

The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

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Six More Ministers Now Ordained

*Now, for the first time in 750 years, God's complete government
is restored in His Church.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

JANUARY 22nd was a Sabbath that will go down in the eternal history of God's Church and His Kingdom!

On that day, for the first time in 750 years, the government of God was fully restored in His Church. *Every* administrative office which Christ set in His Church is functioning once again.

On that day, at the headquarters Church in Pasadena, six additional God-called, consecrated, Ambassador-College-trained ministers were ordained with fasting and prayer, by the laying on of hands of the ministers previously ordained.

Not Since 1200 A.D.

Historical research reveals that the last remains of God's *complete* government in the *true* Church of God existed around 1200 A.D., among the "Waldenses" (as the Church of God was then called by the world), while the apostle Peter Waldo was still alive.

Some of the administrative offices which Christ set in His Church have continued to the present time. But since the days of Peter Waldo the *entire* form of God's government, as HE set it in His Church, has not been perpetuated.

You find the seven eras, or stages of activity, in the *true* Church of God described by Jesus' prophecy in the second and third chapters of Revelation. Her-

man Hoeh's article in the July, 1953, issue of The GOOD NEWS traced the history of these seven churches—or seven successive stages of the one *true* Church of God—a Church that was always small in number, persecuted, despised by the world.

The "Sardis" Church

Yet even this *true* Church has been composed of *humans*. And by the time of the latter, dying days of the "Sardis" church—the 1860s on through the 1930s—government had degenerated to a form of worldly politics. The church was headed by a "General Conference," and leaders *elected* by *vote* of delegates. It was government of MEN—not of God.

It was during those days, in 1927, that God brought me to complete surrender and conversion. I was brought into contact with the Stanberry church, and into fellowship with the Oregon members. In December, 1930, at their urging, my first evangelistic campaign was held, under their auspices, in Harrisburg, Oregon. I was ordained by the Oregon Conference, and brought full time into the ministry, in the summer of 1931.

I realized they were God's Church. Yet I was extremely troubled and perplexed about two things. Their form of organization, obviously, was not GOD'S

form. Secondly, it began to be clear that their leaders refused to correct doctrinal errors, which they admitted in writing were false teachings. And they also refused to publish or teach their members truths which they admitted, in writing, were *truths*, and "new light" to them.

In a word, they refused to accept correction from the Word of God, and they refused to GROW in knowledge or in grace. As a body they were not overcomers. They preached what they had of the true Message with a "weak whisper" heard by the few, not with the "loud shout," thundered around the world. As an instrument of God, carrying on GOD'S WORK, the Sardis church was now DEAD!

Those of us in Oregon who were obedient in *keeping* God's Word (Rev. 3:8-10), permitting the Bible to correct us, joyfully accepting new light, were separated from persecuting "Sardis" jurisdiction late in 1934. The separation came during the meetings that resulted in the raising up of the Eugene Church, but before it was established. Yet, while we threw off their human government over us, and began from there to follow the principles of GOD'S government, we still made every attempt to fellowship with them for some years. We were rewarded only with op-

position, and every effort by their ministry to destroy the work God was then beginning thru those HE could govern and use.

"Philadelphia" Church—and The OPEN DOOR

Thus the "Philadelphia" era of the Church had its most humble beginning. It started like the "grain of mustard seed." Soon the Church of God at Eugene was raised up.

GOD OPENED A DOOR! A very *small* door, at first. The door of one small 100-watt radio station, KORE, in Eugene, the first Sunday in 1934. Then ANOTHER tiny door. February 1st, the door of the printing press. Or could we, as yet, even call it that? Volume I, Number 1 of the PLAIN TRUTH came out February 1st, 1934. But it wasn't *printed*—in the usual sense of that term. Not for two or three years yet! It was mimeographed, on a borrowed mimeograph, from stencils cut on a borrowed typewriter. There was no "scope," so the headlines were carefully hand-lettered by holding the stencil up to a window-pane! About 250 copies were printed of that first issue.

The questions of church organization, and church government, seem clouded in most minds. Why? GOD is Supreme Ruler. GOD is Sovereign of the universe. WHY cannot men see that GOD should instruct us in the structure of church organization—that the church should be governed by GOD? In the beginning God *decreed* that man must CHOOSE—right or wrong—life or death—God's rule or man's. God *forced* Adam to choose. Adam chose to reject God's government.

Ever since, the sons of Adam have rebelled against being governed by GOD—they have chosen to rule themselves, or be ruled by *men*—not by God! Today we have been born into a world filled with churches—all organized according to *human* ideas—all governed by MEN. We have been so close to these various forms of church organization and human church government that GOD's form has seemed obscure. The question has been perplexing, even to those who honestly were seeking to find the truth.

Yet it is so clear and simple in the Bible.

