

November 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

NOVEMBER 2022

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A Day of Thanksgiving
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Personal from the editor

Church Name

I thought I would take some time to explain how the name, **Church of God - Scattered Faithful** was chosen. People have asked that question. Here is the answer in print so anyone who reads the magazine will have an overview of the process used for making the decision on a Church name that legal authorities, both federal and state, would recognize as unique from other organizations.



Church of God – Scattered Faithful began **June 2010** with two families, not including mine. NEVER had I contemplated leading any group, until those two families asked if I would serve them. We had known these families due to attending with them in another group. They began to realize the PASTOR RANK minister in that group was going off course spiritually, which prompted these two families to contact me. They believed that as an elder, I was NOT one who would compromise with doctrine or judgments established during Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's leadership. I did not give an immediate answer to them, but did beseech God in prayer for His guidance, and later made the decision to serve them, conducting Sabbath services and writing a "Brethren Letter" each week. Subsequently, other members began attending with us in a very short time. Later a website was added and now a quarterly magazine, all with the original intended purpose of giving to and serving God's people.

Tithing (a tenth of one's increase) is commanded by God (**Deuteronomy 14:22; Malachi 3:10; Hebrews 7:6**). The members needed a way to tithe legally, as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service. "Incorporating" to comply with this world's requirements became necessary to receive God's tithes and offerings. Obviously, we have legitimate expenses as a Church that need to be addressed. As a steward of God's tithes and offerings, I must make sure those funds are used wisely and appropriately for expenses such as our website, storage, Feast expenses, second tithe assistance, third tithe assistance, etc. As far as the name "Church of God – Scattered Faithful", there had to be a unique name given to this Church (in a corporate sense), to comply with the laws of the land (state and federal). One cannot simply use the name "Church of God" when incorporating. The name must be different from other COG corporations.

First, with choosing a name for the Church - the words "**Church of God**" MUST be used in the name Biblically, as we find in **I Corinthians 10:32**, and other verses. Next, I then considered today's condition of the Church. "**As a shepherd seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are SCATTERED; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been SCATTERED...**" (**Ezekiel 34:12**). Lastly, the final word in the Church name ("FAITHFUL"), was chosen knowing that there are scattered members who have remained faithful to God, His TRUTH, and His commandments. They also recognize Mr. Armstrong's role both as an apostle, and the end-time Elijah. These members will not compromise as so many others have! This is how the name – "**Church of God - Scattered Faithful**" was chosen in 2010.

Gary R. Liebold

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?

Gary Liebold



Soon, our nation will be observing a National Day of Thanksgiving. Sadly, far too many Americans think of Thanksgiving Day as a day of parades, turkey dinners, and football games, rather than a day of expressing gratitude toward God. God has truly bestowed MANY abundant (yet undeserved) blessings upon this nation, and God's people should NEVER take those blessings for granted!

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let

your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

In the year 1620, one-hundred and two people (known as Pilgrims), boarded a small, three-masted merchant ship anchored in Plymouth, England, named "Mayflower." Along with the passengers, there were approximately thirty crew members aboard, ready to cross the Atlantic Ocean, a journey of over 2,500 miles.

Many of the families aboard sought to find a home in the “new world” (considered as their new “Promised Land”), fleeing religious persecution from the Church of England to arrive in a land where they could freely worship.

After nearly sixty-six days of travel with turbulent and treacherous conditions in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mayflower finally dropped anchor at the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Since they arrived later in the year than they had anticipated, a hard, freezing winter season lie just ahead. In fact, half of the Pilgrims did not survive the cold that first year.

If it were not for the **Wampanoag Indian tribe** helping the Pilgrims, teaching them about food- gathering, as well as other survival skills, it’s likely that most of the colonists would NOT have continued to live. **The following year in 1621, the fifty-three colonists who survived the year celebrated their first fall harvest along with ninety Wampanoag native American people.** The events of this day are often referred to being America’s FIRST Thanksgiving, a special day thanking God for the blessings they received.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated days of Thanksgiving to be observed each year. Then in 1789, our first American president, George Washington, issued the nation’s first Thanksgiving proclamation by the government of the United States. Later, in 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving be observed on “...the last Thursday of November...”

