

The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

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How God Calls HIS Ministers

God's Church is growing larger every day! With this great blessing comes a great danger of which most of the brethren are unaware!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY:

GREETINGS brethren, from South America! I'm writing this article from the capital city of Uruguay, on the east coast of South America. Mr. Rea and I have been having important conferences with radio station managers, governmental employees and businessmen. We have been gathering information which will be useful in spreading the Gospel of God's government to *this* darkened part of the world when God opens the door.

The realization of the *tremendous* task yet to be accomplished sweeps over us with overwhelming force here, when we see the ignorance, poverty and superstition—the strangle-hold of the Catholic Church on the impoverished masses of people, the political turmoil and fear that grips most of South America. Also, it makes us realize all the more what a UNITED, *single-hearted*, completely DEDICATED body we must be, if we, as the very body of Jesus Christ, are ever to really FULFILL the great task God has set before us!

False Ministers

Just as the early beginnings of our Church were fraught with *dangers*, so is *this present age* bringing us ever closer

to the same identical dangers. When Jesus told His disciples of the times just before His return to this earth, He warned, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you" (Matt. 24:4). In His warning about deceptions, Jesus talked of *false ministers* who would be masquerading as *true* ministers of the Gospel, who would "show great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, *if it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

This warning was about OUR times—NOW!

And to *whom* was the warning given? *To the Church!*

Brethren, the time has come to candidly WARN you of a very grave *danger* that could mean the loss of salvation for many of the "babes in Christ" who have been called into the wonderful light of God's truth.

In the early Church, there arose false ministers, and lay members, who began to *set themselves* up as "teachers" and "leaders" of the people. The whole theme of the New Testament, from the very inception of God's true Church to the end of the book of Revelation is one of APOSTASY, one of God's true Apostles and ministers constantly struggling against FALSE DOCTRINES creeping in, and against *counterfeit* ministers who

were trying to lead off people after themselves.

Notice, the council at Jerusalem was held for *this very reason!* "And *certain men* which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, 'Except you be circumcised after the manner of Moses, you cannot be saved'" (Acts 15:1). Notice further that these men wanted to ARGUE about the small, physical question of circumcision. "When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small *dissension* with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question" (Acts 15:2).

God's *government* went into effect, and a *decision* was rendered by James, the chief Apostle at Jerusalem (vs. 19), and the other apostles then delivered a DECREE (binding, authoritative *decision*, as a *law*) to the brethren in the Church (Acts 16:4).

Paul's Experience

In Paul's letters of correction and exhortation to the early Church, he was often forced to show them, by the manner of his calling and training the *authenticity* of his office. Notice how many of his letters begin with statements of

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scattered abroad

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Divinely-ordained *authority*. (See Rom. 1:1-5, I Cor. 1:1, II Cor. 1:1, Gal. 1:1-24, etc.)

Almost immediately after the beginning of God's true Church, certain men arose who began to lead away followings after themselves—out of human jealousy and vanity! "For I know this," Paul said to the Ephesian elders, "that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of YOUR OWN SELVES shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

In the three cities of southern Galatia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, the story had been circulated, apparently, that Paul was merely Peter's "messenger boy," and an attempt was made to appeal to supposed conflicts within the ministry in order to confuse and divide the Church. Paul, for that very reason, unhesitatingly stated the mistake Peter had made in disfellowshipping the Gentiles in presence of the Jews, and told the Church, "But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, 'If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?'" (Gal. 2:14). The remaining verses of this entire chapter are the inspired words Paul spoke to Peter! The often quoted, wonderful statement of Paul, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME" (vs. 20) was a statement made directly to Peter to show the *authority* by which Paul spoke. It was Christ who inspired Paul to speak thusly. Make no

mistake! Peter and Paul were not enemies! Everything was done for the advancement of the Church, for the GOOD of the flock. The important thing to notice also is that Peter *did* take the correction and later called him *beloved* brother—exhorting the Christians to *take heed* to the things Paul had written in his epistles! (II Pet. 3:15-16).

Does this ring a familiar bell to any of you?

Many have tried to accomplish the same identical thing in *this* Church age. Some have tried to say Mr. Raymond Cole teaches one thing, and Mr. Armstrong another, or that Mr. Herman Hoeh says one thing, and Mr. Meredith another, or that I say one thing, and my brother another. THESE ASSUMPTIONS AND RUMORS ARE SIMPLY FALSE!

As my father has said so many times, the decisions have always been 100% *unanimous* whenever God's true ministers gather together to settle a question—or when doctrinal points are discussed in the annual ministerial conferences. And, so long as we remain GOD'S Church, in which dwells His Holy Spirit, this will continue to be true! God's True Church is a UNITED Church, even as Christ *prayed* it would be! (John 17:11).

Paul Was Criticized

It has been said the busier a man becomes, and the more he accomplishes, the more criticism he will receive. God's word certainly bears this up! Jesus Christ was the *busiest* and the *most criticized* man who ever lived. The Apostle Paul was constantly being criticized by unthinking, carnal-minded people who did not really fear God's government as they should have.

The Corinthians were accusing him of being covetous of what they supposed was *their* money (which was really not *theirs*, but *God's*), and Paul answered by saying, "Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, Have we not power to eat and to drink?" (I Cor. 9:3-4). He then proceeded to prove that the ministry should be supported from God's tithes.

The entire first chapter of Galatians is Paul's affirmation of the DIVINE AUTHORITY with which he spoke and wrote.

The important thing to realize is that this defense was necessary *only because of the false teachers and "leaders" who were stirring up the people*—trying to discredit God's true ministers—*trying to lead off a following after themselves!*

Paul told the young evangelist, Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that *in the latter times {now}* some shall depart from the faith [doctrine—body of beliefs], giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and doctrines of demons" (I Tim. 4:1).

Paul called *by name* certain false teachers when he said, "But snun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word doth eat as doth a canker, of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus, who concerning the truth have erred" (II Tim. 2:16-17).

After describing the conditions which will be extant during this very time in the first few verses of the *third* chapter of his second letter to Timothy, Paul said, "But evil men and seducers shall wax *worse* and *worse*, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13).

Remember, these letters to Timothy were concerned primarily with *Church Government!* Never forget that even the FALSE ministers will appear as the ministers of Christ! "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, *transforming themselves* into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

A Cloak of Church Authority

Astounding though it may seem, these false teachers who began leading the members astray *told direct, deliberate lies*, or else led the people to believe by *subterfuge* and *insinuation* that they were known by, commissioned by, and ordained to their positions by God's true ministers!

Yes—they told the people they *represented* Paul, or Peter, and that they came *from* them!

Notice, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another, but *there be some that trouble you*, and would *pervert* the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

Paul then proceeded to put a binding CURSE on any such practice, even though *he himself* might turn around and begin preaching differently in the future. "But though WE (including ALL the apostles and the ministers) or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be *anathema* [cut off from Christ]" (Gal. 1:8).

Paul was forced to write to the brethren at Thessalonica: "Now we beseech you brethren . . . that ye be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, *neither by spirit* (an angel, or evil spirit), nor by word, (oral teaching from others) nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand" (II Thess. 2:1-2). Did you read it? Paul warned them not to be deceived, even though someone wrote a FALSE EPISTLE, and DELIBERATE—
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The WORK of God's Church Goes *Forward!*

Here is more inside information about the progress and growth of God's Church. REJOICE with us as we review the blessings God is showering upon His people!

by Roderick C. Meredith

JESUS CHRIST commanded Peter: "Feed my sheep." He intended that down through the ages His called ministers should *strengthen* and *guide* His Church in the paths of righteousness.

Christ is the living HEAD of the Church (Col. 1:18). It is through His POWER that lives are *converted* to the real truth of God, and that local congregations are raised up in many areas. Jesus knew that His Church would be *scattered* (Matt. 26:31), and that many of its members would not have regular fellowship with others.

