

August 2022

# THE LANTERN



II Peter 1:19

OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL

**“So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts.”**

**(II Peter 1:19 - GWT)**

THE  
LANTERN  
OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL



II Peter 1:19

AUGUST 2022

VOL. I - NO. 2

**CONTENTS:**

◆ Personal from the editor	1
◆ Christ's Return	2
◆ Bible Study – The Day of Atonement	3
◆ The World Tomorrow... Today!	4
◆ The End and the Beginning	8
◆ Let's Face It!	13



**The Last Great Day  
See page 8**

**Editor:**  
Gary Liebold

**Writers:**  
Gary Liebold  
Charlie Culpepper  
Corey M. Smith

**PUBLISHED BY THE  
CHURCH OF GOD - SCATTERED  
FAITHFUL**

**Address all communications to:**

Church of God, Scattered Faithful  
P.O. Box 7480  
Seminole, FL 33775

**Treasurer:**

Geary Whiting

**Secretary:**

Leonard Hatter

Pictures courtesy of "Pexels" & iStock  
(Except for the "Personal" & Pg. 6)

# *Personal* from the editor



## The Fall HOLY DAY Season

Soon, we will be observing God's fall Holy Days, beginning with the Feast of Trumpets. The next festival after the Feast of Trumpets is the Day of Atonement, then the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Each of God's festivals show a progression of vital steps in His MASTER PLAN of salvation.

To many people in the world, the Holy Days often seem very unfamiliar. Over thirty years ago I had an employee working for me in our INTERIORS business who was quite perplexed about my (and my wife's), observance of these festivals. She expressed her belief that observing these days was only a Jewish custom kept by orthodox Jews, and not for a Christian. However, these days are God's Holy Days, not "Jewish" days, and they have real purpose and meaning!

**"These are the Feasts of the ETERNAL, even Holy convocations [assemblies], which ye shall proclaim in their seasons" ... "These are the Feasts of the ETERNAL, which ye shall proclaim to be Holy convocations [assemblies]..." (Leviticus 23:4, 37).**

In the old **Bible Correspondence Course – (Lesson 41)**, we can see some of the scriptures that reveal how **God** feels about what these Holy Days picture. The section below is specifically written about the Feast of Trumpets...

**"The Feast of Trumpets points to the next event in God's Great Plan. It pictures the now-imminent return of Jesus Christ to save this sick and dying world from annihilation.**

**At His return, the dead in Christ -- those who had been begotten and led by God's Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11-14) -- will be RESURRECTED and made IMMORTAL -- including the prophets of old (Luke 13:28). Those Spirit-begotten Sons who are alive when Christ returns shall be instantaneously CHANGED from mortality to immortality (I Corinthians 15:50-54); and, together with those resurrected, shall rise to meet the descending, glorified Christ in the air (I Thessalonians 4:17).**

**These newly born-again, immortal Sons of God shall then descend WITH CHRIST out of the clouds to stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4-5), and to begin RULING the nations WITH CHRIST! (Daniel 7:22; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21.)"**

All of us should be reviewing and studying the various scriptures concerning the upcoming fall Holy Days. After all, it won't be long now, and we'll be teaching the world these same TRUTHS of God.

*Gary R. Liebold*

# THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS AND CHRIST'S RETURN

***The Feast of Trumpets has such tremendous meaning for all of mankind. It pictures the spectacular and dramatic return of Jesus Christ to this earth!***

Gary Liebold

**T**he Feast of Trumpets is the fourth festival in God's MASTER PLAN! This year in 2022, we will observe the festival of Trumpets on September 26th. We are to observe it on the first day of the seventh month of Tishri, according to God's Sacred calendar. This day has such tremendous meaning for all of mankind. It pictures the spectacular and dramatic return of Jesus Christ to this earth, establishing the Kingdom and Government of God.

"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *And* all the saints with You." (**Zechariah 14:4-5**).

We see in **Acts 1:11**, that Christ promised He would return to this earth, not to ANNOUNCE the Kingdom of God this time (the gospel message He preached - **Mark 1:14**), but to set-up and establish that Kingdom! If it wasn't for the return of Jesus Christ and His intervention in world affairs, man would literally destroy himself!

"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders who

sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.'" (**Revelation 11:15-18**).

"Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (**Revelation 19:15-16**).

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote the following in *Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days - Which?... "Christ directly intervenes in world affairs at the seventh or the last trump (Rev. 11:15-19). A trumpet is a symbol of war. He comes in a time of worldwide war -- when the nations are angry! As soon as the work of gathering in the firstfruits (pictured by Pentecost) is completed at the end of this present age, then Christ will begin to set up again the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16) -- to set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people... (Isa. 11:11).*

*(Continued on Page 12)*

# BIBLE STUDY

## THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

**The Day of Atonement, God's fifth annual festival, reveals that Christ will depose Satan the devil from his present position as world ruler (Matthew 4:8-9), and remove him to a place where he will be locked away from mankind.**

1. In both **Leviticus 23:26 - 32** and **16: 29-31**, we see that the Day of Atonement follows only nine days after the Feast of Trumpets, the fourth festival in God's Master Plan. God's people are commanded to assemble before Him on this day (**Leviticus 23:27**).