On October 6, 1941, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution declaring the last Thursday in November to be the legal observance of Thanksgiving Day. The U.S. Senate amended the resolution to establish the holiday as being the **FOURTH** Thursday of the month, considering years which have five Thursdays in the

month of November. The full Congress agreed on the resolution and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill on December 26, 1941, establishing the fourth Thursday in November as our nation’s Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Obviously, you won’t find a NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING as observed by the United States, (or any other nation who observes a National Day of Thanksgiving, such as Canada), shown anywhere in scripture. Thanksgiving Day is not one of God’s



commanded assemblies, nor is it one of His seven annual Festivals. God’s Biblical Festivals, as named are Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day (**See Leviticus 23:4-44**).

Now, since God does not command a NATIONAL Day of Thanksgiving to be observed, does that mean the observance of it by a Church of God member is wrong or sinful? After all, isn’t Thanksgiving one of the WORLD’S holidays like Halloween, Christmas, and New Year’s Day?

In **John 10:22**, we read how Jesus Christ attended the “**Feast of Dedication**”, a JEWISH holiday commonly known today as “Hanukkah,” or the “Festival of Lights.”

The Feast of Dedication was established by the Jews in honor of the rededication of the Temple by Judas Maccabaeus in the second century, B.C. This is an eight-day festival where candles are lit on each of the eight days. One candle is lit on the first evening, two on the second, three on the third, etc. until eight candles are lit the very last evening. This, for Jews, symbolizes the LIGHT of FAITH being certain to grow. Jews express special gratitude and honor to God by commemorating this event in Jewish history.

What we learn by Christ's example (**John 10:22**), is that it's not wrong to observe a NATIONAL holiday if that day is neither derived from paganism, nor its observance a violation of God's law!

Another NATIONAL feast spoken of Biblically is the "**Feast of Purim**" (**Esther 9:26-32**). The Feast of Purim is also a Jewish holiday that celebrates deliverance from being slaughtered during a time of exile in the Persian Kingdom. For the Jewish people, this Feast commemorates God's miraculous protection.

"Right now we are coming to Thanksgiving Day -- intended to be a day for GIVING THANKS TO GOD for blessing us so abundantly. We in America are blessed as NO OTHER NATION was ever blessed before."

**Co-Worker Letter - November 21, 1966
Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong**

Written in the *Good News* magazine (November 1959) is an answer to a question about how we, as members of the Church of God, should view the American CUSTOM of celebrating Thanksgiving Day, (or any NATIONAL holiday such as those celebrated by Jews). "**The national holidays celebrated by the Jews has, of course, no special significance for the non-Jew -- just as Thanksgiving Day holds no special significance for our non-American brethren scattered around the**

world. ... WHAT GOD EXPRESSLY FORBIDS IS THE OBSERVANCE OF PAGAN FESTIVALS WHICH WERE INVENTED AS DELIBERATE SUBSTITUTES FOR THE PLAN AND PROGRAM OF GOD. We are not to adopt in God's worship those customs which the heathen used in serving their gods. But it is proper and fitting for national leaders to set aside time for the whole nation to give God special thanks for his unique bounty to this nation." [*underlined emphasis mine*].

Our National Day of Thanksgiving in America is a day which CAN be observed by God's people, as we thank Him for His many blessings, both nationally and individually!

Mr. Armstrong wrote the following in a Co-Worker letter dated November 21, 1966... "**Right now we are coming to Thanksgiving Day -- intended to be a day for GIVING THANKS TO GOD for blessing us so abundantly. We in America are blessed as NO OTHER NATION was ever blessed before. At this time, we ought to read the first chapter of Ephesians, and REALIZE what we have to be THANKFUL for!**

Here is a small portion of it, so beautifully

rendered in the Moffatt Translation:
[Ephesians 1:3,5,8-9] "**BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere! ... destining us in love to be His sons through Jesus Christ. ... SO RICHLY has God LAVISHED upon us His grace, granting us complete insight and understanding of the open secret of His will, ...**" (Emphasis added.)

