one of self-indulgence. And what is at the end of that road? It's on the horizon today, a vehement voice taking the world by storm. It is the voice of "those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20), of those who "say, 'Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them'" (Malachi 2:17). Have you seen it? Have you experienced it? Have you heard it?

It's the voice that suggests that obedience to God is legalistic and calls those who follow Him intolerant, haters, and bigots, that "[thinks] it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Peter 4:4). Most concerning, this voice is often proceeding from professed Christians. These are the ones the Bible calls "a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits'" (Isaiah 30:9, 10).

Yet this is nothing new. Throughout history, the lives of those surrendered to the will of God have rebuked ease-lovers, provoking them to murderous rage—"righteous Abel" (Matthew 23:35), faithful Stephen (Acts 7:51-58), the stalwart John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-19), and most of all Jesus Christ Himself (John 8:45-59).

Are we seeing the tide of persecution rising once more? "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21); what you love, you will protect. How much do people love that "easy" life? Are they willing to die for it? To kill for it? Paul asked, "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16).

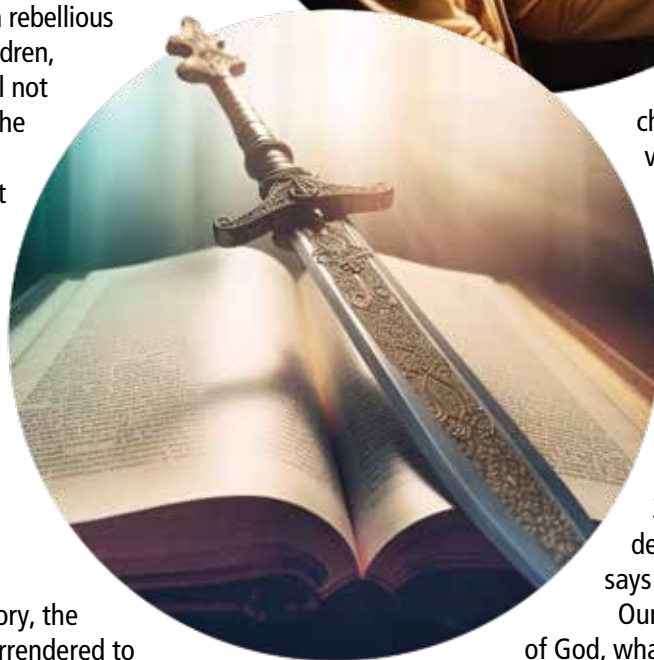
## PREACH THE WORD

Yes, it is a hard fact that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). But, friend, this does

not excuse us from our high and worthy calling to proclaim "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). God says, "I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me" (Ezekiel 33:7). We are charged: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

Let us be as Micaiah, that courageous prophet of God in the time of Ahab, king of Israel. Micaiah alone stood fearlessly against a throng of 400 false prophets. Despised by Ahab "because he [did] not prophesy good concerning [the king], but evil" (1 King 22:8), the prophet nonetheless boldly declared, "As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak" (v. 14).

Our duty is to tell the truth from the Word of God, whatever the consequences may be. "Preach the word!" (2 Timothy 4:2). Today's false prophets have turned the Bible into a consumer gadget to be used for our convenience. But the Word of God does not pander to the deceitful human heart (Jeremiah 17:9). "The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged





sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12); it is meant to transform. And it is to be more precious to us than political correctness, than popularity, than our rights.

One Christian author summed it up: “The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”<sup>3</sup>

## SAVING TRUTHS

Just as important—though often overlooked—is *how* we tell the truth. Do we rebuke with the aim of proving a brother or sister wrong, to make ourselves feel or look better? If we do, then we are just like those who lust after the “easy” life. No! We are instructed: “If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness” (Galatians 6:1). True Christians are always “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15), ever representing Jesus, who said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten” (Revelation 3:19). The motive makes all the difference.

God’s motive is love. God rebukes you because He loves you; and because He loves you, He has saved you (Ephesians 2:4, 5). Said the Lord to smooth-talking prophets, “With lies . . . you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way *to save his life*” (Ezekiel 13:22, emphasis added). The purpose of rebuking sin with truth is to save life. It is not to win an argument—but to win souls to God’s kingdom!

Our conduct must have this same imprint, always keeping in mind that an individual’s eternal destiny is at stake. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Proverbs 27:6).

But take care: Neither should we count ourselves exempt from getting caught up in this lifestyle of ease.

The same Scriptures apply to us. How will we respond when shown our sins of reckless leisure, forbidden pleasure, and lazy craving for convenience? Will we repent and humble ourselves before an Almighty God, or will the persecuted become the persecutor?

## THE “OTHER” SIN OF SODOM

Jesus foretold that conditions in the world before His return would be similar to the time of Lot, who lived in Sodom (Luke 17:28–30). While “sexual immorality” was one of the Sodomites’ obvious sins (Jude 7), it was not the only one for which they were judged.

Ezekiel tells us that they were preoccupied with a selfish love of leisure: “Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy” (Ezekiel 16:49).

Is this not a parallel to Laodicea, the church of the last days? “You say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17). Soothing lies have cocooned a people who think they are safe and secure. In reality, they are in a fatal free

*(Continued on page 16.)*



“If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.”