But from the time of the early traveling apostles and evangelists down to our day, Christ has made it possible for His scattered flock to be fed the spiritual "meat" they require.

As our Head and Leader, Jesus Christ is now showing us that we CAN minister to you scattered brethren *much more* than we have in the past. This is truly GOOD NEWS!

Travelling Evangelists

In the article last month, "God's Church GROWS," we told you about the ministers and local congregations in God's Church today.

Now we have wonderful news of a newly-begun phase of this work which will enable us to reach hundreds of you scattered brethren *personally* each year. As a result of two more ministers going into full-time service this past June, Mr. Raymond Cole and Mr. Wayne Cole have now been released from their duties in local congregations and are beginning to visit many of our scattered brethren in the field.

Several dozen of our scattered members have already been visited by Mr. Wayne Cole and his wife. Many of them have written to us about it to tell us what a blessing it was and how happy they were to have this personal counsel and an opportunity to have many of their questions answered.

This type of personal counsel, instruction and encouragement is VITAL to the growth of God's people everywhere. So we plan to keep this program going as much of the time as possible, and even to *enlarge* it in the future.

Mr. Raymond Cole, our evangelist-at-large in charge of the scattered local congregations, is planning to do much of this visiting himself, whenever possible. Later on, we hope to have a minister and his wife touring the country the year around and visiting and counseling with those members of God's Church who are unable to attend a local congregation.

This should make each of us realize more fully that—*wherever we are*—we are members of God's Church—the very *body* of Jesus Christ through whom He works (I Cor. 12:27). We must *grow* in spiritual grace and knowledge and WORK together in unity as a "team" in order that Christ's message may be carried to the ends of this earth.

May God grant that each of you scattered members will realize more than ever that you are a part of *one* "body"—the Church that Jesus Christ promised to build (Matt. 16:18).

Baptizing Tours

As each year passes, *hundreds* of new brethren are baptized by the tours of ministers sent out each summer from headquarters in Pasadena. This summer, *three* tours have gone out and have already baptized over 250 people!

This is truly wonderful when you realize that our ministers baptize *ONLY* those who indicate that they are *truly repentant* and TOTALLY SURRENDERED to the will of God. Our tours actually have to *turn down* more people than they baptize! They encourage those who are not fully ready to "prove all things" a little more, to count the cost, and to wait until they are COMPLETELY *yielded* to Almighty God before being baptized.

Therefore, even a few *hundred* of these truly repentant converts is worth FAR MORE in the eyes of God than thousands of half-hearted "decisions for Christ" made in *ignorance* of what real repentance means.

So we should REJOICE to realize that beside those baptized by our men on tours each summer, other *hundreds* are baptized by the local ministers and at the annual Church festivals. This year, the total should run around *six* or *seven*

hundred newly baptized members of God's Church!

Additional happy news is that since the beginning of the year *seventeen* have been baptized in far off London, England, and Mr. Gerald Waterhouse is now in the process of visiting and baptizing more people in outlying areas. God's Church is taking *firm root* in Britain. People's lives are being *changed* and *converted* by God!

How the Baptizing Tours Help People

In addition to baptizing those who are ready, our summer tours help all those whom they meet in many ways. Perhaps you will enjoy reading part of a letter sent to Mr. Armstrong to thank him for sending out these tours.

A lady from Illinois writes: "Today God answered my prayers that someday I would be worthy to be baptized and become a begotten child of His and receive His gift of the Holy Spirit."

"Mr. Bryce Clark and Mr. Ernest Martin visited me today. I was just getting ready so I could meet them at the post office, as their letter designated, but due to the fact that we are on central standard time, they found themselves with time on their hands, and came to my home. Knowing how pressed they are for time, I consider myself most fortunate for such a nice long visit—and I was enlightened beyond my expectations. I had prayed, studied the scripture and your booklets, and felt I understood them pretty good, but the plain, clear way they presented it made me understand so much better. They are certainly two fine, admirable, sincere young men who are surely inspired by God."

Do you see how Christ is directing His servants to minister to the scattered flock? In due time, people in all parts of the earth are going to have personal help and counsel from the ministers of God's Church.

Although it is impossible to reach them soon, some have already written in from Australia, South Africa and other nations requesting baptism. God's Church is beginning to *circle the globe!*

Jesus Christ is the *same* yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Christ is



This is Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, Pastor of our church in London, England, and the only minister of God's Church stationed in Britain at the present time.

also *healing* in His true Church today just as He did 1900 years ago.

Christ Continues to HEAL Through His Church

We receive dozens of letters each month telling of people being healed of every type of sickness and disease. Some have been healed of cancer, some of polio, some of tuberculosis. In other cases, God has supernaturally intervened in the instance of an inflamed appendix, or of a swollen kidney, or of gall bladder trouble.

Many are being healed. But some are *not*—and they wonder why. Although many factors sometimes enter into a particular case, Jesus summed up the overall principle when He said: "According to your FAITH be it unto you" (Matt. 9:29).

To give you definite, specific instances of how God has been blessing His church in this way, here are two recent letters telling of how God has healed.

A lady from Colorado writes: "Last night as you preached, I realized that God healed me and is healing me since you sent the prayer cloth. My T.B. cavity did *just close up*. I'm thin and have some intestine and nerve trouble but in His time God will take care of it all.

"I've written poems and done other things which I never would have done had I been well. Yes, God knows and understands *all* our needs, wants and desires. I know I must trust God to correct me often so I can become the kind of person He can rule, love and use.

"Pray for me and for my husband out in this world. God bless you and prosper His work."

In reading the letter, did you notice this woman's *attitude*?

She *trusted* God and wanted to *obey* God. She wanted to be made worthy of His use. That is *WHY* she was healed of *tuberculosis*!

Another Example of How Christ Heals

Another recent letter of thanksgiving for healing shows the same fine attitude, and is a good example of *how* God sometimes intervenes for those who cannot call upon a local minister for prayer.

This lady from Kansas writes:

"A short time ago I sent a letter requesting prayer for our little girl. *Within one hour* of its mailing, she began to mend—and today she feels fine. Truly God is gracious and merciful—a God of great power.

"We have requested prayer for the illness of one of our family on several occasions. Always that illness is healed *before* an answer reaches us—sometimes before the letter has had a chance to even get out of Wichita. We are truly grateful for God's healing and are not putting *any* trust in the wordly doctors.

"I know you receive many letters, but I feel I must tell you how grateful we are to have the two magazines, the broadcasts, and the correspondence course. These are all of inestimable value in my spiritual growth and development."

Here again we see the attitude of *love* for God's truth and His way. Also, this should be an example to all of you scattered brethren of how God often heals even *BEFORE* an anointed cloth arrives.

After all, it is *not* the anointed cloth that heals—it is GOD! And once you have *obeyed* God's command to call upon His ministers when you are sick (James 5:14), the *healing* may follow long before your request even reaches our office in Pasadena. *That is something to remember when there is an emergency and you may be tempted to think that there isn't TIME to call upon God's ministers.*

Information on How to Reach the Ministers

There is another important bit of information we might give you while we are on this subject of healing. This is to remember that there are times when you may need *advice about* what *you* should do in some types of illness. This does not mean reliance upon medicines or drugs, but often it is *necessary* for you to QUIT BREAKING some natural law *before* God will forgive this physical sin!

In such cases, it would be best, of course, to contact one of our nearby local ministers. However, this is impossible for you brethren in scattered areas where we do not have local churches. So re-

member that you can *always* call us at Ambassador College here in Pasadena—usually up until about 10:00 P.M. at night, our time. The college number is Sycamore 6-6123.

