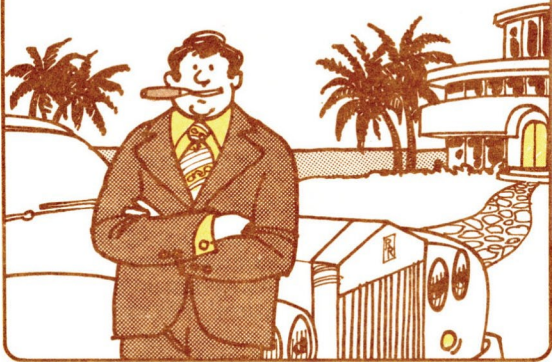


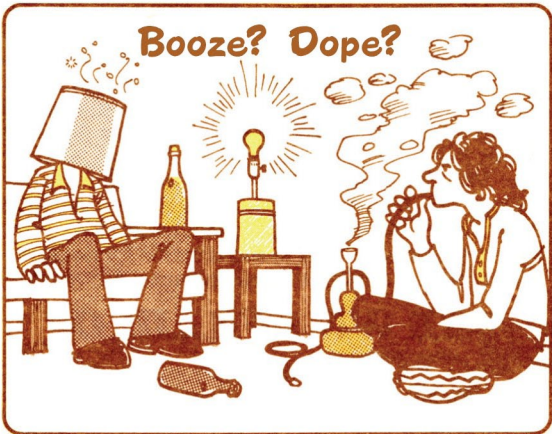
WHAT FILLS THE VOID?



Money?



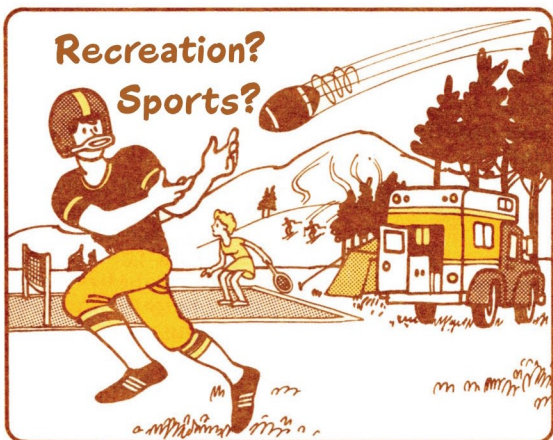
Booze? Dope?



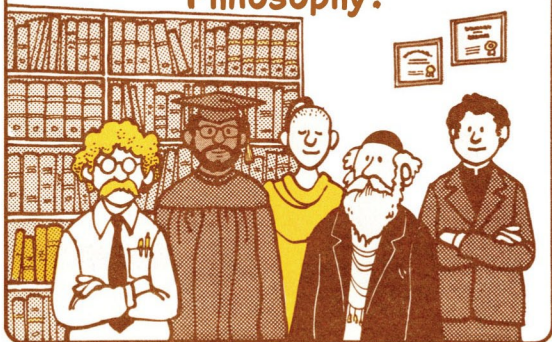
Sex?



**Recreation?
Sports?**



Religion? Knowledge? Philosophy?



ALL of us have an empty space inside that needs to be filled. We can try any of these solutions offered by our societies (most of us have!) but the emptiness persists, growing wider and darker.

WHY? People are designed in such a way that they are governed by both natural and spiritual laws. It is obvious that the laws of nature compel us to seek food, shelter, and sleep for survival. Less obvious, but just as real, are the spiritual laws that have driven people of every generation and culture to grope for something to satisfy their inner hunger.

When we fail to cooperate with spiritual laws an unexplainable discontent creeps into every area of our

lives. Some people try to cover up this emptiness by getting so engrossed in their work or activities that they are too busy to think about it. Others try as many experiences and pleasures as they can, hoping to find that mysterious something we're all searching for. Still others try to anesthetize their feelings or escape life altogether through alcohol, meditation, drugs, neurosis, or suicide.

SOUL & FOOD

None of these endeavors removes the root of the problem because they deal only with the symptoms.

There is a solution! We must recognize the innate spiritual hunger designed into us by our Creator and look to Him to satisfy it!

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst! If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink; he shall have ²RIVERS² of living water flowing from his innermost being!"*

With an offer as desirable as that, it's puzzling that humans have insisted on devising some sort of happiness apart from God. Why do they consistently avoid Him? Why do some argue so fiercely that He does not even exist?

ARE WE AFRAID OF GOD?

Many people find it pleasant to believe in a great Mental Force or Absolute Goodness that regulates the universe but never interferes with

anyone's personal affairs. They want something comfortable—sort of a tame god that will not bother them when they do something shabby. The only problem is that unless the Power behind the world detests greed and injustice, it cannot be good or loving. And if it is good, then it must hate most of what we do, for our selfish actions make us enemies to that goodness every day. (This is the essence of sin, namely to miss the mark of perfection and maturity that our Creator intended for us).*

We are caught in a pitiful predicament: God is the thing we most need. He is also the thing that we most want to hide from! He is the only comfort, yet our sin keeps us exiled from Him.†

GOOD NEWS!

God's compassion compelled Him to build a bridge of reconciliation for us without regard to cost.†† He did not spare even His own Son, Christ Jesus, who humbly took the form of a man and satisfied every demand of perfection that God required. Then God laid the sins of all of us on Christ so that we would not have to suffer the consequences of them. Christ suffered horrible anguish for us by being nailed to a wooden cross and dying, as God condemned sin.

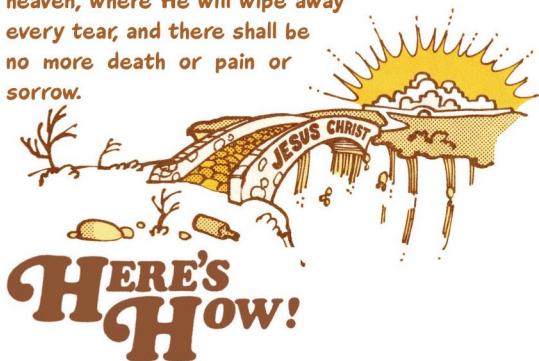
That was not the end though: Death could not possibly hold Christ in its clutch. After three days God overruled death and raised Christ back to life, giving Him authority over all things, both in heaven and on earth.

* Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8

† Isaiah 59:2

†† Colossians 1:19-22

Now through the Lord Jesus Christ we may draw near to God to receive forgiveness and experience wonderful peace in Him.* But we must actively choose to trust and follow Him. Those who **RESPOND** to God's love on earth will also live forever with Him in heaven, where He will wipe away every tear, and there shall be no more death or pain or sorrow.



HERE'S HOW!

1. Admit that your sin has alienated you from God.
2. Be willing to turn from sin and toward God.
3. Believe that Jesus suffered for your sin when He gave His life on the cross and rose from the dead.
4. Ask God to forgive you, to come into you, and to make you a new person.
5. Believe that God has heard your prayer, and now let Him take control of every aspect of your life. Having a willing and obedient



attitude is the only way God can lead you into His love, joy, and peace. And whatever you must leave behind in following Him will always prove in the end to be worth exactly nothing.



PRAY: *Dear Lord Jesus,
Come into my heart, forgive all my sins,
wash me in Your blood, write my name in the
Book of Life, and fill me with the Holy Spirit so
I can serve and obey You. Amen*

THIS IS ONLY the introduction to a wonderful life that awaits you! To experience all God has for you:

- Begin reading the New Testament (start at Luke) and let it instruct and guide you daily.
- Talk to God intimately every day, letting Him know your needs and the needs of others.
- Meet regularly with other true Christians to receive teaching and encouragement.
- Tell others about what the LORD is doing in your life.

The LORD BLESS YOU!