2. The Day of Atonement is the one day of the year on which God commands that we fast - to fully abstain from food and water for 24 hours (**Leviticus 16:31, Esther 4:16, Leviticus 23:32**). By humbling oneself to draw closer to God and His righteous ways (**Isaiah 58:6-11**), fasting on the Day of Atonement is a reminder of the humility and earnest search needed for God and His way of life, which then reminds us of the state of mind necessary for salvation.

3. This festival also differs from all other annual Hold Days in that no work whatsoever - even the simplest preparation of food for nourishment - is to be done on it (**Number 29:7, Leviticus 16:29**).

4. The Day of Atonement symbolizes God and man being melded together *AT ONE* - literally the Day of **AT-ONE-MENT**! Webster's dictionary defines the word "atone" as, "to set as one" or "to join as one". In other words, to form one entity by uniting together.

5. The 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Leviticus details God's instructions to the Levitical priesthood of ancient Israel concerning the Day of Atonement. The high priest was to make a special sin offering once a year to atone for all the sins of Israel on the Day of Atonement (**Leviticus 16:29-34**). We can see that Aaron, as high priest, took two goats for presentation to the Lord at the door to the tabernacle. After casting lots for the two goats, one was selected to be slain as the sin offering for the people, while the second goat was to symbolically place Israel's sins on the head of the goat and led away into the

wilderness. In duality, the first goat, slain by the high priest, represented Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for our sins. The second goat pictures Satan as the author of all the sins of mankind and being completely removed from the presence of man after all sins were placed on his head, where they belong (**John 8:42-44**).

6. After the return of Jesus Christ, Satan and his demons will be banished into the "bottomless pit", or abyss, completely restrained from further leading mankind into sin by the broadcasting of evil attitudes into people's minds (**Ephesians 2:2, Revelation 18:1, 20:1-3**). At the devil's restraining by an angel of God, the minds of men, formerly kept closed by Satan, will be opened to God's Word by the Holy Spirit.

The first three festivals in God's Master Plan - Passover, The Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost, portray events leading to the first spiritual "harvest" of spirit-begotten human beings into God's Family. The last four festivals show the plan God has for completing salvation for the rest of the world after the return of Jesus Christ. The Day of Atonement, the fifth annual festival, reveals that Christ will depose Satan the devil from his present position as world ruler (**Matthew 4:8-9**), and remove him to a place where he will be locked away from mankind.

For the first time, humanity will be able to understand God's Master Plan of salvation, with the opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness for their sins through Christ's sacrifice. Then man will become *AT ONE* with Jesus Christ and God the Father, as pictured by the Day of Atonement. ♦



# The World Tomorrow... TODAY!

*Is a utopian society achievable in today's world?*

Corey M. Smith



Are we living in a utopia today? One can quickly look around and give a resounding NO! But let's pause for just a moment and think only of God's Church TODAY. Now let's ask that question again. Are we living in a utopia today? Still struggling to answer, "yes"? Let's look at all that we must be thankful for today, in God's one true Church, THE CHURCH OF GOD.

When one thinks of Utopia it's easy to conjure up images in our minds of what a utopia is like. We might think of ultra-clean cities, rolling green hills, waterfalls, and children playing at

peace in parks with no threat of being kidnapped or harmed. You might even think of a world of unlimited knowledge, advances in medicine, cures for disease, and one global language to connect us all. After all, isn't that what the worldwide web has done for us today? We have made great strides in medicine and yet the world is getting worse, and certainly NOT moving towards a utopia! If you asked the average person today if a utopia was possible, I believe you would get some very interesting answers. In fact, you might be shocked to know that the very definition of utopia is just something conjured up in your mind.

The **Websters dictionary** defines "Utopia" as the following. ***"an imaginary and indefinitely remote place; a place of ideal perfection, especially in laws, government and social conditions; an impractical scheme for social improvement."*** You see, to the world, UTOPIA is an imaginary place. It's a fantasy that can only be played out on the big screen.

**But is utopia REAL to the people of God's Church?** Do we take a moment every day from this evil sin-sick world and dive into the REAL world that has been restored and left to us today? As we



approach God's fall Holy Day season, we are reminded of the WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW. Christ will soon be ushering in the WORLD TOMORROW, building up a society of peace, joy, and atonement with the GREAT Creator God.

Let us get back now to the question asked at the beginning of this article. And take a closer look at all that we must be thankful for, today, in God's one true Church - THE CHURCH OF GOD. Now, I could fill a whole magazine with all we can be thankful for but let us just pick out a few that target this specific subject of The WORLD TOMORROW, and see if we, (by the end of this article), can't give a better answer to the question. **Are we living in a utopia today?**

## Christ's Return

We are soon approaching the restored understanding of the Feast of Trumpets. How real is that in our minds? Is this just one day a year to celebrate, or are we focused on this truth throughout the year? It must be real to us; we must believe it as though it has already happened!