How God Governs Church

In I Corinthians 12:28, God tells us in plain language:

"And GOD hath set some in the Church, first *apostles*, secondarily *prophets*, thirdly *teachers*, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

Notice, it is GOD who sets these officers and powers in the Church. The

people do not elect officers by vote. GOD *rules* His Church. The people do not rule it. Here three offices are mentioned, apostles, prophets, teachers, then come *powers* which GOD supplies in the Church. God is a miracle-working God. His Church is His instrument for manifesting His POWER, carrying out His COMMISSION.

The true Church of God is that Church which preaches to the world the true GOSPEL—of the GOVERNMENT of God, and of being born into the FAMILY of God. It preaches and publishes it in POWER, not in weakness—with a LOUD SHOUT, not a weak whisper—like THUNDER, not soothing and sleep-inducing. God's Church is a Church where God works MIRACLES, where the sick are really HEALED, even as Jesus set the example.

We find God's government more fully described in Eph. 4:11-12:

"And He gave some, APOSTLES; and some, PROPHETS; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and *teachers*; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ."

We find *prophets* mentioned in the historic portions of the New Testament, but they did not possess administrative powers, and carried no authority. The New Testament Scriptures were not yet written. God used these prophets to convey messages direct from Him to the apostles. We find no prophets in the church today. The written Scriptures are now complete. There seems no need for prophets today. Furthermore, it is GOD who *sets them* in His Church, and if there are none, it is because GOD has not seen fit to set them in His Church. That is GOD's responsibility, not ours.

So, then, that leaves us with the executive and administrative spiritual offices in the Church. These offices of authority, then, are first, *apostle*; second, *evangelist*; third, *pastor*; fourth, *teacher*.

Christ the Living Head

Christ is the *living* HEAD of the Church!

HE sets the apostle in office. But we do find historic example in the New Testament of the apostle setting in office the evangelists, pastors and teachers, and even delegating to the evangelists the responsibility of ordaining pastors and other elders, and deacons.

By a study of other New Testament passages, we learn that there were, besides pastors, both preaching and non-preaching elders in local churches. All elders were *teachers*, but not all were *preachers*.

Also we learn by various Scriptures that *all* these officers are called ELDERS. A non-preaching elder, who must be a leader and apt to teach, is, of course, an

elder. So is the preaching-elder, also the pastor, and also the evangelist. And even Peter, the apostle, was also an elder. In the New Testament the terms *bishop* and *overseer* are synonymous with *elder*.

Now in addition to these *spiritual* offices of administration and authority, THRU WHICH Christ *governs* His Church, we find also the helping offices of deacon and deaconess (I Timothy 2:8-13). The proper translation of Romans 16:1 should be "Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae." These were called to be *helpers*, in physical and material duties. Yet they had to be people filled with the Holy Spirit, and measuring up to Scriptural qualifications.

So there are the COMPLETE offices in God's Church—Christ the HEAD, then *apostles*, *evangelists*, *pastors*, *minister-elders*, *non-preaching elders*, *deacons*, *deaconesses*.

These Offices 750 Years Ago

The last historic record of this *complete* government of God in the true Church is found around 1200 A.D. Because Peter Waldo was the man God raised up as His instrument for His work at that time, the world called the Church by the nick-name "Waldenses." But they themselves recognized only the name "The Church of God."

Peter Waldo occupied the office of APOSTLE. Apparently he, himself, did not claim the title. There is no record of the Church of that time directly using the title. But the historic facts do show that Peter Waldo occupied that office, and through him God exercised that authority. The actual *title* of *Apostle* was used by the Catholics against Peter Waldo. That he carried out the apostolic office in God's Church at the time is clear from the following: ". . . he (Peter Waldo) . . . dared to usurp the office of the apostles, preaching the Gospel and the things he had committed to memory. . . . *He sent men . . . to preach.*" (From page 55 of *A History of the Vaudois Church*, by Antoine Monastier.)

Peter Waldo founded a college for training pastors. EVANGELIST is the title of office often used to designate the young men trained in the Waldensian College of Pastors. The evangelists preached from country to country in Europe and the Middle East. (From page 45 of Emilio Comba's *History of the Waldenses in Italy*.)

PASTORS: Over every local congregation were "barbes"—that is, *pastors*, as we say in English today. These also were trained at College. (From page 92 of Monastier's work.)

(Please continue on page 7)

The MARK of the BEAST may soon be *enforced!*

Unreported on the front pages of your daily newspapers is a startling CALENDAR REVISION—a change that will abolish the weekly cycle and the seventh-day Sabbath!

by Herman L. Hoeb

THE "MARK of the BEAST" is here now! Though it has not been *enforced* in our generation by the power of the Church or the State, IT SOON MAY BE!

It may cost you your job—perhaps your life!