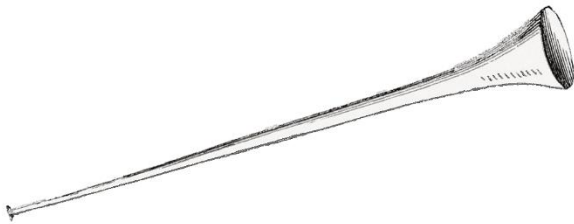
How THANKFUL we should be! Not only for understanding, for being called to be God's SONS, for His GRACE -- but also for being PRIVILEGED to be, as the Apostle Paul said, "Laborers together with God" -- or, as in the Revised Standard Version, "We are FELLOW- WORKMEN" with God. (I Cor. 3:9.) "

During this year's Day of Thanksgiving, we remember to thank God for ALL His wonderful blessings He so abundantly gives us. "**Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;**" (Ephesians 5:20). ♦

SEVEN REASONS WHY CHRIST CAME TO EARTH

(Part 1)

Geary Whiting



Depending upon who you talk with, you will hear different stories, reasons, or even theories as to why Jesus Christ came to this earth. Some believe it was simply to save the world, while others want to believe it was to eliminate those “harsh” laws detailed in the Old Testament. Others think it was so we can be forgiven of our sins, like magic. So, each time we sin, it is automatically erased, just like a teacher’s lesson from yesterday on a whiteboard in a classroom.

But the real reasons Jesus Christ came, being sent here by God the Father, are much more important and critical than the meager or flimsy ideas listed above. In this first installment of a three-part article, we’ll begin to explore the truth about seven basic, important reasons why Christ came to this earth.

I. QUALIFY TO REPLACE

Approximately 4,000 years from Adam, God sent Jesus Christ to live a perfect life, overcoming Satan, qualifying where the first Adam failed - to replace Satan as the current RULER on the throne of the whole earth. This is the first reason Christ came to this earth.

In **Luke 4:1-13**, we read about the time of a great, titanic battle of wills between Satan and

Jesus Christ. After Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights, Satan came to try and tempt Him with various devices, thinking all along that Jesus must be severely weakened due to fasting.

What Satan did not realize was that the fasting only made Christ incredibly stronger spiritually, and He was able to withstand all Satan threw at Him. In **verse 8 of Luke 4**, Jesus commanded, **“Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.’”** Jesus issued a direct COMMAND, showing that He was MASTER over Satan! **“Get thee hence, Satan!”**, He commanded with supreme authority (**Matthew 4:10**). Satan slunk away defeated.

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, had QUALIFIED! Never until that minute could the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD be announced to the world. Now the Son of God had resisted and conquered Satan - had QUALIFIED to reestablish GOD’S GOVERNMENT and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD on the earth (**Revelation 11:15**)!

II. ESTABLISH NEW COVENANT TO INTRODUCE THE GOSPEL AND MAGNIFY GOD’S LAW

The second reason we’ll study in this installment is the fact that Jesus Christ was sent to establish the New Covenant to introduce the gospel of God’s Kingdom to the world, and by doing so, magnify the law. One of the most important doctrines the living Christ has revealed to His Church is that of the New Covenant.

Webster’s dictionary describes the word “covenant” as “a mutual agreement, a legal undertaking to do or to refrain from some act; a document containing the terms of agreement.” In Biblical usage, a covenant is defined as a contract, or agreement, by which one party promises certain rewards or payments in return for a certain stipulated performance, or performances, by the other party. There are those who claim Jesus came to do away with all the laws of God, including the statutes and

judgments which were part of the terms of the first covenant, the Old Covenant of ancient times. But this is not true (**Ephesians 2:20**). The New Covenant, a spiritually based agreement made with Spirit-born Israelites, builds upon the Old Covenant, which was made by God with the physical Israelites. Jesus Christ was prophesied to come as the Messenger of the New Covenant (**Malachi 3:1**). And the terms of the New Covenant are *part of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God* Christ preached. Just as Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant established at Mt. Sinai, Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant (**Hebrews 12:24, 8:6**). Just as His marriage with Israel at Mt. Sinai set up the physical kingdom of Israel, so the marriage of the Church to Christ will set up the spiritual Kingdom of God. Thus, the good news, the exciting message, of that soon coming marriage is the Gospel Jesus preached - the coming Kingdom of God!

**Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant established at Mt. Sinai. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant.
(Hebrews 12:24, 8:6)**

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God contains the conditions for entering into the New Covenant agreement with Jesus Christ. Jesus' teachings to His disciples explain the terms of the New Covenant and explain the truth of and need for the Holy Spirit. Keeping God's spiritual laws as defined in the Ten Commandments, in their full spiritual intent, is one of the conditions of the New Covenant (**Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28**).

Now, in **Isaiah 42:21**, we see that Jesus prophesied to *magnify* the law. Christ amplified the Ten Commandments in the New Covenant to

include obedience to them in their spiritual intent. Not only are we to refrain from committing the physical acts of sin (the letter of the law), but we are also to avoid committing them in our thoughts! Christ also magnified the spiritual intent of certain statutes and judgments for the New Testament Church. In the New Covenant, Jesus was magnifying the APPLICATION of the civil laws He gave to ancient Israel, not abolishing them.

III. SET AN EXAMPLE

Yes, Jesus Christ both magnified God's law and established it to greater spiritual requirements (**Isaiah 42:21**). He showed all the earth how He lived - how he observed His Father's law in its perfect, spiritual intent and how His entire life was filled with the spiritual, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Through the power of God dwelling in Him by the Holy Spirit, Christ led a perfect life, completely free from sin. Not only did He overcome Satan and qualify to replace him as the ruler of this earth when He returns, He performed many mighty miracles (**Acts 2:22**). He stilled the storm, turned the water into wine, cast out demons and healed the sick (**John 14:10**). Jesus kept God's laws - the Ten Commandments - perfectly.

Under the Old Covenant, the nation of Israel, carnal man, could not keep the physical aspects of God's laws, even when less of a fulfillment of those laws were required of him. Like the Pharisees, they were clinging to statutes and judgements without understanding, or practicing, the actual meaning of God's law (**Matthew 23:23**). The New Covenant spells out how man, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, can be able to keep the supreme spiritual law of love - the Ten Commandments. Jesus Christ, our perfect example, did. This is the third reason God sent Jesus Christ here to the earth.

(Continued on page 10)

SPIRITUAL CHARACTER LIKE GOLD

From the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation, the Bible refers to the subject of gold. There is a duality between the valuable, physical metal, gold, and the development of spiritual character like gold.

Gary Liebold

Christians are told to build with it (**1 Corinthians 3:12-13**). Laodiceans are told to buy it (**Revelation 3:18**).

Abraham's servants rewarded Rebekah with gold jewelry (**Genesis 13:2, 24:22**), and the city of the New Jerusalem will be made of streets of pure gold, as clear as glass (**Revelation 21:18, 21**). God not only loves the beauty of the gold He created, but He also embodied the metal with specific qualities that place it far above other metals found on the earth.

There is duality between the valuable, physical metal, gold, and the development of spiritual character *like* gold. God pictures the character we are to build as SPIRITUAL GOLD. In short, He wants us to develop godly character like gold! A Christian of strong character and faith is more valuable to God than physical gold was to the Spanish explorers of old who plundered the Aztec and Inca empires in Mexico and Peru, or the "prospectors" who searched for it during the California Gold Rush era!



God Is Building

God is building His Family to share eternity with now. In **1 Corinthians 3:3**, Paul speaks about

building our faith with Jesus Christ as our foundation, and we are to be building character upon this foundation. And just as there are different physical building materials of a wide variety and quality available to a home builder, so is the case with the materials available to the Christian with which to build holy, righteous character.

“Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” (I Corinthians 3:12-13). If we are building with the enduring materials listed in **I Corinthians 3** - gold, silver, and precious stones - we shall receive a reward (**vs. 14**). This is the Christian whose character survives the fiery tests and trials of our physical lives. But the Christian whose character is based on the inferior building materials, in this case wood, hay, and straw, is easily shaken and destroyed by even small trials and the house that is built is destroyed by fire.