In the ***Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days - Which?*** booklet, Mr. Armstrong wrote...

**"Christ directly intervenes in world affairs at the seventh or the last trump (Rev. 11:15-19). A trumpet is a symbol of war. He comes in a time of worldwide war—when the nations are angry! As soon as the work of gathering in the firstfruits (pictured by Pentecost), is completed at the end of this present age, then Christ will begin to set up again the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16)--to set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people (Isa. 11:11)--to search out and to find His lost sheep that the ministers of the churches have failed to search out and save during this period (Ezek. 34:1-14).**

**Notice exactly when this takes place! "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they [Israel] shall come which were ready to perish...and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem" (Isa. 27:13). When will Israel be regathered? At the sound of the trump—at the Second Coming of Christ. Because the churches have forgotten the Festival of Trumpets, many think that the return of a part of the Jews to the Holy Land and the setting up of a nation called Israel now is the fulfillment of this prophecy!" (Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days - Which?)**

## AT-ONE with God

There is one day a year we dedicate to this wonderful event. The day is a yearly reminder that we should be AT ONE with God throughout the year, continually praying and fasting for the fulfillment of this day.



**"The Day of Atonement pictures a wonderful and great event, to take place after the Second Coming of Christ, which the world is in total ignorance of because it has failed to see the true significance of these annual Sabbaths holy unto the Lord. It has failed to keep them as a constant reminder of God's plan of redemption!"**

## **The Restored TRUTH of the World Tomorrow**



Do we realize that the understanding of the Feast of Tabernacles is a restoration of TRUTH? (As are all of God's annual sabbaths) We would know nothing about the true meaning of the WORLD TOMORROW without a messenger in this end-time. Do we study, throughout the year, about this restored truth? Are we inspired DAILY to live out this REAL world today?

**"Here are pictured those final culminating events in God's great plan: after Christ has died for our sins to redeem mankind—after He has sent us the Holy Spirit and picked out a people for His Name to become kings and priests through the thousand years—after His glorious Second Coming—after He has finally restored the redeemed by placing all the sins upon the head of Satan, their real author, and separating both him and the sins from the presence of God and His people, thus finally perfecting the at-one-ment, making us finally joined in one—then we are ready for that final series of events, the**

**commencement of the "Marriage of the Lamb," the actual making of the New Covenant, the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth and the reaping of the great harvest of souls for a thousand years.**

**This festival is the picture of the Millennium!"**  
*(Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days – Which?)*

## **The Last and GREATEST of all Days**

Is the meaning of this Last GREAT Day a part of our prayers and studies throughout the year? How many of us wish that our family and friends were here in the Church with us today? Have you lost a loved one through death this year, that was not called? Well, here is how you help them! Study and **REALLY** come to understand the meaning of this day so that YOU will be able to teach them and lead them in the ways of our Creator!

**"This is that judgment day mentioned in Matthew 10: 15. It is a time when Gentiles who died in ignorance will be given an opportunity to receive**

**salvation. Ezekiel 16:53-55 makes this very plain. Even those in Israel who died in their sins will be given their *first* opportunity to understand the truth of God and His way (Ezek. 37). The prophet wrote that God would pour out His Spirit on those resurrected (verse 14). This is precisely the salvation that Jesus mentioned in His sermon on that great day of the feast in the autumn of 30 A.D.**

**This eighth day, which immediately follows the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, pictures the completion of the plan of redemption. It is just prior to the new heaven and the new earth. All—parents and children, young and old—will be resurrected.**

**Notice that the "book of life"—typifying salvation—is opened (Rev. 20:12). Revelation presents the final view of the "judgment day" as the present material heaven and earth are perishing—and the faithful are receiving their eternal reward at the throne of Christ. The wicked—those who disobey—are seen perishing**



**in the lake of fire! What a marvelous plan! All will have an equal opportunity.”** (*Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days – Which?*)

Those of us that are called today have a magnificent opportunity to be CHOSEN! For many are called, but few are chosen (**Matthew 22:14**). You see, it isn't enough just to be called. Some actions **MUST BE** taken, to be chosen. We must endure to the end and work hard on expanding our knowledge, using the tools that have been left us by God in the Philadelphia Era.

In a sermon given by Mr. Armstrong, “**The Meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles**,” on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1981, God's servant (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong), spoke these words...

“Oh, how terrible it is, brethren, that the world doesn't know **WHY WE ARE HERE! THEY DON'T KNOW THE PURPOSE OF LIFE!! THEY DON'T KNOW THE PURPOSE OF GOD ALMIGHTY**. But this Church is beginning to tell them; and we've been telling them now for about forty-eight, forty-nine years. And the only voice in the world that is telling them the real truth of **WHO AND WHAT GOD IS, OF THE REAL MESSAGE OF GOD AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST** which is the Gospel OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, OF WHAT AND WHY MAN IS, HOW DID WE COME TO BE HERE? WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF LIFE? WHY WERE WE PUT HERE? The world does not know those things.”