If there is an emergency, *feel free to call* and ask for one of the ministers here at headquarters. One caution, however, do *NOT* try to call us *collect* as we cannot accept such calls as a matter of policy! Doing so would leave us open to countless impositions and needless expenditure of God's money, as you can see.

Wherever you are, God's ministers want to be of service to YOU. How *many* cases I can remember of people who called us in the middle of the night with some serious illness or injury and later wrote to let us know that they were HEALED in a matter of *hours*—before an anointed cloth could even be sent from our Pasadena office!

Christ is ON THE JOB day and night as our High Priest! ALL POWER has been given unto Him in heaven and earth! (Matt. 28:18).

What a great BLESSING it is to realize that—as members of His *own body*—we can come directly to Him in *any* kind of sickness or trouble. As members of the Church of God, we have *much to be thankful for!*

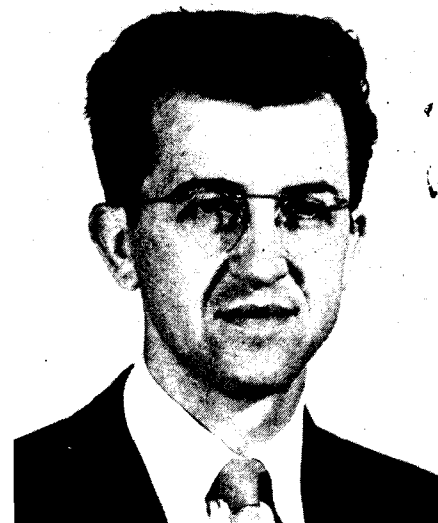
Church News Column

In preparation for carrying the *work* of this Church—God's Church—around the world, many plans are now being made. You will be interested in hearing about some of these—and PRAYING about them.

In future issues, we plan to keep you informed of the news of the work and

(Please continue on page 12)

Meet Frank Longuskie, able and consecrated assistant to Mr. Waterhouse in our London church and office.



Are You "Putting Off" Salvation?

Here is a vital principle which could mean your eternal life! Will YOU LOSE your salvation by neglecting to practice it?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA:

GREETINGS, brethren, from South America! Mr. Benjamin Rea, the head of our Spanish Department at Ambassador College, and I are traveling through parts of this continent, gathering information to be used in future articles in the Good News and the Plain Truth, searching out books for our Spanish Department, and taking time now and then to write to you, through articles in the magazines.

Many times, we have printed articles in the *Good News* about your Christian life, about the necessity of perseverance, of zeal, of real *enthusiasm* in order to overcome, and obtain salvation. But God has revealed to me a vital principle, which, if you will *put it into practice*, could very easily make the difference between *losing out* by either falling into the LUKEWARM condition of the Laodiceans or letting a root of bitterness spring up in your heart and turn you away from God's Church, or—*on the other hand*—of remaining faithful and gaining eternal life in God's kingdom!

Many to Lose Out

Have you never wondered why it is that God takes so much time and space to WARN us, by *examples*, and by direct statements, about falling away? Even in this present age, filled with the turmoil of a dying world—with our ears attuned to the shrieks of the millions of suffering humans we read about every day, with the prophecies of *your Bible* being fulfilled each day—some have FALLEN AWAY! Some have *neglected* to put these "little things," as they may have called them, into practice, and for that reason, *they are no longer a part of God's Church!*

In addition to His prophecies of a world-wide apostasy and falling away from the truth (Matt. 24:5, 11-12), Jesus foretold of a terrible state of *lukewarmness* in His own Church! (Rev. 3:15-17). He said, "... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find *faith* on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Jesus was con-

stantly reminding His disciples of the grave possibility of *falling away*. In His parable of the sower, He described the various types of persons who would hear the word—His very Gospel of the Kingdom, and would receive it with JOY, and yet would not *endure* to the end.

"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that *heareth* the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not *root* in himself, *but dureth for a while*: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he stumbles" (Matt. 13:20-21).

Notice, this person didn't have *ROOT* in himself. The root is the source of the *food supply* for the plant—and that which gives it *stability* in the ground. If you are not *drinking in* of the "milk" of the word (I Pet. 2:2) being *rooted* and *grounded* in the truth, *you* will fall away and be burnt.

Danger of Worldly Interests

Jesus described the next class of persons as being those who receive the word among *thorns*. "And the care of THIS WORLD, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22).

Paul, about to depart from the brethren he loved so much at Ephesus, said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of *your own selves* shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples, after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

Paul was *very* familiar with the human pulls of the flesh, with the vanity, the lust, the greed, and the utter SELFISHNESS of human nature. He battled during his entire ministry to preserve the flock from danger, and to *save* it from destruction. He wrote to the people in Lystra, Derbe and Iconium, "I marvel that ye are SO SOON removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6) and went on to show they had been *led off* by failing to *practice* the things he had

taught them during his ministry there.

All through the New Testament, God gives us warning after warning of the grave *danger* of falling away. Paul's writings are filled with them, Christ spoke of them often, Jude said it was necessary to *get back* to the *original faith!* (Jude 3) John then recorded Jesus' words, that a WHOLE ERA—ONE WHOLE PHASE of God's own Church would fall into a disinterested, self-satisfied, neglectful, lethargic LAZY attitude—and be SPIT OUT! (Rev. 3:16).

WHY, oh WHY can't some of you SEE THIS TRUTH? I know of a surety, as I write these words here in a hotel room in Buenos Aires, some 9 or 10 thousand miles from Pasadena, that most of the VERY ONES who are NOW in this spiritual DANGER will carelessly read this article—AGREEING with it, as they always do—and then go right on, STRAIGHT TOWARD GEHENNA FIRE!

And yet—even knowing th'—I know I must go ahead and write this article. May the Almighty Creator SHAKE some of His people—perhaps YOU—until your very teeth rattle, if need be, until you can be snapped awake, and brought to a peak of spiritual zeal!

Many AWARE of Their Condition

As you read these words, perhaps you are actually AWARE of a great deal of spiritual lethargy that exists in your life. You don't *pray* as you should, you can't seem to spend the time STUDYING that you should, and you just don't feel as "spiritual" as you KNOW you should! That probably describes the MAJORITY of God's people during this age.

And yet, *even knowing they are spiritually lax*, many are going to continue toward ultimate destruction—simply because they are failing to *overcome* this known and recognized trait.

WHY?

BECAUSE THEY DON'T REALLY WANT TO OVERCOME IT! Does that shock you? It really shouldn't—because it is an actual fact—easily recognizable by the fruits of many of God's own

called and chosen people in this age.

Are *you* a person who desperately *needs* something of God? Are you constantly beseeching your Heavenly Father for some great gift, some answer to prayer? Are you in need of healing? And, *at the same time*, are you subconsciously saying to yourself, "I'll 'get spiritual' enough for God to HEAR my prayer—I'll 'do some righteousness' until I GET the answer, and then it'll be over—then I can drift again—then I can, after I've achieved my purpose, drift back into the easy-going stream of lethargy, because it's SO MUCH EASIER?"

YES! Many are doing exactly that!

Do *you* ever decide, along about Thursday afternoon, or perhaps late on Friday, that the Sabbath is coming, so you'd better get into a "spiritual mood" before it catches you in the attitude you've been in during the middle of the week? Do you then get into a TEMPORARY state of "righteousness" until Saturday night? Are you much HAPPIER when the SUN GOES DOWN, so you can rush out to the pleasures of THIS WORLD? Or do you wish the sun wouldn't go down so *soon*, and that the Church service might not be over so *soon*, or that you could visit with others of God's Church *longer*?

If these things describe YOU—then chances are, you're AWARE of your condition—yet seem to be powerless to *do* anything about it.