*Galatians 6:1*

# PROPHECY WATCH

- “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon” (Revelation 13:11). Students of Bible prophecy recognize this verse as symbolizing the United States of America, a nation founded on the crownless “horns” of religious and civil liberty—Protestantism and republicanism—due to the separation of church and state. But they also know that the Bible foretells the gradual dissolution of that separation, resulting in a persecuting religiopolitical power “[speaking] like a dragon.”

It doesn’t take a scholar to realize that this dissolution is occurring presently. A January article in *Time* compared the current state of America to the lead-up of “the merging of Christianity and state power in Rome,”<sup>1</sup> which produced the Dark Ages, or, in Scripture, the 1,260-year prophecy. The loaded term of “Christian nationalism” is fast becoming a prominent headline, fueled by such statements as this congresswoman’s: “The church is supposed to direct the government. ... I’m tired of this separation of church and state junk.”<sup>2</sup> Poli-sci professor David Campbell stated that the term is now used to “[provide] a religious or quasi-religious justification for policies.”<sup>3</sup> He observed, “There is increasing evidence that for the first time peoples’ politics are dictating their religious choices—not the other way around.”



It’s not a question of if, but when, this chasm between church and state will close. And when it does, what “times and law” (Daniel 7:25) will this dragon-like beast change?

- “As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37). In “the days of Noah,” the Bible tells us, “the earth was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11) because “every intent of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil continually” (v. 5). Christ further explained, “Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders” (Matthew 15:19). In God’s Word the heart is equated with the mind. (See also 1 Chronicles 28:9; Hebrews 8:10.)

Experts are increasingly showcasing the connection between violence and one’s mental state. An article by clinical and forensic psychologist Joni E. Johnston examined the link between homicide and narcissistic personality disorder, referencing, among others, the recent cases of Alex Murdaugh, convicted of murdering his wife and son, and Bryan Kohberger, facing trial for four student murders.<sup>4</sup> *The Atlantic* published an opinion piece entitled “The Narcissism of the Angry Young Men” on the stand-out common denominator behind some of the deadliest killers of recent years.<sup>5</sup>

How long before people’s selfish thoughts perpetuate into a constant stream of loveless violence in a replica of antediluvian corruption?

1 Jared Yates Sexton, “Christian Nationalism’s Popularity Should Be a Wake Up Call,” January 28, 2023, <https://time.com/6250769/christian-nationalism-popularity-wake-up-call/>.

2 Brad Dress, *The Hill*, June 28, 2022, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/3540071-boebert-says-she-is-tired-of-separation-between-church-and-state-the-church-is-supposed-to-direct-the-government/>.

3 Christian Thorsberg, “A Christian nationalist wave is testing U.S. secularism, overlapping religion and politics like never before,” *Grid*, September 28, 2022, <https://www.grid.news/story/politics/2022/09/28/a-christian-nationalist-wave-is-testing-us-secularism-overlapping-religion-and-politics-like-never-before/>.

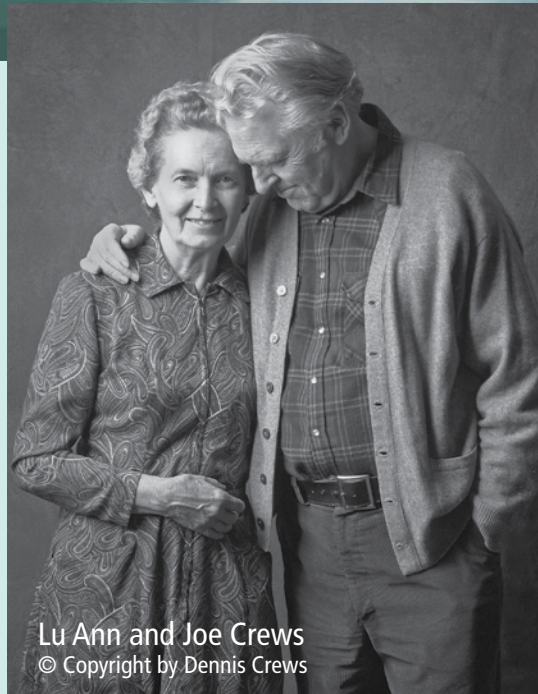
4 “The Hidden Danger of the Homicidal Narcissist,” *Psychology Today*, January 28, 2023, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-human-equation/202301/the-hidden-danger-of-the-homicidal-narcissist>.

5 Tom Nichols, January 29, 2023, <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/01/lost-boys-violent-narcissism-angry-young-men/672886/>.

# Amazing Facts News to Note

## Lu Ann Crews Passes to Her Rest

Lu Ann Crews, the wife of Amazing Facts' first speaker, Joe Crews, passed away on December 30, 2022. As a loving wife to a busy pastor and ministry director, Lu Ann supported God's work in many ways behind the scenes. She was shy but practical, from nursing and budgeting to household repairs and large-scale gardening. She lived an incredibly productive life, including serving as a copyeditor for the *Inside Report* for many years. The staff here at Amazing Facts looks forward to when Joe and Lu Ann are reunited on Resurrection Day and meet all the people they reached for Jesus through their ministry at Amazing Facts, church, and in their communities. *Picture supplied and copyrighted by Dennis Crews.*



Lu Ann and Joe Crews  
© Copyright by Dennis Crews

## Pastor Doug Speaks for General Conference Week of Prayer

Pastor Doug got down to the nuts and bolts of witnessing for Christ when he conducted "I Will Go: Be the Witness," this year's Week of Prayer for the employees of the General Conference, held March 20 to 23 in Silver Spring, Maryland. He shares, "It was an honor to speak to the leadership of the world church and provide a week of inspiration."