“People think that when you say, “I receive Christ,” you have received salvation. The Bible does not teach that, my brethren. The Bible teaches that he that endureth unto the end the same shall be saved. Salvation comes with the **Second Coming of Jesus Christ** and not until then. Oh, how deceived this whole world is. Satan the Devil has deceived them. He is the god of this world. He has his religions, he has his

governments, he has his social structure, he has his business and economic structure. He has everything in this world! It's his world. But finally... (*Revelation 12:10-11*) **...the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ [the rulership of Christ]: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God, day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved their lives unto death.**

That doesn't mean that everybody dies that loves God and has His Word. In fact, this Church is to be protected from that sort of thing. But you have to love God and love peace and love things like that more than your life.

Have you gained knowledge of the things of God since last Feast of Tabernacles a year ago? I have. Have you? I'm in my ninetieth year now,

but I've learned a lot in this last year. I try to pass on to you what I've learned, and I'm passing on some of that to you today that I did not know a year ago. Are you closer to God than you were a year ago?

Just where do you stand? The Church is going to be ready, but are you going to be ready? That doesn't mean everybody in Church,

brethren. You need to realize that.”

We have much to be thankful for in this scattered time. God truly has blessed the Philadelphia era with **SO MUCH TRUTH!** We have the tools at our disposal, to dig into our Bibles and UNDERSTAND the meaning of these wonderful Sabbaths and what they mean for **ALL OF MANKIND!**

Assuredly we can say, with all certainty, **NO**, we are not living in a physical utopia today. But, if we are studying, praying, fasting, and seeking out the knowledge of God's **AWESOME** plan for mankind (pictured in these restored fall **HOLY DAYS**), then we, of all the billions that have ever lived, **CAN live OUT and live IN the SPIRITUAL WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW... TODAY!** ♦



# The End and the Beginning...

## The Last Great Day!

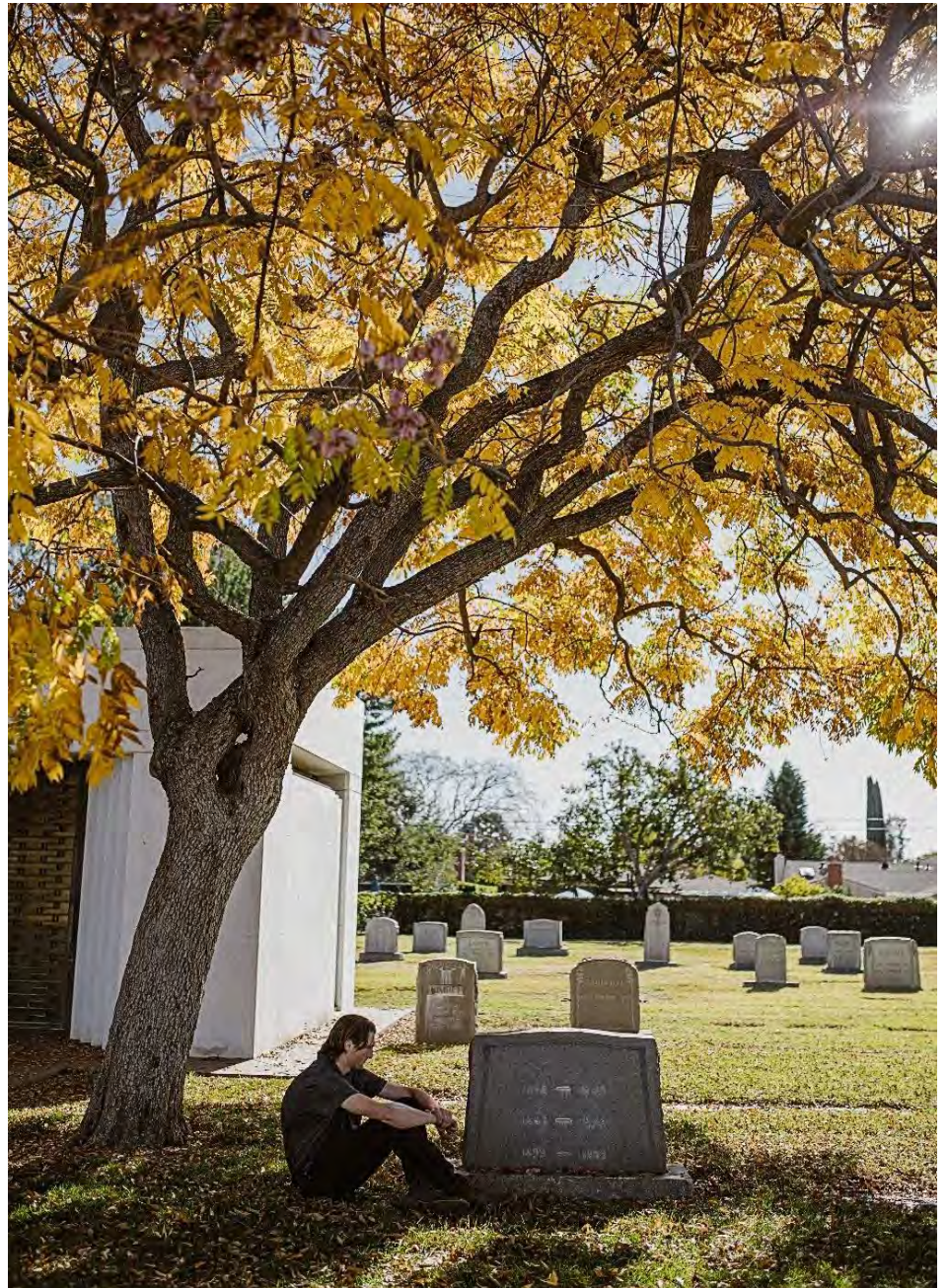
***...How this festival pictures mankind's greatest hope AND the dawn of a new age!***