The Nearness of Sin

Regardless of *how* close to God a person becomes—SIN is always near! Most of us have not really understood just how EASY it is for us to "slip over the line" and let the "bars" down—drifting into our old ways and habits, and sinning against God by our actions. When Jesus was perhaps the very *closest* to God, during His long fast of 40 days and nights in the wilds of Palestine, Satan came to Him, *personally*, to tempt Him. Are you more immune than Christ?

Paul said, "I find then a *law*, that, when I would do good, EVIL is PRESENT WITH me" (Rom. 7:21). Paul said he *recognized* the evil tendencies in his flesh—he knew his nature made him do the opposite from the good he *wanted* so much to do, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" (vs. 15). He said he DIDN'T KNOW HOW to perform that which was good! (vs. 18). But God showed him. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh . . . for to be carnally minded is death . . . because the carnal mind is enmity against God . . . so then they that are in the *flesh* cannot please God, but ye are *not in the flesh*, but IN THE SPIRIT, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you" (Rom. 8:5-9).

The Spirit of God *did* dwell in Paul, "Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20), "For I *delight* in the law of God after the *inward* man . . . so then with the mind I myself *serve* the law of God" (Rom. 7:22 & 25).

All of us must come to see that we are literally standing on a huge precipice, with our backs to the damp, horribly gaping maw of debauchery and *destruction*! We must come to realize that wherever we are, at whatever time, Satan will try to ensnare us in whatever way he can—by playing on *our particular weaknesses*!

I'll Do It Tomorrow!

It is perhaps so simple, it won't sound like a very important point to you—but the real basic cause for much of this spiritual lethargy in God's Church is an attitude of PUTTING OFF everything until LATER, of GOOD INTENT, coupled with NEGLECTFULNESS, which *could* finally result in putting off your own salvation!

For example, you have come to *see* you really need to *talk* to God more—or have you?—and you have decided to *do* something about it. You have made up your mind. THIS TIME you really *mean* it! So, when it comes time to go to bed, you're very, very tired—and your mind just doesn't function very well. After only a few minutes of drugged, half-awake prayer that didn't go any higher than the ceiling, you tumble wearily into bed—intending fully, and even *promising* yourself that SURELY you'll "make up for it" tomorrow morning!

Tomorrow morning arrives. You have overslept, or perhaps you have children, and they awakened sooner than you planned—perhaps the telephone rang early, or *something* happened—maybe you even FORGOT about it, but, at any rate, you didn't *pray* as you intended!

Is *this* you?

Do YOU "put off" praying until a "more convenient time?"

Smoking Is an Example

Some in God's Church still smoke. You know that others know it—in fact, you may have even told them about it. Some of you have told *me*, or else I may know it just because the strong smell of the smoker is almost impossible to conceal from the non-smoker. Smoking is not the cardinal sin of the world—it is not the WORST sin there is, so to speak—but *it is a sin*! So is chewing tobacco—and so is "dipping snuff!"

I used to smoke, as did many others in God's true Church. But I was just exactly like a lot of *you*. I always "put off" quitting, because I would say to myself, "Well, this will be absolutely my LAST cigarette! I'll smoke *just this once more*, and then I'll really use a lot

of WILL power, and I'll just quit!" But—after having just that "one more" I would say the identical thing the *next time*, and the *next*, and the NEXT, until I was constantly "kidding myself" that I was in the PROCESS of quitting, whatever *that* is. But there IS no such thing as a *process* of quitting—you've just got to QUIT! Are *you* like this? I was, but now I can give thanks to the Creator that I was *given* the necessary WILL POWER to quit. By a severe case of laryngitis, in which I lost my voice completely, I became so *frightened*, about *losing* my voice that God has given me, that I just QUIT!

Not only are smokers—like I USED to be—*continually* defiling the temple of God's Holy Spirit, and setting a terrible example for others, but are constantly telling themselves, and God, a *lie*, that they are in the "process" of quitting!

Do You FAST Enough?

It's so easy to tell yourself that you'll get around to really *doing* things tomorrow. In this way, many have been *putting off fasting*. God only *commands* you to fast on one particular day, (Lev. 23:32), but by example, by many direct statements of Christ, and by the teaching of the Apostle Paul, we know you *must fast often* if you are to remain a spiritual-minded Christian.

Jesus *fasted*. It was because of His CONSTANT nearness to God that He was able to cry out, even with *tears*, to God for deliverance from the temptations of the flesh (Heb. 5:7). That's *how* He can be a merciful High Priest to us now—because through FASTING and prayer, Jesus was *so close* to God, that even when evil impulses and temptations came, He was able to cast them from Him. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was *in all points* tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

Even in fasting to stay close to God, Christ set YOU an example (1 Pet. 2:21). Turn to John, the eleventh chapter, and read again the wonderful history of how the living Head of Our Church *raised a man* (Lazarus) *from the dead*! Jesus was so deeply moved by the *lack of faith* of the people that he "groaned in the spirit, and was troubled" (vs. 33), and finally He wept (vs. 35).

But when He came to the tomb, Jesus "lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou has sent me'" (vs. 41-42). Time that short prayer! I did, with my stop watch, and even saying it slowly, it only takes eleven seconds!

(Please continue on page 11)

Who Should Young People Date?

Is it best for your children to date unbelievers? Here is the BIBLE answer to a crucial problem our young people have to face, reprinted from the October, 1953 issue.

by Roderick C. Meredith

DATING is a custom which has been practiced, in differing ways, since the beginning of history. If rightly directed, it can be a natural and helpful means of enabling young people to become better acquainted with the members of the opposite sex.

It is God who has made us male and female. It is God who created sex and ordained marriage. God *intended* that young people come to know each other, fall in love, and marry. Therefore, a true Christian should have no "prudish" feelings about the varied aspects of courtship and marriage. But he *should* determine how to glorify God in all these things. It is God, after all, who made us male and female.

Dating Necessary

The Bible does not enjoin any particular method of acquainting young people with one another, or of bringing about a marriage. Even in the Bible history, customs have varied in this matter. In many instances, in ancient times, the parents of a young couple arranged for their marriage. The laws in Exodus and Deuteronomy indicate that men often selected their own wives, and courted them as they do today. Consequently, our present custom of courtship and marriage is certainly not wrong, and it seems to be the best practice among modern peoples who are not living in large family groups as in patriarchal times.

Dating, then, is a very necessary custom not only socially, but to enable young people to make a wise choice of a life partner. It is a practice which tends to broaden social interests, to develop personality, and to give that needed experience and companionship with *many* members of the opposite sex.

No one should date as though he were "looking for a wife." It should be a natural means of fellowship with the realization that some day a life partner will be discovered, and that the practice of dating will give that experience with the opposite sex which should serve as a valuable guide in avoiding hasty decisions based upon "infatuation," and not real love.

Since dating is a form of intimate fellowship which may lead to marriage, Christians should exercise great care in

selecting the persons whom they date.

God's Warning

Christians are COMMANDED by God: "Be ye *not* unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14). We are to AVOID anything which would cause us to *fellowship* or to be "yoked together" with unbelievers.

Marriage is certainly the closest form of being "yoked together." And dating is a kind of close *fellowship* which usually precedes and may lead to marriage.

Is God trying to impose His harsh will on you when He *forbids* this kind of fellowship?

NO! This instruction is a great BLESSING designed to help you live the happy and abundant life that God intends (John 10:10). True Christianity is a *way of life*. It is the *way* that will bring greatest happiness at this time, and *eternal* life in God's kingdom. It is the way of *surrender* and *obedience* to God and His commands, and of spiritually growing each day more like God that we may finally be *born* into His family and kingdom.

But an unconverted husband or wife is going to oppose and fight the *way of life* God reveals. Why? "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

If you marry an unconverted person, you are *tying yourself to a ball and chain* for the rest of your *natural life*! God wants to *spare* you from such a mistake!