Almost no one seems to realize what rapid developments are taking shape in revising the calendar! Well on the way to being adopted is the cleverest plan yet devised to destroy God's Sabbath. This *diabolical* plot to CHANGE the weekly cycle, which has continued unbroken from creation, is being proposed under the subtle guise of a "*scientific*, uniform, stable and *perpetual*" World Calendar.

But there is another, more sinister, reason for changing the calendar!

Destroying God's Oldest Memorial

God *controls* TIME. Man can only *measure* it—it is *beyond his reach* to control it. Yet in his haughtiness, man has *presumed* to control it—to alter it as he pleases.

Man has altered the divinely appointed YEAR—he wants to begin it in the dead of winter, in January. Man has altered the divinely appointed MONTH and also the DAY. Only the WEEK remains—and now *man* proposes to change it, too!

God set the Sabbath as the oldest memorial of creation week. To alter the week, man must destroy the 7th-day Sabbath—that is what the world calendar will do!

Let's understand *how* it would be accomplished.

The civil calendar commonly in use today is outmoded—in need of revision—say the proponents of the world calendar. The only reason for revision, of course, is that it was devised by man—not God! There is always need for *altering* what man does!

True, instead of months of irregular lengths—compare January with 31 days and February with 28—the proposed world calendar would have a regular pattern of months.

True, the year would be divided into

four equal quarters of three months each. The three months of each quarter would have a regular pattern of 31, 30, and 30 days each. No longer would months vary from 28 to 31. (See the accompanying chart of the world calendar on the next page.)

True, the proposed world calendar would always have 26 business days each month, and the dates for the holidays such as Easter and Thanksgiving would never be altered. Holidays would not only fall on the same days of the week, as they presently do, but they would also fall on the same calendar dates of the year—year after year. Another point is that January 1 would always fall on a Sunday.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL—*this calendar would break the weekly cycle.* The world calendar would contain only 52 complete weeks or 364 days!

Each year at the end of December there would be inserted AN EXTRA DAY, presently labeled December 31, that would be labeled *December W*—for World Day—a world holiday in the new calendar. This would be a special day *outside of the weekly cycle.* Then the next day—January 1—would be called Sunday, though it would *not* actually be Sunday.

AGAIN, in leap years—in 1956 for example—there would be another world holiday *outside of the weekly cycle.* June 30 would be a Sabbath, which you can notice from the accompanying chart. But between Sabbath and "Sunday," July 1, there would be an entire day not counted at all! It would replace the present February 29. The next Sabbath would then fall on a Friday!

Do you *now* see what this would do to your job? If it is difficult to find jobs which require no Sabbath work—how much more difficult would it be to find jobs requiring no Friday work!

Throughout the remainder of the year 1956—supposing that the calendar would be adopted then—the true Sabbath would continue to occur on the day called "Friday"—the supposed 6th day of the week. After December 30

another world day would intervene. January 1—in 1957—would then be Tuesday, although it would be labeled "Sunday." And the Sabbaths would fall on the day the world would call "Thursday."

Imagine what would happen to *you* if you insisted that you could not work on Thursday because it would be the Sabbath! Think what would happen to your job, to your family!

There can be no doubt about the satanic origin of this world calendar—a calendar to bind the nations together in a Babylon of confusion! Here, for the first time, we can plainly see how easy it would be for the civil power to *enforce* the "mark of the beast"!

Reforming the Roman Calendar

The present calendar began with the reforms of Julius Caesar about 45 B.C. By the time of Pope Gregory, in 1582, the Julian calendar was so far off that 10 days were lopped from October to bring the beginning of spring back to the traditional date of March 21. This alteration did NOT change the weekly cycle, as Mr. Armstrong explained in the booklet "Has Time Been Lost?"

Now consider an important point: *Who originated calendar reform?*

It was Julius Caesar—the *pontifex maximus* of the Roman Empire. *Pontifex maximus* means supreme pontiff. According to Roman tradition it is the supreme pontiff who "*had charge of the calendar, fixed dates of the public festivals, and announced each month what days were open and what were closed to PUBLIC BUSINESS.*"

It was in the capacity of supreme pontiff that Julius Caesar exercised the authority to initiate calendar reform. The title of *pontifex maximus* passed from the Caesars to the POPES in the fourth century—and as supreme pontiff Pope Gregory decreed a reform of the calendar in 1582.

I ask you: "*Is not this fact significant?*"

During the French Revolution, just prior to Napoleon, and during the Communist Revolution in Russia, attempts

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The World Calendar

FIRST QUARTER																													
JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH															
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THIRD QUARTER																													
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FOURTH QUARTER																													
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29	30	31																	W†										

*The Leap-Year World Holiday, W or June 31 (an extra day), follows June 30 in leap years only.
 †The Year-End World Holiday, W or December 31 (365th day), follows December 30 every year.

were made to alter the calendar and the weekly cycle. Both attempts met with dismal failure—the reforms did not come from the Supreme Pontiff! It is he who would “think to CHANGE the times and the law” (Daniel 7:25).