Charlie Culpepper

**I**t can be very easy to overlook or take for granted the Last Great Day as just another Feast Day capping off the week-long festival of Tabernacles. But the meaning of this separate festival carries tremendous significance to the plan of God and a true message of hope for the world.

Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote about this day in *Pagan Holidays - or God's Holy Days - Which?...*

**“Did you notice that the Feast of Tabernacles is only the sixth festival? There is yet another-the seventh! The Feast of Tabernacles is, strictly speaking, seven days long-to picture the entire Millennium. Seven is God's number of completeness. Therefore, there must also be seven festivals. Let us notice where it is mentioned: ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord... on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you... it is a [day of] solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein’ (Leviticus 23:34, 36). This eighth day, a separate feast, is called**





'the last day, that great day of the feast' (John 7:37). What does this final holy day represent? Notice what Jesus preached about on that day: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink .. out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive)... (John 7:37-39). This was Jesus' sermon giving the meaning of the last great day!

Now turn to Revelation 20. After the Millennium, what happens? A resurrection! The dead stand before God. This couldn't include true Christians today, as they will appear before the judgment seat when Christ returns. It couldn't refer to those converted during the Millennium. They have already inherited the Kingdom during the Millennium, after living out a normal life-span. Those in this resurrection must be those who died in ignorance in past ages! They are not brought to life until after the Millennium (Revelation 20:5)."

Consider for just a moment. For nearly 6,000 years, mankind has been cut off from God. Billions have been born, lived, and died having never known the true God or His way of life.

Remember that when Adam and Eve took of the forbidden fruit, they condemned themselves and all their offspring to being cut off from God and His Spirit.

As Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*, pages 120-122 (hard-back edition)...

"When God "drove out the man from the Garden of Eden, and barred reentrance- lest he go

back and receive eternal life *in sin* (Genesis 3:22-24) - God PRONOUNCED SENTENCE!

God said, in effect: "You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge - you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way-you have rebelled against my command and my government-you have chosen the 'GETTING,' 'TAKING' way of Satan. Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 years of being cut off from access to me and my Spirit-

except for the exceedingly FEW I shall specially call. And that FEW shall be called for special service preparatory for the kingdom of God. They shall be required to do what you have failed to do - reject, resist and overcome Satan and his WAYS, and follow the ways of my spiritual LAW.

"Go, therefore, Adam, and all your progeny that shall form the world, produce your own fund of

knowledge. Decide for yourself what is good and what is evil. Produce your own educational systems and means of disseminating knowledge, as your god Satan shall mislead you. Form your own concepts of what is god, your own religions, your own governments, your own life-styles and forms of society and civilization. In all this Satan will deceive your world with his attitude of SELF-centeredness - with vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife and violence and wars, rebellion against me and my law of LOVE. After the world of your descendants has written the lesson in 6,000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death - after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter





hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen - I will supernaturally intervene. By supernatural divine power I shall then take over the government of the whole world. With reeducation, I will produce a happy world of PEACE. And on repentance, I shall then offer eternal salvation to all. After a thousand years of that happy world to come, I will resurrect from death to mortal life all who have died uncalled during this present 6,000 years. Their judgment shall then come. And on repentance and faith, eternal life shall be offered them.

you desperately wished could have been called in this age.

God loves every one of these humans who have been cut off. All of humanity who have died in ignorance have a place in God's plan.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave



**"And just as God has not created all at once,  
but in successive stages, so he is bringing  
salvation to the world in successive stages."**

---

**-Mystery of the Ages**

**Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong**

---



**"During this 6,000 years, when I myself shall cut them off from me, they shall not be eternally judged. Only, as they sow during their lifetimes, they shall reap. But when I open eternal salvation to them, there shall be no Satan to hinder or deceive them-no Satan for them to overcome. Those few called during this first 6,000 years shall have to reject and resist Satan's pulls and overcome. But those who overcome shall sit with me in my throne, and have power under me to rule all nations under my Supreme Rule (emphasis his)."**

God has not forgotten the many billions of people that have lived and died in ignorance of Him and His way of life. All who have lived and died from Adam to the return of Christ will be raised from the dead and be given their opportunity; from the driver who rudely cut you off on the road to work, to the best friend you had in high school that

His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

All these many billions of people will need teachers to teach them the way to live. This Last Great Day is an exciting and sobering reminder of why we, the Church, were called.