The Bible Principle

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible shows that God's people are to remain separate from this world. In Deut. 7:1-4, God commanded the Israelites *not* to marry the heathen, "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods" (v. 4). Joshua warned that if they married the heathen, it would be as scourges in their sides, and thorns in their eyes (Joshua 23:10-16).

I Kings 11:1 shows that King Solomon's foreign wives turned away his heart from worshipping God. The Bible

shows *time and again* that marrying a carnal, unconverted person will lead to retribution, misery, and may well prove to be an *obstacle* to prevent you from serving God as you should.

Many of you whom we have met on the baptizing tours can testify to this fact. How many times you have wished that your mate were converted so that you could share your lives more fully. What a wonderful BLESSING it is when both the husband and wife are converted. All of you who are blessed in this way should get down on your knees *every day* and thank God for it.

A converted couple can encourage one another in prayer, in Bible study, in keeping the Sabbath, in rejoicing together during God's festivals. They can share all the little things in life in a way that is impossible when one party is unconverted.

True Christianity involves the things you eat, the places you go, your interests and hobbies—your *entire life*. God intended that a husband and wife be a help to each other in all things. That is why He commands: "Be ye *not* unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

What About Dating Unbelievers

Knowing the definite command of God not to marry unbelievers, what about dating them?

As we have mentioned, dating is a very intimate sort of fellowship which may possibly lead to marriage. Should you *tempt* yourself by dating those whom you know that God *forbids* you to marry?

You should NOT!

And regardless of possible marriage, a Christian is not to have fellowship with unrighteousness (II Cor. 6:14). Unrighteousness is simply sin—*breaking God's commandments*.

In Ephesians 5:1-17, the apostle Paul shows that Christians are not to be partakers with the children of this world in their wrong ways. He exhorts: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Paul wrote to the saints at Rome to present their bodies a "living sacrifice" to God and to "be *not* conformed to this world: but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:1-2).

If you are seeking God's will and His

guidance in your every thought and action, you will find it a GREAT HINDRANCE to be closely associated with a carnal-minded person—whether on dates, or in any other form of fellowship.

There will always be the tendency to let them *pull you away* from obeying and serving your Creator. They will continually be urging you to break God's Sabbath, to eat unclean meats, to attend the wrong kind of movies or spend your time in night clubs and other wrong kinds of amusement.

A carnal-minded companion will exert just the *opposite* kind of influence from what you should have, IF you love God more than this world, its carnal people, and their wrong ways.

Draw the Line

James tells us, "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the *enemy* of God" (James 4:4). As a Christian, put God *first* in your life. Have the courage to *draw the line* on whom you will, and will not, date.

You are to have *no fellowship* with unbelievers.

Who is an unbeliever?

Christ said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Mat. 12:30). A "believer" is not merely one who believes in Christ as Saviour. Jesus himself prophesied that many would come *in His name*, preaching *about Him*, and would *DECEIVE many* (Mat. 24:5).

A "believer" is one who believes in Christ *and His message*. Faith that is not *acted upon* is DEAD (James 2:26). Notice Acts 2:44, "And all that *believed* were together, and had all things in common." They had *acted* upon their belief, and were sharing the material things with one another during their stay in Jerusalem.

One who *knows* much of the truth, and yet *refuses* to obey it is not to be regarded as a true believer at all. Such people are often more slick and clever in *misleading others* than one who is in total ignorance of God's precious truths.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (I John 2:3). One who really *knows* God will *believe* that His way is right and will obey Him. People who refuse to do this are *not* believers. Therefore, *you should have no regular dates or fellowship with them*.

Use Wisdom

Once you understand the principle of having no fellowship with the world which might weaken your faith, you can apply this to any case which arises.

For instance, there might be a rare occasion when a converted young person would be visiting in another city and

a date might be arranged for him by friends who didn't understand his views. In such a case, he should carefully survey the circumstances. If he knew that the date wouldn't involve participating in any wrong form of amusement, and would *not* involve him in any future dates of this nature, he might accept in order not to offend others. This would not be a *regular* association or *fellowship* with unconverted persons. But even then, the Christian involved should *carefully avoid* a recurrence of this practice, and ask God's guidance in the whole matter.

To cite another example, it would be permissible to date *occasionally* someone whom you felt quite sure by the "fruits" was being called to repentance and obedience to God. You might have good reason to believe that you were helping such a person learn more about God. But here too, be extremely careful that the association is not *regular fellowship*, and that the other party is not just "putting on" in order to date you. If you are deceived into marrying such a person it may *wreck* your life!

Also, some of you who have been married and divorced may wish to date even though you know that it would be *ADULTERY* to marry again. Common sense should tell you that you are playing with *dynamite*! You are putting a very *serious temptation* in your own path, and in the path of whoever you date. If you value *eternal life*, you will not date except under very rare circumstances or until you become free to marry again through the death of your husband or wife. You may need God's Spirit to master yourself, but His power is without limit!

Your Children

If you are converted and your children are not, should you force them to associate only with converted children?

In the first place, *very few* people are really converted until the ages of eighteen to twenty years. You should *not* deprive your child of the opportunity of developing a balanced personality and interests through association with others.

The *ideal* thing would be to have your children in association with the children of other converted brethren. Although still unconverted, the children would at least have an easier time learning the truth about pagan holidays and other worldly practices. It would certainly be a *better* means of fellowship.

But the parent's responsibility is to "train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). While he is young, teach him God's truth in a reasonable and tactful manner.

But after your child reaches high school age, if he or she is bound to have

a "fling" and date worldly fellows or girls, you may *prejudice* his mind against God if you are too overbearing about this. Use discretion as any intelligent parent should do, but don't expect your child to *act* converted when he is not. Just be sure he is in *decent* company, and then ask God to convert him in His time and way.

God has provided excellent means for converted young people to become acquainted with one another. This is through attending the annual festivals of God. We are to "rejoice" in these feasts, and they provide a wonderful opportunity and atmosphere for mixed fellowship. Also, giving your child the advantage of a college education at Ambassador College—*God's* college—may also prove a priceless blessing in the matter of finding a truly converted life partner. This is far more important than most parents realize.

The entire matter of dating, then, is to be approached by understanding and obeying *God's purpose* in making us male and female, and in ordaining marriage. A converted mate is commanded to love and remain faithful even to an unconverted husband or wife (I Cor. 7:10-14). But to those yet unmarried, God has blessed us with the knowledge that we *MUST NOT* marry unbelievers, but that we should choose a mate who will truly *help* us grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

How God Calls His Ministers

(Continued from page 2)

LY signed it with *his name*! In closing this important letter, Paul purposely *signed* it with his own hand—saying, "The salutation of Paul *with mine own hand*, which is the token in *every epistle*, so I write [or, after this manner, I write]" (II Thess. 3:17).

He had told them, "Let no man deceive you by any means" (II Thess. 2:3), and then went on to give them an absolute key as to what was *sure* to happen prior to the coming of Christ.

Peter Gave Warning, Too!

Peter was not unaware of the undercurrent toward apostasy that was beginning then. He wrote, "But there were false prophets among the people, *even as there shall be false teachers among you*, who *privately* shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (II Peter 2:1). Paul had said the "falling away" from true doctrine was a mystery of *lawlessness*

that was beginning in *his* time! (II Thess. 2:7).

The entire second chapter of Peter's second letter is a grave warning against false teachers.

Notice, however, that there is always ONE THING THESE TEACHERS HAVE IN COMMON. Even Korah, and the ones he led with him in his rebellion against the authority of Moses, showed the same traits (See Nos. 16:1-3).

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh," who are concerned about the PHYSICAL SENSES, and the fleshly, carnal sensations, the vanity they might have in obtaining an office, the *popularity*, the *money* they cover,—in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government [AUTHORITY, RSV]. (II Pet. 2:10).

Do you see?

These false teachers who are prophesied to enter in among you brethren will always despise the *Government* of God. They will *talk against* the AUTHORITY in God's Church — promising LIBERTY, *emancipation* from the authority of God! That is exactly what Nimrod did. He promised the people LIBERTY from any rule, any *order* and government that might *regulate* their lives in the ways of God's laws, which lead to everlasting happiness and peace.

"Presumptuous are they," continues Peter (II Pet. 2:10). Yes, they are always PRESUMING to have office, position and authority—while busily engaged in teaching *against* it! They wish to ARROGATE to *themselves* a position of authority—yet promulgate a doctrine of NO authority! They contradict their own words by their ACTIONS, which are visible to all!

"... self-willed [not doing the will of God, but of SELF], they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (II Pet. 2:10). These are never really *submissive* to the authority in God's Church, but just "go along" with it, until it steps on THEM—then, they suddenly show their true colors, and are not in the least bit fearful to speak openly AGAINST Mr. Armstrong, or any other of God's called and chosen servants. Have *you* ever listened to such a person? ARE you such a person? If you ARE—then CHANGE your ways, before it is too late!

God says of such: "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they *understand not*" (they never have the facts of the picture, and so jump to false conclusions), "and shall utterly PERISH in their own corruption" (II Pet. 2:12).

The Church, during its first age, called the "Ephesian" age, or the Church at Ephesus, in the letters to the Churches in Revelation, was commended because it had "*tried* them which SAY they are apostles, and are not, and hast found

them LIARS" (Rev. 2:2). Jesus showed here that many TOOK THE TITLES of offices in the Church and tried to use the *sanction* of the Church, a *cloak* of "authority," to deceive the flock!

Same Situation Possible Now

Most of us are asleep to the danger of that identical thing developing RIGHT NOW! Brethren, whether most of you realize it or not, there are, *at this very moment*, FALSE TEACHERS WITHIN the Church of God!

God's true ministers are aware that there are, at this moment, men who are in scattered parts of the country, holding "Bible Studies" and meetings, even *preaching*, in so-called "campaigns" from time to time, visiting, perhaps, with some of YOU people. They DELIBERATELY LIE, saying they are from the Headquarters Church in Pasadena, saying they were ordained by Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers, and that we in Pasadena have commissioned them to labor in the doctrine!

Yes, astounding though it may seem—some are deliberately LYING to listeners of the broadcast—deluding them into believing they represent the ministry of this Church.

We have heard reports of men who have been visiting members, or perhaps just listeners to the broadcast and readers of the *Plain Truth* magazine, in various parts of the United States.

Every year, at the Feast of Tabernacles, we realize we must be *constantly on guard* to prevent any lengthy "Bible studies" from developing where certain dominant personalities begin to "teach" the people—FALSE DOCTRINES!

It is GOOD that God's people should talk about the Bible. It is right, just and godly that all of God's people SHOULD do this—but when certain ones try to set themselves forward as ministers; as teachers of the Word, then God's true ministers must exercise the all-powerful AUTHORITY God has given them, with the very POWER OF GOD, in *putting down* such false teachings in order to protect the flock!

Watch for these things!

Do *not* let yourself become an "interested" listener to damnable heresies, evil speakings and gossip *against* someone else, or *against* God's great work, or *against* any of the ministers as individuals!

Ministry a Grave Responsibility

It is because the ministers must labor in TEACHING others that God lays such a heavy responsibility on them. Notice Peter's exhortation: "The *Elders* [all ministers are Elders] which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder . . . feed the flock of God which is among you . . . neither as being lords over

God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock" (I Pet. 5:1-3).

To cause another human being to LOSE SALVATION is the most dastardly act a person can commit! Notice what Jesus said of such an act: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences [causing another to stumble—and go back into *sin*]! for it must needs be that offences come, but *woe* to that man by whom the offense cometh!" (Matt. 18:6-7).

The well-known 3rd chapter of James, the lesson on the evils of the tongue—of evil speaking and gossip—is directed primarily to those who TEACH OTHERS—the MINISTRY.

"My brethren, be not many masters," is better translated, "My brethren, *do not many of you become teachers!*" (vs. 1), "... knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation {*judgment*}."

Why? Simply because, as Paul said to Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, *and them that hear thee*" (I Tim. 4:16). The minister can help SAVE people by the RIGHT, DILIGENT, FAITHFUL preaching of God's true word! He can also be responsible for sending people straight to Gehenna fire by the *wrong* use of the position in which God has placed him!

It is because of that TREMENDOUS *responsibility* that James said, "Don't *many* of you become teachers!"

But!

Anyone—be he false minister, professing teacher, deliberate liar, or innocent lay member trying to "do good" to others, who teaches doctrines to any other person which LEAD THAT PERSON ASTRAY—comes under the condemnation of the word of God—which says WOE unto that man! (Luke 17:1-2).

And, perhaps even without realizing it, YOU could be teaching false doctrines to another person! "*Examine* yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; *prove* your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is *in* you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5). "Let him that *thinketh* he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12).

Perhaps many of the brethren have not realized the *gravity* of the responsibility of being a steward of God's word. Many times, "old wives' tales" and cure-alls for petty ailments and afflictions are freely passed out when one person learns another is sick. This could constitute a vitally serious infraction against Almighty God—and against the sick brother or sister! These are *just a few* of the

ways in which it is possible to cause a brother to stumble! But *remember*, God's word is literally *filled* with fearsome WARNINGS to any and all who would *presumptuously* SET THEMSELVES UP as "teachers" of the people, when God has not specifically PLACED them in that office!

How God Calls His Servants

My father fully explained the principles of ordination in his article entitled, "Must God's Ministers be Ordained by the Hand of Man?"

It is GOD who chooses and calls His servants. (Eph. 4:11, I Cor. 12:28). The WAY He calls them needs to be definitely understood!

Notice, Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but *I have chosen you, and ordained you . . .*" (John 15:16). When He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He said to Peter and Andrew, "FOLLOW ME, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Notice, NOT ONE of Jesus' disciples whom He called and ORDAINED to the ministry CHOSE THEMSELVES!

I want you to think *very carefully* about this next statement! It constitutes a great principle of God's word—and a vitally important KEY to be used in God's true ministry!

THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE EXAMPLE—*ANYWHERE* IN THE BIBLE, WHERE A CALLED AND CHOSEN SERVANT OF GOD CAME FORWARD AND *VOLUNTEERED* FOR THE OFFICE!

Moses argued that he was unfit for the job, Jeremiah said he was too young, Jonah *ran away*, Samuel was directly called of God, David knew nothing until Samuel announced it to him. *All* of the prophets say, "The Word of the Lord CAME unto . . ." them, not that they volunteered for the office!

Jesus *called* and *appointed* His true disciples. Paul was *struck down* by a miracle. Paul "took" Timothy unto him, and so it is *throughout* the history of God's Church. My father *fought vigorously* against the truth of God before He was finally called.

However—*after* a person has been called into the *Church*, and becomes a Spirit-begotten child of God, it is not wrong, but rather a *good thing* if he DESIRES an office in the ministry (I Tim. 3:1).

God Works Through Human Instruments

But Jesus said, "Wherefore *by their fruits* ye shall know them!" (Matt. 7:20). The Scriptural QUALIFICATIONS imposed upon any person whom God is calling to the ministry are so absolutely RIGID that there is no possibility of unqualified, uncalled and untrained men being ordained.

One great principle that seems so difficult for some few to understand is that the Creator who gives us every breath of air we breathe accomplishes His plan here below—yes, and even *governs His Church*—THROUGH HUMAN BEINGS—HIS INSTRUMENTS!

God is now sending the Gospel of His soon-coming Government into many parts of this darkened world. But He is not yet shouting with His own booming, earth-shaking voice—He is sending the Gospel over the airwaves by the voice of HIS HUMAN INSTRUMENT, Mr. Armstrong!

