

## The World We Live In

*To many Christians, particularly those who are older, the modern-day United States is becoming an increasingly strange place. My father remembers a time when the people he knew, even if they weren't members of some church of Christ, were at least decent, churchgoing types who subscribed to the same general principles of morality that he did. Today, that moral consensus no longer exists. Increasing numbers of Americans no longer feel bound by the restrictions of God's word, and they are loud in their condemnation of those who still adhere to it.*

*The new era is also marked by large-scale technological change. In particular, the Internet offers us hitherto-unavailable opportunities to serve God, but it brings with it a host of dangers too. Even in other areas, the world we know today is very different from the world our fathers knew.*

*In the midst of all this change, what is a child of God to do? Thankfully, even though the world around us may have changed, the word of God hasn't. The Bible wasn't written specifically to people who lived in the United States in 1950. Instead, its original audience comprised men and women who lived thousands of years ago on the other side of the world from us, in a setting as alien to our brethren 100 years ago as is to us today.*

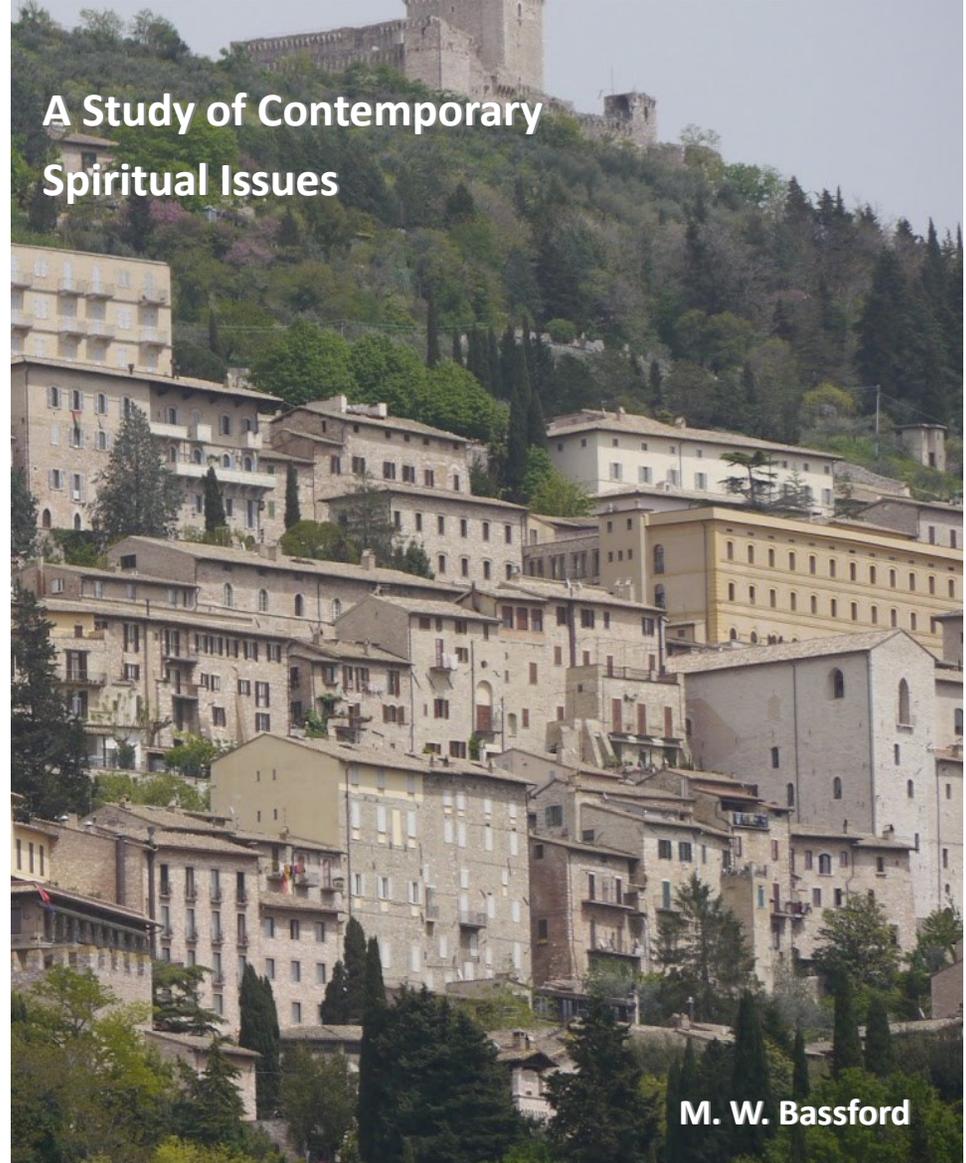
*The genius of the Bible is such that even though it was revealed to a specific time, it speaks to mankind for all time. This is no less true of us. Far from being the obsolete relic of its critics' imaginations, God's word speaks with profound insight on the most modern of topics. Its truths apply with equal relevance to our circumstances. It is still a lamp to our feet and a light to our way, no less so to the Christian of the 21st century than to the Christian of the first.*

## About the Author

*M. W. Bassford lives with his wife, Lauren, his daughter, Zoë, and his son, Mark, in Joliet, Illinois, where he preaches for the Joliet church of Christ.*

# The Christian and the 21st Century

## A Study of Contemporary Spiritual Issues



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