## AFCOE Training and Evangelism

Beginning August 18, AFCOE will put on a full, three-month outreach training in Granite Bay, Calif., culminating in a full evangelistic series by Pastor Doug. The series, entitled *Pinnacle of Prophecy*, starts October 27 and will be an awesome opportunity for students to work with Pastor Doug to win souls for Jesus. Registration for training is open at AFCOE.org, or call 916-209-7234 for more information.

## Amazing Facts Summit Boldly Holds the Line

In a culture of compromise, even church members can buckle under pressure.



That's why the Amazing Facts Summit "Holding the Line" focused on helping Christians stand firm on Bible truth at a time when it isn't easy. Held April 21 and 22 at the packed Granite Bay Hilltop Church, the weekend featured speakers Pastor Doug; Elder Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference; and Clifford Goldstein, editor of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide.

## AFCOE Journeys to Jamaica for Camporee

From April 4 to 8, more than 10,000 youth gathered at Trelawny Stadium in Montego Bay, Jamaica, for the Inter-American Division Camporee "Pathfinders in Mission." Carlos Muñoz, Daniel Hudgens, and Tony Scarpino from Amazing Facts delivered bold messages on personal evangelism. "We were thrilled to have the opportunity to study the Bible with these youth," said Daniel, AFCOE's assistant director.



## AFY Conference a Huge Blessing for Youth!



Many young people are losing their true identity in Christ to social media, which is why Amazing Facts presented *EYEDentity: Changed by Beholding*, our youth conference that took place June 7 to 10 at the Granite Bay Hilltop Church, featuring presentations from Pastor Doug, Dwayne Lemon, Carissa

Vitorović, and more. Thousands of youth attended for worship, fellowship, music, outreach, and life-transforming messages with like-minded Christians!

# TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE



**Amazing Facts with Doug Batchelor** (Times marked in black)  
**Bible Answers Live** (Times marked in orange)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	10:30 AM PT <b>7:00 PM PT LIVE</b> 10:30 PM PT	3:30 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT	<b>2:00 PM PT</b>	<b>2:00 AM PT</b> <b>11:00 AM PT</b> 10:00 AM PT 10:00 PM PT	<b>6:00 AM PT</b> <b>2:00 PM PT</b> 6:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT
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	8:30 AM ET						
		9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	9:00 AM ET	

## ONLINE

Watch Bible programming you can trust at [AFTV.org](http://AFTV.org). Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on your computer, iPhone, iPad, ROKU, and more!

## RADIO

**Bible Answers Live** airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM PT. It is a live call-in radio program during which you can ask Pastor Doug a Bible question and get a biblical answer. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate. You can also watch live on AFTV!



# Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



## How do we handle those commands of God that seem unreasonable or too hard?

Children often feel that some of their parents' requirements are unreasonable.

For example, "Don't play in the street" seems restrictive, but in later years, the child, no doubt, understands the reasoning and motive behind that rule.

We are "children" in dealing with God. He tells us, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Since He can see the end from the beginning, God knows the ultimate results of poor choices. He knows all the traps of temptation that could cause us harm. We need to trust our loving heavenly Father in the few areas we might not understand and stop "playing in the street" if that is what He asks of us.

God's rules are not arbitrary; they are for our benefit, to keep us from doing destructive things. God wants only to bless us. The Bible says, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; ... no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). The new birth is the key: "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4). Obeying our Savior is having faith in Him, even when we are not clear on His reasons; and that, the Bible says, gains us ultimate victory.

Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area or to listen to answers online, visit [amazingfacts.org](http://amazingfacts.org).



## How do I share Bible truth with friends?

First, let's discuss what we *shouldn't* do when sharing our faith: argue. When hearts are proud or stubborn, we dig in and fight—no matter what creative, logical arguments are presented.


So don't preach *at* people and don't be arrogant.

Remember, you were once in their position (Ephesians 2:13).

There are three specific things we can do to share God with those we care about:

**Be a true friend and listen.** Then, if they are open to it, share information. The Bible says, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to know when to speak and what to say. Share with your friends what God has done for you. Sometimes sharing a book or DVD works best for those who are argumentative.

**Be a good example.** Be like Christ. Did Jesus win people over by getting angry at them for disagreeing with Him? No way! If love is your motivation, people will notice. "In all things [show] yourself to be a pattern of good works; ... [use] sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you" (Titus 2:7, 8).

**Pray for your friends** consistently and patiently. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Remember, we can't see things the way God does. Sometimes it takes months or years for Him to reach those we love. Trust that He wants to save your friends even more than you do. Don't give up. 