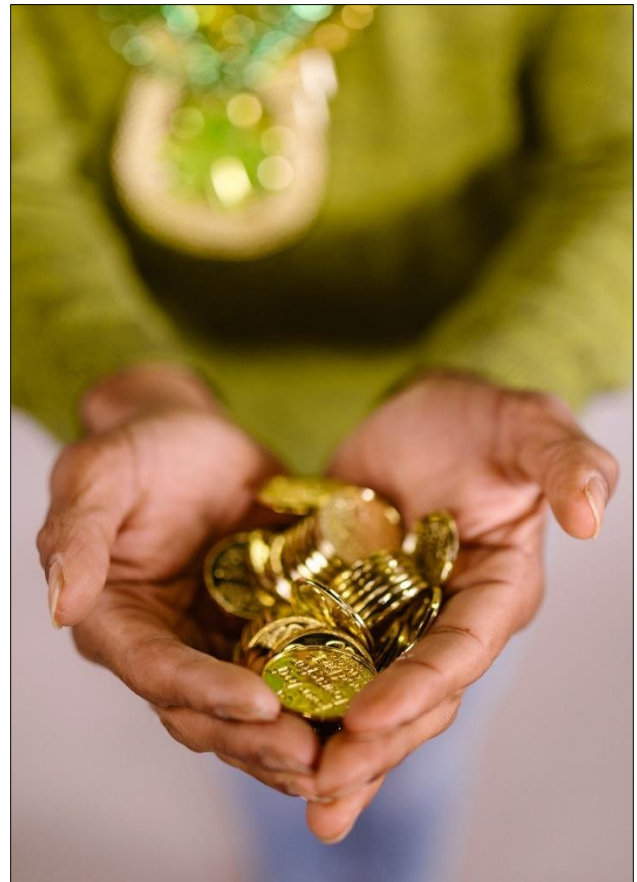
There are qualities and properties of gold that are extremely desirable. In a spiritual sense, these elements are also representative of the type of characteristics a Christian is to understand while they are developing holy, righteous, GODLY character.

The Beauty of Gold

Gold has long been used as a main feature in the making of fine jewelry. The soft, buttery yellow glow and luster of gold makes golden objects beautiful to behold and capture our visual attention more than any other metal. There seems to be nothing quite so lovely and appealing to the senses than jewelry and art fashioned from high-quality gold by a skilled craftsman.

In the same sense, a Christian with the character of spiritual gold stands out from others around. This special quality, a quality of deep conversion resulting in spiritual growth, displays the inner

glow of God’s Holy Spirit radiating God’s character and works. The more the fruits of God’s Spirit (**Galatians 5:23**) abound in our lives, the more golden our character becomes in the sight of God. These nine special attributes, or fruits, of Godly character, “love, joy, peace longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”, make the Christian’s beauty of character obvious to all.



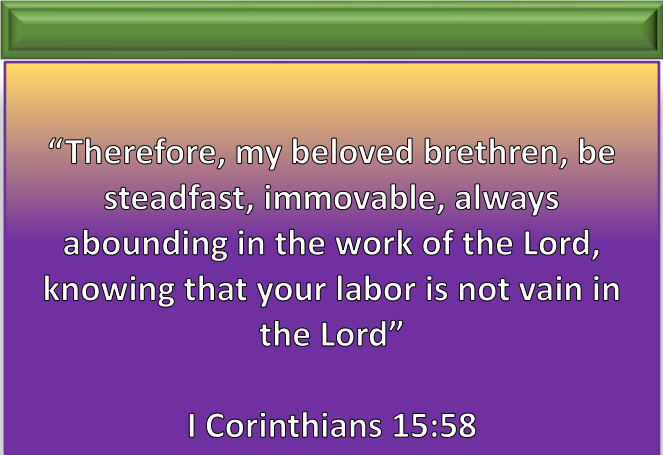
Gold Preferred by Artists and Craftsmen

A very famous artist from the early 1900’s named Gustav Klimt was obsessed with using actual gold in many of his paintings. Pure gold is soft and malleable and can even be beaten into sheets as fine as three millionths of an inch. These sheets of gold become so fine that even the slightest breeze can blow them away. Klimt used these thin sheets of gold to create many of his famous works of art, including “The Kiss” and “Woman in God” (otherwise known as the “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I”). Gold can be fashioned as the artist, or craftsman, desires. Can WE?