We may not have long to wait before we learn what he *thinks* about abolishing the weekly cycle and reforming the calendar!

Educating People for Calendar Change

Increasingly, articles are being published in leading magazines and periodicals extolling the merits of calendar reform and urging the people to support the adoption of the world calendar in 1956.

Over 30 years ago the agitation for a revision of the calendar developed to such proportions that the International Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution urging the League of Nations to give the matter comprehensive study. In 1922 the International Astronomical Union, presided over by Cardinal Mercier, a Catholic, decided that some plan of revision would be desirable. The result was that in 1923 the League of Nations appointed a special committee to study calendar reform. It brought in an elaborate report in 1926. Nearly 500 different systems for preserving time were proposed—but only *one* of them has survived to the present day—the World Calendar.

Through the years support for the world calendar has skyrocketed. In 1949 the United States and Great Britain were able to block a move by Panamá to introduce the subject of calendar re-

form into the agenda of the United Nations. But in the autumn of 1953 India proposed that the UN adopt the world calendar. Russia has finally given her cautious support to the scheme. The

United Nations' Economic and Social Council, backed by the unanimous consent of 18 nations, has requested the governments to study calendar reform and to present the matter to the UN in May 1955—only a few months away!

The General Assembly of the UN can draw up an international convention to be submitted for ratification by the governments of the member nations. So far, the American and British foreign departments have been *negative* in their view of the proposed calendar changes. It is the Gentiles—under the influence of the government of Satan—who are primarily behind the movement. It must be remembered that the English-speaking world waited 175 years before switching from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. Nevertheless, the U.S.A. and the British Commonwealth cannot afford to lag far behind the present reform movement—the world is tied too closely together economically and politically.

Dethroning God as the Lord of TIME

Consider the type of propaganda being disseminated by the UN regarding (Please continue on page 6)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of **The WORLD TOMORROW!**

TO ALL OF EUROPE:
 RADIO LUXEMBOURG — 23:30 Mondays, Greenwich time.

TO ASIA AND AFRICA: RADIO CEYLON

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTINENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:
 XFG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Std. time.
 Other stations at usual time.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—10:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 11:30 A.M. and 8:30 P.M. Sunday.

“Six Days Shalt Thou Work”

by Garner Ted Armstrong

ARE YOU denying Christ? “Certainly not!” you hasten to answer. But wait!

Jesus Christ came to this earth to set us an *example* that we should follow in His steps. He lived an active, vigorous life—a life filled with ZELAL, with *robust health*, and real live *vitality*! It may come as a *shock* to realize that perhaps YOU have been denying your very Saviour!

First and foremost, Jesus Christ came teaching OBEDIENCE to God the Father. His message was concerned with a WAY of life! That way of life was not only *taught* by Jesus—it was LIVED by Him—perfectly! The ten great commandments, which are living, irrevocable LAWS—express the very *root and foundation* of that WAY of obedience. Christ said “If you love me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS” (John 14:15). One of those commandments is a sign of identification between God and His true people. And yet—it seems that some have OVERLOOKED a part of this great LAW. Piercing the very core of all human disregard and laziness comes the reverberating THUNDER in the voice of the GREAT CREATOR of this universe! “SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOR, and do all thy work” (Ex. 20:9).

DARE we disobey this direct COMMAND?

A Message About WORK

The most well-balanced man *who ever lived* was Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Had you ever realized that fact? Jesus said He was sent to this earth to “*work the works* of the Father,” who had sent Him! (John 9:4.) His message was concerned with ZELOUS WORK!

Read again an example Christ used to illustrate His message in Matthew 21:28-31. Notice, “. . . a certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go *work* today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.”

Christ’s next question was “Which of the two did the will of the father?” Read the answer in your own Bible! The *first*, of course! Even though he had first refused—he repented, and then DID something about it. But the other son—though *professing* to obey—DID NOT *work*!

Some of you may be in danger of

showing God BY YOUR WORKS that you belong in the SAME status as the second son!

Perhaps you have *seen* the truth! Being able to SEE the difference between the pagan doctrines of demons and the very precious TRUTH of God, you nod your head—you’re willing to “go along” with it. Many have been able to SEE the truth of God by the REASONING of their minds—but, in actual *practice*—they deny the very truth which they profess—BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO WORK at the business of being a Christian, to SHOW God *they really mean it!* (Titus 1:16.)

Paul’s Admonition

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians, exhorted them to either WORK—or not eat! “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, *working not at all*, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we COMMAND and EXHORT by our Lord Jesus Christ that with *quietness* they WORK, and eat their *own* bread . . . and if any man obey not our word by this epistle, *note* that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” (II Thes. 3:11-14).