# Newest Products from Amazing Facts!



## Amazing Three Angels' Messages: Understanding Revelation 14 DVD & Book Set

*Amazing Facts.* Relive the first-ever Amazing Facts Summit with a four-DVD set of compelling presentations by Pastor Doug Batchelor and others, plus AFCOE's thought-provoking 13-lesson book to guide you through the urgent truths of the three angels' messages. Products also available separately.

**DV-RFWSET ... \$29.95**  
**DVD Only | DV-RFW ... \$24.95**  
**Book Only | BK-RFW ... \$10.95**

### BULK PRICING:

10+ \$9.95 ea.  
 50+ \$6.95 ea.



## INSPIRATION: The Bible's Greatest Stories DVD Series

*Doug Batchelor.* Genuine heroes are in short supply! These 10 uplifting presentations on three DVDs examine the lives of inspirational Bible characters who point us to Jesus Christ and show us how to live holy lives in preparation for His soon return.

**DV-INS ... \$24.95**



## America's 11th Hour DVD Series

*Scott Ritsema.* America's rise was prophesied—but so was the demise of its principles. In four messages chock-full of Bible facts, Scott Ritsema takes you through a fascinating study of what's really happening in America in these last days and the crucial role of God's remnant church.

**DV-A11H ... \$24.95**

## Earth's Final Warning: The Three Angels of Revelation Magazine

*Amazing Facts.* This bestselling sharing magazine exploring the end-time messages of Revelation 14 is packed with Scripture, fascinating facts, and colorful graphics, perfect for sharing with neighbors, friends, and family.

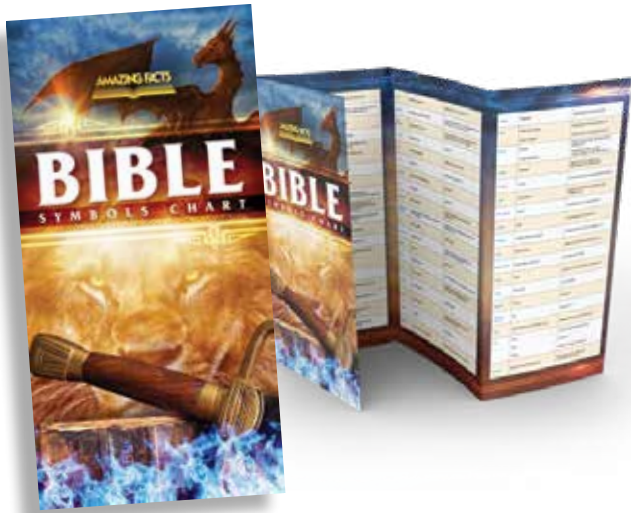
**BK-3AMR ... \$3.49**

### BULK PRICING:

10+ \$2.95 ea.	500+ \$1.50 ea.
25+ \$2.45 ea.	1,000+ \$1.20 ea.
50+ \$2.10 ea.	5,000+ \$1.15 ea.
100+ \$1.95 ea.	



# Newest Sharing Tracts!



## Bible Symbols Chart Foldout: Symbols and Numbers of the Bible

*Amazing Facts.* Studying prophecy? This handy fold-out chart has an extensive list of Bible symbols, their meanings, and the Scriptures that go along with them. This chart is a perfect companion to the *Panorama of Prophecy* Bible lessons but also excellent as a stand-alone resource.

And with its BibleProphecyTruth.com link, it makes a great outreach tool!

**MS-BSC ... \$0.99**

### **BULK PRICING:**

10+ \$0.75 ea.

50+ \$0.50 ea.

## Are You Safely Sailing? Tract (100/pack):

*Amazing Facts.* Share this encouraging leaflet with someone going through trials. Featuring practical tips from five well-known biblical accounts, it's a helpful guide through life's roughest storms.

**MS-AA ... \$9.95**



## Forgiveness & You Tract (100/pack)

*Amazing Facts.* In a world rife with division, this all-important tract includes five eye-opening truths to inspire real healing in your relationship with God and with others.

**MS-FY ... \$9.95**



## Three Final Warning Messages to Planet Earth Tract (100/pack)

*Amazing Facts.* The three angels' messages are now available in a single power-packed tract. Place God's last-day warning directly into the hands of lost and searching souls!

**MS-3AMR ... \$9.95**

Visit **AFBOOKSTORE.COM**

or call **800-538-7275** to order or learn more.

**Shipping Information:** Please add **15%** of sales value or **\$5.50** (whichever is higher) for shipping & handling.

California residents, please add 7.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the U.S. and Canada, add 25% or \$10 (whichever is higher) for foreign postage. Some items may require additional shipping costs and delivery time due to weight.

(Continued from page 9.)

fall. The “easy” life makes just one thing easy: buying a one-way ticket to the grave.

God warns us, “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. ... They speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You shall have peace”’; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you’” (Jeremiah 23:16, 17). How wrong they are, “for when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them. ... And they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

And neither will those who believe their lies. There is a fast-approaching final judgment that will cause the “sudden destruction” of all those cherishing their easy-breezy platitudes. Our gracious God is asking, “The

prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” (Jeremiah 5:31).