God is our master craftsman, or artist. Each of us has a part in His Master Plan, but we must grow and develop the character necessary to achieve it. True Christians are to spiritually become as gold; receptive, humble, and yielded to His way of molding us through correction and instruction into His Godly character, for His purposes to be fulfilled in our lives, without resisting or breaking (**Romans 6:13**).

Gold is Stable

Golden objects unearthed after being buried thousands of years ago still have their beauty and original luster. Not only does gold not tarnish or rust under normal circumstances, but only a very few strong acids can spoil the lasting beauty and finish of pure gold.



“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not vain in the Lord”

I Corinthians 15:58

The incorruptible nature of gold depicts the Christian character at its best. God has called us to remain faithful and obedient to Him always, no matter what corrosive influences or trials are at work to eat away at the purity of God’s character being developed within us. Paul emphasized this aspect of golden character when he wrote, in **I Corinthians 15:58**, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not vain in the Lord.”

Heat and Light

Heat is essential for the purification of the quality of gold; and light - reflected, shining, and

bright, is one of the many aspects revealed as the result of the refining process. Intense heat causes the compounds in the gold metal to break down, yielding the bright yellow metal we are familiar with. Heat removes the impurities within the metal by forming slag which can be skimmed off to reveal the pure, metallic state of the gold.

This purified gold then can be used in many ways, including as a reflective agent of light. For example, gold has been added to the outer surfaces of many American spacecraft to reflect the intensive heat radiation encountered in space. Gold has also been added to window glass for energy efficiency in reflecting the sun’s heat producing infrared energy. Air condition requirements are thus lowered without significantly reducing the transmission of light through the window.

As Christians, we understand that God intends the heat of our tests and trials to bring out the best in our character. Just as gold tried in the fire is pure and refined, so shall it be our goal to become like Jesus Christ, who in all ways mirrored God’s very nature to the world. “He who has seen me has seen the Father,” **John 14:9**. We are to shine as the light by the power of the Holy Spirit, setting a shining example of God’s way of life to this darkened world.

It Takes Work

Hard work and much expense goes into extracting gold from the ground. Compared to many other resources, there is not a lot of gold available in the world today. The mining of gold requires the work to take place in remote and difficult places to reach, sometimes in countries that we would deem less than safe. Often it takes processing 20 tons of ore to yield just one ounce of pure gold.

Gold mining and building Cristian character both take a lot of work to succeed. God builds His character in Christians just as He created the gold to be mined from the earth. In **Philippians 2:12**, we are told, “Therefore, my beloved, as

you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but how much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” It is not enough to just want godly character – we must be willing to work for it with all our being.

Our Lives Are a Potential Gold Mine

Although it is not likely that any of us have a real gold mine on our property or under our house, we do have access to a different kind of potential gold mine! Yes, our lives and experiences form a potential gold mine to yield rich treasure, a spiritual treasure of “gold”, more valuable than the physical metal gold which can be lost or stolen. In **Revelation 3:18**, God gives us the opportunity to, “... buy from Me gold refined in the fire,” so we can come to possess that true gold of God’s character that can endure eternally.

The opportunity to gain the spiritual wealth God offers to those He has called is there for all who

A Christian of high character and faith is even more valuable to God than the best gold purified by a refiner.



are willing to put forth the effort to develop righteous character. The reward God promises is to become a part of God’s special treasure (**Malachi 3:16 -17**).

A Christian of high character and faith is even more valuable to God than the best gold purified by a refiner (**1 Peter 1:7**). It is up to us, now. Let’s apply ourselves to develop the spiritual wealth right there within our grasp and apply it in our lives, for the sake of our future. As Paul wrote in **Philippians 3:13-14**, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” ♦

Seven Reasons Christ Came...