**"God's CHURCH was designed in his supreme master plan to prepare that dedicated and organized personnel of God BEINGS. The Church, then, became God's instrumentality for aiding him in bringing about the salvation to humanity. Remember God has set out a 7,000 - year master plan for accomplishing his purpose. We have stated that his purpose is to reproduce himself. But actually reproducing himself means converting the world from sin into God's**

righteousness. It means instilling within God's potential children the perfect spiritual character of God. They would become finally born sons in the God family.

And just as God has not created all at once, but in successive stages, so he is bringing salvation to the world in successive stages. The Church is a necessary instrumentality preparatory to, and in order to, bring salvation to humanity. *Therefore, once again, let it be emphasized that the purpose of the Church is not merely to give salvation to those called into the Church, but to teach and train those predestined and called into the Church as instruments God shall use in bringing the world to salvation* (Mystery of the Ages pgs. 227-228 emphasis mine)."

We in the Church of God must always remember that we are not called merely for our own salvation. The Last Great Day is God's final reminder in the Holy Day plan to us of why we are here.

We are here to qualify by overcoming Satan and proving our loyalty to God so that we might aid in the salvation of all humanity. It can be easy to think of the Feast of Tabernacles and its picture of the Millennium as the goal that we are striving towards. But God wants every human to have the opportunity to be in His Divine Family.

Our objective, our ultimate mission, is the salvation of mankind. Therefore, the Last Great Day functions as the great climax of the Holy Days.

God wants our help in converting humanity and He lovingly has given us the Last Great Day to help us remain focused on His plan to save humanity and grow His family.

Finally, consider this interesting point. The

Last Great Day is the seventh festival in God's Holy Day Calendar. Seven is the number of completion and perfection. Thus, with the fulfillment of the Last Great Day, God's MASTER PLAN of salvation is complete. But did you notice that the Last Great Day is also called the eighth day?



"Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation... **(Leviticus 23:36)**"

Even as the Last Great Day marks the completion of the plan of God, this festival also marks a new beginning.

As originally written, there is no chapter break between **Revelation 20 and 21.**

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea **(Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1).**"

The Last Great Day not only reminds us of how God will complete His Master Plan, the Last Great Day points us to eternity in the Family of God. With humanity finally, by and large, made

divine members of the God Family and the last few rebels destroyed forever, eternity and all creation await! The vast universe lies now dormant, waiting for ALL of God's children to be born into the Divine Family.

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits

of the Spirit, even we ourselves, groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption [sonship], *to wit*, the redemption of our body" (**Romans 8:19-23**).

The fulfillment of the Last Great Day marks the completion of God's 7,000-year master plan of salvation. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in his epic conclusion of *Mystery of the Ages*:

**"With God's great master plan of seven thousand years finally completed-the mystery of the ages finally revealed, and with the re-creating of the vast universe and eternity lying ahead, we come finally to...**

**THE BEGINNING."** ♦

## Christ's Return

*(Continued from page 2)*

Christ will return to this earth at the **LAST TRUMP**, as a literal SPIRIT body, manifested. He will return with His ELECT, and ALL eyes on earth will see Him! "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (**Matthew 24:31**). "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (**Matthew 24:27**).

In ancient Israel, silver trumpets were blown to announce the Eternal's Feasts and for the people to assemble (**Numbers 10:1-10**). Also on this Feast, another type of "trumpet" was blown called a "**SHOFAR**" (a ram's horn). The Shofar signaled to the Israelites that WAR was looming and to alert them of impending danger.



While the silver trumpets could produce different sounds, the SHOFAR produced a **piercing BLAST**. In **Revelation 6** we see prophecy concerning God's wrath against rebellious mankind. "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (**Revelation 6:17**).

Though six seals will have already been opened, we'll look at the seventh seal with its seven **TRUMPET** plagues. Jesus Christ opens the seventh and last seal to reveal seven angels and their trumpet **BLASTS**. "So the **seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**" (**Revelation 8:6**).

- FIRST TRUMPET** – 1/3 of trees and all grass burned.
- SECOND TRUMPET** – 1/3 of sea turned to blood.
- THIRD TRUMPET** – 1/3 of rivers to wormwood.
- FOURTH TRUMPET** – 1/3 of sun, moon, stars darkened.
- FIFTH TRUMPET** – 1<sup>st</sup> of three major battles. Locusts symbolic of the BEAST'S military power.
- SIXTH TRUMPET** – 200-million-man army. 1/3 of humanity killed.
- SEVENTH TRUMPET** – Climatic battle against Christ; Seven Last Plagues.

**The seventh and last TRUMPET** will signal Christ's return. "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (**Revelation 11:15**). **AFTER** Christ returns, He will set up His GOVERNMENT on this earth. "**For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder... (Isaiah 9:6)**. That's the wonderful plan God has for mankind! ♦



# Let's Face it!

*Facebook and social media in general have become a big part of society. How are we in God's Church using it? And are we helping or hurting the Church of God by doing so?*

Corey M. Smith

We find ourselves in a unique time in the Church of God. It is hard to find individuals of like mind to talk with and converse. It's only natural to want to talk about things that interest you, compel you, and things that keep you grounded.

