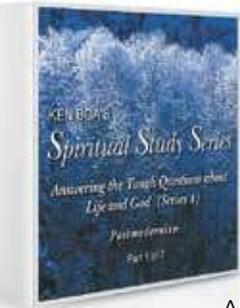


# GET SELECT KEN BOA

These selected titles of the Reflections Spiritual Study Series CD SETS are available for 50% off and are a great resource for personal bible study and small group discussions.



>> *Be sure to take advantage of this great offer while quantities last.*



## Answering the Tough Questions About God, Series 1

Dr. Boa tackles some of the most common objections and questions about Christianity in this first series on Answering the Tough Questions About God, consisting of seven CDs.

**(Complete Set of 7 CDs)**

Topic: Apologetics  
Regular Price was \$70, **NOW ONLY \$35**

## Personal Development Series 2

Get the entire set of Personal Development Series 2 including Humility, parts 1 and 2 on Integrity, Leader Qualifications, Obedience to God, and the sixth CD on Priorities.



**(Complete Set of 6 CDs)**

Topic: Living Out Your Faith  
Regular Price was \$60,  
**NOW ONLY \$30**

All these items can be ordered through our online bookstore at [KenBoa.org](http://KenBoa.org) ([www.kenboa.org/shop/](http://www.kenboa.org/shop/)) (Georgia residents: please add 8% sales tax)



We invite you to visit our **Reflections Ministries** website to see some of the growing number of resources that are available to help you in your thinking and practice.

(Georgia residents: please add 8% sales tax)

[www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)

Please make your checks payable to Trinity House Publishers.  
All prices include shipping and handling.

REFLECTIONS



MINISTRIES



## THE PROMISES OF GOD

A NOW AND FOREVER FAMILY – Mark 3:31-35

There was a day not too many years ago when the definition of “a family” was not debated within the mainstream of society—a family consisted of one father (male), one mother (female), and 2.1 children (male and/or female). Today, the strings wrapping up that neat package have come untied to an alarming degree. And even in the conservative (Christian or otherwise) segments of society where family might still be defined traditionally (biblically), there seems to be little hesitation about breaking the family unit up. Where families began traditionally, divorce and “open family” arrangements are often causing them to end non-traditionally.

The results of the dissolution of the definition are everywhere. Children are being raised with only one parent, or at times by two parents of the same sex. In the case of single-parent homes, the children spend precious little time being “parented” due to the confluence of school and work schedules and other normal interruptions usually shared between two parents. Many of these children are, along with their peers, raising themselves. As a result, a whole generation is growing up with a certain angst which they can’t define. To put it simply, they are insecure—and afraid. The cocoon that was to protect them has been shredded, and the winds and rains of life are soaking them way before their time.

Regardless of your age, you may be one of those people. Perhaps your family was broken apart, and you were catapulted into a new role with new responsibilities that

you did not want. Perhaps you long for the days when family was a place to know and be known, to love and be loved, to give and be given to. Perhaps you’re afraid to turn around, knowing there is no family standing behind you, encouraging you on in life.

If that’s your story, Jesus has good news for you. Those who believe in Him are part of His family. Jesus can be a parent (Isa. 9:6b), a brother (Rom. 8:29b), and a friend (John 15:15). And think of this: Even the best of earthly families are only for a little while—but Jesus’ family is now and forever.

**God’s Promise to You:**  
“Once in My family, always in My family.”

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 275

REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES

One Piedmont Center, Suite 130 • Atlanta, Georgia 30305

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



[www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)



# REFLECTIONS

Reflections on God’s revealed truth

FEBRUARY 2015

God’s  
Kingdom  
WILL  
ENDURE

Lord of history,  
Your name is to  
be blessed and  
exalted forever.  
Your dominion is everlasting and Your kingdom endures from generation to generation. Wisdom and power belong to You and You rule over all the times and the epochs of human history. It is You who removes kings and establishes kings, and no one can withstand Your will and purposes. Therefore, in spite of all appearances to the contrary in this rebellious time in history, I know that You will bring about Your kingdom of righteousness even upon this earth. I ascribe all glory, majesty, dominion and authority to You and exult in hope of the fullness of Your reign. I will embed my time and my culture in this larger whole as I wait on You to fulfill Your glorious promises. Maranatha — come quickly, Lord Jesus.

[www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)

 Biblical teaching for the heart and mind



# THE TEMPORAL AND THE ETERNAL (PART 29)

## Flight Plans, False Goals, and a Life Uncommon

In 1938, an Irish-American pilot named Douglas Corrigan flew his jalopy single-engine plane across the Atlantic Ocean by mistake. Or so the story goes. According to his report to authorities at the airport where he landed, he had made a navigational error because of fog and an inability to see his instruments in the dark. He had filed a flight plan that plotted his course from New York to California, but despite being an experienced pilot, he “mistakenly” flew by the wrong end of the compass needle and didn’t realize it until it was too late to do anything but land where he was—Ireland. When questioned by officials at the airport near Dublin, Corrigan stuck to his story that the whole thing was just a big blunder. Though Corrigan lost his license to fly, he became a national folk hero upon returning to the United States. For Americans, whose spirits had been deflated by the Great Depression, Corrigan’s stunt was comic relief.

Although Corrigan never quite admitted it,

his “mistake” was likely a ruse to circumvent the Federal Bureau of Aviation, who had repeatedly rejected his request to make the trans-Atlantic flight to his parents’ homeland. The nickname “Wrong-Way Corrigan,” stuck, and a year later, he starred in a biopic (*The Flying Irishman*) about his life. We may never know what his intentions were, but his story rang in the ears of the American people, who were desperate for a little laugh and maybe even for a little taste of courage.

Whether we declare them or not, our goals set our course, act as our compass. It behooves us, then, to be sure we choose the right ones. Our culture bombards us with the message that what we see is all there is. The enticing wisdom of this world dictates a certain set of goals: maximize your pleasure and minimize your pain, make a name for yourself, gain money, gain status, gain power. But wisdom from above tells us that we are immortal creatures and that our brief stay on this planet is nothing compared with the eternal existence that awaits us.

The Bible tells us that knowing God is the greatest possible pursuit, that he holds in his right

hand all we could ever want (Psalm 16:11). Jesus urged us, in Matthew 6, to seek his kingdom first and trust that the things we need will be supplied by this same God, who knows everything we need, even when we haven’t asked for it yet.

But having to live in this fallen world, we easily forget and lose our focus. We get caught in the tension between the goals this world would have us set and the goals we would set if we really believed that what the Bible says is true. This is warfare between an earthly, demonic wisdom and a heavenly, divine wisdom (James 3:13-17), and we’re all required to make a choice: on which side of the field are we going to play?

While we’re deciding, let’s look at some of the goals we humans typically seek and try to figure out what’s behind them.

### False Goal #1: Pleasure

Somebody’s knockin’ should I let him in,  
Lord it’s the devil would you look at him  
I’ve heard about him but I never dreamed,  
he’d have blue eyes and blue jeans.

Ahhh, self-indulgence. Whether it’s too much wine, too much ice cream, 28 pairs of Italian leather shoes or too many hits on a website we know we shouldn’t visit, when we pursue pleasure as an end in itself, we use the right things in wrong ways and can end up in real bondage. Country singer and songwriter Terri Gibbs broke the bank with her hit single, “Somebody’s Knockin’,” which promptly became a nationwide favorite. It spoke to a common temptation for every human being who heard it—*sin looks “real good.”*

Erwin Lutzer agreed. He said, “Sin never comes to us properly labeled; it always appears wrapped in a different package and presented as something other than what it is.” Short-term sensual pleasure can bring long-term pain. Eating and drinking for the wrong reasons can lead to addictions. These top the list but are only a few of the distortions Satan would like to use to trap us. He would like us to think that the choices are either the pursuit of pleasure or asceticism (extreme self-denial). But this is all wrong. God isn’t trying to keep us from enjoying life. In fact, he wants us to have life in

abundance. But real abundance never comes by way of self-indulgence. It comes as a byproduct of seeking the one who holds all of our pleasures in his own right hand—forever.

The wise writer of Proverbs tells us that, “He who loves pleasure will become poor” (21:17). Years later, the apostle Paul passed this same wisdom on to Timothy, saying he counted lovers of pleasure among the people he should avoid (2 Tim. 3:4). And Jesus, *The Walking Wisdom of the Ages*, said the pursuit of pleasure can choke out the word of God like thorns choke out good seeds (Luke 8:14). Don’t we usually find all this to be true in our own lives when we seek pleasures instead of seeking God? This pursuit will always, eventually, disappoint. God has made us for himself, and the deepest pleasure we will ever know comes from knowing him.

Surely, as Christians, we should be able to see this. So what’s wrong with us?

*Why do people who are otherwise so decent, smart, and well-intended—yes, even some committed Christians—behave in ways that are stupid, selfish, and self-destructive? And sometimes evil? Why don’t we live up to what we know is right?*

*The answer, quite frankly, is that we are driven not by reason, but by our desires. We do not behave according to what our mind tells us; we obey our passions that cry out for gratification. To quote the words of Woody Allen (who fell in love with his own stepdaughter), “The heart wants what it wants.”*

The fact is that the path of pleasure is not a very difficult one to take. We start down it fully. Why not? It is pleasure. But then, as James says, “each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed” (James 1:14). We start walking leisurely down an enjoyable path, when, out of nowhere, the snakes named Want and Lust twist around our ankles and squeeze until we’re dead. The original problem is, according to James, that we’re the ones who named them. Usually the path to pleasure is only easy to follow in the outbound direction.



## FINDING A CLEAR SENSE OF PURPOSE

In 1902 Meyer Kubelski, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, gave his son a violin for his eighth birthday. It cost Meyer \$50, a small fortune in those days.

The son loved music and soon was playing well enough to give concerts at the Barrison Theater in Waukegan, the town where the Kubelskis lived. By the age of 18 he had teamed up with a woman pianist as a concert team in vaudeville.

One night as Benjamin Kubelski was playing, he felt impelled, between numbers, to tell the audience about a funny incident that had happened to him during the day. “The audience laughed,” he recalled later, “and the sound intoxicated me. That laughter ended my days as a musician.” Jack Benny, as the young Kubelski later called himself, had found his rightful career.

What is God’s purpose for your life? Ask God to give you a clear sense of purpose that combines ability with passion.

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS TO REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES  
For your convenience, you can now make contributions to the work of Reflections Ministries by credit card. You can call the Reflections Ministries office (404-842-0707) or visit our website ([www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)) for more information.

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF KEN BOA’S MEDIA RESOURCES

You can keep in touch with Ken via Twitter at [KennethBoa](https://twitter.com/KennethBoa) or on Facebook at [Kenneth Boa](https://www.facebook.com/KennethBoa).

*A teaching letter of*



**Whether we declare them or not, our goals set our course, act as our compass. It behooves us, then, to be sure we choose the right ones.**