(Continued from page 6)

THE THREE REASONS LEAD TO OUR FUTURE

God sent Jesus Christ to this earth to qualify to replace Satan as the ruler of this world and open understanding of His laws and plans for mankind - to teach, magnify and expound on His law to establish His Family in the Kingdom of God. Jesus came to set in place the New Covenant, which shall be made only with a Spirit-born Church - a

people who, during their mortal lives, will have been begotten by God's Spirit and already will have PROVED their willingness to obey God (**Galatians 2:20**)! Jesus Christ was the sterling example for us all to follow - he led the way for us while he was here (**1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1**). What a tremendous future God, along with our elder brother, Jesus Christ, has planned for us! ♦

BIBLE STUDY

UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY

"Know thy enemy" is a phrase recognized by many people. When you know your enemy, it is easier to defeat him. Therefore, we must know how our adversary, Satan the Devil, operates so we can be on guard against him.

In **I Peter 5:8**, the apostle Peter compared Satan to a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We must remember to constantly be vigilant, as we know that Satan's destructive activities will increase in these end times. To understand why, let's review the basic facts about the origin of Satan and why he is determined to destroy all spirit begotten Christians.

1. **Job 38:4-7** shows us that God created multitudes of angels before restoring the earth to its proper existence. Lucifer, who was originally one of the anointed cherubs stationed at the throne of God in heaven (**Exodus 25:18-20; Ezekiel 28:14**), was set in place by God to have charge over the angels on earth.

2. Lucifer was perfect in his ways until iniquity, or sin, was found in him (**Ezekiel 28:15**). His mind became twisted and rebellious. Lucifer decided to leave earth, ascend to heaven, and attempt to knock God off His throne. He even convinced a third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion (**Jude 6, 11; II Peter 2:4**), but he and his followers were defeated. Satan's name means adversary, competitor, or enemy. The angels who rebelled with him became known as demons.

3. Every aspect of God's Government is designed to have a head, or ruler. Although Lucifer rebelled against God, he was allowed by God to continue as the invisible ruler of this world (**II Corinthians. 4:4**). He must remain on that throne until his successor, Jesus Christ,

removes him and assumes world rulership at His return (**Revelation 20:1-3**).

4. When Jesus Christ returns to this earth to set up God's Kingdom and take rulership, born again Sons of God will rule with Him, including rulership over the angels (**I Corinthians 6:2-3; Hebrews 2 5-8**). Only humans have the potential of being born into the Family of God. Christ won that right by resisting the devil when he sought to destroy Him spiritually by tempting Him to sin (**Matthew 4: 1-11**). We, too, must overcome Satan to qualify to rule together with Jesus Christ.

5. After our begetting by God's Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9**), Satan will continue to try to lead us away from Christ (**II Corinthians 11 :2-3**). We must remember that conversion does not protect us from Satan's tempting influence. He continually broadcasts the attitudes of his nature into our minds as an attempt to overthrow us.

6. We are in a real spiritual war with wicked spirits, so we need to know how to protect ourselves from these invisible enemies. Carefully study **Ephesians 6: 10- 20**, to understand and don the whole armor of God.

True Christians must draw close to God in prayer and put on His armor. This is the way to defeat Satan, the perfect strategy, or formula, to guarantee success in overcoming these deadly foes of Satan and his demons. ♦

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COMING ARTICLES



II Peter 1:19

◆ Why Did Jesus Pay Our Penalty?

Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins? Couldn't God simply have said, "Your sins are forgiven?" Why then did He have to die?

◆ Seven Reasons Why Christ Came to Earth (Part 2)

Depending upon who you talk with, you will hear different stories, reasons, or even theories as to why Jesus Christ came to this earth. We will continue with part 2 of the series on the seven reasons why Christ came to earth.

◆ Bible Study – The Overview of God's Master Plan

God has designed a Master Plan to bring about the fruition of His incredible purpose for mankind. This plan is outlined in the form of seven annual festivals. These annual observances provide an overview of God's Master Plan, summarized in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus.