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Look at It This Way

C. Mervyn Maxwell

Questions Youth Are Asking Today

SCARED OF THE SECOND COMING

I would like to know why Adventists are always scaring young kids by talking about the second coming of Christ. I mean, literally scaring them. All they talk about is earthquakes coming to devour us, floods to drown us, fireballs to melt us, H-bombs to smash us, and persecutions to torture us. If you were a young child, wouldn't you say, "Forget it!" I have been raised an Adventist all my life and to tell you the truth, I am terrified at the second coming. If God really loved us, He would make His second coming a time of joy.

God will do His best to make it a time of joy.

For one thing, He will give people new bodies that will never get sick again. Philippians 3:21; Revelation 21:4. Wouldn't you like to have a body like that before you grow old and crippled, or even before you catch another cold?

These new bodies will contain greatly improved brains which, we may be sure, will be able to think and remember much more readily than the brains we have now. Come to think of it, wouldn't you like to have a brain like that before your next test?

And, of course, if you should get killed in a motorcycle accident or riot or something before Jesus comes, you can be resurrected. It's fantastic. You'll never have to worry about dying again. You'll be able

to do things, go places all over the universe, live forever. At the second coming, everything you've read in the Bible about heaven will come true.

What you have read about earthquakes and people dying when Jesus comes will also come true, and God doesn't like it any better than you do. He doesn't want to see anybody die. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Ezekiel 33:11.

But He could not give eternal life to hardened sinners. What a mistake it would be to let thieves, sexual deviates, dictators, hoodlums, and con-

firmed hypocrites live on forever and ever! You wouldn't want that!

So the Bible says that God is waiting, and waiting.

What is He waiting for?

For as many people as possible to make up their minds that

they want to be good, that they want to live with Jesus forever, that they want to love people as much as they love themselves. He is waiting for them to choose to really believe His promises and to give their hearts to Him.

When He sees that people have made up their minds one way or the other, then He will come and give eternal life and happiness to those who really want it.

If you really want it, you can have it—and never mind the earthquakes, floods, and persecutions. They won't be able to touch you!

"The day of the Lord is surely coming, . . . and then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise and the heavenly bodies will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be burned up." "But He is waiting, for the good reason that He is not willing that any should perish, and He is giving more time for sinners to repent." "You should look forward to that day." "Try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that He will be pleased with you when He returns." 2 Peter 3:10, 9, 12, 14, Living Bible.

LONG HAIR AND DANCING

I have two questions. (1) Is it wrong to wear long hair? (2) Is it wrong to dance? However you feel to answer, please be free to do so. I will appreciate anything you say. P.S. I'm a boy.

HAIR: The Bible says that ordinarily a man's hair should be shorter than a woman's hair. See 1 Corinthians 11:1-16. How much shorter, it doesn't say.

Incidentally, the Bible also says that everything—presumably including our hair—should be neat and orderly. 1 Corinthians 14:40.

DANCING: Some people say that they like to dance because it is good exercise. This is pretty silly. You can get a lot more exercise in half the time playing ball or riding a bike. The real reason people dance is that it gives them an opportunity to hold someone close. Dancing develops romantic thoughts that often lead to immoral acts. Thoughtful Christians who are really serious about their sex lives do not dance.

IS MONEY THE CAUSE OF ALL SIN?

I don't understand 1 Timothy 6:10, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The love of money is one cause of evil. I can understand that; but it doesn't seem to me that it is the cause of all evil. Aren't there a lot of people doing wrong for reasons that don't have anything to do with money, like getting high on drugs, and sex crimes, and things like that?

Your problem is not with the Bible as such, but with the translation. In the Greek language in which the New Testament was originally written this verse says, "Love of money is a root of all evil."

The passage in which this verse

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Would you like to ask Mervyn Maxwell to help you find an answer? If so, send your question to:

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It is not possible to answer all letters in the "Signs"; and publishing procedures being what they are, answers published in this column may not appear until several months after you send in your question. If you want to be sure of receiving an answer to your particular question, be certain to give your address when writing.

occurs is a warning that people who are too eager to get rich soon find themselves doing all sorts of wrong things in order to get money. The point is not that behind every sin lies the love of money, but that the love of money can ultimately lead a person into any kind of sin.

The Living Bible quite accurately translates the verse this way: "The love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin."