Of course, many brethren leave their jobs because they have found they must keep God’s weekly and annual Sabbaths. That is unfortunate—but absolutely RIGHT in God’s sight. However, after being *without* a job for some time, they get into *wrong habits*. They begin to relax, to “take it easy.” Discouragement comes with the lack of work, and human nature begins to play its old tricks once more. With the time being wasted as it drifts by, they begin to FIND FAULT with others. This is *invariably* the result of idleness!

The life of idleness and ease leads to GOSSIP and roots of bitterness! (I Tim. 5:13.) Some of YOU BRETHREN have been living in *idleness*! Can you take correction? Can you receive chastisement? (Heb. 12:1-11.)

God commands us to be QUIET—to *quit criticizing others*—to do our own business, and to WORK WITH OUR HANDS that we may *have*, in order to give! (I Thess. 4:11-12.) Every single minute you *refuse* to WORK for your daily needs, to busily engage yourself in whatever job you can obtain—no matter what obstacle—you *are denying your very Saviour*!

The life of a Christian is not easy! Christ did not SAY it would be EASY. He said we are to “count the cost” of

living in the only way which can bring real happiness (Luke 14:28). God has promised to supply *every need* of those who put their faith in Him. But that faith *cannot be a DEAD faith*! Read again the second chapter of James. It was the WORKS together with Abraham’s faith that really counted!

How to Solve Your Work Problems

If you have left your former job because of the Sabbath—God expects you to find another! Perhaps you must take a lower salary at first. The question is: DO YOU BELIEVE GOD? He says He’ll supply all your needs—but He demands PROOF of your intent. God wants to see some WORKS along with that faith! He *will* supply every physical need, BUT ONLY AS YOU REALLY DESERVE THEM!

Take for example the man who was forced to quit work in a factory which manufactured implements of war. After quitting his job, he realized he must find another. He chose farming, since he felt he could best put his talents to work in that field. A drought came—he lost everything. With winter approaching, the situation was desperate. But—he didn’t gripe! *He didn’t begin to criticize others*—but he set his jaw and said, “I WILL MAKE IT—SOMEHOW!”

Perhaps you’ve heard it said before that *any* old dead fish can float downstream. But it takes a very *lively* fish to swim *upstream*, fighting the many cataracts and falls in its path! Yes—it’s *easy* to go along the line of least resistance—lazily ALLOWING OTHERS to keep pushing us along. But the man who will look coldly at his problem—analyze it, and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, is the man God will bless abundantly!

There may be instances when obtaining a job will be quite difficult. Perhaps a man is forced to occupy himself in some manner of work which is out of his particular line. But, in throwing himself *completely* into the task at hand, in determining to MAKE IT—SOMEHOW, he will find the opportunities opening before him, and blessings he had never dreamed were possible! WHATSOEVER you do—whether it’s your particular line or *not*—DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT! (Eccl. 9:10.)

The EVIDENCE of a Christian—Hard Work!

Christ said we are to become shining LIGHTS in the world, that others may see our good *works*, and through our brilliant, purposeful, POSITIVE EXAMPLE

they, too, may be turned to the truth of God.

But too often, it seems, such is not the case! Instead of being a *light* to the world—God's people want to be in DARKNESS! The very ones to whom God has revealed His all-important, precious TRUTH want to take it for granted! Instead of becoming entirely DIFFERENT persons than they were—instead of diligently WORKING at their jobs, and SHOWING GOD THEY'RE THANKFUL for His truth, they want to wipe their feet on every principle of God's word, reject and deny Christ by neglecting to really LIVE as He lived (I John 2:6), by zealously applying themselves to WORK HARDER THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH!

This negligence and lack of concern brings REPROACH and SCORN on the very Work of God—and God's people.

The common philosophy of this present world of "do as little as possible and get as much as you can for it" is a far cry from the dynamic, vigorous life of the God-fearing person who is busily engaged in BEING A CHRISTIAN!

God's people are not called so they can have it EASY! None of YOU were chosen so you could RELAX! Read John 16:33, where the recorded words of *your Saviour* "In the world, you shall have tribulation" show again the MESSAGE which He brought. It wasn't a message concerned with living a life of EASE! But it's well worth the effort! "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). God tells us to WORK out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).

Some of God's people *are willing* to allow others to take care of them. Some are undaunted at becoming a burden to others, and are so very concerned with SELF *they feel no compunction at living from the labors of others*. Those in God's Church who ALLOW them to so conduct themselves ARE DOING THEM A GREAT INJUSTICE. By PERMITTING them to continue living in this manner, they actually *encourage* their wrong habits!

Those who may be *unwilling* to change—unwilling to really REPENT may say "I have faith." You have *faith* you say? FAITH that God will take care of you? AND CERTAINLY HE WILL, but unless or until you PROVE TO GOD YOU REALLY MEAN BUSINESS BY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR OWN SITUATION—HE WILL LET YOU STARVE! Abraham's faith, as EVIDENCED BY HIS WORKS, was what really counted! (James 2.)