He is seeing to it that YOU are receiving this magazine, to feed and *nourish* you in His truth, to *warn* you of impending dangers, to try to HELP each hungry "babe in Christ" gain an entrance into His glorious Kingdom. But the magazine is written, edited, typed, printed, and mailed by *human instruments*.

It is the same in calling His ministry!

Many have assumed the Apostle Paul was the exception to the rule that ministers were always ordained through HUMAN INSTRUMENTS, by the *laying on of the hands of the ministry*!

That assumption is false!

Paul's Ordination

Read the account of Paul's ORDINATION by human instruments with your own eyes!

Turn to Acts, the 13th chapter. Here, you see the gathering of the elders at Antioch, and the ordination of Paul. The entire account was explained in a former article, but very briefly, remember that Paul had been struck down on the road to Damascus, blinded, and *made willing* to receive God's Spirit through a *real* REPENTANCE!

He was able to "preach Christ" to the Jews at Damascus then, "*proving* that this is very Christ!" (Acts 9:20 & 22). But notice that Paul was not a MINISTER—he was not an active member in the Governmental body of the Church—he was merely doing what ANY OF YOU should be *able* to do—. . . be ready always to give an *answer* to every man that *asketh* you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15).

After this short "witnessing" that Jesus was the true Christ, Paul went to Arabia (Gal. 1:17) and returned to Damascus (vs. 18). After *three years* (vs. 18), Paul then went down to TARSUS, the city of his birth. Prior to this time, however, Paul had been with the other Apostles in Jerusalem, after Barnabas had told them of the miraculous way in which God struck him down. He *learned* from them, "And he was *with them* coming in and going out at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:28).

Just as God's ministers are actually sent out to a local church to preach sermonettes—or perhaps even serve as acting Pastor for a period of time—so PAUL was TRIED AND PROVED in the actual ministry.

Notice how Barnabas, also a disciple of the Church, later took Paul with him when he went to Antioch, and they taught many people for another additional YEAR (Acts 11:25-26). It was only after this time of actual ministerial experience and training — having been *alone* with Christ in the desert—having been under the direct supervision of the headquarters church at Jerusalem, then taken with Barnabas who was older in the faith, to Antioch, that God finally led His servants to *ordain* Paul!

Notice, as the elders were ministering to the Lord at Antioch, they were FASTING (Acts 13:2). During this time, as they were in fasting and prayer—the "Holy Spirit said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them'" (vs. 2).

God's Holy Spirit directed the minds of His praying, fasting servants—His HUMAN INSTRUMENTS! For example, the Holy Spirit said, "Separate Herman Hoeh and Roderick Meredith unto me for the work whereunto I have called them!" He directly REVEALED to Mr. Armstrong—who could see by the FRUITS being borne of these men, by their consecration and dedication to God's work, by the *need* of the work—by their spiritual leadership and qualifications that *God* was doing the calling!

And so it was with the Apostle Paul!

The ministers were told to "separate" Paul! A *settin' apart* or a "separation" for an office is just another word for ORDINATION! Notice what happened! "And when they had *fasted and prayed* [as in *all* cases of ordinations], AND LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, they sent them away" (Acts 13:3).

There is the record of the ordination of the Apostle Paul BY HUMAN INSTRUMENTS, in the exact same way God *always* calls and chooses His true ministers — after conversion, a number of years of *study* and *preparation*, actual field testing and proving in the ministry, and final ordination when GOD shows His ministers His will!

False "Visions" and "Dreams"

Some, however, who are always looking for ways to GET AROUND the set and established ways of their Creator and RULER, want to "have their own way," and so try to achieve their own goals by wrong means!

Frequently, some will get a certain "feeling" they are being called to the ministry! Setting their heart on the ministry, they DECIDE God has called them

to be His stewards—and begin to **FORCE THEMSELVES IN!** Notice, they have NOT been trained—have NOT fulfilled the Divinely imposed Scriptural qualifications, have NOT been observed, tested and proved by God's true ministers—they merely "make up their minds" and then **VOLUNTEER!**

BUT NONE OF GOD'S TRUE SERVANTS HAVE EVER VOLUNTEERED IN THIS MANNER!

Others have a "dream" and then come to the ministers, *telling them* God is calling them to the ministry! But **WHO HAD THE DREAMS IN THE BIBLE?** The one being called? Or the human *instrument* used in the actual calling?

Notice! In the case of the Apostle Paul, the miraculous vision on the road to Damascus **WAS ALSO COUPLED WITH A VISION WHICH APPEARED TO ANANIAS**—a truly converted man, who was *already* in God's Church—whom God used as the instrument in *baptizing* Paul. Ananias **DID NOT ordain** Paul—he merely *baptized* him!

God's true servants are not called by weird dreams and visions which God keeps **HIDDEN** from His *already-called* and ordained officers of the Church.

A lay member will not be called to the ministry without the **MINISTERS** being the **FIRST ONES TO RECOGNIZE IT—BEFORE THE LAY MEMBER EVER DOES!**

A Host of "Volunteers"

The Bible is also explicit on a whole **GROUP** of men who "volunteered" for the ministry, or a prophetic office, or a position of leadership in the congregation!

"Now Korah . . . rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel . . . against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, '*You take too much upon you, seeing ALL the congregation are holy . . . wherefore then lift ye up YOURSELVES above the congregation?*'" (Nos. 16:1-3).

Notice! (Moses and Aaron were accused of having **APPOINTED THEMSELVES** and "lifting up themselves" over the congregation! *You and I* know, however, that Moses and Aaron were *called of God!*

But—as is nearly **ALWAYS** the case when a presumptuous person tries to **USURP** authority, he repudiates the office of the one in the already-established position, and accuses that person of having *illegitimately* arrogated the office to himself!

Let's never let this happen to any of us! Notice the fearsome **END** of Korah! ". . . the ground clave asunder that was under them, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods . . . and they *perished* from among the congregation" (Numbers 16:31-33).

Satan "volunteered" to *take over the office of God!* All the **FALSE** prophets set themselves up, claiming to be the true prophets of God! Adonijah, Solomon's half-brother, tried to set himself up as King over Israel, and was finally killed for his presumptuousness! Simon, the sorcerer, wanted the power of God, and tried to *buy* it with money! Peter said, "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money . . . thy **HEART IS NOT RIGHT** in the sight of God" (Acts 8:20-21).

Any person who tries to *arrogate to himself* an office of the ministry *joins ranks with Korah, with Adonijah and all the false prophets, and with Satan the Devil himself!*

Many Do Not Know Who All of God's Ministers Are!

As God has granted such wonderful *growth* and *new vitality* to His true Church, it has presented another problem we need to overcome!

Many of you brethren are in scattered areas—and do not really **KNOW** who all the ministers are! Usually, we have always printed in the *Good News Magazine* an article about any ordinations that have occurred—but many new members have been brought in to the flock of true believers in recent months and years, and they are unsure as to **WHO** is a minister, and who is not!

For that reason, we give you the following *list*, which comprises **ALL** the God-called and ordained ministers, deacons and deaconesses in the True Church of God for today!

The one whom God has placed in the office of **APOSTLE AND GENERAL PASTOR**: Herbert W. Armstrong;

EVANGELISTS: Garner Ted Armstrong, Richard D. Armstrong, Raymond C. Cole, Herman L. Hoeh, Raymond F. McNair, Dr. C. Paul Meredith, Roderick C. Meredith, Norman A. Smith;

PASTORS: Dean C. Blackwell, C. Wayne Cole;

PREACHING ELDERS: James L. Fridde, Jr., David Jon Hill, H. Burk McNair, George A. Meeker, Jr., R. Carlton Smith, Kenneth R. Swisher, Gerald D. Waterhouse;

LOCAL ELDERS: Richard Prince, Jr., Basil Wolverton;

DEACONS: Alton B. Billingsley, Widd Boyce, Gene Carter, Otis Cole, Eddie Eckert, Buck Hammer, Roy Hammer, Dave Henion, F. William Homberger, A. R. Jantzen, James F. Kunz, Malcolm Martin, H. A. Olson, A. N. Roesler, Otis Rowell, I. E. Starkey, Dwight Webster;

DEACONESSSES: Mrs. Roy Hammer, Mrs. Annie Mann.