I urge you, friend, to take these four steps to guard against being lured into that easy life of self-destruction:



**KNOW** the Word: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV). Instead of feasting on the fast foods of falsehood, find nourishment in the wholesome Word of life.



**LOVE** the Word: “I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12). Instead of becoming addicted to the fanciful and fictitious, learn not to live without the law of God.



**FOLLOW** the Word: “I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8). Instead of languishing in a Laodicean daze, serve the Lord with all your heart and all your might.



**SERVE** Your Neighbor: “Share your bread with the hungry[;] ... bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, ... cover him, and [don’t] hide yourself from your own flesh” (Isaiah 58:7). Instead of serving self, share the love of God with your fellow man.

In doing so, “then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard” (v. 8). You will cease to be the self-gratifying consumer enslaved to your own desires.

Bible truth may hurt now; it may be uncomfortable and require more than just a push of a button—but it is the only way you will ever experience real peace. “My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:30), Christ declared. Will you take Him at His word?

*“... then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.”*

*Isaiah 58:8*





# Named Memorial Funds

A Powerful Evangelistic Opportunity

**Establishing** a named memorial fund with Amazing Facts is a significantly impactful way to honor an individual while also supporting our many outreach efforts. When you name a fund after a family member or another loved one, it not only serves as a deeply meaningful and lasting memorial, it becomes an effective tool that benefits God's kingdom by exponentially furthering the work of the gospel.

## How a Named Fund Works

Marcellous Govind spent his young life preparing to serve others. Born to Linda Harkess and Salomon Govind of Guyana, South America, he received numerous scholastic awards during his time at school. And from early on in his education, he sought knowledge that would help him selflessly improve the lives of others. He quickly set his sights on becoming a medical laboratory scientist and was even accepted at Harvard Medical School.

All along, Marcellous had the heart of a crusader, desiring to bring justice and restoration to the hurting. He was passionate about providing health care to the

poor and was eager to end childhood hunger. But tragically, Marcellous passed away as a young adult, before he could make the impact that he had always dreamed of making. All the same, he left behind a legacy of Christlike compassion.

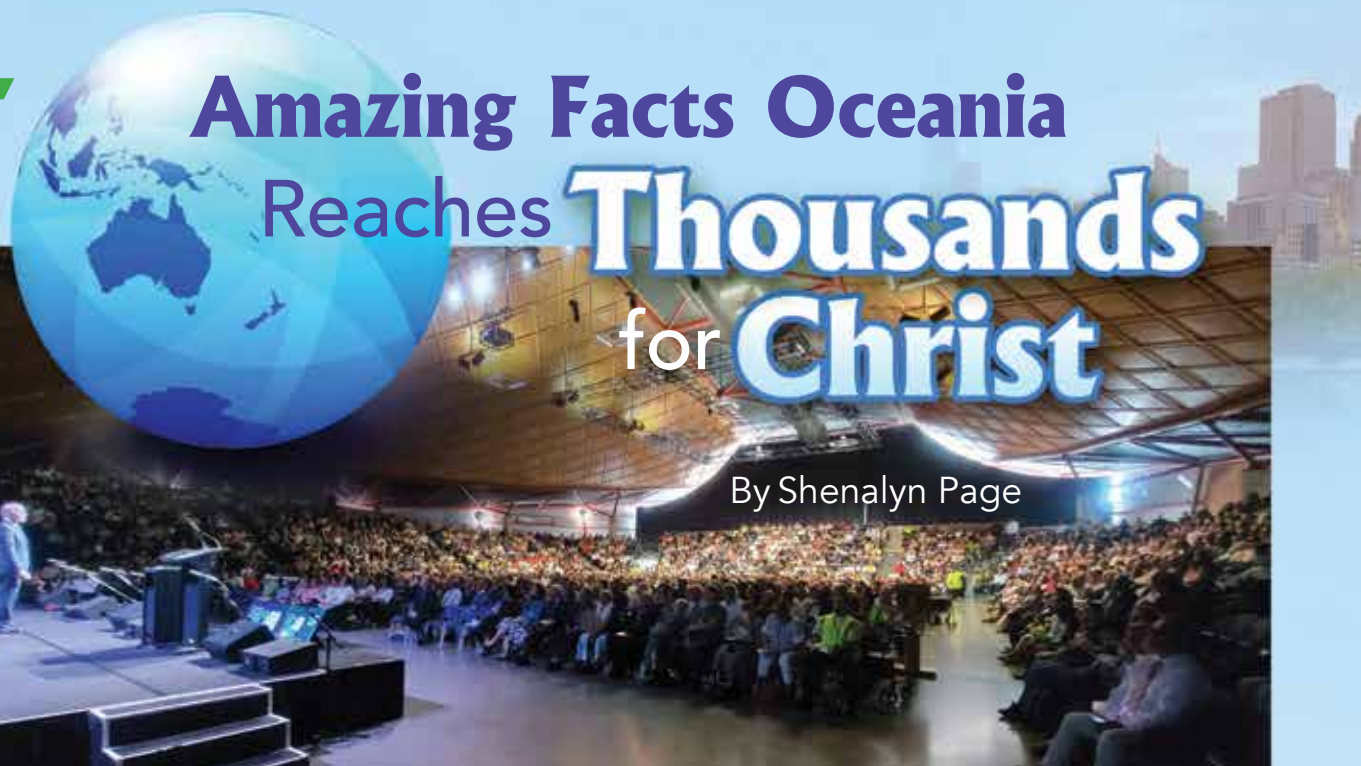
That's why Linda loved working with Amazing Facts to create a named fund in her son's honor: Marcellous Govind's Compassionate Crusader Fund.

While honoring the memory of her precious Marcellous, Linda is also supporting Amazing Facts' vital international work, which seeks to lift people out of darkness—just as her Marcellous sought to do with his life.

With a gift of \$25,000 or more, you can establish your own named fund at Amazing Facts. Such a fund can be replenished over time through additional gifts or even a bequest. Either way, your gift qualifies for a charitable income-tax deduction and will immediately benefit the Lord's work.

For more information and to begin establishing your gift fund, contact our Office of Estate and Gift Planning at **800-436-2695** or email [mylegacy@amazingfacts.org](mailto:mylegacy@amazingfacts.org). Our team is standing by to help you begin an evangelism legacy!





# Amazing Facts Oceania Reaches **Thousands** for **Christ**

By Shenalyn Page

## Revival Spreads in Australia and New Zealand!

**W**hat began as a business trip to formally organize Amazing Facts Oceania, the South Pacific arm of Amazing Facts International, quickly became a series of meetings that reached at least 6,000 people with last-day truths. From January 24 to February 6, 2023, Pastor Doug Batchelor and the Amazing Facts evangelism team embarked on the new year preaching to and teaching the people of Oceania in Melbourne and Brisbane, Australia, and Auckland, New Zealand.

"We planned to inaugurate the new board and help get Amazing Facts Oceania kicked off," says Pastor Doug. "We thought maybe we could speak a few times to encourage people along the way. But one thing led to another, and we ended up in some really big venues. We had no idea whether anyone would come, but every place we preached ended up overflowing."

Adds Pastor Jëan Ross, Amazing Facts' vice president of evangelism, "God turned it bigger than we ever imagined!"

At one of the meetings, five former Salvation Army pastors attended. All had left their denomination, having decided to accept biblical truth. Now they are boldly going forward, bringing those truths to others by sharing Amazing Facts YouTube videos and magazines. This and many other testimonies like it have Charmaine Wigglesworth, Amazing Facts Oceania's new operations manager, exclaiming, "We give God all the praise!"

### Building on a Long History Down Under

Amazing Facts began sharing the gospel in the South Pacific more than 30 years ago under the leadership of Joe Crews. Since then, Pastor Doug has spoken in Australia six times.

"Our materials have primarily been available by video," explains Pastor Doug. "Things began to change about eight years ago, though, when we were able to start airing our programs on Australian national television. Sam Godfrey, a former VP of marketing for Hyundai, had attended AFCOE and worked at our Amazing Facts headquarters for several years. When he and his family returned to their homeland in Australia, I asked Sam if he could get us on TV. Sam worked his connections and got us a 30-minute slot every Sunday morning on one of the three main TV stations. Thirty million people have had access to our programs every week!"

Thus, Amazing Facts Oceania was born. Hope Channel and First Light in New Zealand also began regularly airing Amazing Facts programming. By 2019, Amazing Facts Oceania had grown leaps and bounds and was ready to become an official branch of the ministry. Plans were in place to visit when COVID-19 hit, and everything came to a halt. Or so it seemed.

People began searching for truth as never before. "Our programming took off in Australia and New Zealand over the last two years," says Pastor Doug. "Between the internet, YouTube, national television, and satellite TV stations like 3ABN and Hope Channel, things just went into orbit."

At the beginning of 2023, that much-delayed in-person inauguration with Pastor Doug and the team finally became a reality. Amazing Facts Oceania was officially announced as a full-fledged nonprofit charity with new headquarters in Brisbane. The branch continues to manage Amazing Facts' media presence in the South Pacific as well as publish printed materials and host a Bible school. It also now runs the

Oceania branch of the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE), launched during Pastor Doug's recent trip.

### AFCOE Oceania Launched

The team began their visit Down Under with the inaugural AFCOE Oceania class, where students had the opportunity to learn from both Pastors Doug and Jëan. Pastor Jëan focused on our unique calling to share the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 with the world in these last days, and Pastor Doug showed how Jesus Christ is revealed in every part of biblical history.

"We had 14 wonderful students enrolled in the first class," reports Pastor Jëan. "They came from all across Australia. Our goal was to train these Bible workers and lay workers so they could work in evangelism in their local churches across Oceania."

The three-month AFCOE program was hosted at the Gateway Adventist Centre, where students worked with a rapidly growing Sabbath-keeping congregation to hold an evangelistic series for the people of Melbourne.

AFCOE Oceania joins our schools of evangelism in India, Africa, Europe, Indonesia, and the Philippines in training students to gain practical skills in personal and public evangelism, Bible doctrines, Bible prophecy, and community outreach for Christ.

### Packed Meetings and Commitments to Service

After teaching at AFCOE, the pastors then spoke for Adventist Youth for Christ. Held in Melbourne from January 26 to 29, this annual convention gathered together 700 young people. "I made three appeals," says Pastor Doug, "to give their lives to Jesus, to be baptized, and to devote a year to ministry. It was thrilling to see so many make decisions for Christ!" Hundreds stood to dedicate their lives to Jesus, 15 chose to be baptized, and 59 promised to spend a year in service. Another 49 requested Bible studies.

Next, the team traveled up the Gold Coast to Brisbane, where Pastor Doug presented "7 Signs of Christ's Return" to a standing-room-only audience. Hundreds recommitted their lives to Christ, and 169 people requested Bible studies.

The following night, Pastor Doug shared his testimony with more than 700 youth at a local church near Mount Gravatt. "It was wonderful," Pastor Doug reminisces. "The church was overflowing; people were standing in the aisles." Sixty young people stood for the appeal, pledging themselves to a year of full-time ministry. Another 20 requested baptism, and 66 requested Bible studies.

### Auckland Floods Couldn't Stop Evangelism

For their final weekend, the Amazing Facts evangelism team was scheduled for a two-day event in Auckland. But when a year's worth of rain fell in two days, catastrophic flooding ensued. No one knew

whether anyone would even be able to get to the meetings.


"Our team in New Zealand had been dreaming big," says Pastor Doug. "They had rented the huge Due Drop Events Centre and prayed faithfully for weeks in preparation. God answered their prayers. People started coming, and they just didn't stop." He enthuses, "There was an incredible

mixture of nationalities. New Zealand is 80 percent ethnic, so we had Samoans, Fijians, Czechs, Africans, and more."

On Sabbath morning, 2,764 people attended, more than packing the entire center. At the end of his message, Pastor Doug once more appealed—and hundreds more stood in commitment to Christ. Over 700 requested Bible studies, and six requested baptism. An afternoon Q&A à la *Bible Answers Live* allowed people to vote on the topics for which they most wanted answers.

"The trip was truly a blessing. We met so many people that said that Amazing Facts has been influential in helping them come to Christ," reflects Pastor Jëan.

"I literally met thousands of people," adds Pastor Doug. "It was thrilling to hear their stories of how God has used Amazing Facts to turn their lives around. We are excited to see what God will continue to do in the South Pacific."

Our team thanks our faithful donors for making international outreach possible! 



AFCOE Oceania class of 2023



# CHAMPIONS OF TRUTH



"Our world needs consistent, valiant light-bearers for Jesus. As millions around the world are held captive in sin and darkness, *you* carry the light of truth that can set them free."

—Pastor Doug Batchelor

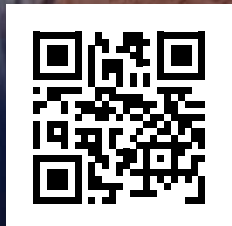
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### Champions of Truth are ...

- **Committed partners** who play a winning role in the worldwide evangelism work of Amazing Facts through generous monthly support

- **Spiritual warriors** who pray regularly for the ministry and for Christ's truth to penetrate hearts

**Active defenders** of the faith, equipped with exclusive access to Amazing Facts magazines, books, and more that help them share their faith



Learn how you can  
become a Champion!

[afchampions.org](http://afchampions.org)

# Volunteer Spotlight

By Shenalyn Page



**A**mazing Facts is blessed to have many wonderful volunteers. They dedicate time to helping us share the last-day truths important for our world today. Meet one of them—Jo Allen, whose smiles and faithfulness delight all of us who are privileged to work with her.

*This interview has been consolidated for clarity.*

**Amazing Facts (AF):** How did you first hear about Amazing Facts?

**Jo Allen (JA):** In my new apartment complex, I found a small brochure from Amazing Facts offering Bible studies. I had just retired from working at San José State University for over 30 years and moved to Roseville to be near my daughter and her family.

I was intrigued, so I requested the studies. I'd also seen Pastor Doug on TV a few times. I studied all the lessons. When Pastor Doug said to look for a local church, I pulled out my yellow pages and started searching. I finally found the address for the Roseville Sabbath-keeping church and went searching for it. I couldn't find it! I must have driven up and down the street a dozen times. Finally, I stopped and prayed, "God, please help me find this church!" I found it right away after that and have been a member there for 10 years now.

**AF:** Praise God! What a beautiful story of God's leading in your life. What led you to start volunteering with us?

**JA:** Rosie, a friend of mine at the Roseville church, invited me to join her. I'd never volunteered anywhere before,

so I wondered if I could do it. But the supervisor made it really easy for me.


**AF:** What do you do when you come to volunteer each week?

**JA:** I come every Monday and Wednesday. Sometimes I come on Thursday too, if they need me. I work in the warehouse, helping to ship out people's orders. All the materials have been gathered already for me, so I just stuff the envelopes and get them ready to ship.

**AF:** You've been volunteering here for 10 years now. What keeps you coming back?

**JA:** I like it! I enjoy the people here. Everyone is so nice and so grateful. They are always thanking us for our help. I just think it's a blessing to be able to help at Amazing Facts because it is a neat ministry.

Thank you for your faithfulness, Jo! You are a blessing to all of us too.

If you live in our local area and would like to volunteer your time to help share God's Word, please call 916-209-7201 to discover the volunteering positions we have available. 