It's time to WAKE UP, and quit kid-

ding ourselves! It's time to *get busy and stay that way!* Read from the word of the Almighty RULER of this entire UNIVERSE—the One who has the power of life and death over YOU—*these* powerful words! "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, *he hath DENIED the faith*, and is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy 5:8).

Calendar Change

(Continued from page 4)

the alteration of the weekly cycle. From an official document of the UN by the former Secretary General Trygve Lie, we read that "this disadvantage"—*the change of the weekly cycle*—"affects only a very small part of the population of the world"—and hence is not worthy of consideration!

Think of THAT! The weekly cycle which God set in motion is not important enough to be considered!

A continuous stream of articles in magazines points out that the vast majority of PROTESTANTS WOULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSED REVISIONS, that several Protestant bodies already openly support it, and that only the "extremely orthodox Jews and Protestants" oppose it. Ridicule and contempt are heaped on all opponents in a world-wide effort to gain support for this satanic masterstroke to obliterate the Sabbath.

A highly significant article appeared in the Catholic paper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, on June 28, 1954. This article brings to light the fact that the world calendar was ORIGINALLY DEvised BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST, Abate Marco Mastrofini, and was described in a book published in Rome in 1834.

In 1924 the Vatican informed the League of Nations that there were *no* dogmatic objections to the principle of calendar reform. The gradual trend over the years has been for the Church to encourage more and more the alteration of the calendar. The article in the Italian paper continued with this significant comment:

"It is not quite correct, if we wish to be precise, to call the proposed reform 'a reform of the Gregorian calendar.' What would be altered are NOT the changes made by Pope Gregory but the length of the months which we have inherited from *pagan* Rome, and the *sequence of the weeks*, which will be altered by the introduction of intercalary days."

Notice the two specific points in this report. The proposed changes would *not* alter the decrees of Gregory—the Catholic Church would never consent to such changes—but they would alter the length of months inherited from *pagan*

Rome. What would be better than to make the Church *appear* anti-pagan by changing the length of the months?—and yet retain the pagan calendar by rejecting the sacred calendar which God instituted.

Next, notice that the sequence of the weeks would be altered—the Catholic Sunday would actually vary from one day of the week to another through the years. Most people have assumed that the Catholic Church would reject such an alteration. If the Church were opposed to it, the Vatican would long since have condemned it. But the Church has not done so! WHY?

In 1953, Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, the apostolic delegate in Washington, D.C., issued the following statement:

"With reference to the *present* attitude of the Vatican on the subject of the world calendar, I have been asked to inform you that the Holy See *now has the question under study* and WILL MAKE KNOWN ITS CONCLUSIONS IN THE MATTER AT THE PROPER MOMENT." (Quoted from the January 1955 "Catholic Digest.")

The Church is already making some of its conclusions known—unofficially! The article in the January issue of the "Catholic Digest" makes this comment regarding the sacredness of Sunday: "How may the word *sacred* be applied to the calendar of any period? A calendar is a mundane and worldly thing, and my dictionary defines *sacred* as being something 'made holy, not profane or common.'"

In other words, there is no sanctity to the principle of Sunday as a "holyday" except by some *authority*—the Church—to designate it "holy." Christ's supposed resurrection on Sunday did not hallow the first day of the week. The Church "hallowed" Sunday. But the church has NEVER defined what constituted Sunday! The Church has only accepted the custom of a seven-day week; it may, at its own discretion, designate that the week is *not* actually a seven-day unbroken cycle. It still has the "authority" to re-define the week, making Sunday the first day of a new and different week!

No Divinely Appointed Week?

The Catholic Church specifically regards the days of creation as different from twenty-four hour periods of time (though many individual Catholics think otherwise). In their religious tracts we glean this amazing statement: "The six days stand for six successive creative acts of the Almighty, not periods of time." Abraham supposedly derived the weekly cycle "from the wandering Arab tribes," which were moon worshippers! So says a pamphlet published by the

Knights of Columbus, entitled "Remember the Sabbath . . . Keep it Holy!"

How plain that the Church rejects any real sanctity of the weekly cycle. Therefore there is no real sanctity to the idea that Sundays are holy days because they are seven days apart. No dogmatic reason stands in the way of the Church, should it think it politically sound to approve the world calendar with its altered weekly cycle, making Sunday fall on the first day of the new altered week—though it would fall on different days of the true week which God DID institute at creation.

This final CHANGE in time would further substantiate the claim that "the Church's laws are the laws of God." The Vatican is the power that would think to change laws with respect to time, as Daniel prophesied under inspiration.

The acceptance of the new calendar would also permit the Church to disclaim any connection with the heathen planetary week of seven days—which was actually a corruption of the true week. This planetary week gave us the pagan names of the days. The acceptance of the calendar would make the church, for the first time, the complete MASTER of time—designating the year, the month and the week and the day!

Watch World Events

You can be sure that the Church will not approve the world calendar until it is safe so to do—until she is completely sure that her decree will be followed and enforced by the civil power!

But the time could be very near for its promulgation. The simplest method of introducing the world calendar would be to commence it in January of 1956, or in 1961 or 1967—when January 1 naturally falls on a Sunday by the present calendar. In this way the new changes would go unnoticed for several months until the first world day occurs, after which the weekly cycle will be changed. Then it will be too late to reject it! In 1956 the weekly cycle would change in July.

The United Nations, and Protestants and Catholics generally, are propagandizing the new calendar, seeking to stimulate its acceptance. But the Catholic Church won't finally declare its conclusions until public opinion is moulded into yielding to the proposed alterations. The ominous trend is that the time is *gradually approaching* for the adoption of calendar reform—perhaps even as early as next year—though it probably will take longer to educate the people for the change.

Every sign points to the fact that Satan—through his political and religious tolls—is out to destroy the last vestige of the week, to force sabbath keepers to give up their jobs, and finally to im-

pose Sunday as a holiday upon the entire world.

It is time we awakened ourselves to the dangers that threaten us—dangers which are secretly being injected into a God-rejecting world. These dangers call for renewed FAITH and trust in God that just as He delivered Israel out of Egypt with its 10-day week, so He will deliver us out of the bondage of the proposed world calendar which will prevent many of you brethren from holding your present jobs.

But FAITH must be proved by *obedience* and absolute trust in the ALMIGHTY. Faith means that we must use our minds and bodies to *work out our salvation*. Many of you will be tempted to give up your trust—remember how often Israel of old said God was not fair to cause them to wander in the wilderness when they could have had full employment in Egypt; others will be tempted to lay down on the job and expect others to help them.

You need to read the article by Ted Armstrong in this issue of the "GOOD NEWS," which explains what will happen to those who refuse to labor, who lay down on the job—or who give up the faith!

These are times for sober, realistic thinking. We need to pray that, whatever happens to the calendar reform movement, WE may be accounted worthy to escape all the troubles looming over the horizon.

Six More Ministers

(Continued from page 2)

ELDERS: All ministers were *elders* in the Church at that time. There were always several elders over local congregations, but the *leading elder*—the *pastor*, or bishop—designated the other local elders to "preach the Gospel where he thought best." (From page 254 of Comba's book.)

The only differences that existed between the *pastors* was that arising from age, or *services performed*, and personal respect. "The Waldensian *Barbe*"—*pastor* or *minister*—"may therefore be compared to the elders in Israel and in the primitive Church," says a historical document of the Waldenses. (From page 147 of Comba's work.)

DEACONS: This office of service was carried out in the Church of God at that time—in the 1200s. Both men and women did works of service, though primarily men because of physical hardships. (From page 254 of Comba's book, *The History of the Waldenses in Italy*.)

Some of these offices have continued in the Church to the present time. But since the days of Peter Waldo the *entire* form of God's government has not been

perpetuated. God used no one of apostolic rank during the Sardis period of the Church of God.

All Offices Again Restored

Until the past very few years there was no real evidence that God had set anyone in the office of apostle in His Church today. *Men* cannot elect or place in office an apostle. And the only way men can *know* when God has set one in that office is BY THE FRUITS.

My personal office, from the beginning of the "Philadelphia" Church era, appeared to be that of evangelist. At that time God had used me to preach the Gospel in several towns and places, to bring numbers to repentance and conversion, to heal the sick, to raise up churches in several localities, and to ordain elders and deacons in them. But the work itself had not grown to the point where there were other evangelists whom I should send to raise up churches and ordain elders and deacons.

The first proclamation before the Church that God had filled the office of apostle was made by Herman Hoeh in his sermon at the Feast of Tabernacles, at Belknap Springs, Oregon, in 1951. He had not consulted me. I had no inkling of what he was to say. At the time his words hit my startled ears like an atomic bomb, and my first impulse was to deny and correct his statement immediately. Only propriety restrained this impulse. I felt Mr. Hoeh was just a little young, and carried away with himself. Never in my life had I thought of occupying such an office.

But in the light of events, the fact of how God has set up His Church today has become self-evident to all. It is GOD'S doing. If one does find, unexpectedly, that God has set him in such an office, there is only one choice—he must accept it with full humility, realizing personal lack, and surrendering the self totally to GOD as an instrument in HIS hands, relying wholly upon God for guidance and every power and need.

For two years now, we have had evangelists in the Church. But none had filled the office of pastor. Only one was a minister-elder, and though we had a few deacons, we had never had a deaconess.

So it was with great rejoicing—and an occasion never to be forgotten—when, during the Sabbath services at Pasadena on January 22, the evangelists joined me in appointing, first, Sister Annie M. Mann as a deaconess—an office she has long filled, but without the recognition. Next we installed Edward E. Eckert in the office of deacon.

Then followed the ordination of the new ministers. Herbert Burk McNair and George A. Meeker were ordained

as preaching or *minister-elders*. Then, Dean C. Blackwell, who has held the office of minister-elder, was ordained for the higher office of *pastor*. Finally, Garner Ted Armstrong, Wayne C. Cole, and Norman A. Smith were also ordained as *pastors*.

Not Like Worldly Churches

This form of government, and the relative importance or rank of each office, is entirely different from the *human* forms of government and administration which men have set in the churches of this world.

In the world the most important office is usually called that of *bishop* in protestant churches—or bishop, archbishop, cardinal, and pope, in the Roman Catholic Church. The worldly churches regard a *bishop* as one in authority over the pastors and churches in a designated district, or geographical area.

Next in importance is the *pastor*, in charge of a local church. Under him may be an assistant pastor, elders, deacons and deaconesses. The office of *evangelist* is generally regarded as of less importance than that of *pastor*. An evangelist, in the protestant churches, is usually a man who holds "revival meetings" in churches or tents or halls, in his own country. The preaching to *foreign* lands is relegated to *missionaries*, generally the least regarded office.

Thus the worldly churches *reverse* God's order. Christ's *first*, and most important commission was "Go ye into all the world, and preach THE GOSPEL to all nations." That commission, the churches today place *last*, not first. Jesus commanded His Church to keep *separate* from the world—to withdraw from worldly fellowship, and merely to go to the world in the preaching of the Gospel as a witness. But today's churches build their church edifices on busiest corners, competing with retail stores in "high-rent locations," and place large signs: "PUBLIC WELCOME." They invite the world to *come to them*, instead of going to the world. They invite the world to have fellowship with them, directly disobeying the command of Christ. Their own local church services,

then, constitute their first line of evangelism, reinforced by the occasional "revival meetings."

Different Functions

The true WORK OF GOD, which is the function of His *true* Church, enters a field altogether *different* from the protestant churches of the world. Therefore, the duties of some of the offices are different.

We are all so accustomed to this world's system, that unless we understand this difference, *unlearn* the world's system, and fix firmly in mind the viewpoint of GOD'S government and its various functions, some, for example, might wonder why Norman Smith, who is technician and manager of our radio studio and control-room, was ordained as a pastor. Because we are steeped in the *non-Scriptural* organization and functioning of this world's churches, many will assume that, to be a *pastor*, one must be a *preacher* in charge of a local church.

But in GOD'S government, as we find it clearly revealed in His Word, *pastor* is a rank of office next under that of *evangelist*, and higher than that of a *Minister-Elder*. In God's government men are ranked according to their own spiritual and general ability, the responsibility of their function, and its importance in the over-all commission of getting the true GOSPEL to the world.

If Norman Smith were merely a *technician*, he would not have been ordained to any office whatever. His technical abilities are merely a supporting requirement for his very important ministry—one of the most important ministerial functions in the church today. Mr. Smith is a graduate of Ambassador College, as fully trained for the spiritual ministry as any of our *pastors*. He is my first assistant in the radio ministry to the whole world. I spend hours every week in consultation with him about the content of sermons in broadcasts. For some months now it has been his job to decide what sermons this nation, and even the whole world, shall hear.

This was made necessary during my trip to Europe, and other absences. It became necessary to re-broadcast former sermons. It was Mr. Smith's duty to determine which sermons were appropriate for this later date. In many instances most of a broadcast was suitable, but some few remarks were "dated"—timely at the time of original broadcast, but no longer suitable. In these instances Mr. Smith had to edit my sermons.

You will recognize instantly that I could never delegate to anyone but a thoroughly trained *minister*—one who is capable, and experienced, and fully responsible—the function of actually editing and, when necessary, rearranging my sermons to be heard by MILLIONS of people.

It was for this top-level *ministerial* service, of a completely spiritual nature, that Norman Smith was ordained to the office of *pastor*. He is fully competent to be placed as the settled pastor of any of our churches, but his present responsibility is of far greater importance in God's ministry.

This one example will have to suffice. Since God has opened the tremendous doors of radio and the printing press, the ministry assumes an entirely different requirement of functioning than the programs of the worldly churches.

Occasion for Great Rejoicing

Therefore, brethren, LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE!

Truly the harvest is plenteous, and the laborers FEW. Yet God is adding to His Church not only members, but called, consecrated, Spirit-filled, competent and trained and experienced young men for the WORK of His ministry.

For the first time in 750 years, ALL administrative offices of authority in God's government are *complete* in His Church! TIME RACES ON! Time is becoming *short*! God is moving *fast*! We have great work to do! Let us BE GLAD AND REJOICE—and every one of us put his shoulder to the wheel, doing his own UTMOST, in sacrifice, and in PRAYER!

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