There you have a *complete* list of *all* the ordained ministers and officers in God's true Church of this age! I hope

all of you are really **REJOICING** in the growth God is granting, and, as every one of us should be, *praying* "ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38).

Remember brethren, God's word **WARNS** us of false teachers who will arise—and try to deceive many of **YOU!** You should not only pray for additional *true* ministers to be called, but you should also be diligently praying that God will protect His flock—and protect **YOU**—from being deceived and led away from His only true Church by a **FALSE** minister.

God's true ministers are ordained for the **GOOD** of the flock, for the spiritual edification and *growth* of each one of you, "**TILL** we all come in the *unity* of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the *fullness* of Christ!" (Eph. 4:13).

Are You "Putting Off" Salvation?

(Continued from page 6)

"And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, '**LAZARUS COME FORTH!**'" (vs. 43). And a man who had been **DEAD** four days walked *alive* out of his tomb.

Why was Christ able to speak only a short, eleven-second prayer, and *publically*, in front of the people there, and still perform one of His greatest miracles?

Simply because He was **FASTING** and praying *constantly*, not just working up a *temporary* "spiritual attitude" to perform some great thing—not just "getting in the mood" for a *while*. He was in such constant communion with God, that He needed only to lift His eyes to heaven, and break off *one* conversation, with other human beings, and begin a *new* conversation — with His Heavenly Father. Remember, Jesus is *your example*.

But, sadly enough, most of us don't have the **WILL POWER** Jesus had. We constantly tell ourselves, "Well, I'm too hungry today, I'll put it off until tomorrow" or, "I've got too much work to do, that will require all my physical strength—I'll put it off until later" or, "I won't have a good opportunity to **PRAY** today, so the fasting would only be starving my physical body for nothing—I'll *wait* until I'm not so busy!" In just this fashion,

you can drift rapidly into a state of spiritual lethargy!

GOD'S CHURCH IS NOT FASTING ANYWHERE NEAR ENOUGH!

The Leaky Roof

This type of neglect is about like the farmer whose roof leaks. Always, when he is reminded about the holes in the roof, he begins to reason, "Well, it's not raining now, and I've got so much else to do—I'll put it off until tomorrow." Tomorrow comes, and then several tomorrows, until it finally rains, and he is forced to scatter several pots and pans around in the house to catch the rain water coming through the holes in the roof. He certainly can't get up on the roof in the rain, can he? And then—after the rain has stopped, he thinks there is no need to repair the roof yet, because it isn't raining anymore!

Are you like that farmer?

Brethren, *never forget* that "... the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Pet. 4:17). If you're constantly *putting things off* until tomorrow, you're being judged on the strength of **EMPTY PROMISES** and **HYPOCRISY**! Rather than real works being noted in your record, you have a record filled with half-hearted promises and "good intentions."

Listen!

GOOD INTENTIONS are not going to save one single soul from the damnation of physical agonies and final spiritual death! If they could, then God would allow almost the majority of the sinning, ignorant, degenerate humans on earth into His glorious Kingdom! You'd better get busy while the sun is shining, and stop up that leaky roof—*fill the gaps* in your study and prayer habits, until you're ready for the strongest *typhoons* and *hurricanes* of temptation and persecution—because THEY ARE COMING!

The Time Is NOW!

Peter warns us "... the end of all things IS AT HAND: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer!" (I Pet. 4:7). We are exhorted to be diligently WORKING OUT our own salvation, with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) and to be putting off DAILY the traits and characteristics of the "old man" of sin! (Col. 3:9-10, I Cor. 15:31).

Jesus illustrated this DAY-BY-DAY fight of the Christian when He said, "Sufficient unto the DAY is the evil thereof" (Matt. 6:34). You've got to conquer today's problems TODAY — not make empty promises about "getting around" to it tomorrow!

Christ tells us, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that

wait for the Lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately!" (Luke 12:35-36). Are we going to say to Christ, "I'll get up and let you in tomorrow" at His coming?

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus said it is a day-to-day process! Notice the example of the Bereans, who were so intrigued by the teaching of the Apostle Paul that they "searched the scriptures DAILY ... THEREFORE many of them believed" (Acts 17:11-12).

Many are comforting themselves by telling themselves, "I'm trying to quit this or that ... I'm in the process of doing what I know I should" and, content to be in a constant state of "trying," they never seem to get around to really DOING anything about it!

Notice how much emphasis God places on doing things TODAY! "But exhort one another daily, WHILE IT IS CALLED TODAY; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13).

A Broad Principle

Perhaps this sounds like a simple key, a rudimentary truth, which is certainly understood readily enough by the majority of God's people. But it is actually much more than that! It constitutes a tremendous, all-encompassing PRINCIPLE, which, IF REALLY PRACTICED, will result in eternal life!

QUIT PUTTING THINGS OFF—AS OF NOW.

Had you promised yourself you would pray more today? THEN DO IT! STOP reading this article *right now*! It will still be here when you return—but TIME is passing! Go to your closet or bedroom NOW and pray, if you had intended to do so. *Learn this lesson once and for all—DON'T PUT THINGS OFF*, if you intend to enter God's Kingdom!

You can return and finish this article later—but you probably WON'T take time to PRAY later.

God tells us the coming of Christ is just around the corner in world affairs! It's much later than most of us think! Have YOU been so securely self-satisfied

in the knowledge of prophecy God has revealed that you reason in your mind that Christ probably won't come for another FIFTEEN YEARS or more? Have you begun to REASON that there remains PLENTY of time—and said to yourself, "I'll REALLY put on the pressure right down in the last few years — there's plenty of time yet — I'll put off overcoming until tomorrow?" *Probably you have!*

But God says to cast down reasonings and face the truth! (II Cor. 10:5).

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the DAY: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober!" (I Thes. 5:4-6).

Yet many of you ARE asleep!

I know some of you BY NAME—and, the chances are, YOU KNOW that I know, and that other ministers know, and that others of the congregation know! BUT—what is MOST important—GOD KNOWS! Are you going to continue "kidding yourself" that you'll begin putting on the pressure later? Some of you have been physically associated with God's Church for YEARS—AND HAVE NOT GROWN!

Every time you put off until tomorrow what you could accomplish today, you are weakening—and possibly even DESTROYING part of your character! And CHARACTER is the very reason for life! CHARACTER is what you should take with you into God's Kingdom!

Brethren—DON'T let this be "just another interesting article" to you! DON'T read it, agree with it, and then forget about it! DON'T allow Satan to deceive you that you're all right spiritually! YOU KNOW you're not!

Then, in the name of Christ our Saviour, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT—NOW! DON'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER!

Work Goes Forward

(Continued from page 4)

especially of the local congregations through a regular "Church News" column. We welcome your suggestions, your comments, and any local church news that you wish to contribute to this column.

Let us know how God is blessing, healing and strengthening each of you in the local congregations—and you scattered brethren as well. Let us all come to realize more fully that—wherever we are—we are members of God's Church, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

HOLY DAY CALENDAR Fall 1957

Festival of Trumpets, Thursday, September 26.
Day of Atonement, fast day, Saturday, October 5.
Festival of Tabernacles, begins sunset, Wednesday, October 9; ends sunset, Wednesday, October 16.
Last Great Day, Thursday, October 17.