*I stopped and prayed, "God, please help me find this church!"*

# Ready or Not!

"No homework today," your teacher says just before you leave school for the day.

Yay! But what if your teacher says the same thing the next day—and the next? What if all your teachers give you permission to listen to music, watch videos, and chat with friends instead of opening your textbooks during class? Recess is extra-long, and there are no tests.

Now suppose this goes on for a few years. You're getting easy A's on your report cards, and your parents are proud of you. Occasionally, you wonder if you should be learning something, but when you ask, your teacher replies, "Don't worry. You're a great kid. Have fun!"

Then one day something new happens: Your dad gets a new job, and you have to go to a new school. Suddenly, you can't keep up with the schoolwork and are flunking all the tests. You're way behind other students your age, so you're dropped back a few grades. What would you think about your old school then?

Did you know some churches are like the "fun" school we imagined? Except the result can be much worse than having to repeat grades! The leaders of these churches don't teach people what they need to know about God and being saved. "God loves everyone," they might say, "so you don't need to worry about keeping His law. After all, Jesus did that for us." That's what you'd call a half-truth. God *does* love everyone—but does that mean we shouldn't keep His law? Crack the code below to find out what Jesus said about this.



Some churches never talk about sin—wrongdoing—because they don't want to offend anyone. They don't talk about the judgment or what happens to the lost at Jesus' second coming. Instead, they use "smooth talk" to make people happy and comfortable. Sadly, as a result, many people won't be ready when Jesus arrives.

So how can you tell if something is really true—whether you hear it from preachers, teachers, or friends? How can you be sure *you're* ready to meet Jesus when He returns? The answer is in this verse, but it's written funny! You've got to start at the end and read it backward. (Use a mirror to help if you need to!)

**"HTAP YM OT THGIL A DNA TEEF YM OT PMAL A SI DROW RUOY"**

Psalm 119:105

That's right! Only God's Word—the Bible—can guide you away from things that aren't true and show you the way to be saved. Most important, it will help you get to know Jesus as your best Friend!



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**CODE** ▶

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# POWER UP with GREENS!

By Laurie Lyon

**“Eat** your veggies!” our parents said. Turns out, they were right.

According to the government’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans, only about 10 percent of us eat enough vegetables to qualify our diet as healthy. In particular, nearly four out of five fall short in the leafy greens category.<sup>1</sup>

While those with certain medical conditions need to be selective in and/or limit their intake of greens, for most of us there’s room for improvement!

Generally low in calories and high in nutrition, greens are excellent for balancing our diets and helping us keep off excess weight. High in fiber, they fertilize gut flora and improve digestion. Many are also superior sources of vitamins, like A, B6, C, K, and folate, and minerals, like calcium, iron, potassium, and magnesium. Broccoli, kale, cabbage, spinach, arugula, beet greens, Swiss chard, collards, and most lettuces all score high on the nutrition scale. The general rule is: The darker the green, the more nutrient punch it packs.

In addition, their high levels of phytonutrients, like carotenoids, glucosinolates, sulforaphane, and other powerful antioxidants, guard against cell damage, bolster the immune system, fight inflammation, and help ward off disease. Recent research even suggests that regular consumption of greens may help to slow cognitive decline.<sup>2</sup>



## THE RIGHT AMOUNT

How much should we consume? The USDA’s latest recommendation is a minimum of one and a half cups of greens per week. Many people, however, can benefit from more. For instance, Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, who directs the Cleveland Clinic’s Heart Disease Reversal Program, recommends that his patients with atherosclerosis, a type of heart disease affecting artery walls, eat six small portions of cooked, dark green, leafy veggies *daily* in order to boost the production of nitric oxide, which, in turn, can protect and heal the critical endothelial cells that line arteries.<sup>3</sup>

Why aren’t many of us getting enough greens? In our fast-track world, they can be time-consuming to prepare, or we’re simply not in the habit of using them. Here are a few tips to power up your diet with sufficient greens:

1. Plan ahead. Choose a few varieties that you like best. Since fresh greens can be bulky, make room in the fridge before purchasing them.
2. Save time! Buy prewashed greens.
3. Freeze your greens or buy them frozen. Most can keep for almost a year.
4. Greens are incredibly versatile. Use them in salads, sandwiches, dips, sauces, even smoothies; steam, stir fry (use water if avoiding oil), or just eat them raw.

In His wisdom, God gave us “every herb that yields seed” (Genesis 1:29) as an essential part of our sustenance. Take the time now to reap the health benefits God designed for you. There’s too much good in greens not to! 🌱

1 U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 9th ed. (December 2020), [www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Americans\\_2020-2025.pdf](http://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans_2020-2025.pdf).

2 Martha Clare Morris et al., “Nutrients and bioactives in green leafy vegetables and cognitive decline: Prospective study,” *Neurology* 90, 3 (January 2018): e214-e222, [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5772164/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5772164/).

3 PLANTSTRONG by Engine 2, “Dr. Caldwell B. Esselstyn - Should You Drink Your Greens?” November 9, 2022, podcast, 20:40 to 25:45, <https://youtu.be/QwHnlotNQxY>.



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