After the death of Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986, the Church quickly became divided. Truths once restored were being challenged (some before he even died), by ministers and brethren alike. Soon the Church began to divide, and offshoots sprung up. Today there are now a reported 500+ churches labeling themselves the "Church of God". And so, brethren and ministers turn to Facebook, attempting to find those of "like mind."

I, too (for the last two years), did this very same thing. I tried to find "Sabbath day" keeping groups. Or groups like "Sabbath-keeping singles" to find a like-minded mate. But as I would join these groups and conversations, I was **quickly coming to learn that** we did not all speak the same thing (**Amos 3:3**). At first, it may seem so. The topics, generally, are generic and topical. But as you begin to expand those topics and subjects, the very people that claim, "**we are holding fast to all things restored by Mr. Armstrong,**" soon reveal that they are only holding fast to things they agree with. And that is what *they* consider "**all things**".

So, can we, by engaging in group "discussions," be getting in the way of God? Could



it be that we think, subconsciously, that we can *out love* God and do His work for Him? It is VERY rare in these groups to get in a conversation where we all agree without quickly descending into, "**I'm right, you're wrong,**" and it just gets uglier from there. So exactly what are we trying to accomplish? How did God bring people of like mind together at the very inception of the Church and how does He do it now? And what role, if any, do we play in it?

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "**Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION to the apostles - those sent forth with the message. The lay brethren were added to the Church to support the apostles.**" A little farther down in the article he says, "**But the great commission was given to the apostles - not**

**the Church as a whole - although as cited above, the Church completely, prayerfully, wholeheartedly backed up and supported the apostles. That was their part in the great commission.**" (Seven Proofs of the True Church, *Good News* Dec. 1978).

The scriptures show that not even an Apostle calls people into the Church (**John 6:44**). He is one sent forth with the message. God then opens their ears to understanding and draws them to HIS apostle. So, when we post things online that are not given by and through God's apostle(s), are we then perverting the message and injecting our own thoughts and desires? From the same article, Mr. Armstrong says this, **"Jesus taught the apostles. The CHURCH followed the apostles' doctrine. Lay members were not free to set, change or decide doctrinal TRUTH - but only to receive and believe it."** There it is - we are to receive and believe. It is NOT for us to be going on Facebook and other social media sites trying to convince people of what God's apostles did or did not teach. That is left to the men that God has ordained to keep the Church together! **"If anything happened to me I would expect the Church to continue right on and the local churches and the local church ministry."**

(*Worldwide News*, March 6, 1981, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

So, God, through His Apostle, instructed that the ministry is to be the authority after his death- NOT THE BRETHREN! We back and support what God's apostles taught by backing and supporting God's LOYAL ministers in this end-time. Those that WOULDN'T DARE change a single word! If we go on social media and try to teach,

encourage, or instruct about what God restored are we then not going against God?

Mr. Armstrong wrote the following in *The Good News magazine*, December 1985...

**"Your MOTIVES are well-intended. Your ZEAL is splendid — but you may be like a woman I knew who had more zeal than wisdom.**

**This woman tried by her TALK to "save" her husband and her teenage son. But instead of arguing them into it, she turned them to hostility, resentment, embitterment against God! This woman tried to save her neighbors — almost her whole town. She only turned them all against her.**

**But, some will ask, didn't Jesus tell us we are the light of the world — and that we must let our light SHINE?**

**Oh, yes! But did you notice HOW He said we must let our light shine?**

**LISTEN: "You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE your GOOD WORKS" (Matthew 5:14, 16).**

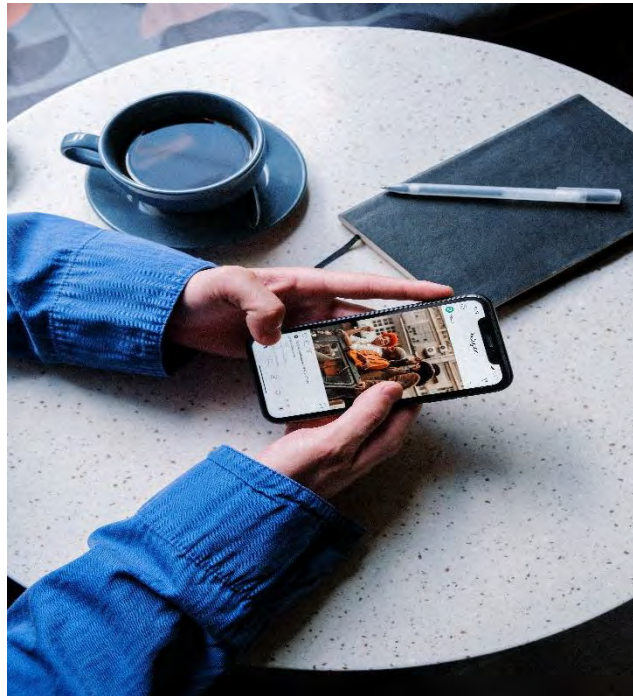
**NOTICE THAT CAREFULLY! He did NOT say "that they may HEAR your good ARGUMENTS." He said that they may SEE your GOOD WORKS!**

**But now WAIT A MINUTE!**

**Should you never tell anyone about *The World Tomorrow*, or let anyone see *The Plain Truth*? Yes, by all means — but be CAREFUL HOW**

**you do it. To just MENTION the broadcast to a friend and SUGGEST that he or she might find it interesting is fine. I wish you would. BUT don't go too far! Don't URGE, ARGUE or try to TEACH religion."**

I am sure many remember Mr. Armstrong telling those with unconverted mates that they shouldn't purposely leave out booklets or the Plain Truth open to certain articles that might grab their attention. Then why are we doing that on



Facebook? I'm sure anyone with an unconverted mate would want to do anything they can to get their spouse to believe what they believe, but God says that we need to wait on Him - He does the calling, not any man (**John 6:44**).

Let's be sure we, the brethren, are not the ones causing people to stumble at the law. If we do

**"If anything happened to me I would expect the Church to continue right on and the local churches and the local church ministry."**

**- Worldwide News (1981)  
Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong**

our part in holding up the arms of God's apostles, if we do our part in fervently praying for God's LOYAL servants, then GOD will do all that He promised to do. Remember God promised, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (**Matthew 16:18**).

On these social media sites, especially Facebook, many are even proclaiming that there are NO MINISTERS left in this end-time, or preaching the ever-growing idea that we are all, all 500+ groups, the one true church of God. Can that be? Is this another stumbling block being placed by WE THE BRETHREN? Here is what Mr. Armstrong had to say (Seven Proofs of the True Church, *The Good News* Dec. 1978)...

**"What about the 'loner' Christian, who says, 'I will serve Christ in my own way'? What about the one who *leaves* God's Church - either to have *his own private relation* with Christ - to *GET his own salvation* - without *GIVING* his part of the Church effort in sending the true Gospel into ALL THE WORLD?**

**Or, what about the one who follows a MAN, because of that man's personality, charisma or attractiveness, or some other group?**

**Stop and THINK!**

**Is Christ going to marry a number of differing groups, not in complete harmony with**

**each other - yet all "professing CHRIST"?**

**Jesus said, "He that is not *with me*..." (and since He is the Head of God's one and only Church, He plainly meant with Him where HE is working - in God's one Church). Repeat, "He that is not *with me* [where He works] is against me; and he that gathereth not *with me* scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).**

**Jesus Christ is going to marry THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH - not a number of scattered groups or scattered individuals.**

**God's law and way of life may be summed up in the one word "LOVE" - which is outflowing - the way of "GIVE" - while Satan's way is that of "GET." The one who tries to GET his salvation apart from the one Church Christ is going to marry is on the "GET" way. Those loyally in the Church are GIVING of their prayers, loyalty, encouragement and support behind Christ's chosen apostle in GIVING the GOOD NEWS to the world - its ONLY HOPE!**

**In other words, he that seeks to GET his own salvation *without* GIVING his part in the *team effort* of the Church - or follows a man or some other group - is surely NOT BUILDING ON THE ONE SURE FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.**

**Again, "Unless GOD build the house, they labor in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1).**

**The Church is the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD and a BUILDING - the glorious TEMPLE to which Christ shall come!"**

God's Church is a spiritual organism that HE PUTS TOGETHER. This is how we all come to speak the same thing - we yield, we RECEIVE AND BELIEVE! Let us be sure that when we are on Facebook, we are there to encourage, support and uplift and not leaving the proverbial/digital Plain Truth open. We mustn't get in God's way of whom HE IS CALLING! It is not our place. That is left to those God has placed in authority over us (**I Corinthians 12:28**).

So, **LET'S FACE IT!** The only *book* we should be getting our faces into is the Holy Bible and all the truths restored to GOD'S TRUE CHURCH! ♦



**CHURCH OF GOD, SCATTERED FAITHFUL**  
**P.O. BOX 7480**  
**SEMINOLE, FL 33775**

---

## **COMING ARTICLES**



**II Peter 1:19**

### **◆ A Single Act of Faith**

Some of the greatest accounts in the Bible involve men and women performing daring acts of faith. From David and Goliath to the many miracles of Jesus Christ, these accounts bring inspiration and encouragement while giving Christians today a standard to strive for in the development and exercise of faith.

### **◆ A Day of Thanksgiving**

Every fourth Thursday in November, Americans celebrate a National Day of Thanksgiving. How should members of the Church of God view the American custom of celebrating Thanksgiving Day?

### **◆ Bible Study - Understand the Enemy**

“Know thy enemy” is a famous saying from long ago. When you know your enemy, it is easier to defeat him. Therefore, we need to know how our adversary, Satan the Devil, operates so that we can guard against him.